

Media Release

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Butcher flies at State

16 year old Lane Cove swimmer, **Phil Butcher**, set a new state record at last weekend's NSW Short Course Championships to become the fastest butterflyer in his age group in the country.

Butcher led the club's most successful State team in years. His gold medal swim in the 100 Fly set a new benchmark of 55.07.

The talented 16 year old said "I was quietly determined to break the old record – I knew I could do it."

Butcher also won the Bronze in the 200 Fly and 100 Backstroke.

The team's younger swimmers weren't outshone either.

10 year old **Joseph Hilsberg** also won Gold in the 50 Backstroke, making him the fastest 10 year old over 50 Backstroke in Australia. Amazingly, Hilsberg finished top 10 in every one of his 8 events while struggling to fight off the flu.

And 12 year old **Josh Talvi**, competing in an extremely tough age group came home with three silver medals in the 50, 100 and 200 Freestyle. He was narrowly beaten for a medal in the 200 IM coming 4th in a time of 2:29.15.

The club finished in 24th position on the pointscore table, out of the 146 clubs that were competing.

Lane Cove's Head Coach, John Thompson, said the club's success was due to entire team – swimmers and coaches.

"We have been working hard on the basics: improving the technique and skills of our swimmers and also on their ability to race."

He said "I was particularly impressed with the way the swimmers learnt to fight back in their races and be true to themselves."

12 swimmers represented Lane Cove at the annual championship meet, with an impressive 70% of all swims being lifetime bests.

The other finalists were:

- **Joshua Chang (17)**
- **Andy D'Ambrosio (18)**
- **Sally Gilbert (14)**

Further information:

John Thompson
0400 600 505

Lane Cove Aquatic Centre 2 Little Street, LANE COVE
P.O.Box 110, Lane Cove NSW 2066
Phone: 0400 600 505 Email: info@thompsonswimming.com.au