



# ANNUAL REPORT

## Masters Swimming Australia 2009 Annual Report

Section	Report	Page
National Representatives		3
Reports	President	4
	General Manager	5
	Finance Director	7
National Committees	Coaching	14
	IT	15
	Membership and Participation	16
	Records	18
	Swim Meet	19
Branches	Technical	19
	New South Wales	21
	Northern Territory	23
	Queensland	24
	South Australia	26
	Tasmania	28
	Victoria	29
Western Australia	30	
National Championships	34th AUSSI Masters National Swimming Championships, Brisbane	33
National Trophies	National Trophy Winners 2009	36
Vorgee Million Metre Awards	Vorgee Million Metre Awards	37
Sponsors		39
Contacts		39

Front cover photo of Miami Masters swimmers taken by Amanda Tzannes

# National Representatives



## Attendees at the April Board Meeting

L-R Back: Wendy Holtom (WA), Ray Brien (TAS), Paul Watmough (VIC), Ian Davis (NBM), John Gamlen (SA), Craig Smith (NBM), David Cummins (NBM), John Pollock (NT), Noeleen Dix (GM). L-R Middle: Therese Crollick (QLD), Sue Wiles (NSW), John Pugh (President), Lynne Malone (WA), Mary Sweeney (Life member). L-R front: Sarah Roach (OM), Gerry Tucker (Finance Director)

### NATIONAL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

<b>President</b>	John Pugh
<b>Finance Director</b>	Gerry Tucker
<b>Director</b>	David Cummins
<b>Directors</b>	Ian Davis (Jan - April),
<b>Directors</b>	Craig Smith
<b>Directors</b>	John Pollock (Apr - Dec)

### NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Bill Lough	1975-1978
Peter Jackson	1978-1984
Ivan Wingate	1985-1988
Graeme McDougall	1989-1992
Glenys McDonald	1993-1998
Mary Sweeney	1999-2005
John Pugh	2005-Present

### LIFE MEMBERS

Kay Cox	Darryl Hawkes	Gary Stutsel
David Cummins	Glenys McDonald	Mary Sweeney
Peter Gillett (deceased)	Pauline Samson	Ivan Wingate

### NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

**General Manager** Noeleen Dix

**Operations Manager** Sarah Roach

### NATIONAL COMMITTEES

\* Chairman

COMMITTEE	JAN - OCT	OCT - DEC
<b>Coaching</b>	Katherine Heenan*	Stephen Cornelius*
	Jacinta Stirratt	Bruce Allender
		Katherine Heenan
		Jacinta Stirratt
<b>IT</b>		Tricia Summerfield
	Paul Watmough*	Paul Watmough*
	Helen Rubin	Helen Rubin
	Pauline Samson	Pauline Samson
<b>Membership &amp; Participation</b>	Therese Crollick*	Therese Crollick*
	Neil Keele	Neil Keele
	Owen Sinden	Owen Sinden
		Mike Walker
<b>Records</b>	Pauline Samson*	Pauline Samson*
	Lynne Malone	Lynne Malone
	Paul Watmough	Paul Watmough
<b>Swim Meet</b>	John Pollock*	John Pollock*
	Jeanette Holowiuk	Jeanette Holowiuk
	Lynne Malone	Lynne Malone
<b>Technical</b>	Gary Stutsel*	Gary Stutsel*
	Phil Beames	Phil Beames
	Derek Coghill	Derek Coghill
	Judith Crawford	Judith Crawford
	Tracey Dobby	Tracey Dobby
	John Marshall	John Marshall
	Fran O'Hara	

# National Board of Management

I find that writing an annual report makes me reflect on the business and activities of the Association and its specialist committees, the deliberations of the National Board of Management and what has happened in our branches. I am always surprised at what volunteers can achieve each year and the substantive changes and advances made.

In January we advertised for a General Manager for the National Office to take over from caretaker CEO, Loren Bartley. The quality of the applicants was such that we did a quick financial exercise and decided to appoint two people. Consequently we employed Noeleen Dix as General Manager and Sarah Roach as Operations Manager. These two people have made an enormous change to the volume and quality of the work in the national office and the branch administrators have been quick to acknowledge this.

A second notable event was the decision to drop the acronym AUSSI from our name and embrace Masters Swimming Australia. Administratively this made sense but the old brand name has nostalgic connotations for some and may take some time to fall out of use.

The third change was to adopt a new age group for people reaching their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and open up membership to a younger cohort. The coming year will see what effect this has on membership numbers and competitions.

We ran two competitions and the swimming components of two Masters Games. The 34<sup>th</sup> National Championship swim was held in Brisbane and attracted just over 600 participants. The pool was excellent, the officiating efficient and good-natured and the competition savage. Daniel Kowalski was a charming patron who also broke world records and inspired his competitors to new PBs. On your behalf, I congratulated the organising committee and officials for their excellent work. The other competition was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oceania Masters Championships hosted by Tasmania in Hobart. With 97 competitors it was a more intimate and relaxed event that the swimmers thoroughly enjoyed.

Early in the year, Victoria hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> Australian Masters Games in Geelong and later in the year, NSW branch delivered the swimming for the World Masters Games in



John Pugh,  
President

Sydney. The apparently tireless volunteers and officials in both branches deserve acclaim for their efforts.

As an association we held General Meetings in Brisbane and Melbourne, four Board of Management meetings, a workshop for administrators and a coaching framework workshop to restructure our coaching qualifications. We also engaged a consultant to reframe the existing coaching courses to achieve a competency based education program. A feature of the General Meeting in Melbourne was Frank Braun's enlightening presentation on the function and potential of the website Results Portal (where we find our personal results and records for all competitions). We passed this on to all branches and interested persons.

Clubs Online has kept the Operations Manager busy in the national office as club and branch administrators' became familiar with the procedures.

Just in case you think we did not do any real work, we approved lots of changes to swimming rules and clauses in the constitution and by-laws. I hope you feel that the Association, Board and National office have adequately supported you and your activities this past year.

*John Pugh*

# Administration

## General Manager



Noeleen Dix at  
the April General  
Meeting

2009 was a year of administrative change within the organisation with new staff, the introduction of the Clubs Online registration data base and the availability of the electronic newsletter to all members.

The National Office continued to provide the general day-to-day administrative support for Masters Swimming Australia, as well as supporting the Branches in their operations.

### Staffing

The year commenced with Loren Bartley as Chief Executive Officer (part-time) and Belinda Vickers in the full-time role of Administrative Officer. A handover took place in February and Sarah Roach and I assumed our new roles within Masters Swimming.

### Website

The Masters Swimming Australia website [www.mastersswimming.org.au](http://www.mastersswimming.org.au) continued to be refined and reviewed so that it has become a reliable resource for all the membership and to the wider public. The results portal that can be found on the site, is a wonderful benefit for the membership providing up to date meet results for every swimmer since 2002.

### Newsletter

A quarterly electronic newsletter was launched in March and has immediately improved the ability for the organisation to communicate directly with its members.

### Sponsorship

Vorgee continued as the major sponsor of Masters Swimming Australia in 2009, with many Branches choosing to take up the offer of benefits through this agreement. The National Office worked throughout the year on increasing the presence of Vorgee products available for sale through our on-line store and electronic promotions.

International Sports Tours is our preferred agent for travel and accommodation for the next three years through to May 2012.

We are appreciative of the mutual benefits that both these companies are able to provide to the masters community.

### Swim Meets

There were four major meets hosted by the branches during the year, giving swimmers a wonderful opportunity to participate in a variety of events. They were the 12<sup>th</sup> Australian Masters Games in Geelong, Victoria; the National Championships in Brisbane; the 2nd Oceania Masters Championships in Hobart and the World Masters Games in Sydney.

