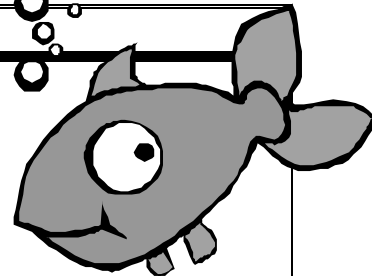


SNAPPETS



Stadium Snappers AUSSI Masters Swimming Club, PO Box 532, Claremont 6910

July 2008

DAY CAPTAIN'S REPORT FOR MID-WINTER 2008

Things are pretty quiet in the pool mid-winter. Nevertheless we average about 25 swimmers each Wednesday and Friday. The variety is endless - indoor pool, short course pool or even the dive pool, not to mention the deluging rain and/or storms outside. So, well done to all those diehards and dedicated 'doers'.

The day after the Snappers dinner a hardy handful, Lillian, Marg Some, Elizabeth, Pamela and William, travelled to Gosnells to swim in their short course 400/800. Unofficially the group broke five State records!

Of course, the real treat was the Swan Hills BACC (Be Active Club Challenge) on 6 July. As we drove east, the early sun was softly pink and grey, with misty fog in low-lying paddocks. The indoor 25 metre pool was warm, friendly and close-knit with seven clubs and 95 swimmers gathered together in a reasonably confined space. So different from our previous interclub at Newman!

We had 12 in our squad and came fourth, all 12 Snappers breaking at least one State record! We broke two records in relays, with seven different people being involved: Brian (in both relays), Wyvern, William, Marg Watson, Marg Some, Elizabeth and Audrey Bullough and took 12 individual State records: two each to Wyvern, Robyn, Eleanor and Kim and one each to William, Gail, David and Marg Watson. So, well done team. We didn't beat our close rivals, Claremont, who came first, but it was a lot of fun with the splash-dash of 25m events, and rapid movement through the programme. Swan Hills did a superb job, considering they are a very small club. Everyone helped out with officiating duties - such is the wonderful spirit of Masters Swimming.

And now, come September when "spring has sprung", it will be our turn to host an interclub (BACC). It's then we will need all you diehards and dedicated 'doers'.

Marg Watson

"SWIM" NUMBER PLATES

MSWA Executive Officer, Wendy Holtom, advises the following:

Our days of customised SWIM car number plates may be numbered. If we don't meet the condition to purchase 10 or more plates annually, we will lose this promotional strategy. The deadline is 31 August and so far since August 2007 we have sold only four sets of plates. If you are interested in buying plates, you may use the order form here. The form is also in the MSWA newsletter, "Different Strokes".

MASTERS SWIMMING WA NUMBER PLATE ORDER FORM

Name:

Club:

Address:

..... Postcode

Telephone: (h)

..... (m)

Plate Number Preference #1:

Plate Number Preference #2:

Plate Number Preference #3:

Please enclose payment of \$140 and post to:

*Masters Swimming WA, PO Box 57,
Claremont 6910*

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DIARY ENTRIES FOR AUGUST AND BEYOND

