



## **MINUTES**

### **58TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY 22 JULY 2023  
COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT  
NORTH RYDE  
7-11 TALAVERA RD NORTH RYDE  
& ZOOM WEBINAR**

# ATTENDEES

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Fydler OAM (President)	Benjamin Tuxford	Alexis Dodwell	Graeme Field
Kerryn Divall	Janelle Barnett	Sarah Platts	

## STAFF

Kirsten Thomson (CEO)	James Hickman (CCMO)	Josh Karp (GM Participation & Engagement)	Billy Nicholson (CSO) Lyn Connell (CSO) Jo Keown (CSO) Darren Howard (Coaching Coordinator)
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## AREA DELEGATES

AREA	DELEGATE	AREA	DELEGATE
ACT	Bob Alford	Coast & Valley	Norman Roberts
North Coast	Ann Pilkie	New England & North West	Brian Coombs
Southern Inland	Mark Lake	Metro NW	Michael Tuohy
South Eastern	Susan Worthington	Metro SE	Mark Smith
Metro NE	Cameron Gledhill	Mountains & Plains	Stephen Howell

## CLUB DELEGATES

CLUB	DELEGATE	CLUB	DELEGATE
Narrabeen	Toby Williams	Bankstown Sports	Neil Rogers
Bellingen	Jo Hodgson	Knox Pymble	Heather Liney
ACU Blacktown	Steve McGuinness	Aquablitz Toongabbie	Brad Fahey
Peakhurst	John Owen	Norwest	Belinda Harvon
Laurieton	Chris Molyneux	McCredie Park	Dennis Browning
Merrylands	Peter Johnston	Nepean Aquatic	Lydia Debrincat
Parkes	Barbara Weaver	Ripples St Marys	Lyndon Heslop
Wollongong	Isaak Wilson	The Hills	Graham Taylor
Loretto Normenhurst	Rachel Stephen	Twin Towns	Faye Rowles
Warringah	Ariel Darley	Wagga Wagga	Annette Figgis
West's Illawarra	Richard Smith	Woodenbong	Jennie Riley
Beresfield	Jacqui Currey	Dapto	Dominic Urso
Bellingen	Joanne Hodgson		

## **VISITORS**

Graham Towle OAM      Mark Payne                      John Miall                      Loraine Alford  
Nick Keith                      Lynn Longren

## **APOLOGIES**

Ian Thorpe OAM                      Matt Levy OAM

### **1. WELCOME**

At 9.06am the President, declared the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting open and extended a welcome to the Delegates and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wallumedegal 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.

The President acknowledged that the quorum for the meeting was 20 Clubs and this has been reached.

The President then noted that the apologies for the meeting would be as per the sign on sheets or the Q&A section for those online.

The President then made mention of those members who had passed during the year:

- Dorothy Crouch – Life Member Maitland Swimming Club
- Grant Stoelwinder – Olympic Coach
- Joan Somerville OAM – President of Queenscliff Ladies SC for 40 years

The President requested a silent remembrance for those members.

## **BUSINESS**

### **2. MINUTES**

- 2.1** Moved and Seconded that the Minutes of the Swimming NSW Special General Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be taken as read and accepted as a true record.

**CARRIED**

### **3. ANNUAL REPORT**

**3.1** The President referenced the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Report and Financial Statement for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and introduced CEO, Kirsten Thomson, to give her report.

**3.2** The CEO, Kirsten Thomson, then gave her report.

Following several years impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, this year was an opportunity to return to normal operations.

Swimming NSW (SNSW) would like to thank all the Area committees, coaches, parents, volunteers, and clubs who contributed to the delivery of our services and initiatives throughout the year. The team are immensely appreciative of the continued support and recognise that these contributions are vital to our sport.

It is a great privilege to be appointed to the role of Chief Executive Officer and I look forward to working with you over the years ahead to deliver our Strategic Plan. I would like to thank former CEO Mark Heathcote for his support during the transition process and it is my pleasure to present the achievements of SNSW.

SNSW continues to focus on the delivery of the 2032 Strategic Plan. Our vision is to be the number one state in performance and participation and while we have some work to do to achieve this, we have made some great gains in recent years.

This season saw the resurgence of the Performance Pathways Program after two years that were heavily disrupted by the pandemic.

Overall, participation in the Performance Pathways Program across both Olympic and Paralympic streams encompassed seven squads and teams that included 207 swimmers and 72 coaches, from 60 different NSW/ACT programs.

In addition to our SNSW Performance Pathway Program, a total of 48 swimmers from across regional and metro NSW were selected to participate in the Regional Development and Junior Development Programs.

In June 2022, SNSW partnered with the Body Confident Collective to deliver our new initiative called 'Swim Confident'. The goal was to improve the body image of swimmers through education of swimmers, coaches, and parents. Feedback from participants has been positive and we look forward to ongoing initiatives to promote a better understanding of body image.

Our Club Support Officers have continued to provide immense support to our clubs across NSW, meeting with approximately 115 swimming clubs face to face throughout the year. An additional 95 have been contacted directly by phone or zoom for assistance with various club related issues. Each of the CSOs has attended at least 10 local and Sydney based meets and are a vital link between SNSW and regional clubs.

