

North-West aquatic

Dear Swimmers & Parents,

On behalf of the North-West Aquatic Swimming Club committee I would like to extend a warm welcome to both our new and existing club members.

This month marks the start of just our eighth season as a Swimming Victoria affiliated club, and already we have stamped our status as one of the largest & strongest in Metro West. The club's immediate future looks solid as we continue to grow and expand at our home base, the Windy Hill Fitness Centre, and we once again look forward to another successful 12 months and wish all swimmers the best of luck in achieving their goals this season.

Behind the scenes of the club is a parent committee who are a dedicated group of volunteers offering administrative support in many areas including organising social functions, fundraising, sponsorship, staging encouragement & state qualifying meets, collecting meet fees, registering memberships, producing club uniforms, representing the club at district & state conferences & meetings, along with numerous other matters.

I would like to introduce the following people who were elected to the North-West Aquatic committee for 2011/2012 at our Annual General Meeting:

President:	Paul Panozzo	panoz42@bigpond.com	0417 338 893
Treasurer:	Graham Nicol	wennic@optusnet.com.au	0432 357 022
Secretary:	Sharon Panozzo	panoz42@bigpond.com	0414 667 631
Competitions Officer:	Cam Nation	coach@northwestaquatic.com.au	0402 004 820
Sponsorship Officer:	Cathy Spinazzola	cls1203@hotmail.com	0418 353 522
Social Events	Marilyn Tuan	marilyntuan1@optusnet.com.au	0418 378 199
Uniforms:	Alyson Barnes	alynantbarnes@optusnet.com.au	0417 356 747
Grievance Officer:	Wendy Nicol	wennic@optusnet.com.au	0412 566 597
General Members:	Allison Comerford, Steve Malone, Brooke Zsembery		

The Committee usually meets on a bi-monthly basis on a Wednesday night and all members of the club over 18 years of age are welcome to attend. Our next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 22 June @ 7.30pm at the Windy Hill Social Club. We are always interested in hearing from anyone who may like to offer sponsorship or has suggestions that pertain to the running of the club. Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the relevant Committee member.

In positioning the Club's future security and growth we are implementing some new initiatives, changes and policies from this Season that I would briefly like to outline to you as well as remind you of some familiar policies. Some of these have only been made possible by the support you have shown through the previous season by attending club run meets, social functions and your generous donations & sponsorship.

DEVELOPMENT FUND:

This season we will again set aside an amount of money to assist with the development of our club swimmers. Some of these initiatives may include workshops, specialist guest speakers, partial subsidy to swim training camps and equipment, and targeted athlete only meets. The allocation of these funds will be determined by the committee and we welcome any ideas you may have.

NATIONAL ATHLETE FUNDING:

There has been some amendments to this funding policy and I would encourage all swimmers and families, particularly those with National times or close to National times to familiarise themselves with this.

STATE & NATIONAL TEAM TOPS:

In Season 2011/12 swimmers will be awarded one state team polo top per season. Swimmers who qualify for any of the Victorian Championships (including OPEN) during the season will receive a state team top unless they have already qualified for & participated at a National Championships. These athletes will instead receive a National Team polo.

UNIFORMS:

I would like to remind all swimmers that they are required to attend all Swim competitions in compulsory Club apparel. Our compulsory uniform currently consists of a Cap, which is required to be worn at warm-up and while competing as well as a Club polo. The Club polo is to be worn with blue tracksuit pants or blue shorts and if a top is required a North West Aquatic Hoodie or North West tracksuit top should be worn. A deck coat is also permitted. This Season will see the launch of some changes to the uniform. Further details to follow shortly.

MEET DAYS:

It is important for parents to note that they will be required to assist with meet duties at any meet staged by our club or Metro West District. We are also required to supply a number of timekeepers at the Victorian Championships. Failure by the club to supply the adequate number of timekeepers at a district or state meet will result in the club receiving a fine. Failure by the club to supply the adequate number of timekeepers at a club staged meet can result in the meet not receiving status by Swimming Victoria as an official qualifying meet. We ask that if you are allocated a role at a meet & for some reason you are unable to fulfil your shift, please advise Cam prior to the day of the meet as it causes great inconvenience chasing timekeepers at warm-up or during the meet. If you arrive at the swim meet and need to change your duty please approach one of the committee members in attendance to discuss this, rather than the Coach in attendance who has more important matters to manage on the day. As our club receives all the income from NWA staged meets it is not fair to rely on other clubs to assist. There will occasionally be other external meets that we may offer to help with timekeeping duties, including those held by Wyndham Swimming Club as they regularly supply personal, officials, equipment & timekeepers at NWA meets.

