



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - JULY 2025

Introduction

Dive into July with SSA's hottest updates, triumphs, and a splash of inspiration!

Welcome to the **fourth edition** of SSA's newsletter! From elite triumphs to community currents, we're serving up the freshest updates in South African aquatics.

Whether you're an athlete chasing records, a coach shaping futures, an official keeping the lanes fair, or a fan cheering from the stands – this is your hub to stay **informed, inspired, and connected** with our swimming family. The water's fine – *let's dive in!*

Follow us for real-time updates:

- ✓ Facebook: [@SwimmingSouthAfrica](#)
- ✓ Twitter (X): [@SwimSouthAfrica](#)
- ✓ Instagram: [@swimsouthafrica](#)
- ✓ Website: www.swimsa.org



Message from the Bombela Concession Company CEO

by Mr. Andre van Rensburg, Bombela Concession Company Chief Executive Officer

Dear Swimming Community,

This month, we're honoured to share a special address from **Mr. Andre van Rensburg**, CEO of the **Bombela Concession Company** – proud sponsors of Swimming South Africa and custodians of Gautrain, one of the world's most reliable rail systems.

In his inspiring message below, Mr. van Rensburg highlights Bombela's **R10 million sponsorship** to SSA, their commitment to nation-building through sport, and how swimming aligns with their core values of **excellence, accountability, and passion**. He also reflects on Mandela Day and the

transformative power of sport, echoing Madiba's belief that it can "unite people in a way that little else does."

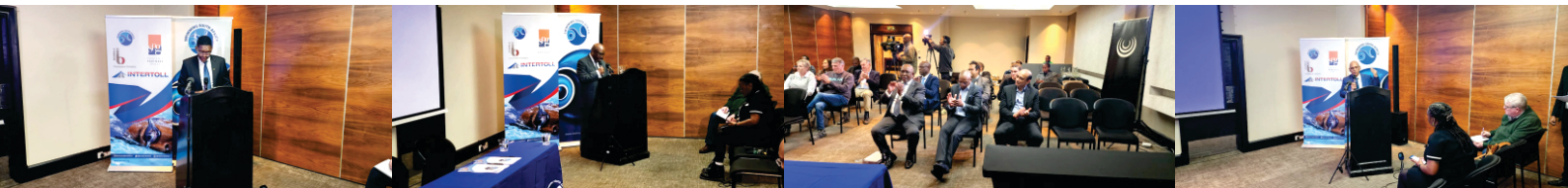
To our athletes, coaches, and supporters: This partnership is a testament to your hard work and a reminder that South Africa is behind you, **every stroke of the way**.

An address by Mr. Andre van Rensburg, CEO of The Bombela Concession Company (17-07-25)

The Chairperson of the Gautrain Management Agency Board, Professor Mfanelo Patrick Ntsobi, the Chairperson of the Bombela Concession Company's Board, Mr Kushil Maharaj, the Chairperson of the Bombela Concession Company's Social & Ethics Committee and member of the Board, Mr Mzolisi Diliza, the President of Swimming SA, Mr Alan Fritz, the CEO of Swimming SA, Mr Shawn Adriaanse, and the rest of this executive committee, athletes, coaches, esteemed guests, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen.



It is a great honour for me to represent the Bombela Concession Company at this auspicious event today. As many of you may know, the Bombela Concession Company was appointed by the Gauteng Provincial Government almost 20 years ago to design, build, partially finance, operate and maintain the Gautrain system. Today, the Gautrain is one of South Africa's most successful public-private partnerships and in fact, Gautrain has been described by the South African Institute of Civil Engineering as "worldclass". The Gautrain is one of the most reliable passenger train services in the world. As the Bombela Concession Company, we are exceptionally proud of these achievements.



However, in as much as we understand sound contract management, we equally understand what some may call the 'softer issues'. We understand the importance and necessity of investing in community development initiatives in South Africa. The work that Swimming SA is doing to support and develop swimming athletes in our country, is an example of uplifting community development.

