



GROPER'S GOSSIP

Newsletter of Claremont AUSSI Masters Swimming Club Inc.
February 2006

Welcome to the New Year at Claremont!

Well it's been a while since the last Gropers' Gossip, so here is the first instalment for the AUSSI New Year! Highlights in this issue are: the happenings at the January AGM; the Swim Thru Perth; the Newman Churchlands Carnival; and the fortunes (or lack thereof) of the hardy few who swam in the 2nd-worst Rotto Swim ever. Enough from me – let's get into it!

Sally Bell



Our preferred supplier, proudly supporting Claremont AUSSI Masters Swimming Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

On 16 January, Claremont AUSSI held its **Annual General Meeting** in our clubrooms. The meeting was very well attended with our quorum of 20 being met and exceeded easily! Most committee positions were filled prior to the meeting, and those left vacant were all-but snapped up by the enthusiastic members present.

Our new committee is:

President:	Roy Burton
Vice-President:	Jill Woodworth
Secretary:	Elena Nesci
Treasurer:	Patrick Verryn
Captain:	Anthony Dunne
Vice-Captain:	Bastiaan de Boer
Public Relations:	Sally Bell
Recorder:	Richard Johnson
Head Coach:	Richard Hughes
Social C'ttee:	Gabrielle Jolliffe
	Alison Farmer
	Therese Harris
	Natalie Roberts

Congratulations to all and thanks for doing your bit for your Club!

The other exciting happening at the AGM was of course the awarding of the **Craig Bell Service to the Club Award**. The Award very deservedly went to **Steph Canet**, in recognition of everything she did in 2005 – both as part of her position on the social committee but also the many tasks she undertook “above and beyond the call of duty”, as well as her regular participation in a range of club activities (training, carnivals etc.). **Well done Steph!**

SUBS DUE NOW!

For those of you who have not paid your **\$80 subs for 2006**, please do so now! Remember that if you are not up to date with your subs, you are **no longer covered by our insurances** and – in reality- should not be attending training. Also, you cannot enter any events, including the forthcoming AUSSI Open Water Swim (more about this later in this issue!).

CONGRATS PERC!

Late last year, **Perc Edwards** was awarded the prestigious **Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) Masters Official of the Year Award**. Congratulations Perc! There are very few awards Perc has NOT won for his continuing efforts on pool deck... and no doubt these awards also recognise the amazing contribution Perc gives to swimming, masters swimming, and to the Clubs of which he is a member. We are very lucky to have you Perc!

VITAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This year, **Claremont's own carnival is on Sunday 30 April** (half a day), and the **State Swim is on the following weekend, 6/7 May**. These two carnivals are the most important carnivals for our Club each year, and **we would love maximum participation** from our members at both carnivals. So this is just an early warning... Set these dates aside... Clear it with your spouse, parents (!), children... whoever you have to get a leave pass from, and start getting excited!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sean Reddan 7/1
Bruce Hyde 26/1
Chris Roberts 27/1
Steph Canet 5/2
David Cummins 6/2
Bett Montgomery 7/2
Sally Stanford 11/2
Gabby Jolliffe 21/2
Anthony Dunne 25/2
Peter Chong 3/3
Jill Woodworth 8/3
Edmundo Peralta 10/3
Jenny Williams 16/3
Chad Edwards-Smith 22/3

Sorry if I missed anyone!



DALE ALCOCK AUSSI OPEN WATER SWIM

The AUSSI open water swim is on **Saturday 18 March 2006**. This Swim is only open to AUSSI members, is held at Leighton Beach, and is **one of the nicest swims on the OWS calendar**. Even for those of you who don't normally swim in the open water, this could be the time to **GIVE IT A GO**, because the numbers are small AND Leighton Beach has lovely flat, clean water.

There is a TEAM PRIZE for the first 6 swimmers from one club over the line, and Claremont definitely has the goods to claim this prize IF we get lots of our fast (and not so fast!) swimmers to enter. So PLEASE... give it a go... it's only a few hours of your time and you will find out how enjoyable this event can be.

Entry forms are available at Challenge – and there may be some left in our cages – and **forms must be handed in to Anthony Dunne or Bastiaan de Boer by Friday 10 March**.



SWIM THRU PERTH - WHAT A GREAT DAY

Congratulations to co-ordinator **Patrick Verryn and the countless Claremont members** who made this year's Swim Thru Perth one of the best ever! As usual, the Club was able to post a profit amount that will go towards paying for our large lane hire bill for the coming year, as well as being able to make substantial donations to our nominated charities.



Despite the rather breezy start, **conditions were relatively comfortable** and for once, there were absolutely **no jellyfish!** Although there was very low visibility underwater, the water quality also seemed good with no black moustaches on faces at the

end of the race this year! Numbers were slightly down on previous years but this did not affect the enjoyment by participants or the **party atmosphere under the trees at Matilda Bay.**



Claremont members who were successful in winning their age group prize on the day were **Chad Edwards-Smith** (Male 35-39, 1hr 03min 51sec) – and that was after swimming to the start line!; **Perc Edwards** (Male 80-84, 1hr 57min 02sec); **Sally Bell** (Female 40-44, 1hr 01min 19sec); and **Bett Montgomery** (Female 55-59, 1hr 17min 29sec). Other Claremont members posted great swims amidst tough competition.

The raffle proved very popular, with Claremont members taking out 1st and 2nd prizes to “keep it in the family”. **Chris MacQuillan** will shortly be enjoying a trip to Sydney

and a Bridge Climb, whilst **Rob Griffiths** will spend a night at the Crowne Plaza in Perth.



Race marshals Ali, Jill, Pip, Richard & Gabby.

Thank you to all the wonderful members, spouses and children who gave up most of their day to ensure the Swim’s success.



