

1934-35...83... 2017-18  
83 YEARS OF  
VIGILANCE AND SERVICE

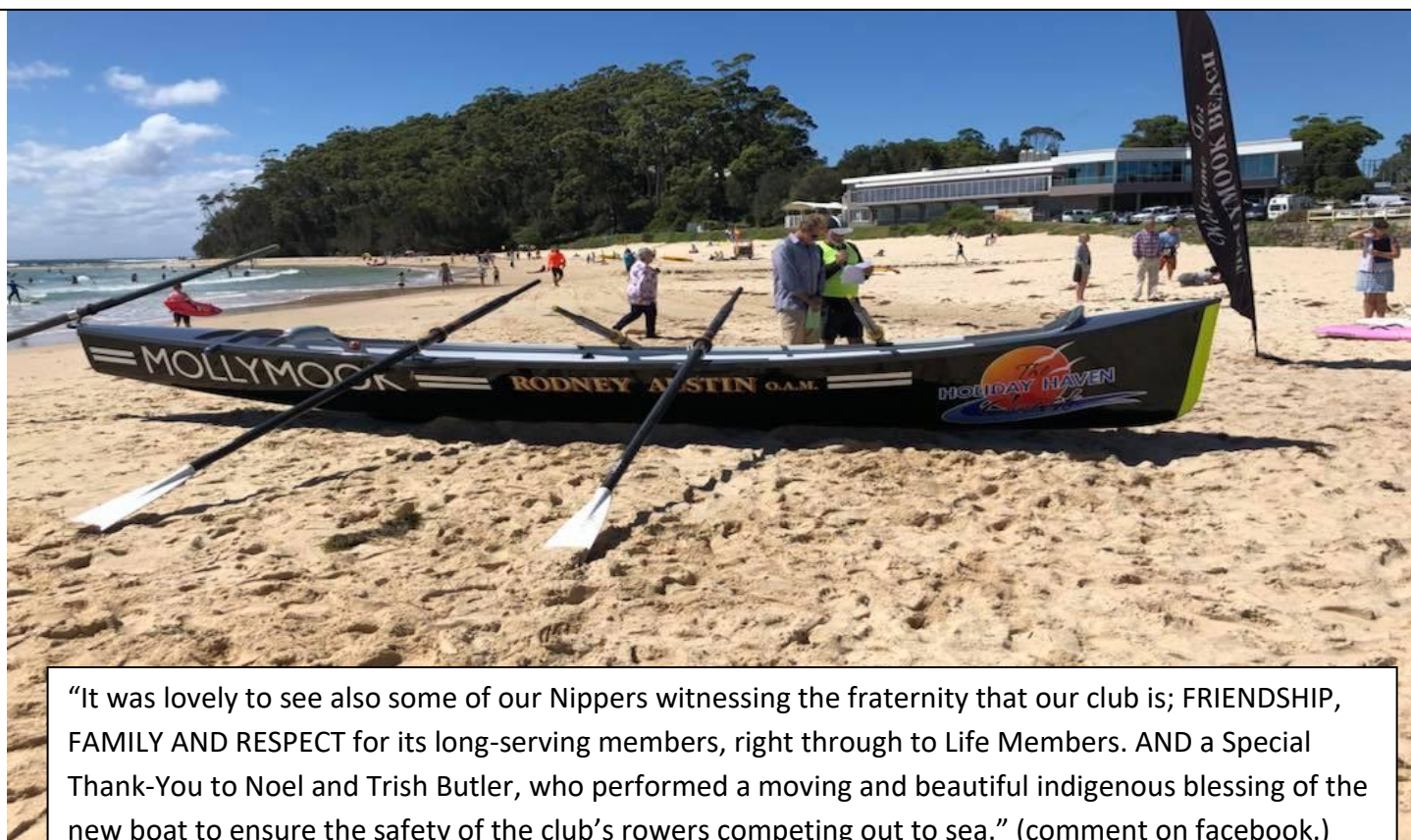
2017-2018...Without your dedication & commitment the beach-going public would not enjoy the safety and care that the red & yellow has come to symbolize..(D of L South Coast Branch).



