Elmslie’s resolve sees her reach new heights

Pre-Olympic ‘hiccups’ just spur champion to gold

SWIMMING: Brittany Elmslie was forced to rediscover her passion for the sport just six weeks out from the London Olympics, her coach has revealed.

Nudgee Brothers Swim club head coach Matt Brown says the Noosa product was pushed to her limits and tempted to give up during an intense build-up to her debut Games appearance. However, he gave credit to her ability to compose herself and earn three medals, including gold in the 100m freestyle relay.

The 18-year-old was further rewarded on Saturday night, when she was named Carnival of the Year at the Swimming Australia awards dinner.

The team freestyle team, which also featured fellow Sunshine Coasters Melanie Schlanger, and Alexa Coits and Cate Campbell, was named winner of Golden Moment of the Year.

Since moving from the coast to Brisbane a train under Brown almost two years ago, Elmslie has gone from age group champion to an international level performer.

“Resolve” is a word which frequently comes up when speaking to Brown about Elmslie.

He says she rediscovered it when she first came under his tutelage. She also uses it when describing her performance in London when she flirted under pressure to win the third leg of the 4x100m freestyle relay and help the Australian win their only gold of the Games.

However, he says there were moments when she was probably on the threshold and forced to reassess her desire to be an international champion.

“The thing about Britt is she knows who she is and what she wants,” Brown said.

“She’s really matured in that area. We had a few hiccups six weeks before the Games.

“I ask her to do something she’ll know it’s for her own good and she’ll go away and do it. She may not like it but she’ll know it’s in her best interest. “She’s really matured in that area. We had a few hiccups six weeks before the Games.

“But she soon realised where we were going. She kicked the boxes. She wasn’t happy but she realised I’m her biggest fan.”