# Home state swimmers go to front line



SIX Tasmanians raced to the front line of action on day one of the 16th annual AUSSI Masters National Swim championships in Devonport yesterday.

The only event held on the opening day was the 400 metre freestyle, but it was enough for the half a dozen local products to grab the attention of the rest of the nation.

More than twice the number of swimmers who competed in the inaugural Australian Masters Games in Devonport in 1987, are racing in the national titles.

Devonport Devils club members Kathy Smith and Camelia Newey were successful yesterday, as were Hobart Masters' Neil Hickey and Jeannie Baxter-Reid, New Norfolk's Peter Munnings and Launceston Aussi member John Pugh.

Kathy Smith, the defending titleholder in the 30-34 year age bracket gained the maximum 10 points for her effort yesterday.

Smith had previously nominated a race time of 5:03, but was home slightly under that time.

Eventually she won by almost nine seconds from Osborne Park (WA) swimmer Nancy Warnock and Pam Martin from Victorian club' Sunshine Stingrays.

Devonport's other success story from yesterday, Camelia Newey was competing in the 50-54 year section.

Newey slashed almost 25 seconds from her nominated time of 6:40 for the 400 metres.

The format of the championships allows swimmers to nominate for a maximum five events with bonus points alloted for each race.

It is estimated a clean sweep, or maximum 50-points will be required to win any particular age group.

● *Wearing their club caps, members of the Devonport Devils Aussi Swimming Club urge clubmates on at the swimming titles yesterday. They are, front (from left) Ian Roberts, Richard Colbeck and Rodney Bird, and (back) Chris Brown, Hector Beveridge, Camelia Newey, Tom Edwards and Frank Webb.*