Ready for the Carlton Beach long-distance swim: from left, John Pemberton, Tina Smit and Julia Allston.

Lining up for long Carlton swim

By JAMES BRESNEHAN

A GROUP of intrepid swimmers will take to the water tomorrow for the 1994 Carlton Beach long-distance swim.

The event replaced the Kettering swim, which had taken the place of the trans-Derwent swim, which went under when pollution levels became unacceptable to the competitors.

The co-hosts — the Hobart Aussimasters Swimming Club and the Carlton Park Surf Lifesaving Club — are hoping for calm waters.

"This is a transfer of the trans-Derwent and Kettering concepts, and at Carlton the water is clear and clean. The only thing is it is prone to surf but we're hoping it won't be too bad on Sunday," said Ron Bloomfield, secretary of the Hobart Aussimasters Swimming Club and registrar for the event.

Mr Bloomfield said competitors were allowed to wear wetsuits, though they were unlikely to need them.

"We are very aware of the dangers of hypothermia, particularly in long-distance swimming," he said.

"The water temperature was 16.4°C on Wednesday and with the good weather we've had this week it should rise to 17.5–18°C by Sunday."

Swimmers from the age groups of 16–19 up to 50-and-over will contest the two races.

The open event is a 2½-kilometre swim the length of the beach, and the 1½-kilometre event is a taster course for novices.

The open competitors start at the Tiger Head Bluff end of the beach, and the novices another kilometre closer to the finish.

"It's a beach start where the swimmers will make their way out to the first buoy and turn left and won't stop until they get to the finish," Mr Bloomfield said.

The two races start simultaneously at 11am, with entries open until an hour beforehand.