

# Abbotsleigh Swimming Club President's Report 2013-14

## 1 Overview

It is with pleasure that I present my first President's Report, after a successful year on many fronts for the club. At the commencement of the year, and in consultation with the head coach, the Committee met to identify the key areas of focus that we felt would assist in developing a stronger and more inclusive club with a great team culture at all levels.

It was agreed that the primary objectives of the Committee for 2013-14 were:

- To support the Head Coach in her initiatives to build a sustainable team and inclusive culture
- To increase our membership numbers
- To improve our competitiveness as a swim club
- To make the club a fun and inclusive team to be part of for members and parents at all levels.
- To improve communication to our members

To that end, and with an umbrella of improved governance, I believe we have made significant progress in all of these areas and planted the seeds for another successful year in 2014-15. Below I have outlined some highlights from the year.

## 2 Major Committee Initiatives for the Year

### 2.1.1 Website initiatives include:

With the never-ending help of our "web master", Ben Ramsden, we have made significant improvement to our website, making it a functional and informative tool to communicate and run our club. Key developments this year include:

- Online Club Night registration
- Calendar of events
- Online payment gateway
- Online Membership renewals
- Regularly updated Abbotsleigh News and photos
- Blog for Swim camps

### 2.1.2 Club Records

Our Registrar, Darryn Booth, spent an enormous amount of time chronicling the achievements of our athletes and has now presented our club records on our website, which provides a goal for all of our young members to aspire to.

### 2.1.3 Electronic Payments

In January this year, we turned on our ability to pay electronically for all ASC payments. This has made significant improvements in our auditability and efficiency for all transactions and removed the reliance on cash handling for the club in most instances.

### 2.1.4 Launch of monthly subscription membership

This was a strategic initiative by the Committee to encourage families to join our club without the financial obligation of an annual membership. We are not aware that this style of membership exists in other clubs and hope that it will allow us to encourage new members to join and become part of our team.

## 3 Membership

A great year of growth for the club with an increase of over 40% in our membership from last year. Membership growth is one of the key focusses for the Committee and will continue to be for next year. Below I have provided 3 simple graphs that provide a snapshot of our current membership base as at 29 July 2014.

### 3.1.1 Total Members

The table below summarises the net movement in our membership numbers of the year.

	Swimmers	Non-swimmers
<i>Renewed Members</i>	50	9
<i>New members</i>	20	3
<i>Second Claim</i>	1	
<i>Transfers In (From Other clubs)</i>	22	3
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>15</b>

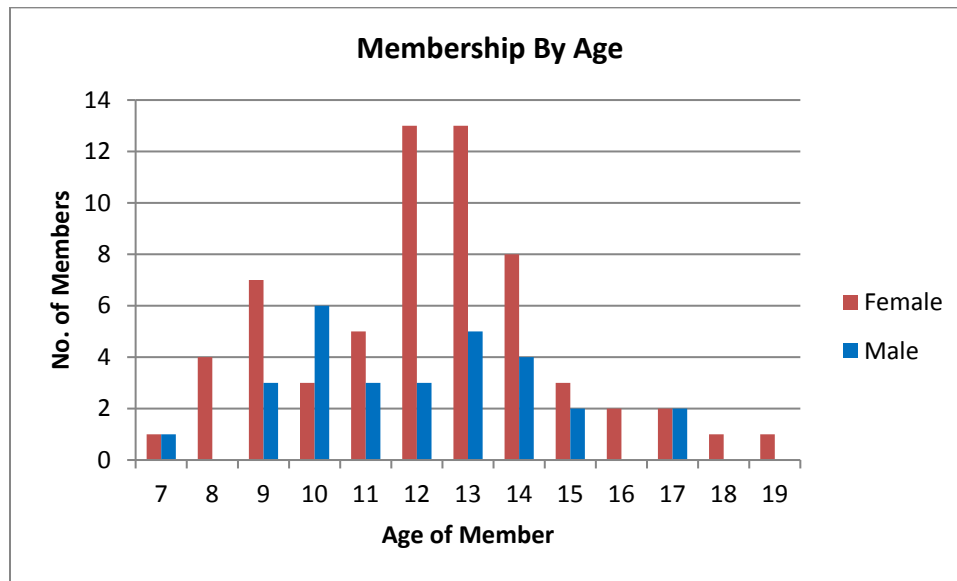
### 3.1.2 Membership by Gender

The following table sets out our membership by gender.

	Count
<i>Female</i>	63
<i>Male</i>	30
Total	93

### 3.1.3 Membership by Age

The following graph represents our club Membership by age and sex.



## 3.2 Events

### 3.2.1 Winter Swim Meet

The Winter Swim Meet at Abbotsleigh was again run by the Committee this year and proved a successful introductory meet for many of the junior members in our local region. The stands were packed and the atmosphere loaded and supportive, particularly for the relays at the end of each session.

We had great support from our local clubs, with Barker bringing nearly 20 children from their learn to swim program.

A big thanks also to all the parents who helped in the pre-event organising and on the day with time keeping, cake stall, and general administration and running of the meet.

