

**NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2010**



KEY DATES :

7/3: VH Triathlon
13/3: Aussie Long Swim
13/3: Junior carnival
14/3: Senior carnival
20-21/2: State masters
27 – 28/3: Junior States

LONG TERM PLANNING

Keep these dates free:

CLUB DINNER: 19/6
PESLSC AGM: 4/7

Port Elliot's Triple R&R Success !!!!!



In 2009 we became one of the clubs to help save the Rescue and Resuscitation event. Not only did we help save it but we came home with one gold, one silver and one bronze medal between our two teams at their first State Titles.

This year it was another early start for parents and competitors to head up to Semaphore to be on the beach at 7.30 am to once again compete in the State Titles.

Up first were the U15s: Patient Elly Smee, Beltman Ebony Alford, Reelsman Jamie Buchanan, First Linesman Emma Roberts and Second Linesman Elise Tuuri. Four members of this team won the State Championship in U14 and bronze in U15 last year. This year they only

had a straight final to be judged in. They looked confident, skilled and impressive.

Next the U17s were up with Patient Jessica Dennis, Beltman Mickey Mason, Reelsman Salomae Haselgrove, First Linesman Anjie Collins and Second Linesman Dale Francis. This team won the silver in U15's last year and also went straight into a final and competed well in a full swim event with a strong drift. They too received good feedback from judges, a stand out comment coming from a very strict judge for excellent resuscitation. With a small rest period the U17s went on to compete in the Open event for a fun challenge and to test how they would go against older and more experienced competitors.

Strong winds caused difficult swims, pay outs and haul-ins and the reelsman started to feel very stressed when they almost ran out of rope and the linesmen were worried for a moment they would actually have to resuscitate the unwell patient but the whole team gave a very gutsy effort.

After hours of waiting the presentations were finally called upstairs in the clubrooms. Boy did the officials reading out the results put tension on all Port Elliot competitors, parents and coaches! Anxious hand squeezing turned to excited cheers as the U15s were announced as winning the Silver Medal. .

The cheers hushed and smiles turned serious very quickly when the U17 results were read. When no-one else was left but Port Elliot the clubrooms exploded as the team were announced in 1st place and the State Champions. To put the icing on the cake the U17s placed 2nd in the Open event with a very small margin to the gold medal team.

Due to a decision made by state centre medals will not be presented until State Titles in March where teams will receive their medals on the podium. At the end of the day, the Chief official shook the hand of one parent/club official and said two telling words 'Great Club!'

Of course none of this could have happened without coaches R&R legend Neville "Mango Croc" Sparnon and Jeff Collins. It was their success as much as the teams and they are much loved and appreciated by all the kids.

Everyone at Port Elliot congratulates the two teams and wishes them luck at the Australian Titles in Kurrawa, Queensland in March. Our talent at R&R proves that at Port Elliot competitors we are well and truly team players and all one, big happy family.

(more pictures on the website)

AUSSIE TITLES & STATE TITLES

Please give your list of events to Matt Smith soon. The cut off date is February 24th. A meeting for all the competitors will be held at the PESLSC on the 25th February at 7.30pm.

STATE SENIOR TITLES SUNDAY 7TH MARCH

We will be having a celebratory tea back at the Club – Hot Chicken, Salad & Garlic Bread at 6.30pm. Cost will be \$6 per person. Please let Leah Tapscott know if you are coming along. Phone: 85522387 or email: ctapscot@bigpond.net.au

NOTES FROM THE CLUB CAPTAIN

Another Christmas break has been and gone. The new year is well and truly underway and we all wait to see what it will bring over the next few months. More jet skis? More inspections? More Surf Clubs? Read on and take in all that you can. After all, the seasons more than half way through and there's still so much to do. Just another reminder that the SMS and emails that you receive periodically from the club, the majority of these are now done through a computer program so don't just reply to the msg. You'll need to contact the numbers shown in the msg content.

WATER SAVING

It's no surprise that showers are our clubs biggest water user. Please limit the time you spend in the showers and encourage others to do the same. Don't be afraid to tell someone they've been in for long enough and wash your feet off outside in the tubs provided and take you're wetty off before getting into the shower. Finally WETSUITS ARE NOT TO BE WORN OR WASHED OFF IN ANY OF THE SHOWERS! This keeps water use down and sand out of our plumbing. Matty Smith has been officially deputized to crack down on this and won't be afraid to go where others fear to tread. Standard sentencing for serial offenders may escalate from polite requests through to public shaming very quickly.

