

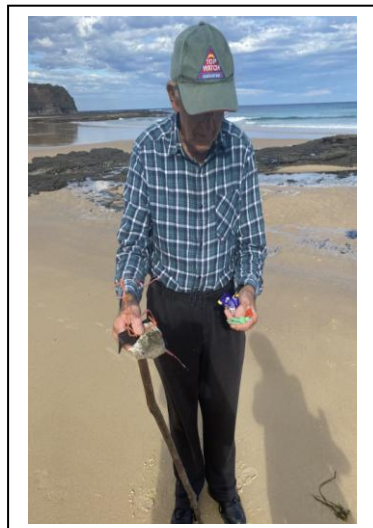
1934-35...85...2019-20

85 YEARS

FREE

## VIGILANCE AND SERVICE

2019--2020..."The challenge to protect and save is our challenge and one we must win everyday we are on patrol. We accept that challenge every day, some days are easy and others are hard; we rise to the challenge, accept and embrace change and go home at the end of the day as winners."



Even though our movements are restricted at present we can still 'Take Three for the Sea', when we are out having daily exercise. Monica M wants you to understand that the fight against plastic pollution must be an 'on-going' battle and like the virus battle is one we must win. 'Keep it up!'

# Mollymook Mag

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

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## ***WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES AS THE CORONAVIRUS CAUSES THE CLOSURE OF BEACHES AND A WAY OF LIFE WE TAKE FOR GRANTED...***

Never have the perennially crowded waters on [Bondi](#) Beach looked so inviting.

But on a glorious bright March day, a late-season spark of brilliance against the encroaching autumn, the golden sand and blue-green waters were, if not deserted, uncannily quiet.

Rangers carrying loud hailers marched up and down the beach in socks and shoes telling people the beach was closed and that swimmers, surfers and sunbakers must leave immediately. Entries to the beach were taped shut with red-and-white tape. Signs insisted "area closed until further notice". But the social distancing the beach closure was designed to enforce has had its intended impact. The numbers on the beach were a tiny fraction of what might be expected on a Sunday like this. (The Guardian..Ben Doherty .. 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020)

## President's Report... Dear members,

I don't need to remind you that times are tough and unprecedented. Little did we realise that we were going to experience the "double" of one catastrophic event on top of another. The early close down of patrols and most other aspects of club life, plus the loss of many thousands of dollars in fund-raising has curtailed our activities for this season. This is sad and will test our resilience, but we must get on top of this. We are going to need your continuing membership and efforts in our patrolling when the epidemic is over; we need you so we are able to continue the work which is the reason for our "being".

Even though our Presentation Night is cancelled we still hope to be able to work out the awards for the past season, and also present an Annual Report. Keep your attention on the Club website/Facebook for any news of further activity.

Above all also keep well and look after your loved ones. Keep informed by looking at our club website and Facebook. Which reminds me, to again remind members, that we are looking for a member (s) to take on the role of producing an e-newsletter from the start of next season. Give it some thought and please contact me if you require further details.

Take care and regards, Rod Austin OAM.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*EDITORIAL...

**Dear Members**, you may recall that on the 'Last page' of the last issue of our 'Mag' that it was mentioned that "this issue of our 'mag' marks a period of time the like of which we haven't seen in our lifetime. It has been a time we won't forget and for many of many of our fellow residents on our beautiful South Coast it will be a complete re-building of lives shattered by the bushfires."

**Little** did we realise what was in store for us soon after, with the start of a world-wide pandemic of a new virus, the Coronavirus, dubbed *corvid 19*. This continuing sickness too will mark a period of time, again the likes of which we haven't seen in our lifetime. The generation of our grandparents/great grandparents suffered through the Spanish Influenza of 1919, the last great pandemic. Our parents/grandparents then had the great depression of the early 1930's, followed by the World War II to contend with. They all talked about these times as being periods that caused a great deal of suffering, death, and social and economic hardship and upheaval. We are now gaining a greater understanding of what these generations experienced as we contend with the Coronavirus. We too are witnessing the same suffering, death and social and economic hardship on a world-wide stage.

The recent calamity of the bushfires and now this pandemic are going to test the resilience of us all, just as our previous generations were tested. They came through, changed in many ways, just as we will come through this testing period and be changed by the experience. But we can only succeed in this by all lending a helping hand, in whatever way we can, to our fellow inhabitants of this planet.

