



Australian Water Polo Inc



**2007-08
Annual Report**



Australian Water Polo Inc would like to thank the following partners

Principal Sponsor



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF SPORT



AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE INC





The purpose of this Annual Report is to report to our stake-holders — Members, Federal Government, State Governments, Australian Sports Commission, Australian Institute of Sport, Australian Olympic Committee, State Institutes and Academies of Sport, Sponsors and the Water Polo Community — our year's achievements as we strive to promote water polo at all levels.

Contents

Office Bearers	2
Australian Sports Commission Message	3
President's Report	4
Secretary General's Report	5
High Performance Report	10
Operations Report	11
National Development Report	13
National Media Report	14
National League Report	15
Senior Men's Report	17
Senior Women's Report	19
Junior Men's Report	22
Junior Women's Report	24
Youth Boys' Report	25
Youth Girls' Report	27
Athletes' Commission Report	28
Referees' Commission Report	29
National Capitation 2007-08	30
Annual Financial Report	31
National Championships Results 2007-08	39
National Teams & Results 2007-08	43
Australian Government Sports Training Grants	49

COVERS: Front: The Australian junior women's team following its FINA World Championship gold medal in Porto, Portugal.

Back: The Aussie Sharks after their bronze-medal-winning effort in the FINA World League Super Finals in Berlin, Germany.

Australian Water Polo Inc Members

Queensland Water Polo Inc
 New South Wales Water Polo Inc
 Australian Capital Territory Water Polo Inc
 Victorian Water Polo Inc
 Tasmanian Water Polo Inc
 South Australian Water Polo Inc
 Western Australian Water Polo Inc
 Northern Territory Water Polo Inc

Affiliation

Australian Water Polo Inc is affiliated to Swimming Australia Ltd.

Quittner Medal

Recipients

1986	Charles Turner
1987	Debbie Cummins
1988	Peter Montgomery
1989	Tom Hoad
1990	Andrew Kerr
1991	John Whitehouse
1992	Chris Wybrow & Debbie Watson
1993	Not awarded
1994	Ray Mayers
1995	Pat Jones
1996	Don Cameron
1997-2006	Not awarded
2007	Nathan Thomas



Office Bearers 2007-08

HONORARY OFFICERS

Patron

Peter Montgomery AM

Honorary Life President

Harry Quittner

LIFE MEMBER

Peter Montgomery AM

BOARD

President

Peter Kerr AM

Directors

Leanne Barnes

John Birch

Tom Hoad AM

Chris Martin (retired 22 February 2008)

David Martin

Russell Small

Nathan Thomas

STATE DELEGATES

Queensland

Jeff Cranley

New South Wales

David Woods

Australian Capital Territory

Andrew Digan

Victoria

Michael Weiner

Tasmania

Bill Roach

South Australia

Jon Harmer

Western Australia

Phillip Scales

Northern Territory

John Cossons

ATHLETES' COMMISSION

Chairman

Nathan Thomas

Secretary

Debbie Watson

Comissioners

Nikita Cuffe

Trent Franklin

Thomas Whalan

REFEREES' COMMISSION

Chairman

Phillip Scales

Secretary

Nicola Johnson

Comissioners

Phillip Bower

Scott Schweickle

Damir Stajduhar

NATIONAL LEAGUE COMMISSION

Chairman

Russell Small

Comissioners

John Birch

Phillip Bower (elected 1 September 2007)

Chris Harrison

Warren Hawtin

David Martin (retired 1 September 2007)

NATIONAL COACHES

Senior Men

John Fox

Senior Women

Greg McFadden

Junior Men

John Fox/Mark Hubbard

Junior Women

Bruce Falson/Ryan Moar/Aleksandr Osadchuk

Youth Boys

Mark Hubbard

Youth Girls

Peter Szilagyi

PERSONNEL

Secretary General

John Whitehouse OAM

High Performance Manager

David Marks

Operations Manager

Peter Hobday

National Development Manager

Scott Schweickle

National Media Manager

Russell McKinnon

National League General Manager

Peter Hobday

Finance Manager

Glen Ransley

Finance Assistants

Denis Kerslake/Allan Park

Administration Officer

Julia Annells

Trainee

Shane Holland

Principal Sponsor



A Message from the Australian Sports Commission

Australia, for its small population and remoteness of location, continues to confound the world with its achievements on the international sporting stage. This position has been reached by the development of a comprehensive and effective national sport system that encourages sport and physical activity for all Australians and creates opportunities to enable those who are talented and motivated to reach their potential. This system has evolved with the strong support of the Australian Government, State/Territory and local governments, the private sector and sporting organisations at all levels.

At the national level, primary responsibility for developing and directing sport lies with national sporting organisations. On behalf of the Australian Government, the Australian Sports Commission plays central leadership, co-ordination, funding and advocacy roles in the operation of the Australian sport system, largely through the national sporting organisations. Indeed, the Australian Government, through the Commission, is the major investor in Australian sport.

In 2007-08, the Australian Government, through the Commission, provided Australian Water Polo Inc with funding of more than \$2.4 million for the development of the sport and its continued enhancement at the grass-root and elite levels, including through the Australian Institute of Sport water polo program.

The Australian women's water polo squad also received an additional \$234,000 through the Australian Government Sports Training Grant Scheme.

The Australian Sports Commission recognises that 2007-2008 has been another successful year for Australian Water Polo. Highlights include, the Australian junior women's team winning the FINA World Junior Championships in Portugal and both the senior men and women teams winning bronze medals at the FINA World League finals.

The Australian Institute of Sport women's water polo program continues to be a vital part of the national women's team and plays an integral role in the preparations of the team for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Congratulations also to Gemma Beadsworth who was named 2007 AIS Junior Athlete of the Year.

On behalf of the Commission, I look forward to working with Australian Water Polo Inc in future for the betterment of Australian sport.

Brent Espeland
Acting Chief Executive Officer



► President's Report



The performance and success of our junior teams internationally was a highlight, capped by the junior women's team winning the FINA Junior Women's World Championships in Porto, Portugal at the beginning of the year; at this event the captain of the team, Gemma Beadsworth, was awarded the Player of the Series — an outstanding achievement.

While not achieving the same success, the junior men's team's performances at the FINA Junior Men's World Championships in Long Beach, USA in August 2007 is to be commended, being defeated in only one game by the eventual winner Hungary in a penalty shootout. It is indeed unfortunate that the team's final standing does not reflect how well the team played.

The national senior teams performed extremely well in the respective FINA World Leagues with the men's team securing third place in both 2007 and 2008 while the women's team enjoyed a little greater success being ranked second and third respectively.

Congratulations to all players involved. Your contribution and sacrifices have resulted in possibly the best overall international standing of our teams since 1999 when Australia was ranked one.

I would like to thank John Fox and Greg McFadden, the national senior coaches, for the significant roles both have played across the respective national men's and women's programs, mindful that each has responsibility for the junior and youth teams in addition to the National Training Centre/Elite Development Centre network.

I would like to thank all volunteer coaches who have assisted Australian Water Polo Inc, either at senior levels or in the junior ranks. Your contribution has had a significant impact on the development of our players and the standing of Australian water polo internationally.

Pathways

The issue of both sufficient and appropriately accredited coaches and referees still looms as critical impediments to the development and expansion of

the sport in Australia and it is an area of continuing concern.

The continuing expansion of our competitions has resulted in greater demand for coaches and referees and the pathway for each needs to be carefully considered and incorporated as essential components in the development framework.

The initiative this year by the Referees' Commission to conduct the inaugural referees' conference in Adelaide on January 12-13, 2008 is to be applauded and appreciation goes to the Referees' Commission and its chairman, Phil Scales, for this positive action.

The Australian Government, through the Australian Sports Commission, is the principal sponsor of Australian Water Polo Inc. The sport enjoys a good relationship with the Commission that not only provides significant funding but also considerable expertise through its many programs. Our thanks go to Mark Peters, Chief Executive Officer, and his staff.

AWPI Partners

The Australian Institute of Sport continues to provide excellent support for the women's program and the facility in Canberra proved to be an ideal site for the three-months centralised camp held in September-November 2007 and we are indeed grateful to Professor Peter Fricker, Director, and staff for the support provided.

With both senior programs being decentralised, the State Institutes provide the essential daily training environment for our elite athletes with on many occasions the programs also catering for the needs of our junior and youth; the State Institutes are integral to the successful development of our athletes and their support is acknowledged.

The Australian Olympic Committee once again has made a significant contribution to the support of our senior teams, the athletes and coaches; international competition grants and adidas Medal Incentive Funding have both contributed very positively.

Other Partners in Sport include the Stanwell Corporation, Turbo, Moves Travel Group, Mikasa Sports Australia, Auspole Products and Gold Coast City Council; without such partners our Association would not be able to function as successfully, both financially and in its day-to-day operation.

National League

The 2008 National Water Polo League, the elite domestic competition in Australia, saw the inclusion of an additional men's team, Drummoyne and the participation of the national team of China in the Women's League. The Chinese proved to be more than competitive in all aspects of the game; it was indeed pleasing to see how well China was



Silver medallist Australia following the FINA World League Super Finals in Montreal, Canada in 2007.

accepted and welcomed into the competition.

Congratulations to Wests water polo Magpies on winning the men's competition for the first time and to Fremantle Marlins for their continued success in the women's event.

The NWPL Commission was again responsible for the management and conduct of the League and I would like to thank its chair, Russell Small, and the Commission for their work throughout the season. Once again the final-night function was a resounding success.

AWPI History

Dr Tracy Rockwell has been responsible for the co-ordinating, writing and production of what will undoubtedly become the concise history of water polo in this country; the book, titled "Water Warriors, Chronicle of Australian Water Polo", to be published later this year, is an amazing compendium of photographs, results and listings of all that have contributed to the sport in Australia. On behalf of the entire water polo community, I would like to thank Tracy for his tireless work in bringing this to fruition.

Governance and Management

The Board has continued its commitment to provide good governance and management of the sport in Australia and endeavours to make all experiences of those involved as rewarding as possible.

The continued improvement to the website, coupled with the inclusion of the Online Shop, I trust, has provided greater accessibility to many resources and opportunities.

There was during the course of the year changes to roles and responsibilities of staff with Peter Hobday assuming some additional responsibilities in the area of management and governance; the year also saw the employment of the sport's first trainee, Shane Holland.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank our Secretary-General, John Whitehouse, for his continuing hard work; Operations Manager Peter Hobday for readily agreeing to an expanded role and David Marks for his continued management of the high performance programs.

The year also saw Scott Schweickle become the sport's first full-time National Development Manager.

To the staff, including Glen Ransley, Julia Annells, Denis Kerlake, Allan Park and Shane Holland, thank you.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the sport this year — a sport whose diversity never ceases to amaze.

Peter Kerr
President



► Secretary General's Report



Governance and Management

The Board met on eight occasions during the period of review with Directors attending the following:

Directors	Present	Leave with Approval
Peter Kerr	8	-
Leanne Barnes	7	1
John Birch	6	2
Tom Hoad	6	2
David Martin	8	-
Chris Mackay	-	6
Nathan Thomas	7	1
Russell Small	6	2

Chris Mackay resigned as an Appointed Director on 22 February 2008 due to business commitments; it is very appropriate to acknowledge Chris' contribution while an Appointed Director.

The Board continued to strategically and systematically address the comprehensive view of the national men's program conducted by Mr Ken Norris, Principal, Podium Performance, and implemented a review process to assess progress against same.

The Board was represented on the National Water Polo League Commission by Director John Birch and Board Appointee Chris Harrison and their agreement to act in this role is acknowledged.

An incident during the 2008 National Water Polo League drew attention to considerable inconsistencies between the Constitution, By Laws and Operations Manual of the National Water Polo League and a comprehensive review of these policy documents was instigated and will hopefully be finalised with acceptance of amended and revised documents by the Annual Conference later in the year.

This will be the second year of operation of the changed reporting procedures relating to the annual accounts and, while comparative analysis was difficult last year, the performance of the organisation should be more easily able to be now made between years.

A very important task for the Board is to address

the Strategic Plan and establish the direction of the organisation for the ensuing four-year period and some initial steps were taken at the Half Yearly Conference when input from the State Associations was sought.

Administration

In terms of the National Office, this year has been more settled; Allan Park joined the Finance Department in a part-time role and Shane Holland was employed in March 2008 on a Sport and Recreation Traineeship.

Peter Hobday, Operations Manager, assumed additional responsibilities, particularly in the area of Governance and Management; Glen Ransley, the Finance Manager, with assistance, has undertaken a review of the accounting system, which has resulted in vastly enhanced automated reporting; Denis Kerslake and Allan Park, Finance Assistants, continue their role in the running of the Finance Department and Julia Annells, Administrative Assistant, who as usual maintains her role both in the day-to-day operation of the office and, in particular, her role in assisting with the National Water Polo League. In addition, the "Online Shop" was established, which resulted in all merchandising being done from the National Office.

International Competition

Undoubtedly, the performance by the national team in winning the FINA Junior Women's Water Polo World Championships held in Porto, Portugal in July 2007 was the stellar performance in the year under review; coupled with this Gemma Beadsworth, the captain of the team, was named as outstanding player at this event.

The performance by the respective national men's and women's teams in the Super Finals of the FINA World Water Polo Leagues 2007 and 2008 were excellent, namely:

FINA Men's Water Polo World League:

2007	3rd
2008	3rd

FINA Women's Water Polo World League:

2007	2nd
2008	3rd

The national team's performance in the FINA Junior Men's Water Polo World Championships held in Long Beach, USA in August 2007 was also outstanding with the final placing of fifth not reflecting the efforts and true standing of the team; it needs to be remembered that the only game the team lost was in a penalty shoot-out to the eventual winner, Hungary.

Our national youth boys' team also toured Europe



Aussie Shark Sam McGregor.

with a second team travelling to New Zealand; the national girls' squads participated in a successful international series against Canada and New Zealand held in Sydney in July 2007.

Domestic Competition

National League

The 2008 National League saw 12 men's and 11 women's teams participate; the event saw an additional men's team, Drummoyne, competing very successfully in its first year.

The national women's team from China also competed for the first time in the 2008 National League, adding an international flavour to the event.

A modified finals series was held at the Ryde Leisure Aquatic Centre and the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre; there was some concerns expressed in respect to the finals format, which is under review by the NWPL Commission.

Congratulations to the winners, Wests water polo Magpies, in the men's competition on their inaugural victory in this event and again to the Fremantle Marlins in winning the women's competition.

National Championships

Congratulations to the teams for winning the following:

14 Years & Under Boys (Club)	Cronulla
14 Years & Under Girls (Club)	Cronulla
16 Years & Under Boys (State)	NSW Blues
16 Years & Under Girls (State)	NSW Blues
18 Years & Under Boys (Club)	Drummoyne
18 Years & Under Girls (Club)	Sydney University
20 Years & Under Jnr Men (State)	Queensland
20 Years & Under Jnr Wom (State)	NSW Blues
Country Men	Queensland A
Country Women	ACT

Programs

AIS Women's Program

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) provided an ideal environment and venue for the conduct of the women's squad's "centralised camp" — a vital activity in the conditioning and preparation of the athletes leading up to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

The support provided by all personnel at the AIS is acknowledged; all resources at the AIS have been consistently made available whenever requested. The program, ably led by national coach Greg McFadden, is also overseen by a committee operating under the auspices of Performance Enhancement Framework protocols.

National Training Centres and Elite Development Centres

The sport has continued to operate five National Training Centres and Elite Development Centres with the support of the State Institutes and Academies of Sport.

The management and relationship is co-ordinated effectively through Joint Management Committees (JMCs) comprising representatives from the State Institute/State Academy, State Associations and National Association.

The work of the respective coaches is acknowledged, namely: Simon Daley/Aleksandr Osadchuk (QAS), Les Kay/Mark Hubbard/Ryan Moar (NSWIS), Greig Richardson/Peter Smith (VIC), Eddie Denis (SASI) and Andrei Kovalenko and Peter Szilagyi (WAIS).

High Performance Program

While undoubtedly the focus of the High Performance Programs was on the preparation of the national senior teams, David Marks, the High Performance Manager, oversaw a multiplicity of activities by teams and squads of all age groups involved in camps and events throughout the year.

David, in addition to the above, was the sport's representative on each of the Joint Management Committees.

The increased activity by all groups led to an informal High Performance Committee being established in May 2008 to assist and control the many activities that were occurring; it has been proposed that this group be formalised for the future and that scheduled quarterly meetings be held.

Participation Program

A comprehensive review of the coach-education structure was undertaken resulting in a Club Coach



Manual being submitted to the Australian Sports Commission.

Flippa Ball Community Coach (New NCAS Program)

Modified version of water polo for introduction to children and primary schools targeted at 8-12 years old; personnel covered by this level include coaches of Flippa Ball Club, School, Pool and coaches in the ASC Active After Schools Program.

Introductory Skills Certificate (New AWPI Accredited Course)

Involves fundamental skills and techniques; personnel covered by this level include persons who have had little or no experience coaching water polo and who wish to gain an elementary knowledge of either or both; teachers "in charge" of intra-school water polo teams; parents/youths assisting with the game development of youngsters.

Club Coach (Old NCAS Level 1)

Competency-based coaching certificate for club and school coaches. Areas covered include: basic rules; role of the coach; basic team tactics; counter-attack; teaching and training the goalkeeper; planning a season; risk management and membership protection. Completion of the ASC Online Coaching Principles Course.

The National Development Manager, Scott Schweickle, has also facilitated a collaborative initiative with Water Polo Queensland and Victorian Water Polo Inc to develop a revised manual, including resources for Flippa Ball.

Scott resigned from the position of Head Coach of the Elite Development Centre in Canberra and relocated to Brisbane, Queensland during the course of the year to take on the role of the Association's first full-time National Development Manager.

Partners in Water Polo

Australian Sports Commission

The Australian Sports Commission once again significantly supported water polo and is the sport's principal sponsor. A total of \$1,800,000 was directed to the sport's high performance program that included \$125,000 specifically to support the national women's program's centralised camp, which was an integral component of the preparation for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games; in addition \$75,000 was provided by way of the Beijing Athlete Program to support international travel by the national women's team.

An amount of \$61,000 was allocated to water polo's participation programs with \$20,000 being directed to elite coach development.



