



**75 Years**  
**1950 – 2025**

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

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## Introduction

The Cronulla RSL Swimming Club celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025. It has continually operated since its first swim on January 25<sup>th</sup> 1950. The first 60 years have been documented in two previous publications:

Cronulla RSL Swimming Club -The First 50 years  
Cronulla RSL Swimming Club – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet

This publication tracks the activities of the club during the following 15 years.

Current Life Members:



Top: Steve Harper, Paul Cavanagh, John Hennessy, Denis Woodland  
Seated: Jack Kirkland, Don Saunders, Eric Wood, Lesley Woodland

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

The club has continued its strong program over the last 15 years with swim schedule that is well attended by the members. There are currently four swimming options available every week for a competitive swim where all swims are based on a handicap basis.

The club recently had the former Sharks Leagues Swimming Club integrated into its structure which provides additional swimming options as well as a stronger membership base. Swims are held on Sunday, Tuesday night, Wednesday and Fridays. Swimming continues throughout Summer and Winter with relocation to the ocean during the colder months.

There is always a team travelling to the AIF Swimming Association's annual carnival which commenced in December 1936 and was originally for returned soldiers. Over the years the Association has broadened the criteria, but the primary focus is commemoration of returned service personnel.

Over the last 15 years we have travelled to Albury, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Coffs Harbour, Nelson Bay, Grafton, Southport and Maroubra to participate in the AIF carnival. Covid restrictions forced cancellations during that period.

The club also hosts Coogee Diggers Swim Club every 2 years at Gunnamatta with our club attending Wylies baths at Coogee on the alternate years. This is another of our historic rituals which remain strong today and keenly contested by both clubs.

The club also attends meetings hosted by Sharks Leagues, Kurranulla Swim Club and St George Leagues Club.

The Winter Swimming group regularly visit Stanwell Park Sea Eels and Maroubra Seals for a swimming meeting and their great hospitality is much appreciated.

As well we host the 'Diggers Shield' every year with clubs from around the Shire and beyond attend a Thursday Night carnival where the main prize is the 10 a side Digger Shield. There are usually over 100 attendees at this event.

A full swimming program accommodating all levels and a great time socialising is the core of the club's culture.

This publication has extracted information from annual reports over the last 15 years. There were limited photos of the earlier years.

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2010 to 2011

#### Position

|                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Patron                      | Allan Cameron          |
| President                   | Denis Woodland         |
| Deputy President            | John Suann             |
| Secretary                   | Jack Kirkland          |
| Treasurer                   | Liz Matthews           |
| Asst Treasurers             | Shirley Cameron        |
|                             | Janice Cox, Bill Jury  |
| Captain                     | Mike Kenny             |
| Vice Captain                | Paul Rugg              |
| Race Secretary              | Cathie Davis           |
| Asst Race Secretaries       | Kerrie Hammell         |
|                             | Carrol Daly, Jim Silva |
| Grey's Co-ordinator         | Jim Silva              |
| Handicapper                 | Paul Cavanagh          |
| Registrar                   | Jack Kirkland          |
| Social Secretary            | Warren Rapp            |
| Grey's Social Organiser     | Tony Watson            |
| Publicity Officer           | Shane Birdsall         |
| Delegates -AOC              | Shirley Cameron,       |
|                             | John Suann             |
| AIF Association             | Jack Brownjohn,        |
|                             | John Suann             |
| Winter Swimming Association | Jack Brownjohn,        |
|                             | John Suann             |
| Hon Auditor                 | Doug McPherson         |
| Relay Committee             | Don Saunders,          |
|                             | Jim Wilson,            |
|                             | Lesley Woodland        |
| Social Committee            | Bob Woods,             |
|                             | Pat Matthews,          |
|                             | Barbara Murphy,        |
|                             | Susan Greenacre,       |
|                             | Margaret McKeon,       |
|                             | Jan Rapp.              |
| Welfare Officer             | Jan Rapp.              |
| Starters                    | Denis Ford,            |
|                             | Jim Silva,             |
|                             | Don Saunders,          |

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **President's Report**

The club membership was strong at 126 active members

55 swimmers attending on Sundays

15 attending on Thursday nights

30 swimmers on Wednesday and Friday mornings with the Gunnamatta Greys.

Highlights were the carnivals with Coogee Diggers and the annual Diggers Shield hosted by our club.

In March 20 members travelled to Southport for the Annual AIF Swimming Carnival.

The annual meeting with the Woollooware High School continues to flourish with our members sharing a day of swimming and socialising with members of the School Students Council.

#### **Clubhouse**

The Vice President John Suann with help from many members continued with the maintenance and improvements to the clubhouse facilities. The ladies' change room had safety mats and fans installed and a fire extinguisher. A freezer and a barbeque were purchased.

The club had a website for the first time which helped to publicise the club's activities and keep members informed

#### **Life Membership**

Life Membership was granted to Lesley Woodland in recognition of her outstanding service to the club.

#### **Female Championships introduced**

The season from October 2010 to September 2011 saw an important change in the Club Constitution. The AGM held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 passed a motion to have separate Championship Races for female swimmers. Up to this point Championships did not distinguish and this put the females at a distinct disadvantage. Life member Shirley Cameron proposed the motion and donated a perpetual trophy for the winner.

#### **Denis Woodland**

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **Captains Report**

Another great year of swimming was carried out in 2010 —2011 including both summer and winter programs. Attendances have been good especially the success of the winter events on Friday and Sunday mornings at Cronulla Beach.

Apart from our normal swimming program the club has competed in a number of carnivals. In March this year a large contingent including 20 swimmers travelled interstate to the AIF Championships in Southport, QLD. Some outstanding results were attained including finalists in the nominated time events, Sandy Curran in both the 100m and 50m (placed 3rd) and Paul Rugg (50m). Placegetters in the Age finals were - Jack Brownjohn 2nd (25m), Lesley Woodland 3rd (50m), Pat Matthews 3rd(50m), Louise Steele 3rd (50m). The 4x 50 (m) relay team was placed 3rd overall.

In September 2010 the club under the banner of the Gunnamatta Greys competed in the Winter Swimming Association of Australia (WSAA) National championships at Botany including relay teams in the Womens Over 50's, Mens Over 70's and the 10 a side events.

The club hosted a very well attended Diggers Shield carnival on a beautiful Thursday night in February down at the bay with over 100 competitors attending with the local Fire Brigade team taking out the shield again. A couple of weeks later we hosted a very successful annual interclub event with Coogee Randwick RSL. Both events magnificently catered for by Warren Rapp with offsider Bob Woods. The club also competed in the Cronulla Sharks Swim Club summer and winter invitational carnivals and visited Stanwell Park Swim Club at Coalcliff. A very busy but enjoyable season of events.

On the home front we crowned a new Club Champion Steve Harper in a very close contest narrowly beating home Jon Jenkins and Phil Short. Making amends the runaway winner of the Swimmer of the Year was Jon Jenkins who blew away all other swimmers with consistency and great form in the pool with yours truly a distant second and Jack Kirkland third overall.

A big thank you to all those who work so hard during the year to make things happen. Especially our new President Denis Woodland and his executive committee, the race secretaries Cathie Davis and Kerrie Hammell who work feverously to get the events together on time, Vice Captain Paul Rugg, race starters particularly John Suann and Allan Cameron, secretary Jack Kirkland and finally Shirley Cameron who attends even when she shouldn't just to make sure things are done correctly

Mike Kenny

### **Relay**

The highly competitive relay was won by the Green Prawns team which consisted of Don Saunders, Mike Kenny, Ian Bourke, John Hennessy, Jack Kirkland, Jan Rapp, Cheryl Crossland, Ross Smith and Rod Heidenreich. They won by a convincing margin and were deserved winners.

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

The Winter swim program continued to thrive with an average attendance of 25 swimmers braving the cold in Cronulla beach ocean swims. The club hosted a swim with the Stanwell Park Sea Eels with 90 swimmers attending. Pointscore winners were Don Saunders (1<sup>st</sup>), Cathy Davis and Jack Kirkland (eq 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Mike Kenny 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Gunnamatta Greys

The Greys continue to thrive swimming midweek on Wednesdays and Fridays in Gunnamatta (Summer) and Caringbah Pool (Wednesday Winter) and Cronulla beach (Friday Winter).

Jim Silva continues doing a great job organizing all the swims.

Results:

#### Winter 2010

Jack Kirkland 1<sup>st</sup>

Jon Jenkins 2<sup>nd</sup>

Jan Rapp 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Coldwater (ocean in Winter)

Jack Kirkland 1<sup>st</sup>

Kerrie Hammel 2<sup>nd</sup>

Bob Woods 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Summer October to March

Jon Jenkins 1<sup>st</sup>

Geoff Armstrong 2<sup>nd</sup>

John Irvine 3<sup>rd</sup>



Medal winners at the AIF Carnival

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

Accumulated points in weekly races on a handicap basis.

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Jon Jenkins   | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Mike Kenny    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Jack Kirkland | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Cathy Davis   | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| Paul Cavanagh | 5 <sup>th</sup> |

### Club Championships

**Club Championship** (swum over 50/100/200/400M freestyle events)

These are straight races for fastest time.

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Steve Harper | 1 <sup>st</sup>   |
| Jon Jenkins  | 2 <sup>nd</sup>   |
| Phil Short   | 3 <sup>rd</sup>   |
| Mike Kenny   | 4 <sup>th</sup>   |
| Doug Bruce   | 5 <sup>th</sup> . |

### Special Mention

We are very proud of our senior swimmer John Butterfield. John turns 87 during our anniversary year and over recent times he has continually won his age group races, often breaking national records in doing so. John is a great example of the benefits of regular swimming along with eating cake. Congratulations John.



## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2011 to 2012

|                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Patron                      | Allan Cameron             |
| President                   | Denis Woodland            |
| Deputy President            | Steve Harper              |
| Secretary                   | Jack Kirkland             |
| Treasurer                   | Liz Matthews              |
| Asst Treasurers             | Shirley Cameron,          |
|                             | Janice Cox.               |
| Captain                     | Mike Kenny                |
| Vice Captain                | Paul Rugg                 |
| Race Secretary              | Cathie Davis,             |
| Asst Race Secretaries       | Kerrie Hammell, Jim Silva |
| Grey's Co-ordinator         | Jim Silva                 |
| Handicapper                 | Paul Cavanagh             |
| Registrar                   | Jack Kirkland             |
| Social Secretary            | Warren Rapp               |
| Grey's Social Organiser     | Tony Watson               |
| Publicity Officer           | Shane Birdsall            |
| Delegates -AOC              | Shirley Cameron,          |
|                             | John Suann                |
| AIF Association             | Jack Brownjohn,           |
|                             | John Suann                |
| Winter Swimming Association | Jack Brownjohn,           |
|                             | John Suann                |
| Hon Auditor                 | Geoff Armstrong           |
| Relay Committee             | Don Saunders,             |
|                             | Carrol Daly,              |
|                             | Lesley Woodland           |
| Social Committee            | Bob Woods,                |
|                             | Pat Matthews,             |
|                             | Margaret McKeon,          |
|                             | Cathie Davis              |
| Welfare Officer             | Jan Rapp                  |
| Starters                    | Denis Ford,               |
|                             | Jim Silva,                |
|                             | Don Saunders,             |
|                             | Paul Cavanagh,            |

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **Presidents Report**

The club's current membership has 145 members which demonstrates the strength of our membership. The club has changed its rules to have a separate Womens Championship which is a welcome and overdue change.

Congratulations to Kerrie Hamell who became our first female Club Champion and to Steve Harper who won the male prize.

Shirley Cameron and John Suann have donated the perpetual trophies for the two championships. The Diggers Shield was an outstanding success with 127 swimmers participating and 150 people attending.

Thirty five swimmers attended the Coogee Randwick carnival held on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2012. We successfully defended the Dover Straits Shield (Donated by Des Renford). We enjoyed a great day with the hospitality of our hosts.

The AIF was held in Dubbo and we had 22 swimmers attend the carnival on March 17 2012. All attendees experienced a great carnival and next year it will be held at Nelson Bay.

### **Denis Woodland**

### **Captains Report**

Another successful season of swimming has been completed in 2011/12 including both summer and winter programs. Despite poor weather generally for the start and middle parts of the season attendances have been generally good although Thursday nights seem to be a struggle other than for the very hardy or trophy hunters. Fortunately the weather dramatically improved for the latter part of the season.

Apart from our normal swimming program the club has competed in a number of carnivals. In March this year a large contingent including over 20 swimmers travelled way out west to the AIF Championships in Dubbo where I am led to believe that everyone had a fantastic time although my memory of the social events is a little hazy. Some outstanding results were attained with placegetters in the age group going to —Doug McPherson (1st), Bob Woods (2nd), John Suann (3rd), Janice Cox (2nd), Pat Matthews (3rd) and Cathie Davis (3rd). Also, making the finals of the 50m Handicap Finals were —Doug Bruce (3rd) and John Suann (7th).

In September 2011 a small group represented the club in the Winter Swimming national titles at Wagga Wagga.

The Diggers Shield was held on a glorious Thursday night in February with 120 competitors from visiting clubs as well as our own. The Kurranulla Swim Club took out the Diggers Shield.

Later in February we travelled to Wylies Baths at Coogee to compete for the Dover Straits Shield with the Coogee Randwick RSL Swimming Club hosting the event.

We also attended carnivals hosted by Cronulla Sharks and Stanwell Park.

Congratulations to Swimmer of the Year – Paul Cavanagh, inaugural Female Champion -Kerrie Hamell and Male Champion- Steve Harper.

### **Mike Kenny**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relay Report

The winning relay team were the Green Prawns who scored 95 points ahead of second placed Yellow Tails on 88 points.

Members were Geoff Armstrong, Allan Cameron, Jack Kirkland, Jan Rapp, Peter Poppett, Janice Cox, Lesley Woodland, Paul Cavanagh and Paul Rugg.

### Winter Swimming

The first day of Winter Swimming at the beach had wet, cold and windy weather conditions yet we still had 29 swimmers who swam in the rock pool. 52 swimmers participated during the winter with an average attendance of 25 swimmers which is very pleasing.

On 26<sup>th</sup> June a small group attended the Coalcliff pool to swim with the Stanwell Park Sea Ells club. Another bitterly cold day and the water temperature a brisk 13 degrees. Our final swim of the season had 40 swimmers attending which was an excellent result.

Winter pointscore results:

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Cathie Davis    | 53 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesley Woodland | 45 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Don Saunders    | 44 points |



Our Winter swimmers at Coalcliff Pool on a cold winter's morning

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Gunnamatta Greys

The Greys continued their program of pool swims at Caringbah Pool on Wednesdays and at the beach on Fridays in Winter. Summer swims are held at the Gunnamatta baths. Jim Silva continues to co-ordinate the activities of the Greys.

All categories of swims were hotly contested with 2 dead heats for first and extreme narrow margins on every pointscore.

The annual swim with Woollooware High School students was another successful day.

Pointscore results:

#### Winter Wednesday(pool)

Equal 1<sup>st</sup> – Lesley Woodland and Kerrie Hammell – 104 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - John Irvine 101 points

4<sup>th</sup> - John Harlum 95 points

5<sup>th</sup> - Jan Rapp 88 points

#### Winter Friday (ocean swim)

Equal 1<sup>st</sup> – Kerrie Hammell and Lesley Woodland 45 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - John Irvine 44 points

4<sup>th</sup> Jan Rapp 42 points

Joan Harper 36 points

#### Summer Swims

1<sup>st</sup> Jon Jenkins 127 points

2<sup>nd</sup> John Irvine 123points

3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Cavanagh 120 points

4<sup>th</sup> Don Saunders 98 points

5<sup>th</sup> Jim Silva 98 points



Greys starting in a wire to wire race on a Friday morning

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year (Handicap Swimming)

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> - Paul Cavanagh | 265.5 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Cathie Davis  | 260 points   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Jack Kirkland | 241 points   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> - Jon Jenkins   | 237 points   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> - Mike Kenny    | 211.5 points |

### Club Championships

#### Female

|                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> - Kerrie Hammell   | 83 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Cathie Davis     | 70 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Lisa Hedge       | 36 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> - Lizzie Lodge     | 34points  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> - Judith McInerney | 33 points |

#### Male

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1st - Steve Harper              | 80 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Paul Cavanagh | 61 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Jon Jenkins   | 59 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> - John Hennessy | 37 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> - Paul Rugg     | 28 points |



Paul Cavanagh, Kerrie Hammell and Steve Harper

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2012 to 2013

| Position                    |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Patron                      | Allan Cameron    |
| President                   | Denis Woodland   |
| Deputy President            | Steve Harper     |
| Secretary                   | Jack Kirkland    |
| Treasurer                   | Peter Poppett    |
| Asst Treasurers             | Shirley Cameron, |
|                             | Margaret McKeon  |
| Captain                     | Mike Kenny       |
| Vice Captain                | Paul Rugg        |
| Race Secretary              | Cathie Davis,    |
| Asst Race Secretaries       | Kerrie Hammell,  |
|                             | Cheryl Poppett   |
| Grey's Co-ordinator         | Jim Silva        |
| Handicapper                 | Don Saunders     |
| Registrar                   | Jack Kirkland    |
| Social Secretary            | Warren Rapp      |
| Grey's Social Organiser     | Tony Watson      |
| Publicity Officer           | Carrol Daly      |
| Delegates -AOC              | Shirley Cameron, |
|                             | John Suann       |
| AIF Association             | Jack Kirkland    |
|                             | John Suann       |
| Winter Swimming Association | Jack Kirkland    |
|                             | John Suann       |
| Hon Auditor                 | Geoff Armstrong  |
| Relay Committee             | Don Saunders,    |
|                             | Carrol Daly,     |
|                             | Lesley Woodland  |
| Social Committee            | Bob Woods,       |
|                             | Pat Matthews,    |
|                             | Margaret McKeon, |
|                             | Lisa Hedge       |
| Welfare Officer             | Jan Rapp         |
| Starters                    | Denis Ford,      |
|                             | Jim Silva,       |
|                             | Don Saunders,    |
|                             | John Suann,      |
|                             | Paul Cavanagh,   |

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **Presidents Report**

#### **Membership**

The Club currently has 144 financial members.

