



POOL OF TALENT

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SWIMMING

Nepean's talent pool all class against the best



Sarah Keenan, 14, of Leongay, Jordan Dessert, 15, of Mt Druitt and Ben Robins, 13, of Faulconbridge.

Photo: MATTHEW MULLIGAN

SWIMMERS TARGET PARALYMPICS AFTER SHORT COURSE

Kristine Tarbert

NEPEAN Aquatic Centre swim club athletes have their eyes set on the Paralympics and international competitions after a successful outing at recent championships.

Sarah Keenan, 14, and Ben Robins, 13, competed in the multi-class events at the Australian Open Short Course Swimming Championships in Adelaide recently, with Jordan Dessert,

15, also qualifying. Head coach Jackie Barck said both athletes were competing in their first opens national competition.

"They've both been to age nationals before, but this was the first opens, and they both made finals which was excellent," Barck said.

"With multi-class events they have a points score system and it's based on the world record in their disability, you get 1000 points for a world record.

"So over 600 is what we gauge for making teams and they both scored over that, so as young athletes it's the stepping stone."

Sarah races in the S6 classification and competed in the 100m butterfly, 100m backstroke, 400m, 100m and 50m freestyle.

"I've been swimming for about a year and a-half now and I like the competition and how I can see my friends and I can always improve on my times," Sarah said.

Ben raced in the S15 classification in the 50m backstroke, 50m and 100m freestyle, while Jordan races in the S8 class but didn't compete at the Short Course Nationals.

"They all raced at the state titles as well, and took out gold medals in their individual classes," Barck said.

"They are doing well for being so young, they've got a good group around them to motivate them and we have a good facility to train in."