

**NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2009**



KEY DATES :

**Club Dinner 13/6 at
Victor Harbor Golf Club
AGM : 5/7**

This will be the last major newsletter for the season. I will produce smaller versions after key events during the winter e.g. Club dinner, AGM, my birthday.

What a tremendous month it has been for our Club – Senior and Junior States, and culminating in the National Titles in WA. We are recording so many Club ‘firsts’ starting with the R&R last month it makes your head spin! Some of us clocked up 6 successive Saturday/Sunday combinations on the beach starting with the Masters back in early February – thankfully it is fun and rewarding.

On the subject of media, hasn’t the new ‘sight and sound’ system in the Club been fantastic. To watch slide shows on the big screen of our various events has been a real crowd pleaser...and now we can watch surfing movies Thursday nights! Being able to have a functional microphone system on Junior presentation day was also a bonus.

While on the media thread, we should thank the ‘Times’ and ‘Great Southern FM’ for their organisation and willingness to promote our Club. People may be cynical about the media but these people have shown genuine enthusiasm for what we are about. It is all a part of being a community I suppose and it feels good.

Now to the State Titles:

STATE JUNIOR TITLES

How exciting must it be for a Nipper to compete in a State Titles! According to them it is ‘exciting’, ‘awesome’, ‘scary’, and ‘fun’. Most Nippers arrived with their parents at the caravan park the night before to ‘tune in’. Saturday morning our 29 Nippers plus support people joined the 1000 or so people from other Clubs at Seacliff beach. From then on it was full on all day. In most age groups there were 80-100 competitors, so to make it through to a final was an achievement in itself. Space dictates that a full run down cannot be written so here are the best results for each competitor.

U14

Ebony Alford: 4th in the Boards Final
Elise Tuuri: Competed in board and sprint heats
Emily Blackwell: Iron person and semis in Boards
Emma Robert: Silver medal in beach sprints
Milli Rusby: Competed in iron person and semi in sprints
Elly Smee: Finals in boards

U13

Jamie Buchanan: Bronze in boards (at last!)
Darcy Wedd: Finals in boards
Grace Gilbert: Semis in iron person, boards
Morgan Kennedy: Semis in iron person

U12

Rachael Lippett: Silver medal in sprints, 2 other Finals
Aylija Freeborn: 6th in sprints Final
Zac Watson: Finals in swim (that is almost a first for our Club!)
Sheldon Skanes: Semis in iron person and boards

U11

Nathan Dennis:	Finals in boards, semi in Iron person
Jake Noble:	Finals in boards (10 th)
Harrison Rusby:	Silver medal in sprints
Maddy Warner:	Finals in board (an amazingly close race!)
Tori Kessegian:	Board semi, swim

U10

Alice Harry:	4 th in Wade Final
Henry Wedd:	Wade Final (he got crunched!)
Amber Pointer:	Swim and wades heats
Ella Smith:	4 th in sprints heat, boards
Kyla Noble:	5 th in sprints heat, boards

U9

Malen Brown:	Finals in Flags
Georgia Warner:	7 th in heat of boards
Brenton Skanes:	Wade Final
Mimi Goldsmith:	8th in boards heat
Jack Buchanan:	Heats of the boards

Saturday night back at the Caravan Park it was all smiles, stories and pizzas. The atmosphere was buoyant as everyone celebrated the successes of the day. Matt Smith, standing in for Coach Jeff Collins, publicly congratulated every competitor to thunderous applause.

Sunday morning, and we were back at the beach by 8.00 am for Team's events. The best results for the day were:

U14:	Finals in board and Cameron relay
U13:	Finals in board and Cameron relay
U12:	Finals in beach relay and Cameron
U11:	Finals in Beach relay, semis in Surf team
U10:	Finals in Wade Relay
U9:	7 th in heat of beach relay

During the day the March past was held with a large field of 23 teams. Port Elliot came 10th, which is probably a best ever. Elly Smee and Matt Wright were announced Junior Lifesavers of the year to tumultuous applause. No one cheers like Port Elliot club.

Of course no States would be complete without the all-in jelly and shaving 'fight' at the end. Both Matt and I might take a long time to live down those photos.

Overall our Nippers competed in 70 individual events, with 21 semi-final appearances, plus 23 finals and 4 medals. Our teams contested 24 events for 10 Finals appearances. As usual their attitude, support for each other, and sportsmanship were exemplary. To sum up the weekend: HUGE!

