

Life Membership Nomination - Ken Allan

Playing Record – over 30 seasons, over 250 games

Ken joined the Melville Waterpolo Club in the early 1960's, spent some time at the Applecross and Nedlands/Olympic Clubs, then re-joined Melville 1976, and has played at the Club since. Ken is a Pool Foundation Member.

WAWPI Association Premierships: 10

B Grade – 1961/62, 1980/81, 1981/82

C Grade – 1983/84, 1984/85, 1985/86

D Grade – 1976/77, 1991/92

E Grade – 1993/94, 1995/96

Ken played in Association Premierships with sons Jeremy 1980/81, Ben 1983/84 and Jude 1984/85, and 1985/86. Ken also competed in the World Masters Games in 2008

Volunteering

Over the 30 plus years of membership at the Club, Ken has been involved in a number of volunteer positions:

Club Committee: 5 years as President – 1983/84, 1984/85, 1985/86, 1986/87, and 1987/88.

As many of the longstanding members are aware, the opening of the pool resulted in great difficulties with the neighbours regarding noise. Directly as a result of these issues, Ken was asked to stand for President to help deal with this problem. During the entire 5 years of his Presidency, significant continuing steps were taken to meet the neighbours concerns, including the nomination of members to control noise during pool use. The noise issue involved:

- Meeting with ever varying group of neighbours to address, where practical, their issues;
- Negotiation with the Melville Council to negotiate suitable operational controls that could be implemented without undue constraints on core Club activities;
- Negotiation with local Members of Parliament; and
- Negotiating a number of applications for allowance under the noise abatement act which were obtained, often with great difficulty, to facilitate the use of the facility.

Building Development: During the time Ken was President, the 1st floor club room was completed. This work and its supervision was carried out by a number of stalwarts of the Club, but many issues had to be dealt with by the Club Committee, led by Ken, including:

- How best to maintain the complex as a water polo venue in accordance with the Club's lease obligations with the Melville Council, to accommodate the public use alongside core Club activities; and
- Taking an overview of the progress of the building, expenditure and the application for, and acquittal of Grants, and dealing with objections to building extension proposals.

Utilisation of the building and transforming the Club: There is no doubt the building of the facility, a result of the dedication of many Club members, led by a team of determined leader sallowed for the transformation of the Club. It enabled the Club to establish a pre-eminent position in Australian Water Polo, and become a venue for significant events which commenced during this time, prior to which only a few international teams had visited and played in the State. Events that took place while Ken was President:

- Australia China Tournament – 6-8 Feb 1985
- Yugoslav (Split?) Team 30-31 December 1985
- Australian Championships 14-18 January 1987
- International Tournament 21-23 January 1987
- Americas Cup Festival of Sport January – February 1987

Legal Advisor: Ken made himself available as the Club's primary legal advisor for a period of over 25 years, covering the time of the pool construction, the building of the second story club rooms, and the entry of the Club into the National Water Polo League.

Sponsorship: Ken has provided financial support to the Club and teams on a number of occasions.

Western Australian Water Polo President: 1987/88, 1988/89, 1989/90, 1990/91.

Approaching the 1987/88 water polo season, the WA Association had received no nominations for President, Secretary or Treasurer and water polo in this state was facing a dire problem. Discussions with senior Club members led to the conclusion that as a prime stakeholder in the competition, our Club should step into the void. As a result, of which it was decided that Ken would stand for Association President, requiring him to step down from President of the Club. During this time, due to the efforts of Tom Hoad, supported by what the Club had achieved and the demonstrated ability fo West Australians to organise and run high quality tournaments, world class events were attracted to WA including:

- The Olympic Qualifying tournament 1988
- The 1991 World Swimming Championships

The achievements noted above owe their origin and success to the many far sighted and dedicated members of our Club and Ken was fortunate enough to have been able to participate in the administration of the Club in such important and memorable times.

Ken's association continues as he accompanies Tom Hoad and the Melville 16 & Under Junior Men's team on their European tour each winter. Ken's commitment to the Club is evident in the significant contribution he has made to the Club. His leadership at a critical point in the development of the Club speaks to his lifetime commitment to the Club and the Committee has no hesitation in recommending to the members that they confer on him the honour of Life Membership.