



**Marion Marlins Masters Swimming Club Inc**  
**Est 1981**

**2023 AGM**

**16 March 2024**

**Marion Outdoor Pool Centre**

**Cnr. Oaklands Rd & Hendrie St., Park Holme**



**Marion Marlins Masters Swimming Club Inc**

**2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday, 16 March 2024 in the Meeting Room at the Marion Outdoor Swimming Centre, Oaklands Rd & Hendrie St, Park Holme SA 5043 at 10:15 am**

**AGENDA**

- 1. President's welcome**
- 2. Acceptance of 2022 AGM Minutes (attached)**
- 3. President's Report (see attached)**
- 4. Treasurer's Report (see attached)**
- 5. Standing down of outgoing Committee members**
- 6. Election of Office bearers for 2024**

**Committee positions that become vacant at the AGM are:**

- President**
  - Vice – President**
  - Treasurer**
  - Secretary**
  - Nominations Officer/Recorder/Registrar**
  - Safety Officer**
  - Club Captain(s)**
  - Coaching co-ordinator**
  - OWS co-ordinator**
  - Social co-ordinator**
  - General Committee member(s)**
- 7. General Business arising and general discussion of Club activities for 2024.**

# **MARION MARLINS MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB**

## **MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25 March 2023 at Marion Outdoor Pool Centre**

### Attended By:

Ian Young (Chair, Life Member), Robyn Brown (Life Member), Heather Carbone (Life Member), Tony Fowler, Ace Lewis, Mike Perkins, Meredith Ryan, Mark Trenwith, Vicki Day, Judy Dangerfield, Judy Vowles, Jane Horgan, Stephen Carthew, Gavin Rowell, Sarah Osman, Sarah Langsford, George Crowder

### Apologies:

Di Ross (Life Member), Maryanne Heffernan (Life Member), Ruth Henty (Life Member), Meredith Taylor, Neil Anderson, Deb Wareing, Sue Tennant, Ben Warr

## ITEMS OF BUSINESS

### **1. Welcome**

The President (Chair) welcomed attendees, acknowledged the traditional owners, and observed that a quorum was present. He thanked the Marion Outdoor Pool Centre for providing the meeting room.

### **2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM**

The 2021 AGM Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting subject to a correction of the date of that meeting from 16 March 2022 to 26 March 2022.

Moved: Gavin Rowell    Seconded: Tony Fowler

### **3. President's report (Ian Young)**

The President's report was provided to attendees and reviewed by Ian.

The Committee members were thanked for their efforts during the year. Special thanks was extended and presentations made to retiring Committee members Heather Carbone (Registrar, Records & Coaching Coordinator) and Robyn Brown (General Committee) for their many years of service to the club. Club members who assisted with the Marion and Branch open water swims and our social events were also thanked.

Ian presented highlights from his report noting the club's very strong balance sheet, an increase in membership to 106 members at YE 2022, coaching and training arrangements and record attendance and profit from the 2022 State Masters Open Water Swim Championships. A number of social events were planned during the year including a Winter Solstice swim and luncheon at Somerton SLSC. Competition results were available in the report. There were a number of age

group medalists in the Summer and Winter Pool series, National and State records were set by a few and 5 members achieved FINA Top 10 times in 2022. Team trophies were few, limited to open water events (State Championships and Jetty to Jetty). Participation and achievements by members in other sporting events (surf life-saving triathlons, marathon swims) were also noted, including Marc Loader's solo Rottneest swim. Members were encouraged to participate in the Vorgee Million Meters Challenge.

Based on our 2022-25 Strategic Plan, the incoming Committee will be focusing on a number of initiatives for the club and its members. This will include maintaining a strong balance sheet and membership base, supporting members who wish to gain their Masters coaching accreditation, conducting a member survey on our current training programs, and improving delivery and promotion of our open water swim, We will also encourage our members compete to help build team spirit, gauge interest in club merchandise and consider planning more social events.

The President's Report was accepted:

Moved: Ian Young    Seconded: Meredith Ryan

#### **4. Secretary's report**

Since Ian had been serving as Acting Secretary, no separate report was prepared.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report (Ace Lewis)**

Ace presented the Treasurer's report, which included the 2022 executive summary, audit report, profit and loss and summary of member benefits (prior year and proposed).