Published by the : MOLLYMOOK SURF LIFESAVING CLUB (Incorporated 1989)

Volume 34....Issue Number 3...January/February 2018.

***A VERY SPECIAL MORNING ON MOLLYMOOK BEACH, BLESSING MSLSC'S NEW SURF BOAT, APTLY NAMED AFTER OUR CLUB PRESIDENT: "THE RODNEY AUSTIN". WHAT A GENTLEMAN, A LEGEND, A ROLE MODEL AND AN ASSET TO OUR CLUB SINCE 1968. A WONDERFUL TURN-OUT FROM CLUB MEMBERS YOUNG & OLD...***



***"It was lovely to see also some of our Nippers witnessing the fraternity that our club is; FRIENDSHIP, FAMILY AND RESPECT for its long-serving members, right through to Life Members. AND a Special Thank-You to Noel and Trish Butler, who performed a moving and beautiful indigenous blessing of the new boat to ensure the safety of the club's rowers competing out to sea." (comment on facebook.)***



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...** I would like to extend to all our members a HUGE 'WELL DONE', for your efforts, once again, in carrying out full rostered patrols on the three (3) beaches over the past peak holiday period.

Mollymook Surf Club was under high pressure to maintain reliability and enthusiasm, as a result of three additional weekends being added to our patrol roster. Our 'Support Service' was also on full roster and did not, on any occasion, reduce its diligence, by carrying out many rescues and taking preventative actions outside our patrolled areas.

Well done to all our fantastic patrolling members, it was a sensational effort. THANK YOU!!!

We have again reached the pointy end of the competition season. Both the Branch and NSW Country Championships have been run and were well attended by our teams. Much success at both events and the results have been already publicised. I would however, like to take this opportunity to remind all competitors of their responsibility of acting and behaving in an appropriate manner, whilst travelling to, whilst at the beach competing and of course, when returning home. It is an SLSA criteria that all teams have a Manager. Therefore, it is necessary that each section be managed by their section manager. Competitors must not take matters into their own hands—work through your section manager if you have a competition problem and, I repeat, act appropriately, do not jeopardise other team member's competition.

Once again, it is great news that we have been the recipients of another NSW Sport & Recreation Facilities Grant. This is to enable us to construct a much-needed equipment storage shed at the rear of the clubhouse. This will free-up the front area of our gear storage area. Many thanks again are extended to our wonderful State member Shelley Hancock, who once helped us with the grant.

Finally, the new club shower and toilet facilities are nearing completion and I would like to thank everyone for your patience while these renovations have been being carried out.

### **ROD AUSTIN OAM.**

**EDITORIAL..** Peak season patrols have come and gone and all would agree it was a busy time. Record crowds came out with the mostly very good weather and calm seas, attracting them. As mentioned in the last 'mag' we must expect the crowds to continue to increase each year as more and more development occurs in the South Coast.

A sign of the times that the Editor noticed, was the increase in nationalities using our beach. On one day in early January, beachgoers included Indians, Sri Lankans, Chinese, Japanese, East African Sudanese, Americans and three German back packers. When spoken to all of them admitted that they had little knowledge of surf safety. This changing face of beachgoers has meant that the preventative actions and vigilance of patrol members has to be 'spot on'. The little surf knowledge displayed was not a problem as luckily sea conditions were calm.

However, many visitors still will swim outside the flagged areas and of the rescues carried out by patrol members, all except one were done outside the flagged areas. It may be necessary on crowded days to increase the distance between flags to cope. Finally, congrats and well done on your patrolling over the past weeks. It is never easy, but as always you have coped with the pressure.

### **THE EDITOR.**



## **HOW WAS/IS YOUR PATROL SEASON GOING.**

For some of us it was good after the 'busy season' for us to sit in the shade and do a bit of 'Surf Education' and answer those questions that always seem to bother young boys.

So the Ed, took his notebook and pencil and asked the question to a couple of patrols. These were the answers.

\*\*\*\* Has been good and for me personally very busy as I patrolled every weekend except one.

