



Masters Swimming NSW Annual Report 2007

Governance

Masters Swimming NSW is governed by a Board of seven members. The Country Vice-President does occasionally attend meetings in person but otherwise communicates his views on issues by email prior to, or by phone during, the monthly Board meetings.

Membership

MSNSW welcomed the two ACT clubs into its ranks in 2007. Therefore, membership figures increased but actual NSW membership decreased by a small percentage. One new club formed towards the end of the year and one folded.

Committees

The Board sincerely thanks the Committee members for their continued dedication in 2007 as they play a vital role in the conduct of the Branch's activities.

- **Events Committee**

The Events Committee is responsible for the overall organisation and conduct of all events in NSW. It monitors the carnival calendar, and recommends programmes and venues for all State events. This committee has also taken on the role of co-ordinating the raffles at State Championships.

- **Technical Committee**

This Committee organises training courses and provides support and continuing education for all technical officials. Two members of this committee were actively involved in the revision of the National rules. In January 2007, MSNSW pioneered the Referees and Starters workshop to introduce these new rules and develop a uniform approach across the country. Regular training programs for officials ensure, as far as practicable, that each club hosting a swim meet is able to provide its own designated officials.

- **Coaching Education and Training Committee**

The Branch Coaching Director oversees a committee of coaches with various tasks assigned to each member. One administers the allocation of resources on request from the resource list of books, DVDs and videos. Another contacts those coaches who are due for reaccreditation. Other committee members assist on request from the Branch Coaching Director. A coaching workshop was held in December 2007 with participants.

- **Marketing and Club Development Committee.**

This Committee actively seeks new sponsors from a number of sources. This Committee is working on redesigning the New Club Kit. The club mentoring programme is an integral function of this Committee.

Communication

Our website is constantly improving and post programs on the web prior to the meets. Results go up promptly as well. The MSNSW newsletter *Splash* is produced every quarter and mailed to all members unless they have opted to receive an electronic notification. All communications with clubs are moving towards electronic contact.

Safety

The Branch Safety Co-ordinator continued to make strong efforts for clubs to follow the National Safety Guidelines, particularly in the completion of Incident Report Forms at all club and interclub activities. A guide for Club Safety Officers is being compiled.

Events

The MSNSW Open Water Swim was conducted in 2007 in conjunction with the Harris Wheeler Lake Swim in Lake Macquarie in the Hunter region. A disappointing number of entries meant that these Hunter clubs did not tender to run the MSNSW OWS for 2008.

The NSW Long Course Championships were held over two days in March 2007 at SOPAC again. AUSSI swimmers numbered 431 from 37 clubs plus 1 interstate and 1 visitor from the USA. Seventeen National and 24 State records were broken at this meet.

The State Relay Meet in July was also at SOPAC but, due to a mix up in bookings, it was held in the diving pool. It turned out to be a better configuration and, with 369 swimmers from only 16 clubs competing, 19 National and 3 State records were broken.

The MSNSW Long Distance Championships 2007 were held as a short course event at Mt Annan in SW Sydney. As the numbers are increasing it was decided to hold this meet over two days also and it attracted 142 entries from 30 clubs. Fourteen National and 24 State records were set at this meet.

The State Short Course Championships in October 2007 were held at Lakeside Leisure Centre at Tuggeranong, ACT. Despite the dilapidated venue, the meet was conducted well. Numbers were down on the previous bumper year at Woy Woy, with 243 competitors. Nevertheless, 18 National and 34 State records were broken.

In our annual series of Branch Point Score (BPS) carnivals, 17 clubs hosted meets for MSNSW. Added to this were the Hunter Sports Festival, an Invitational meet organised by the Events Committee and the Wests Auburn Long Distance Meet. The BPS Trophy winners in the four divisions were Novocastrian, Hornsby, Blue Mountains and Maitland. Swansea again took out the Average Point Score Trophy for 2007. Once again, only one of these wins was by a metropolitan club indicative of the competitiveness of the NSW regional clubs.

Many of our swimmers enjoyed the competition and camaraderie at the National Swim in Darwin in May 2007.

Volunteers

We again had the assistance of Volunteering NSW at State Championships with timekeeping and running. Various clubs assisted with raffle-ticket selling under the direction of the Events Committee. We have some dedicated members who volunteer their time on a regular basis to assist in the office.

Government support

The total amount of funding from the NSW Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation was allocated to the sport of swimming as a whole, split with Swimming NSW Ltd., and has been reduced over the last three years. This funding is not guaranteed beyond June 2008, notwithstanding MSNSW's obligations to run the swimming events in the World Masters Games 2009. The Branch Office is located at Sports House in Sydney Olympic Park. The accommodation remains rent-free for the time being.

MSNSW thanks National CEO, Stephen Cardiff, and National Administrator, Jeanette Holowiuk, for their assistance throughout 2007 and wish them the very best in their new endeavours. MSNSW also wishes the new National Administration plus all members, staff and volunteers of other Branches every success for 2008.

Ian Davis President and
Di Coxon-Ellis Administrator