

MEDIA RELEASE



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Wellington divers scoop the pool at NZ Nationals

Wellington divers scooped the pool at the Diving New Zealand National Championships 2008 held in Auckland over the weekend, breaking six New Zealand records taking 18 of the 28 contested titles.

The star performer was 12 year old Wellington High Performance Aquatics (WHPA) diver Gabe Armstrong-Scott who won the Women's Open 3 metre with a score of 279.70, breaking the former New Zealand record by over 50 points. Gabe Armstrong-Scott also broke three other records in her age group events, winning 13 & Under 1 metre, 3 metre and Platform.

Gabe was named New Zealand Diving's "Junior Female Diver of the Year 2008", and New Zealand Olympian Ann Sissons, Convenor of Selectors and Olympic judge, said that "Gabe Armstrong Scott's performance in the Women's 3 metre was the best performance she had seen by a New Zealand female diver."

Other WHPA squad members adding to the medal tally were:

- Ollie Armstrong-Scott, Junior Male Diver of the Year 2008, took two New Zealand records in the 14/15 Boys 1 metre and 3 metre events and won the Men's Open 1 metre and 3 metre events;
- New Zealand Diver of the Year, Alice Wylie-van Eerd, won the Women's Open 1m event, second was Gabe Armstrong-Scott and third Lexi Mills.
- Lexi Mills was second and Alice Wylie-van Eerd third in the Women's Open 3 metre.
- Tom Green took the 1 metre, 3 metre and Platform, 16/18 age group titles; and
- 14 year old Kate Irving won 3 gold's in 14/15 Girls 1 metre, 3 metre and Platform events.
- The squad's youngest diver, 11 year old Fiona Cameron, was second behind Gabe Armstrong-Scott in the 1 and 3 metre events and teamed up with Kate Irving in the 14-18 girls 3 metre synchronised event, taking silver.

WHPA coaches Steven Zhu and James Hardaker were awarded Diving New Zealand's Coach of the Year 2008. Steven Zhu said of the Wellington high performance squad's performance, "These results are credit to the divers' commitment to a year of intensive high performance training, and the divers still have potential waiting to be unleashed."

The next challenge for New Zealand divers will be at the Australian Open Championships - 27 February – 1st March 2009, with WHPA squad members Alice Wylie-van Eerd, Gabe Armstrong-Scott and Lexi Mills being named as the only New Zealand representatives. And Lexi Mills will be the only New Zealand representative at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival – 16-18 January 2009.

Looking forward, Diving New Zealand announced the National squad for 2009 which will be in training for the Commonwealth Games in 2010:

Gabe Armstrong-Scott (Wellington)

Lexi Mills (Wellington)

Alice Wylie-van Eerd (Wellington)

WHPA divers, Gabe Armstrong-Scott, Kate Irving, Lexi Mills, and Ollie Armstrong-Scott qualified for the Junior National squad 2009.

ENDS

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