| Date | Event | Time | Venue |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <i>Saturday 2 August</i> | <i>Club Swim: 50s, 100s, 200s</i> | <i>3.00 pm</i> | <i>Challenge Stadium</i> |
| <i>Sunday 10 August</i> | <i>Somerset Distance Swim: 1500 m long course</i> | <i>8.45 am warm-up for 9.30 am start</i> | <i>Aqualife Centre Somerset St, Vic Park</i> |
| <i>Sat 16 and Sun 17 August</i> | <i>WA Disabled Sports Assn Swimming Carnival</i> | <i>See article on p 5</i> | <i>Challenge Stadium</i> |
| <i>Monday 18 August</i> | <i>Committee meeting</i> | <i>7.00 pm</i> | <i>TBA</i> |
| <i>Sat 23 and Sun 24 August</i> | <i>MSWA State Swim (short course)</i> | <i>Sat: 10.30 am Sun: 9.00 am</i> | <i>Challenge Stadium</i> |
| <i>Saturday 6 September</i> | <i>Club Swim: 50s, 100s, 200s</i> | <i>1:30 pm</i> | <i>Challenge Stadium</i> |
| <i>Sunday 14 Sept</i> | <i>Mandurah Distance Swim: 400/800 short course</i> | <i>TBA</i> | <i>Mandurah Aquatic Centre</i> |
| <i>Monday 15 Sept</i> | <i>Committee meeting</i> | <i>7.00 pm</i> | <i>TBA</i> |
| <i>Sunday 21 Sept</i> | <i>Snappers BACC</i> | <i>Mark the date in your diary!</i> | <i>Challenge Stadium probably indoors</i> |
| <i>11 - 18 October</i> | <i>Alice Springs Masters Games</i> | | <i>Alice Springs, NT</i> |
| <i>6 - 9 November</i> | <i>Pan Pac Masters Games</i> | | <i>Southport, QLD</i> |
| <i>20 February - 1 March 2009</i> | <i>12th Australian Masters Games</i> | | <i>Geelong, VIC</i> |
| <i>30 April - 4 May 2009</i> | <i>34th AUSSI Masters National Swim</i> | | <i>Brisbane, QLD</i> |

FROM THE ANNUAL DINNER

At the well-attended 16th annual Snappers birthday dinner, President Sue Colyer made a number of presentations.

- To Motor Neurone Disease Association President, Ross Whiteman, a cheque for \$6300, raised through our Swimathon in May. The amount is our best-ever in eight years.
- To Club members, certificates recognising 5, 10 and 15 years of membership:
5 years Patrick Carden, Arthur Jenkins, Leon Musca and Pat Sugars
10 years Ken Bruce, Merilyn Burbidge and Alan Earnshaw
15 years Pat Byrne, Gail Parsons and Marg Watson
- To volunteers at the XII FINA World Masters Championships, medals acknowledging their contribution.
- To long-term and senior Club coaches, Tricia Summerfield and Eleanor Parsons, MSWA coaches shirts.
- To many Club members, Super Snapper certificates for achieving State and National Top Ten listings.

Sue highlighted the following swimming achievements:

- Victory at Newman Churchlands BACC in February
- Completion of Snappers' 14,300 km Swim Around Australia in time for the start of the World Masters
- Representation at the National Masters Swimming Championships in Melbourne in March
- A major contribution at the XII FINA World Masters by 26 swimmers (achieving 46 PBs and 32 Club Records) and 38 volunteers (more than any other club)
- Improved position on the National Aerobic Trophy points table in 2007: 12th place Australia-wide and 2nd in WA
- Two age group winners in the Open Water Swim series: Gail and Eleanor Parsons.

Sue thanked Geraldine for planning the dinner and liaising with the caterers and Barry for donating the prizes.

SNAPPETS DEADLINE

Many thanks to Sue C, Marg W, Pamela, Marg S, Tricia, Julianne and Elizabeth for providing items for this issue.

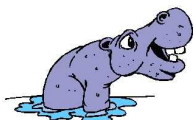
I'm always eager for contributions, especially from new sources, so please send them in by Friday 29 August for the next issue.

Thank you, Merilyn

Email: amburbidge@westnet.com.au

BIRTHDAYS

Hippo birdie two ewes!



August

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 3 | Patrick Cooney |
| 4 | Wyvern Rees |
| 4 | Margaret Watson |
| 14 | Ken Bruce |
| 23 | Neil Ross |
| 26 | Patricia Byrne |

Special congratulations to Marg Watson and Neil Ross, who are both clocking up three score years and ten this month. Note that at 66 Patrick Cooney is the baby of this lot!



