

start to competition has blunted his current enthusiasm for swimming. Arthur has other interests and does very well at them all.

Rana said it was natural for Arthur to jump in the pool with his sisters and at age eight and nine, Arthur won several Waikato provincial age-grade titles in freestyle and breaststroke. Since then size has been a major factor in Arthur not firing as well as he might have expected. At under five foot in height he has a handicap in size. But it is hoped that he will "spring up" before too long and be able to develop his full potential.

Arthur says he likes competition swimming but he has got other interests in sport – like club soccer, school rugby and Kung Fu. He has a brown belt in kung fu and in 1985 won the New Zealand grand national title for

Kata 4 (a senior red belt-brown tip class).

Arthur thinks swimming is a good sport for keeping fit and his father said swimming has the great advantage of being a sport which promotes few injuries.

Arthur loves Maori culture and has an ambition to attend a Maori college. His sisters went through learning the Maori language at school.

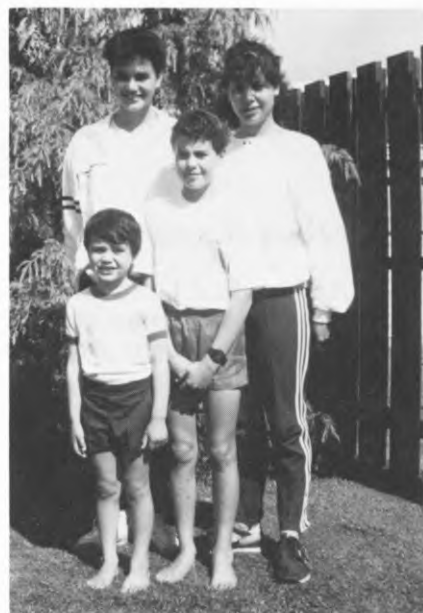
Little David was determined to get into the act. David was confident he too was going to be a swimmer.

"It's so I can grow up and be a big swimmer like my brother and sisters," he said.

Whilst Margaret (nee Parker) is of English and Scots descent, Rana's parents are Tiramoke Tairawhiti Tauranga and Whakaronga Tamiparea (who was a niece of T.W. Ratana).

A cousin of the Taurangas, 16-year-old Christina Rukuwai also from Hamilton, is another national champion and New Zealand representative. Last season Rukuwai won the national senior 100m freestyle title beating the 1986 Commonwealth Games freestyle swimming finalist Fiona McLay.

Rukuwai who holds the New Zealand junior women's record for 100m freestyle was in the team to Tasmania with Rongo last October. A close friend of the Taurangas, Rukuwai is a highly rated prospect for the next Olympics. She was desperately unlucky to miss out of the New Zealand team for the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in clocking 0.6s outside the NZ qualifying standard for the 100m freestyle.



Heaps of swimming talent here – from left at back, Rongo, 15, Marama, 16, Arthur, 12, David 5.



From left, Marama, Rongo and Arthur.

To give you an idea just what training is involved for competition swimming, last November Rongo swam 5km-6km in each of the morning and evening sessions, five days a week, taking in all the strokes and including speed work. She concentrated on perfecting technique. Out of water, she does an hour of gym work each day and she usually runs one to two kilometres daily.

Mrs Tauranga said her three competition swimming children go through collectively 16 pairs of togs a year – that's \$600 a year on current prices.

Family honoured by Pope

Congratulations to all those Christians chosen to receive the Eucharist from the Holy Father in Wellington on Sunday November 23rd, last year.

We were brought up to appreciate and be grateful for all the things granted to us in life.

Words could not express the gratitude and love I felt for my father when he told me in humility that he had been invited to receive the Eucharist from the Holy Father.

He is a devoted husband and family man with three sons and five daughters, all of whom have been raised in the Catholic Faith.

I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the entire community responsible for choosing our father from amongst so many worthy devoted and devout Christians to receive this honour".

Written by Jeanette Rei Paku about her father Thomas Rei Paku.

