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**Term 1 Newsletter**

1 message

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# EVOLUTION

**Term 1 2026**

Hope you have had a great start to 2026. A warm welcome to our new Evolution Aquatics Members.

We have had lots of racing happening over the summer with meets attended in Rotorua, Matamata and Hamilton. We have three swimmers competing at the Junior Aquaknights Swimming Festival in Hastings over the weekend. Safe travels and good luck to Ellie Li, Siena Dong and Zu-er Fong with Coach Riccardo in support. Yena Kim was also set to attend also but is unfortunately injured.

We wish all our swimmers good luck for their school swimming meets coming up over the next month! The next local meet is **Swim BOP Rising Stars on 29th March at Baywave**. We will update you when we have more details. Our website has details of upcoming swim meets throughout the year and information on getting started with competing. If you have any questions about upcoming meets Riccardo would love to talk to you poolside or email [evo4swim@gmail.com](mailto:evo4swim@gmail.com).

We are excited to welcome our new assistant coach Gaia Pini. Gaia has experience in both learn to swim and squad coaching and was previously a competitive swimmer with the Greerton Club, before the club amalgamated to Evolution Aquatics. She has recently moved to Tauranga from Hamilton.



A big thank you to Pub Charity for their continued support including a recent grant for lane hire costs. We could not run the club without this support!

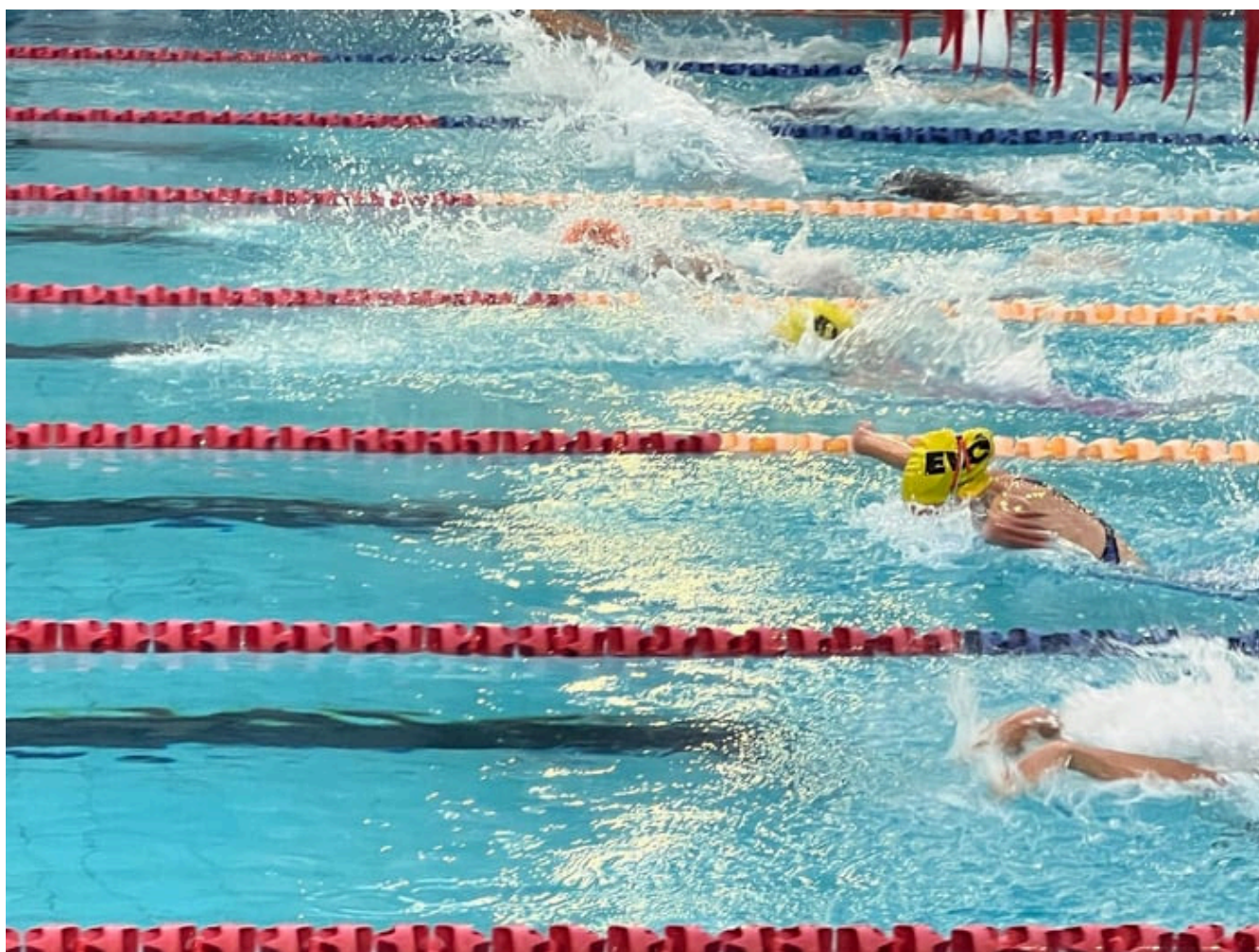


The Evolution Board is a group of dedicated swimming parents, but we are a bit light on numbers.

