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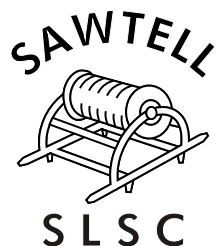


► Vale
Bill Singleton

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○ JANUARY -
FEBRUARY

○ 2020



Message from the President

I hope that the new decade has started well for everyone. It does not feel right to be wishing you a 'Happy' new year while so many are suffering with the disaster and devastation caused by the fires in various parts of the country. However I do hope you and your families have managed to stay safe throughout this period.

On a positive note, with the construction of our Stage 1 redevelopment coming to an end and the new balcony off the members room 'open for business' we had an enjoyable evening of thanks and celebration back in November which many of the club sponsors attended. Since then we have made the move into our new patrol and First Aid room and I think all patrols are appreciating the well organised space and ease of operation with a place for everything and equipment easy to access. Thanks to Dennis and Leanne for all their efforts in getting the First Aid room so well organised and for all those members who have contributed time, thought and effort into getting the new space in shape for the rest of the season.

The training team have been working overtime - firstly running an intensive week-long program for 19 participants from the Armidale School in November; then finishing up a longer running course in December for our local cohort of newly minted bronzies who are now sporting their red and yellow and enjoying their first patrol experiences. Congratulations on a great

achievement to all our new bronze medallions and a huge thanks to all the trainers for putting in such a big effort to make this happen.

As usual the summer holidays are bringing large numbers of visitors to our beach and it's great to see all of our patrols so well attended and interacting so positively with beachgoers. While there have been some hectic moments we have had no major incidents on our beach. Thanks to all our patrolling members for your proactive approach and responsiveness to all the visitors to our beach - I am sure the friendly vibe of our patrols and continuous reinforcement of the swim safe message does makes a difference.

Our competition squads are also ramping up in their preparation for upcoming events with a big focus on Country Championships being held in Cudgen in early February. Hopefully we will see a few Masters dusting off their craft to compete at the Masters Carnival being held at Urunga this weekend (**Saturday 11 January** if anyone is keen!) ▶

UPCOMING DATES

MASTERS CARNIVAL

11 January 2020
Urunga

NIPPERS RETURN

12 January
Sawtell

NIPPER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

19 January
Sawtell

COUNTRY TITLES

1 – 2 February
Cudgen

BRONZE COURSE INFO SESSION

9 February
Sawtell

BRANCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

16 February
Coffs Harbour

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

28 February – 8 March
Swansea Belmont

COFFS OCEAN SWIMS

Planning continues apace in regards to the Coffs Ocean Swims. Race Director, Kerry Bayliss **0408 533 182** will need your support as there are a range of tasks to undertake. As they say many hands make light work. Please touch base with Kerry or Sheena.

▶ Another thanks goes to the faithful Nippers crew and family members who put in the effort to decorate the IRB for the annual tradition of the Sawtell Fun Day street parade. Once again Sawtell SLSC took out the gong for best float and won a handy cash prize for their efforts.

Finally, we are working through the many organisational and planning challenges of preparing for the Coffs Ocean Swim 2020

under the able leadership of Kerry Bayliss. With three months to go, we are looking for more volunteers to assist with the organisation of this event. Please let me know if you can help.

See you on the beach!



Sheena McTackett
0477 771 481

Message from Publicity & Sponsorship Officer

A huge thank you to everyone that helped prepare our club for the official launch of Stage One redevelopment of the clubhouse. The evening was attended by the committee, life members, sponsors and VIP's enjoying drinks and fine food prepared by Duncan Elliot from the Kiosk. The redevelopment was officially opened by Gurmeh Singh MP and Coffs Harbour Mayor Denise Knight. The evening was a great success and reinforces the importance of our role in the community.

The week leading up to the evening was very busy with a TAS Community Service group here along with other TAS

students who helped with some painting in the club. Windows were cleaned with the club receiving a mini spring clean. They also assisted the Sawtell Chamber of Commerce in setting up the Christmas tree and decorations in 1st Ave and were all happy and positive in helping with the jobs. A huge thank you to Matt Ryan (patrolling member and age manager) for giving up a week of his work to organise the paint and equipment needed for the job, supervise the students and do much of the painting himself. Matt thank you so much....

Sheena and myself recently had the opportunity to work with a group of CALD (Culturally and linguistically diverse) women.

What a great experience for them and us. We talked about beach and water safety and then spent time in the water with these women who have displayed such amazing resilience. It was such a rewarding learning experience to spend time with them.

