

MINUTES
AIF COMMITTEE – GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 20 January 2025, 7.30pm via Zoom

PRESENT: Helen Little (Southport), Peter Bain (Wentworthville), Anita Hawtin (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley), Bob Kelsall (Manly Diggers), Bob Clark (Cobar), Kerry Ryan (Gosford), Michael McMahon (Coogee Diggers), Lizzy Lodge (Kurranulla)

APOLOGIES: Steve Harper (Cronulla), Sean Henly (Wentworthville), Joanne Falla (Coogee Diggers)

Helen Little welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ODE: The meeting opened at 7.35pm by Kerry Ryan reading the Ode.

CORRESPONDENCE

IN:

1. Cronulla confirmed they will have raffle prizes and will assist with timekeeping. Cronulla also confirmed they are sponsoring the Tobruk Shield.
2. Coogee Diggers confirmed they will assist with marshalling, timekeeping and recording. Joanne Falla will assist Peter in the engine room on carnival day.
3. Stephanie Dickinson, Blacktown Diggers – sent an email to Helen Little regarding the 2026 carnival. Suggested Parramatta Aquatic Centre and Olympic Park Aquatic Centre with the presentation at Rosehill Gardens.
4. A proposal for the 2026 carnival was received from Michael McMahon on behalf of Coogee Diggers to consider Orange for the 2026 carnival.

OUT:

1. Anita sent out a reminder to all clubs about the 2025 carnival entry form (due 13/2), volunteers, program articles (due 3/2), returning trophies, raffles and affiliation fees.
2. Anita sent an email enquiry to Parramatta Aquatic Centre and Olympic Park Aquatic Centre regarding the 2026 carnival.
3. Anita sent an enquiry to Rosehill Gardens regarding the function for the 2026 carnival.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bob Kelsall advised that the current bank balance is \$16,233.91. Bob advised that twenty-two clubs are now affiliated including Moree, Harbord and Nelson Bay.

Action: Anita to follow-up outstanding membership forms and affiliation fees from Wentworthville, Ballina, Nyngan, Gosford and Bronte.

Action: Anita to respond to Cronulla about sponsorship of the Tobruk Shield.

2025 CARNIVAL UPDATE

- Peter Bain advised that arrangements for the 2025 carnival are progressing.
- It was noted that the pool process worked well last year, and it was agreed to do the same this year. Bob Kelsall agreed to organise this closer to the carnival date.
- Helen agreed to bring the stop/go signs.
- The timekeeping teams will be called *Team Orange* and *Team Yellow*. The timekeeper sheets for the handicap events (25m, 50m and 100m) will be colour coded and times need to be written on the coloured part of the sheet only. Team Orange will time the odd numbered heats for the handicap events and Team Yellow will time the even numbered heats. Team Orange will always time heat one of the handicap events.
- Helen will arrange the table allocations for the function once entry forms are received.
- Discussion was held about posting the championship race results at the pool prior to the function. It was agreed that this would be a good idea as swimmers can discuss any potential anomalies with Helen prior to the function.
- Peter will confirm arrangements with the local swimming club.

Action: Anita to ask Nicki Vinnicombe, Bondi Diggers, if she could take photos on carnival day and work with the Ex-Services club to present these at the evening function. If agreed, a projector and screen will need to be arranged with the Club.

Action: Once participant numbers are known, Anita to allocate wristbands for the function into separate envelopes to hand out at the *Meet and Greet*.

2026 CARNIVAL UPDATE

General discussion was held about the venue for the 2026 carnival and the need to grow the swimming clubs. Having a club that can assist with hosting the carnival would be beneficial, however, it was noted that if we do not have a host club in 2026, then a sub-committee will need to be formed to manage the carnival logistics.

Orange: The meeting acknowledged Michael McMahon's proposal on behalf of Coogee Diggers that the 2026 carnival be held in Orange. He advised that the pool and Orange Ex-Services Club are available. Issues relating to travel difficulties for some clubs and the lack of a local assisting club were discussed. The meeting thanked Michael for his efforts and advised that this proposal will be considered alongside other options.

Parramatta: Stephanie Dickinson (Blacktown) suggested Parramatta and Olympic Park Aquatic Centres, with the presentation at Rosehill Gardens. Anita advised Parramatta Aquatic Centre doesn't allow weekend events in high season, and Olympic Park Aquatic Centre hasn't responded. Rosehill Gardens, though suggested for the presentation, costs around \$34,000. The meeting thanked Stephanie for her efforts.

Harbord: Bob Kelsall agreed to ask about this option and the venue used for the Winter Swimming Association function.

Nelson Bay: The meeting supported this option as it is a bit more central and the fact that Nelson Bay is an affiliated club. It was again noted that having a local club is beneficial when arranging the carnival and function. If this option is taken up, the AIF swimming committee will support Nelson Bay with the preparations.

Action: Helen to discuss the feasibility of holding the 2026 Carnival in Nelson Bay with Richard Barwick and Keith Elliott.

Action: Options for the 2026 carnival will be further discussed at the next meeting and a decision made to announce at the AIF presentation function in March and publish in the AIF Program.

CROW'S NEST CUP

Discussion was held regarding the Crow's Nest Cup and maximizing service swimmer participation. Any AIF rule changes require club votes and won't occur before the next carnival.

Action: This item will be discussed once the 2025 carnival is over. Any agreed changes will be implemented for 2026.

AIF PROGRAM

Peter Bain reported receiving articles for the Program, with more submissions expected from the Sunshine Coast Cyclones, Cronulla, and Harbord. Peter and Helen will also explore digital and print options and report back to the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The meeting thanked Bob Kelsall for posting on the Facebook page to attract more swimmers. This is a great way to promote our Association and grow membership.

Helen Little undertook to send Bob Kelsall a copy of the last Audit Report.

Meeting closed: 8.45pm

Next meeting: 24 February 2025, 7.30pm