



COOLUM CLUBBIES ARE BACK

By PETER GARDINER

It's business as usual at the helm of the Coolum Beach SLSC as we launch into the 2018-19 ready to mark our 2019 Centenary Celebrations.

As for our fearless leaders, Fred Stokes is back as president. Fred said this was an exciting season ahead for the club's active members on many levels. "The club's in very good shape—the restaurant upstairs is trading well and the figures have increased on last year," Fred said.

"We're looking to give back to our volunteer members who patrol on our beach with better facilities, increased coaching across the board from nippers to masters. We'll be improving the competition gear as well."



The recent PCs and deputy PCs briefing meeting.

Frank Liberato returns as Club Captain – at least in spirit, just at the moment. A serious shoulder injury has sidelined El Capitan for at least a few months, and his new second in command, Mick Sell, is now in the hot seat, which he's bound to handle, no sweat.

Mick, the latest club version of the Energiser Bunny, was the only change at the very top at the recent AGM. Mick told the recent Patrol Captains and assistant Patrol Captains briefing:

"I've been put in this role and I'm happy to work with all of you."

James Blackmore is one of the new chums with the key development role as Junior Activities Chairperson.

The Nippers have kick-started their season with a great turn-out late August for the season sign-on day for the 5-12-year-olds as they look to build on strong successive seasons of

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Ken Mills



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growth in numbers and competitive spirit. And the older cadets will this season be helping bolster the patrol ranks again, gaining invaluable experience, communication and life skills.

There's been a changing of the old guard among the boaties with Mark 'Smiley' Dunning taking over as Surf Boat Captain from the champion efforts of John Ellingsen.

A good crowd of 60 or more active members filled the common room at the AGM, chaired in straightforward fashion by Deputy President Dan Rogers in the absence of President Fred. Treasurer Ian Norman was a little more expansive in briefing the members on the club's sound financial position.

More than 80% of our income comes from the supporters, either from rent, donations or contributions. Next season we will move to a more traditional landlord-tenant situation. We need to be careful how we spend our money, we can't rely on the cash cow (upstairs) forever and a day. They're in a tough marketplace up there, but I have to say I think our governance is pretty good, we do manage to our budgets."

In the annual report released at the meeting, Ian said there has been an increase in sponsorship from \$75,000 to \$105,000 with more than \$100,000 contributed to lifesaving services.

The overall annual spend to keep the club running continues to increase with the competition ranks and the fact the Aussie titles were held in Perth leading to an increase in associated travel expenses. This is offset to some extent by a significant increase in the annual collection with fundraising income of \$28,000. The active member-driven annual collection rose from about \$2000 to \$6000 the year before. The 200 Club was also a great help.

Joint Facility Coordinator Paul Norman in his annual report announced the club's acquisition of a second property out on Yandina Coolum Rd, just before the industrial estate.

This 1-hectare purchase for is primarily for storage of gear as the club aims to refurbish its downstairs active member's section. The idea is to make better use of what is described as "a bit of a rabbit warren". Plans include a dedicated members' function and member event facility, wet and dry common room, increased lifesaving storage, a training room/gym, a jazzed-up surf club entry to the north of the clubhouse and an overall facelift for the exterior to freshen it up. Major spends for the year also include the replacing of the air-conditioning (just installed) and building modifications worth around \$400,000.

The one contentious item is a petition was presented to the committee aimed at "saving the club's gym". Some members fear the gym will be relocated to away from its southern location overlooking the water. They argue they this will take away their ability to observe swimmers as they work out, in the event of an emergency situation.

The committee's response was that nothing has been decided on the location of the new training facilities at this stage and members will eventually be consulted for their input. As well, the plans for establishing the club's final "footprint" on its public land lease area are yet to be approved.

The project is being handled by the Joint Facility Committee including Paul, brother Ian, Fred Stokes, Dan Rogers, GM Mal Wright and life member Stephen "Poodles" Kemp.

