

Media Release : 22nd January 2018

2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES TRIALS

WA SWIMMERS THROW DOWN THE CHALLENGE TO EAST COAST RIVALS

Swimming WA (SWA) hosted The Hancock Prospecting Western Australian (WA) Swimming Championships at HBF Stadium over the weekend (19 -21 January), with hundreds of swimmers competing in what was one of the best Championships in the past decade. The premier meet for all WA swimmers enabled established swimmers to cement their place at the Commonwealth Games trials, with some amazing personal and team performances and times. The Championships also showcased the enormous depth of WA talent, unearthing some athletes who will be ones to watch in the future.

The trials for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Swimming Team will take place from 28 February to March 3 on the Gold Coast and WA swimmers will be well represented with the opportunity to be selected in the national squad.

Visiting national squads from Malaysia and Scotland competed at the State Championship as a lead up to the Commonwealth Games providing WA swimmers with the opportunity to compete against these elite international swimmers.

Swimming WA Chief Executive Darren Beazley was glowing in his praise of the Championships;

“The performances over the past three days at the Hancock Prospecting Western Australian Championships were phenomenal. The racing was the best that I have seen in this State which is a very public affirmation that swimming in Western Australia is strong and the work by our talented coaches is paying off” he said today.

“I was thrilled to see wonderful performance by Brianna Throssell, Tommy Sucipto, Holly Barratt, Blair Evans and Tommaso D’Orsogna, but the biggest feature of the Hancock Prospecting WA Swimming Championships were the performances of our emerging talent. Joshua Edwards-Smith taking out a National All Comers Record at just 14 years of age was a brilliant effort. Add in the stand out performances at the Championships of Kate Harrison, Jemima Horwood, George Harley and Kara Broadbridge to name just a few and

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

HANCOCK PROSPECTING PTY LTD

this tells you that the commitment and investment made by Swimming WA and its Clubs, together with WAIS over the past few years, is coming to fruition when it matters most.

With a home Commonwealth Games in early April 2018, all Western Australians should be getting excited about what our home-grown talent may be able to produce. And our eastern states cousins have every reason to be nervous!” he said.

Some of the highlights of the Hancock Prospecting Western Australian Championships include:

- Women’s 400m IM: Dual Olympian Blair Evans (UWA/West Coast) winning in a time of 4:39.76, the fastest time in Australia this year beating the time set by Queensland young gun Kaylee McKeown (4:40.29) set at the Queensland State Championships in December 2017. Evans obliterated the field winning by 27 seconds, setting a new state record.
- Men’s 50m Breaststroke: Tommy Sucipto (Rockingham) confirmed his status as one of the nation’s best sprint breaststrokers beating a quality field in a state record time of 27.67. Visiting Scottish national team representative Craig Benson finished second in 28.41. George Harley (Breakers) and Alex Milligan (UWA West Coast) rounded out the state medal winners.
- Men’s 200m Butterfly: Nicholas Brown (UWA/West Coast) was impressive winning in a time of 1:59.42 touching out training partners Kieren Pollard (Breakers) and Jake Smith (Breakers).
- Men’s 100m Freestyle: Olympian Tommaso D’Orsogna (UWA/West Coast) won in a time of 49.69. He edged out visiting Malaysian superstar Welson Sim (51.24). Zac Incerti (UWA/West Coast) also impressed taking out third place in 51.58.
- Men’s 200m IM: All rounder Jake Smith (Breakers) finished in 2:05.32 ahead of Nicholas Brown (UWA West Coast) 2:05.56 in a heart pounding encounter.
- Men’s 100 Breaststroke :Tommy Sucipto (Rockingham) took out this event in a time of 1:00.95, but was pushed to the limit by 200m Breaststroke specialists George Harley (Breakers) 1:01.63 and Alex Milligan (UWA/West Coast) 1:02.26.
- Women’s 50 Free : In the ‘splash and dash’ event, Holly Barratt 25.30 (Rockingham) held on to touch out UWA/West Coast pair Kara Broadbridge 25.93 and Australian Junior Team member Jemima Horwood 26.06. Kara and Jemima are two of Australia’s best up and coming sprinters.

- Men 200 Free: Visiting South East Asian Games Gold Medalist Welson Sim (Malaysia) won in a time of 1:49.99. Zac Incerti (UWA/West Coast) was impressive in second 1:50.94.
- Women 200 Breaststroke: Blair Evans (UWA/West Coast) broke the residential record held by fellow Olympian Sally Foster (set in 2004) in a time of 2:29:28.
- Men's 200m Breaststroke: In a 'Cinderella story' George Harley (Breakers) 2:12:7 was too good for Alex Milligan (UWA/West Coast) and Lennard Bremer (UWA/West Coast) showing a remarkable comeback from a serious accident not long ago.
- Mens 50m Freestyle : The experience of Tommaso D'Orsogna (UWA/West Coast) showed out when he won in an impressive time of 23.07.
- Women's 200 Freestyle : In an enthralling race, the battle between Blair Evans and Brianna Throssell (UWA/West Coast) had the crowd on their feet, with Throssell winning in a time of 1:58.84. Evans' time of 1:59.7 was also impressive.
- Men's 100 Backstroke: In a race to remember, Zac Incerti (UWA/West Coast) won in a time of just 56.68. Josh Edwards-Smith (UWA West Coast) swam the race in 57:53 - an Australian Age Record (14 years old), announcing to the swimming world that he has enormous potential.
- Men's 4x 100 Freestyle Relay: UWA/West Coast broke a 13-year-old State record in a time of 3:26:24. The team included Joshua Edwards-Smith, Tommaso D'Orsogna, Alex Milligan and Christopher Paunich.
- Women's 4x 100m Freestyle Relay: The UWA/West Coast team of Emma Bond, Hadley Lindsay, Jemima Horwood and Kara Broadbridge broke a State All Comers record in the relay set in 1995 in a time of 3:51.12.

Full results can be found at: www.wa.swimming.org.au

For further information please contact:

Naomi Quinlivan
Candy Stripe PR
Mobile: 0408 598 977
Email: naomi@candystripepr.com.au