Roxanne Hughes – at her usual post at the sausage sizzle, helped along by Gary Bradley.

ROTTO 2006

Congratulations to our members who completed the Rottneest Channel Swim this year in (arguably) the second-worst conditions in the history of the race.

Solo swimmers **Steve Webb, Chad Edwards-Smith** and **Chris MacQuillan** showed us not only their wonderful athletic ability but their determination and strength of character to make it to the finish line, in times around 2 hours longer than they expected.

Well done also to the many Claremont members who competed in team swims and made safe and successful crossings.

NEWMAN CHURCHLANDS CARNIVAL - HOW THE WEST WAS WON!

A beautiful Sunday morning dawned as **17 Claremont members** arrived at the lovely Newman College Pool for the annual Newman Churchlands Carnival.



With much larger clubs – **Osborne Park and Stadium Snappers** – in attendance, our goal for the day, against a total of 11 clubs, was to secure 3rd spot in the overall pointscore. We knew that **so long as we kept ahead of Somerset** (who had a similar number of swimmers to us), we would be fine.

The first event, the **200 Backstroke**, saw winning swims from **Sally B, Jill, Chris R, Richard H** and **Perc**, with 2nd places from **Jenny W** and **Richard F**.

The **50 Free** showcased a great win by **Lesley**; 2nd places from **Natalie, Chris** and **Peter C**; a great "1-2" from **Bastiaan & Mark H**, and an even more impressive "1-2-3" from **Patrick, Anthony** and **Greg P**.

Event 3 was the **100 Breast**, with great wins from **Sally S, Anthony** and **Richard F**; 2nd places by **Natalie, Greg P, Roy** and **Peter**; and a gallant 4th by **Richard H**.

In the **50 Fly**, **Peter** gained a 3rd, **Anthony** a 2nd, and wins were posted by **Sally B, Greg P & Bastiaan** (all touching within 2 tenths of a second in the final heat – see the photo below!)



The popular 100 Free saw victories from **Sally B, Sally S, Lesley**,

Patrick (in a great time of 1.02.45) and **Mark H**; 2nd places by **Jill** and **Roy**; and 3rd places by **Jenny**, **Richard H** and **Perc**.

The last individual event was the 50 Back, with wins from **Natalie**, **Lesley**, **Chris R**, **Patrick**, **Roy** and **Richard F**; 2nd places by **Jill**, **Jenny** & **Bastiaan**; and 3rd places by **Mark H** & **Perc**.

With our small contingent – especially only having 6 females – we could only field **3 relay teams** over 2 relay events, but our great standard and team spirit saw our teams post two great wins (**Womens 200+** and **Mens 160+**) and a second place (**Mens 240+**).

All in all, we thought GREAT... surely we have all swum well enough to get that **third place** we were after...

BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE!

When the pointscore was read out (backwards, as usual), **Somerset** was read out 4th, with **180 points**. Then when it came to 3rd, we expected to hear Claremont's name... but it was **Osborne Park** on **186 points!** "No!" we thought... "Don't tell us we've come 2nd!!!" But when 2nd place was read out... it was the **Snappers** on **187 points!** AMAZING! For the first time in a long time (except for our own carnival), somehow **Claremont** scraped a win, on **188 points**. THE GROPER'S WENT WILD! Only one point difference between 1st and 2nd, and between 2nd and 3rd.

It just goes to show... if you have **quality and effort** and everyone does 3 events each AND **everyone supports each other** (Claremont always has the best sideline barracking!), **anything is possible**.

Congratulations to ALL swimmers – **every swim you did was vital to our win**. If one person had not swum in all the events they did, we would not have won. This is what a true team performance is all about. **But the bottom line is still... WE HAD FUN!** These friendly carnivals are what AUSSI is all about. If you don't often swim in carnivals – **come along next time**, enjoy your swims and the great **Groper spirit**.

AUSTRALIAN MASTERS GAMES REPORT - OCTOBER 2005

The following is a report from Perc from his experiences at the 10th Australian Masters Games held in October 2005. Apologies to Perc for not producing this article in the previous Groper's Gossip (November).

The 10th Australian Masters Games were held in Adelaide from 7-16 October with the swimming at the North Adelaide Aquatic Centre from 7-9 October.

The Games attracted over 10,000 entries and with support and accompanying persons, it was estimated that close to 15,000 people including 1,000 officials were involved.

Claremont AUSSI was represented by Perc Edwards who managed to catch up with ex-Groper Dan Austin currently swimming with Henley & Grange in Adelaide. Dan has got over his leg problems and is walking

and swimming well and sends his best wishes to you all.

Five other West Aussies swam, namely Graham Croft (Bold Park), Dieter Loeliger (Margaret River), Erica Mercer (Armidale), and Pauline & Ivan Wingate (Mandurah). Perc & Ivan also officiated.

Competition was not confined to AUSSI members, and several non-club swimmers were disqualified due to lack of knowledge of the rules but a friendly atmosphere was generated at first contact by the two excellent lady Marshals who usually officiate at most Adelaide meets.

With these meets there is usually 2 days swimming before the Opening Ceremony and participants from other sports cannot believe it when the swimmers arrive bedecked with their medals. Hopefully this provides the incentive to gain their own medals!

Unfortunately 50mm of rain fell overnight before the first day and the outdoor sports were washed out and started a day late.

An hour before the Opening Ceremony at the Adelaide Oval, the skies opened again but about 5,000 brave souls still attended the entertainment which included formation flying by RAAF training jets and great Australian performers such as James Reyne.

These Games are held every second October in various cities with the Alice Springs Games alternating with them. To attend any of the National-type meets is a wonderful experience and an opportunity to make lasting friendships.

- Perc Edwards

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