

GROPER'S' GOSSIP

Newsletter of Claremont AUSSI Masters Swimming Club Inc.
May 2007

The big month of May!

Ten intrepid Gropers are heading north to Darwin this Thursday for a team assault on the National Swim. We wish them the best of luck and a great, fun trip! Then, two weeks later, the State Swim is being held over the weekend of 19 & 20 May – make sure you get your entries in by midnight on Wednesday 2 May – it's always a great meet!

Also in this issue, we revisit the Newman-Churchlands carnival and our own carnival, as well as the State Open Water Swim.

Get your wallet out as we have a huge subsidised sale of new Club gear, including bathers and snazzy new bags. Happy reading!

Sally Bell

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STATE SWIM ENTER NOW!

The **State Swim** is being held at Challenge Stadium on the weekend of **19 & 20 May 2007**. Claremont has historically performed very well in this meet – having won the **Handicap Trophy** for the past three years. We want to make sure we **live up to our reputation** so please enter online by midnight on

Wednesday 2 May, at
www.aussiwa.com.au

While we'd **love to see you on both days**, you can enter **just for one day** if you like – at a reduced cost.

You can enter **up to 5 individual events** over the course of the weekend – it's a great chance to get some timed swims done in your **favourite events!** See you there!

DARWIN, HERE WE COME!



Best of luck to the **10 Gropers heading north to Darwin** on Thursday 3 May for five nights, to compete in the **National Swim**.

As well as great swimming, it appears that **a fun holiday** – even with some **sightseeing** – is also a major goal of the trip for some!

It's the first time in many years that **a large Claremont team** has travelled together to a National Swim – usually it's just two or three Gropers heading off under their own steam.

The team is:

Anthony Dunne, Patrick Verryn, Perc Edwards, Frank Glass, Lesley Chute, Alison Farmer, Jill Woodworth, Charlotte Bidwell, Sally Stanford and Sally Bell.



The Casuarina Pool in Darwin

NEWMAN CHURCHLANDS - LONGEST CARNIVAL EVER!

The first carnival for 2007 was at **Newman Churchlands** on Sunday 25 February.

A team of 17 Gropers turned up on a typically **beautiful summer morning** for what is usually a highlight of our carnival calendar.



Despite good organisation by the host club, the **sheer number of entries from large clubs** coupled with the number of events and the length of those events **conspired against the dwindling patience** (and family leave quotas) of many of our members. In the end, **almost all our relays were scratched** as very few people were able to stay until the carnival finished... **at nearly 3pm!** Unfortunately this **didn't augur well** for our ranking and we came 4th out of 10 clubs.

The meet started with the 200 Freestyle – **15 heats thereof!** **Patrick Verryn** gave one young 29-year-old a lesson in pacing... Patrick was **way behind at the 100 mark** and mowed the poor guy down in the last 50... touching ahead of him by **two one-hundredths of a**

second. Special mention to members swimming their first carnivals – **Bronwyn Fricke** and **Paul Hanssen** who both posted great 200 times (Bronwyn in 2.49 and Paul in 3.09).

The day continued with **five more individual events** – 50 Freestyle, 50 Butterfly, 100 Breaststroke, 100 Butterfly and 50 Backstroke, with Claremont members **giving it their all** throughout the day – for as long as they could! Special mention (again) to **Patrick Verryn** for going 31.85 in the 50 Butterfly without even swimming in it (interesting recording!) and to **Anthony Dunne** for ACTUALLY swimming 31.75 for a 50 Butterfly, proving that **he's no one-trick pony.**

Apart from those already mentioned, other patient Gropers in attendance were **Alison Farmer, Sally Bell, Jill Woodworth, Jenny Williams, Lesley Chute, our three Richards (Fox, Hughes and Johnson), Peter Chong, Roy Burton, Perc Edwards, Charlotte Bidwell** and **Frank Glass.**

Thanks to all swimmers for their great efforts.