THE ATV / MULE

Several members have raised the use and abuse of the mule with me. It is a vital piece of equipment that we are very fortunate to have had donated to us through some extraordinary sponsorship. With this in mind treat the machine with the respect and attention a gift like this deserves. Hose it down thoroughly after every use and make sure it's fully equipped, ready for that out of hours emergency.

JET SKIS

SLSSA has just purchased 2 new Jet skis with trailers in preparation for deployment on our beaches. They are currently being housed locally, with drivers travelling down to join Hoff in cruising our coastline as roving rapid support for any incidents that happen during patrol.

I'm in contact with the trainers from state centre and as soon as I have the next set of dates for training and assessment I'll let all those who have already given me their names know. There are limited spots available for every RWC course so patience will be needed for any that don't go through in the next round.

PATROL INSPECTIONS

This season has seen the reintroduction of patrol inspections both at club and state level. So far there's only been a few. Have you had yours? If not, don't panic. I haven't forgotten about you or your patrol. I'll be doing mine over the rest of the season and don't forget there's still the 3 to come from state centre.

The scenarios I've tested on this season have sparked a fair bit of discussion amongst patrolling members with a few curly questions put to those in the red and yellow. Ask yourself; how would your patrol deal with an actual mass rescue if one happened? What would you do if you had a conscious spinal patient that was in deep water? How does McQuiver make a life raft from some chewie, two toilet role tubes and a set of steak knives?

It should be noted that the patrols so far have done well in responding to the scenarios at hand and with points going towards this years patrol efficiency shield everyone's got a chance to contribute to their patrols success. So as a patrol, discuss your plan of attack, practice your rescue technique and push either to be better lifesavers.

CAR PARKING

It's been good to see fewer cars inside the gate as the seasons gone by. For all of those who are still parking inside though, see it through another's eyes. Imagine you're a member of the public who's just dragged your 5 kids, esky, shade, bags, chairs along with all your other assorted toys and boards down from the top of the hill. You then watch as a clubby unlocks the gate, drives in on their own unloads their gear and wanders off leaving their car in the shade, unlike your little car that'll be holding 70 degrees when you eventually get back to it. Could this leave a sour taste in your mouth?

The patrol captain can choose to keep a couple of cars in for using in the case of a call out, but really everyone else should come in, load up or unload then head out again. There's just no need to keep your car in otherwise. It's safer for kids and better for our image. We all know what you're doing at the club is important, but there are plenty of other people doing important things for our club and for others that don't park inside the gate.

Cheers Hamish

PATROL JACKETS

There are a few of these jackets left (red & yellow for members on patrol only). There is 1 large, 2 medium and 1 small. They are \$70 each. Please let Verity, Fiona or Jenny know if you would like to purchase one.

CLUBHOUSE NEWS

Cool times ahead – air-conditioning will be installed in the bar and kitchen areas early in February.

PATROL NEWS

New purchases: Binoculars & New patrol flags

New system: Incident Log – this thankfully replaces the multiple pages we had to do before !

CADET NEWS

The cadets ran a BBQ every day during Vacswim to raise money for the Aussie Titles trip. Well done to Anjie Collins who organised the roster and to Jeff for the buying of the food. Seeing Jeff cutting up onions in pair of purple swim goggles was well worth the price of admission! Sal Haselgrove has been helping out with ‘Between the Flags’ by writing the carnival reports. Elly Smees has been sharing the ‘media’ task.

JUNIOR NEWS

Port Elliot SLSC is always on the lookout for new funding sources. Grants of various kinds are available from a number of philanthropic organizations.

There is much demand for grants so persistence and a bit of good luck go a long way.

One recent success was a grant of \$5000 for the purchase of boards for our Nippers. The grant is coordinated by Clubs S.A., the peak body for licensed clubs in South Australia, on behalf of Club One.

The funds have been spent on the largest single order of boards seen in our Club’s history – 40 in total. These will add to the boards which we have purchased with earlier donations from the Goolwa Arts and Crafts Group, and the Alexandrina Council.

So our new competition, training and body boards were immediately put into action last Saturday at Nippers.

Our Junior registrations this season have jumped from 150 to 200, so new acquisitions have come at an opportune time. We thank all of these organizations for their generosity.



CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

As you are all probably aware by now I have taken over from Ian Grant as Chief Instructor for season 2009 10. Ian is still actively involved in assessing and is our Club LifeSaver Advisor. Becoming an Assessor I have visited different surf clubs and I feel our standard of training whether it be in SRC, Bronze, ARC, Nippers, and Carnival Kids is of a very high standard, and in some cases we would set the benchmark for other clubs to follow. I am sure our training and teaching will continue in this manner as we have members in these fields that do an excellent job.

An area which I have very little involvement in is our rowers. After watching these crews train during the hot spell, either rowing on the water or going through their arduous and extensive physical exercises, e.g., rowing machine jogging and doing weights it is clear that the professionalism and dedication that these members have again is proof of our high standards of training. Well done boaties and I wish you success in your carnivals.

If at anytime a club member wishes to improve their skills, gain extra awards, become a Training Officer which we need more of or become an Assessor don't hesitate to contact me. I will also put course updates on our website and our notice board. You can also check out the SLSA Website. Enjoy the rest of the season and keep a look out for the new bronze group training over the next four to five weeks.

CARNIVAL NEWS (By Sal Haselgrove)

PORT ELLIOT EXCELS IN R&R AND SURF BOATS

Sunday 10th January was the first senior carnival in 2010 held at Christies Beach with dumpy shore break for the boaties and lots of rocks and potholes all the way down the beach causing many trips in the other events.

Due to the hot weather not all competitors were present but it was fantastic to see four boat crews and two R&R teams there, some arriving as early as 6.30am!

The first event of the day was R&R, an event in which needs incredible concentration and discipline as well as physical ability and teamwork. Last season Port Elliot gained a gold, silver and bronze in this event thanks to coaching from Neville Sparnon and Jeff Collins so many teams claimed they would be "out to get us" this year. This was not proven in the U15 division, Port Elliot were the only team to show up! Once again Elly Smee, Ebony Alford, Emma Roberts and Elise Tuuri displayed excellent knowledge of this event as did newest team member U14 competitor Jamie Buchanan who was originally the position of patient stepped up to perform "reelsman" due to team injury, only having practiced this position a few times and she's only just returned from Kangaroo Island! A true team player, well done Jamie and the rest of her team for a super effort.

The U17 team of Jessica Dennis, Mickey Mason, Salomae Haselgrove, Anjie Collins and Dale Francis were extremely pleasing by not only winning their division but competing in the open division against older people who know this event back to front and finished 2nd!

Staying in the heat to compete in the U17 iron woman and board race was Salomae Haselgrove showing determination despite an ear infection picked up while she slacked off in Bali!

Down the other end of the beach were the boat events and Port Elliot's crews rowed well and the shore break caused teams pressure at the start and end of their races with a long, flat course on the way out and in. The highlights included the men's reserve crew the "Port Elliot Flyers" finishing first for the day with sweep Matt Smith (another competitor returned from KI the previous night), rowers Dave Read, Steve Brown, Scott Billington and Paul Buchanan (also returned from KI). The men's open crew

“the Legends” with sweep Chris Tapscott and rowers Tony Hall, Mark Cox, Stewart Cummings and Mark Williams finished 6th in the open and 3rd place in the master’s division. The open women’s crew “the Elliot Ace’s” Karina Overall, Tara Irvin, Krystle Irvin and Vicki Evans with sweep Troy Irvin finished 5th. The newest crew from Port Elliot was the “Port Elliot Phoenix” with sweep Troy Irvin, crew Gary Humphries, Robert Mooney, Trent Rusby and Michael Lippett achieved their goal of not coming last for the day and finished 6th out of 12.

TRIVIA – WHO INVENTED THE WET SUIT?

According to an article in the Weekend Australian, the inventor was Hugh Bradner around 1950. Hugh was an atomic physicist who worked on the development of the atomic bomb. He was also a devoted diver who spent some of his spare time trying to come up with a suitable material for a wetsuit. At the time there were ‘dry suits’ composed of compressed woollen underwear underneath a rubberised layer. It was bulky and not effective.

Bradner turned to neoprene which traps water next to the body, and so heats the water to body temperature. The intention was for the wet suit to be used by U.S. navy divers, but the powers that be thought it would increase the chance of being detected by sonar. Unfortunately Hugh did not get a patent for his suit, but other developers did make the suit a success in the late 1950’s.

