

# 7-10 Victorian Encouragement Meet 2011

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The Ovens and Murray District Swimming Association matched its third place finish from last year in the overall district point score at the 7-10 Victorian Country encouragement meet in Melbourne last Saturday.

O & M finished on 308 points behind winners and perennial powerhouse, Gippsland (658) and Central Victoria (520), but ahead of fourth-placed Geelong (278).

A gold medal medal to GT Aquatics' Taj Watson capped off a successful campaign for O & M. Competing in the seven years boys' events, Watson won the 50 metres backstroke in 53.47sec which lowered his personal best time by nearly four seconds. He then backed up and won silver in the 50 metres freestyle in 49.80.

O&O swimmers won their share of medals across other events with Albury North-Lavington's Patrick Johnston claiming three silvers in the nine years age group. His medals came in the 50 metres freestyle in a personal best time of 35.32, backstroke (42.59) and butterfly in another personal best of 41.05.

Also winning individual silver medals were Albury's Ella Riches in the 7-8 years 50 metres butterfly (49.48) by slicing nearly two seconds off her previous best time and GT Aquatics' Georgia Polkinghorne in the 10 years 50 metres breaststroke (45.81). Polkinghorne won a gold medal in this event 12 months ago.

Holbrook's Angel Durdin-Paul claimed bronze in the seven years 50 metres breaststroke in 1:13.97.

The O &M was also highly competitive in relays with silver won by the girls eight and under 200 metres freestyle team of Ella Riches, Nicole Martin, Niamh Boyer and Evie Wall and the girls nine and under 200 metres medley team of Natalie Gibbons, Lucy Hughes, Isabella Plunkett and Ashley Willett.

The boys eight and under 200 metres freestyle relay team of Kieran Ashwell, Nixon Walker, Taj Watson and Jake Wall also claimed silver as did the boys 10 and under 200 metres freestyle ou t fit of Matthew Riches, Eddy Ziebarth, Liam Ross and Hayden Ashwell.

Bronze medals were won by the girls nine and under freestyle team and the girls 10 and under 200 metres freestyle and medley team of Georgia Polkinghorne, Sarah Riches, Claudia Ziebarth and Mackensey House.

The boys 10 and under 200 metres medley relay team also won bronze.

The mixed 7-8 years 200 metres medley relay team of Niamh Boyer, Ella Riches, Evie Wall and Jake Wall claimed silver.