



**MASTERS  
SWIMMING**  
Australia

# AUSSINEWS.COM

April, 2002

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Closing date for the next newsletter (March) should be received by March 31st, 2002.

The year is well underway after a busy month in March, with the AGM, the National Swim held in Sydney and the World Swim in NZ.. Planning for the next round of swims is continuing with the World Masters Games in Melbourne in October and the next National Swim in Perth in 2003. There will be a section on the national website dedicated to the National Swim where you will be able to get information about the program, accommodation, social functions and entry forms. Items of interest from the AGM held prior to the National Swim included:

- the revised Constitution, By-Laws and Rules were accepted (can be downloaded from the website)
- Life Membership bestowed on Ivan Wingate
- changes to the MD Certificate
- revision of the National Safety Policy

Hopefully by the end of April, the revised Technical Courses will be submitted to NOAS for accreditation. There is a new format in the courses delivered and way practical hours are assessed.

Mary Sweeney has written an article—Memories of Christchurch—her thoughts and observations of the recent World Swim.

Pauline Samson  
Editor

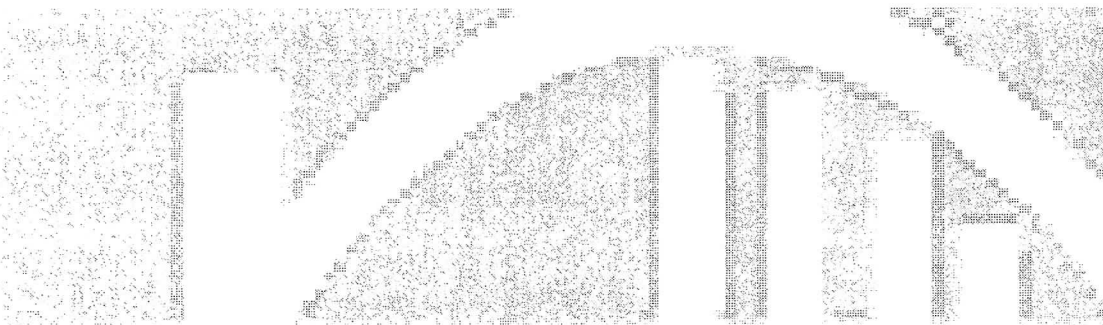
## FINA MASTERS CONGRESS:

Aniella Plowman from Diving and myself attended the FINA Masters Congress as official Delegates for Australia. Two motions were submitted regarding the breaststroke kick in butterfly. The one put forward by Australia had Bureau and FINA Masters Committee recommendation and was passed. This motion reads "A breaststroke kicking movement is permitted for butterfly." Other motions passed do not impact greatly on swimmers and will be listed in correspondence to Branches.

MARY SWEENEY  
President.

## FYI

*The 2004 World Swim for Masters Swimmers will be held in Rimini in association with San Marino. Rimini is on the Adriatic Coast of Italy, about 200km south of Venice, a beautiful location. The event is expected to be held in the September.*



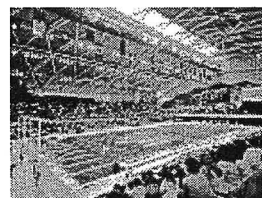
# **AUSSI Masters 27th National Swim 2002—Sydney Aquatic Centre, 16-18 March.**

The National Swim was an enjoyable event for all swimmers, including the 41 overseas visitors who provided some fast competition. There were 39 World records and 123 AUSSI National as well as records in all Branches.

Founders Trophy	(top scoring club)	Seaside Pirates
Runners' Up Trophy	(2nd highest scoring club)	Manly AUSSI Masters
Visitor's Trophy	(visiting club)	Dubbo Masters
Swimmers of the Meet		Gerda Williams
		Mark Smedley

## **Age Group Relay Trophies**

Seaside Pirates	80-119
Seaside Pirates	120-159
Seaside Pirates	160-199
Seaside Pirates	200-239
Warringah Masters	240-279
Manly Masters	280-319
Manly Masters	320-359



Awards presented at the National Swim Presentation Dinner

**Sydney Aquatic Centre**

National Heart Foundation Trophy	Peter Long
National Aerobic Trophy	Sunshine Coast
Tassie Award	Sunshine Coast
Coach of the Year Award	Jeff Price

## **95 Not Out—Alfredo Cherchi**

Alfredo Cherchi was the first World Record breaker in Australia in 2002. He is 95 years old and a member of Trinity AUSSI Masters Swimming Club, Summer Hill.