A surplus was again achieved for the year, this time around \$1700. This was not as large as the prior year because expenses rose significantly – for example, coaching up ~56% and lane hire up ~46%. In the current environment inflation has pushed the price of most things higher, and all pools increased lane hire fees. In addition, the Committee chose to increase the coaches' hourly rate. Good income from ticket sales and memberships helped offset these expenses, and some benefits were returned via another notable item in club merchandise (club T-shirts) being subsidised. The term deposit is starting to earn some more attractive interest as rates and inflation rise. The club had only the very successful OWS as a fundraiser in 2022, but we also utilised a \$600 grant for coaching activities. A summary of benefits was tabled, such as maintaining ticket/member prices, social activities and merchandise. A future list of benefits was also tabled containing similar items, and there was discussion of OWS pricing, of whether the Club might organise a second OWS event, and of whether further fundraising/club promotion events should be considered. Thank you to Robert Ferguson, who audited the accounts again.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Moved: Ace Lewis    Seconded: Heather Carbone

#### **6. Standing down of outgoing Committee members**

Robyn Brown and Heather Carbone retired from the Committee, having been thanked for their exceptional service in the President's report.

## **7. Election of officers**

The following members were nominated and elected unopposed as members of the Executive Committee and office bearers:

President: Ian Young

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: George Crowder (new Committee member)

Treasurer: Ace Lewis

Registrar: Vicki Day (new Committee member)

Safety Officer: Tony Fowler

Club captains: Deb Wareing and Gavin Rowell

Coaching Coordinator: Mark Trenwith

Open Water Swim Coordinator: Ben Warr

Social Coordinator: Meredith Ryan

Webmaster (Acting): Gavin Rowell

Recorder: Maryann Heffernan (new, non-Committee role)

The executive position of Vice President remains open, and it is hoped that club members will still consider nominating for this role.

## **8. General Business Arising**

Gavin (Club Captain) noted that the existing Swim Central entry system makes the deadline for individual entries simultaneous with the deadline for relay entries. If members leave it to the last moment to enter, the club captains have no time to select relay teams from the available entrants. Pending improvement of the system, Gavin requested that members try to enter well before the deadline.

Ian noted that many come-and-try people did not join as members. There was discussion of ideas for how to encourage potential members, especially those who came-and-tried, to join.

Meeting closed at 11:30

# MARION MARLINS MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB INC

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2023

### Summary

Your club is now in its 43<sup>rd</sup> year and has enjoyed another successful year. Your committee and volunteers worked hard to meet the fitness, training, competition, and social needs of our members. Key accomplishments in 2023 were as follows:

- Maintained a strong balance sheet which allowed the Committee to continue to minimise cost increases to members and subsidise some club activities (see Treasurer's report for further details)
- Increased our YE membership to 115 (from 106) and welcomed 26 new members to the club. We are now the largest club in SA.
- Negotiated favourable pool entry and lane hire fees at the Marion Outdoor Pool and Scotch College (new venue) which will allow us to keep training ticket prices unchanged in 2024.
- Received a grant of \$2,000 from Allianz, through MSA, to assist in overseeing an Adult Learn to Swim Program (ALTS) at SAALC.
- Hosted a successful SA State Masters Open Water Swimming Championships in 2023 at Somerton SLSC (and again in 2024), raising significant funds for the club.
- Completed the club History project with preparation of a document entitled "Marion Marlins Masters – The Early Years 1980-2005".
- Some outstanding results achieved by individuals in pool and open water swim competitions with some success as a club, particularly in open water events.
- Hosted a number of well attended social functions including a Winter Solstice swim and luncheon.

### Committee:

A club like ours cannot function and continue to prosper without the efforts of its committee members, all of whom are volunteers. I personally would like to thank the Committee for their support and their work throughout the year; it has been another strong team effort. The Committee met 10 times in 2023 at Club Marion where we maintain an affiliate membership.

This is my last year as President of the club, a position I've held (with other Acting roles) for the past six years. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve the club and its members. After a few difficult years during covid the club is currently in a very strong position. I'm confident that the incoming committee will maintain and build on our success in the years to come.

In 2023 key positions on our Executive were filled by **Marc Loader** as Vice President, **Ace Lewis** as Treasurer, **George Crowder** as Secretary, **Vicki Day** as Registrar and **Tony Fowler** as Safety Officer.

**Marc Loader** joined the Committee in 2023 as Vice President. He provided valuable assistance supporting me in my role as President and provided input to all important decisions affecting the club. He took on the very time consuming (and at times frustrating) role of managing the club's participation in the Adult Learn to Swim Program.

**George Crowder** joined the Committee in 2023 as Secretary, a role that had remained vacant for four years. He has been preparing the Minutes for our Committee meetings and has progressively taken on more tasks that are part of the secretarial role. After completing a review of the club's Constitution in 2022 George reviewed and updated our current (2022-25) Strategic Plan. He also provided valuable input to decisions regarding eligibility for club membership.

