

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).



**MATESHIP, RESPECT, SURF LIFE  
SAVING: HE GAVE IT ALL.**

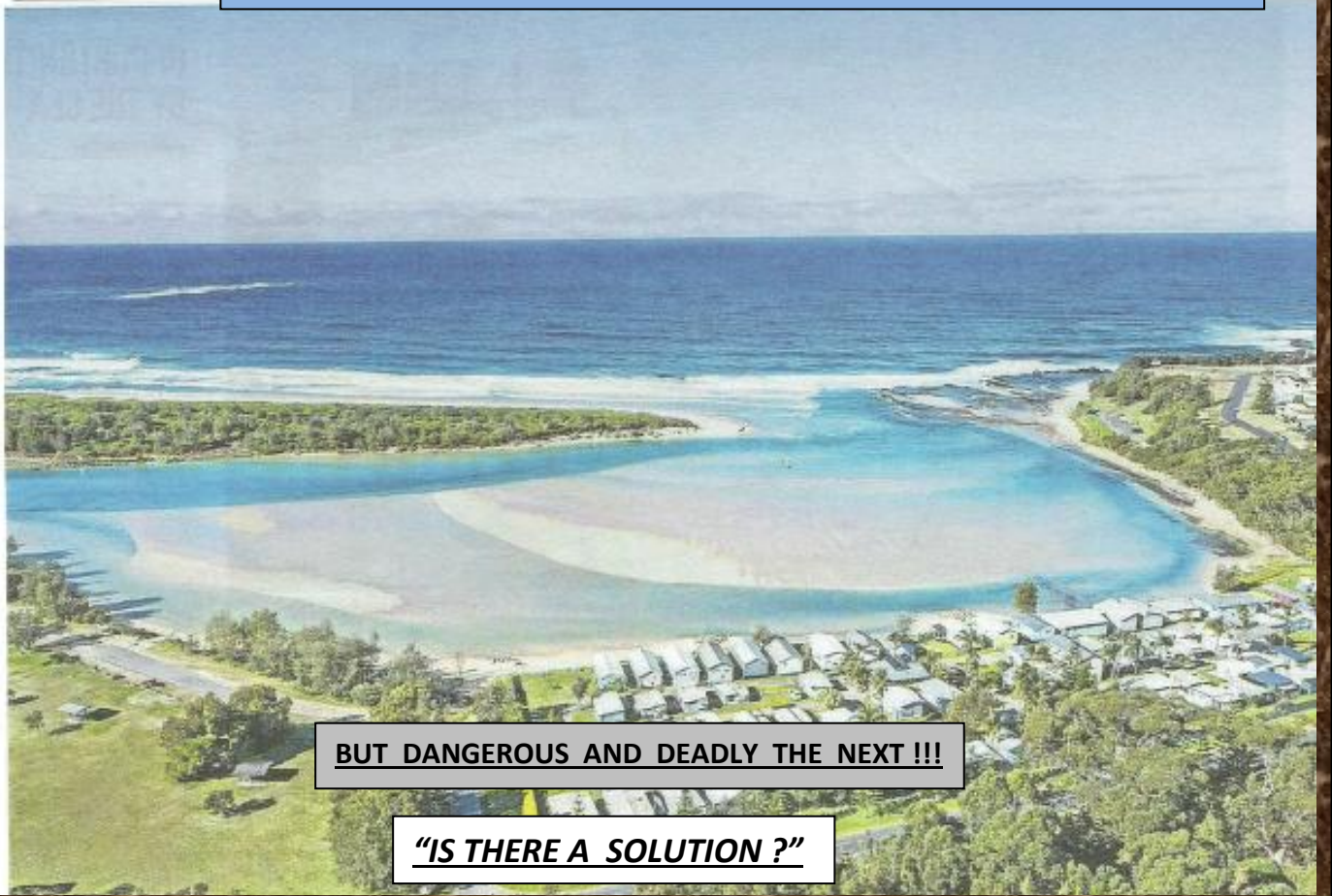


# Mollymook Mag

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**"DOLPHIN POINT." Idyllic & Beautiful one minute.....**



**BUT DANGEROUS AND DEADLY THE NEXT !!!**

**"IS THERE A SOLUTION ?"**

## **RESCUE.....RESCUE.....RESCUE !!!!**

### **LIVES SAVED BY TEEN HEROES. By Sam Strong.**

Two junior (surf) lifesavers have been lauded for their extreme rescue efforts that saved two distressed swimmers at the southern end of Mollymook Beach.