On Feb 2 at the North Sydney Pool, Alfredo slashed 32+ seconds of the existing 50m backstroke record in the 95-99 age group.

Alfredo first swam competition in 1920 as a 13 year old and continued to swim competitively until aged 21, when his career as a lawyer took precedence.

For the next 44 years, swimming was for relaxation and fun and usually meant a dip in the warm waters of the Mediterranean near Genoa. At 65, he took up masters swimming and in 1988 competed in the Masters World Swim in Brisbane, winning gold in the 200, 400 and 800m freestyle and a silver medal in the 100m freestyle.

Alfredo moved to Australia in 1991 to live with his daughter and son-in-law.

At the recent National Swim in Sydney, Alfredo broke the 200m backstroke World Record by 1.31m.

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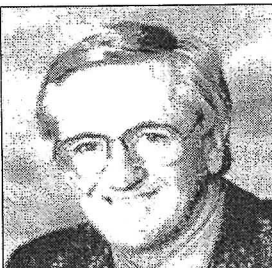
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Congratulations to Ivan Wingate  
Life Member of AUSSI Masters Swimming

Ivan Wingate came to AUSSI with a wealth of experience in amateur swimming and as an amateur and, for a time, professional coach. Up until the 1970's he had been heavily involved with the administration of the State swimming association: Carnival Director, Referee, Pools advisory etc and was on the Executive for a number of years.

He joined AUSSI in 1979 and in 1980 attended his first AUSSI National Swim in Adelaide where he met up with many swimmers he had known in the past. He immediately became involved in the formation of the SA Branch and in due course attended his first National Council Meeting in 1983. He then went on to attend thirty five consecutive Council/Board meetings. In the Branch, he has been President, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO and Meet Director and he still coaches at Club and Branch level from time to time.

He was elected National President of AUSSI in 1985 and participated in the first two World Masters Championships in Tokyo and Brisbane in that capacity. In 1989 he was appointed as AUSSI's first National Executive Director, a position he held for almost twelve years. He proudly acknowledges the teams he has worked with who have seen the organisation grow from less than four thousand members to nearly eight thousand by the end of 2000 and the accumulated funds from less than \$6,000 to over \$250,000.

Ivan had much to do with the development of Masters Games in this Country and worked tirelessly to protect AUSSI's interests because of them. On his instigation, the Masters Committee was formed within CAS (now SIA) and through this avenue, AUSSI became recognised as the best organised of all the Masters sports. Ivan is still a member of that Committee. He was on the Board of the second Australian Masters Games and has attended all eight AMGs and numerous other Masters Games where he was able to maintain personal contact with AUSSI members from all around the country. He has also swum in twenty AUSSI National Swims and five World Swims.

In 1997, Ivan was appointed to the FINA Masters Committee. He is now in his second term which will take him through to 2005. At the World Swim in Casablanca in 1998, he was the referee in charge and at Munich two years later, filled a similar position but no "on deck" activity was required. The same is to apply this year in Christchurch. He is well respected on the Committee.

Ivan is now well known and well regarded in Masters Swimming circles around the World, and in elite swimming and Masters Sports generally within Australia and is seen as an ambassador for AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia.

- Take advantage of an opportunity to compete by special invitation from the largest city
- in the world, Mexico City to compete at the 2002 Mexico Masters Swimming
- International Berimbau 1st Cup to be held from 26-29 June.