\*\*\*\* I really appreciated the nice weather, but am glad to be back to 3 hour patrols now and not so busy.

\*\*\*\* The time commitment over the peak season has caused me some troubles, but I did manage.

\*\*\*\* A 'cracker' of a season so far, but I did notice that the crowds were bigger and getting busier than previous seasons. The weather was good so our patrol had few problems.

\*\*\*\* I found it has been quiet and a good season, fortunate that we had lots of people on patrol, and a good atmosphere.

\*\*\*\* We had few problems even though some days were really busy. We all had to be vigilant.

\*\*\*\* The beach fashions are becoming too much for me and my weak heart.

\*\*\*\* To sum it up so far..fun, friendly, no problems on our first season of patrols.

\*\*\*\* Fantastic, but the drowning at Pebbly Beach spoils the season.

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## **NEWS FROM NEAR & FAR, FROM HERE & THERE...**

\*\*\*\*\* **Why have the tides been so High lately ?** A number of people have asked the question early in the New Year as the east coast experienced unusually high tides. In some cases this resulted in lower-lying areas being inundated. The explanation was written by the Herald Environmental editor...."The so-called wolf moon-the first full moon of the year-also happens to be a 'super moon'. At some 50,000 kilometres closer than its furthest extent-a phase of proximity that 'makes men mad' according to Shakespeare-our nearest partner in space is exacting an extra pull on the world's water.

The Earth's orbital eccentricity with the sun also means that at this time of year we are about 5 million kilometres closer to the sun- a point known as the perihelion-than at our most distant in July.

"With this super moon and perihelion, what we were experiencing is the full might of the gravitational force on the earth", said Alan Duffy, an astronomer and professor at Swinburne University of technology in Melbourne. "You can expect a larger range in the tides both high and low."

(Peter Hannam..Herald Environment editor..1/1/18)

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\*\*\*\*\* **The 'Changing of the Guard' ?** Did you know that there will be just as many female volunteer surf lifesavers as men patrolling the state's beaches for the first time this year.

There are now more females involved in Surf Life Saving than ever before, making up 42 % of the overall membership. BUT among those who will be on weekend duty on our beaches this summer, there is a 50-50 split between male and female.

“More and more women are proving they can do exactly the same job as blokes in keeping people safe on the beach,” said Ms Donna Wishart from SLSNSW. She also made the point that in the ever-popular Nippers there is also a 50 per cent female involvement.

(Bryn Kay & Keely McDonough..Daily Telegraph 16/12/17)

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\*\*\*\*\* ***‘Coming To a Beach Near YOU...’“The HOTEL MOOK”.. Featuring a full liquor licence, Five star Accommodation, Top Class 3 Hatted Fine Dining and Pokies.***

A novel proposal to support ailing lifesaving clubs which would see surf lifesaving clubs turned into small hotels under a proposal to raise more money for lifesaving operations. This is the idea of developer and businessman Barry Tilley whose proposal was featured in the Herald of 6/1/18. His rather radical idea would see accommodation and dining facilities would help pay for the maintenance and provision of water safety and training rather than relying on donations.

‘There’s nothing more demeaning than seeing surf club members begging around railway stations,” Mr.Tilley said.

Whether or not surf club members ‘want to allow that (proposal) to permeate within the culture of their club’ is something that would create a great deal of soul-searching. (Ed;)

(Extracts from the fuller article by Andrew Taylor..SMH 6/1/18)

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\*\*\*\*\* ***SO WE HAD SOME SCORCHING JANUARY DAYS...***BUT spare a thought for some parts of the Northern Hemisphere at the same time. In Russia’s remote Yakutia region temperatures plummeted to a bone-chilling –(yes minus) 67 degrees C. It was so cold in South Florida that iguanas fell from their perches in trees in suburban Miami. At the same time reports that large, frozen sharks have been washed onto Massachusetts beaches.

In the last two instances in the USA, meteorologists have describe it as a ‘bomb cyclone’, so named for the process of **bombogenesis**, when the barometric pressure drops steeply in a short period.