Matthew Wheeler and Harry Hicks, both 16. Of the Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club rescued the two men, who were struggling to stay afloat, about 200 metres offshore on Saturday

Mollymook patrol captain David Johnson was speechless for a moment when asked to describe the efforts of the boys, who "did not hesitate whatsoever" to paddle out in "very" rough conditions. He said that they handled the rescue like senior lifesavers.

"Everybody is proud of the boys. If they hadn't have got there Mollymook would have been in the headlines for the wrong reasons," he said.

"In another two minutes they (two swimmers) may have drowned."

"The patrol crew were packing up their gear into the clubhouse after their shift finished at 3.00pm when a patrol member spotted two heads with arms waving about two hundred metres off-shore" Johnson said. Without hesitating the two junior lifesavers out their training into practice and sprinted to the water's edge, each with a rescue board under their arms. They quickly met with the swimmers who were described as "two distressed adults hanging on for dear life."

"One swimmer was cramping and his friend was struggling to keep him afloat" Johnson continued. "The boys calmed them down and reinforced them they were safe."

Harry's father, Drew Hicks. Had also joined the rescue. He swam out with a rescue tube, but the boys had it under control by the time the senior lifesaver had reached the swimmers, Johnson said.

A crowd had gathered in front of the golf club to watch the rescue while the patrol team, including Harry's mum and patrol vice-captain Ileenie, were waiting with first aid equipment on the shore. Johnson continued, "On the scene, when it's happening, it's heart-wrenching stuff."

"It was hard work (for the boys), getting out there and paddling back to shore in very rough conditions."

An ambulance was phoned as a precaution and both men, from Sydney, were later discharged from Milton Hospital.

The pair, aged in their middle twenties, were swimming outside the flags when they were last seen before the rescue, Johnson stated.

[ This report from the Milton Ulladulla Times of March 28, 2018 was reprinted with the kind permission of the paper.]

**A GREAT RESCUE CARRIED OUT BY THESE TWO JUNIORS AND THEY DESERVE THE ACCOLADES THAT HAVE BEEN PUT ON THEM. IT IS A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY ON OUR YOUNGER MEMBERS TO BE PUT TO THE TEST AND ONCE MORE COME OUT ON TOP. *Well done boys from us all.***

**ONCE AGAIN THE ENTRANCE TO BURRILL LAKE PROVED TO BE A DANGEROUS PLACE TO SWIM...** *"For people unfamiliar with the inlet it all looks like an idyllic holiday spot—which it is most of the time. There are signs warning of the strong currents at the mouth of the inlet but they are obviously not always heeded."* These words are by local Damien Martin after he heroically pulled seven people from the inlet, where he estimated the run-out tide was moving at about twelve knots. *"For an inexperienced swimmer, it's damn fast!"* (24-1-18)

The rescue reported above was one of many over this last holiday period. A week after this one, by-standers again had to go to the rescue of a man and his two daughters. Our RWC patrol also performed twelve rescues and responded to two other call-outs by the end of January.

Over the decades many other rescues have been performed, and in some cases fatalities have unfortunately taken place. Our club has frequently been asked to provide a patrol in the area over the past years, and patrols by IRB and now RWC have been conducted. However the feeling is that *"if we were to patrol it then we would be encouraging people to swim at a dangerous beach,"*.. said Mollymook SLSC captain.

Over the past years many options have been put on the table for the Burrill Lake Entrance, mainly by Dolphin Point residents .. These include the following.

