

Masters Swimming Western Australia State Championships - 2024

The State Championships provide a rare opportunity to compete in all strokes and distances from 50m to 200m, all with fancy touch pad timing gear just like the pros use. As always, the emphasis is on fitness, friendship and fun and best of all, there are no qualifying times, no heats, semis and finals - just one and done swimming in a mixed age, mixed gender heat of swimmers of similar pace. This makes the meet incredibly accessible, even for a relative newcomer. Results are compiled into genders and age groups at the conclusion of each event - which means even though you may have been 'last' in your race, you could be first in your age group.

Armadale was represented by the crack team of Wayne Sams-Hayes, Charles Croft, Gabby Wells, Megan Webster, Sarah Carr and Natalie Upson over the weekend of the 20 and 21 April 2024... and what a weekend it was! An age group winner, tumbled club records, personal bests, rattled state records and in one case, achieved and then not achieved. How can this be? Read on for more...

Wayne Sams-Hayes

Wayne swam 4 PBs in the 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle, and the 100m breaststroke and set 3 club records for the 50 and 100m free and 100m breast. Wayne finished the meet with an equal 4th place in the competitive 50-54 Men's age group.

Charles Croft

Charles swam a challenging program of freestyle and breaststroke events and was either first or second in all his events, which meant he was the age group winner for the 70-74 Men's - a fantastic effort! Unfortunately, no PBs or club records this time - this is his last year in this age group and he has already claimed quite a few records! When not swimming, he was on pool deck assisting with the timing.

Gabby Wells

It was fantastic to see young gun Gabby competing - and with two PBs from two swims it was worth the effort. Gabby swam 200m free and 50m free. She finished 5th in her 20-24 Women's age group. We should also mention that Gabby is rather unique amongst our membership - she competes in Pony Club Tetrathlon and has represented WA. Tetrathlon consists of riding (showjumping), running, swimming and shooting, a stepping stone to the full Modern Pentathlon, an Olympic Sport. Well done Gabby!

Megan Webster

Meg swam PBs in the 200m IM and 100m freestyle, with the 100m free also securing her a club record. She finished the two days in equal 8th in the 44-49 Women's age group.

Sarah Carr

Sarah had a great meet finishing second in her age group over the two days. She achieved PBs in her 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke and 100m freestyle. She also swam club records for all those events and the 200m backstroke. Her 50m backstroke was 33.80, less than half a second off the long standing state record of 33.46. Sarah gave an even better performance in the lead off leg of the 4 x 50 mixed medley relay to get to 33.61 - so close! Next time...

Natalie Upson

New member Nat had a cracker of a meet - 6 swims for 6 PBs and 6 club records! She swam 100m breaststroke, 200m IM, 50m back, 200m breaststroke, 50 breast and 50 fly. She also finished 2nd in the 30-34 Women's age group. And now for the controversy! Nat's 200m breaststroke was 3:09.94, and the previous state record set in 1994 was 3:13.98... or so everyone thought - even the draft results had her swim as a record. However, during the week, another swimmer came forward claiming her swim from 2005 was missing from the state records - and that swim was 3:03.45 set in Canada! The results for that meet had been loaded in the portal at the time, but the state record was never processed. A disappointment for Nat, but as a recently returned swimmer with a few years to go in the age group, that record may yet be achieved!

Relays

We had enough ladies for the women's relay events and enough men for a mixed team. The ladies set a club record in the 120-159 age group 4 x 50m Medley Relay. Well done Sarah, Nat, Megan and Gabby!

All up, the team finished a credible 9th place from 29 clubs.

Thanks to Gillian Caruso and Rowie Burch who officiated over the weekend, and Heather Croft who turned her hand to marshalling. Thanks to those who also took on timekeeping duties between races

Rowena Burch