"I am looking forward to the next phase of the development and delivering a members club which will be the envy of all," Paul said.

Treasurer Ian said if the club refurbishment and foot print makeover is given the go ahead it will be "probably going to be a "two and a half million dollar spend" but he thought the major project was "still some time away".

"As we look towards our 100-year anniversary in 2019, our focus will be on two major equipment purchases," he said. These are the replacement of the Suzuki 4WD and a new patrol arena to be ready for the new patrol season. The estimated costs is around \$70,000 all up." He puts the club's priority in sharp focus.

"Patrolling is one of the key strengths of Coolum Beach Surf Club. It's our core business."

Ian said the "the good news is our (active) membership has increased by 13%".

"We've got pretty strong retention numbers, we're at about 85%, which is pretty strong by surf lifesaving standards," he said. He said the rescues undertaken that season were a key testament to the club's ability to deliver its major aim — a safe beach for locals and visitors to enjoy. The club members then vote unanimously for the next season to compete in the club's old sky blue, red and white patrol cap for the centenary season as a respectful nod to its past.

Life member Ronny Synak tells the meeting the club moved away from the traditional strip after Dick Barry raised concerns about the caps being hard to distinguish in racing from similar strips like Met Caloundra. And so the Red Caps were created.

Ian said the club will not be changing its traditional colours red, blue and white colours, which is just fine by club institution Dave Cush.

"There's nothing to change, they've always been our colours," Cushy said.

AIMING FOR MORE PATROLLING PERFECTION



Skills maintenance in full swing

Take a bow all of last year's patrols after the club scored third place in the Buhk Wilkes Trophy which recognises the best performing clubs in our region.

Only Marcoola (winners for the fifth year in a row) and Redcliffe finished ahead of Coolum Beach SLSC in the comp that is judged by those dreaded snap beach patrol inspections.

The past season saw John Roderick's team earn a rare perfect score and some of the other Coolum teams inspected were not far behind. "It's a fantastic result," Club Captain Frank Liberato said, "I think we've moved up from sixth spot."

"They have changed the criteria now it will be more about patrolling," he said. Which means only one thing, it's time to hit the beach and for the annual skills maintenance. Already Frank, Mick and the assessors like John Roderick, Cathy Duncan and Russell Carr have already put dozens of keen clubbies through their paces for their dry and wet sessions. And there's plenty more to come as Chief Training Officer Gail King and her team sharpen up everyone's skills leading into our year of Centenary Celebrations in 2019. And we'll have a flash new set up on the beach.

Transport Officer Wayne Porter said the new patrol arena will be similar to the Sunshine Beach SLSC arena, in that it opens both sides and will be slightly longer and wider than the old arena.

He said at the end of the patrol, instead of having to pack up the gear than then unpack it to hose it down, this new design allows for the gear to be stowed away for an easy clean.

"You can open the doors out, hose the packed gear out in situ, then close the doors and wheel it in to the gear shed and leave it until the next time," Wayne said.

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BRETT POOLS TALENT

After decades of patrolling and long and fruitful years spent coaching swimming, Coolum Beach SLSC Life Member Brett Glister found himself suddenly out of his depth in one field of competitive lifesaving.

Brisbane-based Brett, who is almost as part of surf club's well-worn furniture as the likes of Dave Cush and John Ellingsen, admits to being a little clueless when helping two of our most promising new bronzies take a deep breath and dive headlong in the pool rescue. Janina Cook and Evie Nocher are two of Brett's Brisbane swim squad members he decided to challenge to move out of their comfort zone. Brett's approach to swimming, lifesaving and life generally is finding out what motivates people.

"If we keep pushing people up the black line, we're just not going to get anywhere. If we just keep putting people out on patrol, we're not going to get anywhere. I think pool rescue will be a huge injection to renewed enthusiasm."