- \*\* provide a surf club outpost patrol over tourist season.
- \*\* increased use of the RWC especially during periods of the outgoing tide.
- \*\* use of large red danger flags, hoisted by volunteers as tide starts to go out and lowered as tides start to come in.
- \*\* make more use of the surf club FWD for surveillance as tide goes out.
- \*\* provision of an emergency response beacon...see below.
- \*\* provide a drone for surveillance again during periods of out going tides.
- \*\* place a net or heavy rope across the entrance channel to catch swimmers being washed out.
- \*\* make it illegal for people to swim in the area.
- \*\* more education/publicity about the dangers involved in swimming in this area.

Members are asked to ponder on this situation and make suggestions. In the light of all the new developments taking place in the area, there is an urgency in trying to find a solution(s) to this problem. One solution is being successfully trialled in Corrimal.

#### **RESCUE BEACON LAUNCHED AT CORRIMAL**

**Representatives from the NSW Government and Surf Lifesavers gathered at East Corrimal Beach on Monday to officially launch the Illawarra's newest Emergency Response Beacon. The installation of this exciting technology is just another way lifesavers are adapting to the needs of the 21st century beachgoer. Read on.....**



#### RESCUE BEACON LAUNCHED AT CORRIMAL

Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant and Surf Life Saving NSW CEO Steven Pearce were at East Corrimal Beach this morning alongside local council and lifeguard representatives for the unveiling.

Funded through a \$136,500 NSW Government Water Safety Fund Community Grant, the ERB is the third to be deployed in the Illawarra, the others are located at Coniston and Puckeyes beaches.

Weighing under 20 kilograms and utilising a 3G voice intercom, SMS functionality, and a camera, the unit will be located at an unpatrolled section of beach to the north of Corrimal and will enable lifeguards and lifesavers to respond rapidly in the event of an emergency.

Mr Grant said that the ERB will help reduce emergency response times at one of Illawarra's most popular beaches.

"With the press of a button, the beacon allows immediate connection with the Surf Life Saving State Operations Centre and local lifeguards," Mr Grant said.

"In an emergency every second counts, this technology means that the response time of our lifeguards is reduced as help can be quickly directed to where it is needed.

"Water safety is a priority for the NSW Government and these ERBs are part of a suite of measures to assist surf lifesavers and lifeguards to better protect the public on our beaches."

Surf Life Saving NSW CEO Steven Pearce said this type of technology will play an important part in saving lives.

"While we have 129 clubs around the state, we obviously can't be everywhere at once. Using technology in this way enables us to better support lifesavers and lifeguards on the beach," Mr Pearce said.

"The unit at Coniston has already been activated a number of times and has resulted in significantly improved response times and several successful rescues."

Recently our club had a demonstration of the ability of the drones now been adapted for use on our beaches. All present were suitably impressed with its capabilities and the fact that already a drone had been successfully deployed to rescue two swimmers in distress. These two examples above may be part of a solution we need.



ON THE SPOT... Once again we feature some of our local people who were 'placed on the spot', when a 54-year-old gentleman out for an early morning walk collapsed in the vicinity of the surf club. He went into cardiac arrest and people in the vicinity rushed to help, among them being cadet member Eadan Burton. Quick thinking by all saw them spring into action administering CPR. Keith Claxton applied defibrillation for several minutes and the patient started to come around. The ambulance and paramedics arrived soon after to take the patient off to Milton hospital and then by helicopter to Wollongong Hospital where he made a full recovery.

It was well-done to the Mollymook surf lifesavers involved, Keith heavily involved in saving the man's life and especially Eadan who was much relieved when she was informed that the man would survive. **It was another instance to make us all realise that people who receive CPR from bystanders are more than likely to survive cardiac arrest than those forced to wait for emergency medical help.**

Gradually this fact is stimulating many large businesses to insist upon CPR training for all their staff. News Corp has already trained 300 employees and is challenging other businesses to do the same. The famous 'Three Blue Ducks' restaurant group have put all their staff through CPR and first-aid, and Harvey Norman is also committed to this.