Hugh by all accounts was a modest man who died last year at the age of 92.

‘TASELLIOT??!’

On 16th January, we hosted a mini-carnival for the SA, VIC, and Tassie Junior development squads. Representing SA were Emma Roberts and Rachael Lippett, both performing very well on the day. The Tassie squad was light on for numbers, so Morgan Kennedy, Grace Gilbert, Jamie Buchanan, Ebony Alford, and Elly Smee all pitched in to make up the numbers, and so gain valuable experience along the way. A large number of people from the Club helped out in many capacities, drawing praise and thanks from the organisers. The carnival was a culmination of a 5 day camp held at Victor for the three squads.

ATTENTION – Regarding Lifesaving at Goolwa Beach by Hamish

As people might be aware there are currently a group of concerned residents from throughout the Goolwa community that are circulating a petition in order to gain support for the provision of a lifesaving presence at Goolwa Main Beach. We know there are a lot of rumours circulating, regarding the how, why, when and what, surrounding this push for change and we want to keep you all informed of the facts as they occur.

THE FACTS

- Goolwa Beach is deceptively dangerous and rates as high and in some cases higher than a lot of the east coast beaches due to its undertows, shifting sandbars, strong rips and powerful waves.
- With the combination of high population growth and the refurbishment of kiosk and car parking, more people are using Goolwa Beach, with some days seeing 4000+ people being on the beach at any one time. These people spread out over approximately 5km of beach.
- There have been several incidents this year that have heightened some beachgoers awareness to the lack of service currently at Goolwa Beach. Whilst these incidents are no less significant, it is important to remember that they happen at all beaches, every other day and the majority of rescues fall out of these patrolled times. It’s lifesavers that save lives, not set patrol times or bricks and mortar.
- There did used to be a Goolwa SLSC that existed where the current toilet block now stands. It was disbanded in approximately 1976 due to insufficient numbers of members.

- We at PESLSC have provided a lifesaving service at Goolwa in the past, through the use of a large four-wheel drive as a modified outpost. We did set up 'patrol flags' but were often uncomfortable with the idea being that they indicate the safest spot to swim and there rarely was any. Having flags up allowed beachgoers a false sense of security and many patrols saw swimmers get into trouble regardless of flag positions.
- Patrolling at Goolwa by PESLSC was abandoned approximately 18 years ago as a result of falling patrolling member numbers at our club. This coincided with the relaxation of requirements to attain your bronze which also saw larger numbers of new patrolling members being inexperienced in such surf conditions. Our Patrol numbers have grown significantly since then but currently sit static as they have for several years.
- SLSSA currently does roving patrols, by helicopter and RWC along the Middleton-Murray Mouth stretch of beach on weekends through the busiest part of the season, when it has resources available. SLSSA has planned for some time to extend lifesaving services to other areas of our coastline and have purchased 2 new skis to be part of this service. They have been very clear that no club at Goolwa can happen if it results in a weakening of either Chiton or Port Elliot.
- Approximately 5 weeks ago a group of local Goolwa people got together, concerned with the lack of a lifesaving presence at Goolwa Main Beach. This group consists of;
 - Maurie Perry (Founding member of Christies SLSC & life member, ex Goolwa member)
 - David Reynolds (Owner of Foodland Goolwa and member of several metro clubs)
 - Dave Cousins (Local Policeman, emergency resource co-ordinator)
 - Frank Tucker (Alexandrina Ward Councillor)
 - John Hurst (Metro Club member)
- The group started up a petition that has been circulating throughout the community as well as on the beach at Goolwa.
- Currently the petition consists of approx 4000 signatures all in support of a 'Lifesaving Presence' at Goolwa. With this petition there may at times have been an implied notion of a 'New Surf Club' located at Goolwa being part of the package.
- On Monday 18th Jan. Bryn and I met with Elaine Farmer, Shane Daw (both from SLSSA), Kym McHugh (Mayor of Alexandrina), John Coombe (Alexandrina Council), Frank Tucker to voice our concern that we as a club had not been approached at all about the prospect of a new club coming to the coast. SLSSA also had the same concerns from their end with little more than a weeks notice being given to them about the idea. Both the representatives of council and Frank were open and understanding of our position. Council were meeting later that day with the expectation that Frank would be formally endorsed as council's representative on what would become a Steering Committee to investigate the need for lifesaving services on the coast.
- Later that day Bryn and I met with David Reynolds and Dave Cousins for a briefing before they went to the council meeting. They were open in their discussion regarding an urgent need for getting a lifesaving presence on the beach as they see it. They were accepting of the idea that Shane Daw as a representative of SLSSA and myself as a representative of our club should also be on the steering committee to ensure they maintain clear lines of communication with all of us that are affected by their pursuit of this service.

