



OATLEY AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB



SUPPLEMENTARY
TO
1927-1997
BOOKLET
COVERING THE REUNION

EDITORIAL

Many thanks to the foundation members, ex members and current members who attended the 70th Anniversary of the club at the Mortdale Masonic Club on September 20, 1997

This was the fifth reunion the club has held, and was the best attended. Not only, was this a reunion of the club, but also a reunion of people who have lived in the Oatley and surrounding areas over the last 70 years.

Several members have asked for a list of those that attended, due to the fact it was almost impossible to make contact with everyone in the short time available on the night.

The club executive thought it maybe the appropriate time to reintroduce a newsletter like the "SPLASH" that was produced in the 1950s & 60s. Please let us know if you would like this and what ideas you may have for a good catchy title as many swimming organizations are using the title SPLASH.

If the response to the newsletter idea is warranted we will produce it maybe twice a year.

It is up to you to let us know if you what this newsletter.

REUNION BOOKLET

We have been appreciative of the complimentary remarks on the booklet, many requests have been received from those that for various reasons could not attend the night for a copy, so they to can relive the many good memories of the past 70 years.

On reflection regarding the contents of the booklet, there were some omissions, particularly the assistance over the years of non-swimming members in organizing socials and money raising activities.

It is very hard to remember everyone that has done their little bit that has made this club one of the most friendly and enjoyable clubs in the past 70 years. Clubs do not continue to function if you don't have hard working volunteers such as: Mrs "Sandy" Auld, Mrs Flo Stevens Mrs Glen Stevens, Mrs Nancy Stanners, Mrs Phyllis Pomfret, Mrs Joyce Stevens for putting up with Mr Oatley Swimming Club (Ray Stevens) for all these years, Jim Burke, Bill Mitchell and I am sure many more.

Without these people the club would not be in the strong financial position it is today and the current members say "Thanks".

Some members traveled long distances to reacquaint their friendship from years gone by, below is just a sample of how far some did come and what a joy it was to see them again.

<i>Dave Moss and Wife</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>
<i>Joy Auld</i>	<i>Buderin Qld</i>
<i>Keith Fendly</i>	<i>Gold Coast</i>
<i>Fay Maples</i>	<i>Port Stevens N.S.W.</i>
<i>Arch and Gladys Uebel</i>	<i>Woolgoolga N.S.W</i>
<i>David Adams</i>	<i>Canberra</i>
<i>George Duckworth</i>	<i>Canberra</i>
<i>Jim Duckworth</i>	<i>Balcolyn N.S.W</i>
<i>Phyllis Lawler</i>	<i>Bowen Mountain</i>
<i>Ron Falconer</i>	<i>Wollongong N.S.W</i>
<i>Florence Fendly</i>	<i>California U.S.A</i>
<i>Ralph Walker</i>	<i>Foster N.S.W</i>
<i>Ailsa Wright</i>	<i>Cudmirrall</i>
<i>Harry Duckworth</i>	<i>Moss Vale N.S.W</i>
<i>Brian (Barney) Stevens</i>	<i>Broken Hill</i>

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Jack Lawler was probably the only member from the 1920 era in attendance.

Dot Walker the daughter and Sue a granddaughter of the First President Hedley Mallard were in attendance, also attending were the late Fred Walkers daughter Joan Mcilhoney and his granddaughter Val Groves and Jack Maples daughter Fay.

PUBLICITY

It is normally very difficult to get free publicity for small sporting organizations, but we must thank 'The St. George and Sutherland Leader' for the article below. The first paragraph referred to a color photo of Ray Stevens and young Mitchell Reece.

Winners of race for fun mosey down to the pool

By SUE CONVEY

MITCHELL Reece, 5, and Ray Stevens, 76. (pictured on page 10) are at opposite ends of the age spectrum but both are kids at heart when it comes to taking a dip in the Georges River.