CLAREMONT CARNIVAL

In stark contrast to the Newman-Churchlands meet, our **very snappy Club carnival** was held on Sunday 25 March at Challenge Stadium. It was **all over in less than 3 hours** – despite having a break after the first event to allow those dunderheads who had gone to the wrong pool to rectify their error.

It was **a wonderful day** – organisationally, weather-wise, fun-

factor... in no small part due to the efforts of Meet Director **Elena Nesci**, Chief Recorder **Richard Johnson**, Announcer **Dave Cummins**, Captain **Anthony Dunne**, Vice-Captain **Bastiaan de Boer**, and all the wonderful volunteers from Claremont who pitched in all morning to help. Special mentions to **Greg Marshall** and **Gary Bradley** – who we don't see that often down at the Club but they **always help out** at our major Club events (and Greg swam too!). And thanks to others who didn't swim but were there to help "hold things together" – **Lesley Chute, Gabby Jolliffe** and our wonderful marshall, **Lynn Cummins.**



The bottom line!!! Guess who?

We had a huge number of Claremont swimmers – **25 in all** – but that wasn't enough to secure us the overall win. That honour went to **Osborne Park**, but we were happy to come a clear second place.

Swimming highlights of the day were many and not all can be mentioned. A few stand-outs were:

- **Dave Cummins** triumphant return to competition in the 60-64 age group, with some **great times** – including 1.23 for 100 Free and 35.6 for 50 Free

- **Jenny Williams** breaking a **National Record** in the 200 Butterfly! Well done Jen.



Jen is congratulated by Sal S, Nat and Ali...

- **Ross Littlewood** swimming in his first carnival – and enjoying himself (we think!)
- **Greg Marshall** showing that he must do **SOME secret training** to pull out times of 1.13 for 100 Free and 32.3 for 50 Free
- **Bastiaan de Boer** showing great style in the 200 Fly and then backing up with a great 50 Free win over his younger (and quite cheesed-off) Claremont rivals, **Anthony Dunne** and **Patrick Verryn**



How did Bastiaan do it? The crowd appreciates and commiserates...

- **Elena Nesci** swimming three events and a relay **less than two months** after the birth of baby Paola
- **Richard Fox** swimming three great races in very consistent times... Richard **comes to all carnivals** and is a **true quiet achiever**. He swims around 37 for 50 Free and around 50 for 50 Breaststroke without anyone being the wiser!
- **Richard Hughes** for a great 100 Free of 1.22.46... Quietly, Richard has brought his 100 Free time **down by over 20 seconds** in the past few years!
- **Roy Burton** – despite seemingly little training – always managing to pull out **very quick swims...** like 34.6 for 50 Free!



President, Roy Burton – a fast package!

Following the carnival, our **wonderful Social Committee** put on one of the best feasts you'll ever see at a carnival. Special thanks to **Gabby Jolliffe, Ali Farmer, Frank Glass** and everyone who brought platters of food, and again to **Gary Bradley** for being our BBQ man.

Check out the following pages for some more great photos...

CLAREMONT CARNIVAL PHOTOS...



Lesley, Sally B & Jen timekeep...



"The boys" relay team – Bastiaan, Anthony, Patrick and Chris



"The girls" relay team – Elena, Sally S, Sally B and Charlotte



The long and the short of it...! Richard Hughes and Greg Marshall



Silly Sallies...

CLAREMONT CARNIVAL PHOTOS...



The phantom rests...



Patrick Verryn with Jenna and Matthew – our wonderful runners



Sally S, Gabby and Bastiaan



In the marshalling area – Elena, Peter, Richard H and Jill



The boys discuss tactics...

CONGRATS TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBER

At the Claremont Carnival, **Richard Johnson** was presented with his **Life Membership** – much to his surprise and delight!

The Life Membership was ratified at the Club's AGM in January and **everyone had to keep quiet** for over two months! (Well done!)

Richard has joined a **very exclusive number of five Life Members**, pictured below.



