



Annual Plan Submission to the Dunedin City Council.

Prepared on behalf of Swim Dunedin by the Dunedin Swim Coaching Board.

April 2024.

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1. Exec Summary

Swim Dunedin, operating under the Dunedin Swim Coaching Board, is deeply integrated into the local swimming community, offering coaching services across a wide range of skill levels and aquatic disciplines.

By aligning closely with stakeholders like the Dunedin City Council and local swim clubs, Swim Dunedin fosters collaboration and supports the growth of swimming at all levels, from grassroots to high performance.

Seeking five years of funding, Swim Dunedin aims to further develop athlete talent, enhance community engagement, and prepare Olympic contenders for the 2024 and 2028 Games, contributing to the overall health and vitality of the Dunedin swimming community.

Through ongoing community involvement and collaborations, Swim Dunedin ensures swimming remains accessible and inclusive to all community members, fostering long-term impacts on athlete development, community health and Dunedin success on the world stage.

Swim Dunedin's remarkable success in training Olympic-caliber athletes such as Erika Fairweather, Caitlin Deans, Kane Follows, and Zac Reid, who have consistently excelled in prestigious events like the World Aquatics Championships and the Paris Olympic Games, highlights its pivotal role in elevating Dunedin's presence on the global swimming stage and inspiring future generations of swimmers. Through its squads and initiatives like Race With The Reps, Swim Dunedin continues to foster a culture of excellence and accessibility, offering emerging talent unparalleled opportunities to engage with top-tier athletes and ignite their passion for swimming.

2. Introduction

Swim Dunedin is proud to be an integral part of the Dunedin swimming community. Under the auspices of the Dunedin Swim Coaching Board (DSCB), Swim Dunedin has the responsibility of providing coaching services for a diverse range of swimmers, spanning from Competitive Development to High Performance swimming. The program encompasses all aquatic sports including surf lifesaving and water polo as well as promoting health and well-being through aquatic activities.

Programmes closely align with various stakeholders, including the Dunedin City Council, local swim clubs, Swimming Otago, and Swimming New Zealand. Swimmers can be members of any swimming club while training with Swim Dunedin. This arrangement supports the local Dunedin clubs in maintaining and growing their membership numbers, nurturing the grassroots level of the sport. Additionally, Swim Dunedin attracts numerous student-athletes from across New Zealand who choose Dunedin as their destination for both swimming and academic pursuits.

Formerly known as the Dunedin Swimming Coaching Board (DSCB) from its establishment in 2013 until 2018, the governance of the Swim Dunedin program rests with the DSCB, which oversees its operations and strategic direction.

2024 Strategy includes funding, lane space, staffing opportunities, and ensuring we cater for diverse communities.

3. Overview of application purpose

Swim Dunedin acknowledges the importance of maximising the use of DCC swimming facilities. The goal is to optimise the use of existing spaces, benefiting the entire community from Club Plus members to Performance athletes. Swim Dunedin continues to achieve this in close collaboration with Moana pool.

Swimming consistently ranks as one of the most popular activities in Dunedin. Therefore, by promoting the sport as a fun, long-term, and accessible and competitive option, Swim Dunedin aims to inspire more community members to engage in regular physical activity and enjoy the associated health benefits.

The programs are designed to promote physical well-being and active lifestyles among Dunedin residents, starting

from youth, striving to foster a culture of health and fitness that begins in childhood. Training is further supplemented by other well being initiatives including Pilates, Nutrition advice etc.

Squads and training are accessible to all members of the community and subsidised on Board consideration. The board believes that affordability should not be a barrier to participation in swimming, and the programs are priced accordingly. Member prices have increased a modest 7% over the past 5 year period when inflation for the same period has been around 22%.

Swim Dunedin prides itself on its innovative coaching methods and commitment to continuous improvement. The experienced and growth coaches alike are dedicated to providing high-quality training and mentorship to participants, ensuring they reach their full potential.

4. Current Programmes and structure

Swim Dunedin operates a tiered system of squads tailored to accommodate swimmers of varying ages, abilities, and training commitments. Beginning with Club Plus, the entry-level squad feeds from other DCC-based offerings like Just Swim, and ascending to Performance, the highest-tier swimmers progress through the ranks based on age, skill level, Performance, high-performance ability and training regimen.



