A newsletter based upon the activities within the famous Wollongong Swim Club (1894) inc. Our equally famous web site may be found at; http://www.wollongong.swimming.org.au

Please excuse the rather late publication of this “Beneath the Dome” - our previous edition of the Year in Review 2015-2016 became a huge production, ending up being bigger than that epic film “Ben Hur”.

*Dapto Carnival Results* proved to be quite fruitful. Many of our newer swimmers swam at this carnival with good results. We finished with 21 Gold, 22 Silver, 20 Bronze, with 17 fourth placings. Imogen Walsh and Tiara Burri dominated the 7 & under age group. The 3 swimming Burri’s (Tiara, Mathias & Lucas) won 3 Gold, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze medals between the whole 3 of them. Top Effort!

Other new swimmers who swam at Dapto include Audrey Gorgijovski, Alexander MacKay, Declan MacKay, Connor Mackay, William MacKay, Tahlie Oxman, Ashton Rutter, Zachary Rutter, Kayla Childs, Adrienne Guiliani, Lilli Fellows and Olivia Sheppard and Grace Burns

Before the Wests Illawarra Carnival, Veronica Simmons-Curcio was our lone entry at the Bomaderry Carnival. In her first ever Carnival, Veronica entered 8 events, winning them all. A week later at the West’s Carnival, Veronica recorded 5 Gold and a Silver, from 6 swims! A great start for a sports career in sprint swimming.

*Veronica Simmons-Curcio,* (Liesel Jones Look-a-like at the same age).

Samuel Herraman and Molly Mc Nair travelled to the Glenbrook Festival Carnival, bringing back a swag of medals.

Corrimal was our next Carnival, where once again, we swam exceptionally well. Our swimmers collected 19 Gold, 16 Silver, 12 Bronze and 7
fourth placings. In all our 32 swimmers broke 41 P.B.’s, totalling some 113.91 seconds from previous P.B.’s. Clancy Lowe took over 9 seconds off his 200m. Free, Emma Lowe took 11.09 secs off her 200m. Back, Ashton Rutter chopped over 10 secs from 2 swims, while Zachary Rutter axed 10 seconds also from 2 swims. Olivia Sheppard impressed by shaving 9.56 secs from her 100m. breast-stroke.

That same day, late afternoon at the Penrith Lakes, Brendon Rickard Open water swims: Courtney Lendvay won her age division in the 5km swim, came 2nd overall in the Ladies Division and slashed over 9 minutes (minutes that is, not seconds) from her 5km time, setting a qualifying time for Nationals. Isaak Wilson axed over 2 minutes from his 5km swim, also swimming a National qualifying time. Erin Body picked up a bronze medal in her 5km swim and Maya Wood swam an excellent 5km for the first time. In the Open Age division, Dino Panozzo swam in the 5km and Kate Dryden swam in the challenging 10km race. We all should keep in mind, that the energy consumed in Freestyle (Australian Crawl) swimming is between 4 to 5 times greater than that of a runner over the same distance. We wish Courtney and Isaak all the very best of luck at the Australian National Open Water Championships to be held in Adelaide at the end of January.

The following weekend saw 12 swimmers travel to Canberra for the annual “Canberra Christmas Classic”. One event at this carnival is the “Splash for Cash”, where the fastest 9 swimmers at the meet (50m freestyle) battle it out for a cash prize. Sam Herraman managed to secure a lane for this swim and did his best to earn some pocket money...maybe next year.

Meanwhile back in the Pool at Beaton Park. our Point-scores have been proceeding quite well. It is extremely pleasing to see quite a large number of newer swimmers competing in the 12.5 metre swims and the 25 metre swims. We are already producing Medal swimmers in the 25 metre races at Carnivals. This is a very good omen for the future of our Club, in the long term view.

***Upcoming Carnivals***

There are several very important Carnivals in the new year and 3 BIG weekends in a row!

- **28th & 29th January 2017:** NSW Country Regionals at the Unanderra Pool. The hosts are Wests Illawarra. Chris would like maximum attendance at this carnival.
- **Friday 3rd February:** Point-score restarts
- **Sunday 5th February:** our own Wollongong Swim Club Carnival at the University Pool. Calling for all hands on Deck and another Maximum attendance. Also will call for donations for the Money Tree and raffle.
- **11th&12th February:** SESA Championships at Ulladulla Pool. Qualifying times apply, but Chris encourages, yet again, another Maximum attendance. This is usually a good weekend away, with the majority of our members staying at the “Big 4 Holiday Park” at Burrill.
Lake (just to the west as you pass over the new bridge under construction). Unfortunately Lake Tabourie was already half booked out and did not have enough cabins for our Club this year. Contact “Big 4” on 02 4455 1621. Fax 02 44 55 4197. Let them know you are from Wollongong swim Club. Motor homes, caravans and campers may have one night bookings. Cabins usually 2 nights minimum for this time of year.

Keep in mind, in the new year we commence on Friday 3rd February, have a break over the SESA weekend, then back on the 17th February

Have a Happy Holiday break!!

Our Proposed 50 metre Olympic Pool is proceeding at a standstill. Consultants have suggested 6 small pools, which could well make Wollongong the cryptosporidium capital of Australia. All aquatic pathogens of microscopic origins love warm shallow pools. The proposal clashes quite considerably with Health Department and Dept of Sports and Recreation standards. For a star, the 6 pools will need 6 separate treatment and filtering plants. We are currently preparing a new Proposal to the Council, based upon suggestions from both Health and Sports and Rec. It appears that the next election for Wollongong Council will not be held until September 2018. Anyone wanting to form a group?

It has been pleasing to see many of our Members pursuing Technical Qualifications. Apart from Isaak Wilson, who is Australia’s youngest Chief Time-Keeper, Graeme Agnew is also rapidly rising through the Technical Officer’s ranks. Graeme Agnew, progressing rather well in the Technical side of swimming.