

**GEOFF DOWSLEY - OBITUARY**

Geoff Dowsley, a postgraduate student in sports history at the University of New South Wales and a member of ASSH, died on 9 August, aged 55.

A former Marist Brother and teacher at Newington College, Geoff obtained his M.A. in History at UNSW in 1982 and was well advanced in a research thesis (aiming for a Ph.D.) on various aspects of the history of swimming and swim coaching in Australia.

As the founder of the WALES swimming operation, Geoff was in a unique position to write and reflect on this sport. He obtained the first coaching rights to the newly opened UNSW Swimming Pool in 1979. Developing a full range of learn-to-swim classes, stroke and competitive squads, Geoff and his coaching staff established the most substantial swim school in Sydney. From this base grew the WALES Amateur Swimming Club which became the leading club in N.S.W. and this year won the National Age Championship, came second in the National Open Championship and has yielded several international representatives,

With typical energy and enthusiasm, Geoff produced a club magazine, The Black Tide, which started as a club programme but developed into an interesting journal of wider interest with lengthy articles by Geoff on subjects such as "The Funding of Sport", "The Current Situation and Swimming" and "The Australian Institute of Sport - A Brief History". It is planned to deposit a set of The Black Tide in the UNSW Library.

All too little has been written on the history of swimming and swim coaching. It is a great loss that someone who had such inside knowledge of the world of swimming and such an independent spirit is no longer with us.

Richard Cashman