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\*\*\*\*\* ***AND....SOME MORE ‘BIG WORDS’...*** Of course it would not be a ‘mag’ without another shark story. This one comes from the SMH at the end of January and concerns the prevalence of Bull Sharks. These are more common than most people know and their sightings, especially in Sydney Harbour over the past 21 months is up to 554. It is believed that the improved water quality and the increase in bait fish stocks may be leading to this increase. The Bull Shark gets its name from the shark’s stocky shape, broad, flat snout and aggressive, unpredictable behaviour. It is responsible for many of the shark attacks in enclosed waters. What makes it more dangerous is that the Bull Shark is

diadromous. This means that it can swim between salt and fresh water and in fact has been found many kilometres up coastal estuaries and rivers. Unlike other shark species the numbers are increasing and they are not categorised as being vulnerable, hence they are not protected.

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“If our Bronze medallion could talk” it would tell of the role that new technologies are playing in surf lifesaving. With the news that ‘two northern NSW teenagers have become the first people in the world to be rescued from the ocean by a drone’, this new drone technology has proven that it can play a role in helping to keep our beaches safer.

The two teenagers were caught out at Lennox Head recently in 3m swells that were buffeting the beach. The wild waves meant boats could not easily get to them and the 17 year-olds are being sucked out to sea in a strong rip..It was then that the remote-controlled drone flew into action. It was flown about a kilometre north of where lifeguards were stationed before dropping a flotation device to the pair of struggling swimmers.

Jai Sheridan, the 2017 NSW Lifeguard of the Year was piloting the “Little Ripper” and he said...”It certainly proved itself today; it is an amazingly efficient piece of lifesaving equipment and a delight to fly. I was able to launch it, fly it to the location, and drop the pod all in about one to two minutes.”

Mr John Barilaro the NSW Deputy Premier stated that “This is a world-first rescue. Never before has a drone, fitted with a flotation device been used to rescue swimmers like this. It’s quite incredible.”

(The above report was written by Nicholas McElroy for the Daily Telegraph 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018.)

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Unfortunately at the same time, was the news that ‘illegal’ drones were harassing sunbakers around populated beaches in the Wollongong area, and in particular flying over groups of children in the Minnamurra area.  
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\*\*\*\*\* MARK GREEN ‘again on the Spot’.. Members will remember that in our last issue PC Mark Green was involved in the treatment of a bather suffering a reaction. This month Mark was again on RWC patrol and was involved in the rescue of a number of persons at the entrance to Burrill Lake. However Mark was later to have the misfortune to have his fingers caught in the ball joint while coupling up the trailer. As well as the pain, Mark also lost the tops of two fingers which necessitated a stay in hospital to recover. Unfortunately the missing parts could not be reattached. This time Mark was not the ‘one on the spot’ as his patrol were the ones who had to deal with this bad injury. They did well. Mark is now recovering well and all members send their best wishes.

\*\*\*\*\*Members are to note, that due to the above accident the Director of Lifesaving and the Management Committee have adopted a new protocol. NO PATROL MEMBERS ARE TO BE STANDING IN THE ‘PINCH AREA’ WHILE THE RHINO IS BEING REVERSED UP TO OR MOVING AWAY FROM THE TRAILER AND THE COUPLINGS. PLEASE OBSERVE THIS AT ALL TIMES.

**RESCUE !!! RESCUE !!! RESCUE !!!** At the 2017 NSW Awards of Excellence, where she was awarded a SLSA Award of Merit; and also at the awarding of Pride of Australia medals; Jennifer Webb a member of Killcare Surf Life Saving Club was recognised for an inspirational rescue she carried out on her beach.



Jennifer Webb and her Pride of Australia Medal... Inspirational to us all in surf lifesaving.

'Seven-foot swells crashed down upon her and ominous skies screamed at Jennifer Webb to turn back. But, the young surf lifesaver willed herself with every fibre to find the drowning man that had been dragged 80 metres out to sea by a ferocious flash rip on the Central Coast's Killcare Beach.

