

My Lane – Jacqui Currey

1. What Club did you start your swimming career?

What Club are you with now?

I started with Beresfield Swimming Club in 2014 and have remained there since.

2. What was your first TO credential and what year did you attain that credential?

I started with Time Keeper, Chief Timekeeper and Starter 2015.

3. Why did you become an official? Why do you still officiate?

Like most people, the club needed timekeepers each Friday night for our regular club nights. I volunteered and enjoyed it more than sitting in the grandstand, watching a couple of races for my kids, and waiting for the night to be over. With encouragement from our club president, also an active technical official in Coast & Valley, I did the training and theory, then attended an area meet to be assessed on my practical skills. All the other technical officials were so encouraging that I decided it was something I wanted to continue for myself. Since then I have officiated at over 60 meets at area, state and national level, as well as refereeing every Friday night at Beresfield Club. The people I have met, the friends I have made, and the personal sense of accomplishment at creating a fair and encouraging environment which allows the swimmers to compete and achieve their potential, all keep me coming back meet after meet.

4. What is the highest credential received

Referee Level 1, Starter Level 1 and AOE

5. What is your goal(s)?

My goal is to become a Level 3 Referee and Level 2 Starter. Currently my short-term goal is to be assessed as a Level 2 Referee within the next 12 months.

6. What is the highest level meet at which you have officiated

I have recently returned from officiating at the 2017 Australian Age Championships in Brisbane. Prior to that, I officiated at the 2016 Australian Short Course Championships, as well as 2016 & 2017 NSW State Open, 2016 & 2017 NSW Country Championships (including as Referee for one session), 2016 NSW State Age Championships and the 2016 National A Squad Meet.



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7. 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?

Firstly, just nominate for everything you can be available for and be happy with whatever role to which you are appointed. No matter what position you are in, you can always learn more, especially about pool-deck protocols. Be aware of and watch everything that goes on throughout the meet. Talk to other officials and share your experiences. Ask lots of questions to those more experienced TO's at the meet and be open to furthering your knowledge. Know the rules and how to apply them – read the rules before each meet. Take part in the Swimming NSW Technical Official Pathway – I went to B&C Squad Meet in 2015, National A Squad in 2016, and hopefully State Teams in 2017. Attend the Swimming NSW forums and take any opportunity that is offered to you.

