

Nan Lewis (Reynolds)

1920 – 2007

Years Active: 1985 – 2005



Nan learned to swim at the age of 12 at a small pool near her home in Dynnryne called Top of the World. It was the philosophy of the club for swimmers to help and teach others and to pass on their knowledge and ensure the safety of others and so Nan was teaching others at the age of 13.

As a teenager, Nan competed in state titles and achieved medals as part of relay teams. She also swam in the Trans Derwent Swim (as part of the Hobart Regatta) on eight occasions, between 1935 and 1945, and won the event five times. She won her first attempt of the title at the age of 14 in 1935 and she recorded the fastest time even when handicapped by 15 minutes. In 1938 Nan swam the Trans Derwent in the record time of 26:16.5 minutes. She wore American silk bathers and additional whale oil for the cold!

After the war, Nan married Alan Lewis and raised four children. She spent the early years while the children were growing up with a variety of sports involving the children, and of course swimming and teaching. She also organised, coached and participated in the State's first Synchronised Swimming performance (Water Ballet). Although she also took up golf, she admitted she was much better at swimming.

In 1967, Nan moved from Taroona to South Arm where her home had a heated salt water pool and it was enclosed in a 'bubble'. She spent many years teaching and coaching the local South Arm children for their school swimming sports.

Nan continued to swim and it was at the Clarence Pool that the then manager John Brown advertised the idea of starting a masters club in the south after meeting with Jenny Page from the Launceston AUSSI Masters club.

Nan together with Perri Brereton formed the Hobart AUSSI Masters Club in 1986 with Ted Preshaw as the 1st President and Nan as Secretary. The club grew rather quickly and as they trained on the eastern shore, it was decided another club was needed on the western shore, so Nan, Perri along with Maureen Pepper and Marian Skarratt in 1988 formed Talays AUSSI Masters and during the summer months was based at the Glenorchy Pool. Nan encouraged adults she was teaching to swim to join masters swimming. In the club, at varying times, Nan held the positions of Secretary and Coach.

Nan presented Masters Swimming Tasmania with a small silver cup which was used to create the Swimmer of the Meet Trophy (Women) to be presented each year at the Winter Short Course Championships.



Nan competed regularly in Masters Swimming Tasmania branch championships, interclubs as well as the National Championships in 1987 (Perth), 1988 (postal), 1991

(Devonport), Hobart (1998), Hobart (2005) as well as the World Masters Championships 1988 (Brisbane). She also competed at the Tasmanian Masters Games in 1989, 1991, 1994 and the 1st Australian Masters Games 1987 (Devonport).

Nan's favourite strokes were freestyle and backstroke and she held 69 records (SC and LC) in the 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84 and 85-89 age groups from 1986 to 2005. She also held three national records in backstroke and freestyle.

In 2005, she achieved five world top ten rankings in freestyle and backstroke.