



AIF SWIMMING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC
(EST 1936)



90th

ANNUAL SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tomaree Aquatic Centre
Salamander Bay NSW

Saturday 14th March, 2026

www.aifswim.org



WELCOME TO PORT STEPHENS FOR THE 90TH A.I.F. SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Port Stephens is one of New South Wales' most spectacular coastal destinations, and in 1770 when Captain James Cook documented it as "an opening forming a bay", he went on to describe, "Wind southerly in the day and the night westerly, a gentle breeze and clear weather. At 4 pm past, at a distance of one mile a low rocky point which I named Point Stephens... on the north side of this point is an inlet which I called Port Stephens that appears from the masthead to be sheltered from all winds".

The Port Stephens area was initially inhabited by the Worimi Tribe.

They are from the eastern Port Stephens and Great Lakes regions of coastal New South Wales, Australia. Before contact with settlers, their people extended from Port Stephens in the south to Forster/Tuncurry in the north and as far west as Gloucester.

The region harbours numerous Aboriginal relic sites, notably the "Canoe Trees" at Little Beach. The specific locations of these sites are confidential.

Port Stephens gained European attention in May 1770 when the earliest Europeans to live in this area were five escaped convicts, wrecked at Port Stephens in 1790. They were befriended by the Worimi, with whom they lived for five years before being recaptured by Captain W.R. Broughton, of the HMAS Providence.

On the point, or intermittent island, named by Captain Cook, is the Port Stephens Lighthouse built in 1862, and a lighthouse-keepers residence, built about 1861. The lighthouse was designed by then Colonial Architect Alexander Dawson, and is built of Sydney sandstone. The residence, also sandstone, has three separate living units within the single structure. The point was linked to the mainland by a permanent sand spit. In 1891 it was washed away in a gale and the spit has become an intermittent landform, covered at high tide.

OUR PATRON

Vice Admiral Russ Crane

AO, RAN (Ret'd)

Russ Crane commenced as Patron of the AIF Swimming Association in 2025.

Vice Admiral Russ Crane's full time service career completed in June 2011 when, after more than 40 years' service culminating with his appointment as the Chief of Navy, he retired from full time service. Originally from Southport on Queensland's Gold Coast, Russ abandoned his surfboard and, at the age of 16, joined the Royal Australian Navy as a Junior Recruit.

He subsequently went on to serve as an ordinary seaman Electrical Mechanic in aircraft communications at sea in the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne before, in early 1972, being commissioned as an Officer in the Royal Australian Navy and training as a Seaman Officer. Russ later specialised as a Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Officer, training in both Australia and the UK. His early years were spent in a range of Clearance Diving positions both nationally and internationally at sea and ashore.

Russ' middle navy career highlights include 3 seagoing commands. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal for his meritorious achievement and devotion to duty while in his last seagoing command which included service with the International Peacekeeping Force in East Timor in 1999. His senior appointments included periods at the Australian Defence Headquarters in Canberra as well as appointment as the Commander of the Australian Navy Systems Command, a Command providing personnel, training and engineering support services to Navy.

Promoted to Rear Admiral on 1 May 2004, he became the Director General Coastwatch, later the inaugural Commander of the then Joint Offshore Protection Command and forerunner to the current Maritime Border Command. He was appointed as Deputy Chief of Navy in June 2006.

Vice Admiral Crane assumed Command as Chief of Navy on 4 July 2008. For his "distinguished service as Deputy Chief of Navy and as Chief of Navy", he was elevated to an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2010. During his time as the Chief of Navy, he was awarded the United States of America Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) and Singaporean Meritorious Service Medal for his commitment and achievements in international interoperability.

Vice Admiral Crane transferred to reserve service at the end of his term as the Chief of Navy in June 2011. Throughout his time as the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Crane drew on a lifetime of Navy experience to initiate and then spearhead the New Generation Navy (NGN) initiative,



a program committed to fundamental reform of Navy leadership, training and culture. Shortly after his retirement from full time service, he was invested at the direction of the President of the Republic of France as a Commander in the Order of National Merit.

Now living in Canberra with his wife Michelle, Russ enjoys following Rugby and the occasional trip to the coast with his boat for some offshore fishing. In December 2025, Russ accepted a 3-year part time position as the Marine Commissioner in the Australian Transport Safety Bureau. Russ devotes some of his spare time as a member of the Australian Federal Police ACT Volunteering in Policing program where as well as being a Justice of the Peace in the ACT he assists in providing a range of administrative and support services to ACT Police.

Russ is a sole trader in his own business, trading as Bowline Consultants, providing advice to public and private clients in areas such as strategic leadership, organisational culture and reform as well as Defence planning. Shortly after completing his full time Navy service Russ accepted an appointment as a member of the Defence South Australia Advisory Board working with the State Government and Defence Industry to optimise its position in maintaining current Defence activity and preparing for new opportunities. He retired from the Board 14 years later in September 2025 as Chairman.

In 2014 he was appointed as Chairman of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Veterans' Mental Health a position he filled until 2021. As Chairman of the Department of Home Affairs Leadership and People Advisory Council during a period of generational change, he strived to more efficiently and appropriately manage Australia's border and the movement of people and goods across its continuum. This Council advised the Secretary, the Commissioner and other nominated areas of the leadership executive on matters relating to leadership, culture, values and behaviour across the Department including, where appropriate, advice on progress with reform and integration more generally.

Russ is Patron of the Royal Australian Navy Clearance Divers Association, Navy Old Salts Rugby and the Tingira Australia Association, a national veterans' association based around RAN Junior Recruits.



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the 90th Anniversary of the AIF Swimming Association.

An amazing achievement! The AIF Swimming Association is the oldest adult swimming association in Australia, and indeed the fifth oldest association for adult swimmers in the world.

From our start evolving out of the Limbless Soldiers Swimming Club (1926) we should all be very proud of our long history and our work to involve swimmers of all levels and abilities within both the AIF and the whole community.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who work every year to make this a smoothly run, and very successful carnival. Without their tireless efforts the whole carnival would not work. Remember, if you can assist in any way, please offer to help. It is a great way to meet people and make new friends. Many hands make light work!

I hope you all enjoy the day. This is a day for friendship, fun, and even a bit of fitness.

Helen Little
President
AIF Swimming Association of Australia Inc.



EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2026

President	Helen Little	Southport	2025
Vice President	Sean Henly	Wentworthville	2013
Hon Secretary	Anita Hawtin	Bondi Junction Waverley RSL	2024
Hon Treasurer	Bob Kelsall	Manly Diggers	2008
Carnival Director	Peter Bain	Wentworthville	2013
Hon Asst. Secretary	Joanne Falla	Coogee Diggers	2025

Life Members

Year	Member	Club	Year	Member	Club
1960	Harry Bennett	Limbless Soldiers	1991	Don Ferguson	Epping
1960	Bert Farr	Bondi Diggers	1992	Ted Knight	Cronulla
1967	Ray Weekes	The Spit	1993	Tom Elvidge	Maroubra
1967	Ken Quinn	Rose Bay	1996	Les Ryan	Wentworthville
1968	Bill Lough	Manly	1998	Brian Russell	Cronulla
1971	Cecil Wells	Rose Bay	1999	Kerry Ryan	Gosford
1972	Nev Gardner	Epping	2000	Roland Nicholson	Maroubra
1979	Joe Arday	Dee Why	2003	Don Johnston	Bondi Junct./Waverley
1979	Ray Watts	Manly	2005	Sylvia Lee	Wentworthville
1979	Don Warren	North Bondi	2006	Mick Pearce	Hornsby
1980	Harry Reid	Gladesville	2008	Barbara Urquhart	Bondi Junct./Waverley
1980	Neil Roff	Gosford	2010	Ed Semmens	Gosford
1981	Bruce Carter	Bentleigh	2012	Karon Fuller	Warren
1982	Col Eddington	Coburg	2014	Noel Radburn	Gosford
1982	Ed Bassingthwaite	Gosford	2015	Sean Henly	Wentworthville
1987	Bill Lee	Maroubra	2018	Rodger Bruce	Gosford
1988	Les Anderson	Ashfield	2021	Bob Kelsall	Manly Diggers
1988	David Lance	Epping	2023	Helen Little	Southport
1988	John Vidal	Manly	2023	Peter Bain	Wentworthville
1990	Earl Magee	Manly			

Special Life Members WW1 - 1979

Member	Club	Member	Club
H. Johnson	Ashfield	K. Miller	Cronulla
J. Porter	Bondi	B. Brownjohn	Cronulla
M. Loroway	Bondi	A. D. Barling	Manly
J. Chambers	Bondi Junction / Waverley	F. Johnson	Maroubra
R. Prior	Cronulla	D. Hollingsworth	Moree
I. Morgan	Newcastle	R. Weekes	North Bondi
H. Morray	Newcastle	A. Bright	North Sydney
H. Murray	Newcastle		



