

CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

The girls will compete also in the Queensland women's individual open championships which Denise won last year with Lorraine a close second.

Lorraine and Denise began their successful combination early last year when they were selected as reserve pair in the State team to go to the Australian championships in Hobart.

Another pair dropped out at the last moment, and the girls had their chance.

"We were excited about it, especially when our team won the national title," said Denise.

Lorraine and Denise have been training all through the year, doing land drill in winter when the pools were closed.

Last week they swam in the Ithaca Club team at Langlands Park and won the Brighton Cup from a field of eight women's teams from all over Brisbane.

Although the girls have been swimming as a pair only a year, Denise took to the water when she was two years old, and Lorraine when she was eight.

"But it wasn't until I turned 15 that I became interested in lifesaving. By then, Denise had quite a start on me. She began when she was eight," said Lorraine.

So, tonight, when Lorraine and Denise hit the water to compete for the Venning Shield (donated by Denise's grandfather, Mr. F. O. Venning), they will have between them more than 20 years competitive swimming experience to help them.