#### **Swimming Activities**

Our swimming activities have been well supported at all venues during both the summer and winter seasons. Although the Cronulla RSL Swimming Club was founded primarily as a summer club, we now have a well established Sunday Winter Swimming group who swim Sunday mornings at Cronulla, as well as the longstanding Gunnamatta Greys who swim both summer and winter.

This winter season the Greys moved the Wednesday morning swims from Caringbah Leisure Centre to North Cronulla SLSC pool. The change has been a great success, although some of us find it difficult to keep an accurate count of laps! We are most grateful to the North Cronulla SLSC for their generosity in allowing us to use the facilities free of charge and the Club intends to make a donation to express our gratitude.

Our various carnivals and visits are covered in later reports. On Sunday 18 November, the Cronulla Polar Bears staged a five-aside relay competition in the Cronulla Ocean Pool. The event was one of the many events included in the Cook Classic weekend. Of the eight teams in the relay competition, Cronulla RSL Swimming Club fielded three teams, gaining first second and seventh places —an outstanding result. Congratulations to all team members.

A party of twenty-two members and partners travelled to Vanuatu in June for the Annual Port Vila Ocean Swims and the following Espiritu Santo Swim Week. Seventeen of our swimmers participated, with our top swimmers Kerrie Hammell and Gary Schmalfeldt doing well. Club member Phil Short participated independently and was placed in the first six in both the Port Vila and Santo Channel swims. Jack Kirkland and Lesley Woodland, for the second consecutive year, won the over seventy trophies. Lynne Bryan and Ann Wood swam particularly well. Lynne and husband Dave should have qualified for a fashion award in their bright matching costumes. We all had a great time enjoying the various swims, the local sights and interacting with the wonderfully happy locals. Water temperature was as high as 29 degrees. Above all, we all enjoyed the company and socialising, although several of us returned home carrying various ailments.

#### **Vale**

Bob Woods passed away on 7 June 2013. He was a valued member of this Club for over 20 years and will be greatly missed. Val Bob.



**President Denis Woodland**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Captain's Report

Another swimming year has come and gone and with the generous assistance of our committee and band of helpers we have once again completed a very successful year of competition and social activities. Attendances have been steady although our keen band of Thursday night swimmers has at times struggled with numbers particularly in the early part of the season when the weather was not so kind to us.

#### Some of the highlights of the 2012/13 year:

Two new Club Champions, Paul Cavanaugh and Lisa Hedge

Return of Cathie Davis as Swimmer of the Year

Large contingent attending the AIF Championships at Nelson Bay with podium finishes for Denny Ford, Jon Jenkins, Lisa Hedge, Jack Kirkland, Carol Daly, Lesley Woodland, Steve Harper and Doug McPherson.

Another very successful running of the Diggers Shield on a balmy Thursdays night in February with over 100 competitors which was won by the Sharkies Leagues Club.

Hosting Coogee Randwick RSL for the traditional annual events and although we didn't win the main prize our ladies team won the Dover Straits Trophy (nearest time).

receive on tour with a busload visiting Coalcliff/Stanwell Park for the annual inter-club meet

Taking out the Water Dragons Shield at the St George Leagues carnival

The girls finally winning the Shirt V Skirts trophy.



Victorious Shirts vs Skirts team receive their trophy from Shirley Hennessy

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club



Our team of swimmers and partners who visited Vanuatu for a series of ocean swims and a great time.



Relay winners at Wylie Baths

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relay Report

On our last relay swimming day we had the first three teams within one and a half points of each other. The pressure was building with the Team Captains demanding perfect swimming times from each competitor. After a closely contested and tension filled final relay race the Blue Groopers, led by the first successful female relay captain Ann Wood, triumphed and took the coveted Ben Bryant Memorial Trophy.

The Blue Groopers members were:

Ann Wood Captain,  
Jack Kirkland,  
John Suann,  
Ian Bourke,  
Joan Harper,  
Dennis Ford,  
Ken Davidson,  
Tone Sherriff.

The final results were:

|                 |                |                               |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st             | Blue Groopers  | 98pts                         |
| 2nd             | Green Prawns   | 95pts                         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Grey Nurses    | 94pts                         |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Yellow Tails   | 87pts                         |
| 5th             | White Pointers | 84pts                         |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Red Herrings   | 67pts (last 3 years in a row) |

The relay committee made two changes to the swimming format, one proved very successful that being the introduction of the form stroke, the other proved unpopular and was dropped half way through the season.



The Sunday crew in October 2024

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

We had a very cold start to our swimming season on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The beach was closed and we swam in the rock pool . Despite the rain and cold weather we all had a good time, Some ventured up to the RSL club after for coffee to warm up.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May the Stanwell Park Sea Eels visited us at Gunamatta Bay for some friendly competition.

The day was cold and raining, but despite the weather both clubs had a good number of hearty souls dedicated to winter swimming and the Sea Eels brought along a few children to swim. It was good to see them have a go. Unfortunately the Sea Eels won the relay trophy. The day was a great success for both teams

The winter season averaged 25 swimmers each Sunday and the ocean did not dip to freezing . It is a real treat for frozen bodies to be able to visit the RSL club after swimming to enjoy their hospitality of hot food and drinks.

#### THE MONTHLY POINT SCORE WINNERS

May Cathie Davis 13 points

June Don Saunders 11 points

July Jack Kirkland 11 points

August Jon Jenkins 11 points

September Lisa Hedge 12 points

An end of season breakfast and presentation was held at Rydges which everyone enjoyed.



Starter Ian Bourke ready to start the Sunday Winter swimmers.

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Gunnamatta Greys

The Greys had another year with Winter and Summer programs being hotly contested with close results.

#### Winter Points

|                 |                |            |
|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | John Irvine    | 107 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Kerrie Hammell | 101 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Jan Rapp       | 92 points  |

#### Summer Points

|                 |                  |            |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Don Saunders     | 111 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jon Jenkins      | 110 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Gary Schmalfeldt | 109 point  |

An amazing result in the Summer points with 2 points separating the first three placegetters.



Jon Jenkins, Don Saunders and Denis Woodland

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

|                 |               |            |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Cathie Davis  | 255 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jon Jenkins   | 238 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Mike Kenny    | 221 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Paul Cavanagh | 214 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Jack Kirkland | 179 points |

### Club Championships

#### Female

|                 |                  |            |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Lisa Hedge       | 102 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Cathie Davis     | 66 points  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Kerrie Hammell   | 62 points  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Ann Wood         | 42 points  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Kerrie Eddington | 16 points  |

#### Male

|                 |               |           |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Paul Cavanagh | 75 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Steve Harper  | 67 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | John Hennessy | 57 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Jon Jenkins   | 54 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | David Hill    | 41 points |



AIF Carnival winners 2014

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2013 to 2014

| Position                    |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Patron                      | Allan Cameron                    |
| President                   | Denis Woodland / Steve Harper    |
| Deputy President            | Steve Harper / Cathie Davis      |
| Secretary                   | Jack Kirkland                    |
| Treasurer                   | Peter Poppett                    |
| Asst Treasurers             | Shirley Cameron, Barbara Murphy, |
|                             | Margaret McKeon                  |
| Captain                     | Mike Kenny                       |
| Vice Captain                | Paul Rugg                        |
| Race Secretary              | Lisa Hedge                       |
| Asst Race Secretaries       | Cheryl Poppett, Jon Jenkins,     |
|                             | Carrol Daly, Kerrie Hammell.     |
| Grey's Co-ordinator         | Gordon Carr                      |
| Handicapper                 | Don Saunders                     |
| Registrar                   | Jack Kirkland                    |
| Social Secretary            | Warren Rapp                      |
| Grey's Social Organiser     | Tony Watson                      |
| Publicity Officer           | Carrol Daly                      |
| Delegates -AOC              | Shirley Cameron,                 |
|                             | John Suann                       |
| AIF Association             | Jack Kirkland                    |
|                             | John Suann                       |
| Winter Swimming Association | Jack Kirkland                    |
|                             | John Suann                       |
| Hon Auditor                 | Geoff Armstrong                  |
| Relay Committee             | Paul Cavanagh,                   |
|                             | Lesley Woodland                  |
| Social Committee            | Pat Matthews, Bill Jury,         |
|                             | Barbara Murphy, Eric Wood        |
|                             | Margaret McKeon, Ann Wood        |
| Welfare Officer             | Jan Rapp                         |
| Starters                    | Denis Ford,                      |
|                             | Jim Silva,                       |
|                             | Don Saunders,                    |
|                             | John Suann,                      |
|                             | Paul Cavanagh, Steve Harper      |

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Presidents Report

Congratulations to all swimmers this year for displaying enthusiasm to support all club activities be they at home or away, the continuous ongoing buddy system ensures all members enjoy the beauty of what Gunnamatta Bay has to offer. Naturally we also enjoy other venues throughout the year such as North Cronulla Surf club pool, our very own Cronulla Beach & we appreciate the Polar Bears Club for allowing us to utilise their premises for our Friday winter Greys swims.

This year at the Bay we experienced a few months of inclement weather which unfortunately due to poor water quality caused the cancellation of more than usual swim meets. Whilst this may have hindered some of our up & coming champion swimmers, I think our health is more important & we are all the better for not swimming on those occasions.

Our Presentation evening was another success this year with more prizes & trophies being awarded than in other years, meaning that more swimmers were winners this year than before. Congratulations to all winners & our Club Captain Mike Kenny will highlight our Champions in his report to follow. This evening was equally special for our club as Mrs Shirley Cameron a life member of our club was awarded earlier in the week with the Order of Australia Medal for her lifetime dedication & commitment to the Life Saving Movement. Congratulations once again Shirley from all your friends within the Cronulla RSL Swimming Club.

This year's AIF Carnival was again held at Nelson Bay & was well supported by our club, Captain Mike's report will mention our place getters but I must say one of the stand out's for me was watching Doug McPherson defend & win the over 85's Championship, it was a good meet with everyone enjoying themselves. The 2015 Carnival AIF will be held in Albury on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

The attendance at the Greys swims throughout summer was tremendous & with winter being a little cooler we can understand the numbers dropping off a little. However thanks to our Greys coordinator Gordon Carr & his helpers as we appreciate your commitment in ensuring we all enjoy ourselves. Equally to Carrol Daly for her continued support in ensuring our winter Sunday swims are ongoing. Carrol has arranged the normal end of winter swim presentation Champagne breakfast at the Rydges in Cronulla for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Our financial status has constantly been close to break even this year, however it is pleasing to note that we are progressing well in becoming a self-sustaining club within the RSL Memorial club. I'm sure you will find Peter Poppett's Treasurer's report calming.

We naturally thank Cronulla RSL Memorial Club, it's directors & executive staff together with the AOC for their financial support throughout each year as this continues to assist in areas of promotion. It also goes without saying that we appreciate the wonderful refurbishment the RSL has undergone over the past year, it is a credit to all involved.

We lost one of our strong supporters just prior to Christmas in that of Jim Wilson, Jim's competitive spirit is sadly missed but his memory is with us all forever.

I believe your committee this year has worked hard to ensure all is well with our club & that all elements of controversy regardless of how small have been appropriately taken care off. A few committee members have indeed been long serving & whilst their enthusiasm is constant we encourage

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

other members to learn the ropes & help out from time to time, so we encourage your support throughout next year & look forward to realising your enthusiasm at our next AGM on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.30pm within the RSL.

**Steve Harper**  
**President**

### **Captains Report**

Looking back over the 2013/14 season I can genuinely say that it has been a very successful and well run year thanks in a large part to the dedicated members of the executive committee. As well, the enthusiasm and commitment of all our regular swimmers has made the season a very enjoyable experience.

Some of the highlights of the 2013/14 year

- a new male Club Champions in his first year with the Club, Ric Chapman
- now two time female Club Champion , Lisa Hedge
- another large contingent attending the AIF Championships at Nelson Bay with podium finishes in their respective age divisions for Doug McPherson (1st), Lisa Hedge (2nd), Lizzie Lodge (3rd) and Jon Jenkins (3rd). Also our Service relay team of Doug McPherson, Terry Doepel, Don Saunders and Jon Jenkins finished 3rd in the Crows Nest Cup
- the very successful running of the Diggers Shield on a balmy Thursday night in February with over 100 competitors which was won by North Cronulla Surf Club. In the individual event our own Doug Bruce and Graeme Bowen placed 1st and 2nd respectively
- yet another beautiful day on our visit to Wylie's Baths for the annual Coogee Randwick RSL challenge where we came a creditable 2nd.
- taking out the Sharkies Winter Carnival Trophy - 10 a side nominated time
- the boys successfully winning back the Shirts V Skirts trophy
- yours truly finally winning the Swimmer of the Year trophy

I would also like to acknowledge our new Race Secretary Lisa Hedge for successfully taking on this difficult job with assistance from deputies Cheryl Poppett and Jon Jenkins. Also to new President Steve Harper for taking over from Denis Woodland who unfortunately, due to health reason, resigned part way through the year. Steve has shown great enthusiasm and vigour to the task and is now being ably assisted by the new Deputy President Cathie Davis.

It is obviously important that the competitive swimming events and formal club events such as the presentation night are organised and efficiently run by the elected officials, which they have again done so well this past year. But what makes this club even more special is all the informal work done by so many of our members to arrange many enjoyable extra-curricular activities such as dinners, lunches, baking cakes, acknowledging birthdays, trips away, casual swims followed with a coffee and a chat at the beach etc. All of these things bring the members together socially and build a big happy swimming family. Well done to all.

**Mike Kenny**  
**Captain**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club



Captain Mike Kenny, President Steve Harper

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relay

#### Ben Bryant Memorial Trophy

##### The 2012-2013 Relay Competition

This season was another highly competitive one with the final places not decided until the last swimming day of the relay season. The Green Prawns with John Hennessy as the captain were these season's very worthy winners of the Ben Bryant memorial trophy. The relay committee would like to thank all the team captains and members for showing their continued enthusiasm in this event.

The Green Prawn members were:

John Hennessy Captain, Paul Rugg, Eric Wood, Lesley Woodland, Rod Heidenreich, John Suann, Cheryl Poppett, Di Garland, Doug Mc Pherson, and Matt Barlow.

The final results were:

|                 |                |                                               |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Green Prawns   | 90 pts.                                       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | White Pointers | 88pts.                                        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Grey Nurses    | 76 pts.                                       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Yellow tails   | 74 pts.                                       |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Blue Gropers   | 69pts                                         |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Red Herrings   | 64 pts. (Last 4 <sup>th</sup> year in a row.) |

### Gunnamatta Greys

**The Greys** on Fridays become a Winter Swimming Club and swim at Cronulla Beach from May to September. Weather permitting, members swim around the buoys set off the beach. These distances vary depending on the number of buoys and the number of times the swimmers elect to swim around these buoys.

When the beach is closed due to bad surf conditions the swim takes place in the rock pool with distances of 200 metres or 400 metres.

In all races summer and winter the swimmer nominates his or her time to swim the distance with the winner being the swimmer who swims closest to their nominated time.

The point score is as follows:-

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 4 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | 3 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | 2 points |
| Competing             | 1 point  |

The competition in all races especially at Gunnamatta Bay and North Cronulla Surf Club Pool is very fierce with only fractions of a second separating some swimmers.

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Summer season Point Score

|                 |                  |            |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Jon Jenkins      | 128 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Gary Schmalfeldt | 126 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Paul Cavanagh    | 104 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Jan Rapp         | 92 points  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Don Saunders     | 84 points  |

### Winter season Point Score (Wednesday & Friday combined)

|                 |                 |            |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | John Irvine     | 116 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Lesliy Woodland | 82 points  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jan Rapp        | 82 points  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Joan Harper     | 76 points  |

### Winter Swimming

The winter swimming continues to be a great success; averaging 30 swimmers competing every Sunday at Cronulla beach.

Some swimmers visit the Cronulla RSL after the swim to have a hot beverage and something to eat to help the body warm up after the time in the cold water.

We continue to have the very popular end of winter season breakfast/presentation at Rydges in October.

All new swimmers are welcome to come and join us for 9am swim from first Sunday in May to last Sunday in September.



