

Cronulla Shark Island Swim

Sunday, 13 March 2005

Once again, this was a fantastic event, that brought together Members from every single Section of our Club in a mass bonding session!

The Shark Island Swim Challenge events are made possible by a team of over 160 people, comprising of Club Members, their families and their friends – Members from Wanda, Elouera and North Cronulla Surf Clubs – volunteers from Surf Life Saving Sydney and Offshore 2 – and Lifeguards from Sutherland Shire Council. And a better *team effort*, you will be hard pressed to find!

The effort put in by the entire working team was fantastic and there are too many people to mention individually, but I would like to sincerely express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your part in making the Swim Events so successful.

The sea was quite flat for this year's events. The sky was clear and blue, the air temperature was very warm, and the water a mild 22 to 23 degrees. A perfect day for the Cronulla Shark Island Swim Challenge!

This year we had a beach full of sand and no kelp or seaweed to hinder competitors. We had 829 entrants in the 2.3 km 18th Annual Shark Island Swim Challenge and 269 entrants in the 1.0 km Ocean Fun Swim. A total of 1,098 entrants. This is a new record for the events.

The 1.0 km Ocean Fun Swim was officially started by the Cronulla Sharks Manager, Steve Rogers. This event was fiercely contested by the 269 competitors who entered the swim with ages ranging from 10 to 67. The younger swimmers dominated the results with Chad Hancock (12.14) being the first male swimmer and Lauren Davenport (12.26) the first female swimmer across the line.

The 2.3 km Shark Island Swim Challenge was officially started by seven times winner and Cronulla SLSC Champion Swimmer, Daniel McLellan. We had 829 competitors entered in this event and the finish was extremely close. Josh Santacaterina (26.20) won the event, with Grant Cleland (26.21) in second place and Chris Allum in third place (27.12) – an exact repeat of last year's swim! The first three female swimmers to cross the line were Shelley Clark (29.02), Kristie Ogilvie (29.56) and Rebecca Rippon (30.50).

A special mention needs to be made of Helen Evans, 73 years old, who completed the swim with a time of 45.24, as well as John Kelso and Donald Tierney, both 75 years old, who completed the swim in times of 40.46 and 44.02 respectively. John Kelso also won the "Bill Stafford Trophy" for the best time in the 65 years and over group. It was a fantastic swim by all competitors and we congratulate each and every one of you!

This year we had swimmers enter the events from as far a field as the South Coast and North Coast of NSW, ACT, Bathurst, Orange, Goulburn, Queensland, Victoria, Wagga Wagga, Western Australia, the UK and the USA.

We would like to thank every competitor for joining in the fun and swimming in our events this year. We look forward to seeing you all again around the same time next year.

I am pleased to announce that the events raised around \$37,000 in net funds and again this has set a new record. These funds will be used in all avenues of Club activity over the ensuing year – not to mention the outstanding publicity the Club receives within our local and national community.

Our sponsors were again magnificent this year and their generosity in supporting our Surf Lifesaving activities is appreciated more than we can ever express to them. *Frank*

Doran from Financial Services Partners (Frank Doran Financial Services) of Miranda was again our Major Sponsor, donating cash, plus the supply of the T-shirts for the working party. What a fantastic individual effort Frank, your generosity and help in organising and running this major fund raising activity for the Club is greatly appreciated. It should also be noted that Frank donated additional cash this year to specifically allow for the cash prizes for both the male and female winners to be increased to \$1,000 for first prize, \$400 for second prize and \$200 for third prize in the Shark Island Swim Challenge.

Our other Sponsors also added significantly to the financial success of the events. These are: CommInsure a major sponsor – Eyeline/AH Pearce, who through Shaun Ryan, have kindly donated the swim caps and prizes for the events for many years – HPA and Ayman Moubarak, who designed, printed and mailed out our entry forms, as well as mailed out our result certificates – Sydney Airport – Air Pacific and the Fiji Ocean Swim who donated two air fares to Fiji to compete in the *Fiji Ocean Swim*, plus 4 nights accommodation at the Mana Island Resort – Elite Personal Training and Sports Coaching, who allowed competitors to use the Cronulla Sports Pavilion for change facilities, warm-up, warm-down and showers – Coca Cola, who donated Powerade for the competitors – GC Apparel, who supplied the Shark Island T-shirts at greatly reduced prices – Bio Mechanic Massage Therapy, who supplied prizes for the competitors – Nestle, who supplied Pura Powerbars and prizes for the competitors – Fitness First, who supplied prizes for the competitors – Sutherland United Services Club – and radio station 2KY.1017, who supported our Major Sponsors and advertised our events on radio.

