

2002/2003

from this?" But through the generous support of our sponsors and the voluntary work of our helpers, we raised nearly \$2000 for our Club. The Organisers would like to thank the regular band of helpers who step forward on these days: Eric, Daniel and Luke Woods, Kieran Day, David Brydson and others for bar service and our wives for preparing and serving the food, especially Fern who says she'll never do it again, but backs up each year to purchase our supplies.

Thanks to those 85 families who bought a ticket (even though some could not attend). Look out for the date in 2004 - it's a great day!

*Col Elliott (Convener), Phil Hamilton,
John Zagame and Richard Pinker.*

Shark Island Swim

Sunday 16th March, 2003.

The Shark Island Swim was once again a huge success, despite an early downpour of rain, which threatened to disrupt the setting up for the swim. The IRB Section worked hard in the heavy rain to set the buoys for both swims. We were fortunate the ocean was very calm and quite flat.

The 1km Swim time was put back to 9:45 am, as swimmers were arriving late due to the weather. The 1km Swim got underway, but it was still raining and very windy. There were 160 swimmers who competed in the 1km Swim. Club Members won both divisions, with Ryan Hartup winning the Male Section and Kirstie-May Morris winning the Female Section.

The start of the 2.3km Swim saw the weather improve and the sun was shining, when 680 swimmers entered the water. All but two swimmers made the distance.

The Swim Course was set out and looked impressive with the three large yellow turning buoys and fourteen multicoloured buoys, spread in a line over the Swim Course.

Our congratulations to the winners, Matt Hiesley won the Male Section and Lane Roberts won the Female Section.

The Swim Committee thanks all those Members who helped with Water Safety. At first it was not a nice way to spend a Sunday morning, sitting on a board, ski, surf boat or an IRB in the pouring rain. These Members are to be congratulated on a fine effort. Special thanks to Phil Hamilton. Again this year, Phil organised the Water Safety personnel and co-ordinated the Water Safety from Cronulla Point.

The IRB Section was a tower of strength and I must praise this Section, who worked very hard to get both Swim Courses ready for the swim. Our Swim Course would have to be the best set-out Swim Course of any ocean swim. To get 14 multicoloured buoys in a straight line was no small feat. Special thanks to Daniel Wood, Bruce Guthrie and the IRB Section for all their efforts.

Special thanks to all the women, who helped on the day, led by Shirley O'Donnell. The women are a wonderful help. Thanks to Matthew Bruce for setting up our Swim Website: www.sharkislandswim.com.au - we received many entries downloaded from our site. Matthew had all the swim results on the website by Sunday afternoon.

Thanks to Rob Short and his helpers for erecting all tents, fair stalls and BBQ areas. Rob and his group were also battling the weather. John Wilson and his group did a great job in setting up the start and finish area.

Special thanks to our major sponsor Frank Doran, for his \$5000 sponsorship and for purchasing a T-shirt for all

helpers. Thanks to our other sponsors, Eyeline, longtime sponsors of our swimming caps. Shaun Ryan organises this sponsorship and we are very thankful to Shaun. 2KY.1017, Les Mead and Lipton Ice Tea, who donated \$1250 plus drink product for all swimmers and spectators.

Thanks to Dr. Robyn Jordan, who was on hand to treat any sick or injured swimmers. We are extremely fortunate to have Robyn help us on this day.

Thanks to Ken English, our announcer and M.C., Col Elliott, our Swim Referee, Annette Yazbek, our office lady for receiving all entries, receipting and banking all monies and our Treasurer Graham Giles, who was on hand all weekend organising all floats and monies, paying all accounts and looking after all financial aspects of the swim. Thanks to the group who worked the BBQ. Most of these people were Cray's parents.

Bruce Guthrie was so correct when he remarked that he was always amazed at the number of Club Members who arrived at the beach on swim day to help without even being asked to help. Another wonderful effort to have approximately 130 helpers. This Club can be very proud to be able to run an event of this size, where we have approximately 800 to 900 swimmers competing.

Many thanks to the Swim Committee, Frank Doran, Bruce Guthrie, Greg Hewitt, Kelly Hollingdale, Ken O'Donnell, Shirley O'Donnell, Dave Piggott, Ron Smith, Chris Stevenson and John Wilson. Your help is greatly appreciated and you must be congratulated for all your efforts.

Ever year we learn a little more to improve the running of this event, sometimes by our own mistakes, but we improve a little every year.

As I am standing down as the Convener of the Swim this year, I would like to thank all Members and their wives for the wonderful help and support I have received in the organising and running of the Swim over the twelve years as Convener. The Swim has grown over the last fifteen years, when 68 swimmer entered our first swim in October 1988 to the 960 swimmers in 2002. I feel we would have beaten that record this year only for the bad weather.

My whole hearted thanks to our Swim Committee. Most of these Members have been on this Committee over all these years and have been a wonderful help to me. I thank them all for their commitment and their endeavour to see this Swim grow.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the wonderful contribution that the late Sue Ezy made to our Swim. Sue's involvement was one of the reasons for the Swim's success.

Initially, We were most fortunate to have the help of the late Bill Stafford, who brought with him Chris Stevenson and Ron Smith from Wanda Club. These three men brought us a huge amount of expertise in the running of a sports event, having all been involved in the organising of the Sutherland to Surf Race. These three men started on our Committee in 1991 and Chris and Ron are still with us. They are a great help. Much of the Swim's success can also be attributed to these three men.

I am thankful to be involved in our Swim and proud of the Swim's success.

My utmost thanks to my daughter Kelly, who has been a tower of strength and I thank her for the effort and commitment in helping me with the organisation of all the Swims.

Thanking one and all for your support.

John Hollingdale, Convener.