

REDLANDS SWIM CLUB 2023 RECAP

Redlands Swim Club had a busy and successful 2023 season, with fewer disruptions than in recent, preceding years.

Our overall membership numbers remain approximately 100, but we now have a larger competitive standing and our 2022-2023 season saw us finishing 4th in the Brisbane first division – 3 places higher than 21/22.

We had 2 swimmers qualify for open water nationals in Perth at the beginning of the year and 6 qualify for Age group Nationals held on the Gold Coast in April. Redlands Swim Club placed 76th out of 205 clubs nationally with one of our boys Dylan Pieterse winning 3 medals.



This year also saw an improvement in facility staffing and much fewer pool closures due to weather or heating issues. Most of our swimmers now train all year round and this has helped prepare them for higher levels of competition within Brisbane and Queensland. Many of our Junior swimmers qualified for a minimum of school districts with one of our 16-year-old girls Kiarna McGuire travelling down to Sydney for School Nationals in August where she placed 5th in the 50m Backstroke and 2nd in the 100m Freestyle.

In June of 2023 Russell Booysen, our most Senior swimmer and multi-class athlete was once again selected for the Global Virtus Games. He travelled to Paris to swim for Australia where he made 6 finals and won a bronze medal in the Men's 4 x 200m Freestyle Relay.

Dylan Pieterse was selected for a number of Queensland teams again this year with the highlight being his selection for the Japanese Junior Olympic Cup in Tokyo. Dylan was one of 16 athletes selected on this team and travelled to Japan for 10 days along with his Coach Jo Collins who was one of the five team coaches.



In September, our Open Water squad consisted of 24 swimmers who braved the 20-degree water temperature at Coolum Ski Resort. They achieved 17 top 10 places, 2 gold medals, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals, seeing the club achieve first place for points in their division. Four of these swimmers also qualified for Open Water Nationals for 2024.

Our annual home meet also held in September was once again a success. We accommodated just under 300 swimmers from 15 clubs. Thank you to our committee for helping ensure this ran smoothly and to all our volunteers who helped on the day. The club profited roughly \$10,000 which helps provide funding for extra costs throughout the year including our state and national apparel, gym equipment and extra pool hire.



In November, our club entered 46 teams of various age groups and categories for the Brisbane Regional Relay Championships, accomplishing many top 10 places and finishing 4th overall in our division.

Competition wise our finale for 2023 was the Queensland Championships held over 7 days in December. With 33 qualifiers made up of 25 individual entries (12 years and over) plus an extra 8 of our younger swimmers competing in relays. Three of these athletes made many finals with Dylan winning Age Champion for the 16 yrs boys age group and Ben Wilson winning his first State Championship medal. The club finished 36th out of 104 Queensland teams.



We celebrated this year's success with a social event of bowls and dinner at the Redlands Sporting Club, where a week previous, we also held a presentation for our senior swimmers from one of Swimming Australia's top Sports Psychologists Wendy Swift.

On a final note, we would like to take this opportunity to extend sincere thanks to all those who have supported us financially over the last year. The **Redlands Sports Club**, for their ongoing monthly voluntary contributions. **Redlands City Council** and **Peter Mitchell, Councillor Div 2** for the successful approval of our application for the Community Benefit Grant. This paid for a new TV/stand and GoPro equipment and will be used to help us give visual feedback to our swimmers and provide opportunities for educational roles. To **Jestmy, Industry Group Services (IGS)** and **Raven Roofing** for their contribution towards our relay shirts and to **Koala Graphics** for their regular contributions throughout the year. We also extend our thanks to **Belgravia Leisure** and **Cleveland Aquatic Centre** and their employees for their continued commitment and enthusiasm in helping our club flourish, we are truly grateful to all of you. Here's hoping 2024 will prove even more eventful and successful.

