

Media Release: Monday 20th November 2017

Open Water Swimming State Championships at Champion Lakes

Champion Lakes in Armadale will host the Swimming WA (SWA) Open Water Swimming (OWS) State Championships on Saturday 25 November 2017, from 8:00am.

With the state title up for grabs, some of the best open water swimmers will be battling over 5km, 7.5km and 10km distances. This event is part of the SWA OWS Series that is running throughout the summer season until March 2018.

The mens race starting at 8:00am will be competitive with numerous swimmers having a realistic chance of breaking into national teams this year. In the women's race starting at 8:10am, 17 year old Chloe Green is the strong favourite and has a strong chance at making a national team this year.

Swimmers to watch:

- Simon Huitenga (Perth City) – Race favourite, Represented Australia at 2015 FINA World Championships. Won the OWS Ocean Eliminator on the weekend.
- Nicholas Rollo (Perth City) – Current 5km/10km National Champion for under 18 years. He is pushing for spot on national junior team.
- Reilly Kennedy (Perth City) – Current national champions for 5km/7.5km. At 17 years old he is also pushing for spot on national junior team.
- William Rollo (Perth City) – 10th Place at 2017 National championships, pushing for spot on national team in 2018. He came second place in the OWS Ocean Eliminator race.
- Jack Wilson (Breakers) – National Champion 5km aged 15 years.
- Justin Kalugin (St Hildas)– Winner of OWS Round 1 in Cottesloe
- Chloe Green (Perth City) – Race favourite, Current National Champions for age group, attempting to make national junior team.
- Samantha Watts (Perth City) - Former national champion
- Rebekah Weller (Perth City) - 2017 Rottnest Channel swim solo winner
- Kelsey Eastwood (Perth City) – Member of WA State Team

There have been three Rounds already of the OWS Series at Cottesloe Beach, Busselton and Coogee, with record crowds at every event.

Novice swimmers can also take part in the event at Championship Lakes, with a variety of distances to choose from (2.5km, 5km and 10km), meeting the needs of all ages and fitness levels.

Celebrating 10 years, the OWS Series attracts 6,000 competitive and novice swimmers competing in 11 Rounds, plus the Relay Round at Scarborough Beach, the WA Open Water State Championships on 25th November 2017 and Champs of the Bay at Rottnest on 25th February 2018.

Chief Executive Officer for Swimming WA Mr. Darren Beazley said:

'Open water swimming has certainly grown in its popularity in the ten years that we have been involved in this event. This would be due to the increased exposure and accolades received by open water swimming athletes at Swimming World Championships and Olympics, and the fact that there is a variety of distances to sign up for in the OWS Series. WA also has some fantastic swimmers in this category that will be aiming for selection for the national open water swimming titles in Adelaide at the end of January 2018.

The Champion Lakes event will be great to be part of, either as a spectator or competitor. It also allows novice swimmers to take part in an open water swimming event, away from the pool and the beach'.

For further information about the OWS Series, or to register, visit www.openwaterswimming.com.au.

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