



Media Release
Friday 15 July 2016

Aquatic Olympics coming to Selwyn

Selwyn residents are being invited to celebrate the Rio Olympics and support St John's project to build a new facility in Rolleston with a fun afternoon of games and awards at the Selwyn Aquatic Centre on Saturday 6 August.

The Rio Games will officially open on Friday 5 August (the morning of 6 August New Zealand Time) and 195 New Zealand athletes will be competing in 19 sports.

"We're excited to host a fun event which everyone in Selwyn can be part of to celebrate the start of the Olympics," says Aquatic Facilities Manager Kathy Moore. "This is also an opportunity to celebrate the contribution everyone who has been part of our Swim to Rio challenge has made to helping raise funds for a local facility for St John while improving their fitness at the same time."

The Swim to Rio challenge has been running since February with a target for swimmers to cover a combined distance of 11,765 kilometres – the distance from Lyttelton to Rio de Janeiro. There has been full community support through sponsorship of swimmers, sausage sizzles, raffles, donations and a bake sale with the funds going to the Rolleston St John project. To date the Selwyn Aquatic Centre community has completed 10,426 kilometres.

The Aquatic Olympics on 6 August will run between 2-4pm at the centre. Swim to Rio Challenge participants who have swum the largest distance will be recognised with an award at a podium presentation. A cheque from the challenge will also be presented to St John.

The Aquatic Olympics will include Olympic themed water games which are open to everyone like javelin noodle throw, aquatic sprints and paddle boat relay races.

"We're inviting 'Olympic' competitors both young and old to enter the games and dress up in the colours of the country they want to represent," says Kathy Moore. "Our staff are looking forward to the day and we think it will be fantastic fun."

There will also be music, spot prizes sponsored by Speedo and a bake sale with the profits going to St John.

Normal pool entry admission prices apply. Swimmers are requested not to wear face paint in the pool.

Ends

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