Tri Series Information

Newsletter 1

5 May 2026

Welcome!!

Team Staff Introductions

Carl Gordon — Team Leader

Carl brings a wealth of experience to the team. He is presently the head coach of the very successful Wharenui Swim Team.

He has represented New Zealand on several occasions as an athlete in his favoured open water swimming – Aqua Black 170.

Carl has supported New Zealand swimmers at multiple international events in coaching roles. He is looking forward to stepping into the **Team Leader role** for the Tri Series and helping to build a strong, positive team environment.

Brigitte Mahan — Team Manager

I have had the privilege of being part of several Swimming New Zealand teams. Most recently, I attended the Tri Series last year, which was an outstanding experience.

I am excited to be involved again in 2026. Last year's competition provided tough, fast racing and fantastic team camaraderie, creating valuable learning opportunities for all involved.

Carl and I are looking forward to working closely with you, supporting athlete wellbeing, and helping every swimmer perform to the best of their ability.

Team Coaches

Team coaches are yet to be confirmed. We have received expressions of interest from several strong candidates and will confirm appointments soon.

Selection Process

Selections will be completed following the **New Zealand Open Championships**.

- Selection notifications will be sent by **20 May**
- There is a short turnaround, so please check your email regularly
- If you know you will be unavailable during the selection period, please email us as soon as possible
- If you are definitely keen to be considered for the team, please email us as soon as possible with your correct email address

📧 **Contact:**
brigitteandgavin@xtra.co.nz

Competition Information

- The meet is being run by Western Australia Swimming
- A recovery swim will take place in Perth
- Once in Karratha:
    - There will be five training sessions before racing starts
    - Racing begins Wednesday afternoon
    - Two race sessions will take place on the Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July

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Travel, Accommodation, and Meals

Travel Dates

- **Sunday 5 July**: Travel from Auckland to Perth
- **Monday 6 July**: Travel from Perth to Karratha
- **Saturday 11 July**: Travel from Karratha to Perth, then on to Auckland
- **Sunday 12 July**: Arrive in Auckland at approximately **6:00am**

Flights have been secured:

- Depart Auckland: **Sunday 5 July at 12:35pm**
- Arrive Auckland: **Sunday 12 July at 6:00am**

Athletes are responsible for arranging and paying for their own travel to and from Auckland.

Athletes living outside the Auckland area will need to book additional domestic flights. The schedule allows:

- Travel *into Auckland on the morning of 5 July*
- Travel *home on the afternoon of 12 July*

These flights were booked early to manage costs and ensure availability, as tickets cannot be named until selections are confirmed.

Accommodation

- **Perth:** Accommodation details to be confirmed
- **Karratha:** Accommodation details to be confirmed

In Karratha, we will be on a package that includes:

- Accommodation
- Meals
- Transport
- Team activities

Team Uniform

Uniform ordering is one of the most time-sensitive tasks, and your cooperation here is essential.

🔹 **Important:**
If you already own some of these items from previous teams, you may not need to reorder them.

Required Uniform Items

Base Uniform

- 2 × Black shorts
    - Men: Arena Team Unisex Panel Bermuda
    - Women: Arena Team Women's Solid Shorts
- 2 × Unisex Team T-Shirts (colour depends on team allocation)
- 2 × Singlets (TBC – please order the same size as your T-shirts)

Travel & Outerwear

- 1 × Black Unisex Polo Shirt (travel top)
- 1 × Black Unisex Hooded Panel Jacket

Accessories

- 1 × Black SNZ Backpack (embroidered)
- 1 × Swimming NZ Bucket Hat *or* Peak Cap (only one required)
- 2 × Swimming NZ branded swim caps (supplied)

You will also need:

- Your own black trousers, skirt, or tights for travel
- White, black, or grey trainers suitable for travel and poolside

Sizing & Orders

- Please check sizing charts carefully (check if the sizes are Women's or Unisex)
- Email your uniform requirements by **22 May**

Cost and Payment

- The projected tour cost: **$5600.00 + uniform**
- Payment is due to **Swimming New Zealand by 25 May 2026**

Key Dates Summary

- **20 May** — Selection emails sent
- **22 May** — Acceptance confirmation due
- **22 May** — Uniform orders due
- **25 May** — Full payment due to Swimming NZ

What This Campaign Is About

This campaign brings together a talented group of athletes, coaches, and support staff to proudly represent New Zealand on the international stage.

For many swimmers, this will be their first time wearing the Silver Fern. Every athlete, regardless of experience, plays an important role in our shared success.

Our Guiding Values

- **Pride in the Fern** — We represent our country, clubs, and families
- **Professionalism** — High standards in preparation, racing, and recovery
- **Team First** — We support and lift one another
- **Growth Mindset** — Every challenge is an opportunity to learn

Our aim is to create an environment where athletes feel safe, supported, challenged, and proud of their performances and their team.

Things To Do Now

✅ Email Brigitte re your availability

Contact Details - Brigitte Mahan

Team Manager – Tri Series 📧 brigitteandgavin@xtra.co.nz

📞 027 249 1703 - I will also be available at **NZ Champs** if you would like to speak in person.