Swimming at the bay on a Sunday

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Championships

#### Mens

|                 |                  |            |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Ric Chapman      | 124 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Gary Schmalfeldt | 80 points  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Paul Cavanagh    | 42 points  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Steve Harper     | 30 points  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Jon Jenkins      | 22 points  |

#### Womens

|                 |                |            |
|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Lisa Hedge     | 124 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Cheryl Poppett | 48 points  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Cathie Davis   | 40 points  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Ann Wood       | 26 points  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Carrol Daly    | 26 points  |

### Swimmer of the Year

|     |        |          |              |
|-----|--------|----------|--------------|
| 1st | Mike   | Kenny    | 246.5 points |
| 2nd | John   | Hennessy | 211.5 points |
| 3rd | Jack   | Kirkland | 186.5 points |
| 4th | Steve  | Harper   | 177 points   |
| 5th | Cathie | Davis    | 176.5 points |



Denny Ford quick off the blocks at the AIF Carnival

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2014 to 2015

| Position                    |                                            |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Patron                      | Allan Cameron                              |
| President                   | Steve Harper                               |
| Deputy President            | Cathie Davis                               |
| Secretary                   | Jack Kirkland                              |
| Treasurer                   | Peter Poppett/ Matt Barlow                 |
| Asst Treasurers             | Shirley Cameron, Matt Barlow,              |
|                             | Janice Cox, Ken Davidson.                  |
| Captain                     | Mike Kenny                                 |
| Vice Captain                | Paul Rugg                                  |
| Race Secretary              | Lisa Hedge                                 |
| Asst Race Secretaries       | Cheryl Poppett, Carrol Daly, Cathie Davis, |
|                             | Corinne Archer, Denis Woodland.            |
| Grey's Co-ordinator         | Gordon Carr/ Denis Woodland                |
| Handicapper                 | Don Saunders                               |
| Registrar                   | John Hennessy                              |
| Social Secretary            | Eric Wood, Bill Jury                       |
| Grey's Social Organiser     | Tony Watson                                |
| Publicity Officer           | Carrol Daly                                |
| Delegates -AOC              | Denis Woodland                             |
|                             | John Suann                                 |
| AIF Association             | Jack Kirkland                              |
|                             | John Suann                                 |
| Winter Swimming Association | Jack Kirkland                              |
|                             | John Suann                                 |
| Hon Auditor                 | Geoff Armstrong                            |
| Relay Committee             | Paul Cavanagh,                             |
|                             | Lesley Woodland                            |
| Social Committee            | Pat Matthews, Margaret McKeon,             |
|                             | Barbara Murphy, Ann Wood,                  |
|                             | Jennifer Falson, Kerrie Eddington,         |
|                             | Yasmin Dehni-Stalker.                      |
| Welfare Officer             | Jan Rapp                                   |
| Starters                    | Denis Ford, Paul Cavanagh,                 |
|                             | Jim Silva, Steve Harper                    |
|                             | John Suann,                                |

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **President**

Welcome to this year's annual report which I hope finds everyone as well as can be in anticipation of another social swimming calendar that provides camaraderie throughout both our Summer & Winter segments. Naturally the degree of participation is entirely up to each member however we encourage everyone to attend as many swim meets as they can to foster increased participation not only in the water but also in helping out with the general organisation of the swim meets.

It's important to acknowledge & thank our serving committee over the past twelve months be they have large or small responsibilities as every little piece of assistance is greatly appreciated by all & really does make a difference to the wellbeing & sustainability of our club. Of course there are those individuals that get in there & do their bit when times get a little tough & we appreciate that as well.

As with the previous year we had our fair share of rain again which hampered some events but overall it did not seem to dampen our enthusiasm to enjoy ourselves outside or inside the club house with both the Greys & RSL end of summer swim presentations being held within the club house & thank you to all that turned up in support.

When we get down to swimming I think we had one of our best years as a competitive club; in recapping on a few inter club challenges we won the Sharks Winter relay cup followed by winning the Sharks Summer relay shield as well, both strongly contested by ten or more clubs.

Our Greys won against Woollooware High school to retain the trophy.

Our old rivals Coogee/Randwick paid us a visit to try & retain the annual trophies we compete for each year, but it wasn't to be; our determination to win saw our ladies relay win the Dover Shield & our speed team win the Ken Millar Trophy, a great effort.

Of course there was our Diggers Shield challenge in which we swam strongly but unfortunately lost to Wanda surf club, however we did have a few individual swimmers take to the podium on the night.

We shouldn't forget our trip to Albury for the AIF Carnival where we hauled in around 15 awards with the mighty Eric Wood winning the overall 100m handicap; we last won this award seven years ago, a great result from all our swimmers in attendance. Hopefully we will be well represented again next year when the AIF Carnival is held at Southport in QLD.

Our Presentation Dinner was again a success this year with plenty of good food & refreshments to be had by all, there were plenty of winners & Club Captain Mike will highlight a few in his report to follow. Our Greys have a strong following & we thank all co coordinators for their dedication in working together. We appreciate being able to utilise other venues such as the Polar Bears Club House & North Cronulla Surf Club Pool which assists us greatly in our winter swims. We thank Cronulla RSL Memorial club; its directors & executive staff for their ongoing financial support & guidance.

Unfortunately, we lost a few of our swimming colleges over the past year, they being; Reg Nicholson (Life Member), Les Cavanagh (Life Member), Jimmy Heath, Arthur West & Pat Rooney all good mates & are sorely missed.

I thank you all for your generous support over the past twelve months; our swimming club is what we make it, so let's give another 100% commitment this year & ensure we remain proud of our club by getting involved in doing something for the betterment of our club.

**Steve Harper**  
**President**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Captains Report

The 2014/15 season has come and gone with yet again plenty of hard fought competition and plenty of fun times down at the bay after events. Hopefully all our members enjoyed and benefitted from being involved in the great sport of swimming and participating in a club which encourages all levels of ability and having a good time while doing so. It has been a very successful and well run year thanks in a large part to the dedicated members of the executive committee as well, the enthusiasm and commitment of all our regular swimmers. Some of the highlights of the 2014/15 year.

- a new female Club Champion, Deborah Jenkins
- two time male Club Champion , Ric Chapman
- a large contingent of swimmers attending the AIF Championships at Albury with the following placegetters –

Janice Cox – 1st in the Women's 80-84 Division plus Finalist 100m handicap

Eric Wood – 1st place in the 100m Handicap Final (with Rachel)

Luke Wood – 1st place in the Men's 30-34 Division, 3rd in the Male, Open Division (Butterfly) and 2nd in the Male Open Division (Backstroke)

John Hennessy – 2nd place in the Male over 60 Butterfly Division, 3rd place in the 60-64 Division

Terry Doepel – 2nd place in the Men's 80-84 Division plus Service Medal

Jack Kirkland – 2nd place in the Men's 75-79 Division

Doug McPherson – 2nd place in the Men's over 85 Division plus Service Medal

Lesley Woodland – 3rd place in the Women's 70-74 Division

Cheryl Poppett – 3rd in the Women's 65-69 Division

Denis Ford – 3rd place in the Men's 75-79 Division plus Service Medal

Lizzie Lodge – 3rd place in the Women's 50-54 Division

The very successful running of the Diggers Shield on yet another balmy Thursday night in February with over 100 competitors which was won by Wanda Surf Club and our own Steve Harper winning the individual 50m with Paul Cavanagh third.

- a successful visit to our shores by Coogee Randwick RSL for the annual challenge where we finally re-claimed the Ken Millar Open Trophy and retained the Des Renford Straits of Dover Trophy.
- long-time stalwart of the club, Jack Kirkland, winning the Swimmer of the Year trophy
- the participation by a number of swimmers in the Sharks and Kurranulla events, with wins by the relay side in the handicap event, and in the individual events wins in the 50 x metre Brace Relay, 30m handicap event and finalists in the 50m handicap event.

**Mike Kenny**  
**Captain**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relay

Once again we have had a very highly competitive relay season with the Yellow Tails captain Paul (super coach) Crowe reminding everyone who cared to listen for the hundred time that the Melbourne cup is not won in July.

After being in last position on the 9th of November, the Yellow Tails swept past the other 5 teams to win the overall pointscore by a country mile and receive the Ben Bryant Memorial Trophy. The relay committee would once again like to thank all the team captains and members for their continued enthusiasm in this event.

The Yellow Tails members were:

Paul Crowe (captain) John Hennessy, Lesley Woodland, Joan Harper, Arthur McKerron, Corinne Archer, Ian Bourke, Dennis Ford, Janice Cox, Terry Doepel, Col Freer, Deb Jenkins & Jack Le Breton.

The Final results were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Yellow Tails 100pts.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> White Pointers 93 ½ pts.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Red Herrings 90pts.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Green Prawns 86pts.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grey Nurses 84 ½ pts.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Blue Gropers 71 pts.

Many thanks to Cathy Davis for helping out with the running of the relay competition through the season.



The winning Yellow Tails Relay team

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

The Winter season kicked off with a cracker of a day on May 2014.

We had 23 swimmers for the first swim of the winter season and swam around 3 buoys with Gordon Williams coming in 1st for the first swim of the winter season followed by Lyn Bryan and Peter Poppett.

The competition during the winter was competitive even though the weather was often unfavourable and swimming relocated to the rock pool to avoid dangerous swells.

In July we had a team attend the Southern Metropolitan Winter Swim Championships at Bondi Icebergs pool.

The season was a success with an average of 27 swimmers each week. The season ended with a big celebration breakfast at Rydges.

Winter Pointscore winners:

|                 |                             |           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Jon Jenkins                 | 57 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Don Saunders                | 40 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Kerrie Edington/Carrol Daly | 38 points |

### Gunnamatta Greys

The Gunnamatta Greys swimming year extends from the start of winter through to the end of the following Summer. It mixes tidal pool water, ocean swimming and freshwater pool. All swims are on Wednesday and Friday.

The swimming fees collected on Wednesdays were used to donate \$1000.00 to North Cronulla Surf Club for use of their freshwater pool.

The winners throughout the year were:

Summer Pointscore Gary Schmalfeldt 1<sup>st</sup> place

Winter Pointscore Jon Jenkins 1<sup>st</sup> place

Swimmer of the Year Don Saunders 1<sup>st</sup> place.

This was the inaugural Swimmer of the Year trophy which was donated by Don Saunders.

As usual the highlight was the visit by students of Woollooware High School and some teachers who compete against our members in swimming events followed by a social meal and trophy presentations.

The Greys also attended the Winter Swimming Association South Metropolitan titles at Bondi Icebergs. We had 29 swimmers competing and acquitted themselves well.

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Club Championships

|                 |               |            |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Ric Champman  | 124 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Kalem Bronner | 73 points  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | John Hennessy | 39 points  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | David Hill    | 30 points  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Steve Harper  | 22 points  |



Steve Harper, Ian Bourke, Ric Chapman and John Suann

### Female Club Championships

|                 |                |           |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Deb Jenkins    | 93 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Lisa Hedge     | 91points  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Cheryl Poppett | 44 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Cathie Davis   | 28 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Ann Wood       | 27 points |

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

|                 |               |              |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Jack Kirkland | 226 points   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jon Jenkins   | 210 points   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | John Hennessy | 202 Points   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Paul Cavanagh | 181 points   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Mike Kenny    | 179.5 points |



Jack Kirkland explains why he is the deserved Swimmer Of the Year pointscore

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2015 to 2016

|                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Patron                      | Doug McPherson                    |
| President                   | Steve Harper                      |
| Deputy President            | Cathie Davis                      |
| Secretary                   | Jack Kirkland                     |
| Treasurer                   | Matt Barlow                       |
| Asst Treasurers             | Shirley Cameron, Lesley Woodland, |
|                             | Barbara Murphy, Ken Davidson.     |
| Captain                     | Mike Kenny                        |
| Vice Captain                | Paul Rugg                         |
| Race Secretary              | Lisa Hedge                        |
| Asst Race Secretaries       | Carrol Daly, Corinne Archer,      |
|                             | Cathie Davis, Denis Woodland.     |
| Grey's Co-ordinator         | Denis Woodland                    |
| Handicapper                 | Don Saunders                      |
| Registrar                   | John Hennessy                     |
| Social Secretary            | Eric Wood                         |
| Grey's Social Organiser     | Lizzie Lodge                      |
| Publicity Officer           | John Hennessy                     |
| Delegates -AOC              | John Suann                        |
| AIF Association             | Jack Kirkland                     |
|                             | John Suann                        |
| Winter Swimming Association | Jack Kirkland                     |
|                             | John Suann                        |
| Hon Auditor                 | Peter Poppett                     |
| Relay Committee             | Paul Damjkear,                    |
|                             | Bil Jury                          |
| Social Committee            | Pat Matthews, Margaret McKeon,    |
|                             | Jennifer Falson, Ann Wood.        |
| Welfare Officer             | Jan Rapp                          |
| Starters                    | Denis Ford,                       |
|                             | Jim Silva,                        |
|                             | Don Saunders,                     |
|                             | John Suann,                       |
|                             | Paul Cavanagh,                    |
|                             | Steve Harper.                     |

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Presidents Report

Following a vibrant year of swimming & social events I welcome you all to this year's annual report in which should you read carefully you may discover your name appear more than once. Your committee & helpers worked hard again this year to ensure everything ran like clockwork, we thank them all for their dedication & determination in each of their roles/duties. A special thank you to Corinne Archer who worked tirelessly to computerise our clubs race secretarial duties which has streamlined the work flow at our swim meets. It has been working well in its first year of introduction. A little birdy has told me that Corinne will this year concentrate more on enjoying her swims with her dad, "you know who" which means we will be looking for someone to assist not only with race secretarial duties but also with any other duties/role that keeps our club going day in day out. Please don't be afraid to have a go as there are plenty of people to assist you in which ever role you choose to assist in.

Congratulations to Allan Cameron OAM & Life Member, Allan was awarded his OAM earlier this year for services to Surf lifesaving in particular with North Cronulla Surf Club where he is also a Life Member, a past President, Secretary & performed many other activities within North Cronulla Surf Club. Allan is also the recipient of the British Empire Medal (BEM) & a few years back was crowned; Sutherland Shire Senior Citizen of the Year. Allan & Shirley Cameron both Life Members, both have OAM's and now join an elite number of couples within Australia as Mr & Mrs OAM, a credit to them both & an inspiration to our club.

The visit to Southport QLD this year for the AIF carnival created the opportunity for our swimmers to win a few medals. It was a tough carnival with the host club being very dominant at their home base. However, the swim of the meet for us was when Janice Cox won the women's 80-84yr 25mts freestyle in a new Australian record time of 23.50sec breaking the previous record by 0.35sec, congratulations Janice a fantastic achievement. Next year the AIF carnival will be held in Grafton, 30 of our members have already booked accommodation however it would be great to have more members attend so please think about joining us for a long week end in Grafton in 2017, (12<sup>th</sup> March)

Our own internal competitive swim results were full of excitement with some very keen individuals conducting secret training which in some cases paid off however Captain Mike will reveal all in his detailed report to follow. Our 2015/16 dinner presentation was a great success with everyone enjoying everything that the evening had to offer, our meal was terrific, the bar staff were great, our VIP's were happy and the entertainment towards the end of the night just got better and better with the "Wrigglers" Billy "Michael Jackson" Jury and Paul "OMG my knees gone" Damkjaer dancing the night away. A BIG thank you to everyone who contributed to our evening success.

The Bay provided spectacular weather from time to time with some of the evening swims conducted in a tranquil pink sunset. We are very fortunate to have such a beautiful back drop to conduct our swim meets. The attendance at the Greys swims throughout summer was tremendous and even with winter being a little cooler this year we understand the numbers have not dropped much at all so thank you to our Greys Co-ordinator Denis and his helpers. And let's not forget Carrol Daly for her strong stance in encouraging us to enter the cold winter sea on Sunday mornings.

We thank the Polar Bears and North Cronulla Surf club for allowing our club to utilise their premises

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

throughout winter and naturally it goes without saying that we acknowledge the Cronulla RSL Memorial club for its strong support past and present.

Our treasurer advises that we are in a similar position to last year which is a credit to our club, more importantly to its members as it's our members who have been forthcoming with wonderful donations for both our raffles and trophy events throughout the year, thank you very much. Your continuous support; be it large or small has allowed our club to be financial enough to conduct a few minor renovations within our clubhouse this year and I would like to thank all those that have assisted in this area, in particular Jack Le Breton & Craig Smith.

Sadly we lost one of our members this year; Owen Coulter, who together with Life Member Jim Silva were responsible for the commencement of the Greys swims in the Bay. As a result of Owen's navigational skills we have one of the poles positioned in the middle of the swim complex at the Bay called Coulter's reef and I dare say a few of us have bumped into it from time to time so it serves as a friendly reminder of one of our pioneer's. We also introduced following Owen's passing & in his honour the "Owen Coulter Memorial Trophy, "Double Wire to Wire".



The girls happy with a win in the Shirts Vs Skirts event

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Captains Report

I am pleased to report that the 2015/16 season was just as successful and just as much fun for all swimmers as recent years. Hopefully all our members enjoyed and benefitted from being involved in the great sport of swimming and participating in a club which encourages all levels of ability and having a good time while doing so. It has been a very successful and well run year thanks in a large part to the dedicated members of the executive committee as well, the enthusiasm and commitment of all our regular swimmers.

Some of the highlights of the 2015/16 year

- implementation of computer based race management system
- first time male Club Champion Kalem Bronner
- female Club champion Lisa Hedge
- a large contingent of swimmers attending the AIF Championships at Southport with the following placegetters Janice Cox – 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Women's 80-84 Division in record winning time
- Jon Jenkins – finalist in the 100m Handicap
- Jack Kirkland – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Men's 75-79 Division
- Doug McPherson – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Men's over 85 Division plus Service Medal Margaret McKeon – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Women's 70-74 Division
- Brian Havilah – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Men's 80-84 Division
- Lizzie Lodge – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Women's 55-59 Division
- the very successful running of the Diggers Shield on yet another balmy Thursday night in February with over 100 competitors
- an enjoyable visit to Coogee Randwick RSL at Wylies Baths for the annual challenge and although we were unable to retain the Ken Millar Open Trophy it was a fantastic day out with a very large club contingent attending.
- long-time stalwart of the club, Jack Kirkland, winning the Swimmer of the Year trophy for the second year running
- the participation by a number of swimmers in the Sharks and Kurranulla carnivals.
- A very big thanks to Corinne Archer for the design and implementation of our new race management system for which she deservedly received the Clubperson of the Year Award.

The competitive swimming events, formal and informal club events continue to be well organised and well represented by our members. Many thanks to the elected officials in the smooth running of the swimming and formal club events and many thanks for the support provided at these events by the members of our club.

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relay

As in every year the competitive nature of all teams was enormous and at times the stress was evident in the language that was used to describe other team members . As the new Relay committee tried to come to terms with the pressures of organising 6 teams on a Sunday morning. Especially having them get their times/teams in by 8.45am. The strain was that evident that one of the relay committee members shaved his head!

The Jellyfish were triumphant with a convincing win over the other teams. This win was marred with controversy as allegations of insider fixing swam around faster than a speeding Don. This now means Gordon can self proclaim himself as the new "Super Coach" as did the last, who was very quiet during the season to the members delight.

