AUSSI MASTERS SWIMMING IN AUSTRALIA INC.



FOUNDED 1975

ANNUAL REPORT

1996

AUSSI MASTERS SWIMMING IN AUSTRALIA (INC) FOUNDED IN 1975

NATIONAL OFFICE P.O. BOX 207 MARLESTON S.A. 5033 Telephone (08) 8344 1217 Facsimile (08) 8344 1217

Office Bearers - 1996

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Glenys McDonald

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ivan Wingate

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Clyde McMillan

DIRECTOR OF COACHING

Kay Cox

BOARD MEMBERS

A.C.T. Jean Heath - Director of Planning
S.A. Darryl Hawkes - Director of Recording
QLD. Mary Sweeney - Director of Marketing
N.T. Ted Giblin - Director of Swim Meet Policy
VIC. Doug Tantau - Director of Communications
W.A. David Cummins - Director of Programmes
TAS. Pauline Samson - Director of Technical Development
N.S.W. Gary Stutsel - Director of Membership Development

AUDITOR Selwyn Sedger

LIFE MEMBERS
Gary Stutsel
Glenys McDonald
Peter Gillett

INDE

Page No.

President's Report	5
Executive Director's Report	8
Finance Report	12
Auditor's Report	12
Statement of Income and Expenditure	13
Balance Sheet	14
Coaching Report	15
Membership Development Report	19
Marketing Report	21
Programmes Report	22
Recording Report	22
National Swim Meet Policy Report	23
Technical Development Report	24
Planning Report	25
Communications	26
Queensland Branch Report	26
New South Wales Branch Report	28
Victorian Branch Report	30
Western Australian Branch Report	31
South Australian Branch Report	34
Tasmanian Branch Report	35
Northern Territory Branch Report	37
Australian Capital Territory Branch Report	39
National Trophy Winners	41

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I never cease to be amazed and thankful for the enormous amount of work done on behalf of AUSSI by so many people at all levels of our organisation. This is even more special, because the growing trend in our society is to prune commitment and instead look for the 'quick fix'. I thank each and every one of you and hope you all know that when you are burning the midnight oil on behalf of AUSSI, or the last to leave the pool at night, that your efforts are appreciated.

THE NATIONAL BOARD

The expertise needed to run AUSSI at a National level is by necessity increasing. As we now deal with complex insurance and risk management issues, set protocols for safety, medical and drug testing etc, and need to produce manuals, and guides, we need people on the board who have experience in such areas. We are very fortunate with our current Board, which includes senior management people who serve on the boards of other major companies or agencies. We have highly qualified University graduates working in areas of their expertise medical and coaching as two examples: and we have 'grass roots' AUSSI members of long standing, whose wealth of knowledge about where AUSSI has come from and where AUSSI is headed is invaluable.

The National Board met twice in 1996 and completed two very full agendas in two days on each occasion. The Management committee met twice in person, associated with the Board meetings, three times by teleconference, and kept in touch daily by phone or fax as important issues arose.



Glenys McDonald - National President

Other reports will highlight just what has been achieved for AUSSI in 1996. Innovative portfolios like Marketing, Membership Development, Technical and Coaching are going from strength to strength under the direction of their various Branch Board Directors. The other 'work horse' portfolios, in particular Recording and Programmes have reached all deadlines with quality results.

It is to AUSSI's credit that in the past eleven years we have trained and accredited 271 coaches, and in the last three years we have accredited 393 officials.

No word about our National Board would be complete without mention of the staff at our National office. Executive Director, Ivan Wingate has again provided AUSSI with quality service, and his assistant Sue Harris has become indispensable. Being in almost daily contact with the National Office I amaware of the workload generated from these two, and I thank them most sincerely on behalf of all of AUSSI.

MEETINGS

On behalf of AUSSI, I attended a number of other important meetings during the year. During the month of June I attended the World Masters Championships in Sheffield. This afforded an opportunity to meet with the President's and senior officials of other Masters Swimming countries. The meetings attended during this week were:

- Presidents' Forum Where a number of issues affecting Masters Swimmers were discussed, including the Pan Pacific Masters Championships. This meeting was attended by the United States, Canada, South Africa, Japan, New Zealand and Australia. The United States were represented at this meeting by their President, vice-President, Executive Director and their US representative on the FINA Masters Committee.
- FINA Masters Forum I attended this forum called by FINA and attended by certified delegates of some 15 countries. The meeting was also open to swimmers, who had no voice or vote. On behalf of Australia, I spoke on many issues of concern regarding the programme established for Sheffield.
- MSI Meeting A small meeting of remaining MSI affiliated countries: Japan, Australia, Germany and South Africa, with the United States, Canada and Austria as observers; devised a protocol for the winding up of MSI financial commitments, and the organisation itself. This was a sad end for an organisation which has contributed so much to Masters Swimmers worldwide.
- World Championship Report I provided a comprehensive report on the excellent conduct of the Sheffield Championships, and the problems arising from the Open Water Swim, which was videoed. The

Board directed certain action be taken as a result of these reports.

A visit to Canberra in September by myself and the Executive Director was timed to allow maximum opportunities for meetings with relevant organisations.

- · Australian Sports Commission Ivan and I met with ASC in Canberra in September, to assess the impact of the new funding guidelines on AUSSI and to put our case. We will be applying for certain participation grants via ASI in the future. The impact of the ASC new funding arrangements has been devastating for many sports. Some 29 funded sports lost their entire funding overnight in the September announcements, including their Executive Director and/or coaching salaries, overseas travel etc. Many others received severe cutbacks. Australian Swimming alone appeared to be the big winner with nearly \$4 million allocated. AUSSI does not receive any of this, but has managed in the past to fund our own activities on our member registrations, with the occasional ASC Masters participation grant. This will not change substantially, except that any such programme grants will come from the combined participation 'pool'.
- Confederation of Australian Sport AGM
- By scheduling our Canberra meeting with ASC, Ivan and I were able to attend the AGM of CAS. I must admit that many of the delegates were 'shell shocked' having just heard the evening before of their funding fate. I was impressed with the professionalism of the CAS Board and their understanding and appreciation of Masters sport. AUSSI however, does have concerns with the CAS Australian Masters Games, and this event's impact on AUSSI National Swims and members workloads.

 Australian Swimming - Ivan and I took the opportunity to have an informal lunchtime meeting with Mrs Vena Murray, Executive Director of Australian Swimming, which was of value and gave us an opportunity to discuss the new ASC funding guidelines.

WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

AUSSI had indicated to FINA that we were interested in bidding for the 2000 World Masters Championships. A contract, to be dually signed by AUSSI and the peak body Australian Swimming was forwarded. The signed contract, together with an application fee had to be with FINA by 31 December.

· On 29 October our Victorian Branch notified me that they were unable to proceed with a bid as they were unable to secure a Government underwriting guarantee for a bid from that State. Following on instructions from our September Board meeting, I then sought to negotiate with the W.A. Government. and re-established the comprehensive bid prepared by W.A. for the 1998 event. Paramount in my negotiations was that the event must be underwritten by the Government, administrative support must be budgeted to assist AUSSI and in particular AUSSI WA with this 4 year commitment, that the other disciplines must be financially recouped to the level of their involvement, and that ASI and AUSSI would not be financially liable for any shortfall of funds. A large percentage of the budget was required to cover the funding of FINA's commitment to this event. Guarantees were provided in writing on behalf of the Government, and the contract was signed by me on behalf of AUSSI and forwarded on 19 December to ASI for signing and forwarding to FINA. ASI agreed to forward the contract on 21

December on certain conditions, but later withdrew this offer and declined to forward the contract by the deadline. Subsequent negotiations have resolved all issues and the Contract has been accepted by FINA.

THE ROLE OF AUSSI WITHIN AUSTRALIAN AQUATIC SPORTS

This year, on 22 September, AUSSI celebrated a very special birthday - our 21st. This was hosted by our premier branch, New South Wales at a dinner where we celebrated with the launch of a new publication "21 Years of Records" and the awarding of some 102 special "21st Anniversary Service Pins".

I feel that our "coming-of-age" should allow some self congratulatory details. AUSSI has come a long way in those 21 years. We are now well advanced and respected as a National Sports Association within our own Aquatic sports, FINA, CAS, ASC, other Masters Sports, and on an International Masters level. We have conducted two Pan Pacific Masters Championships and a FINA World Masters Championships which attracted 3,800 competitors.

It was gratifying to read this month in a Masters newsletter from the Nederlands, a reference to AUSSI as the "Market leader in the worldwide Masters swimming". We have nearly 8,000 registered active swimmers in all States and Territories, and we have a 'Sport for Life' participation programme of swimming incentives second to none in the world. We are almost self sufficient in the swimming world with coaches and officials, and our swimmers have achieved to peak Masters level, gaining many FINA World Records and World Championship gold medals.

Our place in Australian Aquatic sport has

always been endorsed by our affiliation with Australian Swimming Incas a kindred association, and the body responsible for Masters Swimming in Australia. We are totally self funded, and receive no financial assistance from Australian Swimming.

