



Harbour Capital Masters  
Swimming Club

## Harbour Capital Master Swimmers Club

### *The early days*

HCM was established in 1979. At the time its name was Wellington Master Swimmers, through the connection with Murray Haxton who, as the Wellington City Council Pools Manager, had heard of Masters Swimming.

Murray Haxton approached Alister Holden, a regular swimmer at the Freyberg and Karori Pools, with the idea of getting a few lanes at the Boys and Girls Institute (BGI). Other regular swimmers were recruited which formed the nucleus of the club. Members of the club attended their first National Champs at Cameron Pool (Auckland) in 1981 with a team of approximately a dozen swimmers.

That original group during the early-mid 1980s included John Watt, Sid Salek, Cathy Cleary (Guilford) Alan Wong (club coach), Brian Andrews, Gary Avison, Judy Coveny, Peter Garguilo, Ingrid Saxton, Brian Newth, Trisha McKnight, Christine Kingsbeer, Sue West, John Morrison, Ralph Curry, Lance Davidson, Jim Drummond, Mike Carass, Kaye Sexton (Whitehead), Jim Fraser and Tony Freeman.

The group continued to swim at BGI through to late 1983. When Murray managed to secure a few lanes at Freyberg Pool, the club relocated and from there the club grew. By the mid to late 1980s the club was travelling to swim meets in Napier, New Plymouth, and Tauranga by the 46-seater bus load. The *'mobile disco'* would pick up fellow swimmers along the way, including Chips Rafferty and Collins Opie. The club embraced the concept of 'Fun, Fitness and Friendship' in equal measure.

During these early years, Wellington spawned numerous new masters groups as members established their own clubs in local pool close to their residences, such as Huia, Petone, Tawa, Eastbourne, Raumati, and others. As Wellington Masters, the club was no longer all encompassing, and it changed its name to Harbour Capital Masters. The Cricketers Arms, where Alister Holden was the Licensee, acted as the club rooms. Many a fun night was held after Wednesday night swimming.

The club at this time had little in the way of a formal structure. With only a President and Secretary/Treasurer, everyone chipped in and did their part. Swimmers would arrive at club night at Freyberg Pool and pay \$1 towards paying for the lane hire. The club would rotate who was on the door to meet and greet swimmers. It was simple and we all got to know each other.

By the mid 80s HCM was the largest masters swimming club in NZ. A more formal club structure was introduced in the late 1980s; the earliest printed record of an AGM is 1987. The club ran many competitive events which enabled it to form a solid and lasting financial base.

HCM hosted its first of many National Long Course Championships in 1987 at the Naenae pool with approximately 400 swimmers attending.

Following the construction in 1988 of the first indoor 50 meter pool in Wellington, the club moved from Freyberg Pool to its present base at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre in Kilbirnie. It meets regularly on Sunday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Around this time it also changed its club rooms to the Teachers Club in Willis Street.

Non swimming activities have also been a large part of the club. In the early days this was predominantly the Wednesday after swim get together at the Cricketers Arms. Other Wednesday

venues have been Flanagans Hotel, Teachers Club, Bay 66, Realm Tavern and the Brentwood Hotel where we still meet today. During mid to late 1990's we also met after work on the first Friday of the month at the Rose and Crown who generously sponsored our lane hire. In addition we have engaged in car rallies, ten pin bowling, quiz nights, day tramps, movie nights, family BBQ's and all manner of weird and wonderful activities both in and out of the swimming pool thanks to a dedicated Social Committee which was first formalised in 1993.

