



Maniah Betham Squad Scholarship

MANIAH BETHAM – 03/02/99 – 17/07/14

Maniah Betham was a fifteen-year-old young man from a large and loving family. He was a valuable member of the Ripples Swimming Club from September 2008 to July 2014. Maniah was identified by his coach “Jenny Pilgrim” as a swimmer with great potential. He quickly began to make a name for himself breaking club records and competing at Metro and State Championships as well as qualifying for NSW All Schools championships. One year later Maniah was ranked in the top two in the State for 4 events. Two years training with Jenny he was a State Champion in 200m Freestyle, 200m I.M, 100m & 200m Backstroke as well as silver medallist in 50m, 100m & 400m Freestyle. His achievements then spanned to 6th at Nationals for 400m Freestyle and 8th in 200m I.M. He was also a valuable member of the Ripples under 12 Relay Team that broke the NSW All comers records for 4X50m Freestyle and 4X 50m I.M. Relays.

In 2012, Maniah and his brother Dylan were offered scholarships to Trinity Grammar, a prestigious school ranked the number one swimming school in the State. At Trinity he broke the 100m Freestyle and 400m Freestyle records as well as being a valuable member of the Trinity CAS team. He competed at National Schools where he won bronze medals in the 50m and 100m Freestyle events.

Maniah’s dedication and hard work in the pool was well known. He was never one to back down from the gruelling training sessions by Coach Jenny Pilgrim. Jenny was quoted to say at the Family Funeral Service, “Maniah had the biggest heart yet unknown to us he had the weakest heart”. His never give up; never say die attitude is what separated him from his competitors. Maniah’s loyalty to his coach Jenny and his Ripples team mates was shown by his choice to continue to swim for his club rather than transfer to Trinity Club.

His achievements went beyond swimming. He also competed at State for athletics and cross country. He was a valuable member of the Trinity Grammar rugby fraternity and was earmarked for their 1st 15 team in the coming year. He was an academic boy and was in honour classes at Trinity Grammar. He had been primary school captain and district public speaking champion 3 years in a row.

His greatest strengths were not the achievements or his training ethic but his humble unselfish nature. Maniah was never one to boast of his abilities irrespective of his success. He made friends everywhere he went and he was so much fun to be around. People were drawn to him as he had the ability to lift others and make them feel important. He was an example of gratitude and it was not uncommon to see him walk up to his coaches after a training

session and thank them personally. Maniah was a young man who was active in his faith which was exemplified in how he lived and treated others.

One of Maniah's favourite sayings was:

"There are 3 types of people, those who watch things happen, those that make things happen and those that never knew what happened"

He was one that made things happen and lifted others along the way.

In May 2014, Maniah collapsed in a school rugby union game. He had 3 minor seizures and was admitted to Hornsby Hospital fearing he may have epilepsy. He was given the all clear to train and continued to swim. After extensive tests over the next four weeks he was found to have an arrhythmia of his heart. It was then he ceased swimming, awaiting a full diagnosis. Four weeks later on July 16 2014 he was casually shooting a basketball at his church youth night and collapsed into a seizure. Maniah passed away within minutes in his family's arms as they worked to resuscitate him.

Maniah's life was tragically cut short. He is sorely missed but will never be forgotten.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

The Annual Maniah Betham Squad Scholarship aims to support diligent and dedicated squad swimmers by subsidising the cost of one year's squad fees at Ripples Leisure Centre's. This scholarship is valued up to \$1560.00.

This scholarship is in memory of the late Maniah Betham a swimmer that not only embodied raw swimming talent, extreme dedication to his discipline but also team spirit, respect for his coaches and fellow swimmers, positivity and a generous heart.

This scholarship is not based solely on performances in the pool but also the characteristics that Maniah exemplified outside the water.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- Application must be completed by the swimmer themselves (not by parents or caregivers) to provide better insight as to why the swimmer believes they are the most deserving recipient of this scholarship.
- Existing member of the Ripples Squad program.
- Demonstrates regular consistency with attending training sessions, is always prepared and for each session and follows directions well from the coaching staff.
- Displays respect for the coaching team, Ripples staff, other team members and their families.
- Promotes and supports the Ripples swim squad
- Member of Ripples Swimming Club
- Fosters a team spirit.
- Demonstrates diligence and dedication towards their swimming goals.
- Creates a positive team atmosphere and is a potential role model to other squad participants

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

- Applications open 30th March 2017.
- Applications will only be accepted in writing addressing all the above mentioned essential criteria.
- Applications close at 3.00pm on 27th April 2017.
- All applications will be reviewed by a panel made up of Ripples Centre Management and representatives from the Betham family based on the information submitted.
- Additional feedback and endorsement will be sourced by the Head Swim Coach for consideration on the panels preferred candidates.
- The successful applicant will be advised by June 2017 with the Scholarship to commence from 1st July 2017 for a period of 1 year.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be advised in writing and are eligible to apply in the following year's application.

For additional enquiries about the Maniah Betham Scholarship please direct to:

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