



**MASTERS
SWIMMING**
Australia

Annual Report 2002



**MASTERS
SWIMMING**
Australia

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National Board



Back Row (l-r): John Pugh, Andrew Martin, Di Coxon-Ellis, Lynne Malone, Greg Gourley, Viv Irwin. Front Row (l-r): Mary Sweeney, Kay Cox, Jeanette Holowiuk, Pauline Samson, John Pollock. Photo taken by Executive Director Julia Phillips at the October Board Meeting, which was held at the Quest Apartments, Williamstown.

National Management Committee 2002

Mary Sweeney	President
John Pugh	Finance Director
Kay Cox	Coaching Director
Julia Phillips	Executive Director

National Presidents 1975-2001

Bill Lough	1975-1978
Peter Jackson	1978-1984
Ivan Wingate	1985-1988
Graeme McDougall	1989-1992
Glenys McDonald	1993-1998
Mary Sweeney	1999 - present

Life Members

Kay Cox
Peter Gillett
Glenys McDonald
Gary Stutsel
Ivan Wingate

Portfolio Holders 2002

Each Branch, with the exception of the ACT, has responsibility for an area of AUSSI's operations, known as a Portfolio. The Portfolios for 2002 were:

NSW	Membership Development Di Coxon-Ellis
NT	Swim Meet Policy John Pollock
QLD	Risk Management David Speechley (Jan-May) Viv Irwin (Jun-Dec)
SA	Recording Darryl Hawkes
TAS	Communications Pauline Samson
VIC	Technical Development Alan Davis
WA	Programs Lynne Malone

In October 2002 the Board approved the restructure of AUSSI's Management, which resulted in the Portfolios being replaced with Committees.

President's Report



There is little doubt that 2003 will be remembered as the year dominated by large Masters swimming events held in the Southern Hemisphere. Consequently this report is dominated by reference to these events and their impact in general on AUSSI.

In March the AUSSI National Swim was held in Sydney, and the FINA World Masters Championships were held in New Zealand. In October, the World Masters Games were held in Melbourne, and a little later the World Gay Games were held in Sydney.

FINA World Masters Championships

Having the Championships so close to home gave about 390 AUSSI members the opportunity to take part in this event, some for the first time. The absence of qualifying times in the 50m and 100m events allowed a number of these to participate who would not otherwise have been able to do so. This aspect of the meet was excellent but unfortunately the 'participation for all' aspect is unlikely to be repeated in the 2004 swim in Italy, where numbers will be greater than in New Zealand.

A number of safety aspects at the pool and the open water swim in Christchurch were of concern, and the National Management Committee has expressed these concerns to the FINA Masters Committee.

Masters Games in General

Since as far back as the late 80s, AUSSI has monitored the growth of Masters Games. During this time we have seen the Australian Masters Games rotate around the States. We have seen the proliferation of regional Games, greater in some branches than

others, and the demise of other Games. We have had two World Masters Games held in Australia, one World Gay Games and a number of corporate type Games.

Reading through past reports it is clear that the issues raised in the early 90s are still issues today. The negatives of Games have been many, and the positives few. For our members who like to swim in Games, the possibility of winning Games medals is a big attraction. For AUSSI, Games cause major disruption to our annual swim meet calendars, and organisational problems for our AUSSI volunteers.

In the past, governments and Games organisers have maintained that one of the benefits for sports participating in Games is an increase in members from the non-member competitors. This has been proven to be a fallacy. Only a very small number of these Games competitors join an AUSSI club, the remainder declaring that with the proliferation of Games, they can get enough swimming competition without joining AUSSI.

The recognition sports receive in organising their events in Games is minimal. As recently as the opening ceremony of the World Masters Games in Melbourne, not one of the speakers thanked the sporting organisations for their hard work, or in fact even mentioned sporting organisations. All credit for the organisation of the Games was given to the Games office, tourism, councils and governments.

Financial outcomes for sports in Games haven't changed over the years. I quote from the 1995 Annual Report of then National President Glenys McDonald: "The other point of relevance is what recompense the Masters Sport gets for their additional workload and who benefits. It appears the Tourist Departments are the big winners



*World Masters Games 2002
Some of the competitors at the
Opening Ceremony at the MCG*

and the sports' gains are much harder to quantify." This statement has proven particularly true this year in relation to the World Masters Games and the World Gay Games.

World Masters Games

AUSSI Victoria can take pride in the organisation of the swimming in the World Masters Games. It was a successful, extremely enjoyable, swim meet. One innovation was the presentation ceremonies, not usually seen at Masters swimming events, but which were resounding successes with the winning swimmers enjoying their moment of well-earned glory in front of their peers as their medals were presented.

The sad outcome from these Games is that swimming will make very little, if any, financial profit for all the years of hard work by AUSSI volunteers.

World Gay Games

The Gay Games also produced a happy, friendly swim meet. An organising team from New South Wales AUSSI spent years working to produce the ultimate event, and all reports have been extremely positive in regard to the swimming.

Unfortunately the financial outcome was disastrous, with the Gay Games being placed into receivership. Sports, which are owed considerable sums of money by the Gay Games company, are again the major losers.

Future of Masters Games

In the future, Games organisers need to be more accountable to sports rather than the other way around. Sports should be given a share of the entry fee that compares favourably with expected expenses, and also incorporates a realistic return for the work sports put into making Games an overall success, and for the part sports play in bringing the tourist dollar to the State, city, or region. At present that share of the entry fee is totally inadequate. What seems to be forgotten is that without sports there would be no Games.

Opting out of involvement in Games was again bought up at a Board meeting this year. Our ability, however, to have some influence to change the inequitable system by being involved with Games is probably still the chief factor in the decision to remain involved.

From 2003, AUSSI will be offering a discounted entry fee to members who participate in the Australian Masters Games. It seems to me however, that Masters Games in Australia have passed their peak and are beginning to wane. One of the reasons for this I believe is that there are too many Masters Games, organised by governments, councils, tourist groups, and entrepreneurs for dollar value or political reasons, but with little consideration for sports.

Two major Games of two States have been revamped and named the Trans Tasman Masters Games and the Pan Pacific Rim Masters Games. Only time will tell if this transformation has worked and whether they will survive in their revised format. One wonders also about the future of the Australian Masters Games, when since 1997, the successful bids for hosting the Games have been won by Canberra (1997), Adelaide (1999), Hunter (2001), Canberra

(2003), and Adelaide (2005). This is not intended as a criticism of those who have organised or taken part in these Games, but a question on the process of allocating the venues, which seem to circulate among a small number of cities.

National Swims

A very successful and enjoyable National Swim was held in Sydney a week before the World Masters Championships in Christchurch, to allow members and overseas visitors travelling to New Zealand to enter both. The fact that the swim was a short course was generally well received, so much so that there were suggestions that the National Swim should be short course every so often.

Discussion took place during the year regarding our National Swim, which is traditionally held in capital cities in the best pool available. Whilst this presents a high-grade meet with up to date facilities, it also means that the swim is becoming very expensive to run and consequently entry fees are becoming higher each year as pool charges rise.

Memorandum of Understanding between ASI and AUSSI

Early this year a Memorandum of Understand (MoU) between AUSSI and Australian Swimming Inc (ASI) was signed, which re-emphasised the autonomy of both bodies. This MoU also paved the way for closer ties in areas of commonality where both organisations can work closer together for their mutual benefit. Currently the areas under discussion are coaching and technical matters.

Changes to AUSSI Board and Branch Portfolios

At the March Board meeting, a concept of National committees to replace the branch portfolio system was discussed. A structure for such a committee system was approved at the October Board meeting and National Committees for Information Technology,

Records, Technical, Coaching, Risk Management, Swim Meets and Membership & Programs, were established. The committee system will allow for greater input from members who have particular skills or interests in an area of AUSSI activity. It is a major change in our mode of operation but I am sure will prove to be a beneficial one in the long term. The Committees are answerable to the Board, which will continue to consist of Delegates from the eight branches plus the National Management Committee.

Board Meetings

Four National Management Committee meetings were held by teleconference during the year, in addition to the two Board meetings. After a lengthy process the Board approved the revised AUSSI Constitution, By-laws and Rules, which enabled AUSSI to change its incorporation from South Australia to Victoria. The new AUSSI 5-Year Strategic and Operation Plan was approved at the October meeting, also after much work and a lengthy revision process.

Sports Industry Australia

The Sports Industry Australia Annual General Meeting was held in Canberra in September, and Julia Phillips (National Executive Director) and I represented AUSSI. Whilst in Canberra we took the opportunity to meet with the AUSSI ACT Branch Organising Committee for the 2003 Australian Masters Games. I attended a further SIA meeting held in Brisbane in November.

ASCTA Coaching Conference

In May I attended the official dinner at the ASCTA Coaching Conference on the Gold Coast, together with Kay Cox (National Coaching Director.) AUSSI involvement this year had been significant due to the effort put in by Kay and the Queensland Branch.

FINA Masters Congress

The FINA Masters Congress was held in Christchurch in conjunction with the World Masters Championships, and I attended as AUSSI's representative. A motion by AUSSI to retain the option of the breaststroke kick in butterfly was passed. The nature of the Congress allows for little discussion, and the FINA Masters Forum, held at the World Masters Championships in the alternate second year to the Congress, better allows for raising any relevant FINA Masters issues.

Summary

2002 was an extremely busy year, and a lot was achieved. Not all outcomes were as good as we could have wished. There were



Ivan Wingate and friends at the World Masters Games (photo Tom Logan)

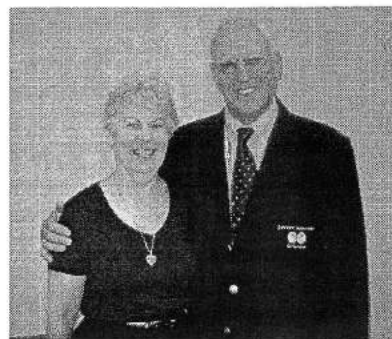
both negative and positive outcomes, but each of these has a role to play in making us a better organisation. We need to learn from the negatives and we need to take pride in the positives.

I thank all Board members, especially retiring members Judy Ford (ACT) and David Speechley (Queensland) for their contribution over a number of years on the Board. I welcome their replacements: Greg Gourley (ACT) and Viv Irwin (Queensland). My special sincere thanks to fellow Management Committee members Kay Cox, John Pugh and Julia Phillips both for their support, and their hard work.

At the March Board Meeting our former National Executive Director Ivan Wingate was made a Life Member of AUSSI. Ivan's contribution to all levels of AUSSI, which included 4 years as National President and 12 years as National Executive Director, is an inspiration to others and I congratulate him on his achievement.

My best wishes to all members.

