

# Wett Ones SYDNEY

## Commitee report – August 2022



Dear Wetties,

Another year has flown past.

In mid October last year we finally were able to train together, and in November the first Masters swimming meets started again. In February we held WOSL 2.0 and held our own Carnival in March. It's great to see our training sessions and social events filling up again with our beloved members.



Importantly, the club has also been active in the LGBTQI community of Sydney, with our participation in Fair Day and the Mardi Gras parade that gave us visibility and promoted the club and its values.

We have also reached out to the Sydney Stingers water polo club and have an agreement in place with them about Stingers members joining our training sessions. We are still at the early stages but we think this will have great potential for the future growth of both clubs.

Also with the Stingers we prepared an amazing bid for IGLA 2023, which while unsuccessful, we were able to reuse for the first Australian Queer Aquatics Festival (AQuA) taking place as part of World Pride in 2023. Both clubs are hoping to make the festival a new tradition. AQuA is going to be great, and gives Wett Ones a great opportunity for outreach into our community and to showcase our great inclusive ethos.

I personally would like to thank Barbara, Nick, Marty, Mason, James and Warren for standing up and help for the organisation of this amazing event that will definitely mark an important milestone in the Wett Ones history.

Finally, I would also like to thank the whole committee who have kept the club going this year, and our coaches, who continue to provide us with great sets and high quality feedback and guidance each week. Some committee members have decided to step away this year, including Susie, David, X and X. Thanks so much for making the Wett Ones club a great community to swim and play with.

## Membership

The past year has seen a continuation of the challenges that the pandemic brought upon us all. It has been tough for a lot of us to bring ourselves back to the pool and get our swimming fitness back to where it was. We are very excited to report that we have seen lots of familiar faces on pool deck again and a steady flow of new members signing up to the Wett Ones. This means we are currently sitting at 152 financial members, which makes us one of the largest LGBTIQA+ community sporting teams in Australia, and also one of the largest Masters swimming teams. This is such great news, and testament to the family spirit that sits within the Wett Ones. Recently we have had numerous new members feedback how welcome they have felt when they join, which is a really positive reflection that we are staying true to our community spirit.

## Female engagement

The engagement of women in regular training sessions has fluctuated throughout the year. Reasons for this may be Covid related but the Committee is well aware of the low ratio of women to male swimmers participating in the Club.



To this extent, a survey was conducted at the beginning of the year seeking insights how female membership could be increased. The Introductory Swim Session held just after Fair Day was well attended. Susie and Sam were on deck as coaches and the feedback was excellent.

The Women Wetties attended the Tamarama surf life saving club to discuss collaboration between female members. Covid reduced opportunities to collaborate but there remains future opportunities to engage with that group.

Female participation at each training session does wax and wane. Most recently, Lane 8 on Monday evenings show a larger group of women swimmers in attendance. It is hoped that this will continue. It remains an important and on-going aim of the club to maintain and increase women membership and participation in WettOnes.

## Finances

The club's financial position remains steady in view of the challenges presented in the first half of FY21/22.

Income was lower compared to previous years as we could not hold training sessions between July to October 2021 due the COVID-19 public health orders.

Grants from NSW Sport and Masters Swimming assisted with funding the BPS carnival and investing in the club, including purchasing pool equipment and banners. We also closed the term deposit and transferred funds to the transaction account to assist with operational activities. The club did not incur significant expenses associated with replenishing uniform stock in FY21/22, and the Committee is expected to budget for these costs in FY22/23. These factors contributed to an overall positive cashflow.

The club continues to be in a position to develop and invest in its members and coaches. Additional fundraising and sponsorship opportunities may also assist in offsetting anticipated costs associated with increased lane hire rates and uniform purchases.

## Coaches



The past year has seen some big changes for the coaching group. We farewelled Peter McGee who had been a key part of the coaching team for over 15 years. We also saw the very experienced Janet Bolton move to Perth and hope to welcome her back to the team soon.

This leaves us with a core team of 7 coaches, Oscar Perez, Haydn Woon, Susie Purcell, Bradley Monks, Marko Antic, Luca Alessi and Nick Westaway. We have also been lucky enough to have Nathan Da Fonte join the team and he is in the process of completing his training. This allows us to run 6 coaches sessions

every week.

Unfortunately due to availability of coaches we had to stop the Tuesday and Thursday lunch sessions. We are open to another 1-2 coaches joining the team. If you are interested in coaching please approach a coach for more information.

Our coaching for the last year focused on preparing the team to perform well at our BPS meet and the National Short Course Championships. Our next year will focus on the State Long Course Championships in October 2022 and the AQUA Festival during WorldPride in March 2023.



## Social events

## Sponsors

## Safety

Wett Ones would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding through the difficult times we experienced during lockdown and also your support navigating new safety protocols once we returned to the pool. There have been no major safety issues to report and we thank you for following lane etiquette and your respect for each other in and out of the pool.

## Committee

The past year saw new faces on the Committee, representing renewal and new ideas. As a Committee, we have continued to meet each month, adopting a hybrid of either face to face or virtual meetings. I want to thank the Committee for their efforts on behalf of all club members – we each volunteer our time and we hope for next year to see more new faces and help:

President: **Luca Alessi**

Vice President: **Barbara Wise**

Secretary: **David Prince**

Treasurer: **Reg Leones**

Registrar and Race Secretary: **Pete Goodare**

Safety Officer: **Susie Purcel**

Female swimmers' representative: **Suzy Tay**

Coaches' representative: **Nick Westaway**

Social coordinator: **Sara Eldridge**

Male swimmers' representative/Fundraising and sponsorship coordinator: **Mason Womack**