### National Registration Database

The new registration data base known as Clubs Online was launched in 2009. Some clubs and Branches were tentative in accepting the online tool, so there was a mix of online and manual registrations throughout the year. The continuing education of all registrars will be necessary to make this system work for all levels of the sport and become a time saving tool for the future.

### Meetings

The Annual General Meeting and General Meetings were held in Brisbane (April) and Melbourne (October). The National Office also coordinated four National Board of Management meetings throughout the year.

# Administration

## General Manager

*Continued...*

### **National Administration Workshop**

The inaugural workshop for the Branch Administrators and Secretaries was held in Melbourne in July. It was a great opportunity for discussions and planning around key administrative issues.

### **Victorian Branch Service Agreement**

The National Office has continued to perform the administrative duties of the Victorian Branch.

### **Coaching**

A coaching frameworks workshop in July brought together coach educators from around Australia to review and make recommendations for Masters Swimming Australia's coaching accreditation program for the future. The result was plans for a competency based program that will be implemented in 2010.

### **Looking Forward to 2010**

Our National Registration Database is up and running and will make both registrations and operations much easier, however much work is still required to integrate our other databases into the system and customise them to better suit our organisations requirements at all levels. We have some great projects in the pipeline for 2010, including the completion of the Aerobics II program.

I would like to thank the National Board of Management, Branch Secretaries/Administrators, Branch Delegates, our National Committee members and staff for all their great work and support throughout the year.

*Noeleen Dix*

*General Manager*

# National Board of Management

## Finance Director



Gerry Tucker,  
Director of Finance

### Director of Finance

This report is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying audited financial reports.

### Preamble.

During the 2009 financial year, the administrative team in the National Office was much more settled than for the prior year and this is reflected in the financial results for 2009.

### Income and Expenditure Statement

The Organisation recorded an operating surplus of \$6,006 for the year, excluding the depreciation expense of \$4,936, against a budgeted cash surplus of \$492. The Financial Statements indicate a net surplus of \$1,070, which includes the \$4,936 depreciation charge for the year.

The difference of \$5,514 between the budgeted and actual net surplus is made up of a number of small differences in both income and expenses. One of the more significant differences on the income side includes membership revenue being \$2,500 over budget due to a larger than expected membership enrolments of 6511 members. 1,563 or 24% of all members paid their subscriptions using the on-line system.

Bank interest was \$1,300 below budget due to lower prevailing interest rates.

In relation to expenses, the use of office IT services was significantly down on the prior year, saving \$5,000 against budget. Insurance costs did not grow at all, due to our very low claims rate, with the cost for the year being \$2,400 under budget. Thanks to good management in the National Office, the cost of printing, stationery, postage, phone and fax were, in total, \$3,200 below budget.

Against these savings, the cost of travel and accommodation for National meetings was \$5,200 over budget.

### Special Projects

In addition to the net operating budget, the National Body budgeted to incur expenses of \$55,000 on special projects (Coaching, Members and Participation, I T and the new office IT architecture). Actual expenditure incurred during the year on these projects was \$16,253. The new office IT architecture came in way under budget (\$20,000 against actual expenditure of \$7,041) due to a complete “rethink” of the project by the General Manager and the engagement of a different supplier than the original contractor to carry out the work.

The shortfall on the other special projects continues to be attributed to a lack of appropriate resources available to work on these projects.

### Balance Sheet

The National Body continues to be in a sound financial position. Financial obligations to others are minimal. As a result of a very significant increase in the use of the on-line system for membership renewal, member subscriptions received in advance jumped from \$12,157 in December 2008 to \$25,196 in December 2009.

I propose that these audited financial statements and this accompanying report be accepted as presented.

*Gerry Tucker*  
Finance Director

# National Committees

## Coaching

Attracting and retaining coaches was identified as the number one key priority for the organisation at the strategic planning session held in April in conjunction with the Autumn General Meeting. Coaches were identified as often being the first point of contact at clubs, so their effectiveness and the management of their training sessions is a major contributor to the success or otherwise of a club.

### Masters Swimming Coach Accreditation Framework

A Coaching Frameworks Workshop was conducted in Melbourne in July and brought together a wide range of coaches, educators and interested persons from around Australia. Under the direction of Kathy Tessier from Active Approach, the group reviewed the masters swimming coaching framework to ensure it complies with the current NCAS guidelines and is of the appropriate standard for educating masters swimming coaches in the future.

A competency based program of modules was declared the best model for the future, so Kathy Tessier is now preparing to submit the overview of the Framework to the ASC. Once this is approved, the curriculum can be updated. There will be core components for the L1M course and the L2M course will be elective; allowing the coach to select the areas that appeal to them or that they need to update.

The attendees at the workshop were: Kathy Heenan, Jacinta Stirrat, Stephen Cornelius, Loren Bartley, Tricia Summerfield, Anita Killmier, Bruce Allender, John Pugh, John Kulhan, Patrick Devine, John Gamlen, Janette Jeffrey, Gerry Tucker, Mark Pettifer and Sarah Roach.

### Coach Accreditations

The total number of coaches that either completed their accreditation or reaccredited in 2009 was 35, with 206 coaches holding a Masters Swimming Coaching

Accreditation as at 31 December 2009. There were approximately 30 coaches whose registration expired during the year as they did not reaccredit.

Level 1M Coaching Courses were held in Queensland, NSW and WA; and Coaching Adult Swimmers courses were held in SA and NT. Hopefully this trend in offering the courses each year will continue and increase the number of coaches in the sport.

### Coach of the Year 2008 – Patrick Devine

Sixty six lucky Tasmanians were able to take part in coaching sessions in either Launceston or Hobart in October conducted by Malvern Marlins coach and 2008 Coach of the Year, Patrick Devine. The Branch organised for Patrick to share his knowledge, passion and enthusiasm for swimming, both in the pool and in the training room.

Patrick focussed on breathing, posture and core strength for his presentation and then took pool sessions, demonstrating different training regimes for specific skill development. His coaching methods specialise in recognising the unique requirements in planning a program for adult swimmers. The sessions were very well received.

### Coaching Committee

The year commenced with only two members of the Committee, Kathy Heenan and Jacinta Stirrat. They were joined later in the year by Bruce Allender and Stephen Cornelius and Stephen assumed the Chair following the spring meeting. Thank you to all four members for volunteering your time to assist in this area.

*Noeleen Dix  
Masters Swimming Australia  
(On behalf of National Coaching Committee)*

# National Committees

## IT



Paul Watmough  
Chairman

### **National Office IT Upgrade**

The National office has undergone a major upgrade this year. A new computer was purchased along with an in-house server that completes regular back up. A key factor has been the capability to provide an intranet, which will enable a stronger collaboration between the Branches and the National office and to exchange files without having to load them on to the website, thus providing strong protection of our intellectual property. It also avoids sending attachments to email, where documents need updating.

The Ripe Group have been responsible for the IT upgrades and are now providing ongoing support.

### **Aerobics**

The Aerobics II program has been in testing phase throughout 2009 and will be ready for release by the end of 2010. One of the problems we encountered was that our developer, who had developed up to 98% of the application was geared up to fully test the application and we were concentrating on getting the clubs & branches ready for Clubs Online. When we were ready to test, he was committed elsewhere.

We believe we are now aligned and will be finalizing the testing in the first part of 2010.

### **Clubs Online**

In comparison to a large number of other sports that use

Clubs Online for their membership database, masters swimming is well ahead on members using the online facilities.

2009 has been a year of education not only for the Club registrars but the members themselves. With everyone gaining confidence in using the system comes greater numbers of individuals paying for their memberships online. At the end of 2009 there was a 20% increase of members paying for the coming years memberships through the online portal.

The success of the help sheets for registrars and members, have also lifted the confidence levels of all users.

The National website is now run through Clubs Online creating a fresh look and enabling the National office to gain statistics on the number of visits and most popular pages. The website will continue to grow as the most important medium to access the members.