A reminder our next summer session is **Saturday 25 January** which will be the Australia Day celebrations. We need ask

2 people to supply first aid for the afternoon -
Contact me on
0414 892 838

Wishing all our sponsors and supporters a happy 2020

and thanking them for their ongoing support. Please let our sponsors know you are part of the surf club when you use their services.

And to everyone that has helped me over the past couple of months THANK YOU so much, I truly appreciate all the help and positive feedback that is given and received.



Leanne Stuart
0414 892 838



Message from Club Captain

TAs I write this the school holidays are in full force with many visitors to our slice of paradise. The visitors have been blessed with mostly good weather except for many days at the beach when the wind blew incessantly. The dedication of our patrolling members who provide the lifesaving services during the school holidays is truly noteworthy and deserving of our heartfelt thanks .

On Christmas Day 66 members made the choice to spend some of the day at the beach looking after the public despite the ordinary weather for part of the day and the other demands of that day. Excluding Christmas Day we have undertaken 12 patrols since the school holidays commenced with a total of 138 members on patrol for an average of just over 11 members on each patrol. This is a great effort which we can all be proud of. It is pleasing to see so many of our new SRC and Bronze Members undertaking their first patrols with Sawtell.

Some of our members have also undertaken patrols on the Branch Jet Ski and have responded to a call out concerning missing boaters. Behind the scenes members have also worked hard to ensure that all the equipment is maintained and ready to use.

The club is updating our records on Surfguard concerning the Honda Side by Side Vehicle (the SSV which we used to call the ATV). During this process we have noticed that many members have not updated their vehicle driver's license details in the SLS members area. This particularly applies to Licenses which have been renewed since the details were first put into the SLS Members Area

and to younger members who have recently obtained their "Ps". It would be appreciated if the details can be updated as soon as possible as this will allow the SSV Operator Induction details to be put in the SLS system.

Over the next month or so we will try to catch up with most members who have not yet been inducted into the use of the SSV while they are on patrol.

Remember the process for obtaining a substitute if you cannot make a rostered patrol relies on the patrolling member to first undertake all reasonable steps to get a sub for themselves. This is done by both phoning around and by requesting a sub in the SLS Members Area. Only if both of these steps fail then you can contact me and I will send out a text on Surfguard requesting a sub for you.



Steve Rayson
0429 025 845

Message from Chief Training Officer

The next Bronze course is starting on **February 9** with an information session. The cost is \$175.00 which includes 2yrs membership, patrol uniform and a manual with a duration of between 8-10 weeks. Prerequisites of this course are that you must be able to swim 400m swim unaided under 9 minutes prior to

commencing course and be over 15 old at time of assessment.



Andrew Martin
0419 485 401

2 AWARD CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to those members who have recently gained awards. As a guide names are only listed in the Newsletter on receipt by the Club of the awards. Alas there is a time lag between completion of award and receipt of award.

○ | BRONZE MEDALLION

Mitchell Hickey

○ | FIRST AID (AID)

*Lucy Alkemade
William Gromadzki
Cecily McCowage
Alexander Newman*

○ | SILVER MEDALLION IRB DRIVER

*Emma Goddard
Anastasia Golden
Cecily McCowage
James Moss
Kel Pearce
Ruth Philippo
Benedetto Piscitello
Ross Waugh*

REMOTE RESCUE TUBE INITIATIVE

Thanks to the persistence of Mick McGavigan there is now a remote rescue tube trail underway. This joint initiative between CHCC and Sawtell SLSC has seen the strategic placing of rescue tubes at various locations along Sawtell Beach.



Nipper News

Wishing all Nippers and their families a happy new year!

The New Year can be a time where we make resolutions, and for our Nippers and parents this may include a commitment to 'Take 3 for the Sea' every time they are on the beach. Take 3 was born in 2009 to tackle the ever growing problem of marine debris, and works by simply taking 3 pieces of rubbish away whenever at a beach or waterway to make a difference. Can you and your family set yourself the challenge to take 3 for the sea?

January is the lead up to a busy time for our Nippers. Nippers will resume on **Sunday 12 January**, and the next Junior Activities Sub Committee meeting will be straight after Nippers on this Sunday. We welcome all parents and carers to attend. The following Sunday will see Sawtell Nippers' annual club championships, which will be **Sunday 19 January**. This is an opportunity for all Nippers to demonstrate the skills they have learnt each Sunday.



The NSW Country Championships are being held on the first weekend in February at Cudgen, and our Nippers have been training hard during December, and will continue training into January for this event. Wishing all those representing Sawtell the very best at this carnival.