PAST EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Patron		President		Vice-President	
"Skipper" Nobbs	1936 - 1969	C. G. Hill	1936 - 1956	A. Farr	1972 - 1973
Sir Roden Cutler	1970 - 2003	E. Magee	1956 - 1957	J. Arday	1974 - 1985
Gen P. J. Cosgrove AC MC	2004 - 2005	R. Weekes	1958 - 1985	N. Gardner	1986 - 1988
Vice Admiral Russ Crane		G. Ashley	1986 - 1990	B. Russell	1988 - 1991
AO, RAN (Ret'd)	2025	W. Lough	1991 - 1992	K. Ryan	1992 - 2002
<u>Award of Merit</u>		B. Russell	1993 - 2002	B. Russell	2003 - 2004
A. Mott	1978	K. Ryan	2003 - 2024	B. Broadway	2004 - 2009
E. Bassingthwaighte	1979	H. Little	2025 Present	B. O'Keeffe	2010 - 2013
N. Roff	1979			S. Henly	2014 Present

Secretary		Treasurer		Assistant Secretary	
S. Hallett	1936	H. Bennett	1936	D. Larsen	1960 - 1961
H. Bennett	1937 - 1946	G. Dellett	1937 - 1939	K. Quinn	1962
N. Healy	1947	C. Felton	1940 - 1942	N. Gardner	1963 - 1966
E. F. Wilson	1948	B. Lark	1943 - 1945	P. Evenis	1967 - 1971
L. Holt	1949	C. Hearne	1946	R. Watts	1972 - 1974
J. H. Miller	1950	H. Bennett	1947 - 1961	D. Warren	1975 - 1978
I. Armstrong	1951	C. Wells	1962 - 1983	C. Wells	1979
D. Allen	1952	W. Rivers	1984 - 1990	N. Gardner	1980 - 1985
E. Magee	1953 - 1956	J. Bradley	1991 - 1993	R. Nicholson	1986 - 1990
H. Bennett	1957 - 1961	R. Woods	1994 - 1995	M. Pearce	1991
D. Larsen	1962	B. Harris	1996 - 1997	C. Edwards	1992
K. Quinn	1963 - 1969	L. Andrews	1998 - 2004	R. Woods	1993
W. Lough	1970 - 1990	J. Hart	2005 - 2007	K. Roberts	1994
R. Nicholson	1991	B. Kelsall	2008 Present	E. Williamson	1995 - 2001
C. Hagan	1992 - 1996			B. Urquhart	2001 - 2014
D. Johnston	1997 - 2011			P. Kinghorn	2015 - 2023
J. O'Keeffe	2011 - 2013			A. Hawtin	2024
H. Little	2014 - 2024			J. Falla	2025 Present
A. Hawtin	2025 Present				



*Captain H. Gilbert Nobbs O.B.E. (1880 - 1970)
One of the founders of A.I.F. Swimming. "Skipper
Knobbs" lost his eyesight in the Somme Battle of 1916.*



CARNIVAL VENUES AND DIRECTORS

No.	Year	Venue	Carnival Director	No. of Swimmers	No.	Year	Venue	Carnival Director	No. of Swimmers
1	1936	Coogee Aquarium	B.D.Johnston		46	1982	Ashfield	Bill Lough	260
2	1938	Coogee Aquarium	B.D.Johnston		47	1983	Ashfield	Bill Lough	273
3	1939	Manly	B.D.Johnston		48	1984	Ashfield	Bill Lough	267
4	1940	Coogee Aquarium	B.D.Johnston		49	1985	Ashfield	Bill Lough	389
5	1941	Manly	B.D.Johnston		50	1986	Blacktown	Bill Lough	242
6	1942	Bondi	B.D.Johnston		51	1987	Ashfield	Bill Lough	319
7	1943	Coogee Aquarium	B.D.Johnston		52	1988	Ashfield	Bill Lough	278
8	1944	Manly	B.D.Johnston		53	1989	Ashfield	Bill Lough	
9	1945	Bondi	B.D.Johnston		54	1990	Twin Towns	Bill Lough	421
10	1946	Manly	B.D.Johnston		55	1991	Ashfield	Bill Lough	271
11	1947	North Sydney	B.D.Johnston		56	1992	Wentworthville	Bill Lough	342
12	1948	North Sydney	C.D.Bell		57	1993	Twin Towns	Bill Lough	490
13	1949	North Sydney	D.Kearney		58	1994	Hornsby	Mick Pearce	465
14	1950	North Sydney	J.R.Miller		59	1995	Grafton	Les Ryan	230
15	1951	Coogee Aquarium	I.Armstrong		60	1996	Gosford	Les Ryan	410
16	1952	The Spit	N.Healy		61	1997	Southport (St Hildas)	Les Ryan	
17	1953	Bondi	Earl Magee		62	1998	Albury	Les Ryan	370
18	1954	Manly	Earl Magee		63	1999	Newcastle	Les Ryan	
19	1955	Bondi	Earl Magee		64	2000	Heffron Park - Maroubra	Les Ryan	
20	1956	Manly	Earl Magee		65	2001	Dubbo	Les Ryan	272
21	1957	Manly	Bill Lough		66	2002	Southport	Les Ryan	
22	1958	Manly	Bill Lough		67	2003	Albury	Les Ryan	
23	1959	Manly	Bill Lough	209	68	2004	Des Renford - Maroubra	Les Ryan	
24	1960	Manly	Bill Lough	233	69	2005	Coffs Harbour (Host - Bellingen)	Karon Fuller	484
25	1961	Manly	Bill Lough		70	2006	Southport (GCAC)	Karon Fuller	
26	1962	Manly	Bill Lough		71	2007	Dubbo	Karon Fuller	394
27	1963	Heffron Park - Maroubra	Bill Lough	368	72	2008	Goondiwindi	Karon Fuller	
28	1964	Heffron Park - Maroubra	Bill Lough	355	73	2009	Albury	Karon Fuller	
29	1965	Heffron Park - Maroubra	Bill Lough	375	74	2010	Nelson Bay	Karon Fuller	485
30	1966	Heffron Park - Maroubra	Bill Lough	365	75	2011	Southport (GCAC)	Karon Fuller	407
31	1967	Heffron Park - Maroubra	Bill Lough	367	76	2012	Dubbo	Karon Fuller	375
32	1968	Sans Souci	Bill Lough	379	77	2013	Nelson Bay	Karon Fuller	416
33	1969	North Sydney	Bill Lough	223	78	2014	Nelson Bay	Peter Bain	370
34	1970	Blacktown	Bill Lough	207	79	2015	Albury	Peter Bain	295
35	1971	Blacktown	Bill Lough	207	80	2016	Southport (GCAC)	Peter Bain	37
36	1972	Blacktown	Bill Lough	294	81	2017	Grafton	Peter Bain	346
37	1973	Blacktown	Bill Lough	231	82	2018	Nelson Bay	Peter Bain	403
38	1974	Sutherland	Bill Lough	273	83	2019	Melbourne (Host - Mentone)	Peter Bain	283
39	1975	Blacktown	Bill Lough	172	84	2020	Southport (Cancelled - COVID 19)	Peter Bain 389 Entries	
40	1976	Heffron Park - Maroubra	Bill Lough	351	85	2021	Southport (GCAC)	Peter Bain	255
41	1977	Heffron Park - Maroubra	Bill Lough	279	86	2022	Coffs Harbour (Hosted by AIF)	Peter Bain	291
42	1978	Heffron Park - Maroubra	Bill Lough	222	87	2023	Maroubra (Host - Coogee)	Peter Bain	377
43	1979	Heffron Park - Maroubra	Bill Lough	260	88	2024	Southport (GCAC)	Peter Bain	287
44	1980	Warringah Aquatic Centre	Bill Lough	277	89	2025	Coffs Harbour (Hosted by AIF)	Peter Bain	335
45	1981	Ashfield	Bill Lough	33					

Entry numbers are from actual swimmers from recent carnivals (2010 onwards) and historical programs.