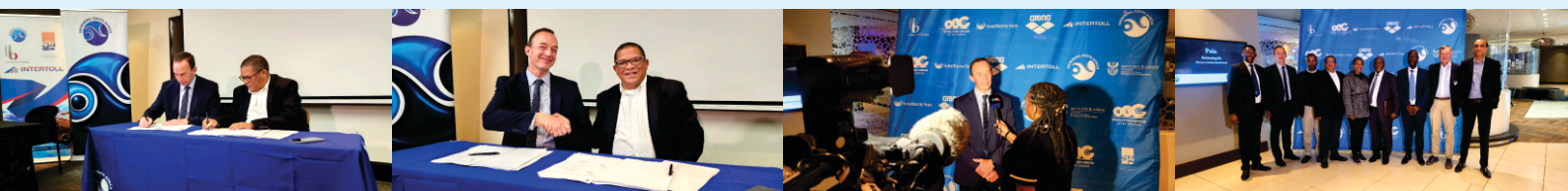
Whilst, on paper, this sponsorship by the Bombela Concession Company offers Swimming SA financial support, to us, the sponsorship goes far beyond that and it demonstrates our commitment to building talent and the dreams of our young swimmers. These athletes mirror some of the values we uphold at the Bombela Concession Company: the pursuit of excellence, commitment, accountability, and passion.

As we know, tomorrow is Mandela Day. It's a special day for us in South Africa as we are reminded of the importance of, amongst many other things, the need for Businesses to be good, responsible corporate citizens. Madiba himself had a deep understanding of the responsible role the Business community ought to play to help with our country's economic and social transformation.

At this juncture, it's perhaps apt for me to share one of my favourite quotes from Madiba:

"Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does."

This quote, for me, speaks to the profound impact that sport can have as a catalyst for social change.



We are therefore very excited and honoured today to announce our official sponsorship of R10 million to Swimming SA to further support the development of swimming as a sport in SA – a sport that teaches resilience, and perseverance in any condition, especially when the waters get rough.

Supporting these athletes speaks to our commitment to youth empowerment and nation-building and we are proud to be part of a journey that starts in local waters and that

hopefully one day leads to the likes of the Olympics.

Allow me to take a moment to thank our Shareholders, Intertoll and The Strategic Partners Group, SPG, the coaches, sports administrators, and the families and friends who have supported these athletes.

To our swimmers: We are really proud of you and we are behind you every stroke of the way!



In closing, at Gautrain our tagline is 'For People on the Move!' Today, I want to say, we are moved by you, our young, dedicated athletes. We are moved by your commitment, dedication and passion and may you not only go fast, but may you go far!

Thank you
Mr. Andre van Rensburg



Read More: [Swimming South Africa and Bombela Concession Company Forge Strategic Partnership to Advance Aquatic Excellence and Water Safety](#)

Watch Now: [Swimming South Africa Secures R10m Sponsorship](#); [Swimming South Africa CEO Shawn Adriaanse](#); [Bombela Concession Company CEO Andre van Rensburg](#)



High Performance (HP) – South Africa's Road to Glory

Team SA Makes History: World Champs Glory & University Games Dominance

July 2025 will go down as a landmark month for South African aquatics! From **World Championships** in Singapore to the **World University Games** in Rhine-Ruhr, our athletes shattered records, claimed medals, and proved that SA is a force on the global stage. Here's the splash report:

WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS | Singapore Pieter Coetzé Cements Legend Status

- **GOLD** (100m Backstroke – 51.85 AF), **SILVER** (200m Backstroke – 1:53.36 AF), **SILVER** (50m Backstroke – 24.17 AF).
- First SA swimmer since Roland Schoeman (2005) to win **three medals at a single Worlds!**

Kaylene Corbett's Breakthrough Bronze

- **BRONZE** in Women's 200m Breaststroke (*2:23.52*) – a "years of dedication" payoff.

Record-Breaking Relays

- Women's 4x100m Medley Relay smashed the **African Record** (*3:59.47*) – first African team under 4:00!

- Men's and mixed relays showed grit, gaining crucial experience for **LA 2028**.

•

Open Water Warriors

- **Callan Lotter** starred with **16th-place finishes** in both 5km and 10km events.
- Debutant **Matthew Caldwell** impressed in the 5km (35th), signalling a bright future.

WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES | Rhine-Ruhr

Pieter Coetzé's Triple Crown

- **GOLD** (50m Back, 100m Back), **SILVER** (100m Free) – *broke FISU records twice in 24 hours!*



Women's Power Surge

- **SILVER:** Lara van Niekerk (50m Breast – *30.68*)
- **BRONZE:** Olivia Nel (50m Back – 27.96 AF).
- Relay Medals: **BRONZE** in Men's 4x100m Free and Mixed 4x100m Medley.

Captain's Leadership

- **Michael Houlie** and **Georgia Nel** steered Team SA with pride, embodying the #UniversityGames2025 spirit.

