

## Caryn's Westcoast Poem - 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Whitfords ....then 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 colodas...we put them to the test  
Champagne cocktails and black Russians...we threw them down the hatch  
We partied on and on and on ....a 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 upright .....but asleep  
Sipping spirits from our water bottles...ever so discretely  
And break-dancing on the tables .....meant 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 in ....a 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 pleasing ....less 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.