



Left: Paralympic swimmer Jesse Reynolds placed fifth. Right: Ella Benn finished just ahead of Jon Linyard.

Port Nelson Sea Swim Series, Race Four

By Peter Gibbs

While bad weather and pollution hit ocean swims around the country, Nelson swimmers enjoyed perfect conditions for race four in the Port Nelson Sea Swim Series on Thursday evening.

Without big currents and in flat conditions, it came down to pure tenacity, as Oxford Bayley outspined Hayden Squance to take the win in the main race over 900m. It was Bayley's second win in the series.

A lead group of four stayed together as the field headed south from the Nelson Yacht Club, then angled across the harbour to a second mark before the final leg of the triangle back to the yacht club ramp.

Bayley had the kick to hold out Squance by a tenth of a second, finishing four seconds ahead of Nic Hall, with Richmond teenager Abbey Smale two seconds further back to lead the women's field in a time of 10min 19sec, with Terry Bone leading the next group a minute back.

New Zealand's Tokyo paralympic hopefuls have been on a ten-day training camp in Nelson and Jesse Reynolds stood out, taking sixth place ahead of Ben Marshall, Hamish Neill, Isabella Thurlow and Matt Hansen.

Top M60-69 swimmer Denis Cooper was next, followed by Hayden Lockie, Fenn Anderson, third woman Christina Harris and 70+ leader Ben Van Dyke.

Paralympic swimmer Ella Benn took the fourth woman's spot.

Noah Brehaut, 12, claimed his first victory in the short swim over about 500m ahead of Jacqui Maitland, Rosie Goomes and Marama Stanbride-Brien.

Swimming continues on Thursday with race five of the Port Nelson series.

Results, information, nelsonseaswims.co.nz