Both the Merchandise portal and the Swim Meet portal have been opened for use at all levels and some computer savvy clubs have taken up these opportunities. The swim meet registration portal will become the best way to enter events in the future and the National Championships in Tasmania is currently the first major event to use this program.

Looking into the future, in 2010 the National e-Newsletter will be generated from Clubs Online improving communication to members. Individualized webinars will be used for new registrars to up-skill these people more efficiently. We can now use the facility to diagnose a problem with a user by using the facility to 'see' what a user is doing when they work through a registration or payment.

This will become more critical as we start to roll-out the Aerobics II program in 2010.

With the strong skills now established at the National Office, both the Branches & Clubs have a go-to person who is able to solve any queries quickly and 2010 looks to be a very strong year for Clubs Online and Aerobics II.

*Paul Watmough*



## National Committees

### Membership and Participation



Therese Crollick  
Chair

The committee met on four occasions during the year and discussed a wide range of issues and possible projects that would both increase and retain membership of Masters Swimming.

Of the many possible projects that were considered, three have been implemented –

A Club Development award, that encourages clubs to participate in all activities of masters swimming, has been launched with the assistance of the Vorgee sponsorship.

The Club Development manual has been reviewed and will be relaunched on the National website, all clubs will be notified of the information contained in the manual and it will be added to as more useful and updated information comes to hand.

Merchandise has been reviewed and discussions held with “Swimmeroo” about new masters swimming shirts, polos

and caps. Both “Swimmeroo” and IST have been approached and will make available Australian Masters polo’s, long sleeved tops and swim caps to all competitors attending the World Masters Championships in Sweden.

Many of the topics that were discussed were considered to be more Branch orientated and it was agreed that it would be difficult to have a national approach because of local differences that exist in the Branches.

One major project which may be considered again and which is raised from time to time by members, is a national advertising campaign to raise general awareness of Masters Swimming as an organisation; other projects which are ongoing at this time are:

1. To advertise our services to other National health professional organisations eg. the AMA and the Chiropractors Association .
2. To encourage Branches ( and to provide them with the resources if needed) to advertise Masters Swimming at kindred events eg. Pier to Pub swim, Byron Bay OWS, and triathlon events.
3. To liaise with the National coaching committee to provide more avenues for members to access coaching eg. On-line coaching service.

I would like to thank Mike Walker, Neil Keele, Owen Sinden, Noleen and Sarah for their ideas and work during 2009.

*Therese Crollick*  
*Chair National Membership & Participation Committee*

# National Committees

## Membership and Participation

Continued...

### MEMBERSHIP BY YEAR AND BRANCH

BRANCH	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
ACT	107	115	162	169	164	152	153	140	0	0	0
NSW	1523	1523	1553	1724	1631	1640	1645	1670	1737	1679	1729
NT	186	153	143	156	132	105	89	109	123	170	169
QLD	2009	1879	1726	1886	1660	1606	1517	1455	1414	1348	1425
SA	732	675	719	658	597	612	611	606	605	600	604
TAS	323	348	321	305	301	281	309	296	298	317	296
VIC	1288	1195	1134	1134	1065	993	987	1013	929	900	920
WA	1467	1331	1238	1277	1303	1227	1217	1189	1277	1344	1324
<b>Total</b>	<b>7635</b>	<b>7219</b>	<b>6996</b>	<b>7309</b>	<b>6853</b>	<b>6616</b>	<b>6528</b>	<b>6478</b>	<b>6383</b>	<b>6358</b>	<b>6467</b>

\*2009 total registrations from Clubs Online: 6511

## National Committees

### Records

2009 has been another successful year for masters swimmers in all Australian clubs with all competition results being on view in the records/results portal, often within minutes of an event being completed. The records/results portal is accessed through the National website and is an archive of every competition result since 2002. The recorders have been kept busy checking all the results and records from 136 meets with seven of these being classified as international events.

There were certificates awarded for 500 individual National records (224 women and 276 men) and 69 relay records.

Throughout the year, 30 World record applications were successful.

In 2009, pool surveys were requested for all pools where National records have been broken and Branches have also adopted this as a standard for accepting Branch records. Most pools already had surveys on file and Branches have been diligent in organising surveys for those pools without the relevant paperwork.

The records/results portal continues to be modified to improve the look and capability of how the results are presented.

*Pauline Samson*

*Chair National Records Committee*



Pauline Samson,  
Chair

#### STATISTICS OF ENTRIES FROM THE RECORDS/RESULTS PORTAL:

	TOTAL SINCE 2002	2009
Meets	870	136
Individual Results	438 658	58 277
Records - national and branch records/best evers	45 771	2961
Relay Results	17 566	2857

## National Committees

### Swim Meet

The National Swim Meet Committee aims to ensure that major swim meets conducted with the sanction of Masters Swimming Australia are run to a high standard and in accordance with the Rules and By Laws of the Association. Members of the Committee in 2009 were Jeanette Holowiuk (Vic), Lynne Malone (WA) and John Pollock (NT) (Chairman).

The Committee produces the National Swim Meet Guide, which provides detailed guidelines and instructions to organisers of events such as the National Championships and Masters Games. The Guide is published on the National website and updated regularly to take account of

changes made to the Rules and By Laws and the experience of each year's National Championships.

A major revision of the Guide was conducted during 2009, with a new version published in November. For the first time, this process involved the General Manager of Masters Swimming Australia as well as members of the Committee.

John Pollock  
Chairman



### Technical



Gary Stutsel  
NTC Chair

The NTC members for 2009 were from 6 of the 7 branches, Phil Beames (SA), Derek Coghill (Qld), Judith Crawford (WA), Tracey Dobby (Tas), John Marshall (Vic) and chair Gary Stutsel (NSW/ACT). As each of the members is either their Branch Technical Director or is playing a significant role in training and accreditation of officials within their Branch, we believe we are well placed in working towards our goals of national consistency in training and officiating.

Early in 2009 the NTC submitted a rule change for Butterfly to the FINA Masters Congress requesting that swimmers be limited to two breaststroke kicks per arm pull. This was rejected in favour of the US submission of one breaststroke kick per arm pull. This change was one of several to come out of the FINA and FINA Masters Congresses held in mid 2009. Though there were delays in verifying their wording the FINA changes ultimately led to changes in the MSA Rules with much of the preliminary work being done by the NTC.

The most significant changes involving the NTC were

- 1) Swimwear; with MSA adopting the FINA recommendations but allowing the wearing of permeable modesty garments; and
- 2) the Butterfly change where swimmers are now restricted to a single breaststroke kick per arm pull in events with up to 200m of Butterfly (include 800m Individual Medley) and two kicks per arm pull for 400m and 800m Butterfly events.

Other minor changes were made to Backstroke turns, the underwater single butterfly kick in Breaststroke and to staying in the same lane in The Race (SW 10). Major rule changes were introduced by the Association that lower

## National Committees

### Technical

#### Continued...

membership entry age to “attained 18” and no longer allow non manifest medical exemptions to be used at National Championships.

As a result of these changes, all of the Officials’ documents were reviewed and fourteen were changed. All of the Officials’ documents have been updated on the MSA website thanks to Sarah Roach. Other positive moves have been made in Officials’ Accreditation with the Cross Accreditation process between MSA and Swimming Australia Limited (SAL) becoming firmly established and a number of officials now having dual accreditation.

Re-accreditation processes have been determined and the Branches will start assessing existing officials for their four year re-accreditation in 2010. The guidelines for both of these are posted on the MSA website at TECHNICAL/ TECHNICAL COURSES. The list of pre-requisites for courses has been reviewed and updated and will be reviewed again early in 2010. It has been noted that it is advantageous for courses to be delivered by people who are active in that position.