They are just two of the 80-odd Oatley Amateur Swimming Club members who would rather take the plunge in a salty, bush park pool than line up on the blocks at an Olympic-sized venue.

Each spring and summer Sunday, club members gather at Oatley Park for their version of a race meet.

Camaraderie, rather than competitiveness, is the driving force and freestyle could just as easily mean dog paddle.

"All the other clubs are too competitive for us," he said. "We're not in it to win anything. We just swim for the fun of it."

Nevertheless, Oatley's formula has proven a winning one. This Saturday, the club celebrates its 70th birthday.

It was founded by a group of returned World War I servicemen at a time when river inlets were being netted off all over the district for community swimming pools.

The river pools provided cool relief in summer and a social outlet for families who did not have the transport to get to the Olympic-sized pools at Enfield, North Sydney and Granville.

But after World War II, the balance shifted. More households had cars and more council pools were springing up in the suburbs. The river pools became neglected as swimmers flocked to the crystal-clear, tideless, artificial swimming holes.

Oatley, however, proved an exception. Mr Stevens, who has

swum with the club for 67 years, said Oatley owed its popularity to its tranquil setting and lack of sporting prowess.

"Most of our swimmers wouldn't be of much interest to other clubs because they don't care if they win or lose," he said.

"We have kids who are just learning to swim and older people who just want to relax. They can wear flippers for all we care. It's the social aspect of the club that people come for."

The closest thing to an Olympic champion to emerge from the club was Mr Stevens' brother, Frank, who swam backstroke in the 1950 Commonwealth Games.

But while Oatley Amateur Swimming Club might never make a splash on the international circuit, its looks like staying afloat for a long time to come.

Details: 9579 5848.

FAMILIES

Over the past 70 years the club has always been family orientated. In the early days, the families were larger than today and the entire family group Father, Mother and children have competed against each other or assisted in many ways.

The list below! is of some who attended the reunion but not all and we apologize if your name is not mentioned where all members of their families have competed at some time.

<i>Family members in attendance</i>	<i>Number of competitors in family</i>
<i>Adams David & Keith</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Auld Daphne & Joy</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Arnold Ken & Wife</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Belcher Harold, Nancy & Win</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Battishall Bruce</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Churchill(Patterson) Rose</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Demur Peter</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Duckworth Jim, Harry & George</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Falconer Ron</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Holt Ron & Esma</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Illingworth Bob, Carol & Daughter</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Lynch Colin & Val</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Lawler Jack, Les & Phyllis</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Martin Tony</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Maynell Rodney & Kerry</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Moss Dave</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>O'Hagan Denis and Daughter Sonya</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Patterson Peter</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Reece Jeff and Karen</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Smith Alan and Wendy</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Stevens Ron, Bill and Nola</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Stevens John, Frank, Clive & Ray</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Sellens Alison</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Thode Aub</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Vlassis James</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Walker Jack and Sue</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Walker (Mallard) Dorothy</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Whitcombe Barry and Liz</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Yeomans Jim and Lorna</i>	<i>4</i>

LIST OF MEMBERS ATTENDING

Several members have requested a list of those present at the 70th reunion. With approximately 150 members, spouses and friends in attendance, it was near impossible to remember whom you saw and those you didn't.

