

2013 Victorian Country Swimming Championships

The 2013 Victorian Country Swimming Championships were held at Sale hosted by the Gippsland Swimming District from 25th to 27th January . There were 34 country Victorian Clubs in attendance, fielding 642 Swimmers. The Ovens and Murray District Swimming Association was represented by 58 swimmers from Corowa, Edge Aquatics, GT Aquatics, Myrtleford, Rutherglen, Wangaratta, Wodonga and Yarrawonga Mulwala Clubs.

Medallists from the District included Elli Warren from Wangaratta who won gold in the Open 200m and 400m Freestyle and silvers in the 14-15 yo 100m Fly and Open 400m IM. Heath MacLeod from Wodonga came home with gold medals in the 13 & under 200m IM, 13 yo 100m Free and 13 yo 100m Breast. He also came 3rd in the 13 yo 100m Back. Also from Wodonga, James Jarrous won the 14-15 yo 100m Free and brought home bronze medals in the Open 100m, 200m and 400m Free events. Other medallists from Wangaratta were Kate Brown with a bronze in the 16-17 yo 100m Breast and Grace Harmer with bronze in the 18 & over 200m IM. Representing Wodonga, Zoe Deacon came 1st in the 12 yo 100m Breast, Alyce Parker came 3rd in the 12 yo 100m Free, Olivia Plunkett won silver in the 14-15 yo 100m Free and Georgia Stadelmann came 3rd in the Open 400m Free.

The Wodonga girls 12 & under relay team of Shantelle Koch, Zoe Deacon, Georgia Polkinghorne and Alyce Parker brought home the silver medal in the 4 x 50m Freestyle. In the equivalent Medley event, Zoe, Shantelle and Alyce combined with Mackensy House to place third. The Wodonga boys 16 & under team of Harrison Lowe, Heath Macleod, Sean Hennessy and James Jarrous combined to win bronze in the 4 x 50m Free.

Many of the above swimmers swam in a number of other finals. Swimming in finals but missing out on medals were Tom Newton from Myrtleford, Joel Lake and Sarah Whitehouse from Edge, Morgan Pitches, Jocelyn Smith and Nicole Shiels from Yarrawonga Mulwala, Kolby Hennessy & Euan MacLeod from Wodonga and Bridget Cole, Josh Hargreaves, Isabelle Renner and Paris Woods from Wangaratta

The annual Swimming Victoria Inc Herb Jeffrey Award was this year awarded to local O&M official Barry Martens in recognition of his outstanding service to country swimming for over 20 years.

Wangaratta swimmer Isabelle Renner was the winner of the female Country Swimmer Achiever Award which is presented to a swimmer aged 12-17 competing in at least their second Vic Long Course who has displayed significant progress in the 12 months since the last Championships. Her coach Mark Synnot was also presented with a certificate acknowledging her achievement.

At the opening ceremony, which included a fly over by the RAAF Roulettes aerobatic team, it was announced that the 2014 Victorian Country Championships will be run by the Ovens & Murray District Swimming Association at the the new Waves pool complex in Wodonga. The District and affiliated clubs are excited to have the meet held locally with the opportunity to showcase the region.

For the 9th year in a row Traralgon won the Alan Monaghan Shield for the highest aggregate point score followed by Geelong and Warrnambool. Wodonga came in at 6th position with Wangaratta 8th.



Left: Isabelle Renner with the female Country Swimmer Achiever Award

Right: Barry Martens with the annual Swimming Victoria Inc. Herb Jeffrey Award