



Hi United Swimmers and Families

It's hard to believe we are already at Term 3!

Reflecting on term 2 at United, it has been a time for our coaches and swimmers to concentrate on training, preparation and planning for future competitions. However there has been some competition too. Eleven swimmers travelled to Dunedin with Coach Jamie to compete at DIV II, and a large team attended Auckland Juniors. Our swimmers have participated in secondary schools competitions as well as club meets, and Coach Max took some of our Silver and Juniors squads swimmers to the BOP Showdown meet at Mt Maunganui in early July. As always, a big thank you to our wonderful coaches for their dedication and support to our swimmers.

One of the highlights for term 2 was the return of United Club Champs, an event which incorporates a good mix of competition and fun. Four days later, we held United Club Mix 'n' Mingle and Prizegiving which was a great opportunity to have a catch up as well as to celebrate our swimmer's successes during the year. It was particularly pleasing to see the swimmer's support for the prize winners. We can't wait to do it all again next year!

Our United Committee is continuing to work on implementing prioritised areas within our strategic pillars. In addition to developing our coaches, lane space and programmes that develop full potential, some specific areas (aligned to our strategic pillars of building an engaged community and governance & sustainability) include:

- Claire Gibson is organising the main fundraiser for the year which is the Beats by Bingo/Silent Auction function on the evening of Friday 17th September at their fantastic venue, Okahu, which they are providing free of charge to United. A "save the date" and "request for auction items" has been sent out and we would really appreciate your support, as it will be a fun evening and you will not want to miss it! Tickets are on sale mid-August. What we would really appreciate is for families to consider what auction items they may be in a position to secure for the club. Please see the attached posters.
- We have a working group reviewing our new swimmer on-boarding process and health & safety processes.
- We have commenced work on renewing our United website using the Wordpress format. Thank you to Philip Wong and Simone Lusby for their hard work so far in setting this up... hopefully we can launch 'phase one' in a month or so. Any assistance available from United parents in design or technical expertise, or photography, would surely be appreciated!
- Uniform items on offer will soon include our limited-edition white vintage style swim cap and we are also doing a re-run of the black and white stripe rugby jersey
- Our annual budget has been approved by the committee, indicating our club can operate close to financial 'break even' provided we can continue to grow our membership and meet

our fundraising targets. We are pleased to report that our grant application to Lion Foundation was successful, with United receiving a grant of \$8,000 towards implementing our new squad structure. A big thank you to Lion Foundation for this grant, we appreciate your support!

- We have reviewed and renewed pool and dryland equipment including new storage at Newmarket, bungee cords and parachutes. We are considering the purchase of headsets to support swimmer and coach communication.

In August, there will be some changes to our Junior Development and Training (JDT) and Bronze squads coaching staff as Coach Simone is leaving to attend her final year of University in USA. We want to thank Simone for her **big contribution** to the club over the past year and more. We will be letting you know of the new coaching arrangements soon.

Speaking of USA, we will also be farewelling Alice Waldow in August who is off to the University of Southern California to study Biochemistry on a swimming scholarship. Best of luck Alice, it has been fantastic having you on the team for so long! Summer Miln will also be returning to Old Dominion University in Virginia.

The following is a heads up of what is coming up and our best indication of future plans:

- Studying Abroad Awareness chat for interested Senior Squad swimmers (format is a Q&A style chat session with past United swimmers): To be held in August/September.
- New Swimmer Induction Meeting: To be held in August/September
- After NZ Short Course (Springs) Swim Meet, the Seniors and Gold squads will have 3 well deserved days off training 23rd to 25th August.
- Beats by Bingo/Auction Fundraiser: Friday 17th September at 6:30pm at Okahu Function Centre. SAVE THE DATE! PM training on this date will be cancelled.
- United Hosted Level 1 and 2 swim meet for 12 years and under swimmers on 18th September.
- United Annual General Meeting: Late September.
- School Holidays end of term 3- 4th October to 16th October: Seniors and Gold will likely have the entire 2 weeks off. Other squads may have a holiday programme available in the last week of the holidays. There may be an opportunity for casual swimming for seniors and gold in last 3 days of the holidays; further details will be advised in due course.
- Halloween (United Only) Club Swim Meet: For our younger squads, similar to last year, in late October. Events will be officially timed.
- United Christmas Function: Everyone had so much fun last year we have booked the Melville Cricket Pavilion already! Please **save the date** 5th December at 5pm.

- Term 4- Last Swimming Day: Likely to be 18th December (there is the possibility of a few junior sessions in between Christmas and New Year)
- Senior Camp: There will be a senior camp at St Peters, Cambridge from approx. 9th to 18/19th January 2022. More details will be released soon.
- Junior Camp: Given that NZ Junior festival occurs early in the new year (6th/7th February 2022), the coaches have suggested that the junior camp is held in Auckland. This will be a similar format to a couple of years ago when it was run by Coach Jen and will include pool training 1 or 2 times per day (likely at EGGs), some dryland and fun daily activities e.g. kayaking. Swimmers will stay at their own homes at night. We would like to put together an organising group for this, so any keen parents should contact Henriette at unitedmeetentries@gmail.com to register your interest. Similar to an away camp, we will need to charge for lane space and activities, but this will be a less costly format than an away-camp.

Finally, we would like to wish all swimmers the best of luck at NZ Short Course (Springs), AIMS and other swim meets.

Have a great term 3!

Kerry Lusby, on behalf of United Committee