

1934-35..... 2018-19
84 YEARS OF
VIGILANCE AND SERVICE

2018-2019... PROFESSIONALISM.. It's NOT the job you DO; It's HOW you DO the Job. That is to always behave in a manner, to carry yourself in such a PROFESSIONAL way, as if there ever is a reflection, it's a positive one.



Mollymook Mag

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'RESCUE.....RESCUE.....RESCUE !!!!'



A spokesperson for Victorian Emergency Services said it was a tragedy that the two men had lost their lives while doing their voluntary duty for the community on Sunday 21 April 2019.

A father and son have tragically drowned while saving a tourist from waters off Port Campbell on Saturday. "The two members were both highly experienced and long-serving members of our Port Campbell Surf Life-Saving Club." Speaking to media a short time after confirmation the two men, aged 32 and 71 had drowned, an emotional Life-Saving Victoria President Paul James, said it was "heartbreaking" for the Port Campbell community.

"It's with a very heavy heart that I stand here before you today to inform you that two of our members have died today performing a rescue at Port Campbell," he said.

READ MORE: Father And Son Confirmed To Be Rescuers Who Died Trying To Help Tourist In Water

The pair had taken off in a six-metre inflatable rescue boat along with another surf lifesaver after a tourist wading in the water near the Sherbrook River had been swept out into dangerous swells of up to two metres.

"Life-Saving Victoria is providing whatever support they can to the Port Cambell Life-Saving community and to our larger life-saving community," James said.

"It's just terrible, it's heartbreaking".

James said the area where the rescue operation took place was "very treacherous" and said it was "not the place to be swimming at all."

"These brave people, these heroes, have gone down to help," James said in an emotional address.

"That's not a place that I would suggest would be a good place to be swimming," he said.

"It would suggest to me that they were taking some sort of risk."

Image: Supplied (Ian McCauley)

Port Campbell Surf Life Saving Club is a tight-knit community and James said the two men who tragically lost their lives have been highly experienced and highly respected volunteers.

"I would imagine it would be a heartbreaking time for the Port Campbell Life Saving Club, as it is for all of our lifesaving community".

Two Rescuers Drown Trying To Save Man In Water

"I know I speak on behalf of all Victorian Emergency Agencies when I say our thoughts are with their family, friends and with the community at Port Campbell," she said.

Corangamite Mayor Neil Trotter described the two men, who were also dairy farmers, as great people who were "extremely" community and family oriented.

"They were very good farmers, excelled in their field," Trotter told media.

"So it's not only a loss to the community, it's a loss to the broader community as well."

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull also sent his condolences to the families of the two drowned men.

"They have shown the very best of the Australian spirit selflessly putting their lives on the line to keep others safe," Turnbull said on Twitter.

A world away in Victoria Port Campbell (Father & Son Surf) lifesavers Ross and Andrew Powell are drowned as they were attempting to save a tourist swept out to sea. They have shown the very best of the Australian spirit selflessly putting their lives on the line to keep others safe.

We send our love and sympathy to their families and pray for a speedy recovery for the third lifesaver and the tourist the three men set out to save."

Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister for Water Lisa Neville released a statement on Sunday evening calling the drownings an "unspeakable tragedy" and promising a full investigation.

"These individuals selflessly volunteered to keep people safe and devastatingly, they've lost their lives doing that," Neville said.

"My heartfelt thanks goes out to them and their loved ones for their commitment to their community."

The third rescuer travelling with the pair was winched by an ambulance rescue helicopter and taken to hospital in a serious condition with back and leg injuries.

The rescued tourist was taken to hospital in a stable condition suffering from hypothermia.

"A selfless act of bravery putting their lives on the line for another human being" ..SLSA President.

"A blessing on all those who put their lives at risk for the sake of others, and when they, themselves are confronted by the turbulent seas of life, may they be calmed and comforted." ...Universal Prayer for all the Surf Life Saving Community..