## ***Through the years***

- 1988** Held Mini Swim Meet on 5th Oct to mark the opening of the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre and to promote masters swimming in Wellington. This year was the first of our annual swim meets at Tawa Pool.
- 1989** Asked NZ Masters to change our club abbreviation from WLG to HCM as Harbour Capital was not the only masters swimming club in the Wellington region.
- 1989** Introduced social membership for those who had no interest in competitive swimming.
- 1990** Reduced Saturday morning 50m lane to only one lane at 7am and increased lane hire on Wednesday evenings to 4 lanes.
- 1991** Purchased club Pull Buoys as training aids still used today.
- 1991** Club cup for most improved swimmer donated by Sid Salek. First presentation was shared by Robyn Bell and Dave Martin.
- 1992** Club introduced White HCM Caps to promote its identity at swim meets.
- 1993** President's Cup introduced by Mark Berge for the *"club member who epitomises the spirit of the club both in the pool and through their contribution to the club in its many associated activities during the course of the year."* Sheryl Mitchell was the first recipient.
- 1995** Introduced Club Shirts (crew necked skivvies) in bottle green.
- 1996** Changed to bottle green togs in time for 1996 Nationals.
- 1997** Brought in bottle green track suits with cream panels and name printed down the leg - a rare sight today.
- 1998** Club logo officially approved.
- 1999** Emergence of HCM web site thanks to many late nights by Jim Fraser.
- 2001** New club colours of black with gold HCM. First purchase of new togs in this colour. Alternative colours remain green and white.
- 2001** Life member status was adopted at AGM. Criteria for awarding life service was agreed to be left open to committee's discretion. No life membership was awarded at the AGM.
- 2002** Club registers as an Incorporated Society.
- 2003** Purchased 36 kick boards and a galvanised iron cage to store all our pool-side equipment.
- 2006** Purchased club polo shirts in new colours of Black and Gold. Marketing boost with business cards and HCM flyers to increase membership.
- 2007** Decision made to bid for 2009 New Zealand Long Course Championships.
- 2008** Tony Hickmore offers stroke correction coaching on Sunday evenings.
- 2009** HCM hosts 2009 National Long Course Championships. During the winter months, the Club shifts to the Thorndon's outdoor summer swimming pool while the Kilbirnie pool was closed for its five year maintenance.
- 2010** HCM shifts its traditional September Tawa Pool meet to the Huia pool at Huia Club's request; Huia club takes over the Wainuiomata summer meet in February.
- 2012** HCM hosts the 2012 National Long Course Championships, as the QEII pool was damaged during the Christchurch earthquake.

## ***Incorporation.***

At the 2000 AGM the Executive was tasked to investigate the club becoming an Incorporated Society (after first investigating incorporation in 1991 and again in 1994). A sub committee reported back to the 2001 AGM. Under the leadership of Barry Lake, assisted by Carol Lightfoot, the club became an Incorporated Society on 15 March 2002 remaining affiliated to NZ Master Swimming.

The objectives of the club are to foster, develop and otherwise promote swimming as a means to health, fun, fitness and competition.

The Constitution provides an appropriate structure around the governance of the club, to promote accountability for decisions and financial transactions. A Committee consisting of President, Secretary and Treasurer are elected at the annual general meeting.

## ***Membership***

HCM has an active and long-standing group of swimmers.

Of the 77 members in 2012, 25 had been with the club for 10 years or more, the vast majority longer than our database records. This includes our 2 life members: Jim Drummond and Kaye Whitehead. Ingrid Saxton is still a member and Jim Fraser, our current Treasurer, has been a member (on and off) since 1980.

Membership numbers, which averaged about 100 during the 1980s and 1990s, reached 132 in 2002, and have since declined to around 70 currently.

The club has 'full' and 'social' membership. Full membership (which includes membership of NZMS) is encouraged. Social membership is an option for occasional or trying-out swimmers and those primarily interested in fitness, sea-swimming, triathlons, etc. rather than training for sanctioned pool events.

A recent membership survey indicated 83% of our members swim for general fitness, 20% for sanctioned events and a bit less for open water events.<sup>1</sup> About half our members are social members.

That same survey indicated 87% of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the club. However, many wanted more choice of training times, more lane space, and coaching.

HCM does not have a coach. The club is lucky enough it can rely on informal leaders who take charge of a session and ensure swimmers get a good two, three or four thousand meters of swimming under the belt.

## ***Notable events and achievements***

### **Coaching**

HCM has had various coaching efforts. Alan Wong on Sundays started in 1990. Barbara Watson offered stroke correction on a Wednesday evening and Sue West from 1993 to 2000 every second Sunday. Tony Hickmore provided poolside coaching on Wednesday night in the fourth quarter of 2012.

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<sup>1</sup> As more than one answer was possible, proportions add to more than 100%.

### **Fun swim meets**

HCM first started its annual September Spring meet in 1988 at the Tawa Pool. This continued with only a short absence in the early 2000s. The after swim function was held in the Tawa swim club rooms above the pool with catering being provided by club members and music for dancing by a DJ (Colin Salmon).

In 2010 at Huia Club's request we moved the swim meet to the Huia Pool and the after-swim function to the Petone Working Men's club. This was to help the Huia club get up to speed with swim meets as they were keen to play their part again. We have continued to hold the event at Huia since.

In February that year we hosted a family fun day meet at the Wainuiomata 50 meter outdoor pool. Being a 50m pool, this doubles as a de facto capital region warm-up competition for the National Long Course Championships. A hydro slide and other fun activities for children, plus gas BBQs for after the meet make this a fun event. In 2011 Huia Club agreed to take this over as their meet while HCM continue to run the September meet.

