

**Eastern Gymnastics Club
Annual General Meeting
21 February 2011**

President's Report for 2010

I would like to present the inaugural President's Report for Eastern Gymnastics Club. To begin, I would like to thank the Committee, the members and life members, the coaches, office staff, parents and volunteers for all the support they have given the Club over the past 12 months. It has been a mammoth joint effort to get a new Club up and running and to establish ourselves as a new identity in the Gymnastics arena and the community at large. We have collectively put in hundreds of hours to develop policies, systems, uniforms, rosters, newsletters, events, displays and other programs. I think it is also important to recognise that we began with some very firm foundations. Our two venues were already organised and well managed and we had loyal followings of members. We were able to build on the strengths of our two past clubs.

In this report I will report briefly on each of the streams and then talk more broadly about activities, events and Club management. But first I will mention a few interesting facts about our Club.

We now have a Club that operates out of two venues, with a membership approaching 650 people. We employ 34 coaches and 14 assistant coaches, making us a significant employer of young people. We offer 7 different disciplines plus adult fitness, making us a provider of the largest range of gym sports in Victoria. At the end of 2010, Eastern Gymnastics Club was a finalist for the Gymnastics Victoria Award of Community Club of the Year.

Our Kindergym program is very popular, exceptionally well recognised and we have waiting lists for our classes. Kindergym makes up one of our largest streams with over 150 members.

Our Gymfun program has just over 200 children and together with Kindergym, nurtures a growing number of gymnasts for all our higher level streams. Gymfun had some fantastic results at the Waverley Gym for All Challenge in 2010 with placings in team awards for most groups. The children also held their own in-house competition at our Club. The Gymfun

group especially enjoyed competing at the Club Championships and performing in our Club Display.

Our Gymstar Stream has approximately 65 gymnasts from Levels 1-6. Our Level 1-3 teams placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd at most competitions last year. Our Level 3's came 1st at the Banyule and Eastern competitions and our Level 5 and 6 teams placed first at every competition they attended. This recreational stream provides fantastic opportunities for children to train and compete while having heaps of fun at the same time.

Our MAG stream of almost 65 boys is made up of State and National Levels gymnasts, with competitive opportunities in both streams. The MAG stream had its first State Medallist for Eastern Gymnastics Club – Max Collett at National Level 5 with a Gold medal on Pommel. Ben Lammardo at National Level 3 was chosen to train with the State Team at the High Performance Centre. Our national boys also competed in the Men's National Club Championships in September last year, with many of their results landing in the top 10. In 2011, we hope to expand the classes and competition opportunities available to State Level boys, enabling further growth in this stream.

Our WAG stream has expanded to 60 members, with noticeable increases at Levels 1-3. WAG has had excellent results at all levels, with only some mentioned here. Our Level 1A and 2A teams both won bronze in the State Pennant finals. Our State 5, our National 5B and State 8 teams performed extremely well at the Victorian Championships. We congratulate Sinead Chaplin for 2nd place in the individual overall competition, Erin Mahoney for 3rd place on Floor and Noni Taylor for 3rd place on Bars.

Our Acrobatics Stream has had significant growth in numbers and individual athletes have developed in strength and skill level. There are now about 40 athletes in this stream. Many of our senior acrobatic teams qualified for the national competition held in Adelaide in October 2010. Our Level 5 Women's group of Naomi Hudspeth, Elizabeth Hedding and Kirsty Faulkner won the Gold medal and followed this up with the Gymnastics Victoria Acrobatics Technical Committee Award for Outstanding Achievement. Our Level 4 Women's Trio of Samantha Todd, Melissa Shiel and Julianna Ivanka won silver at the national competition and Lauren Shiel, our junior acrobatics coach won the GV Acrobatic Gymnastics Technical Committee Award for Excellence.

Our Rhythmic Stream of about 15 girls has also had some exceptional results. Fiona Taylor, our Special Olympics Rhythmic Gymnast won gold on all apparatus at the State Games in September. Two of our senior girls, Melanie Stray and Rachel Laurie competed to achieve level 9 in December. We also have some pleasing enrolments at the junior level.

Much work has been put in to the pathways our gymnasts can take from the time they enter the Club to progress through levels and streams. This work has included the necessary communications and procedures that must take place in order for gymnasts to move between streams. Sometimes this can be complicated as the coordinators try to balance the best interests and wishes of the gymnasts with the wishes of the parents and the coaches of other programs.

At the Club Level, we have had an Open Day, Club Championships, a Club Display, a trip to Mildura and a WAG sleepover. We have hosted events for Gymnastics Victoria and we have run in-house competitions, holiday programs and birthday parties. These have been well supported occasions which have brought us all together, mixing streams and levels, and allowing coaches, the committee, parents and volunteers to work as a team. Our volunteers come back again and again to help us provide high quality events.

At the management level, the Committee has developed a solid working budget against which we now report each month. We have formalised the employment of all our coaches and staff in line with National Employment Standards. Our coaches on the current pay scale have received a pay rise this year and we are confident that their wages compare well to those at neighbouring clubs. We have good reporting structures and have improved our decision-making processes. There is still some work to be done in the area of coach development and mentoring, and the Club needs to put in place its plans for fundraising and sponsorship.

At this point it is timely to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of our Coordinators and coaches. The Coordinators have faced all sorts of challenges over the past 12 months and have had to carry large administrative loads. They have persevered and have all done an amazing job in managing their disciplines and dealing with the needs of gymnasts, parents and coaches. Our coaches too, have worked with patience and enthusiasm to assist our gymnasts in reaching their potential. The coaches

are committed, they go the extra mile and are our most valuable resource. I also want to make special mention of our office staff, particularly Marina and Anne, who provide front line assistance and have worked through a number of staffing changes and resourcing issues this year.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Committee for being so positive and constructive and for taking on special responsibilities. I'm sorry for all the late night meetings. To the Executive, thanks for always being there for advice, for answering late night emails and for meeting at the office at short notice. You have lifted my spirits and encouraged me all the way. To my family, thanks for your patience and understanding.

Earlier in the year, when there was so much to be done and it seemed at times to be overwhelming, the word 'Juggernaut' sprung to mind. I looked it up in the dictionary and the definition was "an overwhelming force or institution, to which persons blindly sacrifice themselves or others". Surprisingly appropriate? I don't think we fit that description any more. As we enter our second year, we are in control, we have an identity and an emerging culture based on incredible support and commitment.

Judy Young
President
Eastern Gymnastics Club
21 February 2011