The Jellyfish team members were;

Gordon Williams(Captain),Bill Jury, John Hennessy, Denis Woodland, Joan Harper, Peter Poppett, Cathie Davis, Janice Cox, Elizabeth Whitcombe and Matt Barlow.

### Results

|                 |             |            |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Jellyfish   | 118 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Seahorses   | 103 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Sea Slugs   | 87 points  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Bluebottles | 81 points  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Stingrays   | 62 points  |



Jellyfish team receive their prizes.

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Gunnamatta Greys

Swimming fees collected at the Wednesday winter swims were augmented by the RSL Swimming Club to make a total donation of \$1500 to North Cronulla SLSC. The use of their pool is greatly appreciated.

#### Winners of Point Score Competitions

As will be seen from the results below, Jon Jenkins has had another an outstanding year. Congratulations to Jon, Bill and Denis.

|                                               |                |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Summer Points Score (Bob Woods Trophy         | Bill Bertram   |
| Combined Winter Point Score (Doc Daly Trophy) | Jon Jenkins    |
| Cold Water Winter Point Score                 | Jon Jenkins    |
| Warm Water Point Score                        | Denis Woodland |
| Gunnamatta Greys Swimmer of the Year          | Jon Jenkins    |

(This trophy was awarded for the second time this year, having been donated by Don Saunders in 2014).

A highlight of the year is the annual meeting, towards the end of the school year, with the new elected members of the Woollooware High School Student Council, accompanied by their keen staff members. This year was again a most enjoyable occasion. Club members continue to be impressed by the student leaders. However, the Greys retained the trophy for another year.

#### Winter Swimming Carnivals

The Gunnamatta Greys participated in the Winter Swimming Association South Metropolitan titles held in June at Bondi. Congratulations to Age Champion Janice Cox and Barbara Murphy who was chosen as Swimmer of the Meet. Thanks to Paul Crowe for again organising our team. The Greys did not enter a team in the Australian Winter Swimming Championships held at Wagga Wagga, although Margaret McKeon and Ann Wood swam with the GyMEA Bay Slugs, Margaret placing third in her age championship

Again this year the Polar Bears have been kind enough to afford us the use of their club facilities each winter Friday. We are most appreciative of their assistance and we have passed on to their members our sincere thanks.

Finally, thank you to all of the Gunnamatta Greys for your enthusiasm, camaraderie and friendship. We look forward to another enjoyable year.

**Denis Woodland**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

Winter swimming in 2015 again proved to be popular among the members with a total of 54 swimmers competing during season, although not all on the one day. We averaged in the mid 20s each week which was good considering some of the not so pleasant days experienced.

The rock pool was again put to good use on the bad days but most swims were held in the ocean over mystery distances and courses, known only to the individual swimmers. Somehow some still managed to finish close to their nominated times, perhaps it was just the longsighted ones who could read the clock.

The same old faces didn't feature this year in the towel and prize winner lists so it was encouraging to see other faces collecting the trophies. Most consistent swimmer of the year was Lyn Bryan. Other results for the year were:

|                 |                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Lesley Woodland | 59 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Warren Scicluna | 53 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Denis Woodland  | 49 points |

.

### Carrol Daly



Our Winter swimmers visiting Stanell Park Sea Eels club

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Championships

#### Women

|        |                 |            |
|--------|-----------------|------------|
| 1st    | Lisa Hedge      | 124 points |
| 2nd    | Cathie Davis    | 80 points  |
| 3rd    | Carrol Daly     | 26 points  |
| Eq 3rd | Ann Wood        | 26 points  |
| 5th    | Lesley Woodland | 21 points  |

#### Men

|     |               |            |
|-----|---------------|------------|
| 1st | Kalem Bronner | 113 points |
| 2nd | Paul Damkjaer | 91 points  |
| 3rd | Paul Cavanagh | 34 points  |
| 4th | Steve Harper  | 29 points  |
| 5th | Mike Kenny    | 21 points  |



Club Champions Deborah Jenkins(prev year), Kalem Bronner and Lisa Hedge

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

|     |               |              |
|-----|---------------|--------------|
| 1st | Jack Kirkland | 212.5 points |
| 2nd | Paul Damkjaer | 209.5 points |
| 3rd | Bill Jury     | 208 points   |
| 4th | Mike Kenny    | 172 points   |
| 5th | Kalem Bronner | 21 points    |



Cathie Davis, Sue McNeil, Jack Kirkland and Steve Harper

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2016 to 2017

| Position                    |                                              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Patron                      | Doug McPherson                               |
| President                   | Steve Harper                                 |
| Deputy President            | Cathie Davis                                 |
| Secretary                   | Jack Kirkland                                |
| Treasurer                   | Matt Barlow                                  |
| Asst Treasurers             | Shirley Cameron, Janice Cox ,John Hennessy,  |
|                             | Barbara Murphy,Ken Davidson.                 |
| Captain                     | Mike Kenny                                   |
| Vice Captain                | Paul Rugg                                    |
| Race Secretary              | Lisa Hedge                                   |
| Asst Race Secretaries       | Carrol Daly, Paul Cavanagh, Margaret McKeon, |
|                             | Cathie Davis,Denis Woodland.                 |
| Grey's Co-ordinator         | Denis Woodland                               |
| Handicapper                 | Don Saunders                                 |
| Registrar                   | John Hennessy                                |
| Social Secretary            | Eric Wood                                    |
| Grey's Social Organiser     |                                              |
| Publicity Officer           | John Hennessy                                |
| Delegates -AOC              | John Suann                                   |
| AIF Association             | Jack Kirkland                                |
|                             | Steve Harper                                 |
| Winter Swimming Association | John Suann                                   |
|                             | Denis Woodland                               |
| Hon Auditor                 | Peter Poppett                                |
| Relay Committee             | Paul Damkjaer,                               |
|                             | Lesley Woodland                              |
| Social Committee            | Pat Matthews ,Margaret McKeon,               |
|                             | Jennifer Falson, Ann Wood.                   |
| Welfare Officer             | Jan Rapp                                     |
| Starters                    | Denis Ford,                                  |
|                             | Jim Silva,                                   |
|                             | Don Saunders,                                |
|                             | John Suann,                                  |
|                             | Paul Cavanagh,                               |
|                             | Steve Harper.                                |

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **Presidents Report**

This past year of swimming & social events seemed to move along at a much faster pace than previous years; I don't think we were so busy that we forgot time, although maybe we just enjoy ourselves so much that everyone supported and acknowledged what needed to be done and made it happen.

In mentioning this, your committee is very grateful that all that was put in place for a successful year was accepted and implemented by all. The commitment from all members ensured we as a sub club remain self-sustaining under the umbrella of our Memorial Club. Congratulations to all as everyone's contribution, regardless of how big or how small, was instrumental in our club's success this year.

Our annual Presentation Dinner this year was outstanding and I was very privileged to participate in the evening's activities. Your committee was outstanding in filling our evening with good value, fun & strong camaraderie.

On this evening we acknowledged our Legends; the youngest being 80 years as they continue to inspire us, motivate us, tutor us and, quite frankly, are an inspiration in themselves to all other members. We thank the following members for all they have done or are doing for our club as they have been a driving force of determination and desire for the betterment of our club.

In no particular order:- Allan Cameron OAM & Life Member, Jim Silva Life Member, Doug McPherson Life Member, Les Nelson, John Suann, Jack Brownjohn, Barbra Murphy, Solly Stephens, Janice Cox, Roger Smith, Harry Lawson, Terry Doepel, Tony Watson, Brian Havilah, Pat Matthews, Bill Leighton, Don Saunders, John Butterfield, Gordon Carr, Ray Ginger, and Ken Davidson.

It's fitting also not to forget Life Members both past and present who, with their willpower and determination created the opportunity for us all to continue enjoying this wonderful pastime. Our present Life Members are:- Doug McPherson our Patron, Jim Silva, Allan Cameron OAM, Jack Kirkland, Lesley Woodland, Paul Cavanagh, Bill Maker & Ron Wilkinson.

Sadly over the past twelve months we lost Max Bond, an avid Thursday night swimmer, and Mrs Shirley Cameron OAM and Life Member, a terrific lady with so many accomplishments in life, both good friends whom we miss dearly.

While our away swim results this year were not as grand as in previous years, we did however have a small delegation of swimmers compete at the AIF carnival in Grafton in March of this year. It was very wet and did not stop raining all day. However our club did well in picking up a few awards: Jack Kirkland 2<sup>nd</sup>, John Hennessy 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brian Havilah 2<sup>nd</sup>, Margaret McKeon 3<sup>rd</sup>, and we came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 4 X 50 relay. This swim meet was so competitive that Bill Bertram was -0.03 off his time & came 8<sup>th</sup>, congratulations to all.

Next year, the AIF carnival will be held in Nelson Bay, so hopefully we will support it well. We won the Ken Miller Trophy when Coogee/Randwick visited the bay and equally had a terrific evening when holding our annual Diggers Shield Carnival. The only thing wrong was that we were unable to win any of the spoils on offer; oh well, we'll try again next year.

**Steve Harper**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Captains Report

I am pleased to report that the 2016/17 season was just as successful and just as much fun for all swimmers as recent years. Hopefully all our members enjoyed and benefitted from being involved in the great sport of swimming and participating in a club which encourages all levels of ability and having a good time while doing so. It has been a very successful and well run year thanks in a large part to the dedicated members of the executive committee as well as the enthusiasm and commitment of all our regular swimmers.

Some of the highlights of the 2016/17 year

- refurbishment of the clubhouse thanks to the dedicated working party including and most importantly renewal of the hot water system and showers
- female Club Champion Deborah Jenkins
- male Club champion again Kalem Bronner
- a good contingent of swimmers attending the AIF Championships at Grafton with the following placegetters –
  - Jack Kirkland 2nd in age group
  - Brian Havilah 2nd in Age group
  - John Hennessy 2nd in age group
  - Margaret McKeon 3rd in age group
  - Paul Damkjaer, Paul Cavanagh, Lisa Hedge, John Hennessy – 3rd in Ray Weekes 4X50M Relay
- the very successful running of the Diggers Shield on yet another balmy Thursday night in February with over 100 competitors
- an enjoyable visit from Coogee Randwick RSL to the bay for the annual challenge culminating with our team being able to regain the Ken Millar Trophy in a heart stopping finish, said to be the closest finish in living memory
- long-time stalwart of the club, Paul Cavanagh winning the Swimmer of the Year trophy
- participation by a number of swimmers in the Sharks and Kurranulla carnivals.

Ongoing improvements to our computerised race management system have made a huge difference to the organising of events and results which now run very smoothly and timely, so a big thanks to our race secretaries. Also the many formal and informal club events continue to be well organised and well represented by our members. Many thanks to the officials in the smooth running of these various events and for the support provided at these events by the members of our club.

**Mike Kenny**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relay

Another great year for the competitive world of relay team racing. With the highs, lows and in some cases body blows, the final outcome was never predictable. One of the highs was The Jimbels winning their only race on the final day of the season and without their illustrious Captain !! One of the lows was the Captain of the Sea Slugs not being able to find a team for the second last race of the season with the Jelly Fish hot on their wake. His suggestions to all cannot be printed.

Final Results are;

|                 |             |             |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Sea Slugs   | 98 points   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jellyfish   | 94.5 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Sea Horses  | 86 points   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Stingrays   | 84.5 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Blurbottles | 84 points   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Jimbels     | 57 points   |



Sea Slugs team receive their awards

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **Gunnamatta Greys**

#### **Winners of Point Score Competitions**

As will be seen from the results below, Jon Jenkins has had yet another outstanding year. Congratulations to Jon, Paul Cavanagh and John Irvine.

Summer Points Score (Bob Woods Trophy): Cold Water Winter Point Score:

Warm Water Point Score:

Gunnamatta Greys Swimmer of the Year:

Paul Cavanagh Jon Jenkins John Irvine

Jon Jenkins.

A highlight of the year is the annual meeting, towards the end of the school year, with the new elected members of the Woollooware High School Student Council, accompanied by their keen staff members. This year was again a most enjoyable occasion. Club members continue to be impressed by the student leaders. However, the Greys retained the trophy for another year.

#### **Winter Swimming Carnivals**

The Gunnamatta Greys did not participate in Winter Swimming Association Championships this year.

Special thanks this year to John Irvine who keeps me on the straight and narrow and is always dependable. Thanks also to Rick Procter who organises the foodies, Treasurer Matt Barlow, Mr RNG Bill Bertram who organises the raffles and prizes, starter John Suann, and a big thank you to all you the members who step in when necessary and assist in many ways.

Special thanks to Jack Kirkland who liaises with the North Cronulla SLSC for the use of their pool and facilities on winter Wednesdays. Special thanks also to John Suann who likewise liaises with the Polar Bears for the use of their club room each winter Friday. We are most appreciative of the cooperation of these two clubs.

Finally, thank you to all of the Gunnamatta Greys for your active participation and support, enthusiasm, camaraderie and friendship. We look forward to another enjoyable year.

**Denis Woodland**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

The winter swim on Sunday mornings at the beach still appears to be very popular with the members who like to swim during the cold winter months. The Sunday Winter Swimming is a very relaxed morning, starting in the water at 9am.

In 2016 we visited the Stanwell Park Sea Eels and swam in 10 degree water and managed to win the relay trophy. The Sea Eels really know how to make you feel welcome - they are great hosts.

For the 2017 winter season we plan to again visit the Stanwell Park Sea Eels and we also hope to have the Coogee Penguins come and visit us for a friendly swim.

2017 is our 11<sup>th</sup> year of Winter Swimming at the beach and it has been very successful, thanks to all the participants, timekeepers and helpers. I think the current format seems to be working well.



Gordon Williams, Winter Pointscore Winner

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

|     |               |              |
|-----|---------------|--------------|
| 1st | Paul Cavanagh | 223 points   |
| 2nd | Jack Kirkland | 211 points   |
| 3rd | Steve Harper  | 188.3 points |
| 4th | Mike Kenny    | 179 points   |
| 5th | Bill Jury     | 21 points    |



Swimmer of the Year Paul Cavanagh with Cathie Davis and Sue McNeil (RSL CEO)

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Championships

#### Female Champion

|     |                  |            |
|-----|------------------|------------|
| 1st | Deborah Jenkins  | 124 points |
| 2nd | Lisa Hedge       | 80 points  |
| 3rd | Cathie Davis     | 52 points  |
| 4th | Judith McInerney | 24 points  |
| 5th | Carrol Daly      | 10 points  |



Deborah receives trophy from Alan Cameron

#### Male Champion

|     |               |            |
|-----|---------------|------------|
| 1st | Kalem Bronner | 113 points |
| 2nd | John Hennessy | 65 points  |
| 3rd | Paul Damkjaer | 60 points  |
| 4th | Paul Cavanagh | 29 points  |
| 5th | Jon Jenkins   | 21 points  |



Kalem Bronner with John Suann

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2017 to 2018

| Position                    |                                                                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Patron                      | Doug McPherson                                                                 |
| President                   | John Hennessy                                                                  |
| Deputy President            | Cathie Davis/Paul Cavanagh                                                     |
| Secretary                   | Jack Kirkland                                                                  |
| Treasurer                   | Matt Barlow                                                                    |
| Asst Treasurers             | Rod Heidenreich, Janice Cox,<br>Barbara Murphy Joan Harper.                    |
| Captain                     | Mike Kenny                                                                     |
| Vice Captain                | Paul Damkjaer                                                                  |
| Race Secretary              | Lisa Hedge                                                                     |
| Asst Race Secretaries       | Carrol Daly, Cathie Davis,<br>Paul Cavanagh, Corinne Archer.                   |
| Grey's Co-ordinator         | Denis Woodland                                                                 |
| Handicapper                 | Don Saunders                                                                   |
| Registrar                   | John Hennessy                                                                  |
| Social Secretary            | Eric Wood                                                                      |
| Publicity Officer           | Corinne Archer                                                                 |
| Delegates -AOC              |                                                                                |
|                             |                                                                                |
| AIF Association             | Jack Kirkland                                                                  |
|                             | Steve Harper                                                                   |
| Winter Swimming Association | John Suann                                                                     |
|                             | Denis Woodland                                                                 |
| Hon Auditor                 | Peter Poppett                                                                  |
| Relay Committee             | Carrol Daly                                                                    |
|                             | Cathie Davis, Lesley Woodland.                                                 |
| Social Committee            | Pat Matthews, Margaret McKeon,<br>Jennifer Falson, Ann Wood,<br>Joyce Grounds. |
| Welfare Officer             | Jan Rapp                                                                       |
|                             |                                                                                |

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Presidents Report

Another year has gone and our club marches on with growing numbers and great participation in our activities. This is my first year as your President and I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Recently retired President, Steve Harper, left matters in a great state and this allowed a smooth transition.

A special thanks to your hardworking committee who have acted in the members' best interests throughout the year. Thank you to members who have offered comments of support to me throughout the year. They are appreciated and make the role rewarding.

We lost 2 important members during the past year:

Alan Cameron (OAM), who was a life member and served our club for many years in various roles. Alan's contribution to our club has been substantial and he will be missed.

Gary Schmalfeldt was a member for many years and instrumental in the annual swim meeting with the Student Council members of Woollooware High School, which is hosted by Gunnamatta Greys. This special day is relished by our members and the students collectively. It forms an essential component of this club's character.

In memory of Gary the club has established the Gary Schmalfeldt Memorial Trophy for the annual 10 a side relay with the school and this will ensure Gary's memory will be with us for many years into the future.

Our presentation night was a great success and thanks to Paul Cavanagh, Lisa Hedge and Lesley Woodland for their efforts work in organising the night's function.

Our club works is a special club and we should continue to work hard to preserve its culture and personality. It works so well because of the contributions made by all members to the smooth running of the multiple activities that are on offer. Winter swims on Sundays, Winter swims by Greys, Summer swims Sunday and Thursday night and Greys Summer swims on Wednesday and Friday provide a full program of swimming for our members. On every other day there are a collection of members, who will meet socially and have a swim together just for the enjoyment of swimming.