Our place within FINA, the world governing body has always been as the affiliate of Australian Swimming, charged by them as the responsible body for Masters. FINA have established separate World Masters Championships, World Masters Records, World Masters Top Ten, and a special World Congress for Masters. FINA also has a separate Masters Technical Committee, to which our own Executive Director, Ivan Wingate, was recently appointed and received our warmest congratulations.

In every way, our autonomous position in Australian aquatics is similar to the associations of Diving, Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming, who all come under the peak organisation of Australian Swimming Inc. Whilst each group manages their own affairs independently, there are times when decisions need to come through the peak group. These are usually always concerning International When this issues. occurs. International Committee of ASI is called. and the disciplines may be heard and vote on issues affecting them. Unfortunately AUSSI does not have this privilege, and currently has no opportunity to be heard in any area of ASI. Therefore there is no format to appeal against a decision taken by the peak body not to forward a bid of an affiliate for that affiliates World Championship. This is not the case in the United States where that country's peak body 'US Aquatics' allows one vote per discipline, with US Masters exercising the vote on all matters dealing with Masters.

Whilst I accept that Australia is happy with Australian Swimming acting as the peak body, protocols must be set down to allow all affiliates a voice in their own destiny. Australian Swimming have called a meeting of their International Committee for early in the New Year, and AUSSI has been invited to attend and have a voice for that part of the meeting dealing with the World Championship bid. This is a welcomed invitation.

GLENYS MCDONALD PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A highlight for 1996 for many AUSSI Members was the VI World Masters Swimming Championships in Sheffield, England. 148 AUSSIs entered the Swim, which is the largest contingent to travel overseas yet. One impact on the National Office was in the issuance of Certificates of Membership which created a workload bottle-neck for a short time. All reported that the conduct of the pool swim was excellent, but a number of aspects in the management of the Open Water Swim were very poor. A total of 4555 competitors entered, making it the largest World Swim yet to be held, therefore medals harder to win. However, AUSSI swimmers achieved 136 medals and 8 World Records.

NATIONAL SWIM

The National Swim for 1996 was held in Canberra at the AIS pool. Being an Olympic year, the pool was claimed for the AIS squad training at times we had booked, so we had to split each day's events into morning and afternoon/ evening sessions. This was popular with some swimmers as the large breaks helped with their swimming performances, but was detrimental to the social activities. This is the second National Swim to be held in the AIS pool and the second time we have been pushed around to accept blocks of times other than that we had booked. I think it unlikely that we would consider the AIS pool again under such circumstances.

Only 367 swimmers entered, which is the lowest for many years. It was the second National Swim to be held over Easter, so the benefits and disadvantages of an Easter Meet are being carefully reviewed.

BOARD MEETINGS

The first Board Meeting was held in Canberra on the weekend, four days prior to the National Swim. This resulted in only very few Board Members staying on for the Swim. The same situation is likely to occur for the next Nationals in Sydney, so with this, higher costs in travel and accommodation, Easter is now thought to be not a suitable time to hold an AUSSI National Swim.

The second Board Meeting was in Sydney in September, to coincide with AUSSI's 21st Birthday celebrations.

Two new faces joined the Board: Mary Sweeney for Queensland and Darryl Hawkes for South Australia. In addition we were pleased to welcome hardworking Branch officers as stand-in delegates from time to time: Bill Stevens, Jodi-Ann Beard, Tanya Colyer and Brian Hird. Guests at the Sydney meeting included: Steve Lamy, Ian McCallum, Helen Rubin and Peg Wilson.



Ivan Wingate - Executive Director

INSURANCE

A matter addressed by the Board at most meetings, is liability insurance. Large variations in premiums compared with extent of cover have been identified over the years, particularly with respect to Directors and Officers liability and professional indemnity for Coaches and Officials. Late in the year, the Management Committee agreed to a proposal put to AUSSI by insurance brokers Lowe Lippmann Bott Pty Ltd, for a package to cover all matters of concern. with extended cover in most cases. Whilst the premium is higher, the Management Committee assessed the investment to be responsible and of significant benefit to all Members of AUSSI.

NEW INITIATIVES

In keeping with the Board's recognition of its duties to be responsible to the Membership, a number of new initiatives are being implemented and/or planned. A new four year Strategic Plan is almost complete, an expanded Safety Policy has been completed, a draft National Swim contract was presented at the last Board Meeting, the National Swim Meet

guide is being updated, a draft guide on how to conduct a Swim Meet at a Masters Games (based on extensive experience, not all of it good) aimed at achieving a win/win situated for the future, will be presented at the next Board Meeting, a Risk Management policy is in its formative stage and considerable quality work is being put into documentation for Club development and to Marketing at all levels. With such important work being done by dedicated volunteers with considerable expertise, it seems such a waste to see non-constructive written criticism from time to time, usually not properly researched, therefore inaccurate, which is totally counterproductive and not befitting of our Organisation. The only comfort is to acknowledge that it is not unique to our sport.

"MASTERING SWIMMING"

The highly successful book "Mastering Swimming", edited by Anita Killmier and made up of voluntary contributions by numerous AUSSI swimmers, was revised and reprinted. Orders still come in from overseas and it is now used as a text book for other swimming organisations' courses as well as for our own Levels 1M and 2M coaching accreditation courses.

21ST ANNIVERSARY

The most significant matter in 1996 was the activities to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the formation of AUSSI. The Australian Union of Senior Swimmers International was established in Sydney on 22 September 1975. All Branches held functions in the way of dinners, carnivals and some produced Branch history books, commemoration key rings etc. to celebrate the event and a dinner was held at North Ryde, NSW on 21

September 1996, at which all Branches were represented. At that dinner, 102 AUSSIs were named to receive a special Anniversary Award pin to recognise their outstanding contribution to AUSSI. 28 pins were presented on the night to those present.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Only three teleconference meetings of the Management Committee were held throughout the year, whereas communication was almost daily either by fax of phone. There have been numerous matters of great significance to AUSSI dealt with throughout the year which could not have waited for a meeting. I cannot speak too highly of the professionalism and dedication Glenys, Kay and Clyde freely give to your Organisation and it is pleasing to me to see that they are all willing to continue on for the next two years. I sincerely thank all three for their support, cooperation and help to make my job more productive.

I also publicly thank Sue Harris for her role in the National Office. As I type this report in Sue's absence, answering the phone and not knowing the answers to many questions asked, it gives me a much better appreciation of her contribution to AUSSI and how she helps me perform my duties better.

We thank again, the Adelaide Aquatic Centre for the provision of the Office facility at no cost to AUSSI.

VALE

Finally, I want to pay tribute to someone special who passed away two months ago. Sydney B Grange OA OBE, was Secretary to the Amateur Swimming Union of Australia when I first met him at his home in Manly in the late 60s. His welcome was warm and whilst I didn't get

to know him well, his encouragement from time to time, became an inspiration to me in the following years as I became more involved in swimming administration. Syd in his career in sports administration went on to such heights as Vice President of FINA for 16 years and President of the Australian Olympic Committee. He was elected as an Honorary Member of FINA and the first Life President of the Australian Olympic committee for his long term service to those organisations. I met him again in Perth in 1991 at the World Swim and was guite chuffed that he remembered me.

Syd was a keen adult swimmer himself and it was through him, that the ASU officially recognised and validated AUSSI in 1977. Our friend has passed on.

IVAN WINGATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mary Horton, Tony Stanton, Bob Feldman, Bonny Smith Albany 280+ Mixed Medley

ON THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1996

The bottom line for the year ended 31 December, 1996 was a surplus of some \$19,000. This result must be considered in the context of the past registration "year" having been 15 months, whilst the financial year was 12 months. Taking account of this variance, approximately \$14,000 of registration fees for the fourth quarter of 1995 were paid to AUSSI in calendar year 1996. Therefore, if this amount is backed out of the 1996 result, we are left with a modest surplus of around \$5,000, which is a reasonable outcome for AUSSI.

Last year's bank credit was significantly higher than that for 1996. Again, this was due to the influx of registrations paid in the October quarter of 1995, and accrued as income for the financial year 1996.

Our spending for the year was the same as last year, which, in real terms represents a decrease in spending. During the year we paid for a republication of "Mastering Swimming" so our assets include this significant stock of books to be sold. We also acquired additional capital equipment during the year, increasing these assets by about \$4,500. Our World Swim 1988 investments have fallen slightly (\$4,000), but these funds will be topped up again once the books are sold.

From 1997 onwards, the registration and financial years coincide, so unusual situations such as those described above should be minimised. Overall, I would say AUSSI is in a healthy financial position and 1997 should be as financially successful as 1996.

CLYDE MCMILLAN DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSSI MASTERS SWIMMING IN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

I have audited the attached Financial Statements in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. It was not practicable for me to establish control over memberships and sales prior to their entry in the accounting records, nor was it practicable for me to circularise members to confirm that all subscriptions have been received and recorded. My audit relating to these transactions was therefore limited to the amounts recorded in the books of account.

Subject to the above, in my opinion the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Incorporated at 31st December, 1996 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, and are in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (As Amended).