Be guided by our surf lifesaving motto..."*Vigilance & Service*". Be **Vigilant** in listening and following the advice of those who govern and care for us and be aware of those around us who may need our help. If **Service** is needed to help our fellows in some way then be prepared to offer.

If we can, then again, pulling together we can "weather this new storm." The Editor...

*"Easter... A time of love, family, and peace. A time to say a quiet thanks for all that we have and for all that the future holds..."*

**Finances depleted..** These turbulent times have seen our patrol season cut short as a result of covid 19, and our beaches deserted over what is normally a very busy period. Our competitors have also suffered with the National Australian titles also called off. This period is also traditionally a time for us to increase our fund-raising. But since the start of the New Year this has not happened.

The annual door-knock, so important for our finances was cancelled due to the bushfire emergency---  
.... the golf club and ex-servo's all important Friday Night raffles; called off well into the future;  
....our hall hire has been curtailed due to a close-down of our building;  
....the Sportsman's Lunch well into planning also has had to be cancelled;  
....the Australian IRB Championships at Mollymook which we were hosting has also been postponed.  
....due to restrictions on movement and isolation, income from collection boxes and bottle recycling, have not been possible. Also a Cupitt's Fund-raiser for Easter Sunday(a new event), has also been cancelled.

All of this means a deep cut into our Income which our club will have to live with until a return to normal sometime in the future, so a period of "belt tightening" within our club is very likely.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rescue-rescue-rescue!!!** Of course other areas of our earth have populations who have also utilised the ocean and beaches for their enjoyment and recreation, and they have done this for as long as we have in Australia. To give you an idea of what conditions were like in New Jersey USA, many years ago, you may like to read the following small section .

"It was the hottest part of the day, and the sun beat down furiously. A few bathers returned for an ill-advised second swim after their lunch. People of the "better sort" did not as a rule bathe in the afternoon. Only servants and those unfortunates who were compelled to come down from town late in the day bathed after one o'clock. Weighed by a heavy meal and overconfident in their ability to negotiate the waves, some came to a bad end. They knew nothing about the dangerous undertows, which varied at different stages of the tide and with different strengths of the surf. No one had warned them that, the stronger the surf, the greater the undertow. If they were fortunate, they found themselves struggling valiantly against a current that dragged them a hundred yards or so beyond their points of entry. But if they were caught in the dangerous swirl of the "sea puss" or the "sea purse", they had little chance of surviving.

This kind of undertow, quite common along the (New) Jersey shore, resulted from a sudden shift of wind that whipped up a current running contrary to the current along the shore, creating a powerful whirlpool that sucked hapless swimmers out to sea. So unfamiliar an environment was the sea, that these urbanites were illiterate, when it came to reading its signals. They even went out of their way-inadvertently- to add handicaps by wearing bathing costumes that, when wet, added between ten and fifteen pounds to their weight.

Dr.Packard, the Philadelphia bathing authority, speculated that the greatest number of drowning accidents occurred among these day trippers, "who know nothing of the beaches, and venture (out) far more than those who do; often they cannot swim, and are helpless when in danger. One reason for this is a want of the habit of self-possession, and of thinking for them-selves, which is the result of 'higher mental training.'" However "higher mental training" was of no use when the swimmer was seized by a sudden cramp. A burst of panic, a few quick minutes of struggle, a few scattered bubbles, and another casualty was added to the list of drowning.

At some of the better-organised beaches, the local government made some provisions to safeguard bathing. Volunteers and, eventually, municipally sponsored beach guards attached stout ropes to poles driven deep into the sand. The ropes were then stretched into the water, where they were held in place on the surface by means of buoys attached at regular intervals. Life preservers on long lifelines were placed at many points along the beach. At the height of the season, surfboats patrolled the water. The "surfmen", as lifeguards were then called, were good swimmers of cool temperament sponsored and trained by the Volunteer Life-Saving Association of New Jersey. These formal arrangements were augmented by concerned citizens. Some of the stronger of them made it a habit to carry attached