EDITORIAL... It is almost impossible to find a way to start this issue of our 'Mag'. Since the Xmas Issue was published, so much has happened over the 2019 New Year; some good, some bad; and as we have seen above, the worst possible tragedy, as the season came to a close. After the joy of Xmas, lots of sadness. In our Xmas issue we wrote a passage from "On the Beach" by Robert Drewe which mentioned how *"the electric cleansing of the surf is astonishing, the cold effervescing over the head and trunk and limbs. And the internal results are a greater wonder. At once the spirits lift. There is a grateful pleasure in the last hour of softer December daylight. The brain sharpens. The body is charged with agility and grubby lethargy swept away."*

With so much of what has happened lately there is a need for *"the electric cleansing of the surf"* more than ever. Already, with summer half-gone there have been 19 coastal drowning deaths in NSW since 1 December 2018. As the 'mag' has continually pointed out many of these deaths have come about because of *"heroic impulses to rescue which result in producing even more fatalities."*

A tragic record has again been broken. Each year about five to six people drown while trying to rescue others. The early data from December shows that in that month alone about five to six of those who died were *"Good Samaritans trying to save others!"* Many were poor swimmers or couldn't swim and many were unfamiliar with the conditions.

The syndrome of the "rescuer-who-drowns" is now called rescue altruism by water safety experts and unfortunately the holiday season at Moonee Beach, north of Coff's Harbour, provided a classic example of this. On the unpatrolled beach on Monday 17th December Ghouseuddin Mohammed, 45, and relatives Syed Rahath, 35, and Junaid Mohammed, 27 jumped into the surf at 6pm. The men were attempting to save Ghouseuddin's three teenage children who had become stuck in a rip. The three teenagers were rescued, but the three men who attempted the rescue drowned. What more can we say???

And now two of our own, ordinary people, doing extraordinary things to keep people safe, and losing their lives.

The Editor, & President Rod Austin

RESCUE-----RESCUE-----RESCUE...

Many are the rescues that have been carried out by our fellow surf lifesavers, all of them different in some way, but all showing grit and determination. In the annals of the MacMasters Beach SLSC the following rescue stands out among many. In April 1950, the following article appeared in the local newspaper (The Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate 12 April 1950.)

Boy of 14 Hero of Surf Rescue..

Fourteen-year-old Doug Waring swam 250 yards through heavy seas at MacMasters Beach on Saturday morning with a surfboard to help his Club Captain Harry Lee rescue a drowning girl. Lee said later 'Without Doug's help the girl and I couldn't have lasted much longer'. The girl, Miss Margery Warr of Rose Bay and Mr. Keith Rich of Botany, who was also carried out, were in a bad way when brought ashore. They regained consciousness after treatment and the ambulance took them to Gosford Hospital. They were caught in a rip in the heavy surf and quickly carried out.

When the alarm sounded junior members of the MacMaster's Beach SLC manned the reel and Club Captain Harry Lee donned the belt and made his way through seas which at times reached 20 ft (6 metres). As he reached Miss Warr he saw Rich carried back towards the beach by a wave. Lee secured the girl but was handicapped by seaweed and Mr Waring, father of Doug, took on the task of pulling it off the line. Doug forced his way through the seas with a surfboard. The girl was brought in a distance when a wave capsized the board and Lee again assisted her. Spectators started to pull on the line and the beltman and patient were dragged into a towering wave nearing the beach and separated. Junior members of the club rushed into the water and took the girl ashore. Artificial respiration was applied for half an hour. Rich who was carried well inshore by a wave was brought to the beach by lifesavers and members of the public and placed on the eve rocker.[This was a stretcher to which the patient was strapped and rocked with the head down, the stomach pressed against the diaphragm, pushing air out of the lungs. When the patient was tipped up, air was drawn into the lungs.]

He regained consciousness after a quarter of an hour. People who saw the rescues praised the club's junior members who were deputizing for senior members away in Victoria. In addition to Doug Waring, the following lads took part: Richard Cunningham 13, Alan Reynolds 13, Alec Lee 15, Peter Huley 15 and Stan Westbrook 16.

An interesting postscript to this story was another article in May of that year...

'A couple who were rescued by MacMasters Beach Surf Club Members in heavy surf at the beach at Easter announced their engagement at a club function on Saturday night. They are Miss M Warr and Mr. Keith Rich. The function was held in aid of the surf club funds.'

These younger members as well as carrying out patrol duties, constantly training and performing rescues were always willing to lend a hand when needed.

[The above were from (51 and 52 of "MacMasters Beach. The story of a Unique Surf Club and Community." Written by Marie Riley OAM].

News from near and far, here and there....

