

# PLATYPUS PRESS

Edition 16

February 1993

## AUSSI Masters Swimming in Tasmania

### What's coming up?

#### SWIM MEETS

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| February 7                       | Tasmanian Open Water Championships at the Trevallyn Dam, hosted by TSL                              |
| February 7                       | Inter club carnival hosted by New Norfolk at New Norfolk pool.                                      |
| February 14                      | Kettering Open Water Swim, 2.5 Km, South of Hobart. Hosted by Hobart AUSSI Masters.                 |
| March 6                          | AGM AUSSI Tasmania branch at 1.00 pm, Glenorchy Club Rooms  |
| March 6-7                        | Tasmanian Branch Summer Long Course Championships at Glenorchy Pool, hosted by Hobart AUSSI Masters |
| August (first or second weekend) | Winter Championships at Mowbray pool hosted by Launceston AUSSI Masters                             |

### KETTERING OPEN WATER SWIM

The Hobart AUSSI Masters Swimming Club Inc. is holding its **ANNUAL OPEN WATER SWIM** at **KETTERING** on **FEBRUARY 14th 1993**.

The swim is 2.5 Km in length, and is open to swimmers 20 years of age and upwards.

The swim will be followed by dinner at the Oyster Cove Inn.

For further information, contact Ron Bloomfield, Phone (002) 43 6746

### AUSSI NATIONALS

*18th AUSSI National Swim and Club Championships*

To be held at Darwin from 4th May to 8th May 1993.

Entries close on 5th March 1993. All entries are made through Club Secretaries.

## PANPACS

### *1993 Pan Pacific Masters Swimming Championships*

To be held at Hamilton New Zealand,  
from 10th April to 17th April 1993.

Entries close 15th February, and late  
entries (with late fee) can be made  
until, but NOT after 15th March 1993.

Entry forms available from Club  
Secretary, and you must post them to  
NZ.

Since this competition is held outside Australia, you  
will need a National AUSSI Registration Certificate,  
available only from National AUSSI Office. (The  
Club Secretary will get you one if you ask early  
enough.)

## MASTERS GAMES

### *The 4th Australian Masters Games*

To be held at Perth, WA, from 24th  
April to 2nd May 1993.

Entries close 28th February 1993.

Entry forms and entry cards are  
available from your club secretary  
(Who?) and you must post them to  
Perth

Other sports being conducted range from Archery  
to Yachting.

## A CYNICAL APPROACH TO FINA'S TAKEOVER OF MASTERS

There still appears to be a lot of  
misinformation about the past roles of  
both FINA and MSI in Masters.  
Therefore it might be appropriate to  
take a few steps back into the past to  
look at how the relationship evolved  
between the two bodies.

Ransom Arthur in the United States  
had a vision for Masters Swimming  
which included fitness, friendship,  
and competition for the adult  
swimmer. The concept expanded on a  
scale never anticipated, and soon many  
countries had thousands of Masters,  
and swim meets grew from hundreds  
of participants to thousands.

In Europe also, there were a few  
Masters within the established

amateur club system, but full scale  
interest in Masters in Europe is only a  
fairly recent phenomenon.

In the 1970's and 80's, Masters  
swimmers had to organise themselves  
to provide the structure for their  
movement. FINA were NOT  
interested, nor were the mainstream  
swimming federations in many  
countries. They were too occupied  
with mainstream swimming and the  
other disciplines, and there was a big  
problem with the professional coaches  
who were swimming with Masters.  
Masters were deliberately kept at arms  
length in case they "contaminated"  
amateur swimmers.

As more countries evolved strong  
regional and national competitions and  
policies to keep Masters swimmers fit  
and swimming all year round, it  
became clear that an umbrella body

was needed. FINA's constitution did not encompass Masters, so Masters Swimming International (MSI) was constituted in April 1984.

It set as its goals:

- Uniform rules for Masters.
- The establishment of World Masters Championships so that Masters could enjoy this level of competition and renew friendships.
- World Masters Records.
- World Masters Top Ten.

All of these were achieved by MSI, and they included Guides for the conduct of large international events. Brisbane 1988, for example, had some 4000 competitors and 1500 officials.

Courses for training Masters Coaches, and Masters Officials were developed, and a comprehensive set of Rules, learned by trial and error, and adapted to the Masters age group, were established.

FINA first became interested in Masters in 1984 when two things occurred:

- MSI distributed at the Los Angeles Olympics the MSI constitution and Rules for Masters.
- New Zealand were to conduct the first World Masters Championships and expected 1500 swimmers.

So suddenly, after 14 years of activity, MSI suddenly had FINA's attention.

MSI compromised and called the New Zealand event an International event, deleting the word "World", and sought to have talks with FINA. These took place in Pasadena in 1985. Basically what was agreed at that meeting was there would be joint sanctioning of World Masters Championships by FINA and MSI; a FINA Masters Committee would be set up with six of the twelve members guaranteed from MSI.

