

# **VALE: PERC EDWARDS**

## ***Masters Swimming WA has lost a legend***

Masters Swimming WA has lost a legendary member, a most generous volunteer and fantastic role model, a World War II veteran and all-round wonderful gentleman who was always ready with a happy smile and words of encouragement for anyone.

Many members around Australia will have heard the sad news of the passing of Perc Edwards, a life member and 21-year veteran of Claremont Masters. Perc, 87, was doing what he loved most, swimming with his friends at Claremont Pool on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October when he collapsed and was taken to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital but was unable to be revived.

Perc had just returned from the Alice Springs Masters Games where he won 12 Gold medals from 12 starts. In addition he set 9 State records in the process. In recognition of this feat, he was awarded "Gropo of the Month" at Claremont's monthly Club Night on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October and basked in the admiration of his friends and club mates. He was discussing the accommodation details for next year's Nationals in Sydney after just completing an hour's training session.

If Perc could have scripted his departure from this Earth, we think this is how he would have written it: at the top of his game, doing what he loved most with people he cared about and who cared for him.

Perc began swimming with Claremont after his beloved wife died. Many of us will attest that whenever he travelled for swimming meets, a photo of his wife was ALWAYS present on his bedside table. Claremont members remember very clearly when he was presented with his Life Membership to Claremont, he said that over the years, Claremont had become like his family and the reason he kept going after her loss. We are sure today she is welcoming him home with open arms.

His dedication to Masters Swimming both as a competitor and an official is legendary. He was known and loved in Masters Swimming throughout Australia and was always spoken about with great affection and admiration.

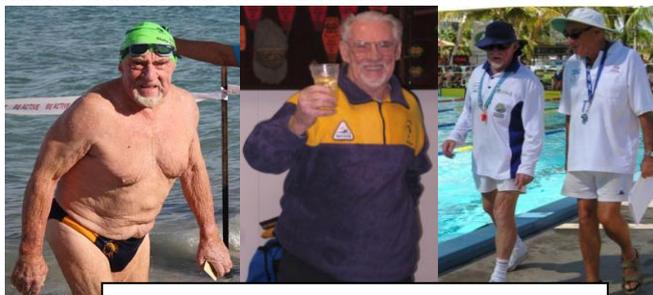
In addition to diving into the deep end as an older swimmer, Perc took on many volunteer roles including technical officiating at swim meets for Masters as well as for his local junior swimming Club and Swimming WA. He was such a great model, setting a great example for the value of hard work, commitment, loyalty, fairness and encouragement.

Perc was looking forward to once again assisting his Club in January at the 2013 Xstrata Nickel Swim Thru Perth where he was a regular volunteer, specialising in raking the beach before the event!

In honour of Perc's outstanding volunteer work Masters Swimming WA has pleasure in announcing that the new volunteer award will be named the "Perc Edwards Volunteer of the Year Award". His family is in awe of what he did in his life and are suitably chuffed with this announcement.

He is an irreplaceable part of Masters Swimming in WA and will be sorely missed.

Perc Edwards: 1925 – 2012  
Rest in Peace.



Perc Edwards  
the swimmer, the clubman, the official

Wendy Holtom  
Executive Officer