### 3.2.2 Coffs & Noosa Camp

Led by our energetic coach and a small and supportive group of mums, we staged two camps this season for our senior swimmers. In January, we took the team to Coffs Harbour for a week, and in September, the team travelled to Noosa. The purpose of the camps was to get some hard training done at strategic times and, importantly, help to build the team culture amongst those involved. The camps were a great success thanks to the awesome planning of Lea, Liz Booth and Nicole Dunlop, and the daily blogs by Rose Fydlar ensured all parents were up to date with the camp goings-on and gossip. It was agreed that there be only the single “tour” next year and this will fall in the September holidays.

### 3.2.3 2 x Camp Abb for Junior Squads

For the Junior members we held two Abbotsleigh based camps at the same time as the senior camp. These camps included swimming, games, breakfast, and even a sleep over on the second camp. These

were well supported by the junior members and a fun time for all those involved. A special thanks to Daven Timms for his organisation of the first Camp Abb, and the Abbotsleigh Aquatic Centre and staff for their support of these events.

### **3.3 Competitions**

The Head coach will provide in her report a more detailed summary of our competitive results this year, but without stealing her thunder I would like to mention a few of my highlights for this report.

- National Age LC Championship quinella for Natasha Ramsden (gold) and Katie Strachan (silver) in the 13yr 50m free.
- State SC championships 2014 – 6<sup>th</sup> NSW and 2<sup>nd</sup> SMNE
- Winning the best visiting club points score at the Carlile invitational
- Seeing the team develop in a very short period into one of the closest teams in the state who are constantly supporting and encouraging one another to achieve their best.

## **4 Financial**

The audited financial report is provided separately by in the Treasurer's Report however, it would be remiss of me not to comment in broad terms on the high level financial components.

During our financial year (1 July – 30 June) we had a 500% increase in revenue from the previous year (approx.\$14k to \$73k). For this period, we incurred a \$8.8k surplus, and we can report, as at 30 June our net assets of \$22.7k.

Whilst the surplus appears healthy, it includes benefit from several one-off upsides that cannot be relied upon each year including prize winnings. The significant jump in revenue was attributable to increased memberships, increased carnival entries, the successful Winter Meet and additional revenue (at no margin) for Camp Coffs. Our major expenses for the year included coaching carnival expenses, carnival entries, and camp expenses.

During the year, with Abbotsleigh's permission, we took over full responsibility for the financial operations from the school, which included setting up our own bank account and online payment facilities. We also replaced our existing auditor and are now audited by the bursar of Abbotsleigh.

I would like to thank our treasurer, Ben Ramsden, particularly for his hard work and persistence during this period of change to create the financial platform and autonomy from which we can now all benefit.

## **5 Other business**

### **5.1 Constitution Review**

As part of its governance program, Abbotsleigh school has been aligning the constitutions of the many associated groups to better reflect the relationship and responsibility obligations of the school and its clubs. As such, we have been working with the school to amend our current constitution. We expect that final agreement will take place in the coming months and that we will call an extraordinary general meeting of members to approve such changes.

## **6 Thank you**

The success of this club is not possible without the generosity of a number of people who donate huge amounts of time, effort and resources to create what Abbotsleigh Swimming club is today. In no particular order I will start with the Head Coach and her coaching team. The team – and its energy, enthusiasm and knowledge – has created an enviable team culture and is the driving force behind who we are.

I would like thank the ASC Committee who have been tireless this year in their various roles, initiatives and events that we have run. I want to thank Liz, Darryn, Nicole, Mike, Ben, Fiona, Lexie and Geoff for their continued support and work for this club.

Abbotsleigh school and Aquatic Centre, lead by principal Judith Poole and Centre Manager Jo Wheatley, are incredibly supportive of the club and I would like to thank them for providing a huge amount of support in all sorts of ways that allow our club to achieve our goals.

Finally, to the parents of all our swimmers, who are the time keepers, the taxi drivers, the alarm clocks and restaurants for all our members – thank you for encouraging your children to be part of our club and enjoy our fantastic sport.

## **7 The coming Year 2014-15**

The coming year will be another in the development of our club into a force to reckon with as the Committee continues to provide a fun and supportive environment for all of our members, whether they wish to become national champions or simply enjoy swimming as part of great club environment. . Changes to the format of club night are just one of the initiatives we are already experimenting with this year to provide more value to our members.

Membership growth and retention will also be high on our agenda as we seek to improve the pathways from learn-to-swim and increase the number of new junior members to our club. Retention of current members is also essential as we try to by improve the value we currently provide to members of all ages.

Improving the revenue diversity for the club will also be an initiative for the club as we seek to encourage corporate sponsorship of the club to enable us to deliver more to our members and coaches.

With a fast growing club, the need for helpers and volunteers also increases. We appreciate that everyone is busy and as such we are slowly evolving the Committee from a small group of “doers” to a group that is able to lean into the parent body for help to achieve our goals. As such we will, as always, rely on the generosity of the parents to donate their time and effort to enable us to deliver what we need to make membership of our club an even better experience for your children this year.

In summary, we are all looking forward another great year for Abbotsleigh Swimming Club and I look forward to seeing you all on pool deck.

Regards

Chris Fydler

President

Abbotsleigh Swimming Club