



**Devonport Swim Club**  
**Annual General Meeting - Wednesday 25 May 2011**  
**President's Report**

**What is the Club About?**

Tonight marks the end of my second term as President. During this time the committee and coaches have done some naval (excuse the pun) gazing to ask ourselves what we are about.

Our website says that we are a small community swimming club with the objective of providing;

*training sessions that are fun, encouraging our Junior squads to be water safe, competitive in school swimming meets, and to get a good workout. Our Masters squads also enjoy a good workout, and some social banter between sessions (not sure if that should read social banter between lengths - perhaps that is just the evening masters?)*

All of that is true, we do get a good workout, while we don't generally compete at Olympic level most of us improve our swimming, but most importantly I believe we are a great community club. I looked through the names on Club Hub this afternoon and in our membership I counted

15 sets of siblings (that's 30 brother and/or sister members);

10 couples (masters - am not sure about the juniors!);

13 sets of parent/child swimmers;

2 complete families.

Obviously some doubling up in there but I think those numbers are a great testament to our community base.

This spirit is most evident at the special events we hold - the Cheltenham and Round North Head swims are institutions on the Devonport calendar and the vibe and feedback is always fantastic. This year we also held a junior and masters carnival which were great fun and excellent for some intra-club bonding.

**Coaching**

This is all helped by our dedicated group of coaches, Bevan, Marjo, Dawn and Brad. You only have to ask yourself how often do you turn up and the coach *hasn't* been able to make it to realise their commitment. On all our behalf I express our thanks.

I made the same point last year but it isn't difficult to appreciate that the hours they work are irregular and antisocial. Bevan managed to make the job slightly more social this year by engineering a change to our timetable so that now it doesn't move to winter hours (which used to see evening masters swimming till 9pm). This has been highly successful from (most of) the masters' point of view as well.

## **Juniors**

We have 71 junior members in the Club.

Last year they were split into 6 groups. This year we restructured again so that we now have 1 morning group of older teens (orcas) and two evening squads (junior and intermediate). This restructure has been very positive in terms of squad numbers and motivation in the evening groups.

Towards the end of this year many of the orcas who have been swimming together for years, finish their school life. I intend in the third or fourth term to sit down with them and with the coaches to work out what to do next. Watch this space..

Because of its depth the navy pool isn't suitable for learn to swim level. Our junior swimmers have almost all come from other swim schools around the peninsula where they have reached squad level. They swim anything from 1-2km in their 40 minute sessions. Tom (King) doesn't have children in the club but came to watch the junior carnival and commented:

*The kids showed a good level of fitness and command of all the strokes considering this is a non competitive club. Hats off to the coaches. Also great for the parents attending to see what the club has done for their kids.*

Last year at the AGM I had a small rant about the attitude of some of the junior swimmers. This year I am pleased not to rant and can report a positive and enthusiastic attitude which is making the sessions much more successful and enjoyable for all.

One thing I do strongly encourage is for parents to come every now and again to see their children swim. They have great style and stamina and it is worth taking the time to have a "proud moment".

## **Masters**

We have had a good number of new masters join during the past year but still have a reasonable number on the waiting list. Because of this we no longer hold open spaces for swimmers who take terms off to do sea swimming or sit by the fire.

The new 40 minute masters group has been a great success and is a really useful buffer between those who want to get back to swimming or who are not so fit, and the super human hour-long masters groups.

## **Events**

The Round North Head swim was a great success and again, enormously popular. The Cheltenham Swim wasn't so successful financially but as always, was enjoyed by all and showed that great community spirit and camaraderie. Special thanks to Ian McDonald and his extended family for the enormous amount of work in putting these events together and also for throwing a great Christmas party.

## **New IT System**

Thanks also to Ian for getting us up and running on the Club Hub system.

## **Committee**

This year our committee has excelled at producing children. Chris and Leigh had a new baby at the start of the year and Bronwyn and Scott are expecting their first in August.

I am also pleased that even with their expanding family commitments our current committee is willing to stand again in the same positions though as always we will gratefully accept nominations for new members.

## **Cathy Denne**

Thanks are also due to Cathy Denne who is often the "face" of the club and gives great service as our Membership Manager.

## **Pool**

We have been very fortunate with the pool's performance in the year past. New members possibly don't appreciate that renting an elderly pool on a military installation poses its own challenges and in the past we have had more frequent closures than has been the case recently.

## **Navy**

Finally tonight I would like to thank the navy, in particular Roger Saynor and Mal Badham. Our relationship is on a great footing - getting those little jobs liked blocked showers cleared, happens instantly and nothing seems too hard. So for all of us, I express our sincere appreciation to the Navy for the use of the facility and its fabulous and friendly co-operation and assistance.

Robin Harrington

President