

MARION MARLINS MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB INC

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2018

Summary

Your club, now in its 38 year, has enjoyed another busy and successful year; much has been achieved by your Committee to ensure that it remains financially strong and continues to meet the fitness, training and competition needs of its members. We are pleased that we still have founding members Di Ross and Daryl Hawkes swimming (and competing) for us and are pleased to welcome many new members over the past year. Some of the key accomplishments during the year are as follows:

- Introduced a number of changes which place the club in a stronger financial position going forward
- Welcomed many new members to the club, most recently through a very successful Come and Try program, with membership expected to exceed 100 by year end
- Hosted a very successful SA State Masters Open Water Swimming Championships for the seventh consecutive year in 2018, raising \$3,790
- Outstanding results achieved by the club and by individuals in pool and open water competitions in 2018
- Hosted a number of well attended social functions and fund raising events (BBQs)
- Acquired some important assets for the club, notably a GoPro camera, using funds available from a \$5,000 SA Government Active Club Program Grant

Committee

A club like ours cannot function and continue to develop and prosper without the efforts of its dedicated Committee members. I personally would like to thank the Committee for their support and hard work throughout the year-it been a great team effort.

Key positions on our Committee were filled by our Secretaries **Sue Thiele** (until July, 2018) and **Jen Heath**, our Treasurer **Brenda Mangelsdorf** and by our Vice President and Open Water Swim Coordinator **Garth Hayter**.

Thanks to Sue and Jen for managing our meetings, handling correspondence, maintaining files in in an organised manner on the club's laptop and ensuring that members are fully informed of club activities. Some of these tasks were frustrating at times during the year due to a number of IT related issues which Jen has described in her report but which hopefully are now behind us.

Brenda Mangelsdorf took on the role of Treasurer during the past year with **Nola Sutton**, our former Treasurer, providing support. Despite not having an accounting background Brenda has adapted

quickly to the role ensuring our accounts were in order and preparing monthly financial summaries. The work is time consuming so I appreciate the commitment she has made.

Garth Hayter continued to make an invaluable contribution to the club as Vice President and Event Manager for our very successful Open Water Swim (State Championships). He is the first person to put up his hand to assist with club social and fund raising activities and organised the design and purchase of our new trolley. In recognition of his contributions to open water swimming and our event in particular he was awarded the Marie Dingwall trophy at this year's swim. A big effort is required in organising the open water swim and after four years in the role Garth will be stepping down. We hope we can find someone as dedicated as him to take on the role!

Heather Carbone has been our Registrar for many years, responsible for processing all new member registrations and helping ensure that training attendance sheets and ticket payments are in order. More recently she has taken on the task of maintaining and updating the Club Records, a difficult job given the number of eligible meets here and interstate. Heather also assists with coaching and is always extremely generous of her time in assisting with our fund raising events.

Robyn Brown, has assisted the Club and the Committee in many ways, apart from her responsibilities as Head Coach and coordinating the coaching roster. She is our main contact with pool management and was instrumental in negotiating more flexible lane hire arrangements with both pools. The success of the recent Come and Try program is due in large part to her efforts.

Deborah Wareing, our Club Captain, has led by example with her dedication to training and competition throughout the year! She encouraged participation in pool meets, which was up on previous years, and managed the often difficult task of organising the relay teams.

Jane Sutton, one of our Life Members and long- time Committee Members, was our Social Convenor and helped with planning, organising and catering for the club's social events (mid- winter "Solstice" dinner, Xmas pizza party) and fund raising sausage sizzles.

Ikaeho Osobase (happy to be known as IK!) only joined the club in 2018 but kindly offered to assume the role of Webmaster in November, replacing **Claire McCaffrey**. Since then she has been working hard with me to up-date the web site, making it more functional, visually attractive and ensuring information remains current for our members.

Ben Warr joined the Committee in November and has been appointed the club's Safety Officer. As a younger member of the club we look forward to his input to our programs.

