



**Wishart State School Amateur Swimming Club
Pool Chat**

30th Anniversary

Friday 28th November 2008

I'd like to welcome you all and thank our current and past members for joining us on this special night. I would also like to welcome our special guests

- State Member for Mansfield, Mr Phil Reeves
- Principal of Wishart State School, Ms Yolanda Tognini,
- Wishart State School P & C president, Andrew Barr
- Life members of our Swim Club
 - William Green
 - Allan Milligan
 - Barry Mourilyan
 - Lyn Turner
 - Ken Lock
 - Ray Ward
 - Ron Hall
 - Jim Dougall
 - Noel Reynolds
 - David Wood
 - and their families
- Staff of Quest Newspaper's Southern Star for coming to cover this memorable occasion.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the formation of our swimming club, but before we get on to a little history about our club, I would first of all like to acknowledge a recent event that has made some monumental changes to the way our club nights are now run.

As you all know, our club is funded through membership fees and fundraising from the barbeque, canteen and raffles.

A few months ago, we successfully applied for a Gambling Community Benefits Fund grant made available by the state government. The grant has enabled us to purchase an electronic timing and display system, which I am sure you all agree

- Speeds up the running of the night
- Certainly makes our job in the recording shed much easier

Tonight we would like to thank our local member, Mr Phil Reeves on behalf of his government for that grant.

Phil is a very active member of the community and this school and we look forward to the day when his family joins our swimming club too.

Phil, on behalf of the Wishart Swim Club thank you for your support of our club and your government for this grant.

And now to the other reason we are all here tonight, to celebrate our 30th anniversary.

As some of you may know, Wishart State School (Mt Gravatt South as it was then known) was opened on the 21st November 1964, but the idea of building a swimming pool wasn't raised until a P&C on 26th May 1970. A poll following this meeting shelved the concept; however keen P&C members formed a sub committee and raised funds to pursue their dream of a pool at the school.

The spirit was clearly there, because the formation of a swimming club was first mooted by Ian Nibloe at P&C in March 1971, years before the school even had a pool.

In October of 1973, a 2nd referendum was held to gauge the interest in building a school pool. A decisive 251 votes for to 33 against resulted in plans for a pool going ahead full steam. However, these plans were to incur their share of setbacks regarding money and support. But there was always a strong underlying commitment as shown by the 35 public-spirited citizens who were prepared to guarantee \$1000 each to secure a loan for the pool.

In July 1974, it was recommended that once again plans for the pool be shelved and that the money raised so far go towards the building of the school tennis courts. An amount of about \$11,000 was loaned towards construction of the tennis courts which were completed in 1975.

During a P & C meeting in February 1975, it was suggested that there was a need for a swimming club to encourage interest in raising money for the pool. A vote was taken on whether a committee should be formed with the aim of forming a swimming club. 12 people voted for and nil against and so started the search for a pool which could be used by a swimming club until our pool was built. Several schools were approached, but the club never got off the ground until we had our own pool.

In 1977, a bank loan was sought and formally approved with approximately 12 guarantors. The P&C minutes from 30 August 1977 state that "work has begun on pool.", and so started the structure of our pool.

The pool was finally finished in early 1978 at a cost of \$106,777.84

In February 1978 an interim committee investigating the formation of the swimming club was formed. The club was approved and initiated on 24th July 1978 and the first club night of the Mt Gravatt South State School Amateur Swimming Club was held on the 6th October 1978.

It took lots of perseverance to get there.

The club had 216 registered members and the first club captains were Jenny McTaggart and Carl Skillern. Carl Skillern and his family are current members of our club and join us tonight. It's great to see their children continue the family tradition of being associated with the swimming club.

At this point, I'd like to take a break from the history of the club and acknowledge our current Captains and Vice Captains for the 2008/2009 season and present them with their captain's shirts.

- Captains: Danielle Frommolt, Jake Sullivan
- Vice-Cap: Rachel Lacey, Yasmin Murry, Brendan O'Leary, Lisa Stick

So to continue with the history of our club:

The membership to join the club in that first year was

- \$1.50 for the first child
- \$0.50 for each additional child to a maximum of \$4 per family
- \$1.50 for non-swimmers

An admission fee was also charged each club night of

- 20c for swimmers
- 30c for non-swimmers and spectators
- Or \$12.50 for a family season ticket

What a nightmare to administer. These days we have a standard membership of \$70 per family and don't charge admission on club nights.

In those early days, our constitution stated that a president could only stand for a period of two seasons. This was recently changed, as in this day and age, it's hard to find people willing to put up their hand for this position. So a number of presidents have come and gone over the years. Some of whom join us tonight.

- Allan Milligan who was the president for the 1980/81 and 1981/82 seasons.
- Barry Mourilyan presided over our club for the 1985/86 and the 1986/87 seasons.
- William Green was the president for the 1989/90 and the 1990/91 seasons.
- Ken Lock who was president over four terms
 - 1997/98 and 1998/99 seasons
 - 2001/02 and 2002/03 seasons
- David Wood also president for four terms, from 2003/04 to 2006/07.
- For the 2007/08 season and our current season, I have been the residing president.

Of those life members who have joined us tonight, some also filled other important roles

- Allan Milligan
 - Carnival selector for about ten years
 - Chief Judge and Carnival Convener
 - Allan also responsible for writing a fantastic about our club "The First Ten Years and Before" which has been invaluable in obtaining information about the early days of the club. It can be found on the club web site.
 - Allan's wife, Joy and their children, Andrew, Jenny and David were all members
 - With the children becoming club captains and winning principal's trophies and club championships.
- Barry Mourilyan
 - Also Vice President, Chief Time Keeper, Selector and Marshall.
 - Barry actually built the seats that we see in our marshalling area today.
 - Also built the winners dais that is proud part of club championships
 - Barry's wife, Diane and their children, Karen, Brad and Loree were all members
 - Each of the kids becoming club captain at some stage.

