



MEDIA RELEASE

11 February 2011

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Party goes don birthday wet suits!

Christchurch woman, Katrina Buchanan has never done things by halves and her unorthodox birthday celebration this year is no exception.

Buchanan will turn 29 on February 26 and rather than clubbing or dining out as you might expect, she has invited three of her closest friends to don wet suits rather than party frocks and join her in the State Corsair Ocean Swim.

“Its’ something I have always wanted to do and what better day to do it than on my birthday in the company of friends,” says an enthusiastic Buchanan.

The four friends, including one who will travel down from Wellington, have a variety of swimming abilities but Buchanan is confident they will all complete the swim in time to celebrate in the traditional way. “ We’ll have earned those birthday drinks ,” she says. Her friends didn’t initially share her enthusiasm when she first suggested the unorthodox birthday celebration but now they are all really looking forward to it.

Katrina and her two of her friends will swim the 2.8km course , with the fourth opting for the shorter 1000m option. There’s also a 300m swim. Tadpoles from 8yrs can join in the fun with the State Ocean Kids 200m event.

Buchanan’s birthday swimmers are expected to be joined by around 700 others as they plunge into Corsair Bay for the fourth event in the State NZ Ocean Swim Series. They will be rubbing shoulders with elite swimmers such as Kane Radford, Bryn Murphy and Steven Kent. Also taking the plunge will be Television presenters Stephen McIvor and Awen Guttenbeil who will both be out of their comfort zones (hopefully not out of their depth) when they swap their microphones for wetsuits.

The State NZ Ocean Swim Series includes ocean swims in Auckland (x2), the Bay Of Islands, Wellington, Christchurch and Bay Of Plenty. The series kicked off in November with the Auckland State Harbour Crossing and ends with the State King Of The Bays swim in Auckland on April 16.

Scott Rice, Event Director, State NZ Ocean Swim Series says: “Everyone has different motivators for signing up to this event. This is certainly the only birthday party group that I’m aware of – what a great way to celebrate life.”

It’s not too late - registrations for the State Capital Classic close at 5pm on 24 February– visit www.oceanswim.co.nz