



From left: Jack Collier, Lucas Hurst and Benjamin Sashegyi; competitors in the water; on the beach; and at the starting line.

Brooke-Smith rules Rotto waves

By DENISE S. CAHILL

HALF an hour in to the 2013 Rottneest Channel Swim, sole winner Jeremy Brooke-Smith knew it was going to be a "hard day at the office".

Brooke-Smith, who finished third last year, crossed the line in 4 hours, 34 minutes and 37 seconds about eight minutes ahead of second placed Tim Hewitt, in last Saturday's 19.7 km swim.

"It feels good." Brooke-Smith said, "I've wanted to do it (win) for awhile, and last year had a crack and got close."

Hewitt won the solo event two years ago and was second in the

dures with his brother Ben last year. Jess Walker won the female solo event, finishing fourth overall in a time of 4:47:54 and said she "started hurting a lot earlier this year".

However, second placed female Jamie Bowler, who was about seven minutes behind Walker, said the conditions were better than she had expected.

"I'm happy with the time," Bowler said. "Every November when the entries come out, I'm bored so I enter and then February comes around quickly, but I love swimming in the ocean."

UWA Uniswim member Paul Laver, who was forced to pull out of the channel swim 4km from the fin-

ish line last year because of dehydration, was part of the first team across the line. Laver, David Locke, Deane Pieters and Liam Ryan crossed in 3:55:09.

While most looked at the clock as they crossed the finish line, Rottneest Channel Swim debutant Ian Gordon had his son on his mind.

Gordon, whose son Finlay was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes a day after his third birthday last year, was the highest fundraiser making more than \$12,500 for Diabetes WA.

"I was just thinking about this little bloke here," Gordon said.

Italian amputee Salvatore Cimmino crossed the line in 7:08:40



Swimmers make their way into the water for the 2013 Rottneest Channel Swim. Pictures: Robin Kornet
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