Stephen Carthew has taken on the role of Member Protection Officer, an essential role mandated by the Branch, but hopefully one which will not require any interventions on his part! Stephen has also spent countless hours over the past few seasons assisting with sponsorship for our open water swim.

During the year a few of our long serving Committee members resigned from the Committee due to health concerns or other commitments. **Sue Thiele** was Secretary for almost a year and a half and did an exceptional job managing all the Administration duties. **Maryanne Heffernan**, one of our Life Members, has served on the Executive and Committee on a number of occasions during her long association with the club, most recently as Club Captain. Although no longer on the Committee she

is currently assisting the club by preparing a Club History report. **Robyn Falster** has been a valuable member of our Committee and was our Social Media (Facebook) Coordinator for the past two years, ensuring that members were informed of club activities in a timely manner. Robyn continues to assist the club in a coaching capacity.

Three Committee Members, **Claire McCaffrey**, **Nola Sutton** and **Mike Perkins**, have indicated that they will not be re-nominating this year. Claire has been a member of the Committee for many years and has served as Secretary, Webmaster and Chief Recorder at our Open Water Swim. This has involved a considerable effort on her part, most recently in resolving some frustrating IT related issues. Nola was our Treasurer for two years and assisted Brenda in the role in 2018. Mike has been a member of the Committee for eight years and over this period managed the very important role of Register and Chief Time Keeper for our Open Water Swim with amazing accuracy and efficiency. Although stepping down from the Committee Mike has agreed to assist with time keeping for one more year. Thanks Claire, Nola and Mike for your valuable contributions to the club.

Apart from the Committee many of our members have provided assistance with our club's social and fund raising activities and Branch open water swims. Thanks to **Glenda Cook** (our 2018 Sandy Hill trophy winner for contributions to the club), **Judy Vowles**, **Jan Langan**, **Sue Tennant**, **Lindsay Martin**, **Andrea Kurauskas**, **Ruth Henty**, **Jane Horgan**, **Darryl Hawkes**, **John Van Loggem**, **George Crowder**, **Tony Fowler**, **Ace Lewis**, **David Lovering**, **Charlie Roberts**, **Jared Wilkinson**, **Mark Tenwith** and **Gavin Rowell**, (with sincere apologies to anyone I've missed!)

On behalf of the club I would like to thank all present and departing Committee members for their efforts.

Membership:

In order to support our club's current activities and possibly expand them in future it is important that we maintain or increase our membership base. It is equally important that we continue to provide programs that appeal to our members so that participation in our activities, particularly our training sessions, is increased.

At YE 2018 we had 97 financial members. This is down from 118 at YE 2016 (bolstered by a successful Kick Start program) and 107 at YE 2017. The drop in membership mirrors similar drops at a Branch and National level.

Our target (Strategic Plan) is 100 members at YE 2019 and then hopefully building toward 120 members in the following years. Current membership at 27/03/2019 is 97 members so we should easily reach our YE target. Our recent Come and Try Program has been a resounding success with 30 swimmers participating in the free sessions. Of this group 14 have now joined the club and hopefully a few more will decide to do so in the weeks ahead. Welcome to all our new members!

Coaching and Training Sessions:

Training sessions have always been our main club activity and in 2018 we hosted five sessions per week at the Marion Outdoor Pool and Westminster School. The club is extremely fortunate to have the services of five accredited and experienced coaches including our Head Coach, **Robyn Brown**. Robyn has been our Head Coach now for more than 20 years and conducts most sessions. She is ably

assisted, as required, by **Jen Sturm, Heather Carbone, Robyn Falster** and **Meredith Ryan**. Jen coached the Thursday night sessions but elected not to continue on a regular basis at the end of 2018 so she could focus more on her training. She remains available to cover for Robyn and we look forward to her very challenging sessions, even if only on an occasional basis. Robyn Falster and Heather also provided cover and additional coaching during the successful Come and Try sessions held recently.