### **Life time members**

HCM's constitution allows the club to elect a person who has 'rendered signal service to the club' to be a life member. Current life members are:

- Jim Drummond, awarded 24 April 2002
- Kaye Whitehead, awarded 31 March 2004

### **NZMS Service Award**

Ingrid Saxton, awarded 2012

### **HCM hosted National Masters Swimming Competitions**

- 1987** Naenae pool. Meet Director - Brian Newth. Over 400 competitors.
- 1990** Kilbirnie. Meet Director - Donna Campbell. Over 400 competitors.
- 1992** NZ Masters Open Water Championships (4km course).
- 1996** Kilbirnie. Meet Director - Lyall Mortimer from Huia. Hosted by HCM, assisted by Huia.
- 1998** Kilbirnie. Run jointly with Huia. 600 plus competitors.
- 2003** Kilbirnie. Meet Director - Jim Drummond. 246 competitors.
- 2009** Kilbirnie. Meet Director - Barry Lake. 169 competitors.
- 2012** Kilbirnie. Meet Director - Barry Lake. 166 competitors.

## ***Appendix: Committee***

### **Presidents**

1979 - 1980 Alister Holden  
1981 - 1985 John Watt  
1986 - 1987 David Marriot  
1988 - 1989 Eddie Blows  
1990 - 1992 Donna Campbell  
1993 - 1994 Mark Berge  
1995 - 1996 Ingrid Saxton  
1997 - 1998 Kaye Sexton  
1999 - 2000 Barry Lake  
2001 - 2005 Tim Whitehead  
2006 - 2011 Barry Lake  
2012 - present Jean-Pierre de Raad

### **Secretaries**

1981 - 1985 Cathie Cleary  
1986 - 1987 Ingrid Saxton  
1988 - 1989 Kaye Sexton  
1990 - 1990 Anna Southern  
1991 - 1992 Jim Drummond  
1993 - 1993 James Hunter  
1994 - 1994 Marjorie Cook  
1995 - 1996 Elisabeth Smith  
1997 - 1998 Anne Nicholson  
1999 - 1999 Shirley McNeill  
2000 - 2002 Susan Patullo  
2003 - 2004 Mike Moggeridge  
2005 - 2007 Jim Fraser  
2008 - 2012 Vanessa Young  
2013 - present Peter Shanahan

### **Treasurers**

- 1987 Tony Freeman  
1988 - 1989 Trevor Allen  
1990 - 1994 Kaye Sexton  
1995 - 1995 Stephen Minto  
1996 - 1996 Carol Lightfoot  
1997 - 1998 Tricia McKnight  
1999 - 1999 Tricia McKnight  
2000 - 2000 Tim Whitehead  
2001 - 2005 Kaye Whitehead  
2006 - 2006 Elisabeth Hewitt  
2007 - 2008 Lesley Cornish  
2009 - 2012 Simon Henderson  
2013 - present Jim Fraser

## **Social Committee**

- 1988 - 1992 No Social Committee appointed, but Sid Salek was appointed Competition Secretary
- 1993 Sheryl Mitchell, Geoff Belcher, Martin Fletcher, Donna Campbell
- 1994 Martin Fletcher, Judy Langham, Sheryl Mitchell, Robyn Newth
- 1995 Sheryl Mitchell, Lindsay Blakeley, Robyn Bell, Bryan McMurray
- 1996 Robyn East, Lindsay Blakeley, Mark Berge, Roger Moroney
- 1997 Tim Whitehead, Tom McGrath, Sheryl Mitchell
- 1998 Moved that club members be seconded to the Social Committee to assist as required. - carried.
- 1999 Dean Harrison, Trisha McKnight, Peter Shanahan
- 2000 Peter Shanahan, Cathy Cooper, Rhian Manley, Kereen Broome
- 2001 Bronwyn Eichbaum, Mark Berge, Stephen Minto
- 2002 Bronwyn Eichbaum, Mark Berge, Stephen Minto
- 2003 Stephen Minto, Mark Berge, Richard Jonges
- 2004 Mark Berge, Catriona Rush, Peter Haimes
- 2005 Mark Berge, Kyla Steenhart, Sheryl Mitchell
- 2006 Kyla Steenhart, Sheryl Mitchell, Margarete McGrath, Simon Jones
- 2007 Simon Jones, Sarah Christian, Sheryl Mitchell, Elisabeth Hewitt
- 2008 Vanessa Young, Peter Shanahan, Margie McKee
- 2009 Peter Shanahan, Margie McKee, Alison Rowe
- 2010 Peter Shanahan, Alison Rowe
- 2011 Peter Shanahan, Suzi Archer, Jean-Pierre de Raad
- 2012 Peter Shanahan, Alison Rowe
- 2012 No elected/volunteer members