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SWIMMING WA FESTIVAL OF SWIMMING A HUGE SUCCESS

The 2018 Swimming WA (SWA) Festival of Swimming has ended on a huge high. The Festival culminated with the SWA Open Water Swimming (OWS) Series Club Premierships held at Town Beach in Mandurah on Monday morning with a record 371 people taking part.

31 SWA Clubs participated in the Open Water event from as far away as Kalgoorlie and Albany as part of the Club Championship Round. The *Jeannette Bailey Cup* was defended by Breakers Swimming Club, with the Peel Aquatic Swimming Club winning the *Kevin Holtom Participation Shield*. Mrs Bailey and Mr Holtom are both life members of SWA and were instrumental in the establishment of the SWA OWS Series which celebrates its 10th year this season

Mrs Bailey was glowing in her praise of the Festival of Swimming concept;

“When you give 12 years of your life to a sport, you are really invested. However, over the long weekend, 2,000 people have competed in Swimming WA meets, beginning on Friday night with the A Division of the SWA Club Premierships at HBF Stadium and continued on Saturday and Sunday. It was a huge undertaking by Swimming WA and its staff, not to mention the clubs, coaches, volunteers and swimmers,” she said. “The SunSmart Country Pennants were held Saturday and Sunday at the Mandurah Aquatic and Recreation Centre and the place was filled to the brim. Then to set a new record for participation at the OWS Club Premiership Round and seeing adults and children from across the State take part, makes me feel that Swimming WA is going through a pretty special time right now”.

The Festival of Swimming commenced on Friday 2 March with A Division of the SWA SunSmart Club Premierships, with B and C Divisions held Saturday and D Division on Sunday morning. The SunSmart Country Pennants ran on Saturday and Sunday, with the SWA OWS Club Premiership bringing the Festival to a fabulous end on the Monday public holiday.

Swimming WA CEO Mr Darren Beazley summed up the Festival;

“Swimming in WA has been through a huge few weeks. We had six (6) Western Australians selected on the Commonwealth Games swimming team that was announced on Saturday night. Then to have over 2,000 people competing for their individual Clubs over the long weekend, is a level of engagement that few sports can match. I was thrilled to be in Mandurah for the OWS Club Premierships where we celebrated with Jeanette and Kevin

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coming along and sharing their memories of the Series. I'd like to thank SunSmart, HHG Legal and the City of Mandurah for their support of the Festival of Swimming. We have set a pretty high bar this year, but let's hope we can exceed that in 2019".

For all of the results from the events in the Swimming WA Festival of Swimming, visit www.wa.swimming.org.au.

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Media Enquiries:
Naomi Quinlivan
Candy Stripe Public Relations
0408 598 977
naomi@candystripepr.com.au

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

HANCOCK PROSPECTING PTY LTD