Over the winter months attendance at some of our training sessions at the Westminster pool were low with receipts below the cost of lane hire and coaching. To address this situation the club was successful in negotiating more flexible lane hire arrangements and a small increase in swim tickets came into effect from 1 January. Fund raising events (BBQs and our open water swim) also help offset any losses from training sessions. Attendance has certainly improved over the summer months and hopefully will be sustained once we move back indoors. No changes to training sessions are anticipated at this time.

During the year the club purchased a GoPro camera, using funds from the Active Club Program and Equipment Grant. This is a valuable asset for the club and has and will continue to be used regularly for stroke assessment and correction at training sessions.

Open Water Swim:

Our club has been organising an open water swim event under various formats and at a number of different venues since 1981. It is our main fund raising activity and in 2018 it raised \$3,790. For the last eight years we have been proud to host the SA State Open Water Swim Championships, one of the premier events in the Channel Nine Open Water Swim Series. The event has attracted, on average, 150 competitors over this period with strong participation from our own members. Our last event, in January, 2019, was held at Brighton Beach and, for the first time, was a joint undertaking between our club, Masters Swimming SA and Swimming SA. Providing a pathway to Masters Swimming and increasing attendance is hopefully one of the benefits of this new format. We await a decision from the Branch on whether we will continue co-hosting with Swimming SA in 2020 or revert to the previous Masters only format back at West Beach.

A big effort is always required to plan the event and we have been extremely fortunate to have had Garth manage the event during the last four years. It also requires a big team effort on the day with beach set-up, registrations, time keeping and presentations- thanks to everyone who provided assistance. Stephen Carthew has done a fantastic job soliciting restaurant vouchers as prizes so a special thank you to him and all the sponsors.

Fund Raising:

To provide financial support and to help promote the club we hosted BBQs at the Marion Outdoor Pool Open Days in January and November, 2018. Fund raising efforts continued into 2019 with sausage sizzles at the Open Day on 27 January and at Bunnings on 9 February. These latter two events were very successful and raised approximately \$1,900 for the club. Thanks to all our members who assisted in organising these events and manning the stands. Appreciation is also extended to Bakers Delight at Marion (through member Ron Hardy) who provided loaves of bread for free.

A decision was taken by the Committee to sell our BBQ trailer, purchased in 2015 because it was seeing very limited use and was incurring ongoing costs (registration).

Competition:

Although the majority of our members do not compete in pool or open water swim competitions those that do achieved some excellent results both individually and for the club in 2018. At a club level we won the Team title at the Short Course State Cup in September. In open water swim competition we won the Team trophy for Aggregate points at the 2018 State Masters Championships for the seventh consecutive year (and repeated again this year) and we were runner-up in the 2017-18 Open Water Series. Our outstanding performance at the State Championships, an event we host, is based on the strong participation of our members with 33 supporting the club by competing this year.

At the annual Presentation Dinner Marion swept the individual awards with **Sally Hunter** and **Ian Young** winning the 2018 SA State Masters Female and Male Swimmer of the Year Awards. Sally also won the Josie Sansom Cup for most outstanding performance in the State Cups with **Ace Lewis** receiving the runner-up trophy. National and State records over the award period were set by **Sally Hunter** (5 National, 6 State), **Maryanne Heffernan** (10 State), **Deb Wareing** (4 State), **Robyn Brown** (1 State), **Ian Young** (2 National, 9 State), **Ace Lewis** (13 State), **Stephen Carthew** (4 State) and **Ron Hardy** (4 State). Four of our swimmers achieved FINA World Top Ten rankings in 2018: **Ian Young** (3 events), **Maryanne Heffernan** (2 events), **Deb Wareing** (1 event) and **Sally Hunter** (1 event).

