

# OMPA is a Family Affair

By Jennifer Wake

The Orinda Moraga Pool Association (OMPA) opened its 51st season June 3, with families joining for a kick-off barbecue. With approximately 1,600 swimmers in teams throughout Lamorinda, the OMPA has become a community within the greater community.

Ric Notini, president of OMPA, says belonging to the organization is not only about swimming and competing, but "it's a great social environment."

"It involves the entire family," he said. "They're all learning the value of working hard and can see the direct results of their effort, through sportsmanship, team camaraderie, spirit, and competition." The opening gave long-time swim team families a chance to reconnect.

"We all look forward to the start of swim season. Since we don't all have kids in the same schools, it's fun to see all the families again," said Amy Meckfessel, whose family has belonged to the Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club in Orinda for seven years. "The older swimmers and coaches are people we want our kids to look up to and emulate."

Many parents of swimmers, who range in age from 3 to 18 in the 10 recreational teams throughout Orinda and Moraga, belonged to OMPA when they were children and have continued the tradition with their own families. The season will culminate with the OMPA Championship meet on August 3, 4, and 5 at the Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School.



Photos Gavin Schlissel



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