to their belts, reels the size of large spools holding about five yards of stout rope. The spool could be thrown to a drowning person, who would then be reeled in to safety. Even without any equipment, swimmers often assisted inexperienced bathers who got into trouble. If an unusually large and strong wave carried a surfer seaward beyond his or her depth, the frantic thrashing signalled trouble to the bathers closer to shore. Quickly a line of men would form. Joining hands, they would ease out into the deeper water until they were close enough to grab the drowning bathers and haul them to shore. Invariably there were tragedies, more frequent than they are today in advanced countries where learning to swim is a standard childhood ritual. In those days, most bathers were seriously unprepared for the sea. A panicked, inexperienced swimmer would drag the would-be saviour under; a wader stranded on a sandbar by the incoming tide drowned while attempting to return; a solitary bather vanished in a deep submerged hole; a body surfer swept out to sea by a rip; an exhausted swimmer was battered to death while clinging to the poles of a pier.

Urban day-trippers returned to the city often bearing the painful traces of the beach, the surf, and the sun on their bodies; sunburn, windburn, sand-blasted eyes, faces and hands swollen from contact with jellyfish, water still sloshing in their ears. These badges of pleasure and leisure they bore proudly.

*So whatever the era, whenever people flock to enjoy the beach, swimmers will always get into trouble for the same reasons and require Rescue-rescue-rescue!*

*(This small section was taken from a review of 'The Beach..The history of paradise on earth' Pages 145/46..Lena Lencek & Gideon Bosker 1998)*

\*\*\*\*\* [Michael Pontefract](#)..Even though the virus has cut short the patrolling season for this year it will give Ponty a rest for awhile. He deserves it as he had already logged up 110 hours of patrols so far. To make it more impressive Michael has to travel over 40 kms, to get to the beach at Casino-Evans Head. Michael will also look forward to the first time in nine years that he will not be driving every weekend to clubs in the Far North Coast Branch teaching RWC Operations. This is true dedication above and beyond, to keep surf lifesaving functional up north.

By the way because swimming pools are closed, Mike is now walking 50kms a week to keep fit.

\*\*\*\*\* Figures mount up... the magnitude of the economics involved in trying to overcome the effects of covid 19 and prevent a total collapse of world financial structures has seen governments announcing aid packages to try and prevent this. These have involved hundreds of millions of dollars and then suddenly the figures escalate into trillions of dollars world-wide. It is hard to get our minds around these amounts. Then figures released recently by scientists that so far, as a result of global warming, trillions of tonnes of ice have melted from the Antarctic ice cap. So our brains now have to get used to numbers of this magnitude. Of course the use of trillions is common when we study the universe, but we manage to cope by measuring distances in Light Years. Of more concern will be when it is announced that the population of our planet reaches one trillion!!!

\*\*\*\*\* Have come across this which may give us a smile amongst all the doom and gloom of the covid 19 virus.

## WHAT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION THINKS ABOUT THE (TRILLION DOLLAR) USA FINANCIAL BAILOUT PACKAGE....

The **allergists** wanted to scratch it. The **dermatologists** advised not to make any rash moves. The **gastroenterologists** had a sort of gut feeling about it. The **neurologists** thought the administration had a lot of nerve. The **obstetricians** thought they were all labouring under a misconception. The **optometrists** thought the idea was short-sighted. The **pathologists** yelled, “Over my dead body!” The **pediatricians** said, “Oh grow up.” The **psychiatrists** thought the whole idea was madness. The **radiologists** could see right through it all. The **surgeons** decided to wash their hands of the whole thing. The **plastic surgeons** all said, “This puts a new face on the whole thing.” The **podiatrists** though it a great step forward, but the **urologists** thought the scheme would not hold water. The **cardiologists** didn’t have the heart to say “No!” In the end, the **proctologists** left the decision up to the a....holes in Washington. (From a previous issue of our ‘mag’.)



\*\*\*\*\* [MANY OF OUR OLDER \(AND MORE ESTEEMED\) MEMBERS HAVE AND STILL ARE, 'CONFINED TO BARRACKS' AS A RESULT OF THE COVID 19 VIRUS.](#) This gives them time to contemplate some last thoughts about old age and here are some of them.....

*Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don't mind it doesn't matter.* D. Ingham.

*Old age is fifteen years older than I am.* B.M.B.

*Age is something that doesn't matter unless you are a cheese.* Billy Burke.

*Now I am over 50, my doctor said I should get more fresh air and exercise. "All right," I told him, "I'll drive with the window open."* A.Walker.

