

# 2016 Swimming Report, by Gail Bohler

Disability swimming is growing in the district. Throughout this year we have been involved in many activities.

## **SASSA-II (SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED)**

Thuthukani Special School had 20 learners going through to the KwaZulu Natal Multi- Disability Provincial Swimming Championships in Durban in February 2016. They came back with many medals, Zama Gumde, Jennifer Joubert, Ramsay van Vuuren, William van Brakel, Madelein Khan and Bahle Mkhize. Unfortunately there weren't funds for a KwaZulu Natal team this year.

On the 22 November, Thuthukani Special School hosted the SASSA-II cluster games for the district at the Empangeni town swimming pool. Two schools for children with intellectually disabled learners were represented - Thuthukani Special School and Inkanyiso Special School. There were 30 learners with an intellectual disability, 3 children with a physical disability and 1 learner with Down syndrome present.

## **SASAPD (SOUTH AFRICA SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED)**

Three physically disabled swimmers from the district represented KwaZulu Natal at the Nedbank challenge in Bloemfontein in April 2016 - Simone Mare, Khulekani Sikosana and Quinton Harris. The team returned with medals.

## **SCHOOL SWIMMING**

In February of this year the uThungulu District Schools Swimming held their swimming championships in Richards Bay. Thuthukani Special School had 7 intellectually disabled (s14) swimmers and 1 physically disabled swimmer. Khulekani also competed as a physically disabled swimmer. From this gala an uThungulu District team was selected.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, 9 swimmers with disabilities represented uThungulu District at the KwaZulu Natal Schools Championships. Seven intellectually impaired and 2 physically disabled. The majority of the swimmers participating were from main stream schools, but our learners swam as swimmers with disabilities.

From, this gala uThungulu District had 3 learners with disability selected as part of the KZN team, Jennifer and William from Thuthukani Special School and Khulekani from Nseleni. These three swimmers went to a schools awards function in Durban, where they received their KZN colours.

## **SALGA GAMES**

Four of Thuthukani's intermediate learners (S14s) competed in the SALGA games – local level. This was a good opportunity for our development swimmers to experience a gala.

## **CLUB SWIMMING**

Fish Eagle Swimming Club and uThungulu District Aquatics have been very generous in sponsoring the membership of some of our learners who are unable to afford registration fees. Fish Eagle Swimming Club has 10 registered club swimmers with a disability and Ushaka Swimming Club has 1. Seven of these attend Thuthukani Special School, the rest are physically disabled.

One swimmer is registered but has not yet been classified (Nkululeko). One swimmer has unfortunately stopped coming to school and is no longer swimming and another Thuthukani learner has been sick and hasn't been to training.

The swimmers have competed in uThungulu District galas and are doing very well. Inclusion of swimmers with disabilities helps raise awareness on disability as many people without exposure to disability are now being exposed.

Four swimmers from the district participated at Senior Nationals in April 2016 - William, Khulekani, Quinton and Simone.

## CLASSIFICATION

Khulekani got his IPC classification (SB9). Simone was classified nationally in Bloemfontein (S9, SB8, SM9). Jolanka was classified regionally (S9, SB8, SM9). Sakhile, Bahle, Vumani, Mduduzi and Jennifer have had IQ and functional classifications, to be classified as an S14 swimmer.

## TRAINING/DEVELOPMENT

In June of this year, Thuthukani Special School hosted a training workshop on understanding disability swimming. They gave an outline of the classification system, the various disabilities as well as an overview of the IPC system.

Gail attended 2 National Classifications as an observer. This all helps towards the qualification process of becoming a classifier. She also did an online IPC Technical Course to understand the technical rules of disabled swimming.

Several of Thuthukani Special School staff and learners attended the Timekeeper and Judges Training courses. Some of the staff and one learner still have to do their practical exam and/or rewrite. One learner achieved an 80% pass. Although the rest of the learners did not get the 80% required for FINA timekeeping they were able to achieve a 50% pass. This is an achievement for them, as many of them have never written/passed a test / exam.

*On behalf of all the swimmers and members of Fish Eagle Swimming Club, we would like to thank Gail and Thuthukani Special School for their tremendous support towards the growth and development of swimming in our community. We are very proud to have Gail as a valued member of our club and we are so very proud of all our disabled swimmers, who have shown such growth this year in their swimming careers. Congratulations to you all and we look forward to seeing you all continue to swim awesomely throughout this season and in years to come!*

*Yours in swimming always,  
The Fish Eagle Swimming Club Committee*