

**SWIMMING NEW SOUTH WALES LTD.  
SINCE 1896**



**MINUTES**

**FIFTY FIFTH  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY 25 JULY 2020**

**ZOOM WEBINAR**

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**ZOOM WEBINAR**

**PRESENT**

**LIFE MEMBERS**

Cliff Harris OAM

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chris Fydler OAM (President)	Benjamin Tuxford	Graham Towle OAM	David Goff
Lynn Lonngren Alex Boden	Janelle Barnett Mark Heathcote (CEO)	Mark Payne	Sarah Platts

**AREA DELEGATES**

<b>AREA</b>	<b>DELEGATE</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>DELEGATE</b>
ACT	Murray Smith	Coast & Valley	Jacqui Currey
North Coast	Warren Phillips	Metro North East	Helen Collett
Metro South East	Mark Smith	Metro South West	Phil Wilkie
Mountains & Plains	Jo Keown	New England & North West	Brian Coombs
South Eastern	Sue Worthington	Southern Inland	Tom Murphy
Western	Phillipa Smith		

**CLUB DELEGATES**

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>DELEGATE</b>	<b>CLUB</b>	<b>DELEGATE</b>
Auburn	Carolyn McDonald	Bankstown Sports	Neil Rogers
Beresfield	Greg Skinner	Blacktown City	Richard Galea
Braidwood	Kirsten Hulse	Canberra	John Skene OAM
City of Sydney	Daniel Arnarnart	Hunter	Pete Sutherland
Kempsey	Peter Gambrill	Laurieton	Ann Pilkie
Leichhardt	Anne-Marie Whelan	Liverpool	Debbie Weimer
McCredie Park	Dennis Browning	Menai	David Ryan
Merrylands	Peter Johnston	Narrabeen Carlile	Justin Barrett
NC Aquatic	David Kennedy	Novocastrian	Catherine Carruthers
Parkes	Barbara Weaver	PLC Sydney	Craig Stokes
Raymond Terrace	Narelle Murphy	Revesby Workers	Gail Cauchi
Ryde Carlile	Shane Gibson	Sydney University	Paul Bruce
Terrey Hills	Sarah Burns	The Hills	Graham Taylor
Trinity Grammar	Bruce Innes	Trinity Lismore	Simon Watkins
Tuggeranong Vikings	Bob Alford	Twin Towns	Faye Rowles
Warringah Aquatic	Ariel Darley	Wauchope	John Miall

## **VISITORS**

Peter Lozan OAM	Mikaeli Cuell	Cameron Gledhill	Chris Myers
Kim Mallett	Barry Lovegrove	Amanda Vance	Cherry Smith
Tony Shaw	Darren Howard		

## **APOLOGIES**

Alexandra Phillips	Joe Gerada	Jo Lovett
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### **1. WELCOME**

At 10.05am the President, Chris Fydler, declared the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting open. Chris extended a welcome to the Delegates and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wangal people, on which the event took place, he paid respects to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present.

Chris acknowledged that a quorum for the meeting was 20 Clubs and this has been reached. Chris also welcomed Swimming NSW Life Members; Cliff Harris & Neil Rogers as well as the Swimming NSW Directors that were present.

Chris then noted that the apologies for the meeting would be as per noted in the meeting Q&A section.

Chris then made mention of those members who had passed during the year: Glenn Tasker – Former Swimming Australia and Swimming NSW CEO, Brian Franklin – Life Member of Metro South East, Lois Coombes – Life Member of Swimming North Coast, Geoffrey Stain – Life Member of Western Area and Shirley Freeman , Life Member of Macksville Swimming Club.

Chris requested a silent remembrance to those members.

## **BUSINESS**

### **2. MINUTES**

**2.1** Moved and Seconded that the Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Swimming NSW held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be taken as read.

**CARRIED**

**2.2** Moved and Seconded that the Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Swimming NSW held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be accepted as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

### 3. ANNUAL REPORT

#### 3.1 The President presented the 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Chris Fydler reported that the 2019/20 year had been one of the most disruptive and challenging periods in the sport's history. In what seemed a long time ago, Chris noted the summer season had commenced with continuing drought affecting most of the state's regions, particularly that of the western members and this had been compounded in late 2019 and early 2020 by the worst bushfire season in memory causing personal distress and loss to many members and numerous carnivals at all levels throughout the state to be cancelled. Then in late March 2020, like most of the nation, all pools in NSW had been closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chris reported that it was therefore difficult to look back on the immediate year before COVID-19, but felt it was important to highlight the hard work and positive achievements of the organisation and members. Despite the shortened season, much had been still achieved in areas of participation, performance and partnerships. Chris reported on these items.

