



## Presidents Report 2020-21



Congratulations to everyone who has been involved in swimming in Far North Queensland over the past 12 months and what a year it has been!

FNQ Swimming's strategic role is to increase participation opportunities and performance pathways for competitive swimming in Far North Queensland.

The region has seen a 10% participation increase this season with strong numbers building in our juniors across all clubs. Through the concerted effort by coaches, parents, and volunteers we are seeing clubs rebuilding and strengthen throughout the region with Tully, Innisfail, Mossman, and Normanton swimmers now competitively involved in carnivals and winning medals at the FNQ Championships.

A special mention must go to the committee at Cooktown Swimming Club which held its first regional carnival in 17 years with more than 100 swimmers in attendance on the ANZAC Day long weekend. The success of the two day event highlighting that grass roots development swimming is in demand. In attendance were some of our National and Olympic Qualifying level swimmers both competing and providing coaching at the clinic the following morning.

This year saw record numbers of swimmers qualifying and competing at events outside the region. More than 60 FNQ swimmers competed at the December 2020 Queensland State Championships in Brisbane demonstrating the depth of talent being developed by so many of clubs. April 2021 saw a record 25 FNQ swimmers qualify for Age and Open Australian National Swimming Championships on the Gold Coast. Finally, 8 FNQ swimmers have qualified to compete in the June 2021 Olympic Trials in Adelaide, and we wish them well on what will be the highlight of Swimming Australia's calendar.

FNQ Swimming has this year joined with the Cairns Academy of Sport (through TAFE Qld) to provide further opportunities for our senior swimmers to remain in FNQ and continue their training and education upon completion of secondary schooling. The opportunity to become a part of a high performance program with other elite athletes based in FNQ is another strategy to improve the retention of swimmers in our sport.

Swimming Australia has been instrumental in assisting with the planning of multiple events to be conducted in FNQ during mid-2021 to coincide with the Australian Dolphins training camp being held in Cairns prior to the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. We would like to thank the team from Swimming Australia for their commitment to providing world class opportunities for our local swimmers.

On behalf of the FNQ Swimming community I would like to thank Swimming Queensland's team for their ongoing support administratively, with swimmer and coach development and for their unwavering advocacy for the return to competitive swimming through the COVID pandemic. A special mention must go to Brant Best who has been instrumental in growing the continued local collaboration amongst our coaches/clubs, accelerated technical skill development both in and out of the water and generally supported our improvement goals throughout the region. You are one of us now!

Finally, I would like to thank the FNQ Swimming Committee, Technical Officials, and those of you providing much needed time and skill in the background for all your hard work and incredible dedication that assisted in making the season 2020-21 such a success.

See you on the pool deck for Season 2021-22.

Yours sincerely,

**Jim Greatorex**  
**FNQRSA - President**