*I'm getting to an age when I can enjoy the only sport left. It's called hunting for your spectacles.* L.G. Falloden.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\* [This year, so far has been one for remembering.....for all the wrong reasons](#)... but we can take heart from realising that this 2019/20 season is the anniversary of many uplifting, happy and momentous events which have taken place in our past seasons. Here are some of them.

[We celebrate the 85<sup>th</sup> year since the founding of the Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club](#) in the 1934/35 season, when under the guidance of members of the Austinmer SLSC it was decided to form our club. The members included D.A.Warden, Jim Trenwith and Fred Hayne along with about 30 others who all became the first active members. It is also the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first bronze medallion squad, who were successful on 24/2/1935 in gaining their bronze. Phil Madden, Lyall Maguire, Laurie Kendall, Jim O'Connell, Eric Payten and Jim Trenwith made up the squad.

[It is also the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first surf carnival](#) to which the fledgling Mollymook club were invited to attend. This was held at Moruya in rough seas and the team had mixed results. Later on in the season on [Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April Mollymook organised and ran their first every surf carnival](#). A large crowd was in attendance with teams from Moruya, Tathra, Austinmer and an association representative team made up from members of Sydney clubs, ensured that the competition was of a very high standard. 85 years on, Mollymook SLSC has gained a reputation as a host for many carnivals ranging from club, to Branch, to NSW State and to Australian level, building on the original event held 85 years ago.

[85 years ago the first rescue by a member of the newly formed club was carried out](#) by newly qualified Phil Madden who rescued two girls from the swiftly flowing Narrawallee Inlet. This was the first of well over 1200 rescues carried out by Mollymook SLSC patrols over the ensuing years.

[We also celebrate with pride the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year of that date 13<sup>th</sup> March 1960 when the Mollymook A crew won the club's first-ever Gold medal at an Australian Title.](#) It was an incredible feat. The sweep Keith Hurst, rowers Peter Williams, Ian Hunter, Bob Davidson and Arnie Clayton etched their names and the Mollymook SLSC in the history and folklore of the Aussies.

They did it in the club's first surfboat of the modern era named after club stalwart Maurice Shipton 60 years ago to honour his sponsorship.

[1969/70 Fifty years ago the club purchased its first ambu-manikin](#) as the changeover from the Holger-Neilsen method of resuscitation was replaced by expired air resuscitation. [The first training courses in both mouth-to-mouth/mouth – to-nose methods were started this season.](#) In this season 50 years ago, our patrols were called upon to treat 103 cases of first aid for patients suffering cut feet. This was the result of torrential rain and a sustained period of very rough seas which had removed much of the sand. This had left large sections of rock exposed and made Mollymook beach very dangerous.

Ten years later in 1979/80, now forty years ago, the season started with new changes. Saturday patrols, patrol uniforms and the imposition of the first reassessment day, plus the continued upgrading of equipment and especially the addition of new waterproof radios. We celebrate these changes as they changed the face of surf lifesaving. Also a momentous season as the Mollymook Junior Boat Crew won Mollymook's first NSW State title. Barry Page swept William Backhouse, Glenn Matthews, Greg Thistleton and James Richards to this victory. A few weeks on and the "A" boat crew competing in the NSW Inter-Branch titles held in huge seas at Eloura Beach scored win against the best and toughest boat crews in NSW.

A further decade on and on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1989/90 season we celebrate the completion and opening of the club gymnasium, built and equipped with funds from club social activities and provided for the 'free' use of active club members. As well it is 30 years since Mollymook IRB team won the final of the prestigious Mayne-Nickless IRB Challenge at Coogee. We also reflect on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1989 when Len Bolin and the Mollymook IRB were involved in a successful and daring rescue of a boy and a rock fisherman who went to his rescue off Bannister Point.

Again a number of things to celebrate on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary from a dramatic end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the start of the new millennium. The election of Rod Austin as Club President who has continued on in this position to make it his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. He had replaced Geoff Starkey who as special events coordinator had planned the 'Landing of Captain Phillip Re-enactment' on Mollymook beach to celebrate Australia day 2000. This was a NSW Awards of Excellence winner at the annual NSW SLSA awards night. The local Summer Games saw Mollymook organise the annual Don Turnbull memorial carnival with prize-money in excess of \$13000; a very popular event.