Yours faithfully,

SELWYN O. SEDGER - CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

AUSSI MASTERS SWIMMING IN AUSTRALIA (INC.) STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1995

INCOME

1995		1996
\$ 1,290	Branch Affiliations	\$ 1,110
68,992	Members' Registrations	136,177
9,516	Interest Received	10,425
10,078	Swim Meets	2,319
1,271	Coaching Accreditation Fees	1,100
2,625	Profit on Stock Sales	657
224	Foreign Exchange Gain	NIL
105	Sundry Other	NIL
\$ 94,101		\$151,788
	EXPENDITURE	
\$ 415	Audit Fees	\$ 750
50,560	National Executive Director's Fees	52,478
15,883	Printing and Stationery	11,707
7,929	Postage	4,153
6,923	Telephone	6,260
18,928	AUSSI Conferences and Meetings	21,039
1,040	FINA/MSI Conferences and Meetings	6,146
1,781	Coaching and Technical Expenses	2,352
540	Planning and Development Expenses	NIL
1,278	Recording and Programmes Expenses	280
410	Computer Committee Expenses	NIL
2,167	Affiliations and Subscriptions	758
16,820	Insurances	21,057
310	Bank Charges and Interest	320
3,537	Sundry Repairs & Administration Expenses	2,819
3,586	Depreciation & Write-Offs	2,637
132,107		132,756
(38,006)	Surplus/(Deficit)	19,032

AUSSI MASTERS SWIMMING IN AUSTRALIA (INC.) BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1996

ASSETS

1995		1996
\$ 2,600 64,812 147,966 50 1,650 7,001 NIL \$224,079	CURRENT Cash Floats Bank Credit 1988 World Swim Investments Prepayments Sundry Debtors Stock on Hand Shares - Esso Employees Credit Union	\$ 5,100 3,828 143,531 1,226 780 24,126 10 \$178,601
\$ 1,034 7,088 8,122 \$232,201	FIXED Trophies and Cases Plant and Equipment TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,034 11,551 12,585 \$191,186
	LIABILITIES	
\$ 60,497 \$ 60,497	Affiliations & Registrations TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 450 \$ 450
	MEMBERS ACCUMULATIONS	
\$209,710 (38,006)	Balance 1/1/1996 Add: Surplus/(Deficit)	\$171,704 19,032
171,704 \$232,201	TOTAL	190,736 \$191,186



Celebrating Cronulla Sutherland's Womens 280+ World Record Relay Swim Left to Right: Carol Dawson, Helen Evans, Keith Bethe & Betty Stern (both obscured) Anita Saviane, Janne Robertson

COACHING

The focus for 1996 has been on encouraging Level 1M and Level 2M courses in the branches and the promotion of coaching updating. The highlight of the year was AUSSI's participation in the Australian Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA) Annual Conference with a Masters stream of lectures including the Level 1MS course.

COACHING ACCREDITATION

In the last 11 years AUSSI has trained a total of 271 coaches, 258 Level 1M and 13 Level 2M coaches (Australian Coaching Council's (ACC) latest figures in December 1996). The total number of currently accredited coaches is 191 as 80 coaches have failed to update. We have accredited 30 coaches in the past 12 months. As courses can take 12 months to 2 years to complete keeping track of the records is somewhat difficult. Our growth rate of training from 1995-1996 was an increase of 18%. In 1996, there were 3 Level 1M (& 1MS) courses conducted (NSW, Qld and SA) bringing



Kay Cox - National Director of Coaching

the total to 35 over the past 11 years. There were 2 Level 2M courses conducted, one in Qld (in conjunction with National) and one in WA taking the total of Level 2M courses to 4. It was very pleasing to note that SA and NSW have been very active in coach education in 1996 after a break. Queensland and WA continue to run courses on a regular basis. The Level 1MS course run in conjunction with the ASCA conference was a joint effort between Qld and

National. The course was organized and conducted by Qld led by Chris Parsons and Rod Porteous and assisted by the National Coaching Director. There was also input from several other AUSSI coaches with presentations from Chris Parsons, Rod Porteous, Rhonda Anderson, Peter Reaburn (Qld), John Ornsby (Vic) and Kay Cox (W.A. and National). The course overall had about 54 who attended various sessions and 12 who completed the formal course. This was a very successful venture and an excellent opportunity to present our course to the wider community. We have been invited to participate in the next ASCA conference in late April early May 1997 on the Gold Coast. This programme gives coaches from all Branches the opportunity to participate and should be promoted particularly in Branches that may not have the resources to conduct their own courses. In 1997 I will be compiling a timetable of courses being conducted Nationally so that coaches can take the opportunity to go interstate to participate if their own Branch is not offering a course.

I have just received notification that both level 1M and 2M are due to be reviewed by ACC by January 1998. Thus we have a busy year ahead to review and rewrite both courses and hence the proposed Branch Coaching Directors Conference in 1997 will be a very important one.

RE-ACCREDITATION

This year was the first year of activity for coaching updating. Approximately 17 (18%) coaches have updated with 80 still to update. Our record is better than reports from the ACC where the average over all sports in Australia was 8.5%. A further 14 coaches are due for updating by the end of May 1997. Branch Coaching Directors

need to be aware that they should plan activities throughout the year to allow updating points to be scored. I have reviewed the updating procedure and rewritten the guidelines and log record form. This was to be given out in late 1996 but after discussion with the ACC I have some further additions to make once approved by the Coaching Panel. This policy should be available in January 1997.

	Current	Expired	Trained	% Lost
ACT	5	2	7	29
NSW	37	0	37	0
VIC	41	11	52	21
TAS	10	2	12	17
SA	8	4	12	33
WA	54	37	91	41
NT	3	0	3	0
QLD	3	24	57	42
TOTAL	191	80	271	30

Table 1. Number of coaches currently accredited, the number of expired accreditations, the total coaches trained over 11 years (at December 1996) and the % lost due to failure to update.

CONFERENCES

I have attended 2 conferences this year in my role as National Coaching Director, the ASCA conference in May and the National Coaching and Officiating Conference in Brisbane in November. Both were excellent in terms of swimming coaching, exercise science and practice and officiating. These are two conferences to be recommended to AUSSI coaches and in particular Coaching Directors.

MEETINGS

This year I have met with Ralph Richards from Australian Swimming to discuss coaching courses and resources. I discussed the recognition of prior learning of coaches who had done the Level 1M and wanting to do the Level 1 course

offered by ASI. He put a proposal to the ASI Accreditation Committee Meeting and they have resolved that AUSSI Level 1M coaches will still need to do all the Level 1 theory component of the course but only 20 hours of practical coaching under a tutor coach instead of the usual 60 hours of practical work. Coaches will also need to pay a registration fee and join ASCA. This is a significant change to the requirements and an excellent opportunity for AUSSI coaches to attain dual accreditation. We will be pursuing further discussion re courses in 1997. We have also discussed updating requirements and it has been agreed that points gained for AUSSI updating can also be used for ASI updating and vice versa.

I also met with Nicole den Duyn of ACC to discuss the issue of updating. Several suggestions were made and these will be considered for our course review and in the implementation of our updating policy.

COACH OF THE YEAR

The 'Coach of the Year Award' honours a coach of exceptional standing in AUSSI in any one year. Four nominations were received for Coach of the Year, 2 from W.A., 1 from Victoria and one from South Australia. The Coaching Panel consisting of Peter Reaburn, Anita Killmier, Trish Beveridge and Kay Cox had the task of selecting the winner. Susette Pow from the Osborne Park club in WA was the winner for 1995. This was announced at our National Swim and the 1996 Australian Coaches Association Dinner in May. This year the award went to a dedicated coach who has given a lot at her own club level and participated in Branch activities but was not necessarily a high profile coach at National level. This should be motivation to all Branches to nominate coaches from their own Branch who they believe are worthy of recognition.

COACHING PANEL

The National Coaching Panel in 1996 included Anita Killmier (Vic), Trish Beveridge (TAS), Peter Reaburn (Qld) and myself. This subcommittee deals with coaching issues of National concern, in particular, the review content, conditions of the coaching courses, updating and the judging of the 'Coach of the Year Award'. I would like to thank all members for their support and contributions throughout the year as it certainly makes my role easier to know I have access to such a wealth of knowledge and experience in AUSSI Masters swimming to draw upon.

NEWSLETTER AND RESOURCES

The National Resource Centre has been moved to the AUSSI National Office and enquiries can be made re the borrowing of videos and other resources.

Anita Killmier continues to edit and produce the Coaching Newsletter. This is a very valuable resource to both coaches and swimmers. Sincere thanks to Anita for continuing to do such a professional job on AUSSI's behalf. Branches, clubs and swimmers are encouraged to promote and subscribe to the newsletter as this can also only exist on your support and subscriptions.

NATIONAL COACHING SURVEY

In 1995 a survey was conducted of all AUSSI clubs in Australia to evaluate the number of qualified coaches and coaching practices being followed on a National basis.

I am still collecting data for the Coaching Survey started last year. Questionnaires were sent out to 185 clubs in August 1995 and 71 were returned. A further 114 were sent out in July 1996 and after 61 were returned a further 58 were sent out in August. To date 159 (86%) have been returned, 19 were returned with club identification. I have had 3 attempts to analyse the data but the responses are still coming in. This will close on December 31st and the results will be processed shortly after. The response from clubs has been excellent, thanks to clubs who have returned this questionnaire.

