

# WORLD MASTERS GAMES 2017

A GLOBAL FESTIVAL OF SPORT.



# Event Review

Delivering the Swimming at the World Masters Games 2017 had a special significance as it was the biggest event in terms of athlete numbers to be delivered by Swimming New Zealand. As the biggest multi-sport event in the world, it brought in many ex-swimmers – including past New Zealand representative athletes.

In total 48% of swimming athletes were from New Zealand which shows the potential for the future of masters swimming in New Zealand.

Importantly, the feedback received from volunteers (both local and international) and the competitors has been very complimentary. One athlete said “the pool and open water event was executed with the athlete’s interests at heart and was a terrific meet”. Overall the World Masters Games 2017 was announced by the president of the International Masters Games Association as the best games ever. Additional praise goes to the 113 volunteers who filled 485 positions over the 10 days of Games. Though there were some long shifts in the pool and the weather for the open water was in typical Auckland fashion, inconsistent throughout the morning the feedback from the volunteers was positive and 95% would recommend volunteering to others.

We did have some difficult space issues with the venue when final athlete numbers were confirmed. The team at AUT Millennium supported us to ensure that the best possible athlete experience was delivered. With additional space, available in the AUT Millennium pool for warm up and warm down the number of athletes in the National Aquatic centre was greatly reduced. By having temporary infrastructure in place, such as the marquee placed outside for marshalling, bleacher seating on pool deck and portaloos available this alleviated the pressure on venue facilities and space on pool deck.

A big success was the live streaming that was available for all seven sessions of the pool events. Across seven days we had 18,232 viewers, averaging 2600 per day. The Swimming New Zealand YouTube page gained 166 followers over the course of the Games. 60% of viewers came from New Zealand with 11% Australia with the following 29% coming from every other corner of the globe.

Looking forward, with the number of New Zealand athletes that were involved in the swimming at the Games and with New Zealand Masters Swimming being integrated in the SNZ database this is a great opportunity to capitalize on the success of the Games and promote masters swimming to those who are currently not members.

A huge thank you needs to go to all the SNZ staff who were part of the Games and who gave their time, energy and expertise in the lead up to and during the Games. A real testament to the culture of SNZ was all those who pitched in wherever they were needed; including but not limited to spending the day in the water at Takapuna making sure all the athletes got out of the water safely – I couldn’t have done it without all the help and support.



Kirsty Gibson  
WMG2017 Event Manager

# Volunteers and Technical Officials

The volunteer programme was highly successful, of 65 roles needing to be covered during each pool session 50 of those were skilled roles, such as technical officials, clerk of course and live streaming. It is a testament of the strength of SNZ's pool of volunteers that 77% of the required volunteer numbers were obtained through SNZ's recruitment efforts. The remaining 23% of volunteers making up the untrained Sport Crew roles came from the Games volunteer program.

Date	21/4	22/4	23/4	24/4	25/4	26/4	27/4	28/4	29/4	30/4
Day	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Pool Swimming							Open Water		
SWI	77	77	77	77	77	77	77		9	

**TOTAL:**

- 455 volunteer shifts were required over 7 days of pool competition
- 30 volunteer shifts were required at the open water competition
- Over 9 days of competition, 113 Officials and Sports Crew worked
- There were 55 Sport Crew and 58 Technical Officials
- 23% of volunteers registered through the WMG2017 system
- 77% volunteers registered directly through SNZ

## SNZ Specific Volunteers/Officials Data

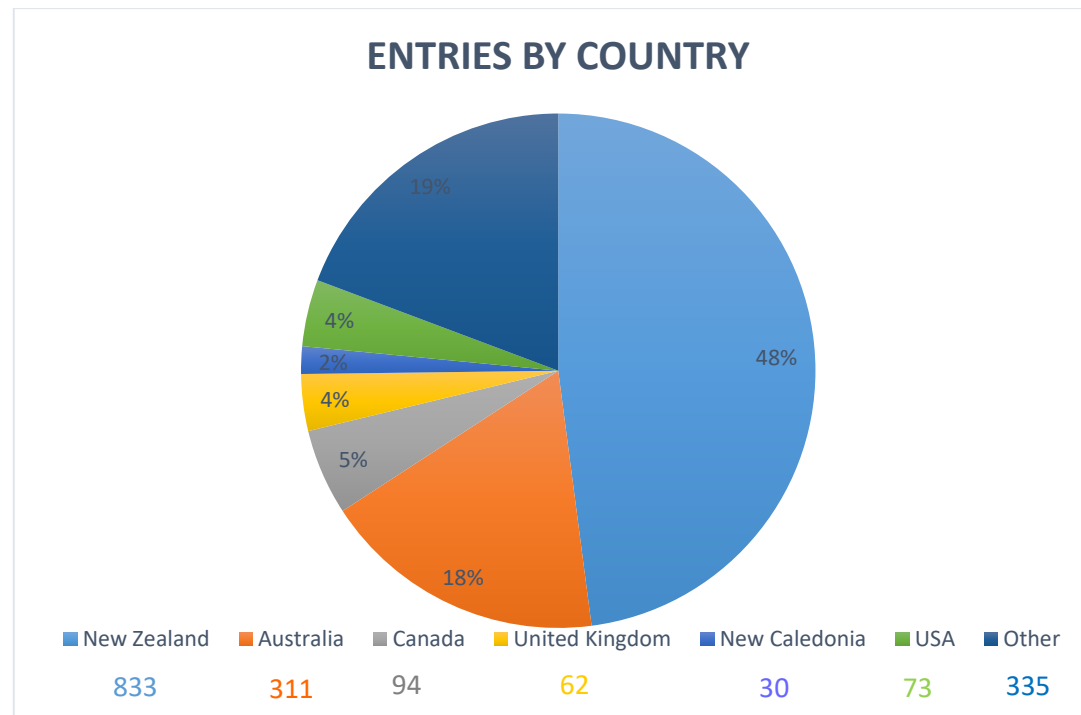
- 58 of the 113 volunteers were qualified Technical Officials from the SNZ database
- 12% came from the Auckland region
- 78% came from other New Zealand regions
- 10% came from overseas (Australia and Canada)

# Competitors

TOTAL INDIVIDUAL COMPETITORS: 1738/61 Countries

Figures as per final number of athletes who competed over the eight days.

Date	21/4	22/4	23/4	24/4	25/4	26/4	27/4	28/4	29/4	30/4	
Day	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
	Pool Swimming							Open Water			
SWI	247	539	643	696	337	879	803			783	
	<b>TOTAL:</b>							1304	<b>TOTAL:</b>		783



# Results

Of the 61 countries represented at the WMG2017 31 of those made the podium.

As the event was not a FINA sanctioned event no Masters world records could be broken, however as it was run under FINA rules some countries accepted National master's records. New Zealand Masters Swimming did accept records – 65 of these were officially broken over the 7 days of pool competition. Although there were many more swimmers who did break records in the pool, they were not members of New Zealand Masters Swimming and therefore their records were not ratified.