ASSOCIATED CLUBS AND THE YEAR OF JOINING

** DENOTES NO LONGER MEMBERS AND YEAR CEASED*

1936 Bondi Diggers, Coogee - Randwick, Manly Diggers, Tramways* (1958), Limbless Soldiers * (1983)

1945 The Spit *(1972)

1946 North Sydney *(1980), Repatriation *(1983)

1947 Warringah Ex - Service *(1947)

1948 Dee Why (name changed from Warringah)

1950 Bronte (1965)

1951 Cronulla

1952 Rose Bay *(1987)

1956 Parkes *(2000)

1957 Forbes *(1991)

1958 Condobolin, Cobar Seniors, Lismore, Maroubra

1960 Dubbo

1961 Bondi Junction - Waverley, Gladesville, Epping *(1994)

1962 Blacktown, Gosford *(1984)

1963 North Bondi, Seven Hills - Toongabbie

1964 Moree, Wellington, Orange *(1984)

1966 Ashfield *(1992), Narrabri *(1987)

1967 Goondiwindi (Qld), Malabar, Newcastle, Wentworthville, Gunnedah *(1975)

1969 Nelson Bay, Nyngan

1970 Twin Towns

1971 Maitland *(1975 Rejoined 1980's)

1972 Bentleigh (Vic)

1973 Mentone (Vic), Cobar

1974 Grafton Services, Hornsby, Waverley Buses *(1987)

1976 Castle Hill Men *(2002), Gosford (Rejoined)

1977 Ballina, Ettalong *(1986), Coburg (Vic) *(2003)

1977 Victorian Branch of the AIF Swimming Association formed

1980 Warren

1982 Albury, Castle Hill Ladies *(2002), Currumbin (Qld), Woolgoolga *(1996)

1983 Grafton Ladies *(1996), Bronte (Rejoined), Box Hill (Vic), Manly Master Builders *(1988)

1986 Parramatta API *(1997)

1989 Harbord Diggers, Myall Muddies *(1990)

1990 Casino *(1991), Coffs Harbour *(1997)

1992 Botany

1995 Southport

1996 Inverell

1997 Bellingen

2006 Nerang

2010 South Sydney Juniors

2011 Cronulla Leagues

2012 Manly Leagues

2020 Kurranulla

2025 Cyclones



Vacluse Swimming Pool. Venue for Limbless Soldiers Swimming Association



CARNIVAL OFFICIALS

Nelson Bay 2026

Carnival Director	Peter Bain	Wenworthville
Marshalls	Cherie Makrolos Mike Navin Donna Midson Paul Munns Noel Radburn Robert Allchin Rodger Bruce	Coogee Diggers Bellingen Southport Gosford Gosford Cronulla Gosford
Recorders	Chris Paul Dennis Morgan Rod Royston Bob Clark Murray Harland Steve Donnelly Bob Kelsall	Coogee Diggers Coogee Diggers Coogee Diggers Cobar Cobar Grafton Manly
Championship Judges	Sandra Genrich Ed Semmens	Southport Gosford
Announcer	Sean Henley Bruce Towner	Wentworthville Lismore
Pool Co-ordinator		
Starters	Wayne Midson Bruce Smith	Southport Southport
Timekeepers	Provided by AIF Clubs	
Results Co-ordinator	Peter Bain	Wenworthville
Results Assistance	Joanne Falla Sue Bain John Foley	Coogee Diggers Wentworthville Coogee Diggers
Photographer	Bruce Sweeting	Bronte
Trophy Control	Anita Hawtin Mick McMahon Rosalie Reed	Bondi Junction Waverley RSL Coogee Diggers Nerang
Raffle Co-ordinators	Bondi Diggers	



Dawn of the legend:

The A.I.F.

The Australian Imperial Force, first raised in 1914 for overseas war service, became better known by its initials – the “AIF”. It was a separate and purely volunteer army.

There was a distinct character to those who enlisted in the earliest months and who were destined to fight on Gallipoli. They were keen; they had to meet tougher physical standards than those later applied; and quite a few had previous experience in British or Australian forces. Each of them would need to be lucky to survive the next four years of war.

Eventually 330,000 Australians served overseas. During the war the AIF took its place among the great armies of the world, on some of history’s oldest battlefields. The Australians would attack at the Dardanelles, enter Jerusalem and Damascus, defend Amiens and Ypres, and swagger through the streets of Cairo, Paris, and London, with their distinctive slouch hats and comparative wealth of six shillings per day.

During the Second World War, when Australia again raised a volunteer force, they called it the “second AIF”



ORDER OF EVENTS

Commencing at 9.00 AM

1	Charlie Bell 100m Freestyle Handicap Heats (<i>Fastest to Slowest</i>) <i>Sponsored by Cobar Bowling and Golf Club</i>		
2	Ladies Open 50m Butterfly Championship	27	Mens 65/69 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
3	Mens Open 50m Butterfly Championship	28	Ladies 60/64 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
4	Ladies 60 yrs & over 50m Butterfly Championship	29	Mens 60/64 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
5	Mens 60 yrs & over 50m Butterfly Championship	30	Ladies 55/59 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
	Opening Ceremony approximately 11am	31	Mens 55/59 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
6	Ladies 60 yrs & over 50m Breaststroke Championship	32	Ladies 50/54 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
7	Mens 60 yrs & over 50m Breaststroke Championship	33	Mens 50/54 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
8	Ladies Open 50m Breaststroke Championship	34	Ladies 45/49 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
9	Mens Open 50m Breaststroke Championship	35	Mens 45/49 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
10	Skipper Nobbs 50m Freestyle Handicap Heats (<i>Slowest to Fastest</i>) <i>Sponsored by Coogee Diggers Swimming Club</i>	36	Ladies 40/44 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
11	Ladies 60 yrs & over 50m Backstroke Championship	37	Mens 40/44 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
12	Mens 60 Yrs & Over 50m Backstroke Championship	38	Crows Nest Veteran Cup 4 x 50m Relay <i>All swimmers must have RSL Entitlements</i> <i>Sponsored by Bendigo Bank</i>
13	Ladies Open 50m Backstroke Championship	39	Ivo Wyatt Memorial Relay 10 x 50m Club Nominated Time Relay <i>Sponsored by Bondi Diggers</i>
14	Mens Open 50m Backstroke Championship	40	Ladies 35/39 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
15	C.G. Hill 25m Freestyle Handicap Heats (<i>Slowest to Fastest</i>) <i>Sponsored by Helen Little</i>	41	Mens 35/39 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
16	Ladies 80/84 yrs 25m Freestyle Championship	42	Ladies 30/34 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
17	Mens 80/84 yrs 25m Freestyle Championship	43	Mens 30/34 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
18	Ladies 85+ yrs 25m Freestyle Championship	44	Ladies 25/29 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
19	Mens 85+ yrs 25m Freestyle Championship	45	Mens 25/29 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
20	Gosford Trophy 4 x 50m Handicap Relay (<i>Nom Time - Ages 30 - 59</i>) <i>Sponsored by Kerry Ryan</i>	46	Ladies 18/24 Yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
21	Ray Weekes Memorial Trophy 4 x 50m Handicap Relay (<i>Nom Time - Combined Age 140 + yrs</i>) <i>Sponsored by Cronulla RSL Swimming Club</i>	47	Mens 18/24 Yrs 50m Freestyle Championship
22	Ladies 75/79 Yrs 50m Freestyle Championship	48	Skipper Nobbs 50m Handicap Final
23	Mens 75/79 Yrs 50m Freestyle Championship	49	C.G. Hill 25m Handicap Final
24	Ladies 70/74 Yrs 50m Freestyle Championship	50	Charlie Bell 100m Handicap Final
25	Mens 70/74 Yrs 50m Freestyle Championship	51	Tobruk Shield 4 X 50m Nominated Time Relay <i>Each team must have at least 1 Service person</i> <i>Sponsored by Coogee/Randwick Clovelly RSL Sub Branch</i>
26	Ladies 65/69 yrs 50m Freestyle Championship	52	Wentworthville Leagues Trophy 6 X 50m Championship Relay (<i>8 fastest nom times</i>) <i>Sponsored by Cobar Yabbies</i>

NOTE - SEE CARNIVAL RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL AND RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATIONS



90 years ago.

The world was in turmoil. It was the start of the Spanish Civil War, Germany's remilitarisation of the Rhineland, the abdication of British King Edward VIII, and the Berlin Summer Olympics.

It was also the publication of the novel *Gone with the Wind*.

Old Gold chocolate was 3d and a Chevrolet Six motor car cost 277 pounds.

The gathering clouds of WW1 were brewing but at Coogee Aquarium excitement was brewing for the first event of the first A.I.F. Swimming Carnival.

At the end of summer in 1929 the Limbless Soldiers' Association Swimming Club was formed to assist members whose sporting activities were restricted because of their disabilities.

Following the formation of the club and up until 1935, various swims were arranged with Diggers at Manly, Bondi and Coogee.

These four clubs decided on a combined swimming carnival.

So on December 12th, 1936 at 8pm these clubs met to do battle for new honours.

Most of the competitors were WW1 veterans.



FIRST A.I.F CHAMPIONSHIPS COOGEE AQUARIUM 1936

The original Coogee Palace Aquarium and Swimming Baths opened in 1887 as a major entertainment venue, featuring an indoor pool, aquarium, roller skating rink, and various amusement rides.

It was famously the site where the shark containing the tattooed arm from the 1935 Shark Arm murder was displayed. After a devastating storm damaged the dome in 1984, the building was restored and became the Beach Palace Hotel before being purchased and reopened by the Merivale group in 2014 as the Coogee Pavilion Restaurant and bar complex.

The complex was a popular destination that rivalled Bondi and Manly as a seaside resort, featuring attractions like an indoor swimming pool, a giant toboggan, donkey rides, and a large hall for roller skating and dancing.

A storm in June 1945 caused the large dome to collapse, though it was rebuilt. Patronage declined over time as ocean swimming became more popular, and the

building was eventually deemed for demolition by the Heritage Council after the dome collapsed again in 1984.

The building was restored and reopened in 1987 as the Beach Palace Hotel. In 2014, the Merivale group purchased the property and redeveloped it into the modern Coogee Pavilion, which now functions as a popular restaurant and bar complex.



RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

(Amended 2025)

ALL ENTRIES FOR HANDICAP AND CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS MUST BE ON THE OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM PRIOR TO CARNIVAL.

CLOSING DATE WILL BE APPROX. ONE MONTH PRIOR TO CARNIVAL.

1. CARNIVAL START

All swimmers to be poolside at 9am sharp for the start of the 100m event. Opening Ceremony 11.00am.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF ENTRANTS -

All entrants must be bona fide members of an affiliated Club with no less than 3 months membership prior to closing of entries for this Carnival.

3. A SERVICE SWIMMER (S)

Is deemed to have served at some time in one of the Armed Forces, either Army, Navy or Air Force, either full time or Reserve Personnel and be eligible for Sub Branch membership.

4. NON-SERVICE

Are those personnel who do not qualify in any of the above categories.

