

36TH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Western Australia provided a 2011 Masters Swimming National Championships that will be remembered fondly by many for quite some time.

The input of the Organising Committee contributed to the overall success of this event. Many of the members of the committee had worked on the World Masters Swimming Championships committee in 2008 and their knowledge and action in the 18 months prior to the event helped to make the event run efficiently. Each member of the committee was excellent in their respective roles which is imperative when running an event at National level.

Secondly, it was essential to have the help of Masters Clubs as the volunteer team. These members were superb in their roles and helped to make the event run smoothly over the duration of the championships.

The committee also had a clear vision as to how we wanted the event to be seen. Quality was imperative when designing and ordering medals through to merchandise, safety of swimmers and ensuring the appropriate water temperature at the OWS.

Just over half of the sixty or so volunteers who helped to deliver the event were non-swimmers, with the remainder sharing roles and swapping red shirts for bathers.

84 clubs from across Australia competed in this event. 28 clubs were from Western Australia, 4 from South Australia, 11 from Victoria, 21 from New South Wales, 14 from Queensland, 3 from the Northern Territory and 3 from Tasmania.

565 athletes entered with the majority of these using the online system in conjunction with the Team Manager software program. This made all other aspects of recording much easier to manipulate. Of this, 549 athletes actually competed in the event which consisted of 286 males and 263 females.

During the event, 41 National individual records were set – 25 female and 16 male. 3 National relay records were set of which 2 were for female relays and 1 relay for the men.

Overall the event was very successful from a financial perspective. After the Budget (based on 500 entrants) was adopted by the OC, grant funding was sought and obtained from the State Government through the Department of Sport and Recreation.

A significant saving was eventually made on the cost associated with the venue hire (Challenge Stadium) compared to Budget. This essentially is the main reason that the final event surplus being higher than Budget.

The event began with the Welcome Function held at Dalkeith Nedlands Bowling Club on Tuesday 26th April. This successful function was well attended by swimmers and invited guests and included the official opening of the event. Swimmers were welcomed to Western Australia by the Sports Minister Terry Waldron and National President John Pugh.

44 Technical officials were given officiating tasks during the meet, covering 433 positions. Judith Crawford, Hilary Arber, Ron Gray, Richard Hughes, Warren Cassidy and Lynne Duncan lead the different officiating areas under Technical Coordinator Peter Maloney.

We acknowledge the time and effort of the Technical Officials - Event Referees, Starters, Judge of Strokes, Inspector of Turns, Marshals and Recording teams.

Eight Masters Swimming officials from other States and 2 Swimming WA officials nominated to officiate at this meet.

The meet ran smoothly and mostly within expected time. All officials were pleasant and appreciated by the swimmers. The swimmers were friendly and enjoyed their experience competing in Western Australia. It was pleasing to have a large team of volunteers to offer their time and in some cases to forgo their own swimming to officiate at this event.

The Open Water Swim for the 2011 Masters Swimming National Championships was held in perfect conditions on Sunday 1st May in Matilda Bay, Swan River. It was calm and sunny and the water temperature was approximately 19°C – 20°C. The water quality was also good.

Of the 163 swimmers entered, 26 did not register at the UWA Watersports complex on the morning of the swim leaving a starting field of 137 split into two waves based on nominated time. There were two withdrawals (DNF) during the race with the remaining 135 swimmers completing the course within the generous 1 ½ hour time limit.

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Sundowner functions were held at the conclusion of swimming on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. These were informal barbecues where swimmers could get-together and socialise after a hard day of competition. The final function was the Presentation Function held at the impressive Royal Perth Yacht Club. Proceedings went smoothly with an excellent buffet lunch followed by the presentation of the many trophies and awards.



The team of Officials for the National Championships