

**MONICA:**



Our girls have swum since quite little. Neither of us are great swimmers so for us it was a safety thing and a life skill we wanted to offer them. We have had competitive swimmers in the club for eight years and I started timekeeping shortly after they started. Now we have a competitive swimmer and a coach in our house, and we are very proud of what they contribute in their different ways to the sport.

**\*Why or what keeps you motivated to Officiate / staying connected to swimming**

I am not a good person if confined to a seat. I am a compulsive fidgeter and need to keep moving so being an official allows me some physical freedom. I also like to be up close to the swimmers as being a non-swimmer I am in awe of how easy they make it look. It is quite inspiring to see the skill and the commitment they bring to the sport. You can't see it as well from the stands but there are some moments when you see a little 8 year old do their first 50 metre race, or a race where a NZ record is broken and it is pretty memorable.

**\*Events you particularly like attending and why**

I like our smaller club meets as it feels friendly and I can get a chance to chat and get a sense of where our club is at. I also think for a dated facility our pool is a good one to be at with easy access to the outside and as a rule, has plenty of seating.

**\*National or Overseas events Officiated at**

I have not done this apart from Div. 2 and Junior Festival

**\*Highs / Lows / fun facts / hobbies**

The highs are sharing the successes not just of my daughter but the whole club. The lows are being out of the house when there are so many things to be done. I support the cliché that your children do not remember if you had a clean house but will remember you being with them...fingers crossed. I am very lucky to have a good partner who is adaptable!

I have a background in lots of different sports and it seems weird that I am now involved and the Club Chairperson in a sport I can't do..... To relax I walk the family dog and once a year I try and have a family free week tackling a national park somewhere with no cell phone coverage and lots of fresh air.