

**AUSSI
MASTERS SWIMMING IN AUSTRALIA
INC.**



FOUNDED 1975

ANNUAL REPORT

1997

AUSSI
MASTERS SWIMMING IN AUSTRALIA (INC)
FOUNDED IN 1975

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Office Bearers - 1997

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. David Speechley - 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

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1997 began with much work and attention to deadlines. We had negotiated excellent budget support from the Western Australian Government for a \$1.6 million bid to FINA to host the 2000 World Masters Championships at the wonderful Challenge Stadium in Perth. We learnt early in 1997 that Perth and Munich were the only two challengers so there was much work to do.

Although our chances of securing a third FINA event for Perth were slim, we were determined to put together a bid that both AUSSI and ASI could be proud of. The Executive Director and I flew to Melbourne for an airport meeting with the ASI International Committee and continued discussions with the other disciplines involved in this event.

The WA Government provided a grant of \$4000 to enable your President to present the bid in Gothenberg in April. Unfortunately we were not successful, however the four days spent in Gothenberg were of value with many opportunities for networking at the FINA international level.

During 1997 I chaired two Board meetings which went for a total of 19 hours and 18 hours respectively. I wish to congratulate our Management Committee and our Board of Directors for the dedication they show to our organisation by being willing to put themselves through these mammoth and gruelling weekend agendas. We accomplish an incredible amount of work and this is done solely because the majority of our Directors now come to the meeting fully prepared.

One of the highlights of 1997 for me was our decision to conduct a joint coaching and technical conference in Adelaide in



Glenys McDonald - National President

August. This enabled our Coaching Panel, three members of our Management Committee and each active Branch Coaching and Technical Director the opportunity of getting together in a workshop format. Some streams of work units were combined, others were specific to the coaching or technical stream. It is unusual to have these two streams of our organisation working together and they appreciated the opportunity. One imagines the coaches trying to ensure their swimmers do not come into contact with the referees, and the referees trying to ensure that they 'catch out' any unfair advantage by the coach's swimmers.

During the weekend we were able to review our coaching and technical courses according to the new guidelines and to upgrade the referees guide.

It seems our sporting administrative lives are now governed by guidelines. Where once we had an AUSSI Club Guide and a National Swim Guide, we now have to be much more professional and develop manuals and protocols which spell out the outcomes we wish. This is particularly relevant when we deal with any industry

training area such as the training of our technical officials and coaches. There is no place for unprofessional courses in these areas, and now there are no future guarantees that we can retain ownership of our own courses. It is the outcome which is important, not who provides it.

During 1997 your board adopted or endorsed further refinements of the following guidelines or manuals - Level 1 & 2 Coaching courses; Technical Officials range of courses; Referees Guide; Club Development Manual; Club Guide; Swim Meet Guide; Safety Policy Guidelines and Pool Specifications Guide.

In addition to the work being done in these areas, our range of sub committees continued to contribute to the success of AUSSI. In addition to Coaching and Technical, we have Computer, Safety, Masters Games and Medical. My thanks to all those people involved. My additional thanks to Ted Giblin for being able to secure the services of some very high profile and professional sports medicos for our Medical Advisory Panel. It was gratifying to hear their praise for our Safety Guidelines.

Enterprise has continued to see almost overwhelming growth in Masters Games in rural, regional and city locations. AUSSI is handling these and constantly reviewing their both positive and negative impact on our association. Enterprise by individual promoters seeking to promote dietary products through our organisation necessitated our recent adoption of a 'Sports Nutrition Policy Statement'.

During the year the New South Wales Branch hosted our largest National Swim to date. In addition to providing our members with a well run meet in a 'state of the art' facility, they also provided

AUSSI with much needed income to continue to manage our association.

As President my international commitments this year, apart from the World Swim bid, centred on my attendance at the 6th Pan Pacific Masters Swimming Championships in Maui. I presented the Board with a full report on the conduct of these Championships and the meeting of Pacific Rim Presidents which was held. I now have the honour to be Chairman of the Pacific Rim President's group. Australia won the right to host the 1999 7th Pan Pacific Masters Championship. As we go to press with this report, the Management Committee has the difficult task of assessing bids from Perth and Townsville to host this event.

Our workload in AUSSI and our financial commitments continue to expand as we grow in size and stature as a National Sporting Association. We have a need to ensure our Directors attend appropriate conferences and workshops. We now nominate our AUSSI members for such National Awards as Coach of the Year, Masters Athlete of the Year, Official of the Year, etc. All these introductions raise our prestige and profile, and reward our members, but they also introduce additional expenses. This must be considered in the context that AUSSI is a wholly self funded National Sporting Association, gaining no financial support from the Federal Government.

My congratulations to Peter Gilmour - Masters Athlete of the Year, Peter Jackson - Masters Coach of the Year, and Robin Sweeney - Masters Technical Official of the Year.

At the end of 1997 I take pleasure in informing the membership that your Board has renewed the contract of our Executive

Director, Ivan Wingate for a further three year term. At the end of this period the position will be advertised. My sincere thanks to Ivan for all he has achieved for us in the past twelve months, and to Sue Harris for her very capable assistance.

Unfortunately, at the end of 1997 we were to lose, (temporarily, we hope) the great contribution of Anita Kilmier. Anita has been editing the Masters Coaches Newsletter for us for ten years. I can assure you she is not off to Sri Lanka on the profits she made from this enterprise. Anita, on behalf of all AUSSI members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for such a stirring effort, it really was appreciated by us all. We welcome Peter and Claire Reaburn who have agreed to fill the breach.

There were indications in 1997 that AUSSI is due for another "Where are we at, where are we going?" review. This has been evidenced by some suggestions of a name and logo change. It is obviously timely for us to revamp our total marketing image, not only with the use of our logo, but in all aspects of how we present ourselves to our members and outside organisations. I feel that we can retain our AUSSI name and more than 20 years of identity and still come up with a single, marketable logo and image.

The Management Committee will be meeting early in 1998 to conduct a review and to produce both a business management plan and finalise our strategic 3 year plan. It's amazing what you do for the love of swimming.

I thank all those AUSSI members at club, Branch and National level who contributed to a very successful 1997.

GLENYS MCDONALD
PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

REGISTRATIONS.

The Membership registration year for 1997 was for twelve months from 1st January to 31 December. When compared with the 1996 figures, it appears that we had a decline of about 7% in membership whereas the previous "year" was for fifteen months when we changed from the seasonal year to a calendar year so we are not in a position to make a fair comparison. However the decline is still evident as the "twelve months" figure is about 21½% down on the previous 12 month period in 1995 and the lowest since 1994. After a steady growth of about 50% since 1989, we must now question the downturn.

MASTERS GAMES

We continue to be pressured to provide services to Masters Games. At the Australian Masters Games this year in Canberra, 44 % of the swimmers were non-AUSSI members though many of them were former members. The percentage of non-members at the 1995 Australian Masters Games was 33% and in 1993 it was only about 17%, so this figure has increased dramatically.

On a positive note, it can be seen that many more Masters swimmers are competing. 900 AUSSIs swam at the Nationals in Sydney and 246 non-AUSSIs swam at the AMG in Canberra. Further, many of the 316 AUSSI swimmers in the Masters Games, did not compete at the Nationals so it would be reasonable to suggest that 1250 or more individuals participated in a National Masters Swimming competition in 1997.

THE CHALLENGE

How do we gain some benefit for the service we provided for the 246 non AUSSIs who swam in Canberra and the hundreds in other regional Masters Games? The Board has introduced a sanction fee of \$2.00 per swimmer and a higher entry fee for non-members in Australian Masters Games. Our Queensland Branch successfully apply similar imposts in Games they sanction but the Canberra Games Offices rejected our proposal. It is hoped that we will be successful in applying the pricing differential for the 1999 Games in Adelaide.

Many complain about the cost of entry in Australian Masters Games, yet there are plenty of swimmers who still enter. Some openly admit that it is the lure of the easy to get and superior quality medals that attracts them. Many who win gold at an AMG would not get a place in our National Swim. We will shortly produce some figures on this.

Obviously, many Masters swimmers are very competition oriented but there must be a much larger element in the community who would be more interested in participation. We must ensure that the "AUSSI Purpose" remains paramount and we strive harder to make the public aware of that fact.

There are sixteen (16) Masters Games scheduled for 1998 in Australia and overseas, into which swimmers from Australia will enter. It's an ideal opportunity to promote our philosophy of "Fitness, Friendship and Fun", to see if we can restore our membership growth pattern.

MEMBERS or CUSTOMERS?

A concept that was picked up on earlier

in the year was to examine whether or not the membership at large saw themselves as Members or Customers. It is evident from some of the requests and treatment we receive at the National Office, that more and more we are being seen as a service provider. This probably is the result of maturity and the greater degree of professionalism we are developing at National and Branch level. It appears that the trend will continue and we may have to consider more services to non-members too - for a fee. Many public enquirers now assume access to our services without having to be a member but are willing to pay accordingly.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A proposal foreshadowed at the last Board Meeting, to be address at the next in 1998, is to change the name of our Association - by deleting "AUSSI". Via our National Newsletter and surveys in Branches, this has created an immense amount of interest and emotion. Whatever the outcome, the name chosen will reflect the wishes of the membership at large.