Gemma Beadsworth scores at the FINA Junior Women's World Championships in Portugal.

The national women's squad was also a recipient of \$234,000 under the Australian Government Sports Training Grant (AGSTG).

The sport enjoys a very good working relationship with Bryan Wilson, our Sports Consultant at the Australian Sports Commission, which was further cemented by regular scheduled meetings; Bryan has been a strong advocate and voice for our sport, something that has been greatly appreciated by both the Board and Officers of the Association.

Australian Institute of Sport

The continuing excellent support of the Australian Institute of Sport for the AIS women's water polo decentralised program cannot be overstated.

The Canberra campus of the AIS hosted the centralised camp for the women's squad through September–November 2007 and all resources were made available to the squad throughout the duration of the camp; the camp being a vital component of the preparatory phase leading ultimately to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

In addition, the AIS provided \$40,602 to support the AIS women's squad to participate in an international training camp in Santa Cruz de Tenerife (ESP) prior to the 2008 FINA Women's Water Polo World League Super Finals when it was not possible to attract an overseas team to Australia.

The quality control program is overseen by a committee with representatives from the AIS, ASC and the NSO operating under the guidelines of the Performance Enhancement Framework.

Australian Olympic Committee

The Australian Olympic Committee continues to provide invaluable support to our teams, athletes and coaches. Our teams were recipients of a total of \$108,000 under the AOC International Competition



Grant program while the national women's team also received \$174,202 by way of the adidas Medal Incentive Funding; the national women's coach was also a recipient under this funding program.

The sport enjoys a very good relationship with the AOC, fostered over many years and is very cognisant of the important role that the AOC has in the fabric of Australian Sport.

State Institutes and State Academies of Sport

The sport's relationship with its partners, the respective State Institutes and State Academies of Sport (SIS/SAS), could hardly be better.

The delivery of the daily training environment as a result of the operation of decentralised programs is a vital ingredient for which the SISA/SAS network assumes responsibility.

The additional support provided by the SIS/SAS to the coaches and athletes in the National Training Centres and Elite Development Centre is widely recognised and greatly acknowledged.

Joint Management Committee (JMC) agreements form the cornerstone of the relationship between the national organisation and the SIS/SAS network.

It would be remiss not to acknowledge, in particular, the support provided by NSWIS to the national men's program that made possible the national team's participation in the Test Event held in Beijing, China in March 2008. Accordingly, to Charles Turner, Chief Executive Officer, NSWIS, a sincere thank you!

Stanwell Corporation

The excellent support that the Stanwell Corporation has provided to our national women's program has resulted in many additional opportunities for the national women's squad.

Stanwell's involvement undoubtedly has been a very positive influence on the national women's program and it is pleasing that the relationship with Stanwell is to continue.

Moves Travel Group

The Association has entered into the second year with the Moves Travel Group being its travel manager; the ability to access not only travel but also accommodation through the relationship has proved to be positive.

However, the appointment will be reviewed more formally and the benefits to the Association assessed before entering any further agreement.

Turbo

Turbo (Crotton SA) again continues to support Australian Water Polo Inc, outfitting our national men's, women's, youth boys' and girls' teams that

is estimated to be an "in-kind" sponsorship of about \$45,000.

Being the exclusive agent for Turbo product in Australia and New Zealand, the advent of our "On-line Shop" provides a further opportunity for the Association to benefit from the relationship.

Mikasa

The relationship between Mikasa Sports Australia and Australian Water Polo Inc enters its seventh year, providing benefits to both the national and State Associations.

The preferred water polo ball status is the hallmark of this continuing relationship.

Acknowledgements

It is appropriate in closing to acknowledge the support and the work of staff whose involvement is critical to the functioning of the Association.

The Operations Manager, Peter Hobday, who as indicated assumed additional responsibilities in the area of management and governance – thank you.

To David Marks, the High Performance Manager, in addition to other responsibilities, ably managed the compilation of the National Pathways Planning document presented to the Australian Sports Commission in January 2008 – thank you.

To Scott Schweickle, who this year returned to Brisbane, in the role of the Association's first full-time National Development Manager; what Scott has done has been detailed fully in my report.

The National Media Manager, Russell McKinnon, whose role also was amended somewhat but continued to be responsible for aspects of the website, media releases and National League publicity.

I would like to thank all other staff, including from the Finance Department Glen Ransley, the Finance Manager, Denis Kerlake, Allan Park; also our Sports Trainee Shane Holland and, in particular, Julia Annells for her countless hours of work and support throughout the year.

To all national coaches and respective team managers, thank you for all that you have done to support and assist our athletes both domestically and on the international stage.

It is indeed appropriate to mention that Peter Kerr, the President, was recognised in the Australia Day Honours List, being awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for his contribution to sport and considerable involvement in charitable and community organisations.

John Whitehouse
Secretary General



► High Performance Report



Current Situation — High Performance Plan Summary

The current High Performance Program for men is a decentralised National Training Centre-based program with centres in Brisbane, Perth and Sydney supported by the SIS/SAS network and Elite Development Centres in Adelaide supported by the SIS/SAS network and a centre in Melbourne. Unfortunately the centre that had been conducted in Canberra has discontinued.

The athletes attending the centres in Brisbane, Perth and Sydney are generally national senior or junior squad members. New South Wales Institute of Sport, together with New South Wales Water Polo Inc and Australian Water Polo Inc, continues to run the trial pilot program of a youth development group for male athletes in the 16–18 years old age group. This program is still proving to be most effective.

A number of men's national team athletes play in professional leagues overseas.

The women's High Performance Program is again a decentralised National Training Centre and Elite Development Centre-based program utilising the same centres as the men's program. The AIS is involved as a camps-based program, which permits the national squad to train together under ideal circumstances. The athletes attending the centres in Brisbane, Perth and Sydney are again generally national senior or junior squad members. A trial camps-based program for female athletes in the 16–18 years age group has been developed at NSWIS.

A number of female athletes have in the past played professionally overseas.

The NTCs are supported by underpinning programs by member associations.

Water Polo continues to achieve remarkable success in international junior and senior competition. The High Performance Program has created a depth of talent indicated by international results.

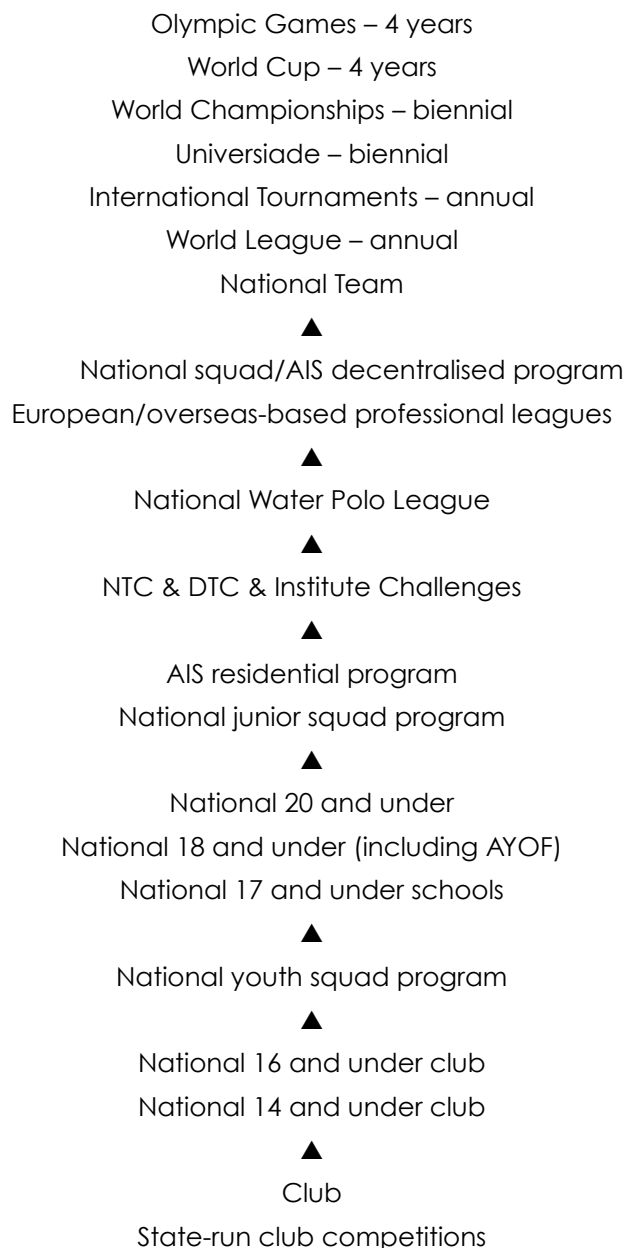
Future Directions and Opportunities

The following highlights Australian Water Polo Inc's forward High Performance direction:

- It is proposed to continue to fund for the current period the NTCs in Brisbane, Perth and Sydney financed by funds from the HP budget, together with the centres in the other States.
- It is proposed to continue the AIS camps-based women's program.
- As previously indicated, trials (Youth Development Groups) are being successfully conducted with the expectation that this format will be implemented in other centres.

Proposed Athlete Pathway 2009-2013

In consultation with national coaches, approved by AWPI Board and submitted to AWPI members, Australian Sports Commission and National Elite Sports Council this was developed for the National Planning Pathways Submission 2008:





The Aussie Sharks who won bronze at the 2008 FINA World League Super Finals in Genoa, Italy, wearing a black armband in the memory of Newcastle's Brian Berry.

Key Changes (if funded and approved)

Women

Inclusion of an Under-21 AIS junior program, together with the current existing camps-based program for senior athletes.

Men

Reinstatement of an AIS program with a camps-based program for senior athletes and an Under-21 AIS junior program.

SIS/SAS

Continuation of existing level of support, which at this time has not been ratified or determined.

AIS

Funding to permit the above proposal.

ASC

Continuation of a level of high-performance funding to meet the program needs.

Impacts and Challenges

- There is concern about being able to retain senior athletes in the program post 2007/08.
- Being able to provide access to coaching programs for all national squad athletes.
- Continuing uncertainty regarding ability to have a men's program reinstated to the AIS.
- A need to create an acceptable coaching infrastructure for sub-elite coaches.
- Developing referees to world standard.
- AWPI has an excellent working relationship with our SIS/SAS partners and is about to enter into new agreements with our partners. Discussions continue to be conducted with the Victorian Institute of Sport with the anticipation that some water polo athletes may be included in its programs in the near future.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of AWPI, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank AWPI's sponsors, national senior, junior, girls and youth coaches, assistant coaches (where applicable), managers, support staff, AIS coaches and support staff and the National Training Centre coaches and the SIS/SAS network for their dedication to their various tasks.

David Marks

High Performance Manager

► Operations Report



Executive Officers' Meetings

The annual Executive Officers' meeting was attended by all States and ACT. Trent Franklin, Managing Director, Enrizen Insurance Solutions, addressed the meeting on schools participating in carnivals conducted by State Associations, and on registration of players.

Further matters discussed included coach education, ASC accreditation database and sharing of resources and intellectual property.

Insurance

AWPI reviewed its policies with Enrizen Insurance Solutions on behalf of the members. All details of the policies and claim forms are held on the AWPI web site. A club property and club travel policy has been developed for clubs should they wish to take advantage of this offer.

Insurance cover for its members, clubs and associations includes:

- Sports injury
- Public liability
- Professional indemnity
- Workers' compensation
- Directors' and officers' liability
- Travel insurance



- Club property
- Club travel

National Championships

A full cycle of championships was completed during this reporting period. Sydney, New South Wales, hosted the 16 & under championships at both Ryde Aquatic Centre and Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. New South Wales Blues defeated Western Australia Gold in the boys' and the girls' gold-medal games. The 20 & under junior men's and women's championships were conducted in Adelaide, South Australia, at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre. The junior men's title was won by Queensland and the junior women's winner was New South Wales. New South Wales Water Polo Inc hosted the 14 & under club championships with 25 teams competing. Cronulla won both the boys' and girls' championships. The final national event for the year was the 18 & under club championships played at the Valley Pool and All Hallows School in Brisbane. Cronulla won the girls' championship while Fremantle Mariners won gold in the boys' event.

At the 2008 Half-Yearly Conference, State delegates and the AWPI Board resolved that from 2009 the 18 and under championships will be State-based and the 16 years and under championships contested by clubs.

These Championships are made possible through the support of the State Associations and volunteers. Thank you to those people who make their time so freely available.

Volunteer "technical coordinators" who organise referees and other officials, make these events work



FINA World League Super Finals awardees Kate Gynther (left, Most Valuable Player) and Victoria Brown (Best Goalkeeper)

and we thank them for their efforts. The referees who give their time to officiate at these championships are an integral part of the water polo community. Thank you.

Sydney Office

Thanks to the generosity of Charles Turner, Chief Executive Officer, NSWIS, a Sydney office has been established for AWPI at Homebush. This has given AWPI the opportunity to have a presence on the major Eastern seaboard and to meet face to face with many of our stakeholders on a regular basis. The office has been manned regularly by the Operations Manager, the national men's coach and other AWPI staff. It has also provided a meeting place for the high performance committee and the Board of AWPI has met at NSWIS on two occasions.

Governance, Policies and Procedures

The third Operational Plan was developed based upon the four-year Strategic Plan. Policies and Procedures are under review to maintain accountability to the members of AWPI. All policies and major reports are held on the AWPI web site. As mentioned in John Whitehouse's report, the Constitution, By Laws and Operations Manual are subject to a major review, which is intended to ensure compatibility between these documents. Changes will be considered at the 2008 Annual Conference after consultation with our stakeholders.

Web Site

The web site has provided a re-vitalised vehicle for communicating with our constituents. Thanks to BlueWire Media and Toby Jenkins, the web site was enhanced and now contains a huge amount of information relating to our organisation. A bulk email system is now used to send information to our members. Thanks to Toby and Nathan Thomas for their support in this area.

Database

All States and the ACT are now using the national database utilising the software package Sportzware Central. This provides a membership database and a competition results system. AWPI has entered into a revenue-sharing arrangement with the proprietors of this software based on the number of hits on our results pages for the various competitions. This has meant that people visiting the web site need to register, we hope this has not/ will not cause too much inconvenience, as this is the mechanism used to keep track of our "hits".

Acknowledgements

My thanks to John Whitehouse, Glen, Denis, Alan, Shane in the National Office, Julia Annells, David Marks, Scott Schweickle and Russell McKinnon for



their assistance.

I would also like to acknowledge the support shown by the AWPI Board Members.

Peter Hobday
Operations Manager

► National Development Report



During the past 12 months, sports development has been working on several new projects to address the needs of our stakeholders nationally. Without the funding of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), many of these projects would not be undertaken and we would not be able to provide many basic services.

I would like to thank the ASC for its support, input and guidance during the past 12 months. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the AWPI Office staff for its ongoing support.

Participation

Australian Water Polo Inc is committed to the development of water polo for young people. AWPI has developed a comprehensive Sport Education Program for secondary schools. The new resource package consists of a 96-page manual. In addition a DVD will also accompany this manual.

The water polo program encourages students to increase their understanding of the rules and tactics of water polo and their appreciation of the codes of behaviour. It encourages students to participate in a "season" of sport, not only playing games but also being involved in the planning, administration, officiating and the coaching of water polo.

This program contains segments of the Sport Education in Physical Education Program (SEPEP), which enables teachers to develop an outcomes-based education approach, which can be used as an integral part of physical education or sport education programs in schools. This program is aimed

at the students aged between 13 and 17.

Closer links have also been formed with secondary schools with the development of a new secondary schools' water polo database so that notification of new projects can be provided directly.

Coaching

The National Coaching and Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) is a progressive coach education program.

AWPI recently completed a review of its coaching education structure. The following new accreditation structure has commenced implementation.

Flippa Ball Community Coach (New)

Modified version of water polo for introduction to children and primary schools targeted at 8-12 years old.

Introductory Skills Certificate (New)

Includes fundamental skills, techniques and rules for people who know little or nothing about water polo. Ideal for parents and teachers.

Club Coach (Old Level 1)

NCAS accredited competency based entry level coaching qualification. Pre-requisites include: Completion of the ASC Online Coaching Principles Course and Play by the Rules Coaching Course.

Senior Club Coach (Old Level 2)

NCAS accredited competency based advanced level coaching qualification. Includes both tactical and technical components. Pre-requisites include completion of the ASC's Intermediary Coaching Principles and completion of the Club Coach Certificate with two years' practical coaching experience.

High Performance Coach (Old Level 3)

NCAS accredited competency based elite-level coaching qualification. Includes tactical and sports science components. Completion of the ASCA NCAS Level 1 Strength and Conditioning Course and satisfactory completion of the Senior Club Coaching Certificate and relevant coaching experience as a Senior Club Coach level are pre-requisites.

Officiating

The Level 1 course is now being conducted by many State Associations with trained presenters and assessors. I would like to thank all State Associations for their support in making sure a uniform approach



to officiating education is now being delivered. In the 2007/08 season the first Level 2 Referee Course was conducted in Queensland with further expansion to continue in 2008/09.

Partnerships

In May 2008, the first National Development Officers' workshop was conducted in Sydney. All States were invited to attend providing one representative. The following topics were discussed: a review of development programs conducted by State Associations/Territories; the move towards the development of a new National Development Framework; building partnerships between SSOs and AWPI for joint projects and development of resources.

Scott Schweickle

National Development Manager

► **National Media Report**



The past year was an interim period between major events, following a successful staging of the FINA World Championships in Melbourne and the impending Olympic Games in Beijing.

Publicity centred on our women gaining a silver medal and the men a bronze medal at the FINA World League Super Finals last year and our junior women claiming gold at the FINA Junior Women's World Championships. This was followed by bronze medals for the men and women in the FINA World League Super Finals in June this year.

Medal wins

The past year was excellent for a spread of medals with the above teams keeping our country to the forefront. The junior women earned reasonable media exposure with captain Gemma Beadsworth gaining the ripple effect with follow-up awards, including AIS junior athlete of the year.

National Water Polo News

The final edition appeared in September after a

long run. Instead of a limited print run, we are turning our attentions to the website as our prime source of information distribution.

Web Site

The AWPI web site has taken on a new life and proves to be a world leader for the sport. National championships results are constantly updated via the website and the usual number of stories maintains the high integrity of the site.