“I was scared, it was cold, the surf was pumping...I wanted to cry,” she says. “Pure adrenaline kicked in and told me to keep going..I got to the man who had been thrashing in the water yelling for help (but) he had vanished. Then I saw bubbles...”

She was being tossed like a ragdoll on the giant waves. But the 17 year-old dived down, grabbed the man's hair and dragged him up above the water... "He had swallowed a lot of seawater and was barely conscious. I got a flotation tube around him but I got smashed by a seven-foot wave, and then another and another!"

Hell-bent on saving him, Webb barrelled towards the shore, focussed on delivering into the hands of other rescuers the listless body of 22 year-old Sayed Hashimi, a Blacktown local. Days later he took to the Killcare SLSC website to write “Thank you for saving my life.”

It was Easter Monday—the fourth straight day Jennifer Webb had spent on patrol over two beaches.

"I just did what I loved and the reward happened to be saving a life that day."

[Another story which makes us proud to be surf lifesavers.] **A full run-down on this story plus a number of other Pride of Australia Medal stories can be found in The Daily Telegraph Saturday December 30<sup>th</sup> 2017. It was written by Danielle Gusmaroli.**

**OUR GYM CUSTODIAN WRITES...** Whoever is setting up the gym for circuits, please put back all the weights etc back when you have finished. Also when finished with the heavy rope, coil it up and place back in the corner. The same applies to the medicine balls and kettle bells and other apparatus also .

AND ANOTHER REMINDER THAT THE GYM MUST BE VACATED BY 9.00 PM EACH EVENING TO AVOID A VISIT FROM OUR SECURITY...***PLUS IT WILL COST YOU!***

**ON THE SPOT...** A great story coming out of the recent George Bass Marathon Surfboat race happened at the finish line of the first leg from Batemans Bay to Moruya. Our Mollymook crew had just crossed the line ahead of Pambula's crew and watched as the Pambula sweep, Wayne Kent jumped out of his boat to help pull it up the beach he and immediately collapsed from a major heart attack.

Luckily for him Steve Craig from the Mollymook boat was right 'on the spot' and leapt to help. Craig who is a doctor at various south coast hospitals made a quick diagnosis.. "The bloke was dead when we brought him up on the sand", he said. Immediately he and some helpers from other clubs started into CPR and defibrillation with positive results. The patient was taken by ambulance, flown by helicopter to Canberra, and there the 66 year-old had a pacemaker inserted.

Five days later Wayne 'Superman' Kent was at the finishing line to welcome all the surf boat crews as they finished this epic race. Of course he was there to also thank those 'boaties' who were 'on the spot' and were able to commence life-saving CPR within a minute or so of his heart attack. Great work from all concerned and well done!

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OUR CREW IN ACTION...'and a first time' for a Mollymook crew in this now iconic event. The blisters on hands & nether regions, the hard slog into the Southerly wind, the gruelling fatigue and those hard, confronting, long days and the hard training and sacrifices.....**WORTH IT ???**



**'YOU BET !'** The crew had these words to describe the experience....'Camraderie', 'great bonding between the rowers & support crew', 'mateship', 'a good test', 'a great way to see the beautiful southern coastline', 'seeing Steve in action on the beach helping to save a life', 'the motivation & encouragement from sweep Marty Drysdale', 'found there was much more to it than just 'having a go!', 'commitment must be full on!', 'no wonder they only run the event every second year'. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CREW/SUPPORT CREWS.WELL DONE!

AND LET'S NOT FORGET THE TREMENDOUS EFFORT FROM TONY IRELAND WHO TACKLED THE SKI SECTION OF THE MARATHON. IT TOOK A LOT OUT OF HIM, BUT HE SUCCEEDED EVEN THOUGH IT KNOCKED HIS TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR THE COUNTRY TITLES ABOUT..

\*\*\*\*\***CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY...** "Recent headlines are warning that our oceans will have more plastic (in them), than fish by 2050. This may seem incredible, but in reality, it may be even worse.

The throwaway society has gone global, with plastic production predicted to double in the next 20 years, according to *Science* magazine."

