

MINUTES
AIF SWIMMING ASSOCIATION – GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 12 January 2026, 7.30pm via Zoom

PRESENT: Peter Bain (Wentworthville), Helen Little (Southport), Sean Henly (Wentworthville), Anita Hawtin (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley), Joanne Falla (Coogee Randwick), Bob Kelsall (Manly Diggers), Gavin Batcheler (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley), Russell Crane, AO (Patron), Lynley Ravenwood (Nerang), Mike Hadfield (Twin Towns)

APOLOGIES: Bob Clarke (Cobar), Kerry Ryan (Gosford), Michael McMahon (Coogee Randwick), Pat Kinghorn (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley), Steve Lamy (Manly)

ODE: The meeting opened at 7.40pm by Sean Henly reading the Ode.

Helen Little welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the general meeting held on 11 November 2025 were accepted as correct.

CORRESPONDENCE

Out:

- 14 November 2025 - Letter of congratulations sent to Gosford RSL Diggers on their 50th anniversary.
- 27 November 2025 – Bob Kelsall sent a letter to Bendigo Bank seeking sponsorship.

In:

- 4 December 2025 – Advice received from Bondi Diggers that they will sponsor the Ivo Wyatt event.
- 7 December 2025 – Advice received from Coogee Diggers that they will sponsor the Skipper Knobbs event.
- 16 December 2025 – Letter received from the President, Grafton District Services Club with a proposal to host the 2027 AIF Swimming Carnival.
- 19 December 2025 - Bob Kelsall received a letter of from Bendigo Bank confirming sponsorship.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- It was noted that the bank balance is \$17,338.
- To date, twenty-four clubs are affiliated.
- Sponsorship updates:
 - A tax invoice is to be sent to Coogee Diggers for sponsorship of the Skipper Knobbs event.
 - A receipt will be issued to Bondi Diggers for sponsorship of the Ivo Wyatt event.
 - Kerry Ryan will sponsor the Gosford event; Helen Little will sponsor another event.
 - Bendigo Bank confirmed sponsorship of \$500 to the AIF Swimming Association. These funds will be received in February 2026. Helen and the Swim Committee thanked Bob for the work he did to secure this sponsorship.
- Bob advised that representations have been received to include 'RSL' in the name of the Crow's Nest Cup. Meeting members unanimously agreed that to recognise the Crow's Nest Cup as a relay dedicated to service swimmers, it should be renamed to the 'RSL Crow's Nest Cup'. A motion will be circulated to Clubs to vote on this change.

Action: Anita to send a reminder to Kurranulla to pay their outstanding affiliation fees.

Action: Bob to follow-up on the request to obtain a bugler for the carnival.

Action: Anita to circulate a motion to vote on a change the Crow's Nest Cup relay name.

2026 CARNIVAL UPDATE

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

- **Trophies & Prizes:** Helen will transport 23 service trophies to Nelson Bay and arrange additional towels for prizes. Given the age and deterioration of some trophies, future consideration should be given for a permanent display for larger trophies and smaller trophies for clubs to keep.
- **Venue & Logistics:** Peter has coordinated with the pool manager and Nelson Bay Swimming Club. The local club will run a BBQ. Clubs should bring their own shade due to limited poolside cover.
- **Runners Needed:** Due to the distance between the pool and engine room, many 'runners' are required on carnival day.
- **Function Arrangements:** The presentation stage will be centrally located in the function room for accessibility and sound management.
- **Volunteers:** Starters are organised, but more volunteers are needed for roles such as Marshalls, timekeepers, judges, and recorders. Sean agreed to be the announcer. The chief timekeeper will double up in the fastest lane as a risk mitigation.
- **Trophy Returns:** Clubs are reminded to return major trophies.
- **Support Roles:** Peter advised that Kerry Ryan has secured Ed Semmens as a general helper for the starting area, with Sean and Bob assisting as well.

- **Championship Results:** Championship race results will be posted at the pool before the function, allowing 15 minutes for swimmers to raise concerns. Jo Falla has updated the rules.
- **Sponsors:** Bob and Anita will provide a definitive sponsor list to Jo and Peter. Sponsors will be acknowledged in the Carnival Program, at the pool during the day and at the presentation. Each sponsor will present their relevant trophy.

Actions:

- Anita to advise clubs about the posting of championship race results.
- Anita to send individual email reminders to clubs to return trophies.
- Anita to request clubs to nominate volunteers to help at the carnival and contact last year's helpers.
- Anita to work with Bob to provide a consolidated list of the 2026 sponsors to Jo Falla and Peter Bain.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Promotion to service swimmers:

A general discussion was held regarding strategies to promote the AIF Swimming Association and increase the number of service swimmers. Russell Crane emphasised that educating people about the activities and purpose of the AIF Swimming Association is essential for growing membership. Suggested promotional avenues included outreach through RSLs, the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA), and engaging local cadets as runners at carnivals. The Association has had previous connections with DVA, and Bob Kelsall will assist to revisit these opportunities. Russell Crane will also consider additional future opportunities for promotion.

Carnival Program:

Jo Falla advised that she has worked on the layout of the AIF Carnival Program with Club articles to be included once received. A digital version will be available again via a QR code as well as some printed copies to be handed out at the pool.

Action: Anita to remind Clubs that their program articles are due by 2 February 2026.

Assistant Carnival Director Role:

No progress has been made on appointing an Assistant Carnival Director's role.

Action: Peter to document the carnival director processes.

2027 AIF Swimming Carnival:

It was noted that the Grafton District Services Club formally applied to the AIF Swimming Association to host the AIF Carnival in March 2027. The Grafton Regional Aquatic Centre has been rebuilt in a recent \$40m upgrade. There is an 8 lane 50 metre pool, indoor complex and grandstand. The meeting unanimously agreed that this venue would be suitable to host the 2027 AIF Swimming Carnival.

Action: Anita to formally write to Grafton accepting the offer to host the 2027 Carnival and request a suitable date in March 2027.

Meeting closed: 8.40pm

Next general meetings (via Zoom):

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