Elephant Seals take over... Readers will be aware of the recent 'shut-down' of USA government departments. This shut-down was welcomed by a colony of elephant seals which took over a Californian beach while park staff who would have moved them on were furloughed. With no plans to shift the animals until the government shut-down is solved the elephant seals are enjoying themselves at the expense of the Californian beachgoers.

Shark News... As usual always "sharkie news". This time it is not good (for the sharks) as a population survey over the past decade along our East coast has revealed a reduction of 92% in the numbers of Hammerhead and Great White sharks. Although it might make swimmers happy to hear this, the loss of these top predators has all sorts of complications for our marine ecosystems.

Now Here's Another Shark Story (taken from the recent Wollongong SLSC Newsletter..)

Lurking around City Beach recently was, in SLSC radio protocol, a large 'Code 15 - Dangerous Marine Creature' (in this case, a 3 metre White Pointer - as identified & sirened by the Sharkcopter on 2 occasions in Dec/Jan. It was definitely not the usual 1.5m Hammerhead that always got upgraded in Monday's Illawarra Mercury to a 3m bronze whaler or tiger shark by the old Aerial Patrol (under Tony Bevan & Harry Mitchell). Fortunately, this denizen of the deep is not particularly hungry as it hasn't tasted anybody YET. But BEWARE- at risk early morning/late afternoon.

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More 'Bad News' from those we share our oceans with... The headlines say it all.. **DOLPHINS DIE EN MASSE**. French marine researchers have just recently discovered a record 1100 dead dolphins washed up on the country's Atlantic coast since the start of the year. The mass deaths, widely blamed on aggressive industrial fishing, have alarmed animal welfare groups and prompted the government to launch a national plan to protect them.

"There's never been a number this high," said Willy Daubin, a member of La Rochelle University's National Centre for Scientific Research. "Already in three months, we have beaten last year's record which was up from 2017 and even that was the highest in over 40 years."

(The above was reported in SMH recently and is more bad news for those beautiful creatures we share our oceans with.)

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Elections in the Air... By the time you read this the NSW State Elections have been 'run and won'. Lots of promises have been made by all the major political parties. You have probably seen that our club has been visited on a number of occasions by candidates and the proverbial 'fistful of dollars' being promised by both major parties, is to get your vote. Likewise the upcoming Federal elections.

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Some Dollars Would be Handy... Yes, seeing the results of our Annual Door Knock was poor. In fact it was certainly one of the worst results in over 25 years of 'door knocking'. Only 3 small areas (instead of 25) could be covered because of the small number (11) door-knockers who turned up. A dismal effort members, notwithstanding the fact that our workload in patrolling three beach areas, the heat wave conditions over the time, the large crowds on the beaches from one of our busiest seasons ever, had left members pretty much exhausted. It was unfortunate that we couldn't knock on anywhere near the number of doors that we hoped.

The 'Times' didn't help with their headline that "the fund-raising appeal was a great success"; when in actuality the reverse was true.

Another poor result next season could land us in financial trouble and much thought must go into the planning for the 2019/20 Door-Knock. *The Editor* *****

Another pressing problem... The increasing population and popularity of Lake Conjola is seeing the numbers of holiday-makers reaching unprecedented levels. Over the past season the area witnessed a drowning of a 45 year-old South Korean man whilst snorkeling, the death of a water skier hit by a power boat and sadly the death of a small child run-over by a family member. With so much access to the lake plus the long stretch of Conjola beach, there is an increasing likelihood of more drownings and accidents.

What can be done? This ties in with the same problems we have been writing about in the 'mag' over previous issues regarding Dolphin Point. People do look to us to provide some of the answers and we need to ask; is the surveillance by our jet ski and support group enough?

That other 'Pressing Problem'... Usually a major problem for our patrols over summer revolves around the invasion by the dreaded bluebottles and the pain they inflict. This season it has not been too bad, but spare a thought for our colleagues in Queensland where they treated 3000 blue bottle stings in one day and 13000 in two weeks, and a total of 34,899 for Dec/Jan. (See more on local bluebottles on later pages.)

As if this wasn't enough, the southern movement, as water temperatures increase, of the more feared Irukanji jellyfish, saw them strike along the islands of the SE Queensland coast. In three weeks eight people had to be airlifted by helicopter, off Fraser Island for treatment on the mainland; with daily 'stinger drags' carried out. A sign of things to come, maybe for our coastline, as the sea keeps warming up?

