

## **VALE JOAN KELLETT OAM**

The ACT swimming community has been saddened by news of the passing of Joan Kellett OAM on 20 June 2017. Joan's association with swimming in the ACT began in 1967 when the family joined the Dickson Amateur Swimming Club. She and her husband Harry were both life members of the club and Joan continued to be a member of that club until her death, a period of fifty years.

Joan was instrumental in the initiation of a free learn to swim program at the club which resulted in having a purpose built learn to swim pool added to the complex. She took on many roles with the Club over the years including Race Secretary, Club Secretary, Recorder and Judge as well as assisting Harry over the many years that he was Club President. As her children developed as swimmers Joan became involved with the Burley Griffin Swimming Club where she was team Manager for several teams from that club attending State and National level championships.

In those early days the ACT was part of the Southern Districts Amateur Swimming Association. The number of clubs in the ACT was growing and in 1973-74 the ACT Swimming Council was established to promote the sport of swimming in the ACT. Joan was an office bearer of that organisation until 1982 when Swimming NSW agreed to the formation of a district in the ACT.

Joan was the inaugural Secretary of this new District and became President in 1986, a position she was to hold until 2004 when she stood down after 18 years. She continued her involvement with ACT Swimming right up to the last twelve months when her health started to decline, a total of close to fifty years involvement in the sport.

During her period as President, Joan had positive input into the development of pool facilities in the ACT, lobbying the Government for the development of both the Belconnen and Tuggeranong pools. She was active in government sponsored consultancies addressing the pool shortage in Canberra, a role which she continued right up to very recent times. One project of which she was particularly proud was the swim program for people with a disability which she started and has been part of Swimming ACT now for over twenty years.

Joan started officiating at swim meets from her early days and became a SNSW Referee in 1982. She was Meet Director for a number of NSW Country Championships as well as assisting with several Swimming Australia controlled meets held in Canberra. She was Chair of the small committee that organised the swimming part of the Pacific School Games held in Canberra in 2008 and was a member of the old Swimming New South Wales Education Committee for two years.

Over the years Joan received numerous awards for her contribution to the sport of swimming culminating in the award of an Order of Australia medal in 2003.