



# 15TH AUSSI NATIONAL SWIM AND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

• 5th - 7th April 1990 •

Aquatic Centre • Chandler  
• Brisbane •

## FINAL REPORT



Brisbane City

## MEET DIRECTORS REPORT:

The 1990 Masters National Swim was a success. With financial security assured through the sponsorship of AMP Insurance and ZEDAR Swimwear, the hand-picked committee set about creating a professional and friendly meet.

## THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Were selected based on their expertise and importantly, their initiative and ability to work in a team and under pressure.

Meet Director:	Peter Reaburn
Manpower:	Max Gillespie
Recording:	David Haley
Finance:	David Lawson/David Yeates
Hospitality/Socials:	Bren Catchpole/Rozitta Gillespie
Media Liaison:	David Mackay <i>Rozitta</i>
Long Distance Swim:	Alan Grant
Awards/Presentations:	Bronwyn Follent/Rhonda Anderson/Marg Watson
Operations:	Rhonda Searle

## PHILOSOPHY:

We set about creating a swim meet based on the following:

- (1) Professionally run;
- (2) Friendly and relaxed;
- (3) Financially within reach of swimmers.

The professionalism was achieved in a number of ways:

- (a) Commercial printing of all entry forms, flyers, information leaflets etc.;
- (b) Use of the Chandler Swim Complex and its facilities;
- (c) Keeping swimmers informed of all details (times, venues etc.), via mediums of -
  - (i) pre registration flyers;
  - (ii) use of announcers as much as possible;
  - (iii) daily newsletter;
  - (iv) information desk;
  - (v) distinguishing organizing committee in gold shirts, so swimmers could identify them easily.
- (d) A coordinated team effort.

The friendly atmosphere was created via:

- (1) Happy hours **immediately** following the last event with alcohol and food at reasonable prices.
- (2) Creation of cafe areas so swimmers could relax with friends.
- (3) Provision of alternatives - swim shops, merchandising, National Heart Foundation Risk Assessment Clinic, Swim Coaching seminars, engraver, photographers and masseurs.
- (4) Encouragement of announcers to give swimmer profiles.

The cost factor is all relative. With both interstate and intrastate visitors paying large sums to travel and accommodate, we attempted to create happy hours where food and drinks could be bought at minimal cost. Other services (engraver, swim seminars, coffee etc.) were also encouraged to be reasonably priced. In this way we hoped to achieve turnover rather than large profit margins - it worked!

Without going into all the logistics of our organisation, I would like to outline some of our successes and recommendations for the future.

### SUCSESSES:

1. Make the National a 3 day meet. We began at 8.30 a.m., and finished by 3 p.m. each day, with 473 entries and up to 5 swims per competitor. Yes, we had 10 lanes and automatic timing, but I'd still push for 3 days so people take less time off work/family.
2. Use of an indoor venue - in case of rain, to give announcers, recorders, timing operators, in fact everyone, the chance to work in comfort.
3. Having an engraver, masseur, photographer, swim shop, National Heart Foundation Clinic on site.
4. The coffee garden cafe - the Country Womens Association (CWA) paid us to have the rights to cater.
5. Happy hours in tracksuits etc., immediately after the conclusion of swimming. Entertainment organised.
6. Clubs allocated timekeeping duties - this was based on numbers of entries received. Each club was asked to bring stopwatches just in case. This worked well.
7. A daily newsletter 'The Canon Flash' to keep swimmers informed.
8. David Haley's computer package and expertise.
9. The daily raffle.
10. The Presentation night - awarding 3rd's, 2nd's, 1st's in groups.
11. Club cheques and summary sheets sent via club secretaries.
12. Hand held radios - 6 of them to aid communications during the meet.

### FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS:

These are based on our 'unsucccesses' (rather than our failures).

1. Possibly split the freestyles - 1 event/day - it's very hard to keep everyone happy (it took us 3 hours to decide ours, then we bounced it off our champions to get their input).
2. Even though David's software does not allow for relay's to be swum in age groups, I personally feel this could have been done to create atmosphere and awareness of racing your real opposition.