#UniversityGames2025 #RhineRhur



Road to LA 2028

The **Swimming Relay Programme** is firing on all cylinders, with depth emerging across disciplines. As the HP Manager noted: *"The waters are rough, but SA's resilience is rougher."*

From Pieter's "The Drip King" dominance to Kaylene's bronze heartbreak-turned-triumph, July proved that **SA's wave is rising**. Next stop: more records, more medals, more legacy!

#RoadToLA2028 #HighPerformance



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - JULY 2025





Competitions – Thrills in the Pool & Open Water

Team SA Dominates Across Continents: From Region 5 Gold to World Champs Glory

July 2025 was a month of **breakthroughs, records, and heart-stopping races** as South African athletes shone from Swakopmund to Singapore. Here's the medal-packed recap:

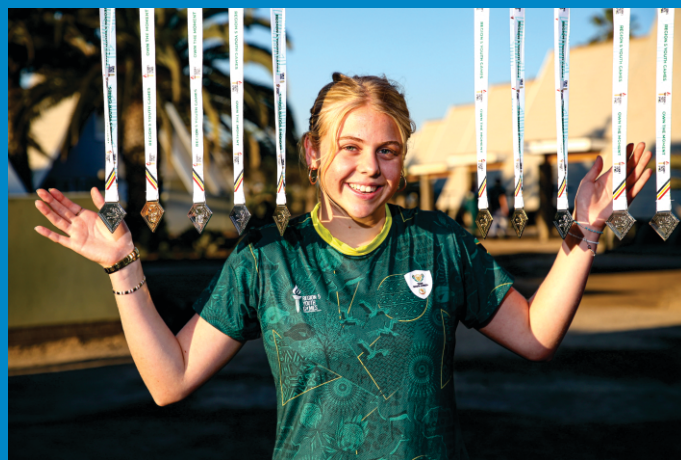
ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: INDIANA DE VILLIERS

"Every medal is one more than I expected."

At just **17**, butterfly and backstroke specialist **Indiana de Villiers** became South Africa's **top swimming medallist** at the **Region 5 Youth Games** in Namibia, claiming **10 medals (4 gold, 6 silver)** in her *international debut*.

Her highlight? A **50m fly gold** with a *personal best*. "I really didn't expect this," she said, embodying the humility and grit of SA's next-gen stars.

[Read Her Full Story](#)



REGION 5 YOUTH GAMES | Swakopmund, Namibia

Team SA's Medal Haul:

- **Day 1:** 15 medals (6 gold, 9 silver/bronze).
- **Final Tally:** 25 medals, including relay dominance and PB smashes.
- **Standouts:** Carmody – 4 Golds.



[#Region5Games](#) [#ForMyCountry](#)

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES | Rhine-Ruhr

- Pieter Coetzé

- 50m Backstroke: **24.49** (Gold); 100m Backstroke: **51.99** (Gold, FISU Record)

Relays

- Mixed 4x100m Medley: **3:28.51** (Bronze); Men's 4x100m Free: **3:16.82** (Bronze)

OTHER STARS

- Olivia Nel: 50m Back – 27.96 (AF, Bronze)
- Michaela de Villiers: 50m Back – 28.00 (4th)

[#UniversityGames2025](#) [#RhineRhur](#)



WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS | Singapore

SWIMMING

Pieter Coetzé

- 100m Backstroke: **51.85** (African Record, Gold)
- 200m Backstroke: **1:53.36** (AF, Silver)
- 50m Backstroke: **24.17** (AF, Silver)

Kaylene Corbett

- 200m Breaststroke: **2:23.52** (Bronze)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Women's 4x100m Medley Relay:** 3:59.47 (African Record, 9th)
- **Erin Gallagher:** 50m Fly – 25.66 (8th)
- **Chris Smith:** 50m Breast – 26.75 (6th)
- **Aimee Canny:** 200m Free – 1:57.72 (12th)

OPEN WATER

- Callan Lotter: 16th (10km & 5km)
- Matthew Caldwell: 35th (5km debut)

ARTISTIC SWIMMING

- **Xera Maharajh:** 26th (Solo Free)
- **Team Technical:** 25th (139.17 pts)

DIVING

- **Heydra/Methula:** 14th (3m Synchro)

WATER POLO

Women's Team

- Lost to **Spain** (4-23), **GB** (3-12), **France** (6-13)
- Defeated **Singapore** (8-4)

Men's Team

- Lost to **Serbia** (3-27), **Australia** (4-27)
- Narrow loss to **Singapore** (13-14)

#WorldAquaticsChamps2025 #Singapore



THE BIG PICTURE

July proved South Africa's **depth across disciplines**:

- **Elite**: Coetzé joins Schoeman as only SA swimmers with 3 World Champs medals
- **Next Gen**: Indiana's 10-medal debut signals bright future
- **Team Culture**: Relays breaking continental records

"The medals are impressive, but the fight behind them inspires us most."



