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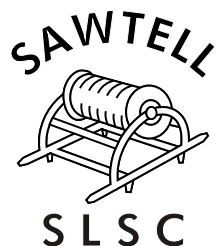
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○ JANUARY -
FEBRUARY

○ 2021

SAWTELL s/lsc



Message from the President

I wish a very happy, safe and prosperous 2021 to all our members - and sincerely hope the hardship and challenges faced by many of you in 2020 are largely behind us. The threat of Covid remains very real with the recent outbreak causing upheaval and disruption through this holiday season. While I know many businesses and livelihoods have been impacted, I think we can also feel lucky that our town has 'weathered the storm' to date - may it continue into 2021.

Despite Covid, the holiday season has still brought large numbers of visitors to our area. Thanks to all our patrolling members for your proactive approach and responsiveness to all the visitors to our beach. It is encouraging to see patrols have been so well attended, with no major incidents to report. I am sure the friendly vibe of our club and continuous reinforcement of the swim safe message makes a difference. It's hard to believe that a year has passed since we moved into our new patrol room. Since then, we have completed additional projects to further improve the amenity and aesthetic of the club, including an extension of the paved area to be used by the kiosk, some turfing and planting (thanks) and also some significant improvements to photo and memorabilia presentation in our refurbished auditorium. Thanks to all those who gave so generously of their time on these projects. I want

to especially recognise the efforts of Ray Ellicott and his team who went above and beyond the call of duty to complete the concreting work before a week of heavy weather set in.



With all these improvements being made, it is frustrating and disappointing that we are still seeing regular instances of vandalism that damage and/or destroy Club property, which impact on our ability to do our job and also create danger for visitors and members of the community using the Club precincts. We recently had CCTV cameras installed but within a matter of weeks these have been damaged. I would urge you to please report any anti-social activity you observe - if you see something, say something.

On a positive note, I would like to congratulate our Life Member Mick McGavigan and Maggie McConnachie who were recognised for their

3 UPCOMING DATES

- **NIPPERS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Sunday 17 January
- **OFFICIALS COURSE**
Saturday 30 January
- **COFFS OCEAN SWIM 2021**
Sunday 28 March

► efforts and contribution to the community in winning respectively Sawtellian of the Year (Mick) and Young Sawtellian of the Year (Maggie). What outstanding ambassadors for our club and well-deserved accolades for these winners.

The Covid situation has created much uncertainty and several cancellations of several events on the competition calendar. Despite this, it has been so good to see our Junior and Senior training squads continuing to hit the water every week, maintaining their skills and fitness for whatever competition opportunities may eventuate. I think everyone was excited to attend the November branch carnival. Minnie Water

were wonderful hosts and despite some challenging conditions there was a strong turnout. Hopefully we will see some of our crew competing at the Masters Carnival at Urunga next weekend. Good luck to all.

Finally, we are still working towards hosting the Coffs Ocean Swim 2021 under the able leadership of Kerry Bayliss. With just under three months to go, we are looking for volunteers to assist with organisation of this event so do let Kerry or myself if you can help.



**Stay safe everyone and see you
on the beach.**
Sheena McTackett
0477 771 481

SAWTELL FUN DAY

I wish to record my appreciation to those members who assisted in putting up the tent to accompany the SLSNSW Information trailer and in particular Kel Pearce who transported it from and to Port Macquarie and was heavily involved on the day. This trailer contained up to date information and material containing handouts for the general public. It also contained a large TV monitor which played numerous and interesting videos to the public.

The members present included in the main young SRC and recent bronze medallion graduates who spoke with and demonstrated surf lifesaving methods including CPR and Defibrillation to those interested. Our aim was to advise and seek new members both at Nipper and Senior level- entry to SLSC.

Amongst those younger members were Zach Tumminello, Daniel L, Fyn Harrison, Amelia Moore, Ella Klinkers and Madison Pearce. Not forgetting of course some at the other end of the age scale including Dennis Meagher. Our thanks to these members who gave all or part of their New Year's Day to represent our Club spreading Surf Safety to the public.