The Performance squad represents the pinnacle of achievement within Swim Dunedin, catering to elite athletes with national and international competition aspirations. These swimmers receive specialised coaching to optimise their Performance in the pool.

Moving down the ladder, the Competitive start squad serves as a stepping stone for swimmers aiming to excel in competitive swimming. This squad provides a supportive environment for athletes to refine their skills and prepare for higher-level competition.

Meanwhile, our Competitive Development squads focus on nurturing emerging talent, offering structured training programs designed to develop fundamental swimming techniques and build a solid foundation for future success.

Our goal is to attract talented athletes to the sport and retain their participation over the long term. Swim Dunedin endeavours to foster a lifelong love for swimming among athletes of all ages and backgrounds, enriching their sporting journey and overall well-being. We strive to create an inclusive environment where athletes from all backgrounds feel welcome and supported.

Average Swimmer Numbers per Squad

Squad	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	% Change
Performance	31	36	36	-13.9%
Competitive	24	21	16	50.0%
Competitive Development	36	37	34	5.9%
Competitive Start	46	41	40	15.0%
Club Plus	24	19	15	60.0%
Swim Fit	17	14	10	70.0%
Masters	6	8	9	-33.3%
Total	184.0	176.0	160.0	15.0%

Over the past three years, Swim Dunedin has witnessed considerable growth in total swimmer numbers, particularly within the Club Plus, Competitive, and Swim Fit Squads. Notably, our Club Plus squad, tailored for beginner training, has seen a staggering 60% increase in membership, marking a significant uptick in young individuals embarking on their aquatic training journey.

Similarly, the Competitive Squad has experienced substantial growth as more athletes opt to remain long-term participants in our successful Swim Dunedin Program. Moreover, our Performance and Swim Fit Squads have attracted a diverse cohort of swimmers, drawn to Dunedin by its esteemed higher education opportunities and our exceptional swimming program. As a result, the composition of these squads may fluctuate throughout the year.

The popularity of squads underscores the efficacy of Swim Dunedin high-quality coaching programs, designed to cater to a wide spectrum of aquatic sports enthusiasts. With a clear pathway to international competition, Swim Dunedin continues to serve aspiring athletes seeking to hone their skills and achieve excellence in the realm of swimming.

5. Funding Request and DCC Alignment.

Swim Dunedin is seeking **five years** of funding.

This much needed funding will enable continued collaborative participation in the sport of swimming across age groups, further aid athlete development, enable future community engagement and club relationships whilst preparing Olympic contenders for the 2024 and 2028 Olympic Games.

With this funding, Swim Dunedin and the DCC will support our high-performance programs at a crucial time. With Olympic athletes in 2024, and a strong potential for a podium, we understand the significance this holds to Dunedin as a city.



Additionally, the funding will ensure that swimming remains a vibrant and accessible sport for all residents of Dunedin. By investing in Swim Dunedin, the DCC will not only be supporting the dreams of our athletes to bring home Gold, but also contributing to the overall health and long term viability of our swimming community.

