

I had hoped that this season would be a little more settled but it has been, yet again, another season, another new set of challenges.

With Swimming Australia and in turn Swimming Victoria adopting the decision to not allow short course conversions to long course, this presented a huge problem to many of our Gippsland Clubs, swimmers and their families. The lack of District 50m pools that were useable during the cooler months, forced many to make long trips to metropolitan areas and beyond, entering swim meets to gain long course qualifying times. This in turn depleted the District of a number of our more senior swimmers as well as younger swimmers who wished to compete at the next level. Holding meets at the Sale 50m heated outdoor pool earlier than we have over the past few seasons helped swimmers gain much needed qualifying times for Countries and beyond but was still not the answer to all of our problems. Also, with reduced numbers at some of our meets we at times were required to adjust timekeeping ratios but all clubs were happy to assist in these instances. We hope that the changes and adjustments within the proposed Program and Fixture for the coming season will alleviate the need for swimmers to travel as much in the coming season.

The shortage of qualified Officials started to cause more concern this season and will continue to do so in the coming years. Thank you to all who have become qualified this season. We as a District urge you and others, to continue down the National Officiating pathway to become qualified in other areas as well.

Even with these hurdles to face, swimmers continued to participate so very well at 7-10, Interdistrict and All Junior. You must be congratulated on representing Gippsland and your clubs; including performing extremely well at all in and out of Gippsland meets throughout the season, earning many p.b.'s, medals, trophies and records. To all swimmers who competed so well at Country Championships, Gippsland Championships and regular GSI meets over the season, keep up the good work. To the Target Squad members, thank you for your participation and enthusiasm within the squad throughout the season, you have given next year's applicants a high goal to aim for. With a number of Squad members gaining National Times, the Squad continues to go from strength to strength. Well done to the 17 swimmers who gained individual National Times and for making the trip to Sydney for Age Nationals. I was thrilled to be in attendance at Age Nationals as an Official and watch you all compete so very well.

To the GSI Executive, Committee, Officials and delegates, thank you for your assistance in making GSI so successful. Keeping your own clubs alive and continually moving ahead, in times that are proving increasingly difficult, I am very grateful and proud of what you have achieved over the past year. Recognition must be given to members and parents for assistance at swim meets and for your regular attendance, reports and positive input at GSI and sub-committee meetings. There are some of you who have been a major support both this past season and many before that, who have indicated that you will not be continuing in your current role and others who are leaving. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support. With special thanks to Life Member and retiring Chief Referee Mr. Andy Barnes, your contribution to the District and swimming has been invaluable. We do hope you stay involved in swimming in some way shape or form in the future.



We thank our major sponsor International Power/Mitsui & Co. Loy Yang B, for their ongoing sponsorship. It has and continues to be a wonderful partnership with Officials shirt, rep polo's, swim caps and other District identification emblazoned with the Company logo and the caption 'the Power behind Gippsland Swimming'. The provision of an advertising trailer and marquees has been a wonderful addition to some of our bigger meets and both were put to good use at All Junior in Traralgon and Gippsland Championships in Sale. Michelle Ketchion has again been our liaison with the Company and has been very supportive, pleased with our swimmers success' and always keen to hear any news.

The 2010 Gippsland Championships were a huge success. I would like to convey my thanks on behalf of swimmers in Gippsland firstly, to all the officials involved over the weekend. It wasn't easy with the weather intervening and the other issues that were going on, but it all ended up very well. The leadership from our Referees in charge on each day was to be commended and greatly assisted our announcer to ensure the meet ran as well as it did. Secondly, to East Gippsland Water Dragons, for running such a huge meet away from your own pool and area. You did a wonderful job and should be very satisfied with the results. On the final results, well done to you all, the depth of swimming in Gippsland is the envy of every other District in Country Victoria.

I am pleased to advise that GSI and SVI are going ahead with the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) in Gippsland, after a very successful first season as a pilot program. This Committee aims to provide young people with opportunities to have a voice and participate in the processes and decision making of local swimming programs and events; to provide opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills, and to identify and address issues that affect young people in their local area. We encourage others to follow in their footsteps.

Some other exciting news for the beginning of this season is that we have secured Michael Klim for our Go Club Development day to be held at Churchill on the 31st of July, I hope you all take this opportunity to come along and meet an Olympian who is prepared to give back to the sport. More details soon.

Please consider taking on a role within GSI, indeed, as I requested of you over the last few seasons, I once again urge you all to continue to work together and along with the executive, to not only maintain but further develop a strong future for Gippsland's swimmers. We must continue to keep at least one step ahead of everyone else.

Mrs. Jacqueline Madden
President
Gippsland Swimming



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