

**NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2010**



KEY DATES :

Sat 17th April 1-30 Club senior
Champs
6.30 Presentation Night

WHAT'S NEW

The communications antenna is finally up and operational. Thanks to those hardy (and non-vertigo sufferers) who did the hard work early one Saturday morning. Pictures on Facebook.

Facebook - the Club has its own page. You can view/add pictures, comments and share information, ask questions, sledge etc. It is a good way to rapidly communicate and have a bit of fun. (It's the page with the Red and white logo – not the other one)

Photovoltaic cells – we are now officially green and using some of the roof space. A lot of work and research went into this – much of it by Peter Francis.

CLUB SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS & PRESENTATION NIGHT

Saturday 17 April 1.30 – 5.30 pm

Saturday 17 April – Presentations - 6.30 at PESLSC Clubrooms - Dinner \$5 per head.

RSVP to Club Secretary via email, or 0402925040

RECENT AWARDS

Congratulations to :

New IRB drivers ; Mark Skanes and Wayne Goode.

Bronze medallion : Pheobe Hayward, John Smallacombe, Nakita Dorward, Cathy Venning, Robin McKinnon, Patrick Acton, Will Joseph, Steve Tummel, Kerrie Bartley, and Vicki Francis

IRB Crew : Daniel Todd, Michael Lippett, Hannah Davidson, Rhiannon Newton, Mickey Mason, Dale Francis, Jess Dennis

STATE & AUSSIE TITLE ROUNDUPS

R&R

Due to excellent training by Neville Sparnon, the U15 team achieved Silver, and the U17's were awarded a Gold medal in their division, and a Silver in the Open Division. That makes it 2 Gold, 2 Silver, and bronze medal combined for the 2 teams in two years. Simply outstanding.

JUNIORS

Four Gold, two Silver, and a bronze made it a very successful year. Behind those medals were big and noteworthy performances by ALL of the kids competing. There were many personal bests . The future of the Club is bright! Thanks to Jeff Collins, and Matt Smith for the many hours of coaching, ably assisted by Matt Harry, Paul Buchanan, Adrian Goldsmith and many other 'guest appearances'. Also well done to the parents who support the kids in this sport and do the travel, watching, managing 9and

celebrating by all accounts). BIG thank you to Lori Buchanan as carnival coordinator (a lot of work there), Penny Smith (Junior Secretary), Nat Gilbert (Overall Boss), and those who provided water cover, media, acted as officials etc etc.

Medal Winner were :

Marcus Lippett ; Gold in sprints, Silver in flags

Max Harry : Gold in flags, gold in wade

Jamie Buchanan : bronze in boards

Rachael Lippett : silver in sprints

Team medal : U9 Beach Relay ; Max, Marcus, Matthew read, Lachie Willims

SENIORS

In a word 'huge'. One night of beach events at Glenelg followed by two days of big surf at Southport, to the point that Saturday's events were cut short due to the prevailing conditions. There was carnage happening in almost every event, with skis, boards, boats, and people being tossed about. Our competitors having trained at Middleton looked at the surf with anticipation rather than fear. There are many individual stories which the competitors will fill you in on, but the efforts (and sometimes the bravery) and results were absolutely outstanding.

Medals were also awarded on the weekend for R&R and Surfing

The medal winners were (in particular order) :

Anjie Collins : Gold in Boards, and U17 R&R, Silver in Open R&R, Bronze in U17 Board relay, Gold in short and longboards surfing

Alice Gilbert : Bronze in long board surfing, Bronze in U17 Board relay

Jorgia Grenfell : Silver in U17 2km run

Mickey Mason : Bronze in 2km run, Gold U17 R&R, Silver Open R&R

Jess Dennis ; Gold U17 R&R, Silver Open R&R

Dale Francis : Gold U17 R&R, Silver Open R&R

Salomae Haselgrove : Gold U17 R&R, Silver Open R&R, Bronze U17 Board Relay

Ebony Alford : Silver U15 R&R, Bronze U15 sprint and relay

Elise Tuuri ; Silver U15 R&R

Jamie Buchanan : Silver U15 R&R

Emma Roberts : Silver U15 R&R, Bronze U15 sprint relay

Elly Smee : Silver U15 R&R

Milli Rusby : Bronze U15 sprint relay

Darcy Tucker : Bronze U15 sprint relay

Also Competing and an important part of the team were Emily Blackwell, Morgan Kennedy.

Boat Section :

Gold : A Reserve : Chris Tapscott's Crew of Kym and Steve Overall, Alan Reynolds and Steve Evans

Bronze : Open mens : Bryn's crew of Tony Hall, Mark Cox, Stewart Cummings and Mark Williams

The celebration back at the Club was the biggest in recent memory (and possibly ever!) Everyone celebrated (some more than others!) and it was announced as our most successful state titles yet. The final tally was 13 medals, and when added to the 7 Junior, and 3 Masters titles, has made it an outstanding year for the competitive aspect of PESLSC.