A highlight during the year was the seven days of World Masters Games pool competition where there were 42 Referees and Inspectors of Turns (only three of whom were overseas invitees, the rest having been trained by MSA). This allowed us to roster six Referees, two Chief Inspectors of Turns and six Inspectors of Turns for every event.

Other tasks the NTC has completed are the production of articles for the National Newsletter, on Timekeeping (March 2009); Cross Accreditation (September 2009) and the 2010 Rule Changes (December 2009). In October, I attended the SAL Technical Swimming Committee Meeting and came away assured that the only new discrepancy between our 2 sets of Rules is SW10.1 which prohibits mixed gender races in Open Competition. That meeting also tabled the new FINA/SAL Open Water (OWS) Rules and clarified some other issues.

We are well into preparing our action plans for 2010 and will release these ahead of the Autumn General Meeting.

*Gary Stutsel, Chair NTC.*

#### ACCREDITED TECHNICAL COURSES IN 2009

	Timekeeper	Chief Timekeeper	Check Starter	Check starter/ Clerk of Course	Marshal	Starter	Inspector of Turns	Judge of Strokes	Referee	Total
NSW	9	6	0	5	4	1	5	1	1	32
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	5	4	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	13
SA	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	6
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	2	2	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	12
WA	3	3	1	2	3	2	2	1	1	18

## Branches

### New South Wales



#### **MASTERS SWIMMING** New South Wales

##### **Governance**

Masters Swimming NSW is governed by a Board of seven members, one of whom was newly elected at the May 2009 AGM. The Country Vice-President attends the monthly Board meetings.

##### **Membership**

Membership increased in 2009 to the second highest on record. One small club folded at the end of 2009.

##### **Acknowledgements (deleted Committees)**

After the AGM the committees were changed to project teams which don't exist on a permanent basis but are assigned to various projects in their area of expertise. Thanks to those who previously served on the committees for their substantial contribution to the organisation.

##### **Technical Project team**

The Branch Training Coordinator organises training courses on application and provides support and continuing education for all technical officials. The focus of many of these courses has been on the World Masters Games and in 2009 some 32 courses were conducted for 90 candidates (some attending multiple courses). Of the 52 officials who gained accreditation, 21 were new to the world of officiating. The National/Branch Technical Director was instrumental in considerable rewriting of rules and course notes in line with

FINA changes. Thanks go to this project team and all those who coordinated and presented courses during the year.

##### **Coaching Education and Training Project team**

The Branch welcomed a new coaching director at the May AGM, who now visits Clubs to assist in coaching, administers the allocation of resources on request from the resource list of books, DVDs and videos. In April 2009 a level 1M course was conducted with 28 participants, of whom five have completed their accreditation and three members of the project team are closely following the progress of and offering encouragement to the other candidates.

##### **Marketing**

With only one member in this team, his focus was on the World Masters Games. We had a competition to win a free membership and distributed brochures introducing the concept of masters swimming and listing all NSW/ACT clubs. All entrants into the competition have been contacted and offered assistance to join.

##### **Club Development**

The club mentoring programme is an integral function but was put on hold until after the Games when the focus is to be on mentoring regional clubs and new clubs.

##### **Communication**

Our website is constantly evolving and all swim meet programs are posted on the web prior to the meets, with results listed promptly after each meet. The MSNSW newsletter *Splash* is produced every quarter and is available on the web; hard copies are mailed to a small number of members who have opted to receive it in that form. The new database has facilitated this process. Communication with clubs via a Branch monthly news and associated documents is also mainly electronic utilising the new database and only a small number of clubs still receive paper copies. These are also posted on the website each month.

##### **Safety**

The Branch Safety Co-ordinator continued to ensure that Clubs follow the National Safety Guidelines, particularly in

## Branches

### New South Wales

#### *Continued...*

the completion of Incident Report Forms at all Club and interclub activities.

#### **Programs & Activities**

The Branch Long Course Championships were held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre (SOPAC) over Saturday evening and Sunday in March 2009. This option is proving to be a good one as SOPAC is so hard to book at this time of year. Two world and 23 national and 43 branch records were broken at this meet, with 357 swimmers from 42 clubs competing, including visitors from Queensland and Victoria.

The Branch Relay Meet in June was again at SOPAC in the diving pool (short course). With 265 swimmers from 17 Clubs, one World record, 3 National and 7 Branch first-split individual records plus 20 National and 26 Branch relay records were broken.

In July the branch Long Distance Championships were held as a short-course event over one day at Kurri Kurri in the Hunter region. The meet attracted 85 swimmers from 28 clubs. Eight national and 20 branch records were set at this meet.

The branch Short Course Championships in August 2009 were held at Canberra International Sports and Aquatic Centre (CISAC) attracting 262 competitors from 35 clubs. An astounding 6 world, 33 national and 56 branch records were broken.

At Branch championships a new system was introduced whereby Clubs were offered the opportunity to conduct the raffle as a fund-raiser for their club. This frees up volunteers to conduct the meet.

In the Branch Point Score (BPS) annual trophy, 19 clubs hosted meets for MSNSW. The BPS trophy winners in the four divisions were Warringah, Campbelltown, Penrith and Nelson Bay. In addition to the BPS meets were the Hunter Sports Festival in July, Sutherland Shire Sprint Carnival in August and the Wests Auburn long distance meet in December.

Of course, the highlight of the swimming year was the Sydney 2009 World Masters Games in October with just over 2000 swimmers from all parts of the globe competing. A phenomenal amount of preparation went into this event and Jane Noake is to be congratulated for her leadership over the five years prior in coordinating this highly successful event. Ninety percent of the officials were from NSW and assistance came from Victoria, Queensland, WA and three overseas officials. Over the seven days of competition there were 30 officials on pool deck and 30 volunteer timekeepers and all are to be congratulated. For the first time in NSW, Masters Swimming included swimmers with a disability in the program and results and stars shone in the ranks and we learned much from the experience. It was very disappointing that the open water swim in Chowder Bay had to be cancelled due to unfavourable conditions but this difficult decision had to be made and had been foreseen as a possibility due to the time of year that the Games were held.

Many of our swimmers enjoyed the competition and camaraderie at the National Championships in Brisbane in April 2009 and a few NSW swimmers attended and thoroughly enjoyed the 2nd Oceania Championships in Hobart, Tasmania.

#### **Volunteers**

We again had the assistance of Volunteering NSW at Branch championships with timekeeping and running. We have some dedicated members who volunteer their time on a regular basis to assist in the office.

#### **Government support**

The funding from the NSW Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation was allocated to Masters Swimming NSW as a separate entity again without consultation. This funding remains at the same level as the previous year. The branch office is located at Sports House in Sydney Olympic Park and the accommodation remains rent free, just paying for outgoings.

MSNSW thanks the National administration for their great support during 2009.

*Sue Wiles, President, & Di Coxon-Ellis, Administrator.*

## Branches

### Northern Territory



**MASTERS  
SWIMMING**  
Northern Territory

#### Swim Meets

The NT Branch held five swim meets during 2009. The Branch Short Course Championships were held in Darwin in April and the Long Course Championships were held for the first time in Katherine in November. Three email interclub meets were conducted during the year - in January, March and November. The January meet was also an open Australia Day Carnival.

#### International Links

A team from Darwin Stingers and Katherine Kroaks competed in the Singapore International Masters Meet in August, strengthening the ties that have developed between

the NT Branch and the Singapore Masters' organisation in recent years.

#### Funding

The main source of funding for the Branch was again the NT Division of Sport and Recreation, whose generous grant covered all Branch administration costs and provided funds for travel subsidies, coach development and other activities.

#### Branch Meetings

Regular branch meetings were held in Darwin, with Darwin members representing the Alice Springs and Katherine clubs when delegates from those clubs were unable to attend. The AGM was held in Darwin in October.