Further kudos from our competition team with the winning of the 'Champion Country Club' at the NSW titles. Individually Kip McFarland and Ashlee Cheney were selected in the Australian representative team. Ray Fox, selected as coach of the national Lifesaving team at the World Championships had this to say..."*What a way to start the new millennium (for Mollymook)—a grand slam for the girls; NSW State, Australian and World Champions in the Open Women's Beach Relay and the unbelievable double for Kip and Ashlee as World Champions in the men's and women's beach sprints; Kip as a member of the Australian team, and Ashlee as a member of the Royal Life saving team.*"

To cap it off, the next day in the World Inter-Club Championships the club 110 years Master's beach relay team of Brian Dolly, Michael Getz, Graham Gough became gold medal winners.

The season also saw the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Narrawallee patrol was up-graded to a full rostered patrol.

So on to celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009/2010, and now our club's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday and it was shaping up to be memorable one! Our competitors achieving gold medal success at major NSW carnivals. Then the success of the Australian Surf Boat League Championships hosted by our Club; all this 'cut-short' by what has happened. Hopefully looking back through the past 85 years at the end of each decade, at some of the positive events that brought happy times, "you may be able to not forget these disturbing events of this new decade, but to place them somewhere, so that you can move on." Reliving some of these highlights may help you do this.

**'ON THE SPOT !'**...Ella Zirps was blue in the face and lifeless when her dad scooped her out of the backyard pool at the family home in southern Sydney. "I'm patting her back and looking for consciousness at her eyes, and she was gone," her father Michael Zirps said yesterday, recalling the moment a nightmare scenario for any parent became terrifyingly real for him. One-year-old Ella had slipped from the side of the pool into the water with barely a sound or a splash while Mr. Zirps was distracted by one of his other daughters as they played together Thursday.

For the vast majority of Sydney families what happened next would have meant disaster.

But Mr. Zirps, a long-time surf club member, is one of less than 10% of Australians who know how to perform CPR. He snatched Ella out of the water and handed her to his brother-in-law, Joel Chapman who also knows the resuscitation technique that alternately massages the heart and fills the lungs.

"He went straight into one full breath," Mr. Zirps said. "He was worried he'd cracked her ribs, he was going hard at her. I said "you've got to mate, she was gone."

Working together, they alternated between blowing breaths into the little girl's mouth and compressing her chest. "I was thinking 'how do I explain this to my wife if we lose her ?" Mr. Zirps said.

After two-and-a-half minutes, Ella burst back to life. "I gave her a really good breath—and I reckon about a litre of water came out of her," Mr. Zirps said. "It's a good sign when she's smiling and laughing at you."

It was in some respects, the ideal resuscitation--- Ella's airways were already clear when the paramedics arrived, meaning that they did not have to intubate her.

And by getting her breathing started within a few minutes they restored the flow of oxygen to Ella's organs in time to avoid brain damage or other long-term health problems. Within 24 hours, Ella was out of St.George Hospital and home with her family.

Mr. Zirps said he was furious at himself for taking his eyes off his little girl even for a second. He also pleaded for every parent to learn CPR. "I was angry at myself, then in shock for about eight hours," he added. "( Paramedics said) without you and Joel resuscitating her, she wouldn't be here.

"Everybody do first aid and CPR and never stop teaching your kids how to swim.

(This report taken from the Daily Telegraph 5/1/19 and written by Nick Hansen, as part of a larger report on a tragic summer 2019 when there was a spike in drowning in NSW.) (How will YOU go when you are placed 'on the spot?')

\*\*\*\*\*



After the success and spectacle of the recent Australian Surf Rowers league if our Bronze Medallion could talk it would relate to this opening paragraph from a Chapter headed "Mountaineering in Boats"; written by Bede Maxwell in her renowned book "Surf"; page 86.



The game of thrills and chills and spills that surfboatmen (and women) play in the tough, short-breaking waves of the Australian coast is an exciting and spectacular aquatic sport. Its like is to be seen nowhere else in the world. Lovely cedar-brown boats of a craftsman's construction, buffeted by the seas, fight through the break wherever surfmen (and women) gather on the coast the continent around, on the many stretches of sea-assaulted sand. Out and over waves that can be three, even four times the height of a tall person, through showers of spray screening boats and crew from the sight of spectators on the beach, flung the entire keel's length clear of the sea by some incoming "howler", slapping down again with reports like pistol shots; with straining great-hearted crews and clever, sinewy sweep oarsmen, the Australian surfboats in competition provide a magnificent sight.

