

President's Report: Feb 2017 AGM

Welcome all members. I happily acknowledge the presence and ongoing contribution of our Life Members, Mr Gerry Green, Mr Graham McAuslane, Mr Ken Phillips and Mr Wayne Cable. I thank them for their past and present contributions. I also welcome Mr Ivan Wingate, Life Member of our National Body. Once again we welcome Ms Kathy McLeod, inaugural member, long time supporter of our club, and our special guest

2016 has been an excellent year for the Club. We are back swimming in one of the best pools in the state. Our beach swimming has continued to grow and greater safety procedures introduced by our Safety Officer Ray Reynolds. We have a strong financial position. We are having success in both pool and ocean competitions. We have a membership that hears the "call-to-arms" whenever we run an event. We have a great team of volunteer coaches and support from a private provider. We have committee members willing to give of their time.

Our return to the new aquatic centre is the envy of many clubs. At last years AGM we sought suggestions for meaningful expenditure. This year the Committee has approved the purchase of new poolside signs and a similar records board, assistance in the purchase of a Dolphin timing system, new training equipment at the pool, and 3 radios to assist beach communication. We have also supported members to gain First Aid training that sits alongside the purchase of our defibrillator and First Aid equipment now used at the beach. This amounts to around \$11000 spent, or committed.

The development of our website as the basis for our communication seems to have been a seamless transition from our previous monthly newsletters. A big thanks to Steve Ferguson for his ongoing work in bringing us into the digital world!! This is a fun and information-filled site to visit and represents a lot of hours of work to establish and maintain.

Our pool swims have again brought success... The introduction of end-of-month morning teas and special swims has been fun and drawn good numbers. Changing clothes in the water is definitely a new sport?? Our Club Challenge was again well organised and popular, with 130 entries. Thanks to Gerry who continues to lead this event as Meet Director. We again attended our four Club Challenges, the State (All-club) Challenge and the State relay event. We have had from 13 to 24 swimmers represent us in each of these 6 swims. The club has had one first and three second places in these whilst 11 individual and 4 relay state records were set. Our Tuesday and Thursday training squads have yet to return to pre-building program numbers, and I see this as an area to rebuild this year.

As the Club evolves, there has been a growth in the beach swimming culture that is driven by the members. The little beach swim group started by Wayne and others some years back, has grown to regularly host over 40 swimmers. The addition of the "Doddi's Dash" handicap race with 42 entries, typified our growing love of the salt, and gave Pete 12 months of bragging rights. Our own recent Australia Day swim attracted a record 186 swimmers, and was highlighted by the big number of member volunteers who gave their time to assist. Massive thanks to race Director Wayne

Cable and his team lead by Gerry, Pauline, Greg, Deb and Ray. The Australiana: Rod leading the anthem; the prize table, and the course make for a great feeling event. Great to see a number of members tackle their first open water races this year. The popularity of the beach swimming has encouraged the Committee to implement Safety Officer Ray's more stringent safety support processes, which seem to be both workable and working.

We have record numbers in the Rottnest Channel Swim, with Sue, Ingrid, Barbara, Jeanette, Ray and Wayne tackling the solo challenge, Hazel and Glenda stepping up to do the duo and Sue, Deb, Ken and George making a team. Good luck to all. The Busselton Jetty had about 33 Mannas involved in the water and is proving a magnet event for our members.

We have again been privileged to have the support of our panel of volunteer coaches, lead by John. Huge thanks to John, Mike, Des, Wayne and Graham for their time thoughtfulness and commitment. You have kept the training, fun, interesting and challenging. The symbiosis with the training squad through Barb's business is also encouraging quality training and benefitting the club. Unfortunately due to work commitments John must give up leading this group, but we have loved his leadership and thank him for it.

Our social committee has been loose, but effective with many contributors, so thanks to Wayne, Deb's', Sue's' and others for the many highlights capped by a top Christmas show.

Your committee this year has worked well on your behalf, and I thank each of them. As is usually the case some committee members are taking a deserved rest.

Mike Bennett has been our Club Captain for 5 years. His ability to encourage, cajole, beg swimmers for the Club swims has meant our ongoing competitiveness throughout his tenure. Great effort.

Janet Duncan has done a great job as Secretary with support from *Lyn McPhail* when required. A successful double act.

As I said, *John* will vacate the Head Coach role he has filled with confidence, expertise and humour.

Ray Reynold's task as Safety Officer has grown with the growth of open water swimming. He has introduced a number of processes that improve our swimmer safety. Thanks Ray for a job well done, over a number of years.

To Steve, Sue thanks for this year's work and I look forward to another year's input with you and the rest of our new committee.

Whilst a heap of experience and capacity is moving on, I look forward to working with the new committee to continue the progress of the club in seeking "fitness, fun and friendship"

Steve Crake
President, 2016