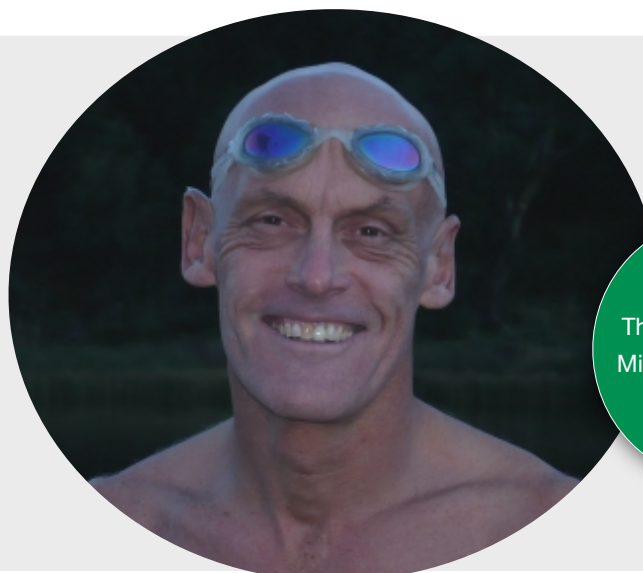
#### Coach Development

A Coaching Adult Swimmers course in Darwin in August attracted 21 participants, with some intending to continue on to gain formal coaching qualifications.

#### Branch Management

With the development of the Clubs Online registration system, the Branch management structure has been streamlined by making the registrar function part of the duties of the Branch Secretary.

*John Pollock*  
Branch Secretary



Stu Fitch,  
The first Vorgee 15  
Million Metre Award  
winner



## Branches

### Queensland



## MASTERS SWIMMING Queensland

#### Governance

The Branch Executive and Administrator have had another busy year. The Branch Strategic Plan was revised, the Operational Plan was rewritten, a Risk Management plan, for use by all clubs hosting meets, was drawn up and will be implemented from the beginning of 2010 and the By-laws were revised.

The biggest change for the Branch was moving from our own office, at Sport's House, to sharing office space with Queensland Swimming (QS) at the Sleeman Centre. This move was an integral part of the MOU which was signed by both organisations in July. The intent of the MOU is that QS will provide administrative assistance to QMS and some of our activities which we share, mainly coaching and technical, will occasionally be run on a combined basis, where practical. The Branch Administrator and Executive should, therefore, be freed from concerning themselves with the day-to-day activities and be able to spend more time on planning and implementing programmes which will benefit current members and attract new ones.

Government funding for both organisations was contingent on this merger between QS and QMS, so we are now both counting on the Department to honour their side of the agreement with appropriate funding beyond 2011.

#### Programs and Activities

The Branch competition programme saw the running of

many successful meets with the highlight, of course, being the National Championships in Brisbane where 601 competitors enjoyed four days of competition, friendship and fun. Disappointingly, this year, a number of meets had to be cancelled due to low entry numbers, there were a few reasons for this and the Branch is endeavouring to overcome these issues so that all our clubs, large and small, can host a successful meet.

The Branch continued to encourage Clubs to conduct meets with different formats and at different times to encourage greater participation by members, we have also been encouraging more clubs to hold OWS meets and will be promoting masters swimming at other organisations OWS events in the coming year.

The Branch has started to develop new leaflets, flyers and other promotional material, we want to not only attract the older age groups but to keep the younger people in the sport and take full advantage of our relationship with QS and the introduction of the 18yrs entry age into masters swimming.

A number of coaching and technical courses were conducted this year, throughout the Branch, especially pleasing was to see courses up and going again in the North region, the Branch Executive has now undertaken to conduct at least one coaching and one technical course in each region each year.

A major project for us in the coming year will be to implement our masters swimming promotion in the Western region of the Branch, this will be difficult, given the large distances between western Queensland towns but all of them have pools and most have QS junior Clubs and this area has been neglected for too long, with the assistance of QS we know we have to take up the challenge and "go for it".

#### Acknowledgements

The Branch operates not just because of one or two people but due to the collective work and goodwill of all our members, especially our Club executives and Vice Presidents in the regional areas who often have to travel

## Branches

### Queensland

#### *Continued...*

long distances to attend meets and training courses. We are fortunate to have Ray Smythe, Steve Cornelius and their enthusiastic and well qualified technical and coaching committees to conduct courses for us, our IT manager and webmaster Brett Stuart who keeps us up-to-date with all things IT and continues to improve our website and of course our very dedicated Registrar Joy Murdock who makes sure that all our registrations are in order and keeps us out of trouble.

We are all supported by the Branch's dedicated Administrator Helga and our Office Assistant Lorraine, they have both had a busy and challenging year but have risen to each occasion and each time has seen an improvement in how the Branch is run. To date, our relationship with QS has been very positive and we look forward to continuing to

work with them in the coming year as we see mutual benefits for both organisations in the future.

The Branch is looking forward to an exciting and challenging 2010.

*Therese Crollick*  
*President*

## Branches

### South Australia



### MASTERS SWIMMING South Australia

#### Branch

South Australia continues to be managed by a Branch Executive & Committee of representatives of all Clubs in SA, which meet monthly. Most office holders continued in their respective positions in 2009. New committee members have been Leanne Markey, OWS Coordinator and Ruth Warren, Branch Registrar. Unfortunately, long serving Registrar, Jeremy Clarke lost his long battle with cancer during the year and will be a sad loss to the SA Branch. Jeremy was presented with a special award for service and dedication to the Branch at his hospital bedside several days before he passed away.

All positions within the SA Branch are voluntary with a small honorarium paid to the current Secretary for his numerous duties and time spent dealing with Branch matters. The Branch continues to be in a sound financial position with the continued support of the Office of Recreation and Sport SA for \$12,000 per annum. We currently have reserves of about \$150 per member for a membership of just over 600. Fees for Pool events increased to \$15 per meet and Branch fees to \$18 per annum.

Both President and Secretary positions look like they will need to be filled at the forthcoming AGM.

#### Sponsorship

South Australia has several major sponsors, being, Office of Recreation and Sport, Pacific Swims, Vorgee, Sealink, Four Hour Print, Suntrak Sunglasses and Supporters include Horsman Plumbing and O'Connell Meats.

#### Clubs Online

There has been a tremendous uptake and acceptance to clubs online in SA, thanks to the efforts of John Gamlen, Jeremy Clarke and now Ruth Warren and all Club registrars.

#### Major Swim Events

SA Swimmers were again well represented at the Australian Masters Games in Geelong, the Nationals in Brisbane, the Mildura Regional Masters Games and some 16 SA members travelled to Vanuatu in June for Open Water Swims in Vila and Santo, hosted by sponsor, Pacific Swims. SA members placed well in all the above events.

#### Local Swim Meets

Two State cups (long course and short course), 3 Interclub and a long distance swim (long course) were conducted during the year. Swimmer numbers were consistent with recent years, with less than 25% of members participating regularly in competitions. We would like to see this number grow. Maybe with the passing of the SA Motion for lowering the member age to 18!

#### Open Water Swimming

Participation in OWS has grown 40% in the past 5 years. The average number of participants per event last season 2008/2009 was 129. Marion, Glenelg, Captains Cup and Jetty to Jetty had increases between 17% and 42% on the previous year. Having a new major sponsor Pacific Swims on board has helped significantly. The introduction of a comprehensive and informative new calendar has helped and will be broadened so that we are the organisation that promotes all OWS in SA. Nine OWS were held in the 2008/2009 season. The major purchase was a \$5000 OWS trailer which has aided event setup and management

## Branches

### South Australia

#### *Continued...*

considerably. The pre-2009/2010 OWS meeting saw a major target and common goal agreed to, to introduce a common recording, timing and tagging system be implemented over the course of the OWS season. This is a major achievement.