NATIONAL MEETINGS

As reported elsewhere, a combined Coaching and Technical Directors' Workshop was held in Adelaide in August. Previously for similar workshops, we were privileged to receive Australian Sports Commission subsidies but this time was entirely funded by AUSSI. From all reports it appears to have been a wise investment. Two Board Meetings were held, one in Sydney, just prior to the National swim and the other in Adelaide in October. The Management Committee met only once by teleconference, whereas they had almost daily contact by phone and fax regarding all matters of importance that come through the National Office. My

sincere thanks to Glenys, Kay and Clyde for making time to address such matters, which enabled AUSSI to react with authority and be seen as a truly professional organisation.

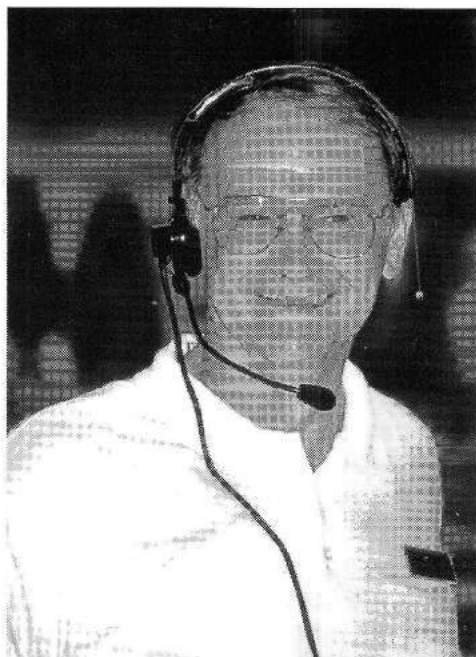


Ivan Wingate - Executive Director

NATIONAL OFFICE

Throughout the year I attended meetings in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney plus I stayed on in Sydney for the National Swim, then spent two weeks in Morocco with the FINA Masters Committee, a week in Canberra for the Australian Masters Games and three weeks (going into January) for the FINA World Championships in Perth. Spending time with Masters swimmers in other parts of Australia and the World is most beneficial for me to maintain a global outlook on our sport. And, it is only made possible because of the support I receive from my colleague - Sue Harris. Thanks.

IVAN WINGATE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Brian Hird - Meet Director
National Swim - Sydney*



*Peter Jackson - Warringah Masters
National Coach of the Year 1996*

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT ON THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1997

AUSSI ended 1997 with a "break-even" financial result. This was achieved despite spending some \$12,000.00 on a Coaching and Technical Directors' Workshop and a significant drop in registrations.

Income from registrations was down by \$17,000.00, a drop which was partially offset by a rise in the National share of the 1997 National Swim surplus. Our major source and income is registrations so we can ill afford for the 1997 trend to continue. There was a small loss in trading of goods (badges, books etc). This is due to many of the items being given away via new Club kits etc.

The significant changes in expenditure were the underwriting of the Workshop (\$12,000.00), the production of a promotional video (\$3,000.00) and Top 10 (\$3,000.00). On the other hand small, but important savings were made in telephone costs, board meeting costs and other conference costs.

It is pleasing to have a break-even result against this background. In real terms, the National administration is managing to add value as the cost per member for administration was \$19.40 compared to a registration fee of \$16.50 per member. Our situation is helped by the interest earned on the World Swim monies. The amount invested rose by 6.3%.

It should be noted that 1997 was the first full year of a January - December operation and that 1996 was a "15 month year".

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 AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Incorporated at 31st December, 1997 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).

SELWYN O. SEDGER - CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

AUSSI MASTERS SWIMMING IN AUSTRALIA (INC.)
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 1997

INCOME	
1996	1997
\$ 1,110	\$ 1,200
136,177	118,862
10,425	8,293
2,319	10,556
1,100	950
657	(918)
<u>\$151,788</u>	<u>\$139,573</u>
 EXPENDITURE	
\$ 750	\$ 750
52,478	53,982
11,707	7,430
4,153	3,997
6,260	5,048
21,039	19,763
6,146	2,936
2,352	13,537
NIL	166
NIL	3,262
280	3,657
758	833
21,057	20,665
320	322
2,819	737
2,637	2,635
<u>132,756</u>	<u>139,720</u>
19,032	(147)
<u></u>	<u></u>

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Auditor's Report of S.O. SEDGER

AUSSI MASTERS SWIMMING IN AUSTRALIA (INC.)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1997

ASSETS

1996		1997
	CURRENT	
\$ 5,100	Cash Floats	\$ 5,100
3,828	Cash at Bank	2,119
143,531	1988 World Swim Investments	152,451
1,226	Prepayments	NIL
780	Sundry Debtors	168
24,126	Stock on Hand	20,522
10	Shares - Esso Employees Credit Union	10
<u>\$178,601</u>		<u>\$180,370</u>
	FIXED	
\$ 1,034	Trophies and Cases	\$ 1,034
11,551	Plant and Equipment	9,185
<u>12,585</u>		<u>10,219</u>
<u>\$191,186</u>	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$190,589</u>

LIABILITIES

\$ 450	Affiliations & Registrations	\$ NIL
<u>\$ 450</u>	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ NIL</u>

MEMBERS ACCUMULATIONS

\$171,704	Balance 1/1/1997	\$190,736
19,032	Add: Surplus/(Deficit)	(147)
<u>190,736</u>		<u>190,589</u>
<u>\$191,186</u>	TOTAL	<u>\$190,589</u>

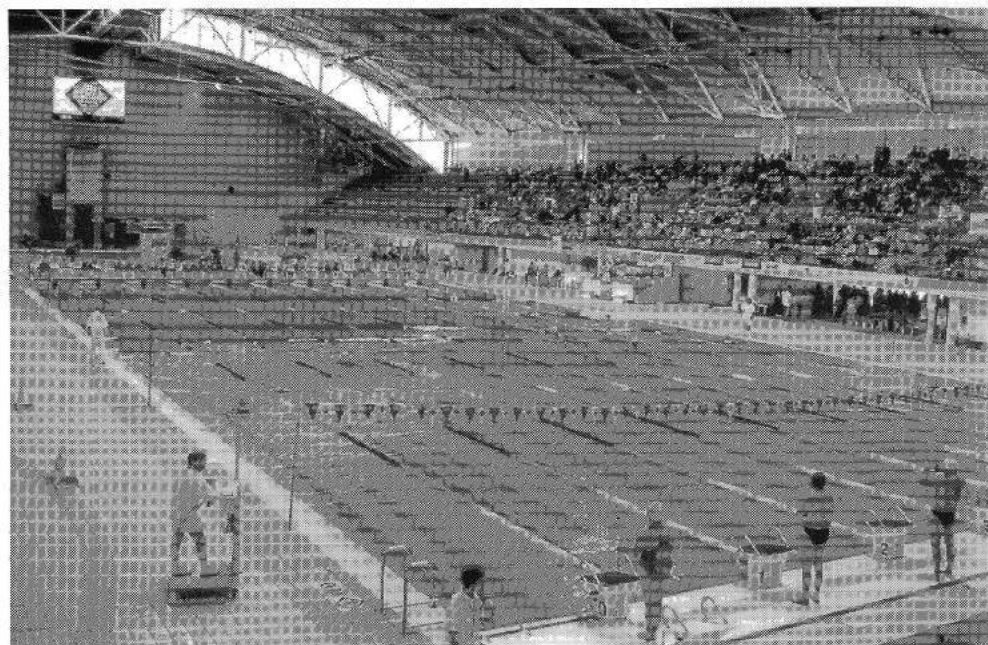
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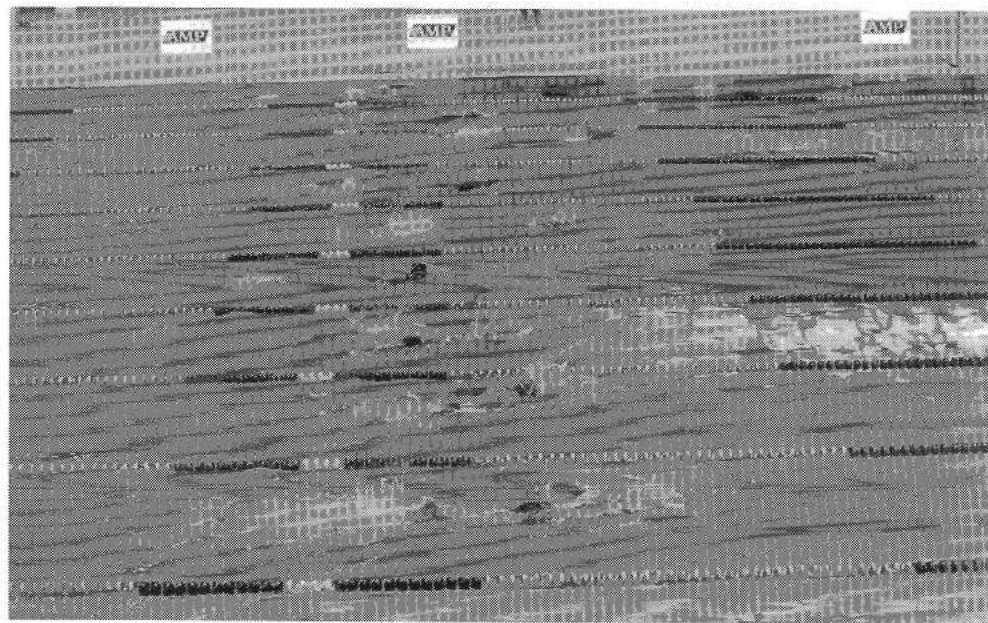
John Konrads "takes the plunge" at the National Swim - Sydney



Brian Hird - Meet Director National Swim



National Swim at Sydney International Aquatic Centre





The victorious 120+ Talays AUSSI relay team

COACHING

Nationally and around the Branches it has been a very active year in coaching with several new programmes. The primary focus has been the continued promotion of coach training through our accreditation courses. We have seen many changes in coaching personnel over the year. The highlights of the year include participation in the Australian Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA) Annual Conference with a Masters stream, and the Coaching Director workshop in August.