Steve Kelly

Beach to Bush 2020

I recently had the fantastic and rewarding opportunity to participate in this year's Beach to Bush program which has been running for 27 years. The surf safety education program run by Surf Life Saving NSW delivers interactive and fun beach and water safety lessons to primary school children in rural areas by volunteer surf lifesavers.

I was on the New England High Country Tour with 2 other lifesavers from Port Macquarie and Bonny Hills SLSC. We visited school children at Bundarra, Guyra, Warialda, Inverell, Ebor and Delungra. The children and teachers enjoyed the interaction with real 'lifesavers'. They were engaged and loved talking and learning about the role of surf lifesavers, why they should always swim between

the flags, how to spot a rip current, what to do if you get into trouble at the beach and the different types of marine life that can be found along the coast and inland waterways.

F Find the red and yellow flags and swim between them

L Look for safety signs and read them

A Ask a lifeguard or lifesaver for safety advice.

G Go swimming with an adult/friend.

S Signal for assistance to attract attention by raising your arm above your head.

Leanne Stuart



Message from the Club Captain

The school holiday period has got off to a good start with our beaches full of locals and holiday makers. Whilst this year has been a little different, I am pleased to see patrols still continuing with COVID restrictions and maintaining social distancing and sterilisation of equipment after use. Patrols are rolling around fast with the many public holidays and I thank our patrolling members for their support in challenging times who provide their services to keep our beaches safe. It is very much appreciated!

On Christmas Day, 60 members made the choice to spend some of their day at the beach looking after the public- which was really awesome to see. We welcome the new SRC and bronze members who are joining us for their first/ second patrols of the season and are grateful to have you all involved.

Some of our members have also undertaken patrols on the Branch Jet Ski as well as Fiona Lane who is a Branch qualified UAV (drone) pilot who you may have seen on our beach during the school holiday period as well. If you are interested in becoming qualified in piloting the drone in either a paid or voluntary capacity – please let me know so I can put you in touch with the organisers.

Behind the scenes members have worked hard to ensure all equipment is maintained and ready for use. I know the IRB Captain and Gear Steward are really pleased with the communication to advise of any item which is damaged or has been put out of service. It makes their roles so much easier.

COVID is back in the news again with many cases popping up in hotspots within NSW – a timely reminder to continue to remain vigilant – social distance, sanitise, spray the equipment, use a mask whilst on patrol if you wish, and most importantly, if you feel unwell – please do not attend patrol or any club organised training. Consider getting tested if displaying cold & flu like symptoms. Your health and the health of your fellow patrolling members is paramount.

The Club will soon be receiving a new patrol ute to replace the old aging vehicle... stay tuned and thanks in advance for those members who have again raised their hands to assist in stripping the old vehicle and setting up the new vehicle. This does not go unnoticed.

To assist patrolling members with gaining patrol swaps, we have now set up a Facebook page which has access

restricted, allowing only patrolling members to join. This way members can advise what patrol they need to swap and members can respond directly to them. This is another self-service option to gain patrol swaps. If this gains no response, or you are not a Facebook user, please continue to contact either myself or Steve Rayson to put a message on Surfguard.



In Facebook, simply search for: Sawtell SLSC Patrol Swap Complete the question asking what patrol you are on, and "Admin" will confirm your membership to this group. If you have any queries or need help, please let myself or Fiona Lane know (Fiona – 0409 207 965).

Finally (and sadly) we bid goodbye to Shannon Wilson and sincerely thank him for all he has done for the Club. Captain of Patrol 2, IRB trainer, Gear Steward and good all-round bloke who consistently had volunteered his time to help out with maintenance, repairs, general running around for the Club, BBQ duties - anything that needs doing - a mentor, coach, leader and friend to many. Shannon and his family (who are also patrolling members and assisted in IRB training over the years) are leaving the area – our loss is Fingal Heads gain.

Thank you for your commitment,



Shelley Lantry 0438 518 103

clubcaptain@sawtellsurfclub.com.au

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Congratulations to those members who have recently successfully completed the following Awards.