By-stander CPR is a crucial component in the chain of survival—it has huge benefits when first-aid trained people are available to help in those first minutes of a cardiac arrest.

**NOT ANOTHER 'SHARK STORY'!!!** This time it is one with a difference as the headline shows.....**Man punches shark...** Yes a brave swimmer fought off a 3m-long shark yesterday by punching it in the face.

Robert Frostland said he was finishing his daily swim just after 4pm when he spotted the large shark "heading straight for him" at a beach near the southwest Victorian town of Lorne.

"The water was crystal clear so I could see it clearly," Mr Frostland said. "It came at me six of seven times...I was waiting for it with clenched fist each time."

Mr Frostland said that he was forced to repeatedly punch the animal in the nose. After returning to shore, Mr Frostland alerted lifesavers and the beach was cleared. A boat was sent to look for the shark, but it has not been seen since the bloody nose.

AND...*'NOT ANOTHER STORY ABOUT PLASTICS AND POLLUTION'...yes!!*

“Recent headlines are warning that our oceans will have more plastic than fish by 2050. This may seem incredible, but in reality, it may be worse. The throwaway society has gone global, with plastic production predicted to double in the next 20 years according to *Science magazine*.” (Observations from Malcolm Doyle..Good Weekend ).

“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.”

If you find it hard to believe, especially when we see the excellent condition of our beaches and the success of “*Take 3 for the Sea*”, then the following photographs taken by the Editor may emphasise the reality of the problem world-wide.



This photograph and the one below are of two small coves on an island in the Pengu archipelago just south of Taiwan on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018. Most of this plastic rubbish was not generated by people visiting the area, but from the vast fishing fleets in the South China Sea. Scenes like this are repeated along the coastlines of the whole of this area. One can only imagine what the mid-ocean accumulations, which now cover many hundreds of square miles of our oceans, must look like. Likewise the recent news that much of the Arctic ice sheet is heavily contaminated by micro-beads washed in from our society.



The next cove was just as bad! Imagine trying to swim or surf with this floating by. Much of the lighter plastics including small pieces of polystyrene and the plastic water bottles are blown up the nearby cliffs by strong winds and have filled gullies and depressions. You might try and identify all the different kinds of plastic in the photograph.

Confronting new images have revealed the cost of our world's obsession with plastic. Read on from part of an article in the Sydney Sun-Herald of 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 by Nicole Hasham.

*"Deep in their burrows, hungry shearwater chicks on Lord Howe Island await a meal. Their parents have been scouring the sea in search of fish and squid.*

*Instead they return to feed their babies clothes pegs, bottle tops and lego pieces.*

*After 90 days the fledglings emerge from their burrows, stomachs bulging with plastic. They prepare for their first flight. Many are so malnourished they die. Others make it to the beach, but their undeveloped wings flap in vain and waves engulf them.*