- NSW represents over 40% of the registered members of Swimming Australia and NSW followed the national trend of overall membership falling this year with NSW contributing approximately 28,000 members to the national membership with the fall most likely being attributed to the cancellation of the Optus Junior Dolphin program
- The exciting announcement of Swimming NSW acquiring Swim League and the employment of its founder Adam Beisler. Swimming is looking forward to introducing the fast paced, fun, and team-based format across the state in 2020 and seeing its further development over the coming years
- The Company is proud of its improved member wellness support initiatives which commenced this year. In partnership with the respected Black Dog Institute, an in-depth survey of the technical officials in our swimming community was conducted to better understand the support requirements for that important membership group. A new strategic relationship with Australia's leading online mental health organisation Reach Out Australia was also announced.

- With the assistance of Ron McKeon (NSW Head Coach) we continued to improve the connection of squads around the state with our three Performance Hubs, headed by Simon Cusack (Northern Metropolitan Hub), Adam Kable (Olympic Park Hub) and Shannan Rollason (AIS Hub). Chris also noted the fantastic performances of NSW Swimmers at the FINA World Championships and World Para Championships in 2019.
- Sadly, nearly all the major swimming events scheduled for 2020 had been cancelled so Chris reported that we would need to wait a bit longer to see how the NSW swimmers would fare.
- Chris noted that the delivery of the sport was not possible without the continued support of our partners and this year was no exception. Chris therefore recognised the continued support from our key strategic partners and sponsors
- Chris reported from a National perspective that at the 2020 Swimming Australia AGM in October, John Bertrand would conclude his final term as President of SAL. John had done a great job over the last 8 years in leading the sport and he would certainly leave some large shoes to fill for his successor. Swimming NSW congratulates and thanks John for his achievements and look forward to participating in the process of finding the next SAL President.
- Chris acknowledged the additional investment and focus that Swimming Australia had made in driving improvement and usability of the Swim Central product.

Chris noted that the achievements of 2019/2020 had been dwarfed by the larger social challenges present at this time, but it was important to recognise the amazing contribution of Mark Heathcote and the SNSW staff. Throughout this troubled period, the staff have continued to work hard and creatively to ensure we are best positioned to relaunch the sport as safely and fairly as allowed.

Chris thanked his fellow Directors for their continuing contribution and strategic advice to our CEO, and his team. Importantly, Chris acknowledged long serving Board member and Life Member Pat Troy for his enormous contribution to our sport over many decades. Pat retired from the Board in December 2019.

Finally, Chris conveyed a massive thank you to all the volunteers, members and their families who have continued to provide the amazing support of NSW Clubs, Areas, Coaches and of course our Swimmers during this difficult time.

The CEO, Mark Heathcote, then gave his report which further highlighted the following Operational aspects: -

- Highlighted how difficult the 2019-20 year, particularly the Summer Season, had been for many members, with devastating drought affecting almost all of the State, the horrible bush fire season and the COVID-19 pandemic all impacting in some way.
- Despite these events, Swimming NSW had still been able to achieve several key milestones against the Strategic Plan which would the Company in strong position as it moved into the year ahead
- Pleasing to see improved performances by NSW athletes at National & International competitions over the course of the year. These improvements had been achieved at both the National Age & National Club Championships in April and NSW had topped the Medal Tally at the Australian SC Championships in October
- Swimming won Program of The Year at the 2019 NSWIS Awards
- Swimming NSW was excited to acquire Swim League Australia in July last year. Swim League had been a revolution since it was founded three years ago and is now the fastest growing and non-traditional swimming competition in Australia. Swim League would re-launch in NSW next month
- The work of the Coach Leadership team in educating, developing and mentoring NSW Coaches across the State
- Partnership with Hancock Prospecting to provide NSW's swimmers with the Escrito Sport Performance Analysis system. The system had been developed by SportExpertise in the Netherlands and is considered among experts as the premier swimming analysis software in the World.
- Secured an agreement with SOPA that would see Swimming NSW run the Squad Program at SOPAC and we employed Matthew Brown to head up the program.
- Noted that at present the Squad operations were part of Swimming NSW Ltd (the Parent entity), but the Board was currently investigating other opportunities regarding this so as to provide greater transparency between our Squad operations and our regular member servicing activities
- The difficulties experienced with the implementation of the new Swimming Australia Customer Relationship Management System, Swim Central
- That additional resources had been added to the Swim Central project with the view to improve functionality of the system for the upcoming registration period
- The reduction in membership figures at year end, due to both Swim Central and the cessation of the Optus Junior Dolphins program
- Despite an interrupted season, the Company had run many successful events over both the Winter & Summer seasons
- The continued implementation of Online Technical Official modules which now boasted almost 3500 unique candidates
- The continued success of the Technical Official Development program