COACHING ACCREDITATION

Over the past 12 years we have trained 318 AUSSI coaches and the number still accredited at the close of the year was 220 (204 Level 1M + 16 Level 2M). The growth rate of accredited coaches was 15% increase from 1996. We had a record number of course conducted this year, 6 in total, (5 Level 1M and 1 Level 2M). Tasmania joined WA and Qld as being the only Branches to have conducted a Level 2M course. Well done



Kay Cox - National Director of Coaching

to Megan Stonach and all concerned. Northern Territory did well to conduct a Level 1M course under the organisation of Jacinta Stirrat. It is encouraging to see the smaller Branches being so active and often under quite stressful conditions be able to conduct successful courses.

Both Level 1M and 2M courses are due for review and submission to the Australian Coaching Council in 1998. We started the Level 1M review at the Workshop and Branch Directors have

followed up on allocated tasks. This needs to be co-ordinated and fitted into the required format. My thanks to all those that contributed to this challenging task. The Level 2M will be reviewed by November 1998 with similar assistance from the Coaching Directors and the Coaching Panel.

RE-ACCREDITATION

Encouraging trained coaches to keep their qualifications current continues to be one of our biggest challenges. Often people do a course for their own interest and personal development. There is nothing wrong with this however, it does mean that resources are used up but not repaid in terms of coaching around the clubs if they do not follow this up. As mentioned previously we have trained 318 coaches but only 220 are currently accredited which means a dropout rate of 31% at this stage. The current details of coaches trained and those failing to update in each of the Branches are summarized in Table 1.

	Current	Expired	Trained	% Lost
ACT	3	4	7	57
NSW	46	7	11	13.2
VIC	43	11	54	20.3
TAS	9	2	11	18
SA	14	4	18	22
WA	62	38	100	38
NT	2	1	3	33
QLD	41	31	72	43
TOTAL	220	98	318	30.8

Table 1. Number of coaches currently accredited, the number of expired accreditations, the total coaches trained over 12 years (at December 1997) and the % lost due to failure to update.

It must be noted that the Branches that have trained the most and the least coaches may have the data distorted by small changes. As updating is still in the formative stage a pattern of updating has not yet been established. However, this

data does serve to indicate where extra attention is needed to encourage training and updating opportunities. The updating policy has undergone more changes as a result of the National Coaching Directors workshop. The objective of the changes was to recognise other activities that were keeping coaches abreast of change and giving them credit for this.

COACH OF THE YEAR

The 'Coach of the Year Award' honours a coach of exceptional standing in AUSSI in any one year. Coaches were nominated by their club or Branch and then the Coaching Panel consisting of Peter Reaburn, Anita Killmier, Trish Beveridge and Kay Cox had the task of selecting the winner. The winner was Peter Jackson from Waringah NSW. Peter has been a long standing member and contributor to AUSSI in both coaching and other areas. The Award was announced at our National Swim Dinner in Sydney and the 1997 Australian Coaches Association Dinner in May.

It was fitting that Peter was able to attend the ASCA Presentation Dinner as he was presented with his trophy in the presence of his peers from the general swimming field as well as AUSSI. Well done Peter.

Two Branches have a Branch 'Coach of the Year Award', WA and now Queensland. As I was in Queensland on other business at the time of their Award I was delighted to be invited to present this award to the winner.

ASCA CONFERENCE

AUSSI was well represented at the ASCA conference this year held from Sunday 28th April until Sunday 4th May 1997 on the Gold Coast.

We participated in four areas:

1. The 'Coach of the Year Award' was presented to Peter Jackson at the presentation dinner on Friday 2nd May.
2. The Queensland Branch set up an information booth/display as part of the Trade Exhibition on Friday 2nd May which appeared to be very active.
3. Peter Reaburn and I presented papers on the Sunday morning session. These were well accepted by those who were there. The numbers however, were disappointing (about 10-12) considering the effort that went into the preparation of the information and presentation. The Sunday morning time slot was not ideal and we were in competition with speakers talking about the Olympics and a debate with elite coaches. We will request a better time frame for next year.
4. A 90 minute Open Forum session was held on the Sunday following the talks. Speakers Trish Beveridge, Peter Reaburn and Kay Cox gave a 10 minute presentation about various aspects of AUSSI swimming and then the session was open for discussion. Peter Jackson gave a talk from the viewpoint of the 'on-deck' coach and was part of the panel discussion. The discussion was excellent however the numbers attending were small. The positive view is that the people who attended did so because they wanted to find out how to help the adult swimmers they had or were interested in starting groups at their pools.

The papers from these presentations were sent to all Branches and the shorter papers will be reproduced in the National Newsletter. I would strongly recommend that we continue to participate in this event as it gives us a presence in a very prestigious forum and helps to maintain

our credibility as a swimming organisation. The plans are for the 1998 conference to be in Melbourne on May 4-10th and I look forward to working with the Victorian Branch to put together the Masters stream. I suggest all branches encourage coaches and members to attend this excellent conference.

COACHING DIRECTORS' WORKSHOP

The Coaching Directors' Workshop was held in conjunction with the Officials workshop in Adelaide on the 30-31 of August. This was a very successful two-day event in which several aspects of the coaching portfolio were discussed. In summary several issues were discussed including standardization of coaching courses, development of course resources, the updating guidelines and the Coaching newsletter. There was general agreement that the coaching newsletter should be continued in its own right and that the national newsletter should be an insert to give coaches and swimmers information on national issues. It was also suggested that the Coaching Panel set guidelines for the Coaching Newsletter and oversee the production.

Much of the workshop was spent discussing the guidelines for course requirements and application for re-accreditation of Level 1M which is due early in 1998. The Level 2M is due for re-accreditation in late 1998. The level 1M needs to be re-written in the competency based framework. The content of Level 1M was reviewed and each delegate was given the responsibility to review at least one topic to be returned to the National Coaching Director for incorporation into the final document. The reviewed course will be very different in approach from the previous course and it means some philosophical and organizational changes

by the people conducting the courses. It is hoped that with the experience gained from the Workshop, Branch Coaching Directors who attended will be in a better position to conduct courses in their Branches and this be on a more consistent and regular basis.

I was very pleased with the progress made at the workshop and with the contributions from everyone concerned I hope our submission for re-accreditation will be a painless one. The idea of a joint workshop seemed to work well with the combined sessions that allowed interaction and questions between the groups with suggestions of how each group could contribute to the other's area.

My thanks to the Board and the Management Committee for their support in getting this event to happen. Special thanks to our NED; Ivan, for his administration and organization of venue, accommodation, travel etc.

COACHING PANEL

The National Coaching Panel has changed considerably in 1997. Two members resigned during the year and two new members were appointed. Trish Beveridge stood down from the Coaching Panel in June due to personal reasons. I would like to thank Trish for her fine contribution to the Panel and other coaching issues. Her practical experience and enthusiasm for AUSSI will be missed by all members and we wish her well. Peter Jackson has been appointed to the Panel and we welcome Peter's expertise and experience. Well known former Director of Coaching and editor, Anita Killmier has also stood down from the Panel. Anita's husband John has been appointed to an overseas position and she will be unable to continue as Panel member or editor of the Coaching

Newsletter. Anita's contributions will also be greatly missed. I will personally miss her expertise and insight into coaching issues. Her editor's role will be a big one to fill. We wish Anita and family all the best in their new home and swimming environment. Ted Tullberg from Victoria has been appointed as the fourth member to the Panel.

NEWSLETTER AND RESOURCES

As reported above, our editor of the Coaches Newsletter has stood down. The National Board meeting decided to trial a private production for 12 months. Claire and Peter Reaburn have taken on this task. The guidelines for the content are to be decided by the Coaching Panel. As a result the newsletter will take on a very different format and we will embark on a promotion programme for 1998 to increase subscriptions.

The National Resource Centre is now located at the AUSSI National Office in Adelaide and a list of the resources are available on request.

CHANGES IN BRANCH COACHING DIRECTORS

During this year four Branches/regions (Vic, S.A., Tas, Qld-Sth) have elected new Coaching Directors. My thanks to outgoing Directors, John Ornsby (Vic), Janet Malone (S.A.), Pam Gray (Tas) and Chris Parsons (Qld-Sth) for their assistance over the past years. Welcome to Jodi-Ann Beard (acting Vic), Dieter Loeliger (S.A.) and welcome back to Megan Stronach from Tasmania.

CONCLUSION

Not only has this year been one of consolidation and change but there have been some exciting and innovative things happen in the Branches. NSW have conducted a Coaching Carnival,

Tasmania a Level 2M course and NT a Level 1M course, Qld have introduced a coaching newsletter and WA have conducted an Adult extension course with Austswim. I also had the chance to visit NT and Qld during the year and it was enlightening to be able to do this. I would like to extend my thanks to the Coaching Panel and Coaching Directors for their support over the year and the enthusiastic way they have gone about their business. These programmes would not be possible without the support of the Management Committee and the Board. My thanks also to Ivan for all his administrative assistance and Carroll Wannell for typing assistance. We have a very challenging year ahead in 1998 and I look forward to working with these groups again to achieve our mutual goals.