#### **Awards**

Craig Smith was awarded the Branch Award of Merit at the November Branch Dinner. At the same dinner held at the Royal Adelaide Golf Club, the newly named Patrons Trophy for Aerobic competition was presented by our 99 year old Patron Margo Bates.

#### **SA Branch Website**

Another major expenditure during the year was the set up, design and launch of our new website, which is far superior and much more user friendly than its predecessor.

#### **Membership**

Membership has hovered at around the 600 member mark or just below for several years and this year climbed over

the 600 mark in spite of the introduction of the new Clubs Online. Events online will also be used for our OWS events in the 2009/2010 season.

#### **Charity**

The Mega Swim promoted by the Ruth Ziegler, the Atlantis Club and the MS Society is now the major charity event the Masters Clubs and swimmers in SA love to support and in 2009 some \$30,000 was raised from the swim.

#### **Upcoming major events**

The 2011 AMG and the 2012 National Championships are scheduled to be hosted by South Australia. The works on the new swimming pool at Marion have commenced and dates for the above events have been submitted to be held there.

All in all , a very successful year for MSSA.

*John Gamlen*  
*Secretary MSSA*

*Mike Walker*  
*President MSSA*

## Branches

### Tasmania



### MASTERS SWIMMING Tasmania

The Tasmanian Branch continues to move along in a quiet efficient manner conducting events and working on building membership numbers.

#### Events

The Branch staged 4 events – the Short Course Long Distance (May) and Winter Short Course Championships (August) at the new Launceston Aquatic Centre; and the Summer Long Course Championships (February) and Long Course Long Distance Championships (November) in Hobart. Participation in most of the events was generally on average for the State; however, the Summer Championship numbers were down as the event conflicted with the Hobart International triathlon and Festivale in Launceston.

Late July saw the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oceania Championships conducted in Hobart. The Branch is indebted to Pauline Samson and her small band of helpers for the efficient organization of this successful event. The event attracted 87 competitors, with a number of overseas and interstate swimmers resulting in a small surplus from the event. Given that it was run on very short notice, we were pleased with the numbers. The meet was conducted as a short course meet and many new Oceania records were set. The Branch is happy to run the Championships again in the future if necessary. With adequate notice it could become a popular occasional fixture on the National calendar.

A number of swimmers attended the National Championships in Brisbane and the World Masters Games in

Sydney with many achieving medals and placings in the top ten and also setting State records.

#### Governance

The management committee was re-elected unopposed at the AGM held in February.

For the second year, the positions of Publicity officer and Coaching and Education remained unfilled. This highlights the ongoing problem encouraging members to accept positions on the committee. Branch management meetings were scheduled to coincide with State swim meets to reduce overall meeting costs.

#### Other items

**Coaching workshop:** A two-day coaching workshop, organised by John Pugh and featuring Patrick Devine, 2008 Coach of the Year, was held in October. The first session was conducted on the Saturday afternoon in Launceston and attracted 22 participants, the second, on the Sunday morning in Hobart attracted 40 participants. As well as Patrick's theory and practical pool sessions, there were sessions by fitness instructors and physiotherapists. Overall, the sessions produced very good outcomes for a relatively low cost - \$1200 – including travel and accommodation.

**Aerobics:** Talays AUSSI Masters Club again was successful in the 2008 National Aerobic Trophy and received both the Champion Club Award and the Aerobic Award for the Club achieving the highest number of points per registered swimmer. The awards were presented at the National Swim in Brisbane.

#### Branch Club

We have established a Branch Club – The Van Diemens – to facilitate participation in competition (and in particular for the 2010 National Championships) and other events for people unable to join one of the established clubs for whatever reason. To date there has been some interest shown but no actual memberships.

*Ray Brien  
Branch Secretary*

## Branches

### Victoria



### MASTERS SWIMMING Victoria

#### Events

The Australian Masters Games were held in Geelong in February 2009. It highlighted that we (as a Branch) are able to effectively coordinate and run a professional swim meet, outside of our comfort zone in an indoor pool such as MSAC. While running the meet in an outside pool in Geelong did present some unique challenges, it all worked out well for the swimmers involved.

Looking back over the years I have been involved at the Branch level with Masters Swimming Victoria, we have seen the move away from designated Clubs running various meets during the year, to each meet being organised, managed and run by a Swim Meet Committee, which in turn is made up of enthusiastic and committed individuals from the various Clubs. This transition, together with the negotiation of a contract with MSAC for five State meets a year has been successful in that it provides a consistent, reliable and professional structure for the entire Branch based meets for the year. The same committee is responsible for establishing and agreeing the calendar and governance of the interclubs; ensuring they meet the requirements of the National Swim Meet guidelines.

This capability highlights that there are a lot of people within the Masters Swimming Victoria structure, (some of whom don't swim) who provide the backbone and ensure that those who wish to compete (about a 3<sup>rd</sup> of our membership) are able to turn up and swim.

#### New Clubs

Victoria has seen the emergence of three new Clubs in 2009. Thanks to the Australian Masters Games we gained a Club from the Geelong region. We also gained two Clubs under the "One-Club" concept. This has kept Victoria's membership steady for 2009 retaining the same numbers as last year.

#### Technical

Victoria is putting a large focus on training more technical officials. This is an area in much need of volunteers. Two courses were successfully run this year with more already planned for 2010.

#### Relationships

Swimming Victoria and Masters Swimming Victoria have begun meeting regularly to discuss possible opportunities for sharing resources. An area that is important to both organisations is technical officials and the building of a bank of shared officials will be looked at for the future.

#### Office

A service contract was signed for a further 3 years with the National Office which will ensure the efficient administration of the Branch that currently exists continues.

*Paul Watmough*  
*Branch President*

## Branches

### Western Australia



#### MASTERS SWIMMING Western Australia

Awareness of masters swimming has continued to grow in WA with membership numbers increasing by 2% in 2009 after implementation of some excellent promotional strategies at both State and Club level, although retention of members, both long-time and newer members, is still a concern and one which we aim to focus on in 2010.

##### **New Initiatives in 2009:**

- o 2009 Annual Awards function conducted in conjunction with BE ACTIVE State Swim presentations in May proved cost efficient and had an increase in member attendance.
- o Age group prizes awarded for BE ACTIVE State Swim winners for the first time.
- o Volunteer "Thanks" function conducted as part of International Volunteers Week with Patron Dale Alcock as VIP speaker.
- o Presidents meeting re-established for specific presentations and networking of Club personnel.
- o BE ACTIVE Open Day promotional project conducted however it was not successful with only five Clubs participating.
- o Narrogin Masters affiliated as part of One-Club model
- o One-Club model promoted to National body & other States for implementation.
- o Established regular column in LIWA Aquatics quarterly journal.
- o Established HeartSwim dedicated website [www.heartswim.com.au](http://www.heartswim.com.au)

##### **2009 Highlights:**

- o Dale Alcock State Open Water Swim event held successfully at Coogee Beach in March with excellent coordination by our Somerset Club. There was a small increase in participants, in particular in the shorter 1000m non-championship event.
- o In May 2009 BE ACTIVE State Swim was held with increased participation numbers and increased numbers at the Presentation Function.
- o In November HeartSwim, the 90-minute fund-raising relay event, was conducted to raise much-needed funds for the Heart Foundation's cardiovascular research. Amount raised totaled \$45,000, which was triple the amount of 2008 (\$15,000) and a credit to our members, volunteers and the corporate teams who participated at VenuesWest Challenge Stadium.
- o In December seventy participants participated at South Beach in the annual BE ACTIVE Novice Ocean swim over 400 metres, with some swimmers completing the course twice to gain more confidence for other ocean swims. Excellent promotion achieved through November's Have a Go News front cover (70,000 distribution throughout WA to Over 45 age group).
- o 2008 FINA World Masters Championships financial legacy project commenced with three rounds offered to Clubs in 2009.
- o Successful coaches workshop with former National Coach Bernie Mulroy and Level 1 Masters Coaching Course held under Ford & Doonan sponsorship banner.
- o Continued good relationship with Department of Sport & Recreation by meeting Key Performance Indicator.