NSW State Titles... With the success once more of our competition team at the NSW State Titles the "Mag" is revisiting the NSW Titles of 30 years ago (1989/90) season, to give more recent members a look into our competitive past.

Report on the 1989/90 NSW State Titles (by our roving reporter).

The 10/3/90 dawned a bright, sunny day with a big, clean sea. All the competitors were in fine spirits with the Over 40's boat crew the keenest to go out and do battle with the waves. Warwick "suicide clutch" Millard made sure we were at the beach in time, and so did Gasha and Wazza, who had to get up at 4.30am to put the 50 litre urn on for a cuppa before we left.

At the beach after watching several near clean-ups while the boat crews were warming up, Basil le Page allayed the pent-up fears of several nervous bowman (especially Gasha, who by now had nervously gotten rid of all the tea he drank at breakfast), by saying that the crews would either be ".....Heroes or History!"

Anyway the competition started and our competitors fared well in the preliminary heats. The A Boat crew (the oldies) came third in their first row. The Junior Boaties were first. Liona, fourth in her sprint, Creechie a great second, Dean Oakie fifth and Matt Scott 7th in their sprints. At about 2.00pm (1400 hours Radio Operators time), the Young colts in the Reserve Boat event, finally got into the water. The wait proved to be worthwhile as our lads climbed over a couple of monstrous waves not far from the cans, turned the buoys first, rowed six strokes and cracked the 'wave of the day'. Pagey held this magnificent wave to the beach which was duly applauded by the very large crowd in attendance. Those in the boat-rowing fraternity all agreed that this possibly was going to be Basil Page and Mollymook's weekend in the water. Also attracting attention on the beach was our own Big Steve Nicho' getting a lot of glances for the most atrocious hat he was wearing, but the only person brave (or foolish) to comment on it was 'Big' Roddy.

The U 21's lined up for their event, but approximately half the starters withdrew in the face of the huge seas, so Ponty, Phillips, Woods and Big Wilso went straight through to the quarter finals on Sunday morning without taking a stroke.

It was then time for the Old B's crew, comprising Nicho', Lenny, Roddy and Greg Howie' with 'young' Peter Pontefract up the back, to perform. This crew, to put it politely are a 'tad on the big side', but they done good and rowed strong and won their heat after Pete showed his experience and picked a somewhat clean way home. Meanwhile back on the beach Angela had blitzed her competitors in the female sprint, while a strong run by Ticha' put the relay team through into the quarter-finals.

The 'elder statesmen (over 40's) of our club backed up for round two and for want of a wave on the way home would have proceeded to Sunday. They just missed out in qualifying, but were very pleased with their performance just the same; however they were not as pleased as the guy in charge of the beer tent who was ecstatic with the news!

Round two for the Old B's was a very wet affair with the boys almost out and then getting hit and swamped and having to swim home. This also made the beer tent attendant happy, but regretfully the team had to leave the beach early and head back to the Redhead Surf Club. It was early to bed for the competitors still in, but Wazza and Gazza shared the

snoring honours and disrupted the sleep of many. However the dawn soon came and revealed another hot day ahead, but with the swell having dropped considerably. Greg H doesn't make the prettiest of breakfast companions on Sunday am, whilst Bill Drury had a shocker of a hair-do. At first light Goff, Rus, Presso, Rod, Wazza and Hoges had the breakie all prepared to feed and fuel the troops for what promised to be an award-winning day for the 'black-and-whites!' All our boaties were keen and the runners all toey. The first final was a close one at the 'Redhead Hilton' where Geoff Starkey regained his crown in the World Bag-packing Championship.

At the competition arena the events came thick and fast. The Old Colts in the U21 event led out, but a stroke of bad luck put them out. The Young Colts rowing in the Reserve Boat won their quarter-final from a fast-finishing Woolgoolga, and were rowing well. Liona missed out on a finals berth in the Women's sprint by the barest of margins, whilst Angela stumbled at the start of her final to finish a very creditable sixth. Great work.

And so it was left to the Young Colts and they progressed to the final, where they lined up against what is a very possible Australian final group of crews. They rowed well within themselves and came home in a close tussle to narrowly get third. It was a great final effort and adds to the fantastic competition tradition of Mollmook, and the team headed for the beer tent and then home, well satisfied with their performances and looking forward to the Australian titles in a few weeks time.

A GREAT PERFORMANCE BY THE TEAM AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 'YOUNG COLTS' FOR A GREAT STATE MEDAL!