CHANGES IN BRANCH COACHING DIRECTORS

During this year 3 Branches (NT, S.A., Tas) have elected new Coaching Directors. My thanks to outgoing Directors, Louise Johns (NT), Elly Fleig (S.A.) and Megan Stronach (Tas) for their assistance over the past years. Welcome to Jacinta Stirrat (NT), Janet Malone (S.A.) and Pam Gray from Tasmania.

CONCLUSION

Once again the year has been one of consolidation with the introduction of some new initiatives. My thanks to all Coaching Directors and Course Coordinators who I have worked with this year. I would also like to thank I van for all his administrative assistance and Carrol Wannell for typing assistance, the Management Committee for their ongoing support. I have greatly valued the contribution of the Coaching panel and all coaches in the Branches who work to deliver quality coaching to our members. I look forward to working with everyone in 1997.

KAY COX NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF COACHING



Keith Bower & Lesley Meaney (Claremont) Fun Relay at the WA Winter Titles



Di Coxon-Ellis of Hills AUSSI receiving the "Gary Stutsel Award" from Stephen Lamy NSW Branch President The Gary Stutsel Award is for the greatest contribution to the advancement of AUSSI in NSW.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

As stated in my 1995 Annual Report, strong and stable clubs are the most vital link in Membership Development. It is the clubs which deliver the programs which make membership desirable.

Because of this, the Branches have embarked on a program of determining the factors which help make clubs strong and therefore stable. While there are currently 190 AUSSI clubs some 60 odd have disappeared over the years.

The factors which strengthen clubs identified to date are:

- having a plan for the future of the club
- sound administration
- number of members, it appears at least 30 are needed
- availability of adequate pool facilities
- structured, empathetic coaching programs
- a supportive, encouraging atmosphere
- an active social program
- strong communication including a club newsletter
- a recruiting program involving all members

The Branches and our National Body provide the structure which enables the exchange of ideas and new programs and the opportunities for:

- Recognition and accreditation of swimmers, coaches and officials
- Travel between clubs, Branches, and other countries

 Protection through the Safety Policy and Insurances at affordable rates.

Membership will indeed have its privileges as long as all three levels of AUSSI work together to enhance each others efforts and above all else share our knowledge and experiences.

This will increase in 1997 when the National body will produce and distribute



Gary Stutsel -Director of Membership Development

to clubs the new AUSSI Club Operating Manual which is being adapted from the VIP Club Manual. This will contain much relevant information on Planning, Managing, Promoting and developing your AUSSI club. If clubs follow the suggestions they will become stronger and more stable and be able to offer more to you, their members.

Lastly I wish to draw your attention to the equality of the numbers of males/females in the following membership tables. AUSSI is and has always been a leader in the field of equality of membership regardless of sex, however there is more that clubs can do. Strong clubs will be able to provide mid-week daytime sessions and to arrange for childcare

facilities where they are needed.

GARY STUTSEL

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

DEVELOPMENT

Gender Distribution for 1996:

Branch	Male	Female	Total	Clubs
QLD	988	1153	2141	53
WSM	897	788	1685	44
VIC	747	690	1437	43
WA	656	762	1418	30
SA	338	278	616	9
TAS	166	202	368	6
NT	66	76	142	3
ACT	41	54	97	2
Totals	3901	4003	7904	190



Start 2km AUSSI OWS Leighton Beach - W.A.

Registrations for the past five years are as follows:-

Totals	6721	6929	7336	7534	7904
ACT	91	85	86	89	97
NT	127	179	144	115	142
TAS	319	350	331	365	368
SA	624	610	665	656	616
WA	1377	1351	1367	1377	1418
VIC	1187	1215	1326	1400	1437
NSW	1281	1434	1486	1600	1685
QLD	1715	1705	1931	1932	2141
Branch	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996



Bridget Young - Somerset AUSSI WA State Swim

MARKETING

As with most new positions and new delegates there are sure to be a few hiccups and this last year was no exception; however, we believe we are now on the right track towards the marketing of AUSSI.

To assist the clubs with their own specific marketing of AUSSI, Queensland Branch



Mary Sweeney Director of Marketing

has purchased a Spyder Display System (you will often see them at shopping centres with photographic material and brochures depicting a particular target audience). Queensland Branch Administrator David Speechley will have the onerous task of dispatching it to the clubs and keeping track of its whereabouts. We believe this display with its photographs should stimulate immediate interest with the public.

After a trial period in Queensland we will send a report on the results from clubs using the display. Other branches might then consider the purchase of this marketing tool for the use of their members.

The 30 second video for use in television commercials has been upgraded for most states. We're still waiting for logos from ACT and Northern Territory. The longer 5 minute video for shopping centre

promotions is to be re-shot on February 16 at Toowoomba.

Our goals are to have the television commercial ready for distribution and a draft copy of the 5 minute video available for the March National meeting.

At our November face to face meeting we spent several hours on the marketing of AUSSI. Items for consideration included:

What can we offer a sponsor?
Who is appropriate? Who is not?
What benefits are there for the sponsor?
The implications of gaining sponsorship.
Potential Problems?
Sponsorship documentation.

Because we need to produce a professional proposal to take to sponsors, David Speechley and myself (armed with the answers to the above) are holding a meeting with an Advertising Agency in Brisbane on January 3.

Our goal is to have a draft copy of the sponsorship proposal available for the March National meeting.

The Media. On discussion with various clubs we have found that in country areas, gaining media attention is not a problem. Most clubs have members who are friendly with someone at a TV or radio station or the local newspaper. The cities are a different matter. The biggest problem to overcome is that the city media are only interested in headline grabbing news stories.

My background includes ten years in newspapers and with my contacts from there it is my intention to discuss this with both the Courier-Mail and Channel Seven while in Brisbane for our meeting with the Advertising Agency. We have to find out if this is a problem we can overcome.

I shall report on this for the March National

meeting.

Congratulations to everyone for a well run 1996 and may we continue to expand in 1997.

SUE FRASER COORDINATOR MARKETING



Sue Fraser Coordinator Marketing

PROGRAMMES



David Cummins -Director of Programmes

1996 NATIONAL AEROBIC TROPHY

1996 saw a total of 75 clubs compete with 29 men completing all swims (18 scoring maximum points) and 43 women completing all swims (29 scoring maximum points). Congratulations to Toowoomba who won the trophy for the 4th consecutive occasion.

In an endeavour to gain greater participation, extra result books were sent to all Branches to allow them to send copies to all their non-competing clubs. The outcome of this decision will only be realised when the 1996 results come in early in 1997. With the change to the registration season, the Tassie Award was suspended for 1995 only.

Postal Swim approval continues and the updating of the calendar of events enable quick and easy reference thus ensuring all National Postal Swims do not conflict in format or date.

DAVID CUMMINS
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES

RECORDING

There is no doubt as the membership increases, so does the talent, with the result that records are being broken at an ever increasing rate. Greater numbers participating in competition also result in an ever increasing work load for the Branch recorders. Recording by its very nature now requires the use of computers and software to keep abreast of this increasing work load. To this end a considerable amount of time has been spent this year on upgrading software for use by Club, Branch and National recorders.

Following promotion and assistance to Branches it is with great expectations that they will promote the use by clubs of the available AUSSI software: registrations, swim meets, top ten, record transfer and records recording. Each club participating will reduce the work load of branch registrars and Branch recorders.

Top Ten competition software and Branch recorders will be put to the test again this year. Only four weeks are available to



Darryl Hawkes - National Recorder

submit times for the National Top Ten and then three weeks to prepare the FINA Top Ten submission. No doubt with the usual dedication and co-operation by the Branch recorders all will be well. The 21st anniversary gave me the opportunity to publicize the names of the many swimmers who have achieved national record times with the production of the History of National Records booklet. Those that have not obtained a copy yet may do so as a few copies are still available. To give recognition to our national record breakers achievements are now listed in the bimonthly newsletter.

Fortunately all historical records are now in the computer database reducing my work load considerably although a few talented swimmers have other ideas. To date 298 national record certificates have been issued for the year of 1996.

It would be remiss not to mention our individual world record breakers:

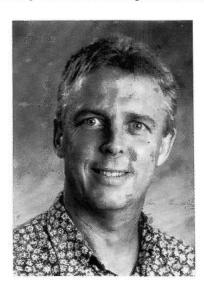
Del Rowley 90-94yrs Inglewood 2 records Margaret Cunningham 70-74 yrs Whitsunday 4 records Judith Drake-Brockman 75-79yrs
Claremont 6 records
Bob Barry 65-69yrs
Leisure Coast 7 records
Pam Hutchings 60-64 yrs
Ettalong Pelicans 10 records

Finally thanks to all the branch top ten and record recorders for having made the task as easy as possible and a delight to perform.

DARRYL HAWKES NATIONAL RECORDER

NATIONAL SWIM MEET POLICY

Swim Meet Liaison this year has been excellent, with NSW Branch regularly informing this Director and the National Executive of their progress in the lead-up to Nationals '97 at Homebush in Sydney. Similarly Tasmania has begun notification



Ted Giblin -Director for Swim Meet Policy

of their preparations for 1998. When the new Swim Meet Guide is produced, guidelines for this liaison requirement will be set, and used for the first time by the Northern Territory for the National Swim in Darwin in 1999. I note that Queensland has already begun lobbying within their state for their National Swim in the year 2000.