Media Releases

There has been a constant flow of information to the media outlets with an increasing number of competitions and tours in the build-up to the Beijing Olympic Games.

Press Clippings

With the advent of getting stories on the website electronically it is hard to gauge exactly how many stories appeared in metropolitan newspapers. AWPI takes an electronic feed of those stories, which have made major newspapers' websites and a links service means we can attach those stories to our home page on a near daily basis. Knowledge of stories appearing in newspapers and not going electronic means there are plenty of other stories feeding the public.

Electronic Media

There was plenty of attention to Olympic athletes and some made themselves available to the electronic media throughout the year, especially on radio. Television took an interest from time to time but the best exposure would be yet to come at the Beijing Olympic Games.

National League

Daily media releases when games were played kept the media abreast of the competition. The website was updated daily with all the results and details of an ever-increasing league. Thanks to all those clubs who made the scoresheets available to us as quickly as possible. Statistics show that more people are accessing the website so it is imperative that clubs continually update the information for their respective pages.

National Championships

When we are fighting for every centimetre in newspapers against higher-profile sports, it is imperative we interact with newspapers to make sure that results of national championships appear in our local newspapers. A simple phone call to the



paper to ask whether results will appear means sports editors know people are interested. Many papers cover our championships through the results section rather than the stories.

FINA Press Commission

In the past year, as a member of the FINA Press Commission, I witnessed the junior men at the FINA World Championships in the USA, the women's team win a silver medal at the FINA World League Super Finals in Montreal, Canada and attended the Olympic Games Qualification Tournaments for men and women.

Acknowledgements

My sincerest thanks go to Peter Hobday for his support and help during the national championships and NWPL season; John Whitehouse and the AWPI office staff; the NWPL clubs for their help; the athletes for making themselves available to the media; and to everyone who attempted to get media coverage for our sport.

Russell McKinnon

National Media Manager

► National League Report



The National Water Polo League played its 19th men's season and fifth women's season. A total of 290 games were played at 17 venues with the finals series played at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre and Ryde Aquatic Centre.

The season comprised a total of 24 teams, 12 men and 12 women. Drummoyne joined the men's competition, while China played in the women's competition as a lead up to its Olympic campaign. Due to unforeseen circumstances, China was not able to complete a full round of games, which meant that its games were exhibition matches. However, China completed 20 of 22 games.

2008 NWPL Awards

Champion men's club:

West's water polo Magpies

Champion women's club:

Fremantle Marlins

Southern Cross Trophy men:

Fremantle Mariners

Southern Cross Trophy women:

Sydney University Lions

Charles Turner Medal (MVP men season):

Gavin Woods (Balmain Tigers)

Debbie Watson Medal (MVP women season):

Taryn Woods (Balmain Tigers)

Tom Hoad Medal (MVP men, finals series):

Stephen Cody (West's Magpies)

MVP women, finals series:

Taryn Woods (Balmain Tigers)

John Whitehouse Medal (final series referees):

Daniel Bartels, Andrew Carney, Danny

Flahive, Noel Harrod, Michael Hart,

Nick Hodgers, Nicola Johnson,

Damir Stajduhar, Megan Varlow,

Rowan Woodburn, Alex Zlatkovic.

All Star team, men:

Daniel Lees (Cronulla Sharks)

Stephen Cody (West's Magpies)

Trent Franklin (Sydney Uni Lions)

Rhys Howden (Brisbane Barracudas)

Anthony Martin (KFC Breakers)

Ross Sinclair (Hunter Hurricanes)

Gavin Woods (Balmain Tigers)

All Star team, women:

Lea Barta (UNSW Killer Whales)

Jemma Dessauvague (UWA Comets)

Suzie Fraser (KFC Breakers)

Mel Rippon (Brisbane Barracudas)

Mia Santoromito (Cronulla Sharks)

Rowie Webster (Victorian Tigers)

Taryn Woods (Balmain Tigers)

Highest goal-scorer men:

Ross Sinclair (Hunter Hurricanes) 63

Highest goal-scorer women:

Taryn Woods (Balmain Tigers) 59



NWPL champion men Wests water polo Magpies.



NWPL champion women Fremantle Marlins.

Season Highlights

- Fremantle Marlins continued their dominance by winning their fourth women's title in five years.
- Wests water polo Magpies broke through for their first men's title.
- Trent Birkett played a record number of NWPL games — 300.
- Corporate Vehicle Management continued its association with the NWPL as the official vehicle hire organisation.
- Moves Travel provided ongoing support for the NWPL.
- AWPI continued its valued support for the NWPL.
- Australian Sports Commission again contributed to the NWPL through the high performance program.
- The NWPL web site continued to develop with great results and response.
- Gavin and Taryn Woods won the Season MVP for the second year in succession in their respective genders.

NWPL Management

The NWPL Commission, chaired by Russell Small, undertook the management of the League. David Martin retired as an Elected Commissioner and was replaced by Phillip Bower. Warren Hawtin continued as an Elected Commissioner, and the AWPI-nominated Commissioners were John Birch and Chris Harrison.

The referees provided great support to the league, for which they are thanked.

Sponsors and Supporters

The NWPL wishes to thank the numerous NWPL and club sponsors whose assistance and support is

greatly appreciated by the NWPL and clubs. These include the Australian Sports Commission, Mikasa Sports Australia, Turbo Water Polo, Moves Travel Group and Corporate Vehicle Management.

Australian Water Polo Inc continued its support through the High Performance program and executive assistance through the National Office.

Acknowledgements

The following are acknowledged for their support.

- All NWPL players, coaches, team management and club officials who work tirelessly to keep the dream alive.
- John Whitehouse, Glen Ransley, Denis Kerlake and especially Julia Annells from the National Office.
- All NWPL referees and delegates who undertake their very difficult task with professionalism and integrity every week.
- Russell McKinnon, McKinnon Media.
- Ryde Aquatic Centre and Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre in hosting the Finals Series.
- Doc Wulf for his amazing statistical analysis of the NWPL.
- Russell Small, Chairman NWPL Commission, Phillip Bower, Warren Hawtin, John Birch and Chris Harrison as NWPL Commissioners.
- Damir Stajduhar, referee appointments officer.
- John Fox, national men's coach and Greg McFadden, national women's coach.

Russell Small has indicated that he will not seek re-election as the NWPL Chairman. The NWPL is indebted to Russell for his commitment to and vision of the League over many years, but specifically as Chairman of the Interim Commission and more



recently as Chairman of the NWPL Commission.

Peter Hobday

NWPL General Manager

► Senior Men's Report



FINA World League

The 2007 FINA World League was identified as the first major event for the senior men since the Melbourne FINA World Championships. In order to qualify for the finals in Berlin, the team had to play a preliminary series in Shanghai against China and Japan. The top two teams advanced to Berlin.

Although the quality of the opposition was not great, the games provided an excellent preparation for the European tour and an opportunity for the players to adapt to my coaching style and game-plan.

The Chinese B team was competing by invitation, giving us six important matches. We beat China B 17-6 and 18-3, accounted for China A 17-5 and 11-8, as well as beating Asian Games silver medallist Japan 12-8 and 15-3. Therefore, the Sharks and China gained the two qualification berths.

European Tour

The July European tour began with a three-day training camp in Athens with the Greek national team. This was our first hit-out against quality European opposition and the training was intense and closely contested. In the only scheduled official match we had an 11-10 loss.

Following Athens we made a red-eye flight into Netanya, Israel where we played in an eight-nation competition. The Aussie Sharks were the first full national team from Australia to contest a tournament in the country.

Due to travel arrangements, we disappointedly bowed to Romania 9-8 on the first day.

Day two saw two matches with a 27-8 thumping of Israel and a gallant 14-9 success over Russia.

In the day-three encounter with Greece, the game was locked at 8-all by full time but Greece had the better of extra time, winning 11-8. This meant we did not qualify for the gold medal game and had to play off for the bronze, beating France 15-11 on the final day of competition.

FINA World League Super Finals

In a disappointing start to the finals we lost 15-8 loss to Hungary, who got an initial jump in the 1st quarter and held the lead throughout. The second game was a brutal encounter with Canada in which numerous players were sent for misconduct. We won 9-8.

The third game was also a close-fought battle and unfortunately we lost to Germany after being four goals up in the final quarter only to see that margin wiped out and for the home team to win in penalty shootout after both teams were locked at 12 at full time.

This meant finishing third in the group and having to play Romania, second in the other group. We were able to reverse the Netanya result and won 9-6 to advance to the semi-final clash with Hungary.

Another poor game against Hungary was not pleasing, losing 16-7.

This left the play-off for a medal against a strong German team and a hostile 1300-strong crowd. A thrilling 7-6 victory gave the Aussie Sharks our first medal in FINA men's competition since the 1993 World Cup in Athens, Greece.

NTC Challenge

The inaugural NTC Challenge was followed by a training camp to prepare the players for the Olympic Games qualification series against New Zealand.

The NTC challenge was an unmitigated success with QAS taking the inaugural title. I was able to gauge the performances of all current and prospective national senior players.

Olympic Qualification

Four players — Sam McGregor (Madrid), Johnno Cotteril (San Andrea), Richie Campbell (Barcelona) and Rob Maitland (Mediterrani) — were called up from Europe in addition to the players selected from the NTC Challenge. We played New Zealand in a three-Test series in Auckland in which the winner got



entry into the 12-team Olympic competition.

We swept the series 20-2, 18-2 and 18-8.

Partizan Belgrade Visit

In the absence of the European-based players, a squad of 15 domestic based players was selected to participate in a week-long training camp and exhibition game against international club team Partizan Belgrade in Perth. The camp enabled me to see and evaluate the progress of some of the next generation of players.

European Tour

The timing of the tour enabled the European-based players to unite with a selection of the Australian-based players to work various systems and develop a better understanding of the style of play I wanted the team to undertake. In addition there was an opportunity to establish and define clear roles for the players within this framework.

The team played a one-off match in Athens, Greece under trying circumstances, losing by two goals in a friendly where several players could not reach Athens because of weather delays.

We travelled to Kecskemet, Hungary and drew with Germany 7-7 in a friendly before playing the Volvo Cup, losing to Hungary 15-11 after earlier beating Canada 11-4 and Romania 11-10.

Olympic Test Event

We played the Good Luck Beijing Test Event in the Ying Tung Natatorium, the venue for all water polo competition at the 2008 Olympics. The players and management reaped the benefits of experiencing first-hand the competition and training facilities that would be utilised for the Olympic tournament.

Unfortunately the withdrawal of Olympic-qualified Montenegro and the Japanese team, meant that two inferior replacement teams had to be found for the four-team tournament to go ahead. We played China and two regional teams, winning all three matches and gaining valuable scrimmage time with the national team.

FINA World League Preliminaries

Fifteen players were selected to travel to Tokyo. A decision was made to rest some of the senior players — Thomas Whalan and James Stanton due to late completion of European league and Trent Franklin.

The competition went as expected with Australia winning all eight matches and advancing to the



Aussie Shark Rob Maitland at the FINA World League Super Finals in Berlin, Germany.

finals to be contested in Genoa, Italy in June.

USA Tour

Following a brief rest period the squad assembled in California for a week of scrimmaging and three official matches with the United States.

After overcoming a sluggish start in which we lost the first game 6-4, we managed to put better games together in the following matches winning by two and four goals respectively.

FINA World League Super Finals

Following USA, we travelled to Genoa, Italy to contest in the finals of the FINA World League Super Finals. We shut out Egypt 21-0, beat Canada 11-7 and Greece 13-9 before losing 11-5 to eventual champion Serbia. Second in our group, we frustratingly lost the semifinal against the USA 11-10 in a penalty shootout after finishing 7-7 at fulltime. We went to the bronze-medal play-off where we delightedly beat Montenegro 8-7 for our second successive medal.

The final week of the tour saw the team travel to Barcelona, Spain for a period of common training/ scrimmages and three official games with each team winning a match and other drawn.

John Fox
Head Coach



► Senior Women's Report



The 2007-08 year obviously was going to be focused on our preparation to qualify for the Olympic Games and place us in a position to be vying for the medals in Beijing.

However, there were two major tournaments during July in which we needed to compete in before we selected a squad of 22 for the residential camp at the AIS, which would go from September until November.

USA Training Camp

Due to the Junior World Championships being held in late July it was decided to allow the junior team to have their best team play and train in all the lead-up tournaments. This meant that no junior players would be considered for selection for the World League Super Finals tour. Also, due to injuries and some players not passing their physical strength testing, we left these players in Australia so that they could work on their recovery and strength prior to the final testing selection for the residential camp.

This meant that from the 2007 March FINA World Championships silver medallists we had only five players selected for the World League Super Finals in a squad of 14. The 10 players who made up the remainder of the touring squad consisted of three players who had never represented Australia at a senior or junior level — Lisa Callahan, Larissa Webster and Lea Barta.

We started the tour with two matches in California against the United States who were at full strength and preparing for their Pan American Olympic Qualification tournament one week after the World League Super Finals. This was a true baptism of fire for the inexperienced girls and we were well and truly beaten 16-10 and 13-7 by the No 1 ranked team in the world.

FINA World League Super Finals

We headed to Montreal for the Super Finals in

which four of our opponents were at full strength and preparing for their Olympic qualification tournaments. Our first opponent was Greece who we defeated 9-8, then we came up against the USA and went down 9-8 after missing an extra-man chance in the last 20 seconds.

Our next opponent was Spain but, when three goals ahead, a thunderstorm came and both teams had to evacuate the pool towards the end of the third quarter. The Spanish regrouped and came back strongly, beating us 12-11.

This put us in a very dire situation with our next game against the home team Canada. The winner of this match would play in the Gold Medal match against the USA while a loss would see us play China for fifth place with the loser of that game being relegated to last position. The pressure was on and the players responded terrifically to beat Canada 11-8.

This then gave us a replay of the World Championship gold-medal match four months earlier. Unfortunately, USA's experience showed, winning 8-4. Our performances, however, were rewarded when Victoria Brown was named goalkeeper of the tournament and Kate Gynther the MVP.

World Juniors

Prior to the juniors heading to the FINA Junior World Championships, they had an intense training camp with the senior team on the Gold Coast. Five of the senior squad members were selected in the junior team while another six players had been selected to attend training camps with the senior team during the previous two years. The juniors went on to claim their second gold medal with Gemma Beadsworth being named MVP.

Residential Camp

As part of our Olympic qualification preparation, we had planned a three-month training camp to prepare for the series against New Zealand in Brisbane during December. Twenty-two players had been selected for the camp in which we went through a very intense six-week strength training and at the end of the camp the players were all sent home for one week to prepare for the Institute Challenge in which 15 players would be selected for a tour of Canada and America. At the end of this tour the Olympic qualification team would be announced.

North American Tour

The Canada Cup competition in Montreal started



well with an 8-6 win over Russia, which was followed by an emphatic 13-4 victory over Canada. We then came up against the USA and, after tying the game 8-8 in normal time, we lost 12-11 on penalties.

This then left us playing Canada in the semifinal and a 6-4 win saw us through to the final for the third time in a row against the USA. Once again the game went down to the wire and fortunately this time we won 6-5 with Kate Gynther being named the MVP.

We then moved on to the USA for the Holiday Cup but unfortunately our good form in Canada was left behind in the snow and we did not perform consistently throughout this tournament. We lost our first two games 12-10 and 10-7 respectively against Netherlands and Russia, before finding some form and defeating Canada 13-9. We then played probably one of our best defensive games to beat the USA in front of its home crowd 6-5 but unfortunately came out the next day and performed way below our best to lose for the first time since July 2004 against Italy (11-8) in a very disappointing performance.

Olympic Qualification Series

Although New Zealand had not sent its best team to compete due to player unavailability, we certainly were not going to take the Kiwis lightly and we prepared like we would for a World Championship. We came out a comfortable winner 17-1, 18-1 and 20-3 at the Brisbane series.

Series With USA

The USA was invited to tour Australia for a five-test series in early January. WA staged three matches and NSW two. The three matches in Perth finished 8-8, 13-11 and 10-8 to give Australia a 2-0 series lead. In Sydney an 8-8 draw and then an 11-9 victory gave Australia the series 3-0. We used 18 players throughout the test series to help us in our selection process for the Olympics while two players were unavailable due to injuries.

European Tour

Due to the Olympic Games Qualification Tournament for the remaining four positions being held in mid-February, we were invited to attend training camps and tournaments in Rome and Athens with the host countries. Unfortunately this was right at the start of the NWPL season and would affect some clubs and in particular Queensland Breakers who probably would have made the finals if all their players were available.

In Rome we lost to Greece 11-10, Netherlands

11-7 and the Italians 8-6. After some average performances in the first two games our match against Italy was quite encouraging.

We then headed to Greece for another tournament in which we got revenge on the Netherlands 13-10, played probably close to our worst game ever against the Hungarians to lose 15-8, backed up that night to beat Greece 9-7 before losing to Russia 14-11 in a very entertaining and high-scoring game. A controversial penalty in the last minute allowed the Russians to go up by two and then a goal in the last seconds made the score look more comfortable than the game was.

We then had a couple of days training with Greece before heading home.

Good Luck Beijing Test Event

The Test Event allowed us the opportunity to play in the venue that would be used for the Olympics. It was only a quick 10-day tour in which we defeated China 9-6, Russia 13-8 and the USA 7-6 to win the tournament. We remained on for two days of training and games against China in which we won 9-8 and 10-6.

Series With China

A four-match test series was played at the AIS in Canberra where we cut the squad to 17 players for the FINA World League rounds. Australia won the series 4-0, defeating China 15-11, 10-7, 11-7 and 8-7.

Training Camp

A seven-day training camp was held in Sydney in which guest coaches — Nathan Thomas, Gavin Woods and Craig Miller — came along and instructed the girls in regards to the specific positions they played.

FINA World League Preliminaries

Once again we were off to Tianjin for the FINA World League rounds in which we had to qualify by finishing in the top two for the Super Finals. We played without Taniele Gofers and Nikita Cuffe. However this saw the return of Emma Knox from her hip operation in December.

We were undefeated but not before a scare from the Chinese who had shown a lot of improvement since our training camp in Beijing at the Test event. We beat China B 21-4, China A 11-9 (penalty shoot-out), Japan 17-4, China B 16-2, China A 11-10 and Japan 19-3. After the tour the squad was reduced to 16 players.