The collection of monies, providing of catering, preparing for club races, putting everything back after the races have completed, timekeepers, judges, race secretaries continual workload, welfare work by Warren and Jan, working bees at the clubhouse, cakes for special occasions and running of club raffles. When we host the Diggers Shield and visits from Coogee-Randwick club we have many volunteers who contribute to make our visitors engagement an enjoyable one.

Let's acknowledge the group of members who are over the 80 years benchmark, a great example of the physical and social benefits of membership of our club. They are:

Jim Silva, Doug McPherson, Les Nelson, John Suann, Jack Brownjohn, Barbara Murphy, Solly Stephens, Janice Cox, Roger Smith, Terry Doepel, Tony Watson, Brian Havilah, Pat Matthews, Bill Leighton, Don Saunders, John Butterfield, Gordon Carr, Ray Ginger, Ken Davidson and Denny Ford.

These members bring a lot to the club and we appreciate their efforts in getting down and enjoying their swim

As well as hosting the Diggers Shield, every year our club also has members attending various swim meets with St George Leagues, Coogee-Randwick RSL, Kurranulla Swim club, Sharks Leagues Club

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

as well as attending the AIF Carnival which was held at Nelson Bay this year.

Despite having no swimmers in many categories we came 4<sup>th</sup> Overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Mens category at the AIF – a great effort from our team.

Gold medals were won by Jack Kirkland, John Butterfield and Janice Cox. John and Janice also broke the records in their events. Other medallists were Doug McPherson, Ian Bourke, Lesley Woodland, John Hennessy, Denny Ford and Phil Short.

My thanks to all those who attended AIF Carnival and contributed to a great weekend. Next year the AIF meeting will be in Melbourne and we already have many members committed to attending.

The club won 10 a side relays in DIGGERS SHIELD, St George Leagues carnival and at the Coogee-Randwick RSL meeting.

**John Hennessy**



**Great results from AIF, Janice Cox and John Butterfield setting new records in their swims.**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Captains Report

Once again I am pleased to report that the 2017/18 season just completed was successful and enjoyed by our diverse range of swimmers in both competition and social activities. The club continues to encourage our members of all levels of ability to participate and have a good time while doing so. It has been a very successful and well run year thanks in a large part to the dedicated members of the executive committee as well as the enthusiasm and commitment of all our regular swimmers.

Some of the highlights of the 2017/18 year

- female Club Champion Deborah Jenkins
- male Club champion again Kalem Bronner
- Gordon Williams winning the Swimmer of the Year as well as the Foxy Tail award
- good contingent attending the AIF Championships at Nelson Bay with the club finishing an amazing 4th place in the overall point score.

Also the following placegetters,

|                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Janice Cox       | 1 <sup>st</sup> new record           |
| Doug McPherson   | 2nd and Service Champion             |
| John Butterfield | 1st, new record and service champion |
| Dennis Ford      | 2nd                                  |
| Jack Kirkland    | 1st                                  |
| Lesley Woodland  | 3rd                                  |
| Ian Bourke       | 2nd                                  |
| John Hennessy    | 2nd                                  |
| Phil Short       | 2nd                                  |

- an enjoyable visit to Coogee Randwick RSL to Wylies Baths for the annual challenge
- Gordon Williams winning the Swimmer of the Year trophy as well as the Fox Tail award
- participation by a number of swimmers in the Sharks and Kurranulla carnivals
- very successful running of the annual Diggers Shield on Thursday night in February with over 100 competitors

Ongoing improvements to our computerised race management system have made a huge difference to organising events and results which now run very smoothly and timely, so a big thanks to our race secretaries.

As I step down as Club Captain a final thank you to all those members who have provided assistance and support to myself over many years that I have been privileged to be the Captain of this club.

**Mike Kenny**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relay

The relay teams this year were reduced to five due to some teams in the prior year having difficulty in getting sufficient numbers. Competition again this year was fierce with the lead fluctuating regularly. After 12 weeks the Jimbles were a clear last place, same as they finished the year before, and the Stingrays clearly in the lead. Then after one more week Stingrays were still in front but only 4 points ahead of Jellyfish in last place.

The lead continued to change for the rest of the season, then with three weeks to go Jellyfish were leading with Jimbles three points behind. It all came down to the last week with Jimbles four in front of Jellyfish, the rest were also rans. Jellyfish had to win and Jimbles not come last for Jimbles to win. Jimbles obliged by coming last but Jellyfish could only manage second, leaving Jimbles the winners by one point.

A great competition, well done to all.

### Carrol Daly



Winning Jimbles team

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Gunnamatta Greys

#### Point Score Competitions

Last year's Swimmer of the Year, Jon Jenkins, had an even more successful year this year, winning all three point scores i.e. cold winter, warm winter and summer.

This means that Jon is also the Gunnamatta Greys Swimmer of the Year, holding the Bob Woods Summer Trophy and the Swimmer of the Year Trophy donated by Don Saunders.

Congratulations Jon and, no, you cannot keep the trophies, despite your continued successes.

Our annual Unity Day swim with the Student Council members of Woollooware High School was again a great success, despite the poor weather.

Unfortunately Gary Schmalfeldt, since deceased, was not well enough to attend. Gary will be always remembered for his part in initiating this annual event, which is so much enjoyed by the students and club members alike. Vale Gary.

This year, the students fielded three relay teams and won the trophy which has now been renamed after Gary.

Thanks to all those who help to make the Greys swims enjoyable, especially John Irvine, Matt Barlow, Rod Heidenreich, Rick Procter, Bill Bertram and John Suann

Thanks to the Polar Bears and North Cronulla SLSC for the use of their facilities and thanks to John Suann and Jack Kirkland for liaising with the two clubs. The Cronulla RSL Swimming Club again donated \$1800 to North Cronulla SLSC in appreciation for the use of their facilities.

#### Denis Woodland



Life member Don Saunders

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

The 2017 Winter Swimming season was fun and the swimmers who truly loved the cold weather did not let us down. The sweet treats however provided by some along with the hot showers and hot coffee were most welcome on the bad days. On some days the weather was so bad with huge seas and dangerous surf that even the rock pool was a no go area.

On the 13th August we again visited Stanwell Park for races against the Sea Eels. 17 swimmers attended, the weather was cold, the pool was cold, the competition was fierce, but the hospitality was, as usual, very warm and generous. To add to the enjoyment of the day Cronulla even won the relay trophy.

The end of season breakfast presentation at Rydges was tremendous (as usual).

Winners for the year were:

|                 |     |           |
|-----------------|-----|-----------|
| Gordon Williams | 1st | 55 points |
| Joyce Grounds   | 2nd | 52 points |
| Jack Kirkland   | 3rd | 42 points |



The winter swimmers visiting Coalcliff Pool for a 13 degree water temp swim

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Championships

#### Women

|                 |                 |            |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1st             | Deborah Jenkins | 124 points |
| 2nd             | Lisa Hedge      | 60 points  |
| 3rd             | Ann Wood        | 51 points  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Joyce Grounds   | 25 points  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Corinne Archer  | 21 points  |

#### Men

|                 |                |           |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1st             | Kalem Bronner  | 93 points |
| 2nd             | Paul Cavanagh  | 44 points |
| 3rd             | Steve Harper   | 41 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Paul Damkjaer  | 40 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Corinne Archer | 31 points |



Diggers Shield winners

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

|                 |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1st             | Gordon Williams | 147 points   |
| 2nd             | Lesley Woodland | 139.5 points |
| 3rd             | Jon Jenkins     | 139 points   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Steve Harper    | 125 points   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Jack Kirkland   | 118.5 points |



Swimmer of the Year Gordon Williams  
With Ian Bourke (Cronulla RSL President)

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2018 to 2019

| Position                    |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Patron                      | Jim Silva                    |
| President                   | John Hennessy                |
| Deputy President            | Ann Wood                     |
| Secretary                   | Jack Kirkland                |
| Treasurer                   | Paul Rugg                    |
| Asst Treasurers             | Rod Heidenreich, Janice Cox, |
|                             |                              |
| Captain                     | Lisa Hedge                   |
| Vice Captain                | Cheryl Poppett               |
| Race Secretary              | Paul Cavanagh                |
| Asst Race Secretaries       | Corinne Archer, Carrol Daly. |
|                             |                              |
| Grey's Co-ordinator         | Denis Woodland               |
| Handicapper                 | Don Saunders                 |
| Registrar                   | John Hennessy                |
| Social Secretary            | Eric Wood                    |
| Grey's Social Organiser     |                              |
| Publicity Officer           | Corinne Archer               |
| Delegates -AOC              |                              |
|                             |                              |
| AIF Association             | Jack Kirkland                |
|                             | John Suann                   |
| Winter Swimming Association | John Suann                   |
|                             | Bill Jury                    |
| Hon Auditor                 | Peter Poppett                |
| Relay Committee             | Ian Bourke                   |
|                             | Warren Scicluna              |
| Social Committee            | Margaret McKeon, Ann Wood,   |
|                             | Joyce Grounds.               |
|                             |                              |
| Welfare Officer             | Jan & Warren Rapp.           |
|                             |                              |

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Presidents Report

Our club is approaching 70 years of age soon and we are still going strong thanks to our great membership and the contributions of so many of you.

Special congratulations go to our newest Life Member, Don Saunders for his great contribution to the club over many years.

Our thanks go to the parent Cronulla RSL Memorial club for its continued support of our club over the years.

Our swimming activities throughout the summer resulted in a tie for Swimmer of Year with the lead changing several times over the latter part of the season. Congratulations to Don Saunders and Eric Wood, our joint winners.

Only half a point separated the top two on Thursday night competition, which is still being well supported by continued attendance of a dedicated group. Jack Kirkland edged out Paul Cavanagh by half a point. Congratulation Jack

All the activities to conduct a days' swimming includes setting up tables, putting out lane ropes, processing race entries and race compilation, timekeeping and judging, our regular starter, John Suann, recording results, organising relays, compiling relay results, organising prizes and awards, running raffles, regular catering by Ann, Eric and Jenny, special additional catering by various individuals, compiling race results and allocating points, cleaning up after food, re-supplying our fridge which is regularly required, putting away tables, BBQ etc, and our welfare team of Warren and Jan making sure those enduring some hardship are not forgotten. Our treasurer and assistant treasurers, who collect and balance our money collection and disbursements.

We do not forget the most loved role in the club, our fearless handicapper Don Saunders, who is rumoured to enjoy plucking wings off butterflies after he has completed the week's review of handicap times.

All these actions proceed seamlessly, because our members put their hands up, get in and do it.

We host the Annual Diggers Shield during February and once again many of you willingly volunteered for the jobs to make sure our visitors a great night.

We attended the AIF Carnival, held in Melbourne for the first time and we had over 30 people make the trek south to represent our club. Temperatures were over 40 degrees on the day of the carnival added to the experience.

When other clubs hold their carnival, we usually get a dedicated team to attend and represent us, and enjoy a great evening mixing with fellow swimmers. Thank you to those who attend these carnivals.

Carrol is always there to organise the swims for the winter season and arranges the awards day on her own. She started this tradition many years ago with a handful of people silly enough to join in and now it is common for 25 to 30 swimmers to get out of bed on a cold Sunday morning to have a swim in the ocean. Carrol also negotiates a visit with the Stanwell Park Sea Eels Club and this is a great day for those who attend.

Our other great sub-club is the Gunnamatta Greys, which continues strongly on Wednesday and Friday 52 weeks a year. This group also maintains strong numbers and volunteers assist Denis Woodland in supporting the swims. Special thanks to John Irvine, who is a great help to Denis in preparing race sheets and collecting loaves of bread from the baker for the catering. Well done Denis on another great year for the Greys and all appreciate your efforts.

Why is our club going so well?

I believe it stems from the camaraderie that exists between our members and the spirit in which the

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

club runs. We enjoy each others company and genuine friendships develop. As you know, swimming happens 7 days a week at our clubhouse, not just Sundays and Thursday nights or Wednesdays and Fridays in the case of the Greys. I can recall mornings when around 15 swimmers were down at the bay on a 'non-swimming' day, enjoying a swim followed by a coffee and a highly intelligent, incisive chat about issues of the day.

Let's all keep working hard to continue this club's success in the future, as it provides great social support to its members in many different ways.

Sadly we lost Bruce Hardy during the recent season. Bruce passed away unexpectedly during the year and he is missed.

We have also enjoyed the participation of our youngest member for a while, Mina Wood who has swum all season and amazed us with her progress throughout the season.

The Awards Night had a large number of people attend to acknowledge those who have won various swimming prizes as well as those who have made this club great through their own generous contributions.

Thanks again and look forward to the next season.

**John Hennessy**



Our team visiting Wylies baths at Coogee to swim with Coogee Diggers Swimming Club

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Captains Report

My first year as Captain has proved to be an enjoyable one. Your generosity and good sportsmanship have been very heartening as is the enthusiasm that you bring each week to the Bay. Thank you also for your

participation in the various carnivals and visits to and from, other swimming clubs. It always makes for a more enjoyable time when we have a good representation of our members at these events. I hope that you will all consider attending the next AIF carnival in Southport next April, where we can hopefully repeat the successes of last years visit to Melbourne.

It has been an exciting stoush for the Swimmer of the Year Jersey this season, likening itself to the (other) sport of champions.

“And they’re off! It was a clean start ladies and gentlemen, with the Captain going out for the early lead. The rest of the field were caught a little unawares and will have to work hard to make up some ground, but as Paul Crowe famously said, the Melbourne Cup isn’t run in January. And as they reach the first bend, there’s only a length between the Captain and the rest of the field.

And now we see a bit of action from our favourite mare, Joyce Grounds, she’s making a play for the lead, and she sneaks ahead by a nose. She’s a quiet achiever this one, playing it very cool. The rest of the field are pacing themselves, running a smart race, based on years of experience. Gordon Williams is in it still, backing up from last years successful win at this track, he’s using his knowledge as a previous Fox Tail winner as well, and

he’s staying off the rails. Jack Kirkland is looking boxed in there, but we won’t write him off yet, he’s a seasoned performer, having won this race on six other occasions and he’s running well. Paul Cavanagh has been training well and always performs over this distance, so he’s definitely one to watch.

But it’s the two stayers, Donny and Eric now, they’re starting to make their run. They both have a pace that’s slow to develop and these two have been around this track too many times to count. And as we come to the last turn, the Captain has definitely pulled up. The others still have a long run down the back stretch, no one has a clear lead, it’s still anyone’s race. Jack’s looking quietly confident, and Gordon’s not giving him an inch. Joyce has had to pull out the whip, but I don’t know if it’s going to be enough. And we’re into the home straight now, and it’s neck and neck between the two old sires Saunders and Wood, they’re making a powerful run to the lead. Donny’s a neck in front, it looks like he’s gonna get there, but Eric’s not giving up, its down to the wire, it’ll be an exciting finish, and its photos all round, a photo finish for the Swimmer of the Year.

For the first time in recorded history, a dead heat !

Two champions become legends.”

**Lisa Hedge**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relay

With a new relay committee, it was decided that after much deliberation, careful Consideration, combined with secret formulas, we would have 6 teams.

From day 1 there were many complaints and suggestions on how the teams should Have been picked. All fell on deaf ears.

The relay competition was conducted over 24 weeks. The Sea Slugs started with a win and were never headed throughout the season.

After week 6, Sea Slugs in front by 8pts After week 12, Sea Slugs in front by 10pts After week 18, Sea Slugs in front by 17pts After 24 weeks of intense competition, the Sea Slugs were victorious by 11 points.

The final point scores were

|                 |             |            |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Sea Slugs   | 100 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jimbels     | 89 points  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Bluebottles | 75 points  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Sea Horses  | 75 points  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Jellyfish   | 73 points  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Stimgrays   | 68 points  |

Members of the winning Sea Slugs team were

- Gordon Williams, Lisa Hedge, John Hennessy, Ann Wood, Lizzie Lodge, Kalem Bronner, Lynne Bryan, Sandy Curan and Yasmin Dehni-Stalker



## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **Gunnamatta Greys**

This report covers the season extending from the start of winter 2018 to the end of summer 2019.

The Gunnamatta Greys swim twice a week all year round, at Gunnamatta Bay in summer and at North Cronulla SLSC in winter (with a surf option).

We had another successful season, judging by our average

attendances: Winter: 23

Summer: 27

To give another dimension to the year's overview, there were 2,759 individual swims recorded for the year.

### **Point Score Competitions**

Last year's Swimmer of the Year, Jon Jenkins, had another outstanding year again winning all three point scores i.e. cold winter, warm winter and summer.

This means that Jon is again the Gunnamatta Greys Swimmer of the Year, holding the Bob Woods Summer Trophy and the Swimmer of the Year Trophy donated by Don Saunders.

Congratulations Jon and, no, the trophies are still not yours to keep.

Our annual Unity Day, renamed **Gary Schmalfeldt Day** in his honour, was again a great success. The Student Council members of Woollooware High School are fine representatives of their school community and their company and enthusiastic participation were greatly enjoyed. Members, students and teaching staff were pleased to welcome Anne Schmalfeldt and her two sons Lee and Drew who presented the Gary Schmalfeldt trophy to the winning 10-aside relay team, Woollooware HS.

Thanks to all those who help to organise and run Greys' swims, especially John Irvine, Rod Heidenreich, Rick Procter, Bill Bertram, John Suann, Jack Kirkland and Paul Cavanagh.

Thanks to North Cronulla SLSC for the use of their facilities and thanks to John Irvine and Jack Kirkland for liaising with the club. This year the Cronulla RSL Swimming Club donated \$3,000 to North Cronulla SLSC in appreciation of the use of their facilities during winter 2018.

As I say every year, I cannot close without thanking all of you Greys for your active participation and support, enthusiasm, camaraderie and friendship.