As the re-write of the Swim Meet Guide nears completion, we hope it will be a useful document to future organisers of National Swims, and lends itself to easy revision when required. It should provide a useful check-list and guide for organisers of any swim meet.

The AUSSI Safety Policy had its final revision before printing - at our last Board Meeting, and should be available as a resource to our swimmers and administrators soon. It is also at the forefront of Masters - and indeed all ages - organisations, as an example of what can be done within a sports organisation. No doubt it will be used as the basis of their own policy document by many other organisations. Thank you to Bill Stewart, Pauline Samson and Frank Meumann.

The Medical Sub-Committee was formed at the Annual Scientific Meeting of Sports Medicine Australia in October 1996. Acting as Sports Medicine advisers will be Drs. Geoff Thompson, Terry Farquharson, Ken Maguire, Ken Chrichton and Peter Baquie, with coopted members in various medical fields including Drs. Kay Cox, Peter Reaburn, Greg Winters and others. In addition, we have our own swimmers providing medical coverage at swim meets, Drs. Frank Meumann, David Pullen and Russell Spinks.

TED GIBLIN
DIRECTOR FOR SWIM MEET POLICY

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

This year, 1996 has been a relatively quiet year after the great amount of activity in 1994 and 1995. As the Technical Courses have been in place now for 21/2 years it is time to revisit the courses and review as a requirement of being part of the National Officiating Program. Another task for 1997 will also be a Referees Manual as a 'how to guide' to implement the Rules of AUSSI Masters Swimming.

During 1996 I established a register of candidates in officials courses and as each of these courses are completed, I am able to keep track of all accredited officials. Included is a list of Branches with numbers of known accredited officials. Some of the numbers are deceiving as these numbers only refer to those accredited since 1994.



Pauline Samson -Director of Technical Development

	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA	NT	ACT	WA
Timekeepers	74	27	29	43	6	-	9	47
Marshals	42	1	5	1	3	-	3	14
Check Starters	33	1	3	1	2	-	-	9.
Starters	28	7	3	1	1	-	-	5
Referees	3	4	2	3	2	-	· •	4

There is still a gentle flow of accreditations coming through in particular from Vic, NSW and Qld, indicating that independence in running swim meets is quickly becoming a reality. It would be gratifying if all those candidates who have successfully completed workshops and exams completed the practical work required for accreditation.

As the Technical Courses were approved by NOAS in 1995 and our organisation was inducted into the scheme and had an Official of the Year, AUSSI was again invited to participate in the 2nd Official of the Year Awards in Brisbane. A number of nominations were received from Branches including, Alan Davis (Vic), Darryl Hawkes (SA), Sue Johnstone (NSW), Kay Cox (WA), Robin Sweeney (Qld) and each of the nominations were judged according to a set of criteria by the National Technical Committee. Kay Cox was chosen to accept the Official of the Year Award, 1996 on behalf of AUSSI Masters Swimming.

It was also pleasing to grant a Referee accreditation to Robin Sweeney (Qld), a home grown variety of Referee that AUSSI is looking forward to cultivating.

So 1996 has been a year to consolidate and reflect on courses and constantly monitoring the Rules so that all our members can participate fairly and enjoy swimming and officiating.

PAULINE SAMSON DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING

In 1996 the Strategic Plan for AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia 1996-98 was completed and accepted by the Management Committee and the National Board.

It was agreed at the September Meeting of the Board that further work on the plan is required if it is to be a satisfactory Planning document that can be used when seeking funding from the Australian Sports Commission.

Portfolio Directors were asked to prepare forward plans for a further two years to extend the Strategic Plan to five years and to review achievements for 1996 so that a report could be made to the March Board meeting on whether planning goals for 1996 had been achieved.

Several Directors have yet to respond to this request.

JEAN HEATH DIRECTOR OF PLANNING



Jean Heath - Director of Planning

COMMUNICATIONS

I would like to thank everybody who has contributed articles, comments, and other items for the Newsletter. It is very pleasing to have someone send you information about someone else's achievements for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Ivan and Sue once again have helped considerably in the production, photocopying and distribution of the Newsletter. My spouse, Pauline has spent many hours typing, when my 2 fingers have gone out on stress. One of the most pleasing things though, is all the positive comments we receive throughout the year about the Newsletter. After all it is a Newsletter for everyone, and everyone has the opportunity to contribute.



Doug Tantau -Director of Communications

As I have said before it would be nice if everyone could receive a personal copy of the Newsletter, but until we have a major sponsor or a donation to cover the cost, the cost on the organisation would be too prohibitive, and that would mean the money would have to come from the members.

Thank you to the Victorian Branch for all the support that I have received as their National Delegate, and to Jodie-Anne for her input.

DOUG TANTAU
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP

It has been a year of growth in 1996. Membership rose to an all time high of 2141 while the number of clubs to affiliate grew from 48 to 53. Queensland is administered in three regions, and the major growth was in the southern region. Next year, following the lead by NSW Branch, we are going to adapt the 'presidents meeting' concept to hold major meetings in each region to discuss issues of membership development.

(Thank you Mary Sweeney - Registrar Judith Clarke - VP North Russell Ogden - VP Central Margie Barrett - VP South)

CARNIVALS

With the ever-growing number of clubs, the desire to conduct carnivals has risen accordingly. We have needed to formalise the process of sanctioning carnivals to be fair to all clubs and competitors.

Our major event, the State Titles and Club Championships, was conducted in Bundaberg in March. The local club, although a fairly small one, did a fine job. The Branch encourages clubs outside of the south-east corner of the state to conduct the titles in alternate years.

Our Branch was also heavily involved in the swim section of the Queensland Masters Games held on the Gold Coast in October. The organising team deserves warm congratulations.

(Thanks Nancy Richards - Recorder)

MARKETING

Some headway has been made in this area during recent times. We have laid down plans for a set of National guidelines on sponsorship. We hope these will be available later in 1997. The 30 second video for television promotion has been



Jackie Walkington -Queensland Branch President

updated and will be available to all Branches early in the new year. Also a new 5 minute shopping centre promotional video is being produced in February. Copies of this will be available through all Branches shortly after.

(Thank you Sue Fraser - Nat. Portfolio Officer)

DEVELOPMENT

The commitment of our technical personnel was evident this year as they continued to service our vast state. A new initiative was a Branch Coaching Newsletter which was started to help in the professional development of coaches

as well as a vehicle for the sharing of ideas. On the drawing board at present is a plan to add a second tier of technical expertise at a regional level. This should allow closer liaison and the opportunity for increased involvement in training and maintaining technical qualifications.

(Thanks Rod Porteous and Chris Parsons - Coaching Directors, Robin Sweeney - Technical Officer and David Ryan - computer Liaison Officer)

AEROBICS

Our Branch again has demonstrated its willingness to participate in the aerobics program. Many of the clubs structure aerobics into their club programs as a regular session. Congratulations to Toowoomba Club which won the National Trophy for a fourth year. It is also pleasing to see the number of members now achieving their distance awards, with quite a few having made it past 3 million metres.

(Thank you Peter Forster [retired] and Rob Lucas - Aerobic Recorders)

ADMINISTRATION

We have now had a year of occupation in our office at the Valley Pool. In February, David and all our chattels move to Sports House, a long awaited facility built by the government to house organisations such as ours.

As well as week by week chores, we have managed to update guidelines and generally look towards ways of streamlining our administration. With an ever-growing membership and an undoubted future decrease in funding, we are kept on our toes. However, with the members as our number one focus, we look optimistically to 1997.

(Thank you John Garde - Treasurer)

(Jennie Mack - Publicity Peter Emery [retired] and Trish Robinson - Minutes David Speechley - Administrator)

JACKIE WALKINGTON PRESIDENT



L to R: Carol Dawson, Valda Patterson and Diann Hood All of Cronulla - Sutherland AUSSI at the NSW Short Course Championships



AUSSI's Historian Peg Wilson receiving her 21st Anniversary Award pin from NSW Branch President Stephen Lamy.

NSW BRANCH

1. MEMBERSHIP

The membership for the 15 months period ending on December 31 reached 1685, a figure we may have difficulty reaching next year because that period included two "starts of season". There were 897 men and 788 women, with the largest age groups being 35-39, 40-44 and 45-49.

Many of our big clubs have recorded an increase in membership, with over two thirds of members being in the 13 largest clubs. New clubs have formed at Hawkesbury (Windsor), Port Macquarie and Katoomba, while Knox, Smithfield Bathurst have disbanded. Wollongong Masters merged with Leisure Coast and Central Coast Vikings merged with Ettalong. Another new club. Sandbern/Aquadot will register its first members from January 1. We also held a promotional carnival at Narooma to try to restart that club.

Gary Stutsel held a meeting late in the year for the presidents of the largest clubs, from which he gained many pointers on what makes them successful. From this he aims to produced guidelines for all clubs, especially smaller and new ones, to help them grow.

2. MAJOR CARNIVALS

The State Championships were held again at the Sydney International Aquatic Centre - we persevered with the venue because we will be running the National Championships there in 1997. However, there were fewer entries than in 1995. Manly won the meet narrowly from Warringah, but Warringah turned the tables at the Short Course Championships in October at Forster.