Thanks go Leah's 'Crew' who organised and served the dinner, and to the boat crews who entertained themselves and the crowd into the small hours. Coxy did a sterling job of choir master for the Club song.

NATIONAL TITLES : AUSSIES 2010

Imagine Goolwa plus Waitpinga surf barrelled into one, then add in massive sideways currents, and you are approaching seeing the conditions that prevailed at Kurrawa in Queensland for the Australian Surf Lifesaving Titles. Two cyclones sitting off the coast whipped up huge and dangerous conditions, but more of that later.

PESLC sent its largest contingent ever, with 4 surfboat crews, one 'master', seven U17's and seven U15's plus families. Most stayed in an apartment complex in Burleigh resulting in a great family atmosphere and a few social drinks around the pool and spa.

Competition began on Tuesday with the solitary Masters competitor Marty taking to the sprint track. His 'hammy' hung in there propelling him to 5th in his heat, missing the final by a metre. Watching the huge carnage happening in the Master's ski and board races from the beach was spectacular and frightening at times.

Wednesday saw the Masters surfboat crews take to the giant surf. Not only was there a savage dumping wave on the sandbar, but waves were also breaking heavily near the turning cans. Bryn's crew (Stewie, Tony, and two Marks) managed to get the boat around the course, despite a 'double start' due to a snapped sweep oar, but were timed out close to the finish. Tappy's crew (Kym, Alan, and two Steves) were upended and sustained a few bruises and minor injuries. Other crews were sustaining more damage to craft and personnel with the surfboats being tossed around like toys, but their protestations to the organisers were not being heeded.

Back on the beach Marty contested the flags (thanks to last minute physiotherapy from Neville Sparron), and surprised everyone by coming 6th, having won 4 flags.

Thursday morning and the surf was even more ferocious. Back on the beach however, Sal, Mickey, Alice and Jorgia contested the 2km beach run in amongst very large fields. They all finished but did not snag any medals. Once again the surfboat sweeps tried to have their events moved or cancelled but to no avail, with the result being more damage, injuries and rollovers. Troy and Matt's crews including the ladies, wisely decided not compete, leaving it up to the stronger and more experienced crews. Bryn's crew did make it fully around the course 3 times despite what some clown wrote in the 'Times'. They were bruised but smiling – happy to be safely back on land! They were by no means disgraced as anyone who rowed in those conditions had to be strong, skilled and brave.

The U15's did not get to take to the water (luckily) as the program was running far behind due to the large numbers of competitors, and the time taken for each heat. Elly, Emma, Morgan, Jamie and Grace contested 'flags' but with no real success. Three teams of U17's (Alice and Anjie, Dale and Mickey, Jorgia and Sal) attempted the board rescue. None of the teams completed the event in the conditions, but once again they were brave and determined and lost no respect.

Friday morning saw a change of venue with U15's and R&R relocated to North Kirra Beach. Competitors were faced with very large surf, plus the added difficulty of a savage sideways sweep current. Jamie, Grace and Elly contested the board race. Grace hitched a ride back in on a jetski, but Elly and Jamie were carried 100 metres off course. It was a fantastic effort just to confront the conditions. Morgan and Grace teamed up for the Board rescue and did a great effort by completing the event.

Grace, Alice and Jorgia had also been competing in the surfing competition that morning, along with Matt Smith who came 4th in his heat, but the event was not completed.

The U17 R&R was full of dramas. Mickey and Jess both did inspirational swims to be the first team back to shore and 'rescued'. Unfortunately under the rules of R&R, the team then has to wait motionless and at attention (standing, lying, or kneeling depending on your role), until the last team reaches the shore. This took the best part of a half and hour in the blazing sun. No one knows how Sal and Mickey stood so long at attention, but Dale and Anjie almost fainted, and Jess became physically distressed at the prone patient. Such was their determination and discipline that none of them 'broke ranks'. They will long remember that day! The U15's were just about to compete when the announcement came through that all events were suspended due to the tragic death of an U19 competition at Kurrawa. Subsequently all water events were cancelled for the remainder of the titles, signalling the end of competition for us. Unfortunately for us two boat crews (Troy, Tara, Krystle, Paul, Scott, Vicki, Nat, Matt) did not get the chance to compete nor did Ebony and Elise in the U15's who ended up mainly being there mainly for the R&R.

Questions will be asked and an inquiry held over the decisions to continue the Titles in such ferocious conditions. National titles are meant to be challenging but the cyclone upped the ante. We are all very much shaken and saddened by the death of a fellow competitor, showing that every sport has its risks, and when the environment plays a large role then these are increased. Despite this we will return to Kurrawa next year for the 2011 titles.