**Denis Woodland**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club



Don Saunders awards Jon Jenkins the Greys Swimmer of the Year



Male Champion John Hennessy with John Suann

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

The first winter swim for 2018 at the beach was a cracker of a day with 23 swimmers rolling up on a warm sunny 21 degrees with a calm surf. Perfect way to warm up for winter. The race was divided into three heats.

Next year Maroubra Winter Seals have invited us to swim against them at Mahon Pool at Maroubra.

We look forward to visiting them.

We averaged 20 swimmers in the season

The Winter Season Pointscore was:

|                    |                 |           |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>    | Joyce Grounds   | 52 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>    | Lisa Hedge      | 36 points |
| Eq 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Paul Crowe      | 35 points |
| Eq 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Warren Scicluna | 35 points |

Well, keep getting out of bed on those cold winter mornings to win those points. Thanks



Winter winners Joyce, Lisa and Warren

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club



10 a side relay winners at Stanwell Park meeting (at Coalcliff pool)



Our trophy winners at the Melbourne AIF Carnival

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

|                    |                 |            |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1st                | Don Saunders    | 128 points |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Eq | Eric Wood       | 128 points |
| 3rd                | Joyce Grounds   | 119 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Eq | Gordon Williams | 119 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>    | Jack Kirkland   | 116 points |

### Championships

#### Female

|                 |                 |            |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1st             | Deborah Jenkins | 124 points |
| 2nd             | Lisa Hedge      | 73 points  |
| 3rd             | Joyce Grounds   | 47 points  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Sandy Picone    | 20 points  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Ann Wood        | 16 points  |

#### Male

|                 |                |           |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1st             | John Hennessy  | 95 points |
| 2nd             | Anthony Picone | 73 points |
| 3rd             | Paul Cavanagh  | 34 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Kalem Bronner  | 31 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Gary Ballard   | 31 points |



Joint Swimmers of Year Don and Eric with Sue Mc Neil

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2019 to 2020

| Position                |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Patron                  | Jim Silva                    |
| President               | John Hennessy                |
| Deputy President        | Ann Wood                     |
| Secretary               | Steve Harper                 |
| Treasurer               | Paul Rugg                    |
| Asst Treasurers         | Rod Heidenreich, Janice Cox, |
| Captain                 | Lisa Hedge                   |
| Vice Captain            | Cheryl Poppett               |
| Race Secretary          | Paul Cavanagh                |
| Asst Race Secretaries   | Corinne Archer, Carrol Daly. |
| Grey's Co-ordinator     | Denis Woodland               |
| Handicapper             | Don Saunders                 |
| Registrar               | Jack Kirkland                |
| Social Secretary        | Eric Wood                    |
| Grey's Social Organiser |                              |
| Publicity Officer       | John Hennessy                |
| Delegates -AOC          |                              |
| AIF Association         | Jack Kirkland                |
|                         | Steve Harper                 |
| Hon Auditor             | Matt Barlow                  |
| Relay Committee         | Ian Bourke                   |
|                         | Warren Scicluna              |
| Social Committee        | Margaret McKeon, Ann Wood,   |
|                         | Joyce Grounds.               |
| Welfare Officer         | Jan & Warren Rapp.           |

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **Presidents Report**

Hello Members, Well this report has some unusual content to a normal season's summary.

We had dust storms, bushfires, floods causing total pollution of our swimming pool and to wrap it all up a Covid-19 virus results in early termination of our swimming season, suspension of the AIF carnival and closure of our clubhouse. Apart from that all went well.

Despite these events, I think we can be pretty proud of our season.

Eric and his team continue to excel with the catering, Bill running our raffles, Warren and Jan doing the Welfare work along with all our members contributing to the various jobs that need to be done. Things went smoothly throughout the year and this is testimony to the great teamwork that exists in our club.

Thanks to all our committee members who have worked hard and had to make some difficult decisions throughout the season.

The annual Woollooware High School visit was a great success and this will continue to be an important part of our season for many years.

We managed to host the Diggers Shield despite threatening weather. A great night was appreciated by all those attending and one of our teams won the 10 a side relay.

The visit to Coogee RSL was an outstanding day with over 40 members attending, culminating in one of our teams winning the coveted Straits of Dover Trophy.

The Gunnamatta Greys continue to be well supported and thanks to Denis and John Irvine for the work that goes into this.

We had our usual group of swimmers who support our club by attending carnivals hosted by Sharks and Kurranulla. I thank them for their efforts.

The Age Championships were successfully completed and 50% of the Club Champion races were held before the season closed. Carrol is looking forward to getting some winter swims in at the time of writing and she continues to do a fantastic job for those wanting to swim throughout the year.

Our club will commence the next season in a strong financial position.

Thanks to our members for accepting the disrupted season in the right spirit. We understand how much the swimming routine means to many of our members.

On a sad note we will miss Pat Matthews, Jack Brownjohn, Kevin Cox and Peter Catarinich who passed away recently. They were long-term members of the club and made many friends during their time with us.

Looking forward to being able to start the 2020-2021 season and hope we can all get together soon. Thanks for all your support, which has made my job extremely rewarding.

**John Hennessy**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Captains Report

Needless to say, this season has been different and difficult. We thought the water restrictions were hard to deal with; showers were shortened, gardens turned brown. Then the bushfire season from hell was upon us, we all empathised with the loss of life and property, we donated money and fire fighters were our heroes.

Then when we thought we'd had our fair share of tragedy, some lunatic bit the head off a bat and brought the world to its knees. Toilet paper became a rare commodity, public displays of affection were taboo and for the first time in our club's history, we had to abandon the season and put the club into lockdown.

In the midst of this, some of us have struggled with the (un)social distancing. I know I'm not alone in saying that life is tougher without the benefit of the company of our fellow swimmers.

And it's not just the fact that I have no one to fine; I miss Paul Crowe's repartee and unnatural musical knowledge, I miss Jack Kirkland's bonhomie, Donnie's ruthless handicapping and I miss looking at Deb Jenkins toes as she leaves me in her wake. I miss Geoff's eloquence and Jack's Le Crack, and sharing a drink with the stayers on a Sunday afternoon, and we will all miss Pat.

It's been a crazy time and a strong reminder of what this Club means to me, and I'm sure to some of you too. I miss you all and cannot wait to start a new season, which is sure to be better than this one. And rest assured, I have already started my list of fines. To good health and good friends.

**Lisa Hedge**

### Relay

The season started with 6 teams and with the usual complaints.

We managed to achieve 22 swims between 13/10/2019 and 15/03/2020 before restrictions took hold.

At the halfway mark Jimbles(46) led from Seahorses(40), Stingrays(39), Jellyfish(38.5), Bluebottles(36) and Sea Slugs(31.5).

The final results were:

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Jimbles      | 72   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Seahorses    | 72   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sea Slugs    | 63.5 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Stingrays    | 60   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Blue Bottles | 57   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Jellyfish    | 53.5 |

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **Gunnamatta Greys**

Some statistics:

Winter: 43 swim days, average attendance 24.

Summer: 45 swim days, average attendance of 25.

Total Number of individual swims: 2135.

### **Competition Results**

#### **Gunnamatta Greys Swimmer of the Year**

1st John Irvine 234

2nd Jon Jenkins 219

3rd Don Saunders 205

Congratulations to all of our winners, especially to John Irvine who is not only a consistent swimmer but also a reliable member who contributes in a very real way to the running of our swim programme.

The annual **Gary Schmalfeldt Day** was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019. This day continues the tradition of honouring member Gary who, together with our then President Don Saunders, initiated the first visit by Woollooware High School Student Council members in 2007. This year there were three heats (39 swimmers) of the single double, six heats of 50m (42 swimmers) and three relay teams from both WHS and our club. The Gunnamatta Greys regained the memorial.

trophy which was presented by Ann Schmalfeldt and son Drew. Special thanks to all those who helped to make the day an enjoyable one again. Eric Wood, our catering specialist, again excelled. His efforts each year are most appreciated. Thank also to Kimberly Stevens the WHS SC coordinator.

Thanks to all those who help to organise and run the Greys' weekly swims, especially John Irvine, Rod Heidenreich, Rick Procter, Bill Bertram, John Suann, Jack Kirkland and Paul Cavanagh.

Thanks also to North Cronulla SLSC for the use of their facilities and thanks to John Irvine and Jack Kirkland for liaising with the club. This year the Cronulla RSL Swimming Club donated \$3,459 to North Cronulla SLSC in appreciation for the use of their facilities.

Once again, in closing I thank all of you Greys and the Club management team for your active participation and support, enthusiasm, camaraderie and friendship. The current social isolation, necessitated by the COVID-19 crisis, has underlined how much we depend on contact with each other, family and friends, for our everyday wellbeing and enjoyment.

**Denis Woodland**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club



Members and Woollooware High School students at our annual swim



AIF Carnival record holder Janice Cox

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

The 2019 winter season averaged 20 to 25 swimmers every Sunday.

We only had a couple of very cold Sundays when the surf and pool were too rough to swim.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May we had 24 swimmers attend Stanwell Park swim at the Coalcliff pool. As usual, the Stanwell Park Club were great hosts supplying the delicious hot soups and BBQ

On 14<sup>th</sup> July we had 17 very brave swimmers attend Mahon pool at Maroubra. The day was cold and windy but The Maroubra club lessened the pain by putting on a great spread and refreshments, a very social day was had by all.

Our end of season breakfast was back at Rydges and attended by 38 swimmers

#### Pointscore Trophy Winners

|                 |                 |        |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Gordon Williams | 47 pts |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Warren Scicluna | 44 pts |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Joyce Grounds   | 43 pts |

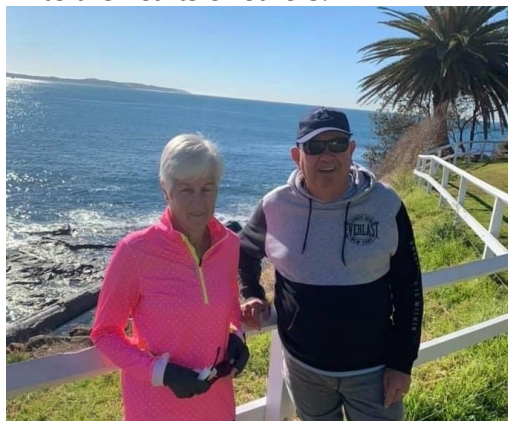
**Carrol Daly**

### Special Thanks

As we are all well aware our swimming season this year was cut short due to the COVID19 virus which led to restrictions placed on us all by our Government. As a club we complied with all Government request's by closing our Gunnamatta Bay club house and requesting all members to respect self-distancing and where it was felt necessary for members to stay safe by staying at home.

It is here where we say a heartfelt THANK YOU to Warren and Jan who as our welfare officers and friends stepped up and went over and above the expectations of their welfare officer's role and commenced contacting members by phone/mobile to ensure all was well. Not only was the gesture thoughtful and kind, it also played a vital role in maintaining communication with members who were unable to venture outside of their home and in some cases were home alone. This gesture of goodwill created a link, an olive branch if you like to provide assistance if needed.

So to Warren and Jan and on behalf of all your fellow members and friends of the RSL Swimming club we your Swimming club committee salute you both and thank you so much for digging deep into your own hearts to bring a little cheer into the hearts of others.



## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

Shortened Season due to Covid lockdown

|                 |        |                 |    |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|----|
| 1st             | John   | <b>Hennessy</b> | 98 |
| 2nd             | Paul   | <b>Cavanagh</b> | 92 |
| 3rd             | Bill   | <b>Jury</b>     | 90 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Joyce  | <b>Grounds</b>  | 88 |
| 5th             | Lesley | <b>Woodland</b> | 84 |



John Hennessy – Swimmer of the Year

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Championships

Only 2 of 4 swims completed before Covid Shutdown

#### Female Champion

|         |                |           |
|---------|----------------|-----------|
| Deborah | <b>Jenkins</b> | 62 points |
| Lisa    | <b>Hedge</b>   | 40 points |
| Ann     | <b>Wood</b>    | 21 points |
| Joyce   | <b>Grounds</b> | 18 points |
| Cheryl  | <b>Poppett</b> | 13 points |

#### Male Championship

|         |                |           |
|---------|----------------|-----------|
| Phil    | <b>Short</b>   | 62 points |
| Gary    | <b>Ballard</b> | 40 points |
| Steve   | <b>Murray</b>  | 21 pointd |
| Kalem   | <b>Bronner</b> | 13 points |
| Anthony | <b>Picone</b>  | 10 points |



**Deborah Jenkins and Phil Short**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2020 to 2021

| Position              |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Patron                | Jim Silva                    |
| President             | John Hennessy                |
| Deputy President      | Ann Wood                     |
| Secretary             | Steve Harper                 |
| Treasurer             | Paul Rugg                    |
| Asst Treasurers       | Rod Heidenreich, Janice Cox, |
|                       |                              |
| Captain               | Lisa Hedge                   |
| Vice Captain          | Cheryl Poppett               |
| Race Secretary        | Paul Cavanagh                |
| Asst Race Secretaries | Corinne Archer, Carrol Daly. |
| Grey's Co-ordinator   | Denis Woodland               |
| Handicapper           | Don Saunders                 |
| Registrar             | Jack Kirkland                |
| Social Secretary      | Eric Wood                    |
| Publicity Officer     | John Hennessy                |
| AIF Association       | Jack Kirkland                |
| Hon Auditor           | Matt Barlow                  |
| Relay Committee       | Ian Bourke                   |
|                       | Warren Scicluna              |
| Social Committee      | Margaret McKeon, Ann Wood,   |
|                       | Joyce Grounds.               |
| Welfare Officer       | Jan & Warren Rapp.           |

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### President

It was a year of challenges. For the moment we have survived Covid, but it did impact on how and what we did this year. Limited access to the change rooms, no showers then some showers, social distancing, covid marshals, no catering then gradually the catering came back even with the occasional birthday cake.

Club meets had to be cancelled due to the water pollution and some abnormal weather, also with so much uncertainty “can we do this or can’t we” we were left with no choice but to abandon the “Diggers Shield” carnival, the students from Woollooware High School and our annual swim with Coogee Diggers Club. The only bright side was that the AIF Championships at Southport did go ahead where we fielded a smaller team than usual, but turned out to be highly successful.

Another good year for the Greys with Summer at Gunnamatta and the winter at the North Cronulla pool. Sunday winter swims were well attended even with the Covid cloud hanging over us. Both the Greys and winter swim program ensured we all kept in contact during a difficult time and contributed to our wellbeing. Thank you Carrol, Denis and John.

This being my first year as President was a learning curve for myself. I think the only way I survived was through the support and expertise I received from our committee. I cannot thank them enough for their efforts. We are fortunate to have such people overseeing the club. In saying that we are always keen for new blood so if you are interested please nominate for positions in the club.

Our finances are currently good and we are able to meet our future commitments. I would also like to acknowledge the support we receive from our parent body, the RSL Memorial Club. It is appreciated. In closing I want to thank you all for the past year and outline next year’s goals: lots of swimming, resumption of those events we missed last year, a little more socialising and the recruitment of more members, in particular the younger age groups.

### Paul Rugg



Coogee Diggers with our members at Gunnamatta

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **Captains Report**

This season saw a somewhat return to normal for our Sunday morning swims at the Bay. Members were keen to resume our pre COVID routine, which meant Eric could again fire up both the BBQ and his assistant cook Jenny to provide our regular fare of potatoes and sausages. Our reward for some of those cold, windy swims that we endured this season.

Even though we weren't able to host other Clubs for the Diggers' Shield, or have our annual get together with Coogee Diggers at the time of writing this report, a group of us are preparing to head to Dubbo for a fun weekend of swimming and socialising whilst raising money for Legacy, another great get together I'm sure.

Numbers at the Bay may have been down some weeks, understandably with the current situation, but that should not deter us from getting back to full strength next year.

This year's Swimmer of the Year competition was very much a one horse race, with stalwart Billy Jury following the advice of Jack Le Breton:

“get to the front quickly and improve on your position “, which is pretty much what he did.

I for one, thought that as the warmer months hit, Billy would remove his wetsuit and get some sun on his skin like the rest of us. However his many decades of experience in the art of outwitting the handicapper, came to fruition. After pleading with Donny to change his times and suffering more rejections than he does on a Friday night at JD's, Billy resigned himself to the fact that if he wanted to win the points, he had to continue to wear the suit. It proved to be a genius move and about as popular as a dose of COVID!

So congratulations Billy, your first ever Swimmer of the Year, and the club's first wetsuited winner! Also congratulations to Steve Murray on his Male Club Championship win!

Steve has been swimming with us for a few seasons now and is well known for bringing most of his wardrobe with him to the Bay, he too suffers from the cold. He's a fine swimmer who has improved greatly since joining us, although I'm not sure we can take credit for that, lots of training and hard work is obviously the reason.

Once again we had a crack team competing at the AIF Carnival in Southport this year, special mention to John Butterfield for defending his age championship and a big thank you to all who attended, including the non swimming supporters. Coffs Harbour should be a great venue next year and will hopefully entice more members to attend. I'm sure I can speak for my Vice Captain Cheryl Poppett when I say thank you to all of you that come along each week, swim with alacrity in all conditions, (mostly) accept the fines I bestow upon you, have a few drinks and laughs and nurture the great friendships that we are fortunate to have as members of this Club. I look forward to our Presentation Night in July and to our next great season of swimming.

**Lisa Hedge**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relay

The season started as usual with all the mumbles and grumbles, went well for 2 weeks and then had 2 weeks off. This continued on in the same pattern, swim a few weeks and then off for a couple. In all we had 18 swim days and 9 no swims for various reasons. After the 1st 6 swims, the Jellyfish were just in front then at the 12th swim they were still ahead. Then after our final swim they were clear winners. Congratulations to all Jellyfish team members.

