

Article to Eastbourne Herald

Another windy but warm morning greeted the entrants to this years Wharf to Wharf swim, as they gathered on the beach at Days Bay, on Sunday 1st March. The Wharf to Wharf swim is an annual event and an Eastbourne tradition and was once again very successful, with 158 registered swimmers, the biggest field to date. The swim has been running for over 30 years and is one of a few genuinely Eastbourne Community events drawing on the support of many individuals and organisations in the community. It is appropriate for swimmers of all ages and with the relatively recent increased popularity of competitive sea swims, participants are now coming from all over the Wellington region.

Local swimmer, Aidan Bognuda, 36, came first in the event this year in a time of 16 minutes 30 seconds, not far behind the record time set in 2008 by Gary Clover (15:49). Of note this year was the large contingent of younger swimmers, including 18 members of the Venturers from the Eastbourne Scout Group, in training for their swim across Lake Taupo in March. While some understandably view the swim as a competitive opportunity, for many it's more about participating in a fun and friendly local event, in which every person is a winner.

The Wharf to Wharf swim also has a financial objective, and the proceeds from registration fees, after event costs are met, go to supporting the Eastbourne Swim Club, where up to 60 children are provided with swim coaching through the summer months.

Organisers of the Wharf to Wharf this year were Sue Gautrey, Mandy Holmwood and Chris Bryan, with assistance from David Reid as Health and Safety Officer, and they want to thank all the individuals and local organisations for their help and support. They are also very keen to see a couple of locals put their hands up to assist with running next year's event, so if that interests you, give either Mandy or Chris a call or contact them by email.

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March 2009.