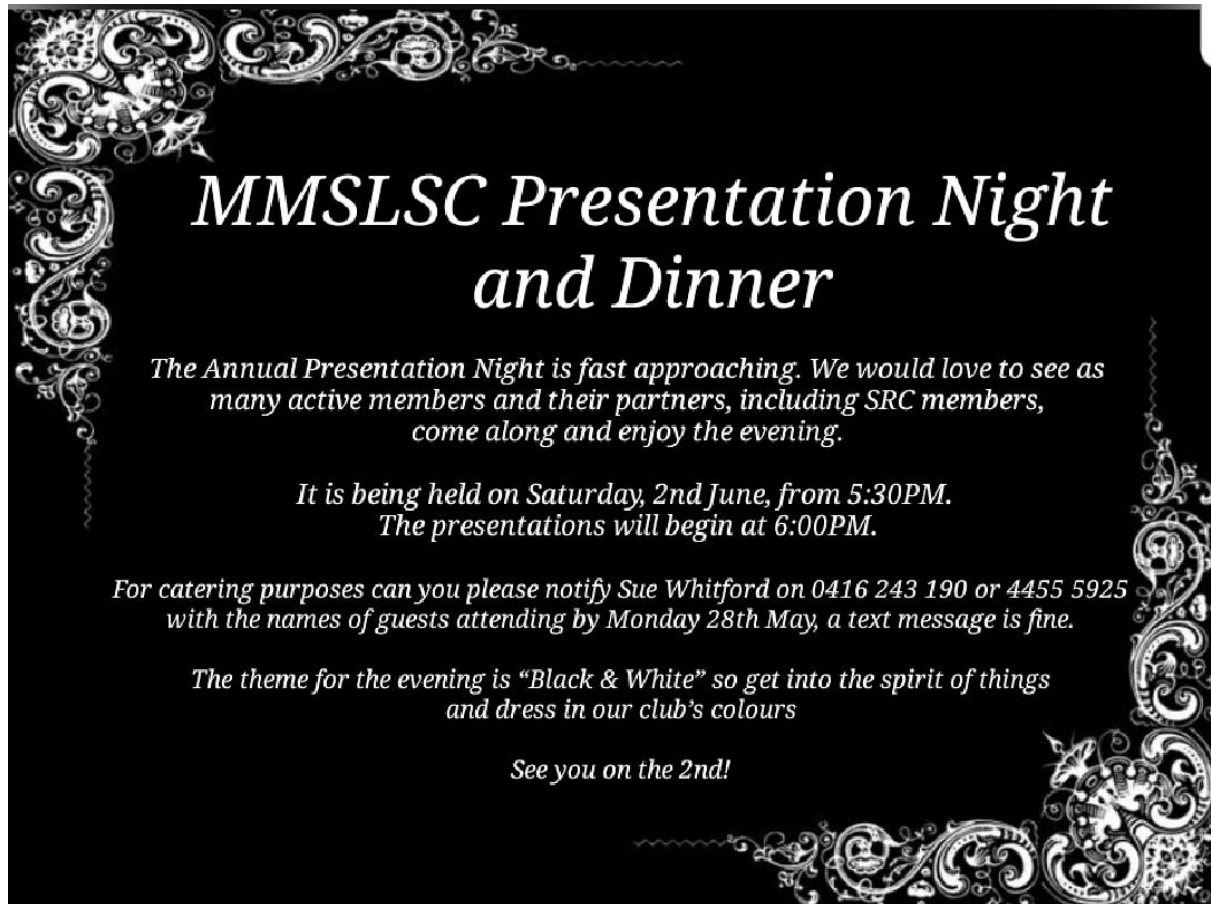
*Ian Hutton, a naturalist and museum curator on Lord Howe Island, pulls the bodies off the beach.*

***Researchers slice open their stomachs to confirm the cause of death. Once they found 274 pieces of plastic in the stomach of one bird.***

Monica recuperating, still has the energy to remind us always to **'TAKE 3 FOR THE SEA'**, AS the 'plastics' problem steadily gets worse.



Please note the date for RSVP's. Even though it is a 'free' night it is still important for catering that we know the numbers..... Thanks.



**MMSLSC Presentation Night  
and Dinner**

*The Annual Presentation Night is fast approaching. We would love to see as many active members and their partners, including SRC members, come along and enjoy the evening.*

*It is being held on Saturday, 2nd June, from 5:30PM.  
The presentations will begin at 6:00PM.*

*For catering purposes can you please notify Sue Whitford on 0416 243 190 or 4455 5925 with the names of guests attending by Monday 28th May, a text message is fine.*

*The theme for the evening is "Black & White" so get into the spirit of things and dress in our club's colours*

*See you on the 2nd!*

### PARS ABOUT PEOPLE, PLACES AND OTHER 'GOINGS-ON'!!!

### Oh dear me. In the last issue of the 'mag' a par about the Sydney beach wars. The Hint to avoid problems "was to not let people sit on top of me like the inconsiderate family who decided to erect a tent so close that they could have undone the straps of my bikini". Oh dear, it was not referring to me, The Editor of the 'mag', but to the lady who wrote the article. Got that !