Mary Sweeney, President

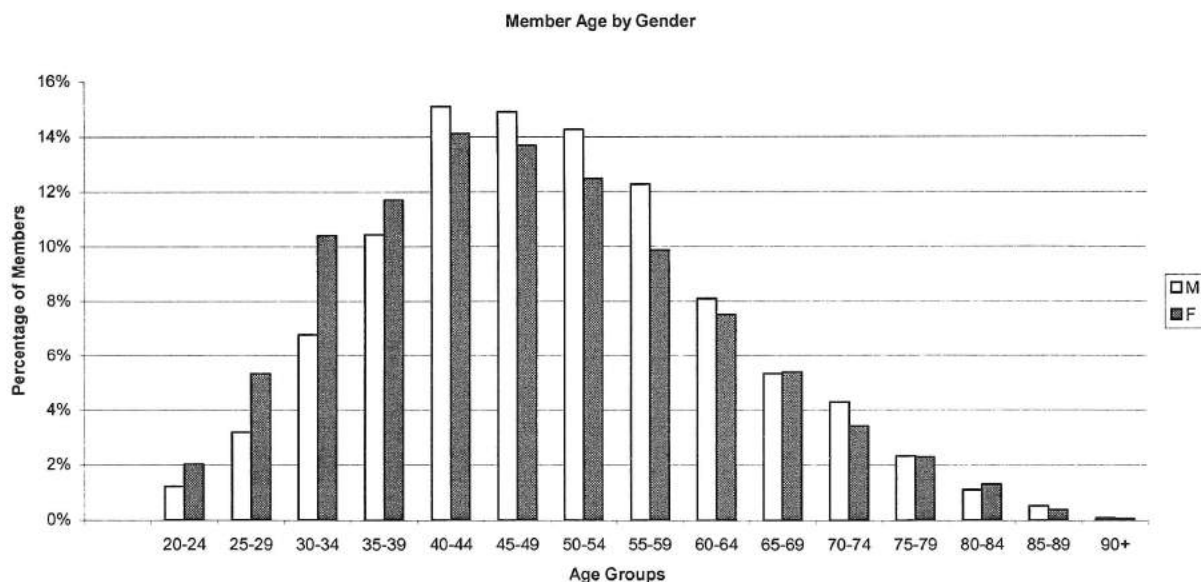


Mary Sweeney and Gunar Werner, (FINA Past Secretary) at the World Masters Games, Melbourne 2002



Ivan Wingate being presented with his Life Member plaque at the WA Presentation Dinner.

Membership Statistics 2002



Executive Director



Mary Sweeney has provided a great deal of information in her report about the international Swim Meets that took place during 2002, so in my report I will only say a big "thank you" to all the AUSSI members who worked so long and hard in making these events such a success, and to the competitors, without whom the event would not take place. Thanks also to the family and friends of members who gave their support in so many ways, and to Australian Swimming officials who offered their services around the pool deck.

Incorporation

AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia was incorporated in Victoria in 2002, with the National Executive Director as Public Officer.

Constitution, By-Laws and Rules

A significant re-write of the Constitution was required to incorporate in Victoria, so the National Management Committee took the opportunity to review the By-Laws and Rules at the same time. As a result, all three documents were considerably altered, and a great deal of time was spent throughout the year in revising and checking the documents for consistency and accuracy. New copies (in electronic and print format) of all three documents were issued to branches and clubs. Further changes to the Constitution and By-Laws were approved at the October meeting, and other clauses identified for amendment following the adoption of the new Management structure (see page 6).

Membership figures by Branch for the past six years.

Strategic Plan

The draft Strategic Plan 2003-2008 was reviewed and revised several times during 2002. The Board approved the objectives at its meeting in March, and the complete Plan was approved and adopted by the Board at its meeting in October. The objectives are:

- To develop and maintain an effective national structure for the management and promotion of adult swimming.
- To increase the number of adults who swim regularly in an AUSSI environment.
- To develop and maintain an effective and professional coaching and officiating structure for adult swimming.

The Strategic Plan includes an Operating Plan, which has been categorised into four main areas: Corporate, Participation and Membership, Coaching and Officiating, and Events. All activities undertaken by AUSSI fall into one of these main categories, and the Operating Plan includes detailed strategies, performance indicators, and "due-by" dates for all of these.

Although the Strategic Plan has been approved for the period 2003-2005, AUSSI's vision, objectives, strategies and approach to implementation are never final; evaluating performance, monitoring changes in the

environment, and making adjustments are normal and necessary parts of the strategic management process, so the Plan will be regularly reviewed and if necessary, revised.

Insurance

The combination of the collapse of HIH Insurance in 2001 together with several large public liability claims caused insurance to become a very big issue in the sporting world during 2002.

The AUSSI insurance policies for 2002 were discussed during a meeting with our brokers, Lowe Lippmann Bott, in November of 2001, where considerable additional information regarding AUSSI, its members and its officers, was requested in order to seek the best quote for renewal. I am delighted to say all our efforts paid off, resulting in a considerable reduction in the cost of our insurances for 2002.

Memorandum of Understanding with Australian Swimming

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AUSSI and ASI was signed in 2002, formalising the relationship between these two autonomous organisations. Several key areas are included in the MoU, with the education of Coaches and Technical Officials being the topic on which most time was spent during the year. Kay Cox has covered the detail in

Branch	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
QLD	1873	2009	2009	1879	1726	1886
NSW	1627	1554	1523	1523	1553	1724
WA	1290	1419	1467	1331	1238	1277
VIC	1371	1360	1288	1195	1134	1134
SA	611	664	732	675	719	658
TAS	343	338	323	348	321	305
NT	114	158	186	153	143	156
ACT	122	139	107	115	162	169
TOTALS	7351	7641	7635	7219	6996	7309

her report. It was most satisfying to see this project move beyond the discussion stage, and establish a firm basis for development of jointly managed projects and activities of benefit to all swimmers.

Registration Database

The Registration database for 2002 (which includes all historical data) has been archived at the national office, and has been used to compile the chart on page 5.

The registration transfer process established by the National Computer Committee worked extremely well all year, with discrepancies in data or payment being rare. I would like to congratulate WA Branch though, on being the only branch to send a transfer every month, without a single error for the entire year.

The development of a new Windows-based membership database to replace the NACS system that has been in place for a number of years did not progress as planned in 2002, so I developed a number of routines in Access and Excel to utilise the NACS data in meaningful ways. Thanks to the members of the IT Committee who tolerated my interference in their area of expertise, and for their helpful suggestions.

Management Restructure

The Board is responsible for the governance and management of AUSSI. Under the system that had been in place for a number of years, specific areas of responsibility (portfolios) were allocated to branches, and a person chosen by the branch – often the Delegate to the Board – to oversee that portfolio.

Although the system had worked well for a number of years, there are some inherent weaknesses in the practice of allocating a specific area of responsibility to a branch. Firstly, it encourages that branch and portfolio holder to focus on one aspect of AUSSI, sometimes to the exclusion of others.

Secondly, although some branches are able to find qualified

or experienced people to service the portfolio they have been allocated, other branches are not so fortunate. In some cases people who are already undertaking a significant amount of work are burdened with additional tasks, or willing and experienced people can't be found within the Branch, resulting in little being done and the portfolio floundering.

The restructure proposed to replace each Portfolio with a Committee, with the following benefits to AUSSI:

A Committee can include members from any branch, thus spreading both the workload, and the geographical area from which to source willing, qualified, and experienced, people.

A Committee has a formal reporting relationship with the Board and National Management Committee via the National Office.

Nomination for membership to a Committee is open to all AUSSI members, provided they are able to demonstrate qualifications, experience, or particular interest in the area for which the Committee is responsible.

A Discussion Paper outlining a restructure of the Portfolio system was presented to the Board at the March meeting, and received considerable support. The paper was then circulated to branches, and the Board approved the final proposal in October.

Considerable effort was expended to attract members to nominate for National Committees, and the Board made the inaugural appointments at the Board meeting in October. The members of the National Committees appointed by the Board in 2002 were:

Coaching Committee

Alina Graham
Ted Tullberg
Louise Stovin-Bradford
Jacinta Stirrat
Peter Reaburn

Technical Committee

Pauline Samson (Chairman)
Simon Hooton
Alan Davis
Gary Hoff

Membership and Participation Committee

Wendy Holtom (Chairman)
Jeanette Holowiuk
Therese Crollick
Lynne Malone

Swim Meet Committee

John Pollock (Chairman)
Jeanette Holowiuk
Therese Crollick
Danny Smith

IT Committee

David Ryan (Chairman)
Mark Hepple
Helen Rubin
Pauline Samson
Paul Watmough
Harold Gusdorf
Brett Larkin

Risk Management Committee

Ian Dear (Chairman)
Anne Horner
Fred van Andel
David Speechley

Records Committee

Darryl Hawkes (Chairman)
Paul Watmough
Pauline Samson

The Committees came into operation in November 2002, but they have not provided a report for this Annual Report, as 11-months of the year were handled by the portfolio holders.

Guidelines

AUSSI has a number of Guidelines to assist members, and several of these were revised during 2002, with a new one being written for the Committees established under the restructure.

Sport Administrator

AUSSI's Sport Administrator, Rachel Coffee, finished her employment with AUSSI a little earlier than planned to allow her to compete with the Australian Swimming Team in the Mare Nostrum tour and the 2002 Commonwealth Games. I conducted interviews in June to find her replacement, and selected Matt Egan from a number of quality candidates. Matt joined AUSSI on 11th June, and like

Rachel his employment was arranged through AFL SportsReady. Matt was later offered an apprenticeship in another field, and so resigned from AUSSI effective 1st November. The position remained vacant for the rest of the financial year.

ZOGGS Awards

The introduction of the ZOGGS Million Metre Club proved to be a great success with our members. I would like to congratulate the following AUSSI members who gained their awards during 2002:

Ten Million Metre Club

ACT

Stu Fitch, Canberra North

NSW

Libby Hassall, Cronulla Sutherland

QLD

Ralph Hudson, Rocky Crocs

Three Million Metre Club

NSW

David King, Ryde

NT

Ron Thorpe, Darwin Stingers

QLD

Stan Jacobs, Brisbane Southside
Ian Redpath, Brisbane Southside

WA

Sandra Smith, Bunbury

One Million Metre Club

NSW

Nerida Murray, Ripples AUSSI
Craig Swan, Coogee Randwick

NT

John Pollock, Darwin Stingers

QLD

Tracey Clarkson, Brisbane Northside
Betty Cook, Twin Towns
Kay Corskie, Whitsunday
Tony Dunn, Twin Towns
Cindi Ellis, Twin Towns
Chris Osborne, Brisbane Northside
Kiku Mukai, Brisbane Southside
Barbara Maynard, Twin Towns
David Maynard, Twin Towns

SA

Pamela Fletcher, Adelaide Masters
Marjory Muller, Adelaide Masters
Marlene Kempster, Marion AUSSI

TAS

Kerry Millwood, Launceston
Penny Davis, Oceania
Margaret Clougher, Hobart
Anne Horner, Sandy Bay

VIC

Betty Gardner, Geelong Catfish
Dolores Scheldt, Geelong Catfish

WA

Helen Kitching, Albany
Kathy Moir, Albany

Officials Newsletter

The Board approved a proposal for AUSSI to produce a Technical Officials newsletter, and the first issue was published in June. It was posted to all registered Referees, and with its variety of articles plus details of Rule changes made at the March Board Meeting, it was very well received.

Masters Swimming E-List

AUSSI Masters Swimming established an email list on Yahoo last year for the enjoyment of members, and anyone else interested in chatting with others about Masters Swimming. The main reason for starting this list was to provide a service to members, and people can join by visiting the Yahoo website on www.yahoo.com.au and then selecting Masters Swimming from the available groups.