Victoria Brown in full flight at the FINA World League Super Finals in Montreal, Canada last year.

Training Camp With Spain

A five-day training camp with Spain was held prior to the FINA World League finals in which we played one official game, winning 15-8.

FINA World League Super Finals

The FINA World League Super Finals were a mixed result for us. We did not play consistently and unfortunately I think the pressure of the Olympic team final selection had a lot to do with these performances.

We lost to the USA for the first time since the Canada Cup in November 10-9, beat China in another tough encounter 10-8, lost to Canada 6-7 and defeated Spain 11-7.

This put us in a situation in which we had to beat the Russians in normal play. Unfortunately we drew 9-9 but came out in front 14-13 in the penalty shoot-out. This meant that we had to play for the bronze medal against Canada in which we reversed our earlier loss to win 7-6.

Training Camp

This was staged on the Gold Coast after the Olympic team was announced: Melissa Rippon (Capt), Emma Knox (V/C), Kate Gynther, Nikita Cuffe, Rebecca Rippon, Alicia McCormack, Bronwen Knox, Mia Santoromito, Jenna Santoromito, Amy Hetzel, Gemma Beadsworth, Taniele Gofers, Suzie Fraser. Staff: Jeanette Gunn (Manager), Greg McFadden (Head Coach), Ryan Moar (Assistant Coach), Aleksandr Osadchuk (Assistant Coach), Grace Bryant (Doctor) and Danealle Lilley (Physiotherapist).

Acknowledgements

The women's program's great results would not have been possible without the support of the following people:

- To the athletes who were unfortunately not selected in the Olympic team.
- To all the athletes who were guest invitees to attend the residential camp and all other camps in our preparation to qualify for the Olympics.
- Nick Hunter and the AIS, Bryan Wilson and the ASC, John Coates and the AOC for all their support.
- Jeanette Gunn for her continued determination in making sure that all tours are smoothly run and for all the special treatment we receive from our hosts.
- The SIS/SAS coaches, Ryan Moar (NSWIS), Aleksandr Osadchuk (QAS), Peter Szilagyi (WAIS), Greig Richardson (VIC), Eddie Denis (SAS) and goalkeeping coach) and Andrew Yanitsas (scholarship coach) who keep me up to date with the day-to-day happenings within their programs.
- Danealle Lilley (physio) and Grace Bryant (doctor) for the continual fantastic efforts in allowing us to get our best team in the water and best treatment for any injuries.
- Andrea Mosler, our SSSM Co-coordinator, for doing a fantastic job in organising and keeping everyone up to date with all the SIS/SAS programs.
- The AIS & SIS/SAS programs support staff for their day-to-day help in running the programs and, in particular, the strength and condition-



ing coaches led by Julian Jones, the physiologists led by Ted Polglaze and the psychologists led by Georgia Ridler.

- David Marks for his unwavering support, help and guidance as the High Performance Manager.
- Phil Bower, Bruce Falson and Taryn Woods for their development and coaching of our junior athletes selected to represent Australia for tours and at training camps.
- The National League coaches, who have been very supportive and understanding of the national team's commitments in the lead up to the Olympics.
- AWPI for its full support in showing the confidence to allow me to prepare and plan the pathway for our desired result in Beijing.
- A huge thank-you to Karen Shields for doing the everyday administration of the AIS program.
- And finally, to the athletes selected to represent Australia in Beijing at the biggest sporting event in the world. Due to your hard work, commitment and determination you have put yourself into a position in which I hope all your dreams come true.

Greg McFadden
Head Coach

► Junior Men's Report



The FINA Junior World Championships result in Long Beach, USA, provided mixed emotions for the men's junior team. While we finished fifth, which was a tremendous result in itself, we should have deservedly walked away with a medal.

European Tour

In preparation for the world championships, the squad participated in two European tournaments — Slovakia and Croatia. While providing invaluable match play, the tournaments also served as final

selection activities, as Richie Campbell, Johnno Cotterill, and Nick O'Halloran were to return to the team following FINA World League commitments with the seniors.

The Slovakian tournament was the first competition the team had participated in since the March pre-world championships competition in Sydney. This was evident in what was overall a scrappy tournament for the team. Wins were recorded against Slovakia (10-4), France (12-8) and Egypt (14-2). Poor performances resulted in a draw with the USA (8-8) and a frustrating loss to Croatia (2-11), resulting in a second-place finish.

The squad made a stronger showing in the subsequent Croatia tournament. It started with a win over Montenegro (9-5) and yet despite the next two losses to Hungary (6-12) and Croatia (10-15), significant improvements in problem areas had been achieved. This was of particular relevance to extra-man attack. The team finished with a hard-fought 10-9 victory in the final play of extra-time against the USA, finishing third.

FINA World Championships

Our whole campaign and planning during the last three years came down to a crunch game against Hungary in the quarterfinals when we gave up a four-goal lead during the third quarter, eventually losing the game in penalties after two periods of extra time. This result meant that we had to contest the play-offs for fifth to eighth instead of progressing to the medal round. The sad statistic to come out of the championships was that we were never beaten in playing time during the tournament, losing our only game in the penalty shootout.

The result proved that we were one of the best teams in the world and the way the team played during the week gained us tremendous respect on the world stage. Many of the players played to their ability and the performances of the so-called "lesser" renowned "bench players" was extremely promising and gratifying.

The team had three players backing up from the senior men's FINA World League Super Finals in Johnno Cotterill, Richie Campbell and Nick O'Halloran. All three players had endured a heavy workload in the lead up to Long Beach, only joining the team five days before the championships. I am certain that this less-than-ideal preparation contributed to these three players struggling to consistently maintain their peak performances and they were naturally jaded and mentally fatigued.

Some criticism may have been levelled at the



Australian captain Johnno Cotterill, who was named to the all-star team at the FINA Junior Men's World Championships in Long Beach, USA.

involvement of these boys at the World League, but I believe it is our mission to best prepare these players for elite senior international competition and ultimately the Olympic Games.

The best way to do this is to expose these players to the highest level of competition available, if they justify selection in the best representative team. All three boys certainly earned their selection in the senior team and were valuable contributors to the senior team's success (third place) in Berlin. I think the problem with this scenario lies more in the scheduling of the two main events on the water polo calendar being so close together. Interestingly, Serbia who went in to the juniors as the favourite, could only finish fourth, having experienced the same issues with player selections, but chose the path to win the World League and qualify for the Olympic Games.

The indicator of the success of this team may well not be the final result achieved at the junior world championships but the number of Olympic medallists to come out of this age group!

The other absolute fact that cannot be ignored is the lack of opportunity our players had to train together as a team in comparison to the other countries in Europe and America. The sad abolition of the men's program at the AIS took away this opportunity, whereas many other countries have now adopted a blueprint of this model to work with junior teams. I mentioned this in my final report in 2006/7 and it may well have been the difference between a podium finish and our final result.

There were many positives to arise from the championships.

- Captain Johnno Cotterill was rewarded with selection to the All Star team.
- Rhys Howden and Daniel Lawrence stepped up to play significant playing and leadership roles.
- The ability of the players to overcome disappointment at missing the medal round, but then completely outclass the opposition in the fifth-to-eighth play-off games, including a 10-goal drubbing of USA in front of a home crowd!
- The fact that we did not lose a game in regulation or extra time throughout the championships.

The results are chronicled elsewhere in this report.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge many of the support staff and others who made this campaign possible.

Firstly, Mark Hubbard who ably stepped in and filled the head-coaching role for all of the lead-up tour in Europe, while I was engaged with the senior men on FINA World League duties. Besides the coaching aspect, Hubbo also collected and collated valuable statistical and video information on our team and the opposition, which proved significant in our game preparation.

In the absence of an AIS program, Mark, through his role at NSWIS, was also willing to provide pool space and training opportunities to host a preliminary training/selection camp at Homebush. Thanks also to Charles Turner, CEO of NSWIS, for his support and offer of ongoing activity in Sydney.

Jon Harmer fulfilled his managerial role admirably and was an extremely popular personality among the group. Jon's organisation is exemplary and any issues or problems that arise, he is quick to jump on and endeavour to find a quick and acceptable solution. His light-hearted nature and humour is the ideal mix you need to be able to deal with the numerous and unexpected dramas that arise while on tour.

Peter Smith ably assisted both myself and Mark in both the world championships and lead-up events in Europe. Smithy was a good sounding board for the boys and they were easily able to discuss with him many things that boys of this age bring to the table — water polo or otherwise!

Garry Rydberg came along the entire tour as basically an observer and number one supporter. He ended up as head video operator, able assistant manager and head driver for the coaching staff — especially when we needed to get to opposition games to scout and video.



Peter Garbutt — team chiropractor. Pete basically paid his own way to USA to gain experience working with an elite national program at the highest level. The players fully appreciated his services and all benefitted from his expert delivery of massage and injury treatment.

Daniel Flahive — referee. It was good to have someone on the inside to provide us with the referees' thoughts on our performances and also upcoming likely refereeing placements for our games. Daniel also stepped in, assisting with managerial duties while the team was in Europe in the lead-up tour. His knowledge and experience of the game, especially from a refereeing perspective, provide for interesting and thought-provoking discussion and tactical planning.

AWPI for their support — Firstly, for allowing me to take leave from the team to attend the FINA World League in my role as head coach, and for allowing Mark Hubbard to fill the void.

Secondly, for the ongoing support of the team, both financially and otherwise. A significant monetary contribution was made to assist the players with their costs associated with representing their country.

Without this financial assistance (not only for this year but also in the preceding years) some players would find it too costly to tour and have the chance to represent their country.

The assistance also extended to the opportunity to host training and selection camps prior to embarking on the tours.

Finally, to the office of AWPI, especially John Whitehouse for his assistance in organising our tours, air travel, accommodation and training competition opportunities.

The parents and friends, whose support made for such a memorable experience. Those who were able to attend provided tremendous vocal encouragement and propelled the team to fantastic performances.

These people and those back home who were not able to make it to USA, also were ready and willing to assist the team whenever possible with offers of billeting players for training camps and any assistance they could provide with transport, meals, functions and emotional support for the players and staff!

Many thanks to all!

John Fox
Coach

► Junior Women's Report



European Tour

The Australian junior women's tour of July 2007, which included success at the FINA Junior Women's World Championships, was an awesome trip for all involved with the team.

Unfortunately on the day of departure, head coach Bruce Falson was announced unable to travel due to health reasons. For the first week of the trip Ryan Moar (assistant coach) took over responsibility of the team and was joined one week later by Aleksandr Osadchuk. Both coaches then took on joint responsibility of the team.

The tour consisted of a four-team international tournament in Itea, Greece with Russia, Spain, Greece and Australia competing. This was followed by a joint training camp with the Greek junior team in Athens. Another joint training camp in Avezzano, Italy (including one official match) with the Italian junior team preceded the FINA World Championships in Porto, Portugal.

Ultimately, two years of preparation on tours, at training camps and in National Training Centres resulted in the Australian team reaching the pinnacle for their age group winning gold in the FINA World Championships.

Acknowledgements

A huge thanks must go to national women's coach Greg McFadden for his support of the squad and of the junior-aged AIS Scholarship holders, in particular Sarah Mills, Jenna Santoromito, Gemma Beadsworth, Patrice O'Neill and Glencora Ralph.

Also to Julie Hamill, the team manager, who has been involved with the girls in this age group for some time. Her efforts as manager are second to none and the results that were achieved could not have been possible without her tireless work.

A special mention also to Marilyn Webster, who



The victorious junior women at the FINA World Championships in Porto, Portugal.

volunteered her time and services as physiotherapist. Marilyn did a great job of looking after the team's health and well being.

Ryan Moar
Co-Coach

► Youth Boys' Report



The Born 1989 and later age group suffers the mixed fortunes of containing considerable player depth nationwide yet, due to FINA's decision to change the 2009 FINA Junior World Championships to under 18, now lack major international benchmark competition.

This latter point is very disappointing for the

prospects of this group as positions in the touring team are very competitive. Long term I believe this would have resulted in high-standard performances from individuals competing for selection and, consequently, a high quality team as a whole. I strongly believe a very competitive team would have been prepared for the 2009 competition that they now miss.

The challenge now remains to provide these athletes with training and competition experiences to fill the void created by the change in age group for the FINA Junior World Championships. It certainly places greater emphasis on ensuring that opportunities exist for the continued development of these players, both domestically, in National League teams, and internationally with entry into LEN tournaments. Gaining selection in the Australian Universiade team may also provide this age group more exposure to international competition, thereby bridging the divide between junior and senior representation.

2007 Outline

The major selection activity for the 2007 tours took place during the National League Finals Series in April. In an attempt to ensure athletes had the



appropriate opportunity to be identified for this selection camp, performances were assessed at the following previous events:

- 2007 U20 (B87 & later) Championships;
- 2007 Australian Schoolboys' Championships; and
- 2007 Australian National Water Polo League.

The selection camp had the national coach and all NTC/ETC coaches in attendance where possible outside NWPL commitments. Players involved in the NWPL Finals were not required to attend all sessions of the camp, as performances could be assessed in those matches.

A large number of participants were included in the selection camp as, due to the significant depth in the age group, it was intended that a second group travel to New Zealand for a training/competition activity with their Under-20 national team. This second-team concept would be useful for future young national squads (ie, if worthwhile activities can be arranged) as it permits the continual development of a greater number of athletes and provides an international competition/camp experience for them.

For the final selection of four squads, performances at the latter 18 and under club national championships were also considered. It must also be noted that Daniel Lawrence and Dan Young, both eligible for youth activities, were not available due to their selection in the junior national squad and their preparations for the 2007 FINA Junior World Championships.

European Tour

En route to our first camp/competition in Acireale, Italy, the squad was fortunate to stop in Milan for two nights to watch the Euroleague Final Four. It was a great opportunity for the players to observe the premier European club competition and to witness the historic victory of Pietro Figlioli's Pro Recco team. It was clear the squad left this competition wide-eyed to the possibilities that exist when playing for European clubs.

The squad then travelled to Syracuse in Sicily for three days of training with the Italian and French youth teams, our first activity together since the April selection camp. The training preceded the six-nation Memorial Cup tournament in Acireale so was vital for integration of the athletes and developing team systems.

The minimal preparation time together prior to



The youth boys' team that toured Europe.

this tournament was evident in our results. Despite strong games against Russia and Romania, poor shooting and extra-man attack conversion proved the difference in the loss and draw with Greece and Italy, respectively. And particularly poor was the defensive effort against a weak France, resulting in an unfathomable loss. The team placed third behind Italy and Greece.

Next the team travelled to Budapest, Hungary for training with its youth team. These were deemed to be one of our stronger opponents for the tour and therefore we maximised the opportunity with extensive scrimmage sessions rather than official games. Further to the pool sessions, the squad was able to observe games from the senior men's FINA World League rounds that included Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Russia, and Spain. Again, it was beneficial for the players to view this competition, an event infrequent within Australia.

The final activity for the tour was a five-nation tournament in Topolcany, Slovakia. Given the more than substantial time together over the previous activities, it was the squad's goal to complete this competition undefeated and consequently win the tournament.

In the first game the team comfortably accounted for the Slovenia team. Hungary was our second game and realistically the main opponent that could prevent us achieving our goal. However, the team was exceptional in the way it prepared for the match, maintaining intense focus from hours before the game until its end. The work ethic and determination displayed proved the calibre of the team, eventually winning by a narrow margin despite controlling their opponents for the majority of the game. The win was an important step in the players believing they can



compete with the traditionally strong Europeans.

Unfortunately, the players were too prepared to rest on their previous performance than dominate their next opponent, Japan. The team eventually won but through a very undisciplined and poorly executed game. You cannot escape such lapses without punishment at the senior level. Strong teams will mount goals against you even in the smallest period of play, so this was an invaluable lesson to the players.

The team did return to a more disciplined performance against Slovakia for victory in the last game. This guaranteed first place in the tournament — a satisfying end to the tour. Chris Dyson was also nominated most valuable player by tournament organisers, a great accomplishment.

New Zealand Tour

A second-tier of 15 players was also chosen to travel to New Zealand for a 10-day training and competition activity. Some of the original 15 selected were unable to tour due to various commitments and were therefore substituted with talent identified B91 players of the next generation.

The camp was a mix of scrimmage sessions and official matches versus various New Zealand teams including the national junior team that would compete at the 2007 FINA Junior World Championships. As a reflection of the rate of player improvement throughout the tour duration, over a series of games the team progressively reduced the goal deficit against their older counterparts and even won the final match.

I reiterate that this tour was a very positive concept for the development of an extended number of athletes within the age group. I now envisage that many of these players will compete strongly for first-team positions in subsequent years.

Acknowledgements

With regard to the New Zealand activity, I extend my great appreciation to both Adam Richardson (Coach) and David Swift (Manager). Adam is an ideal candidate for future coaching positions given his playing experience and enthusiasm for the sport. David came on board relatively late in the organisation of the tour that was experiencing some turbulence yet pulled together an incredibly well-organised activity.

During the entire period of organising selection activities and the European tour, and throughout the

eventual tour, Graeme Bryce was meticulous in his managerial role with the team. When opportunities presented themselves, especially with the senior competitions on the tour, Graeme pursued them with vigour. All the tour party benefitted from his enthusiasm for the team and exceptional organisational skills.

To complement tour management, Nick Hodgers filled the referee position in the LEN competitions and was ever helpful whenever his duties were required out of competition.

Mark Hubbard
Coach

► Youth Girls' Report



Selection

The 16 and under national championships were held in Sydney in October 2007. More than 40 girls were selected for the youth squad.

Training Camps

December 2007, Brisbane

Coaches: Greg McFadden, Andrew Yanitsas, Taryn Woods, Bruce Falson, and Peter Szilagyi. All available girls took part in the camp.

January 2008, Adelaide

All available players who had not been selected for their State for the junior national championships played for the Crocodiles team at the nationals. Those selected girls stayed for three days after the championships to train under Greg McFadden, Andrew Yanitsas and Peter Szilagyi.