An excited visitor from overseas has described the spectacular engagement with the seas as "mountaineering in boats". *Mountaineering in boats it is !!*

*A small tribute to those many crews (345) from around Australia, who made the journey to Mollymook and helped in many ways to relieve some of the misery of the bushfires a short time before.*

\*



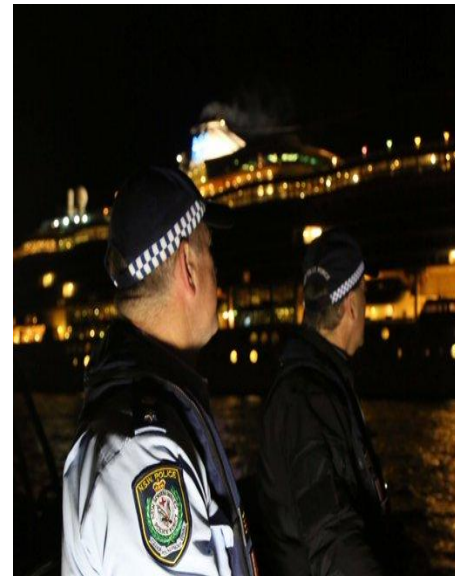


## OPERATION

### NEMESIS..

Sydney Harbour.

April 4; 2020.



Club members were interested to see that the Covid19 inspired, largest maritime operation seen in Sydney Harbour outside of wartime, was under the control of a past club member. **Superintendent Steve Hegarty** was in control of the NSW Police Force which was given the task of facilitating the movement of more than 750,00 tonnes of shipping through the harbour in about a 30-hour period. This was to allow a number of cruise ships to return to their home ports around the world.

*"CONGRATULATIONS STEVE ON A VERY SUCCESSFUL AND COMPLEX OPERATION.."*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* **Mollymook SLSC Win Twenty NSW State Medals..** Recently the *Times Newspaper* reported that the Mollymook SLSC had continued its strong form on the sand and in the surf at the recent 2019/20 NSW state championships.

Highlighting Mollymook's efforts once again was the performance of Daniel Robberd's beach crew which claimed six open medals at Blacksmith's Beach..The results were as follows.....

##### Sam Zustovich who claimed three gold medals. These included the prestigious open men's beach flags, and gold in both the under 19 men's beach flags and beach sprint.

##### Payton Williams who was also a gold medal winner in the women's beach flags. Payton also was a close bronze medal winner in the open women's beach sprint.

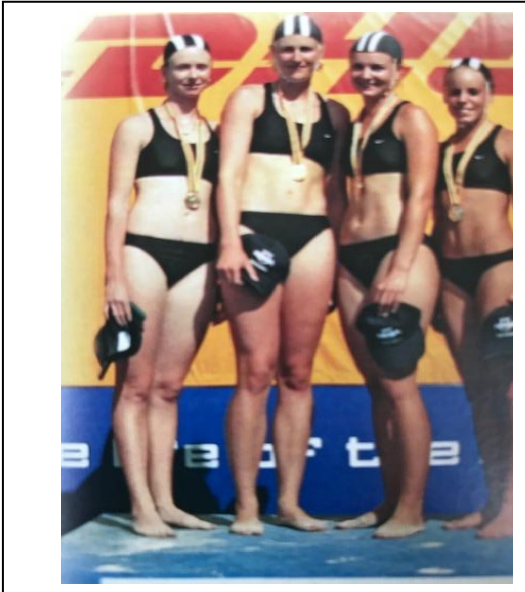
##### Jack Bridges also gold medallist in the under 17 men's beach flags, followed by a sixth place in the open men's flag event.

##### Brock Scrivener finished in fourth place in the open men's flags. So plenty of black and white caps in this final.

##### Karla Jones had her ability shine through with a silver and then a bronze medal in the U15 women's beach flags and beach sprint.



##### Gold medal to Mollymook's 140 year women's beach relay team. This team containing 3 world titles winners from the early years of 2000, have come together again and showed that the ability is still there. Tegan Davies, Sue Keough, Armalie Muller, and Ashley Smart (nee Cheney) congratulations.



