

Canberra ASC 2020-21 Annual Report



Established 1930



President's Message

The 2020-21 swimming year was certainly challenging, but has shown the resilience and loyalty of the Canberra ASC and swimming community. Despite the closure of all swimming facilities in March 2020 our community remained connected through on line forums and trivia evenings run by Club Aquatics Coaches. Our training program at the YMCA also provided goal setting and strength and conditioning programs to keep our swimmers engaged and active.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the Club Aquatics program was suspended from 17 March 2020, re-commencing under a restricted format in April 2021 offering morning sessions only and capped numbers until further notice.

The YMCA Gungahlin Squad program was also suspended at the end of March 2020, and recommenced in June 2020. Due to the closure of the Gungahlin Leisure Centre pool due to maintenance, the entire YMCA Gungahlin Squad Program was shifted to Canberra Olympic Pool and remains there today.

Canberra ASC worked in conjunction with YMCA to develop an overall Club approach to return to swimming with Club Aquatics members invited to train under the YMCA program. The transition back to training focussed on senior members first through to junior levels, with the primary aim to get swimmers back into training in a safe, low risk and controlled manner.

Thanks to our dedicated community and volunteers, and the support of the Cruiz Swimming Club, YMCA and ACT Government, Canberra ASC held a series of 'Come Back' Club meets across July, August and September 2020 which was the first competition to run in the ACT since Covid-19 restrictions were introduced. The meets were extremely successful and provided a gradual return to competition framework with Canberra ASC being in the position to invite several other Clubs to participate.

The success of the program, and of our swimmers through 2020-21 despite the challenges exemplifies Canberra ASC's true community spirit, and on celebrating our 90th Birthday last year on 1 December, we reflect on our history. Canberra ASC continues to develop strong and successful partnerships with swimming and community organisations, with one of the largest volunteer bases in the ACT. Our young athletes are community minded, and in conjunction with their successes in the pool, actively initiate and run fundraising to raise awareness to campaigns that make a difference.

Canberra ASC is proud to announce that we have also been awarded the Chief Minister's Gold Award in March 2021. The award acknowledges our long and rich history associated with swimming in the ACT, and our contribution over more than 50 years to the ACT community.

Canberra ASC has benefited from the establishment of the ACT Performance Hub, with a number of opportunities provided to swimmers and coaches for development and skills acquisition previously. We hope to see this recommenced through 2021-22. In 2021-22 we seek to enhance the position of Canberra ASC through our training program(s), while we continue to develop the abilities of swimmers across all levels, we also seek to focus on progressing senior swimmers through age performance pathways.



Governance and Finance

Canberra ASC went into the 2020-21 swimming year in a strong financial position however, the anticipated financial impact as a result of Covid-19 was felt with some loss in membership (although minimal) and no incoming revenue from meets, sponsorship or fundraising.

Canberra ASC held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) virtually on 2 June 2020 with the highest attendance numbers in some time. We were fortunate to have the incumbent Committee members and Office Bearers re-nominate.

Our Mission

Canberra ASC is committed to the growth of swimming in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and aims to increase the position and profile of the sport through successful partnerships with Swimming ACT, the ACT Performance Hub, the YMCA's Gungahlin Leisure Centre and the Club Aquatics by;

- Contributing to the effective operation of Swimming ACT,
- Partnering with high quality training programs to enhance the development of swimmers,
- Developing our technical officials and volunteer community,
- Providing a safe and positive environment for all members.

Our Vision

To provide an environment that inspires swimmers to achieve their maximum potential, and through industry partnerships deliver excellence in coaching to develop our swimmers to the best of their abilities enabling competitive success at every level.

Membership

Canberra ASC continues to benefit from the a steady increase in new and developing swimmers through the YMCA's Gungahlin squads (currently located at Canberra Olympic Pool). In 2020-21 Canberra ASC's membership decreased slightly, down from a 5% growth from previous years however this fluctuation was anticipated due to the uncertainty in relation to Covid-19 and pool closures. Canberra ASC has 152 active members and over 90 swimming members.

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support from the expert coaching and management teams across both pool decks and plan to further build on these relationships over the 2021-22 season.

Representation

Canberra ASC continues to support local development and qualifying meets with large numbers of swimmers in attendance and enjoying success. The Club continues to grow in strength with the largest numbers of swimmers in our representative teams during 2020-21 competing at NSW State Age Championships and NSW Country Championships, sadly Junior State Age Championships and Australian Age Championships were cancelled in 2020 due to Covid-19.



Canberra ASC also participated in the Swimming NSW 2020 Wylas Club Challenge which provided some extra motivation for our swimmers during a return to training, finishing 7th in the overall Club point score with a number of swimmers in the top 10 for individual pointscore.

A significant number of Canberra ASC swimmers also participate in the Swimming NSW Swim league competition. Canberra ASC actively supports the Swim league competition with swimmers enjoying a different format of competitive racing in a team environment with swimmers from different pool decks and clubs across the ACT.

With the significant increase in the number of junior swimmers progressing through to state level competition we hope to build towards increased numbers at the national level competition in the coming years.

Appreciation

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all parents and swimmers for contributing to a successful year. We are also incredibly fortunate and thankful for the continuing assistance and support provided by our life members Jenny Dunstan and John Skene. Not only to our club activities but to swimming across the ACT and NSW.

Canberra ASC prides itself on maintaining the integrity and spirit of the Club at its origins - remaining committed to the growth of swimming in the ACT and our community. Congratulations to our Canberra ASC community!

Kim Mallett

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20 May 2021