○ | **BRONZE MEDALLION**

*Claudia de Carle
Finn Klinkers
Kieran Lantry
Maggie McConnachie
Rhys Mulholland
Harriet Playle
Cameron Singleton*

○ | **IRB CREW CERTIFICATE**

Mitchell Hickey

○ | **SILVER MEDALLION BEACH MANAGEMENT**

*Tony Ensbey
Dermot McMahon
Keith McPherson
Adam Newman*

○ | **SILVER MEDALLION IRB DRIVER**

*Kieran Ayshford
Aidan Blaxland
Russell Day
David Eiler
Alexander Newman
Troy Pinder
Murray Vine*

Building Development Update

Further work has proceeded on several aspects of the club upgrade as follows:



NEW PAVING Construction of the new concrete terrace along the eastern frontage of the club is now complete. Ray Ellicott Concreting was able to finish the concrete pour just prior to the torrential rain in early December enabling the site to be available for the cafe to set up outdoor dining prior to Christmas. The new space allows the cafe to operate closer to the main public path thereby freeing up the area adjacent to the auditorium and new club entrance. The cafe operators also undertook minor changes to the former patrol room to improve its use of the space and to optimise the new paved area for its patrons.



DRIVEWAY PLANTING A group of dedicated club members recently completed the installation of several hundred tube-stock plants adjacent to the northern driveway of the clubhouse. The work was made possible by the generosity of Victor Lindsay who again donated his time and use of his bobcat to distribute a pile of wood mulch across the site prior to the planting. The new plants are all local native species which should thrive in the excellent growing conditions that have prevailed since installation. The final section of planting will be completed once the club receives a further batch of mulch in the near future.



WASTE MANAGEMENT COMPOUND The detail design of the new facility has been completed and issued to the builder for final assessment. It is anticipated that the project will begin on site in the coming month.

Garry Murray 0428 517 665

Message from Chief Training Officer

UPCOMING TRAINING

OFFICIALS COURSE

Saturday 30 January 9am – 1pm Sawtell Surf Club – Training Room

As in all sporting activities carnivals cannot go ahead without qualified officials being prepared to help out. This is an ideal opportunity to become involved for members who may not feel confident in the water.

An Officials Course will be held at Sawtell SLSC on 30 January from 9am – 1pm. You will need to bring your own laptop or iPad. Please advise Andrew Martin or Gerard Klinkers of your willingness to attend this session.

**Andrew Martin
0419 485 401**



Message from Junior Activities

Wishing all Nippers and their families a happy new year! Our Covid safe Christmas party was a great success at the end of the year! The new year can also 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 10 January 2021** and our annual Club Championships will be held on **Sunday 17 January**. This is an opportunity for all Nippers to demonstrate the skills they have learnt each Sunday.

The next Junior Activities Sub Committee meeting will be held after the Club Championships. We welcome all parents and carers to attend. 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

The Armidale School (TAS)



Continuing a partnership between TAS and our Club, which has been going for very many years, 25 students from TAS have recently obtained their Bronze Medallions. The program sees the students visiting the Club for 2 or 3 days before winter and then 2 days in early November followed by a full week later that month. In addition the students undertake pool swimming, First Aid and CPR training whilst at school before they visit in November.

This program relies heavily on the skills and commitment of many members of our club. The lead trainers were Dennis Meagher, Terry de Carle, Neil Robertson, Kevin Clancy and Steve Rayson. The lead trainers were assisted by a further 13 club members who provided additional training and water safety support at various times. These members were Pete Dawson, Keith McPherson, Libby Waugh, Maggie McConnachie, Ruth Phillipou, Mick McGavigan, Ross Waugh, Mark Fagan, Renee Golden, Kate Murray, Sheena McTackett, Steve Kelly and Fiona Lane.

Whilst every one of these 13 assistants provided valuable support I particularly want to acknowledge Ambo Pete who was able to bring an ambulance to the club to show the students the equipment carried on ambulances. In addition Libby and Maggie served as great demonstrators on what very good board paddlers of comparable ages to the TAS students were able to accomplish.

The assessment was conducted on Thursday evening and Friday morning 26 and 27 November. The surf conditions on Friday were particularly challenging and the Run Swim Run and board components of that assessment demonstrated the high level of surf skills achieved by all the students.



Steve Rayson

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