Steps were taken by FINA to incorporate Masters into their constitution, and Masters rules were adopted. This activity culminated in the first FINA Masters Congress held in association with the World elite championships in January 1991.

It would be naive to imagine that FINA intended this... working relationship with MSI to last for long. In fact, I believe they hoped that within two years - ie 1987 - after the signing of the Pasadena Agreement, MSI would have faded away. Also that all the power, funds and politics associated with Masters, would be FINA's.

They set about quite ruthlessly to:

- Divide loyalties by attracting key MSI people over to FINA positions and telling them their association with MSI was no longer desirable. The MSI President was offered in 1988 a Bureau position on the retirement of a FINA Vice-President, if he did exactly as he was asked.

- Seek to starve MSI of funds by:
  - \*banning capitation and sanction fees.
  - \*actively encouraging countries against affiliation with MSI.
- Ensure that persons of influence, power or experience in MSI were not appointed to the FINA Masters Committee unless they were willing to do as they were asked and become anti-MSI.
- Manipulate the appointment of the FINA Masters Committee by asking that certain people be nominated or replaced. For example, the MSI President was asked in 1988 to nominate a Pole for the FINA Masters Committee and to get the USA to replace their choice. The USA were asked this same question in 1992.
- Shamefully abandon the Pasadena Agreement once it was widely circulated by MSI and just four months prior to what was supposed to be a jointly sanctioned World Championship. They also sought to remove all trace and reference to MSI from the event, even though the vast majority of swimmers were affiliated with MSI.
- Steal the current MSI World Masters Records list of 1 May 1992 and use it as a base for the FINA World Masters Records. They also declared ownership of the World Masters Top Ten by attracting the MSI Top Ten

recorder to FINA and declaring him the World Recorder for Masters. Sponsorship which was secured by MSI for the World Top Ten, one would assume has also gone to FINA.

All this without the courtesy of a telephone call, meeting, negotiation, consideration of current persons doing the tasks - nothing. FINA has acted like the football team who came onto the ground in the middle of the play, and kicked off the ground the team who devised the game, built the stands and established the play.

One ray of light in the whole sorry saga at the FINA Masters Congress was the number of people representing and voting on Masters matters who were Masters swimmers. Some FINA people appeared upset at MSI's presence at that first Congress, and that some countries had chosen their Masters people to represent them. Instead of being pleased at this first step of integration of MSI within FINA, it seemed to step up FINA's attempts to annihilate the existence of MSI. Shortly after this Congress, FINA wiped the Pasadena Agreement.

It has since been brought to our notice that FINA considered earlier this year, withdrawing from Masters altogether because it didn't have full power or authority. It made the opposite decision however, decided unilaterally to become solely involved in World Masters Swims and take control of the World records as outlined above.

MSI made another move to bring dignity and cooperation into play by requesting a meeting with FINA, so that a bilateral withdrawal from the Pasadena Agreement could occur, and that the World Championships and World Masters Records could be handed over to FINA with the respect they deserved.

In Indianapolis, MSI President, Gary Stutsel and the late Kevin Kelly met with the FINA Secretary, Ross Wales and the FINA Masters Bureau Liason, Artie Shaw. MSI proposed that FINA take full control of:

1. World Masters Championships
2. World Masters Records.
3. Masters Technical Swimming rules.
4. MSI continue in a role to evaluate Masters swimmers needs, educate them, and continue to conduct regional masters events which FINA said they had no interest in.

The latest news is that FINA will not sign this document unless the fourth point is deleted.

This FINA reply is further confirmation that they do not want to acknowledge the presence of MSI or the part MSI has played in the establishment of Masters. The FINA proposal is a surrender document, and I doubt that MSI will sign it and simply vanish away. Particularly when there is no voice for the majority of Masters Associations through the FINA Swimming Federation structure.

In July 1992 FINA amended its constitution to state that "Each Member shall acknowledge in its national rules that FINA is the only recognised body in the world which governs Swimming, Diving, Water Polo, MASTERS, and Synchronised Swimming internationally".

So until July this year, there was no barrier to another organisation governing Masters at an international level. There has been no impediment these last 30 years to Masters regulating their own affairs nor MSI controlling them for the past nine years. Now, this sleight of pen is likely to force an organisation representing more than 70,000 swimmers to sink away and die.

Why cannot MSI, like LEN, continue to look after their special areas and interests, and provide valuable input into the decision making of FINA/ Not all members of FINA are at fault, but if FINA does not move into the 21st Century, all swimmers, not only Masters swimmers, will suffer.

MSI will survive, because it is administered by current Masters swimmers; it is flexible; willing to compromise for the sake of the swimmers; and because FINA has not as yet provided a viable and bona fide alternative.