KAY COX
DIRECTOR OF COACHING

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

1997 has been a year of slow consolidation with the promised Club Development Manual finally ready for production when 1998 is upon us. The manual which is being produced on disk is designed for selective use by clubs. It covers a great many areas outside day to day operations of the club, including Sponsorship, Team Travel, Event Management, Volunteers, and 11 others and is designed to help clubs both adapt to the changing world we live in and to plan for their future. This in turn will enhance the benefits of membership. My thanks to Queensland Branch and others for their input. Copies of the disk in a distinctive cover with instructions and contents will be sent direct to each

club from the National Body.

While the club is the most visible and vital element of AUSSI to the members, our organisation is very much a tripartite one. There are some projects and programs which are best conducted by either the National Body or the Branch. In an attempt to ensure that these efforts best reflect the needs and desires of all of the members, the National Board voted in October 1997 to fund a series of



*Gary Stutsel -
Director of Membership Development*

meetings in regional areas. A pilot meeting was held in Coffs Harbour, NSW, in November, 1997.

This meeting focused on officials training and stroke correction and involved both a representative of the National Board and of the NSW Branch Committee. Several ideas were gained from the day which will be shared with the Branches and clubs in the new year. However the emphasis of the 1998 meetings will be on meeting the needs of the members in each location, so the agenda will vary from meeting to meeting at the request of the members involved.

Of the 11 National Masters organisations in the world which have over 2000 members, AUSSI is the only one with

almost equal numbers of men and women. This must be one of our strengths when governments have identified the need to support efforts to extend equal opportunity to women.

Equal opportunity for women was one of the three basic concepts which led to the formation of AUSSI. The others were equal opportunities for all ages, and actively encouraging members to swim all strokes, regardless of their ability. It is up to each of us to pass on ideas which will help AUSSI to grow as it has in the past 5 years.

GARY STUTSEL OAM
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT

Gender Distribution for 1997:

Branch	Male	Female	Total	Clubs
QLD	859	1014	1873	50
NSW	877	750	1627	42
VIC	699	672	1371	42
WA	596	694	1290	30
SA	334	277	611	8
TAS	156	187	343	7
ACT	64	58	122	2
NT	54	60	114	3
Totals	3639	3712	7351	184

Registrations for the past five years are as follows:-

Branch	1993	1994	1995	1996*	1997
QLD	1705	1931	1932	2141	1873
NSW	1434	1486	1600	1685	1627
VIC	1215	1326	1400	1437	1371
WA	1351	1367	1377	1418	1290
SA	610	665	656	616	611
TAS	350	331	365	368	343
ACT	85	86	89	97	122
NT	179	144	115	142	114
Totals	6929	7336	7534	7904	7351

*1996 was a 15 month "year".

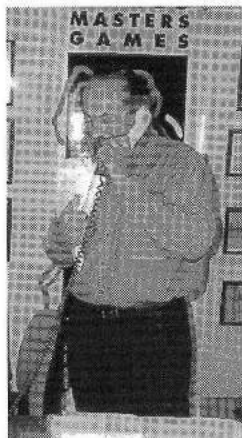


"Games" at the Australia Masters Games - Canberra

MARKETING

The portfolio of Marketing assigned to Queensland by the National Board entered a productive phase in 1997 after a period of review and discussion.

Early in 1997 a survey of all clubs throughout Australia gauged the need for a sponsorship and marketing strategy. The level of response to the survey from



*David Speechley
Director of Marketing*

clubs far exceeded the boards' expectations. The responses from clubs together with the opinions of an outside marketing consultant and the National Board raised a number of issues that were addressed in the latter part of 1997 and have enabled future planning for the portfolio to be directed towards our members needs.

The release in March, of an updated four and a half minute promotional video and a thirty second community announcement for television was the first step in raising the profile of AUSSI.

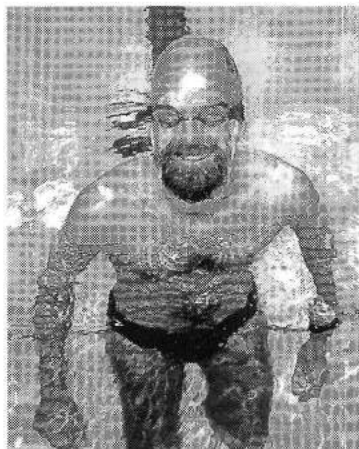
Another major initiative is the sponsorship guidelines released in October, which are to be incorporated into the New South Wales developed club handbook or can

be used as a "stand alone" document. These guidelines enable a club (large or small) to identify their strengths and abilities and to promote these to the wider community for the benefit of their members. A higher profile also assists in gaining new members, and promotes the AUSSI ideals of the benefits of swimming for all. Improved sponsorship also means more benefits and lower costs for club members.

Tied in with this concept of "selling" AUSSI to the wider community, is the difficulties AUSSI has in defining it's image. The AUSSI name and the 11 - 12 logos currently used by Branches and National send mixed messages to non AUSSI's.

Mary Sweeney, as Director of Marketing until March 1997, along with myself have raised these issues and presented solutions presently being explored by the National Board.

DAVID SPEECHLEY DIRECTOR OF MARKETING



*Peter Gilmour -
Masters Athlete of the Year
1997 Australian Masters Sport Awards*

PROGRAMMES

Another year of Aerobic Recording has passed us by. Congratulation to the winners for 1996.

1st Sunshine Coast QLD
2nd Doncaster VIC
3rd Western Suburbs NSW

TASSIE AWARD

1st Campbelltown NSW

It is worth noting that our Annual Report is always a year behind in its rundown on the Aerobic Trophy. It would be good to report on the award for the present year, however due to the necessity to have this entire document printed early into the New Year it isn't possible as all Aerobic



*David Cummins -
Director of Programmes*

Trophy information isn't able to be finalised until the end of March each year.

In 1995 extra result books were circulated in the belief that this would encourage greater participation. The following statistics reveal this not to be the case. Obviously this award has large appeal to

a section of our membership which is terrific, however to see a big rise in participation (if in fact it is what we want) will require a push in a different way.

1995 1996

Competing Clubs:

ACT	1	1
QLD	17	17
VIC	9	11
SA	3	2
NT	3	2
TAS	4	4
NSW	16	21
WA	22	21
TOTAL	75	79

Max Point Scorers:

Men	18	18
Women	29	23

Completed all swims (Not gaining max points)

Men	11	12
Women	14	14

POSTAL EVENTS

These continue to be popular with our members and it is encouraging to see new concepts and opportunities being presented. Clubs are planning in advance and seek guidance and assistance in the introduction of new events.

In conjunction with the National Executive Director I am authorised to offer advice to Clubs on how to get it right and am encouraged by their response.

Results of the individual events are now coming through to our National Office and make for informative and interesting reading.

DAVID CUMMINS
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES

RECORDING

Software for the recording of Top Ten times was modified this year to allow branches to record every individual's best times whether or not they were in the top ten. This change was made to make the software acceptable for use by all branches. The modification was a major change requiring many man weeks of effort to accomplish and it is hoped that all Branch Recorders are now using this software.

Congratulations to those that achieved the 431 times for individual events listed in the FINA Masters Top Ten Tabulation for 1996. Although a decline of thirty odd compared to the 1995 listing we still remain a worthy contributor in the world scene.

It is pleasing to report that more branches are promoting the use of the registration software by clubs. Welcome aboard to Grafton, NSW the most recent club to use the registration system. Five branches are now using the record recording software for their branch records.

Once again the numbers of national record certificates issued has increased

compared to the previous year. To date 340 have been approved being an increase of 40 over 1996. Most pleasing is the increase in records broken by the 20-24 and 25-29 year age groups being 27 compared to 14 in 1996. This augurs well for the future.

One of the most pleasant tasks in the recording portfolio is to forward application to FINA for individual world records. World records were achieved in 1997 by the following:-

Penny Bond, 35-39 years
of Townsville Masters, QLD

Jan McLeod, 50-54 years
of Rocky Crocs AUSSI, QLD

Peter Gilmour, 55-59 years
of Ryde AUSSI, NSW

Michael Moloney, 55-59 years
of Power Points, VIC

Alfredo Cherchi, 90-94 years
of Trinty AUSSI, NSW

Ettalong AUSSI,
240+ Female Relay, NSW

DARRYL HAWKES
DIRECTOR OF RECORDING

NATIONAL SWIM MEET POLICY

This year has seen the first signing of the new Swim Meet Contract, signed by the Northern Territory Branch with the National Board for the 1999 AUSSI National Swim in Darwin. Queensland Branch will be signing their contract soon, in the lead-up to the AUSSI National Swim in that state in the year 2000.

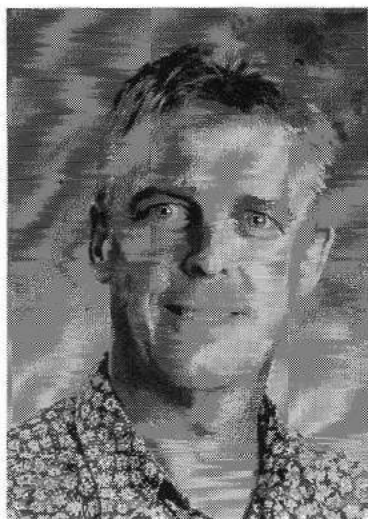
Liaison with Tasmania for their 1998 National Swim has been good, and the event promises to be successful, well-



Darryl Hawkes - Director of Recording

organised, and a lot of fun, in the new Hobart Aquatic Centre, in March 1998.

