

# The Mermaid's Tale



SPRING 2011

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NEWSLETTER OF

**mermaid**  
BEACH RESCUE S.L.S.C.

## BEAUTY AND THE BEACH

Our Sign On and Open Day weekend in August was graced by our Jupiters Summer Surf Girl entrant, Jane Lillingstone, and our previous entrant, Tarra Brown (pictured right). As MC, meeting and greeting many renewing and new members Jane had a busy weekend, and also used the opportunity to raise funds for the club.

Although the weekend began with a rainy Saturday many members were there to promote their particular area: Chris Sealy with IRB; Wayne Marshall with Surf Sports; John Dillon, the Treasurer, accepting membership payments; etc. David Kane, was doing the barbecues on Saturday and John Flatley on sunny Sunday.

A mock helicopter rescue took place in the rain on Saturday and a number of people were present to watch. People seeing our lifesavers in action realized that safety on Mermaid Beach is in very good hands.

Many thanks go to Secretary Grant Kelly for the great job he did in organizing the Sign On and Open Day, and the many members who assisted him.

It is hoped the great teamwork involved in this successful weekend can continue onto more successes during the season.

See page 15 for more photos.

Mermaid Beach Jupiters Summer Surf Girl entrant, Jane Lillingstone, checking out the ATV.



**DON'T FORGET: ANNUAL DOORKNOCK 21 NOVEMBER TO 4 DECEMBER**

## Ken's Comment - Chinese tourism and surf life saving



In 2010 454,000 Chinese tourists came to Australia - 24 per cent more than in 2009 - contributing \$3.26 billion to the Australian economy. By 2020, the federal government predicts 860,000 Chinese visitors will come, contributing between \$7 billion and \$9 billion.

Many of these tourists will head to the beach to capture a cultural experience that is difficult to find in China. But SLSA is already looking at the effect

these tourists will have on surf life saving and is even encouraging some Chinese to become surf life savers. Information is available in numerous languages from [www.beachsafe.org.au](http://www.beachsafe.org.au) for all tourists.

A team from China were the first from their country to compete in the Australian Surf Titles this year and took the surf lifesaving concept home when they left the Gold Coast. The five-member team hoped their showing would be the start of a long association with the sport. To achieve that goal the sport must be instilled in children at a young age, Chinese team chaperone Clarence Nie said.

"Our association's purpose is to learn about junior lifesaving training in Australia and how the surf clubs operate," he said.

"The sport is just beginning in China but most of the surfing beaches are hard to access or not open to the public. It is also a long distance to the sea from most places."

As Asian migrants and tourists make up a higher proportion of drowning deaths in Australia than any other, and drowning is the biggest killer of Asian children it is a step in the right direction that needs more support. Water safety and drowning prevention programs are urgently needed on a national and regional basis in order to decrease the high rates of child mortality and serious morbidity due to drowning and near-drowning, and Australian life savers are already contributing to these programs.

Unfortunately it will be many years before these programs allow Asians to visit Australia and be as understanding of water and its dangers as Australian children are. In the meantime our life savers will continue to save Asian lives on our beaches, and the increase in Chinese tourists means our lifesavers have to be more vigilant.

## President's Prattle



Dear Members,

I would like to focus on **Respect and Unity** in this article.

As you know we have completed a Strategic Plan for the Club. This plan aims to clarify what we as a Club value, and set objectives for us to achieve to put us on our way to our long term vision.

One of the main reasons for producing this Strategic Plan was to unify the Club by formally describing that all areas of the Club (Surf Life Saving, Surf Sports, Nippers and Youth Development) have a role to play.

Unfortunately I feel that we not yet embraced this concept of **Unity- one Club, best for whole Club, trust**. In many of the conversations that I hear and emails that I see I still sense a strong sense of factionalism and a degree of squabbling between

areas of the Club. I feel strongly that this will hold us back from achieving our long term goals if it continues. We must start to adopt a 'one Club' approach in everything that we do and say. I ask you think of the overall Club rather than the individual agendas. All areas of the Club are important and there should not be any comments or attitudes directed at undermining the importance of any area of the Club. If decisions have to be made on priorities, Club management will make these decisions based on the Clubs objectives, values and financial position. As members we should always think as one unified Club.

I also feel that there remains a **lack of respect** in some of our dealings with each other. This is highlighted when I see people automatically suspicious of others, or not accepting the contribution or experience of others, or criticizing or abusing others, or not accepting that Club

officers must eventually make decisions on behalf of the Club, or not accepting these decisions. Regardless of what our personal points of view are we need to respect each other and follow the processes we have in the Club to resolve issues, make decisions and then implement them. Respect of each other, Club decisions and differing points of view is part of being a Club and a democracy.

In our list of values (below) you can see that Unity and Respect are right up there.

***Respect*** for views and values of others, openness, caring

***Integrity*** to deliver on commitments, honesty

***Unity***, best for whole Club, trust

***Loyalty*** to Club

***Welcoming***, friendly

*Strive for excellence*

*Encouragement and participation*

*Enjoyment*

I ask all members to consider and try and apply these values in everything we do and especially think of **Unity** and **Respect**. This will be critical to us if we are ever going to achieve our vision:

*To be respected as one of Australia's premier Surf Life Saving Clubs in all aspects of Surf Life Saving while maintaining our core values.*

Phil Chipman  
President

**When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everybody will respect you.**

**Lao Tzu**

## Cap'n Pete—On the beach



What a terrific start to the season. The weather has been kind and the club has been a hive of activity. It's pleasing to see the

increase in members at training sessions. If you're not participating now check out the club website [www.mermaidslsc.org.au](http://www.mermaidslsc.org.au) and click on 'Training and Coaching'. Become a fitter, healthier, more skilful life-saver.

**We are in need of IRB crew, IRB drivers and First Aid officers.** This

is an exciting way of becoming more involved in your club. Please register your interest in any of these courses with Marty Avent at [chiefinstructor@mermaidslsc.org.au](mailto:chiefinstructor@mermaidslsc.org.au)

There has been two rescues up to 7<sup>th</sup> November. Both were board rescues; one by Team Whitney the other by Team Sneyd. Well done to both teams.

Help your patrol team achieve 'Patrol Team of the Year' by participating in the Annual Doorknock and the Sunday Surftrace. See you on the beach,

## Gear and Equipment—2011/12

Any gear and equipment used by SLSA affiliated clubs and services for the purposes of frontline surf life-saving or surf rescue must be endorsed by the Lifesaving Standing Committee and on the SLS approved equipment list.

This is to ensure that members are using equipment is of the highest industry standard, fulfils operational requirements, and is safe to use.

Clubs and services using equipment that is not endorsed and listed as approved should be aware that they may be susceptible to any possible

insurance and litigation issues resulting from an incident.

New equipment endorsed for use this season includes Heartsine Samaritan PAD 500P, a CPR advisor; ATVs Polararis 4x4 and the Kawasaki Mule; Pro Pell IRB Propellor Guard; Cooper Anchor etc.

In relation to ATVs, these have now replaced the use of quad bikes from this season.

See SLS Circular 06/2011-12 for more information.

## National Leadership College 2012

The National Leadership College is now open for current and new participants aged between 20 and 30.

The college will assume participants come into it with some previous exposure to leadership training, preferably from within the surf life saving leadership pathway, but it could also come from their careers outside of surf. The college philosophy will be interactive shared learn-

ing and will relate SLSA's leadership competencies to grass roots surf life saving. This will be achieved through industry professional presenters and a focus on facilitator lead workshops.

Potential participants can come from a range of different backgrounds, interests and areas of focus within the club environment – although it is preferable that they have been in-

involved in previous leadership/development training.

These future leaders may have leadership roles or responsibilities in lifesaving, sport, education, youth, and administration. It is recommended only one nomination be received from each club encouraging clubs to nominate

See SLSA Circular 33/2011-2012 for further information.

