

Curl Curl swimming club celebrates good times

– Rod Bennett, Manly Daily, February 2017

Lane six is a horror lane and can see you swamped by swell, and while turning at one end can be difficult as there is a hole in the wall.

But these are minor setbacks according to members of the Curl Curl Amateur Swimming Club, which turned 50 on the weekend.



50m of fun about to be had.

“The pool has been rebuilt around three times,” president Doug Auld said. “The last time was about three years ago ... it’s in pretty good shape at the moment.”

The milestone was marked with a special celebratory swim carnival followed by afternoon tea and a 50th birthday cake.

“We were delighted club patron Brad Hazzard MP and past presidents Bruce Whittet and Peter Farrell were able to attend,” Mr Auld said.

A special 50th anniversary invitational 50m race was hotly contested, and won by South Curl Curl Surf Club member Steve Birch. Minor placings went to swim club members Cathie Fuller and Kate Ryder.



Caitlin Potter, 6, hoping to break her time at Curl Curl Amateur Swimming Club's 50th birthday.

Photo: Virginia Young

"The club has had a long association with the South Curl Curl Howard Hansen rock pool, and with the surf club," Mr Auld said.





Family friendly club.

In Curl Curl's initial years, the swimming club operated an extensive Learn to Swim program through coach Howard Hansen.

Mr Auld said this was the introduction to the sport for many throughout the 1970s and '80s.

He said the social club was an alternative to the more strict training regimes practised by indoor pools.

"We're a community-oriented, family-friendly club, used by many locals," he said.

The president said the club meets on Saturday afternoons with social races for all ages.

"We have a sausage sizzle after the races each week," he said. "We swim longer distances on Wednesday nights, like 800s and 1500s."

He added that the aspect of the pool meant it was protected, nestled at the southern end of the beach.

But even that natural "cover" was of little help on Saturday as hail from a spectacular thunderstorm pelted the beach, and carnival participants were forced to take cover in the clubhouse.