



A Commission of the Australian Underwater Federation

---

## Finswimming Commission Report to AUF 2008

**Matt Edmunds**  
**30 October 2008**

### **In Memory of Faye Hoppitt**

The fin swimming community was deeply saddened by the passing away of Faye Hoppitt earlier this year. Faye made a substantial contribution to Australian fin swimming, including National Treasurer and as an Australian Age champion. Faye was the AUF Sports Person of the Year in 2002 and was always full of vibe and energy, motivating and inspiring her fellow team mates. Faye's friendly, fair, sociable and inclusive personality and spirit is imbued into the culture of Australian fin swimming.

### **Competition and Events**

The traditional Hobart 50 m sprint competition was named the Faye Hoppitt Memorial Sprint. This was organised by Helen Lane and held at the Clarence Aquatic Centre on 19 July. This event was a fun event open to all swimming clubs and attracted 42 competitors from ages of 6 to 80, using bifins and monofins. This event provided great exposure for the sport in Hobart. It was an elimination event, adding to the fun and excitement.

The National Championships were held at the Australian Institute of Sport, in September 2008. The event was organised by the Vikings Finswimming Club and incorporated a sports camp with lectures and other exercises. The championships incorporated a greater number of duo fin events and attracted new members. An option being considered for next year's championships is to hold them in Queensland. Although we have no active members there, it may help provide added exposure for the sport and stimulate formation of a squad. New South Wales have also expressed interest in hosting the 2009 championships.

Australia was represented at the Asian Finswimming Championships in Yantai, northeastern China.

The next international competition is the CMAS Worlds Underwater Games in Tunisia, July 2009.

### **Administration**

The low membership and high insurance cost of 2007/2008 resulted in a small deficit. The proposed AUF centralised membership and insurance changes will have substantial implications for Ozfin. It has the potential to greatly improve the viability of the Finswimming Commission.

We proudly acknowledge the support of





A Commission of the **Australian Underwater Federation**

---

### **Coaching, Officials and Sport Development**

The National Coach has recently finished drafting a national coaching accreditation scheme. This is currently in the process of being ratified by the Government.

Following implementation of the coaching scheme, we will be looking at ways to provide accreditation and recognition of officials.

### **Strategic Plan and Promotion**

In recognising the need to increase membership and participation in the sport, a draft Strategic Plan was prepared and is currently being revised and considered by the Committee (draft attached).

A key component of this Plan is promotion and raising interest in the sport, as well as ensuring accessibility information and contacts for interested people. Key issues it addresses include:

- high cost of insurance, making Ozfin financially unviable;
- increasing the membership base;
- streamlining processes for updating records, web page and other resources;
- communication resources, such as contact lists and brochures, for membership drives;
- resources for raising the profile of finswimming, such as brochures, posters, cards, stickers, apparel and media strategy;
- cohesive and professional presence and resources, particularly for dealing with media and potential sponsors; and
- providing efficiency and support for time-limited committee members (busy professionals and students); and

The means to addressing these issues are somewhat interrelated and, to avoid making unnecessary work, a systematic process was used to develop a Work Plan.

The strategic plan is a draft for discussion by the Ozfin Committee and will hopefully provide a vehicle for developing Ozfin in an efficient and effective manner.

### **Work Plan**

A draft Work Plan of key actions and timelines is being developed from the Strategy and the 2008 AGM (attached, but requires substantial modification).

Dr Matt Edmunds  
President  
Ozfin Inc.

We proudly acknowledge the support of