A re-write of the Minimum Medical Standards for the conduct of swim meets and open-water swims, as part of the AUSSI Safety Policy, was completed during the year, and will become available this year. The Policy is ground-breaking and shows the forward vision which is the hallmark of AUSSI Masters Swimming. It forms a template which could be adapted by other sports organisations. Similarly, our Swim Meet Guide is now completed, and distributed to each state Branch, and gives clear guidelines for AUSSI organisations faced with the task of mounting a National Swim, or any other swim meet.



*Ted Giblin -
Director for Swim Meet Policy*

The AUSSI Facilities Guide, or Pool Specifications Guide, is now nearing completion, and has already been used in rough form by several City Councils, mainly in Queensland. The Guide

specifies the needs of adult swimmers with regard to swimming facilities, both in-water, in the surrounds, and in all the support structures, so that this rapidly-growing body of pool-users can be catered for in a realistic and thoughtful manner.

AUSSI is very pleased to have established a strong and vital Medical Advisory Panel, with Sports Physicians, Sports Scientists and doctors with experience in providing medical coverage at swim meets, joining together to provide expert advice, and help with policy decisions. The Panel has its annual meeting at the Annual Conference on Science and Medicine in Sport, this year held in Canberra in October 1997, and next year to be held in Adelaide in October 1998.

During the year teleconferences and E-mail serve to connect the members of our Panel. The portfolio of Swim Meet Policy is an intriguing and challenging one, and has been carried by a small band of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers, who have my heartfelt thanks.

TED GIBLIN
DIRECTOR FOR SWIM MEET POLICY

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

This year, 1997 began fairly quietly with the usual flow of accreditations for officials. As mentioned in the previous Annual Report the time had come to revisit the work done on the courses in 1994 when the 'manual' was set up. In August, representatives from Branches met in Adelaide and each page of each officials course was reviewed and amended as necessary. Since then Branches have received an updated version of all courses and all training

officials should be using the August 1997 version. Although there had been a previous edition of a Guidelines for Refereeing, the group looked at a new style of presentation and the new version is now available. This set of guidelines lists the rules of swimming and where necessary an explanation is given directly below the rule in a different font and style. This set of rules is available to all trainee Referees when they start out as Judges of Stroke and Inspector of Turns. Also at the workshop, the Medical Disability Form was reviewed with a deletion of one category as this did not fit into the rules of AUSSI Masters Swimming. It is also a simpler form to have completed and on a single page. A copy of the form will be published in the National Newsletter.

The accreditation register continues to be updated on a regular basis although as indicated previously there are still a number of accreditations not accounted for prior to 1994 and very few known in the 0-100 listing.



*Pauline Samson -
Director of Technical Development*

	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	SA	WA	NT	ACT
Timekeepers	109	34	38	45	9	49	-	9
Marshals	51	1	7	1	3	-	-	3
Check Starters	42	2	10	1	2	-	-	-
Starters	31	10	6	1	2	8	-	1
Referees	3	4	2	3	2	4	-	-

Considering the membership in some Branches the numbers of accredited officials are rather small, however there are many competent people who have attended courses, passed exams, are carrying out their duties as officials with more than enough hours to their credit but have not completed a log sheet. It would be satisfying to the course presenters if a lot more people completed their accreditations and added to the list. Although it is understood that there are many who attend courses but don't wish to pursue accreditation, knowledge is gained and there is a better understanding of the role and expectations of the official.

This year being the third year of being accredited with NOP, our organisation again nominated an Official of the Year. The 3rd Official of the Year Awards were held in Sydney and Robin Sweeney (Qld) was chosen to accept this award on behalf of AUSSI Masters Swimming.

PAULINE SAMSON
DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNICATIONS

As usual there are many people to thank for the help given throughout the year. Jodi-Ann Beard (our Victorian Branch Administrator) has been a huge help, more so recently when she became the National Newsletter Editor, when my own full-time job became a bigger responsibility and all the free time seemed to disappear.

The National Office with Ivan and Sue always provided the necessary backup and a great source of information for all of us in AUSSI, and also Lyn Bramich, our Victorian Branch Secretary. Last and always, my family.

Lots of things have been happening both within Australia and overseas and I

they are willing to contribute items for all of us.

Thank you once again for the support you have given to AUSSI.

DOUG TANTAU
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

This past year has been one of progress in the Queensland Branch. A number of new initiatives and the expansion of more established ones have made for a successful twelve months.

EXECUTIVE CHANGES

Earlier in the year, a few of the longer serving members of the Branch Executive Committee did not stand for re-election. However, their impact on the Branch over a long period of time is acknowledged and has been greatly appreciated. The 1997-98 Committee represents perhaps the widest geographic distribution our Branch has seen with two from the far north, seven from the central region and six from the southern corner. While our operational office and administrative base remains in Brisbane, we are proud of the broad representation from around the state.

BRANCH MANAGEMENT

We made the big move in March to an office in Sports House in Brisbane where we are housed in an environment of wide ranging sporting administration. This move has provided increased access to resources and the space to be organised and more effective.

Our Branch Administrator, David Speechley, has been busy this year on various fronts. His representation on a



*Doug Tantau -
Director of Communications*

hope that the National Newsletter has given all the relevant information to you. The contributions to and discussions in the "Letters to the Editor" section were once again excellent and it proves that not only do people read our Newsletter,

number of committees is helping to promote our organisation and heighten its profile. A number of policies have been drafted to enhance the smooth functioning of Branch administration, whilst various sets of guidelines have been revised to reflect the professional approach our Branch has to its operations. The Branch Executive Committee members have had the opportunity for greater involvement this year in a revised format of meetings. All committee members meet twice in Brisbane for a full weekend, and meet in most other months



*Jackie Walkington -
Queensland Branch President*

by telephone link up.

In the near future, our Branch office will be linked onto the Internet providing easier access and the opportunity to present ourselves on the Web.

COMPETITION

A large number of competition opportunities were again conducted this year, with the State Swim admirably hosted by the Brisbane Northside club. This meet broke new ground in its timing, venue and establishment of sponsorship

deals. It typified the positive moves forward being made in the Queensland Branch to emphasise the marketing of AUSSI both within and outside of the membership.

Swim meets were well attended and may state, national and world records were recognised. Again, Queenslanders made their way around the country and overseas to pursue their swimming interests.

MARKETING

It has taken some time for our Branch to come to terms with this National portfolio as it lacked much initial direction. Some positive outcomes have been achieved this year including the preparation of sponsorship guidelines; the overdubbing of an existing 30 second television commercial promoting AUSSI, and the production of a new 5 minute promotional video to show at carnivals, conferences and shopping centres etc.

The videos are already finding their way around the country. A big thank you to the Queensland Branch members who worked so hard on these projects.

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

In a Branch where members are spread far and wide, it was a mission this year to provide added support to all clubs and to encourage more communication between clubs.

To this end, regional meetings were held with myself as president coordinating discussion. They were conducted on the same weekend as coaching and technical workshops to enhance participation. The objectives were to:

- address regional issues;
- discuss membership development;
- answer questions to Branch; and
- meet other regional members.

The feedback from all meetings was very positive with numerous requests to run them annually. Clubs will be asked to submit items for the agendas of 1998 meetings to keep them relevant.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Again as a reflection on the wide distribution of members in the Branch, a group of six sub-directors - 2 from each region - has been trained to carry out technical support and training. They are coordinated by the Branch Technical Director thus providing a team of expertise more readily available to the clubs. At present, the team are concentrating on finding ways to encourage more members to gain technical qualifications - a task requiring positive marketing of the role to the membership.

COACHING

The production of the Queensland Masters Coaching newsletter went into its second year of publication this year. This informative sheet, which is produced bi-monthly, is sent to all accredited coaches and all clubs within the Branch. Its increased circulation has been reflected in the number of members attending coaching courses this year.

Two level one courses were conducted in Brisbane and Townsville with other workshops in Cairns, Gladstone and on the Sunshine Coast.

On both coaching and technical fronts, our Branch was represented at a meeting in Adelaide providing expertise and support at a National level.

Thank you David, Trish, Margie, Sandra, Judy, Rod, Sue, Russell, Irene, Maria, Rob, Sue, Kay, Jennie and Phil.

JACKIE WALKINGTON
PRESIDENT

NSW BRANCH

1. MEMBERSHIP

After registering 1685 members for the 15 months period of 1995-96, our membership for the 12 months of 1997 reached 1626. This consisted of 1211 renewing members - an all time high, 65 more than last year. The remaining 415 were new members.

Our large clubs have continued to thrive while some of the smaller clubs, especially in areas distant from Sydney, have very few members. During 1997, Dubbo Club reaffiliated and Gunnedah and Griffith affiliated for the first time. It remains to be seen whether Masters swimming will be viable in these country areas. Leichhardt Aquatic Masters disbanded while Emu AUSSI moved to a new venue and changed their name to Ripples AUSSI. In terms of demographics, the vast area of western and south western Sydney stands out as under-represented in our membership. The year finished with 43 affiliated clubs.

Gary Stutsel, the National Director of Membership Development, held a Carnivals/Coaching meeting in March. Clubs responded enthusiastically to the invitation to send two delegates, one for each topic, and a very worthwhile time of discussion ensued. Gary also travelled to Coffs Harbour and held a Forum for country members.

Eye-catching new posters, designed by Ian McCallum, have been produced and we hope that they will attract new members to Masters swimming.