<i>Adams David (Butch)</i>
<i>Adams Keith (Taupy)</i>
<i>Auld Joy</i>
<i>Auld (Hancock) Daphne & Husband</i>
<i>Arnold Ken & Wife</i>
<i>Belcher Harold (Bushytail) & Betty</i>
<i>Belcher Win & Nancy</i>
<i>Boyden(Lawler) Phyllis & Daughter</i>
<i>Burke Jack & Margaret</i>
<i>Butler Brian(Pesty) & Carol</i>
<i>Bullivant Kevin</i>
<i>Battishall Bruce</i>
<i>Duckworth George</i>
<i>Duckworth Harry & Wife</i>
<i>Duckworth Jim & Wife</i>
<i>Day Kevin & Carmel</i>
<i>Davison Michael & Wife</i>
<i>Demeur Peter</i>
<i>Fendley Keith</i>
<i>Falconer Ron</i>
<i>Groves Val & Rex</i>
<i>Hughes John & wife</i>
<i>Hadrick (Mallard)Dawn & Husband</i>
<i>Holt Ron & Esma</i>
<i>Hammond Noel</i>
<i>Hosey Harry & Joan</i>
<i>Hurrell Charles</i>
<i>Illingworth Bob, Carol, Kelly & Husband</i>
<i>Kowron Virginia</i>
<i>Lynch Val & Col</i>
<i>Lopez Jose & Friend Maureen Nasati</i>
<i>Lawler Les & Wife</i>
<i>Lawler Jack & Wife</i>
<i>Larter Arthur & Enid</i>
<i>McClaren Russell & Friend</i>
<i>McAneny Ken & Barbara</i>
<i>McMamus Ron & Hazel</i>
<i>Moss Dave & Wife</i>
<i>Moss (Stevens) Nola</i>

<i>Mitchell Joyce & Son John</i>
<i>Maynell Rodney & Kerry</i>
<i>Martin Tony</i>
<i>Mackay Barry & Margaret</i>
<i>Mallard Warren & Friend</i>
<i>McIlhoney Joan & Barbara</i>
<i>O'Hagan Denis & Wife Daughter Sonya and Husband</i>
<i>Patterson Peter & Rose</i>
<i>Papworth Keith & Rayma</i>
<i>Reece Jeff & Karen</i>
<i>Robertson Robin</i>
<i>Stanners Nancy</i>
<i>Stevens John & Glen</i>
<i>Stevens Brian</i>
<i>Stevens Bill</i>
<i>Stevens Ron & Chris</i>
<i>Stevens Frank</i>
<i>Stevens Ray(Horses) & Joyce (Chi Chi)</i>
<i>Stevens Clive & Diana</i>
<i>Sorensen Peter</i>
<i>Smith Alan & Wendy</i>
<i>Sellens Peter & Alison</i>
<i>Sellens (Findlay) Flo</i>
<i>Skowronski Raphael & Moyia</i>
<i>Sturmann Jens and Friend</i>
<i>Thode Aubrey</i>
<i>Uebel Arch & Gladys (Happy Bum)</i>
<i>Vlassis James</i>
<i>Waghorn (Maples) Fay</i>
<i>Woods Ken & Wife</i>
<i>Wright Ailsa</i>
<i>Walker Ralph</i>
<i>Whitcombe Barry & Elizabeth</i>
<i>Whitmarsh Tanya & Friend</i>
<i>Walker Jack, Dorothy & Sue</i>
<i>Watts Jeff & Friend Mary Ann Zarah</i>
<i>Wellington Cec Smr, Cec Jnr & Friends</i>
<i>Wilson Alec & Val</i>
<i>Yeomans Jim & Lorna</i>

Also attending was that man in the Scottish tartan suit, no he was not a waiter in fancy dress. His name was John (Chook) Fowler,

John was never a member of Oatley but was with our sister club Worinora Swimming Club.

This supplementary newsletter finalizes the particulars of the club and the 70th reunion.

It details how over the years the clubs strength, has come from families (refer to list).

It also shows that friendships made through those years still exist, brought about by swimming and social contact.

INVITATION:

An invitation is extended to ex members, to return whenever possible and enjoy the facilities that are now available, not just swimming but the social side.

We have monthly BBQs, which are free to members. Those lucky enough to be retired can join the oldies for morning tea most Monday mornings, except when they on there social trips.

It gets even better in the summer season morning tea is available every morning weather permitting.

Our membership fee is only \$10.00 and this covers you for just about everything including prizes if you have a couple of swims.

For further particulars ring the following members:

Ray Stevens (02) 9579 5848

Moyia Skowronski (02) 9570 2327