

## MOLONGLO WATER DRAGONS SET THE POOL ON FIRE!

If you thought you heard the stirring sounds of Deep Purple's Smoke on the Water on Sunday 22 June, you were close – it was the sound of the Mighty Molonglo Water Dragons ON FIRE at the Tuggeranong Pool. A strong team of 19 fired up swimmers mixed it with 34 of the best from the mighty Tuggeranong Vikings in an absolute boilover. At one stage the Vikings threatened to throw in the towel to get us off the boil and down to a simmer they could swim against, and even called in the fire brigade to try to put us out, but there was no way hose-ay!

In sheer numbers, this was the best attendance we have had at a meet for at least 10 years, and the quality was there in spades. By a clever combination of brute force, lightning reflexes, superior skills and happy birthdays (which put many of our swimmers in unopposed age groups) the Water Dragons won 48 races, 17 seconds and 6 thirds from 86 swims. Of these, 57 swims by Molonglo members qualified for the 2014 Masters Swimming NSW Top 10, with Jina Cha, John Collis, Alex Grove Geoff Llewellyn and Gary Stutsel recording Top 10 1<sup>st</sup> placings; Ann Bromwich, Jina Cha, John Collis, Alex Grove, Margaret Hadfield, Geoff Llewellyn David Specker and Gary Stutsel scoring 2<sup>nd</sup> placings, and Ann Bromwich, John Collis, Geoff Llewellyn, Mary Liz Partridge and Tim Mather recording 3<sup>rd</sup> placings.

We also fielded 4 relay teams. Our two womens teams (160+ and 200+) and our mens 200+ team recorded times that put them into 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 2014 NSW Top 10. Our men's 280+ Golden Oldies team of Tim Mather, John Oke, Gary Stutsel and John Collis not only swam the fastest time in NSW this year but they are now **the fastest team in Australia** in this event, beating the previous best, a Queensland team, by 7 seconds.

The full results are in a separate document, but we scored 741 points overall, an average of 39 points per swimmer, just behind the Vikings who scored 1334 points at 39.24 points per swimmer. If you ever wondered whether we can mix it with the best, just remember what Obama says "Yes we can!"

Thanks to Veronica Roman who did timekeeping for the whole meet, and the various swimmers who helped out with timekeeping between winning races.

We will be hosting a return meet on Sunday 23 November in the new Gunghalin Pool, so with all this newfound talent and belief we are hoping to field an even bigger and better team and show those Viking showboats their Waterloo. But before then, on 20 September we have the Tuggeranong Branch Point Score Meet, which will provide another chance to strut our stuff in front of the best that New South Wales can offer, and no doubt set the pool on fire once again.

And once again as the sun goes down on Tuggeranong you'll hear another triumphal sound emanating from the Deep South:

Molon-go-lo	Water Dragons	We're the best	We ain't bragging
At the turn	We ain't lagging	At the finish	We ain't flagging
Molon-go-lo	Water Dragons	We're the best	We ain't bragging

But seriously folks, well done, everyone. What a team!

John Collis  
Race Secretary