



---

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### INTRODUCTION

Once again, this year we were faced with more challenges with Covid interrupting the start to our summer competition. Vaccination requirements, 1 person allowed per 2 m<sup>2</sup> and waiting for the state to reach the 80 per cent double vaccination milestone before restrictions could ease, made planning the start of our competition extremely difficult. The Board made the decision to postpone the start until 7 February 2022 once the Covid rules had eased. This allowed a week for kids to return to school and SHWP to liaise with the school communities in an effort to increase registration numbers. After such a long break our members were excited to be back in the pool and with the support of our wonderful Southern Highlands water polo community, a successful social competition was played.

Our junior teams enjoyed some time away in regional tournaments in Canberra, Wagga Wagga and Orange. Also, Southern Highlands hosted the "Tourney Cup" an under 12's competition run by WPNSW for the first time in October 2021. We are so proud of all of our junior players who represented SHWP with pride and passion, embracing the opportunity to have a fun time with their friends. A lot of teams this year were filled with players from the Illawarra Water Polo club and we thank them for their ongoing relationship.

### COMPETITION

To kick start our 2022 competition, the Board made the decision to run a social competition for both seniors and juniors to rebuild the club's membership base.

- Fees were subsidised by SHWP to encourage participation. The Junior fee was reduced to \$100 in line with the State Governments 'active kids' voucher. Essentially zero cost to parents.
- The Senior's fee was reduced to \$120.
- After discussions with WPNSW they reduced their capitation fees by 40%. Keeping our insurance with WPNSW.
- All games were played at Frensham Pool on Monday night for Seniors and Tuesday night for Juniors. This ensured inclement weather didn't interrupt our short competition.

We acknowledge and thank Jack Cockington for his contribution as Competition Co-ordinator engaged by Water Polo NSW. Jack travelled from Illawarra to put our competition together, even after losing his driver's licence he still made it with his dad as the chauffeur.

## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership was down 40% on the 2020/21 season, this is to be expected after the interruptions we've had such as the Mittagong pool closure, Covid and the withdrawal of Oxley College as a school sport; however, we did see a steady increase of membership once the competition started.

Participation: Female 76 (46.1%), Male 89 (53.9%)

U/12 – 45

U/14 – 21

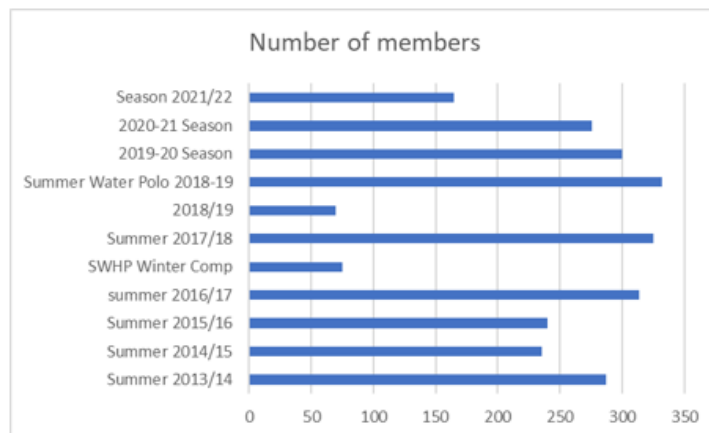
U/16 – 25

Seniors – 44

Life Members, volunteers and officials - 26

### Members overview

165 MEMBERS IN TOTAL



## TRAINING/COACHING

Training continues to be a large part of the SHWP program. Jenny Balla is just amazing in her continual encouragement and skill development of our juniors. Training was conducted every Wednesday evening with training sessions focusing on skills of legwork, agility, passing, shooting, and fouling.

The training sessions have now expanded under the supervision of Jenny with a team of volunteers hand-picked that focus on improving overall skills, fitness and general knowledge of rules and game requirements.

The new program Jenny has put together has enabled her to take more of a head role rather than doing everything, which is her nature. Jenny now has a schedule of volunteers with knowledge of the

game taking the lead coaching roles and the up-and-coming volunteers as assistants. A great initiative by Jenny that will ensure longevity in the training program. Thank you to all these people for your support and a very big thanks to Jenny for making this happen.

