

My Lane – Dave Cooper

1. What Club did you start your swimming career? What Club are you with now?

I started at Nepean Swimming Club, which folded to form Nepean Aquatic Centre Swim Club

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

Starter 2001

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

The reason I started officiating was to help at club night and maybe at club carnivals, I didn't want to be an official. But Jann Fathers talked me around, luckily for swimming, the reason I still officiate is that I enjoy it and get a lot of satisfaction from the work. I also have a tight-knit group of friends that I have formed due to officiating.

4. What is the highest credential attained?

FINA Starter

5. What is your goal(s)?

At present my goal is to start at the Tokyo Olympic Games selection Trials, which is the pinnacle of our sport domestically. After 2020 I will reassess my goals and set new ones.

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

2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast; Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Maui USA



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?

Work hard, seek feedback from those you look up to, but don't keep seeking feedback until you get the answer you want. Surround yourself with people that are good at what they do. The most important one: get a great Mentor, make sure your Mentor has the runs on the board, so to speak. Learn to listen to all advice but know what is good, and what is not. Regularly set goals. Once you reach your goal reset new ones or you will stagnate. Enjoy the experience because trust me you can have a great time if you let yourself.