### SAUSAGE SIZZLERS SOUGHT

Youth Development and Nippers are seeking interested people who may be retired or work part time/shifts put their names forward to help with BBQs etc. If you are interested please contact Youth Development at [youth@mermaidslsc.org.au](mailto:youth@mermaidslsc.org.au)

## Bronze and SRC Camp—review by Ashlee Gray

The Bronze and SRC camp was a real success. 20 surf lifesavers attended the 7-day surf camp. Everyone who attended became great friends and have lots of memories together. It was a fun week; we learnt lots of new skills to use in and out of the surf and had lots of time to bond. We even had a pizza and movie night, which everyone enjoyed. I don't think the parents and girls realised how much food the boys could eat - they were always hungry.

The week would not have been organised without Marty Avent so a big thank you goes to her. There were many people who helped out and we would like to thank also. We had our trainers Jordan Cotis, Andrew Cotis, Steve Jone and Tarra Brown, our water safety Russell Brown and Sean Fitzgerald, our chaperones Leonie Brown, Michele Gray, Greg Moreton, Russell Brown and Mike Fitzgerald. We would also like to thank all the parents who prepared our meals. A

big thank you to the guest speakers, Peter Degnan who spoke about being part of a patrol, Wayne and Ann Marshall for sharing information about surf sports, Tarra Brown for sharing how surf life saving can assist you when applying for jobs (the awards look impressive on your resume) and for talking to us about being a paid lifeguard, Elise Dahms, from Sarina Beach SLSA in Mackay, for teaching us how to do a stinger sweep and how to deal with a croco-

dile, Jorg Schumacher who spoke to us about the role of being part of the SLSA helicopter crew and Glen Russell who put us all through our radio course. This was a great week, our new members who joined in the camp, now know people and can feel comfortable around the club. It was a great experience. We would really encourage new SRC's and Bronzies to attend future SRC and Bronze camps. PHOTOS P21.

**“A key part of the Jupiters Summer Surf Girl program is to promote Surf Life Saving and spread the beach safety message,”**

### Latest News—Jupiters Summer Surf Girl

The support and community spirit at Mermaid Beach SLSC is magnificent. I'm so proud to be representing our club in the Jupiters Summer Surf Girl Program.

We kicked off the season with a BBQ, raffle and helicopter rescue display on sign on weekend. Since then we've sold Mermaid Beach number plate surrounds, had a wine tasting to launch our Mermaid Beach labelled wine, consumed a few extra calories with a cake stall, sold meat trays, started a breakfast club, received donations from our "Round Up for Jane", sold Titans tickets and had our Sportman's Lunch! What a fantastic start to the competition!

Over and above the time I spend volunteering at Mermaid Beach, I've been keeping busy volunteering in other ways too. I spent a day at the Gold Coast GOO educating people on surf safety, putting together and handing out beach safety information packs, talking with school students

and doing a talk with Samantha Fien (Surf Girl entrant for Rainbow Bay) on the Sea FM stage as well as raising money for our club. I went to the Multicultural Festival in Brisbane where I set up a Surf Life Saving stand, made and handed our surf safety information bags and educated people on beach safety. Last month, I taught an ESL (English as a Second Language) class at Griffith Uni Language School on Beach Safety. I also regularly teach beach programs to high school students at Southport Beach.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, I will be travelling to Brisbane, where I'll be meeting the other Surf Girls for a two day media call. A key part of the Jupiters Summer Surf Girl program is to promote Surf Life Saving and spread the beach safety message, so we will have media training to help us in this role. We have TV media training at the Channel Nine studio with Bruce Paige and Sylvia Jeffreys from

Nine News. We also have radio media training with Michelle Anderson from Triple M. On Friday there will be "Up the Tower" which is a fundraising activity to help the Surf Girls raise money. The list of activities goes on, it's a busy couple of days, and I'm really looking forward to meeting the other girls, learning and raising money for our club.

The Mermaid Beach number plate surrounds and wine is still on sale and makes Christmas shopping easy! We have a number of exciting events and activities coming up, including a Nippers Disco and a Beach Party! All the funds we raise for the Jupiters Summer Surf Girl competition are entirely for our club so keep up your fundraising efforts, you're supporting a very worthy cause.

Thank you.  
Jane Lillingstone  
Mermaid Beach A.E.M.E SLSC  
Jupiters Summer Surf Girl Entrant



Pictures of Jane busy promoting surf life saving and raising money in her role as a Jupiters Summer Surf Girl entrant.



## Bondi Rescue at Mermaid Beach

Bondi Rescue, the popular Channel 10 TV show now into its sixth season, had some of its lifeguards make a short appearance at Mermaid Beach on Saturday morning 19 November.

Over the last five summers, Australian and international television audiences have been thrilled by the dramatic world of the Bondi lifeguards - the real life heroes who patrol one of the world's busiest and most famous beaches. If you have experienced the action through the eyes of these Waverley Council lifeguards as they deal with everything from shark scares to mass rescues, resuscitations, lost children, thieves and perverts, then you had the chance to meet some of your heroes—and dozens did.

Three of those heroes, Harries, Hoppo and Maxy appeared at Mermaid Beach promoting and selling 2012 Australian Lifeguard calendars to benefit Sydney Children's Hospital.

These boys all took part in the Bondi Lifeguards calendar, with 2010 Jupiters Summer Surf Girl Paige Cooper and Nutri-Grain Ironwoman champ Brodie Moir appearing in the female Lifesavers edition.

Co-founder of the Calendar series Steve Milton said the calendar would not only help raise money for the world class Sydney Children's Hospital but also garner community support and much needed funds for individual surf lifesaving clubs around Australia.

"The calendar is our way of supporting local communities surf lifesaving clubs and giving back to a hospital that has given so much to us. We love our community and are keen to help give back as much as possible." \$5 per calendar sold on the morning went to our club.

During the calendar signing many people had their photo taken with the Bondi Rescue boys, including Jupiters

Summer Surf Girl entrants Jane Lillingstone from Mermaid Beach and Courtney Marmin from Nobby Beach, who were there to promote surf life saving.

The boys also took a break from the calendar signing to participate in a Cameron relay with the nippers. It was a great moment for many of our nippers who not only met real life TV heroes but also got to go in the water with them. The boys were also glad to hit the water after sitting around on a hot and sunny Gold Coast day.

Overall they were a great bunch of friendly guys and the smiles of many of our nippers reflected the mark they made on them, and on surf life saving.

Thanks go to Deb Mackay-Payne, Jane Lillingstone and the many others who helped this promotion and fundraising event.



### DID YOU KNOW...

*Bondi Rescue* was first broadcast in 2006. *Bondi Rescue* is also broadcast in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, Turkey, Italy, Belgium, Hong Kong and worldwide on National Geographic Adventure.

## International Life Saving Federation



The International Lifesaving Federation (ILS) is the world authority for drowning prevention, lifesaving and lifesaving sport.

ILS leads, supports and collaborates with national and international organisations engaged in drowning

prevention, water safety, water rescue, lifesaving, lifeguarding and lifesaving sport.

Organised international life saving activities date back to 1878 when the first World Congress was hosted in Marseille, a city in the South of France. In the decades since, there have been many outstanding independent national life saving achievements. A need for an international forum to exchange ideas was soon recognised. This led firstly to the establishment of the Fédération Internationale de Sauvetage Aquatique (FIS) and then later the

formation of World Life Saving (WLS). Both organisations were established to promote still-water and surf life saving objectives throughout the world. FIS and WLS merged in 1993 into the ILS. When ILS was formed, a Charter was signed between FIS, WLS and ILS.