##### **Promotions:**

- o Membership growth initiatives undertaken by our part-time Project Coordinator continued to achieve good results of awareness through implementation of various strategies including partnerships with external organizations eg. Heart Foundation.

## Branches

### Western Australia

#### Continued...

- HeartSwim was the major focus for the Project Coordinator from June to December and the project will be evaluated fully by the Board in January 2010 in relation to the future of the event.
  - The annual BE ACTIVE Spring into Swimming project was supported by some Clubs which organized displays and open sessions for potential members. Clubs which achieve the greatest increase in membership growth within the spring period win ZOGGS packs for their Clubs which are presented at the February Council of Clubs meeting annually.
  - Unfortunately our number plates promotional program slowed to the point that only one member purchased SWIM plates in 2009. 32 vehicles in WA now promote "SWIM for Fitness, Friendship and Fun with Masters Swimming WA".
  - The annual launch of the Open Water Swims calendar at the launch of the BE ACTIVE Spring into Swimming project was another successful event, this year held in conjunction with the 2009 BE ACTIVE State Swim at VenuesWest Challenge Stadium.
  - 2009/10 OWS calendar advertising stable at thirty four advertisements which provides a small revenue stream
  - Continued promotion of masters swimming to increase awareness through monthly column in Have a Go News (Sport & Recreation newspaper for Over 45's) which included promotion of BE ACTIVE Novice Ocean Swim, Seniors Have a Go Day, HeartSwim, BE ACTIVE Sandgropers Club and general promotional articles and photos.
  - Relationships continued with Diabetes WA, Premier's Physical Activity Taskforce, Have a Go News, Challenge Stadium/VenueWest.
  - Ongoing excellent partnerships with other organisations including Swimming WA, Rottneest Channel Swim Association, Surf Life Saving WA, Healthway, Heart Foundation, LIWA Aquatics, WA Sports Federation and Volunteering WA.
- Sponsorship:**
- Healthway's sponsorship of our organisation through the Heart Foundation's BE ACTIVE health message has grown both financially and in the partnership benefits, in particular the financial support for our part-time Project Coordinator.
  - Sponsorship for the annual Open Water Swims calendar was again achieved from ZOGGS in WA who continue to support Masters Swimming WA with prize packs through the year for several events and activities.
  - Patron Dale Alcock continues to sponsor our annual Dale Alcock OWS series and the Dale Alcock State OWS events, in which he enjoys participating as a guest of MSWA.
  - We continued to receive great financial support from the State Government through the Department of Sport and Recreation. This funding support enables us to keep our membership fees at a good rate and assist with administration costs.
  - Sponsorship was received from Edinger Real Estate for HeartSwim along with excellent contra sponsorship to the value of \$30,000 from The West Australian newspaper and 6PR/96fm radio for advertising. VenuesWest provided 2 pools and free entry at Challenge Stadium which was worth approximately \$5,000 in total.
  - Unfortunately Ford & Doonan sponsorship finished in December and another sponsor of our Coach Education program will be sourced.
- Club and member support:**
- In August the annual open water swimming workshop for Club coordinators of OWS events was conducted by our Technical Officer during the 2009 BE ACTIVE State Swim enabling country host clubs to attend. Attendance by Masters Swimming WA Clubs who conduct OWS events is compulsory as part of our event sanctioning process and risk management.
  - The Technical Officer coordinated and conducted many Technical Officiating workshops and courses



## Branches

### Western Australia

#### *Continued...*

- throughout 2009 as we try to arrest the burn-out of our valuable volunteer officials.
  - 2008 Worlds Financial Legacy project for Club projects commenced with 3 rounds offered in 2009.
  - We continued to recognize our wonderful members and volunteers where possible by nominating them to external awards and enabling attendance at professional development seminars and workshops.
  - National record certificates and Officiating certificates were presented to members at Council of Clubs meetings to acknowledge achievements and express appreciation to volunteers.
- We look forward to another great year in 2010 with some new initiatives in the planning to encourage more adults to share the Fitness, Friendship and Fun provided by our Clubs in the pool and open water!

*Wendy Holtom*  
*Executive Officer*

# National Championships

## 34th AUSSI Masters National Swimming Championships, Brisbane

### Introduction

Masters Swimming Queensland delivered an event that was professional, enjoyable and friendly for all of the participants. The pool event was held at the Brisbane Aquatic Centre, fondly known as Chandler and the open water swim was held at Lake Kawana on the Sunshine Coast.

The Organizing Committee requested that a change of name be considered from National Swim to National Championships to lift the profile of the event; and this was agreed to by the NBM. Daniel Kowalski was the Event Ambassador and it was great to have a young, high profile person involved in the event.

### Statistics

There were 601 entries accepted for the program which was well beyond the expected number. Entries were received from 97 Clubs, comprising 2 Clubs in Northern Territory, 33 in New South Wales, 32 in Queensland, 7 in South Australia, 12 in Victoria, 6 in Western Australia, 3 in Tasmania and 2 in New Zealand. 147 entries were received for the Open Water Swim. 249 relay teams were received. 137 people attended the Presentation Dinner. There were 28 swimmers who only swam the open water swim. There were 452 gold, 425 silver and 392 bronze medals presented for individual swims. The average number of swims per swimmer was 6.5, lower than the average in the last two National Championships.

### Nomination of individual events

Considering there were just over 600 swimmers entered for the Meet, from a recording perspective the Meet went very well. Overall there were very few incorrect individual entries for the competition and these were corrected prior to the competition commencing.

### Nomination of relay events

Relay entries have always caused a problem and this event was no different. For this meet, Clubs were requested to enter the relay teams ages for their relay entries with Club entries but the Clubs did not need to provide details of the

swimmers for those teams prior to the Meet. This created a lot of extra data entry on each day of the Meet.

### Estimated event start times

The first day was the longest day of competition but we were prepared for this following the calculation of timing the events. With the exception of the last day, the start times for each event were within 15 minutes of what was published in the program.

### Safety

Access to para-medical help was provided by a Sports Medicine practitioner who was visible on pool deck at all times. The pool hire agreement provided four lifeguards on duty for the four days of competition to supervise the use of the facility and to ensure that swimmers were orderly and conscious of the safety of others.

During the events, the diving pool was used for warm-up and warm-down and all lanes were available on the mornings of Thursday and Friday and all of the weekend.

### Timekeeping

Timekeeping is always an issue at swim meets. The events can be disrupted when a full complement of timekeepers are not available. Where touch pads are in use together with plungers, timekeeping is not a difficult task, yet there are groups of people who are not willing to assist in any way. Some people and entire Clubs do well above their share of timekeeping. To recognize their efforts, spot prizes were given to dedicated timekeepers, rather than to lane swimmers and this small recognition of their efforts was much appreciated.

### Officiating

The pool deck area within Chandler was very suitable for the National Championships. We used all 10 lanes of the pool for races and two marshalling rooms. Also ensuring the smooth running of the meet were the 19 officials who rotated through the roles of Starter, Inspector of Turns, Judge of Strokes and Event Referee. With 10 lanes of

# National Championships

## 34th AUSSI Masters National Swimming Championships, Brisbane

### *Continued...*

swimmers to watch, having these extra officials on deck worked very well.

#### **Organization of the event**

The Organizing Committee of the 2009 National Championships was ably led by Mary Sweeney and the Meet Director was David Ryan. They were both appointed in February 2008 although the organizing committee had already been appointed prior to this.

Recommendations have been made for the National Swim Meet Guide for future Championships, to alleviate some frustrations in the organizing of the event and the reliance on the National office for some information.