3. Acceptance of relay nominations at the meet - ideally the morning of the events.
4. Possibly more entry forms to clubs - we sent 3-10 per club dependent on size. They were designed to be photocopied with 2/A4 page.
5. The long distance swim - ideally close to the swim venue, later in the day (we were restricted by our State Presentations at 11 a.m.). With only 18 starters at ours (maybe the above mentioned problems contributed) a cost-benefit might be investigated.
6. Club summary sheets to be sent with the entry forms with a checklist for secretaries.
7. Disqualification of any swimmer of any age/sex/ability. This needs to be addressed at National level. My personal feeling is that at National (and possibly State) level if the correct stroke cannot be done, it should not be swum.

I sincerely hope this report and the others included are of use to the organisers of the future. Our secret was the correct blend of the right people, communication and coordination before and during the meet, and always putting the most important people first - the swimmers.

**PETER REABURN.**

## RECORDERS REPORT:

### 1. SOFTWARE:

When planning for this swim meet commenced it was assumed that Unisys would be able to provide software to handle the swim meet and to produce the reports required. In November 1989 it became evident that the swim meet program being developed for the computer committee would not be available in time and that the software used for previous National swim meets was inadequate.

At that time it was decided to modify my existing software to cope with the event. The changes required related to three areas. Firstly, the software allowed for 500 competitors and 40 clubs, these numbers were increased to 1000 competitors and 100 clubs. Secondly, the allowance was made to cope with foreign competitors. This was done by treating competitors whose club initials started with letters other than A, C, N, Q, S, T, V, or W differently. Finally although the certificate generator is data driven, the format of the existing national certificates was such that data changes alone could not cope with it, thus necessitating changes to the certificate generator code.

### 2. INDIVIDUAL EVENT NOMINATIONS:

Early in the preparations for the swim meet it was decided that the use of the standard AUSSI nomination cards would be avoided and that a nomination form similar to those used for the World swim would be used. One improvement to the form was delimiting the space allowed to accommodate the time with ":" and"." characters to match the time input format expected by the software. A summary sheet (to be completed by the club secretary) was used as both a financial record and to ensure information about the club was available. (e.g. the full name of the club, contact address and phone number).

Nomination forms were checked for completeness and finance prior to passing the forms to me for data entry. I received the majority of forms in a shopping bag and it took several hours to group the forms by club to facilitate data entry. After entering the information on the entry forms these were sorted into alphabetical order, clipped to the summary sheet and stored in a portable file. This portable file was ordered by state and within states by alphabetical order of club initials. processing the nominations commenced on 26 February 1990, and was largely completed by 2 March 1990. During this period I worked virtually full time on checking and entering nominations. Final checking of the data entered into the data base against the nomination forms was done at a working bee which took place in the QSA rooms on 4 March 1990 and was completed in approximately 3 hours by a team of about twelve people. To their credit I was only made aware of two minor errors in data entry which had escaped our checking.

Off site backup copies of the data base were maintained on floppy disks during and after the entry of nominations.

### 3. PROGRAMME TEXT:

The text of the programme was generated by my software as one large file. Normally the software places the text in several files containing only the text of one page. By telling my software that the page length was 30000 lines all the text was placed in one file. the text file was transferred to a 3.5" PcDos format disk to facilitate transfer to Ralph Walker's Apple Macintosh system, for production of the final document. The disk was posted to Ralph Walker on 6 March 1990. Since the file produced by my software is an ASCII file it can be readily transferred to other hardware/software.

### 3. DURING THE SWIM MEET:

Unisys was approached to loan hardware for the duration of the competition. The following items were requested:

2 x IBM compatible personal computers equipped with hard disks one high density 5.25" disk drive and a Microsoft compatible mouse. A 25 line x 80 column display was requested.

2 x low throughput printers of comparable performance to Epson LX800's.

1 x High speed printer capable of 400 characters per second.