Surf Life Saving Australia is a leading member federation of the ILS and has provided a president of the ILS for 12 of its 18 years. Through its Member Federations, ILS leads the global effort to reduce injury and death in, on, or around the water. ILS accomplishes this by assisting exist-

ing national lifesaving organisations; facilitating and developing a global exchange of lifesaving information and of best lifesaving practices; helping establish lifesaving organisations in areas of the world where they are needed, but do not exist; acting as the International Federation for lifesaving sport; and cooperating with other international bodies with shared goals.

In relation to lifesaving sport, Rescue 2012, the world life saving championships, will be held at Glenelg Beach in Adelaide next year.

## DID YOU KNOW...

The following indicate the possibility of a rip current:

- darker water, indicating deeper water
- murky brown water caused by sand stirred up by faster moving water
- a choppy or rippled look, when the water around is generally calm
- in large surf, a smoother surface with much smaller waves
- an area with few breaking waves on a beach with surf at that time
- foam or debris floating out to sea

## Ken Mansbridge Park

Across the road from the Surf Club at 177 Hedges Avenue is Ken Mansbridge Park. We use it every day but do we know the history of this park?

To quote the plaque in the park: "Ken Mansbridge was an active member of the surf life saving movement on the Gold Coast for 35 years. As a member of the Mermaid Beach



Chamber of Commerce Ken instigated the erection of bronze alarm bells at the main surfing beaches of Mermaid and Nobbys Beach and

shortly afterwards he was involved in a surf life saving rescue at Mermaid Beach as a result of the alarm bell."

"Ken also built and operated the local Mermaid Beach theatre and devoted much of

his time to the local community."

The bronze alarm bell for Mermaid Beach mentioned is now located at the front of the club.

## Supporters Club Committee and AGM 2011

On 24 September the AGM for the Supporters Club was held and a committee was voted upon. The committee members are:

President- John Dillon

Deputy President—Ron Plass

Treasurer -Phil Chipman

Secretary—Mark Lacy

Members representative — Ken Dousha

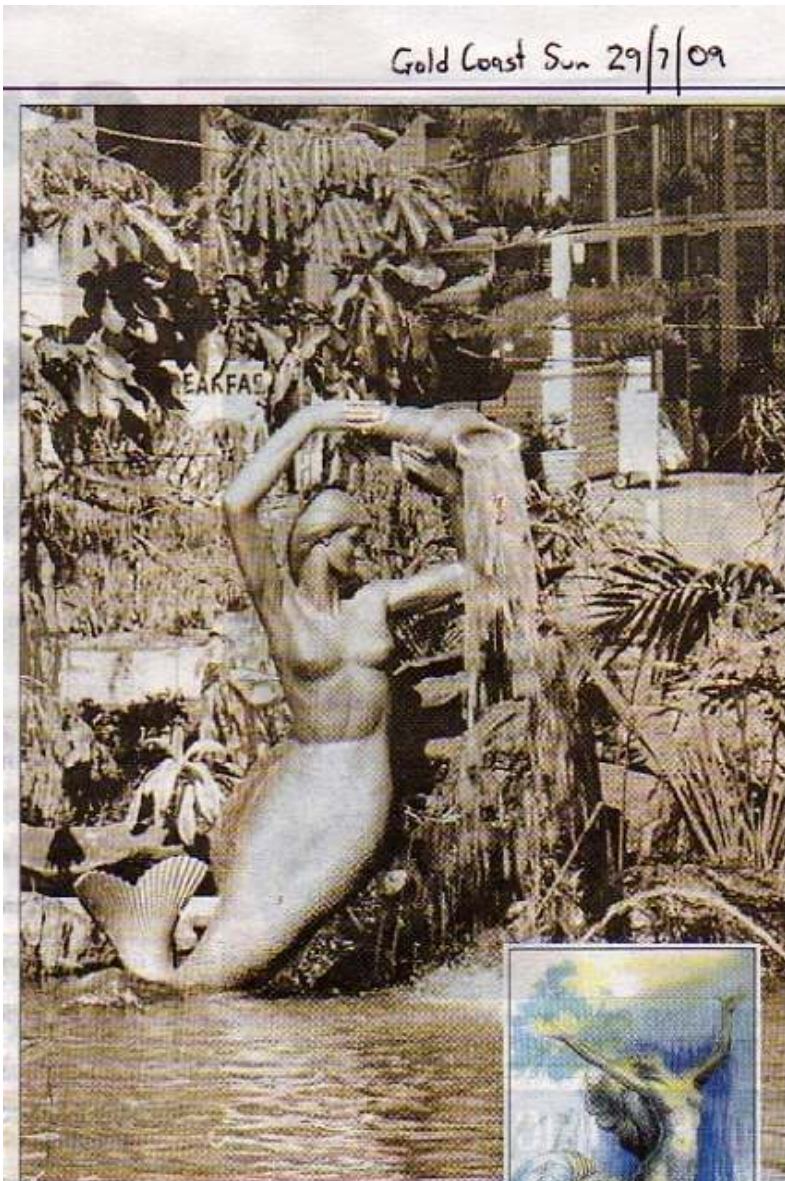
Supporters Club manager Scott Roberts is also a member.

The committee is experienced and knowledgeable, with all its members being club members for many years. The president, John Dillon is a successful local businessman and like Deputy President and solicitor Ron Plass, is a former Surf Club president. Both men have 20 years or more club involvement. Mark Lacy is also a solicitor and has been involved with the nippers for many years. Phil

Chipman is a former army engineer and is the current Surf Club President and also one of our boaties. Ken Dousha has been a Supporters Club member for 15 years and is a Surf Club committee member.

If you have any queries relating to the Supporters Club contact the manager at [sroberts@mermaidslsc.org.au](mailto:sroberts@mermaidslsc.org.au) or phone the club on 5575 3211. Ken Dousha is often in the club and is also approachable.

## Merlina the Mermaid



**BATHING BEAUTY**...the original Merlina statue and right, an artist's impression of the new statue.

### Hightailing it back home

MERMAID Beach residents will reclaim part of the suburb's history later this year when Merlina the Mermaid's statue returns to the suburb.

A \$70,000 bronze statue will be erected in the area in coming months to replace the famed concrete structure, which watched over the Gold Coast Highway until it was demolished in 2006 because of advanced concrete cancer.

The new statue will be built opposite the Mermaid Beach Surf Life Saving Club in Hedges Avenue and was designed by Sydney sculptor Hal Holman.

Area councillor Eddy Sarroff said the statue was an important part of the suburb's heritage.

"This project was driven by the community and I think people are quite excited about it," he said.

"We chose to make it a bronze statue this time because we wanted to make sure we had something that would be vandal-proof and survive the weather conditions on the foreshore to prevent the same degradation suffered by the previous one.

"We wanted to bring back part of the area's history and I think people will make the effort to come and see it when it is completed."

Mermaid Beach Community Association chairman Alf Vockler has campaigned for a new statue since the original was destroyed and said many residents had missed the mermaid.

"It is something we have wanted to see done for several years, because we were sad to see the original in such a bad state before it was removed," he said.

"I am pretty happy we have had a victory, so now there will be a mermaid at Mermaid Beach for the rest of my life and for many other lifetimes."

The statue is expected to be completed by December.

— ANDREW POTTS



Merlina in 2003



Merlina in 2011



## Swedish Life Saving Society (SLSS)

Did you know that we have had Swedish life savers join, train and compete with our surf sports members? The Swedes are very competitive, for example, Martina Olofsson won the Gold Medal in the surfski event at the Surf Life Saving Championships in Alexandria, Egypt in 2010. Martina also won the Bronze Medal in the Oceanwoman "Beach Flag" event at the same event.

The Swedish Life Saving Society was founded on 28 November 1898 at the Royal Castle in Stockholm, presided by HRH Crown Prince Gustaf.