#### **Marketing and sponsorship**

The National Championships was considered by corporations and government agencies to be too small to attract large sponsorship or government grants of any kind. We were however able to get sponsorship for registration bags and small items. Some excellent raffle prizes were also donated from well known resorts and attractions. A University student was contracted for work experience and this assisted with the sponsorship tasks.

#### **Opening Ceremony**

The attendance of the Governor of Queensland was greatly appreciated and certainly enhanced the Opening Ceremony. The Aboriginal Welcome was also well received by the spectators. There were protocols involved in the Governors attendance and this interrupted the preparation of some swimmers. This was unfortunate, but announcements were made in preparation for the event that attempted to pre-warn swimmers of this happening.

#### **National Forum**

At the Forum a sports scientist from the Queensland Institute of Sport was guest speaker. She spoke on coaching techniques and was well received by those who attended.

#### **Presentation Dinner**

The Presentation Dinner was held in the Garden Room at Snug Harbour on the shores of the Brisbane River. The venue was in a beautiful setting and the weather was perfect. The 137 people who attended filled the room comfortably and enjoyed the evening. The attendance was less than expected due to some interstate swimmers returning home to start work on the Monday, others wanting to rest before the Open Water Swim the following day, some felt the cost of a dinner on top of entry fees was outside their budget and still others said it was too difficult to find their way around at night in an unfamiliar city.

Several people felt they would prefer a less expensive Welcome Function to the Presentation Dinner.

#### **Budget**

When the original budget for the National Championships was compiled, the number of swimmers required to break even was approximately 400. It was a pleasant surprise to receive over 600 entries and after a few withdrawals we had 601 remaining. We also had a large number of relay entries. With the knowledge that we had the income guaranteed, we were able to expand on some of our expenses.

In such an event, where there are so many unknowns, costs (and income) are hard to anticipate when setting a budget. We were pleased that several larger costs including the hire of Chandler for 4 days and the purchase of medals came within budget.

# National Championships

## 34th AUSSI Masters National Swimming Championships, Brisbane

### *Continued...*

#### **Open Water Swim**

The open water swim was held at Lake Kawana on the Sunshine Coast. What started as a bright sunny morning quickly became cold and windy and caused the chill factor to change considerably. Some swimmers and officials were affected by the cold, particularly those from the warmer northern areas of Australia.

The strong wind also caused problems with the finish line. The finish gate that swimmers were expecting collapsed under the strong wind. A makeshift finish line consisting of two of the starting buoys was hastily erected. Assistance around the course was provided by surf life savers, who setup the course, provided safety on the water and first aid on the beach. Those who did the swim reported that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience regardless of the cold weather.

*Compiled by Mary Sweeney*

*Convenor of the Organizing Committee of the 2009 National Championships.*

# National Trophies

## National Trophy Winners 2009

TROPHY	WINNER
Founders' Trophy	Powerpoints (VIC)
Runner-up Trophy	Miami Masters (QLD)
Visitors' Trophy	Powerpoints (VIC)
Female Swimmer of the Meet	Jenny Whiteley (NSW)
Male Swimmer of the Meet	Paul Lemmon (NSW)
National Aerobic Award 2008	Talays (TAS)
National Aerobic Trophy 2008	Talays (TAS)
National Heart Foundation Trophy	Michael Mansfield (QLD)
Coach of the year 2008	Patrick Devine (VIC)
Official of the Year 2008	Kay Cox (WA)
AGE GROUP RELAY TROPHY	WINNER
80-119 years	Cairns Sea Eagles (QLD)
120-159 years	Brisbane Northside (QLD)
160-199 years	Powerpoints (VIC)
200-239 years	Brisbane Northside (QLD)
240-279 years	Brisbane Southside (QLD)
280-319 years	Miami Masters (QLD)
320-359 years	Twin Towns Services (QLD)

# Vorgee Million Metre Awards



## Million Metre Awards

Congratulations to the new members of the Million Metre clubs listed below. All Clubs and members are encouraged to continue supporting this fantastic programme.

DISTANCE	NAME	CLUB	BRANCH
Fifteen Million Metre Club	Stu Fitch	Darwin Stingers	NT
Seven Million Metre Club	George Stewart	Sunshine Coast	QLD
	Anne McKenzie	Sunshine Coast	QLD
Five Million Metre Club	John Pollock	Darwin Stingers	NT
	Perc Edwards	Claremont	WA
	Jeannette Rein	Mandurah AUSSI	WA
	Kiku Mukai	Brisbane Southside	QLD
	Judith Clarke	Tully Masters	QLD
	Helen Holmes	Brisbane Southside	QLD
	Greg Smith	Sunshine Coast	QLD
Three Million Metre Club	Graham Senders	Bold Park Masters	WA
	Pamela Badani	Armadale	WA
	Margaret Cloucher	Hobart Dolphins	TAS
	Moiria Wigley	Darwin Stingers	NT
	Ken McDonald	Uni Wahoos	QLD
Two Million Metre Club	Peter O'Sullivan	Trinity AUSSI Masters	NSW
	Leonie Wood	Hoppers Crossing	VIC
	Nick Wyatt	Cockburn Masters	WA
	Doris Howe	Rum City Masters	QLD
	Clive Griffin	Ipswich City Masters	QLD
	John Havilah	Noosa AUSSI Masters	QLD
	Ken McDonad	Uni Wahoos	QLD
	Joy Murdock	Enoggera Masters	QLD
	Roger Dibden	Logan Aquatic Masters	QLD
	Michael Butler	Barbarians	QLD

## Vorgee Million Metre Awards cont..

DISTANCE	NAME	CLUB	BRANCH
	Steve Muir	Launceston Lemmings	TAS
One Million Metre Club	Frank Funibaldi	Trinity AUSSI Masters	NSW
	Oliver Harris	Hornsby Masters	NSW
	Nick Wyatt	Cockburn Masters	WA
	Johnny MacDonald	Osborne Park	WA
	David Laws	AUSSI Carine Masters	WA
	Anne Fitzpatrick	Brisbane Southside	QLD
	Kay Mukai	Brisbane Southside	QLD
	Val Smith	Twin Towns	QLD
	Lesa Hansen	Cairns Mudcrabs	QLD
	Graham McCallum	Cairns Mudcrabs	QLD
	Dale Atherinos	Gladstone Gropers	QLD
	Dihana Poulsen	Twin Towns	QLD
	Linda Hocking	Twin Towns	QLD
	Dianne O'Donnell	Whitsunday Warriors	QLD
	Brian Cairns	Noosa AUSSI Challengers	QLD
	Dianna Mcrae	Twin Towns	QLD
	Karina Horton	Albany Creek	QLD
	Thelma Doyle	Toowoomba Tadpoles	QLD
	John Rayfield	Albany Creek Masters	QLD

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# Contacts

BRANCH	Address	phone	Website
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NT	PO Box 418, Parap NT 0804	(08) 8981 5919	<a href="http://www.nt.aussimasters.com.au">www.nt.aussimasters.com.au</a>
QLD	PO Box 1279, Capalaba BC QLD 4157	(07) 3245 1571	<a href="http://www.qldmastersswimming.org.au">www.qldmastersswimming.org.au</a>
SA	PO Box 219, North Adelaide SA 5006	(08) 8263 9958	<a href="http://www.aussisa.org.au">www.aussisa.org.au</a>
TAS	PO Box 5229, Launceston TAS 7250	(03) 6223 1183	<a href="http://www.tas.aussi.org.au">www.tas.aussi.org.au</a>
VIC	Sports House, Level 2, 375 Albert Road, Albert Park VIC 3206	(03) 9682 5666	<a href="http://www.aussivic.com.au">www.aussivic.com.au</a>
WA	PO Box 57, Claremont WA 6910	(08) 9387 4400	<a href="http://www.mswa.asn.au">www.mswa.asn.au</a>



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