

First Open Water Event of the New Season

The Waiwai Shield and the Waiwai and Orca Cup events were swum on Sunday 4th November in the chilly waters of the Waitemata Harbour, from Herne Bay to the Harbour Bridge under the control of Auckland Central Masters.

The Waiwai Shield is the oldest contested open water event on the calendar as it has been contested annually since 1909. This is a handicapped event, so all club swimmers minus wetsuits can compete on an equal basis male and female. There are also divisions for wetsuit wearers and lots of spot prizes on the day.

This year the event was taken out by Phillip Ryan (Waterhole), Overall Winner Male, and Natalie Woodgate (also Waterhole), Overall Winner of the Orca Cups for first across the line. Both of these swimmers also won the Waiwai Cups for the handicapped event with Phillip taking the shield for the Overall Winner on handicap.

Auckland Central masters along with their many sponsors, Orca, Chelsea Sugar, Eagle Technology, and Swim T3 run a series of four events with each event growing in distance.