We are in desperate need of someone to step into the Secretary role, as Jessamy Duske has recently transitioned into the role as Club Recorder. The Board have lots of ideas and actions we want to implement for the club but we need your support. We do need some help in the areas of club uniforms, equipment and promotion/ marketing.

If you would be interested in joining the board or can contribute in another way please let us know [evo4swim@gmail.com](mailto:evo4swim@gmail.com).

## Summer 2026: News Round Up



In this year's edition of the Rotorua Summer Sizzler, a team of 15 Evo swimmers descended on the Rotorua Aquatics Centre on Sunday 15th February. It was a first real meet racing experience for Willow Fulcher and Wade Carlyle. Real swim meets - with real rules.

Reid Carlyle (11) placed top 3 in all his events, including two first places.

Thea Carlyle (10) had a good meet, swimming with growing confidence.

Wade Carlyle (8) did well in all his events, swimming off coach-generated entry times. A great achievement.

Georgia Carson (12) swam 4 events, came 2nd in her 100 Bk and got a 3.75" pb in her 100 IM.

Will Darmody (14) swam 6 events, pb' d all of them, and got three top 3 placings.

Willow Fulcher (11) completed three difficult races the 100 and the 200 Breaststroke as well as the 50 Back, and is improving in leaps and bounds.

Heathe Hopkins (13) swam 5 events (three of them were 1st places) and is well on his way to prominence at future meets.

Inhye Kim (12) was a very busy girl on the day, swimming 8 events with growing flair and technique.

Minhye Kim (10) swam 7 events and also showed good progress in her technique and skills.

Yena Kim (11) dominated her age group with 5 first places and as many pb' s. Yena is equally proficient in all the 4 strokes, which gives her more racing options. Keep up the good work, Yena!

Indigo Lange (11) swam all the 50m events, got a good pb in her Breaststroke as well as in her 50 Fly. It's pleasing to see Indy racing again after a period on the sidelines.

Marnie Lange (13) swam 5 events while feeling a little under the weather - well done on getting through a tough racing day, Marnie.

James Neems (12) swam a total of 7 events, got 5 top 3 placings so it was a good day at the office for James.

Sophia Neems was definitely in pb mode as she improved her times in all of her 7 events. Impressive work, Sophia, keep it up.

Chloe Whittington (15) got 3 top 3 placings and a 4th place at the meet. Chloe is training well again after a period away from the pool and soon the pb' s will start coming again.

Report from Riccardo Pini, Head Coach

### **Congratulations Sophia!**

Sophia Maltai-Spence competed in the Open Water swim at Lake Taupo on 10th January. She completed the 2.5km swim in 37mins 20 seconds, She placed 5th in her age group and 9th female overall - a fantastic result!

There are more open water swimming events coming up in Rotorua on March 7th and Mount Maunganui on April 18th

<https://www.oceanswim.co.nz/>



### **Ava's Amazing Achievements!**

Ava Bryant has been competing in the North Island Youth Triathlon Series (U17's). This includes triathlons, open water swims and aquathons (swim + run) and gathers points across three different meets.

At the Tinman in November, she placed 6th female, at Future Champions Lake Taupo she placed 6th overall and at the Blue lake and placed 8th overall. She is currently placed 4th in the point score for the North Island. She also recently took home bronze in U16 girls at the BOP Secondary Schools triathlon on February 17th. Good luck for your upcoming events!

### **OCEANS Junior Surf Life Saving festival 2026**

Congratulations also to Rosie Young, Oscar Gyaja and Roman Duske who competed for Omanu Surf Club at the Oceans Surf Life Saving festival last weekend. Rosie had particular success with two gold medals in the U12 Board relay and Grand Cameron relay. Swimming is a big part of surf lifesaving for both service to the community and as a sport. Pool swimming has an important role for training and maintaining fitness.



A big thank you to Rachel Darmody for her help with funding applications. Thank you also to Paula Baker, for giving her time and expertise with our recent recruitment and HR needs. <https://www.rightclicknz.co.nz/home>



### **Technical Officials**

Swimming BOP strongly encourage all parents of swimmers to train to be a timekeeper at swim meets. Without your help we would be unable to run any meets at all.

Once you have qualified as a timekeeper it is possible to train as an inspector of turns (IOT) - again without parents acting in this capacity we would not be able to run any Swimming New Zealand sanctioned swim meets.

Should you wish to take things further, then Swimming Bay of Plenty will be happy to support you in your pathway to becoming a judge of stroke, starter and finally a referee.

**Click here to view the Swimming New Zealand Technical Official Pathway**

Currently our region is very short on trained officials as the experienced officials. If you are interested in getting started please email [evo4swim@gmail.com](mailto:evo4swim@gmail.com)

### **Share your News**

We love to hear about our swimmers using their skills across a range of sports. If you would like to share this with us please email: [evosecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:evosecretary1@gmail.com)

### **Evolution Aquatics Board**