SENIOR STATE TITLES: MOANA 28/2

Some carnival days are better than others. Arriving at Moana in warm conditions with a 1 – 1.5m clean swell signalled the start of a good carnival. The weekend was the Senior State Titles, and Port Elliot had its largest contingent in many years. Twelve competitors in the U15 category (5 being U14s still), one U17 (Katie Wyschnja) and an 'Open' (Lucinda Remilton). They were to be joined on Sunday by two boat crews.

The first events on Saturday were the 2km beach runs. Mickey Mason held out in a fast finish to gain a Gold Medal, the first in beach events for Seniors for many years, and Alice Gilbert followed with a Silver medal in the U15 Women's. Matt Wright, Sal Haselgrove, and Katie Wyschnja also competed in the run.

The next events were the Iron persons, with Mickey and Sal both competing. Both were in strong positions after the board leg but could not maintain the momentum in the swim to gain medals.

The next event was the beach sprints. In the U17 Women, Katie made it through a heat and a semi to be in Sunday's Final. The same went for Anjie Collins in the U15s. Matt Wright, Elly Smees, Ebony Alford and Patrick Acton all made it to Semi-final stage, while Elise Tuuri, Emma Roberts, Alice Gilbert, and Lucinda Remilton all contested heats.

Port Elliot has prided itself in recent years with competing strongly in Board races. The course at Moana was longer than usual and with the heavy surf, it was always going to be interesting and a challenge. Competitors had to finish in the top 5 in a heat of approximately 12 to make it through to the finals. The U15 fields were 'quality' and it was going to be tough. Sal, Anjie, Alice and Mickey made it through. Dale Francis competed strongly but just missed the cut, as did Elly and Ebony in their first competitions as U15's. It was good to see so many Port Elliot competition caps in Senior States!

Very late in afternoon, the long-awaited 'Board relay for U15's' was announced. There was one race for the U15 Women. Port Elliot was represented by two teams: Alice, Anjie and Sal caused a sensation when they won Silver last year competing as U14's and were keen to do well again. Elly, Jessica Dennis, and Ebony made up the second team. With only 15 teams it was a straight final. In perfect repeat of last year, Anjie, Sal and Alice won Silver behind the same Grange team, with our other team finishing a creditable mid-field.

Next up was the U15 men's relay, with Mickey, Patrick and Dale competing, and likewise finishing mid-field in a quality event.

This all finished at about 5.30 pm. Time to pack up the tents, load up the gear, drive home and get ready to do it all again the next day ...

Sunday morning and the conditions were slightly cooler, and the surf much milder, much to the disgust of some! The first events in the beach section were the Cameron relays. The events were straight Finals with quality teams from each Club competing. Anjie, Elly, Alice and Jess combined to finish in 6th place, with the team of Sal, Elise, Alice and Emma not far behind. Mickey, Patrick, Dale and Matt competed in the U15 men's event.

It was then off to Flags. Katie Wyschnja competed in both the U17 and Open events and made the Final in both but unfortunately could not snare a medal. The U15 Women's event had such a large field that 5 heats were run, followed by semi-finals before an eventual final. Eliminations in this scenario come thick and fast! Anjie, Jess, Sal, Elise and Emma fell victims before the semi's – often having to compete against each in heats. One heat comprised 4 Port Elliot and 2 Somerton girls – tough call. Elly ran far and wide to make it through to the semi's along with Alice. Both survived one round but were eliminated thereafter. In The U15 men's Dale and Patrick were eliminated in the early rounds, and Matt missed the Final by one flag.

Earlier in the week the U15's found old, traditional one piece march past uniforms in the back cupboards of the Clubrooms. In a surprise move on the day they donned these 'retro' bathers and fronted up for the March Past. The older members of the Club were sorting through their memory banks to remember the last time we had a march past team at Senior States. The kids were eye-catching and their marching did the Club proud – and didn't our boat crews, parents and supporters let them know! One of those big moments for the weekend.



The last events were the much anticipated Individual Board Finals. The Women's was horrid affair with collisions aplenty, but Alice kept clear and came in strongly for a Bronze medal. Anjie and a battered Sal were not disgraced and competed strongly. Mickey gave his all in the men's final and finished in the top section of the field.

Back at the Clubrooms that night, there was a sense that the Club is embarking on a new era. Port Elliot has been a strong and proud boat club, we can now add to that with a definite presence in other forms of competition, from R&R through to beach events- the current crop of U14/15's are at the forefront.

JUNIOR PRESENTATION DAY

What began as an exciting and much anticipated venture back in November came to close for Nippers Saturday (until next season that is!). It was the last day of Nippers the season, and so being was Presentation Day. Due the inclemency of the weather, we packed everyone indoors and got to use the new PA system!

