



North Shore Amateur Swimming Club Inc

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## THREE NORTH SHORE SWIMMERS ADVANCE TO THE FINAL ON DAY SIX OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



30th March 2007

Three New Zealand swimmers have advanced to semi-finals in a successful sixth day of heats of the FINA World Championships in Melbourne. Corney Swanepoel, Hannah McLean and Melissa Ingram will all contest semi-finals at the Rod Laver Arena tonight.

Swanepoel led the way with a return to his best form, beating his 2005 national record in the 100m butterfly. Swanepoel, who turned 21 earlier this month, produced his best performance in two years to clock a superb 52.46, to be 10<sup>th</sup> qualifier for the semi-finals. He edged just under his old record for the semi-finals headed by world champion and record-holder Ian Crockett (USA).

"It was a terrific swim for Corney. And he will only get better and better from here," head coach Jan Cameron said. "It has taken time for Corney to grow and develop from an age group swimmer who produced a great time to a mature athlete. We have to nurture that talent and like a good wine, give it time to mature.

"He is 21 now and while there will be some rocky times ahead Corney has the potential to be an outstanding international swimmer and we are starting to see that again now." Clubmate Moss Burmester, the hero of the 200m butterfly, could not quite reach his best in the 100m to be 19<sup>th</sup> fastest, only 2/10ths from qualifying for the semi-finals.

McLean and Ingram both qualified for the semi-finals of the 200m backstroke. Both competed in the same heat with McLean 11<sup>th</sup> fastest in 2:12.58 and Ingram 13<sup>th</sup> fastest time in 2:12.97. "It was a good job from both Melissa and Hannah. They have an opportunity but I think they will

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need to go 2:10 to make it through to the final. They are both capable of that so that's their challenge."

The New Zealand record from the great Anna Simic is 2:10.79 which Cameron believes is a good target for the pair.

Earlier breaststroke specialist Zoe Baker was 29<sup>th</sup> fastest in the 50m butterfly heats ahead of Liz Coster while Cameron Gibson and Mark Herring missed going through in the 50m freestyle. Both lifted their world rankings considerably to 37<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> respectively from the 198 entries in the splash and dash.

The Kiwi quartet of Burmester, Andrew McMillan, Robert Voss and Michael Jack produced a big improvement for 16<sup>th</sup> fastest time in the 4x200m freestyle relay.

They clocked 7:22.18, nearly seven seconds better than their qualifying time and only half a second outside the long-standing New Zealand record held by the crack quartet of Trent Bray, Jon Steel, Guy Callaghan and Danyon Loader at the 1986 Commonwealth Games. "They are ranked 16<sup>th</sup> now and if they can bring that down by one or two seconds at the World University Games later this year then they are a shot at Beijing.

"I thought Andrew, Robert and Michael did a good job although Moss may have still been recovering from that 200m butterfly."

It was another long session of heats taking four hours to complete.

New Zealand results, day 5 heats, FINA World Swimming Championships:  
(time and overall placing in heats)

50m butterfly: Zoe Baker 27.96, 29; Liz Coster 28.30, 37.  
50m freestyle: Cameron Gibson 23.30, 37; Mark Herring 23.32, 39.  
100m butterfly: Corney Swanepoel 52.46, 10 (NZ Record); Moss Burmester 53.28, 19.  
200m backstroke: Hannah McLean 2:12.58, 11; Melissa Ingram 2:12.97, 13.  
4x200m freestyle relay: New Zealand 7:22.18, 16 (Moss Burmester 1:51.39, Andrew McMillan 1:50.15, Robert Voss 1:49.63, Michael Jack 1:51.01)