

AIF SWIMMING ASSOCIATION MEETING

MONDAY, 23 MAY 2022 (via Zoom)

PRESENT

Kerry Ryan (Gosford), Sean Henly (Wentworthville), Peter Bain (Wentworthville), Helen Little (Secretary), Bob Kelsall (Manly), Anita Hawtin (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley), Joanne Falla (Coogee)

APOLOGIES

Pat Kinghorn (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley), Michael McMahon (Coogee Randwick).

ODE

The meeting opened at 7.13pm by Sean Henly reciting the Ode.
The passing of Tom Lamont, former President of Wentworthville Leagues was noted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read. Proposer Peter Bain, Sec Kerry Ryan

CORRESPONDENCE IN

All carnival entry forms were received and it was noted that numerous 'thank you' emails were received from participating Clubs about the Coffs Harbour Carnival.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT

- All results were emailed out to clubs.
- Letter sent to Southport RSL regarding sponsorship request.

Correspondence be accepted. Proposer: Bob Kelsall, Seconder: Peter Bain.

TREASURERS REPORT

Bob Kelsall proved the Treasurer's report.

The meeting noted that the total cost for the Coffs Harbour Carnival was in the vicinity of \$29,500 and the total income was \$28,200 resulting a loss of approximately \$1,500. Bob Kelsall will provide the final figures out-of-session. Bob also committed to providing the meeting with the carnival costs for the last 10 years.

Bank balance is \$15,866.

Treasurers report be accepted Proposer. Helen Little Seconded Sean Henly

GENERAL BUSINESS

President's Report - 2022 Coffs Harbour Carnival

Kerry Ryan provided the Carnival President's report:

"At the function in Coffs Harbour I called the 86th AIF Carnival a resounding success. This success was most pleasing as the Committee had never singularly run the whole weekend including the function. When using the word singular, I must commend our Carnival Director, Peter Bain, for his contribution. Peter did all the dealings with the Coffs pool and the Coffs ex Club. He took this on, on top of all he already does as Carnival Director - a position he excels in. Many thanks Peter.

Of course, I cannot rule out the rest of the Committee who all added to its success in their own ways. My personal thanks go to Helen, Sean, Bob and Pat - what a great team.

The Carnival did run at a loss, not excessive however. In this regard the affiliated clubs and swimmers saved the day financially. I especially applaud the sponsors coming from inside the Association who came on board for the first time. It did make a definite difference financially. We must remember rising costs are affecting us e.g. Insurance and assorted trophy costs.

Also, I thank the swimmers and their offsidiers who generously supported the function raffle giving us the best result for many years.

How lucky we were the weather held good. Even those black clouds avoided the pool. I must admit it was a pleasure to see our competitors enjoy the pool competition and it was evident this vibe came through again at the function.

Our volunteer workers did their usual sterling job. These people are the backbone of the carnival. Please feel free to assist them at any time during the day. It is important they have support. Thank you volunteers.

Next year gives us something to look forward to with Coogee Diggers taking up the 87th Carnival, the first in Sydney since 2004. I am sure that the atmosphere created in 2022 will carry on into 2023.

I am delighted to report we have forwarded \$2,000 on behalf of our swimmers to the Lismore Lions Club to assist them with their flood relief program.

In closing, I must also make a specific mention of the Coffs ex Club. They could not have done anything more in assisting us and welcoming us. A great venue."

Carnival Director's Report - 2022 Coffs Harbour Carnival

Peter Bain provided the Carnival Director's report:

“What an interesting exercise it was to run the AIF carnival as an association rather than a club sharing most of the organisation. It was a great job by the whole committee with help from many of the clubs before the carnival, on the day of the swim and at the function.

The whole committee pitched in to help in their normal ways with great efforts put in by Pat distributing the programs and getting raffles sold, Sean for his help in the engine room and of course Kerry for holding us all together and keeping the carnival ticking along. It was great to see Bob finally receive his life member award as his work sorting out finances before and after the carnival was made a bit harder with quite a few Covid and flood related changes very close to the day.