GOGGLE SAW

- 'Tricia leisurely swimming the last 100m to reach 3 million on Saturday 28 June, escorted by Robyn, Eleanor and Pamela after a club swim.
- Brett, heavily disguised in full camouflage outfit, pack and all, arriving just as our special Club-members-only 1500 metre swim was winding up.... a very elaborate ploy for a self-confessed sprinter to avoid a distance event!
- A Robyn Wilson look-alike pictured with a mob of Claremont Masters members on page 40 of a recent edition of The Post!

HOW MANY MILLION METRES IS IT?

Congratulations to 'Tricia on completing her 3 million metres swum as a Snapper! (See Goggle item above). 'Tricia has told us that it took her just over 13 years to reach this milestone. There is a conundrum here: some of you may have read in AUSSI Masters News that 'Tricia has qualified for a 2 Million Metre Award. In fact she reached that mark quite some time ago, although she only recently sent in the documentation. Not wishing to give the impression that she has swum one million metres in three months, 'Tricia has decided to wait a while before applying for the next award!

Let 'Tricia's achievements be an encouragement to everyone to continue recording our distances swum, as we were doing during our circumnavigation of Oz, and aim for a Million Metre Award.

ARE FALSE START ROPES REALLY NECESSARY?

On Day 1 of the XII FINA World Masters, Brian gallantly guarded his post on the false start rope for nearly nine hours. I have never seen him sit for so long! And all for nought: his services were not called upon that day.

On Day 3, knowing he had to leave at 5.30 pm to keep an appointment, Brian was again on deck as False Start Rope Steward. At 5.00 pm, a double blast on the hooter signalled a false start. Brian sprang up and expertly dropped the rope, stopping all of the women breaststrokes bar one. She, a diminutive Japanese woman, pressed on, under the rope, to the finish. The fault was technical and the heat was re-run. After only another 15 minutes, the hooter again sounded twice. As before, a small Japanese woman made it under the first rope and stopped only when a second rope was dropped. No re-run this time. And even after such a late flurry of activity and excitement, Brian still got away by 5.30 pm!

Margaret Somes

The only way to overcome temptation is to yield to it. Oscar Wilde

THE VALUE OF A SNAPPER

Remember the little survey that you completed for me earlier this year? It was about what you spent to swim at Challenge Stadium – entry, coffees, and gear from the shop. The results are in. Here is a report of the outcome and how the information was used to help us in negotiating our annual contract with Challenge Stadium.

On 11 June, Barry and I met with Challenge staff, Gary and Kerry, to discuss our contract for hire of lanes. Gary told us that he has to show return on his investment in us, ie discounts given for lane hire and use of lanes for our Swimathon, BACC and 1500 metre interclub swim. I was able to present the following information to show that his investment in us has a considerable value to Challenge Stadium.

The survey attempted to gauge the “value of a Snapper” as a customer of Challenge Stadium. The result is an estimate of cash flow to Challenge Stadium from Stadium Snappers, based on expenditure in 2007 by 40 members. This is additional to the contract payment by the Club for lane hire and other specific expenditure associated with special events.

These estimates are very conservative and thus under-represent our actual expenditure at the Stadium.

Results

Response rate = 66% from 40 useable returns from 60 members eligible to respond. (Some respondents were not members for the full 2007 year.)

Swim payments

Total = \$13997.00; Range = \$725 - \$110 (one no charge)

Average = \$359.90 per swimmer per annum (based on 39 paying swimmers)

Coffee shop

Total = \$186 per week x 40 weeks (assuming that swimmers do not attend the full 50 weeks of swimming)
= \$7440.00 per annum or an average of \$4.65 per person per week.

Swim shop

Total = \$3863; Range = \$300 - \$25

Average = \$113.62 per swimmer per annum (based on 34 swimmers who bought gear).