2. MAJOR CARNIVALS

In early 1997 all our energies were focused on making the AMP AUSSI Masters National Swim 1997 a success.

Under the leadership of our President, Stephen Lamy and Meet Director Brian Hird, it succeeded beyond all our expectations, attracting 900 entries and making a profit of \$21,113. In three days of intensive competition at Sydney International Aquatic Centre, Homebush, 6 World, 45 National and 124 State Records were set. This was followed by a successful Open Water swim at Manly Dam. There were 42 international entries including a contingent of 12 from Hungary adding further interest to this large meet. However, the number of interstate swimmers was well below expectations and perhaps AUSSI needs to consider the future of the Nationals in the light of so many events now being available for Masters.

The winning club was Ettalong Pelicans



Beryl Stenhouse - Secretary

followed by Warringah Masters and Manly AUSSI. Swimmers of the meet were Peter Gilmour from Ryde and Marilyn Earp from Warringah.

In October, we held our Short Course Championships at Kiama. We decided to risk holding it on our usual date although

it was only one week before the Australian Masters Games in Canberra, hoping that entries wouldn't be greatly affected. However, the meet attracted a pleasing entry of over 300 and a great swimming and social weekend ensued, with Manly emerging as champion club.

3. OTHER CARNIVALS

In NSW, there were 23 interclub carnivals including 3 long distance meets in which many records were broken. Our members also competed in two ACT carnivals while a large contingent travelled to Maui for the Pan Pacific Masters Championships. We appreciated the attendance of our medical team at these meets - Dr David Pullen, Dr Kurt Singer and Dr Russell Spinks. From the profits of the Nationals, a Heart Defibrillator has been purchased. This will be taken to all carnivals attended by the doctors, although we hope it never needs to be used.

4. RECORDING, TOP TEN AND AEROBICS

Our very efficient team of Brett Larkin (computer), Harry Schofield (records) and Helen Rubin (aerobic) have continued in their respective positions for 1997. Brett has attended most carnivals and produced the Top Ten listings on disk for the National Recorder. As usual, a NSW Top Ten was printed, with copies sent to all clubs and extras available for purchase. Harry has been kept very busy with records - it seems from recent listings in the National Newsletter that over half the records set in Australia are by NSW swimmers. Helen has issued the aerobic recording software to interested clubs and will be using it to produce the 1997 results.

5. COACHING AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Coaching Director, Di Coxon-Ellis, organised a Level 1M Coaching Accreditation course in July, with 14 candidates plus another 3 undertaking the Supplementary course. A Stroke Clinic held as part of this course attracted another 10 swimmers. A CPR course was held in August and a coaching and technical camp in November. Due to lack of response, this was reduced to one day, but many trainee officials did the Starters and Marshals courses. A Timekeepers course was held at Coffs Harbour in November. Di has also begun producing a branch coaches newsletter, mailed to all accredited and trainee coaches.

From the profits of the Nationals, a video camera with an underwater casing has been purchased for the use of coaches.

6. NEWSLETTER

Carol Dawson produced four editions of SPLASH during 1997. Unfortunately, she has now resigned from this position and we are seeking a new editor.

7. ADMINISTRATION

The Branch is administered from the office at Cronulla although an application has been made for accommodation at Sports House. Our Management Committee meetings are held monthly at Sports House.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the hard working members of the NSW Management Committee, most of whom have been mentioned elsewhere. I'd also like to thank Ivan Wingate for his prompt attention to my many phone calls.

BERYL STENHOUSE
SECRETARY

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Many of our members took part in open water swims throughout January and February. This is becoming a popular pastime with recreational swimmers and is a possible direction for marketing for the future.

In February we welcomed a new club, Hoppers Crossing. Their Secretary, Anne Neville, was so keen to get back into the swing of AUSSI that she volunteered to take on the role of Director of Marketing. Both the Club and Anne have had a successful first year.

Our Annual General Meeting in March saw the departure of several long serving Victorian Branch Officers. John O'Dowd finally stepped aside from the Treasurer's portfolio after several years of being coerced back, Clyde McMillan vacated the Presidents' chair to concentrate his efforts as Treasurer on the National Board and Hans Wehrens resigned from the Registrar's post after many years. Hans was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his outstanding service in May.

After the reconvening of the Branch Computer Sub-Committee in April, the Branch invested in new computers and modems for the Recorder, Registrar and Newsletter Editor. It is expected that this new equipment will facilitate the quicker and easier transfer of information between personnel and initiate our journey on to the World Wide Web.

From June 6-8 the Surrey Park Seahorses ran their third annual 40 Hour Swim-a-thon and raised almost \$7,000 for World Vision. The profile of the event was raised this year when Daniel Kowaleski agreed to help publicise it to the media. This kind of effort is one of the many rewarding

stories that come from AUSSI Clubs.

New signage was erected on the VICSWIM Building in July, proudly advertising the home of AUSSI. It is hoped that this may raise the profile of the Branch.

The new Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre opened in July and AUSSI held the first championship meet in the new pool in August. Naturally the meet attracted many members who hadn't competed for a while who were keen to see the new facility. We hope that the increase in standard of State level meets will keep them coming back.

AUSSI Victoria staffed a display at the United Nations International Older Persons Day at Caulfield Racecourse on 30 September. Almost 200 enquiries were dealt with by a team of wonderfully dedicated volunteers. As a result we have been given a priority booking for the event for next year.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Jim O'Doherty on October 18. Jim was a founding member of AUSSI Victoria and was very heavily involved in the North Lodge Neptunes club. He will be sadly missed.

The Branch was thrilled to receive the news in late October that Melbourne had won the right to host the 2002 World Masters Games. We had worked alongside Melbourne Major Events to put forward the best bid possible and were rewarded with a positive outcome. No doubt our Officials Accreditation numbers will increase accordingly towards 2002 and many members look forward to officiating as well as competing at the 'home Games'.

On November 1st we welcomed Regina Brittingham, a USMS Level 3 Masters

Swimming Coach from Chico, California. Regina ran a full-day Stroke Clinic for more than 40 swimmers who found it both a challenging and informative day. Regina trained under Terry Laughlin who runs the widely known 'Total Immersion' Swim Camps in the US and proved to be a most enthusiastic presenter.

To round off a big year we celebrated North Lodge Neptunes' (and AUSSI Victoria's) 21st Birthday at a party on Tuesday 4th November (Melbourne Cup Day). It was a delightful blend of the old and the young and reminded all in attendance of the wonderful institution that is AUSSI.

Naturally we look forward to 1998 with the hope of growing to at least 45 clubs with a total of 1500 members. We are also keen to do more in the area of marketing and hope to gain some funding for special projects. The Branch will be trialling two State Long Distance Meets for 1998 (one Short-Course and Long-Course) to give our members more opportunity to participate in these events under Championship conditions. It is sure to be another busy year.

JODI-ANN BEARD
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP

The W A membership for 1997 was 1290 which is the lowest total since 1990. While that is of concern it is encouraging that the average monthly membership for each of the 12 months was 107 compared with 94 per month for the previous 15 month membership period. A 70 per cent member retention rate is

also a positive symptom. The conduct of the 1991 World Swimming Championships in Perth was considered to be a major factor in the nearly 15 per cent membership increase between 1990 and 1991. With the 1998 World Swimming Championships also being conducted in Perth a similar result would produce best ever results for W A. It was pleasing to add new metropolitan Clubs Cambridge and Swan Valley Muscats to bring our Club numbers to 6 country and 24 metropolitan.

EVENTS

A highlight of the year was the 20th Anniversary Dinner/Dance at the South Perth Civic Centre on November 20th where more than 200 AUSSI's enjoyed a display by Clubs and the Branch illustrating the 20 year history of AUSSI in W A. After presentation of anecdotes from different periods of our history by several Club representatives and presentation of various awards, guests enjoyed an excellent meal and then danced the night away.

The 19th State Swimming Championship was successfully conducted at Challenge Stadium on March 1st and 2nd with the Dale Alcock Homes 2000M Open Water Swim conducted at Leighton Beach on Monday 3rd March at 8 am.

The 13th State Winter Swimming Championship was also held at Challenge Stadium on 18th and 19th October and this event had special significance as it is not to be included in the revised programme of events for the W A Branch next year.

The 1500M Postal Swim was conducted again with John Lockley again collating the results. Work commitments unfortunately caused Jude Crawford to resign as State Swim Director after the

State Winter Swim but her bubbly enthusiasm will still be seen in other AUSSI activities.

Thirteen Clubs hosted InterClub Swim Meets in 1997 and these events were enjoyed by all who participated. A change to State Branch policy during this year provides the opportunity for records to be established at these InterClub meets, provided all requirements are met.

The Albany Winter Carnival in June attracts many AUSSI swimmers to the Albany Club which this year carried the theme "It's a Jungle Out There" with some very creative costumes being produced.

COACHING AND EDUCATION

State Coach Gordon Medcalf responded to requests for visits from 17 Clubs during 1997 and enjoyed their friendly hospitality while providing the benefits of his expertise.

The Level 1M Coaching Accreditation Course conducted on 20th/21st September and 8th November attracted 22 Coaches including, for the first time, 4 from Country Clubs Carnarvon, Geraldton and Bunbury.

Director of Fitness and Education Kay Cox was also busy organising the AUSTSWIM Extension Course - Teaching the Adult Learner, which was conducted in October/November by AUSSI (WA) for AUSTSWIM. Sixteen swimming teachers completed this Course and were very complimentary about the Course in their evaluations. The efforts of Kay Cox as the AUSSI (WA) representative on AUSTSWIM were recognised when Kay was elected a Fellow of AUSTSWIM -WA during this year.

