



Coaches' Report AGM 2011

As was said in one of the coaches corner items on the Jasi website earlier this year, it's been a tough season due to factors outside every body's control. The earthquakes in September and February have without a doubt affected us all in different ways, and some more than others. Many are still greatly affected now from school and university timetables being moved around, to having to find different classrooms and schools. From living in damaged houses without the normal amenities, to houses being lost completely. These are the day to day things which those in the Jasi family have all been affected by.

At times swimming and sport can seem insignificant when there is such tragedy and devastation around us. This is why Jasi is so much more than just swimming. Watching all the swimmers wanting to get back in the pool and be with their friends and team mates shows the strength of the bonds and friendship the swimmers have. As well as the health and well being benefits of the sport, their swimming has been a huge part in helping provide normality to the lives of the swimmers, and an outlet from their physical needs and competitive aspirations, which are such a huge part of their lives and personalities.

2010-2011 season was a very important season in the growth and development again of Jasi. It was our 2nd season back at Jellie Park and performances and swimmers development at all levels, needed to be seen to be back on track pre closure. The number of swimmers qualifying for regional and national championships was very encouraging and even though the quakes hit at times which impacted hugely on the 2010 short course nags and 2011 Nags, Div2 and Opens the numbers looked good. The performances at meets where the build ups were good were excellent; South Island champs were outstanding after a very successful non interrupted winter training cycle with some outstanding pool work due to the swimmers dedication and efforts in their attendance and work ethic. Canterbury Champs in January were another great success backed up from a fantastic training camp in Gore and Junior camp held at Jellie Park. Lets hope 2011-12 has no more interruptions.

Another big part of 2010-2011 was in the planning and development for the years ahead. The swimmers coming through the Gold squad up to J and onto JAG squad were now back to a quality and in reasonable numbers, which can see the progression of swimmers at a level again we have not had since 2006. A huge thanks to Hayden Brown for the role he has played in a very tough year which has been filled with a lot of uncertainty, but he has never wavered from his efforts and work with the swimmers. Also to the Junior coaches, Matt Nash, Beckie Dooley, Jade Rogerson, Amy Sugrue, Jacob Barry, Andrew Jensen & Rosemary Acker who over the course of the 12 months all played a very important part in the gold swimmers development and enjoyment of swimming. We were seeing more and more of these swimmers coming into the squads, taking part in the splash nights which had a very successful year. This has ultimately seen the 2011-12 Jasi membership boosted and grow, with these swimmers coming through the system not just in greater numbers, but improved quality too.

2011-12 will be a difficult year again with space limitations at the pool due to the closure of the centennial and QE2 pools. The last 4 years have been very difficult ones for the programme and the club, but the great thing is that we still keep producing some great swimming and performances at all levels. This comes from Jasi members being a very resilient and tough bunch of swimmers. At their best they show the great qualities and values of respect, support, effort, determination and good humour when travelling or together on poolside interacting with each other, or in the pool giving their all to produce the best they can. This was seen to great effect last weekend in Dunedin where a large team, ranging in ages from 6 – 23 mixed together over 5 very tiring sessions. The chat and banter was great. Junior and senior swimmers mixing at ease, laughing and enjoying the company of everyone there through to the performances in the pool. Pushing as hard as they could in every event and producing some great swims and results. As the meet went on the potential for overly tired swimmers to break and snap was there, but as a group the swimmers handled themselves fantastically, making Hayden and myself very proud to be associated with these swimmers. This is why I know that whatever new challenges life throws at us in 2011-12, Jasi swimmers will be right up there showing the best of themselves in and out of the pool.

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