The SLSS was instrumental in found-

ing the ILSF (see page 6) and very early realized the advantages connected with arranging competitions in aquatic life-saving as a way of getting young people more involved in its activities.

The SLSS consists of 24 local associations, mostly run by volunteers. It is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote public swimming ability and widespread knowledge of survival and safety in all activities related to water and ice.

The SLSS is now carrying out its largest effort ever in swimming lessons and lifesaving for children

with different ethnic backgrounds than Swedish. The project is thanks to the Swedish Post-code Lottery, which funds the training of a dozen swimming instructor with a foreign background. Swimming instructors then teach water skills to children and their parents in both Swedish and their mother tongue, so that more lives can be saved.



Martina Olofsson

79 people drowned in Sweden in 2010, the lowest annual figure recorded.

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**"Did you know that we have had Swedish life savers join, train and compete with our surf sports members?"**

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## On Beach Education

The Summer 2011 edition of Australian Lifeguard Magazine mentioned that Rip Current education will be taken to the beach this summer.

SLSA has developed mobile education modules for use at black spots on Australian beaches. Information can also be downloaded and printed off for distribution on beaches.

This may be the best way to keep tourists aware of beach safety.



## Keeping you informed...

In the Winter newsletter our Secretary Grant Kelly pointed out that better communication and keeping members informed was paramount in improving relations and knowledge among members. On this basis a weekly memo on more immediate matters affecting the club and members is sent by email and members are encouraged to ensure they read these to keep up to date on club issues.

In addition, this newsletter is published quarterly with more general information for members and photographs. It also offers the opportunity for any member to have a say on surf life saving topics.

There are also other magazines which you can subscribe to by email:

- **Surflife**, from SLSA monthly
- **Australian Lifeguard**

**Magazine**, from SLSA six monthly

- **Between the Flags**, from SLSQ monthly.

So if you don't know what's happening in surf life saving you can contact the relevant organization and subscribe to any of the above.



## DID YOU KNOW...

Samoa has a surf life saving club named after the Australian High Commissioner to Samoa, Matt Anderson.

## Surf Safe Appeal Annual Doorknock

It's that time of year again, time to get the collection tins out of storage and wander the streets for money, either by doorknocking or standing in shopping centres. This year the Surf Safe Appeal takes place from 21 November to 4 December. It is SLSQ's biggest fundraiser.

Mermaid Beach has two large areas in Brisbane for fundraising in addition to the area inland from the club, as approved by the Surf Life Saving Foundation. However, we barely raise money in a third of our allocated areas through doorknocking, but we do get into the

shopping centres where we can. This year we will have collectors at Sunnybank Hills Shoppingtown, Capalaba Park, Mt Gravatt Plaza and Home-



maker City Mt Gravatt. However these shopping centres are in Brisbane. On the Gold Coast Q Super

Centre, although in our area, has a long standing deal with Northcliffe. Fortunately we have been using Broadbeach Mall for many years but only get 5 weekdays as it is in Kurrawa's area and they get weekends. In addition to these areas we also can raise money at Robina Station during two rush hours, and we have also applied for collectors outside popular liquor stores in our allocated areas in Brisbane.

Prizes will again be offered this year for the highest collecting patrol and the highest collecting individual.

## IRBs- Inflatable Rescue Boats

IRB Captain Chris Sealy revealed in a recent interview that Mermaid Beach was going to get involved in IRB competition again. He was confident that he had the team to succeed and we wish them all the best.

But how did IRBs come to Australia, what is involved in using one and how are they used in competition?

IRBs were introduced to Australian beaches in 1978 and more than 300 surf clubs use them for rescue purposes. However their development began earlier:

In 1969, after returning from life guard duties in the UK, Warren Mitchell of the Avalon Surf Lifesaving Club, had the idea for a rescue craft that could be deployed quickly under varying surf conditions and was adaptable to different Australian beaches. The first IRB he developed was in conjunction with the Dunlop Company and utilised a 20 hp outboard motor. It measured four metres in length and set the precedence for the familiar IRB we now use today.

To be become an IRB driver in Australia surf club members must hold the [Bronze Medallion](#) lifesaver qualification as well as obtaining a boat drivers' licence from state authorities to undertake an IRB training course. This course is usually arranged by the club when enough interested members have gathered. The course involves a small theory component on basic outboard motor mechanics, pontoon pressure as well as set-up and dismantling procedures. This is coupled with a much larger practical component. The practical sessions require learning basic operation and manoeuvring techniques as well as gaining the ability to negotiate large, rough surf, with and without a crewman.

Other practical components include:

- Towing
- Signalling/Communications
- Patient pick-up
- Recovery. For example, from an upturned boat.

Training typically takes 6-8 weeks, by which time the group members are ready to be assessed by a qualified person. Upon successful completion of the course members gain their Silver Medallion in IRB driving and may henceforth operate the IRB for the club. Annually, drivers must undertake a reassessment organised by the club to prove they are still proficient. Crewpersons are required to hold a Bronze Medallion and complete a course as well.

IRB racing is a surf sport where local surf lifesaving club teams race IRBs under competitive conditions. IRB Racing competitions are held in various countries throughout the world, including Australia.

IRB Racing consists of a number of simulated rescue events, with the aim of improving lifesaver skills through competition. Competition rules vary from nation to nation; but since 2008 Australian rules apply to World championships. North Burleigh are current national champions

## DID YOU KNOW...

\$704,638 was raised during the 2010 Surf Safe Appeal. This was down on the amount raised in 2009, and was blamed on the weather.

## DID YOU KNOW...

The *National IRB Agenda* is a special edition newsletter aimed at keeping you up to date with all the issues and projects the National IRB Review panel is working on, including the changes that clubs and services will need to prepare for over the next few seasons. The *Agenda* is available online through the SLSA website.



## Emu Gully Youth Development Leadership Camp 2011 - Review by Jackson Playne

We all met at the Coomera BP at 6:00 in the morning. With all our bags stacked safely under the bus, we set off for Emu Gully.

Once we arrived we were split up into two groups, given a safety talk, rules of the camp and introduced to some really interesting people. One of them was a helicopter pilot who talked about some soldiers he knew. This was a great talk as the theme of our camp was the ANZAC's.

From there we were assigned different activities and tasks. They were all challenging in one way or another and always required good communication and team work.

One of the activities consisted of pipes underground and very tight spaces. The goal was to get everyone to the end of the tunnels. However at the end of the tunnels there was a water tank with a foot of water in the bottom. We had to rock climb around and get out the other side without falling in. Most people completed this task but it was not without its problems, especially when a few girls were claustrophobic! It was very squashed and dark in the tunnels so we had to calm people down and coax them through. We eventually got to the end and completed the tunnels.

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"Respect was needed in order for each team member to have their say in which way they thought was the best way to tackle a set task"

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If we had attempted this activity first, we would have failed as we had learned from a previous activity how to communicate with each other in the pitch black. We really had to work as a team, relying on different senses as our sight was useless. We also had to work on an unexpected problem of the claustrophobia.

We also encountered this with another activity that involved helping each other to climb over a high wall. Some people were afraid of heights so would not attempt it at first. We had to negotiate different ways to help them through this, whilst keeping track of our time spent.

All activities involved us being able to have trust in our fellow team mates. This was difficult for some. Respect was needed in order for each team member to have their say in which way they thought was the best way to tackle a set task.

We all learnt a valuable lesson where there were too many people giving orders and not enough doing the work, so we had to start again and make sure we brainstormed first, then delegated certain tasks to certain people so we weren't all doing the same thing.

Some things were done without speaking a single word, so we had to use sign language. This was doubly complicated when we were also in the dark, so could only go by touch. Again – trust was a big element here. We were solely dependant on our team mates, trusting that we were there for each other.

It was very tiring and stressful but extremely satisfying and enjoyable at the same time.

