



North Shore Amateur Swimming Club Inc
www.nss.org.nz

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD:

**8 PM WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE 2011
MILLENNIUM INSTITUTE OF SPORT & HEALTH**

1. It has been usual practice for the President's Report for the AGM to be tabled at the AGM. However, this year, as has occurred for the last two years, I thought it prudent to prepare this in advance and circulate it to members by email. In this way, members will be well apprised of what the Board has been focussing on during the year and the key issues facing us as a club.
2. Swimming results are reported elsewhere, and they are matters that the Board can receive no credit (or criticism!) about. Suffice it to say that North Shore remains New Zealand's premier swimming club and we are determined to ensure that this remains the case. The results achieved are a testament to the skill and dedication of the club's coaching staff, led so ably by Head Coach Thomas Ansorg. The contributions of Gary Francis and Belinda Donaldson and the entire coaching team likewise need to be acknowledged, as too must the assistance of the Club's army of volunteers.
3. I think it goes without saying that the last 12 months have been extremely difficult times for everyone, as the remnants of the world-wide recession continue to bite, sometimes rather savagely. Our club has not been immune from those pressures, but I am pleased to report that the club has achieved its goal of balancing the budget for the 2010/11 year and, in fact, returned a modest surplus, as Treasurer Glen Nightingale will explain in greater detail. That surplus offsets the rather poorer results for the two previous years, and is a welcome return to "black figures" in the annual accounts. Against that background, some members may query why we have increased fees for this year, albeit to

less than the cost of inflation. The answer to that is simple and two-fold. Firstly, the club must retain modest amounts of cash reserves, as we live very much on a month to month basis and any disruption to cash flow can have disastrous consequences. Secondly, whilst costs are controlled diligently, they continue to rise and are going to do so, in some case significantly, during the upcoming year. The “bottom line” is that the Board remains diligent in ensuring that the club is run frugally, whilst at the same time doing its best to provide the levels of service and quality that our members expect and deserve.

4. We are now nearing the end of Thomas Ansorg’s first year as Head Coach after several years away from that role. Thomas has brought a wealth of experience back to North Shore and his enthusiasm and dedication have been reflected in the excellent state of club morale. This was no more evident than at the function held in April to celebrate Moss Burmester’s retirement, a topic I will return to later.
5. Thomas has devoted a large amount of his energy to pool related aspects of the club since his return, and this coming year will also see additional focus on the business-related aspects of what, in practical terms, is a not insubstantial (“not for profit”) business.
6. After some difficult negotiations with the new Auckland Council, access to the Takapuna pool has been resolved, whilst agreements with all pool providers have progressed well. Access to suitable pool space is an on-going challenge for the club and will again be a matter for the new Board to consider.
7. This year, as in those preceding it, the Board has worked exceedingly hard on your behalf. Much of this is invisible to members, but without it, the club would be much the poorer. I want to extend thanks to Paul Cropp (Secretary), Glen Nightingale (Treasurer), Adam Jackson, Neil Blackwell, Malcolm Donaldson and Steve O’Hara for their significant contributions as Board members. Thanks also to Julie-Ann Mold who served as Treasurer for several months, but who resigned due to other commitments. Neil and Adam are retiring from the Board this year and I want to acknowledge their significant contributions to the Board and to NSS.
8. I am always reluctant to single out individuals, but special thanks must go to three of our Board members:
 - **Neil Blackwell**, for his tireless work behind the scenes in and around the office and in assisting with swim meet administration. Sadly, and as mentioned above, Neil is retiring from the Board this year as his children are now also retired from swimming. That said, he has made it clear that he will be available to assist on special projects, as and when required. Thanks Neil, for your tireless input, not just as a Board member, but in all aspects of the club.

- **Glen Nightingale**, for offering to be our Treasurer part-way through the year. Glen is a qualified accountant, and although he has no direct connection to NSS, he has graciously accepted our plea for assistance. Coming at a time when he was establishing his own accountancy practice, we are extremely grateful for his willingness to assist and for his contribution.
 - **Steve O'Hara**, who has shown boundless enthusiasm and commitment to a myriad of tasks, ranging from exploring sponsorship opportunities to arranging the recent Moss Burmester function. His has been a herculean effort.
9. On the topic of sponsorship, I would like to thank swimming supplies company Swimmerbro for their assistance and look forward to a long, mutually beneficial relationship. Thank you also to the numerous other organisations that have helped us out in so many ways.
10. In recent years, the Board members have been a combination of parent representatives and those with some connection to swimming who had skills and experience that assisted in achieving good governance. This is a good model, as it has ensured that the Board is well appraised both on day to day issues and the various external influences that affect the club and its future. I commend it to you for the future.
11. The NSS club culture relies on input from a large number of voluntary supporters. There are numerous people who need to be thanked, but the sheer numbers make it impossible for me to do this individually. Those inputs are greatly appreciated by the entire club and to all those who have given their time behind the scenes, thank you. Special thanks must go to our administrative team of Toni Bayliffe and Sandy Adams.
12. I have mentioned the Moss Burmester function earlier. This was a fantastic event that was brilliantly conceived and executed and has shown that the NSS spirit is truly alive and well. On behalf of the Board, we would like to congratulate Moss, not just for his outstanding legacy of swimming excellence, but for the example that he has shown to the young people who will be the next generation of swimmers. I will never forget Moss (and a number of others) who have had the patience and thoughtfulness to spend considerable time with the younger swimmers to help encourage them to achieve their own dreams. MOSS – you were a champion in the pool, but you were just as much a champion out of it.
13. At the AGM, and in accordance with our Constitution, the Board will be proposing that Moss be elected as a Life Member of the club.
14. On the issue of our Constitution, one change will be being proposed, as set out in the agenda. This amendment, which provides for us not having to produce audited accounts, was recommended by our previous Treasurer at last year's AGM, but was not proceeded with at the time. Our current Treasurer confirms that requiring audited accounts is both unnecessary (and inconsistent with current practice) and a cost liability

that we should dispense with. The out-going Board will be looking for member support for this proposed change. For those interested, our Constitution is available on the website.

15. Finally, I would encourage all members to continue to support the club and to recognise that we are largely a volunteer organisation. If you have something positive to say, shout it from the rooftops. If you have a problem, bring it to the attention of the club in order that someone will be able to help you solve it. Constructive criticism and comment is always welcome.
16. I hope to see as many members as possible at the AGM at 8pm on Wednesday 1 June at the Millennium Institute.

Yours sincerely



PHIL MITCHELL
PRESIDENT

25 May 2011