



Swimming
communities come
together for



Canterbury Earthquake Relief

We are all saddened by the tragedy which still continues to unfold in Canterbury. Our swimming communities are very closely knit and we are very pleased that early reports from our friends at Swimming Canterbury indicate that at this stage all their members are accounted for.

Sadly there is substantial damage to aquatic facilities in Christchurch which will present ongoing challenges over time and many members have experienced significant loss of property. Also, small in comparison, but the forthcoming national meet for Division II level swimmers has of necessity been moved from Christchurch to another venue later in the year meaning that those younger swimmers who have been preparing for this event will be directly affected.

Along with others we have all been asking how best we may help and contribute in a meaningful way.

In a spirit that genuinely reflects the level of cooperation and support amongst the regions of New Zealand, Swimming Auckland and Swimming Bay of Plenty have, in co-operation with Swimming Canterbury, determined to implement early opportunities for our swimming communities to help. We are also grateful for the support of Kent Stead, Events Manager, Swimming New Zealand.

In Swimming Auckland's case, the forthcoming Auckland Opens Championships being held at West Wave Aquatic Centre (10th – 13th)

March) has been adapted to now allow participation by all swimmers 12 years of age and over from any area. This newly adapted programme will especially allow and ensure some compensation for their Div II swimmers for the delayed participation associated with the postponement of the SNZ Division II nationals. But most importantly, as a result of the generous support of West Wave Aquatic Center and their long term supporters and commercial partners Swim T3, Speedo and also CLM/Swim Magic they are able to offer **100% of the proceeds from this meet to a charity associated with the earthquake disaster relief, to be nominated by Swimming Canterbury.**

Swimming Bay of Plenty have also very generously agreed to host a brand new meet at the Rotorua Aquatic Centre on 18th, 19th & 20th March which is intended, rather than replacing the SNZ Div II meet, to offer an opportunity for those who were preparing to swim at SNZ Div II Nationals, the chance to swim in a meet that may provide a little compensation. Swimming Bay of Plenty has drawn wide support from their community of supporters including the Rotorua Aquatic Centre, Swim T3 and Speedo, as with Swimming Auckland, allowing them to also contribute **100% of the proceeds from their meet in the same way as Swimming Auckland to a charity as nominated by Swimming Canterbury.**

There will be a large group of volunteers both in Auckland and Rotorua who will be offering their time and best efforts to ensure that we can begin to do our part to help. Our thanks to all who will help, but more importantly, the more swimmers who choose to participate in these two meets, the more we will be giving, as all proceeds, **100%**, will be directed toward Swimming Canterbury's designated charities.