**Ace Lewis** has once again done a fantastic job managing the club's accounts and has been an invaluable asset to the club. He also maintains and updates a spreadsheet that records attendance and costs (coaches and lane hire) for each training session and has been responsible for a number of initiatives adopted by the committee. I have valued his input on all important decisions affecting the club.

**Vicki Day** joined the Committee in 2023 and apart from her role as Registrar has taken on other very important roles at the club. From August 2022 she has been assisting me in preparing and emailing the monthly newsletter and other notices using Mailchimp. More recently Vicki has been assisting Gavin with updates to our website and undertook the huge task of formatting the History project document. Thanks Vicki, for all the things you are doing for the club!

**Tony Fowler** joined the Committee in 2020 and continued in the Executive role of Safety Officer. He has ably assisted the Committee in this capacity and contributed to other club initiatives. Most notably, Tony prepared and collated the results of the member's survey which was conducted in 2023.

**Mark Trenwith** took on the role of Coaching Coordinator in 2023 after serving as Vice President in 2022. He manages the coaching roster, liaises with the Branch Coaching Coordinator on training matters and helps resolve member related training issues. Mark completed his Masters Coaching accreditation during the year and helped with coaching duties when Stewart and Sandy were away.

**Ben Warr** joined the Committee in late 2018, and for the last four years has taken on the very important role of Open Water Swim Coordinator. There are a large number of tasks involved in the role, including event preparation and compliance work, liaising with Somerton SLSC, and organising and managing activities on the day. Ben has also assisted with other club activities including merchandise (hoodies) and social events.

**Gavin Rowell** and **Deborah Wareing** shared the Club Captaincy role. Gavin has handled most of the pre-meet promotions on social media and the difficult task of relay entries on Swim Central. In addition, he has been our Acting Webmaster (with Vicki Day) and organises the popular member profiles for the monthly newsletter. Deb assisted Gavin in organising our relay teams, helped Meredith in organising the Branch Presentation Dinner and has arranged orders of club merchandise (named caps). With her busy work and training schedule Deb has elected not to renominate this year. We thank Deb very much for serving on the committee and assisting the club during the past six years.

**Meredith Ryan** joined the Committee in 2022 and has been very busy during the past year as the club's Social Coordinator. She has organised all our social events, with support from other Committee members. A major task that Meredith undertook was organising the Branch's annual Presentation Dinner. This was a very successful event thanks to her efforts!

**Maryanne Heffernan** took on the role of Club Recorder following Heather Carbone's retirement at the 2022 AGM. Maryanne has been preparing regular updates of the club records for our website.

**Mike Perkins** assumed the role of Member Protection Officer in July 2022. This is an essential role mandated by the Branch, and thankfully one that did not require any intervention on his part!

**Meredith Taylor** took on the role of Club Historian in 2020 and late last year completed the huge task of preparing a comprehensive history report of our first club's first 25 years. I thank her for all the hard work she has done sourcing and compiling information for the report.

The role of Social- Media/ Newsletter Coordinator remained unfilled during the year. I continued to prepare a monthly newsletter for members with assistance from **Vicki Day**.

Apart from the Committee and those mentioned above many of our members have helped with our club's social and fund-raising activities and Club & Branch open water swims in the past year. In no specific order thanks to: Brenda Mangelsdorf, Jan Langan, Lindy Lawson, Judy Vowles, Ruth Henty, Nola Sutton, John Van Loggem, Max Yates, Charlie Roberts, Dean Guse, Lindsay Martin, Stephen Brown, Garth Hayter, Sarah Osman-Walton, Sharyn Roach Anleu, Kate Johnson, Michael Gaibinger, and Neil Anderson (with sincere apologies to anyone I've missed!)

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank all our members for their efforts.

### **Membership:**

At YE 2023 we had **115** financial members, up from 106 at YE 2022, making us the largest club in SA. This is also our largest membership total since 2016. As of today, we have 100 members, compared to 95 members at the same time last year. We had 26 new members join us in 2023 including a number of "younger" swimmers that are helping us balance ages across the club.

Although it's important that we attract new members it is equally important that we work hard to retain existing members and at least maintain or improve on our current retention rate of 80-85%. Disappointingly, 26 of our 2023 members (or 22.6%) have not renewed (as yet) in 2024.

Although our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan does not set a membership target it is important that we continue to maintain a strong membership base. This will ensure that training session attendance is sufficient to balance the costs of lane hire and coaching and ensure that we can continue to offer five training sessions per week.