(Lots of 'Nicknames' and abbreviations in the above story and newer members may have to ask around as to who they refer to. Many are still in our club.



If our Bronze Medallion could 'TALK'.... Lot of changes over the long period of our history and it is now hard to comprehend why they were deemed necessary, especially in the light of the 'modern era'. None more so that the decision in December 1923 by the Surf Life saving Association of Australia to prohibit the "Wearing of White Costumes in the March Past Event at Surf Carnivals, on the Grounds that Costumes of this Colour Were Indecent".

The Newcastle Club had won four successive March Past Championships and the Association attempted to ban Newcastle's white March Past costumes on the grounds that they were indecent. The resolution to ban them was carried by one vote 24 to 23, and henceforth all white costumes would henceforth be banned.

The Newcastle Club had worn these white costumes in all March Past events for the past four years at surf carnivals in the Metropolitan, Northern and South Coast districts. They had competed at the Association (Australian) Carnival for these past four years and on each occasion wore these costumes and were awarded the Championship by Metropolitan officials.

Special meetings were called to have this decision rescinded, and letters received from leading citizens all of whom ridiculed the idea the White Costumes were indecent.' At an Association meeting, Newcastle's delegates were well fired up to defeat the ban and their rescission motion was put and carried by 48 votes to 8.

Warm sea temperatures...Why? In Early 2019, Ekman transport upwelling, cooled water temperatures along the northern and central NSW coastline. What started it was a 'blocking high' - a strong high-pressure system which remained near stationary in the Tasman Sea for a long time, resulting in persistent NE winds. Along our section of the coast we were under the influence of the warmer East Australian Current which eddied onto our area of coastline and moderated the influence of the Ekman upwelling....understand! (P 12,Lifeguard magazine 14)

Some Good News.... The Milton Ulladulla Times reported in February this year that **FOUR OF OUR LOCAL BEACHES IN TOP 10...**

Four of our region's beaches have achieved the highest ratings possible in the (NSW) Beachwatch program. Mollymook Beach, Rennies Beach, Bawley Point Beach and Merry Beach were graded as 'very good'. The office of the Environment released the State of the Beaches Report for 2017-2018 this month. This is great news and let's keep up the work... 'Take 3 for the sea'.

Some NOT so Good News.... How embarrassing at the recent NSW Surf Lifesaving Titles a few weeks ago when we had to provide an IRB, motor and driver/crew person for water safety. In preparing to fulfil the roster the outboard motor would not start. It was then inspected and examined, and the reason for the 'non-start' soon became apparent. After a recent 'roll-over' the motor had not been put through the very necessary procedures and as a result was badly corroded and in fact totally U/S.

A bad look for our club and tarnished our reputation; as well as being expensive as the motor was fairly new. Needless to say, but both the Gear Steward and the IRB Captain are not happy!!!

***Some 'Better News'....** After a 'longish teething period' the FOB system is now in operation and working well. There were some hiccups along the way especially in the "change-over" from keys to FOB and the Board of Management, apologise and thank members for their understanding.

*** Incredible Footage of a Monster Eight-foot Bluebottle Jellyfish...** The story was enough to give anyone who swims in our ocean nightmares. As the local 'Times' newspaper reported, Milton artist Neal Cameron shot to viral fame recently as he shared an image of a bluebottle spanning the width of his surfboard. His Facebook post captured the attention of media outlets, including the *Daily Mail Australia*—an online outlet for a London tabloid. The London tabloid ran a story detailing how a surfer shared 'incredible footage of a monster eight-foot bluebottle jellyfish.'

Mr. Cameron makes bluebottles from fiberglass and had used them in art pieces. He makes bluebottle pieces about five times their (natural) size and has fooled others before. "I posted it for a laugh. Next day it's on the *Daily Mail* in the UK," he said. The replica was on display in a Milton café.

Enough to give us all, including people who have been 'stung' by the cursed 'Bluey', the worst of nightmares. Imagine having your body enveloped by an eight-foot bluebottle. One element of truth in the story is that if the bluebottle was measured lengthwise then yes it is more than feasible that the tentacles can be longer than this.

(Part of the above story featured in the 'Times' recently. Thanks.)

****** Trees To Go!!!!** Yes, unfortunately some of the mature trees at the back of our clubhouse have been condemned by the Shoalhaven Council as being dangerous and are going to be removed in the 'near' future. However for each one removed a number of seedling trees will be planted in the park area to the north.