Looking forward to seeing our Nippers and parents for the second half of the season.

See you on the beach!

Tiffany Easman
0437 000 030

CLASSES HELD AT THE CLUB

A range of classes are held at the Club during the week.

If interested and would like to know more please contact the following:

CLASS	DAY	TIME	CONTACT	PHONE
GIRLFIT	MON - SAT	▶ 6AM	Nicola Sagar	0417 045 825
GENTLE EXERCISE	MON	▶ 9AM	Lyn Hollyman	0411 054 329
SAWTELL UKELELE GROUP	MON	▶ 4.30PM	Stephanie Sims	0421 346 713
TAI CHI	WED	▶ 9AM	Carole Hartman	0429 174 646
KIDS HULA HOOPS (3/4 hr)	WED	▶ 4PM	Justine Almond	044 928 218
ADULT BEGINNER HOOPS	WED	▶ 5PM	Justine Almond	044 928 218
YOGA	SAT	▶ 7.30AM	Natalie Almond	0411 494 926

ABC BACKGROUND BRIEFING REPORT ON SLS MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

This broadcast was well worth listening to. Amongst other things it includes some interesting content regarding IRB equipment.

https://abcmedia.akamaized.net/rn/podcast/2019/09/bbg_20190915_0805.mp3

Building Development Update

The new facilities built under the Stage 1 Redevelopment project were officially opened on 29 November by Coffs Harbour City Council Mayor Denise Knight and Coffs Harbour State MP Gurmeh Singh. The event recognised and celebrated the project as a milestone in the club's history and a precursor to the refurbishment of the clubhouse as a whole.

While the new patrol and first aid rooms are now operational, there are a number of minor tasks that are still being undertaken to fully complete the project. These include the internal fit-out of the new board storage room with ceiling racks and rubber flooring, minor corrective measures to the patrol and first aid rooms, and work to improve the slip resistance of the driveway.

Once these tasks are complete, all remaining building rubble and other accumulated rubbish will be removed and the external construction area will be restored with native dunal vegetation.

Another round of grant applications have also been lodged to fund further improvements to club facilities in accordance with the long term vision of the building. These include a significant upgrade to the auditorium involving new ceiling, wall and floor finishes, new windows, doors and cabinetry, and new lighting and audio visual technology. Funds will also target a new external compound to accommodate a grease trap, and separate bin and gas storage areas. The funding applications will be determined over the next few months.

Garry Murray
0428 517 665



VALE BILL SINGLETON

Words cannot do justice to the immense and immeasurable contribution provided by Bill Singleton to Sawtell Club in particular and to SLS as a whole. Bill joined Sawtell SLSC in 1949 and awarded his Bronze on 17/01/1950.

Bill held a vast number of positions over the years at Club, Branch and State level. The following awards provide the best recognition of his involvement in the surf lifesaving movement

- Life Membership of Sawtell SLSC 1960
- Life Membership of North Coast Branch 1969
- Life Membership of SLSNSW 1971
- Life Membership of SLSA 1974
- Citation of Merit for distinguished service in promoting and supporting the humanitarian goals of World Life Saving 1982
- Honoured with an Order of Australia medal for services to Surf Life Saving 1994

Bill's involvement continued well past his active service days by a continued presence in regularly visiting patrols most weekends and the mentoring of many members in club and branch commitments and duties.

The Club, on behalf of all members, extends our condolences to Bill's family.

Thankfully Bill has provided the Club with some recollections of a bygone era with the following address given at the 75th anniversary of the Club held in 2007 in relation to the building of the first Sawtell clubhouse (1953 – 1983) built by volunteers.

RECOLLECTIONS OF FUND RAISING

In life, we take a lot of things for granted, and rarely take time to see how it has come to be.

When I joined the club in 1949, all the talk was about building a clubhouse. Tonight I would like to talk about how we raised the money to complete that project. The final cost of the clubhouse was not recorded in our club records, but it was valued at £3,000.00 in the North Coast Branch annual report in 1963. Active membership was about 25 to 30. Please keep in mind that the average wage for a worker at that time was about £4.00 per week. It is also interesting to note that the RSL Club in which this function is being held at this point of time was in Elizabeth St.

The Club was also fortunate then as it had a very active Ladies Surf Club formed under the guidance of Mrs Betty Hobbs in 1949. Later they were known as the Ladies Committee before becoming known as the Ladies Auxiliary.

Now to the fundraising activities.

