

MEDIA RELEASE



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Wellington to host FINA 2010 Diving World Cup

In a coup for Wellington, the city has won the rights to host the FINA 2010 Diving World Cup. Around 150 top athletes and officials from over 25 countries are expected to attend the two-week event to be held at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre.

The successful bid was submitted in March through Aquatics New Zealand (Member to FINA). The World Cup will be a key lead-in event for Commonwealth Games athletes competing in India later that year. Wellington last hosted the World Cup in 1999 and the event was hugely successful.

Hosting an event of this size will undoubtedly lift the profile of the sport in New Zealand and is a fantastic opportunity for Wellington city and its people.

"This will undoubtedly be a fantastic event for Wellington. While Wellingtonians will enjoy the spectacle of a major international sporting event on their doorstep, an event of this calibre will also give the city international exposure and further enhance our reputation as the events capital," said Mayor Kerry Prendergast.

The bid win comes off the back of several wins for Wellington since the launch of Wellington High Performance Aquatics in December last year. Jointly sponsored by Wellington Airport and Infratil, and supported by Wellington City Council, Wellington High Performance Aquatics (WHPA) aims to develop high performance athletes to enable them to excel at an elite level.

In the short space of six months, two national records were broken, three members of WHPA were the only athletes selected for the Australian Junior Elite Championships, and Wellington has won the hosting rights for diving's premium international event.

"Wellington is fast developing as the centre of diving excellence in New Zealand. At its launch we said Wellington High Performance Aquatics would enable this city to attract more events, and it has. Wellington High Performance Aquatics has and will continue to open many doors for Wellington's future star performers," said Wellington High Performance Aquatics Director, Luvaine McDonald.

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FINA Diving World Cup

The FINA Diving World Cup is held every two years. This year in February, Beijing hosted the event as a test event for the Olympic Games.

Wellington has hosted the Diving World Cup before in 1999, where it was also held at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre.

The competition comprises the following four events for men and women: 3m Springboard, 10m Platform, Synchronised 3m Springboard, and Synchronised 10m Platform.

Each FINA Member Federation can enter two competitors for each individual event and one team for each synchronised event.

Wellington High Performance Aquatics timeline of achievements

December 2007: Wellington High Performance Aquatics launched.

December 2007: Stephen Zhu appointed National High Performance Coach.

December 2007: Wellington wins 8 of the 11 national titles.
Gabe Armstrong Scott breaks two national records and wins titles - 13-years-and-under 1 metre and 3 metre platform event.

April 2008: WHPA members, Gabe Armstrong Scott, Alice Wylie van Eerd and Ollie Armstrong Scott selected to represent New Zealand at the Australian Junior Elite Championships in July.

May 2008: Wellington wins bid to host FINA World Cup Diving 2010.