MEET CREDITS:

If you have entered a NWA staged meet and you are seeking a credit as your child is sick or injured, you must provide notice of your child's absence prior to the commencement of the meet to Cam or the President via email. If the illness is on the day please text message Cam. Please note you will need to provide a medical certificate and all credits are at the complete discretion of the committee. Credits will not be given if the meet is missed for other reasons. Please note that under the rules of Swimming Victoria, credits or refunds will not be issued for any reason for any meet staged by Swimming Victoria, Metro West District or external clubs.

MEET ENTRIES:

Parents are reminded to familiarise themselves with club's meet entry procedures as below.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Athletes to enter online via www.swimming.org.au .

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Athletes to enter online via www.swimmingvictoria.org.au .

***Athletes must forward their entry confirmation via email to coach@northwestaquatic.com.au.*

NWA CLUB MEETS: Enter via the NWA Entry Portal (www.northwestaquatic.com.au/meets/online.htm)

METRO WEST MEETS: Enter via the NWA Entry Portal (www.northwestaquatic.com.au/meets/online.htm)

TARGET MEETS (As Listed On NWA Calendar): NWA Portal (www.northwestaquatic.com.au/meets/online.htm)

***Payment via Credit Card, Electronic Transfer or Cheque as per the online instructions.*

OTHER CLUB MEETS (As Listed On SV Calendar): Via Links on Swimming Victoria Calendar

***Athlete should seek approval to compete at meet from their coach - Entry may be via online system or hard copy entry form depending on who is staging the meet - follow instructions as per meet flyer and sent payment & entry form directly to the club staging the meet.*

If entering via the Swimming Australia, Swimming Victoria or NWA Entry Portal, you should immediately receive an entry receipt via email. Please note the club's competitions officer & treasurer will not be responsible for chasing up swimmers who have submitted their entries incorrectly or without payment. Please ensure payment accompanies all entries to avoid disappointment.

BANKING:

We are continuing to streamline our banking processes and in partnership with the NAB we ask that all meet fees, club uniform orders, memberships & social event monies be paid by either credit card (will incur an additional transaction fee) or direct deposit transferred to:

ACCOUNT: North-West Aquatic Swimming Club Inc.

BSB: 083 310 **ACCT:** 164967816

Please always reference any payment with the swimmers surname. For meet forms please note 'payment made by EFT' and the date of the transfer. Cheque payments are still acceptable but no cash please. The cheque should be placed in an envelope and either placed in the meet box on pool deck or mailed to PO Box 53, Essendon 3040. Under no circumstances should any of these payments be made with your training fees. All training sessions are run & billed by a privately-owned business running under a separate ABN as North-West Aquatic Pty Ltd, and should be paid as per your invoice.

SPONSORSHIP:

We again must thank The Power Tool Specialist who for the last five years has been our Clubs major Sponsor. If your business or someone you know wants to affiliate with Moonee Valley's largest swimming club, and be associated with a fit & healthy sport, please contact our sponsorship officer listed above.

BUNNINGS BBQ:

This Season we have been successful in securing a Bunning BBQ day. This will be held at Highpoint on **Saturday 30th July** and we ask that you please keep this day free as we will require lots of assistance on the day to make this a successful fundraiser. More details will follow shortly & a roster of helpers will be distributed shortly.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

All Club members and families need to remember that you are a representative of our Club and any inappropriate behaviour or actions is a reflection on the Club as a whole. This relates not just to swim meet days but also training, clubs social events, training camps and internet usage. We expect that all members are respectful of all club members, swimmers, competitors, parents, officials and coaches.

COACHES

We will endeavour to have a coach at all Championship Meets & Target Swim Meets, unfortunately on occasions this is not always possible. Some of you may not be aware but when our coaches attend swim meets they are there as an **unpaid volunteers**. Swimmers should make sure they see their coach before and after their race. The coaches are there to watch and give direction to our swimmers so please refrain from approaching them regarding other non related matters on the day of the competition.

WEBSITE & EMAIL:

It is important for all swimmers & parents to regularly check their email inbox & the NWA website. To avoid rising printing & postage costs, all mailouts for Season 2011/12 will be sent via email only. If you are not on our mailing list, or want to add a school, work, personal or swimmer's email to our mailing list please email coach@northwestaquatic.com.au.

I once again look forward to your support over the next 12 months & a successful 2011/2012.

Paul Panozzo

President