Mass Participation Programme (MPP) – Swimming for All

World Drowning Prevention Day: "Making Every Splash Count"

"Drowning is silent, but our response must be loud."

On **25 July 2025**, Swimming South Africa (SSA) joined the global call to action for **World Drowning Prevention Day**, launching grassroots initiatives to combat a preventable tragedy claiming **1,500 South African lives annually**.

"MAKING EVERY SPLASH COUNT" CAMPAIGN KwaZulu-Natal Takes the Lead

- **KwaMashu Pool**: 100+ kids trained in water safety workshops.
- **Rachel Finlayson Pool (Durban)**: Free lessons for 50 children (26–27 July).
- **Provincial Rollout**: All SSA affiliates activating workshops, splash sessions, and community drives.

THE STATS THAT DEMAND ACTION:

- **Global**: 236,000+ Drownings Yearly (WHO).
- **South Africa**: Children are most at risk.
- **Solution**: Education + Access = Lives Saved.



Core Activities:

- ✓ **Water Safety Workshops** – Teaching danger recognition and response.
- ✓ **Learn-to-Swim Splash Sessions** – Building confidence in controlled environments.
- ✓ **Community Engagement** – Partnering with schools, municipalities, and NGOs.

5 NON-NEGOTIABLE WATER SAFETY TIPS

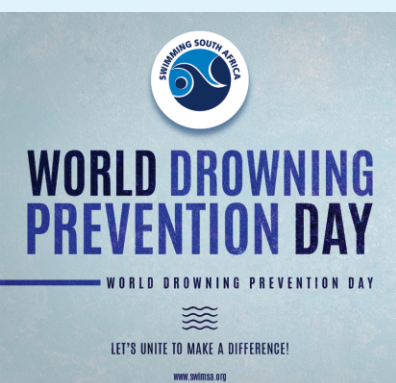
1. **EYES ON, ALWAYS** – No distractions near water.
2. **LEARN TO SWIM** – Skills that last a lifetime.
3. **LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES** – Mandatory on boats/open water.
4. **KNOW CPR** – Seconds decide survival.
5. **SPOT THE SIGNS** – Drowning is silent (look for gasping, stillness).



QUOTES THAT INSPIRE

"Every child deserves the chance to be safe around water. This campaign empowers communities to own their safety." ~ **Alan Fritz, SSA President**

"Drowning is preventable. United, we can build a water-safe South Africa." ~ **SSA Spokesperson**



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

- **Participate:** Contact your Provincial Affiliate for local events.
- **Spread the Word!**

Because every splash should tell a story of joy – not loss.

#WorldDrowningPreventionDay2025 #WaterSafety
#MakingEverySplashCount #LearnToSwim #SwimForLife



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - JULY 2025



Education & Training (E&T) – Building Future Leaders

Elevating Excellence: SSA Launches Unified CPD Framework for All Disciplines

"Growth never stops, neither should professional development."

Ready to take the plunge and unlock your coaching potential?

Register now and embark on an exciting journey.



Swimming South Africa is proud to introduce the **Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Table**, a groundbreaking initiative designed to empower coaches, teachers, and officials across *all aquatic disciplines* with structured learning pathways.



WHY THIS MATTERS

- **Inclusive Framework:** Tailored for all career stages – from grassroots to high-performance.
- **Volunteer Recognition:** Credits for community contributions (e.g., mentoring, event officiating).
- **Stakeholder-Driven:** Developed in collaboration with 50+ coaches and educators nationwide.

Explore the CPD Table:

[Download Now](#)

KEY FEATURES

- **Diverse Learning Formats:**
 - Workshops | Online Courses | Peer Mentorship
- **Discipline-Specific Tracks:**
 - Swimming | Water Polo | Open Water | Artistic Swimming | Diving
- **Progress Tracking:**
 - Log hours, achievements, and goals in one centralized system.

QUOTE OF COMMITMENT

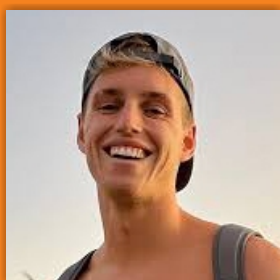
"This CPD table isn't just about credits – it's about building a culture where every volunteer's effort and every coach's growth fuels the future of South African aquatics." ~ **SSA Education & Training Unit**

NEXT STEPS

- **Coaches/Teachers:** Align your 2026 development plans with the CPD table.
- **Clubs:** Host a CPD info session (contact E&T for resources).

