MINUTES OF THE SWIMMING TARANAKI INC. BOARD MEETING,

Tuesday 9th September 2025.

Start time 7pm, at Toi, 121 Gill St, New Plymouth

PRESENT: Paul Feltoe (via Teams), Daniel Hancock, Mariano Garcia Nani, Kim Treweek, Louisa Parker.

APOLOGIES: Steve Venables.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST REGISTER: None to anyone present.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th August 2025 were read and accepted.

Daniel/Paul F **CARRIED**

MATTERS ARISING: none

POLICIES/GOVERNANCE:

Tech Suit Policy – Bonded (Glued) Suits for 12 & Under

Aquabladz requested that the current policy on bonded (glued) tech suits be revisited. Their position is as follows:

"12 & Under Race Suit Policy for Bonded (Glued) Race Suits. Our stand is, it should be up to the parents. There is little to no research to say suits benefit U12s, but if a parent wants to fork out for one / or the swimmer wants to wear a hand-me-down suit, it should be their prerogative."

During the discussion, it was noted that officials often find it difficult to identify when bonded suits are being worn, as their focus during meets is on technical aspects of the swimming itself. Parents may be better placed to recognise these suits, given their involvement in purchasing swimwear.

The original policy was introduced to reduce financial pressure on families by discouraging the purchase of expensive suits that provide no proven performance benefit for swimmers aged 12 and under.

It was agreed that leniency could be applied in circumstances where a swimmer nearing 13 years of age needs a new suit.

Paul F expressed support for maintaining the current policy, noting that it helps parents save money and reduces pressure within the sport. Mariano agreed, highlighting the importance of keeping the sport affordable and accessible, and avoiding the creation of a competitive, high-cost environment.

As a coach, Mariano reinforced that bonded suits offer no meaningful advantage for this age group.

The **Swimming Taranaki Board reconfirmed** their stance: they do **not support swimmers aged 12 and under wearing bonded tech suits**. The board recognises the difficulty for officials in identifying these suits during events and notes that the performance benefit at this age is minimal. The policy is aimed at reducing unnecessary cost and pressure. This rule is clearly stated in the **Terms and Conditions** that all swimmers agree to before entering a Swimming Taranaki event.

The Tech Suit Policy was reviewed once again and accepted.

Mariano/Paul F **CARRIED**

TO ACTION: Louisa to send an email to the club. Also to ask the clubs to put forward this reasoning to the parents of swimmers 12 & under.

Daniel can attend an Aquabladz meeting to discuss with them if is necessary.

HEALTH & SAFETY: None

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Financial report (Profit & Loss) as attached

We have instructed to complete an **Annual Enterprise Survey 2024/2025** for Stats NZ. They require our most recent financial report. Louisa has sent the Entity Report to VBW to be included in the Annual Performance Report.

On Thursday 4th September we applied to **The Taranaki Foundation for $900** of financial assistance with ribbons and spot prizes for the Summer Series 2026.

NZSC - We received **$4500 from Lions Foundation** for financial assistance for this event. This was the same amount as last year. This will be divided amongst the swimmers attending plus one coach per club. If there is accommodation available and swimmers do not take up this offer and choose to stay elsewhere then there will no funding available for these swimmers. If however, there is no accommodation available due to the swimmer making times close to the entry deadline, and they are forced to stay elsewhere, then funding will be applied.

Mariano + Kim **CARRIED**

Move that the financial report as circulated is taken as a true and correct record and passed and approved.

Mariano/Paul F **CARRIED**

TECHNICAL REPORT:

Mariano outlined the issues concerning Bell Block Pool between the manager and the chairman. Jason, the current pool manager, is leaving and the chairman of the BBK Pool Society is going to manage the pool from Friday (12th September).
There are management decisions which are concerning the patrons, clubs and the wider community.
Swimming Taranaki will support Aquabladz in any way they can and after the BBK Pool Society's AGM, look at applying for financial assistance for new blocks.
Swimming Taranaki have a Long-Distance Meet scheduled in November where the blocks condition may be an issue. We have been given a quote, which we have accepted, and this is booked in for **Saturday November 8th from 1pm – 5pm**.

TO ACTION: Discuss again after the Bell Block Pool Society's AGM when more will be known about the possibility of repairs to the blocks.

TRANSFERS: None

Records:
No records recorded in August 2025.

TARANAKI EVENTS:

Aquabladz Meet 06.08.25 had 59 swimmers with 4 scratchings
Stratford Meet 24.08.25 – had a few withdrawals. Approximately 60 swimmers.
These were both good opportunities to give Swimmers Springs times and went well.

Junior/Intermediate Swimming Camp in 2026

The camp will be for swimmers of below Div 2 level. The cost will be $100 per swimmer. We will continue to advertise for camp leaders as we have only had one response so far although we still have time as it is 4 months away.

TO ACTION: Louisa to continue putting flyers on FB inviting those interested in being camp leaders to contact us.