### **Coaching and Training Sessions:**

Training sessions will always be our main club activity and in 2023 we continued to host five sessions per week at the Marion Outdoor Pool Centre (Summer) and the Westminster School and SAALC (Winter). Training session attendance was strong throughout the year, with an overall increase on 2022. The week-day morning sessions continued to be the most popular with record attendance being recorded on a number of days. Members from other clubs continue to enjoy training with us.

The results of a survey conducted by the club indicated that members are satisfied overall with the clubs training sessions (days and times), coaching programs and other activities.

New payment procedures were introduced by MOP for the current season. This required payment of both an entry fee to the Centre and a swim ticket for the club. We were able to negotiate very favourable rates with MOP for our members which allowed the total cost per session to remain unchanged in 2023-24. Given the club's strong balance sheet no increase in training fees is anticipated at this time and further initiatives may be considered on return to our Winter training venues in early May.

Toward the end of 2023 we were advised of a change in Westminster Schools policy regarding the use of its facilities by community groups. We attempted over several months to come to an arrangement with the School that would allow us to continue to use the pool. However, the final offer presented to us was unreasonable, both in terms of the available times and proposed lane hire fee and we declined. We have been training at Westminster for some 22 years, since shortly after the pool opened, so this is a disappointing situation for the club. Fortunately, we were able to book our evening sessions into the new Scotch College pool ("Purrunna Spencer Newton Centre"), where we will begin training in May. This is a wonderful new facility and I'm sure that our members will be impressed! Similar to MOP, an equitable pricing arrangement has been agreed with the College.

As a club we are fortunate to have excellent coaches guide our swim program! **Stewart Galliford**, our senior coach, coached four sessions per week for most of 2023 while **Sandy Bennett** coached the popular Monday morning session. **Heather Carbone** assisted Sandy with the busy Monday morning sessions in November and December. **Mark Trenwith** (Coaching Coordinator), **Meredith Ryan**, **Heather Carbone**, **Robyn Brown**, and **Sarah Osmon-Walton** filled-in when Stewart or Sandy were unavailable. The coaches



have a well-established “Chat Group” to discuss any rostering issues which ensures that there is always a coach on deck.

We are very pleased that Stewart and Sandy have committed to coaching the club for the foreseeable future. However, it is in the club’s best interests that we continue to encourage our members to become qualified coaches. Financial support is available to any member that wishes to complete the training and accreditation program.

A successful Open Water Swim Clinic was held at Brighton on 31 December, attended by 16 of our members. Thanks to **Stewart Galliford** and **Meredith Ryan** for stepping in on late notice as coaches and to **Wayne Carruthers** for organising the water cover. For those new to ocean swimming **Sandy Bennett** has prepared a brief report “Introduction to Open Water Swimming” which is available on our website.

Our club supported the 2023 Adult Learn to Swim Program (ALTS), a nation-wide initiative by Allianz and Masters Swimming Australia to teach adults to swim. An eight- week program was conducted from 9 October at SAALC with coaches provided by the Centre. Members of our club attended these sessions to provide encouragement and to tell participants about Masters swimming. We received a financial consideration of \$2,000 for providing this assistance. It was hoped that the program would provide a potential pathway for “graduates” with reasonable swimming ability to join our club. Unfortunately, the swimming ability of participants on completion was not good enough to enable them to join our club. Thanks to **Marc Loader** for managing this program on behalf of the club and to members who volunteered at the various sessions.

#### **Open Water Swim:**

Our club has been organising an open water swim under various formats and at a number of different venues since 1981. For the last thirteen 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. Unfortunately, attendance at our 2023 event was down (131 registered), as it was at all events in the series. A poor weather prediction and issues with the new Swim Central registration system were likely contributing factors. Attendance was back up (161 registered) at our recent 2024 event. Our OWS is our main fund-raising activity, and the 2023 and 2024 events raised \$2,044 and \$3,972 respectively. Somerton SLSC is proving to be an excellent venue and we look forward to continuing to work with the club in the years ahead.

A big thanks to **Ben Warr**, our Open Water Swim Coordinator, for organising the event. As always, a big team effort is required! Thanks to **Mark Loader** for towing the trailer, **Neil Anderson** and **Mark Trenwith** for taking the lead on beach set-up and positioning, **Garth Hayter** for the pre-race briefing, **Robyn Brown** for leading the registration and arm marking team, **Tony Fowler** for drinks and **Ben Warr** for acting as starter. Once again **Mike Perkins** (Chief Registrar and Time- Keeper) and **Jane Horgan** did a superb job managing the very difficult task of time keeping and preparation of the results. Thanks to **Stephen Carthew** for securing a large number of restaurant vouchers from sponsors and to **Brenda Mangelsdorf** for her assistance and of course thanks to our sponsors!