National Heart Foundation Trophy

The National Heart Foundation trophy awarded at the National Swim each year has now reached the end of its life, with no further space for winners' names to be engraved. I therefore contacted the National Heart Foundation to enquire whether it wished to continue its sponsorship, and was delighted that the NHF agreed to provide a trophy to be won outright each year to replace the existing perpetual trophy.

ZOGGS

AUSSI built up a tremendous relationship with ZOGGS during 2002, due particularly to the fantastic efforts of Dena Sharrock, Marketing Manager.

ZOGGS extended its national sponsorship in 2002 by agreeing to sponsor the ZOGGS Aerobic Award, to replace the Tassie Award that has been in place for several years. This will be in place for a minimum of three years.

It was with great regret that we said goodbye to Dena in November, but we were delighted to make the acquaintance of Cass O'Neill, who has replaced Dena, and we look forward to continuing the happy and productive relationship between AUSSI and ZOGGS.

Sports Travel

I would like to thank AUSSI's sponsor, Sports Travel, for all the assistance provided to AUSSI members throughout 2002 for their travel and accommodation needs. Sports Travel offers a number of services to AUSSI, in particular putting together packages for members who wish to compete in national and international Swim Meets at home and abroad, and AUSSI is very appreciative of the expertise that Corinne Roberts and her staff make available to our members.

Summary

Another very busy, but very rewarding year, in which AUSSI achieved a great deal and showed the world what a professional and forward-looking organisation we are. I would like to thank all the branch officers, both paid and voluntary, for their wonderful support to me throughout the year; their kindness has made my job very much easier, and very enjoyable.

Finally I would like to thank our President, Mary Sweeney; Finance Director, John Pugh; and Coaching Director, Kay Cox, for their continuing support and advice. Without their assistance the National Officer of AUSSI would not function nearly so well.

Julia Phillips, National Executive Director



Director of Finance

Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2002.

The accompanying financial reports show the organisation's financial performance for the past year and its financial position at the end of the year.

Statement of Financial Performance

This operating report shows how the organisation gets its income, better called 'revenue', and how it has spent this income to provide services to branches and to clubs and their members. In general terms both income raising and expenditure are guided by long and medium term priorities, identified in the current strategic plan, and by the short term priorities reflected in action plans identified in the year's budget.

During the year the Board accepted a new structure of special committees to replace the previous portfolio system. Consequently portfolios ceased to be treated as cost centres and administrative costs incurred by board members are now included under the appropriate headings as part of General Administration expenses. This has involved a reallocation of portfolio costs and related comparative amounts for the previous year. So there has been a slight rearrangement of items in the performance statement.

The only activities now to be reported separately are special projects. These are projects that have been identified in the strategic plan and which will improve the administration of the organization or provide additional service benefits to branches, clubs and their members. All special projects are approved by the Board and are supported by detailed action plans and budgets. For this year a coaching workshop to redesign Level 1 coaching

requirements and a small marketing project were the two special projects undertaken.

Total income is substantially the same as in 2001. What is noteworthy is that there are only four significant sources. Member registrations provided 86.5% of total income, interest on investments 5.3%, sponsorship 4.4% and the national swim only 1.8%. This highlights our dependence on membership numbers. It also shows that we have freedom to act independently of grant agencies and sponsors.

There are no significant or unexpected increases in individual expense items and total administrative expenses actually decreased by \$4,523 compared with 2001. This shows that budget controls are working well. The final outcome, after special projects, is a Surplus for the year of \$6,658.

Statement of Financial Position

The structure of this statement shows little variation from year to year. It shows that 93.8% of the total assets are cash or cash equivalents. The ratio of current assets to current liabilities is 17:1, and quick assets cover current liabilities by 16.8:1. Both ratios are excellent. Of the cash assets, 86.5% are invested in interest bearing investments, which is appropriate for an organization with our aims and objectives.

Overall the statement shows that we have the cash resources to easily meet our operating costs and debts. We can present our organisation with confidence in bids for major events or ventures with other organisations in the swimming industry.

The Future

While the current year's reports show that we have operated satisfactorily and are in a sound financial position there is still the challenge to increase income, primarily by increasing the number of clubs and club members. Increasing sponsorship, but without losing independence, is another priority. A sum of \$30,000 has been set aside for special projects in marketing, coaching and information technology in 2003. When completed these should benefit all Masters swimmers in the longer term.

John Pugh, Director of Finance

Independent Audit Report

To the Members of
AUSSI Masters Swim-
ming in Australia Inc

Scope

We have audited the attached financial statements, being a special purpose financial report, of AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc for the year ended 31st December 2002 as set out on pages 1 to 5. The Association's Committee are responsible for the financial statements and have determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria) 1981 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial statements have been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committees' financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria) 1981. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial statements to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates.

These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. These policies do not require the application of all Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc to maintain an effective system of internal control over membership registrations and other fund raising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to fund raising was limited to amounts recorded.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed:

(a) the financial statements present fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements the financial position of AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc as at 31st December 2002 and the results of its operations for the year then ended;

(b) we obtained the information we required for the audit and the Association kept proper accounting records and other books during the year ended 31st December 2002; and

(c) the rules relating to the administration of the funds of the Association have been observed.

GARROTT & GARROTT
Chartered Accountants

Finance Director's Statement

In the opinion of the Director of Finance the financial statements set out on pages 10-13:

(a) present fairly the financial position of AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc at 31st December 2002 and the results of its operations for the year then ended; and

(b) satisfy the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1981 (Victoria) to prepare accounts.

John Pugh
Director of Finance

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc		2002	2001
For the year ended 31st December 2002		\$	\$
Notes			
Income			
AMSCN subscriptions		464	1,586
Branch affiliations		1,636	1,432
Coaching accreditation fees		170	99
Interest received		9,668	9,661
Members registrations		157,607	154,699
Sales of merchandise		1,091	589
Sponsorship		7,960	4,720
Sundry income		318	98
Swim meets		3,307	5,454
Total Income		182,221	178,338
Expenditure			
<i>General Administration</i>			
Affiliations and subscriptions		811	870
AMSCN production costs		593	1,394
Audit		950	950
Awards and gifts		600	452
Bank charges and interest		381	497
Board meetings and teleconferences		18,557	21,101
Computer software		1,770	3,623
Depreciation		5,125	3,494
Fax, telephone and internet		5,829	7,706
Insurance		31,537	38,784
Loss on disposal of asset		189	-
National Executive Director	Salary and superannuation	54,281	56,095
	Sponsorship commission	1,592	696
Office support staff		7,191	4,185
Other meetings and conferences		7,631	4,010
Postage and photocopying		4,419	4,032
Printing and stationery		12,613	14,350
Rent and utilities		12,780	10,134
Sponsorship costs		1,923	-
Stocks/Equipment written off		1,665	2,319
Sundry repairs and administrative expenses		1,010	1,278
<i>Total General Administration</i>		171,447	175,970
<i>Special Projects</i>			
Coaching workshop		3,661	-
Marketing pamphlet WMG		455	-
Technical workshop		-	898
<i>Total Special Projects</i>		4,116	898
Total Expenditure		175,563	176,868
Net surplus for the year		6,658	1,470
Accumulated funds at the beginning of the financial year		252,467	250,997
Accumulated funds at the end of the financial year		259,125	252,467

The above statement of financial performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc		2002	2001
As at 31st December 2002		\$	\$
	Notes		
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash on hand		1,300	1,300
Cash at bank	2	26,401	11,587
Investments	3	222,939	223,459
Shares - ESSO Employees Credit Union Ltd		10	10
Accounts receivable		4,944	3,228
Advances		2,000	2,000
Inventories		3,461	5,240
Prepayments		500	726
Total Current Assets		261,555	247,550
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Equipment		11,903	15,720
Trophies and cases		1,034	1,034
Total Non-Current Assets		12,937	16,754
TOTAL ASSETS		274,492	264,304
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable		5,219	5,764
GST clearing		325	(1,270)
Unearned revenue		9,823	7,343
Total Current Liabilities		15,367	11,837
TOTAL LIABILITIES		15,367	11,837
		259,125	252,467
EQUITY			
		259,125	252,467
TOTAL EQUITY		259,125	252,467

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc	2002	2001
31st December 2002	\$	\$

1 Accounting Policies

These financial statements are a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the accounts preparation requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria) 1981.

The committee have determined that AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc is not a reporting entity and therefore there is no need to apply Australian Accounting Standards or other mandatory professional reporting requirements in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these statements:

(a) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided using the diminishing value method to write off each individual asset over its estimated useful life.

(b) Inventories

Stocks of brochures, posters, books and lapel pins are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value on a first in first out basis.

2 Cash at Bank

Commonwealth Bank - cheque account	<u>26,401</u>	<u>11,587</u>
	<u>26,401</u>	<u>11,587</u>

3 Investments

Commonwealth Bank - cash management account	62,437	70,459
Commonwealth Bank - commercial bill	<u>160,502</u>	<u>153,000</u>
	<u>222,939</u>	<u>223,459</u>

DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE

AUSSI Masters Swimming In Australia Inc

31st December 2002

	Original Cost	Dep Rate	WDV b/f	Dep Charge	WDV c/f
PLANT & EQUIPMENT					
Life Member badge die		10	-	-	-
Conference phone		10	63	6	57
Fax/Phone system Panasonic KX-595		10	463	46	417
Mobile phone		10	-	-	-
Dual 486DX2 - 66 Notebook computer (S/n 8375249)		33	114	38	76
Panasonic fax machine KX-F2710AL	800	20	218	44	174
Panasonic fax machine KX-F2710AL	800	20	218	44	174
Printer	878	33	96	32	64
Floppy disk drive	172	33	-	-	-
Filing cabinets for historian	350	10	203	20	183
Viewmaster VM Logo computer	2,805	40	521	208	313
Office furniture (various)	3,409	10	3,068	307	2,761
CompaQ PC, modem and monitor	2,778	40	1,667	667	1,000
Filing cabinet	245	10	220	22	198
Colour jet printer and cable	172	40	103	41	62
Telephone handset	72	10	65	7	58
Mitsubishi monitor 17700	375	40	225	90	135
Laser printer Xerox docuprint 2125	2,500	40	1,500	600	900
Konica photocopier/document feeder	5,855	40	5,855	2,342	3,513
Desk pedestal	332	10	332	33	299
			<u>14,931</u>	<u>4,547</u>	<u>10,384</u>
ADDITIONS					
Refrigerator (GR-131SSF)	273	33	273	90	183
Telephone handset and headset	403	10	403	40	363
Microwave oven (MS194A)	149	33	149	49	100
Elite 4 drawer filing cabinet	226	10	226	23	203
Digital camera - Pentax Opto 330 RS	906	40	906	362	544
Filing cabinet trolleys (2)	140	10	140	14	126
			<u>2,097</u>	<u>578</u>	<u>1,519</u>
				<u>5,125</u>	<u>11,903</u>
DISPOSALS					
Fax, copier, printer	690	410	280	91	(189)
Historian's cabinet			61	-	(61)
Conference phone			62	-	(62)
370 Brother fax			386	-	(386)
	<u>690</u>	<u>410</u>	<u>789</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>(698)</u>



Director of Coaching

This year has been one of review and change for the coaching portfolio. The review of the management structure of AUSSI has resulted in a change to the structure and function of the coaching panel and the coaching Portfolio. Also 2002 was the year for our coaching accreditation courses to fall due for review by the Sport Education Unit of the Australian Sports Commission. It was pleasing to note that the number of accredited coaches is on the increase again and this is due to Branch Coaching Directors working hard to provide coaching services and coach education to their members.

