



Karrington swimmer Amy Barry.
Picture: Kylie Pitt

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Barry's
national test
Open water runner
Karrington Pitt

Amy sets her goals higher

SWIMMING

By Matt Jones

AMY Barry is only in her early teens, but she already likes to set herself goals and throws on a challenge.

The Karrington resident will compete at the Australian Open Water Swimming Championships in Geelong next month, deciding she needed a new challenge after a successful stint in the pool.

"I'm doing it for a bit of a change and it's a challenge and I wanted to try something new," Barry said.

She will swim in the 50m event despite being a state-standard 80m swimmer in the pool.

But this time there will be no lanes and she'll have to avoid the fatigue of more than 50 swimmers fighting for the lead and securing the best pace to swim at the Eastern Beach location.

"It will be the first time I'll be swimming in salt water. It will make a difference because I'm not used to it and it's a bit harder

because of the waves but I'm looking forward to the challenge," she said.

"The first time I swam it competitively I got my state qualifying time so that was a bit of an experience for me and that was when I started to get serious about it.

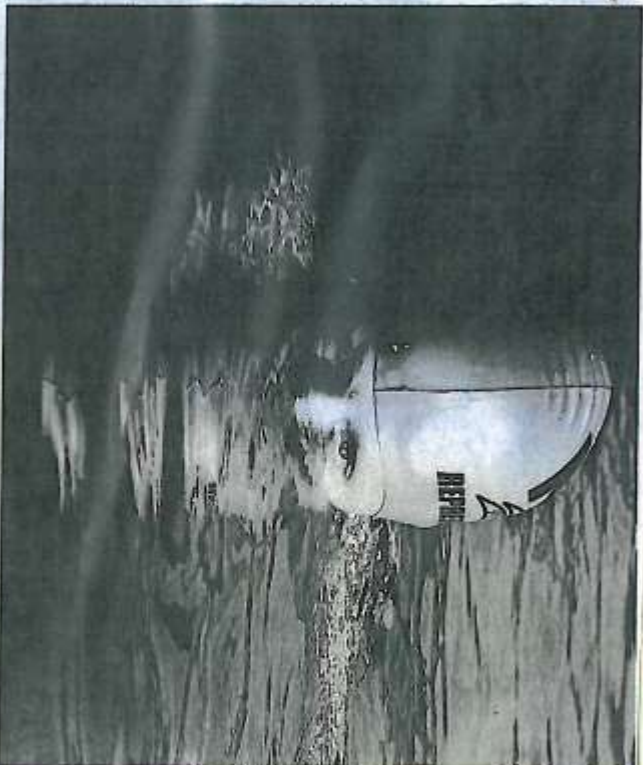
"I'll try and get out in front and see how I go," she said all the while from the field.

Barry had to cover the 8km distance quicker than 1:15:00 to qualify for the national and she did it by a minute and is hoping to slice a further minute off her personal best in the 14 years category.

"I got pretty nervous because you never know what's going to happen each time and it's a bit of a guessing game," Barry said.

Barry's versatility is evident in that she'll still eventually go back to swimming over the one lap of the pool as she juggles the two extremes of the sport.

"I'm a sprinter in the pool and I'm doing 50m freestyle at state but the open water is my priority at the moment," Barry said.



Amy Barry is ready for the national open water swimming titles in Victoria next month.

Picture: Kylie Pitt