Some more World Records... In our last 'mag' we featured some of the weird and wacky records held within the pages of the Guinness Records. Here are a few more....

The largest gathering of people dressed as penguins ----- 624.

Farthest marshmallow blown by a nose ----- 5.64 metres.

Largest pillow fight----- 6,262 participants.

Most consecutive stairs climbed on the head----- 36.

Most rotations hanging from a power drill in one minute----- 148.

Yes, we said that they were weird and wacky!!

What's been on Due to the unforeseen delay in getting this issue of the 'mag' out to you, there have been a number of events over the past months, most of which have already been publicized on our website and facebook and in the local Times newspaper. So rather than rehash these in all their entirety the 'mag' will just mention them.

Our Competitors...What a wonderful season for them. The success at the World Championships in South Australia, followed by Branch, NSW Country . NSW OPEN and lastly the recent Australian Titles has seen, boaties, board and ski, swimmers and beachies; make their presence felt. Congratulations & Well Done!

Our recent Ocean Swim... A perfect day for such an event, a good number of competitors, great planning, ample water safety and a record swim by the winner. Competitors were lavish in their praise and said that they would again be back for next year's event.

Our Sportsman's Lunch... 96 guests, great food, plenty of beverages, three enthralling speakers and an auction all helped to raise funds for our club. Bernard and his team excelled and a healthy boost to club finances. Only a few tickets remained unsold and perhaps a little more support from local club members next year to boost it even more.

Our Blessing of the Fleet Efforts... especially first of all our Princess , Arnae McKillop, and her partner Marcus and their float were spectacular and we thank them and their parents for the efforts they put in. Also our BBQ van was in its usual place and sold out over the day and thanks to them.

Our Doorknock... already mentioned and suffice to say that your club does need all members to support these and other fund-raising activities.

Our Anzac Day... Gunfire breakfast, dawn service and Milton March all well-attended by members of our club.

Our Photographer Ken Banks has attended most of these events and has taken hundreds of wonderful photographs. Thanks Ken.

Surf Lifesaving is inherently dangerous and all of us must be aware of this. Since patrols have been on Australian beaches many brave lifesavers have paid with their lives when going to the rescue. Our 'mag' has often recounted these, and in the Vol.25/Dept/Oct 2008-2009 issue Jim Peryman was recognised as a true hero when he drowned after his belt was trapped in seaweed in 1950 after he swam to rescue a female swimmer on North Cronulla beach. Our collection of memorabilia featured an early model resuscitator donated to North Cronulla SLSC in memory of Jim Peryman. Very recently in a bookshop in Goulburn, Anthony Austin came across Jim Peryman's Blue Instruction Book with his signature. Incredible!!

& What's coming on... Season 2018/19's patrols have now finished and number of functions are planned..

The all-important CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT is planned for 1st of June. As usual a free evening ,but PLEASE when you see it announced, PLEASE take note of the RSVP. It must be strictly adhered to and if you don't RSVP then no food will be available for you. So don't be embarrassed, RSVP.

The all-important SOUTH COAST BRANCH PRESENTATION NIGHT is planned for 20th July. The club bus will be running for those interested in attending, or getting awards. Come along and see is our club can make it three-in-a-row as the 'Club of the Year'.

The all-important IRB Drivers and Crewpersons Courses are starting soon. As always we need more drivers and John Holt and Mark Green would love to hear from prospective candidates. Other courses are in the air and BOS will be announcing these ASAP.

The all-important ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING...the first Sunday in August. Still a long way off, but all members should make an effort to attend and importantly give some thought to stand for office and help in the running/planning of our club. The 'same old few' are worn-out!!!!'

Members might like to think about other questions raised in the Survey published in the Lifeguard Issue 14, and in particular that part of the survey which asked the question....."Are the coastal issues in your area changing or new issues emerging??". Almost two thirds of respondents (61%) said their local coastal issues are changing. When asked how, the majority (78%) stated that beach visitation is increasing, and that this is the biggest change currently happening. More specifically, visitation by Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities is said to be increasing. This change reportedly contributes to the language barrier issue and the lack of beach safety knowledge.

In the survey the majority of lifeguards and surf lifesavers (96%) felt that changes are necessary to address current and future coastal safety concerns, particularly to address the needs of the community.