5. HANDICAP EVENTS

a. 1, 10 & 15 will be Elimination Heats. Nominated times to be submitted in seconds only, for example 41.79, 131.56 etc

b. There are no limitations on entries.

c. Up to 8 swimmers, closest to their nominated times, in the heats, will be required to contest a final. This may change with lane availability to the venue pool.

d. In the event there are more qualifiers than can be accommodated in the pool lanes, the Carnival Director may organise a ballot to decide who will fill any vacant lanes in the final, to have the maximum starters.

e. Times cannot be altered after the close of entries.

f. No points are allocated in heats.

g. In the finals, all swimmer's times may be adjusted, if necessary, to the nearest full second.

h. The swimmer, swimming closest to their nominated time in the final will be the winner in each event.

i. The final will be a handicap start.

j. THERE ARE NO FALSE STARTS IN HANDICAP HEATS OR FINALS.

6. AGE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

a. Club Captains should notify any withdrawals as early as possible, either by email, or at the meet and greet, to enable swimmers on the reserve list to be added and prevent empty lanes. Nominated times to be submitted in seconds only, for example 41.79, 131.56 etc.

b. When there are more entries submitted than the number of lanes available, the following criteria will be followed:

i. Fastest three (3) service persons.

ii. Next fastest swimmers (whether service or non service) to fill all available lanes

c. In the event there are not three service persons nominated, the lanes will be filled by the next fastest swimmers until all the lanes are filled.

d. If there are insufficient NON SERVICE persons nominated, then the lanes will be filled by the next fastest SERVICE PERSON.

e. Any UNPLACED swimmer, swimming two seconds slower than their nominated time, will be disqualified.

f. Maximum two (2) swimmers per club.

7. FORMSTROKE CHAMPIONSHIPS

a. All form stroke events (both Open and 0/60) are chosen from the fastest nominated times.

b. Any UNPLACED swimmer, swimming two seconds slower than their nominated time will be disqualified.

c. Maximum two (2) swimmers per club.

8. POINT SCORES

a. For all **individual finals** the points are: 1st - 4pts, 2nd - 3pts, 3rd - 2 pts and 1pt for all unplaced swimmers.



b. All Relay Events: 1st – 8pts, 2nd – 6pts, 3rd – 4pts and 2pts for all unplaced teams up to 8th place.

c. Dead Heats - If there is a Dead Heat in an individual event or relay Championships or Handicap Finals, the following occurs:

8a. Dead Heat for First:

- i.** Both first placings get first place points
- ii.** No second place points
- iii.** Next place get third place points

8b. Dead Heat for Second

- i.** First place gets first place points as normal
- ii.** Both second get second place points
- iii.** No third place points

8c. Dead Heat for Third

- i.** First and second place as normal
- ii.** Both thirds get third place points

d. The Handicap Point Score consists of Events 20, 38, 47, 48, 49 and 50.

e. Male and Female Championship Point Score includes all Individual Championship Races.

f. The Overall Point Score consists of both the Ladies and Mens Championship Point scores, the Crows Nest Cup and Wentworthville Trophy Championship relays.

9. KERRY RYAN TROPHY

Club Points are accumulated by service personnel in any individual event and Service relay, where points are allocated e.g. Form stroke championships, Age championships, handicap finals, Crows Nest and Tobruk Relays.

10. CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

- a.** These events will not commence until the Carnival Coordinator has ensured that the STARTER, CHECK STARTER and JUDGES are in place.
- b.** Once this is confirmed, the Carnival Coordinator will inform the Starter all is okay.
- c.** Any competitor who FALSE STARTS will be disqualified.
- d.** JUDGES PLACINGS ARE FINAL and times will be given, but WILL NOT be used for placings.

11. MARSHALLING.

All Captains should endeavour to ensure their competitors are in the Marshalling Area at least SEVEN (7) heats prior to the competitor's heat.

12. AGE ELIGIBILITY

- a.** This is your age on the date of the carnival. Ages for championship events are calculated on Entry Form from Date of Birth entered.
- b.** You cannot swim in any other age group.
- c.** Any person found competing in two different age brackets will be disqualified from both events.

13. RELAY TIMES

Relay times are to be submitted by the start of the carnival.

14. ALL CHAMPIONSHIP RELAYS

- a.** To be chosen from fastest times nominated until all lanes are filled.
- b.** Any unplaced team swimming more than six (6) seconds slower than their nominated time will be disqualified.
- c.** One team per club. Exception is the Crows Nest Cup. (See Rule 15).
- d.** All swimmers must be members of the nominating club and swimming for that club on the day.

15. CROWS NEST CUP

Clubs may enter more than one full team of four in the Crow's Nest Cup. However, if multiple teams are entered, the club will receive points for only one team.

16. PROTESTS

Must be submitted to the Carnival Director as soon as practicable and no later than 15 minutes after the race results are posted at the pool.



1936 ORDER OF EVENTS

1.	The "Blighty Handicap" 50 yards.	Open to Allied Forces.
2.	The "Brass Hats Handicap" - 50 yards	Open to professional swimmers
3.	District or clubs team race - 500 yards	10 men aside
4.	Diving Championship	Ex A.I.F. and R.A.N.
5.	The "CO's" Handicap - 50 yards	Ex A.I.F. and R.A.N.
6.	Diving Display by Harry Tickle	
7.	Novelty - "Cooks Fatigue" Potato Race	
8.	"Old Soldiers" Handicap - 25 yards	50 years and over
9.	Freestyle Championship	A.I.F and R.A.N
10.	Breaststroke Championship - 50 yards	A.I.F and R.A.N
11.	"Peggies" and "Wingies" Handicap - 50 yards	Limbless Soldiers
12.	Freestyle Championship - 200 yards	Ex A.I.F and R.A.N
13.	"Route March" Handicap - 100 yards	Ex A.I.F and R.A.N



Divers getting ready for the Diving Competition in 1936. Coogee Aquarium

A.I.F. Swimming Memories (1956)

By Angus MacSween

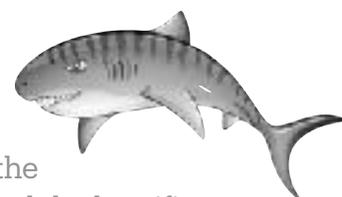
(Former President, Coogee-Randwick Diggers Swimming Club (Extract)

Let's turn back time to 8pm on Saturday 12th December, 1936. 90 years ago. The first event of the is about to be contested of the A.I.F. Swimming Carnival at Coogee Aquarium. The pool is 50 yards long, and the "Blighty Handicap" is over one lap. The "Housewife" Race it was noted, consisted of 15 entries from the Coogee-Randwick Club. The first carnival proved a huge success, with a lot of spectators attending. Everything went swimmingly.

Who won the events? Well, that doesn't matter very much.

The ten-aside teams relay was first introduced at the Manly Carnival in 1939.

"Each man swam 50 metres, and averaged 33.7 seconds. The average age was 43.1. Probably no nation in the world could produce ten men of this age capable of swimming such time". (Referee).



"The shark, the scam and the horrific helping hand."

Just before the first AIF Carnival in 1936 the Coogee Aquarium was experiencing tough times. The penny Arcade and theatre on Coogee Pier was cutting down the numbers visiting the aquarium.

But along came Bert Hobson and his son Ron!

Fishing off Coogee Beach they reeled in a small shark, only to lose it to a monster 14 foot long Tiger shark emerging from the depths.

The shark was captured and became a showpiece at the aquarium, but they had no way of knowing that it would create more than ticket sales. It was going to make history.

Anzac Day in 1935 was a busy day at the aquarium. The attraction of the tiger shark had drawn the visitors. But, the shark was sluggish and eventually threw up spewing up a vile cloud... and a human arm.

Murder

Under examination the arm had a very prominent tattoo and had been sawn off. This was not an accident but murder. The victim was later identified as Jimmy Smith, a drug runner. No one was ever convicted of the murder.

(Source: Hushed up History)

2025 A.I.F. SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

R Denotes New Record

	Event	Holder 2025	Club	Time	Service Holder	Club
2	Ladies Open Butterfly	Jessica Teasdale	Bronte	32.75		
3	Mens Open Butterfly	Jeff English	Cyclones	28.16		
4	Ladies Over 60 Butterfly	Kim McKeon	Southport	36.60		
5	Mens Over 60 Butterfly	Jason Sellars	Manly Diggers	32.78		
6	Ladies Over 60 Breaststroke	Kim McKeon	Southport	46.56		
7	Mens Over 60 Breaststroke	Allan Carlisle	Southport	38.74		
8	Ladies Open Breaststroke	Jessica Tessdale	Bronte	40.47		
9	Mens Open Breaststroke	Steve Lumen	Southport	36.75		
11	Ladies Over 60 Backstroke	Kim McKeon	Southport	44.34		
12	Mens Over 60 Backstroke	Steve Cornelli	Nerang	39.65		
13	Ladies Open Backstroke	Lilli Borozan	Bronte	37.12		
14	Mens Open Backstroke	Scott Logan	Cyclones	34.53		
16	Ladies 80-84 25M					
17	Mens 80-84 25M	Henry Vagner (S)	Southport	16.94	Henry Vagner	Southport
18	Ladies 85 & over 25M	Joan Ryan	Manly Diggers	24.72		
	Ladies 90 and Over					
19	Mens 85 & over 25M	John Butterfield (S)	Cronulla RSL	18.22	John Butterfield	Cronulla RSL
	Mens 90 and Over	Garry Beresford (S)	Ballina	22.9		
22	Ladies 75-79 50M	Gail Butler	Southport	-		
23	Mens 75-79 50M	Steve Lamy	Manly Diggers	36.10	John Stanford	Southport
24	Ladies 70-74 50M	Joy Cutler	Grafton	38.72		
25	Mens 70-74 50M	Gordon Whyte	Manly Diggers	35.59	John Platt	Manly
26	Ladies 65-69 50M	Lynley Ravenwood	Nerang	40.16		
27	Mens 65-69 50M	Darryl Hurley	Southport	30.00		
28	Ladies 60-64 50M	Kim McKeon	Southport	-		
29	Mens 60-64 50M	Jason Sellars	Manly Diggers	29.44		
30	Ladies 55-59 50M	Deb Watson	Manly Diggers	33.87		