Our Open Water Championships at Manly Dam attracted far more entries than previously and gave us valuable experience in running such an event at the venue planned for the National Open Water Championship in 1997.

3. OTHER CARNIVALS

There were 20 interclub carnivals during 1996 including two long distance ones and our members also participated in the Nationals and a long distance meet in Canberra. There is a trend for the carnivals at popular venues to attract large numbers, while others have falling numbers. Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie cancelled due to insufficient entries and Grafton was a very small meet. The results of the Pelican Pointscore for interclub carnivals has not yet been released.



Beryl Stenhouse - Secretary

4. RECORDING, TOP TEN AND AEROBICS

Brett Larkin has continued to fill the role of computer recorder and attended most carnivals. Both Top Tens (carnival results and the one including club swims) were forwarded to the National Recorder on

disk. Brett provides on request to members, listings of all records for their age group, and also listings of a swimmer's best times for the season many clubs are using this service.

Helen Rubin, our Aerobic Recorder, produced a very professional looking Aerobic Pointscore Result Book, the result of countless hours of data entry. Brett Larkin has now written a program for recording the Aerobic results and Helen is testing it. She will use it for data entry for the 1996 results and then it will be issued to interested clubs. As well as producing results and reducing Helen's workload, it will enable times from aerobic swims to be transferred directly into the Top Ten.

5. SWIMATHON

Due to the efforts of our Vice President, lan McCallum, we had sponsorship and advertising at our State Championships. This was used to subsidise the entry fees of country members. Our major sponsor was Tooheys, this sponsorship being due to Coogee Randwick member Chuck Hahn. We had a Happy Hour after the State Championships, with the beer donated by Tooheys.

Our President, Stephen Lamy, has negotiated a sponsorship of \$10,000 from AMP for the 1997 National Championships.

The NSW Government has again given us a grant of \$4,000, not indexed now for 13 years.

7. NEWSLETTER

The new editor of "Splash" is Carol Dawson and there were two issues during 1996. We are aiming for regular quarterly issues during 1997.

In closing, I would like to thank all

members of the NSW Management Committee for their support during the year, especially Stephen Lamy. I would also like to congratulate our former Treasurer, George McGilvray, on his achievements during the past ten years in the position. I would also like to thank Ivan Wingate for his prompt attention to all matters communicated to him during the year.

BERYL STENHOUSE SECRETARY

VICTORIAN BRANCH

The Victorian Branch has had a busy and successful year.

MEMBERSHIP

Victorian membership increased slightly to reach 1437 members. We saw the formation of six new clubs throughout the year - Bass Coast, Balranald, Kingfish, Fitzroy, Richmond and Kingston, making a total of 44 clubs in Victoria. Sharing concerns expressed by other states, a membership survey was conducted to ascertain why some members do not reregister with AUSSI. Work, family commitments and geographical relocation emerged as the major reasons why this occurs.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

With an increasing workload being required to manage the State, the Administrative Officer's hours have been extended at times throughout the year. With the development of more clubs and increased membership, it is anticipated that these hours will continue to increase. Jodi-Ann Beard must be congratulated for the excellent work she is doing in administration. She has shown herself to be extremely competent in a variety of roles required by the Branch.

SWIM MEETS

Although the number of competitors at the Long Course was well down on previous years, the Long Course and Short Course State Championships were both popular events. For 1997, delegates



Sue Murray -Victorian Branch Secretary

have voted for a one day Long Course format. A 400m form stroke option was introduced into the Short Course program. The presence of Sports Medicine Australia was appreciated at the Short Course when a spectator required emergency medical treatment. We are looking forward to using the new Melbourne Sports and Aquatics Centre, scheduled to be completed in time for our Short Course Championships in August 1997. An active interclub program was held in 1996 with twelve meets offering events from 25m to 1500m.

A questionnaire was circulated to ensure future planning is addressing the needs of the membership. The majority of members identified electronic timing, a warm-up pool and adequate seating to be essential characteristics for a State Championship meet. Belonging to an organisation that catered for fitness, friendship and fun was identified as an important reason to belong to AUSSI for most members. Special mention was made of the excellent quality of our State newsletter, 'The Swimmer'.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING

In keeping with our Branch goal of developing self sufficiency with officials by the year 2000, our Technical Officer, Alan Davis, continued to conduct timekeeping courses but added more specialised courses in Marshalling and Starting. We've conducted our first

Referees exam and one person has passed. Of the 25 candidates who did the coaching course in 1995 conducted by our Director of Coaching, John Ornsby, 15 have been accredited in the last 12 months. Five coaches have been reaccredited.

RECORDING

An analysis of Victorian Recording was conducted by the AUSSI National Recorder, Darryl Hawkes. Recommendations were made regarding Computer Support, Registrations, Club Input and Software, the Recording of Swim Meets, the Aerobics Competition, the Top Ten and Records. AUSSI Victoria will use these recommendations to direct future development in Recording.

MARKETING

Although we have been unable to attract someone to take on this position 1996, Victorian Branch Officers have initiated some successful activities. A display was set up at the 'Making the Most of Life' Day organised by the Council of the Ageing. The display was staffed throughout the day by enthusiastic AUSSI members and information and brochures were distributed. Stretch exercises for Masters Swimmers were demonstrated under direction from a physiotherapist and a photograph of this appeared in the Melbourne newspaper "The Age".

An application was made to the VicHealth Sports Grants Scheme to promote AUSSI Victoria. Unfortunately this was not successful, in part due to the large number of applications received and the small proportion able to receive a grant and the criteria that they are looking for 'new and innovative' programs. Margaret Carey, our representative on the VICSWIM Committee, (which has representatives from all Victorian aquatic organisations,) delivered a well received presentation to

the VICSWIM Committee about AUSSI. She also contributed an article about our organisation to the Vicswim newsletter which is distributed widely to swimming teachers and aquatic organisations throughout the State.

The Department of Sport and Recreation in Victoria recognises Masters Sport as a growing industry that has long term health benefits for the community. However it is an area that is yet to be fully developed. The Victorian Branch does not receive any financial assistance from Government Sports funds.

21st ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AWARDS

A Presentation Ceremony was held to present the 21st Anniversary Service Awards to the 18 Victorians who were selected to receive them. The social afternoon provided an opportunity for these long established members of AUSSI to be recognised for their contributions to the organisation and for them to catch up with old friends.

Forthefuture, AUSSI Victoria is exploring the possibilities of introducing a more computerised system by linking the Administrative Officer, Registrar and Recorder via a Local Area Network, making the administration more accessible to members.

SUE MURRAY SECRETARY

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP

It was heartening to gain a new club at Roebourne this year, but disappointing that members of the newly formed York club did not continue their membership. The number of metro clubs is 22 and we have 8 in the country area. With the 15 month year it is difficult to compare it to previous 12 months, but our total membership at 31st December, was 1418.

STATE SWIM MEETS

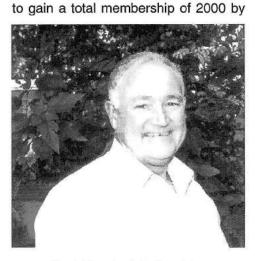
Swimming 18th State Championships held on 2/3rd March were once again won by Claremont from Somerset then Osborne Park, Result on Handicap Points was Leeming, Somerset, Albany. 413 swimmers competed from 22 clubs. On Monday 4th, of the long weekend, Jude Crawford organized an inaugural 2km Open Water Swim held at Leighton Beach, sponsored by Dale Alcock Homes. This event was won by Vic Paul and Martine Hennig came a very close second. The combined breakfast and presentation function held in the Surf Club rooms was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Ocean swimming has enjoyed an amazing leap in popularity over the last couple of years.

Our swimmers continue to break State, National and World Records at our State Swim Meets, and also at National and International Meets. This reflects mainly on their dedication, but also our coaches and the fine facilities we enjoy at the renamed "Challenge Stadium". Management and staff at Challenge Stadium have again been most supportive during 1996.

EXECUTIVE

Members of the WA Branch spent a great deal of time preparing for changes during the 1995/96 years. In response to disappointing numbers at our State Swim Meet, ideas were sought from the membership as to how we could improve these events. Jude Crawford and her

State Swim Meet committee mulled over various options which were put forward. Some ideas were incorporated into a revised annual calendar of events for consideration by Council. Clubs are giving serious thought to any radical changes. Another sub-committee headed by Julian Keys, spent many months working towards a very professional plan of action



Fred Van Andel - President

year 2000. The plan calls for the establishment of a Marketing Director and sub-committee. Nominations will be called for at the February AGM.

The Executive met every month and President Fred Van Andel chaired every meeting as well as quarterly Council meetings. Vice President John Lockley collated the results from our 1500M Postal Swim held over the months of July and August. Secretary John Levy arranged for trophy engraving and worked tirelessly at both State Swim Meets providing drinks and refreshments to the many officials working on pool deck.

Mike Warnock took over as Treasurer in May after Pat Bentley resigned in April. Mike produced a budget for 1997 and plans to produce a month by month guide showing actual spending against our allocated projects for the new year.