Coaching Panel

As mentioned, the review of the management structure of AUSSI resulted in the Coaching Panel being replaced by a Coaching Committee. The Coaching Panel comprised of Kay Cox (Chair), Peter Reaburn, Ted Tullberg, and Peter Jackson. I would like to take this opportunity to thank these members for their valuable contributions and support over the past years. I welcome the new committee and look forward to working with them on the coaching challenges in the future.

Coaching Accreditation

Over the past 12 months there were 5 applications to conduct Level 1M courses (Qld, Vic, SA, NSW) and 1 for Level 2M (WA). One of these courses was conducted as an abridged course at the ASTCA Convention.

The efforts of past years have been paying off and we have had an increase in the number of coaches this year. Three branches currently have 79% of the accredited coaches, these being NSW 31%, WA 25% and Qld with 22%. Of the total number of accredited coaches, 30 of these are Level 2M. At level 1M 55% of the coaches are female and 45% male whereas at Level 2M only 40% are female and 60 % male. The reason for this trend is not known but it warrants investigation. Table 1 shows the change in coach numbers over the past 8 years.

Table 2 shows the number of registered members and accredited coaches for each Branch. The ratio of coaches to members gives an indication of the potential level of service that could be provided by coaches in each branch. The calculations also give an idea of what targets could be set for training programs, both in Branches and nationally.

AUSSI has continued talks with ASI about coaching accreditation course over the past year. I have had several discussions with John Armstrong and 3 face-to-face meetings. Early in the year we worked on matching competencies in each course and looking for the opportunities for RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning). ASI contracted a consultant to identify these areas and prepare a report on how the courses may work together. This task was completed; however ASI has decided to have a complete review of its whole coaching structure. As both our Level 1M and 2M courses were due for our Quadrennial review we could not wait for this to be completed as it may take years before this is finalised. It was agreed by both parties that the best way to deal with this was for AUSSI to continue with its planned review and to await the outcome of the ASI course restructure. Contact is being maintained with ASI and I am receiving updates of the process.

I have had similar discussions with John Armstrong about officials' courses, and when each group has defined its needs and courses, we will continue to work together to improve education for officials.

Late in the year the Sport Education Unit of the Sports Commission notified us that from 2004, it would only work with one body for each sport for the accreditation of both coaching and officials courses. This change has come about as a result of a review of the Sport Education Unit and the way it operates. Sports are being asked to join with other similar groups. We have been given 2 options, to apply for recognition in our own right or to work through ASI. We are currently working with ASC, and ASI to determine our options. Courses will continue as usual until 2004.

Year	Number of Coaches	% Change
1995	161	
1996	191	23
1997	220	15
1998	228	4
1999	206	-9.6
2000	189	-8.2
2001 (Mid-year)	179	-5.2
2002 (End-year)	214	18.4

Table 1. The number of trained coaches at the end of each year for the last 8-year period and the % change in numbers.

Review of Coaching Courses

Every 4 years we are required to review our coaching courses. During 2002, a panel consisting of Kay Cox, Peter Reaburn, Ted Tullberg, Megan Stronach, Alina Graham, Louise Stovin-Bradford and Alan Pearce reviewed both the level 1M and 2M. As part of this process a 2-day workshop was held in October in Melbourne where much discussion took place and work was done on reviewing, changing and re-sourcing the course. Reviewers are still working on the submissions and the Coaching Director will put them together. This type of review is an enormous task and AUSSI is fortunate to have the expertise amongst its panel to be able to complete such a review. My thanks to all members of the review panel for their efforts. The submission for the Sports Commission is due February 2003. There will need to be additional work on the administration and resources components in 2003 and even 2004.

'Coach of the Year' Award

Jeff Price from Seaside Pirates in NSW won the 'Coach of the Year' award. Jeff was acknowledged as a very enthusiastic and hardworking coach for his club, and he also assisted in Branch coaching activities. Well-done Jeff. This was a first for the award as coaches from the same club won it in consecutive years. Thanks to the other Branches who submitted nominations. I would like to encourage all Branches to acknowledge the efforts of their coaches by making nominations each year.

ASCTA Conference

This year we conducted a bridging Level 1M course for those coaches who already had a level 1 ASI qualification. This went very well and 26 coaches attended the course. Other coaches also attended some lectures. We also ran a Masters Forum including sessions from Shane Gould and Peter Wells, and a Question and Answer forum including these 2 speakers, plus David Speechley, Alina Graham, and myself. This was well attended and was very well received. AUSSI had an Expo stand to inform people about our activities. My thanks go to David Speechley, Alina Graham and the Queensland Branch for the organisation of these events. Mary Sweeney and I attended the Awards dinner, and Mary presented 'Coach of the Year' Award.

Australian Masters Swimming Coaches Newsletter (AMSCN)

The newsletter is going very well and Alan has added his own touch to the production with very interesting and informative articles on the science and methods of coaching. The newsletter fulfils a very important function in communication to coaches and an aim for 2003 is to have it become a means of communication between coaches.

Branch Coaching Directors

My thanks to all branch Coaching Directors for their efforts in 2002. This is a very responsible task and Coaching Directors need the ongoing support from their branches; this includes both moral support and budget support for their projects. Courses, seminars and workshops are continuing around the branches and it has been pleasing to see communications between branches on coaching issues during the year.

Conclusion

This has been a very busy year and it looks likely that the challenges will continue in the coming year. Some changes have been planned and others have resulted from changes in the wider sporting environment. The coming year will see the coaching portfolio draw on the resources in the branches to plan and implement various projects.

Kay Cox, Director of Coaching

	ACT	NSW	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD	TOTAL
Members*	169	1724	1134	305	658	1277	156	1886	7309
Coaches	2	66	23	6	8	54	7	48	214
Ratio	1:85	1:26	1:49	1:51	1:82	1:24	1:22	1:39	1:34
Coaches:Members									

Table 2. The number of registered members, trained coaches and the ratio of coaches to members in each Branch in 2002.



Membership Development

This report will be brief due to the inactivity in this portfolio in 2002.

Thanks go to the National Administration and Executive for the instigation of the new Committee structure. We believe that this portfolio needed to be covered on a National basis for a long time past, and are confident that the new structure will enhance our membership services. The National Office has access to all membership numbers and can create data for comparison purposes. We applaud the lessening of the load on the branch delegates.

This branch, as the holder of the portfolio to date, has produced the ABC of Membership, which was published in the National Newsletter and distributed within branches during 2002.

We have been aware that there has been a multiplication of resources by production of material in every branch, and hope that this will be one of the issues addressed by the new Membership Committee that was established in October 2002.

We strongly supported the proposal presented to the Board in October 2002 that Market Research be undertaken to obtain some objective and measurable data for AUSSI to use in considering its membership and participation programs. The draft proposal submitted by the Centre for Business Research (Sport Management Research Unit, Bowater School of Management and Marketing, Deakin University) tabled at the Board meeting was comprehensive in its approach, and being within budget, there was no hesitation in giving approval for it to be undertaken.

Although there has been no cohesive approach on Membership Development, we have been aware of "Come and try" days, shopping centre displays, and minor involvement by clubs and branches with Active Australia Day, and would encourage everyone to continue to support these activities wherever possible.

Di Coxon-Ellis, Director of Membership Development



Swim Meet Policy

During 2002 the process of revising the National Swim Meet Guide continued, with several changes being made as a result of decisions and suggestions made at the National Board meetings in March and October and recommendations of the Report on the 2002 National Swim in Sydney. Other changes were made necessary by amendments to a number of the Rules and By Laws of AUSSI.

The newly formed National Swim Meet Committee approved the final revised version of the Guide for publication in November. The Committee also approved

the final version of the Swim Meet Checklist, which contains those sections of the Guide that the Board considers to be mandatory. Both documents are now cross-referenced to the Rules and By Laws.

The formation of the National Swim Meet Committee has provided a wider range of experience and expertise to the ongoing development of the Guide and its accompanying Checklist.

John Pollock, Director of Swim Meet Policy

Risk Management



Queensland Branch held the Risk Management portfolio until October 2002, when the Board approved a new structure of National Committees. Queensland Branch takes pleasure in submitting this report for 2002 and wishes the National Risk Management Committee every success with this important aspect of the AUSSI Masters swimming organisation.

Risk management in sport has evolved into a fairly complex system of policies and procedures along the same lines that big business uses risk management to reduce its exposure to losses. In AUSSI this has occurred for the following reasons:

AUSSI Masters Swimming is obliged to do everything in its power to ensure that members are not injured while they are participating in any activity or function authorized by the organisation.

Risk management is "insurance" driven; the insurance industry has developed the whole concept of risk management to cover more than just safety; it covers any matter that may cause a setback to the organisation, for example, financial losses through fraud, loss of knowledge or valuable data, and losses due to competition.

Insurance premiums are related to claims history. Insurance companies insist on knowing about near misses, and that organisations have policies and procedures in place to reduce the potential for injury and any other losses they may be covering.

Governments at all levels require sporting organisations to have some form of risk management strategy in place. It is usually one of the conditions of eligibility for government grants and other forms of significant government support.

It should be remembered that safety and risk management are every member's responsibility. Members should be aware that they can access information about risk management in AUSSI Masters Swimming in the following main areas:

The constitution and by-laws contain many rules to ensure consistency in the safe conduct of swimming events.

A National Safety Policy, which contains guidelines on matters as diverse as (a.) staffing levels at swim meets, (b.) pregnancy in sport, (c.) blood spill procedures, (d.) diving into pools and (e.) injury reporting, and which is regularly reviewed.

A manual titled Risk Management Guidelines was developed during the time that the Risk Management Portfolio was held by the Queensland Branch. The AUSSI Board adopted the policy's Statements of Intent, and further development of the policies and content will be ongoing.

Information originating from the above sources is also found at National, branch, and club level in various instructions such as (a.) rules for conducting swim meets, (b.) rules for conducting open water swims and (c.) rules for swimming competitions. Most of the above mentioned information is available on the AUSSI National website or branch websites.

AUSSI Masters Swimming is proud that it has helped to create an adult sporting organisation that has a low injury rate and has subsequently been able to secure a comprehensive insurance coverage at competitive rates, at a time when some sporting organisations are having difficulty securing insurance cover.

Viv Irwin, Director of Risk Management



Communication

This is the last report for the portfolio of Communications. The portfolio was accepted by Tasmania Branch in May 1999 and for the past three and a half years has involved the maintenance of the national website and the publication of the bi-monthly national newsletter *AUSSINEWS.COM*. The national website, which was launched on Jan 25th 1999 and had a domain name change in June 2001, has had 2.1 million hits and the half a million plus visitors have had access to results, records and documents. The busiest month during the year was March with the release of the National Top Ten, National Swim results, and National Aerobic Trophy results.

The website continues to be one of the easiest and most cost effective methods of reaching lots more people, and continues to give us world wide exposure.

The National Newsletter, *AUSSINEWS.COM*, is published every alternate month and distributed to clubs. It is also available from the website in full colour in pdf format.