April 2008, Brisbane

Coaches: Taryn Woods, Eddie Denis and Peter Szilagyi. After the 18 and under national championships we had a pre-selection camp for the Global Championships. During this camp we had several tests in the mornings and we played games in the evenings with the one-year-older national squad (1990). After this we reduced the squad to



► Athletes' Commission Report



The national youth squads in Sydney.

three goalkeepers and 18 field players.

June 2008, Brisbane

Coaches: Taryn Woods, Peter Szilagyi. Last training camp before we started to play international games. At this camp we were working on skills and tactics in the mornings and played games with the 1990 team. The skill and fitness levels were very poor, so we had to spend more time improving them.

The camps would stand the team in good stead for the forthcoming European tour.

Acknowledgements

Taryn Woods — assistant coach: She was great value for the team and had very good relationship with the players. I wish to thank her for her effort and commitment.

Annie Hayes — manager: Annie is well organised and has enough experience to work overseas with young players.

Peter Szilagyi Coach



Aussie Sharks goalkeeper James Stanton at the 2008 FINA World League Super Finals in Genoa, Italy.



The Australian Water Polo Athletes' Commission has enjoyed another year of operation and continues to work for the welfare of elite water polo players in Australia.

This year saw the culmination of one of the Commission's strategic initiatives with Trent Franklin being elected to the Australian Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission — a significant achievement providing Australian water polo with great representation.

The demands on our elite athletes in this Olympic year have been understandably immense, with many studying and working while maintaining demanding training regimes along with the rigours of touring and competition. The Commission will be focusing on the lifestyle of our elite athletes during the next period and by working with Australian Water Polo it is hoped that the best possible support model will be implemented in the near future. I would like to thank our national squad members for their fantastic results during the last 12 months.

Compared to last year, as many as three times the number of athletes are contemplating overseas contracts. It highlights a significant increase in demand for Australia's water polo talent — given our recent national team performances it's not surprising. The athletes see these opportunities as a way of honing their water polo skills in tougher competitions, training with professional club environments and for the life experience.

While the apparent talent drain may affect domestic competition, it provides a great opportunity for the volumes of young talented athletes coming through the athlete/competition pathway to assert their dominance within Australia.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Debbie Watson on her International Swimming Hall of Fame induction this year. This recent accolade



is representative of the truly wonderful ambassador Debbie is for water polo. Since retiring after winning gold in Sydney 2000, Debbie continued her involvement with the sport as a coach and more recently as a member of the Athletes' Commission.

Since its inception in 2005, the Athletes' Commission has been heavily involved in the development of water polo in Australia, bringing to light issues affecting our elite athletes and endeavouring to remove any barriers that might impact their international performance. Recently, the Commission resolved to cut short the Commission term so that all future Commission tenures fall in line with the Olympiad. We believe this initiative will facilitate the easy transition of elite athletes on to new Commissions following each Olympic Games.

Acknowledgements

As the chairperson of the Commission, I would like to personally thank the inaugural commissioners — Debbie Watson, Nikita Cuffe, Trent Franklin and Thomas Whalan — for their effort and involvement. I believe through the process we have added value to Australian Water Polo. I would also like to thank Australian Water Polo and its members for bringing about the Commission. It has been a personally fulfilling experience and I firmly believe it will stimulate the future involvement of elite athletes in our sport. I can only see that as a good thing.

With our men and women winning bronze medals at the FINA World League, combined with the initiatives being undertaken by AWPI, the domestic and international future looks very bright.

Nathan Thomas

Athletes' Commission Chairman

► Referees' Commission Report



The Referees' Commission has continued to provide recommendations to the AWPI Board on

referees to be included on the FINA list and in relation to appointments to international tournaments.

The past year has also seen the Commission liaise with national senior coaches to provide referees for ITC tournaments and national training camps.

Inaugural Conference

In January 2008, the Commission held its first national conference of referees, which was attended by the vast majority of National League referees. It is hoped that the conference will become part of the water polo calendar and the Commission's aim is to have this conference bi-ennially. Thanks to funding from AWPI and all the member States, the conference proved a great success.

Classification and Communication

The classification of referees is still a work in progress as is communication between the Commission and all Australian referees.

Once again both our international and domestic calendar expanded, putting greater pressure on not only our FINA referees, but the small band of referees who, without any compensation and little gratitude, put an enormous amount of time into our great sport.

Referees' Courses

The Commission has been very happy to assist the AWPI Development Officer with running level one and two referees' courses during the year and wishes to thank the senior referees who acted as lecturers.

National age championships have seen a decided drop in refereeing standards brought about by the failure of States to provide referees of a high standard. The Commission has put forward a proposal to AWPI, which we believe will make the States accountable for the standard of refereeing at these tournaments.

FINA Referees

FINA referees for the year were Michael Hart, Noel Harrod, Daniel Flahive, Nicola Johnson, Nick Hodggers, Andrew Carney and Daniel Bartels.

Commission

The Referees' Commission for the year was: Phil Scales, Nicola Johnson, Scott Schweickle, Damir Stajduhar and Phillip Bower.

Phillip Scales

Referees' Commission Chairman



AWPI NATIONAL CAPITATION 2008

	SENIOR		JUNIOR		SCHOOL		FLIPPA		AFFILIATE		TOTAL		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
QLD	277	226	274	1357	49	138	82	81	2	6	684	1808	2492
NSW	1092	725	707	778	440	624	298	288	77	71	2614	2486	5100
ACT	49	29	42	29			1	3	1	6	93	67	160
VIC	437	196	366	219	8				9	18	820	433	1253
TAS	11	11	79	59	138	223			4		232	293	525
SA	71	33	69	44						2	140	79	219
WA	498	391	231	256			183	180	1	2	913	829	1742
NT													
TOTALS	2435	1611	1768	2742	635	985	564	552	94	105	5496	5995	11491
	4046		4510		1620		1116		199		11491		

% of Total Gender

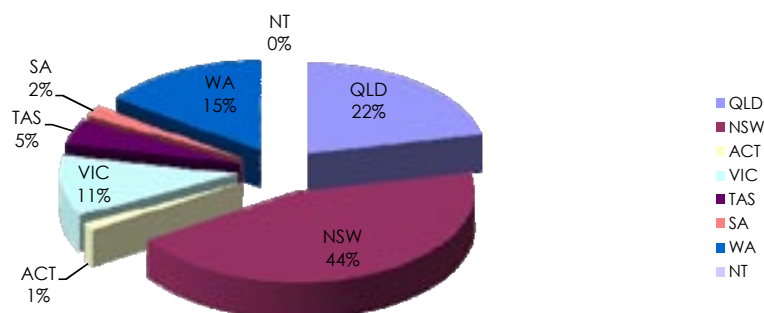
44% 27% 32% 46% 12% 16% 10% 9% 2% 2%

% of Total

21% 14% 15% 24% 6% 9% 5% 5% 1% 1% 48% 52%

	2003/4		2004/5		2005/6		2006/7		2007/8	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
QLD	2282	20.8	2388	18.8	2563	21.5	2424	20.0	2492	21.7
NSW	4866	44.3	6300	49.7	5510	46.1	5349	44.1	5100	44.4
ACT	330	3.0	189	1.5	179	1.5	334	2.8	160	1.4
VIC	995	9.1	1178	9.3	1147	9.6	1145	9.4	1253	10.9
TAS	613	5.6	587	4.6	533	4.5	533	4.4	525	4.6
SA	229	2.1	242	1.9	226	1.9	238	2.0	219	1.9
WA	1570	14.3	1744	13.8	1725	14.4	2049	16.9	1742	15.2
NT	90	0.8	50	0.4	61	0.5	61	0.5		
TOTAL	10975		12678		11944		12133		11491	

MEMBERSHIP BY STATE





Independent Audit Report to the Members of Australian Water Polo Inc

Scope

The attached financial report is a special purpose financial report comprising the Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Cash Flow Statement, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and Directors' declaration for Australian Water Polo Inc for the year ended 30th June 2008.

The directors of Australian Water Polo Inc are responsible for preparing a financial report that gives a true and fair view of the financial position and performance that complies with Accounting Standards in Australia to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements and in accordance with the *Australian Capital Territory Associations Incorporation Act 1991*. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records, internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report. The Directors have determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory reporting requirements in Australia. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members for the purpose of fulfilling the Directors' requirements under the *Australian Capital Territory Associations Incorporation Act 1991*. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Audit Approach

We conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Association. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of the audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the *Australian Capital Territory Associations Incorporation Act 1991* including compliance with Accounting Standards in Australia to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Association's financial position and of its performance as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:



- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report; and
- assessing the appropriateness of the disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

We performed procedures to assess whether the substance of business transactions was accurately reflected in the financial report. These and our other procedures did not include consideration or judgement of the appropriateness or reasonableness of the strategic plan or strategies adopted by the directors and management of the Association.

Independence

We are independent of the Association and have met the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of Australian Water Polo Incorporated is in accordance with:

- (a) the *Australian Capital Territory Associations Incorporation Act 1991*, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of Australian Water Polo Inc financial position as at 30th June 2008 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
 - (ii) complying with Accounting Standards in Australia to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the *Australian Capital Territory Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and
- (b) other mandatory professional reporting requirement in Australia to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Steele Burnett & Nelson Services Pty Ltd



Michael Burnett
Registered Company Auditor

Dated 3 November, 2008
Level 3, 6 Bayfield Street
Rosny Park 7018



Australian Water Polo Incorporated Statement by the Board of Directors

In the opinion of the Directors of Australian Water Polo Incorporated the accompanying accounts have been drawn up in accordance with the basis set out in Note 1 to the accounts so as to present fairly:

- (i) the results of the operations of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2008
- (ii) the state of affairs of the Association at that date.

signed on behalf of the Board

J A Birch

DIRECTOR

P H Kerr

PRESIDENT

Dated this 23rd Day of October 2008



Australian Water Polo Incorporated
Balance Sheet
At 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash at Bank	36,207	25,469
Cash Management Account No. 1	28	13,145
Cash Management Account No. 2		55,407
Maxi-Direct Account	435	80,099
Foreign Currency Account (Note 3)	156,584	130,858
Undeposited Foreign Currency	1,986	2,324
Debtors & Receivables	450,806	398,722
Prov'n for Doubtful Debts	(15,000)	(15,000)
Stock Items	115,612	132,297
Prepayments	391,579	454,062
	<u>1,138,237</u>	<u>1,277,384</u>
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>		
Plant & Equipment at Cost	69,486	50,969
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(47,218)	(41,176)
	<u>22,268</u>	<u>9,793</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,160,506</u>	<u>1,287,177</u>
LIABILITIES		
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accrued Expenses	11,998	9,940
Creditors	482,958	478,924
Provision for Annual Leave	87,453	66,757
Provision for Long Service Leave	31,089	26,907
Funds Received in Advance	54,738	10,864
	<u>668,236</u>	<u>593,392</u>
GST Liabilities	34,108	10,764
Total Liabilities	<u>702,344</u>	<u>604,156</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$458,162</u>	<u>\$683,021</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance 1 July 2007	683,021	860,571
Deficiency for Year	(224,859)	(177,550)
Total Accumulated Funds	<u>\$458,162</u>	<u>\$683,021</u>

THESE ACCOUNTS SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ATTACHED AUDITOR'S REPORT



**Australian Water Polo Incorporated
Profit & Loss Account
Year Ended 30 June 2008**

	2008 \$	2007 \$
INCOME		
<u>MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE</u>		
Capitation Fees	238,011	159,199
Affiliation Fees	800	800
Bank Interest	20,464	24,644
Sponsorship	21,292	104,477
Miscellaneous	19,134	22,826
Member Travel Contributions	69,641	125,808
Total Management & Governance	369,343	437,753
<u>SPORTS DEVELOPMENT</u>		
Australian Sports Commission Grant	61,000	61,000
Course Fees & Publications	6,053	9,073
Total Sports Development	67,053	70,073
<u>HIGH PERFORMANCE</u>		
Australian Sports Commission Grant	1,895,000	1,655,000
Australian Olympic Committee International (108,000	108,000
Competition Contributions	575,176	536,589
Sponsorship	55,000	79,545
Total High Performance	2,633,176	2,379,135
<u>OPERATIONS</u>		
Competition Fees	26,682	30,173
Insurance	137,046	135,804
National Championships Contributions	66,189	60,792
Merchandise	115,465	100,343
National Water Polo League Contributions	411,227	475,081
Total Operations	756,608	802,193
Total Income	\$3,826,180	\$3,689,154
EXPENDITURE		
<u>MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE</u>		
Strategic Plan	85	48
National Office	215,079	173,203
Member Travel	70,960	125,809
Conferences & Annual Report	42,089	63,713
Board Governance	17,994	32,747
Financial Process	62,528	56,862
Grants & Funding	306	411
International Stage Personnel	10,157	12,757
Sponsorship	1,416	79,661
Total Management & Governance	420,614	545,210



**Australian Water Polo Incorporated
Profit & Loss Account
Year Ended 30 June 2008**

	2008 \$		2007 \$
EXPENDITURE (Cont'd)			
<u>SPORTS DEVELOPMENT</u>			
Community Participation	4,950		6,713
Junior Development	4,550		946
Club Development	1,600		5,702
Coach Education	19,637		20,131
Officiating Education	9,957		5,171
Referees Commission	17,390		8,712
Member Protection	1,948		2,639
Management & Partnerships	28,589		14,475
Total Sports Development	<u>88,622</u>	88,622	<u>64,489</u>
<u>HIGH PERFORMANCE</u>			
Program - National Teams	41,742		29,022
International Events	1,845,005		1,597,238
Athlete Support	74,534		86,563
Management	770,804		722,985
Total High Performance	<u>2,732,085</u>	2,732,085	<u>2,435,807</u>
<u>OPERATIONS</u>			
National Championships	193,232		170,562
Athletes Commission	1,500		
Insurance	59,479		82,644
Website & Publications	29,587		9,471
Data Base	11,304		7,818
Merchandise	103,390		75,391
National Water Polo League	411,227		475,310
Total Operations	<u>809,718</u>	809,718	<u>821,197</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>\$4,051,039</u>		<u>\$3,866,703</u>
Deficit For Year	<u>(\$224,859)</u>		<u>(\$177,550)</u>

THESE ACCOUNTS SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ATTACHED AUDITOR'S REPORT



**Australian Water Polo Incorporated
Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended 30 June 2008**

	NOTE	2008 \$	2007 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Grants & Donations		2,140,292	2,008,022
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		-3,910,703	-3,753,966
Interest Received		20,464	24,644
Other Receipts		1,656,402	1,656,488
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities	(a)	<u>(\$93,545)</u>	<u>(\$64,812)</u>
CASH FOR INVESTING			
Purchase of Plant & Equipment		18,517	1,396
Net Cash used in Investing Activities		<u>18,517</u>	<u>1,396</u>
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash Held		<u>-112,062</u>	<u>-66,208</u>
Cash at 1 July 2007		307,302	373,510
Cash at 30 June 2008	(b)	<u>\$195,240</u>	<u>\$307,302</u>

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations, with surplus for period

Deficit for Year	-224,859	-177,550
Depreciation	6,042	5,058
Provision for Annual Leave & Long Service Leave	24,878	10,644
Increase in Doubtful Debts		5,000
Increase in Debtors	-52,084	-78,229
Decrease/Increase in Inventory	16,686	-27,943
Increase/Decrease in Prepayments	62,483	-134,205
Increase in Creditors	4,034	369,831
Increase/Decrease in Funds Rec'd in Advance	43,874	-26,636
Increase/Decrease in Accrued Expenses	2,058	-19,492
Decrease in Mastercard		-1,458
Increase in GST Provision	23,343	10,168
	<u>(\$93,545)</u>	<u>(\$64,812)</u>

(b) Reconciliation of Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand, in bank accounts and American Express card. Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

Cash on Hand	1,986	2,324
Cash Management Accounts	157,047	279,509
Cash at Bank	36,207	25,469
Cash in American Express Card		0
	<u>\$195,240</u>	<u>\$307,302</u>

THESE ACCOUNTS SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ATTACHED AUDITOR'S REPORT



Australian Water Polo Incorporated Notes to and Forming Part of the Accounts At 30 June 2008

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are special purpose reports which have been prepared specifically for distribution to members in accordance with the Association's constitution and for the purpose of acquitting grants received from the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Olympic Committee.

The Association is of the type identified in Statement of Accounting Concepts 1 as a non-reporting entity. The statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

The statements have been prepared on an accruals basis from the records of the Association. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account the changing values of money.

Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Income Tax

The Association is an exempt body for income tax purposes under Section 23 (g) (iii) of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

NOTE 2: RELATED PARTIES

The Members who comprise the Board of Australian Water Polo Inc. are Peter Kerr, Leanne Barnes, John Birch, Thomas Hoad, Christopher Mackay (Retired 22nd February 2008), David Martin, Nathan Thomas, Russell Small .

In their capacities as Members of the Board they receive no remuneration.

Any transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions.

NOTE 3: FOREIGN CURRENCY ACCOUNT

The Association operates a Foreign Currency account to hold competition prize money paid by FINA and to pay expenses incurred in FINA international competitions.

The operation of the account removes the uncertainty of fluctuations between the United States and Australian currency rates. The amount of \$156,584 appearing in the Balance Sheet is the accumulated value of the transactions at the currency rate applying at the time of each transaction.

At balance date the amount held in the Foreign Currency account was \$USD127,582 at the conversion rate at that date it's value was \$AUD132,826. At the time of writing this report (November 3rd 2008) the conversion amounts to \$AUD208,468. This highlights the volatility in currency conversion rates and justifies why the Association uses the rate at the time of transaction.