Thanks to the Marion volunteers, led by **Max Yates**, who assisted with registrations at the 2023 (and 2024) Jetty to Jetty OWS.

#### **Competition:**

In pool and open water swim competitions our members achieved some excellent results individually and for the club. In the 2023 Winter Interclub Pool Series we finished in a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> place position, one position higher than in 2022. Hopefully, we can challenge Atlantis for the title this year! In the 2022-23 Summer Pool Series we finished in a disappointing 8<sup>th</sup> place (7<sup>th</sup> in 2021-22) as only a limited number of members competed.

In open water swim competition, we won the Team trophy for Aggregate points at the 2023 State Masters Championships for the twelfth consecutive year (and repeated again early this year). Our strong

performance at the State Championships is based on the strong participation of our members, with 32 registering for the event in 2023 and 40 this year. Early this year we won the Marj Muller Team Trophy (Average Points per Swimmer) at the Jetty to Jetty OWS for the third consecutive year.

Our Club Captains and coaches have been working hard to encourage participation in pool events and have assisted those unfamiliar with certain aspects of competition such as starts and turns. It was great to see 26 Marlins representing the club at the Relay Meet in May, including first-timers and new members. The club has and will continue to encourage participation by paying the entry fees at the relay meet and for first timers at all meets.

Although the focus has been on participation some of our members enjoyed outstanding success in the pool in 2023. **Ian Young**, competing in the Men's 70-74 age group, set 2 National and 8 State records. State records were set by **Stephen Carthew**, (13 events), **Barb Pearce** (3 events) and **Ace Lewis** (2 events). State records were also set by the Mixed 4 x25m Free relay team of **Ron Hardie, Maryanne Heffernan, Deb Wareing and Ian Young** and the 4x50 Mixed Free Relay team of **Barb Pearce, Stephen Carthew, Di Ross & Ron Hardie**.

Many of our members achieved overall top 3 placings in the Winter Interclub and the Summer Pool Series. Interclub achievers were **Sarah Osman Walton** (3<sup>rd</sup>, W40-49), **Deb Wareing** (2<sup>nd</sup>, W65-69), **Marjorie Castle** (2<sup>nd</sup>, W80-84), **Barb Pearce** (1<sup>st</sup>, W85-89), **Diane Ross** (2<sup>nd</sup>, W85-89), **Ben Warr** (1<sup>st</sup>, M35-39), **Ace Lewis** (2<sup>nd</sup>, M40-44), **Gavin Rowell** (2<sup>nd</sup>, M50-54), **Dean Guse** (3<sup>rd</sup>, M55-59), and **Stephen Carthew**, (2<sup>nd</sup>, M75-79). Medallists in the 2022-23 Summer Pool Series were **Barb Pearce** (1<sup>st</sup>, W85-89), **Andrew Smith** (1<sup>st</sup>, M55-59) and **Ian Young** (1<sup>st</sup>, M70-74).

**Maryanne Heffernan** and **Ian Young** competed at the World Aquatics (FINA) Masters Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan in August. Maryanne won two silver medals from her five events while Ian won 1 silver and 3 bronze from his 6 events.

**Ian Young** received the 2022 Male Swimmer of the Year award at the MSSA Branch Presentation Dinner in April 2023. **Stephen Carthew** finished a close third in the points tally. **Maryanne Heffernan** was the Runner-up in the Female Swimmer of the Year category.

More of our members enjoy competing in the ocean rather than in the pool. Participation in the 2022-23 Channel Nine Open Water Swim Series was excellent and the club finished in a close 4<sup>th</sup> position for the Aggregate Points Trophy. **Andrew Smith** and **Marc Loader** completed all events in the Series and received embroidered towels for this achievement. In the recently completed 2023-24 Series **Andrew Smith** and **Deb Wareing** will be towel recipients. At the 2023 Masters State Championships there were many age group medallists amongst our members. **Ian Young** (2<sup>nd</sup>) and **Ace Lewis** (3<sup>rd</sup>) had podium finishes in the 1km (male) event. **Tony Fowler** and **Maryanne Heffernan** received Golden Marlin trophies for completing their 20<sup>th</sup> swim.

Apart from swimming competitions many of our members competed and excelled in related sports, using our club training sessions in their preparation. Masters Surf Life Saving events were popular with **Robyn Brown, Deb Wareing, Wayne Carruthers, Ben Warr, and Tony Fowler** who competed at the recent 2024 State Championships. **Jen and Simon Mulligan, Max Yates, Claudia Chavez, Mattea Palombo, Kate Johnson, Sue Pickering, Michael Gaibinger and Tim Morrison** competed in triathlons with some excellent results both here in SA and Internationally. More recently **Marc Loader, Lindsay Martin and Charlie Roberts** were part of a four- person relay team that swam at the iconic Rottneest Channel OWS.