The rationale for the requested hardware was that one machine would be used to process individual events and another to process the relays. This was essential for the first day when it was necessary to process relay nominations whilst individual events were in progress. Relay nominations for the second and third days were processed after the day's competition had concluded. Both of these machines used for results entry required printers but speed was not a major requirement as they were only required to maintain a "cash register roll" of data entry, that is keep up with the rate of manual data entry. The third machine served a threefold purpose. Firstly, as backup in case of hardware failure in either of the other machines. Secondly, to allow printing of results to be performed without disrupting data entry. Finally, to allow the calculation of State Titles results. The high speed printer was connected to this machine.

Access to a printer for a period of one month after the competition was also requested as it was thought at one stage that the results certificates might be suitable for printing in a laser printer.

Prior to the competition, trial runs were conducted on Unisys machines in their City office. These tests revealed some short comings in my software, but no incompatibilities with their machines.

As a result of a transport workers strike Unisys were unable to provide the agreed hardware. However, at great inconvenience to themselves they were able to provide two machines, one with a high speed printer. The machine used for relays was my own machine.

It was intended that two Omega OSM6 machines would be used for time keeping. One running the automatic program (i.e. operated by the pads) and the other running the manual program (i.e. worked by three manual push buttons). The hire of a data handling card for the automatic OSM6 machine was investigated however, this proved to be too expensive, due to the need to import the card. Also, it would have been necessary to develop suitable software to interface the recording computers to the Omega machine. Except for the first event manual timing backup was provided by the second OSM6 machine. Due to the Pool Staff being unaware of the setup required for the manual machine this was unavailable until the commencement of the second event.

During the first event manual backup was provided by three timekeepers with stop watches for each lane. The timekeepers wrote the times they recorded on a single sided double spaced three heat per page copy of the programme. Each page was numbered with the lane it was used for and the pages were collected by a runner as they were completed. A similar system has been used by Brisbane Southside Masters AUSSI Inc. on several occasions and has proved quite successful.

Due to the way the competition was conducted the accuracy of final results depended entirely on the accuracy of marshalling. To facilitate accuracy in this area the marshals and check starters were provided with copies of the program as described above. The few people who missed their assigned heats were allowed to swim in later heats. This fact was recorded on the check starter's heat sheet and also passed to the recording room, to allow the appropriate corrections to be made to the data entry. All such corrections were recorded in a note book in the recording room. At the conclusion of each day's competition the check starters heat sheets were returned to the recording room for reference purposes.

As an aid to the competitors, each were issued with a computer generated slip showing their name, age, sex, club and for each event nominated the heat and lane allocated.

#### 4. RECORDING ROOM PROCEDURE:

The printouts from the timekeeping machines were scrutinised by the relevant QSA (Queensland Swimming Association) official. He would note any disqualifications or cases where the manual backup times were to be used. The automatic and manual printouts were stapled together and taken to the recording computer for data entry. After several heats had been keyed into the computer and at the conclusion of data entry for each event, the timekeeping machine printouts and record of data entered (i.e. the "cash register roll") were taken away for checking of the data entry. At this stage the automatic times were checked for consistency with the manual times.

After the data entry was checked and any corrections made, the results of that event were calculated. Four copies of the results were printed. The results were checked for records prior to being published. A half hour protest period was allowed between publication and the award of medals.

After each event the hard disk of the recording computer was updated to reflect the state of the data base. (The whole data base being RAM resident.) A floppy disk copy was also made. Two floppy disks were alternated in this role to ensure adequate backups were maintained. A third floppy disk copy was made at the conclusion of each day's competition and removed from site, as an additional precaution.

Queensland state titles results were also calculated by selecting Queensland swimmers from the National data base.

#### 5. RELAY NOMINATIONS:

Relay nomination were accepted during the swim meet. Nominations for event 4 the mixed freestyle were accepted from 8.30 to 9.30 on the first day of the competition. Nominations for the second day's relays, (events 9, 11 and 12) were accepted from 15.00 to 16.00 on the first day. Nominations for the third day's relays, (events 18 and 19) were accepted from 8.30 to 9.30 again and from 15.00 to 16.00 on the second day.

