



Masters Swimming NSW Annual Report 2009

Governance

Masters Swimming NSW is governed by a Board of seven members, one of whom was newly elected at the May 2009 AGM. The Country Vice-President attends the monthly Board meetings.

Membership

Membership increased in 2009 to the second highest on record. One small club folded end 2009.

Acknowledgements (deleted Committees)

After the AGM the committees were changed to project teams which don't exist on a permanent basis but are assigned to various projects in their area of expertise. Thanks to those who served on the committees previously for their substantial contribution.

- **Technical Project team**

The Branch Training Coordinator organises training courses on application and provides support and continuing education for all technical officials. The focus of many of these courses has been on the World Masters Games and in 2009 some 31 courses were conducted for 90 candidates (some attending multiple courses). Of the 52 officials who gained accreditation, 21 were new to the world of officiating. The National/Branch Technical Director was instrumental in considerable rewriting of rules and course notes in line with FINA changes. Thanks go to this project team and all those who coordinated and presented courses during the year.

- **Coaching Education and Training Project team**

From the May AGM, the branch welcomed a new coaching director, who now visits clubs to assist in coaching, administers the allocation of resources on request from the resource list of books, DVDs and videos. In April 2009 a level 1M course was conducted with 28 participants, of whom five have completed their accreditation and three members of the project team are closely following the progress of and offering encouragement to the other candidates.

- **Marketing**

With only one member in this team, his focus was on the World Masters Games. We had a competition to win a free membership and distributed brochures introducing the concept of masters swimming and listing all NSW/ACT clubs. All entrants into the competition have been contacted and offered assistance to join.

- **Club Development**

The club mentoring programme is an integral function but was put on hold until after the Games when the focus is to be on mentoring regional clubs and new clubs.

- **Communication**

Our website is constantly evolving and all swim meet programs are posted on the web prior to the meets, with results listed promptly after each meet. The MSNSW newsletter *Splash* is produced every quarter and is available on the web; hard copies are mailed to a small number of members who have opted to receive it in that form. The new database has facilitated this process. Communication with clubs via a branch monthly news and associated documents is also mainly electronic utilising the new database and only a small number of clubs still receive paper copies. These are also posted on the website each month.

- Safety

The Branch Safety Co-ordinator continued to ensure that clubs follow the National Safety Guidelines, particularly in the completion of Incident Report Forms at all club and interclub activities.

Programs & Activities

The branch Long Course Championships were held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre (SOPAC) over Saturday evening and Sunday in March 2009. This option is proving to be a good one as SOPAC is so hard to book at this time of year. Two world and 23 national and 43 branch records were broken at this meet, with 357 swimmers from 42 clubs competing, including visitors from Queensland and Victoria.

The branch Relay Meet in June was again at SOPAC in the diving pool (short course). With 265 swimmers from 17 clubs, one world record, 3 national and 7 branch first-split individual records plus 20 national and 26 branch relay records were broken.

In July the branch Long Distance Championships were held as a short-course event over one day at Kurri Kurri in the Hunter region. The meet attracted 85 swimmers from 28 clubs. Eight national and 20 branch records were set at this meet.

The branch Short Course Championships in August 2009 were held at Canberra International Sports and Aquatic Centre (CISAC) attracting 262 competitors from 35 clubs. An astounding 6 world, 33 national and 56 branch records were broken.

At branch championships a new system was introduced whereby clubs were offered the opportunity to conduct the raffle as a fund-raiser for their club. This frees up volunteers to conduct the meet.

In the Branch Point Score (BPS) annual trophy, 19 clubs hosted meets for MSNSW. The BPS trophy winners in the four divisions were Warringah, Campbelltown, Penrith and Nelson Bay. In addition to the BPS meets were the Hunter Sports Festival in July, Sutherland Shire Sprint Carnival in August and the Wests Auburn long distance meet in December.

Of course, the highlight of the swimming year was the Sydney 2009 World Masters Games in October with just on 2000 swimmers from all parts of the globe competing. A phenomenal amount of preparation went into this event and Jane Noake is to be congratulated for her leadership over the five years prior in coordinating this highly successful event. Ninety percent of the officials were from NSW and assistance came from Victoria, Queensland, WA and three overseas officials. Over the seven days of competition there were 30 officials on pool deck and 30 volunteer timekeepers and all are to be congratulated. For the first time in NSW, Masters Swimming included swimmers with a disability in the program and results and stars shone in the ranks and we learned much from the experience. It was very disappointing that the open water swim in Chowder Bay had to be cancelled due to unfavourable conditions but this difficult decision had to be made and had been foreseen as a possibility due to the time of year that the Games were held.

Many of our swimmers enjoyed the competition and camaraderie at the national swim in Brisbane in April 2009 and a few NSW swimmers attended and thoroughly enjoyed the 2nd Oceania Championships in Hobart, Tasmania.

- Volunteers

We again had the assistance of Volunteering NSW at branch championships with timekeeping and running. We have some dedicated members who volunteer their time on a regular basis to assist in the office.

Government support

The funding from the NSW Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation was allocated to Masters Swimming NSW as a separate entity again without consultation. This funding remains at the same

level as the previous year. The branch office is located at Sports House in Sydney Olympic Park and the accommodation remains rent free, just having to be pay for outgoings.

MSNSW thanks the national administration for their great support during 2009 and wishes all members, staff and volunteers of other branches every success for 2010.

Sue Wiles, MSNSW Delegate, and
Di Coxon-Ellis, Administrator.