



PRESS RELEASE

January 2021 has been a great month for Te Arawa Swimming, with Swimming Bay of Plenty granting us provisional swimming club status. Chairperson Steve Green believes we are fortunate to have a great team of people who give up their own time to make our sport better each day. We are so humbled to be given membership to Swimming BOP and Swimming NZ.

The Clubs purpose is to support the growth and performance of competitive swimming and provide a competitive pathway from entry level Club competitive swimmers through to Elite High Performance swimmers and everything in between.

Te Arawa Swimming Club will be working hand in hand with *United Aquatic Sports* and *Orange Swim School* who will be supplying the coaching services. The coaching team will be led by Henk Greupink. We hope to play a leading role in athlete development over the coming years, providing a sustainable swimming environment and inclusive environment with a focus on the development of para swimming.

Initially founded in 2014. The club is named Te Arawa to pay homage to our cultural heritage. Named after the Arawa waka with reference to the tribal area in the saying "*Mai I Maketū ki Tongariro, Ko Te Arawa te waka*". It is an expression of physical boundaries that iwi utilise when identifying to their whenua, and the name given to the waka which brought ancestors here from Hawaiki.

The waka Te Arawa overcame many obstacles on its journey to Aotearoa. During the voyage they had a perilous encounter with the great ocean creature, Te Parata, who almost swallowed them. However, they were delivered from the jaws of certain death by a mythical great shark, and the people renamed the canoe and themselves Te Arawa in its honour.

Today Te Arawa swimming club draws strength from the shark (who is widely admired for how it fights fearlessly to the end) to inspire our swimmers in accordance with the well-known whakatauki (proverbial saying) "*Okea ururoa, kei mate wheke*". Roughly translated to mean keep fighting and strive like the shark rather than die like the octopus.

The Te Arawa swimming Hammerhead shark (Mangōpare) was originally designed by Dallas Hawe (Ngāti Whakaeu, Ngāti Pikiao - Te Arawa). Our Hammerhead features predominately in our branding and the swimmers uniform to represent strength, leadership, agility, tenacity, unrelenting determination and courage.

The club appreciates the support from Te Arawa kaumatua and leaders who back in 2014 when we embarked on this journey, gave their blessing for the club to carry this prestigious name.

January has also been a great month of swimming results with open water season kicking off to a great start. Ryan Logan took on the 2.5km NZ open water swimming champs, while with the Epic events Nicky Logan came third in his age group for 500m. Ryklan Lally achieved a PB in the 2.5km distance and Aldona Greupink raced to Gold in the 1km, and Bronze in the 2.5km masters age group.

We had 8 swimmers attend the Wellington long course championships. Bailey Conlon, Adrian Greupink, Danielle Green, Lucy Barker, Siobhan Terry, Ryan Logan, Finley English and Ryan Maxwell. This was a good test to see where swimmers are at, a test of travel, staying as a team and racing with top swimmers attending. The highlight was Finley winning in his age group - Gold in 50m Breastroke, and Silver in 200m Breastroke as well as qualifying for National Age group championships in April. Plenty more events are coming up as swimmers continue to aim for qualifying times at these national events. As head coach Henk Greupink says, "the warm up is done, and the real mahi starts".