

Volunteer of the Month

MSSA's Leanne and Phil Beames

Leanne and Phil Beames, members of MSSA club Atlantis, are an asset to the Masters Swimming community. Originally joining Eastern Districts in 1994, the couple have thrown themselves selflessly into Masters Swimming for the past eighteen years.

For Phil, swimming has been part of his life since childhood, when he swam for Clare ASC. When their children began swimming competitively for Fleurieu SC, he and Leanne decided to join Eastern Districts, which has since merged with Atlantis.

In 1997, Leanne became the MSSA Recorder and therefore joined the MSSA committee, while Phil became the Swim Meet Director in 1998. Since taking up these committee positions, the couple have been heavily involved every since.

Leanne has not only taken up the role of MSSA Recorder, but was also MSSA's representative on the National Recording Committee in 2010-2011. Currently, she also holds the role of MSSA Website Manager, making sure that up-to-date information is available on the website.

Phil has taken on numerous roles in the past fourteen years, since he originally took up the position of MSSA Swim Meet Director. He held this position from 1998-2000, before taking it up again 2002-2003. The next year, he switched hats and became Treasurer, a position he held until 2007. In 2010-2011 he was also MSSA Secretary. A man of many talents, Phil held many of these positions, whilst also being the MSSA Technical Director since 2003. As a result of this long standing position, he has represented MSSA on the National Technical Committee since 2007 and currently holds the position of Committee Chair.

Not only do the pair hold positions on the committee, they are both active in officiating roles. Phil has been a qualified MSA Referee since 1999, using his skills at the World Masters Games in Melbourne and the MSA National Swim in Perth. The couple have also held the roles of Meet Referee and Meet Recorder at every Mildura Masters Games, Port Pirie Masters Games and SA Masters Games since 1998. Their skills have also been shared in the same positions of Meet Recorder and Meet Referee, at the Alice Springs Games since 2008 and the last five Australian Masters Games in Adelaide.

When asked what they enjoyed about volunteering, they answered with "we enjoy meeting new people not only from Masters Swimming but many Masters Sports." As a result of their huge involvement, Phil and Leanne have gained many good friends whilst being able to enjoy travelling throughout Australia.

In 2006, Leanne and Phil were the recipients of Life Membership for MSSA, a clearly deserved position. However, as truly dedicated volunteers, the pair has continued to work tirelessly for MSSA.



*The extraordinary couple,
Leanne and Phil Beames*