None of the activities were easy – in fact, many really got the adrenalin pumping. We were constantly advised by our camp leaders how we were going and reminded to look out for each other. Just as the ANZAC's did – we never left a team member behind!

## Jordan Avent's Walk for Montrose Access



Montrose Access provides therapy, respite and recreation services to more than 600 children and young adults with physical disabilities throughout Queensland. It provides varied and holistic services to clients with varying degrees of disability; some of the most common being neuromuscular conditions, juvenile arthritis, acquired brain injury and arthrogryposis. Its clients age from toddlers (through their Early Childhood Program) to young adults (the

Lifestyle & Leisure Program).

Montrose Access is an independent not-for-profit organisation without political or religious affiliation. It does not duplicate services provided by condition specific organisations – it provides services to those young people who would not otherwise be able to obtain them.

On 11 September Jordan Avent took part in the Brisbane leg of Walk with Me 2011 to raise money for Montrose Access. She was ably supported by her mother Marty, and other members of the club including Youth



Jordan and Marty

Development team members. Details of Jordan's walk and online donations can be found at <http://www.montroseaccess.gofundraise.com.au/page/>

## Champion Lifesaver Competition 2011

The Champion Lifesaver event consists of physical events – the surf race; board race; tube race with fins and beach sprint as well as patient assessment, resuscitation on a manikin, and theory.

Northcliffe's Stuart Snell won the Open Male gold medal at the Aussie Titles in 2009, 2010 and did it again this year making it three in a row.

However, the original Champion Lifesaver Trent Balyrn from Currumbin won five titles between 1998 and 2002.

Northcliffe also made it a double this year with Kathryn McKenzie winning the Open Female gold medal.

If you want to have a look at theory papers involved in becoming a Cham-

pion Lifesaver or Champion Patrol Member, you can view them at <http://www.henleyslsc.com.au/Web%20EBB/BlueBook3.htm>

Mermaid Beach is looking for competitors in this competition, open from U11 to Masters. If you are interested contact Andrew Cotis at [andrew.cotis@bigpond.com](mailto:andrew.cotis@bigpond.com)

## DID YOU KNOW...

SLSA is setting up Da Nang Surf Club at China Beach in Vietnam. SLSA has already provided equipment and training with support from expatriates.

## Major sponsor—John Henderson Real Estate

Established by John Henderson in 1973 and thence operated by his three sons, David, Andrew and Luke since 2007. The office has long been a market leader in the Mermaid Beach, Mermaid Waters & Miami area with good results in the surrounding suburbs of Broadbeach, Burleigh & Robina.

The agency is a successful business that believes in putting something back into the community and is the major financial sponsor for three local surf life saving clubs;

- Mermaid Beach
- Nobby Beach
- Miami Beach



Committed to sponsorship of local surf life saving, they have personally

donated in excess of \$410,000 to those clubs to enable the purchase of valuable lifesaving equipment. Equipment has included;

- Three invaluable beach vehicles
- Patrol tower
- Equipment trailers
- First aid room supplies
- Tents to protect the nippers from the sun

- Rescue boards
- Nipper boards
- Clothing
- Cash donations



Mermaid Beach trailer with sponsorship signage

## BeachCare

BeachCare is a community engagement program facilitated by Griffith Centre for Coastal Management with support from Gold Coast City Council. The program's focus is on the significance and importance of our coastal zone and its sustainable management. It encourages valuable community interaction in the management of our beaches, foreshores, waterways and coastal areas through establishing self-sufficient dune care groups. Additionally, by promoting awareness of coastal processes and management, the program reaches out to the wider community encouraging them to

engage in the decision-making processes, as well as offering opportunities for involvement in larger projects such as the re-vegetation of the Gold Coast's dunes and foreshores.

Community dune care activities are *free, fun and family friendly*, and include dune planting, weed removal, litter pick-ups and seed collection and propagation. BeachCare encourages you to come along and care for your local beach. In 2010, BeachCare was awarded the Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland's Clean Beaches Community Action state

award and a Gecko Gold Award from Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council.

BeachCare at Mermaid Beach is held at the end of Montana Road near the club every few months but has been ongoing for a few years. The objective is to improve the health and biodiversity assets of the foredunes, as well as engage community members about the importance of dune vegetation.

Club members are encouraged to participate and help preserve our beach.



BeachCare Mermaid Beach foredune planting, April 2006

**“Community dune care activities are free, fun and family friendly, and include dune planting, weed removal, litter pick-ups and seed collection and propagation.”**

## Lifesaving season 2011-12

The season kicked off on 17 September, which also marked the beginning of the spring school holidays. It will run until 7 May 2012.

Sneyd patrol was the first for the season at Mermaid Beach. This patrol was named after Craftsman Tom Sneyd, one of the founding members of Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC.

SLSQ Chief Operations Officer George Hill said of the new season:

“To keeping beachgoers safe, and yet each year there is still a large percentage of people who venture outside the flags, putting themselves and others at risk,” he said.

“When it's hot and the beaches are busy, it's even more important that people follow the advice of lifesavers and lifeguards and only swim at patrolled beaches and between the red and yellow flags.”

Mr Hill said 2010/11 had been a chal-

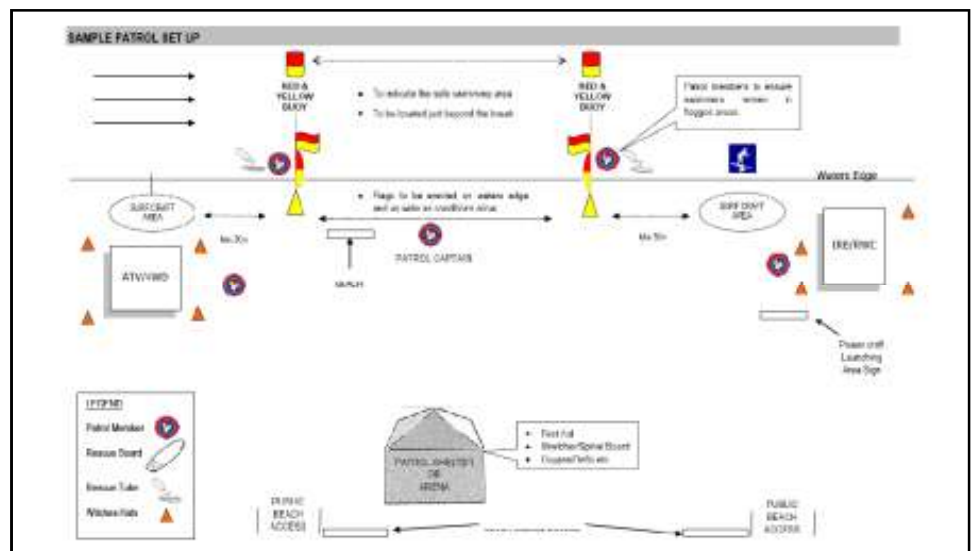
lenging season across Queensland with 3,610 rescues, 289,391 preventative actions and 14,158 first aid treatments performed.

Tragically, five preventable beach-related drownings were recorded in the state and, while this was down on nine the previous year, SLSQ is calling on the general public to assist them in reaching their goal of zero preventable deaths in Queensland waters.

“Our volunteers dedicate their time

## DID YOU KNOW...

The SLS Research Scheme was introduced in 2010 to adopt rigour into research project design and provide funding for targeted and priority research projects related to surf life saving. Research Projects can be seen at <http://www.sls.com.au/research/projects>



## Supporters Club—from the Deck

The Supporters Club continues to perform well even in these economic times of the 'two speed' economy. Although beer prices rose in early September the club continues to maintain an excellent profile in the local community. This is due to the hard work of dedicated staff led by manager Scott Roberts.

