

BLACKTOWN MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: HOBART 2015!



The Blacktown Masters Swimming Club has pulled off a major success by winning the hotly contested 40th Masters National Championships held at the Hobart Aquatic Centre over four days between the 8th to the 11th of April.

A total of 94 clubs from all over Australia competed at this meet, with Blacktown sending a strong contingent of 35 swimmers, with ages spanning from 22 to 71. The competition between the top clubs was fierce, with Malvern Marlins and Powerpoints (MSV), Launceston Lemmings and Hobart Aquatic (MSTas), Claremont Masters (MSWA) and Tuggeranong Vikings (MSNSW) all providing strong competition.

The preparation was long and hard, the planning and motivation required to get everyone together was tedious, but we managed to come together to pull off what was arguably the greatest result in the clubs long history. We had quite a few very accomplished former members making a comeback for this meet after some years out of the water and/or competition.

The club's last and only other major success was back in 2005 in Hobart where we managed to achieve the same result. Tassie water must agree with us!

Many personal bests were achieved over the meet, with the club overall taking home an impressive total of 47 gold, 27 silver & 30 bronze medals across all age groups including relays.

Long-time member Clary Munns broke 2 World Records at the meet, in the 800m I/M and 50m Backstroke events in the women's 70-74 year age group. Out of 11 individual swims, Clary won 10 gold medals. Clary is one of the most decorated Masters Athletes in Australia, this goes for all sports. Clary was named the female swimmer of the meet.

Stewart Gough (Men's 35-39) in another amazing achievement managed to win 10 gold medals from his 11 swims.

Other multiple gold medal winners were Jon Hawton, Kasey Shepherd, Pamela Nix, club captain Mark McDonald, Damien Eyre and Lee Murphy (there are too many medal winners to list here).

This was obviously a fantastic result for the club, credit must be paid to our head coach Leonie Talbot for the work she has put into the swimmers over the last few seasons in the build up to this event. Credit must also go to our club's social secretary, Sue Reinker for the huge task of organising, motivating and bringing the team together for this meet.

Thanks to the Blacktown Aquatic Centre (our training venue), The Blacktown Council, and to local sport and recreation development officer, Mr Matthew O'Connor for their assistance in helping provide fully subsidised lane hire for our nightly training sessions in the last few months leading up to this event.

All of us who attended had a great time both at the meet and in Hobart generally. Hobart has proved to be a very happy hunting ground for us.

The club has been through some tough and lean times over the last few years, with members getting sick or injured, moving out of the area or taking a break from the sport for a while. Recruiting new members has been difficult. We had been slowly building the club back up with the focus being the Nationals this year. Well I guess you could say, "Job Done".

Well done team! The Blacktown Beavers are back!

Scott Hay
President - Blacktown Masters Swimming Club

