

## 2009 -2010 CHIEF REFEREE'S REPORT

**My last report for Swimming Gippsland after many years of doing them for AGMS, also I will not Officiating until further notice.**

**I will still be involved at Sale so will turn up at the meets there as a spectator.**

**During the course of the last season we have improved on the Officials numbers. I did a Timekeepers workshop at Bairnsdale for timekeeping with about 7 participants and some have done their assessments, Chief Timekeeper will be an ongoing problem which will have to be rectified by my successor some how. Also some members of other clubs have done timekeeping workshops. We acquired 2 Marshalls, a Starter, hopefully 2 Recorders when I receive their paperwork, one more should be able to his year plus 2 more trainees so things are looking up in the Recording Area which will enable Jean Poole-Coughlan to walk on the side and train for the Referees Assessment, Jane Mitchell is currently attempting to become qualifying but has hit a couple of hurdles from the assessors over minor issues which is frustrating her as it has me. So hopefully the Association can continue on this year. Starting at present is a closed shop as we have quite a number of qualified starters.**

***“We are here for the swimmers”*, a saying I have heard a number of times throughout the year when clubs have asked to change an event to accommodate one swimmer to qualify for an event (I am not knocking the clubs as it is their duty to the best possible for their swimmers). The programmes are passed at the AGM or next District Meeting and circulated to clubs to pass on to their member. My view always has been that some swimmer/s may have targeted that meet and event either to obtain a qualifying time to improve their qualifying time, they have no need to tell anyone as it is in the programme, so that is my reason I have always refused, I do believe I have also been there for the swimmers.**

**For any person taking on a position with the Gippsland District, if it is an Executive position read the By Laws to find out your role and if elected as a Chief Official read about your position in the SV Officials Hand Book on their website.**

**I wish to thank all who have assisted me throughout the years and wish my successor good luck.**

**Will I be back, only time will tell.**

**Thanks everyone,**

**Andy Barnes  
Chief Referee Gippsland Swimming**