Director of Fitness & Education, Dr Kay Cox organized a Coachs' workshop in June and a Coachs' meeting was held in July. A seminar on Weight Training for Swimming and Foods for Faster Swimming was held on a Saturday morning in June. Kay also arranged another seminar on "The Mental Edge for Long Distance Swimming", in November. Kay also conducted a Level 2M Coaching course during August and September. Many Level 1M Coaches attended various lectures to gain valuable re-accreditation points. Congratulations to Kay for receiving the 1996 Official of the Year Award in December

Once again, Pat Nicholl produced and edited our quarterly newsletter "Different Strokes" which has become a most professional looking newsheet. It is disappointing that for the third year running we have not had anyone to take on the role of Public Relations Officer.

Recorder, Noelle James literally slaved over the 1995 State Top Ten results (with lots of help from Geoff Upton) only to have the computer corrupt some of the times of the older age groups when sent through to National Recorder. This particular problem has been rectified though so it will not happen again. Noelle chaired meetings of Captains to discuss the annual Interclub timetable and with Recorders to discuss compiling results for Aerobic Trophy, Top Ten requirements and the Swim Meet computer program.

State Coach Gordon Medcalf has had a busy year visiting 12 metro clubs and 4 country clubs. 14 pool sessions with stroke techniques and drills were conducted, and Gordon delivered 12

seminars on fitness and lifestyle, which are especially helpful to those members who do not train regularly or who have little contact with Coaches.

Our State Swim Meet Director, Jude Crawford worked like a trojan all year to ensure our members attended extremely well run Swim Meets. Jude wrote many letters seeking sponsorship and was successful with donations of a variety of prizes and products for our Presentation Happy Hours. Jude co-ordinated our 1500M postal swim event to make the best use of pools and spread host duties amongst as many clubs as possible.

Technical Office Glen Boorn organized all technical officials for each State Swim, and kept in contact with Pauline Samson on National Technical matters and various accreditation applications.

National Delegate, David Cummins represented WA Branch at the April Board Meeting in Canberra and Sydney Board Meeting in September. David also attended many of the monthly Executive meetings during 1996.

GENERAL

Much interest has been generated by Clubs wishing to use computer programs designed by Geoff Upton for their Interclub carnivals and Top Ten submissions. A computer workshop was held by Geoff in December. We appreciate the most efficient way National Recorder, Darryl Hawkes supplies results on disk, and dispatches National Record Certificates to us. We are working towards installing Internet, hopefully sometime in 1997.

Early in the year we took delivery of a brand new Canon Photocopier which provides us with excellent quality copies.

The Administrator attended a most worthwhile two day workshop on seeking

and servicing sponsors in July. More efforts will be put into this area in conjunction with the 2000 x 2000 Sub Committee in 1997.

The History-Yearbook for WA is regularly updated so that the most complete record possible can be readily available of our activities and achievements.

Once again, we need to recognize our many volunteers who support AUSSI; members of the Executive, Coaches, Officials, Club Committees, Timekeepers, Recorders, etc, etc. We thank everyone who assisted in any way during 1996.

Thanks also to Ivan and Sue in the National office for their wonderful support, as usual.

LEONIE GASTON ADMINISTRATOR

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

The SA Branch finished 1996 with a comparable number of members 616 to that at the end of 1995. However, in common with many of the Branches, at least one quarter of our membership were new members, meaning that a similar number of AUSSIs in South Australia failed to renew their membership in 1996. This is a continuing dilemma and probably the fundamental issue that needs to be addressed if we are to increase our numbers - how do we retain a greater proportion of our membership from year to year?

The highlight for AUSSI in South Australia during 1996 was the stimulating Branch Executive and Council meetings due in large part to Fred Guilhaus' chairmanship. Fred offered stimulating leadership



Russell Clarke - Vice President

throughout 1996 and those who attended Branch meetings would have been most appreciative of their good natured conduct, as well as the way that we almost limited their duration to two hours on most occasions - better luck next year, Fred. Having been on the Branch Executive since 1990, the 1996 Executive was the most active that I have experienced and members can indeed be pleased at the high level of commitment shown by the Executive on their behalf. The Branch was again successful in gaining sponsorship from Living Health (formerly Foundation SA, a State Government body which distributes revenue from tobacco taxes to community organisations) and whilst we are very conscious of the need to justify the funding we receive, the Branch is greatly indebted to Living Health for their confidence in what AUSSI is endeavouring to achieve.

The competition calendar was more intense in 1996, with one additional winter interclub carnival and two new summer interclubs. This met with the approval of some and not with others - it seems that an increasing proportion of the membership in at least some of the SA clubs are rather more interested in

achieving fitness levels than in competing. In any event it is important to experiment and try new initiatives in the hope that we achieve what the members want. Open Water swims continue to be popular and it is very gratifying to see the excitement that novice swimmers experience by completing an open-water swim for the first time.

At club level, two SA Clubs achieved noteworthy milestones in 1996. Atlantis Club won the Living Health Short-course State Championships for the first time, ending a long unbeaten run by SA's biggest club, Adelaide Masters. One of SA's smallest clubs, Henley and Grange (which has close affiliations with an amateur club), almost trebled its numbers (from about 15 to 40 members) and regularly has close to half of the membership at Club training sessions.

The SA Branch extends its best wishes to our fellow Branches and wishes them every success in 1997.

RUSSEL CLARKE VICE PRESIDENT

TASMANIAN BRANCH

After three and a half years as President I am still pleasantly surprised when I reflect on the activities of our Association. We continue to run efficient and amicable meetings; the business decided on at the meetings gets done, championship meets are organised smoothly and produce a good number of state and national records and financial affairs are conducted within budget. These activities and outcomes all point to an organisation which is meeting the mission and goals of Masters Swimming.

This state of affairs is remarkable in that

it is achieved through efforts of volunteer committee members at Branch and Club level. There are no paid secretariats in this Branch. Even most of the coaching is done by part-time coaches who have become accredited through our own coaching programs. These people are to be congratulated on giving valuable personal time to ensure that our 368 members achieve fitness and fun through swimming.

However, the Association still faces a number of ongoing challenges. Numbers of registered members remains fairly static at around 360, although the composition of this number changes from year to year. There are still only 6 Clubs and three of these provide more than 75% of the total state membership. There is spare capacity in our existing clubs to increase membership significantly.

The problem of membership, I think, lies in the factor which makes our present successful. operations SO organisation, at all levels, depends on volunteers and there do not seem to be enough people prepared to take on routine administrative and management tasks to start up new clubs and expand existing ones. As an observation, people join AUSSI to swim and keep fit and often have just enough time from their jobs and families to do this, let alone be administrators. How this challenge is addressed is one of the Association's priorities for the next few years.

Another challenge is coaching. Some of the people who completed the theory component of the Level 1 course have not put in the required hours of coaching to become accredited. Others have difficulty accumulating the professional development hours needed for continuing accreditation. This coming year the

Association will attempt to get at least 2 of its coaches accredited at Level 2 and will organise development sessions for existing and aspiring coaches.

The Association's third challenge is to host the AUSSI National Championships in the new Aquatic Centre, Hobart in 1998, and the organising committee has been set up. Tasmania will have to put in a good showing if we are to remain on the National Championship roster. We ran a successful meet in Devonport in 1991 and I am sure we can do even better.

COMPLETED INITIATIVES

Two projects were completed this year. After several years, many iterations and much coming and going with our legal advisers the final draft of the revised constitution is ready for adoption. The original constitution was suited for a club, based on a model constitution, and the new one does away with a number of anomalies and sets out more clearly the functions and obligations of the Association.

The second project was to revisit the Association's strategic plan. The first plan was set in 1993 and covered a 3 year period. A special planning meeting was held recently in Hobart and under the guidance of a lecturer in Management Accounting and a Business Consultant, we carried out a SWOT analysis, reconsidered our goals and priorities for the next three years and have set a draft budget.

CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS

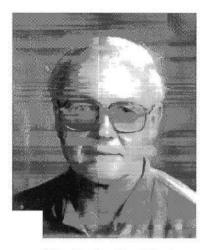
This year the Branch conducted the Long Course Summer Championships, Short Course Winter Championships as well as the swimming component of the Tasmanian Masters Games. An addition to the swim calendar for this year was a Short Course Long Distance Championship and will now be an annual event. If success is measured in outputs, the number of participants, state and national records broken, show that the championship program is meeting the needs of members who enjoy the competitive aspect of Masters Swimming.

Once again, Tasmanian swimmers have competed outside the state, including the Welsh Masters Championships, Cardiff, the World Masters Swimming Championships, Sheffield, as well as various interstate competitions.

A matter which continues to be debated from time to time is whether the interests of the competitive or 'elite' swimmers amongst us are being favoured at the expense of those preferred by swimmers who set more store on the fitness and social aspects of AUSSI. I believe that this is an issue which Clubs must resolve because they organise and control daily activities for their members. The Branch only coordinates the championship meets which in their very nature are competitive activities where awards and kudos go to the winners.

Fortunately, it is quite clear that our Clubs are meeting the needs of their members in all types of swimming and social activities. Evidence in Club reports to Branch Committee Meetings show that coaching, training and social activities are well catered for. This hard work and good organisation at club level continues to underpin Masters Swimming in Tasmania. I am please to congratulate clubs and their committees for another year of rewarding effort. I conclude this report by thanking the people who really run the branch, the committee members.