Each Nipper group was praised by their leaders for their commitment, learning of new skills and knowledge, and their ability to have fun. The kids were presented with Certificates showing that they had achieved a certain level of qualifications.

Next, the Junior Championship Awards were presented. These were based on points gained at the Junior Club Championships conducted last month. The recipients were:

Mini- Champ

Winners: Abby Hall and Marcus Lippett

Runners Up: Rianna DiMichelle, Georgia Daish, Jonah Cooper

Sub-Juniors

Winners: Harrison Rusby, Alice Harry

Runners Up: Maddie Warner, Ruby Keen, Nathan Dennis, Amber Pointer

Juniors

Winners: Rachel Lippett, Ned Scholfield

Runners Up: Darcy Wedd, Jamie Buchanan, Charlie Mason

Next was the presentation of certificated to the U13's who had passed their Resuscitation assessment, and the U14's who 'graduated' to become Cadets. Those Nippers and cadet who competed in carnivals received medals to recognise their commitment.

Major awards were then presented, with the recipients being:

President's Trophy: Ebony Alford. This is for outstanding commitment and service to the Club.

Peter Sibly Trophy: Elise Tuuri as the most conscientious Cadet.

Coach's Trophy: Emma Roberts. Emma overcame injuries throughout the year to win a Silver medal at the State Titles.

Peter Trebilcock

Trophy: Louisa Richards for the best knowledge of lifesaving theory

In a nice touch the 'carnival kids' had made thank you cards for the adults who had helped them this year. They also gave presents to those who had put in a major commitment to the program:

Jeff Collins: Head Coach – he has voluntarily trained the kids 3 times a week. They love him!

Matt Smith: He morphed into Assistant coach and his manner with the kids at States was inspirational.

Lori and Paul Buchanan: As Carnival Coordinators their input is huge. Our carnival organisation was exceptional.

Natalie Gilbert: As Junior Coordinator she puts in many hours behind the scenes and makes sure that 'things happen'.

Peter Francis and Adrian Goldsmith: Provided water cover during sessions and skills tuition.

Lucinda Remilton: As Club Captain and competitor she is a great role model.

Lastly, Jeff Collins acknowledged the young people who are in the Youth Incentive Program (YIPS). This program was implemented to keep you people interested and involved in the Club, and at the same time rewarding them for their efforts. All the YIPS participants were given T-shirts, which they helped design and proudly wear. The scheme is definitely a success – most have achieved bronze standard in their first year, and one silver, culminating in over 500 hours of patrolling, 100 Nipper assistance hours, 400 plus training hours, and 100 hours of club activities. We are training these young people who will eventually 'inherit' and run the Club. Special mention was made of Hannah Davidson whose ongoing commitment to being a Nipper leader has seen her achieve her bronze even though she does not compete in carnivals. Outstanding effort!

After the formalities, the kids adjourned to the each for the traditional treasure hunt and ice-creams. Hopefully they will all return next year and continue their involvement in our Club and what it has to offer.

TURKEY TALK with ELLIOT THE SCRUB TURKEY

ELLIOT's FINAL ROLL CALL FOR THE SEASON!



Firstly, Elliot would like to express his disappointment at the conduct of members at the Masters. That was meant to be a weekend of mayhem and multiple Turkey deeds – but it wasn't! There was not a single nomination from the 2 days – what is the Club coming to!

The Final Awards for 2008-9 Season went to...

BRONZE TURKEYS: Jeff Collins, Peter Francis.

SILVER TURKEY: PATROL 7: LOST RADIO AND FLAMINGO IMPRESSIONS

GOLD TURKEY: PAM GRANT: MISPLACED KISS

The stories behind these appear in back issues – or just ask someone – the stories are worth re-telling. Don't ask the recipients because they are in denial! There were many honourable mentions – Peter Francis would appear to have had the most nominations!

Turkey Season for 2009 – 10 is now on...

And already we have a nomination. Renate turned the kitchen and herself into a scene from a slaughter horror movie when she managed to distribute the contents of a large jar of salsa everywhere except into the bowl. She did such a good job that she emptied the whole jar!

NATIONAL TITLES AT SCARBORO

A team of 7 Juniors went to compete in the Nationals at Scarborough in WA. In recent years PESLSC has only been represented by surfboats, so sending over this team was a first. The event itself was impressive with over 5500 competitors, 300 Surf Life Saving Clubs, 500 Officials and spanning over 1 km of beachfront. Brightly coloured Club tents, Paddle Boards and Skis as far as the eye could see. It was to be exciting, challenging and an inspirational experience for our young Pt. Elliot athletes. They did themselves and the Club proud!

