

Welcome to the first edition of Wobby Warbles! Your go-to place for all wobby news! And welcome to 2024! What better way to kick off the year than with news from your favourite winter swimming club.

### **What's been happening in Wobby World?**

January has been a jam-packed month. Wobbies have been prolific, both in human form and that of our namesake. Some of our snorkelling enthusiasts even stumbled upon what seems to be a wobby nursery at Stoney Creek.

I saw many wobbies busy practising their sprints for the upcoming season, and quite a few (myself included) finishing off swims with some artistic swimming (handstand) practice. This segues beautifully to our annual handstand competition, held on the 26th January each year.

Did you know that the first handstand "act" was performed in the early 1900s by a circus performer called Professor Paulinetti? But humans have been flipping themselves upside down for years before the circus came to town; gymnastics started in ancient Greece as a form of fitness, and let's not forget thousands of years of yogis finding enlightenment while the blood rushes to their head.

And so it seems perfectly normal that once a year a group of salty thalassophiles should vie for a trophy of massacred barbies mounted on a sculpture of seashells by inverting themselves in the water in an attempt to showcase the straightest legs of them all, with no hint of wobby wobbles.



The turnout this year was unprecedented, with over 40 people attempting to straighten knobby knees while balancing precariously on an uneven surface. Gasps of "ooooo" and "ahhhhs" permeated throughout the beach as onlookers became critics and attempted to bribe the judges with homemade lamingtons (I'm looking at you, Sandi).

Competition was fierce, but there can only be one winner, so after a nail-biting final consisting of myself, Robyn and my friend Tim, I was overjoyed to be awarded the crown (Barbie legs). Since moving to Jervis Bay and joining the wobbies, my one ambition has been to take out this coveted top handstand spot. Now this has been achieved, everything else seems so much paler in comparison. I mean, where to from here?



## Member Spotlight!

Each month we will shine the light on one of our amazing wobby crew - what better way to know a little more about the folks you swim with! You see them in their budgies, but what about their stories?!

This month, let's kick off with the OG wobby himself, our esteemed and illustrious president, keeper of the buoy, swimmer of sprints, organiser of all - John Stapleton!



So let's dive in! (pun very much intended)



### **Where are you from and how long have you lived in Jervis Bay?**

I am from Liechhardt in Sydney. First came down here in 1964. I have permanently lived in the area for 19 years.

### **How did you become a wobby?**

I was swimming on my own at Husky Beach for a couple of years. Steve, Ken, Brian, Freddy, John Daly, Donny and Kym approached me to see if I would mind if they swam with me.



After a few months I asked if they would like to form a winter swimming club and join the WSAA. They were all in favour so in December 2016 JD came up with the name "Wobbegongs". With the help of Bondi Icebergs WSC and Maroubra WSC, we became a club. Our first year in 2017 we held our first AGM in the Chinese Restaurant at Husky Bowling Club. I was the only member of the Wobbegongs who represented our club at the National Championships in Qld. From then on it has grown each year amazingly.

**Tell us about your swimming history - when / where did you begin?**

I started swimming competitively at school then at Leichhardt Pool Swim Club. I became a learn-to-swim instructor and also represented the swimming club at state level. I also played water polo for the club.

I was also the founding member of the Balmain Kool Kats WSC in 1972 and was secretary for ten years. I swam with Balmain Leagues Club for 20 years and City Tattersall's Club for five years.

**What do you love about swimming with the wobbies?**

Friendship and mateship.

**What do you do? If retired, what did you do?**

I am retired. On leaving school I became a carpenter and worked in the building trade from 1961. Then I worked on the Sydney Waterfront for 24 years and then became Venue and Maintenance Manager for 21 years, and was a Director of the Balmain Leagues for 14 years.

**Favourite place to go in Jervis Bay?**

Huskisson Beach and pool.

**If you could be anywhere in the world right now, where would you be?**

Huskisson Beach!

**What three words best describe you?**

Organised, busy, committed

.....

Thanks John! The wobbies are all so grateful to you and your commitment and we are so lucky to have you as our Prez!



# Wobby Woos!

A big woo! to Marg who just had a tumour removed from her noggin and still remembers who Rick is - we are all thinking of you Marg and wish you a speedy recovery.

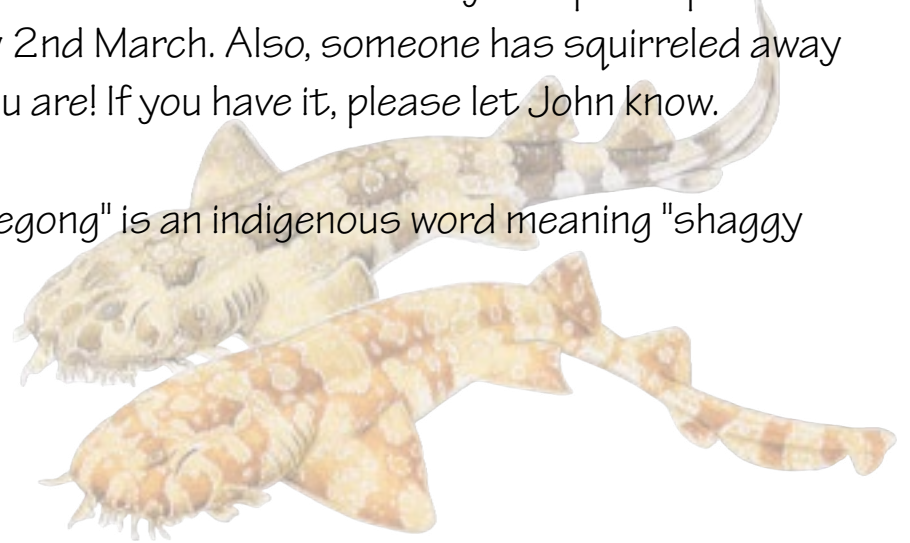
A big woo! to Roz who won most-improved swimmer at the handstand comp - well done Roz!

That's it from me dear wobbies. I hope you've enjoyed this first edition of Wobby Warbles. If you have any news items you'd like to add for the next edition, please get in touch or have a chat on the beach. Remember - some wobbies are meeting at Huski Pool each Monday at 5pm to practise sprints. And the next CJB raffle night is Saturday 2nd March. Also, someone has squirreled away our pop-up banner for this night - you know who you are! If you have it, please let John know.

I shall leave you with this fun fact: the word "wobbegong" is an indigenous word meaning "shaggy beard" or "living rock"!

See you on the beach wobbies!

Mish  
Club Publicity Person



Our most improved swimmer Roz and her amazing trophy!!