Glenys McDonald  
MSI Publicity Officer

November 1992

**AUSSI MASTERS  
SWIMMING IN  
TASMANIA (inc)**

**ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
and **ELECTION OF OFFICE**  
**BEARERS** of **AUSSI MASTERS**  
**SWIMMING** in **TASMANIA (inc)**  
will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday  
6th March 1993  
at  
the **GLENORCHY FOOTBALL**  
**CLUB BOARD ROOM**  
King George V Oval

**REPORTS** for the AGM are required  
from all **CLUB SECRETARIES**, and  
all **BRANCH OFFICE BEARERS**.  
Send them to Hector Beveridge, 21  
Wienna Crescent, Miandetta Park,  
Devonport, by February 5th please.

**Are you going to the  
Summer  
Championships?**

Details are available from your club  
secretary **NOW**. Entries close on  
February 5th. Don't be late!

**NOMINATIONS FOR  
OFFICE in AUSSI  
TASMANIA**

Nominations are required for the  
positions of

**President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Registrar**  
**Publicity Officer**  
**Director of Fitness and Coaching**  
**Recorder**  
**Safety Officer**

Nominations must be submitted to the  
Public Officer, Trish Beveridge, 21  
Wienna Crescent, Miandetta Park,  
Devonport, by Friday March 5, 1993.

**WE HEREBY NOMINATE**

name \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR THE POSITION OF**

\_\_\_\_\_

signed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

I am happy to accept nomination  
and agree to carry out the work of  
the office to the best of my ability.

signature \_\_\_\_\_

(person nominated)

## Tasmanian AUSSI MEMBERSHIP

I suppose, like me, you wonder how our membership is going in AUSSI at the moment.

At the end of 1992, there were 319 members in Tasmania. On Sunday 17th January, we had 233 members.

They come from:

Hobart	72
Talays	50
Launceston	39
New Norfolk	37
Devonport	35

## NEW NORFOLK WHALES

invite you to compete in the  
4th Annual Inter-Club Carnival  
New Norfolk Olympic Pool

SUNDAY 7th February 1993  
9:30 am (9:00 warm-up)

Entries to be lodged with Club Secretaries on completed AUSSI cards.

Entries close Saturday 31st January at  
PO Box 471 NEW NORFOLK 7140

Entry fee \$5:00

- Includes pool entry plus 3 events
- (Any stroke over 50m 100m of 200m)

Sausage sizzle and Hamburgers will be available!

## LEVEL 1M Coaching course.

If you are going to the Nationals in Darwin, then you could go to the Level 1M Masters coaching course.

More details are available from your club secretary.

The course is being run by Anita Killmier (Remember her at Devonport?) and promises to be quite good.

## WARMUPS

The pool is open half an hour early for us AUSSI Masters Swimmers to get ourselves warmed up.

No need to say why we need *these* rules...

1. Keep to the left of the black line as you plough down the lane.
2. Choose a lane with people who are just as strong as yourself. (Big strong butterfliers don't splash little old ladies)
3. Practice your backstroke very carefully! No crashes during the warmups!
4. Practice starts and turns at home - not in the crowded lanes during warmup!

### *Bits and Pieces...*

Gippsland AUSSI, Victoria, hold a "Sauna Swim" (1 km and 3 km) in a man made heated lake (discharge water from a power station) at Hazelwood Pondage, each year.

Swimmers emerge looking pretty dirty, but there's only one shower room at the local yacht club so the room is clearly marked "unisex showers".

Males are allowed in "topless" ... but we're not sure about the females ... the mind boggles! But, there always appear to be more male entries than female!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

Apologies and congratulations to the following teams who broke records in the Postal relay competition, and were missed out in the last issue.

4x50 Womens Medley 240+  
Talays Masters 4:27.56

Dot Armstrong, Maureen Pepper, Nan Lewis, and Perri Brereton

4x25 Mixed Medley 240+  
Hobart Masters 1:38.22

Bill Stewart, John Isles, Tina Smit, Jan Chew.

PLATYPUS PRESS is edited and published by Ron Bloomfield, PO Box 395, ROSNY PARK, Tasmania 7018, on behalf of AUSSI Masters Swimming in Tasmania Incorporated.

### **DARE**

It's not the critic that counts  
nor the one that points out how the strong  
person stumbles,  
or whether the doer of deeds  
could have done them better.  
The credit belongs to the one  
who is actually in the arena; Who's face is  
marred by dust  
and sweat and blood;  
Who strives valiantly;  
Who errs and often comes up short  
again and again;  
Who knows the great enthusiasms  
and the great devotions of  
spending oneself in a worthy cause;  
And who, if at best in the end,  
knows the triumph of higher treatment and  
achievements,  
And who, at worst, if they fail,  
at least fail while daring greatly  
so that their soul shall never be  
with the cold and timid one  
who knows neither victory nor defeat.  
Courtesy: SA Branch Newsletter