2025 A.I.F. SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Event	Holder 2025	Club	Time	Service Holder	Club
31 Mens 55-59 50M	Rod Taylor	Southport	28.66	Chris Greatrex	Manly
32 Ladies 50-54 50M	Caroline Durston	Maroubra Diggers	34.41		
33 Mens 50-54 50M	David Carter	Cyclones	25.85 (R)	Mike Stringfellow	Gosford
34 Ladies 45-49 50M	Kate Halls	Coogee Diggers	32.53		
35 Mens 45-49 50M	Jeff English	Cyclones	25.93 (R)	Daniel Matthews	Maroubra
36 Ladies 40-44 50M	Alana English	Cyclones	35.66		
37 Mens 40-44 50M	Sean De Gelder (S)	Southport	28.34	Sean De Gelder	Southport
40 Ladies 35-39 50M	Kylie Fuller	Southport	57.32		
41 Mens 35-39 50M	Wade Coster (S)	Maroubra Diggers	29.07	Wade Coster	Maroubra
42 Ladies 30-34 50M	Gemma Mable	Cronulla RSL	39.66		
43 Mens 30-34 50M	Ben Higgins	Manly Diggers	27.38		
44 Ladies 25-29 50M	Jess Teasdale	Bronte	32.03		
45 Mens 25-29 50M	Samuel Price	Cyclones	30.53		
46 Ladies 18-24 50M	Ella McNeill	Nerang	31.66		
47 Mens 18-24 50M	Ben Royston	Coogee Diggers	28.47		
Handicap Finals - Variance to Nominated Time					
49 25m Handicap Final	1. Tim Thane	Bondi Junction Waverley	-0.40		
	2. Ron Massaar	Cronulla RSL	-0.50		
	3. Stacey Thomas	Bondi Diggers	-0.59		
48 50m Handicap Final	1. Bob Clark	Cobar Yabbies	-0.13		
	2. Enrico Rumi	Coogee Diggers	0.28		
	3. Prue Pavone	Coogee Diggers	-0.31		
50 100m Handicap Final	1. Jason Sellars	Manly Diggers	-0.16		
	2. Tim O'Rourke	Maroubra Diggers	0.19		
	3. Nicki Vinnicombe	Bondi Diggers	-0.87		
51 Tobruk 4 x 50m - 1 service		Gosford Diggers	0.22		



2025 A.I.F. RELAY RESULTS

IVO WYATT MEMORIAL TROPHY 10 X 50 METRES NOMINATED TIME HANDICAP RELAY

Place	Club	Var to Nom time
1st	Bronte	0.22
2nd	Nerang	0.41
3rd	Bellingen Diggers	0.53
4th	Cyclones	0.53
5th	Cobar Yabbies	-1.1
6th	Ballina	1.41
7th	Maroubra Diggers	3.53
8th	Manly Diggers	3.65
9th	Southport	-4.63
10th	Kurranulla	5.35

GOSFORD TROPHY 4 X 50M RELAY (ALL SWIMMERS 35 - 59 YRS)

Place	Club	Var to Nom time
1st	Cronulla RSL	-0.38
2nd	Bondi Diggers	-0.53
3rd	Bronte	0.56
4th	Kurranulla	-0.93
5th	Gosford Diggers	1.31
6th	Grafton	1.87
7th	Cyclones	-2.53
8th	Cobar Yabbies	-2.91
9th	Coogee Diggers	3.00
10th	Maroubra Diggers	-3.34

TOBRUK SHIELD 4 X 50M NOMINATED TIME RELAY AT LEAST 1 SERVICE PERSON PER CLUB

Place	Club	Var to Nom time
1st	Gosford Diggers	0.22
2nd	Lismore	0.94
3rd	Southport	2.75
4th	Maroubra Diggers	-2.84
5th	Cronulla RSL	-5.41
6th	Nerang	-6.69
7th	Cobar Yabbies	7.37
8th	Ballina	13.65
9th	Coogee Diggers	15.47
10th	Manly Diggers	19.69

CROW'S NEST VETERAN CUP 4 X 50M CHAMPIONSHIP RELAY

1st	Maroubra Diggers	2.12.16
2nd	Manly Diggers	2.16.72
3rd	Southport	2.32.37
4th	Cobar Yabbies	2.51.81

RAY WEEKES MEMORIAL TROPHY 4 X 50M NOMINATED TIME RELAY COMBINED AGE = 140 + YRS

Place	Club	Var to Nom time
1st	Kurranulla	0.19
2nd	Cronulla RSL	-0.32
3rd	Grafton	1.54
4th	Bondi Diggers	1.94
5th	Bellingen Diggers	3.06
6th	Maroubra Diggers	3.81
7th	Twin Towns	4.03
8th	Bronte	-5.09
9th	Gosford Diggers	-5.38

WENTWORTHVILLE LEAGUES CLUB 6 X 50M OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP RELAY

Place	Club	Var to Nom time
1st	Cyclones	2.45.47
2nd	Southport	3.03.16
3rd	Coogee Diggers	3.06.09
4th	Manly Diggers	3.11.43
5th	Cobar Yabbies	3.15.22
6th	Cronulla RSL	3.25.18
7th	Bronte	3.28.07
8th	Nerang	3.31.22

2025 A.I.F. POINT SCORES

SOUTHPORT PERPETUAL OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP POINT SCORE

1st	Southport	94
2nd	Manly Diggers	57
3rd	Cyclones	50
4th	Nerang	49
5th	Coogee Diggers	42

SYLVIA LEE PERPETUAL LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS SCORE

1st	Southport	39
2nd	Nerang	34
3rd	Bronte	30
4th	Coogee Diggers	22
5th	Grafton	15

JACARANDA PERPETUAL MENS CHAMPIONSHIP POINT SCORE

1st	Southport	45
2nd	Manly Diggers	37
3rd	Cyclones	34
4th	Cronulla RSL	21
5th	Coogee Diggers	16

BILL LOUGH MEMORIAL HANDICAP POINT SCORE

1st	Cronulla RSL	20
2nd	Bronte	17
3rd	Bondi Diggers	12
4th	Cobar Yabbies	11
5th	Kurrunulla	11

KERRY RYAN SERVICE TROPHY

1st	Maroubra Diggers	18
2nd	Southport	18
3rd	Manly Diggers	11
4th	Gosford Diggers	8
5th	Cobar Yabbies	6

AD BARLING PERPETUAL SWIMMER OF THE MEET *Jeff English Cyclones*



RECORD HOLDERS

Event No	Event	Year	Record Holder	Club	Record Time
2	Ladies Open Butterfly	1999	Leanne Hastings	Southport	31.74
3	Mens Open Butterfly	2003	David Carter	Botany	25.87
4	Ladies Over 60 Butterfly	2022	Kim McKeon	Southport	35.50
5	Mens Over 60 Butterfly	2021	Darryl Hurley	Southport	31.60
6	Ladies Over 60 Breaststroke	2022	Kim McKeon	Southport	43.85
7	Mens Over 60 Breaststroke	2016	Alan Carlisle	Southport	35.93
8	Ladies Open Breaststroke	2005	Amanda Head	Botany	36.49
9	Mens Open Breaststroke	2002	Shane Lewis	Southport	31.19
11	Ladies Over 60 Backstroke	2022	Kim McKeon	Southport	41.97
12	Mens Over 60 Backstroke	2014	Bruce Featherston	Southport	34.48
13	Ladies Open Backstroke	2001	Amanda Scotney	Southport	33.92
14	Mens Open Backstroke	2004	Malcolm Allen	Botany	29.44
16	Ladies 80-84 25M	2018	Judy Watts	Souths Juniors	22.77
17	Mens 80-84 25M	2024	Henry Vagner (S)	Southport Sharks	16.40
18	Ladies 85 & over 25M	2018	Janice Cox	Cronulla RSL	25.03
	Ladies 90 and Over				
19	Mens 85 & over 25M	2004	A. Thomas	Twin Towns	16.76
	Mens 90 and Over	2021	Jack Trevan (91)	Ballina	22.43
22	Ladies 75-79 50M	2018	Sue Levett	Manly Diggers	41.67
23	Mens 75-79 50M	1996	Keith Little (25M)	Coogee Randwick	18.03
23	Mens 75-79 50M	2021	Warwick Dredge	Twin Towns	35.41
24	Ladies 70-74 50M	2023	Joy Cutler	Grafton	38.28
25	Mens 70-74 50M	2014	Henry Vagner	Southport	30.49
26	Ladies 65-69 50M	2018	Joy Cutler	Moree	34.32
27	Mens 65-69 50M	2023	Darryl Hurley	Southport Sharks	29.12
28	Ladies 60-64 50M	2022	Kim McKeon	Southport	32.22
29	Mens 60-64 50M	2017	Darryl Hurley	Southport	28.19
30	Ladies 55-59 50M	2023	Deb Watson	Manly Diggers	32.65
31	Mens 55-59 50M	2016	Darryl Hurley	Southport	27.32
32	Ladies 50-54 50M	2009	Sue Kearney	Manly Diggers	31.96
33	Mens 50-54 50M	2025	David Carter	Cyclones	25.85
34	Ladies 45-49 50M	2022	Amanda Scotney	Southport	31.39
35	Mens 45-49 50M	2025	Jeff English	Cyclones	25.93
36	Ladies 40-44 50M	1999	L. Mooney	Twin Towns	30.62
37	Mens 40-44 50M	2005	Russell Vance	Coogee Randwick	26.06
40	Ladies 35-39 50M	2008	Angela Walker	Moree	28.07
41	Mens 35-39 50M	1998	Russell Vance	Coogee Randwick	25.82
42	Ladies 30-34 50M	2006	Amanda Scotney	Southport	30.25
43	Mens 30-34 50M	2005	Matt Kearney	Botany	25.03
44	Ladies 25-29 50M	1991	Deb Watson	Manly Diggers	29.22
45	Mens 25-29 50M	2003	David Carter	Botany	23.60
46	Ladies 18-24 50M	2004	Harumi Kondo	Southport	29.47
47	Mens 18-24 50M	1993	Chris Fydler	Twin Towns	24.13
	Championship Relay Records				
38	Crows Nest Veteran Cup Relay	2023		Maroubra Diggers	2.04.56
52	Wentworthville Relay	2006		Botany	2.39.7



