

2017 Sydney University Swimming Club Annual Report

Sydney Uni Swimming Club ('SUSC') has had an excellent year with strong representation and achievement at all levels of competition. Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness (SUSF) continues to support the Club by providing: high quality coaches; training facilities and venue for our monthly Club Nights and annual Development Meet; and overarching Club governance assistance.

A new coaching team was established in May 2017 with Brendan Micallef becoming Club Coach and Jake Hodgetts appointed as his assistant. This followed Leanne Thompson's departure as Age Group Coach at the end of a very successful 2016/17 summer season which culminated in SUSC taking its largest ever squad to the *Georgina Hope Foundation* Age Nationals Championships in Brisbane (April 2017) and achieving silver and bronze in 13 year male 200m Individual Medley and 100m Butterfly respectively, plus four other top ten places. SUSC would like to thank Leanne for all her efforts to develop, encourage, train and inspire our swimmers over the previous five years and wish her the very best in her future endeavours. We would also like to thank Brendan and Jake for their outstanding support to the swimmers and for their broader contribution to SUSC throughout the year.

Other key achievements during 2017 include: significant growth in the number of Sydney Uni student members; further collaboration between the SUSC and Sydney Uni Swim School resulting in increased Club membership and swim meet participation; and excellent performances being achieved at a state and metropolitan level during the 2017/8 summer season (e.g. A silver and bronze medal at the Metropolitan Championships and 2 silvers at 12/under State Championships and 11 finals/top ten finishes combined with the 13-18 State Age Championships).

This success has been underpinned by building a strong club culture which is based on having clearly defined competitive objectives, creating a strong sense of inclusion and being committed to open communication and constructive feedback. By living these values we also hope to fulfil our mission of *Empowering young people to be champions, in and out of the water, for a lifetime.*

To reflect SUSC's commitment to being an active member of the SUSF community, we have refreshed our strategic goals to focus on (1) strengthening partnerships with other clubs within the SUSF Aquatic Centre (e.g. water polo); (2) increasing the number of university students involved in the Club so as to develop a strong Open squad in 2018 and beyond; and (3) exploring additional fundraising opportunities to help enhance the infrastructure of the SUSF Aquatic Centre.

Following a significant change in the membership of the SUSC Committee over past year, the Committee now comprises Caitlin Francis (President), Helen Deas (Club Secretary), Carmel Kanaley (Race Secretary); Brendan Micallef (Coach representative), Louise Sung (Registrar), Annette Cannock (Treasurer); Annie Jones (Uniform Coordinator) Brigitte Oberlander (Fundraising Coordinator) and Donna Kerves (Communications). We are also in the process of appointing a Sydney Uni student representative to the Committee.

SUSC greatly appreciates the contribution made by the previous Committee members who did not seek re-appointment at the last AGM. Namely, Nyree Webster (formerly Race Secretary) Anissa Oddy (formerly Treasurer), Marianne Perrottet (formerly Uniforms Coordinator) Lin Johnson (formerly Open Squad representative) and Alison White (Gold Squad representative).

This has been my first year as SUSC President and I would personally like to thank everyone involved in the Club for their tireless efforts in supporting what we do. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution that the previous president, Samantha ('Sam') Gardner-Wade, has made to the Club over many years. It is greatly appreciated that Sam, together with Paul Newham, continue

to support SUSC through the fulfilment of their Refereeing and Technical Officer responsibilities (respectively) at our Club Nights and Development Meet.

Caitlin Francis

SUSC President