



Special Olympics

New Zealand

Be a fan™



April 2009

Special O *focus*

LET ME WIN. BUT IF I CANNOT WIN,
LET ME BE BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT.

Special Olympics New Zealand *Secondary Schools Programme 2009*

Points of Interest

- Swimming
- New Clubs
- SS Regional Aquatics
- Nationals
- Youth Athletes Programme

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Dear Parents , Teachers, Students and Athletes,

I hope you have all enjoyed the Special Olympic Events throughout this term.

Term 1 Swimming

We have held three Aquatics events in the Central North Island.

On the 25 February I held the BOP Secondary Schools Swimming at the Memorial Pools in Tauranga . We had a fabulous day, the weather was fantastic and the numbers in swimming have doubled with 117 swimming participating on the Day. We welcomed Goldfields school who for the first time participated in the SO Schools swimming. We would like to thank the volunteers from Greerton Swimming Club and Tauranga Boys High School for making this day a huge success. Special thanks to Steve Delaney .

Swimming in the Waikato began on 6 March with the annual Secondary Schools Ribbon Day. We had 177 swimmers participating and the day was held at the Te Awamutu Event Centre thanks to the support of the Waipa District Council and the large number of Te Awamutu College students who volunteered to time keep, be support in the pool and record results.

Young Athletes Programme -YAP

Special Olympics New Zealand has just begun implementing a Young Athletes Program especially designed for 5 - 7 year olds . The Young Athletes Programme is an innovative sports play programme for children with disabilities, which aims to strengthen physical development and self-esteem by building movement skills for future sports and recreation participation and socialisation.

The programme engages children through developmentally appropriate activities such as walking, running, throwing, striking, trapping and catching, designed to foster physical, cognitive and social development. Patricia Avenue has volunteered to participate in this pilot programme. We see this as an exciting pathway for the junior generation.

North Island Secondary Schools Regional Aquatics Event



On 1 April 2009 the Central North Island hosted a Regional Aquatics event in Te Awamutu Event Centre. This is the first time in the history of Special Olympics New Zealand an event of this caliber has been held for Secondary School Students. We had students from all over the North Island attend. 14 Schools seized the opportunity to send swimmers to this event from as far north as Kerikeri and Okaihau College to Waihi and Tokoroa High School.

Events ranged from 25m Butterfly to 100m Freestyle with the finale of the day being the 4 x 25m Relay. On this day Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were presented with ribbons for the minor placings. Some of the swimmers who are members of the Special Olympic Clubs through out New Zealand have now qualified to attend the National Competition which is to be held in Palmerston North from the 3—6 December 2009.

This was a brilliant day and great success was had by all. Special thanks to the volunteer officials who attended and to the Waipa District Council

Regional Successes

Schools who participated:

- ⇒ Alfriston College
- ⇒ Mt Roskill College
- ⇒ Kerikeri High School
- ⇒ Okaihau College
- ⇒ Pakuranga College
- ⇒ Papakura High School
- ⇒ Pat Avenue Special Needs School
- ⇒ Hamilton North Special Needs School
- ⇒ Hillcrest High School
- ⇒ Otumoetai College
- ⇒ Tokoroa High School
- ⇒ Cambridge High School
- ⇒ Otorohanga South School



www.specialolympics.org.nz

Term 2 Events

Along with the cooler weather we are bringing the winter codes to you.

FOOTBALL:

May 20 - BOP Secondary Schools Football hosted by Otumoetai College

May 27 - Waikato Secondary Schools Football hosted by Matamata College

Information for the Football has been sent out. If you have not received this information please don't hesitate to contact me and I will resend this asap. I have received some entries already thank you to those very organised schools.

I am also available to schools who need any extra help with understanding and coaching the skills and games for Football.

TEN PIN:

June 3 - Waikato Secondary Schools Very High Needs Ten Pin Bowling - Skycity Boulevard

June 24 - Rotorua Secondary Schools Ten Pin Bowling at Rotovegas

Ten Pin information will be sent out on Monday 6 April 2009.



New Clubs for Central North Island

Recently a community meeting was held in Te Puke to gauge the interest of starting up a new club in this area and I have exciting news for all of the readers in this area. We have discovered there is a keen interest in beginning a club and we will be having a planning meeting early next month to establish the codes and needs of the community. If you know of anybody or are interested in becoming a member or offering your help please contact Colleen Black by email or Shiree on shiree.rogers@tepuke.school.nz

Te Awamutu is also in the beginning stages of establishing a club and there will be a community meeting coming up in the near future

Transition of Students to Clubs

As our young student athletes become more interested in participating in sports, seeking new opportunities and making new acquaintances you may wonder **where to from here?**

Throughout the Central North Island we have clubs who each provide different sporting codes, volunteer regular coaching, and opportunity to make new friends. SONZ feels it is important for young people to make the transition from clubs to schools as it enhances life skills needed for everyday living.

If you are interested or feel your son/daughter or student would like to become involved, these are your contacts below...

Special Olympics Waikato - Waikato@specialolympics.org.nz - Pat Van der Maas

SPORTS OFFERED: Athletics, Basketball, Equestrian, Football, Swimming, Ten Pin,

Special Olympics Tauranga - Tauranga@specialolympics.org.nz - Sally Holbrook

SPORTS OFFERED: Athletics, Basketball, Golf, Indoor Bowls, Swimming, Ten Pin

Special Olympics Rotorua - Rotorua@specialolympics.org.nz - Annette Comp

SPORTS OFFERED: Athletics, Football, Ten Pin

Special Olympics Thames Valley - Thamesvalley@specialolympics.org.nz - Jane Davis

SPORTS OFFERED: Athletics, Bocce, Indoor Bowls,

Special Olympics Taupo - Taupo@specialolympics.org.nz - Aurette O'Carroll

SPORTS OFFERED: Ten Pin Bowling

Alternately for more information you can contact me

Colleen Black at 027 4436228 or 07 858 5395, email colleenb@specialolympics.org.nz.

PS Check out our website: www.specialolympics.org.nz

Club Action.....

Calendar of events for Term 2

- ⇒ 5 April - Special Olympics Waikato - Aquatics Event - Te Rapa Pools
- ⇒ 25, 26 April - Special Olympics Tauranga - Regional Golf Event- Taupo
- ⇒ 2,3 May - Special Olympics Waikato - Regional Basketball Event - Hamilton YMCA
- ⇒ 16,17 May -Special Olympics Waikato - Regional Ten Pin Event - Skycity Boulevard
- ⇒ 27,28 June -Special Olympics Rotorua - Regional Ten Pin - Rotovegas
- ⇒ 13 July- Special Olympics Waikato - Ten Pin Ribbon Day - Skycity Boulevard
- ⇒ 25 July - Special Olympics Thames Valley - Indoor Bowls Ribbon Day - Ngatea