BONDI SUMMER SWIMMING



BY ANITA HAWTIN & PAUL DRURY



Something Special... Bondi Summer Swimming

Bondi Summer Swimming, representing Bondi Junction Waverley RSL (BJW) and Bondi Diggers Swimming Clubs, opened in October 2025 with over 56 members choosing to make swimming part of their weekly routine at the iconic Bondi Icebergs Pool.

Our clubs are rich in tradition, and this year not only marked the 90th anniversary of Bondi Diggers but also the 67th year for BJW. Throughout the season, both clubs go head-to-head in races including five relay events, each one hotly contested to determine the overall champions. These races bring out the best in every swimmer and fuel the camaraderie that makes our clubs so special. This season, we're proud to recognise Loren August as BJW's first-ever female Captain—a first for our club and a well-deserved honour. Alongside Nicki Vinnicombe, our Diggers Captain, we know our teams are in great hands.



LOREN AUGUST
BJW's First Female Captain



BONDI SUMMER SWIMMING - A SNAPSHOT OF 2025



BONDI DIGGERS 1960's



BONDI DIGGERS 1995

BONDI DIGGERS Celebrating 90 Years



1935 - 2025

LONG STANDING MEMBERS

From competitions between servicemen returning from WW1 in the 1930s through WW2 to today, the Bondi Diggers Swimming Club continues to flourish.

Venues were changed and women were admitted as the years rolled by. Our club expands each year and we remain a key club in the AIF Swimming Association. Our delegates and swimmers make a strong contribution to the success of the Association and its annual carnivals.

DIGGERS' SWIM SEASON ENDING

Bondi Diggers' Swimming Club will hold a 40 yards consolation handicap tomorrow, and on May 2 will close the season with a race for its judges, handicapper, starters and gear steward. Club membership is now 310, including three military medalists.

Bronte Splashers will close their summer season tomorrow with a 33 yards handicap for the "Tom McLaughlin" Cup.

Saturday 24 April 1943

24 DISQUALIFIED IN DIGGERS' SWIM

For breaking their times, 24 swimmers were disqualified at the ninth annual AIF carnival at Bondi Baths yesterday.

All eight contestants in Heat 3 of the 55-yards AIF Handicap and the only three competitors in the first heat of the 220-yards handicap were among those disqualified.

The Spit, after winning the 275-yards teams' relay handicap, was disqualified, leaving Manly the winner in 3min.

Sunday 11 February 1945

Old Digger Will Defend Swim Title

Phil Boardman (1st AIF), 53yds champion of Bondi Diggers' Swimming Club for the past 11 years, will defend his title at Bondi Baths tomorrow morning.

The only 1914-18 War veteran entered he will be opposed, among others, by State AIF 53yds and 110yds champion, Jack Ferguson. Aged 52, Boardman, in club events alone has won more than 100 prizes in the past ten years.

Saturday 16 March 1946



GARY NICHOLLS



TERRY MCGEE



NICKI VINNICOMBE



BERNADETTE KANE



HILTON LEVY



SAXON GRAHAM



BONDI DIGGERS 2025

WHAT A GREAT YEAR IT HAS BEEN - A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK HARD TO KEEP OUR CLUBS GOING AND MAKING SUMMER SWIMMING SO ENJOYABLE.

COOGEE DIGGERS SWIMMING CLUB

In 2026 Coogee Diggers Swimming Club is celebrating its 90th year.

We are proud to be one of the founding members of the AIF Swimming Association, along with Bondi, Manly and Limbless Soldiers.

In the Beginning

Coogee-Randwick Diggers' Swimming Club, as it was then called, was formed in September 1936, the year following the opening of our parent club, then called The Coogee-Randwick Returned Sailors and Soldiers Club. The foundation President was A.T. (Lou) Bedford with Bert Bensley as first Captain. The first swim was held at Wylies Baths, but for reasons unknown, activities were transferred to the Coogee Aquarium Baths, a 55-yard indoor pool, and remained there until 1959.

The first AIF Carnival was held at the Aquarium on 12 December 1936, with Coogee, Bondi, Manly, Limbless and Tramways competing for the "Speedo" Shield. In keeping with the Services theme, other events on that day were the Blighty Handicap, the Brass Hats Handicap open to professionals, the 'Cooks' Fatigue' Potato Race, and the 100 yards Route March.



Coogee team in 1936. A special mention to the 15 housewives from Coogee that participated in the Housewives Race.

An unnamed author recorded the following about fundraising during this early period: "To raise funds a grand ball was organised in 1936 and was a great success in every way, and as a result the swimming club raised enough money to present the parent club with a number of lounge chairs for the new reading room."

When the Second World War came many members re-joined the forces and it was difficult to maintain the activity

of the Club. Joe McGrath who was Secretary during the war years was instrumental in keeping the Club together.

After World War II

Membership increased rapidly following the war's end as the new RSL Club members were quick to accept the benefits provided by a ready-made swimming organisation. They were welcomed by older hands and it was not long before they were holding office and directing the club's affairs.

In 1960 swimming events were moved back to Wylies Baths, the oceanside 50-yard tidal pool where, on Sunday mornings, we are still swimming today. Pool conditions vary according to tide and weather; however, this is offset by the open-air, sunny, saltwater environment. The 60s saw the scrapping of the 33-yard swims (a left-over from the Aquarium days) and the introduction of 100-yard events.

During the 50s, 60s and 70s many Country visits were organised by our Club as the AIF Carnival was always held in Sydney. Records mention a trail-blazing trip to Tamworth in 1950, and then trips to Ballina, Cobar, Condobolin, Lismore, Mentone, and many others. All these visits are remembered for the fine hospitality provided and for the many friendships established.



Trip to Orange in 1966.



The back of a ute were essential for trips away to keep the beer cold.



COOGEE DIGGERS SWIMMING CLUB



Modern Times

Full membership of the Club began to decline in the early 70s as age caught up with the older WW II members. It was fortunate, therefore, that the parent club opened up membership to non RSL applicants in 1969 which led to an influx of younger swimmers and to a re-vitalised Club. Females began officially swimming with the Club in the early 90s. Today our Club has an active membership of over 100 - equally males and females.

Each Sunday morning, we hold 50 and 100 yard handicap races, 200 and 400 nominated time events and a Relay. There are 50 and 100 yard grade championships and form-stroke championships during the season.

The weekly Relay event began in 1975. Ex-servicemen originally formed the Army, Navy and RAAF teams, and an Odd Bods team was put together for non-servicemen. This event has been, and still is, hotly contested each Sunday, and the Trophy highly prized by the winning team.

Inter-Club events

As well as the AIF Carnival, Coogee Diggers competes yearly against other clubs. Against Maroubra RSL for the Harry Todd Trophy (a WWI veteran); against Cronulla RSL for the Ken Millar Trophy (a WWI veteran who swam with both Clubs), and for the Des Renford Shield (this contains a piece of white rock from the Cliffs of Dover). We also swim relay events against Coogee Surf Club and against South Maroubra Dolphins Winter Club for the Alan Brown trophy.

We attend the Black Swan swim at Dee Why, the Bronte Shield swim and The Castle Hill swim (for the first time this year). We host our Jim Lawler Twilight swim in February - usually attended by over 100 swimmers from many clubs.

Coogee has hosted the AIF Carnival on nine occasions. The most recent was in 2023 at the Des Renford Leisure Centre at Maroubra. This Carnival brought the event back to Sydney for the first time in many years, and we were very



pleased with the pool events and the Presentation Night. We proudly accepted the Overall Point Score Trophy for the first time in 24 years.