Weekly average over 40 weeks = \$2.84

Totals

| | Total for 2007 | Weekly cash flow | Per person contribution per week |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Entry/Membership | 13,997.00 | 349.93 | 8.75 |
| Swim shop | 3863.00 | 96.56 | 2.84 |
| Coffee shop | 7440.00 | 186.00 | 4.65 |
| TOTAL Expenditure at Challenge in 2007 | \$25,300.00[#] | \$632.50 | \$16.24 |

[#] If this total were extrapolated for the 60 swimmers it would be nearer \$38,000.00.

Special note: Stadium Snappers takes every opportunity to acknowledge the sponsorship arrangements offered by Challenge Stadium management in support of the club's swimming program.

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. Your information has helped the club in its relationship with Challenge Stadium.

Sue Colyer

MASTERS SWIMMING AUSTRALIA 'CLUBS ON LINE'

The National IT Committee has signed off on a new database, 'Clubs on Line'. All those who were members in 2007 will retain their membership number but other new (2008) and renewing members from previous years will be allocated a new number by the new system (replacing the temporary 900000 numbers issued since January). The Masters Swimming Australia database was previously aligned with Swimming Australia. The change means that we will now have a great workable database, independent of any other sporting organisation but tried and proven by many. In due course, members will have the facility to enter their details and pay online with a secure site looking after privacy and keeping payments safe.

Wendy Holtom - Executive Officer, Masters Swimming WA

When I die - Jean Ringland 1923-2008

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| When I die | And turtles can be seen | Your eyes and lips |
| Go down to the shore | Feel the green caress | Swim till all your body aches |
| And swim | Your whole body | And arms are leaden |
| Beyond the waves | Cold against bare skin | Then turn towards the shore |
| Where the dolphins play | Feel sea salt sting | And grieve no more. |

Ringland, J. (2008). *Paperbarks*. Byron Bay, NSW., Dangerously Poetic Press. p14

Julie Crowley's mother, Jean Ringland, enjoyed swimming and writing poetry. Before she became ill, she wrote a verse offering a way of overcoming grief. After she was diagnosed with a terminal illness, Jean rewrote the passage as it is printed here, directing the words to her husband, a devoted ocean swimmer. The verse was read at Jean's funeral in May. Our condolences go to Julie and we thank her for sharing her mother's words with us.

TIMEKEEPERS NEEDED PLEASE

In the past, some Snappers have acted as timekeepers at the annual WA Disabled Sports Association swimming carnival. This year we have again had a request for help on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 August. If you can help between 9.30 am and 5.00 pm on Saturday or 11.30 am and 5.00 pm on Sunday, please contact Marg Watson on 9387 5463 before Thursday 7 August to register your availability or phone Nyree at WADSA on 9470 1442.

WHAT IS SO UNUSUAL ABOUT THIS?

This is an unusual paragraph. Just how quickly you can find out what is unusual about it? It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. If you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching! (Solution on page 6)

NOTES LEFT FOR THE MILKMAN

These are a bit like schoolboy howlers taken from exam papers. They are reputed to be genuine messages to milkmen.

"Dear Milkman, I've just had a baby, please leave another one."

"Please leave an extra pint of paralysed milk."

"Sorry not to have paid your bill before, but my wife had a baby, and I've been carrying it around in my pocket for weeks."

"When you come with the milk please put the coal on the boiler, let dog out, and put newspaper inside the screen door. PS Don't leave any milk."

"No milk. Please do not leave milk at No. 14 either as he is dead until further notice."



ELIZABETH'S SWIMMING WA HALL OF FAME CITATION

As foreshadowed in the last issue of *Snappets*, Elizabeth Mills (who swims under her maiden name of Edmondson) was inducted in June into the newly established Swimming WA Hall of Fame. The following words appear in the Hall of Fame booklet:

"Elizabeth first broke onto the international swimming scene when she was only 14, winning three gold medals and breaking three world records at the 1964 Tokyo Paralympic Games. Elizabeth also took home two gold medals and broke the respective world records at the 1968 Israel Paralympic Games."

