

Aquatic Achievers is becoming Carlile Swim



Why are we becoming Carlile Swim?

This is a powerful evolution, we chose to join our partner's Carlile because it means we join a **legendary name** in Australian and World swimming, and we will be able to provide greater support for our program and *ultimately better lessons* for our children. Carlile has been at the forefront of aquatic excellence for over 75 years, pioneering baby and toddler teaching and a scientific approach that has produced multiple Olympic champions and world record holders to this very day. We have already introduced the Carlile Swim program, which is proven to produce superior swimmers, indeed the **Carlile Swim Team is the number one junior club in Australia**. Our swim schools were both started passionate and innovative swimming families, together, we form an even stronger bond.

What makes Carlile stand out?

Carlile's legacy is truly unparalleled, their swimmers have competed at every Olympic trials since 1948, a record unmatched by any other club team in the world. Forbes Carlile was Australia's first Olympic Swimming coach, and the only person to coach at an Olympics before competing. He invented the pace clock now seen on pool decks throughout the world and his teaching methods have been copied worldwide. Carlile's "from babies to Olympians approach" has produced **8 world record holders** and more than **50 Australian representatives**.



*The world's first pace clock, 1946 Palm beach rockpool.
(Front row right, future Olympic Medalist John Davies)*

Forbes Carlile pioneered sports science and techniques like circle swimming, lane ropes, goggles and the concept of tapering before events. He and wife Ursula pioneered baby swimming and built the first specialist indoor teaching pool. Together they revolutionised the swimming world and started the industry we are now all in, winning a battle with the International Olympic Committee to do it.

Ursula was a trailblazer for women everywhere. The first female to coach Australia at the Olympics and to this day, the only woman to have been the head coach of the Australian Swimming Team. Forbes and Ursula Carlile are the only husband and wife coaching team in the International Swimming Hall of Fame. They are also in the Hall of Fame at both the US and Australian Swim Schools Associations.

This is just part of the story! We will share more over the next few months about the rich history of Carlile with you.

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Our Story

Our history in the making

With a combined history of 130 years, driven by a legacy of scientific discovery, innovation and International Swimming success, our two brands stand unmatched in their pursuit of excellence in Swimming Education world-wide.

1946

Carlile's Beginning

With a master's degree in science Forbes Carlile begins his coaching career at the Palm Beach rock pool.



1948

The Olympics

Forbes becomes Australia's first Olympic Coach.

1952

Making History

Forbes Carlile produces his first Olympic champion and also becomes the only person to compete at the Olympics after coaching, becoming Australia's first modern pentathlete.



1994

Chandler and Sunnybank

Now officially 'Aquatic Achievers', Neil and his wife Brenda move their operation to the Chandler Aquatic Centre, one of Brisbane's leading swimming facilities, and Sunnybank.

2018

AA meets Soul Patts

After nearly 30 successful years, Neil and Brenda Douglas make the decision to sell Aquatic Achievers. The business is purchased by the second oldest business on the Australian Stock Exchange, a fifth generation family business Washington H. Soul Pattinson group.

SoulPatts

2022

The Hall of Fame

Ursula Carlile is inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame, making her and Forbes the only husband and wife coaching team to be given that honour.



1962

Cross Street, Ryde

Forbes and Ursula build Sydney's first indoor teaching pool and pioneer baby and toddler swimming.



1955

The Business of Swimming Teaching

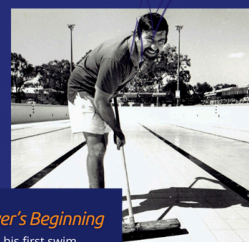
Forbes and Ursula start Australia's first commercial swimming school at Drummoyne pool



1967

Aquatic Achiever's Beginning

Neil Douglas, starts his first swim school in Rockhampton



1972

An Olympic First

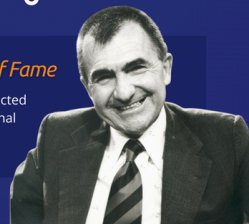
Ursula Carlile becomes the first woman to coach the Australian Olympic team.



1976

Forbes Hall of Fame

Forbes Carlile inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.



2023

Carlile joins Soul Patts

After more than 75 years, Carlile joins the WHSP and Aquatic Achievers family.

Together we are 1000+ employees, 50,000 lessons per week and 25 sites strong.



CarlileSwimming



aquatic achievers
swim schools

2025

A New Beginning

As a single brand with significant heritage, success and exceptional history and reputation, we work together to forge a new path to expand our significant reach in Australia and internationally.

Carlileswim

What does this mean for me?

The teachers you know and love will remain, they will just enjoy more support than ever before. The partnership between Aquatic Achievers and Carlile represents a powerful step forward for both swimmers and families, combining more than 130 years of expertise in swim education to create an even stronger foundation for learning and growth.

For you as parents, this means access to a broader network of trusted coaches, proven programs, and enhanced support systems—all designed to deliver consistent, high-quality experiences across every stage of a child's swimming journey.

For our swimmers, it opens up new opportunities to progress confidently, with refined techniques, new facilities, and a shared commitment to safety and skill development. Together, Aquatic Achievers and Carlile are making swimming more enjoyable, innovative and effective—truly better together.

What does the new Carlile logo look like?

As we step towards a new future together you'll see more of our new logo in Centre! We think it's pretty cool and represents our modern and professional group who are dedicated to being the World's Leader in Aquatic Education.



When are we making these brand changes?

From October you will start to see some changes in centre. In fact, you may have already noticed some changes with our new level characters and new Carlile swim program. We are really proud to have created this new program in conjunction with highly respected and world-leading swimming professionals from our wider group including Swim School Hall of Famers as well as an Olympic Gold Medalist! Truly the best of the best came together to create this exceptional teaching program.

Our same awesome team will be around to help you and talk swimming and progress - and from December you'll see them wearing blue instead of green.

Will there be any change to the way we book, use the app or our terms?

Not at this point! We will continue to use the same booking system and app as before, so you can manage your swimming, skills and feedback easily from there. Our website and emails will change to Carlile but you will still find the same people answering your calls and at the pool to teach and help your swimmer learn and grow.

What are the plans to grow Carlile Swim?

We will continue to grow in QLD and NSW with new pools opening next year - maybe even close to you! Carseldine will open in April 2026 and Holland Park later in 2026.

Will we be trying to produce more competitive swimmers?

The success of the Carlile Swim Team is huge! If you didn't hear - the Carlile Swim Team won the Australian Age Group champion team in 2025, beating the likes of the dominant St Peters Western Team! We will continue to identify talented swimmers and try to encourage them to join the Carlile Swim Team, with a vision to extend that into QLD as well.

However, our core focus is to help children be safe in and around water and to then help them learn to swim well and discover the joys of swimming. Great swimming technique is a safety skill, but it also allows children to say yes to so many more of life's opportunities. As Forbes Carlile said *"To swim well is an asset for life"*

If I have any questions relating to the new brand where do I go for help?

Your manager and team will be happy to chat! Please reach out or chat to us in centre!

