

2016 Swimmers of the Year

Annual awards are made to the Female and the Male Swimmer of the Year. The decision process takes into account participation in all pool swims (from the club meets up to world masters), participation in open water swims, overall swimming performance, and overall contribution to the club. All available information about each of these elements is reviewed by a subcommittee before the final choice is made.

As usual the decision has not been easy, as we have had many swimmers consistently performing at a high level; both in the pool and open water. The results were close, with club involvement tipping the scales in favour of the winners.

Male

3rd place goes to **Brian Walsh**. Brian set several new records in the Endurance 1000 swims last year. He was awarded Dolphin of the Month in April for his outstanding performance at Nationals, both in the pool, and officiating at the meet, where he also managed to break a State and seven club records.

Brian makes an extremely valuable contribution to the club as a as a Technical Officer; officiating at several meets each year. Thank you, Brian.

2nd place goes to **Murray Burns** who is one of our busiest pool swimmers; competing at Nationals, States, and most (if not all) interclub meets throughout the year.

Murray's Open Water swims were limited on this year, but he swam in the Torquay Danger 1000, and Pt. Lonsdale 1.4 km

Murray stepped down as club Captain at last year's AGM, but continues to support the club by his attendance at most pool and social events.

1st place in the Male Swimmer of the Year is **Rod Clarke**. Rod has had a great year in the pool; competing at Nationals, States, Pan Pacs, Tasmania, and the Alice Springs Masters Games. His medal winning performances and state records saw him place 1st place in his age group in the MSA Swim Series Top 10. Rod also set several club records that he later broke again.

Rod completed three Open Water swims; placing third at Mt Martha.

In addition to being our Head Coach, Rod holds the position of Club Registrar and as such is a member of the Dolphins' committee. Rod was awarded Dolphin of the Month in June for extraordinary coaching duties; filling in for Sue and Peta (and Margie's Aquanaut sessions) while they were on holidays.

Congratulations Rod.

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Female

In 3rd place is **Dorothy Dickey**. Dot has had her usual excellent year with golds in Nationals and States, and several National and state records. She was 1st in her age group in the MSA Swim Series Top 10, and continues to set the benchmark for us all. Dot also competed in 7 Open Water events and was frequently on the podium, in spite of competing against women decades younger.

In equal 1st place are **Dee Sheffrin** and **Peta Harvey**.

Another great year for **Dee** saw her placed in the MSA Swim Series Top 10 for 2016. She bagged a swag of medals at Nationals, States, and Pan Pacs, and is always an enthusiastic supporter of the interclub events. Despite moving into a new age group this year, Dee was still breaking club records in the 55-59 age group late in 2016, and has already launched her assault on the 60-64 age group records this year.

Dee swam in six open water events this season, winning her category at Brighton on Australia Day. She also achieved her 10 year Sharkbait membership for the Lorne Pier to Pub.

Dee is a great club member who is always willing to do what's needed. She is often seen timekeeping in between events, and did a great job organising our accommodation at the Gold Coast Nationals.

Peta had a great year in the pool, finishing 1st in her age group in the MSA Swim Series Top 10. She competed at States, Nationals and the Alice Springs Masters games, setting several state records (short and long course) in the process.

Peta is a prolific open water swimmer, usually competing without a wetsuit in both the long and short distance events. In addition to her outstanding GVSS results winning 3 of the 4 categories and placing second behind Barb Smith in the fourth, Peta travelled to Vanuatu, Western Australia, and Sydney in pursuit of the perfect swim.

Peta also contributes significantly to the club in her roles as Club Captain and News Editor, and on pool deck Thursday nights with her coaching L plates on.

Dee and Peta were also members of the two relay teams that broke national records at the MSV Relay Championships, and together with the other team members, were co-winners of the Dolphin of the Month award for September.

Congratulations to both Dee and Peta.