The owners of the hotel, Mr & Mrs Bill Allen were good supporters of the Club and allowed us to raffle tickets each Friday. Mrs Allen had a swear box, where if you swore you were fined 2/- and if you didn't pay then your name was put on a notice board behind the bar, and she would not serve you a drink until it was paid. All this money was given to the Surf Club.

At the hotel:

*Ladies ran 2 mannequin parades a year – spring and autumn – held in the beer garden and charged people to attend.

* The ladies sang Carols on Xmas Eve from balcony – took hat around.

All businesses not only the hotel supported the Surf Club

Mr and Mrs Brissett – owners of Amusu Theatre – allowed the Club to hold a concert each year with all proceeds to Club. At the Sunday night pictures at half time tea and cakes and biscuits were served with all proceeds to Club.

The Theatre also hosted an amateur hour to be held over 4 Sunday nights. One year there were 74 entries which required heats with the first 8 in each heat progressing to the final. The Surf Club came 8th in 1st heat just scrapping into the final as older people thought the skits were too 'blue'. (They were about local identities and businesses) The Club not only changed their act but won the final – proceeds going to the Club.

Another big money earner was Surf Carnivals. Held between Xmas and New Year they attracted a large crowd who as entry to the beach was closed had to pay to go in. Raffle tickets were sold at the entrance to the beach. The Carnival started at 11:00 breaking for lunch between 12:30 and 1:30. Our surf club ladies made sandwiches, hundreds of them, selling them as well as the raffle tickets on the beach every carnival day.

When the Club opened the ladies asked Club for a piano. The Club refused until the Clubhouse had been paid for. Mrs Richardson lent the ladies the money to buy one interest free. Getting that piano into the Club was a tricky problem in that it had to come over the balcony.

Regular dances were held. Mrs Armitage a pianist played for all concerts free. It was the most social era of this club as most people danced including of course the Barn dance.



Sawtell SLSC 1982

Club members were also involved in:

- *selling cut-out cardboard bricks to general public – 10/- each.
- * running Housie at Bonville Reserve Hall over the Christmas period for 14 evenings whilst dances were held. These dances (not run by the surf club) had an average attendance of 800 with a record 1200 for New Year's Eve.
- * running an annual cabaret ball – ball of the season 7/- men, 5/- ladies.

One ball brings to memory an interesting story. Our publicity for our ball to be held on 22/7/1953 stated that something would happen on the stage at 11pm that had never been done before in Sawtell. Rumours floated everywhere about what would happen – only 1 person knew – Club President Bok Rowe. The most prominent rumour was that the Club had arranged for a stripper – neither denied nor confirmed. On the night, a lady in an overcoat and big hat sneaked onto stage at 10 to 11pm when the band left the stage and curtain closed. Talk on the floor was how far she would go. Bok after the huge build up, looked behind the curtain, then rang a bell at 11pm stating that was the something that had never been done before. He was almost lynched.

Another very popular and profitable fund raiser was boxing held at least 3 times per year in the reserve hall with Jim Worland as promoter. Cost 15/- ringside, 10/- rest

One memorable boxing tournament was when Ron Braithwaite and Brian Casey met over 6 rounds of 3 minutes at a New Year's Day carnival on the Bonville reserve. Entry was 15/-. The area was crammed providing the Club with a wonderful financial result.

The other major fundraiser was illegal gambling, organized and run by the late Bok Rowe. It was held in the clubhouse after it was built. Bok penciled for a bookmaker in Coffs Harbour and invited the big punters to join him in fundraising the following Friday night. The locals were invited by word of mouth. They were charged 5/- each to attend and we provided sandwiches (made of course by the Ladies Auxiliary) mud crabs etc. My job was to help Nugget Hobbs (as doorman) and to keep underage people out – after all it was illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to gamble. I still remember the first night when Bok quietened the crowd down and said – let the fun begin -. Even money, the Red and White – 2 to 1 the blue. These nights continued for about 2 years and it was only closed down when the local policeman told us he would not be going fishing out west again.

As a footnote could I add that when the Clubhouse was opened in 1953 N.S.W State Centre for surf lifesaving was represented by Mr Bill Forrester – the State Superintendent. He stated that the Clubhouse was the most practical and efficient clubhouse he had seen. It was later featured in the handbook of the SLSA. Our fund raising efforts had been worthwhile.

Bill Singleton



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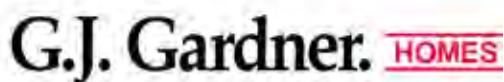
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