TURKEY TALK WITH ELLIOT THE SCRUB TURKEY



Elliot loves the way that the culture has spread that people just love dobbing their friends for Turkey nominations, but he wants a py rise due to being overworked this month and is not amused (see photo)

So how long does it take to put up the Patrol tent? Maybe this should be a scenario? Evidently if you put Greg 'Lifesaver 1' Hoffman in charge, then it might take anywhere up to 26 minutes!

Bob 'Telecommunications' Bruce now realises (thanks to Bec McMillan) that you can store phone numbers in the phonebook of a mobile phone, instead of carrying a phone book around with you.

Stewie is really making a push for the most nominations for the year. He got very excited on patrol when he saw a large disturbance below the surface of the water. 'It's a surfing stingray' says Stewie. No Stewie it was just seaweed being pulled in by a fisherman.

Not sure how Jamsie does it. Once again he missed an event at the Masters – this time it was the swim. Elliot's friend can vouch for the fact he did not nick off for lunch.

It is good to see the standard of Turkey Acts by IRB drivers lift in recent weeks.

Reagan 'The Phantom' Moon put in a magnificent effort by falling (bailing?) out in the surf at Middleton while doing water cover for a carnival. Crewman McMillan was wondering why the driving had become erratic going through the break and turned to ask Reagan why. Reagan was not there – in fact he was in the surf about 200 metres back and the IRB was continuing at full throttle. The Phantom Driver!

Not to be outdone, our very own IRB Captain decided to take Jim Harding out for a spin in the 'untippable' prototype. Next questionable decision was letting Jim drive in the moderate surf near the

breakwater. Jim decided to try to ride the 'pipeline' and cut radically into a breaking wave. Over it went with a large gallery of spectators looking on. Red faces continued as they had to be towed in to sounds of turkey noises.

Elliot's 'handler' is also a nomination for his repeated unsuccessful attempts to tow the board trailer. Three strikes you're out - he's gone! The latest sorry episode happened somewhere on the way to Senior states. Somehow the blue genesis malibu got a substantial ding on the outside, smashing it into the frame of the trailer, where it became impaled to a considerable depth. It occurred on the driver's side and the board above and trailer below did not get hit. How it happened will remain a mystery for all time. He thinks he got hit by a Phantom Turkey.

.....And they keep coming in

State Titles – Bryn's crew are rowing their butts off in a semi final. Elly, fresh from her pounding in the cameron relay, has decided to go 'surfing' just south of the boat course. In usual fashion she yells out 'Come on Port Elliot' as the crew go past. Well mannered Mark 'Funky' Williams thinks 'that's nice', so he takes one hand off the oar to give Elly a friendly wave. Evidently that is not the done thing when the rest of your crew are rowing hard.

Lori Buchanan had a trip down memory lane when she was weighing up the family's bags before flying out to Kurrawa. She kept on getting odd reading on the scales, and spent a lot of time repacking bags. Eventually after much frustration it was discovered that the scales were set to pounds rather than kilos! Lori – in case you haven't heard – Australia has gone metric !

Scott 'Fruit bat ' Billington had problem at Kurrawa which he revealed after a few ales. He was being tomented by fuitbats which had a wing span of at least 2 meters

I am forced to put this one in : You know how every time our kids go to carnival we nag them about having their gear . especially their comp hat. Well Marty was ready at the Aussies to compete in Flags, having arrived early like a cat on a hot tin roof. Looked in his bag – no cap. Rang Elly who was just about to leave the apartments with an urgent request to bring a cap. They took the wrong bus. Marty is frantic on the mobile. Elly gives the cap to Dale who does a 2 km run in heat to get it to Marty in time – just!

FOOTY TIPPING

Greetings Tipsters

The football season is almost upon us, with the first round kicking off in just over two weeks. I will be running the super dooper, you-beaut Surf Club Tipping comp again, so make sure you're in it. We have a few new players this year, and hopefully all the old ones as well, so could be in for our biggest season yet. And more players means more prizemoney!! \$\$\$

As usual, the cost for the season is \$30, payable up front. Having said this, I will actually be away for the first round, so will be looking to collect money by round 3. You will catch me at the club most Thursday nights.

I will run a knockout comp as well, but won't start that until round 2 when I get back.

Tips can be emailed to this address, faxed to 8554 3839, texted to 0412 845301, or put in at the Surf Club on a Thursday night. I have attached a copy of the competition rules etc for those who haven't played before.

The first game is on Thursday night, 25th March. Get your tips in and I'll know you're in for the season. Don't forget to nominate your double rounds.

Vicki Evans