Many of our members enjoy ocean swimming on a casual (non-competitive) basis with the "Brighton Blue Ringers". Five of our ladies (**Lindy Lawson, Sharyn Roach Anleu, Brenda Manglesdorf, Jan Langan and Vicki Day**) became instant movie stars when they featured in swim scenes at Somerton Beach for a film series "Behind the Seams" which debuted in August.

### **Fund Raising:**

Given the club's strong financial position, we did not hold any fund-raising events in 2023. However, fund-raising events like Bunnings and Open Days at the Marion Outdoor Pool may still be considered in future because they are good opportunities to promote the club and attract new members.

### **Social:**

A number of social events were held by the club during the year and were well attended by members and their partners. Our second annual Winter Solstice swim and luncheon was held at the Somerton SLSC on 25 June with a number of us braving the cold water. Marlins and partners enjoyed a fun evening at the Taste of Himalaya Restaurant on 26 August. Our annual "Return to Marion Outdoor Pool" brekkie was held on 21 October and our Xmas Party on 21 December at the Marion Outdoor Pool.

As is custom our coaches handed out prizes to some well-deserving club members at the Xmas party. **John Van Loggem** received the 'Larrikin' Award in recognition of arriving (and stretching) with a smile. **Ben Warr** received the Awesome Award for breaking the 1 min mark for 100 free. **Anne Loader** was awarded the 'Newbie' Award in recognition of overcoming her fears and having a go. **Maggie Evans** was awarded the 'Gutsy' Award in recognition of giving everything a go in training and competitions. Special thanks to **Meredith Ryan, Ace Lewis, and Ben Warr** for organizing the food and drinks for the event.

The annual MSSA Presentation Dinner was held at the Highway Hotel on 15 April, organised by our club (**Meredith Ryan**) on behalf of the Branch. It was a wonderful night, attended by 90 people, with many attired in outfits to match the theme "Blinging It On". The dance floor was packed and there would have been a few sore feet (and heads?) by the end of the evening and the next day.

On a less formal basis our weekday morning swimmers enjoy coffees after training at Café Finniss in Marion while a number of our Saturday morning group enjoy breakfast at Jetty Rd, Brighton (currently ETC Café).

### **Club History:**

Our club History project has been completed and the final document, entitled **Marion Marlins Masters – The Early Years 1980-2005** has been loaded onto our website [marionmasters.org/files/documents/c47be086-4a88-446c-9998-bb9895710dca.pdf](http://marionmasters.org/files/documents/c47be086-4a88-446c-9998-bb9895710dca.pdf). The large document includes photos, newsclips and anecdotes from some of our early (Life) members. A list of Office Bearers (from 1981), a timeline of events, list of training venues and membership figures are all included.

A big thanks to **Meredith Taylor** for gathering and collating all the information, **Vicki Day** for formatting the document and to members who supplied photos and information. This was a very large undertaking over a period of more than three years!

If any current or past members spot any errors or have additional information they would like to have added, please contact Vicki Day ([vickiday626@gmail.com](mailto:vickiday626@gmail.com)). Hopefully we can eventually prepare a report on the last 20 years.

### **The Year Ahead:**

Our Strategic Plan was updated for the period 2022-25. The following are considered to be the key opportunities and challenges for the club in the year ahead:

- **Values:** Continue to maintain an inclusive training and social program to encourage and support member participation and provide a courteous and welcoming environment.
- **Finance:** Maintain the club's strong financial position and consider more options for returning excess funds to members by providing additional benefits and training and competition incentives.

- **Membership:** Maintain a strong membership base by attracting new members with a wide range of abilities and improving our member retention rate.
- **Coaching:** Encourage and support more members to gain (and renew) their coaching accreditation using the online system.
- **Committee:** Encourage members to take up Executive /General Committee positions at the club and Technical or Board positions with the Branch. Ensure that position descriptions are up to date and understood and facilitate handovers in key roles.
- **Competition:** Actively encourage and support members to compete, within a wide range of abilities, in pool and open water swim events and in the process, help to develop a strong team spirit.
- **Merchandise:** Gauge demand and consider designing and ordering more club gear so members can more easily identify with their club at competitions
- **Open Water Swim:** Build on our success at Somerton SLSC by improving delivery, promotion, and sponsorship and by considering other initiatives to improve attendance.
- **Social:** Plan and partly fund more social events for members.
- **Stakeholder Relationships:** Maintain and build relationships with other stakeholders including the Branch, other Masters Swim clubs, Aquatic Facilities, Somerton SLSC, Marion Star Club, State and local government and their agencies (Department of Sport & Recreation) and sponsors. Create a positive awareness in the local community of the Club's activities through marketing, promotion, and other initiatives.

