



Media Release
Thursday 28 May 2015

Speedo Challenge a success

Forty-eight staff at the Selwyn Aquatic Centre successfully completed a swim of the distance from Christchurch to Auckland to raise funds for the Cancer Society.

The Speedo Challenge event ran for 90 days, beginning on Monday 2 February and finishing on Saturday 2 May.

The team at the Aquatic Centre decided to swim 1,068 kilometres, the same distance as from Lyttleton Harbour to Manukau Harbour, where the Speedo head office is located. They completed the challenge in 81 days and raised \$971.70 for the Cancer Society.

Aquatic Centre staff including lifeguards, receptionists and swim instructors participated in the challenge and swam a total of 45,326 lengths of their indoor pools.

Speedo Challenge organiser and Customer Service Supervisor Angela Leatherby, says the Speedo Challenge served several purposes.

“It has increased staff moral and teamwork, encouraged staff to start swimming again and in some cases get back in the water after years of not swimming and it has raised money for a very worthwhile cause.”

“The team would like to thank all those who sponsored the Speedo Challenge and purchased raffle tickets.”

Speedo representative Scott Reid awarded prizes on the last day of the challenge, which saw staff members completing some leisurely laps before the prize giving.

The overall winner was Inge Martens, swimming 233.5 kilometres which was also the most lengths by a swim tutor. Elizabeth Kempthorne raised the most money, \$629.70, for the Cancer Society, Jo Mills aqua jogged 23.8 kilometres for the receptions, Kristen Dawson swum 79 kilometres, the most lengths for a lifeguard and Ben Close was the most consistent swimmer, swimming 79 of the 90 days and clocking up 154 kilometres. Ben was also the statistician who recorded everyone's lengths and ensured the team was on track to complete the challenge in time.

The event was such a success that it is being implemented in other Aquatic Centres in New Zealand and Hong Kong. Selwyn Aquatic Centre are keen to run another Speedo Challenge next year and include their customers and other Selwyn District Council staff.

Photos attached: *Aquatic Centre staff members Karli Haugh and Ben Close taking part in the Speedo Challenge.*

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