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**For immediate release from the State NZ Ocean Swim Series, for further information visit [www.oceanswim.co.nz](http://www.oceanswim.co.nz)**

## **OLYMPIC POOL SWIMMERS EXPECTED TO CAUSE WAVES IN OPEN WATER SHOW DOWN**

The strongest field ever assembled at a New Zealand Open Water Swimming event will descend on Milford Beach, Auckland this Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April for State King of the Bays, the final race in the State New Zealand Ocean Swim Series.

In what is expected to be some fast and very close racing there will be up to a dozen swimmers who will be vying for the top spot over the 2.8km course from Milford Beach to Takapuna Beach.

Leading the charge for the open water swimming contingent is Kane Radford and Bryn Murphy both with a chance at the overall series title should they win and have other results go their way.

Trying to upset them on their turf will be Olympian Daniel Bell and fellow pool swimmers Dylan Dunlop-Barrett and Mathew Stanley. Dunlop-Barrett's form at the recent National Swimming Championships saw him win the 400m, 800m and 1500m events, in doing so breaking Danyon Loaders' 800m record. Both he and Stanley, the Youth Olympic 200m Freestyle Champion, were last week named as part of the 2011 World Championship Swimming Team.

Also representing the pool swimmers will be defending champion Steven Kent who will be looking for a repeat of last year's performance when he upset his more fancied rivals to steal the victory.

Open water specialist, Phillip Ryan will head into the race full of confidence from his win at the last event of the series, the State Sand to Surf event last month which added to his 2011 10km National Open Water swimming title.

It is more than just pride on the line; the State King of the Bays will be the series decider and has attracted a strong elite field that will be fighting it out for a cash prize pool on the day of \$12,000. Murphy is currently heading the leader board with Radford hot on his heels, having won two of the three events he has started this year.

In the women's field the contest is just as tight with open water specialist Cara Baker taking on current series leader, Charlotte Webby for the series title. Two pool swimmers trying to upset this duo will be Olympic representative, Melissa Ingram and Commonwealth Games swimmer, Penelope Marshall.

Another clash taking place in the water will be a clash of the networks as TVNZ's Toni Street and Peter Williams take to the water with TV3's Michelle Pickles and Sky Network's Stephen McIvor.

It is a fitting finale for what has been a sensational season of events.

"The 2010/11 State NZ Ocean Swim Series has been a huge success, despite the cancellation of the Christchurch State Corsair Classic. We have seen over 5000 entries into the nationwide series, with a growing number of people entering all six events in the series, including children as young as 11. It has always been my vision to encourage people of all swimming abilities to give it a go and we have certainly achieved that," says an elated Scott Rice, Event Director.

Entrants have the choice of three event options including a Give it a Go 300m, a Step It Up 1000m and a I'm Going Long 2.8km event. For children there is a 200m State OceanKids event that sees elite swimmers join them to share ocean swimming and water safety tips.

It's not too late - registrations for the State King of the Bays event close at 11.59pm on Thursday 14th April. Late entries will be accepted on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 4pm – 8pm at the AMI Netball Centre, 44 Northcote Rd, Northcote. Visit [www.oceanswim.co.nz](http://www.oceanswim.co.nz) for more information