Mitchell Makes a Splash

MITCHELL Atkins is not someone to meddle with in the pool.

Atkins collected two gold and two silver medals at the metropolitan schools' swimming championships.

What made the 12-year-old's achievement such a big splash was that the medals came in all four strokes.

Atkins won gold in the 1200-metres 12-years breaststroke in 1.15.64sec, gold in the 100m backstroke in 1.06.53, and silver in the 100m freestyle in 57.34sec and in the 100m butterfly in 1.06.50.

Such versatility would say the Quakers Hill High School Year 7 student should be looking at the medley, and that's the lane he is taking.

Atkins is aiming for the 200m medley at the Australian age championships in Sydney next April, one of seven events in which he might compete.

Most of the extended Atkins family has been in the swim. Sister Taylor has joined him in competition and his aunt, Jenny Pilgrim, has been his coach at Ripples, St Marys.

The Atkinses will soon be making ripples elsewhere, however. Taylor is switching her education to the Metropolitan Ladies College and her brother will join her at the MLC club in Burwood