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Message from the President



I have just returned from Kingscliff where we had a team of close to 70 Nippers, Seniors and Masters competing in the annual Country Champs - and what a great weekend was had by all. Country is hands down my favourite carnival of the season: serious enough to give seasoned competitors the chance to test their mettle against the opposition and welcoming enough to make new nippers (seniors/masters) feel game enough to brave their first state competition. Sawtell put in a great performance, coming in at 5th place overall in the point score. Sawtell won a bunch of medals in both water and beach events across Nippers, Seniors and Masters as well as both Junior and Senior March Past. Conditions were truly challenging and I was so impressed to see our nippers demonstrate such gutsy determination just to finish their events.

Getting a team to an event like this is a massive task of coordination and team work. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone in our club who contributed as Coaches, Age Managers, team managers, officials, gear transport, IRB and water safety and handling - of course the supporters on the sidelines. Country has been a great hit out and good preparation for those competitors moving on to State and National Titles in the coming months.

*We have to make a quick recovery from Country as Sawtell is hosting the Branch Championships Carnival next **Sunday 10 February**. We are looking for people to assist on the day (and possibly on Saturday) with beach*



setup, officiating, recording, and water safety. **Please let me know if you are able to help.**

On the subject of assisting, the task of coordination and managing the club is a big job for our committee and we are always looking for people who are willing to take on roles. If you are considering getting involved

in some way please come and speak to us and find out how you can contribute. Our committee members do not want to stay in their roles forever – so don't be afraid to put your hand up.

Hope to see you on the beach soon!



Sheena McTackett
0477 771 481

Message from Club Captain

The Christmas School Holidays are finally over and we can now resume the usual patrol finish time of 4:00 pm instead of the holiday requirement of 5:00 pm. The holiday period is traditionally one of our busiest times and this year was no exception. By all measures we had a successful patrol effort – we met all SLS requirements easily and there were relatively few preventative actions, rescues and First Aid incidents. Congratulations to all the patrolling members who did so much to ensure the safety of visitors to the beach over this period. There is no doubt that our efforts are really appreciated as demonstrated by the number of people who came up to me just to say thank you for being on patrol. Over the holiday period and the weekend of the Country Championship many of our patrolling members were away and unable to attend their patrols. It was really gratifying to note the efforts those people went to in order to obtain subs for their patrols. It was also great to see the willingness of so many members to do substitute patrols for those away. Many thanks to all who helped to keep the patrols so well staffed over this critical period.



On Thursday 24 January one of our junior SRC members Mia McKeon along with 2 young members from Coffs Harbour were involved in the rescue of 3 tourists while surfing on Park Beach near North Wall. Without the prompt action by Mia and the others there could well have been more fatalities at this notorious spot. In conjunction with Coffs Harbour we are going to submit this rescue to Branch for the Rescue of the Month award. Well done to Mia and the others involved.

I would like to thank all patrols for using the Patrol Operations App. While there has been and there continues to be some issues with using the app including those caused by Surf Com, use of the app is enabling us to record more accurate usage figures and it is making my life easier in the ongoing task of entering data into SurfGuard. The app has a few quirks which we are all slowly learning how to master.

Over the Christmas period Patrol 2 was subjected to a patrol audit by the Branch Director of Lifesaving (Jayne Morrison). It is a real credit to the patrol and the club members who do the maintenance that we again scored 100% for these audits which look at 3 major components. These components are Personnel including numbers, qualifications and patrol uniforms; Beach Management including beach set up, patrol activities and log books etc and finally Gear and Equipment including tubes, boards, IRB, ATV, AEDs, Oxygen equipment and First Aid kits.

The IRB Captain and I are becoming increasingly concerned that the IRB procedures which exist to ensure the safety of the IRB people and the public and to ensure that the IRBs are always operationally ready are not being adhered to at all times.

These procedures include diligent pre and post operational checks including refuelling and completion of the IRB log book. There

have been several occasions recently when patrolling members arriving for the Saturday morning patrol have needed to refuel the IRB before it could be used for patrol. This is simply unacceptable. The IRBs must be carefully washed, checked and refuelled after use so that they are always available for after-hours emergency call outs. I know that most IRB people do the right thing all the time. However the actions of a very small number cause concern and are unacceptable. If anyone is in doubt as to what is required they should talk to Scott or myself. If an IRB or motor needs repairs it should be tagged out of service, the fault written in the IRB log book and a phone call or text made to **Scott on 0429 805 602** so that the repair can be made without delay.