THESE ACCOUNTS SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ATTACHED AUDITOR'S REPORT



National Championships Results 2007-08

Men's National League

February-April 2008

Finals, Sydney

1. Wests waterpolo Magpies
2. Victorian Tigers
3. Balmain Tigers
4. KFC Queensland Breakers
5. Drummoyne Devils
6. Fremantle Mariners
7. Sydney University Lions
8. Hunter Hurricanes
9. Brisbane Barracudas
10. Adelaide Jets
11. Cronulla Sharks
12. UWA Torpedoes

Women's National League

February-April 2008

Finals, Sydney

1. Fremantle Marlins
2. Balmain Tigers
3. Brisbane Barracudas
4. Cronulla Sharks
5. Sydney University Lions
6. Victorian Tigers
7. KFC Queensland Breakers
8. UWA Comets
9. Hunter Hurricanes
10. Adelaide Jets
11. UNSW Killer Whales
China

20 Years & Under Men

Adelaide, January 2008

1. New South Wales Blues
2. Queensland
3. Victoria
4. Western Australia
5. New South Wales Waratahs
6. South Australia
Australia 16 & Under

20 Years & Under Women

Adelaide, January 2008

1. New South Wales Blues
2. Western Australia
3. Queensland

4. New South Wales Waratahs
5. South Australia
6. Victoria
Australia 16 & Under

18 Years & Under Boys

Brisbane, April 2008

1. Fremantle Mariners (WA)
2. Drummoyne (NSW)
3. Barracudas (QLD)
4. Wests (NSW)
5. Victorian Tigers (VIC)
6. KFC Breakers (QLD)
7. Sydney University (NSW)
8. Queensland Country (QLD)
9. Cronulla (NSW)
10. Adelaide Vikings (SA)
11. UWA Torpedoes (WA)
12. Hunter (NSW)

18 Years & Under Girls

Brisbane, April 2008

1. Cronulla (NSW)
2. Sydney University (NSW)
3. Drummoyne A (NSW)
4. University NSW (NSW)
5. Barracudas (QLD)
6. Sydney Northern Beaches (NSW)
7. KFC Breaks Red (QLD)
8. Adelaide United (SA)
9. Victorian Tigers (VIC)
10. Hunter (NSW)
11. Drummoyne (NSW)
12. Queensland Country (QLD)
13. KFC Breakers White (QLD)
14. Balmain (NSW)

16 Years & Under Boys

Sydney, October, 2007

1. New South Wales Blues
2. Western Australia Gold
3. Queensland Maroon
4. New South Wales Waratahs
5. Queensland White
6. Victoria
7. South Australia
8. Western Australia Black
9. Tasmania



16 Years & Under Girls

Sydney, October 2007

1. New South Wales Blues
2. Western Australia Gold
3. Queensland Maroon
4. New South Wales Waratahs
5. Victoria
6. Queensland White
7. South Australia
8. Western Australia Black
9. Tasmania

14 Years & Under Boys

Sydney, March 2008

1. Cronulla 1 (NSW)
2. City Beach All Stars (WA)
3. Barracudas (QLD)
4. Sydney Northern Beaches (NSW)
5. Melbourne Collegians (VIC)
6. Drummoyne
7. Newcastle (NSW)
8. Melville Mariners (WA)
- 9.= Dolphins (WA)
- 9.= Triton (WA)
11. Wests (NSW)
12. UWA Torpedoes (WA)
13. City Beach Boys (WA)
14. Sydney University (NSW)
15. University of NSW (NSW)

14 Years & Under Girls

Sydney, March 2008

National Teams & Results 2007-08

Senior Men

European Tour, July 2007:

Mitchal Ainsworth, Jamie Beadsworth, Richard Campbell, Johnno Cotterill, Pietro Figlioli, Trent Franklin, Robert Maitland, Anthony Martin, Ryan Moody, Timothy Neesham, Nick O'Halloran, Luke Quinlivan, Grant Richardson, James Stanton, Thomas Whalan. Head Coach: John Fox. Manager: Chris Harrison. Referee: Andrew Carney.

Friendly International, Athens, Greece, July 2007:

Greece 11 Australia 10 (P Figlioli 7, J Cotterill 2, T Whalan).

International Tournament, Netanya, Israel, August 2007:

Day 1: Romania 9 Australia 8 (T Franklin 3, N O'Halloran, P Figlioli, T Whalan, M Ainsworth, J Beadsworth).

Day 2: Australia 27 (T Franklin, T Neesham 4, J Beadsworth, N

1. Cronulla (NSW)
2. Drummoyne (NSW)
3. Sydney Northern Beaches (NSW)
4. Melville (WA)
5. KFC Red (QLD)
6. Barracudas (QLD)
7. University of NSW (NSW)
8. Tasmania (TAS)
9. KFC White (QLD)
10. City Beach (WA)

Country Men

Gold Coast, May 2008

1. Queensland A
2. New South Wales
3. Australian Capital Territory
4. Victoria
5. Western Australia
6. Australian Defence Force
7. Queensland B
Singapore

Country Women

Gold Coast, May 2008

1. Australian Capital Territory
2. Queensland A
3. New South Wales
4. South Australia
5. Western Australia
6. Australian Defence Force
7. Queensland B
Singapore

O'Halloran, T Whalan 3, A Martin, R Campbell, G Richardson 2, P Figlioli, R Maitland, J Cotterill, M Ainsworth) Israel 8, Australia 14 (T Whalan 4, P Figlioli 3, T Neesham 2, T Franklin, R Maitland, M Ainsworth, J Cotterill, J Beadsworth) Russia 9.

Day 3: Greece 11 Australia 8 (T Whalan 3, P Figlioli, G Richardson 2, T Franklin) in extra time (FT: 8-8).

Day 4: For 3rd & 4th, Australia 15 (P Figlioli 5, M Ainsworth, J Beadsworth, J Cotterill 2, N O'Halloran, R Maitland, G Richardson, R Campbell) France 11.

Final placings: Greece, Romania, Australia, France, Serbia, Netherlands, Russia, Israel.

FINA World League Super Finals, Berlin, Germany, August 2007:

Day 1: Hungary 15 Australia 8 (T Franklin, P Figlioli, R Maitland, A Martin, M Ainsworth, R Campbell, T Whalan, J Beadsworth).

Day 2: Australia 9 (T Whalan 3, T Neesham, R Campbell 2, J



Cotterill, J Beadsworth) Canada 8.

Day 3: Germany 17 Australia 15 (P Figlioli 5, N O'Halloran 3, T Franklin, J Beadsworth 2, R Campbell, G Richardson, R Moody) in penalty shootout. (FT: 12-12. Pens: 5-3).

Final points: Group B, HUN 9, GER 5, AUS 4, CAN 0.

Day 4: Quarterfinals: Australia 9 (P Figlioli 2, N O'Halloran, R Maitland, A Martin, R Campbell, T Whalan, M Ainsworth, J Beadsworth) Romania 6.

Day 5: Semifinals: Hungary 16 Australia 7 (T Neesham, R Campbell 2, R Maitland, M Ainsworth, J Beadsworth).

Day 6: Play-off for 3rd & 4th, Australia 7 (R Campbell 2, R Moody, T Neesham, M Ainsworth, P Figlioli, J Beadsworth) Germany 6.

Final placings: Serbia, Hungary, Australia, USA, Romania, Canada, China.

All-star team member: Pietro Figlioli (AUS).

Olympic Games Oceania Qualification Series, Auckland, New Zealand, December 2007:

Jamie Beadsworth, Richard Campbell, Johnno Cotterill, Trent Franklin, Rhys Howden, Sam McGregor, Robert Maitland, Anthony Martin, Ryan Moody, Luke Quinlivan, Grant Richardson, Rafael Sterk, Gavin Woods. Head Coach: John Fox. Manager: Chris Harrison.

Test 1: Australia 20 (S McGregor 6, T Franklin 3, J Cotterill, R Howden, R Maitland, G Woods, J Beadsworth 2, R Moody) New Zealand 2.

Test 2: Australia 18 (R Maitland 5, T Franklin 3, A Martin, S McGregor, G Woods, G Richardson 2, R Campbell, R Howden) New Zealand 2.

Test 3: Australia 18 (T Franklin, G Richardson 4, R Howden, J Cotterill 3, S McGregor 2, R Campbell, G Woods) New Zealand 8.

Australia wins series 3-0.

European Tour, February, 2008:

Jamie Beadsworth, Richard Campbell, Johnno Cotterill, Pietro Figlioli, Trent Franklin, Rhys Howden, Sam McGregor, Robert Maitland, Anthony Martin, Ryan Moody, Grant Richardson, James Stanton, Rafael Sterk, Thomas Whalan, Gavin Woods. Head Coach: John Fox. Manager: Chris Harrison.



Aussie Sharks captain Thomas Whalan shoots during the FINA World League Super Finals in Berlin, Germany.

International friendly, Athens, Greece, February, 2008:

Greece 11 Australia 9 (T Franklin, G Woods, G Richardson 2, A Martin, J Beadsworth, R Moody).

International friendly, Kecskemet, Hungary, February 2008:

Australia 7 (P Figlioli 2, R Maitland, A Martin, G Richardson, T Whalan, R Howden) Germany 7.

Volvo Cup, Kecskemet, Hungary, February 2008:

Day 1: Australia 11 (A Martin 4, R Howden 2, T Franklin, P Figlioli, N O'Halloran, J Cotterill, T Whalan, G Woods) Canada 4, Hungary 16 Romania 7.

Day 2: Australia 11 (G Richardson 3, T Whalan 2, P Figlioli, G Woods, J Beadsworth, J Cotterill, A Martin, R Howden) Romania 10, Hungary 15 Canada 2.

Day 3: Hungary 15 Australia 11 (P Figlioli 3, T Franklin, A Martin, T Whalan 2, G Woods, R Moody), Romania 6 Canada 6.

Final placings: Hungary, Australia, Romania, Canada.

Good Luck Beijing Olympic Test Event, Beijing, China, March 2008:

Mitchal Ainsworth, Jamie Beadsworth, Steven Cody, Trent Franklin, Rhys Howden, Anthony Martin, Billy Miller, Tim Neesham, Daniel Lawrence, Luke Quinlivan, Grant Richardson, Laurie Trettel, Gavin Woods. Head Coach: John Fox. Manager: Chris Harrison.

Day 1: Australia 18 (J Cotterill 4, G Woods, A Martin 3, T Franklin, R Howden 2, J Beadsworth, B Miller, T Neesham, G Richardson) Guangdong 5.

Day 2: Australia 19 (S Cody, G Richardson 4, G Woods, T Franklin, J Cotterill, A Martin, R Howden 2, J Beadsworth) Shanghai 6.

Day 3: Australia 12 (R Howden, G Richardson, D Lawrence, G Woods 2, S Cody, A Martin, J Cotterill, J Beadsworth) China 7.

Final points/placings: Australia 6, China 4, Guangdong 2, Shanghai 0.

FINA World League, Asia-Oceania Zone, Tokyo, Japan, May 2008:

Jamie Beadsworth, Richard Campbell, Johnno Cotterill, Pietro Figlioli, Rhys Howden, Sam McGregor, Rob Maitland, Anthony Martin, Tim Neesham, Nick O'Halloran, Ryan Moody, Luke Quinlivan, Grant Richardson, Raf Sterk, Gavin Woods. Head Coach: John Fox. Assistant Coach: Mark Hubbard. Manager: David Swift. Referee: Andrew Carney.

Day 1: Australia 25 (A Martin 4, N O'Halloran, R Howden, J Cotterill, G Richardson 3, T Neesham, S McGregor 2, R Campbell, P Figlioli, R Maitland, G Woods, J Beadsworth) New Zealand 0, Australia 10 (P Figlioli 4, R Campbell, A Martin, S McGregor, R Howden, J Cotterill, G Richardson) Japan 5.

Day 2: Australia 18 (R Campbell 3, N O'Halloran, P Figlioli, T Neesham, S McGregor, G Woods, J Cotterill 2, R Moody, A



Martin, R Howden) Iran 2.

Day 3: Australia 14 (J Beadsworth 4, T Neesham, S McGregor 2, R Campbell, R Maitland, A Martin, R Howden, G Woods, J Cotterill) China 6.

Day 5: Bye

Day 6: Australia 19 (A Martin 5, G Richardson 4, R Moody 3, R Maitland, S McGregor 2, N O'Halloran, T Neesham, J Cotterill) China 6, Australia 20 (N O'Halloran 4, R Campbell, P Figlioli, R Maitland, A Martin, R Howden, J Cotterill 2, McGregor, G Woods, J Beadsworth, R Moody) Iran 1.

Day 7: Australia 13 (G Woods 4, G Richardson 3, R Moody 2, P Figlioli, A Martin, T Neesham, S McGregor) Japan 6, Australia 16 (R Howden 3, N O'Halloran, R Maitland, R Moody, S McGregor, G Richardson 2, J Beadsworth, J Cotterill, P Figlioli) New Zealand 4.

Final points: Australia 24, China 18, Japan 12, New Zealand 2, Iran 1.

International Series, USA, June 2008:

Jamie Beadsworth, Richard Campbell, Johnno Cotterill, Pietro Figlioli, Trent Franklin, Rhys Howden, Sam McGregor, Rob Maitland, Anthony Martin, Tim Neesham, Luke Quinlivan, James Stanton, Raf Sterk, Thomas Whalan, Gavin Woods. Head Coach: John Fox. Assistant Coach: Mark Hubbard. Physiotherapist: Andrew Stanford.

Test 1, Moraga, USA: USA 6 Australia 4 (T Whalan 2, S McGregor, J Beadsworth).

Test 2, Goleta, USA: Australia 11 (P Figlioli 2, R Campbell 2, R Maitland, T Neesham, T Whalan, G Woods, J Cotterill, J Beadsworth, S McGregor) USA 9.

Test 3, Los Angeles: Australia 9 (T Whalan 3, P Figlioli 2, T Neesham, G Woods, A Martin, J Beadsworth) USA 5.

Australia wins series 2-1.

European Tour, June 2008:

Jamie Beadsworth, Richard Campbell, Johnno Cotterill, Pietro Figlioli, Trent Franklin, Rhys Howden, Sam McGregor, Rob Maitland, Anthony Martin, Tim Neesham, Luke Quinlivan, James Stanton, Raf Sterk, Thomas Whalan, Gavin Woods. Head Coach: John Fox. Assistant Coach: Mark Hubbard. Manager: Chris Harrison. Referee: Michael Hart. Physiotherapist: Andrew Stanford.

FINA World League Super Finals, Genoa, Italy, June 2008:

Day 1: Australia 21 (P Figlioli 3, R Campbell, R Maitland, A Martin, T Neesham, S McGregor, T Whalan, G Woods, J Cotterill 2, T Franklin, J Beadsworth) Egypt 0.

Day 2: Australia 11 (J Beadsworth 3, P Figlioli, A Martin, T Whalan 2, R Maitland, G Woods) Canada 7.

Day 3: Bye.

Day 4: Australia 13 (G Woods 3, T Whalan 2, J Stanton, R Campbell, T Franklin, P Figlioli, A Martin, S McGregor, J Cotterill, J Beadsworth) Greece 9.

Day 5: Serbia 11 Australia 5 (T Franklin, P Figlioli, T Neesham, S McGregor, T Whalan).

Final points: Serbia 12, Australia 9, Canada 6, Greece 3,



The Aussie Sharks after winning their bronze medals at the FINA World League Super Finals in Genoa, Italy in June 2008.

Egypt 0.

Day 6: Semifinal: USA 11 Australia 10 (R Campbell, P Figlioli 3, T Neesham 2, T Whalan, T Franklin) in penalty shootout (FT: 7-7. Pens: 4-3).

Day 7: Play-offs: For 3rd & 4th, Australia 8 (P Figlioli 2, T Franklin, R Maitland, A Martin, T Neesham, T Whalan, G Woods) Montenegro 7.

Final placings: Serbia, USA, Australia, Montenegro, Spain, Canada, Italy, Greece, China, Egypt.

International Series, Barcelona, Spain, June 2008:

Day 1: Australia 9 (T Franklin 3, R Maitland 2, J Beadsworth, J Cotterill, A Martin, T Whalan) Spain 9.

Day 2: Australia 10 (P Figlioli, T Franklin, T Neesham, T Whalan 2, R Campbell, S McGregor) Spain 7.

Day 3: Spain 12 Australia 8 (T Whalan 3, P Figlioli 2, J Beadsworth, R Campbell, R Howden).

Series drawn 1-1.

Senior Women

FINA World League Super Finals, Montreal, Canada, July 2007:

Lea Barta, Victoria Brown, Lisa Callahan, Jemma Dessauvagie, Erin Douglass, Katie Finucane, Suzie Fraser, Kate Gynther, Gemma Hadley, Fiona Hammond, Jane Moran, Mel Rippon, Mia Santoromito, Larissa Webster. Head Coach: Greg McFadden. Assistant Coaches: Aleksandr Osadchuk, Greig Richardson. Manager: Jeanette Gunn. Physiotherapist: Kym Hartwich. Referee: Noel Harrod.

Day 1: Australia 9 (S Fraser 3, J Moran 2, G Hadley, K Gynther, M Santoromito, M Rippon) Greece 8.

Day 2: USA 9 Australia 8 (K Gynther 4, E Douglass 2, J Moran, G Hadley).

Day 3: Spain 12 Australia 11 (E Douglass 3, F Hammond, K Gynther, K Finucane 2, S Fraser, M Rippon).

Day 4: Australia 11 (S Fraser, K Gynther 4, F Hammond, G Hadley, M Santoromito) Canada 8.

Final points: USA 15, Australia 9, Canada 8, Greece 7, Spain 6, China 0.



Day 5: Play-offs: 1st & 2nd, USA 8 Australia 4 (K Gynther 2, E Douglass, G Hadley).

Final placings: USA, Australia, Greece, Canada, Spain, China.

Most Valuable Player: Kate Gynther (AUS).

Top Goalkeeper: Victoria Brown (AUS).

North American Tour, December 2007:

Gemma Beadsworth, Victoria Brown, Nikita Cuffe, Katie Finucane, Kate Gynther, Fiona Hammond, Bronwen Knox, Alicia McCormack, Sarah Mills, Jane Moran, Melissa Rippon, Rebecca Rippon, Jenna Santoromito, Mia Santoromito, Sophie Smith. Head Coach: Greg McFadden. Assistant Coaches: Ryan Moar, Aleksandr Osadchuk. Manager: Jeanette Gunn. Physiotherapist: Danealle Lilley. Referee: Nick Hodgers.

Canada Cup, Montreal, Canada, December 2007:

Day 1: Australia 8 (N Cuffe 3, G Beadsworth 2, M Rippon, R Rippon, J Santoromito) Russia 6.

Day 2: Australia 13 (K Gynther, B Knox 3, N Cuffe, M Rippon 2, G Beadsworth, S Smith, J Santoromito) Canada 4.