Relay teams were restricted to one per event for each age group per club. Non point scoring composite relay teams were also accepted.

Relay events were run on nominated time seeded heats resulting in only three heats maximum.

Full validity checks were performed on relay teams. That is checking that the nominated age matched the actual age, that the team members were of the correct sex and that no swimmer was nominated for two teams in the same event. The way the software handles relay teams ensures that a team is either made up of swimmers from one club or is treated as a composite team.

Processing of relays was otherwise similar to the individual events.

#### 6. RECORDING ROOM STAFF:

Thanks must go to the following people who put in long hours in the recording room. Rhonda Searle and Rachel Fredman for performing the data entry during the three days of the competition. Peter Gillet and Sandra Pugh for checking the accuracy of data entry and checking for records. Finally, Robin Sweeney for his assistance to the time keeping machine operators by advising them of un-used lanes.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A later closing date for individual events would be possible if the programme can be compiled and printed more quickly. We had to allow almost four weeks for this, whilst only two weeks were required to process the nominations.

Accepting relay nominations during the swim meet was successful and should be continued. Scheduling only one relay event for the first day of the swim meet will be beneficial to this end.

Clubs should be permitted to nominate as many relay teams as they wish to. If desired placing points may be restricted to only one team per sex/age group per event. Composite teams should be permitted. (Only one was nominated in the 1990 Nationals.) Given the small number of relay team nominations and the small number of clubs who could actually put together multiple teams, this is unlikely to significantly increase the running time of the swim meet. The name of our game is to encourage as many people as possible to swim.

Some additional software improvements could be useful in particular the relay software is still rough around the edges. Note that it is unlikely that the National Computer Committee's swim meet software will be available in time for the 1991 National. In view of this I will be willing to provide the 1991 National swim meet committee with software and support at reasonable cost.

Steps should be taken to ensure that both the individual competitors and clubs give the names they wish to appear in the results.

New results certificates should be designed which are more suitable for machine printing. I can provide detailed advice on the desirable features of such a new form.

**DAVID HALEY**



## MANPOWER REPORT:

The meet ran smoothly and within time limits. Those persons rostered to perform tasks did so except in one instance, a club (from Victoria) appeared very casual towards their allocated responsibility for time-keeping.

Holding the event at Chandler insulated us from the weather and provided facilities to run over three days instead of the usual four, saving time and money for both organisers and competitors.

Marshalling: was looked after by Brisbane Southside and followed proven practices used in the World swim and local meets. The electronic heats indicator is a useful item. Walkie-talkies were handy for quick communication, especially with announcers, for coordinating the calling of heats etc.

Check starting: again conducted by BSM following well established practices. It is a most important adjunct to the direct processing by the computer system in use, that swimmers are in correct lanes and to date we have no reports of swimmers being in wrong lanes.

Timekeeping: With the press button Omega system used on deck to back up the electronic pads system, 30 persons were required at all times. These numbers could not be obtained from the non-swimmers and clubs were asked to man lanes according to their numbers at the meet.

We are indebted to the students of Human Movements at Queensland University for their operating of the electronic system each day. Deck timekeeping was kept under supervision at all times and was not a cause for concern.

Starting and poolside swim officials were provided by QSA and we are thankful to these untiring volunteers for their assistance.

Relay registrations were attended to by Miami Club and meet registrations by Uni Club.

Computer: D Haley worked with a band of helpers, using his enhanced system which worked well. Results were to hand in good time.

Announcing: Toni Cameron organised this most important function, which was well done and appreciated.

Medical facilities were organised by Lisa Freeman and were well used. Massage facilities were a new service which was obviously appreciated.

Medal presentations were a new experiment during the days and were a service that should be encouraged. Bronwyn Follent, Marg Watson and Rhonda Anderson contributed here with great effect.