Together, we can elevate our sport and inspire the next generation of aquatic athletes, teachers and coaches.

#SwimmingSA #CPDForGrowth #BetterCoachingBetterAthletes



Athlete Profile – Matthew Naser: World Aquatics Scholarship Experience

World Aquatics Scholarship: A Barcelona Baptism of Fire & Growth

"True dedication isn't just about pushing yourself, it's about lifting your teammates too."

For **Matthew Naser**, the **World Aquatics Scholarship** in Barcelona has been equal parts *humility* and *transformation*. The 21-year-old water polo player shares how training with **CNC Club** and studying Spanish at **NL College** has reshaped his game and his mindset.



The Barcelona Grind

Matthew's days are a masterclass in **precision**:

- **5:30 AM:** Rise, shower, breakfast.
- **9:00 AM:** Spanish classes ("*Learning to yell plays in Catalan now!*").
- **NOON:** Gym session (strength + mobility).
- **1:00 PM:** Pool tactics drill.
- **9:00 PM:** Night training ("*Where the real team bonds form*").

"Saturdays are war. Sundays are for survival," he laughs.

Beyond the Caps

Matthew's takeaway? "*Great athletes aren't just talented – they're consistent, adaptable, and hungry. That's the standard I chase now.*"

[Follow His Journey](#)

#NeserInBarcelona #WAScholarship

Lessons from the Pool

- **Team > Self:** "*At CNC, individual accountability fuels collective success. I've learned to thrive when my role changes.*"
- **Tactical IQ:** Reading the pool like chess, not checkers.
- **Resilience:** Balancing 4-hour daily training with academics.



General – Poolside Chat

SSA × BOMBELA: A TIDE-CHANGING PARTNERSHIP: R10 million investment to accelerate:

- **Elite athlete development** (Hello, LA2028!)
- **Nationwide Learn-To-Swim expansion**
- **Inclusive access programs**

Together, we're investing in futures – both in the pool and beyond. ~ Kushil Maharaj, Bombela Chairperson

TEAM SA DRESSED FOR LEGACY

- **FILA SA** was our **official kit sponsor** for the **2025 World Aquatics Champs!** [Read More](#)

You Decide: Which athlete deserves the spotlight next? Vote on Facebook or Instagram!

SHARE THE SSA LOVE: Tag us on Facebook or Instagram for a chance to be featured in our Stories!

Upcoming Events

"Mark Your Calendars!"

August/September 2025 Preview

- **World Aquatics Women's U20 Water Polo Championships** – Salvador (Brazil), 10–19 August 2025
- **World Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships** – Otopeni (Romania), 19–24 August 2025
- **World Aquatics Youth Artistic Swimming Championships** – Athens (Greece), 26–30 August 2025
- **Zone 4 Swimming and OWS Championships** – Manzini (Eswatini), 3–7 September 2025

Stay tuned for details on upcoming events on our official website and social media channels.



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - JULY 2025





MEDAL DESIGN

COMPETITION

• • • "Medals made by SA, for SA!" • • •

"Ubuntu In Motion"
Show What Unites SA's Aquatic Spirit!

"Your Art. Their Glory."

"Now's your chance to leave a lasting Legacy! Design the official medal for the 2026 Bombela Concession Company SA National Aquatic Championships or Bombela Concession Company SA National (25m) Championships - Where Creativity meets Championship Glory."

Submit your artwork today!
Open to artists, fans & aspiring designers.

www.swimsa.org

Theme: "Ubuntu in Motion"

Prize: Design featured on SA Medal + more.

Deadline: 30 November 2025

Submit to brynwell.kasper@swimsa.org





Your Feedback is
IMPORTANT to US!



Contact Us

We value your feedback and inquiries. Please reach out to us through the following channels:

E-mail: brynwell.kasper@swimsa.org

Phone: +27 11 404 2480

Address: Johannesburg Stadium, North Wing Ground Floor, 124 Van Beek Street, New Doornfontein, Johannesburg, 2094

Follow, Share, Engage! Let's grow swimming together.

Want Your Story Featured?

Submit news, events, or athlete spotlights to brynwell.kasper@swimsa.org!



sport, arts & culture
Department:
Sport, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

#SwimmingSouthAfrica #RaiseTheBar #SSA2025 © 2025 Swimming South Africa. All rights reserved.



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - JULY 2025