**Monday** - \$12.00 BARRA MONDAY - members \$12, non-members \$15 (conditions apply).

**Tuesday** - KIDS EAT FREE Lunch/ Dinner - two kids per each paying adult. (conditions apply).

**Wednesday** - \$15.00 MEMBER'S MENU (dinner only) - Must produce membership card (conditions apply).

**Thursday** - \$10 Lunches (conditions apply), \$4.00 Coffee & Cake till 3pm. PARMIS FROM AROUND THE WORLD - Every Thursday Night choose from any of the new Specialty Parmis from Around The World for only \$15.00

**Friday** - Happy Hour from 4.30pm - 5.30pm. Raffles. Pokie Promotions.

**Saturday** - Breakfast - starts from 8:00am & \$2.00 Coffee.

**Sunday** - Breakfast from 8.00am. Sunday Sessions. Live Entertainment \*see staff for dates\*

For restaurant or function bookings call: (07) 55753211 or for further enquiries email:

[supportersclub@mermaidsisc.org.au](mailto:supportersclub@mermaidsisc.org.au)

The Supporters Club held its AGM on 24 September and elected a new committee. See page 6 for details.

If you have any suggestions or complaints about the club please use the above email address.



Steve and Caitlin—two of our hardworking bar staff

## Surf Life Saving and the Australian Defence Force (ADF)

In the Winter 2011 edition I wrote about RAEME and how its original members as the AEME established Mermaid Beach SLSC. But surf life savers and the Australian armed forces have had ties since WWI.

The loss of so many surf lifesavers – not only from beach patrols but also from club and the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia (SLSAA, as SLSA was known then) administrative roles – in WWI made it increasingly difficult to continue the day to day running of surf lifesaving. Between 1915 and 1917, no minutes were recorded, nor were any annual reports produced, and the SLSAA's affairs were left in the hands of the Executive. During this time, it was stated that 'there was practically no work for the SLSAA to do,' beyond examinations. In the WWI, only one SLSAA carnival was held, in 1915, and the proceeds were donated to the Belgian Relief Fund.

Australian championships were also suspended during WW2 and clubs suffered heavy casualties in both

wars. The Honour Boards in Club rooms around the country commemorate those who lost their lives in these wars e.g. Cottesloe lost 10 members in WWI and 24 in WW2; Bondi lost 10 in WWI and 14 in WW2; Maroubra lost 16 in WWI, and 9 of the 145 who enlisted in WW2; 6 of the 37 Collaroy members who enlisted in WWI were killed in action, as were 9 members of North Steyne.

SLSAA's administration was further hampered during WW2 by the enlistment of SLSAA President, Adrian Curlewis. After being captured by Japanese forces and imprisoned in Changi in 1942, Curlewis stood aside from his role as President, to be replaced in the interim by Roy Doyle. Curlewis resumed the leadership of the SLSAA upon his return to Australia in 1945. Curlewis spent over three years in Changi Prison, and the diary he kept was later used as evidence in a number of war crimes tribunals. He also kept track of all Australian surf lifesavers who were imprisoned alongside him, and later recalled that in Changi, 'discussion – even argu-

ments – took place about surf rescues, surf carnivals and origins of clubs.'

As surf lifesavers served in the Australian armed forces it diminished their presence on Australian beaches, but made surf lifesaving on overseas beaches part of the WW2 experience for many. Surf lifesavers patrolled beaches in war zones, set up new clubs in places like Torokina Beach in the Solomon Islands, Jaffa, Syria, and Papua New Guinea and participated in carnivals and surf lifesaving displays in Palestine, Borneo and Cornwall. WW2 also saw the training of hundreds of American soldiers in Australian surf lifesaving methods on Queensland's beaches.

Jack Wright a member of Byron Bay SLSC and founder of the Solomon Islands Surf Club noted:

"We used to patrol the beach from various units, we would patrol the beach for a week and then be alternated to various other units at the time. Since the unit was formed in the islands, there was not a life lost.

Prior to that the Americans were there in large numbers, and there were 88 lives lost on that beach, it was amazing, devastating, you couldn't imagine. When I was surfing there, the teams that I was associated with, we rescued so many people during our stay there, it was astronomical."

Unfortunately the shortage of lifesavers on Australian beaches during WW2 did not change the status quo on introducing female lifesavers. The SLSAA's formal position on women becoming active patrolling members did not change until 1980.

Since WW2 the ADF has continued the tradition of its surf life saving members patrolling beaches. SLSA has provided second hand equipment and uniforms for the establishment of affiliation of surf life saving clubs in areas where the Australian Defence Force has been deployed including Dili, East Timor and Baghdad, Iraq.

For further information on life savers at war see SLSA History Fact Sheet #3, Surf lifesavers at war.

## Surf Club Procedures

Following on from the Strategic Plan, the draft version being printed in the Winter newsletter and now on the club's website, a list of procedures are being developed for the better operation of the Surf Club.

The Procedures are:

1. Use of Members Area
2. Commitment of Funds
3. Receipt of Funds
4. Budgeting
5. Risk Assessment
6. Web Site and Web Based

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**“Consider completing more courses and awards to increase our qualifications on patrols. Try a new course or award every season. Challenge yourself!”**

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## Are you a PEA FAN?

No, this does not relate to fans of green peas. A PEA FAN is:

**POSITIVE**—Be focused on the good and not the bad. Be positive when talking about the club and suggest changes if you feel they are required.

**EXCELLENCE**—Strive for excellence and lift your performance. Set high standards and strive for excellence to achieve them.

Communications

7. Media and Key Stakeholder Communications

The procedures are on the club website and members are advised to read them.

### JOKE

Did you hear about the bald man who had rabbits tattooed on his head?

From a distance they looked like “hares”!

## New Surf Club Committee Members

The Management Committee meeting on 20 September approved two new members on the Committee:

- Steve Sing as Treasurer, replacing John Dillon
- Cameron Yabsley as Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Cameron is also assisting in writing grant applications.

## Surfcoach

On 20 September Channel Nine Gold Coast ran an article on Surfcoach with Mermaid Beach as the backdrop. Surfcoach has been running programs on surfing and surf safety for a number of years, mainly from Mermaid Beach, and is run by Stuart Keay and Trudy Holt, who have a combined coaching experience of 35 years. Stuart is a former coach of Surf Sports at Mermaid Beach.

Programs offered by Surfcoach

include:

- Surfing Beginners to Advance, One on One or small groups.
- Personal Beach Fitness Training. To help you enjoy our Surf, with Fitness and Knowledge of the Ocean.
- SLSC Competition Training. Programs, Skills and Technique Training in all disciplines.
- Swift Water. Basic knowledge on Flood/Swift water Survival and Res-



cue technique's.

- Team building programs, FUN IN THE SUN. We design the program for you.
- Play & Stay Beach Front Accommodation & Lifesaving Experience.
- Beach and Surf Experience for persons with special needs.
- Athletes Surf Development Clinics.

**AWARDS**—Consider completing more courses and awards to increase our qualifications on patrols. Try a new course or award every season. Challenge yourself!

**NEW MEMBERS**—We are trying to increase our membership base and would like each member to bring a friend or colleague to the club. Who will be the next new talent?

- Nipper Surf Development Camps.
- SLSA (Surf Life Saving Association)
- Awards Nationally recognised.
- APOLA (Australian Professional Ocean Lifeguard Association) Internationally recognised.

For further information go to [www.surfcoach.net.au](http://www.surfcoach.net.au).

### Sign On/Open Day collage



**Join today!**  
**become a lifesaver**  
You've Got What It Takes



## Coolangatta Gold 2011



The Coolangatta Gold is one of the most iconic and challenging multi-discipline races in Australia. A 46 kilometre test of endurance comprising an ocean swim, surf-ski, board paddle and run – it is the longest race of its kind in the world (see long course map below). With age categories ranging from under-

19s to Masters, the Coolangatta Gold has something for everyone.

