

MINUTES
AIF COMMITTEE – GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 28 April 2025, 7.30pm via Zoom

PRESENT: Helen Little (Southport), Peter Bain (Wentworthville), Anita Hawtin (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley), Bob Kelsall (Manly Diggers), Kerry Ryan (Gosford), Michael McMahon (Coogee Diggers), Joanne Falla (Coogee Diggers), Sean Henly (Wentworthville), Pat Kinghorn (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley)

APOLOGIES: Catherine Davis (Moree), Steve Harper (Cronulla), Bob Clarke (Cobar)

ODE: The meeting opened at 7.33pm by Sean Henly reading the Ode.

CORRESPONDENCE

IN:

- Numerous emails, thanking the AIF committee and everyone involved in the running of a successful 2025 carnival in Coffs Harbour.
- Emails from Cronulla and Benteigh regarding carnival refunds which have been responded to.
- Proposed agenda items from Manly Diggers regarding the role of the AIF Committee/Advisory Council and the suggestions regarding the Crow's Nest Cup.
- Suggestions/feedback for the 2026 carnival from Coogee, Bondi and Gosford.

OUT:

- Thank you emails to all clubs relating to the 2025 carnival.
- Thank you emails to Bondi, C.ex, Coffs Harbour and the Lions Club.
- General emails to clubs regarding the 2025 carnival results.
- Email requesting feedback/suggestions for the 2026 carnival.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bob Kelsall advised that the current bank balance is \$17,899. This balance also includes payment of \$1,999.80 for the printing of the Carnival Program which was approved for payment at this meeting. There are no other outstanding invoices.

It was noted that the money raised through the raffles both at the pool and the function was the best the AIF has done - \$4,430. This includes money raised for the artwork donated by Sean DeGelder (Southport) which Peter Green is donating to the Cronulla RSL Club.

It was noted that the total income from the carnival was \$37,965 and total expenses were \$36,380.

A deposit has been paid for the 2026 Carnival in Nelson Bay.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Suggestions for the 2026 Carnival

Helen reiterated the extremely positive feedback received regarding the 2025 carnival and thanked everyone involved in making it such a success. Notwithstanding this, there is always tweaks that can be made. The following suggestions were put forward from volunteers for consideration:

- The 25m races were hard to judge when everyone finished at similar times: Agreed to mix up the swimmers in 25m races so that swimmers finish at different times making it easier for the timekeepers.
- Clubs donated very few prizes for the raffle: Agreed that a greater effort will be made to promote the raffle and encourage clubs to donate substantial prizes.
- Announcer to be closer to the marshalling area so that events are announced clearly and in a timely manner. This will also assist with calling up reserves etc: To be implemented for 2026.
- More runners were required: Clubs will be requested to assist for 2026. As the distance between the pool and 'engine' room at Nelson Bay is approximately 100m, many runners will be needed so that breaks can be taken, especially at the end of the day.
- Identified that recorders required more information on the day: It was agreed that an additional meeting will be held on the day of the carnival, for recorders only, to go through the process.
- Clubs requested last minute changes: Agreed that this will not be permitted for the 2026 carnival.
- Presentation component is too long: Agreed that this will be refined for 2026.
- The digital version of the Carnival Program was not as popular as expected: This will be promoted and trialled again in 2026. It was also confirmed that Jo Falla will take on the end-to-end management of the Program for 2026.
- Need a person to back-up the carnival director: The meeting agreed that this is a risk and that there is a requirement for an Assistant Carnival Director. It was agreed that this volunteer opportunity be open to all Clubs. The person will need to have technical proficiency in excel and be able to assist the Carnival Director in all aspects of the carnival from organising race events to ensuring the carnival runs smoothly and efficiently and in accordance with the AIF Carnival Rules.

Action: Nominations for the Assistant Carnival Director role to be emailed to Peter Bain (peterbain1952@gmail.com) for consideration at the next meeting.

It was noted that three key committee members were not able to attend the carnival this year, which added to the workload. Despite this, Kerry Ryan reiterated the tremendous effort put in by the committee and acknowledged the overall positive feedback.

The committee expressed their gratitude to Bruce Sweeting (Bronte) for the time and effort he spent on taking photos at the carnival which added a personal touch to the presentation evening. For the 2026 carnival, a video will also be shown to highlight the contributions of service personnel.

AIF Management Structure

The meeting discussed the role of the AIF Advisory Council, raised by Manly Diggers Swimming Club. It was noted that all AIF affiliated clubs are invited to all meetings, and this forms the basis of the advisory council. It is up to each club to let their delegates know about the meetings and encourage members to attend.

It was also noted that the AIF constitution was last revised in 2014 and that this may need to be reviewed again in the future.

Crow's Nest Cup

Manly Diggers Swimming Club raised the need to continue to encourage participation of returned service people. To see more service people involved in the carnival and utilise all the lanes, their proposal requests that clubs who have more than four returned service people be permitted to enter a second relay team for the Crow's Nest Cup.

It was noted that other events such as the Tobruk Shield also encourage service swimmers, and that the Crow's Nest Relay is consistent with all other championship relays which only allow one team per club.

Action: To determine if the above is viable, clubs are requested to advise if they could fill a second team of four service people for the Crow's Nest Cup. If there is enough interest, this item will go to an official vote to enable a change to the By-Law.

Prizes

It was noted that there are enough water bottles and glasses left over for the 2026 carnival. We will need to purchase additional towels and trophies. Any left-over trophies will be re-purposed for 2026.

Meeting closed: 9.05pm

Next meeting: 7 July 2025, 7.30pm