Day 3: USA 12 Australia 11 (R Rippon 3, K Gynther, N Cuffe 2, B Knox, M Rippon, G Beadsworth, K Finucane) in penalty shootout. (FT 8-8. Pens: 4-3).

Final points: Australia 4, USA 4, Canada 2, Russia 2.

Day 4: Semifinal, Australia 6 (K Gynther 2, K Finucane, F Hammond, S Smith, M Santoromito) Canada 4.

Day 5: Gold, Australia 11 (K Gynther 3, N Cuffe, S Mills, M Rippon 2, F Hammond, K Finucane) USA 10.

Final Placings: Australia, USA, Canada, Russia.

Most Valuable Player: Kate Gynther (AUS).

Holiday Cup, Los Angeles, USA, December 2007:

Day 1: Netherlands 12 Australia 10 (J Santoromito, N Cuffe 3, K Gynther, F Hammond, S Smith, B Knox).

Day 2: Russia 10 Australia 7 (N Cuffe, M Rippon 2, K Gynther, F Hammond, B Knox), Australia 13 (M Rippon 4, K Gynther, B Knox 2, S Smith, K Finucane, F Hammond, N Cuffe, S Mills) Canada 9.



Jemma Dessauvage goes for the block at the FINA World League Super Finals in Montreal, Canada in 2007.

Day 3: Australia 6 (M Rippon 2, K Gynther, M Santoromito, K Gynther, R Rippon, S Mills), USA 5.

Day 4: Italy 11 Australia 8 (N Cuffe 3, K Gynther 2, R Rippon, M Rippon, S Smith).

Final points: Italy 11, Netherlands 11, Russia 10, USA 7, Australia 6, Canada 0.

Day 5: Play-offs: For 5th & 6th, Australia 8 (N Cuffe 3, B Knox 2, R Rippon, J Santoromito, S Smith) Canada 6.

Final placings: Italy, Netherlands, USA, Russia, Australia, Canada.

Oceania Olympic Games Qualification Series, Brisbane, December 2007:

Gemma Beadsworth, Victoria Brown, Nikita Cuffe, Katie Finucane, Kate Gynther, Bronwen Knox, Alicia McCormack, Sarah Mills, Melissa Rippon, Rebecca Rippon, Jenna Santoromito, Mia Santoromito, Sophie Smith. Head Coach: Greg McFadden. Assistant Coaches: Ryan Moar, Aleksandr Osadchuk. Manager: Jeanette Gunn. Physiotherapist: Kym Hartwich.

Test 1: Australia 17 (N Cuffe, K Gynther 4, R Rippon, B Knox 2, K Finucane, S Mills, M Santoromito, M Rippon, S Smith) New Zealand 1.

Test 2: Australia 18 (N Cuffe 4, B Knox, S Smith 3, R Rippon, J Santoromito, K Finucane 2, M Rippon, K Gynther) New Zealand 1.

Test 3: Australia 20 (J Santoromito, B Knox 4, K Finucane, M Santoromito 3, R Rippon, S Smith, S Mills 2) New Zealand 3. Australia wins series 3-0.

International Series, Perth-Sydney, Australia, January 2008:

Gemma Beadsworth, Victoria Brown, Nikita Cuffe, Erin Douglass, Katie Finucane, Suzie Fraser, Taniele Gofers, Kate Gynther, Amy Hetzel. Bronwen Knox, Alicia McCormack, Sarah Mills, Patrice O'Neill, Melissa Rippon, Rebecca Rippon, Jenna Santoromito, Mia Santoromito, Sophie Smith. Head Coach: Greg McFadden. Assistant Coaches: Ryan Moar, Aleksandr Osadchuk, Peter Szilagyi. Manager: Jeanette Gunn. Physiotherapist: Danealle Lilley. Referees: Nicola Johnson, Nick Hodgers.

Test 1, Perth: Australia 8 (K Gynther 3, S Smith 2, N Cuffe, B Knox, M Santoromito) USA 8.

Test 2, Perth: Australia 13 (N Cuffe 4, G Beadsworth, K Gynther 2, R Rippon, S Mills, B Knox, S Smith, K Finucane) USA 11.

Test 3, Perth: Australia 10 (B Knox, M Rippon 2, G Beadsworth, R Rippon, S Mills, K Gynther, K Finucane, M Santoromito) USA 8.

Test 4, Sydney: Australia 6 (R Rippon 2, M Rippon, T Gofers, K Gynther, S Fraser) USA 6.

Test 5, Sydney: Australia 11 (K Gynther 3, G Beadsworth, S Fraser, B Knox 2, M Rippon, E Douglass) USA 9.

Australia wins five-Test series 3-0.

European Tour, February 2008:

Gemma Beadsworth, Victoria Brown, Nikita Cuffe, Erin



Douglass, Katie Finucane, Suzie Fraser, Taniele Gofers, Amy Hetzel, Bronwen Knox, Alicia McCormack, Patrice O'Neill, Melissa Rippon, Rebecca Rippon, Jenna Santoromito, Mia Santoromito, Sophie Smith. Head coach: Greg McFadden. Assistant coach: Ryan Moar. Assistant coach/manager: Andrew Yanitsas. Physiotherapist: Danealle Lilley. Referee: Noel Harrod.

Thetis Cup, Athens, Greece, February 2008:

Day 1: Australia 13 (G Beadsworth, N Cuffe, P O'Neill, B Knox, T Gofers 2, R Rippon, S Smith, M Rippon) Netherlands 10.
 Day 2: Hungary 15 Australia 8 (N Cuffe, S Fraser, B Knox 2, G Beadsworth, T Gofers), Australia 9 (B Knox 3, S Smith, M Santoromito 2, R Rippon, A Hetzel) Greece 7.
 Day 3: Russia 14 Australia 11 (R Rippon 4, N Cuffe, B Knox, M Rippon 2, T Gofers).
 Final points/placings: Russia 8, Hungary 6, Australia 4, Greece 1, Netherlands 1.

City of Rome Tournament, Rome, Italy, February 2008:

Day 1: Greece 11 Australia 10 (N Cuffe 3, G Beadsworth, R Rippon, M Rippon, E Douglass, S Fraser, B Knox).
 Day 2: Netherlands 11 Australia 7 (N Cuffe 2, R Rippon, S Fraser, B Knox, S Smith, M Rippon).
 Day 3: Italy 8 Australia 6 (M Rippon, S Fraser, B Knox, J Santoromito, N Cuffe, P O'Neill).
 Final placings: Italy, Netherlands, Greece, Australia.

Good Luck Beijing Olympic Test Event, Beijing, China, March 2008:

Gemma Beadsworth, Victoria Brown, Nikita Cuffe, Suzie Fraser, Taniele Gofers, Kate Gynther, Amy Hetzel, Bronwen Knox, Alicia McCormack, Melissa Rippon, Rebecca Rippon, Jenna Santoromito, Mia Santoromito, Les Barta. Head Coach: Greg McFadden. Assistant Coaches: Ryan Moar, Aleksandr Osadchuk. Manager: Jeanette Gunn. Doctor: Grace Bryant. Physiotherapist: Andrea Mosler. Referee: Michael Hart.

Day 1: Australia 9 (R Rippon, A Hetzel 2, G Beadsworth, S Fraser, B Knox, T Gofers, M Santoromito) China 6.
 Day 2: Australia 13 (R Rippon, K Gynther 3, G Beadsworth, N Cuffe, B Knox, J Santoromito, M Santoromito, M Rippon, A Hetzel) Russia 8.
 Day 3: Australia 7 (M Rippon 2, G Beadsworth, N Cuffe, B Knox, K Gynther, J Santoromito) USA 6.
 Final points/placings: Australia 6, USA 4, China 2, Russia 0.

International Series, Beijing, China, March 2008:

Test 1: Australia 9 (K Gynther 3, G Beadsworth, M Santoromito 2, S Fraser, J Santoromito) China 8.
 Test 2: Australia 10 (K Gynther 3, R Rippon, T Gofers 2, G Beadsworth, N Cuffe, B Knox) China 6.

International Series, Canberra, Australia, April-May, 2008:

Gemma Beadsworth, Victoria Brown, Katie Finucane, Suzie Fraser, Kate Gynther, Gemma Hadley, Amy Hetzel.



Suzie Fraser helping Australia to silver at the FINA World League Super Finals in Montreal Canada in 2007.

Bronwen Knox, Emma Knox, Alicia McCormack, Sarah Mills, Patrice O'Neill, Melissa Rippon, Rebecca Rippon, Jenna Santoromito, Mia Santoromito. Head Coach: Greg McFadden. Assistant Coaches: Ryan Moar, Aleksandr Osadchuk. Eddie Denis, Andrew Yanitsas. Referees: Noel Harrod. Rowan Woodburn, Megan Varlow.

Test 1: Australia 15 (S Mills 4, S Fraser, B Knox, J Santoromito 2, K Finucane, R Rippon, K Gynther, M Santoromito, M Rippon) China 11.
 Test 2: Australia 10 (G Beadsworth 3, R Rippon 2, K Finucane, B Knox, S Mills, P O'Neill, M Rippon) China 7.
 Test 3: Australia 11 (G Beadsworth, J Santoromito, M Rippon 2, K Gynther, K Finucane, P O'Neill, R Rippon, S Smith) China 7.
 Test 4: Australia 8 (B Knox, S Fraser, M Santoromito 2, S Smith, M Rippon) China 7.
 Australia wins series 4-0.

FINA World League, Asia-Oceania Zone, Preliminary Round, Tianjin, China, May 2008:

Gemma Beadsworth, Victoria Brown, Katie Finucane, Suzie Fraser, Kate Gynther, Gemma Hadley, Amy Hetzel. Bronwen Knox, Emma Knox, Alicia McCormack Sarah Mills, Patrice O'Neill, Melissa Rippon, Rebecca Rippon, Jenna Santoromito, Mia Santoromito. Head Coach: Greg McFadden. Assistant Coaches: Ryan Moar, Aleksandr Osadchuk. Doctor: Grace Bryant. Physiotherapist: Danealle Lilley. Referee: Nicola Johnson.

Day 1: Australia 21 (A Hetzel, B Knox 4, M Rippon, M Santoromito, J Santoromito 3, S Fraser 2, P O'Neill, S Mills) China B 4.



Day 2: Australia 11 (G Beadsworth, B Knox 3, K Gynther 2, R Rippon, M Rippon, G Hadley) China 9.

Day 3: Australia 17 (G Beadsworth 4, M Rippon 3, G Hadley, B Knox 2, K Gynther, R Rippon, S Mills, J Santoromito, M Santoromito, A Hetzel) Japan 4.

Day 4: Australia 16 (A Hetzel, P O'Neill, M Santoromito 3, G Beadsworth, M Rippon, G Hadley, B Knox, K Gynther, R Rippon, J Santoromito) China B 2.

Day 5: Australia 11 (G Beadsworth, B Knox, K Gynther 3, M Santoromito, P O'Neill) China A 10, Japan 11 China B 9.

Day 6: Australia 19 (P O'Neill 4, S Fraser, M Santoromito 3, M Rippon, K Gynther, K Finucane, S Mills 2, J Santoromito) Japan 3.

Final points: Australia 11, China 7, Japan 0.

European Tour/FINA World League Super Finals, June 2008:

Gemma Beadsworth, Victoria Brown, Nikita Cuffe, Suzie Fraser, Taniele Gofers, Kate Gynther, Amy Hetzel, Bronwen Knox, Emma Knox, Alicia McCormack, Sarah Mills, Patrice O'Neill, Melissa Rippon, Rebecca Rippon, Jenna Santoromito, Mia Santoromito. Head Coach: Greg McFadden. Assistant Coaches: Ryan Moar, Aleksandr Osadchuk. Manager: Jeanette Gunn. Physiotherapist: Danealle Lilley. Referee: Michael Hart.

International Friendly, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, June 2008:

Australia 15 (P O'Neill, G Beadsworth, S Fraser, R Rippon, B Knox, S Mills 2, M Rippon, N Cuffe, T Gofers) Spain 8.

FINA World League Super Finals, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, June 2008:

Day 1: USA 10 Australia 9 (B Knox, N Cuffe 2, M Rippon, R Rippon, S Fraser, T Gofers, G Beadsworth).

Day 2: Australia 10 (M Rippon, N Cuffe 3, G Beadsworth, S Fraser, M Santoromito, A Hetzel) China 8.

Day 3: Canada 7 Australia 6 (G Beadsworth 3, R Rippon, S Mills, T Gofers).

Day 4: Australia 11 (S Fraser 4, B Knox 3, G Beadsworth 2, R Rippon, P O'Neill) Spain 7.

Day 5: Australia 14 (N Cuffe 4, G Beadsworth 3, J Santoromito 2, M Santoromito, M Rippon, S Fraser, S Mills, B Knox) Russia 13 in penalty shootout (FT 9-9).

Final points: USA 15, Russia 10, Australia 8, Spain 5, Canada 6, China 1.

Day 6: Play-offs: 3rd & 4th, Australia 7 (G Beadsworth, B Knox 2, M Santoromito, S Fraser, T Gofers) Canada 6.

Final placings: Russia, USA, Australia, Canada, China, Spain.

Junior Men

European Tour/World Championships, July 2007:

Richard Campbell, Nathan Cargill, Stephen Cody, Johnno Cotterill, Joel Dennerley, John Hahn, Patrick Harmer, Rhys Howden, Tom Knox, Daniel Lawrence, Stephen Lewis,

William Miller, Jordan Votan, Daniel Young, James Young. Head Coach: Mark Hubbard. Assistant Coach: Peter Smith. Manager: Jon Harmer. Referee: Daniel Flahive.

High Tatras Cup, Novaky, Slovakia, July 2007:

Day 1: Australia 10 (W Miller 4, S Cody, P Harmer 2, N Cargill, D Lawrence) Slovakia 4, Australia 8 (S Cody, W Miller 2, R Howden, S Lewis, J Votan, J Young) USA 8.

Day 2: Australia 12 (J Young 3, D Young 2, N Cargill, S Cody, P Harmer, R Howden, D Lawrence, W Miller, J Votan) France 8, Croatia 11 Australia 2 (R Howden, J Young).

Day 3: Australia 14 (S Cody, D Lawrence 3, R Howden, S Lewis 2, P Harmer, W Miller, D Young, J Young) Egypt 2.

Final placings: Croatia, USA, Australia, Slovakia, France, Egypt.

International Tournament, Zagreb, Croatia, August 2007:

Day 1: Australia 9 (R Howden 5, W Miller 2, S Lewis, J Votan) Montenegro 5.

Day 2: Hungary 12 Australia 6 (S Lewis, W Miller 2, P Harmer, R Howden).

Day 3: Croatia 15 Australia 10 (R Howden 3, N Cargill, S Lewis 2, S Cody, D Young, W Miller).

Day 4: Australia 10 (R Howden 3, D Lawrence, D Young 2, N Cargill, W Miller, S Lewis) USA 9 in extra time (FT: 8-8).

Final placings: Hungary, Croatia, Australia, USA, Montenegro, Italy, Slovakia.

FINA World Championships, Long Beach/Los Alamitos, USA, August 2007:

Day 1: Australia 13 (N O'Halloran, S Cody 3, R Campbell 2, J Young, D Lawrence, P Harmer, R Howden, J Cotterill) New Zealand 2.

Day 2: Australia 6 (N Cargill 2, D Lawrence, R Howden) Serbia 6.

Day 3: Australia 7 (N O'Halloran, R Campbell, S Lewis 2, R Howden) Greece 7.

Day 4: Australia 23 (R Campbell 6, N Cargill, S Cody 3, W Miller, D Lawrence, R Howden, S Lewis 2, N O'Halloran, J Young P Harmer) Iran 5.

Day 5: Australia 18 (D Lawrence 4, J Cotterill 3, P Harmer, R Campbell, R Howden, W Miller 2, N Cargill, N O'Halloran, S



Australia's Richie Campbell during the FINA Junior Men's World Championships in Long Beach, USA.



Cody) Japan 6.

Final points: SRB 9, AUS 8, Greece 7, JPN 4, NZL 2, IRI 0.

Day 6: Round of 1-16: Australia 10 (S Cody 3, D Lawrence, J Cotterill 2, N Cargill, N O'Halloran, R Howden) France 7.

Day 7: Quarterfinal: Hungary 15 Australia 12 (N O'Halloran 4, R Campbell 3, D Lawrence 2, N Cargill, W Miller, R Howden) in penalty shootout (FT: 10-10. ET: 11-11. Pens 4-1).

Day 8: Round of 5-8: Australia 16 (W Miller, R Howden 3, D Lawrence, J Cotterill 2, N Cargill, R Campbell, N O'Halloran, J Young, S Cody, S Lewis) Germany 7.

Day 9: 5th & 6th, Australia 14 (N O'Halloran 4, N O'Halloran, D Lawrence, J Cotterill, P Harmer 2, J Young, W Miller) USA 4.

Final placings: Hungary, Italy, Croatia, Serbia, Australia, USA, Spain, Germany, Greece, France, Japan, Slovakia, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, New Zealand, Mexico, Iran, Colombia, Singapore, Jamaica, Kuwait, Puerto Rico.

All Star team member: Johnno Cotterill (AUS).

Junior Women

European Tour, July 2007:

Breanna Appel, Gemma Beadsworth, Danielle Bower, Keesja Gofers, Melissa Hammond, Holly Lincoln-Smith, Sarah Mills, Elysha O'Neill, Patrice O'Neill, Glencora Ralph, Jenna Santoromito, Rowena Webster, Joanne Whitehorn. Travelling reserve: Jana Liessmann. Coaches: Ryan Moar/Aleksandr Osadchuk. Manager: Julie Hamill. Referee: Nicola Johnson.

Pythia Cup, Itea, Greece, July 2007:

Day 1: Australia 11 (S Mills 4, H Lincoln-Smith 3, J Whitehorn 2, R Webster, G Beadsworth) Spain 7.

Day 2: Russia 18 Australia 13 (G Beadsworth 4, J Whitehorn, J Santoromito, S Mills 2, R Webster, B Appel, H Lincoln-Smith).

Day 3: Australia 10 (G Beadsworth, J Whitehorn, S Mills 2, K Gofers, R Webster, J Santoromito, J Liessmann) Greece 5.

Final placings: Russia, Australia, Greece, Spain.

Most Valuable Goalkeeper: Danielle Bower (AUS).