The final points were:

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Jellyfish.    | 80 |
| Sea Slugs     | 71 |
| Stingrays.    | 70 |
| Jimbels       | 59 |
| Sea Horses.   | 50 |
| Blue Bottles. | 48 |

I would like to thank Warren Scicluna for his assistance throughout the season and to all others who helped and tried to give advice.

### Ian Bourke



### Swimmer of the Year Bill Jury

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **Gunnamatta Greys**

This report is usually for a winter season and the following summer season. However, due to the COVID-19 restrictions the 2020 winter season was cancelled. Swimming resumed for the summer season in October, extending to April 2021.

Some statistics for the summer season:

Swim days: 54

Average attendance: 25

Total number of individual swims: 1394

### **Competition Results**

#### **Gunnamatta Greys Swimmer of the Year**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Gordon Williams |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jon Jenkins     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Lesley Woodland |

Unfortunately we were unable to hold the annual Gary Schmalfeldt Day this year because of the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume in November this year.

Members were saddened by the loss of a fellow swimmer and our dear friend Warren Bradley on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021. His wife Carol, accompanied by family members, swam with our members on the morning of Warren's funeral as a tribute to Warren's memory, inspired by his love of swimming. Warren was a valued member of both the Gunnamatta Greys and the St George Leagues Club Swimming Club. Vale Warren

Super Coach Paul Crowe passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Paul was a keen swimmer with the Greys and a popular club member. He was always cheerful in his greetings and his quick quips endeared him to us all. He was the go to one for any musical information. Vale Paul.

In conclusion, thank you to all Greys for your active participation, friendship and support. In particular, thank you to John Irvine and the Management Committee for helping our activities to run smoothly.

### **Denis Woodland**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

Due to the restrictions of covid in 2020 we had our first winter swim on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June. 26 keen swimmers competed in 18.1 degree water temperature.

The beach was closed due to big surf and swell four times during our season. On two of those occasions we swam in the rock pool.

Exposed rocks in the surf remained a problem for some swimmers to get in and out of the surf, so a few people preferred to swim in the rock pool.

The water temperature in the surf dropped to 16.4 degrees during our season. On this day we had 24 swimmers in the surf and 3 in the Rock pool. The comments on exiting the water were “Wasn’t that invigorating”, “That was bloody cold”, “Lets go for a hot drink”

The average weekly number of swimmers was 26. Thank you to everyone for making the winter season such a success by turning up, even on the coldest, rainy days. But after all it is winter swimming.

Unfortunately due to covid we could not have our usual end of year breakfast/presentation. We presented the trophies and towels at the Summer swim event at Gunnamatta. Hopefully 2021 will be covid free. As you will see by the results the points were very close, competition was fierce. and see you in the water.

### Carrol Daly

| Season Trophy Results    |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place    | Carrol Daly 45 points     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place    | Gordon Williams 39 points |
| Eq 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | Steve Murray 39 points    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place    | Ingrid Moon 38 points     |

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

|                 |        |          |            |
|-----------------|--------|----------|------------|
| 1st             | Bill   | Jury     | 126 points |
| 2nd             | Gordon | Williams | 113 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Steven | Murray   | 111 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Lisa   | Hedge    | 105 points |
| 5th             | Warren | Scicluna | 98 points  |

### Championships

#### Female Champion

|                 |        |         |            |
|-----------------|--------|---------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Lisa   | Hedge   | 124 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Ann    | Wood    | 46 points  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Lizzie | Lodge   | 40 points  |
| 4th             | Joyce  | Grounds | 39 points  |
| 5th             | Cheryl | Poppett | 28 points  |

#### Male Champion

|                 |         |          |           |
|-----------------|---------|----------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Steve   | Murray   | 95 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Andre   | Picone   | 75 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | John    | Hennessy | 41 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Anthony | Picone   | 40 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Steve   | Harper   | 21 points |
| Eq 5th          | Paul    | Cavanagh | 21 points |



**Lisa Hedge with Lesley Woodland**



**Steve Murray with Paul Cavanagh**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2021 to 2022

|                             |                                                 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Patron                      | Paul Cavanagh                                   |
| President                   | Paul Rugg                                       |
| Deputy President            | Ann Wood                                        |
| Secretary                   | Steve Harper                                    |
| Treasurer                   | John Hennessy                                   |
| Captain                     | Lisa Hedge                                      |
| Vice Captain                | Dave Dopson                                     |
| Race Secretary              | Paul Cavanagh,<br>Anthony Picone                |
| Asst Race Secretary         | Carrol Daly                                     |
| Grey's Coordinator          | Denis Woodland                                  |
| Handicapper                 | Ross Smith                                      |
| Registrar                   | Jack Kirkland                                   |
| Social Secretary            | Eric Wood                                       |
| Publicity Officer/Web Host  | John Hennessy                                   |
| Delegates - AIF Association | Jack Kirkland, Steve<br>Harper                  |
| Hon Auditor                 | Geoff Armstrong                                 |
| Relay Secretary             | Carrol Daly                                     |
| Asst Relay Secretary        | Warren Scicluna                                 |
| Social Committee            | Margaret McKeon,<br>Ann Wood,<br>Joyce Grounds. |
| Welfare Officer             | Don Saunders                                    |

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Presidents Report

When commencing this report I initially reflected upon last year's report and now having reread it, there was an option to just change the year and resubmit it as 2022.

It again turned out not to be the year that we all had hoped for, Covid continued to raise its ugly head, then the adverse weather which not only made swimming unpleasant and uninviting but combined with the seemingly neverending impact of water pollution we were forced to abandon numerous swims. Sundays we lost 15 swims, while the Grey's were much the same, statistics showing that we lost approximately 50 per cent of our swimming days as well as the cancellation of the Diggers Shield, the Coogee Diggers get together and Woollooware High School meet the students. Still we all kept showing up week after week and when conditions permitted we swam, typifying the club's spirit together with its camaraderie. Though there were many cancellations we did field teams at the AIF Championships at Coffs Harbour and the Queens Legacy Carnival at Dubbo with good results coming from both events.

On a sadder note we lost some of our dear members through the year including Liz Mathews and Barbara Murphy and Sue Bertram. To their families and others who have lost loved ones our thoughts are with you all.

Our finances continue to be strong, even considering the interruptions we have had. The committee has worked tirelessly, in doing so I acknowledge their great support to me over the year. It's been very much a pleasure working with each and everyone of them, their views and opinions and especially their candidness is most appreciated.

Finally thank you, the members. You make this club. With all the doom and gloom we have experienced, hopefully next year can only be better.

**Paul Rugg**



Gunnamatta baths

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Captains Report

So another season has come to a close, again an incomplete one. Just when we thought it was safe to mingle at the Bay, the weather Gods had other ideas for us. Several weeks of persistent rain and filthy run off, curtailed our weekly races, forcing us to adjust and shorten our Race Schedule.

I think this is the first year we have not been able to award Club Champions, however we managed to name a “Swimmer of the Year”, congratulations to Corinne Pye, a relative newcomer to the Club, who swam consistently from the outset, which was enough to help her grab the title.

Great to have you Corinne, although I think you’ll have a few contenders vying for the coveted trophy next year, not mentioning any names Gordon.

Let’s all hope for great conditions, no pandemics or extreme weather events, next season.

On a sad note, we lost our much loved members this year; Liz Mathews, who left us way too soon, Sue Bertram and Barbara Murphy, who I never thought we’d lose. It’s an understatement to say that we will remember them fondly for years to come, and they will be sorely missed by their many friends within our club.

Also, I was personally saddened to see Life Member Don Saunders retire from the Club after many years as a swimmer and Committee member. Don has been a special favourite of mine, not just for his boyish good looks, but for his support, his friendship, his sage advice and the enormous contribution he has made to this Club. It won’t be the same at the Bay without you Donny, and I hope your health issues are resolved enough for you to visit us from time to time, I’ll save a cold beer for you.

Lastly, a big thank you to all of our members for their company on a Sunday, and to our fabulous Committee for their never ending commitment to running this Club and making it such a rewarding part of our lives.

See you in October,  
**Lisa Hedge**



## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relay

What a short season ; 6 teams of confusion put on their best Sunday swimmers for the 13 weeks of competition. The team captains certainly had their work cut out for them fielding questions & herding their teams into the starting blocks.

Everyone had a swell time bumping into fellow members in the wrong lane to then discuss who was in the wrong lane. Lots of fun & camaraderie was enjoyed by all & made for a great competition.

Congratulations to the winning team: the Bluebottles captained by Steve Murray who cracked the whip to get his team across the line.

Winning team members are Alan Villagrand, Elizabeth Whitcombe, Grant Conway, Jack Kirkland, Peter Kerr, Rod Garland, Steve Murray, Steve Harper.

Relay team results:

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> BLUE BOTTLES | 56.5PTS. |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> SEAHORSES.   | 50.5PTS  |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> SEA SLUGS    | 49 PTS   |
| 4 <sup>TH</sup> STINGRAYS    | 42 PTS   |
| 5 <sup>TH</sup> JIMBELS      | 39. PTS  |
| 6 <sup>TH</sup> JELLYFISH    | 35. PTS  |



Bluebottles Relay team

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Gunnamatta Greys

This report is for the winter season 2021 and the following 2021-22 summer season. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 winter season was largely curtailed with only 16 swims held in May/June. Although swimming resumed for the summer season in October, there was an unusual number of cancellations due to poor weather and conditions.

On behalf of the Greys, I wish to register our thanks to the management of North Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club for their permission to use their pool and their cooperation in allowing us the use of their facilities. Unfortunately we will be unable to use the pool for some time, until the current building work is finished.

Some statistics for the Greys 2021-2022 season:

|                                  | Winter | Summer |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Swim Days                        | 16     | 41     |
| Average Attendance               | 19     | 19     |
| Total Number Of Individual Swims | 298    | 799    |

### Season Point Score Winners

| Winter 2021     |               | Summer 2021 - 2022 |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Dave Hill     | Joyce Grounds      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | John Irvine   | John Irvine        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Joyce Grounds | Gordon Williams    |

### Yearly Point Score and Gunnamatta Greys Swimmer of the Year

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Joyce Grounds   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | John Irvine     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Gordon Williams |

Unfortunately we were again unable to hold the annual Gary Schmalfeldt Day this year because of the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume in November this year.

Congratulations to all our prizewinners.

In conclusion, thank you to all Greys for your active participation, friendship and support. In particular, thank you to John Irvine and the CRSLSC Management Committee for helping our activities to run smoothly.

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club



Joyce Grounds, Greys Swimmer of the Year with Bill Jury



Our team at the AIF Carnival at Coffs Harbour

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club



AIF prizewinners at Coffs Harbour presentation dinner



Ian Bourke presents Corinne Pye the Swimmer of the Year trophy

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

The 2021 Winter Swimming was not very good due to Covid interruptions.

We all swam only 7 times before the season was abandoned.

As of 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021 Covid ruled and we swam no more for the year.

But we did have a great day on 6<sup>th</sup> June at the Mahon Pool Maroubra, where the Maroubra Seals Winter Swimmers hosted a day of strong swimming in their lovely pool.

They then provided a delicious lunch and conducted raffles after the swim.

Everyone has a great time and we thank the Maroubra Seals for their fantastic humour, generosity and friendliness. The Cronulla swimmers did find it confusing to estimate accurate times for the 30M pool. I will endeavour to organise a 2022 swim at the Mahon Pool.

Thanks to all our winter swimmers for making it so enjoyable during those cold winter mornings, because without you our winter swimming would not continue to be such an enjoyable social event that it has become.

| Trophy Winners           |                                                 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Warren Scicluna          | 1 <sup>st</sup> Pointscore – 19 points          |
| Joyce Grounds            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Pointscore – 17 points          |
| Carrol Daly, Sandy Curan | Eq 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Pointscore – 16 points |
|                          |                                                 |



The Winter Swimmers braving the cold at Kurnell Silver Beach

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

|                 |         |          |             |
|-----------------|---------|----------|-------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Corinne | Pye      | 72.0 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Gordon  | Williams | 71.0 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Joyce   | Grounds  | 69.0 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Ian     | Bourke   | 66.0 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Lesley  | Woodland | 66.0 points |

### Club Championships

Club Championship races were unable to be held due to repeated cancellations of swimming due to floods which caused contaminated water conditions.



A team travelled to Dubbo on the June long weekend for a swim carnival

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2022 to 2023

|                            |                                                         |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Patron                     | Paul Cavanagh                                           |
| President                  | Steve Harper                                            |
| Vice President             | Ann Wood                                                |
| Secretary                  | Dave Dopson                                             |
| Assistant Secretary        | Al Barry                                                |
| Treasurer                  | John Hennessy                                           |
| Assistant Treasurer        | Sandy Picone                                            |
| Captain                    | Lisa Hedge                                              |
| Vice Captain               | Gary Ballard                                            |
| Greys co-ordinator         | Denis Woodland                                          |
| Ass greys co-ordinator     | John Irvine                                             |
| Race secretary             | Paul Cavanagh                                           |
| Ass race secretary         | Anthony Picone                                          |
| Handicapper                | Ross Smith                                              |
| Registrar                  | Jack Kirkland                                           |
| Social secretary           | Eric Wood                                               |
| Publicity officer          | John Hennessy                                           |
| AIF association delegates. | Steve Harper/Lisa Hedge/Jack Kirkland                   |
| Hon auditor                | Geoff Armstrong                                         |
| Relay secretary            | Warren Scicluna                                         |
| Ass relay secretary        | Carrol Daly                                             |
| Social committee           | Jenny Falson/Joyce Grounds/<br>Ann Wood/Margaret McKeon |
| Welfare Officer            | Lisa Hedge                                              |



Ready for another Winter swim at Kurnell

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Presidents Report

This past summer season has been a long time coming following devastating weather patterns & of course covid. We were blessed for those seven months with only a few no swims. Our swim carnivals held at the bay being the “Diggers Shield” & the “Coogee Diggers” visit were a great success & provided the opportunity to replenish our traumatised bank account which insured we remain as a self sustaining club.

Our race secretary team, Paul, Anthony & Corinne Archer were always in the background fixing our small computer glitches ensuring our entire summer swim calendar ran smoothly. Naturally captain Lisa kept a watchful eye on everything, which was evident in the amount of fine money raised by the end of the season & of course we can't forget Eric & his catering team which never failed to please. However the main contributing factor for our success came from you & all the members, not only for your participation, but also every time the committee requested urgent assistance, regardless if you were swimming or not – you turned up to help. That is what I call a family. Great team spirit & determination plus. Thank you all for that.

At this point I would like to mention John Hennessy. John has consistently provided us with ongoing communication, ensuring we are all up to speed with everything that's going on within our club. His tireless efforts are truly appreciated, John is also our Treasurer maintaining a tight rein on our funds. We always appreciate support from the Cronulla RSL Memorial Club, they support us in so many different ways which entails activities both in & out of the water. We in turn support the memorial club as best we can with our patronage. It was extremely pleasing to have both the President John Brown & CEO Sue McNeill join us at our awards presentation dinner this year.

We were privileged to have a few of our over 80 years of age swimming legends attend our awards dinner this year, in fact we have 27 legends within our swimming club.

We applaud them all as we are constantly inspired by their determination to continue swimming competitively.

The AIF – Australian Imperial Forces swimming carnival was held in Sydney this year with our club being well represented which I might add included a few of our legends. We collected plenty of medals & took out one of the major relays of the swim meet. A great result.

Next year the AIF will be held in Southport QLD, so I urge you all to think about a holiday on the Gold Coast at this time & whilst there have a little extra fun & support your club by participating in the AIF carnival. Quite a few of us have been there before so we can assure you; it's a great fun weekend. Please think about it.

Sadly we lost a few members this past year. Those being: Ian Bourke – former President of CRSLMC, Barbra Murphy, Tony Watson, Doug McPherson, & just recently Ken Davidson. We will remember them well for their ongoing contribution to the wellbeing of our club.

I also acknowledge our life members past & present together with our Patron & Life Member Paul Cavanagh for their consistent assistance in ensuring the longevity of our swimming club.

Thank you to our committee & the many helpers for making this years swimming a most pleasurable & rewarding experience, be it for the Greys, winter ocean swimmers or our summer swimmers at the bay. Congratulations to all our 2022/23 swimming champions & prize winners who are acknowledged throughout this annual report.

Overall I think we had a successful year of swimming & social activities to which we the Committee thank you all for your ongoing support.

**Steve Harper**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Captains Report

Another season has come and gone, with thankfully not too many cancellations.

We were finally able to host a couple of “carnivals”, the Digger’s Shield and Coogee Diggers Swimming Club.

These two events have a long history in our Club so it was great to be able to reinstate them this year. We put out the call for member’s attendance and we had a great response from you all (swimmers and helpers), so thank you!

Coogee trounced us in the open relay event, but we were able to hang on to our Digger’s shield thanks to some very accurate relay swimming.

Our AIF team also picked up several wins and places in Age Group Categories and two very successful relay team trophies, a first and a second! One of our best results in a long time.

The AIF carnival is a long day at the pool, so I really appreciate you all hanging around for the day to compete in your events and support each other. A great day was had by all, followed by the presentation dinner. Look out for details regarding next year’s event at Southport, a great holiday destination for those wishing to extend their stay after supporting our Club.

It was very heartening to see some new members this year, Margy, Ken, Geoff, Amanda, Monika and Helen we hope you are enjoying the swimming as much as we enjoy your company. Sadly our youngest joiner Cassie, will be leaving us to head down to Melbourne, you will be sorely missed and we hope you pay us a visit when you’re in town.

Also farewell to Margie McKeon as she heads off to Queensland for her next chapter in warmer climes, a longstanding member who has contributed greatly to this Club, we wish you all the best Margie.

Several social events were well attended this season, thanks to Peter and Cheryl for your enthusiasm and organisation. We seem to have more attendees at these events than to our Sunday swims, a great way to socialise with other members while fully clothed. And of course capping it off with a great night for our Annual Presentation.

As always, I’d like to thank you all for your participation and good humour during the season, I look forward to many more.