While on the subject of care of gear and equipment it is disappointing to note that the Club's ute has again received some minor damage, probably by backing into an object. While minor accidents can happen it is simply unacceptable that the operator did not discuss this incident with any of the Club executive.

Our radios have caused a bit of trouble again over the summer period with 2 having to be sent away for repairs. In order to protect them we have instigated a requirement that **all radios must be in protective waterproof bags at all times while on the beach**. Please help by doing this.

Every year our club supports the bcu Tri and Coffs Ocean Swims with an IRB for water safety and to position the swim cans and with additional personnel for water safety and First Aid (for the Ocean Swims only). **The first of these events, the bcu Tri will be on Sunday 3 March**. If you are able to help on **Sunday 3 March** please let Scott or Shelley know.



Steve Rayson 0429 025 845

Message from Chief Training Officer

BRONZE SQUAD

A new Bronze Medallion course will commence on **Sunday 17 February**. If interested or know of anyone who may be interested please let them know. Whilst there is a cost for this course of \$175 (which includes a prepayment of the following years membership) if you are already a member the cost is reduced. Please contact myself if interested.

Andrew Martin 0419 485 401



Nipper News

*The New Year is well underway now as our Nippers have returned to school and many parents are back at work. However, it is still a busy time for our Nippers. Training sessions are still being held for Nippers on **Wednesday afternoons at 4pm**, and **Saturday mornings at 8.30am** at either the Jetty, or North Wall depending on the conditions. The board trailer is taken to these sessions for Nippers who require the use of a board. All Nippers from U8 upwards are encouraged to attend to improve and learn new skills.*



Sawtell's Club Championships were held on Sunday 20 January 2019. The morning ran smoothly with age groups completing all of their events.

The annual Country Championships were held over the weekend of 2-3 February 2019 at Cudgen Headland in Kingscliff. Over 60 competitors travelled to compete in difficult conditions, with excellent results. Sawtell placed 5th out of 46 Clubs. This is an impressive achievement and congratulations must be given to all competitors, coaches, age managers as well as parents and carers.

The Junior Activity Sub Committee will hold our next meeting on **Sunday 17 February** straight after Nippers, and I would like to extend a warm invitation to any parent who would like to attend. These meetings are a great way to find out how the club is run, and to contribute ideas.

Tiffany Easman
0437 000 030

CINEMA SCREENING

FESTIVALS! A group of troubled boys are on a perilous course toward jail until they meet up with a free-wheeling jackaroo, Bernie Shakeshaft, and hit the road with his legendary dog jumping team. This inspiring coming of age story follows the boys as they strive to turn their lives around - and the dogs that help tame their wild ways. The screening will be followed by a Q&A Discussion and Drinks are available from the Bar. Suitable for Adults (contains heavy coarse language).

WATCH TRAILER HERE
<https://youtu.be/AlynTykYF-Y>

DATE: Saturday 16 February

TIME: 6.30PM

COST: \$20.00 pp

All proceeds from this screening go directly to BACKTRACK YOUTH WORKS

VENUE: Sawtell Majestic Cinema, First Avenue Sawtell

PURCHASE TICKETS:

https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/backtrack-boys-community-screening-sawtell-majestic-cinema-tickets-52999140857?utm_term=eventurl_text



3 IMPORTANT DATES

- **BRANCH CARNIVAL
SAWTELL**
Sunday 10 February
- **SENIOR CLUB
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Sunday 24 February
- **bcu TRI**
Sunday 3 March

CLUBHOUSE ISSUES

Yet once more the Club finds it necessary to remind members to take more care and responsibility for the clubhouse and its surrounds. Too often doors are being left unlocked, rubbish left lying about and taps not properly turned off.

Lost property is now being stored in the upstairs member's room where it is retained for several weeks before being donated to the local Anglican Op Shop.

UNIFORMS

Active members are reminded if they need to replace any part of their uniform they need to email the secretary via secretary@sawtellsurfclub.com.au indicating what they need.



CLUB REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE



Prior to last Christmas, the club invited two local builders to tender for the construction of the Stage 1 redevelopment work of the clubhouse. The builders, FM Glenn Constructions and Level Projects, were selected because they were highly regarded in the industry, had genuine interest in the surf club and provided a contrasting scale of operation. Level Projects has recently submitted a detailed tender and one is anticipated from FM Glenn shortly.