Congratulations to Elizabeth on this fine achievement.

CLUB SWIM RESULTS 28 JUNE

From Pamela Walter, Club Recorder

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Cas BROWN | 100 BR (best '08) |
| Audrey BULLOUGH | 50 BA (best '08); 100 BA (best '08) |
| Lillian HADLEY | 50 BA (PAB50); 100 BA (PAB50, CR50); 50 FR (PAB50) |
| Philip HOFF | 50 BA (PB50); 100 BR (PB50, CR50) |
| Gail PARSONS | 50 BR (PAB50); 100 BR (PAB50) |
| Eleanor PARSONS | 50 BR (PAB50, beating '05 time); 100 BR (PAB50) |
| Marg SOMES | 50 BA (best '08); 100 BR (best '08); 50 FR (best '08) |
| Brian SOMES | 50 FR (PAB50) |
| Pamela WALTER | 50 FR (PAB50) |
| Peter WILLIAMS | 50 BA (inaug50); 50 FR (inaug50) |
| Robyn WILSON | 100 BA (PAB50); 50 BR (PB50, CR50); 100 FR (best since '05) |

Solution to "What is so unusual about this?":
The letter e, which is the most common letter used in the English language, does not appear even once in the paragraph.

MEMBERS-ONLY 1500 METRE SWIM

We were treated to beautiful sunny weather on 7th June for our special Club 1500 metre swim, held for Snappers who had stood aside in favour of swimmers from other clubs at our most successful 1500 metre interclub in May.

Thirteen Snappers took part, two of them men. Phil Hoff and Barry Green have both swum in open water events and have only recently branched out into distance swimming in the pool. All swimmers were very appreciative of timekeepers Jeannine, Pat Sugars, Helen, Sue Phillips, Merle and Geraldine. Their input meant that the event was quickly run, taking less than two hours to finish.

INTRO TO DIY CANAL-BOATING

Andrew and I recently enjoyed five weeks in Europe, spending the first fortnight with three friends on a boat (11.5 m long) on the Canal du Midi in the south of France. The others were experienced at canal boating and knew all the tricks to steering, mooring and manoeuvring through locks and under narrow bridges. My main role was to use the boathook to push off from the bank or fend off from other boats, but only when told to! In sections of the canal where the ever-present old plane trees hadn't been pruned, I had the extra responsibility of furling the boxing kangaroo flag to protect it from being shredded by overhanging branches. On the day the boat climbed the ladder of seven connected locks at Fonséranne, I was promoted to an onshore position, in charge of the aft starboard mooring rope. I had to catch the rope and secure it around a bollard, pulling it in gradually as the lock gates opened and the water cascaded in. Then, just as our skipper moved the boat forward into the next lock, I had to release the rope and run with it to wrap it around the next bollard, shouting "Pardon, m'sieur!" as I barged through the crowd of spectators.

The 240 km long canal, built in the 17th century, was the brainchild of Paul Riquet and was used for hundreds of years to transport goods, especially wine, more quickly and safely than risking the trip by sail in the pirate-infested waters around Spain. Nowadays, most of the canal traffic is tourist-oriented, including hotel boats, big, new, expensive boats that come with a skipper and others like ours.

By design, we were travelling before peak tourist season and could usually find somewhere along the bank to moor when we wanted to check out the local attractions, buy supplies (baguettes from a boulangerie for lunch with Brie was a daily ritual) or pull up for the night. Food was a pleasurable experience, lubricated with regional rosé for lunch, rough red for nibbles, red for dinner and muscat before bed. When in Rome

The rest of our holiday was great, too, but that's another story. It's also good to be home again, where you turn on a tap to get water. I never got to the bottom of French plumbing – they use every way imaginable to get water out of a spout and the challenging thing is finding out which one works.

Marilyn Burbidge



Stadium Snappers values the support we receive from our sponsors