Thank you to Helen for your work in the lead up to the carnival with your clear communications to all member clubs which resulted in almost error free entry forms. Also your help in the organisation of the function was much appreciated.

As I said it was interesting as we had to get lots of tasks prepared that normally fall to the organising club. We had great help and support from many other people including Mel at Cex Coffs for the great function. Mel did all the lead up work on her own including the setup of the room and managing the function staff on the night. Richard and his team at the pool were a great help before the carnival and on the day. Daniel from Coffs swimming club put on the barbeque and providing chairs and tables for us. And thanks also to Geoff Rogers from Coffs Harbour Pipes and Drums for the stirring music for our opening ceremony.

As with the past few years Lofty and his team from Dashing Digital produced a great program for us. Thank you to all the contributors and I look forward to many more articles and photos for our 87th carnival program.

As usual the carnival itself was another complete success. This could not have been possible without the many hands on deck that made the event hum. There were the many familiar faces, who are too many to list here, who are always there doing fantastic work in marshalling, recording, judging, timekeeping and starting. Our band of runners from Southport did a great job again getting the results to me and I think they have a permanent job.

As well as familiar faces I was lucky enough to have Jo Falla from Coogee helping me with the 50m and 30m data entry. Thanks Jo, you did a very accurate and timely job after taking on the task almost sight unseen. I hope you are able to assist in this way again as it takes a load of pressure from me on the day.

We can now look forward to going back to Sydney next March for the carnival to be hosted by Coogee Diggers. See you there.”

Helen Little added that there was a very positive atmosphere both at the pool and the club which was also reflected through the success of the two raffles (at the pool and the club). The management at the pool also mentioned that it was one of the best run carnivals they had seen and were very complimentary of the positive and friendly atmosphere of the day.

The approach to invite sponsors to present prizes on the night also contributed to this success. Given this, it was suggested that sponsorship acknowledgement and involvement should form a key part of each carnival. The sponsor

Insurance

Kerry Ryan asked if Michael McMahon could ascertain whether or not next year's carnival can be covered under Coogee's insurance.

Available funds

Kerry Ryan raised the issue of funds being available in case of carnival cancellations etc. This has happened in the past due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather and COVID. It was agreed that \$20,000 is an adequate amount to maintain for these purposes.

Entry Fee and Collateral

- Discussion was held about the carnival entry fee and it was agreed that the fee should remain at \$15. This decision is based on increased costs for service trophies, towels and other collateral.
- Helen Little advised that she is looking at purchasing micro-fibre towels for future carnivals as these are lighter for travelling and can have a sublimated print added to them. Towels plus embroidery would be at least \$20 per towel

Recognition for 90 years and over

- Kerry Ryan advised that Pat Kinghorn suggested that the 90 years and over swimmers should have some form of recognition at the AIF carnival such as a trophy or plaque. Helen Little advised that this is already done. It is important to remember that age is on the day of the carnival – not on 'age turned that year' as is used for Masters swimming.
- A question was also raised at the carnival regarding service people. With an increasing number of service people becoming involved (which is a wonderful!), the association would like to 'pre-empt' any issues on eligibility. It has been suggested that a simple register would suffice. Once acknowledged then there would not be a need to confirm in the future. Further discussions will be held to decide the correct – and easiest- way for clubs to sort this.

2024 Carnival

- Helen Little advised the meeting that Southport Sharks have shown interest in hosting the 2024 AIF carnival in March 2024. John Stanford is working with the SOPO (the new name for the Southport RSL) with regards to sponsorship/promotion for the next programme.

Acknowledgements

- The meeting acknowledged the photography work Nicki Vinnicombe (Bondi Diggers and Bondi Junction Waverley) did at the Coffs Harbour Carnival. The meeting also acknowledged Sean Henley and Nicki for uploading the photos onto the website. Sean undertook to re-badge the site.

Sponsorship

- Given the success of previous sponsorship arrangements with Budgy Smuggler and Funkita, Joanne Falla will follow-up sponsorship opportunities. All sponsorship is always gratefully received and provides some leeway with increasing costs of trophies, prizes and the programme.

The meeting closed at 8.06pm.