### Oh dear me. Some have got it and some haven't. The sight of popular Keith Claxo in his leathers and on his beautiful motor bike with his well-proportioned rear, proved too much for a youngish female car driver. Entering a Tamworth round-about on a very recent trip she pursued Claxo, finally nudging him up the backside. Luckily very little damage was done to the bike and much embarrassment to the lady driver. By the way the recent manning of the Milton Show gates saw our club the recipient of a cheque for \$3000. Thanks to the members who helped out.



### The Entertainers Wow!!! In keeping with all their previous shows, the 2018 show was a wonderful display of local talent in two halves of 15 acts each. The singing and dancing kept all enthralled and this cast of 2018 was the equal of previous years. Congratulations to all and thanks to them for their continuing generosity towards our surf club who again received a fine donation from their efforts. Great stuff!

### Ziad El Tobgy one of our club's 15 year olds makes the news as a basketballer making a name for himself. Recently he was selected to attend a four-day NSW Country Development tour in Newcastle where he was one of the stars. Ziad has a dream of becoming a professional basketball player and is working hard towards this.

### CLUB MANAGEMENT ISSUES...

..... The 'mag' has reported before, but it is true. The long and frustrating toilet saga is nearly over and the end is in sight, but I'm sure you will all agree the wait has been worth it. Just a little more work and they will be ready.

..... Likewise the new storage shed is also well on the way. Drysdale Builders are making good progress and this will be a relief for Les O'S problems with gear storage.

..... On the morning the surf boat was loaded on the trailer for the trip to Perth for the Aussies, 'out of the blue' owners of the Leisure Coast Limousine Service, donated \$150 towards the fuel costs for the trip. Thank you to Mike, Pat and Mark Horsley for this donation.

..... To complete the 'revamp' downstairs the foyer has been gutted and display cases and memorabilia have been removed. New improved display areas will be built along with other enhancements to set the entrance off.

..... 'Off-season' training has commenced with a number of courses planned. Trainers and assessors are ready, willing and able to give up their valuable time to run these. All it requires is **YOUR SUPPORT** to make their efforts worthwhile. Follow the details on Facebook etc.

Congratulations to all members on the completion of another long season. A complete run-down of the statistics will come at our AGM. Sufficient to say that you have done well and played an important part in keeping our beaches fatality-free. V & S forever!

Also belated congratulations to our members who took part in our Annual Ocean swim, what a great day! Also to our competitors who will undoubtedly feature on Presentation Nights and in the Annual Report. What an effort at Branch, NSW State and the Australian Titles. A great team of competitors keeping "our flag flying".

..... Anzac Day started with a crowd of over 40 at the pre-dawn gunfire ceremony at the water's edge of Mollymook beach, followed by coffee etc and then off to the Dawn Service at the Ex-Servo's and later on to Milton for the March. All three activities were well supported by our club members. Well done.

..... Recently our club played host to the 'Beaches to the Bush Colouring-in Competition' winner, a delightful young girl. She and her family won a trip to Mollymook and much enjoyed their stay.

..... No doubt the new playground behind the club is a popular place and every day is well used. However parking is getting harder to find on weekends.

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News from the Fisheries Deputy Director General that the SIX month trial of SMART drumlines off South Coast beaches has now ended. The drumlines off Ulladulla since last November saw the Dept.of Primary Industries tag and release 15 target sharks. Of these, three white sharks and two tiger sharks were amongst them. The drumline research will provide 'important insight' into shark movements

It will be interesting to see the final report on this 'contentious' issue, but the trial does point out again, that both great white and tiger sharks do pass along our section of the coastline and venture in closer than we may have thought. The yellow buoy will be remaining to pick up signals from the tagged shark program.

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**SOME REMINDERS....** 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE SOUTH COAST BRANCH PRESENTATION.

29<sup>TH</sup> JULY MOLLYMOOK SLSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

AND VARIOUS DATES FOR TRAINING COURSES...