Raffle was an area which was quite outstanding and was due to the efforts of Neville Monroe and his helpers. The financial contribution was considerable.

**MAX GILLESPIE**

## HOSPITALITY:

### ACCOMMODATION:

A list of recommended accommodation was included in the Hospitality Brochure. The range covered four star hotels to caravan parks. Special discount prices during the swim meet had been negotiated for Masters swimmers who were to make their bookings directly with the accommodation houses.

### TRANSPORT:

To aid visitors to Brisbane, a Bayside Buslines timetable for the City to Chandler route was sent out to all clubs competing. Difficulties were encountered by a few of the swimmers on opening day of the meet when heavy rain caused flash flooding in the areas and delayed services.

### OPENING CEREMONY:

The opening ceremony was conducted at noon on the first day of the swim. Speeches were made from the V.I.P. Box at the pool by Peter Reaburn, Meet Director, Graeme McDougall, AUSSI National president, David Jull, at the time Federal Shadow Minister of Sport and Randall Woodley at AMP Australia.

The Zedar Relays were swum and Mrs. Sue Elsdon of Zedar Swimwear presented the winning teams with their trophies. After watching a display of aerobics, invited guests and AUSSI officials enjoyed a light lunch in the V.I.P. lounge.

### SOCIAL FUNCTIONS:

Three social functions were initially planned based upon 600 competitors attending the National Swim. These were Thursday's Welcome Dinner and Bush Dance, Friday's Pasta Night and Presentation Dinner on Saturday night.

However, when nominations closed six weeks before the swim, the numbers were down on expectations and, in particular, there was very little support for the Thursday and Friday functions. A decision was made at that stage to cancel the two functions and replace them by informal Happy Hours each evening at the Aquatic Centre. This proved to be a good move. The V.I.P. Lounge and Bar (limited club licence) at the pool were appreciated by the many swimmers and friends who, in addition to enjoying themselves on the two evenings, also returned for an unplanned Happy Hour at the completion of swimming on the Saturday afternoon.

The Happy Hours had a theme each evening. Firstly, a British Pub evening - rollicking singing around the piano, dancing the Lambeth Walk, fish and chips. The following evening and Latin Affair - Fun-filled display of Spanish dancing by talented AUSSI members, the exhausting Mexican Hot Dance, pizza and gelato. Rosita Gillespie is to be applauded for her enthusiastic assistance in setting the scenes and playing the piano with flair.

### PRESENTATION NIGHT:

The Presentation Night Dinner was held at Brisbane's centrally located City Hall with abundant parking nearby. Pre dinner drinks were served to 242 guests in the Sherwood Room before proceeding upstairs for dinner. The elegant Brisbane Room, frequently the scene of official functions, required little further decoration other than clusters of tinsel gold and white balloons on each table.

The food and beverage caterers engaged were familiar with the facilities having frequently worked at City Hall and were consequently very well organised requiring no supervision on the night. The service, as anticipated, was excellent. The food, consisting of hors-d'oeuvres, three courses plus coffee and mints was exactly as discussed, as quoted pricewise and well presented. Carafes of complimentary wine were placed on each table after which guests ordered their own drinks.

The Master of Ceremony's job for the evening was most ably handled by Peter McMahon who, after a brief welcome, left diners to enjoy their entrees and main courses before starting the evening's formalities. He was assisted by Toni Cameron in the announcement of award winners.

The trophies and medals were set out on a suitably decorated table on a raised dais. In an attempt to streamline the presentation ceremony, it was decided to try a new approach to awarding the long list of individual medals. Winners were called up in three separate groups - third, then second, and finally, first placegetters. As each group's names were read, recipients approached the dais in any order, received a medal and gathered together with a photograph. This not only lessened the confusion of collecting the correct place medal (particularly when some winners were absent) but also reduced considerably the overall presentation time - a big bonus!