The highlight of the Area Development Program in 2022 was the SAARS and JAARS Swim League Meet at SOPAC. The event had approximately 350 swimmers, using three pools consecutively for six hours. It was fast, fun, and focused on the future of our sport.

From a para development perspective, SNSW continues to lead the rest of the country in terms of the numbers of swimmers we classify each year. Since December 2022, SNSW has held classification panels for approximately 80 swimmers. We also welcomed Paralympic superstar Matt Levy OAM to our Board in 2023.

Our partnership with SCTA NSW continues to strengthen with SNSW successfully securing grant funding to partner with SCTA NSW to develop the Fast Lane to Coaching Her Way initiative. Designed to increase the number of female teachers and coaches in leadership roles, this is an exciting initiative, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with SCTA NSW President Ben Tuxford and the Board over the years ahead.

We are also continuing to invest in improving pathways programs across NSW giving our athletes more options to remain in NSW and continue to be coached by some of the best coaches in the country. We were particularly excited to launch the Newcastle Performance Centre with our partner NUSport, and our Blacktown program with our partners ACU and Blacktown City Council.

I would also like to thank our coaching leadership team of Jon Shaw and Chris Myers for their efforts throughout the year, visiting clubs and coaches across the entire state. We added to our coach support through our regional coaching partnership with NSWIS which saw Greg Salter continue his visits to regional NSW. The comradery and shared vision of NSW coaches was evident on pool deck at the national age championships in Queensland.

Finally, I would like to thank my team of staff at SNSW for your unwavering commitment to our organisation and to the many volunteers that form part of SNSW Management Committees and the Board that support our decision making on critical matters and generously give your time to evolve and grow our sport.

**3.3** Board Member Kerryn Divall presented the Financial Statements, highlighting the following:

Full year Actual results show a consolidated loss of \$362, 523. The main drivers of the loss include increased operating costs.

Increases in revenue can be attributed largely to Swim Meet Income, Squad Income and Donations, Sponsorships, and Grants.

This result also reflects trends within the market as organisations emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and deliver a first full year of operations. Swimming NSW continue to monitor inflationary pressures being experienced across Australia with a view to managing our operational costs as much as possible.

Cash and Cash Equivalents for the consolidated entity were \$1,474,00, a decrease of \$358,000 from 2022.

Total Net assets of \$2M.

Investment funds, managed by Escala Partners, decreased to \$864,500, down from \$883K in 2022.

Lydia Debrincat enquired as to the explanation of Net Cash Flow being \$297K loss in comparison to the previous year being \$394K (question provided via email pre meeting). Kerryn Divall noted that cash flows from operating activities increased by approximately \$1M but were offset by a \$1.5M increase in payments. These figures represent inflationary pressure faced by SNSW associated with operating costs. Net Cash Flow was also impacted by the conclusion of the NSW Government Job Saver subsidy.

Stephen Howell asked if Swimming Australia funding is going to get better, why the levy? Kirsten Thomson explained that funding was not going to improve in the short term and the Meet Levy is one of several ways in which SNSW would seek to improve income. The President added that SNSW must become more self-sustainable without SA funding.

Sue Worthington enquired as the whether SNSW membership fees would be increasing? The President confirmed membership fees will be increasing as will the Swimming Australia component of membership. Kirsten Thomson indicated these would be announced shortly.

Annette Figgis questioned the expected decline in Swimming Australia grant funding and enquired as to what the value of this was to SNSW. Kirsten Thomson confirmed that Swimming Australia funding has continued to decrease year on year. Kirsten reiterated that the focus for SNSW was to strengthen our relationship with Swimming Australia and seek increased investment in NSW.

Stephen Howell questioned whether there would be any reduction in SNSW staff salaries because of funding challenges. Kirsten Thomson thanks SNSW staff for their hard work and dedication, particularly during a period of significant change and notes that the remuneration of individual staff would not be publicly disclosed.

It was then Moved and Seconded that the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Report and Financial Statements be adopted.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

It was Moved and Seconded that Ernst & Young be appointed Company Auditors for the 2023/24 financial year.

**CARRIED**

#### **5. DECLARATION OF DIRECTORS**

Kirsten Thomson noted that Swimming NSW had two Elected Director vacancies. Nominations for directors closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 and the number of nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies.

The following Directors were elected for a three year term:

Chris Fydler OAM

Graeme Field

#### **6. PRESENTATION OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE & LIFE MEMBER AWARDS**

The recipients of the 2023 Service Excellence and Life Member Awards were announced and presented by the President and Directors:

- Chris Hayes – Service Excellence
- Mark Payne – Service Excellence
- Lynn Lonngren – Life Member

- Graham Towle OAM – Life Member

The President expressed his thanks to the presenters and congratulated the recipients on their significant achievements and contribution.

## **7. MEETING CLOSURE**

The President then thanked everyone for their attendance and then closed the meeting at 09.43 am.