Ashlee, Tegan and Armalie..world relay champions seasons 2003/04 & 2005/06. With Melissa Howard and making it 4 World titles for MMK relay team.

AGE  
SHALL  
NOT  
WEARY  
THEM...

*"Once a  
champion,  
always a  
champion..."*



NSW State 140 women's relay champions for 2019/20. Ashlee, Tegan and Armalie plus Sue Keogh.

##### Armalie Muller added a silver medal in the 35-39 women's beach flags.

##### Tegan Davies also a silver medallist in 30-34 women's beach sprint, with Ashlee and Sue fourth and sixth. Tegan added another silver medal with her 35-39 women's 2km beach run.

##### A gold medal by the 140 years men's surfboat crew of Rhys Austin, Steve Craig, Gary Warburton, Ben Wolski and sweep Marty Drysdale.

##### Bronze medals to the 200 years men's surfboat crew of Russell Bartlett, Craig Matthews, Paul Newman, Kevin Whitford and sweep Garth Brook.

##### Steine Lofts competing in the men's 30-34 age division managed a silver in the beach flags, a bronze medal in the beach sprint.

##### Another bronze medal to the 140 men's beach relay team of Steine Lofts, Glen Beveridge, Todd Muller and Paul Buttel.

##### Todd Muller also a bronze in the 35-39 men's beach flags.

##### Tony Ireland competing in the 40-45 years age division secured a silver in the male surf race, bronze in the rescue tube race and sixth in the ironman and board races.

##### Paul Buttel went on to claim a bronze medal in both the 40-44 men's single ski and also the ironman.

A great performance from our competitors following on other early-season events, and it boded well for the Australian National Surf Lifesaving Titles planned for later. Expectations were high for similar medal winning performances, but it wasn't to be, as with so many things the coronavirus ruined it all when the titles were cancelled.

\*\*\*\*\* Just a footnote that in her career, this recent GOLD Medal marked the 13<sup>th</sup> one that Ashlee has chalked up at NSW State level in Female beach relay events. (This goes with her 4 World Championship Relay Gold and 6 Australian Relay Gold). This does not include her individual success in the Female beach sprint with 3 Gold medals in World championships, 5 Australian and 5 NSW State titles....” *What a great career and what a great competitor..truly ‘one of the greats’.*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR COMPETITORS FROM NIPPER RANKS RIGHT THROUGH TO OUR MASTERS ON KEEPING THE BLACK AND WHITE CAPS PROMINENT...**

\*\*\*\*\* [The Great Depression of the late 20’s and early 30’s did have some advantages for country surf clubs](#) like the Editor’s old club, Black Head on the mid-north coast of NSW, when several Sydney Metropolitan stars were lured to the area ,with the bait of good jobs during the depression. W.C.Wally Scott was one of these and he repaid the local club by winning the Australian Surf race title in season 1934/35, the first country club to snatch such an honour; against the great Andrew(Boy) Charlton who finished third. In addition to Scott, Black Head also lured Ralph Chequer from Collaroy. He had won the Australian Belt race in 1926/27 and again in 1928/29. (in the intervening year 1927/28 it is interesting to note that Donald “Mick” Warden, our founding President came second in this prestigious event.

Most of the men who joined Black Head settled in the district and did very well for themselves in business and community life, being frankly prepared to admit that they owed their start in difficult (depression) times, to the fortunate circumstance of being handy surfmen. A very high standard of efficiency was attained in this (Black Head) area as a result. (Further on this can be found in ‘Surf’, page 266 by Bede Maxwell.)

So there was some light in what were otherwise very depressing times !!..Ed.

\*\*\*\*\* THE LAST PAGE...to a slightly smaller edition of our “mag”, due to the restrictions that we have on movement (especially we ‘oldies’) and the policy of isolation. Plenty of reading to take your mind off the virus and we look forward to an end of it all.



Photo..courtesy of gwennyj. With thanks.

For all our members and friends still suffering from the fires and or the uncertainty and fear bought on by the coronavirus, our thoughts and best wishes to you.

Also to Life members, Dave Burke and Rod Stephens who have recently both been in hospital, but are now recovering.

To our Patrons Jon Donohoe and Patrick McGrath best wishes also to them as they continue treatment.

Life is beautiful as this rainbow of the afternoon the 8<sup>th</sup> April shows us. Take care in these uncertain times and continue to look after each other.

**The Editor...**