NATIONAL EVENTS:
NZSC & SNZ AGM at the end of September – Mariano will attend while he is at NZSC.

Div 2 – cost and logistics.
This will be an expensive national meet to attend, and it is recommended that clubs begin fundraising as soon as possible since we cannot rely on any increase to funding. It is becoming harder each year to secure funding.

TO ACTION: Louisa to contact clubs to reinforce that they need to start fundraising as soon as possible and that we can't rely on an increase in funding.

The 2025 AGM + Regional Forum will be held in Auckland at AUT Millennium on **Sunday, 21 September.**
This is being held at NZSC and Mariano will attend on behalf of the Swimming Taranaki Board.

STRATEGIC PLAN: Ongoing. Louisa has approached 2 Learn to Swim schools who are keen to attend the Summer Series and who have been appreciative of engagement by ST. This initiative is in line with the Strategic Plan goals.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Awards definitions

- **Taranaki Swimmer of the Year** Awarded to the highest international achievement of a swimmer eg: Olympics, World Champs, Commonwealth Games, Pan Pacific's, World University Games, World Cup Champs, and Oceania Champs. (in this order) *If there is more than one swimmer at the same level then the highest FINA points would be awarded. If there are no swimmers at any of these meets then the highest ranked swimmer at National Open champs or a swimmer gaining a National Open Record.*

Having contacted Sue Southgate, Tania Stockman and Tracey Knofflock to get clarification on this policy, the winner will be calculated from NAGs this year as no one competed at Opens. This is calculated by the highest FINA point swim.

- **Taranaki Age Group Swimmer of the Year** This would cover all age groups from 18 & Under at date of event. Awarded to the swimmer with the highest international result. Eg: Youth Olympics, Junior Pan Pacs (JPP), Australian Age Group Champs, Australian State Champs, Australian State Teams Meet (in this order). *If there are no swimmers at any of the international meets then the trophy will be awarded to the swimmer who is the highest ranked FINA points medalist.*

This is also calculated by "the highest FINA point single swim" not overall FINA points.

Kim & Paul F **CARRIED**

SNZ Operations Meeting update
Attached are some highlights from the recent SNZ Operations Meeting.

Update on Opunake becoming a member club

Deb Hohaia gave Louisa an update on the progress:
"I have had a great response for our development squad once we are up and running I will engage the interest in reinstating SNZ but going by the survey it's definitely there."

It is Deb's intention that Opunake will be reinstated with SNZ as soon as possible.

Both Carol Powell and Deb were grateful for the recommendation of Carol into the position of coaching the learn to swim in Opunake. This has helped them out until a permanent coach can be found. Good to give encouragement to these swimmers and get them to carnivals.

Administrators Report – Highlands.
All the membership numbers for Highlands Club have been taken off the reporting for this year. Highlands was still showing as having 77 active members (as it did last year) but this is because no one from the club has accessed and updated the site and lapsed the members.
This is why the membership numbers will be down on last year in the Annual Report Document.

TO ACTION: Louisa to lapse all Highlands Club Members

Flannagan Cup

Abi King is now loaded onto our system for being paid and has submitted her first timesheet. She has drawn up a poster which Louisa has already posted on FB.

2 main sponsors are back on board with Abi undertaking F/C support work.

NT Entries

Aquabladz would like the issue of how we can stop all the "No Time" Entries for Taranaki Winters/Summers" which is time consuming for the coaches, team managers and recorders.

Earlier this year there was not a lot of opportunity to get times. Swimmers should be encouraged by coaches and clubs to be entering a wide range of events at carnivals (not 25m races) during the year and not intending to swim an event for the first time at a 'championship' meet.

First Aid Courses

Stratford Flyers asked about 'Refresher Course and new First Aid Courses' for coaches/Team Managers and asked if this be something that would be supported financially by ST.

This was discussed but the range of people involved, and the cost would be prohibitive at this time.

Board Member Vacancy

There has been one nomination for the open board position so far.

TO ACTION: Louisa to contact the clubs to see if anyone else is interested in putting their forward as well.

Survey

Sport Taranaki in conjunction with Sport New Zealand, is undertaking an important research programme to understand how key stakeholders perceive Sport Taranaki across a range of areas. We have been invited to participate in this survey which is being carried out by Rangahau Aotearoa, an independent research company.

AGM & Constitution

Louisa urged everyone to let her know if there are any issues with amendments to the Constitution. This needs to be ratified at the AGM to ensure that we don't need a SGM to pass the amendments. If we don't register in time with the Incorporated Societies, we risk losing our ability to apply for funding.

Louisa is hoping to reregister ST before the end of the year as next year and has put her name forward to be the contact point for the reregister.

Meeting closed 8:14pm

Next Meeting will be the AGM, Saturday 11th October at the War Memorial Function Rooms in Stratford

Signed as a true and correct record: **Date:** 11/11/25