The 2011 Coolangatta Gold, born with the 1984 movie "The Coolangatta Gold", was held on Sunday 25 September and some of our club members were there to share the pain of this strenuous event. The iconic endurance Ironman race, attracted 217 individual entries and over 300 competitors in almost 100 teams for the 11<sup>th</sup> staging of surf lifesaving's test of the toughest.

Competitors as young as 15-year-old Ben Pugh from Cronulla and as

seasoned as 67-year-old Alan Coates from Noosa Heads tested themselves against the elements and against the clock.

The Open Men's race was won for the third consecutive time by Caine Eckstein, who finished 6 minutes clear of the second place-getter. Courtney Hancock won the Open Women's event.

Mermaid beach competitors included Surfs Sports Director Wayne Marshall and a number of juniors.

Congratulations to James Lacy who came first in the Under 17 juniors.

### DID YOU KNOW...

The Coolangatta Gold is named after the 1984 movie of the same name, starring surf lifesaving legend Grant Kenny, Kieron Hyndman and Colin Friels. The movie was filmed in conjunction with the running of the inaugural race in front of a massive crowd at Surfers Paradise. The race was won by Guy Leech.



### Seen at Post Coolangatta Gold Celebration in Surf Club...



James Lacy



Alex Mackenzie-Templar



(L to R) Luke, Dempsey-Ceh, Will Nash, Deb Mackay-Payne, Mark Lacy and Wayne Marshall

## SPONSOR OUR BUS!



**SPONSORSHIP SIGNAGE WANTED FOR BOTH SIDES AND REAR**

## Surf Sports Results

### Dolphin Ocean Classic

U11 Female Board 2km

3<sup>rd</sup> Jade SLEE

U13 Male Swim 1km

1<sup>st</sup> Mitchell SIMMONS

U17 Male Board 10km

2<sup>nd</sup> James LACY

30-39 Male Ski 20km

3<sup>rd</sup> Craig HEILBRON

### Coolangatta Gold Results

1st U17 Junior

James Lacy

20th U19 (short course)

Alex Mackenzie-Templar

Open male

Dillon Thompson - Did not finish but gave it a crack!

Barneys Boys (Open male team)

Mermaid members involved: Craig Heilbron and Wayne Marshall

### Fastest Man on the Sand

U11 Female Beach Flags

4th Mia Jenkins

U11 Female Beach Sprint

5th Mia Jenkins

U12 Female Beach Sprint

3rd Skye Myers

U13 Female Beach Flags

1<sup>st</sup> Gabriella Dalton

U13 Female Beach Sprint

5th Gabriella Dalton

U14 Male Beach Sprint

1<sup>st</sup> Byron Kyneur

### Congratulations

to 9 of our U13-U17 for making the **2011 SLSQ South Coast Branch Team**: James Lacy (Captain), Gabby Dalton, Isabel Fisher, Isobel Marshall, Emma Dick, Mitchell Simmons, Byron Kyneur, Sam Dick and Alex Mackenzie Templar. To have 9 from our club is a great result and a credit to the members for their effort they put in.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC won the March Past in 1950, 1953 and 1955 at the Queensland Championships. The club also won the Beach Relay in 1953 and 1955.

### National Coast Report 2011 - Snapshot

#### Overall

- > 61 coastal drowning deaths.
- > Below the seven year average of 80.

#### Demographic

- > 52 (86%) were males.
- > 14 (23%) were aged between 20-29 years.
- > 21 (34%) were of a foreign ethnicity. 5 (8%) of these were international visitors.

#### Time

- > 8 (13%) occurred between 5pm-4pm.
- > 25 (41%) occurred during summer.

#### Activity

- > 19 (31%) were attributed to swimming/wading.
- > 17 (28%) were attributed to boating.
- > 6 (10%) were attributed to rock fishing.
- > Rip currents contributed to 12 (20%) of all coastal drowning deaths.

#### Location

- > 29 (48%) occurred at a beach.
- > 22 (36%) lived less than 10km from their drowning location.
- > 20 (33%) lived more than 50km from their drowning location.
- > 30 (49%) individuals drowned over 5km from the nearest lifesaving service.



Clubs have been given a fantastic opportunity from SLSA in conjunction with 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox to promote and fundraise at the opening of the latest Alvin and the Chipmunks movie "Alvin & The Chipmunks 3: Chipwrecked". Each club is encouraged to approach their local cinema to lock in a date between the 17- 23 December to organise a fundraising preview screening. If you are interested please contact Secretary, Grant Kelly or Fundraising Co-ordinator, Ken Dousha.



Supporters Club Manager, Scott Roberts



John Dillon, centre, with a couple of mates from Currumbin

## Ultimate Lifesaving Luncheon

On Friday 4 November a number of Surf Club and Supporters Club members attended the Ultimate Lifesaving Luncheon held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre. Overall the luncheon was attended by nearly 1000 people representing 22 clubs.

The 2010 Luncheon raised \$55,000 for supporting clubs and it is now a regular fundraiser on the surf life saving calendar.

The 2011 Luncheon was MC'd by Billy J Smith and David Lutteral, with guests including cricketer Greg Ritchie, Chris 'Choppy' Close from the Gold Coast Titans, Travis Auld from the Gold Coast Suns and Greg Martin from the Queensland Reds. Entertainment was provided by the lovely XXXX Angels and comedian Darren Carr.



Across the Luncheon floor



David Kane and Ron Pluss

**"Can you help make a better world when you are gone?"**

## Bequests

A former Sunshine Coast surf lifesaver has left an enduring legacy to Surf Life Saving Queensland, which will benefit thousands of children.

Past Met Caloundra member Peter Williams passed away last year, and as part of his will left a bequest to SLSQ to develop a children's book he had conceived, called Surf Rescue.

Surf Rescue is a fun and educational tool, aimed at providing school chil-

dren with vital surf safety messages necessary to stay safe at the beach. Based on Peter's experience as a lifesaver, Surf Rescue will be distributed to schools across Australia.

Surf Rescue will be distributed nationally as part of the Telstra Beach to Bush program, which reaches hundreds of schools. Additionally, it will also be presented to schools as

part of SLSQ's Queensland Health Beach Safe school program.

Mermaid Beach had only a small bequest this year, Mermaid Mates received \$1000 from the estate of the late Dean Dousha. He was not a life saver nor involved in life saving. He just wanted to leave his name behind for something worthwhile.

Can you help make a better world when you are gone?

## DID YOU KNOW...

In Australia less than one quarter to one third of people who suffer from cardiac arrest receive resuscitation before the ambulance arrives.

## Community Training

Every Australian can help save a life. Emergencies can happen at any place, any time - in the home, workplace, classroom, or outdoors - and knowing how to respond quickly and effectively can make all the difference in those first crucial moments.

The good news is that emergency care is a lesson for life, which everyone can learn. As a registered training organization SLSQ brings more than a century of lifesaving experi-

ence from the beach to the home, school and workplace.

SLSQ is urging all Queenslanders to learn these vital skills. Book eight places at one of our full First Aid courses in September or October this year and receive an additional two places free of charge!

Knowledge of CPR and First Aid can save a life at any time, from your home to a car accident. Those who

do not have this knowledge are encouraged to take up this offer from those who save lives on our beaches every day.

For a full list of upcoming public courses, please see

<http://www.lifesaving.com.au/default.asp?contentID=750>

For further information about SLSQ's commercial and community training please call 1300 766 57.

## Mermaid Breakfast Club

In September David Kane (pictured right), Chairman of our Jupiters Summer Surf Girl committee, proposed a Breakfast Club be held once a month with keynote speakers talking about local, community and club issues. The money raised goes to our Surf Girl entrant, Jane Lillingstone.