First placegetters' medals were presented by Warren Dickson, AMP Australia, second by Sue Elsdon, Zedar Swimwear and third by Graham Bryant representing the Queensland Swimming Association. Trophies were presented by members of the National Executive - without speeches.

In fact, speeches were successfully kept to an absolute minimum. Host Graeme McDougall, AUSSI National President, making the evening's only speech, was well received. Peter Raeburn, Meet Director, delivered a comprehensive vote to the many organisers of the Swim. In closing, he handed over the AUSSI National Swim banner to Trish Beveridge of Tasmania to be hung in Devonport in 1991.

Before leaving, all present were given a small memento of their participation at the dinner - A Brisbane City cap and teatowel printed with appropriate logo.

It was decided to dispense with the services of a band due to the astronomical cost on a Saturday night. Instead, we enjoyed background music by Rosita Gillespie on the grand piano.

When dinner and presentations were over, diners received tickets to dance the night away at Spillane's Nightclub, across the road from City Hall. Some AUSSI members and friends were said to be there when it closed at 4 a.m.! All in all a superb night!

**BREN CATCHPOLE.**

**TROPHY WINNERS:**

National Aerobic Trophy		Claremont, W.A.
Founders Trophy		Miami, Qld
A.C.T. Runners-up Trophy		Sunshine Coast, Qld.
Visitors Trophy		Sunshine Coast, Qld
National Heart Trophy		Leanne Brown, Miami
Swimmers of the Meet		Gary Henry, Miami, Qld. Neroli Nixon, Doncaster, Vic.
Zedar Relays	Male	Powers, Qld
	Female	Sunshine Coast, Qld.
Relay Trophies	320+	Sunshine Coast, Qld
	280+	Sunshine Coast, Qld
	240+	Miami, Qld
	200+	Miami, Qld
	160+	Miami, Qld
	120+	Powers, Qld
	80+	Miami, Qld
Long Distance Swim:		1. Kathy Smith, Devonport, Tass 2. John Crisp, Miami, Qld. 3. Nobe Horton, Jindalee, Qld.

TIMING OF EVENTS - ESTIMATED AND ACTUAL

	EVENT	HEATS	START TIME	FINISH TIME	ESTIMATED TIME	ACTUAL TIME	FALSE STARTS
THURSDAY	400m Freestyle	20	8.40am	11.34am	3 hours	2 hours 52min	3
	100m Freestyle	26	12.35pm	1.42 pm	1 hour	1 hour 7min	3
	100m Breastroke	17	1.43 pm	2.34 pm	1 hour	51 mins	3
	4 x 50 mixed Freestyle	3	2.48pm	3.01pm	1 hour	13 mins	-
FRIDAY	100m Butterfly	10	8.30am	8.57am	30mins	27mins	-
	50m Backstroke	21	9.05am	9.32am	30mins	27mins	-
	200 Individual Medley	15	9.36am	10.42am	1hr 15mins	1 hr 6mins	-
	50m Breastroke	20	10.43am	11.35am	1hr 45mins	1hr 8mins	3
	4 x 50 mixed Medley	3	12.30pm	12.41 pm	1 hour	11mins	-
	200m Backstroke	14	12.50 pm	2.06pm	1 hour	1hr 16mins	-
	4 x 50m Mens Freestyle	2	2.33pm	2.42pm	1 hour	9mins	-
	4 x 50m Womens Freestyle	2	2.42pm	2.53pm	1 hour	9mins	1
SATURDAY	200m Butterfly	6	8.33am	9.03am	30mins	30mins	1
	50 m Freestyle	31	9.07am	10.01am	1 hour	54mins	4
	200m Breastroke	15	10.02am	11.21am	1 hour	1hr 19mins	-
	100m Backstroke	14	11.21am	12.08 pm	1 hour	47mins	-
	50m Butterfly	19	12.09 pm	12.36pm	45mins	27mins	-
	4 x 50m Womens Medley		1.35pm	1.46pm	1 hour	11mins	-
	4 x 50m Mens Freestyle		1.51pm	2.04pm	1 hour	13mins	-