*"Reducing single-use plastic bags and recycling plastic bottles should be just a start when millions of marine animals are dying daily from plastic poisoning."*

(Observations from Malcolm Doyle..*Good Weekend*..March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018.

The annual 'Clean-up Australia Day' was held recently and with Monica and Ken Banks in charge Mollymook was given a good clean-up. Besides a group of locals, Monica also engaged the help of our enthusiastic Nippers before their morning events.



***"Most of our nippers were not too impressed with what they collected.." (other photos taken by Ken Banks are on Facebook...have a look. All rubbish collected was later sorted and collated, and the results passed on.***

***Nach Urramach an Cuan.. (an old Gallic saying) which means 'How Worthy of Honour Is the Sea'. We can show how much we Honour It, by keeping it clean !***

## *Pars About People...*

### Congratulations to Ebony Murray who was the 'runner-up' in the recent 2018 Milton Miss Showgirl competition. Ebony celebrated by heading to the State Titles as a member of the 'Squid Jigs' boat crew who bravely fought through for a Bronze Medal in the final. Fellow crew member Gemma Schrederis was also celebrating her very recent wedding. Both ladies were of the opinion (expressed by Gemma at her wedding,) that *"When you put it all together it was just perfect"*.

### Uncle Noel Butler is another member who also made the news with a State Silver Medal in the 220 yrs boat race. To show his versatility Noel, recently carved a shield for competition in a Super (rugby) League game, between Wigan and Hull FC at Wollongong. The shield was named after two Australian RL greats; Peter Stirling and Brett Kenny. A beautiful piece of work.

### Ex-member Kalindi Commerford is also in the news with her selection in the Hockeyroos side. After an impressive test series recently against China, the Hockeyroos are in training and playing a host of trial matches before the final squad is selected for the Commonwealth Games.

### Another ex-member, Jack Murchie is having a great start to the 2018 rugby league season with his selection in the Australian squad for the 2018 Rugby League Commonwealth Championships. Jack has also been training hard as a member of the Canberra Raiders first grade group and hopefully a debut in the top grade.

### Congratulations also to ex-members Turia Pitt and Michael Hoskin on the arrival of Hakavai Hoskin just before Christmas. Both parents were 'just so stoked' on his safe arrival and another milestone for this indomitable and popular couple.

### Also receiving congrats just before Xmas was Ava del Tufo who has claimed another award for her community work. Ava was presented the John Lincoln Youth Community Service Award by NSW Governor David Hurley at Government House. Ava was described as an "exemplary role model", but of course we at Mollymook SLSC already knew that!

### Jack Skinner, another talented member of our club was in the news just before Xmas as well when at Ulladulla High School Presentation he was awarded the Bendigo Bank Scholarship for his Academic leadership. Jack also recently completed the up-grade from SRC to Bronze. To make it a family affair, brother Archie received his SRC and father Ian his Bronze as well.

### Another 'family affair' saw new members, the Gray Family, in award's action with Archie getting his SRC and Fiona and Don completing their Bronze. Well done.

### Final par refers to a comment in one of the Sydney papers about 'beach wars', or the lack of beach etiquette' It's about people wielding beach umbrellas, tents and beach shelters like weapons. It is people shaking their towels over people right next to them, and others flicking sand. AND how close should you sit to the person next to you? Hint: not on top of me like the inconsiderate family who decided to erect a tent so close they could have undone the straps of my bikini..OH dear .

**CLUB MANAGEMENT ISSUES...** It's getting there, slowly but surely, with the tiling all finished and looking great, new gas hot water system all installed, partitions ordered, some fittings to be done and the ceilings to be installed. The new facilities will be worth the wait. As well, the building of the new shed has been signed off on and the removal of the trees will take place soon. The club has a donation of \$2000 for this.

...The Entertainers Night will be happening soon and as usual we have a table booked for 10, but names must be in soon. It is always a great night made better by the fact that we will again receive a donation from the show organisers.

... Most members are aware that the club has two disabled wheelchairs for beach and water use. These are FREE to the general public for them to use.