The Mermaid Breakfast Club proposal was endorsed and the first breakfast was held on Tuesday 18 October with

keynote speaker Phil Mumford, CEO of GoldLinQ, the light rail currently being built on the Coast (see below).

The Breakfast Club comprises a group that meets monthly for breakfast on the Club balcony with its own organizing committee, who arrange guest speakers and dates.

Members of the Breakfast Club pay an annual fee of \$5 for the group's expenses and \$30 for each break-

fast. Mermaid Mates have been made honorary members and their annual fee is waived.

Members are encouraged to join the Breakfast Club, not only to learn more about local issues but also to assist surf life saving through our Surf Girl entrant.

If the Breakfast Club is a success it is hoped it be carried on beyond this season.



## First Meeting of Mermaid Breakfast Club



GoldLinQ CEO, Mr Phil Mumford (pictured left).

GoldLinQ are the company building the light rail link from the Gold Coast campus of Griffith University at Southport to Broadbeach. Mr Mumford gave details of the project including costs, future plans and information on all the companies involved. At the end of the well received talk he took questions from the audience of nearly 50 people.

As the money raised goes to our

Jupiters Summer Surf Girl entrant, Jane Lillingstone, she was also present to promote the event. Jane is pictured below right with Mr Mumford.

As well as guests and members of the newly formed Breakfast Club, the event was also attended by representatives from our sponsors, Henderson's 'The Professionals' Real Estate and the Club's bank,

National Australia Bank.

Thanks go to David Kane for organizing the event and Club manager Scott Roberts and his staff for providing an excellent breakfast.

As noted above a Breakfast Club has been established at the Club. The first breakfast held by the Club was held on the balcony of the Surf Club at 7am on the morning of 18 October. As the sun rose through the clouds, guests were treated to breakfast from the Club kitchen and a talk by



## The Good Old Days— Surf Sport events no longer held



Belt Champion



Chariot Race



Pillow fighting

## Mermaid Beach Sportsman's Lunch

On 11 November about 150 guests attended a Sportsmans Lunch held in the Supporters Club.

MC was Daniel Townes, a comic from Melbourne.

Speakers were:

Tony Dell, former Australian cricket player;

Norm Provan, Rugby League legend;

Elton Flatley and Nathan Sharpe (Wallabies);

David Foster, Tasmanian wood chopping legend.

Laughs and anecdotes came aplenty from speakers and guests.

The club is very grateful for the support of locals who attended the lunch and congratulations go to Mark Lacy for organising the lunch.

Thanks also go to Supporters Club manager Scott Roberts and his staff for their hard work.



## Equipment Donations

Through this year's Surf Safe Appeal SLSQ sponsors will donate equipment to our Surf Life Saving Clubs. SLSQ is pleased to say that our club has received a soft rescue board donated by Yellow Pages and also a loud hailer and rescue tube donated by the Good Guys.

Jason Argent from SLSQ is going to be dropping off these donated items to our club.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Rescue gear and equipment represents the biggest single cost of running lifesaving services in Australia.

The sun, surf and sand are the reasons we love going to the beach but these are also the very elements that damage the rescue gear and equipment that our surf lifesavers use every day. There is no second chance when it comes to saving lives so ongoing maintenance or eventual replacement are needed to make sure that they are in top condition and at the ready for any beach emergencies.

## SRC and Bronze Camp photos



## Surf Life Savers and Queensland Floods

This time of year usually marks the beginning of the storm season. Last summer there was unseasonal weather and it rained well above average causing serious flooding throughout the state, the worst flood crisis in more than 30 years. It is hoped that the same does not occur this summer.

However, surf life savers being in a job where danger can suddenly appear, were quickly able to assist State Emergency Services last summer. More than 120 volunteer surf lifesavers from across Queensland mobilised in Brisbane to help flood-



stricken residents in South East Queensland.

In conjunction with the SES, SLSQ established rescue coordination centres in Mount Gravatt and Newmarket to provide emergency response and assistance to Brisbane residents impacted by the rising flood waters.

SLSQ worked around the clock to dispatch crews to some of the hardest hit regions to assist and evacuate flood-affected residents. In addition, the Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter Rescue Service was also tasked with a number of evacuations in the surrounding Toowoomba/Esk region, while individual volunteers were actively assisting the SES to sandbag regions in readiness for expected flooding.

SLSQ CEO John Brennan said it was the first time that SLSQ had been directly called upon to assist with a disaster of that magnitude.

"It's been a new situation for us. As a group we have more than a century of lifesaving training behind us, and we were able to transfer that experience to an urban setting and make a real difference in some of the worst hit regions," Mr Brennan said.

"When we put the call out for volunteers, we were overwhelmed with the response that we received from all across the state – lifesavers who were willing to drop everything on the spot to help out their fellow Queenslanders in their hour of need."



Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC

172 Hedges Ave  
Mermaid Beach 4218  
PO Box 367  
Mermaid Beach Qld 4218  
Your Address Line 3

Phone: 07 5575 3211  
Fax: 07 5575 5011  
E-mail: [secretary@mermaidslsc.org.au](mailto:secretary@mermaidslsc.org.au)

Website: [www.mermaidslsc.org.au](http://www.mermaidslsc.org.au)  
Facebook: Mermaid Beach A.E.M.E. Surf Life Saving Club

Vision:  
To be respected as one of Australia's premier Surf Life Saving Clubs in all aspects of Surf Life Saving while maintaining our core values

### Our sponsors



H I C K E Y  
L A W Y E R S



A.S.A.P GLASS



SOUTHPORT



MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THE SECRETARY IF THEY HAVE ANY ISSUES TO RAISE OR WANT TO COMMENT ON ARTICLES. SOME COMMENTS MAY BE PUBLISHED IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.



### Fundraising Update

- WGM Construction Services
- Phil Chipman
- Courage International
- Personal Trainers
- The Rose Family
- Auto Leaders Southport
- The Estate of the late Dean Dousha
- Alf Vockler
- Graham Bendeich

#### Mermaid Beach Club 100

100 tickets are available only at a cost of \$100 each. First prize is \$2000 cash, with other prizes also being available. Get your tickets now and support our nippers.

For further information please contact Deb Mackay Payne at [club100@mermaidslsc.org.au](mailto:club100@mermaidslsc.org.au)

#### Sponsor an Age Group banner

Nippers have asked for sponsors of age group banners (picture right) to gain support.

These banners offer sponsors:

- A 2.4m Tear Drop Banner with your Company Logo
- One banner per Age Group U6-U14 -



choose your own age group/s (first in)

- Banners erected every Sunday on the beach for the duration of the Nipper Season 2011-2012

- Banners will also be erected where possible at carnivals that do not coincide with Nipper Days ie, Branch Titles, State Titles, MNM Carnival,

- 3 x Way Carnival with Northcliffe and Kurrawa, Little Dudes, Little Squirts.

The banners can be sponsored for \$500.

For further information please contact Deb Mackay Payne at [club100@mermaidslsc.org.au](mailto:club100@mermaidslsc.org.au)

#### Ultimate Surf Lifesaving Luncheon

This event was held on Friday 4 November at the Gold Coast Convention

Centre. Mermaid Beach had three tables of 10 and money raised from these participants went back to the club. Thanks go to Supporters Club manager, Scott Roberts, who arranged the first table of 10 (see p16 for more info).

#### Other Matters

Meat raffles continue to do well with extra money being raised from raffles on the AFL/NRL Grand Final weekend, not to mention a few extra coins in the club collection tins. We also have approval to hold sausage sizzles at Masters and Bunnings hardware stores.

You can see page 9 for information on the annual doorknock and page 19 for the Mermaid Breakfast Club where contributions go to our Jupiters Summer Surf Girl entrant, Jane Lillingstone (see page 4).