



To all Raptors Swimmers/Parents

10 December 2021

Tēnā koutou

I have been asked by the Board to write to all club members to explain some of the changes at the club that will be coming up next year.

This has been a particularly challenging period for swimmers, with disrupted training and competition and you are all to be congratulated on your resilience in keeping going through this. Hopefully, with the new traffic light system, things may begin to improve soon.

As you may be aware, the club is facing a very challenging period, with several of its top competitive swimmers leaving in recent times for university etc and this, combined with the impact of Covid, has led to a reduction in the number of club and competitive swimmers.

Consequently, the main focus of the club must now move from the top squads towards the lower squads and learn to swim. The spotlight will be on developing swimmers that are the lifeblood of the club to sustain it into the future. This includes the requirement to review coaching, which has been raised as an issue at recent AGMs.

Jon Winter has served the club well over many years and achieved some remarkable results with the competitive squads. However, his contract has now expired and the Board has taken the decision to test the market in order to compare Jon's skill set against other coaches to ensure a close fit in terms of the skills needed to meet the club's current changed needs. As a club, we have an obligation to ensure that we have the best person for the job and this can only be ascertained by looking at available options during this rebuilding phase.

This is in no way a criticism of Jon, who has delivered impressive results with the top swimmers over the last few years. He is a very experienced high-performance coach. He has been asked to continue coaching while we conduct this process and he has also been told that he is welcome to re-apply for the Head Coach position.

At the same time, we have taken a decision to use some of the reserves to support an additional "Club" (assistant) coach to focus on Learn to Swim, recreational swimmers and technical skills for the lower squads, to prepare these swimmers better for competition in the future.

This may seem unsettling, but the Board has a clear vision for how to take the club forward and ensuring that we have the best coaching possible to support this vision is essential, particularly for the lower and development squads. This is part of a broader suite of planned improvements to resolve issues like the new constitution, branding, structure, levels and rewards for the swim school and communication with swimmers/parents.

We will keep the members fully informed of progress on this process, but I would be happy to discuss these changes with you, if you have specific concerns.

I would also ask that if there is interest from parents, particularly of junior swimmers at the club, that might be interested in being on the Board and helping in the club's management, we are always very keen to hear from you.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Nga mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Plummer', with a horizontal line underneath.

Chris Plummer

Chair

Raumati Swimming Club (Raptors)

M: 0204 1582237

E: Chris@currant.co.nz