Celebration

110 swimmers, supporters and invitees from other clubs attended a wonderful 90 Year Celebration Dinner in January at the Coogee Diggers Club. Speeches, photos and memorabilia outlined the glorious history of our Club. It was fitting to celebrate in the same venue where the whole journey started back in 1936.

Dennis Morgan
Vice President



MANLY DIGGERS SWIMMING CLUB

Manly Diggers Swimming Club proudly celebrates its 90th year in 2026, as one of the five founding clubs of the AIF Swimming Association. We have hosted 12 AIF Championships since the first event at the Coogee Aquarium in 1936.



MANLY DIGGERS SWIMMING CLUB

A photo anthology produced for our 75th celebration is a comprehensive record of early days at the Old Manly Baths and, up to 2011, relay teams, competition, touring and social activities. We have upheld the legacy of goodwill, friendship and racing by virtue of a dedicated membership, including Veterans, and past members. A colourful history spanning multiple generations and many outstanding results.

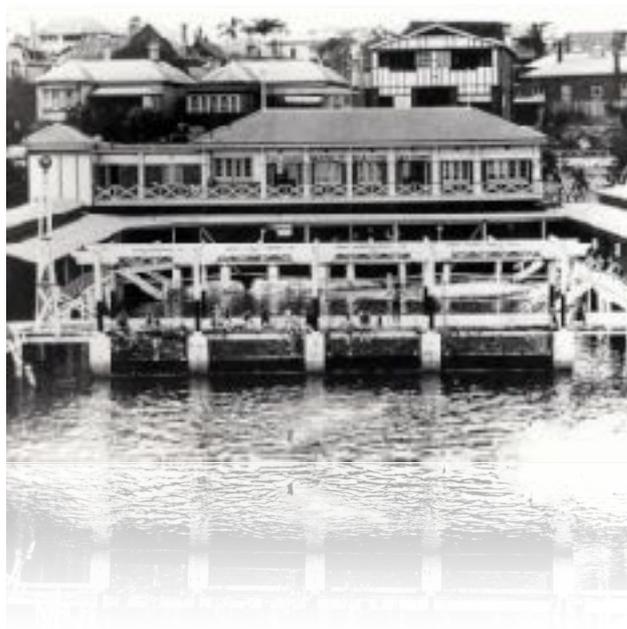
The club was formally established as the AIF section of the Manly Amateur Swimming Club which held races at the Manly Baths on East Esplanade, an Olympic-length tidal pool exposed to ferry wake, which brought with it a variety of unnecessary items. After destructive storm damage to the pool and surrounds in May 1974, a new Council pool was constructed and it has been our home since 1976, now known as the Manly Andrew 'Boy' Charlton Aquatic Centre.

We count among our membership Olympians, Paralympians, World Champions and National Champions as well as Honourable Invictus Games athletes. Participation is encouraged, regardless of ability. We are hopeful of increasing the number of Veterans in our ranks.

In November we farewelled Life Member Barry Smith. Barry's service record was National Service in the early fifties. He was an active member of our Mother Club, Balgowlah RSL, serving as Treasurer for close to 20 years. 'Smithy' was a scrupulous steward of our Club's Treasury, also for many years.

I conclude by acknowledging the contributions of my fellow committee members, Rebecca Higgins, Bob Kelsall, Rob Baker, Joan Ryan, Paul McNee and Sue Kearney. Members pitch in and ensure that every Sunday there is a well oiled machine in operation, of which I am proud to be Prez.

*Stephen Lamy
January 2026*



Manly Baths c1938. Photo Northern Beaches Library



BALLINA RSL SUMMER SWIMMING CLUB



Ballina RSL Summer Swimming Club (Barracudas) is celebrating our 50th Anniversary this season.

We marked the occasion with a fun Country & Western-themed presentation night, complete with a bit of boot scootin’



The swimming club originated from a meeting of “wise gentlemen” (as recorded in our old minutes), who gathered on 1 April 1975 to form a swimming club as part of the Ballina RSL Club sub-clubs. The first official swim took place in October of that same year, joining the AIF Swimming in 1977. Jim O’Mara, who attended that very first meeting, still swims with the club today. He was later joined during the inaugural season by Peter Higgins and Greg Davidson, who also remain valued members.

Since inception, the club has had 11 Life Members – five who have passed away and six who are still swimming. Jack Trevan, a Life Member, swam with our club until the remarkable age of 93 and sadly passed away in September 2024 at 94. Our oldest current swimmer is now Garry Beresford, aged 91.

We are a small and friendly club with 25 members, a slight increase on last season, and we warmly welcome new swimmers. This year we welcomed back two returning

swimmers (after a few years of enjoying sleep-ins!) and introduced two new swimmers – one who had never swum before and another ex-serviceman returning after many years away from the pool. Both started barely completing 25 metres and are now swimming 50 metres and 100 metres respectively, a fantastic achievement.



All races are conducted on handicap, giving every swimmer a fair chance to win our much-loved weekly “chook prize.” This tradition dates back to the club’s early days, when chook raffles were run at the RSL to raise funds. While the raffles are long gone, the chook remains a coveted weekly reward.

Members who attended the Zone Carnival at the new Grafton Aquatic Centre thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and we are looking forward to the AIF at Nelsons Bay. With 10 swimmers attending we have enough for the 10-a-side relay – so if we get our times right, watch out!



BRONTE SUMMER SWIM CLUB

The Bronte Summer Swim Club enjoyed a successful and engaging season, with strong participation, competitive results, and continued community involvement. The year reflected the dedication of swimmers, volunteers, committee members, and supporters who contribute to the club's positive culture.

Club members achieved strong representation, and podium finishes at major carnivals, including Dee Why, Coffs Harbour and Coogee, with participation across all age groups continuing to grow.

The Bronte Shield remained a highlight of the season, attracting strong support from members and visiting teams and reinforcing the club's reputation as a well-organised and welcoming club.

New club merchandise was enthusiastically received, enhancing the club's visibility and strengthening members' sense of belonging. Membership growth was supported by increased engagement across age groups, particularly among under-40 members, reinforcing the club's ongoing role within the local community.

Throughout the season, the committee focused on maintaining sustainability, improving communication, and refining race-day operations. These initiatives supported smooth coordination and a positive experience for all



involved. The club extends its thanks to volunteers, officials, families, sponsors, and community partners whose contributions continue to support the club's success.

Looking ahead, the club will focus on growing and retaining membership, expanding sponsorships, introducing new merchandise, and continuing to respond to member feedback. With a strong foundation in place, the Bronte Summer Swim Club is well positioned for another positive and inclusive season.



COBAR YABBIES



Cobar Yabbies once again had another quite successful 2024/2025 season with good results and fellowship at all Carnivals. Setts Swim was held in Cobar against Nyngan in December, Western Districts AIF Carnival in Condobolin, Four Way swim in Gosford and the National AIF Carnival in Coffs Harbour. Yabbies also ran and sponsored the Annual Australia Business House Swim Relay in January.

The Western Districts AIF Carnival held in Condobolin Winners were John Carswell Presidents Race and 2nd in the 100m Handicap, Dave Mexted winner of 30m & 50m RSL Handicaps also 50m RSL Under 50yrs Sprint, Bill Fugar 30m winner, Open Handicap, Murray Harland winner 50m Open Handicap Shane Josephson 3rd, Greg Martin 2nd 60 to 64yrs Scratch, Jason Toomey 2nd 50m Scratch. Cobar Yabbies were the winners of the Overall Point Score.

At the National AIF Carnival Coffs Harbour Bob Clark was the winner of the Skipper Nobbs 50m Freestyle Handicap and also 5th in the Charlie Bell 100m Freestyle Handicap. Stuart Small 2nd Open Men's 50m Backstroke and 3rd in the 50m 50/54yrs Freestyle, Dave Mexted 3rd 40/44yrs Freestyle. Yabbies finished 4th in the Bill Lough Handicap Point Score 5th in the Kerry Ryan Service Trophy 4th in the Crow's Nest Relay and 5th in the Wentworthville Leagues Club 6 x 50m Relay.

Four (4) Way Swim Gosford 2025. Yabbies joined Gosford, Nelson Bay and Forbes for the Annual 4 Way Swim with Gosford also celebrating their 50year Anniversary. John Carswell was the winner of the

Presidents Race and also took out 3rd in the Ian Settree Memorial 100m Handicap with Dave Mexted securing 1st, Steve Howell was 2nd in the 30m event. Nelson Bay won the main event Aquaholics 10x50m relay with Forbes 2nd Cobar 3rd with Gosford 4th. Both Forbes and Cobar finished equal in the Jim Nixon Overall Point score. With Forbes winning after a toss of the coin.

2025 Ian & Marg Settree Memorial Swim held in Cobar.

Nyngan Splashers were very light on with swimmers and it showed with Cobar winning the Event 24 Nil. 30m saw Chris Powell 1st Tom Jones 2nd Jason Toomey 3rd 50m Murray Harland 1st Bill Fugar 2nd Tom Jones 3rd 100m Murray Harland 1st Jason Toomey 2nd Matt Harland 3rd and Cobar also winning the relay.

2024/2025 Club Champions, Murray Harland was the winner of the 30m Cobar B & G Club Shield, Tom Jones won the 50m Russell Harland Memorial Shield, 100m Phil Knuckey Memorial Shield and the Curly Solomon Overall Point Score. Paul Swainston winner of the Ian Settree Memorial One Night Stand with a difference of only .40 of a second out in the 30m 50m & 100m events on the same night. Brace Relay was won by Stephen Clark and Ton Jones. Greg Martin was awarded the Tom Knight Memorial Trophy and Shane Josephson the coveted Brush Award.