... A letter was received by the Management Committee regarding the possible setting up of a Nipper group in Canberra which would be affiliated with our club. Some south coast clubs already have Canberra connections, such as Broulee/Canberra. Our committee decided to look into this and seriously consider it.

... The overuse of oxygen was discussed recently and a reminder issued that oxygen should only be used on serious/urgent cases. Also just a reminder that in after-hours emergencies requiring resuscitation/CPR/defib'n, that if the first aid room is locked, go to the rhino or the FWD mobile which are both equipped with the necessary gear. This is to save having to break the doors of the f/a room down.

... Although the Door Knock has been and gone it is not too late to say *Thank You* to those who turned up to help out including all the 'old stalwarts', where would we be without you. Over \$9000 was raised on the evening after just 3 hours of collecting. With later donations this amount increased. The collection boxes were also emptied after the Xmas rush and once again they have proven worthwhile.

... It was examination Day recently for the next lot of candidates. All were successful and included the following; SRC — Archie White, Archie Skinner, Julia Armstrong, Iona Gray; SRC to Bronze — Jack Skinner, Patrick Armstrong, Danielle Holt, Pia Hollywood, James Scott; and Bronze Medallions to Fiona Gray, Don Grey, Ian Skinner, Anthony Walsh, Jon Louth, Greg Harris..CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL..another great squad.

...Another reminder AGAIN ! that if you are injured whilst on surf club activities you must report the injury to the Director of Lifesaving straight away, so that the wheels can get turning. It should also be recorded in the Incident book in the F/A room and/or in the Patrol Log book. If you leave it too long before putting in a claim, it will be too late!

...Sunday last our Sunday Sippers hosted representatives of all the emergency services of our area for a social get-together in the clubhouse. It was good to get to know the faces behind all these other volunteer organisations, and the consensus was that it becomes an annual affair.

*The Last Page...* I firstly must apologise for the lateness of this issue of our 'mag'. Three weeks ago with it all but complete, except for the 'Last Page', my laptop took it upon itself to go crazy and all the hard work was lost. A trip to the service centre and a trip away for it took a week or so and then I had to do the 'mag' all over until I reached this point again. So please bear with me.

As usual at this time of the year we say goodbye and all the best for a number of our junior-ish members who head off to uni, college etc to pursue the next stage of their life. This particular lot have been wonderful members and we are truly sorry to see them go.

With the busy holiday season over we need to take stock. With the hot, early January it was almost impossible on scorching days to keep people swimming in the flagged areas along the coast. Many rescues were reported but thankfully, no drowning in our area. But people still are blaise' about where to swim. A shark attack recently at Congwong (La Perouse) Beach highlights this. Late in the afternoon a shark attacked a lady and sliced open her leg. This took place on an unpatrolled beach at dusk. One of the rescuers who was there had taken a group of youths to the beach for a swim. She explained later , " I suppose it was a stupid time (for swimming)...But I had never given it a thought because the kids were just paddling in the shallows. But it made us all more wary about what time you do go into the water-because it's (the shark's) territory isn't it?"

We also need to be aware that as our ocean keeps warming up there are well-founded fears that the deadly Irukandji Jellyfish are drifting further and further south to the vicinity of the Gold Coast. Scientists are warning that more planning needs to be done.

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**I have just received the dreadful news that our great mate and friend and fellow surf lifesaver, John Patterson has passed away just a few short hours ago. John has been battling hard for the past few months with prostate cancer and had relinquished his vice-presidency to concentrate on his treatment. However John would not relinquish his role as Patrol Captain a position he loved. John had the knack of being able to instil in all his patrol members over many seasons, the pride in surf lifesaving that he felt, ever since he joined our club. This is devastating news for us all, but knowing John he would hope that we all not let our grief interfere with the job in hand.**

**RIP "PATTO".**

**(A full tribute will be in the next issue of the 'mag'.)**

Postscript.. The news from our competitors at the NSW State Titles was amazing once again and the 'mag' had intended to do a full report. This will now have to wait until the next issue, but in the meantime our Facebook page has all the results and lots of photos.

*The Editor.*

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