Mickey Mason

Competed in Board race, R & R, 2 km run, Board Rescue, Flags

Mickey won a gold medal and is now the 2009 National Champion (best in Australia!) for U15 Men's 2 km run! Port Elliot's first Gold medal since 1967 at beach events in a Nationals! His win was convincing and well deserved. He was also a powerful competitor in his water events.

Dale Francis

Competed in Board race, R & R, Board Rescue, Flags

Dale's main event was R&R where he displayed exceptional control and precision. He also had a lot of fun and demonstrated he was competitive in his boarding events. Dale showed impressive qualities with encouragement and support to his team mates.

Alice Gilbert

Competed in Board race, Board Rescue, Board Relay, Iron Person, 2 km run, Flags, Sprint Relay

Alice's paddling was outstanding in the seriously big surf, producing a great result and making the 2nd round in the Board Race. Alice's achievements in the iron person put her on a high with a personal best swim and a dazzling paddle.

Sal Haselgrove

Competed in Board race, 2 km run, R & R, Board Rescue, Flags, Sprint Relay, Board Relay, Iron Person

Sal was strong in her water events putting in some awesome paddling. The iron person was a personal highlight. She also showed great competitive spirit and sportsmanship.

Jess Dennis

Competed in Board race, R & R, Board Rescue, Flags, Sprint Relay

Jess's greatest personal achievement was conquering the pounding surf in the board events. R&R has been Jess's focus, her intense training paid off with her exhibiting meticulous accuracy.

Anjie Collins

Competed in Boards race, R & R, Board Rescue, Flags, Sprint Relay, Board Relay, Iron Person

Anjie was the team captain and carried out this role competently, displaying great leadership and sportsmanship. Her paddling was sensational and sprinting was strong. She also had success in the flags.

Jorgia Grenfell

Competed in Board race, 2 km run, Flags, Swim, Iron Person

Jorgia showed a great competitive spirit in all her events and always competed with ability and a smile. Known for her long distance running, she didn't disappoint with a great result in the 2km run (7th). She displayed great personal achievement in her water events.

AND FROM THE COMPETITORS THEMSELVES...

I liked meeting Maxi from Bondi rescue he was HOT! When Mickey won the gold medal for the 2Km run I was very happy but on oxygen therapy. The waves were fun and it was funny when Dale dented his board with his head. R & R was a good reality check and Anjie and I should've won a medal for our 800 m Sprint down to the board relay straight after we marched off.

Jess and I didn't come last in the board rescue – we caught a sick wave and overtook Ocean Grove. I liked meeting my brother and nieces.

Salomae Haselgrove

Nationals was a great experience and very enjoyable. My favourite moment was the winning of gold in the 2 km race. It was almost unreal. Alice's techno dance was really funny. The moment I was most scared was being concussed by my own board. I think we did really well at R & R seeing as we had only been training for 6 months. Standing on the line just before we marched on was freaky.

Dale Francis

Nationals were lots of fun in Perth, Scarborough. It was great fun in the waves. I was amazed at Mickey's great achievement in winning gold, we were all very proud. I got to meet Maxi off Bondi Rescue, it was soo exciting! I also met lots of friendly people from different clubs. The shaving cream fight was awesome!

Jorgia Grenfell

One of my fav moments was meeting Maxi and getting a photo with him. The scariest moment was when I saw Sal's hand go up in the board rescue and paddling out through the waves hoping there wasn't a big set coming through. Also, when we were coming in on that really big wave and hoping that we didn't come off the wave. When we heard that Mickey got gold in the 2 km run Anjie and I couldn't believe it. I felt really anxious to see him and congratulate him. My most nervous moment was when we were lined up to start our second run through of R & R. One of the bad times was when we were practising R & R on the first day when I had to start in the impact zone and trying not to move. Another moment was when a really big wave knocked me over and I got washed up the beach. Getting hit by the big waves really hurt!!!

Jess Dennis

Fav moment: The first day – cleaning the BBQ. Neville, Peter F, Nat and Di went to the shopping centre to buy food for lunch and dinner and before they left Neville told us that we had to scrub clean the BBQ. We found some glass cleaner and paper towels and did our best effort. After 10mins what we had done still hadn't made any difference to the BBQ, so we looked around and saw a hose. We pulled the BBQ apart; put the hose on full blast and away we went. The adults arrived to find the BBQ absolutely spotless, the house still clean and Dale and Alice and I covered in BBQ grease and fat.