It was decided in 2002 that the National Swim webpage would be part of the website to allow for consistency of format and take the pressure off the host Branch of setting up and maintaining a website solely for the National Swim.

With an update of the software program, it is now much easier to incorporate photos from swim meets as thumbnails and in a slide show.

There is very little feedback received about the newsletter and the website. It would therefore be concluded that people are more than satisfied with both products.

Pauline Samson, Director of Communications



Recording

This year has been one of stabilisation. Software for records and top ten have not changed, allowing branches and clubs to become more proficient with their use.

In excess of 450 national individual records were approved in 2002 (280 in 2001), and 33 relays records were achieved, doubling the number achieved in 2001.

Once again it is a pleasure to submit the names of those who achieved FINA Masters world records during 2002 :

Alfredo Cherchi, 95-99 years of Trinity AUSSI, NSW (3 LC, 1 SC)

Margaret Cunningham, 75-79 years of Whitsunday Masters, QLD (1 SC)

Elizabeth Walliss, 75-79 years of Hills AUSSI, NSW (3 SC)

Bob Barry, 70-74 years of Manly AUSSI, NSW (1 LC)

Pam Hutchings, 65-69 years of Seaside Pirates, NSW (4 LC, 2 SC)

Tony Goodwin, 65-69 years of Manly AUSSI, NSW (1 LC)

Penny Palfrey, 40-44 years of Long Tan Legends AUSSI, QLD (1 LC, 2 SC)

Simon Leighfield, 25-29 years of Yarra Roughies, VIC (1 LC)

Thanks to all the branch recorders for their wonderful co-operation with software, top ten and record matters.

Darryl Hawkes, National Recorder

Technical

The year 2002 has been one of change and a time of implementation and acceptance.

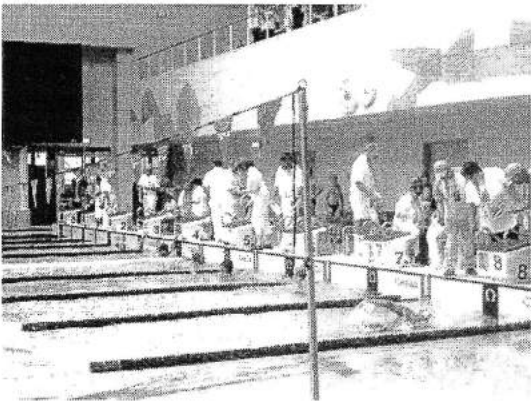
Competency Based Training (CBT) for AUSSI Officials is now in place. Timekeeping, Marshalling, Check Starter and Starter accreditations are the preliminary requirements for the Referee accreditation, which is registered with the National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS). The system will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

Medical Disability (MD) forms were redesigned for easier completion. They were also updated to comply with recent rule changes to strokes. The MD is valid for one

year only, and if required, must be renewed at the same time as membership annually.

At the October Board Meeting, the introduction of the National Committees was endorsed, thus removing the responsibility of a National Portfolio from the Branches. Our Branch endorsed this change, as it will allow for a more National approach and expertise on these committees.

Alan Davis, National Technical Director



Technical Officials in action at the World Masters Games, Melbourne

	Referee	Starter	Marshal Check Starter	Timekeeper	Chief Timekeeper	Total
ACT			1	2	2	5
NSW	2		7	20	7	36
NT				2		2
QLD	1	1	2	15		19
SA						0
TAS						0
VIC			5		3	8
WA	10	3		4	3	20
					National Total	90

Table 1: Accreditations 2002

	Referee	Starter	Marshal Check Starter	Timekeeper/ Chief Timekeeper	Total
ACT				1	1
NSW			3	2	5
NT		1	1	1	3
QLD		1	1	1	3
SA		1	1	1	3
TAS					0
VIC			1	1	2
WA			1	1	2
				National Total	19

Table 2: Course Approvals 2002



Programs

The Aerobic Trophy became a National Program in 1982. It is designed to encourage people to compete in distances from 400 metres to 1,500 metres, and up to one hour in duration, in the full variety of strokes.

The total number of swims that can be completed throughout the calendar year is 62, in the following categories:

- 25 individual 400m swims
- 25 individual 800m swims
- 3 by 1500m swims
- 3 by 1/2 hour swims
- 3 by 3/4 hour swims
- 3 by 1 hour swims

Points are gained for the completion of each different event. These combine with points gained by fellow Club members, and contribute to a total point score for each competing Club. The highest scoring Club is then declared the National Aerobic Champion.

2001 Aerobic Award

1st Sunshine Coast	QLD
8958	
2nd Talays	TAS
7917	
3rd Somerset	WA
7594	

It is great to see an overall increase in the number of clubs and individuals competing. Those clubs who do compete find it a rewarding and challenging part of their swimming program. It is certainly a great way to get fit.

As an extension of the Aerobic Trophy, the Tassie Award, which commenced in 1986, goes to the club averaging the highest number of points per registered member.

2001 Tassie Award

1st Sunshine Coast	QLD
172.27	
2nd Kawana	QLD
145.67	
3rd Bunbury	WA
125.42	

This year has seen a rewrite of the Aerobic Trophy Manual to allow for the computer recording of results and we hope that all clubs will now be using the aerobic software to enter their data.

Postal Swims

A Postal Swim is defined as any swim in which clubs or members from different clubs, compete in an event organised by a Host club but in which they are not required to swim together at the same venue. Swim results are posted to the Host club to collate.

Clubs make application to the National Office by 31st October annually to organise a Postal Swim for the following year, and details are then included in the national newsletter, and on the national website.

Lynne Malone, Director Of Programs

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
ACT	1	1	2	3	3	2	2
NSW	17	17	21	19	24	21	35
NT	9	11	13	20	10	11	8
QLD	3	2	4	4	6	5	5
SA	3	2	1	2	3	3	3
TAS	4	4	3	7	6	6	6
VIC	16	21	26	20	22	20	22
WA	22	21	21	19	19	19	17
Totals	75	79	91	94	93	87	98

Maximum Point Scorers

Men	18	18	24	32	40	41	43
Women	29	23	28	34	37	38	40

Completed All Swims (not gaining maximum points)

Men	11	12	18	17	13	14	14
Women	14	14	14	17	21	15	20

This table shows historical data by year and branch for the number of clubs participating in the Aerobic Trophy, and a breakdown by gender for maximum points scorers and swims completed

ACT Branch Report

This has been a year of consolidation culminating in an injection of new blood into the Branch executive during the second half of the year. The executive continues to meet on a regular basis and with a new Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer/Registrar, and Technical Director, there is much enthusiasm being engendered. Many members have volunteered their help and the Branch is going ahead in leaps and bounds.

Membership increased again this year, which is pleasing considering the very large increase the year before. Our two clubs continue to pursue the AUSSI ideal, which makes for plenty of friendship and fun as well as lots of fitness. Coaching sessions are held three nights per week at each club, which means that members can in fact swim six nights per week should they wish. One club continues to run its highly successful weekday morning session for those non-workers wishing to keep fit. This has turned out to be an ideal method of recruiting new members to that club.

The first ACT member successfully completed 10 million metres during training and competition and has been awarded entry to the Zoggs 10 Million Metre Club. He is now an extremely proud wearer of his taslon jacket and received a commemorative plaque as a permanent reminder.

The Branch Championships and the Branch Long Distance meet were again successfully held this year. Local and interstate AUSSI members achieved Branch, National and one World record during the meets. More members qualified as Technical Officials, and our new Branch Technical Director held a further Timekeepers course. These courses are especially important with the 9th Australian Masters Games on the horizon. A most competent sub-committee is well underway with the organisation of the swim component for the 9th Australian Masters Games, which will be held in early November 2003.

The Tuggeranong AUSSI Club held its second Challenge meet with a most interesting and different format to any other meets held in NSW or the ACT, and was again highly successful.

I'd like to thank the National Executive Director and National Management Committee for all their help with the finer details of running an Australian Masters Games as well as general advice and assistance which has always been available upon request. I'd also like to thank the NSW Administrator for her help whilst I've been acting Administrator.

Greg Gourley, Vice President ACT AUSSI Masters Swimming

Serious swimmers prefer

ZOGGS

The Cancer Council of Australia
recommends ZOGGS Goggles



AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc would like to thank its sponsors, Sports Travel Pty Ltd and ZOGGS, for their support throughout 2002. Their contribution to the promotion of Masters Swimming is not only recognised, but very much appreciated.

NSW Branch Report

Membership for the 12 months of 2002 reached 1724, a significant increase on the 2001 total of 1553. The year ended with 50 affiliated clubs, the new ones being Gay Games Club and Hills Academy Masters. Shoalhaven has created two sub-clubs to service three venues in the area. Large clubs with over 100 members are Seaside Pirates, North Sydney, Warringah and Gay Games.

Events

27th AUSSI Masters National Swim: Held at the Sydney Aquatic Centre from 16–18 March with over 650 swimmers from overseas and all States in Australia, it was a short-course event held one week before the World Swim in New Zealand. In all, nine World Records, 119 National Records and 97 State Records were broken. It was the first time that Masters Swimming NSW successfully used volunteers from Volunteering NSW, as well as having a large pool of accredited officials.

World Gay Games 2002: This event, held at Sydney Aquatic Centre from 3–8 November, attracted over 1300 swimmers from 24 countries. It was one of the largest international meets held in Sydney since the 2000 Olympics. Wett Ones Club was largely responsible for the organisation of the swim meet, and Masters Swimming NSW provided all the officials and some volunteers.

NSW Masters Games: Our Branch was responsible for the Swim Meet program of this event, which was held in Coffs Harbour in September 2002. The swimming events were held over three days and attracted nearly 200 entrants.

As well as being responsible for three major events during 2002, Masters Swimming NSW also held its usual number of local swim meets. This included two State Championships (the Short-Course Championships were incorporated with the National

Championships in 2002), 22 Interclub Meets, 3 Long Distance Meets, a Postal Swim and an Open Water Swim. Large contingents travelled to the World Swim at Christchurch and the World Masters Games in Melbourne.

Marketing and Club Development Committee

Sponsorship: During 2002 Masters Swimming NSW has been sponsored by McGuigan Wines. The groundwork has been laid in 2002 for the expansion of recognition of aerobic swims through sponsorship of BioEssentials. Other sponsors, such as Zoggs, Somersault Swimwear and Purely Natural Spring Water, have supplied goods or raffle prizes at our major meets.

Club Mentoring: As part of club development, a club-mentoring program has been set up. All members of the committee have been responsible for keeping in contact with their clubs and acting as a resource person for those clubs.

Coaching, Education and Training Committee

Coaching Course: A successful coaching course was conducted over two weekends in May and June 2002. As a result of this course, another 15 people are in the process of qualifying as accredited club coaches.

Seminar: A seminar on Anatomy and Physiology for Swimmers was held prior to a swim meet as part of on-going education for our coaches and swimmers.

Recognition of our Coaches: For the second year in succession, the AUSSI National Coach of the Year was awarded to a NSW Coach.

Events Committee

Accreditation and Training of Officials: Masters Swimming NSW now has 14 qualified Referees and nine active Starters, with a record

number of people now qualified for the remaining positions. Our newly forged relationship with Volunteering NSW has seen a large number of its members trained to timekeep at our meets. Four timekeeping courses and four Marshals/Check Starters courses were held in 2002.