# Leisure Brands



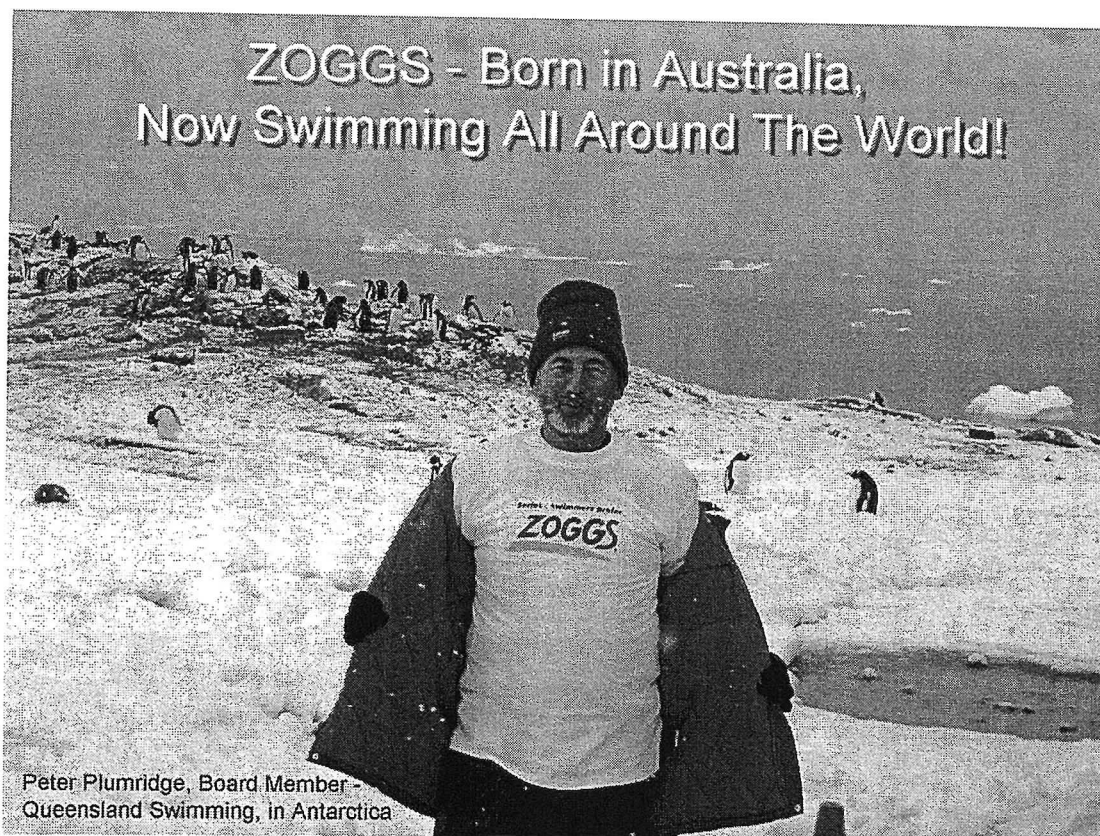
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MEMORIES OF CHRISTCHURCH

The 9<sup>th</sup> FINA Masters Championships has now passed into history and only the memories remain. For me these memories are mixed. Christchurch is an extremely pleasant orderly city to be in with the city centre dominated by the spacious Cathedral Square and meandering through the city is the rather tiny but very attractive and peaceful Avon River.

POOL VENUE:

In contrast, the pool and open water swims seemed chaotic at times. The newly built competition pool would not match up to top pools in most Australian states. The concrete concourse area around the pool was extremely narrow. The seating consisted of 4 to 5 rows on three sides of the pool. Access to the seating was by way of 3 steep flights of stairs. It was often impossible to obtain a seat in the stands to watch friends swim.

A big screen was provided three floors up on an excellent large area obviously used for indoor field sports. Unfortunately the camera focused on the swimmer coming in first in each heat then on the swimmer coming in last so as a means of watching the events and was no compensation for inadequate seating around the pool. This large area also housed the registration and information desks, results postings, heat sheets postings, food stall and seating, merchandising and tour operators.