6. High Performance Preparation: Olympic athletes

Event	Athletes
Olympic Long List	Erika Fairweather, Caitlin Deans, Kane Follows, Ruby Heath, Zac Reid, Luan Grobbelaar, Lars Humer
2024 NZ Paris Olympic Nominations	Erika Fairweather, Caitlin Deans, Kane Follows, Lars Humer
2023 World Aquatics Swimming World Cup	Erika Fairweather, Caitlin Deans, Kane Follows, Zac Reid
Berlin (6-8 Oct)	Erika Fairweather: Gold 400m Freestyle, Silver 200m and 800m Freestyle; Kane Follows: 4th 200m backstroke and 6th 100m backstroke; Zac Reid: 6th 40m Freestyle; Caitlin Deans: 8th 800m fr and 9th 400m Freestyle
Athens (13-15 Oct)	Erika Fairweather: Gold 400m Freestyle, Silver 200m Freestyle, 5th 100m Freestyle; Caitlin Deans: 3rd 1500m Freestyle, 7th 400m Freestyle; Zac Reid: 8th 200m and 400m Freestyle; Kane Follows: 5th 200m backstroke
Budapest (20-22 Oct)	Erika Fairweather: Gold 400m Freestyle, Silver 800m Freestyle, Bronze 200m Freestyle; Caitlin Deans: 5th 800m Freestyle and 6th 400m Freestyle; Erika Fairweather achieved the Triple Crown in 400m Freestyle
2024 World Aquatics Championships (Doha 2024)	Erika Fairweather: Gold 400 Freestyle, Silver 200 Freestyle, Bronze 400 Freestyle; Caitlin Deans: 10th 1500 Freestyle, Erika and Caitlin 4x200m freestyle relay, NZ Record, 5th
Awards and Recognitions	Erika Fairweather: Maori Junior Sportswoman and Maori Sportsperson of the Year; Halberg Award finalist: Sportswoman of the year; Domestic Swimmer of the Year, Billie Fitzsimmons International Swimmer of the Year, Closest to World Record (Olympic Programme) Lars Humer: Halberg Award finalist: Coach of the Year; Swimming New Zealand Coach of the year (2023) and Swimming New Zealand International Coach of the Year (2023)

7. Success Across the Past Year:

Event	Successes
New Zealand Short Course Championships (Aug 2023)	28 medals were achieved by Swim Dunedin athletes and a whopping 14 Otago Records were broken. Congratulations to: Zac Reid, Neo Salomonsson, Esme Paterson, Poppy Henderson, Erika Fairweather, Lily McGrath, Kane Follows, Kale Twist and Neptune Relay Teams.
South Island Long Course Championships	Overall Champions: Luan Greobbelaar, Alfie Weatherston Harvey, Ruby Heath, Zac Reid Otago Records to: Neo Salomonsson (15) set a new 50m butterfly record. Poppy Henderson (18) set a new 50m butterfly record. Alfie Weatherson-Harvey (16) set a new record in 800m Freestyle. Medals: Swim Dunedin athletes secured 50 medals across all events

Otago Junior Champs and Senior L/C Carnival Otago Primary Championships Makos Junior Festival	Swim Otago athletes produced many pbs and podium finishes. Makos Junior Festival 80% PB success from our athletes and many top 3 placings.
2024 Apollo Projects NZ Swimming Championships	28 Top 10 placings of which 13 were podium results. Kane Follows went lower than the Olympic qualifying time in 200m backstroke and Caitlin Deans put herself in contention for Paris 4x200m freestyle relay with her 200m freestyle swim. Otago records were broken by Erika Fairweather, Poppy Henderson, Kane Follows. NZ Record Kane Follows 200 backstroke.
2024 Apollo Projects NZ Age Group Swimming Championships	Our age group program has been developing and this year we sent a team of 15 to NAGS. This year we brought home 13 medals (2023 6 medals) and Otago Records were broken by Neo Salomonssen, Lily McGrath and Alfie Weatherston Harvey. 85% of our athletes made finals
Open Water	Dominated the NZ Open Water Champs, with Ruby Heath clinching victory in the 10km event and Emilia Finer 4th. This qualified them for Oceanias which was unfortunately cancelled. Emilia also competed in the 2.5km (5th) and 5km (3rd) events and Ruby the 5km event (7th), all on the same day. Ruby Heath was also selected to represent NZ in ANOC World Beach Games (Bali, Aug 2023) and this was unfortunately cancelled.
NZSLS (2024 Surf Lifesaving Nationals, Mt Maunganui)	Molly Shivnan - Open 2nd Tube, Board Rescue, run swim run, surf race, board race, taplin relay Liam Chesney - Open 1st 2km run Josh Thorburn - Open 2nd 2km run Pippa Nicol - 1st Open Tube rescue, u19 Surf teams, open surf teams, u19 board relay, and open taplin Sophie Matehaere - U19 1st ski relay, taplin relay Aidan Chesney - u19 3rd surf teams and taplin Connor Chesney - u19 3rd surf teams Logan Margerison - u19 3rd 2km Charlotte Aburn - u17 1st board race, run swim run Peta Richardson - u13 rdboard race Toby Hill - u14 3rd surf race Vicky Aburn- u14 3rd surf race, run swim run We also had many younger athletes compete at Oceans' 24 Festival of Junior Lifesaving (Mt Maunganui)
Otago Water Polo	Many athletes in regional age group teams compete at National competitions.
Surfing	Zara Owen won the U14 girls division at the prestigious Surfing New Zealand Championships.