I wish the incoming Committee all the success in the years ahead so that the Marion Marlins can continue to be the premier Masters swim club in SA.

Ian Young

President, Marion Marlins

March 2024

# MARION MARLINS

## MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB INC

### TREASURER'S REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2023

Executive Summary:

|                                | 2023               | 2022        | 2021        |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Account Balances 31/12</b>  | <b>\$42,308.94</b> | \$43,875.54 | \$41,232.17 |
| <b>Outstandings (CC) 31/12</b> | <b>\$0.00</b>      | \$0.00      | -\$99.22    |
| <b>Net Position:</b>           | \$42,308.94        | \$43,875.54 | \$41,132.95 |
|                                |                    |             |             |
| <b>Income:</b>                 | <b>\$46,949.06</b> | \$46,889.63 | \$44,877.62 |
| <b>Expenses:</b>               | <b>\$48,438.25</b> | \$45,197.50 | \$34,493.72 |
| <b>Surplus:</b>                | <b>-\$1,489.19</b> | \$1,692.13  | \$10,383.90 |

- The Club posted a **Net Shortfall** for Calendar year 2023 of **-\$1,489.19** (2022 \$1,692.13 surplus).
- **Balance of Accounts** (audited) as of 31 December 2023 was **\$42,308.94** (2022 \$43,875.54).
- **Term Deposit: \$30,000:** invested at 4.10%pa, to mature at 11/04/2024 (Earned interest of **\$54.08**)
- Reported Income was level, however Expenses were again higher than prior year, resulting in a marginal shortfall – note this would have been offset by \$2000 ALTS reimbursement expected.
- *Notes on Income compared to prior year:*
  - Merchandise sales higher: Club offered hoodies, caps, shirts this year
  - Membership fees significantly lower: more 'normal' timing now in Swim Central
  - OWS income much higher: early bird entries for 2024 successfully offered before year end
  - Swim tickets total down a little despite higher membership: new structure/pricing from Oct
- *Notes on Expenses compared to prior year:*
  - Coaching up ~\$2k: same hourly rate, the Club supported more education/courses and added 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday coach from Oct
  - Lane Hire down ~\$1k: despite inflationary rises, the Club was able to negotiate an excellent price at MOP from Oct

- Social Functions ~double: Club goal to give more back to members via breakfasts & dinners
- **Fund-Raising:** Raised a total of **\$2,044.44** (2022 \$3,455.23)
  - SA State Championships OWS Jan 2023: \$2,044.44 (Jan 2022 \$3,455.23)
  - No Bunnings or Marion Outdoor Pool BBQs
- **Grants:** \$600 was received (awarded earlier) to reimburse for Coaching development

A small shortfall was a solid result in the high inflationary environment where many costs increased and the Committee worked hard on many items to offer increased benefits to members.

Thank you also to Robert Ferguson, MSSA Branch Treasurer who has again kindly completed an audit of our Accounts. I present this report with our Profit and Loss statement for the Club records.

#### **Benefits to members in 2023:**

- Training tickets kept at same net rate, with successful negotiations with multiple pools
- Minimal membership increase, most of which goes outside of the Club
- Small OWS entry fee increase (still one of the cheapest), and early bird offered first time
- Multiple breakfasts (inc AGM), dinners, drinks etc
- Free meet entries for first timers and full interclub relay meet entry fee
- Subsidised Merchandise; Hoodies, T-Shirts, Caps etc
- Increased qualified coaching roster to support increased membership and training attendance

#### **Recommendations and considerations proposed for 2024:**

- Actively monitor lane hire situation and any associated ticket price/structural requirements
- Continue increased Member and Committee benefits eg Dinners, Social Activities, Investigate Grant activities for training equipment or other benefits
- Consider if another fund-raising event would be beneficial to offset the increased costs, rather than increasing training ticket or membership prices for 2025
- Continue to advocate for improvements to Swim Central that help with event management and Masters swimmer useability
- Review benefits (short and long term) of the Allianz ALTS program and if the Club repeats

**Benefits to members in 2022:**

- *No increase in training ticket prices (and none anticipated at this time)*
- *Minimal membership increase, most of which goes outside of the Club*
- *Kept OWS entry fees the same as prior years*
- *Free 'Back to Marion' brekkie and Xmas Party, subsidised drinks at Solstice Lunch*
- *Free meet entries for first timers*
- *Subsidised T-shirts*
- *Subsidised personalised caps*
- *AGM breakfast*