Many age group medals and towels were won by our members for their performance and participation in the pool and open water series. 2018 Interclub medallists were **Anke Schwedat** (1st, 40-44), **Maryanne Heffernan** (1st, 60-64), **Deb Wareing** (2nd, 60-64), **Terry Carter** (1st, 65-69), **Jan Mykyta** (3rd, 75-79), **Barb Pearce** (1st, 80-84), **Dianne Ross** (2nd, 80-84), **Ace Lewis**, (1st, 35-39), **Gavin Rowell** (3rd, 45-49) and **Garth Hayter** (3rd, 60-64). Medallists for the 2017-18 Summer Pool Series were **Briny McArthur** (1st, 25-29), **Maryanne Heffernan** (1st, 60-64), **Barb Pearce** (1st, 80-84), **Jared Wilkinson** (2nd, 35-39), **Garth Hayter** (2nd, 60-64) and **Ian Young** (2nd, 65-69). Embroidered towels were awarded to **Deb Wareing**, **Maryanne Heffernan**, **Michael Gaibinger** and **Andrew Smith** for completing all swims in the 2017-18 Open Water Series while **Maryanne Heffernan** received a towel for completing all the pool swims. Congratulations to all our competitors in Masters swimming events!

Apart from swimming competitions many of our members competed in and excelled in related sports, using our club training sessions in their preparation. Masters Surf Life Saving events were very popular with **Robyn Brown**, **Deb Wareing**, **Heather Carbone**, **Robyn Falster**, **Helen Walsh**, **Ruth Henty**, **Ben Warr**, **Tony Fowler** and **Ian Young** competing at the Life Saving World Championships at Glenelg in November. Robyn Brown and Deb Wareing had outstanding results winning more than 10 medals each. **Jen Sturm** and **Simon Mulligan** have both had great results in their age groups at gruelling Ironman events at Busselton, Cairns and NZ.

A number of our members took the opportunity to combine competition with travel last year, competing at the Nationals in Perth, the Alice Springs Masters Games and the Pan Pacific Masters Games on the Gold Coast. A group will be heading to Cairns in May to compete in the North

Queensland Masters Games. A bit closer to home the bi-annual Mildura Masters meet is on again this September over two days and is always popular with our members.

The Year Ahead:

Consistent with our Strategic Plan I consider the following to be the key opportunities and challenges for the club in the year ahead:

- Continue to maintain an inclusive training and social program to encourage and support member participation and provide a courteous and welcoming environment. Ensure that swimming is available to members at an affordable cost.
- Increase our membership base in order to support and possibly expand the club's activities. Improve member retention rate. Conduct an annual Come and Try program at the start of the summer season.
- Strengthen our financial position by limiting losses associated with pool training sessions and increase revenue sources by seeking opportunities for sponsorship, fundraising and grants.
- Actively encourage and support members to compete, regardless of ability, in pool and open water swim events and in the process help develop a strong team spirit.
- Confirm (by June) arrangements under which our OWS is to be conducted in 2020. Establish a Sub-Committee under the Event Manager to organise our open water swim. Seek to maximise participation and profits from the event.
- Consider whether to continue with the 100 x 100m Challenge (or similar), which we hosted in 2016 and 2017. If we decide to proceed ensure that it is organised well in advance and properly promoted
- Establish and foster communication and association with the Marion Swimming Club with the aim of easing a pathway to Marion Masters.
- Create a positive awareness in the local community of the Club's activities through marketing, promotion and other initiatives.
- Maintain and build relationships with other stakeholders including the Branch, other Masters clubs, Aquatic Facilities, Club Marion, StarClub, State and local government and their agencies (Department of Sport & Recreation), sponsors and commercial partners.
- Update position descriptions to ensure duties are clearly understood and to facilitate handovers in key roles to minimise issues that might arise
- Support activities at the Branch (and National) level by encouraging members to nominate for positions on the Board or Committees or as a Technical Official.
- Progress a report documenting the club's history (Maryanne Heffernan and others)

Ian Young
March, 2019