

## 2018 Victorian Country Short Course Swimming Championships District Summary

The Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre was abuzz on the weekend of 18/19 August as close to 500 swimmers and 30 Swimming Technical Officials descended to compete in the annual Victorian Country Short Course Swimming Championships. The weekend was a huge success with the overall Meet won by Traralgon Swimming Club followed by Geelong and Warrnambool. The meet was hosted by the Ovens and Murray District Swimming Association in conjunction with Swimming Victoria. There were 98 swimmers from 8 Ovens & Murray District clubs with a number of these athletes medalling in their events. The most successful was Zoe Deacon from Wodonga Swimming Club who swam in 12 events and brought home 5 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medals. She set new Country Victorian records in both the Girls Open 200m Breaststroke and Girls 18 & over 100m Individual Medal. Maggie Skewes representing Wangaratta Amateur Swimming Club took home 4 gold and 1 silver medal in the Girls 14-15 year old events with Wodonga City Swimming Club's Sarah-Jane Male winning 3 bronze medals in that same age-group. Wangaratta Amateur teammates 15 year old Henry Lee and 16 year old Gabe Watson also had success with Lee winning 2 bronze medals and Watson 1 silver and 3 bronze medals. In the 11 & under events Albury Swimming Club's Chelsea Isaac won 1 gold and 3 bronze medals and Oscar Kreutzberger won 2 silver and 3 bronze medals. Natalie Gibbons from Albury took home 2 bronze medals while individual silver medals also went to Maxwell Neave (Albury), Cooper Hall (Albury), Patrick Duggan (Wodonga), Claire Hernan (Wangaratta Amateur) and Nic Evans (Wodonga City). Patrick Richardson from Wodonga City also scored a bronze medal.

The District's top performing swimmers will now be focusing on the 2018 Victorian Age Short Course Swimming Championships in Melbourne 31 August to 2 September where the Country and Metropolitan Swimmers compete.

Ovens & Murray President Brendon Shiels said that the organising committee which included members of the Ovens & Murray Board and the 2 local Wangaratta swimming clubs did a fantastic job organising the logistics. Temporary grandstands and a presentation platform were installed in the pool hall and a marshalling marquee was erected outside. Sponsors were organised, programs printed, food services arranged as well as liaising with the YMCA (pool manager) and the Rural City of Wangaratta.

After hosting the championships in Wangaratta for the last 2 years, Swimming Victoria has announced that the 2019 & 2020 Victorian Country Short Course Championships will be hosted by the Midlands and District Amateur Swimming Association at the Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre.