**Recommendations and considerations proposed for 2023:**

- *Maintain current swim tickets prices – **Achieved***
- *Monitor increased inflationary fixed costs (eg lane hire) – **Achieved***
- *Increase the entry cost of the OWS more in line with other swims – **Achieved***
- *More Member and Committee benefits eg Dinners, Social Activities, Investigate Grant activities for training equipment or other benefits – **Achieved***
- *Second round of subsidised merchandise eg Hoodies – **Achieved***
- *Consider if another fund-raising event would be beneficial to offset the increased costs, rather than increasing training ticket or membership prices for 2024 - **Ongoing***
- *Continue to advocate for improvements to Swim Central that help with event management and Masters swimmer useability - **Ongoing***

*Ace Lewis*

*Marion Marlins Masters Treasurer, March 2024*



Robert Ferguson  
Masters Swimming SA  
443 Morphett Road,  
Oaklands Park SA 5046.

## **Independent Audit Report for 2023**

**To the members of: Marion Masters Swimming Club Inc.**

### **Report on the financial report**

I have audited the attached special purpose financial report comprising the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Statement of Assets and Liabilities and notes applicable to both for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### **Marion Masters Committee's responsibility for the financial report**

Marion's committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation, free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud, of the financial report and the information contained therein, and has determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Club's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. To accomplish this, the committee has such internal controls as it determines necessary.

### **Auditor's responsibility**

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of risk of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to Marion's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the branch's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report. I believe that the audit evidence that I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Independence**

In the audit I have complied with the independence obligations imposed by the auditing and ethical standards.

### **Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly the payments and receipts of Marion Masters Swimming Club Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and the assets and liabilities as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Ferguson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Ferguson. C.P.A.  
Masters Swimming S.A.  
Dated: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

*"Fitness, Friendship and Fun"*



## Profit and Loss (Cash)

**Marion Marlins**

**ABN: 18 343 162 097**

Report Period: 1/01/2023 - 31/12/2023

**Account(s) in this report:** ANZ Current account, ANZ Investment account, ANZ VISA account

| <b>Income</b>                  | <b>\$</b> | <b>\$</b>          |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Bank interest                  | 41.03     |                    |
| Clothing sales                 | 1634.82   |                    |
| Grants/sponsorship             | 600.00    |                    |
| Membership fees                | 1769.20   |                    |
| OWS income                     | 7044.01   |                    |
| Social function income         | 195.00    |                    |
| Training fees / Multi swim tix | 35665.00  |                    |
| <b>Total Income</b>            |           | <b>46949.06</b>    |
|                                |           |                    |
| <b>Expenses</b>                | <b>\$</b> | <b>\$</b>          |
| Bank Charges                   | 75.00     |                    |
| Clothing purchases             | 1846.03   |                    |
| Coaching                       | 17465.00  |                    |
| Committee expenses             | 1077.45   |                    |
| Computer expenses              | 973.00    |                    |
| Interclub payments             | 650.00    |                    |
| Lane hire /pool entry          | 20032.51  |                    |
| Membership cash                | 140.00    |                    |
| Membership payments            | 421.00    |                    |
| OWS expenses                   | 2064.66   |                    |
| Printing / Stationery          | 945.98    |                    |
| Printing and Stationery        | 153.00    |                    |
| Social function costs          | 1951.62   |                    |
| Social functions - costs       | 477.20    |                    |
| Sundry                         | 165.80    |                    |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>          |           | <b>48438.25</b>    |
|                                |           |                    |
| <b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>       |           | <b>( 1489.19 )</b> |

## BALANCE SUMMARY

|                                | 2023               | 2022        | 2021        |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Account Balances 31/12</b>  | <b>\$42,308.94</b> | \$43,875.54 | \$41,232.17 |
| <b>Outstandings (CC) 31/12</b> | <b>\$0.00</b>      | \$0.00      | -\$99.22    |
| <b>Net Position:</b>           | <b>\$42,308.94</b> | \$43,875.54 | \$41,132.95 |
|                                |                    |             |             |
| <b>Income</b>                  | <b>\$46,949.06</b> | \$46,889.63 | \$44,877.62 |
| <b>Expenses</b>                | <b>\$48,438.25</b> | \$45,197.50 | \$34,493.72 |
| <b>Surplus:</b>                | <b>-\$1,489.19</b> | \$1,692.13  | \$10,383.90 |

*"Fitness, Friendship and Fun"*