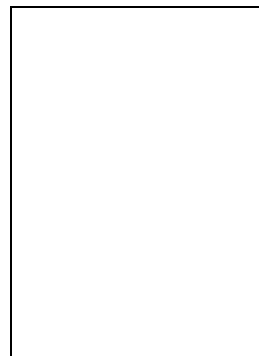
Our Life Members – David Cummins, Richard Johnson, Perc Edwards, Jenny Williams and Lynn Cummins

OUR NEXT CARNIVAL - WESTCOAST

Stay tuned for information and entry details for the next carnival we are competing at... It's the **Westcoast carnival** on **Sunday 24 June**, at **Arena Joondalup**.

It's a great carnival and the kids (and big kids!) can come along and **play on the waterslide!**

MARGARET RIVER CARNIVAL



The **Margaret River Carnival** has been postponed until **1 September 2007** – it's not on in July as usual due to pool renovations.

We're hoping to have a **large team head south** for what is historically a wonderful weekend of **short-course racing** and a great after-swim social function.

The program in the past has been very flexible – you have been able to choose 25, 50, 100 or 200 **of any stroke**. It's a great way to post times in your **favourite events** in the short-course format.

Stay tuned for emails coming your way, asking for numbers so we can **book accommodation as soon as possible**.

At this stage, set the weekend aside and **get excited!**

AUSSI WA ANNUAL AWARDS

Another date for your diary – the **AUSSI Annual Awards Function** has been set for **Saturday 9 June**. We will have swimmers receiving Open Water season awards. Stay tuned for more details...

AUSSI OWS 2007

What a great turn out of Gropers at the **Dale Alcock AUSSI State Open Water Swim**, held (for the first time) at Swanbourne Beach on **Sunday 4 March!**



Mark Henry, Jill Woodworth, Richard Hughes, Alison Farmer, Jenny Williams, Patrick Verryn, Lesley Chute, Frank Glass, Sally Bell, Paul Hanssen and Perc Edwards

The **weather and conditions were beautiful**, and despite a delay at the start (owing to a pesky outboard motor, meaning that no buoys could be positioned), the **2km Swim went without a hitch.**

Congratulations to age group winners on the day (pictured below) – a surprised and delighted **Alison Farmer** (40-44), **Sally Bell** (45-49) and **Perc Edwards** (80-84).



NEW TRAINING SESSIONS!

We are delighted to announce a couple of **new training session times...**

In addition to our usual Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7pm, and our aerobic session on Saturday at 2pm, we have **two new sessions:**

- **Sunday Twilight Training at 4.30pm – 5.30pm every Sunday at Challenge Stadium.** But, on the last Sunday of each month ONLY, the venue will change to Claremont Pool (weather permitting), and will have a **family focus** (bring the kids for a splash!)
- **Friday morning 9.30am – 10.30am** at Challenge Stadium, especially for mothers, shift-workers and anyone playing hooky. **The Challenge crèche will be open.** **NOTE: This session will not commence until 15 June (stay tuned for confirmation).**

NEWS OF THOSE WHO DO "OTHER SPORTS"!

Congratulations to Chris Roberts who placed 3rd in the Open Mens category in the **160km Time Trial in the WA State Cycling Championships**, on Monday 9 April, in a time of **4 hours 35 mins.**

For the uninitiated, this means that **Chris averaged 35kph** for the 160kms. Whilst that is pretty good in a car, it's nothing short of

amazing on a bike, especially since Chris **only took up cycling** with any level of seriousness **just three years ago**.



Chris Roberts in action – we won't say anything about the bow-tie racing shirt!

Chris and his lovely wife **Natalie** are both heading down to **Busselton** for Australia's biggest **Half Ironman triathlon** on Saturday 5 May, as is **Mark Henry**.



This is Natalie's first go at this gruelling event, and **we wish all three of them the best of luck**. Natalie will be walking the 21km run, but even that will be a tough ask after the swim leg of nearly 2km and the 90km cycle!

NEW CLUB GEAR!

We are happy to announce the arrival of new club gear – **bathers and bags** which are available now (and **shirts** to come shortly). The apparel has been **partially subsidised** by the Club and you can buy these great items for the following prices:

- Mens' bathers: \$25**
- Womens' bathers: \$40**
- Bags (pictured below): \$25**



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