“YOU DON’T STOP SWIMMING WHEN YOU GET OLD,  
YOU GET OLD WHEN YOU STOP SWIMMING”

**Lisa Hedge**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relays

There was a change in the air for the relay teams this year. We had Warren for Relay Secretary and Carol, his worthy assistant.

The relay team names were changed and reduced from 6 teams to 5 (This was to have at least 12 swimmers in a team and for people to get more swims). In theory this should have worked, but unfortunately some teams were scratching to get numbers and had to borrow from other teams. The Sharks began strong at beginning of season followed closely by the Seals.

Then the Sharks were biting the Seals flippers for a few weeks until the Whales came cruising past, so the captains of each team

Kylie, Corinne, Rod, Ann, Peter (who was in denial that he was captain) all mustered their teams for the final last two swims for the season as Mantas were 58pts, Dolphins 55pts, Seals 62pts, Sharks 62pts, Whales 63 pts.

It was game on and everyone was going for the winning pointscore.

On the last swim the Seals swam home with a winning 67 points with a crew of the following names Peter Waterman captain, Lesley Woodland, Jenny Falson, Cassie Hills, Reece Chambers, David Dopson, Peter Poppett, Jack Kirkland, Geoff Armstrong, Bruce Ryan, Alan Barry, Margaret McKeon Congratulations to the winning team.

The following teams pointscores were:

|                 |          |           |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Seals    | 67 points |
| 2nd             | Sharks   | 65 points |
| 3rd             | Whales   | 65 points |
| 4th             | Mantas   | 59 points |
| 5th             | Dolphins | 59 points |

Due to public holidays, visits to other clubs and unforeseen circumstances we missed 7 swims, but it was a greatly contested relay.



Seals Relay Champions

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club



John Irvine (Greys Champion) and Gordon Williams (Swimmer of the Year)



John Butterfield and Gordon Williams at AIF Carnival

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Gunnamatta Greys

This report is for the 2022 winter season and the following 2022-2023 summer season.

It with much sadness that, in preparing this report, I noted that Greys member Ian Bourke had his last swim with us on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Vale Ian.

As can be seen below, our 2022 winter season was disrupted by bad weather, resulting in fewer swimmers. The annual Gary Schmalfeldt Day was unfortunately again cancelled due to the weather and school commitments.

Congratulations to all our prize winners.

#### Statistics for the Greys 2022-2023 Season

|                                  | Winter 2022             | Summer 2022-2023        |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Swim Days                        | 35 (out of 50 possible) | 58 (out of 62 possible) |
| Average Attendance               | 13                      | 20                      |
| Total Number Of Individual Swims | 462                     | 1174                    |

#### Season Point Score Results

| Winter 2022              |                                     | Summer 2022 - 2023 |               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>          | John Irvine                         | 1 <sup>st</sup>    | John Irvine   |
| Equal<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> | John Butterfield<br>Gordon Williams | 2 <sup>nd</sup>    | Jack Kirkland |
|                          |                                     | 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Paul Cavanagh |

#### Yearly Point Score and Gunnamatta Greys Swimmer of the Year 2023

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | John Irvine     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Gordon Williams |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Joyce Grounds   |

This is my final Annual Report for the Gunnamatta Greys, as I have decided, after 10 enjoyable years, to discontinue in the role of Greys Coordinator.

My sincere thanks to the Greys and all members of the Cronulla RSL Swimming Club members for your friendship, support, and the shared interest in our passion – swimming.

In particular, thank you to John Irvine for his unfailing support and to Gordon Williams for his wonderful platters. There are several people upon whom I have relied on for advice and support but if I list names, I'm sure to omit someone – suffice to say my sincere thanks.

**Denis Woodland**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

The winter swimming continues to be a great success, averaging 16 swimmers competing every Sunday at Cronulla beach.

Some swimmers visit the Cronulla RSL after the swim to have a hot beverage and something to eat to help the body warm up after the time in the cold water.

Our first swim started in the rock pool as the surf had dangerous currents. We had 26 swimmers.

Some swimmers who found walking into the uneven surf difficult chose to swim in the rock Pool and came back with stories of how many laps they did and how cold or warm the pool was.

The season was quite pleasantly cool in the water with the sun out for most of our Sunday swims.

On 19<sup>th</sup> June 23 swimmers travelled to Kurnell and swam in the netted off pool in the bay.

The water was slightly colder than swimming in the surf, but everyone enjoyed the swim.

Then 25 of us visited the Kurnell Recreation Club for a delicious lunch.

A great time was had by all.

We finished the season with a hearty breakfast at Rydges and announced the trophy winners for the season.

For our 2023 calendar we have been invited to swim at Coalcliff and Maroubra.

We also would like to visit Kurnell pool followed by lunch at the Recreation Club.

The Trophy winners were:

|                 |                  |           |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Joyce Grounds    | 46 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Lynne Bryan      | 45 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | John Butterfield | 42 points |



Winter swimmers visit Maroubra Seals for a swim

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

|     |         |               |            |
|-----|---------|---------------|------------|
| 1st | Gordon  | Williams      | 123 points |
| 2nd | Yasmin  | Dehni-Stalker | 103 points |
| 3rd | Anthony | Picone        | 100 points |
| 4th | Jack    | Le Breton     | 92 points  |
| 5th | Joan    | Harper        | 90 points  |

### Club Championships

#### Female

|                 |         |          |            |
|-----------------|---------|----------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Lisa    | Hedge    | 106 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Cassie  | Hills    | 77 points  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Maureen | Crowther | 36 points  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Sandy   | Picone   | 33 points  |
| 5th             | Ann     | Wood     | 30 points  |

#### Male

|                 |         |          |            |
|-----------------|---------|----------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Steve   | Murray   | 101 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Anthony | Picone   | 80 points  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Steve   | Harper   | 42 points  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | John    | Hennessy | 41 points  |
| 5th             | Paul    | Cavanagh | 39 points  |



Winners of the Straits of Dover Trophy

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club



Our team wins the AIF Ray Weekes trophy for 1<sup>st</sup> time at the AIF Carnival  
They were an amazing 0.00 secs from their nominated time



Another win in the Straits of Dover trophy donated by famous English Channel swimmer Des Renford

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club



Female Champ Lisa Hedge – Male Champ Steve Murray



Our team wins the Diggers Shield

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Season 2023 to 2024

|                             |                                                    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Patron                      | Paul Cavanagh                                      |
| President                   | Steve Harper                                       |
| Deputy President            | Ann Wood                                           |
| Secretary                   | Anthony Picone                                     |
| Treasurer                   | John Hennessy                                      |
| Asst Treasurer              | Bill Jury                                          |
| Captain                     | Lisa Hedge                                         |
| Vice Captain                | Dave Dopson                                        |
| Race Secretary              | Anthony Picone                                     |
| Asst Race Secretaries       | Bruce Ryan                                         |
| Grey's Coordinator          | Bob Reus                                           |
| Handicapper                 | Eric Wood                                          |
| Registrar                   | Jack Kirkland                                      |
| Social Secretary            | TBA                                                |
| Publicity Officer/Web Host  | John Hennessy                                      |
| Delegates - AIF Association | Steve Harper, Lisa Hedge                           |
| Hon Auditor                 | Matt Barlow                                        |
| Relay Secretary             | Warren Scicluna                                    |
| Asst Relay Secretary        | Ross Smith                                         |
| Social Committee            | Ann Wood, Joyce Grounds, Jenny Falson, Sandy Curan |
| Welfare Officer             | Cheryl and Peter Poppett                           |
| Winter Swim Co-ordinator    | Carrol Daly                                        |



Eric and Jenny have excelled with cooking for the tribe over most of the 15 years. Thank You.

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Presidents Report

Hi members & welcome to our 2023/24 winter & summer annual report.

We have certainly been blessed with minimal disruptions throughout the year with members support being 100% full filling, ensuring our financial sustainability. Each time your committee had to reach out for your assistance – all members came forward to soften any potential issue.

From a swimming point of view, we have witnessed many high achievements be they from participating in away carnivals or from within our own home based social but highly competitive weekly comps. These results & more are found within the various reports to follow in this annual report.

I thank your committee who have worked tirelessly with Council & the Memorial Club to ensure all is in order for our enjoyment & wellbeing.

Sutherland Council have been swift to act with all issues that we have been confronted with in & around our clubhouse at Gunnamatta Bay & it goes without saying that our parent, the Cronulla RSL Memorial Club have continued to support our activities & requests for assistance to ensure we remain a strong & vibrant competitive swimming club.

Our future is far reaching as we enter next season with the addition of new members from the Cronulla Sutherland Sharks Swimming Club. This small merger of two clubs is a win - win for both clubs ensuring longevity & strength in numbers. We do welcome & thank our new members for joining the Cronulla RSL Swimming Club so that we may continue as a strong & harmonious club within the confines of our parent club: the Cronulla RSL Memorial Club.

With the introduction of the Tuesday evening RSL Sharks comp, our swimming calendar now offers all members the opportunity to participate in three interclub comps, being; RSL Sunday mornings, RSL Sharks Tuesday evenings & RSL Greys Wednesday & Friday mornings. This will make for a action packed annual awards presentation next year.

Sadly we lost a few members & friends this past year, those being Billy Leighton, Lex Macpherson & John Suann.

All were active members & contributed significantly to our club's wellbeing. They were all held in high regard & will be sadly missed.

I now recognise & respect our life members past & present as their endeavours together with members of yester year will see our club witness its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary mile stone next year.

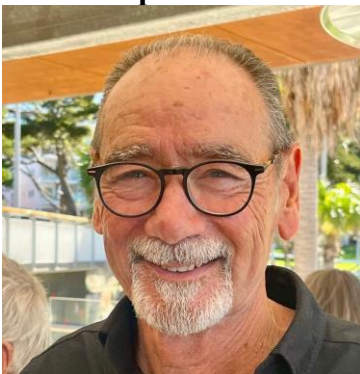
This is an outstanding achievement in our club's history that we should all be proud of & continue our philosophy of continuous improvement for the betterment of members health & enjoyment.

Milestones don't just happen, so please remember our next AGM is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September & that your help regardless of how small; does make a difference.

Please nominate for a position as a committee member or assistant & help make a difference.

Thank you all for your ongoing support, stay safe & see you in the water.

**Steve Harper - President**



## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

### **Captains Report**

Thanks to all our members for a great swimming season down at the Bay.

Some great results this year with Joyce Grounds reigning supreme over the point score and bagging her first Swimmer of the Year award. Joyce has come very close to winning in previous years but the big prize has eluded her...until now. Well done Joyce, your consistency has paid off, resulting in a popular win. Gordon will be close on your heels in the upcoming season I'm sure.

The hotly contested 'Shirts and Skirts' relay resulted in yet another resounding victory to the girls, no surprises there. No matter what skullduggery the boys come up with, they just can't match our female superiority, well done to all for a fun event.

At the risk of rubbing it in, our female members were really on a roll this season. A small but mighty team attended the AIF Carnival in Southport this year and although John Butts again defended his strongly held Age Championship title, and John Hennessy performed at his usual high calibre, the girls really came to the fore, scooping up some great wins. Anne Woods, Judy the Duchess of Wollongong and Carrol two towels Daly were all trophy winners. Carrol set a new benchmark by representing our Club in not one, but two Finals, a feat never before seen by our members. To top it off, she came away with a First Place trophy in the 50m event. Huge congratulations to you Carrol, who is also our Club Person of the Year, and an invaluable contributor to our Club.

This year also gave us two first time Club Champions, Lizzy Lodge and Anthony Picone. Great to see new faces bagging the win, well done to you both. Congratulations also to new(ish) member, Margy Green, who was rewarded with the Most Improved Swimmer trophy, proving that she has worked hard to improve her times since joining us.

A fun night was held on a lovely summer evening in February at our Diggers Shield Carnival, with almost 100 swimmers attending. Conditions were perfect and a great night was had by all. Anne and Eric's little boy Daniel was triumphant in the 50m final and a team from our own Club, used the home ground advantage to take out the Digger's Shield Trophy once again.

A visit to Wylie Baths at Coogee, hosted by our mates at Coogee Diggers Club, was a great day, marred only by the influx of bluebottles, which forced an early finish to the day's events. It didn't stop us from enjoying their hospitality where we enjoyed a fabulous lunch and scooped up some raffle and race prizes. With our members' participation, we'll be able to return the favour this year, when we host Coogee at the Bay.

Excitingly, we have the Cronulla Sutherland Sharks league's club swimming club members joining the Cronulla RSL swimming club just recently. Following many successful years we respect & welcome the new Cronulla RSL Sharks with open arms & look forward to hopefully seeing a few new faces at the Bay. Naturally this small merger will strengthen our membership & create some new opportunities for all.

I thank you all for your continued attendance and support and I look forward to the upcoming summer season at the Bay.

**Lisa Hedge**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Relay Report

Another hotly contested relay program saw the usual scheming by Captains in order to get the desired points. This year was the first time we present the Ian Bourke Memorial Relay Trophy.

Total points for the 23/24 season were:

|              |             |           |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| Stingrays    | 75 points   | 1st place |
| Jimbels      | 69 points   | 2nd place |
| Jellyfish    | 67.5 points | 3rd place |
| Blue Bottles | 54.5 points | 4th place |
| Sea Slugs    | 49 points   | 5th place |

Congratulations to the Stingrays who led the points from early in the season, led by Captain Ann Wood. Special mention for Carrol Daly who finally gets to wear a relay jacket after competing for close to 20 years. Well done Carrol.

Thanks to the many people who contribute to the running of the relays and help on the day. This relay program is a great part of the club's history and members take pride in getting that elusive jacket.



Winners

of the Ian Bourke Memorial Relay presented by Stephanie Bourke

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Gunnamatta Greys

The Greys have enjoyed a successful season with several new members adding to the number of swimmers. Weather conditions were much better this Summer and we often had over 30 swimmers competing. Winter numbers have also been solid with many members willing to challenge themselves in the cold ocean waters at Cronulla Beach. John Irvine cleaned up in our point scores and also competed in 100 swims (100% attendance).

Another highly successful visit from the students of Woollooware High School for the annual day. Our thanks to the students for their enthusiasm and participation. It was enjoyed by all.

The students were victorious in the 10 a side relay competing for the Gary Schmalfeldt Memorial Trophy.

Special thanks to John Irvine for his assistance with race secretary duties. Many other members also contributed by assisting with timekeeping and recording duties. Looking forward to the next 12 months.

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Winter</b>              |                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>            | John Irvine      |
| Eq 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | John Butterfield |
| Eq 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | Gordon Williams  |
| <b>Summer</b>              |                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>            | John Irvine      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>            | Gordon Williams  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>            | Ken Watson       |
| <b>Swimmer of the Year</b> | John Irvine      |



John Irvine with Denis Woodland

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Winter Swimming

We all enjoyed a fairly reasonable winter swim season for 2023.

The beach was only closed once for the season.

On 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 a team of 17 swimmers travelled to Mahon Pool at Maroubra to compete. The Maroubra Winter Swim Club were very welcoming to us, but the pool only being 30 metres, we didn't have much of a chance to win races as we did not know our times. Their club put on a very delicious lunch for everyone. Our team enjoyed the day very much. Our club has been invited back for a 2024 swim.

On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023 a team of 16 swimmers travelled to Coalcliff to swim against Stanwell Park Sea Eels. The swim was enjoyable and the competition fierce. The Sea Eels won the relay trophy.

At the conclusion of the swim events everyone was invited to Wombarra Bowlo for lunch. A great time was had by everyone. The food was great and Yasmin won the foxy tail for the day and once again the Poppetts out did themselves for the birthday cake. It was very much appreciated. Our club has been invited back for a 2024 swim.

On 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 a team of 29 swimmers visited Kurnell Silver Beach Baths. The water was very inviting and everyone enjoyed their swim. After the swim all swimmers and their wives, husbands and partners attended the Kurnell Recreation Club for a huge banquet Chinese lunch ( We had 50 people for lunch). We also celebrated the birthdays with a lovely cake baked by the Poppetts. We will try to replicate the swim and lunch again in 2024.

The average number of swimmers for 2023 was 20 to 27 swimmers each week.

The winter season was completed with a buffet breakfast and presentation at Rydges with 40 people attending. The breakfast, as always was superb and the staff excellent. Congratulations to all the winners. We will book for end of 2024 season again.

The results for 2023 winter swimming are:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: John Butterfield and Carrol Daly 42 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jenny Falson 40 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Warren Scicluna 39 points

Thank you to all swimmers who make the Sunday morning swims so social and enjoyable. Thank you to the people who take the clocks for time keeping because without you we would not be able to do the swims.



Ready to swim at the beach

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club



**AIF carnival at Southport 2024**



**AIF Carnival prizewinners at Southport**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Swimmer of the Year

|                 |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Joyce Grounds   | 120 points   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Gordon Williams | 117 points   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Bill Bertram    | 109.5 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Steve Harper    | 102 points   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Paul Cavanagh   | 100 points   |



**Joyce Grounds, Swimmer of the Year with Memorial Club CEO, Sue McNeil**

## 75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club

### Club Championships

#### Female Champion

|                 |         |                 |           |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Lizzy   | <b>Lodge</b>    | 82 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Lisa    | <b>Hedge</b>    | 62 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Maureen | <b>Crowther</b> | 54 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Corinne | <b>Pye</b>      | 40 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Ann     | <b>Wood</b>     | 34 points |

#### Male Champion

|                 |         |               |           |
|-----------------|---------|---------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Anthony | <b>Picone</b> | 84 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Steve   | <b>Murray</b> | 82 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Steve   | <b>Harper</b> | 39 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Phil    | <b>Short</b>  | 31 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Bruce   | <b>Ryan</b>   | 29 points |



**Anthony Picone with John Brown  
Memorial Club President**



**Lizzie Lodge**

## **75 Years of Cronulla RSL Swimming Club**

**END OF PUBLICATION.**