As if those Courses were not enough,

Kay then organised an Educational Seminar on November 29th covering "Nutrition - Facts and Fantasy" and "Goal Setting - Your Swimming Goals". The 20 attendees earned coaching re-accreditation points.

BRANCH DEVELOPMENT

A lot of effort has been put into a review of the State and InterClub Swim Calendar during this year. A 'Think Tank' was conducted on 28th June where Club representatives discussed a wide range of issues with the benefit of prepared 'discussion starters'. A Questionnaire surveyed the views of all Clubs which were formulated into 15 specific recommendations for the programme of events for AUSSI (WA) in 1998 and 1999. These recommendations were endorsed by the Executive Committee before being considered and adopted by a Special Council of Clubs Meeting held on 21st October. The recommended changes are being implemented by a Committee convened by Julian Keys. Already a draft programme of AUSSI Swimevents for 1998 has been circulated to Clubs and the Committee has been active in liaising with Clubs and coordinating the programme of events. Julian Keys has been appointed as State Swim Meet Director with responsibility for arranging the appointment of organisers for all events on the calendar.

AUSSI (WA) has produced a 1997/98 Calendar of Western Australian Open Water Swimming Events and is conducting the Jardines Super Series of Open Water Swims for 1997/98 which provides for prizes with results based on the best placings in ten events for each swimmer. This is a new initiative by AUSSI (WA) and provides another benefit of AUSSI Membership.

The WA Ministry of Sport and Recreation (MSR) provided support through a grant for AUSSI (WA) which enabled several projects to be conducted and also assisted in the employment of a full time administrator.

Two AUSSI (WA) Clubs - Armadale and Whitfords - also received grants from MSR through the Sports Club Development Scheme.

Sponsorship support from Classic Holidays provided a 'participation' award, won by Bunbury Club, for the State Winter Swim. The \$200 award goes to the Club which has the highest proportion of members participating in the State Swim.

The Commonwealth Bank has also provided support through advertising in 'Different Strokes'.

This Branch Newsletter has been published 4 times in 1997 to coincide with quarterly Council of Clubs meetings where it is distributed. Editor Fred Van Andel used a theme of Open Water Swimming to good effect in the final edition for 1997. Provision was also made this year for the establishment of State Short Course (25M) records.

ADMINISTRATION

The February 18 Council of Clubs Meeting approved 24 changes to the Branch Constitution which have been implemented.

Administrative Officer Malcolm Stokes commenced on a full time basis from 5th June and has attended a number of AUSSI (WA) events to assist in his understanding of the organisation.

The requirement to vacate our offices at Challenge Stadium for the World Swimming Championships was the catalyst for a review of our accommodation requirements. An

application for inclusion in a Multi Sports Secretariat has been submitted to MSR, and our office has been re-located to the Multi Sports Office at least for the period of the World Swimming Championships.

A large number of AUSSI (WA) members are assisting the World Swimming Championships organisation by volunteering their expertise during the event.

As a Member of the Western Australian Sports Federation (WASF), AUSSI (WA) contributes to the wider sports scene and Kay Cox advanced the AUSSI cause by using AUSSI Masters as an example of how other sports might encourage greater participation by mature adults in a submission on behalf of the Masters Sport Advisory subcommittee of the WASF.

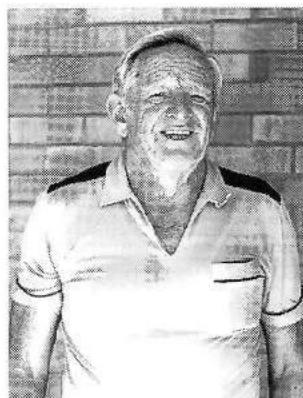
APPRECIATION

The WA Branch has confronted a number of major issues during 1997 and has made significant efforts to include the membership in the decision making process. The support of hundreds of AUSSI (WA) Members including National representatives, State and Club office bearers and our many Members is greatly appreciated. Our thanks also for the continued support and encouragement of Ivan Wingate and Sue in the National Office.

BOB DUNSTAN
PRESIDENT

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

South Australia maintained its level of overall activity, and it was particularly pleasing that attendances and input at the monthly Council meetings by Officers



Bill Stevens - Secretary

and Delegates continued to be good.

End of year membership was 611 compared with 616 for 1996, and 656 for 1995. In view of efforts to make the swim programmes more attractive and the recruitment activities, it was disappointing that the level was marginally lower than for 1996, and considerably lower than in other recent years.

The Branch finances remained in good shape. It was appreciated that "Living Health" continued its financial support to the achievement of AUSSI's purpose of encouraging swimming regularly in order to promote fitness and improve general health.

There were the usual pool meets and open water swims all of which were greatly enjoyed by the participants and their supporters. Although efforts were made to make these events more attractive it was unfortunate that so many Members denied themselves the benefits of being part of them. The many National and Branch records, and the PB's that marked the occasions showed that Branch coaching skills, enthusiasm and abilities in the water continued to be of high quality.

The Branch managed the swim section

of the 1997 South Australian Regional Masters Games Festival. This was held in Adelaide, and although entry-wise it was a modest event it went off very well with the AUSSI Motto being well in evidence. Thanks to Kit Simons.

John Double and his immediate supporters worked hard in the public relations field, and much attention was given to keeping Members well informed through the Branch Newsletter. Surveys that might help to determine Member attitudes on such matters as electronic timing, medals, and reasons for not renewing memberships were conducted. The two separate week-long displays held at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre were of great interest and have had a good effect on recruitment.

Several technical clinics were held during the year, and it is expected that these will bring accreditations to some of the many Members and Supporters who have been officiating, often for several years, without the formal qualification. Jenny Mulqueen worked well and hard in this area.

Through the efforts of Darryl Hawkes, Board Member and National Recorder, and with the assistance of the Branch Council, South Australia continued to make a worthwhile contribution on the National scene.

Good communication and advice was obtained from the National Office through Ivan and Sue, not because the office is Adelaide based, but because of the enthusiastic support that is available for all AUSSI activities.

Thanks go to the many Members and Supporters, who in one way or another, small or big, contributed to make the South Australian Branch attractive to its Fitness Fun and Friendship minded Members.

BILL STEVENS
SECRETARY

TASMANIAN BRANCH

in compiling my report for the past year I decided to look more closely at the mission or purpose of Masters Swimming and use this as a benchmark for reflecting on, and evaluating, our activities. Have these activities served to encourage adults in Tasmania, regardless of their age or ability, to swim regularly in order to promote fitness and improve general health?

The above question is difficult to answer for two reasons. The first reason is that the Branch does not provide services directly to individual swimmers, clubs do this. At best it can only provide a structure and context for clubs to operate effectively and support them in their endeavours. Secondly, we have not carried out any state wide survey of swimmers perceptions and opinions and rely instead on feedback from club delegates at meetings. The problem here is that the views of club delegates often reflect the same lack of feedback from their members.

The question thus needs to focus on the services the branch provides for clubs. These services include a regular forum for debate on matters affecting Masters swimming; an appropriate framework of policies and rules for the conduct of club activities; good safety standards to safeguard swimmers and coaches; an up to date record of all registered club members; ongoing training and education for coaches and officials; current information on developments in adult swimming and health; periodic inter-club championship meets; an efficient data base for individual and club swimming records and, very importantly proper financial management to make sure that there are enough resources to provide

the other services.

The services mentioned are reflected in the various portfolios held by the Branch Committee who report on them regularly at formal meetings. Most of the reports show that systems are working well, that the services are being provided and that committee members take their responsibilities seriously. However, there are four matters which merit special mention.

MEMBERSHIP

One of our challenges has been to increase the number of club members and hence the number of adults who can benefit from swimming. For the past five years the total number of registered members has been fairly static, averaging at about 340. But this seems set to change. The commissioning of the new Aquatic centre in Hobart and the development of a suburban sports complex have opened up indoor venues for two new Southern clubs which will apply for affiliation in the coming year. Hobart, at least, will be able to boost our membership.

COACHING

The training and development of coaches received special attention this year. The convenor of Coaching and Education organised a Level 2 Masters coaching course with an impressive range of instructors, and eight coaches have completed the first stage of the programme. The course reflected a priority in our strategic plan and was budgeted, and largely paid for, from Branch funds. This is a considerable achievement for a small State with a relatively small membership.

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS

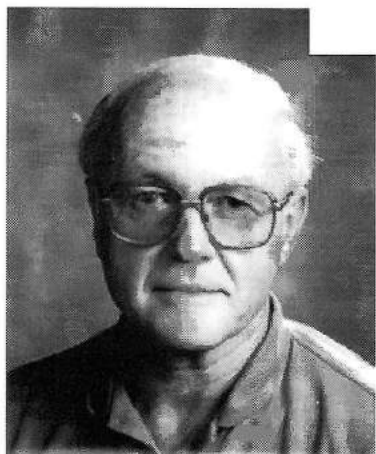
Three championship meets were

'franchised' to clubs to organise. These were the summer long course championships, the winter short course championships and a short course long distance championship. Both participation and performances showed that clubs and coaches are doing a good job in encouraging their members to take part and in making sure that they are well prepared and fit. Our recorder's files show that 214 State records were broken or set by individuals in the summer and winter championships as well as 29 National records. Both numbers show how performances are improving continually from better coaching and training.