The 2026 Annual Western Districts AIF Carnival will be held in Cobar.



CRONULLA RSL SWIMMING CLUB



The Cronulla RSL Swimming Club celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2025.

The club's first race took place at the Cronulla rock pool on 25th January 1950 against our mates from Coogee Diggers.

The ten -a-side relay was won by Coogee on that day and to this day we still have a yearly relay swim against Coogee for the Ken Millar and Des Renford trophies.

Cronulla joined the AIF swimming association in 1951 and we have had the honour of two of our members Ted Knight and Brian Russell awarded life members of the AIF association and three other members Ray Prior, Ken Millar, and Bill Brownjohn having Special Life Members WW1-1979 awarded to them.

The club continues to evolve with the Cronulla Leagues club Sharks joining us, with a result that our swim club now has four swims a week. Tuesday night with the sharks at Cronulla and Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday with the RSL at the Bay and/or Cronulla.

Congratulations to the AIF Swimming Association on reaching their 90th anniversary 1936 to 2026 and our thoughts are with all our past swimmers and officials.



GOSFORD RSL DIGGERS SWIMMING CLUB

In 2025 - 2026 Gosford RSL Diggers Swimming Club Turns 50

On Sunday 26 October 1975 at the Gosford Olympic Pool, fifteen World War II Diggers and returned Vietnam Veterans from around the Gosford area, formed the Gosford District Diggers Swimming Club.

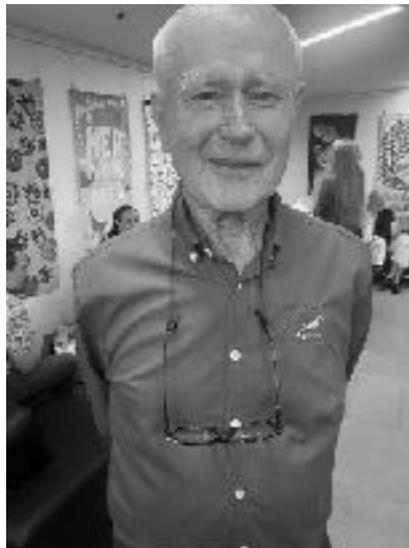
The Club held their first swim on Sunday 16 November, 1975. The Gosford District Diggers Swimming Club affiliated with Gosford RSL in 1978 and were then called the Gosford RSL Diggers Swimming Club.

The Foundation Members of the Gosford District Diggers Swimming Club made sure that the Club was affiliated with the AIF Swimming Association of Australia. The Foundation Members were: Stuart Adair, Allen Allard, Chris Armstrong, Les Arndell, Graeme Baker, Paul Bezrouchko, Phil Bible, Keith Brooks, Ken Butt, Bruce Cowley, Peter Dann, Barry Davidson, Doug Flaherty, Athol Frewin, Bob Godding, Brian Gregory, Ross Grond, Bob Gunn, Geoff Grinter, Terry Henstock, Jim Hurley, Peter Martin, Pat Matthews, Ken Mathieson, John McQueen, Bob Potts, Ed Semmens, Bruce Tilley, Ron Tuddenham, Brian Walshe and Stan Willis.

Sadly, only four Foundation Members - Peter Dann, Jim Hurley, John McQueen and Ed Semmens are still with us, Remarkably John Macqueen and Ed Semmens are still swimming each week with the best of us, and regularly win their events on Handicap.

Gosford has contributed 6 life members to the AIF: Neil Roff in 1980, Ed Bassingthwaite in 1982, Kerry Ryan in 1999, Ed Semmens in 2010, Noel Radburn in 2014 and Rodger Bruce in 2018.

As a Club in our 50th Year, we are keenly looking forward to attending the AIF Carnival at Nelsons Bay on 14 March 2026. Notably, one of our Foundation Members and Returned Serviceman Ed Semmens will be swimming. Ed has also been involved with the AIF Carnival for many years as the Recorder. Backing up Ed, will be Rodger Bruce, Paul Munns, Dave Ferrington and Allan Hurley.



John McQueen



Ed Semmens



LISMORE DIGGERS MEMORIAL SWIMMING CLUB

The Lismore Diggers Memorial Swimming Club is all about fitness, friendship, and a bit of fun in the pool.

Based at Lismore Memorial Baths, we welcome current and ex-defence personnel, families, and community swimmers of all abilities.

We swim Sunday mornings and run monthly handicapped freestyle races (25m, 50m, and 100m), where everyone has a chance to compete and enjoy the camaraderie.

The club is proud to be part of the AIF Swimming Carnival tradition, bringing people together through sport, health and mateship.



Geoff and Leon



Leah, Leon, Marley and Grant



James doing his thing



Fowler Family



TWIN TOWNS



DIGGERS SWIMMING CLUB HISTORY

The club was formed by a meeting of 13 men on November 15, 1969, with their first swim a week later. Just four months on, they headed off to the Nationals in Sydney which, each year, would attract over 1100 members competing in not just swimming events, but diving also.

Our home pool was Snapper Rocks Sea Baths where our first president, Jack Evans, had trained Australia's first performing dolphins. We then went to the pool of Mike Wenden, winner of Gold Olympic swimming medals who would occasionally swim with us.

The early 80s saw a change in our constitution, making our lady swimmers legal. In 1986 we were thrilled to move to our wonderful new pool at Banora Point, built by our mother club, Twin Towns, who had always listened to us regarding our requirements.

Many successful meets were held here, including the AIF Nationals in 1990, the first time it was held outside Sydney. We hosted again in 1993. The devastation was felt by the whole community in 2022, when the Twin Towns Club closed the entire swim complex down, then demolished it. Although we were a swimming club with no suitable pool for a regular swim, a handful of members still entered some meets, and in summer, a small crew had the occasional swim up at Southport. A few individuals were determined to keep our club alive, and announced weekly competition would re-commence at the 25 metre Kingscliff Pool in May 2024. A couple of times we couldn't hold races as only three people showed up! Luckily, new people have joined us, and we usually have an enthusiastic group of about 8-12 on Sundays now, so our future is looking more positive.

Toni Cameron
President



The Military History of Tomaree Headland

In March 1942, General Douglas MacArthur was appointed the supreme commander of the South West Pacific sector, *"with authority over all allied naval, land and air forces in the theatre"*.

This appointment effectively meant that General MacArthur had control of the Australian forces.

At this time, Port Stephens, including Tomaree Head (Fort Toamaree), was developed as a World War Two military base by a joint Australian Army - United States Navy defence venture.

The Tomaree Battery was manned by up to 500 military personnel from 1942 to 1944. The guns at Tomaree Battery were never fired in 'anger' but they were used on numerous times to warn off ships from entering Port Stephens which was then a 'closed port' to civilian and commercial craft.



MILITARY HISTORY OF PORT STEPHENS

Port Stephens was a vital part of the Australian coastal defence system during the Second World War and became the focus of first Australian - United States combined training operations for the South - West Pacific sector.

This included Camp Gan Gan (located around 4km from Nelson Bay), Fort Tomaree (and the associated camps at Tomaree Head) and HMAS Assault on St Nazaire's Road, also known as the Joint Overseas Operational Training School (JOOTS), which became Nelson's Bay Migrant Hostel in the post - war period.

Plans for two camps on Tomaree Head, to service the Fort Tomaree defence installations as part of the military occupation at Port Stephens, were prepared in 1941 by the New South Wales Government Architect / Department of Public Works.

It is likely that these buildings were constructed by the New South Wales Department of Public Works on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, which was standard practice at this time due to labour shortages caused by the war.

These 1941 plans of Tomaree Head show that most of the buildings dating from this time on the Tomaree Lodge site have been retained in-situ.

The surf battery at Tomaree Head, consisting of two Quick Firing 3 pounder Hotchkiss Mark 1 guns, was intended for close defence of the entrance to Port Stephens and the approaches to Shoal Bay.

After investigation, it was later decided to install land based torpedo tubes on the north west side of Tomaree Head.

Two years after the end of the Second World War, in 1947, the Commonwealth Defence Department transferred the former military camp at Tomaree Head to the Department of Public Health, for use as a convalescent hospital for patients from State hospitals.

The site was closed in 2021 but remains as a heritage listed site.



AIF CHAMPIONSHIPS 2027

Welcome to Grafton



**We are excited to announce that our Carnival next year will be held in Grafton.
A City of trees, with its charms hidden from the highway, rewarding those who venture within.
A place of beauty, heritage and soul.**

The Grafton District Services Club will be hosting the 2027 AIF Carnival on the 6th March, 2027.
The Carnival will be held at The Clarence Regional Aquatic Centre which has just had a \$40 million upgrade.

The function will be held at the Grafton District Services Club.



OUR SPONSORS

The A.I.F. Swimming Association is pleased to have individuals, businesses and clubs sponsoring events at our 90th Annual Championships



Bendigo Bank
Bondi Diggers
Cobar Bowling and Golf Club
Cobar Yabbies
Community Insurance Solutions
Coogee Diggers Swimming Club
Coogee / Randwick Clovelly Sub Branch
Cronulla RSL Swimming Club
Helen Little
Kerry Ryan