Officials at Swim Events: All our officials were rostered as Referees, Judges of Strokes, Inspector of Turns and Starters for 29 events in 2002. Qualified officials were rostered on a rotating basis so that all personnel were kept up to date on each of their key positions. This was initiated in 2002 to spread the workload and was calculated on availability.

Access for swimmers with disabilities. The Branch has purchased new starting equipment suitable for hearing-impaired people, and initiated its use in 2002.

Constitutional Review

The sixth draft of a new constitution for Masters Swimming NSW was written in 2002 and is expected to be implemented next year. A panel met at regular intervals to put together this draft. Recommendations were accepted at a Special General Meeting of members in August.

Web Page

Many new features were added to the web page during 2002, including the posting of carnival programs before the meet, swim meet results, and summaries of Management Committee Meetings. A special webpage was created for the National Swim, and the NSW Branch was the first to be able to publish results on the web each day during a National Swim.

Safety Officer: Our new safety officer set up an email network among club safety officers, sent club safety officers a letter asking for ideas for improvements to safety in clubs and at all

swimming events, and was also proactive in organising CPR courses for our members and coaches.

Other Achievements.

Cancer Council Tent: Masters Swimming NSW purchased a QuikShade tent with money obtained from the Cancer Council SunSmart Program Grants to use at outdoor meets to provide extra shade.

Whine and Wine Weekend (WWW Weekend): A members' forum was held in August 2002 in Cessnock. This was held in a regional area to allow our country members a greater say in the running of Masters Swimming NSW. It also allowed us the opportunity to visit our major sponsor, McGuigan Wines.

Newsletter

The NSW Branch magazine "Splash" is mailed quarterly to each member due to partial funding by the NSW Department of Sport & Recreation. It is also available on the website.

Administration

The current accommodation at Sports House remains rent-free, with free email and Internet access and access to meeting rooms. Our Management Committee meetings are held in the third week of every month at Sports House. Sub-committee meetings are conducted at the discretion of those involved, as necessary. Volunteer hours have more than doubled with our involvement with Volunteering NSW.

Grants

Sports Development Grant: An allocation of \$15,000 was made by the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation for the 2001-02 fiscal year.

Thanks go to the National Administration and Executive, under whose structure all this is possible.

Di Coxon-Ellis, Administrator

NT Branch Report

Membership increased marginally from the 2001 total of 153 to 155: Alice Springs 62, Arnhem Salties 24, Darwin Stingers 69. The gender balance was 49 male/106 female and the average age was 46.5, ranging from 43 in Arnhem Salties and 42 in Alice AUSSI, to 51 in Darwin Stingers.

Branch Meetings

Branch meetings were held on a monthly basis in Darwin, with two Darwin members representing Alice Springs and Nhulunbuy. The Branch AGM was held in Alice Springs in October at the time of the Alice Springs Masters Games.

Swim Meets

The Branch conducted two championship meets in 2002: the Short Course Championships in Darwin in May and the Long Course Championships in conjunction with the Alice Springs Masters Games in October. Three email interclub meets were held via email during the year, to try to

overcome the lack of competition suffered by Territory swimmers because of the great distances between the three clubs. These meets are similar to those conducted by NT Swimming for its clubs.

Results

All three clubs participated in the 2001 Aerobic Competition, with Darwin placed 10th overall and 16th in the Tassie Award, Arnhem 33rd/15th and Alice Springs 31st/42nd. NT swimmers were also well represented in the Top Ten results for that year. Gerda Williams (60-64) from Darwin was awarded the trophy for female swimmer of the Meet at the 2002 National Swim, gaining five gold medals and breaking five Australian Short Course records. Swimmers from the NT competed in the National Swim in Sydney, the FINA World Championships in Christchurch, the World Masters Games in Melbourne and the Asia Pacific Masters Games on the Gold Coast.

Coaching and Technical

No coaching courses were conducted during the year, partly because of the difficulty in getting enough candidates from such a small member base to run one.

25 members from Darwin and Alice Springs clubs attended technical officials' training courses conducted by Ivan Wingate in conjunction with the Branch Short Course Championships in May. Unfortunately, very few of these have completed the practical component necessary for accreditation.

Sponsorship

The major sponsor of the NT Branch was again the NT Office of Sport & Recreation, which provided grants for administration and professional development at branch level.

John Pollock, Branch Secretary

QLD Branch Report

We all recognise that AUSSI Masters Swimming is a wonderful organisation, returning great value to its membership. AUSSI Masters is well structured and is positioned for growth. Our biggest challenge is to increase our membership nationally so that our organisation is clearly recognised as the "adult swimming organisation" to join. This year Queensland Masters Swimming membership increased by 160 registered members.

Queensland Masters Swimming has just completed a year operating under a new constitution and committee structure that has shown to have both positive and negative outcomes for the Branch. The negative outcomes result from the addition of another tier of management. The positive outcomes result from management's clearer definition between the day to day administrative aspects of the business managed by the Branch Executive Committee, and the setting of long term direction and policy by the Branch Management Committee. Settling into the new business structure will take more time, however the Branch is confident that its structure is right for growth.

The 2002 State Swim was a very successful event held in the beautiful southeast Queensland City of Toowoomba. On 23 and 24 February 362 swimmers from 39 clubs nominated to compete in the historic Milne Bay pool in the city centre. Queensland Masters Swimming was fortunate to secure continuing major sponsorship from the Mercure Hotels group, and the Toowoomba Tadpoles club upheld the ongoing tradition of combining adult swimming competition with fun and friendship.

Queensland Masters Swimming is currently undertaking a survey of members seeking feedback on wide-ranging issues such as the Branch Office's performance, safety initiatives implemented by AUSSI, communication formats and preferences,

medals, and suggested changes to major swim meets.

2002 saw progress with the Branch website (www.aussimastersqld.com.au), which has developed into a very usable facility containing formal documentation such as the constitution and by-laws, and regularly used forms. It also contains the ever sought-after swim meet information, results, and newsletters. The Branch finds that the web site is a powerful means of communication, as well as being an accessible place to deposit general documents used and read by members.

The final comment from Queensland for this 2002 report is in the form of thank yous to two groups of individuals. The first thank you is to the AUSSI National Office team for its dedicated support of the Branch over the last year. The second is to the team at the Queensland Branch Office at Sports House in Brisbane, a fine group of volunteers, members, and our administrator who provided another year of professional support, timely responses, and a constant stream of information to Queensland Masters Swimming members.

Viv Irwin, President

SA Branch Report

The SA Branch has undergone significant changes in 2002 with many new office holders and club delegates joining the Branch Council Meetings. Craig Smith (President), John Gamlen (Secretary) and Bill Newitt (Treasurer) form the nucleus of the new committee. Monthly meetings have been well attended.

Membership figures fell slightly during the year. Attendance at State Cups and Interclubs were lower than recent years. The Interclub series was keenly fought with Atlantis Club victors over Adelaide Masters by 2 points. Swimmers from South Australia competed and performed exceptionally well at the National Championships in Sydney, the FINA World Swimming Championships in Christchurch, and the World Masters Games in Melbourne. Swimmers set numerous State and national records. Tea Tree Gully Club hosted a successful Presentation Night in October.

The Branch has achieved efficiencies in 2002 through introduction of greater e-technology. The club now distributes its Newsletter electronically to most members. The Branch has established its own domain name, and the website (www.aussisa.org.au) is gradually being developed. The Branch remains in a sound financial position. We have successfully applied for a Management and Development Grant from the State Department of Recreation and Sport. Grants are used to promote participation and formation of Country Clubs, sponsorship of events (State Cups and Jetty to Jetty Longswim), and training programs.

The Branch was active in training programs during the year. A very successful Coaching Course (Level 1) was held mid-year, and two Timekeepers courses were held in October and November. Planning for a Referees Course for February 2003 in preparation for the 2004 National Championships was also begun.

The Branch successfully conducted its first Jetty-to-Jetty Long Swim on Australia Day (being the first time that it has split from Amateurs, which had conducted the event for over 80 years). We received good support from sponsors, and attracted over 300 entries, so we hope to grow the event in years to come.

The Open Water Series (Summer) continues to grow in popularity each year and eight events were conducted in 2001/02. For the first time Port Augusta Razorfish conducted a swim in Spencer Gulf, receiving over 50 entries. Other swims are held by Atlantis, Marion, Henley and Grange, and Adelaide Masters. The branch purchased a new trailer and equipment to the value of \$8,000 in 2002, being our major item of expenditure for the year.

A new country club was formed at Port Lincoln and the Branch has a goal of establishing two more country clubs, possibly at Whyalla and Roxby Downs.

The Branch sadly farewelled two of its most esteemed members in 2002 when Ivan (Life Member) and Pauline Wingate moved to Western Australia.

John Gamlen, Secretary

TAS Branch Report

The Executive Committee this year continued the task of completing the Five Year Strategic Plan upon which decisions would be based for future development of Tasmanian clubs and swimmers. The plan includes Financial Management, Coaching and Education, Officials, Events, Safety and Health, and Publicity & Promotion, and will be introduced to clubs by holding a seminar scheduled for 2003. With the support of clubs this should prove an effective management tool for clubs and individuals.

Tasmanian membership is down from previous years but has however seen a 5% increase over 2001. It is interesting to note that the Launceston club has taken over from Talays (Hobart) as the largest club in Tasmania, especially when considering that the only public 25 metre indoor pool in Launceston was closed by the Local Council, and the club had to

operate in less comfortable conditions that included a small school pool and use of the cooler 'Survival' pool at the Australian Maritime College. Launceston members are anxiously awaiting the Council's decision to upgrade or build a new facility.

Three major swim meets — Long Course Championships (Launceston), and the Short Course Long Distance Championships and the Winter Short Course Championships (Hobart) — were conducted this year as usual with effective administration, resulting in well planned and executed events. Interclub swim meets continued, particularly for long distance events.

Tasmanian swimmers have represented our State well in the FINA World Championships in New Zealand, the National Swim in Sydney, and the World Masters Games held in Melbourne. Congratulations to all competitors.

It is pleasing to see six new Level 1 coaches introduced into the system this year. Coaching sessions around our State have been performed with good attendances and results.

Our website has continued to provide all members with an up to date and accurate account of competition details and personal results. Financially Tasmania has performed to budget requirements and remains in a sound financial position.

Appreciation to all committee members, who performed their tasks during the year.

Peter Neilson, President

Kerry Millwood (centre front) was the first AUSSI member to obtain a ZOGGS Million Metre Club Award. She is joined in the photo by other members of the Tasmanian Branch who have previously achieved Million Metres badges, and are known as "The Tassie Millionaires".



Shane Gould presenting Tasmanian Branch Secretary Anne Horner with her ZOGGS One Million Metre Club Polo Shirt at the World Masters Games in Melbourne.

VIC Branch Report

Membership for the 12 months of 2002 totalled 1134, the same as 2001. This is the first time in the past few years that our numbers have not dropped by a considerable figure.

There are 35 clubs spread over the metropolitan and country areas. We have been able to gain new members but still find it hard to retain existing members. The Market Research approved by the Board in October, and to be undertaken by the National Office next year, will hopefully be able to advise strategies to keep those members who choose to leave for a variety of reasons.