REGISTRATION:

Our accreditation passes and shuttle bus passes were sent to our hotel and were available for us two days before the start of the swimming. Our heat programmes were available at the pool but consisted of listings of persons in each event in age groups with no heats listed. It was obvious from some times listed that a number of computer errors had occurred and in some cases names had been left out completely. The organisers attempted photocopying heat sheets for swimmers on the second day but as the heat sheets were being superseded by another draft almost before they were posted on the wall, and sometimes changed two or three more times before the event commenced, these photocopies were discontinued and heat sheets posted on the wall only. Even then some swimmers arrived at the marshal tent to find they were not listed on the marshal's "final" heat sheet and were forced to swim when possible or at the end of the event. For the 800m and 400m this meant late in the afternoon. To describe all the problems would take pages and the lack of a proper heat programme was the cause of most discontent amongst swimmers.

Through all the problems of incorrect registration listings the volunteer staff at the help and information desks showed a willingness to help in a cheerful manner and have to be congratulated on their calm approach to many stressful situations.

OFFICIATING:

The officials, including a number of Australian officials, worked well and for long periods of time in difficult circumstances, often competing for space on the deck with spectators taking photos or trying to find a seat and pool deck coaches actually timing and prompting their swimmers in the water. I did however feel that the refereeing was not consistent with some obvious errors not attracting a disqualification whilst other similar errors did. In my view refereeing at any level, but especially at World Swim level, should be consistent regardless of age or ability.

SHUTTLE BUS:

Shuttle bus passes could be pre-purchased for \$50 and ran from the major city and suburban hotels. The concept was great and at times worked well but at other times the service proved to be inadequate for the number of persons to be transported and some swimmers missed swims as several buses wouldn't stop due to overcrowding. There were near riots on some days at the pool when one bus would arrive to transport enough people to fill four buses. Only rarely were the shuttle bus passes checked by the driver and many people used the buses without tickets, thus making the situation worse.

MARSHALLING TENT:

The marshalling area was a large tent which gave access to one end of the pool. A powerful heater/fan was used to heat the tent to a bearable temperature. To be considered adequate the tent needed to be twice the size that it was. The problems were made worse by allowing people who couldn't or wouldn't use the three flights of stairs to the seating to walk through the marshal tent to the pool. To gain access to the other end of the pool, for those swimming in a 50m event, swimmers were guided from the marshal tent, through the diving pool area then through a construction site of leisure pools with at times dust flying around from workers sanding concrete columns. This had to be experienced to believe that it was actually allowed to happen.

**WARM UP POOL:**

The warm up pool was a 25m pool and was totally inadequate. Life guards were present but no supervision of the activities in the pool was provided. Some swimmers obviously were using the pool for training sessions with paddles, flippers and coaches. One Brisbane swimmer had his nose broken in the warm up pool. It was pure luck that more accidents didn't occur.

**SOCIAL EVENTS:**

The Welcome Function was held in a city park and was a simple but pleasant ceremony with a New Zealand flavour and welcoming and opening speeches.

I also attended the Farewell Function at the Convention Centre and this was very well organized and the food and entertainment excellent.

**OPEN WATER SWIM:**

426 swimmers braved the cold conditions in Corsair Bay in water measured by FINA officials as 18° but by others as 15°. It was an extremely cold day and it only due to the fact that the organisers (a NZ triathlete and open water swim group) were so well prepared, that no tragedy occurred. The very fact that hundreds of army blankets were waiting on the beach for the swimmers seemed to say that the locals considered it far too cold and in fact some local swimmers, who asked me to watch their belongings, commented that they ceased open water swimming in the area at the end of January as the water was too cold for safety. Sixty or more swimmers suffering from exhaustion, hypothermia or a combination of both were brought to shore in boats. Many more needed assistance from the water and some had to be carried or helped up to hot showers or the medical tent. All were wrapped in blankets. Three swimmers were taken by ambulance to hospital, one of whom was kept overnight.

**SUMMARY:**

The event was organised by an event organisation company, not NZ swimming or NZ Masters.

Many errors in organisation I am sure would not have happened if more advice had been sought and taken regarding running such a swimming event, including such simple things as correct computer input, pre-seeding of heats (a FINA Masters Rule), adequate marshalling areas and supervision of warm ups.

