

Announcer Annual Report 2010

My first season as announcer was certainly an experience, yet one I enjoyed immensely. Memories of the smile on the face of a young swimmer collecting their first ever ribbon, enquiries from our young swimmers such as "is there a ribbon for 8th?"; "Can I have a pink one please?" (instead of blue); and "I did a 9 second pb!" all made the job thoroughly rewarding.

The participation ribbon initiative undertaken by Swimming Australia was a huge success and extremely popular for all 10 & under swimmers. Even some of the older swimmers, (not only the 11 & 12 yr olds but also some of the over 40 yr olds) were asking if they could have one! I certainly hope Swimming Australia continues with this as a reward for all those 10 & under swimmers who love their swimming and put in the effort to compete for their respective clubs.

There were a few mistakes along the way but I think generally the season as far as announcing is concerned ran well. There was always someone to do the announcing at meets I could not attend, and the assistants which each club supplied were a great help. Thank you to those who put up their hands. Hopefully we can get a few people next season to do likewise and I will certainly be looking at becoming accredited if I can. Maybe a couple more people will also.

One vital aspect of announcing is to keep a tally of the ribbons collected. This didn't happen very smoothly and I hope to remedy this next season. At each meet someone needs to collect the results lists that the announcer marks off so a count can then be made of ribbons collected so the host club can be billed accordingly.

Gippies were an experience!!! My hat comes off to **everyone** for their tolerance of the weather that was dealt out to us over that weekend. BOY, do we have some terrific kids in Gippsland swimming, not to mention the parents who 'looked out' for them and kept them warm and safe. Torrential rain, thunder and lightening, little or no break between heats and finals and race after race in quick succession.....and we all handled it so well!!!!

And the officials.....where would we be without them. Dripping wet, yet still able to see through the driving rain those swimmers who were perhaps having a bit of trouble with technique, or a break in a relay event. Seriously, without officials we would have no meets. There is a dire need for more of us to stand up to the mark and take on these roles. The same few do it all the time and working with them as announcer has brought me to fully realize their value in our sport.

I look forward to next season and I certainly hope that the new 50m pool qualifying times do not have too big an impact on the numbers of swimmers attending Gippsland meets. We really have a wonderful time when we all get together and there is never a dull moment.

Which brings me to my final thoughts.....I would like to wish Andy Barnes all the best in his sabbatical. I will really miss his encyclopedic swimming mind, his humor and his smile.

Thank you, Jane Shaw.