LEAD COACH	ASST. COACHES
CRAIG FORD	NOAH FORD, LARRY DOYLE
MIA CORBETT	LUCA DE MANINCOR, ADEM DE MANINCOR
DAVE HOUGHTON	HUGH WHITE, ANNIE WHITE, MATT WHITE
JENNY BALLA	LUC PUCHERT, COL HUTCHINSON, JOE ZERVOS
MILES LOCHHEAD	HARRY MOORE, COL HUTCHINSON, LUCA DE MANINCOR
JASON NICHOLAS	SARAH LEE-BILLINGHURST, SEBASTIAN CRUZ, ALEX CRUZ
ELISE BALLA	OLIVIA BOW, ANNABELLE BOW, MATT BOW
MIA CORBETT	JOE ZERVOS, NOAH FORD, LARRY DOYLE

## REFEREES

Similar to the training format, Craig Ford has taken on the role of head referee. Craig's tireless dedication to refereeing and support of younger players learning to ref is very much appreciated by the club. Craig set up a refereeing schedule this year that shared the work load amongst the senior more experienced referees and with those that are learning.

We would like to thank the following referees for their commitment and professionalism during the season.

CRAIG FORD	Brendon Fannin
Lachie Feary	Scott McLean
Steve Dunn	Alan Balla
Harry Moore	Noah Ford
Hugh White	

## TOURNAMENTS

A brief summary of the Junior tournaments that were entered into are listed below. Once again, we acknowledge that some teams were filled by our friends at the Illawarra Water Polo club. I'm not going to name each of the players as there are so many. We are very proud of them all.

[Jun 2021 U14 Stromlo Leisure Centre ACT.](#) One team of girls. Coach Jenny Balla, Manager Vivienne Krassoi.



[Oct 2021 U12 Tourney Cup – Centenary Pool Frensham Mittagong.](#) One mixed boy/girl team Coached by Hugh White. Great work Hugh and the team. One Girls team coached by Jenny Balla.





[Feb 2022 Wagga Country Championships U/16.](#) One Southern Highlands/Illawarra team. Coached by Illawarra's Jimmy Berry.



[March 2022 U12 Big Orange Under 12s Festival: Orange Aquatic Centre.](#) One Southern Highlands/Illawarra boys team and one Southern Highlands/Illawarra girls team. Coaches & Managers: Jimmy Berry, Sally Leonard, Vivienne Krassoi and Nikki Kegg.



## FINANCES

Our finances still remain in great shape despite a shortened competition. In FY22 we had a Nett surplus of \$15,734 and a closing retained surplus of \$75,972.

Our healthy position will assist us with offering a fee subsidy and helping with Tournament entry fees as appropriate to ensure there is reduced hardship experienced by our Membership.

We are again indebted to Greg Puchert for his help with the accounting and guiding the Board through the requirements of the Treasury role. We are also thankful that Greg has agreed to continue to help SHWP with their end of year accounts by casting his professional eye over our books and preparing them to be audited.

Thanks once again Greg, we wouldn't have made it through the year without you.

## SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

Our sponsorship and financial support come from a range of organisations that are promoted on our [website](#) with supporter's logos reproduced below.

We are always looking for additional support so please contact us if you know of any opportunity to assist our Club through financial or service support.



## IN CONCLUSION

This has been my first year on the Board and what a roller-coaster ride it's been. I've been very fortunate that I have been surrounded by wonderful people in the Water Polo Community that have guided and encouraged me within this role. A special thanks to the experienced minds of Greg Puchert, Jenny Balla, Miles Lochhead, Alan Balla and Craig Ford for their support.

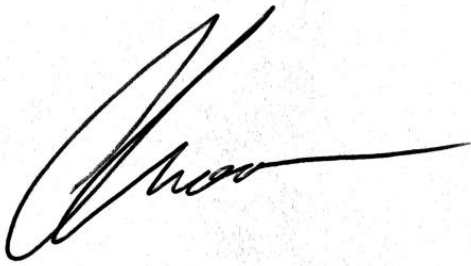
We will say good bye to Board members Scott Basham, Nicole Linde and Adem de Manincor and we thank you for your work with SHWP.

Finally, our tireless volunteers, both parents and players that are always at the pool with a smile on their face to lend a hand, we can't thank you enough.

I look forward to seeing you all at the pool and continuing the 42-year-old legacy of the club into the future.



*From the Deep End*



Craig Moore  
President 2022



*The crowd roars! (Photo credit: Hamish Tamé)*