International Friendly, Avezzano, Italy, July 2007:

Australia 15 (S Mills 4, R Webster 3, G Beadsworth, Holly Lincoln-Smith 2, P O'Neill, G Ralph, M Hammond, B Appel) Italy 9.

FINA World Championships, Porto, Portugal, July 2007:

Day 1: Australia 24 (G Beadsworth, K Gofers, J Whitehorn 4, R Webster, H Lincoln-Smith 3, P O'Neill, J Santoromito 2, S Mills, B Appel) Puerto Rico 2.

Day 2: Australia 23 (G Beadsworth 5, R Webster, J Santoromito, K Gofers, S Mills, H Lincoln-Smith 3, P O'Neill, J Whitehorn, B Appel) Japan 5.

Day 3: Australia 13 (G Beadsworth 5, J Santoromito 3, R Webster 2, S Mills, M Hammond, H Lincoln-Smith) Netherlands 9. Final points: Australia 6, Netherlands 4, Japan 2, Puerto Rico 0.

Day 5: Quarterfinal: Australia 14 (G Beadsworth 7, R Webster 2, G Ralph, H Lincoln-Smith, J Santoromito, B Appel, S Mills)



Aussie Co-Coach Ryan Moar gets the traditional dunking after winning the FINA Junior Women's World Championship title in Porto, Portugal in 2007.

New Zealand 7.

Day 6: Semifinal: Australia 12 (G Beadsworth, R Webster 3, P O'Neill, S Mills 2, M Hammond, J Whitehorn) Hungary 7.

Day 7: Play-offs: For 1st & 2nd, Australia 8 (G Beadsworth 4, R Webster, J Santoromito, B Appel, M Hammond) China 6.

Final placings: Australia, China, Hungary, USA, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Canada, Japan, Germany, Greece, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Portugal.

Highest goal-scorers: Gemma Beadsworth (AUS), Misa Konaka (JPN), 27.

Most Valuable Player: Gemma Beadsworth (AUS).

Youth Boys

European Tour, July 2007:

Chris Batty, Chris Dyson, Corrie Eames, J Gilchrist, Lachlan Hollis, Mitch McCann, T Martin, Ross O'Brien, Mace Rapsey, Aidan Roach, Sam Robertson, Edward Slade, Joel Swift, Aaron Younger, Carl Zvekan. Coach: Mark Hubbard. Manager: Graeme Bryce. Referee: Nick Hodgers.

International Tournament, Acireale, Italy, July 2007:

Day 1: Australia 8 (C Dyson, C Eames, L Hollis 2, M Rapsey, M McCann) Russia 4, Greece 6 Australia 4 (R O'Brien 2, C Dyson, A Roach).

Day 2: France 12 Australia 10 (M Rapsey, C Dyson, T Martin, J Gilchrist 2, A Younger, M McCann), Australia 15 (R O'Brien 3, J Swift, T Martin 2, C Batty, A Roach, C Dyson, S Robertson, M McCann, J Gilchrist, C Eames, L Hollis) Romania 5.

Day 3: Australia 9 (C Dyson 3, A Roach 2, A Younger, T Martin, C Eames, S Robertson) Italy 9.

Final placings: Italy, Greece, Australia, France, Russia, Romania.

International Tournament, Topocany, Slovakia, July 2007:

Day 1: Australia 12 (C Dyson 4, L Hollis, M Rapsey 2, A Roach, R O'Brien, J Swift, J Gilchrist) Slovenia 3, Australia 9 (C Dyson 4, L Hollis, R O'Brien, J Gilchrist, C Eames, M McCann)



Hungary 8.

Day 2: Australia 10 (C Dyson 4, S Robertson 2, A Roach, J Gilchrist, C Batty, M McCann) Japan 9, Australia 12 (J Gilchrist, R O'Brien 3, A Younger 2, C Dyson, M Rapsey, A Roach, C Batty) Slovakia 2.

Final placings: Australia, Hungary, Japan, Slovakia, Slovenia.

International Series, Auckland, New Zealand, July 2007:

Leighton Beer, Joel Davis, Jeff Disken, Jon Dodd, Clay Douyere-Pate, Mitchell Emery, James Fannon, Joshua Frost, Matt Gronow, BJ Howden, Alex Lee, Scott Nicholson, Luke Northcott, Adam Polivka, Stephen Sloan. Head Coach: Adam Richardson, Manager: David Swift.

Day 1: New Zealand Juniors 14 Australia Youth B 6 (L Northcott, J Disken, A Lee, M Emery, J Howden, J Frost).

Day 2: Australia B 28 (S Nicholson, J Fannon 4, J Howden, J Dodd 3, L Beer, J Disken, M Emery, A Lee, M Polivka 2, M Gronow, L Northcott, J Frost, J Davis) NZ Schoolboys 4.

Day 3: NZ Juniors 16 Australia Youth B 15 (J Frost 3, L Beer 2, J Disken, J Davis, J Dodd, J Fannon, J Howden, L Northcott, M Emery, S Nicholson, A Lee, M Gronow).

Youth Girls

International Series, Sydney, Australia, July 2007:

Born 1989 Crocodiles: Carla Benzie, Kayla Bryce, Samara Davie, Sally Farquhar, Caitlin Kerr, Allison King, Ebony Neesham, Victoria Risdon, Hannah Robinson, Nicole Saville, Blaze Santoromito, Caitlin Shem, Alex Timilty, Emily Young.

Born 1990 Crocodiles: Zoe Arancini, Kaatya Armstrong, Alicia Brightwell, Annabelle Carter, Lauren Coburn, Jessica Cox, Beth Loder, Natalie McJannet, Libby McLaren, Kate Miller, Allira Solin, Ursula Talbot, Gabriele Wikman, Amanda Wynants, Nicola Zagame.

International Tournament, Sydney, Australia, July 2007:

Day 1: Australia Born 89 9 (K Bryce 3, A Timilty, E Neesham 2, C Kerr, S Davie) Australia Born 90 8 (A Carter 2, Z Arancini, N McJannet, N Zagame, L McLaren, J Cox, K Miller), USA 17 Canada 7.

Day 2: USA 13 Australia Born 90 5 (G Wikman 2, K Miller, K Armstrong, A Brightwell), Australia Born 89 17 (S Davie 4, S Farquhar, N Saville, H Robinson, C Shem, C Benzie 2, A King, A Timilty, E Neesham) Canada 9.

Day 3: Australia Born 90 17 (N Zagame 6, L McLaren 3, K Armstrong, J Cox 2, N McJannet, A Carter, A Brightwell, G Wikman) Canada 8, USA 8 Australia Born 89 6 (S Davie 3, E Neesham, C Kerr, C Benzie).

Final points: USA 6, Australia Born 89 4, Australia Born 90 2, Canada 0.

International Series, Sydney, July 2007:

Australia A: Zoe Arancini, Alicia Brightwell, Kayla Bryce, Annabelle Carter, Samara Davie, Caitlin Kerr, Kate Miller,

Ebony Neesham, Nicole Saville, Caitlin Shem, Gabi Wikman, Nicola Zagame. Head Coach: Phillip Bower.

Australia B: Kaatya Armstrong, Carla Benzie, Lauren Coburn, Jessica Cox, Sally Farquhar, Alison King, Beth Loder, Natalie McJannet, Libby McLaren, Hannah Robinson, Blaze Santoromito, Allira Solin, Ursula Talbot, Alex Timilty, Amanda Wynants. Head Coach: Taryn Woods.

Day 1: Australia A 14 (N Zagame 3, G Wikman, E Neesham, C Kerr, K Miller 2, A Carter, S Davie, A Brightwell) Canada 2, USA 10 Australia B 4 (H Robinson 2, J Cox, K Armstrong).

Day 2: USA 11 Australia A 10 (Z Arancini, G Wikman, N Zagame, S Davie 2, E Neesham, K Bryce) in extra time (FT: 9-9), Australia B 10 (C Benzie, A King, J Cox 2, A Timilty, L McLaren, A Solin, L Coburn) Canada 9.

Global Challenge, Brisbane, Australia, June 2008:

Born 1990: Kaatya Armstrong, Ellie Bowden, Alicia Brightwell, Annabelle Carter, Keesja Gofers, Jamie-Lee Lewis, Beth Loder, Natalie McJannet, Kate Miller, Kara Mirabito, Victoria Risby, Gabrielle Wikman, Nicola Zagame. Head Coach: Greig Richardson. Assistant Coach: Scott Schweickle. Manager: Lynne Morrison.

Born 1991: Breanna Appel, Elle Armit, Isobel Bishop, Hannah Buckling, Mia Corbett, Rachel Flint, Emma Jo Grahame, Sarah Grunberger, Shannon Jones, Kayle Leatham, Claire Pierce, Ellen Pittorino, Serena Reid, Ashleigh Southern, Stephanie Thomas, Genevieve Venosta, Kelsey Wakefield. Head Coach: Peter Szilagyi. Assistant Coach: Taryn Woods. Manager: Annie Hayes.

Round 1: Australia born 1990 10 (N Zagame 4, K Gofers 2, A Brightwell, K Miller, JL Lewis, G Wikman) USA 8, Australia Born 1991 13 (E Armit, B Appel, A Southern 3, EJ Grahame 2, I Bishop, R Flint) New Zealand 11.

Round 2: Australia Born 1990 11 (K Miller, N Zagame 3, JL Lewis 2, A Brightwell, K Armstrong, G Wikman) Australia Born 1991 5 (H Buckling 2, B Appel, K Leatham, A Southern).

Round 3: Australia Born 1990 15 (A Brightwell 6, N Zagame 5, N McJannet 2, A Carter, K Gofers) New Zealand 7, USA 13 Australia Born 1991 5 (A Southern 4, EJ Grahame).

Round 4: USA 10 Australia Born 1990 8 (N Zagame 4, A Brightwell, E Bowden, K Miller, K Armstrong), Australia Born 1991 14 (S Jones 4, S Thomas, K Leatham, EJ Grahame, C Pierce 2, J Venosta, B Appel) New Zealand 12.

Round 5: Australia Born 1990 16 (K Miller 5, A Carter, N Zagame 3, A Brightwell 2, K Gofers, N McJannet, G Wikman) Australia Born 1991 8 (H Buckling, EJ Grahame 2, E Armit, G Venosta, S Grunberger, E Pittorino).

Round 6: USA 9 Australia Born 1991 7 (B Appel, A Southern 2, S Jones, K Leatham, H Buckling), Australia Born 1990 25 (N Zagame 8, A Brightwell 6, K Gofers 3, G Wikman 2, E Bowden, K Miller, A Carter, K Mirabito, N McJannet, K Armstrong) New Zealand 5.

Final points: Australia '90 10, USA 10, Australia '91 4, NZ 0.

Semifinals: Australian Born 1990 11 (A Brightwell 5, N Zagame



2, E Bowden, K Gofers, K Armstrong, G Wikman) New Zealand 5, USA 10 Australia Born 1991 5 (E Armit, B Appel, A Southern, EJ Grahame, C Pearce).

Play-offs: For 3rd & 4th, Australia Born 1991 9 (S Grunberger 3, S Jones, S Thomas, H Buckling, R Flint, K Leatham, A Southern) New Zealand 6; for 1st & 2nd, USA 10 Australia Born 1990 8 (A Brightwell 3, K Miller, N Zagame 2, K Gofers).

Final placings: USA, Australia Born 1990, Australia Born 1991, New Zealand.

Awards: Highest goal-scorer: Nicola Zagame (AUS Born 1990) 27. Player of the Series: Nicola Zagame (AUS Born 1990). Goalkeeper of the series: Kate Baldoni (USA).

Students

World Student Games, Bangkok, Thailand, August 2007:

Fraser Bunn, Chris Gronow, Craig Hammond, Daniel Lees, Brett McGhie, Sam Robertson, Daniel Streets, Daniel Swinnerton, Rydr Tracy, Matt Turnbull, Ben Turner, Luca Vezzosi. Head Coach: Simon Daley. Manager: Doug McGhie. Referee: Michael Hart.

Day 1: Russia 8 Australia 6 (R Tracy 3, B McGhie 2, C Gronow).

Day 2: Australia 24 (R Tracy 6, D Streets, C Gronow, B McGhie, M Turnbull 3, S Robertson, C Hammond 2, B Turner) Thailand 7.

Day 3: Montenegro 16 Australia 6 (B McGhie, M Turnbull 2, B Turner, C Gronow).

Day 5: Second round: Australia 6 (S Robertson, B McGhie 2, C Gronow, D Streets) Great Britain 5.

Day 6: Quarterfinal: Italy 19 Australia 7 (D Streets 2, D Swinnerton, L Vezzosi, C Gronow, B McGhie, M Turnbull).

Day 7: Round 5-8: Japan 14 Australia 7 (S Robertson, L Vezzosi 2, C Gronow, M Turnbull, R Tracy).

Day 8: For 7th & 8th, France 12 Australia 8 (D Streets 3, S Robertson 2, M Turnbull, R Tracy, B McGhie).

Final placings: Montenegro, Italy, Hungary, Spain, Serbia, Japan, France, Australia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Russia, Great Britain, South Africa, Thailand.

Country Men

Singapore Tour, August 2007:

Mitch Baird, Richard Best, Adam Cleland, Rowe Codie, Andrew Costello, Ryan Grubb, Michael Henry, Luke Ingwersen, Sean Jacobs, Andrew McAulay, Glen McEwan, Daniel Robinson, Craig Spence, Josh Teixeira, Jarrod Tobin. Coach: Peter Tresise. Manager: Dave O'Connor. Referee: Gary Payne.

International Series, Singapore, August 2007:

Test 1: Singapore 13 Australian Country 12 (M Baird, D Robinson 4, S Jacobs 2, J Tobin, R Best).

Test 2: Singapore 10 Australian Country 7 (M Baird, L

Ingwersen 2, R Grubb, A Cleland, D Robinson). Singapore wins series 2-0.

Singapore Invitational, Singapore, August 2007:

Day 1: Seniors 13 Australian Country 7 (L Ingwersen, D Robinson 2, M Baird, A Costello, C Spence).

Day 2: Australian Country 16 (S Jacobs 4, J Tobin, L Ingwersen 3, M Baird 2, A McAulay, A Cleland, M Henry, D Robinson) Malaysia 8.

Day 3: Australian Country 11 (M Baird, S Jacobs 3, J Tobin, 2, A McAulay, A Cleland, A Costello, L Ingwersen) Singapore Juniors 7.

Final points in tie-breaking order: Singapore Seniors 4, WA Country 4, Singapore Juniors 4, Malaysia 0.

Day 4: Semifinals: Singapore Seniors 26 Malaysia 4, Singapore Juniors 9 Australian Country 8 (M Baird 3, L Ingwersen 2, J Tobin, R Best, D Robinson).

Day 5: For 3rd & 4th, Australian Country 11 (M Baird 4, L Ingwersen 3, A Costello, C Spence, R Best, M Henry) Malaysia 5.

Final placings: Singapore Seniors, Singapore Juniors, Australian Country, Malaysia.

Country Women

Singapore Tour, August 2007:

Sarina Arfuso, Tegan Baines, Jess Bendeich, Kelly Buchanan, Leah Dodd, Tracey Elliot, Jenny Hoade, Nelli Jackson, Jane Lawrence, Kate Lawrence, Libby Magann, Hayley Millner, Erin O'Brien, Carla Pantano, Leah Woodland. (WA). Coach: Mark Balenzuela. Manager: Kelly Buchanan. Referee: Gary Payne.

International Friendly, Singapore, August 2007:

Australian Country 16 (L Magann, L Dodd 4, J Bendeich, K Lawrence 2, J Hoade, E O'Brien, J Lawrence, T Elliot) Singapore 4.

Singapore Invitational, Singapore, August 2007:

Day 1: Australian Country 16 (L Magann 5, T Baines, H Miller, L Dodd, J Bendeich 2, J Hoade, K Lawrence, J Lawrence) Singapore 2.

Day 2: Australian Country 16 (L Magann, L Dodd 4, T Baines 2, J Bendeich, K Lawrence, J Lawrence, C Pantano, T Elliot, L Woodland) Singapore 1.

Day 3: Australian Country 7 (J Lawrence 3, J Lawrence, T Elliot, L Magann, L Woodland) Singapore 2.

Day 5: Australian Country 8 (L Magann, J Hoade, J Bendeich, E O'Brien, T Baines, T Elliot, L Dodd, H Miller) Singapore 2.



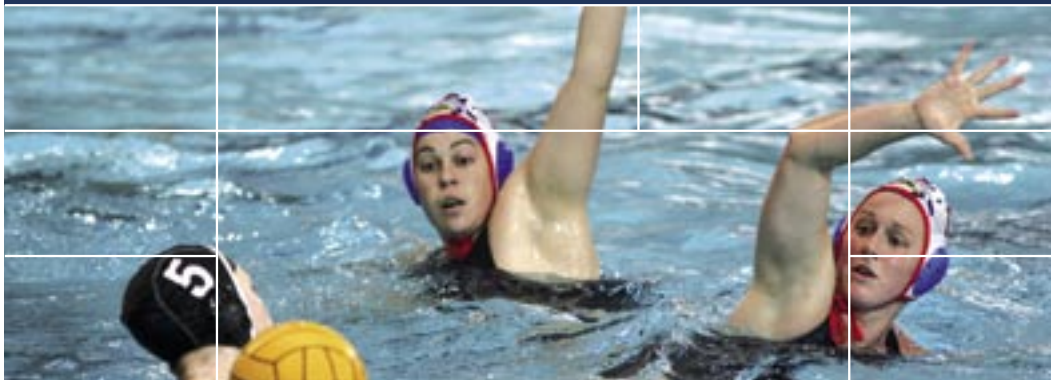
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SPORTS TRAINING GRANT (AGSTG)

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Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

WINNING PARTNERSHIP



The Australian Sports Commission proudly supports Australian Water Polo

The Australian Sports Commission is the Australian Government agency that develops, supports and invests in sport at all levels in Australia. Australian Water Polo has worked closely with the Australian Sports Commission to develop water polo from community participation to high-level performance.

Australian Water Polo is one of many national sporting organisations that has formed a winning partnership with the Australian Sports Commission to develop its sport in Australia.

AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

www.ausport.gov.au



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