



Karori Pirates - Being a Pirate Parent

Swimming is still mainly a voluntary sport and so swimmers rely enormously on the goodwill of volunteers, in particular their parents, for the sport to operate successfully. Swimming NZ have a great little “Parents’ Handbook” that explains what it’s all about for the uninitiated at http://www.swimmingnz.org.nz/uploads/files/Parent_Handbook.pdf

There are two main types of volunteer roles and we really need everyone to be involved in both:

- official roles at swim meets; and
- other roles to do with running our club.

Official roles

Just as Steve is keen for all swimmers to progress through the squads: racking up qualifying times for increasing distances by swimming a certain number of meets each season, parents need to rack up experience and qualifications by volunteering at and running the meets in which their kids swim.

Squad	Swimmer focus (Coaches)	Parent focus (Club)
Stingrays	25m then 50m times Pirates meets	Qualify as Timekeeper General meet & camp duties
Electric Eels	100m then 200m times Pirates meets Club League meets	Everyone should be a qualified timekeeper Qualify as “insepector of turns” (IOT) Meet, camp & team management

Seahawks	Signature & Wellington-level meets + the above All times to 400m	Everyone should be a qualified IOT All the above
Hammerheads & Tigersharks	Coach-directed. Regional & national level meets + the above	Training new officials & volunteers Officiating Supporting camps and senior squad trips & activities

As a rule of thumb, you should expect to help at all the meets in which your kids swim and maybe one or two where they don't. In particular Regional and National meets that are held in Wellington need help from all parents, not just those with swimmers competing. Some of the jobs are not technical and can be done by anyone: for example carrying food to other volunteers, making announcements, cooking sausages and so on.

We also need parents to help with one-off projects such as running bus trips outside Wellington, head-to-head meets against other clubs, swim camps, sausage sizzles and so on. These projects are particularly suitable for people who travel or can't commit to regular responsibilities.

This is about getting the club working more collectively. We are a not for profit, community and volunteer-based Club, and the CLub is better for everyone when everyone is getting involved. Who knows, you and your children may even make life-long friends with other swimmers and their parents!

Other roles to help running our club

Outside of swim meets, there are also the obvious roles of joining the Karori Pirates Committee. We are always looking for members, and parents who are keen can contact the President at karori.pirates.president@gmail.com

Beyond the Committee, there are all sorts of other jobs that simply make for a happy, well informed and well functioning club. Here are just some of the examples:

- contributing news and photos both on the notice board and through our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/KaroriPirates>. Contact Steve at

karoripirates@xtra.co.nz if you have news or photos to be added to the Facebook page

- writing a report on a swim meet or swim camp,
- fundraising,
- developing our Internet site and other marketing material,
- promoting the club in the media,
- coordinating uniforms,
- and so on...

The Club has now got to the size where it's difficult to keep track of the skills and capability of all the parents of our swimmers. Parents who have skills that would benefit the Club (for example, people with website skills, financial skills, marketing skills, anything that would help grow the Club) are encouraged to be proactive and contact the Club President at karori.pirates.president@gmail.com letting him know what they can do.