I would also like to make mention of the unquestioning help and support provided by Sutherland Shire Council, who regularly assist us through cleaning the beach and surrounding areas, plus Brad Whittaker for making his team of Lifeguards and their life saving equipment, available for water safety for these events.

The courses for both events were professionally set out, thanks to our early morning team of helpers and the Club's IRB Section, who arrived at 6.00 am to place a total of 20 buoys and markers throughout both courses. These people, led by Richard Pinker and Daniel Wood, are always the first to start and the last to finish and certainly deserve a special mention for their selfless efforts.

The organisation of the events was superb, the starts were clean and the water safety was second to none. For water safety, we had the Offshore-2 Rescue Boat with an Ambulance Officer on board, seven IRBs, two Rescue Water Craft (jet skis), three surf boats and dozens of skis, boards and individual swimmers, all of whom are professionally qualified and proficient.

Phil Hamilton was responsible for enrolling, controlling and co-ordinating the water safety activities and carried out his responsibilities exceptionally well – Phil and his team of water safety personnel are to be thoroughly congratulated on a superb result.

The entrants were very complimentary with regard to the quantity and quality of the water safety. Many competitors contacted us after the Shark Island Swim to say how much they enjoyed the swim and appreciated the efforts that went into the organisation of the events.

Dr Martin Jaffe, offered to be our Honorary Doctor during the swims and professionally attend to any swimmers or spectators requiring assistance. We are extremely grateful to Martin for volunteering his services and helping to make this event one of the safest on the Ocean Swim Calendar.



Shark Island Swim – Season 2004-2005.

Shirley O'Donnell and Jenny Pinker and their team of helpers, worked tirelessly to process the late entries on the morning of the swim (over 500 entries were processed and recorded on the Sunday morning!) Thanks heaps to Shirley, Jenny and your team.

Special thanks needs to be given to Rob Short and his team of helpers. Rob managed the set up of the tents and fair-stalls, as well as the drink-stations and then assisted with water safety and the dismantling and clean-up activities. Rob is a great Team Member and energetic Member of the Committee.

John Wilson and his team of men and women on the beach, performed a strategic role in setting up and dismantling the start and finish areas and worked extremely well with many new helpers – thanks John and your team.

The processing of results this year was fantastic – managed by Chris Stephenson of Wanda Surf Club and his wife June, as well as Wanda President, Ron Smith.

The results for all swimmers who swam in under 50 minutes for the Shark Island Swim Challenge were available at 12.15 pm and the total list of results was completed by 12.30 pm. The presentations to the overall and age category winners commenced around 12.45 pm and were completed by 1.30 pm.

Once again, Matthew Bruce did a superb job of updating our Website – www.sharkislandswim.com.au – with the details regarding race entry, plus a down-loadable copy of our entry form, prior to the events taking place. The results of the Shark Island Swim were available on the Cronulla Shark Island Swim Website by 3.15 pm on the afternoon of the events. Thanks also to Ken English, our Announcer and MC – Col Elliott, our Event Referee – Brian Henderson, who designed the Shark Island T-shirts – Jenny Pinker, who put in many hours of work in the Club Office, organising the

myriad of tasks and answering enquiries prior to and after the event – Debbie Short, for processing the majority of the entries through the computer system – and Liz and Ryan Guthrie, for just helping me out, when I needed it – which was most of the time!

Two additional people must also be recognised for their huge contribution to the success of these events. John Hollingdale and Ken O'Donnell – who are very active Members of the Committee and worked non-stop to procure, erect and remove our signs and banners and worked so hard on the day of the events, in many different areas. Thank you so much John and Ken.

Finally, I would like to express my enormous gratitude to the Shark Island Swim Committee, who spent many hours throughout the year to organise and conduct these events – the Committee Members for 2004-2005 were: Frank Doran, Chris Giles, Greg Hewitt, John Hollingdale, Ken O'Donnell, Shirley O'Donnell, Richard Pinker, Rob Short, Ron Smith, Chris Stephenson, John Wilson and John Zagame.

Again, we learned a lot from this year's events. We had many new Club Members helping out with the organisation of the events this year (particularly the parents from our Nippers) and they worked superbly.

We now plan to document all of our procedures, so that we can capture all of the fine details and tricks we learn over the years and pass these on to the new helpers and organisers – and make next year's event even smoother and more efficient! Thanks once again to all Club Members for making the Shark Island Swim Challenge such a success. I am very proud to have such a great team supporting me in so many ways, with the running of the Cronulla Shark Island Swim Challenge.

Bruce Guthrie – Convenor Shark Island Swim Committee.