Funniest memory: One of the funniest memories is when Mickey, Jess and Sal arrived a day later and we went to the beach. Sal ran full pelt into the water, not realising that there was a drop that went into above head water just past the shore line. Sal ran full pelt, went to push off the bottom for a dive, but couldn't find the bottom and ended up doing a massive belly flop.

Anjie Collins

Arriving there it was miserable and cold, but I was in a really good mood and everything was so different to SA. Jorgia and I had trained for about 8 months for the 2km run, and right before we started our first training session I said to her “we’re training for a National Gold”. I didn’t really mean what I had said, thinking we would have no chance. Apparently I was wrong. I had planned to get into the top 10, but I could hardly believe that I got gold; I crossed the finishing line with the biggest smile on my face!

The R&R went really well and we did some really good pick-ups in the big surf.

Perth was one of the most memorable and fun times of my life and hopefully Kurrawa will be the same.

ADMINISTRATION NEWS !

Annual Dinner – Saturday June 13th. Invitations will be posted.

AGM – Sunday July 5th 10 am. Info will be posted.

Nationals 2010 (March 16-21):

Anyone wanting to compete in U15's will need to have Qualies by Dec 31st.

Anyone wanting to compete in U17's will need to have Bronze by Dec 31st.

Camp for early qualies & bronze will be run during October school holidays

- info to be posted.

Accommodation:

7 apartments have been booked by Port Elliot members at:

Le Beach 136 The Esplanade Burleigh Ph (07) 55763777

www.lebeach.com.au

Bookings have been made for Monday 15th to Monday 22nd. The apartments sleep 6 and for 6 people the cost is \$1085 for the week. The apartments are approximately 6km from Kurrawa and buses go past every 10-15 minutes.

If you are interested in going to the Nationals and you wish to stay with club members you can check out Le Beach on the net and contact them directly. Let them know you are with Port Elliot as they have given us discount.

Merchandise

Jenny is busy working on some new ranges for next season. We are hoping to have jackets, towels, trackpants. We are also hoping to have the range on the website with the ability to pay by credit card online. Watch the website.

Website

While you are watching the website you may see it disappear. Big thanks to Isaac Ellis who has maintained the website for PESLSC for a number of years. Isaac is off to uni in Adelaide (Good Luck Isaac) and has handed over the website to Maggie Savage. Maggie delivers Certificate II in Multimedia at VHHS and is in the process of upgrading the website. It may disappear or be inactive over the next couple of months while this occurs. We look forward to seeing the new look website.

200 Club

The 200 club was not actively promoted in 2008/9. Gavin Roberts is preparing to re-launch the 200 club in the next couple of months. Past sponsors and potential sponsors will be contacted over the next couple of months and a small function is planned for the start of the season. If you are interested or have suggestions for sponsors to contact please email the club peslsc01@bigpond.net.au.

Email

The club has upgraded the office equipment. All contacts will have to be put on the new system. If you don't receive emails in the next couple of months and think you are not on our contacts please email us.

Special Meeting 17th April

A special meeting was held Friday 17th April to discuss a draft paper on restructuring the Club Council. Twelve members attended the meeting and 6 people submitted written feedback.

President Rod Ellis outlined the reasons for considering change. The constitution is over 50 years old and written for a club and world that was very different. Club Council is made up of volunteers and needs to operate efficiently as possible. A large range of people in the club have diverse expertise and need to be involved in decision making.

The proposed restructure (the draft was emailed to all members) has a smaller Club Council (8) made up of directors of operations. Each director then manages a sub committee in their area. Sub committees would be more autonomous and have a greater ability to make decisions in their area.

Club Council would become more concerned with policy development and strategic planning.

Advantages raised included more members involved in decision making, more autonomy for groups, Club Council focussing more on strategy than day to day running of the club.

Disadvantages raised included lack of communication between sub committees, Club Council becoming too small and not representative of all groups, finance possibly too powerful, more people will need to give up time for meetings.

Steps from here:

Members will look at other clubs to see how they have adapted their structures.

Club Council will work on the draft to give it more detail.

Members will be posted the finalised draft (this may be 4-5 months away).

At some stage through a special meeting or AGM a motion will be put to suspend the constitution relating to the committee structures to trial a new structure.

If the membership is happy with the new structures a motion would be put through a special meeting or AGM to change the constitution.

This process is quite long and may take 12-24 months. Members can have input along the way. If you have any questions or comments talk to club council members, put your thoughts in writing. Club Council is keen for members to be contributing along the way.

Fiona Haselgrove
Secretary