THE OUTCOMES

- As Club Captain of Port Elliot, my number one concern will always be our club and it's members. My job is to ensure that we deliver excellent lifesaving services to all of our beaches, but not to the detriment of our club, or the association.
- I had already been toying with the ideas surrounding the expansion of our patrolling boundaries, prior to the surfacing of this petition and am now reviewing how we as a club could help and get some benefit from helping to develop this new service.
- I have given all of those involved to date the following feedback.
 - Whilst I agree that there is a need for a lifesaving presence at Goolwa, I believe we should be looking at the coast on the whole in consideration of other areas such as Boomer and Middleton.
 - Whilst I do support a lifesaving presence at Goolwa, I believe it should be done through the use of an outpost, and 'Safe Swimming Flags' should never be used as it sends out the wrong signal regarding the safe use of a dangerous beach.
 - If people are serious about providing a lifesaving service to Goolwa or any other beach, they can, but the first step is get qualified and they can do that right now. If concerned residents want to step up, outposts could be developed sooner rather than later.
 - Systems already exist for the handling of an emergency at any beach at any time, but we as a club haven't to my knowledge had a single call out to Goolwa as yet this season. These systems need to be made clearer to the public then used in the case of an emergency.
DIAL 000 in the case of an emergency. It will get through to us.
- All parties involved agreed that the creation of a club is not a realistic short term goal and that the first priority and key concern of all involved should be the extension of existing services in combination with development of some sort of additional lifesaving presence at Goolwa Beach. If a new, strong, viable, sustainable club were to develop down the track it could be a good thing for our club and the coast in general.
- The modified 'Steering Committee' will meet later this month to discuss the direction that needs to be taken in order to deliver the service required.
- The Steering Committee will include in their discussions the possibility of using paid lifeguards through the working week, in the busy season to supplement potential lifesaving services at Goolwa Beach.

I'll keep you all informed as best I can as things move forward, but know that we as a club are aware of how the development of a lifesaving service at Goolwa could have either positive or negative repercussions for our club depending on our level of involvement.

Cheers Hamish

TURKEY TALK with ELLIOT THE SCRUB TURKEY



December was the month of the Masons!

Firstly, Peter managed to spill ‘Nipper blood’ when a playful act of hitting a Nipper over the head with a rescue tube went horribly wrong. Tubes are soft but metal rings on the end are not.

I may have missed out on Turkey for Christmas lunch but there was abundant serving in the afternoon. Mickey. Whilst on voluntary patrol, decided to paddle out to Pullen island with Seb Goldsmith. The ‘boy’s own’ adventure when horribly wrong when Mickey lost his footing and collided with a few large boulders. He had to be rescued and then covered in copious amounts of Betadine.

The ‘Grant patrol (#7)’ did a mass turkey effort by swimming through the middle of a junior board race at the Southern States interstate Challenge on the 16th of this month. They had been preceded however by a pod of dolphins who did more spectacular antics in the water!

Last Saturday Brian as usual came down to open up the bar. Good – but the key to rollup blind was missing. Brian searched everywhere. In desperation he rang up Stewie – that last person to see the key alive. Stewie arrived and a team searched everywhere again. Stewie got so desperate that he decided to retrace his steps from Thursday night – taking in the path, car park, bins, the Flying Fish etc etc. While this was happening Jean came to Brian with a set of keys which had been lying on a table in the main hall. Goodnight Stewie – nomination!!

While on the subject of Stewie – he forgot to go back to school after the holidays. A minor oversight !

And they keep coming

You have got to love this! Patrol Captain Matt ‘Softie’ Smith was organising his troop for patrol on the 24th. He deftly backed to Mule up to the patrol trailer, ordered the troops in and drove off down to the beach to set up the tent. One problem – he hadn’t hitched up the trailer – and didn’t notice until he got to the site he had chosen to pitch the tent ! It must have rattled him because Elliot heard that he got a ‘few’ answers wrong in the scenario test paper too! Oh dear.