Triathlon Oceania Series	Grayson Westgate
NZ Sec Schools Triathlon	Top 10 - Julia Hodgson (U13). Many athletes competed individually and in teams at Otago Primary and Intermediate Triathlon as well as the Otago Secondary Triathlon. At the South Island Secondary Schools Triathlon (Oamaru) top 10 individual placings were as follows., Hugo Beeby placed 6th in Junior boys. In the Junior Girls Julia Hodgeson placed 4th, Penelope Hodgson placed 8th and Carlotta Schwefel 10th. We also had athletes in team events. This event unfortunately clashed with the South Island Swim Championships.
NZ Pool Championships	3 athletes have been selected to the NZ trials for the World Championships 27/28 April.
Underwater Hockey	Athletes competing in regional teams at National level and New Zealand Training Camps.
Swim Otago Awards	Regional Swimmer of the Year: Luan Grobbelaar

Race With The Reps - A new initiative inspiring youth swimmers

Our inaugural **Race with the Reps** competition was held at Moana Pool in Dunedin on Saturday 20 January.

Race with the Reps was an interactive racing experience, where swimmers had the opportunity to race head to head against some of New Zealand's top athletes. Our Reps at the event were: Caitlin Deans, Erika Fairweather, Emilia Finer, Kane Follows, Luan Grobbelaar, Ruby Heath, Esme Paterson, Zac Reid, and Kale Twist.

8. Community Involvement and collaboration

Swim Dunedin is deeply rooted in the community, engaging with clubs and stakeholders to foster talent and promote the sport of swimming.

Our coaching staff, including the-award-winning Lars Humer, Michelle Summers, and Gabby Trotter, are instrumental in nurturing athletes and driving success across levels.

Michelle Summers has undertaken the Swimming New Zealand Coach TED initiative, and Gabby Trotter has completed her Masters Degree in the pursuit of continuous performance. We strive to provide coaches skill opportunities as relevant and ensure they are earning a decent wage from a longevity and



delivery point of view.

Through initiatives like the Race with the Reps competition, Swim Dunedin provides aspiring swimmers unique opportunities to interact with top-tier athletes, inspiring them to pursue excellence in the pool for future high performance opportunities.

We continue to strengthen our ties with local clubs and organisations, ensuring that swimming remains accessible and inclusive to all members of the Dunedin community.

9. Financial insights

In the latest financial period, The DSCB has experienced notable increases in direct costs associated with coaching, lane space, and various administrative expenses. Despite membership driven income generated, with additional funding primarily attributed to the Olympic period's specific needs, the organisation faces a decrease in cash compared to previous years. This decline in liquidity underscores the heightened obligations to creditors, highlighting the pressing need for additional funding to address operational expenses and sustain vital programs ongoing.

The Board aims to continue to attract high quality senior coaches to ensure that delivery standard and community benefit is upheld, but that in itself comes at a cost. The increase in athlete numbers, in turn increases pool hire costs, but this increase is beneficial to the Council as pool entry is separate from coaching fees.

The Dunedin Swim Coaching Board, and the Swim Dunedin services rendered are understandably not financially viable without Council contribution and the Board is immensely grateful for the councils contribution over the past five years. We look forward to working together with the Dunedin City Council and all of Dunedin's public for the continued success of our swimming community.

10. Conclusion

Swim Dunedin's approach to swimming development, community engagement, and high-performance preparation underscores its commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive swimming culture in Dunedin which it cannot achieve without DCC assistance.

Together with Dunedin City Council, Swim Dunedin is poised to continue making significant contributions to the Dunedin community's health, well-being, and sporting achievements.

