



School's in for pool of promising swimmers

■ Dale Miller

WA's premier swimming club will be based out of **Perth College** under a pioneering merger that aims to produce a fresh wave of elite athletes capable of results on the international stage.

National swimming team coach Matt Magee will operate the City of Perth club out of the Mt Lawley girls school under an agreement signed in recent weeks.

The club has previously operated from Beatty Park, but will now use the college's 50m eight-lane heated pool for its programs.

More than 200 school-aged swimmers will be involved.

City of Perth representative Blair Evans, who will compete at her first Olympics in London, will be among athletes helping juniors.

Magee said he hoped to produce more elite swimmers as part of the merger.

"I think the opportunities that we've got with 1100 girls in this school, there's no doubt that there's some phenomenal swimming talent there," Magee said.

"Being set up at the school, we've got the opportunity for the girls to then access an elite level pathway should they choose swimming at a higher level."

WA has only ever produced one Olympic swimming gold medallist in an individual event.

Swimming WA Hall of Fame member Lyn McKenzie, formerly McClements, won gold in the 100m butterfly at the 1968 Mexico Games.

Youngsters not enrolled at **Perth College** will be eligible to join the club.

Perth College principal Jenny Ethell said the agreement would expose her students to role models like Evans and give them an opportunity to strive for national or international excellence.



Merger a great move: Jenny Ethell and Matt Magee at the school pool.