

## My Lane – Cherry Smith

### **What Club did you start your swimming career?**

Peakhurst ASC

### **What Club are you with now?**

Peakhurst ASC

### **What was your first TO credential and what year did you attain that credential?**

Timekeeper on 23rd May, 1994.

### **Why did you become an official?**

Initially to assist the club with officiating on club nights.

### **Why do you still officiate?**

Chlorine is in my blood now, no escaping that - no seriously, the same reason as when I started - to be of assistance to the swimmers, my club, my Area, my State and my Nation. Also, after so many years, the friendships that I have formed are lasting and enduring and I am now in a position to travel the world using the skills that I have honed over a long period of time... this at the moment, gives me the greatest pleasure - being able to represent Australia at an International level and hopefully, do my job well enough to let the other countries know that we are indeed the best officials ever and to assist athletes at the pinnacle of their careers.

### **What is the highest credential received? (i.e. Starter Level 1, Referee Level 3, JOS, etc)**

I am currently in my second 4-year term as a FINA Referee.

### **What is your goal(s)?**

One goal of mine recently is to learn more about Multi Class (disability) swimming. I attended the 2017 IPC Para Swimming Technical Officials Program and Swim Meet in Berlin, Germany, last year. My aim there was to bring back a load of information to share with other officials who are looking at going down this pathway with their officiating journey. This seems to be a mysterious chapter of officiating and I am seeking to better understand the rules and applications and to hopefully become a better official in this area. Of course, since the Commonwealth Games, my pipe dream would be to officiate at Tokyo in 2020!

### **What is the highest-level meet at which you have officiated? (e.g. Area, State, National, Pan Pacs etc).**

In 2015 I was lucky enough to be selected to officiate at the FINA Airweave Swimming World Cup in Tokyo, Japan. As luck would have it (for me, not the Japanese official), the Japanese Referee for the meet was taken ill and I was asked to Referee at this very high level of competition - it was a fantastic honour to have been selected and although I was nervous, I was also extremely humbled to have been considered. More recently I was selected to Referee at the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast this year and of course, without a doubt, that has been the pinnacle of my career.... the opportunity and the occasion was huge and an experience that I will never forget!

...continued below...

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**With respect to your answer to Question 6, can you please pass on some of the strategies/tips you used to help you achieve your appointment?**

Well I am a great believer in the maxim; 'If it's worth doing - it's worth doing well'. Only make a commitment if you're prepared to do it wholeheartedly. If you really want to progress to become a good official, whether that be a FINA Referee or Starter or an official at your Club, if you put your hand up to do the job, then do it to the best of your ability. The athletes are depending on you to give them the best opportunity to achieve, be that a PB on Friday night at club or an Olympic medal - to them it is their greatest achievement and you have volunteered to give them every opportunity to excel. Therefore, learn your rules, be fair, be tolerant - not everyone will share your views or have the same opinions - no wrong or right, just different. Every time you officiate, you are always and I mean ALWAYS being observed - make that count each and every time that you step out on the pool deck because the people who will put you forward for the positions that you are seeking will witness just that - that you are being the very best that you can be. Oh, and did I mention 'learn your rules'!