In a recent survey of lifeguards and surf lifesavers the Top Five Issues concerning them were found to be.....
Number 1...*Swimming outside the flags.* Number 2...*Lack of swimming ability.* Number 3...*Rip currents.*
Number 4...*Increased visitation.* Number 5...*Extreme weather.*

PATIENT QUESTIONING....

- ** What is your name?
- ** I am trained in first aid, will you let me help you?
- ** What happened (to you)?
- ** Are you in pain? Where?
- ** Can you take a deep breath? (to reveal chest injuries).
- ** Do you have any medical conditions?
- ** Are you taking any medication?
- ** Are you allergic to anything?
- ** When did you last have something to eat or drink?

*** The holiday drownings during summer 2018/19 are the worst on record for the last 15 years. 55 have been recorded in Australia this year. This is a 45% increase on the 15 year summer average of 38.

These numbers are a sobering reminder of the necessity for beach patrols and the significant actions Australian lifeguards and surf lifesavers perform. In 2018 SLS Australia estimated that without the 10,249 recorded rescues performed for that year, there would have been an additional.....512 coastal & ocean drowning..... 307 people would have been left with permanent and incapacitating injuries.....1435 people would have been left with injuries requiring follow up treatment. [this information is correct as of the 1st March 2019, subject to change when they are formally confirmed by the coroner. Page 21, issue 14..summer 2019 Lifeguard magazine]

The LAST PAGE...As mentioned before in this issue it has certainly so far been a year to remember. It started off with the passing of Andy (Winky) Winters on the 19/1/2019 at 70 years of age. Andy was an accomplished surf lifesaver and a distinguished Life Member of Bondi SBLSC. He had been awarded the OAM last year for his long service. He retired to Mollymook and joined our club where he battled chronic illness for some time. He battled on with great courage, trying each day to work-out in our gym to keep going. Andy was greatly respected around the Eastern Suburbs and the large crowd who attended his funeral was an indication of this respect. Vale Andy Winters OAM.

A few weeks later the club faced up to the loss of Jim (Jet) Jackson at 71 years of age. Jet passed away suddenly, at home on the 11/2/2019, and his funeral and internment took place on 21st February. Like Andy Jet was also an accomplished surf lifesaver at South Maroubra and later at Mollymook. Again, like Andy he had a passion for surf boat rowing and later was an official at the rowing arena at the major titles. Jet battled personal problems, but with major help from his mate Geoff Starkey, he overcame these. He was a good mate and kept his love for surf lifesaving to the end. Vale Jim (Jet) Jackson.

It was not long after these sad events when the club learnt of the serious illness of Patron Jon Donohoe. Jon has now completed the first round of treatment and battling on with courage. He looks forward to again returning to the club and the 'table of knowledge' on the clubhouse deck, and a cup of Les's coffee. We wish him all the best.

Also Scotty Graham has been continuing his treatment for his ongoing ailment, but it has not interfered with his positive attitude and outlook. We also wish him all the best.

Last month the Management Committee received the resignation of Graham and Colleen Gough who have filled the roles of Hall Booking Officer and Cleaner for the past 22 years. What a great job they have done for our club in what is not an easy role. Of course Graham was also an active member of our club and was a patrol Captain for a number of seasons. On behalf of the club many thanks to you both.

Thanks also to Bernard Jones who has stepped into the role left by the Goughs. He and his team will be responsible for Venue enquiries and the Presentation of the Facility. They will also continue with the Venue Hiring and relevant paperwork associated with this, plus being responsible for Function Management.

The cleaning may be broken up into various sections; external roof gutters and roofing area; internal function hall including bathrooms, kitchen, windows (external/internal) and all entrances/ upstairs members room etc. An "expression of interest" will be advertised and then the cleaning will be put out to tender.

For people interested in tendering, a site inspection will be organized. It is not necessary to be associated with the Mollymook Surf Club, but consideration will be given to Surf Club oriented/ interested people.

More information will be available and advertised or you can contact Jim Bryant or Bernard J.

Members, Patrols for the 2018/19 season are over and as always it is not the finish, with activities to fill in much of the time in our off-season. Training courses will no doubt take up some of your time, but we must also look at reorganizing our patrols to take into account the increased visitation taking place on our local beaches. How we do this will need input and ideas from YOU.... The Editor. Have a good break.