- The continued work of the Company's Standing & Management Committees
- Thanked the members of these Committees for their fantastic contributions
- Acknowledged appreciation for Company Sponsors; Hancock Prospecting, Speedo, Accor Hotels, Arena, the NSW Office of Sport, NSWIS and 2XU
- Congratulated Suzanne Bergersen OAM on receiving an OAM in the Australia Day Honours List
- Congratulated Winners and Finalists in the NSW Champions of Sport Awards, Sport NSW Community Sport Awards and the NSWIS and Swimming Australia Awards.
- Congratulated the NSW swimmers, coaches and managers who represented Australia throughout 2019-2020.
- Gave special thanks to Chris Fydler, the Board of Directors, the Office Staff, Club and Area representatives, technical officials, parents and athletes

In closing Mark expressed the importance of maintaining the successful momentum of the various new initiatives introduced this year as well as recognising the areas for continued improvement to ensure long term success for the future.

It was then Moved and Seconded that the 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report be adopted.

**CARRIED**

- 3.2** Moved and seconded that the Financial Statements for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 be received.

**CARRIED**

The CEO presented the Financial Statements, highlighting the following:

- A Group Operating loss of \$127,302
- Consolidated Entity with accumulated funds totaling \$2,047,074
- Total Current Assets of \$2,165,658

Cash & Cash Equivalents for the Consolidated Entity were \$783,966 and the deterioration in cash had been due to the cessation of operations just prior to yearend along with increased manual collection of funds from Clubs in comparison to the previous year. However, Mark noted that at the present time Cash holdings were now significantly higher than the previous year.

This was the Company's first loss in eight years which meant that despite the COVID-19 pandemic Swimming NSW had been able to remain in a relatively strong financial position.

Noted the increase in salary expenses over the last year but confirmed that Swimming NSW Members funds had only used to fund one additional employee during the year that being the Swim League Director position. All other additional expenditure on Salaries & Wages had been substantially underwritten by income from contracts with other parties.

Mark reported that as noted in last year's report, the Board had invested \$500,000 into an Investment Fund with Swimming Australia which was managed by Escala Partners and the value of this investment at the end of last year had risen to \$574,329. Unfortunately, this year the value of the investment fell to \$549,683 mainly due to market volatility associated with COVID-19. The unrealised loss on this investment of \$46,325 combined with the net deficit of \$80,977 gave an overall loss for the year of \$127,302.

Mark report that up until March, Swimming NSW had been tracking to record a small profit for the year, so this result was disappointing but also largely beyond the Company's control given the timing of the COVID-19 pandemic being so close to the end of our financial year.

It was then Moved and seconded that the Financial Statements be adopted.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. ENDORSEMENT OF VICE PATRONS**

Chris Fydler reported that in conformity with the provisions of By Law 39.2 (b) the Board of Directors had invited Mrs. Ursula Carlile and Mrs. Petria Thomas OAM to grant their patronage and both had generously accepted this offer. Accordingly, Chris then put to the meeting their names for endorsement.

It was therefore Moved and Seconded that Mrs. Ursula Carlile & Mrs. Petria Thomas OAM be endorsed as Vice-Patrons of Swimming NSW Ltd.

**CARRIED**

#### **5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

It was Moved and Seconded that Ernst & Young be appointed Company Auditors for the 2020/21 financial year.

**CARRIED**

#### **6. DECLARATION OF DIRECTORS**

In accordance with provisions of the By Law 11 (I) the declaration of the poll was undertaken.



Commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 online voting memorandums were posted out periodically to 265 eligible members. The online voting period lasted for six weeks commencing on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and concluding on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020. By close of voting a total of 61 members had voted.

Of the 61 member votes received for Directors there were no votes that were deemed informal.

The following Directors were elected for a 3-year term: -

- Chris Fydler OAM
- Lynn Lonngren

Mark Heathcote extended a thank you to all the Member Associations who had voted in the elections and congratulated Chris and Lynn on their reelection to the Board. Mark also thanked David Goff for his contributions during his time as Director of Swimming NSW.

## **7. PRESENTATION OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

The recipients of the 2020 Service Excellence Awards were announced and presented by the CEO & various Directors: -

- Barry Lovegrove
- Peter Lozan OAM
- Tony Shaw
- Cherry Smith

The President expressed his thanks to the Presenters and congratulated the recipients.

## **8. MEETING CLOSURE**

Chris Fydler then thanked everyone for their attendance and then closed the meeting at 10.57am.

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