Franchising arrangements for the championships have now been formalised in terms of a standard contract which contributes to Branch funds; gives scope and incentives for host clubs to achieve financial surpluses for themselves; allows a wider range of swimmers to be recognised for their performances; and improves clubs' accountability to the Branch. The contracts allow clubs more responsibility and initiative while ensuring that meets are properly organised and soundly financed. Clubs have also accepted a three year roster for the events which should allow longer lead time for planning and getting sponsorships.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Much of our time and energy has been put towards organising the forthcoming National Championships in the new Aquatic centre in Hobart in mid-March. An organising committee has its plans and budget in place and is well advanced with its arrangements. By the time you read this report many of you will have enjoyed the competition and hospitality



John Pugh - President

which this State has to offer.

CONCLUSION

Years always end with unfinished business and new challenges. Our unfinished business is to get eight coaches through their Level 2 course. New challenges are to train and accredit more of our own officials, update our computer capacity and put the Branch on the internet.

The year went as well as it did through the dedication and hard work of volunteer officials and helpers at Branch and club level. I thank all of these people and wish them well for the new swimming year.

JOHN PUGH
PRESIDENT

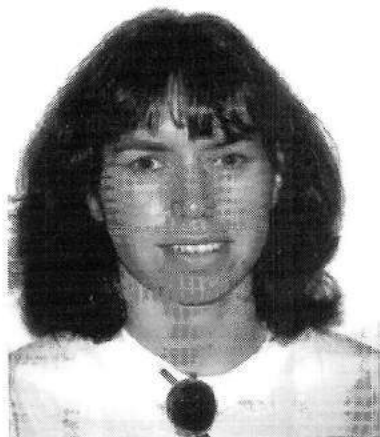
ACT BRANCH

I took on the job of ACT Branch Secretary when I first came to Canberra in August 96 thinking I had volunteered myself for Club Secretary. My first thought was "what on earth have I got myself into". Well a year has almost passed and I must say it does have its rewards.

ACT has seen some significant changes to the clubs over the years and this year has been no exception. We now have two clubs, Canberra North and Tuggeranong. This rationalisation has proved to be an effective means of improving interest in AUSSI in North Canberra. In recent months the numbers have noticeably improved from early on in the year for various reasons. Some of the events that occurred this year include the following:

1. CLUBS

Membership numbers in both clubs have increased gradually over the year to approximately 45 members for Canberra North and more than 60 for Tuggeranong as of October 97. Change of venue from Kippax to Civic Pool (Canberra North club), local advertising, special events such as 'grab-a-buddy' (Tuggeranong club), and the lead up to the Masters Games are a few of the major reasons. The most noticeable change, however, is the participation rate of swimmers which has shown a marked increase in the last few months. This is great news



Miri Robinson - Branch Secretary

and we hope to continue this into the next year.

2. BRANCH DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Sponsorship

The ACT Division of the National Heart Foundation continues to support us by publicising our aims and objectives. Both clubs have also taken on their own sponsorship activities with various private companies and/or clubs.

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, funding from the ACT Government.

2.3 Branch Newsletter

Jack Cairns has been the TIDAL editor for 1997. The newsletter is typically produced on a monthly basis but much depends on the amount of incoming material for Jack. Thank you Jack.

2.4 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, flyers and banners displayed at both the Civic Pool in Canberra and the Tuggeranong Aquatic Centre.
- Entry in the white and yellow pages.

2.5 Swim for Heart

Once again the National Heart Foundation conducted its annual 'Swim for Heart'

fund-raising event in August. AUSSI Swimmers co-ordinated teams for the event with some others participating in corporate and social teams.

3. NATIONAL

The Branch is responsible for the Planning Portfolio with Jean Heath as Delegate to the National Board.

4. SWIM MEETS AND EVENTS

4.1 ACT Long Distance Meet

The annual long distance meet was held on 12-13 July 1997 at the Tuggeranong pool swimmers from NSW, ACT and VIC competed in this event.

4.2 ACT Branch Championships

The Championships were held at the AIS on 3-4 May 1997. Swimmers from both ACT and NSW attended.

4.3 ACT Interclubs

Two interclub swim meets were held between October 96 and October 97. These were:

October 96 - hosted by Canberra North, at Kaleen pool

April 1997 - hosted by Tuggeranong, at Erindale pool

September 1997 - hosted by Canberra North, at Civic pool.

4.4 Interstate Meets

Once again many of the members participated in interstate meets particularly in NSW. The big one was the Nationals held in NSW.

4.5 Masters Games

Undoubtedly the biggest event held in the year. The swimming component of the masters games saw between 500 and 600 swimmers from all over Australia compete. Membership from both Tuggeranong and Canberra North grew

substantially leading up to the Games with many coming away with medals in their hand and new founded enthusiasm for swimming. The task now is to keep the new members enthusiastic and encourage participation for upcoming events in the next year, such as the Hobart Nationals.

6. SOCIAL EVENTS

Once again this year has seen a plethora of social events ranging from barbecues to restaurants to pizza at a members home after an event. Clubs tend to organise their own social events but occasionally the clubs will get together for a bit to eat and drinks particularly after an interclub or swim meet.

Being part of an organisation involved in providing some benefit to others is well worth the experience and I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people. Firstly to the committee members of the Branch most of whom have consistently contributed their efforts to AUSSI Masters for a number of years. Secondly, to the coaches and club committee members who work relentless hours to give the nurturing and attention required to keep the clubs alive. And last, but not least, to all members of the ACT AUSSI Masters who, unarguably, are the very reason for our existence. I wish you all a successful 1998.

MIRI ROBINSON

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP

During 1997 there was a 14 per cent decrease in membership in comparison to 1996. Interstate transfers, family and other sporting commitments had a major

impact on membership numbers this year. Negotiations are under way for the 30 second promotional video to be televised in the new year. It is hoped that this - together with other promotional activities for the 1999 National Swim - will raise the profile of masters swimming in the Northern Territory and result in increased membership.

It appears that the majority of our members are not seeking competition swimming but are focused on fitness, technique and social activities.

Clubs are providing coaching, aerobic and social activities according to the needs of members. A lack of competition activities continues to be a problem for those members who wish to compete regularly. The only option continues to be Meets conducted by the NT Swimming Association which are more focused toward the younger age group swimmers.

COACHING

A Level 1M coaching course which was planned for November was cancelled because we were unable to attract the minimum number of participants to run the course.

Five members of Arnhem Salties participated in a Level 1 coaching course which was conducted by an ASCA representative in Nhulunbuy.

It is hoped that there will be more interest shown in any future masters coaching courses to be conducted in the NT.

1999 NATIONAL SWIM PROGRESS REPORT

Dates for the 1999 National Swim have been set as Tuesday 11 to Saturday 15 May, with pool events from Tuesday to Friday and the open water swim and the presentation dinner on Saturday. A draft programme provides for four sessions

over four mornings at Casuarina Olympic Pool - the venue of the 1993 National Swim.

Ansett Australia has been chosen as the Official carrier, handling all aspects of travel, tours and accommodation. Significant support in kind has been promised by the NT Government and financial assistance is to be sought through the Department of Sport and Recreation. A number of event sponsors have been identified but a major sponsor is yet to be found. A social program has been developed to make optimum use of the Darwin climate and environment for informal social gatherings.

BRANCH NEWSLETTER

The Branch Newsletter was re-established and there were two editions distributed during the year. My aim is to produce the newsletter on a quarterly basis in 1998.

COMPLETED INITIATIVES

In line with NT Government requirements for funding applicants to provide a strategic plan - a brainstorming exercise was held and a strategic plan was established. The plan provides an outline of objectives and expected outcomes for the next three years. A meeting will be held in January 1998 to review the plan.

The Branch received \$5,000 from the NT Department of Sport and Recreation to assist in implementing some of these objectives and achieving the outcomes.

CHAMPIONSHIPS MEETS

The NT Championships were conducted in November and the meet was a success with a number of personal best times. However, the small number of competitors from the two 'out of town' clubs was disappointing. Circumstances beyond their control - such as the



Joan Curtin - Secretary

unexpected pool closure at Nhulunbuy - and the extreme distances between the three clubs were contributing factors.

Members from the NT competed interstate at the National Swim - NSW, SA Masters Games - Adelaide, Australian Masters Games - ACT and at regional Meets in Queensland and New Zealand.

Three NT records were broken during the year. We are still awaiting the results from the Australian Masters Games to check for more records broken.

The Aerobic programme continued to be strongly supported by Darwin Stingers and Postal Swims also attracted some interest.

My thanks to Ivan and Sue for their assistance and advice throughout the year.

**JOAN CURTIN
SECRETARY**

NATIONAL TROPHY WINNERS

FOUNDER'S TROPHY:	ETTALONG
RUNNERS UP TROPHY:	WARRINGAH
VISITORS TROPHY:	POWERPOINTS
NATIONAL HEART FOUNDATION AWARD:	DERYTH HERBERT - CRONULLA - SUTHERLAND
SWIMMER OF THE MEET:	
FEMALE:	MARILYN EARP - WARRINGAH
MALE:	PETER GILMOUR - RYDE
RELAY TROPHIES:	
80+	WARRINGAH
120+	WARRINGAH
160+	WARRINGAH
200+	WARRINGAH
240+	ETTALONG
280+	MANLY
AEROBIC TROPHY:	SUNSHINE COAST
TASSIE TROPHY:	CAMPBELLTOWN
COACH OF THE YEAR:	PETER JACKSON - WARRINGAH
OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR - 1997:	ROBIN SWEENEY - BRISBANE NORTHSIDE