



“The Swimming Pool” Newsletter **February 2025**

Welcome to Newsletter #12

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1. President’s Report

Hi everyone,

What a great pool season, but with some weird weather! Still there are several weeks to go with the pool closing at 1600 hrs on Sunday 23 March 2025. That weekend will have the 24-hour swim-a-thon for Laps For Life, so please join up!

Our committee has been busy this year with various projects:

- Trying to get a meeting with MLAs about the Canberra Services Club site and what is happening with the Development

Application variation. Nothing much as it turns out, so we keep waiting.

- Progressing the ACT Aquatic Strategy by organising a meeting with interested aquatic groups and Fiona Carrick, independent MLA.
- Gathering ideas for the pool’s 95th anniversary in 2026. We are hoping to get a grant to assist with some sort of mega-celebration! Any ideas from members are very welcome.
- To support the Save Phillip Pool committee, FoMP submitted an objection to the loss of Phillip Pool space due to more apartments being built and attended a Save the Phillip Pool party in early February. So many patrons had no idea that the 50m would no longer exist very soon and were keen to sign the petition. Alas, the ACT Govt has other ideas and there seems little hope for the site. We are very lucky with Manuka Pool that our 2016 campaign to save our pool from the impacts of development has granted it some extra protections (for now).
- Following up on the replacement Pin Oak tree (that was removed just before the summer season) a few weeks ago with the ACT Property Group. Quotes are being gathered, and we believe a mature

tree will be planted soon but probably after the pool season.

- Good news - ACT Heritage has approved the mounting of the Trophy and Champion Board to Manuka Pool from the Canberra Amateur Swimming Club on the wall inside the foyer (remember the missing board which got found after decades?)
- Bad news: We are now awaiting a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties with the ball squarely in the ACT Government's court to progress, so another wait until this is sorted! But when the Board arrives, FoMP plans on an unveiling event.
- The ACT Property Group will be installing rocks (instead of bollards) around the grass section out the front of the pool to stop the illegal parking on busy days. This will better protect the two trees, assist driver visibility and protect pedestrians using the footpath who often have to face off a car using it as access to the illegal parking.
- Our Vice-President, Rebecca Scouller, is currently looking at how we might be able to print images from Manuka Pool onto some of the original pool tiles for an installation at the pool.

Enjoy the next few weeks of the pool season and please let us know of any stories you want us to cover or, if you have a story about the pool that you would like to share.

Yours in swimming,
Caroline Luke-Evered
President, FoMP

2. Website and Membership

The FoMP website tries to keep up to date but we are small committee and have busy lives, so it is not always perfect. If you notice anything incorrect or needs updating please let us know.

Our membership fees have remained the same since FoMP began back in 2016 and the committee has decided not to increase them, per se, given the financial climate. However, the financial fees from online banking via the website is costly. We get hit once by credit card fees and then again by the Stripe fees (the system used by the website to process any purchases).

To overcome this, we have increased the membership fees if paying online via the 'buy now' button but there is also the option to take note of FoMP banking details and pay directly from your bank. We hope this helps members

when they rejoin, and we value your feedback on this change.

For your records:

Friends of Manuka Pool

BSB 325185

Account 03620765

3. Laps4Life March 2025

Mark your calendars and nominate your time slots - the 24-hour swim is back again for a great cause in 2025!

Will you be in the pool on the last day of the season for this year's 24-hour swim starting midday Saturday 22 March and finishing midday Sunday 23 March?

For the past four years we have raised nearly \$75,000 through Laps4Life for youth mental health services delivered through ReachOut and this year we are hoping to crack \$100K.

We want to show just how much our Manuka Pool community gets behind this fundraiser with everyone registering for our official team 'Manuka Pool Lappers'; nominating your time to swim your laps during the 24-hour swim; and donating or fundraising through the official website.

There is nothing more exciting than taking a swim at our beautiful heritage pool in the middle of a moonlit night. Give it a go!

Nominate your time for the 24-hour swim: see Bryan at Manuka Pool Reception.

Join our team or make a donation:

<https://www.lapsforlife.com.au/join/manukapoolappers>

4. The Dunns on 'A Happy Place'

Manuka Pool must rate as one the happiest places for us - for swimming, for relaxing, for picnics, for catching up with friends while being tended by great staff (led by Bryan) who really cares about the heritage pool.

The water quality and condition of the whole complex is superb 😊 and it's a pleasure to visit.

Everyone with whom we have shared the idea of swimming at Manuka has been delighted too and all our interstate and international visitors love it - being quite unique in Canberra and a step back into the past.

We lap swim for the love of it, and for fitness.

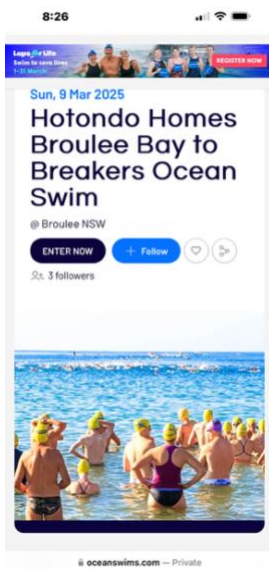
It's an exercise that one can continue into old age! Great for aerobic capacity and general strength and conditioning. Paired with our cycling and walking, it's a great combo to help keep us healthy.



Lindy with the latest FoMP swim cap ready for training!
(Photo by Peter Dunn)

Currently we are both training for a couple of ocean swims, one at Broulee for 1.4kms called [Bay to Breakers](#) and the other at Tathra for 1.2kms called [Wharf to Waves](#), both in March. The days of speed (and our triathlons) are behind us, however, the sense of fun and achievement is enough to encourage us to train and compete.

Why not give these races a go?



There are shorter lengths at Broulee 500m out and back and, at Tathra, there is a 200m for those wishing to just give it a try as well as a 600m race.

It's about participation for most of us (ok, being honest, we do try hard on the day 🏊). The safety backing with the many kayaks and boats keeping a lookout, ensures you feel safe & know help is at hand if you need it. Plus, both venues are fun places to visit, and you could stay a couple of nights to explore the areas.

Happy swimming 🏠 🏠



Lindy and Peter Dunn

5. Have your Say!

It is that time of year when the Manuka Pool Customer Service Survey needs to be done.

FoMP is keen for all members to take some time to complete the survey so we can continue to enjoy such a beautiful place.

One of the reasons we have such a wonderful pool to use is because we have a dedicated manager (Bryan) and assistant manager (Rhys) who care about their patrons and the grounds. This is reflected in the survey results which has

kept out larger managerial companies from taking over.

“Manuka Pool is seeking feedback from users on their experience with the pool this season. The online survey seeks anonymous information from you about your use of the pool, whether you had any problems with the pool and any other comments or suggestions you may have”.

Please follow this link to complete the Survey:

https://doit.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ehT7f0YpV8jZQTI