The highlight of 2002 was the 5th World Masters Games held in Melbourne in October. Our preparation for this event started in 1999 and along the way, many people were involved. The Organising Committee did a great job over the 12 months prior to the event ensuring all was in place for the "Biggest & Best World Masters Games Ever". We believed we delivered that with 1750 swimmers from 90 countries competing at the best venue in the State, the Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre. It was a very tiring seven days of competition; six at the pool and one at Hazelwood for the Open Water Swim, but also very satisfying as this Branch worked hard to provide the best-conducted event held by AUSSI (we think so anyway!)

Our Newsletter, "The Swimmer", continues to be our intimate contact with our members. It is posted to all our registered members at time of publication and includes hints on training and nutrition. It also provided dates and information for Interclub, State Championships, National Meets, Masters Games & International Swims. The Branch is looking at ways to make this publication more cost effective with the idea of a setting up a new format and distributing it electronically.

The Branch holds 4 State Meets each year, conducted over

Long and Short Distances with a variety of events offered to the swimmer. We also conduct Short and Long Course Long Distance Swims. The events offered at these meets are 400m, 800m & 1500m, which we are unable to hold at our Championship meets due to time constraints on pool hire. These allow those who wish to swim the longer distances an opportunity to do so.

This Branch has a very competent Committee of Management. At our AGM in February, another change at the helm saw a past President, Danny Smith, return to oversee the very important year ahead. He has been involved in all aspects of the Branch and is very "hands on". Our Vice President, Shirley McFarland was once again involved in many of the Branch's activities. Our new Secretary, David Pope, has been instrumental in getting the administration area 'up to scratch' with Total Quality Control Management being introduced. With our focus on the World Masters Games in 2002, this has not progressed at the rate we would have liked but more time will be available in 2003 to complete this task. Our Finances have been in the capable hands of Bruce Ripper and with no funding or sponsorship he has had a hard year to balance all our finances. Paul Watmough started out the year as Branch Registrar, but after handing that over to the Branch administrator, he ended the year as our Recorder. He was heavily involved in the World Masters Games and is in the process of updating the Branch's recording data. Ian Dear settled into another year as Director Of Coaching. He conducted this Branch's first Level 1M course held for many years. It was very successful with 16 people attending the two-day course, which was held at the same

time as the ASCTAV Conference in July. Alan Davis returned as our Branch Technical Director and was responsible for all those great officials and volunteers at the World Masters Games. He even had time to conduct some technical courses, and was also the National Technical Director! Harold Gusdorf looked after the Newsletter, and we also have six club delegates that attend our committee meetings on a regular basis. Whilst our meetings are open to all, there is poor attendance from clubs. We are looking at going out to the clubs and attending their committee meetings. As the saying goes, "If the mountain won't come to Mohammed..." The Branch has an administrator who handles the day-to-day running of the Branch. This year, registrations became part of her duties and this has been extremely beneficial to all concerned. She was also heavily involved in World Masters Games.

Thanks must also go to the National Board. I would like to thank Julia Phillips and Mary Sweeney for their help during the year, especially during the World Masters Games.

Jeanette Holowiuk, Branch Administrator

Betty Gardner and Dolores Scheldt receiving their ZOGGS One Million Metre Polo Shirts from Shane Gould at the World Masters Games in Melbourne.



WA Branch Report

This was a transition year in the repositioning of AUSSI Masters Swimming WA as the State's premier adult swimming organisation. Successive years of membership decline in real terms generated a review of our operations, and following the long planned retirement of branch Executive Officer Malcolm Stokes in January, the opportunity was taken to canvas people experienced in the areas of promotion and marketing. The appointment of Wendy Holtom to the position had an immediate impact through creation of a network linking AUSSI Masters Swimming WA to other aquatic bodies and potential sponsors. This strategy culminated with the branch successfully gaining the support of Healthway, a key stakeholder with many WA sporting bodies, through sponsorship of the new initiative "BE ACTIVE Swim for your Life".

To increase the effectiveness of the promotion program several key appointments were made to the AUSSI Masters Swimming WA Board. Potential candidates were lobbied to fill the vacancies resulting in greater efficiency and productivity in the prime areas of financial accountability, promotion and sponsorship, operational procedures and recording.

The Board drafted short and mid term business plans with emphasis on promotion, and longer term plans towards self-sufficiency to alleviate any potential contraction of funding or sponsorship. A key element in the business plans is the development of stronger relationships with stakeholders and the alignment of AUSSI Masters Swimming WA to organisations with similar target audiences.

Several deficiencies were identified during the review including education access and the under-utilisation of the website. Seminars to assist club governance, recording, and pathways for web-site information, were conducted. The high attendance endorsed the need for an

ongoing education and information program. Early measurements of the success of the program include greater accuracy and dissemination of swim results, a steady improvement with the web-site presentation and accessibility to information, and greater interaction between clubs and the branch officers.

The vision of AUSSI Masters Swimming WA to be the leading organisation of adult swimming in WA can and will be achieved through sustained improvements in promotion. The infrastructures at club level are sound and the element of success to achieve the vision lies in the ability to attract new members and the retention of existing members. The Board is aware the competition for lane space, and inconsistencies of lane hire fees between centres, are imposts on the viability of some clubs. The flow-on effect of promotions, coupled with sound swimming programs at club level, should lead to increased membership, which will assist our organisation to negotiate more acceptable lane accessibility and lane hire fees that are mutually beneficial to all parties.

There have been many issues raised and most successfully resolved during 2002. The areas of insurance costs and membership fees are annual issues and the Board is determined to deliver value for money to all members through such actions as providing usage of the underwater camera for training purposes, or simply to just have fun. A perennial issue is a purported lack of recognition by the public as to who we are and what we offer. Short of re-naming our entire organisation to something more modern, the current promotions will need to suffice.

Promotion has increased through the "BE ACTIVE Swim for your Life" project, including the production of new membership brochures and posters, after the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Hon Alan Carpenter MLA, successfully launched the project in

September (see photo). Regular media promotion has been successful in community newspapers and Seniors' publications in attracting adults to check out what AUSSI Masters Swimming WA has to offer. Television and radio coverage was achieved for the Launch.



The BE ACTIVE Open Week held in September was the key strategy of this new project, with most clubs embracing the concept with a passion. Membership for 2002 grew with the additional promotion, and it is hoped that this will have a long-term impact on getting more West Aussies into swimming in future years. The challenge now is for clubs to retain the new members gained through the 2002 the BE ACTIVE Swim for your Life project.

The 2002 BE ACTIVE Club Challenge Series saw a new points system developed to recognise the most improved clubs, who will be presented with their awards at the 2003 Annual General Meeting. The awards points system was aptly named the "Improvement Ladder" and is so designed to reward and recognise those clubs who have improved throughout the year in relation to membership numbers and performances.

The BE ACTIVE Surf 'n' Turf Experience held in December at City Beach saw increased numbers of 65 participate in an organised 3 km walk followed by a supervised 400 m (or more) swim around the

buoys courtesy of the City of Perth Surf Life Saving Club (see photo). This event achieved many objectives, the main aim being to promote and increase awareness of AUSSI Masters Swimming WA throughout the State, and to also provide the opportunity for swimmers to have an ocean swim without the pressure of competing in an official event (without the bumps!).



Another initiative for 2002 was the Officiating Program, where funding was received to conduct technical courses, purchase equipment and signage, produce educational resources, and train volunteers. AUSSI Masters Swimming WA is indebted to the Department of Sport and Recreation for this program and for continuing to provide excellent courses for officials, volunteers and coaches.

Technical courses for Timekeepers and Marshals were conducted during the year with an enthusiastic bunch of members. Many of our training referees completed their deck-time in 2002 and were duly accredited. All augers well now for our local officials to officiate at the BE ACTIVE AUSSI National Swim 2003.

A Level 2 Masters Coaches Course was conducted to provide more accredited personnel at club level. During 2002, many club personnel learnt how to use the underwater camera, and 2003 will see this valuable piece of equipment assist in many coaching sessions at club level. It has proven to be an excellent member benefit.

AUSSI Masters Swimming WA was ably supported during 2002 through its affiliation with key WA sporting organisations, such as the WA Sports Federation, Sports

Medicine Australia, Seniors Recreation Council, and Womensport West. We were especially thrilled in November to learn that one of our members, Sally Bell of the Claremont Club, was awarded the Wendy Ey Masters Award at the annual presentation dinner of Womensport West, for her national achievements and records during 2002. This was a real achievement for our sport.

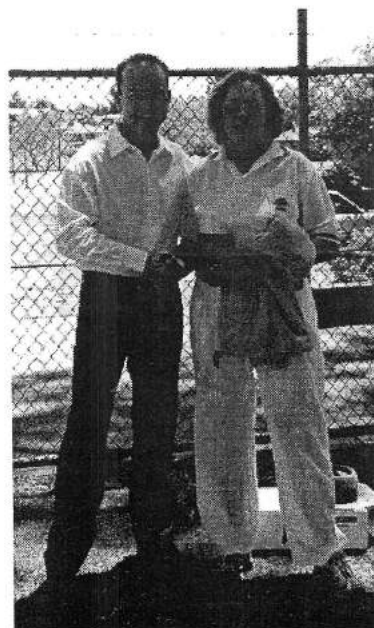
An enthusiastic committee for the "BE ACTIVE" AUSSI National Swim (April 2003) has been meeting regularly to ensure all areas have been well planned and that all arrangements are in hand for a bumper event. Promotion has been planned to garner new members to "test themselves" by joining up to compete in the event as well as encouraging current Club members to participate. It's not often that a national championship event is held in WA and we are promoting this as far and wide as possible. Sponsorship has been obtained through some very hard work and with the view to long-term relationships for AUSSI Masters Swimming WA.

The ongoing support from the Department of Sport and Recreation is very important to AUSSI Masters Swimming WA through the provision of funding, conducting seminars, and recognition of volunteers. Healthway has also been active in the repositioning of AUSSI Masters Swimming WA through the BE ACTIVE EVERY DAY health message, with support for special projects and the injection of professionalism in how we conduct our business. Considerable support has also been generously forthcoming from

TYR for the Annual Awards Presentation Dinner, ZOGGS for the Open Water Swim calendar, Have-a-go News for the Surf 'n' Turf flyers and ongoing media promotion, and Best Western Emerald Hotel for the wonderful prize for the BE ACTIVE Surf 'n' Turf Experience.

On behalf of all our members, I sincerely thank these sponsors and supporters, and in particular the Board of Management and the State Officers, for their hard work and enthusiasm during 2002. A special thank you is extended to Julia Phillips, National Executive Director, for her expertise, assistance and professionalism, as it is much appreciated.

Brian Collier, President



Dale Alcock presents Sandra Smith with her ZOGGS 3 Million Metre Award

*Start at
Lake
Leschenault
Swim Thru
conducted
by Maida
Vale
AUSSI*



National Swim 2002

When the 27th National Swim was first considered, it was decided to hold the Meet in Sydney to try to entice overseas competitors who were planning to attend the World Masters Championships in Christchurch the following week. The organisers were conscious that it would be undesirable to run the Meet late into the night if very large numbers attended. Consequently it was decided to run the Meet as a Short Course event, because the Sydney Aquatic Centre had the capacity to run two pools at the same time, thereby greatly reducing the time taken to run the event.

