

**MINUTES**  
**AIF SWIMMING ASSOCIATION – GENERAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, 11 November 2025, 7.30pm via Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Kerry Ryan (Gosford), Peter Bain (Wentworthville), Helen Little (Southport), Sean Henly (Wentworthville), Anita Hawtin (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley), Joanne Falla (Coogee Randwick), Michael McMahon (Coogee Randwick), Bob Kelsall (Manly Diggers), Gavin Batcheler (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley), Pat Kinghorn (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley), Paul Cavanagh (Cronulla), Stephen Lamy (Harbord Diggers)

**APOLOGIES:** Russell Crane, AO (Patron)

**ODE:** The meeting opened at 7.35pm by Sean Henly reading the Ode.

Helen Little welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the AGM held on 23 September 2024 were accepted as correct.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Out:**

- Email requesting payment of club affiliation fees, articles for the Carnival Program and confirming the 2026 Carnival dates.
- Invitation to Russell Crane, AO to be Patron of the AIF Swimming Association.

**In:**

- Acceptance from Russell Crane, AO as Patron of the AIF Swimming Association.
- 15 clubs completed and returned their member affiliation forms.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

- It was noted that the bank balance is \$16,822. To date, 18 clubs are affiliated.
- Bob Kelsall mentioned that Bendigo Bank is considering being a sponsor. A formal request will be prepared.
- Bob Kelsall also mentioned that he may be able to source a bugler for the 2026 carnival.

**Action:** Anita Hawtin to send a reminder to those clubs who have not paid their affiliation fees.

**Action:** Anita Hawtin to prepare a background summary on the AIF Swimming Association to include in a letter to Bendigo Bank to formalise the request for sponsorship.

It was proposed that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Proposer: Bob Kelsall, Second: Michael McMahon.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### 2026 Carnival:

It was noted that arrangements for the upcoming Carnival in Nelson Bay are underway:

- The Tomaree Aquatic Centre, Salamander Bay has been booked for 14 March 2026.
- A grant for a marquee/shade is being investigated with Council.
- Once all details are confirmed, the carnival entry form will be circulated to Clubs. Responses will be due on **Monday, 16 February 2026**. It was emphasised that no changes will be made to entries on the day of the Carnival.
- A deposit of \$500 has been made to the Nelson Bay Bowling Club for the function. Helen Little will confirm the price of the two-course dinner. The cost to hire the room is \$750 which includes audio and visual. Numbers will be limited to 400.
- Given the size of the function room at the Bowling Club, consideration will be given to placing the stage in the middle of the room. This will assist with sound and help to manage the presentations.
- Club payment for the carnival entry and dinner function will be managed by the AIF Swimming Association.
- Arrangements for a BBQ at the pool to be hosted by St Philip's Christian College will be confirmed in January.
- Given the distance between the pool and the engine room, Peter emphasised the need for a lot of 'runners' at the pool on carnival day.
- A starting system will be provided by Southport.
- Volunteers that helped last year will be asked to assist at the Carnival again.
- Clubs will need to provide proof of service or ex-service swimmers in the form of photo identification, for example, discharge papers, a page from a paybook, letter from a Sub-Branch etc. It was noted that a service number alone would not suffice.
- The entry form and relay cards will note that there will be no diving from the shallow end of the pool as it is only one metre deep.
- Given the fantastic job that Bruce Sweeting (Bronte) did at the Carnival in Coffs Harbour, Bruce will be asked to take photos at the pool again.
- Bob Kelsall advised that the AIF Swimming Association will cover the cost of insurance and no individual insurance waiver will be necessary.

**Action:** Anita Hawtin to distribute the carnival entry form to all Clubs.

**Action:** Anita Hawtin to order wrist bands for the function.

### Carnival Program:

Jo Falla advised that she has updated the instructions for the Carnival Program which will be due on **2 February 2026**. Clubs are encouraged to submit their articles earlier, if possible.

The program will feature a bio on the AIF Swimming Association's new Patron, Russell Crane, Vice Admiral AO (retired).

The Bondi Clubs will feature a two-page article to coincide with the Bondi Diggers 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Peter Bain advised that he has Programs for 1959 and 1960 and 63 programs from 1963 to 2025. The meeting agreed that these Programs and other booklets etc are an important part of the AIF Association's history and should be preserved. Helen advised that she would liaise with Max Miller (Southport) to investigate how these programs could be catalogued and digitised and placed on our website, including opportunities to seek a grant from the NSW State Library.

### Gosford RSL Diggers Club:

Kerry Ryan advised that the Gosford RSL Diggers Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary on 16 November 2025. The meeting conveyed its congratulations to the Club on this significant milestone and also acknowledged the following life members for their dedication and commitment to the Gosford RSL Diggers as well as their contribution to the AIF Swimming Association: Kerry Ryan, Neil Roff, Don Gover, Ed Bassingwaite, Roger Bruce, Noel Radburn and Ed Semmens

**Action:** Anita Hawtin to write a congratulatory letter to Gosford RSL Diggers.

### Assistant Carnival Director Role:

A member from Coggee Diggers has contacted Peter about the Assistant Carnival Director's role.

**Action:** Peter to provide an update at the next meeting.

### 2027 Carnival:

A brief discussion was held regarding the location of the 2027 carnival. It was noted that Grafton is interested in hosting the carnival and will submit a formal application for consideration.

**Meeting closed:** 8.40pm

### **Next general meetings (via Zoom):**

- Monday, 12 January 2026, 7.30pm (Nelson Bay to attend if possible)
- Tuesday, 24 February 2026, 7.30pm