

Caryn's Westcoast Poem - 30th Anniversary -

For me the whole thing started back in 1988
Waiting poolside at Craigie....not wanting to be late
Invited to join the adult swimmers and not wanting to make a fuss
Thought I was swimming with Whitfordsthen told "you are better off with us"!
Ash, Pat, Alastair, Alan, Jeff, Frank, Shirley, Greg, Irene
Jenny and Graem, Rhonda and Barry...Bill and Coral Green
All were instrumental in getting me back in swimming again
Particularly Ash Manners ...who I chased up and down the lane.

All those Rotto swim thru trips...to be remembered for years to come
Perhaps more for party exploits than races lost and won
Those progressive cocktail parties – each house produced its best
Margharitas, daiquiris, pina coladas...we put them to the test
Champagne cocktails and black Russians...we threw them down the hatch
We partied on and on and ona feat no other club could match

Queueing 5 deep at the Quokka arms for drinks that were not cheap
Jackie leaning on a post....standing uprightbut asleep
Sipping spirits from our water bottles...ever so discretely
And break-dancing on the tablesmeant something else completely
And of course our dress-up parties - our Steph the Queen of Drag
The Lane 1 Ladies Jungle Tribe...and Steve Bradbury as a slag

Remember Les and Mike's epic adventures such as crossing the Rottnest Strait
Just one boat between them...Les coming ina little late
Then their outback drive to Alice – a dilemma choosing gear
Later wishing they had brought the spare axle.....and not filled the space with beer!
So many other wonderful memories – Port Gregory was so much fun
Rottnest solos, duos, teams – a tale in every one.

Pan Pacs, Worlds and Nationals, Alice, States and Interclub meets
Epic swims to Rotto – many awe-inspiring feats
But what brings us all together is the basic art of swimming
Friendship, fun and fitness...means so much more than winning.
With all our bodies ageing we should swim smarter not just faster
The key to ones longevity as a Westcoast swimming master
So listen to those coaches as they guide you through those drills
.....More aesthetically pleasingless anti-inflammatory pills

So many swimmers have graced our lanes – where have all those old friends gone?
A few sadly no longer with us – others temporarily moved on.
Together we have travelled, caravanned, surfed, cycled, paddled and walked
And whenever we are together we swim the swim, dance the dance and talk the talk
We are always there for each other – our tight-knit Westcoast pack
And no matter how long since your last club swim....you are always welcome back.