Once this is received, an assessment of both tenders will be undertaken by the Building Sub-Committee. This will involve a review of costs, suggested construction alternatives, program and potential cost savings. Further meetings with the builders to discuss tenders may also be necessary. At the conclusion of the assessment, a successful tenderer will be awarded assuming the amount of the final quote is within the club's budget.

VALE – BRUCE GLOVER

The Club was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Bruce Glover. Bruce was a well respected member of the Sawtell community and though not being keen on the surf as he much preferred yachting was prepared to assist our Club by taking on the roles of Club President and Club Secretary over the period 1982 -1987 when the Club was in dire need of guidance and leadership.

Our thoughts are with the family who were great assets and competitors for Sawtell in their own rights.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

One of the Club's major supporters Bonville Sawtell Lions Club is bringing 16 students from Goodooga to the coast for a one-week break arriving Friday 8 March. They seek our Club's support on both **Saturday 9 and Sunday 10** in the morning when it is planned to introduce those coming to the beach. Our aim is to make this a pleasurable and meaningful experience for all involved. Further details later.

FACEBOOK PAGE

North Coast Branch has created a facebook page, for those that use it, called 'North Coast Branch Patrols'. It is to help our smaller clubs, and sometimes our bigger clubs if they are in a bind with finding substitutes. Please let your members know as they may like to help or find a sub themselves.

clickable link:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/769387300099358/769389243432497/?comment_id=769393320098756¬ification_id=1548023888586324¬ification_type=group_comment

COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019 KINGSLIFF REPORT FROM THE NIPPERS

This carnival certainly threw everything at all of us: sun, rain, wind, waves and competition emotions.....

Most kids and their families arrived on Friday, a few 'beachies' made the trip on Saturday morning. Mark Mulholland made sure the trailer with all the equipment got there safely and on time. In total 54 Sawtell Nippers registered for Country; the U8's had the largest group of competitors! This is an encouraging sign for the future! I am sure that all of the parents join me in congratulating all our kids with the way they handled the conditions and challenges and the way they behaved and conducted themselves during the two-day carnival.

Competing at a carnival like Country requires a lot of preparation. So many people have helped to make all work the way it did. Quite a lot of people had several roles..... Thanks to the Officials, IRB crew, Water Safety, Age Managers, Parents/Helpers. And of course of coaches: Greg, Rick, Joanne, David, Bruce (March Past) and Kevin (Sprint/Flags). A special thank you goes to Greg Russell who has been fantastic in all the (behind the scene) work with coaching and organisation.

COMPETITION started with an early 7am start of the carnival with the soft sand beach runs, followed by the individual water and beach events. Because of very challenging conditions the second competition day turned out to be 'slow': for safety reasons the organisation had to cancel many team events, which a lot of us have been looking forward to. The day was also hectic because a water area had to be closed and tents/kids had to be relocated to the very southern end of the beach....

I like to congratulate Cudgen Headland SLSC for winning the overall score at their 'home beach'. We finished with a fantastic 5th overall place, as first North Coast club.

Zooming in on results from our kids: our kids who competed competed like champions, regardless of the place they finished. We did get 13 individual medals, including 6 individual Gold Medals for:

- > Breach Fischer (U13): Board and Board Riding
- > Patrick Carey (U13): Board
- > Toi Wordsworth (U13): Beach Sprint
- > Maddison O'Leary (U11): Board
- > Junior Jenkins (U8): Flags

Despite the fact that only limited team events were run we got 2 team Gold Medals and 2 Bronze Medals; Gold was for:

- > Junior March Past
- > U14 Swim Team

I welcome any feedback from kids and parents. Please share your thoughts & ideas with me in the coming weeks. We are in the busy tail end of the season with the Branch Championships in Sawtell only a week after Country and the State Championships in Swansea Belmont in the first weekend of March. Good luck to all competitors at these events.

GO SAWTELL!

Gerard Klinkers
Team Manager/
President Nippers





Lions Clubs International
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CONTACT

Sawtell Life Saving Club
Fourth Ave
Sawtell NSW 2452
www.sawtellsurfclub.com.au

COMMITTEE & CLUB EMAILS

info@sawtellsurfclub.com.au

president@sawtellsurfclub.com.au

secretary@sawtellsurfclub.com.au

treasurer@sawtellsurfclub.com.au

registrar@sawtellsurfclub.com.au

competition@sawtellsurfclub.com.au

clubcaptain@sawtellsurfclub.com.au

training@sawtellsurfclub.com.au

website@sawtellsurfclub.com.au

jasc.secretary@sawtellsurfclub.com.au



G.J. Gardner. HOMES



HOYS
physiotherapy



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