It is a pleasure to be President of an



John Pugh - President

Association with such pleasant and cheerful people with such talent and ability.

JOHN PUGH PRESIDENT

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH

During 1996 there has been a steady growth in membership for Alice AUSSI and Darwin Stingers. However, the other Northern Territory (NT) club Arnhem Salties experienced a 33% decrease in membership when compared to the previous year. This decrease is partly attributed to members transferring from Nhulunbuy for reasons such as employment. Four Salties moved to Darwin and transferred to Darwin Stingers.

The total membership in the NT for 1996 increased by 27 to 142.

There has been some interest in the reestablishment of an AUSSI club at Katherine and the establishment of a new club at Palmerston. Sadly there is a lack of volunteers to take on the administrative roles required to run a club. Commitments such as family and other sporting interests appear to be halting any progress at present. The Branch will continue to offer encouragement, advice and assistance with the formation of new clubs.

A small team (7 Darwin Stingers) travelled to Canberra to participate in the 21st AUSSI National Swim. There were some pleasing results and the team placed 10th out of 55 participating clubs. Congratulations to Jannie Thomson for her outstanding performance with 5 gold medals and overall 1st placing in her age group.

The HONDA Masters Games were held at Alice Springs during October and fiftyone NT AUSSI's participated together with competitors from all over Australia and several from overseas. There were many personal best times swum and it was fun meeting up with fellow AUSSI's and masters sports people. The NT Championships were held in conjunction with the Games. (The Championships



Joan Curtain - NT Branch Secretary

are held at either Darwin or Nhulunbuy every alternate year to the Games).

Congratulations to Swim Coordinator Louise Johns and her support team from Alice AUSSI for a well-run Meet and for negotiating the pool heating and hot showers (courtesy of Boral Gas).

Congratulations also to Sharon Beaver (Darwin Stingers) for an outstanding performance in setting a National Record in the 400m Backstroke whilst competing at the HONDA Games.

The vast distance between NT AUSSI clubs and the associated cost of travel prevents us from participating in activities such as Interclub Meets that most other Branches take for granted.

The only option for those people who wish to compete more than once or twice a year is to join an Amateur Club. A small number of AUSSI's took advantage of this and have been able to compete regularly throughout the year.

This has resulted in an unexpected bonus for AUSSI because a number of parents have been recruited from the pool deck and are now keen members of AUSSI.

Many NT AUSSI's enjoy the challenge and achievement of aerobic swims and continued to participate in the National Aerobic Trophy Award in 1996.

The number of people entering postal events was slightly less than last year.

Two members of Darwin Stingers were amongst the 102 AUSSIs who received 21st Anniversary Awards as recognition for their service at Branch level - congratulations to Joan Curtain and Claire Condon.

The Registration Programme, Top 10 and Record Programmes have all been revised in 1996. Branch Registrar/

Recorder - Geoff Byfield hopes to have all clubs using the computer programme from the beginning of 1997. To date only one club has made full use of the computer programme. Geoff's role will become less time consuming when all three clubs are 'on line'.

There were eight Branch Executive Meetings held during 1996. The Annual General Meeting was held in October and the outgoing executive was returned unopposed for another twelve months.

In 1997 we will be aiming to have the clubs more involved at the Branch level, particularly as plans for the 1999 National Swim in Darwin begin to take shape in the second half of the year. It is pleasing to note that several people have already made offers to assist with the organisation of the 1999 Swim.

Distance has always been a challenge to NT clubs. However, the re-establishment of the Branch Newsletter in January 1997 should help to alleviate any feelings of isolation. The newsletter will be distributed quarterly in order for all members to be kept up to date with AUSSI news.

I thank members of the Branch Committee, all of who also held executive positions at Club level during 1996. Add to this their family and work commitments and there is little time to spare but they still managed to attend meetings and fulfil their Branch and Club duties.

Thanks also to AUSSI National office for keeping us up to date with information and advice.

JOAN CURTAIN NT BRANCH SECRETARY

ACT BRANCH

1. CLUBS

Membership increased from 89 in 1995 to 97 in 1996.

Membership Structure:

	F	M	TOTAL
Canberra North	29	22	51
Tuggeranong	25	21	46
	54	43	97

2. BRANCH DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Sponsorship

The ACT Division of the National Heart Foundation continues to support us by publicising our aims and objectives.

2.2 ACT Sports house

ACT AUSSI continues its membership of this organisation which, through its ACTSPORT arm, supports and represents all affiliated ACT sporting organisations on matters affecting sport development, sporting policies, facilities, and funding from the ACT Government.

2.3 Branch Newsletter

TIDAL got off to a brilliant start in August with a new look TIDAL and enthusiastic editors, but this was short-lived. The next few months were spent recruiting a new TIDAL editor. Jack Cairns is our new editor and has got TIDAL rolling off the press again. We look forward to many more.

2.4 Branch Meetings

Several meetings were held during 1996. Some of these were also attended by non-executive members who contribution and interest is appreciated.

2.5 Publicity

Branch promotional activities during the year included:

- contribution to the ACT Sports

Calendar, produced six monthly by the ACT Office of Sport, Recreation and Racing for distribution to the public, sporting and tourist organisations.

- use of AUSSI National posters and flyers
- entry in the white and yellow pages

2.6 Swim for Heart

The National Heart Foundation conducted its annual 'Swim for Heart' fund-raising event in August. AUSSI swimmers coordinated teams at ADFA and Tuggeranong pools, with some others participating in corporate and social teams.

3. NATIONAL

The Branch is responsible for the Planning Portfolio with Jean Heath as Delegate. She participated in the National AGM and the mid-year Board Meeting in Sydney in September. Tanya attended the second day of the Board Meeting.

The 21st AUSSI National Service Awards were received by Les Worthington, Steve Walker, Judy Ford, Tanya Colyer and Elinor Mackenzie. These were awarded to AUSSI members who have give more than 10 years service to the Branch.

4. SWIM MEETS AND EVENTS

4.1 ACT Long Distance Meet

The annual long distance meet was held on 14/15 September. Swimmers competed from NSW and ACT. Many ACT, NSW and National records were broken.

4.2 Nationals

Over 300 swimmers from all Branches and Russia competed in the Nationals held in Canberra over Easter. The Nationals were successfully run by a small organising committee. Many Canberra North AUSSI members and friends assisted at the Nationals. Nine

World records were broken. Numerous National, ACT and other Branch records were broken. Even more PBs were achieved.

4.3 ACT Interclubs

Three interclubs held during the year were:

April - hosted by Tuggeranong, at Erindale pool.

July-hosted by Canberra North, at Kaleen pool.

The interclubs are relaxed with increasing attendance by both clubs.

4.4 20th Anniversary Swim Meet

A short course carnival was held at Kaleen pool in October. Swimmers attended from ACT, NSW and Queensland. The highlight of the meet were the novelty relays at the end.

4.5 Interstate Meets

ACT swimmers participated in the NSW Short Course and State Championships, other NSW meets, postal events and open water swims in NSW. A small number of swimmers also competed in the Australian Masters Games (Melbourne) in October and the Tasmanian Masters Games (Launceston) in April.

5. OFFICIALS TRAINING

5.1 Many ACT members are now qualified as timekeepers and marshals. ACT now has eight qualified timekeepers and two marshals, who were busy getting their hours up during the year.

5.2 There are currently 5 level 1M coaches resident within the ACT on the Australian Coaching Council list. To maintain their listing all coaches must participate in accreditation updating within a four year span.



Miri Robinson - ACT Branch Secretary

6. SOCIAL EVENTS

Social events, including tenpin bowling and meals at restaurants and members homes, continued to be organised by clubs, some on a monthly basis.

Dinner was held to celebrate 20 years of AUSSI in ACT at The Pavilion in Canberra. About 20 people attended.

I wish to thank everyone, members, friends and families who have helped in any way large or small, especially at the Nationals.

MIRI ROBINSON ACT BRANCH SECRETARY

Acronyms used in this Report:

AUSSI Formerly known as the Australian Union of Senior Swimmers International - changed to AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia in 1981

ASI Australian Swimming Inc.

FINA Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur

AIS Australian Institute of Sport
ACC Australian Coaching Council

ASCA Australian Swimming Coaches Association

CAS Confederation of Australian Sport

NATIONAL TROPHY WINNERS

FOUNDER'S TROPHY: WARRINGAH

RUNNER'S UP TROPHY: POWER POINTS

VISITOR'S TROPHY: WARRINGAH

NATIONAL HEART FOUNDATION AWARD: JACK CAIRNS -

CANBERRA NORTH

SWIMMER OF THE MEET:

FEMALE: PAM HUTCHINGS - ETTALONG

MALE: BOB BARRY - LEISURE COAST

RELAY TROPHIES:

80+ CANBERRA NORTH

120+ WARRINGAH

160+ POWER POINTS 200+ NORTH LODGE

240+ WARRINGAH

280+ MANLY

CHALLENGE RELAYS:

FEMALE: WARRINGAH

MALE: MANLY

AEROBIC TROPHY: TOOWOOMBA

COACH OF THE YEAR: 1995 SUSETTE POW -

OSBORNE PARK

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR: 1995 PAULINE SAMSON -

TALAYS