



Rose Stackpole national champion in Open Solo Technical event (centre) with silver to Deborah Tsai (left) and bronze to Victoria's Emily Rogers.

Eleven national champions for Western Australia at the Hancock Prospecting Synchronised Swimming Championships — and it's not over yet.

Eleven Western Australian athletes have claimed national champion titles in seven events at the Hancock Prospecting Synchronised Swimming Australian Championships in Melbourne.

Danielle Kettlewell, Rose Stackpole, Amie Thompson, Emily Holloway, and duet pair Marnie Kennedy and Erin O'Mahoney will all bring home gold.

Results for the first two days of competition include:

- Rose Stackpole national champion in Open Solo Technical with silver to Deborah Tsai in the same event.
- Danielle Kettlewell national champion in Open Solo Free and silver to Amie Thompson in the same event.
- Amie Thompson and Rose Stackpole national champions in Open Duet Technical event.
- Marnie Kennedy and Erin O'Mahoney national champions in 13/15 Duet, and bronze to Natalia Caloiero and Eve Wakeb in the same event.

- Emily Holloway national champions in 13/15 Solo Free, Caroline Siqueira-Borherr and Banca Chira in 12U Duet, and Liz Sheehan and Isla Titles in the master duet.
- The athletes now have their sights set on selection to national teams for 2017 World Championships in Budapest in July and other major events.
- The Championships has attracted a record number of more than 160 competitors from Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and China, aged from 9 years up to Open and Masters levels.
- Athletes are available for phone interviews.
- Media contacts: Janeen Lynch 0435 739 436 and Tony Maher 0431 539 046.

“We are ecstatic that the support of major sponsors Hancock Prospecting and Sport and Recreation Victoria enables us to provide this outstanding opportunity for our athletes to compete at national and international level,” says Synchro Australia Interim President Marina Kholod.

”Synchronised swimming is one of the most demanding of all sports and these women are superb athletes — they train hard to make it look easy,” says Marina.

SynchroVic President Tony Maher is pleased that Melbourne is host to the event this year, noting that three national teams are to be selected after the event:

- the senior national team to compete at the World Championships in July,
- the junior national team to compete at the US Open in June,
- the 13/15 national team to compete at the Mediterranean COMEN Cup competition in Portugal (the world-level event for this age group).

2016 national and Olympic team members Hannah Cross and Emily Rogers from Victoria, West Australians Danielle Kettlewell, Amie Thompson and Deborah Tsai, and Queenslanders JoAnn Lim, Cristina Sheehan and Nikita Pablo, will take part in trials for selection of the senior National team to compete at the 2017 World Championships.

“There is a heightened level of anticipation and excitement around the Australian Championships this year,” says Tony. “We would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of Hancock Prospecting as vital to the development of world-class synchronised swimming in Australia.”

In other events, Donella Freeman from NSW earned gold in the Masters Solo events, ahead of Western Australians Esther Bubrik and Isla Titly.

Zoe Poulis from the Queensland was awarded national champion ahead of Victorian Anastasia Kusmawan in the 12U solo event which produced some outstanding performances from the sport’s rising stars.

Queensland athletes dominated the Open Duet Free and the Junior Solo Free claiming gold and silver medals in both events.

The Hancock Prospecting Synchronised Swimming Australian Championships features Free and Technical events for competitors starting at the 12 and under age category up to Open and Masters, with events judged according to the level of skill, difficulty and artistic impression.

The competition continues until Monday 2.00 pm.

Spectator entry to the event is FREE.

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