

2010 RIVER SWIM IN THE WHANGANUI RIVER

On February 7th the 'Wanganui Tri Club' will host the 2010 Bridge to Bridge river swim

Swimmers in the Bridge-to-Bridge swim will begin at the Union Boat club and make their way upstream on an incoming tide to the Aramoho/Wanganui boat club. The event is timed to provide 'neutral' water to swim in, with the incoming tide balanced against the natural flow of the river. The start, is close to the 'Town bridge' and heads upstream and under the Dublin Street bridge, and under the Aramoho rail bridge to finish on the rowers boat ramp.

The Bridge to Bridge is a historic race that was first run by the Central swimming club in 1910. The race stopped in 1967 when the river was closed to swimming only to be reinstated in 1996, following a concerted effort to provide a clean river. Since the race has been reinstated many ex-Wanganui swimmers have travelled far and wide to 'take to the water'. Adding to the interest and history of the race a number of competitors are grand children of those who competed in some of the first races. Organisers hope that these people will return again for the 2010 river swim. There area number of historic trophies at stake, and many notable NZ swimmers have their names engraved on them.

Wanganui Masters swimming club have traditionally run this event, but the Tri club has increased resources and anticipate a bigger turnout for this, the 100th anniversary of the river race