KEEP INFORMED ON ALL THE CLUB'S 'GOING'S ON' AT OUR FACEBOOK SITE AND WEBSITE.

**THE LAST PAGE...** For many years the first person to receive a copy of our "Mag; hot off the press!" was John Patto and he sat down , put the tools to one side and read it straight away. He never neglected to say how much he loved reading it. At the recent ceremony laying the wreaths and boaties farewell, a number of members posted their thoughts. The 'mag' reproduces these in JP's memory.



Our last photo of John taken two days before his tragic passing, playing the convivial host at the local Emergency Services 'get-together' in our club, here speaking to Mrs.Shelley Hancock Speaker of the Lower House NSW Parliament and Ossie Hancock. 'That Tiger grin we will always remember.'

*"I am so proud that you treated me as a good mate!"*

*"God bless you old mate. Love always."*

*"RIP mate, we will miss you."*

*"To Patto, great bloke and will be sorely missed."*

*"Thank you for being a great mate and an even a better bloke."*

*"Hey Patto, will miss the fun times and your banter. Very much missed."*

*"A truly significant, treasured and valuable member of our community."*

*"Keep those hands up Patto. Your are going to be missed by a lot of people."*

*"I will say 'hi!' everytime I swim with you."*

*"Patto, you'll be missed in many ways. Up the Tigers Mate!"*

*"A lost, lost friend!" "A good mate and friend."*

*"My mate Patto, you silly bugger and I hope that you have found your peace. Selfishly, I am going to miss our chats, you wisdom and care and your laughs. Until we meet again."*

*"Patto, I will miss all your noise at my place in the afternoons."*

*"Rest in Peace Mate." "Patto—never forgotten."*



*"Patto it's gonna be a shame not to see your face around any more, mate. Hope you are resting easy."*

*"Our Buddy; you will be sadly missed and you will always be with us. You will also still be bagged at every opportunity at the morning swims."*

*"Hey patto, Gus was waiting for you to retire. Hope you are at peace."*

*"Dear patto, Thanks you for being such a wonderful mentor, friend and for giving me so much support and encouragement. I never got to show you how to fold that darn pop-up tent or to do meditation. Luv U heaps"*

*"Gone, but never forgotten, friends to the end. Remember all the good times we had' never a bad word. Love you always mate. Hope the Tigers can do it for you mate."*

*"Patto, we are now another clan member down, but I'll play the pipes and sticks for you."*

*"Patto memories last for ever." "Johnnie, love you mate and miss you."*

*"Farewell good mate, your raucous laughter will be much missed."*

*"John, nobody took me with more enthusiasm and kindness than you did. I swim every morning because of you. I feel part of Mollymook because of you. Our friendship wasn't all that long, but I never doubted its depth and quality. Will miss you Tiger."*

*"John, many happy times at the surf club, at the cricket in the member's stand. Many laughs together. Farewell my friend and colleague."*

*"Patto, you were always a thoughtful, generous gentleman. An inspirational Patrol Captain, even when snoozing. We will miss you."*

*"Patto, the 'smiling assassin' of the surf club. We are going to miss your smile and friendship. You were friendly and caring, which made you loved by all. RIP and will miss your welcome each morning."*

*"John, I shall miss that great laugh and happy times. Rest in Peace."*

*"Johnny my mate; will miss you always, thinking what we could have done in the future and remembering all the good times in the past."*

*"Miss you every time I drive past Tiger Signs. Hope there are lots of sunny days in heaven and that everyone rows surfboats."*

*"Patto, I always admired your passion for life and the things we loved and shared. You didn't do anything by halves and you gave it all. You were helpful, honest and fair. My admiration won't diminish for you just because you're not still with us. God bless you Patto."*

RIP JOHN PATTERSON, A COMMITTED SURF LIFESAVER WITH TWENTY YEARS SERVICE, NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD, A MUCH-LOVED AND RESPECTED PATROL CAPTAIN, MENTOR AND GREAT FRIEND AND MATE TO ALL. To his wife and family our deepest condolences and sympathy. Will be missed by all. *The Editor.*