

# Clarke cracks Aussii times

By VINCE HABERMANN

**SWIMMING:** Ross Clarke is certainly not a household name but his achievement of two national records in the pool last Saturday puts him in an elite group of swimmers.

The 55-year-old was a stand-out in a superb team performance by Rumm City Aussii Masters Club members at the Gladstone Croppers meet.

Clarke won each of his five individual events to take out the men's 55-60 years age championship - 100m Individual Mmdley, 25m freestyle and butterfly and 50m freestyle and butterfly - but it was his freestyle times which set him apart.

He clocked 12.15sec and 26.84sec respectively to add two more entries in the Australian records book.

Club captain and coach Daph Soppa, who was also among their age champions, hailed both Clarke and their other seven swimmers who took out their age titles.

Soppa came to the fore in the women's 70-74 years category, with Ty Burt (18-24yrs), Tracy Dunn (40-44yrs), Trudy Ford (50-54yrs), Kirra Scarborough (25-30yrs), Laurel O'Halloran (60-65yrs), Iris Leach (65-70yrs) and Doris Howe (75-80yrs) joining



Rumm City Masters swimmers Kirra Scarborough, Doris Howe, Daph Soppa, Iris Leach, Ross Clarke (front), Ian Winning and Trudy Ford had a successful meet in Gladstone taking out many age championships.

Photo: Max Fleet swm2810a

them on the honours' list.

"While all of the age champs won five events, there were some noteworthy performances by swimmers to gain second and third places overall, only losing one event," Soppa said.

"A swimmer who was just out of being placed showed good improvement by posting PBs was Gary Luthe, especially in his

butterfly to improve by three seconds, also in backstroke where he took off another second.

"We also won 12 out of 14 relays with one second, and we finished second on the points score on 20, one behind Gladstone."

Meanwhile, three of their swimmers will contest the upcoming Pacific Masters Games on the Gold Coast - Lexie Towner, Rob

Wilkinson and Roslyn Hodge.

Relay winners - 120yrs 50m Mixed Medley: Tracy Dunn, Ty Burt, Kirra Scarborough, Ian Winning  
160yrs 50m Mixed Medley: Lexie Towner, Bruce Lovett, Trudy Ford, Ross Clarke, 240yrs 25m Female Free: Doris Howe, L O'Halloran, Robyn Keighly, Bernie Ward  
200yrs 25m Female Free: S. Brennan, Lexie Towner, Iris Leach, Daph Soppa, 120yrs 25m Female Free: Kirra Scarborough, Tracy Dunn, Suzanne Baird, 160yrs 25m, men free: Tylen Burt, Bruce Lovett, Ian Winning, Ross Clarke

120yrs Medley: Suzanne Baird, Trudy Ford, Tracy Dunn, Kirra Scarborough

200yrs Medley: Irish Leach, Daph Soppa, Lexie Towner, Sue Brennan  
240yrs Medley: Bernie Ward, Rita Pearson, Laurel O'Halloran, Sharon Walsh  
120yrs men's Medley: Ian Winning, Bruce Lovett, Tylen Burt, Ross Clarke  
160 yrs Mixed 50 free: Ian Winning, Lexie Towner, Tracy Dunn, Bruce Lovett  
120yrs Mixed 50 Free: Tylen Burt, Trudy Ford, Kirra Scarborough, Ross Clarke  
200yrs Mixed 50 Free: Gary Luthe, Daph Soppa, Sue Brennan, Steve Scarborough