The FINA Masters Committee and/or the FINA Bureau must take responsibility for allowing the pool events to be conducted in an unfinished venue with inadequate facilities and for allowing rules of FINA not to be met. They must also take responsibility for the situation that eventuated at the open water swim. Only the expert organisation of the local swimmers averted a potentially tragic situation.

Reading over this it appears to be all doom and gloom but the event was saved from this by the variety of people who attended. Although many had genuine complaints about conditions or problems they had encountered, they also jokingly make the best of each trying situation and showed patience throughout. The volunteers were cheerful and helpful and some swimming performances in the pool were truly awe inspiring with over 100 world records being broken.

Having the swim in New Zealand allowed 396 Australian swimmers to attend, many attending a World Swim for the first time, and I am sure all enjoyed themselves, hopefully swam well and took home many happy memories.

**THE FUTURE:**

The next World Masters Championships has been awarded by FINA to Italy. As yet a city hasn't been chosen. To choose a country to host the next swim and having no knowledge of the pool venue, number of pool lanes, seating capacity, warm up facilities etc etc etc (there should be numerous set criteria) seems to me to be an irresponsible way to choose a host.

I would suggest that AUSSI consider putting forward a motion to the next Technical Congress in 2006 that the rule regarding wet suits be changed to allow anyone to wear a wet suit if they wish without incurring the penalty of being excluded from the awards. Most World Masters open water swims in the last ten years have had horrific stories of the effects of cold water on competitors.

**MARY SWEENEY**

President

Lane 9

If your doctor tells you to eat prunes with your Weetbix, do it, .....but soak them overnight in Irish Whiskey first (the prunes, not the Weetbix).

And it is preferable to be 'over the hill' than under it.

Read this in one of my kids books—'People usually get the answers they ask for, but it's not always the answer they want!' So if that's true, then all you need to do is work out your question carefully enough in the first place, and then you're sure to hear what you'd like.

Another swimmer offering advice—'Terry, you're not using your legs to kick'.—  
'That's because I'm using a pull buoy!'

Ian tried to get a flying start in the backstroke, but only managed to dislodge the starting block.

Do you know the acronym SFA—well surprise, surprise, it stands for Senior First Aid Certificate.

And those 2 pts in the aerobic trophy, placed Chris at the bottom of the club list—his job to hold up the club... however, he's now been nicknamed 'Atlas', as those broad shoulders are also holding up the entire Branch. At least *he* knows his place!!

**REPORT ON SPORTS TRAVEL:**

I have now accompanied Corinne on three AUSSI trips overseas and I felt the trip to New Zealand was again handled efficiently. Unfortunately a number of Australians flew over on the day of the air traffic controllers strike and some spent eighteen hours from expected take off time to arrival in Christchurch.

**ACCOMMODATION IN CHRISTCHURCH:**

We stayed at Latamar Lodge, just a few blocks from the city centre. The pool shuttle bus stopped at the hotel. The rooms were spacious and the staff helpful. Meals were available at the hotel or alternatively it was a short walk to the city restaurants. Corinne was available for questions/problems most evenings and attended the pool on a few days.

**AFTER SWIM TRIP:**

Seventeen people went on the after swim trip which proved to be a good number on the bus and allowed for a lot of interaction within the group. Seven were from Queensland, six from WA, one from Tasmania, and three including Corinne from NSW. Accommodation throughout the trip was excellent. The trip was a great success with only one day spoilt by rain and high seas, preventing us from undertaking a planned boat trip at Kiakoura. We made up for this by a jet boat trip into Able Tasman National Park area the following day. The highlight was undoubtedly a 3½ hour walk on Fox Glacier. In Queenstown the group did various activities on our free day there including shotover jet and white water rafting. Unfortunately for one the bungy jump was booked out. On the last night all on the tour attended a dinner in Christchurch and this was a fitting end to our trip.

In one sentence - it was a great trip, lots of fun, wonderfully organised with excellent company.

**MARY SWEENEY**