

## Shark Island Swim

The 2KY-Mirage Pools-Cronulla S.L.S.C. *Shark Island Swim Challenge* was conducted on 16th March 1997 and the Organising Committee is elated with the success of this event.

This year's swim attracted a record 619 swimmers with 280 pre-paid entries and 339 people entering on the morning of the swim. It was a fine effort to process this many entries in approximately 90 minutes. We were fortunate to have very favourable conditions with fine weather and calm seas.

Congratulations to Daniel McLellan on a fine swim, winning his seventh consecutive Shark Island Swim Title with a time of 32.04 minutes. Simone Cotter from North Cronulla Surf Club won the women's category in 32.50 minutes.

The staggered start worked well, although we did have some teething problems that can be rectified next year.

The course layout, water safety, with boats, boards, skis and I.R.B's, Offshore Rescue Boat plus the Beach Inspectors' Jet Ski were all superb. These areas of the swim are extremely important so that swimmers feel safe with such good water safety surrounding the swim course.

One small criticism was the distance of the swim. On Saturday morning, the small buoys were laid where the three main buoys would be attached. The distance when surveyed by Geoff Forshaw was not quite 2.4kms - this was the perfect distance. Unfortunately the first seaward buoy came adrift overnight. This meant the members laying the buoys on Sunday had to quickly guess the distance from the Beach and from the second turning buoy. Obviously this was where the problem was and our guess was that the swim was approximately

2.8 to 2.9kms. In the prevailing conditions this did not present a problem.

The committee has received many good reports from swimmers and most say it is the best organised and conducted ocean swim on the Sydney Beaches. The photos on the front and back pages of the leader in colour and the large photo in the Sydney Morning Herald goes to show how popular our swim has become. However, this committee feels there is still room for improvement.

The swim was a financial success with a profit of approximately \$11,500.00. Whilst this figure was a good result, we did have the added expense of signage on the three large buoys plus anchors, chains and ropes, extra banners and the cost of 7,000 entry forms and timing cards. Most of these expenses are one-off and an expense we will not have next year.

With t-shirt sales profitable in past years, the committee decided to purchase an extra 60 shirts. This proved to be a mistake, as we had that many t-shirts not sold. Hopefully these shirts can be sold at next year's swim.

I would personally like to thank the Shark Island Swim Committee and all members and parents who helped on the day. Your support in helping to run the swim is much appreciated and I am proud this Club can run an event of this calibre with such success.

Thanks to:

- \* Shark Island Swim Committee - John Hollingdale (Convenor), Kelly Hollingdale, Sue Ezzy, John Wilson, Greg Hewett, David Piggott, Allan Hanson, Kevin Maughan, Ken O'Donnell, Robert Walker, Chris Stevenson, Bill Stafford, Ron Smith, Frank Doran, Bruce Breadner.
- \* Bill Eady for his help in taking entries and enquires and the financial aspect of the swim.



*Start of the Shark Island Swim - 16-3-97.*