- William Green and his family also played vital roles
 - William's wife, Wendy had important role of making the 'Swim club slice' each Friday night. This was a chocolate slice that was sold at the canteen on club nights.
 - I must have been a good slice because another generational family (Slingos'/Sherringtons') also have recipe and still call it that.
 - William and Wendy's son, Rowan was a club captain
 - Their other son, Bevan designed our Wishart Sharks logo with the proud shark posing on the dais. You can see an example on the front of this booklet.
- Ken Lock
 - Was not only president of the swimming club, also P&C president for several years.
 - Within the club he also volunteered for the roles of Vice President, Secretary, Selector, Referee and Time Keeper.
 - His three daughters, Shannon, Courtney and Caitlyn were all keen swimmers with Caitlyn becoming a vice captain.
- David Wood and his family are still members of our club after 13 years.
 - David has also been Vice President, Chief Time Keeper, Referee, and Judge
 - Sharon Wood was Chief Recorder for many years
 - Their children, Sam and Nicole have been club captains, vice captains and have won a swag of trophies over the years.

Although not all of our life members filled the role of president for the club, there were others that spent many years contributing and filling other vital roles.

Ron Hall or Mr Hall as most of you know him

- Is our longest standing member at 23 years
- Ron is the reason a lot of children joined the swimming club in the first place.
- Ron has been a teacher at the school since 1985 and if you were in Mr Hall's class, it was almost expected that you would join the club.
- He instigated the Ron Hall Shield Carnival against Holland Park and his old school, Wynnum North and donated the trophy.
- He would borrow stop watches from Wynnum North for our carnivals in the early days.
- Filled the roles of Secretary for over ten years and Carnival Convener for about 20 years
- Also spent time as Chief Selector and Marshall.
- He has spent many years climbing up and down the grandstands selling raffle tickets.
- On most swimming nights, Ron can still be found slaving away behind the Barbecue.
- Ron and Gwenda's children, Matthew, Brent and Emma were all swimmers with our club.

Ray Ward

- First started up the barbecue with Ron McCarthy to provide dinner for families to enable an earlier starting time for our club nights. And wouldn't we miss that now!
- Ray's brother built the high table used for serving in the barbeque area.
- In days gone by, there was no shelter over the barbeque area and Ray and Ron Hall would put up a tarp or cook under umbrellas when the weather turned inclement.
- Ray's children, Melissa and Kerry Anne were both students in Mr Hall's class and therefore joined the swimming club
- Kerry Anne going on to be a club captain.

Jim Dougall

- Jim was our Chief Recorder before computers when it was all recorded on paper cards
- This drove him to design and maintain our old computer system which was used by not only our club for many years, but at its height about 40 other clubs in the Brisbane area.
- It took about 5000 hours and about 10 years before finally completed.
- Jim, his wife Donnita and their children Tara, Aleitia, Jamie and Kelsey were members from about 1989 to 2000.
- Both Tara and Aleitia were Club Captains

Noel Reynolds

- Noel joined the club about 12 months after it first started, before the Grandstand was built.
- Served as Referee for about 10 years as well as Vice President, Judge and Coach
- Noel, his wife Christine and kids Tracey, Kylie and Troy were members.
- Kylie and Troy both club captains.

Lyn Turner

- Along with her husband, Graham and boys, Robert and Steven were active members of the club for years.
- Lyn organised our club memberships which in those days also involved organising the lessons in either learn to swim or squad classes.

Joe Robotham

- One of our many Chief Time Keepers over the years.

Ron and Pam McCarthy

- Pam was our Treasurer on a number of occasions.
- Ron started the barbeque with Ray Ward and along with Pam ran it for many years.

Some memories shared with us about our club include

- The annual carnival held against Pittsworth (its 40km other side of Toowoomba) in the early days.
 - The clubs alternated hosting the carnival and our club would travel by bus to Pittsworth every second year
 - The kids were billeted and it sounds like a great time was had by all.
- Some of you would also remember the annual progressive dinners.
- Other memories include the free hamburger offered to the two timekeepers who matched the most times during a club night. This became quite competitive.

I'm sure you all have many great memories from this club over the past thirty years and will enjoy spending some time during the night recalling those times with others.

As you know, our club is and always has been run by volunteers and there have been plenty over its thirty year life. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who have, over the years, helped out in the roles of

- Announcing, recording, starting, judging, referring, timekeeping, selecting.
- Working the barbeque, raffles, canteen, uniforms, etc.

Without you all, this club would not have survived for the thirty years and still be going strong.

I would now like to call on our Life Members, Mr Reeves, Club Captains and Vice Captains to gather around for the official cutting of our anniversary cake. As our longest server member, 23 years and going strong I'd like to ask Mr Ron Hall to do honours.

Finally I'd like to thank Sally Stick for compiling this fantastic overview of the contributions of our life members and for coordinating the celebrations for tonight.

Thanks once again to everyone for joining us.
We'll now get on with our regular club night.

- We'll cut the cakes up and bring them around.
- Our usual barbecue and canteen are still up and running
 - Our raffle tonight is a \$50 dinner voucher to Donini's and a bottle of red
 - Second prize is a bottle of rum.
- Sally will be around shortly to sell tickets.

Hope you all have a great night

Please join us for some drinks and nibbles after the club finishes mingling with our special guests and continuing the celebrations of thirty years of the Wishart Swim Club.

**Don't forget, home carnival tomorrow against Holland Park and Rochedale.
4pm for 4:30 start. Parents bring your togs for the Medley relay.**

William Ferguson
Wishart Swim Club – President 2008-2009
www.wishartswimclub.org.au