With number of entries finally determined at 641, it was decided to utilise the two pools for the first event only, thereby shortening what would have been the longest day by 90 minutes. Using both pools for this event enabled us to trial the two pools should they be needed in the future and ensured the first day did not extend into the evening.

Due to the unfortunate ill health of our original Meet Director, it was decided to have two Meet Directors for this National Swim. This worked very well, enabling both Meet Directors to swim in the event, and provided a sounding board for decisions and procedures during the Meet.

Another innovation for NSW AUSSI was the use of Volunteering NSW which provided volunteers for timekeeping, running, refreshments etc. This enabled the swimmers to concentrate on their events, for which everyone was extremely grateful. This was such a success, these volunteers now help out at NSW State Meets.

The website for the 27th National Swim (launched April 2001) played an important role in the event's success. The most popular areas were the results, program, accommodation, newsletters, entry forms, list of events, and general information. A large number of overseas people downloaded the entry forms from the website, the program was

loaded onto the website 3-4 weeks before the Meet. The results were loaded onto the web each night during the Meet, and sponsors were also listed and thanked on the website.

There were seven National Swim Newsletters produced, the first four were mailed to all AUSSI clubs and international Committees giving information on the swim, the other three provided information, photos, results, reports and gossip during the competition, created online at the end of each day.

The hunt for a major sponsor proved fruitless. Maybe due to the 2000 Olympics, maybe also due to the fact AUSSI Masters is not a large marketing prospect, most large companies were not interested. It was decided that Event sponsorship was a better idea, and we were able to get support from numerous companies with whom we had previously dealt, as well as companies which had some connection with our swimmers.

The Welcome Function was held at the Auburn Swim Centre on the Friday night before the swim, enabling swimmers to pick up their program and welcome bag, and also to renew friendships with other swimmers. The Opening Ceremony was held on the first morning, and the swim was opened by John Konrads. The Presentation Function was held at the Lidcombe Catholic Club, which was 10 minutes from the pool. Unfortunately being on a Monday night, many people had to go to work the next day, and many others flew out to Christchurch early the next morning, so it was not well attended, however it was a great night, and the Fun and Friendship of AUSSI Masters certainly shone.

It was a wonderful National Swim Meet for many reasons. Being a Short Course meet, it was different and well accepted by the swimmers. There were 29 World Records, 123 National records and more than 250 State records, which certainly kept the recording

room very busy. The use of volunteers made it easier for swimmers, who did not have to think about timekeeping. We were extremely lucky to have the expert officials from Masters Swimming and from NSW Swimming, and also Ron Jordan, Helen Wood and their team on the AOE equipment, and we were very lucky to be able to swim in the best pool in the world.

We had a tremendous Organising Committee led by Steve Lamy, supported by Bob Dorrington, Jeff Price, Col Lynch, Cathy Codling, Anita Saviane, Mark Hepple, Helen Rubin, Louise Stovin-Bradford, Judith and Jack McMahon, David Sloan, Michele Burley-Jones, and Jane Noake.

I would also like to voice my appreciation to our NED Julia Phillips and National President Mary Sweeney who were always available when needed to give advice. A special thank you to all the swimmers who competed, especially the 41 international competitors and the 475 competitors from NSW. We were very proud of our National Swim and Masters Swimming NSW has nominated this event for the NSW "Event of the Year" at the NSW Sports Awards.

Jane Noake, President

World Masters Games 2002

The 5th World Masters Games were held in Melbourne from October 5-14 2002. It was the biggest Games yet with over 23,500 competitors involved in 29 sports.

I had not realised the magnitude of this project at first; we had run the 2001 Nationals very successfully, so what were a few more swimmers (1200!!), and so what if they couldn't all speak English? Australians are experts at hand gestures! The Games Office was taking care of the hard stuff (pool bookings, social events, daily newsletters), so how hard could it be? I think I started to change my outlook around June 2002. We had four months to go when we had an extensive meeting with our main players and the Games Office to make sure we all "knew the score". I came away from that meeting thinking we had bitten off more than we could chew. I started to have doubts. Could we really run something this big? I had these doubts for about two days. I went through all aspects and came to the realisation that the team we had together could and would pull this off. And did we pull it off!

We ended up with over 1750 registered swimmers, the youngest being 25, and the oldest 94. A very popular ex-Olympian by the name of Shane Gould made sure that the media were out in force every time she took to the pool. The media "hounded" us for more specific times for when Shane was competing, just ask Julia who got phone calls at 7.00am. Mary Sweeney became famous when interviewed on radio for being someone who competed against Shane Gould! Go Mary!

For the first time in a World Masters Games there were medal presentations. At first, this provided us with some problems but these were quickly overcome, and became the highlight for those lucky enough to win one. There was a special dais, a fanfare welcomed the celebrity presenters, and the official photographer was kept extremely busy. I was

involved in "marshalling" the winners to make it easier to present the medals. Due to language problems we decided to make up signs for each age group. We held them up, got the three people, and sat them down in specially marked seats. It took a while to sort out at first, but once the swimmers could see how it was to be done, it was great. Another aspect not often seen by Masters Swimmers was the "Walk On" of the officials each day. This provided us with a very specific start to each day and acknowledged in a very special way the great work these people did over the six days.

As you would expect the Recording room was a hive of activity. One of our duties to the Games Office was to ensure the results were up on the web site as soon as possible. Problems with the World Masters Games software caused us a lot of initial problems, but with the help of both parties, this service was provided and proved very popular with swimmers and non-swimmers alike. Manual results were also up quickly.

Some Interesting Facts: there were three sets of twins competing; there were fathers and sons, as well as mothers and daughters; there were ex-Olympians as well as casual swimmers; I must have walked (and sometimes run) up to 15 kms a day, up and down those stairs as well as from one end of the pool to the other. It didn't make much difference to my weight, but that could have been the food and alcohol intake after each day - funny about that! There was a close contest as to which swimmers were the loudest in their support of their team members, the Brazilians or the Italians. Their unique way of "barracking" left one deaf at certain times; those whistles!

We also had to use the Games interpreter a few times, once in regards to drug testing!

On the serious side there were many World Masters Games records broken. A FINA Masters World Record was also broken, (by a Victorian of course!) as well as many AUSSI National and State records. We have also been advised that many of the International swimmers broke their own national records so it was obviously a very "fast" pool (it's what we put in the water!).

As you are aware by now, this is a very light-hearted report of the World Masters Games, but to be serious for a moment, there was a lot of work by a lot of people to ensure these Games were conducted properly. Sincere thanks to the Organising committee of AUSSI Victoria: Danny Smith, Alan Davis, Bruce Ripper, Paul Watmough, Kate Greenway, John Turley, Lynne Davis, Ian Matthews, Alan Pask, Shirley McFarland, Carole Anderson, Jan Williams, Harold Gusdorf, Don Coupe, Jane Mitchell. Thanks also to Julia Phillips, National Executive Director and Mary Sweeney, National President; Ivan Wingate, FINA Technical Delegate of the Meet, and especially to the hard working volunteers and officials for their support.

Jeanette Holowiuk, Co-Sport Coordinator (Swimming) World Masters Games

Medal Winners waiting for the presentation ceremony: Shane Gould (centre) won three gold medals (Photo: Tom Logan)



Gay Games 2002

The Sydney Aquatic Centre, at Homebush was host to Gay Games VI, one of the largest FINA Masters Swimming meets held in Australia since the FINA World Masters Swimming Championships in Brisbane in 1988. The Gay Games swim events were held over six and a half days, from Sunday to Friday November 3rd to 8th, 2002. Events included 50m to 1500m freestyle, 50m to 200m in all strokes, 400m, 800m and 1500m freestyle and 200m and 400m individual medleys. Swimming was the most popular of the 31 sports at the Games. There were 1317 swimmers participating with 5210 individual entries and 703 relays.

There was a strong international representation from 24 countries and 126 swimming clubs. The major countries represented were USA (515 swimmers), Australia (200), Netherlands (130) and Germany (113). Of the 13 Australian clubs, the most notable were Sydney Wett Ones (70) and the Melbourne Glamourhead Sharks (61). The Meet was swum under FINA Masters Rules, with separate heats for men and women and then each age group swum separately from the oldest to the youngest.

First timers to the Sydney Aquatic Centre were taken in by the speed of the pool, and many achieved personal best times. Of note, the oldest competitor, William Grant, 89, of Team St. Louis set two new Games records in the 85-89 age group, and Jim Ballard, 45, from West Hollywood set a world record in the 100m backstroke with a time of 1:03:56. In all, 242 Gay Games records were broken as well as European and national records of Australia, USA, Canada, the Netherlands, and UK. Complete results are linked to the Wett Ones web site on <http://www.geocities.com/wettones/gg>, including information on split times, team composition of relays, and records broken.

The meet will be best remembered for its atmosphere; camaraderie; the enthusiasm of the volunteers and the professionalism and dedication of officials.

Many volunteers and officials took the time off from work to attend the full six and half days. At any time there were at least 20 officials on deck. A team of eight referees (four from NSW Masters Swimming and four from NSW Swimming) worked well together, citing 72 FINA rule infractions. The Sports Data Services managed the electronic timing and recording with true dedication and expertise.

Camaraderie amongst the swimmers was strong, particularly when barracking for their team in so many closely fought relays. There were six teams with over 55 swimmers, and a further 12 with more than 20 swimmers, each with their own very colourful costumes and even their team song on CD. The inclusion of distance Olympic relay distances for the first time at an AUSSI meet proved extremely popular and a strong inducement to team spirit. They should be considered for future AUSSI Masters meet programs.

The seriousness of competition was relieved by moments of gaiety. The Melbourne Cup was held on the Tuesday of the competition. In good Aussie tradition, competitors were encouraged to bring, make, and wear outrageous hats and a parade and vote were held at poolside. All volunteers and officials who helped make the meet run smoothly were given an enormous standing ovation by the enthusiastic crowd in the stands as well. On Friday, the swim program was capped off by the "Pink Flamingo", a series of aquatic musical presentations by several teams to the theme of 'South Pacific' followed by a night pool party in the Leisure pool, with food, live band music, and dancing in the garden until 1am.

Sadly, the company that organised the Gay Games had to call in

an administrator to handle its finances, and AUSSI ended the year by lodging as a creditor. Despite these subsequent financial troubles, whether you were a swimmer, a volunteer, an official, or a Sydney Aquatic Centre staff member, the Gay Games swim meet was a truly memorable and rewarding experience.

Bob McInnes, Competition Manager (Swimming) Sydney 2002 Gay Games

National Trophy Winners 2002

Founder's Trophy	Seaside Pirates (NSW)
Runners Up Trophy	Manly AUSSI Masters (NSW)
Visiting Club Trophy	Dubbo Masters (NSW)
National Heart Foundation Trophy	Peter Long (NSW)
Swimmer of the Meet Male	Mark Smedley (SA)
Swimmer of the Meet Female	Gerda Williams (NT)
Swimmer of the Meet International Male	Graham Johnstone (USA)
Swimmer of the Meet International Female	Danielle Ogier (USA)
National Aerobic Trophy	Sunshine Coast Masters (QLD)
Tassie Award	Sunshine Coast Masters (QLD)
Coach of the Year 2001	Jeff Price (NSW)
Official of the Year 2001	Not Awarded

Relay Trophies

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