Janina, who was named Best Patrol Person in her first season, and Evie are no crash test dummies, but they agreed to explore this novel option after completing their bronze training with Brett at his Chermerside pool.

But Brett eased them into their new foray into the unknown. He told the girls to enjoy their first year just on the beach in between the flags, before late in the season competing in the pool rescue comp that recently ended in the Aussie titles.

"And that's what they did. We went to Kawana Waters (Sunshine Coast Championships). I entered them and told them to pick me up at 5am to head up.

*"I stayed up all night reading the rules because I didn't know s***."*

"We got to Kawana Waters and I was dead (tired)." He said about 300 people turned that morning ready made up of rescue teams, coaches supporters and officials.

"I was terrified. We didn't even know what a mannequin was. To be honest, when I read the rules I thought this (comp) is Mickey Mouse. I didn't even know what a line throw was (an event of



Janina, Ernie Burrows and Evie.

toss a rope to a patient down the pool and tow them back to the end of the pool)."

"The next one (carnival) was in Brisbane and then we went to the state title. We were pumped." So much so that Janina came away from the meet with a silver medal. Brett said his first experience with a borrowed mannequin was a real eye-opener.

"I said to the girls, let's got back to our pool and practice, it can't be that bloody hard. The mannequin weighs 60kg, I couldn't even pick the bastard up off the bottom of the pool. We've got mannequins now. You ought to see how fast the kids can go under the water, these kids ... and the adults.

"I told these girls when you go to the beach to do a rescue, this (pool work) is going to be an untold help."

Brett is now liaising with the club to hold a pool rescue come and try day to meet growing interest from the club's growing band of competitors – young, senior and mature aged.

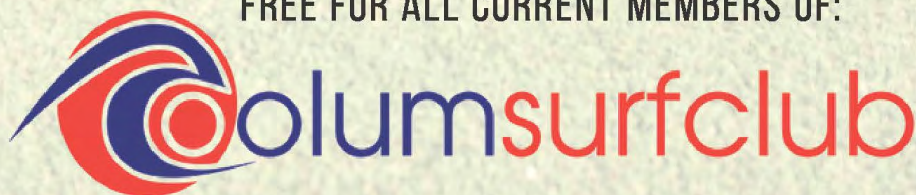
And now he's again lining up for another steep learning curve as an old sea dog, minus the scurvy, who's learned some pretty handy new tricks.

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LOOKING FOR SPORTING STRENGTH

Onwards and upwards – that's the plan by Coolum Beach's SLSC's erstwhile Surf Sports Officer Ernie Burrows. Ernie said this coming season now upon us, starting with the September school holidays, will be one of sustained competition effort and growth. And he's pleased to report that will continue the trend of the past three seasons, where the club has shown a renewed enthusiasm to get out on the sand and the surf to mix it with the best clubs at carnivals.

"The growth is across all sections with an extra discipline, pool rescue, joining the surf sports group," Ernie said.

"The board riders have attracted several new young members and with a bit of luck we will gain two new boards from a grant from Holden."

"These boards are much needed due to the growth and retiring of boards due to damage."

Ernie said even though their comp season is months away, the IRB racers are already revved up at the prospect of having members returning from a gap year from competing, while retaining the nucleus of members from previous seasons including a couple of young guns.

"What can I say about the boaties ... recruitment has been full steam ahead and Brisbane has been the centre of the push for new members. A change of boat captain gives them direction for the upcoming season. The newcomers pool rescue have ended last season with a second-place medal from state and a good showing at the national championships. Several mature aged members have shown an interest in giving it a try in the new season especially with the oversize fins.

"The surf and sand who continued their training through the winter months looking forward to having further success at the Coolangatta Gold."

Ernie said keen Coolum clubbies are heading off to Harvey Bay for a hit out at the first carnival for the season, where the senior club has not competed at for some time. Ernie's tip for encounter – they should have some fun.

"This season the club will be celebrating our Centenary and to celebrate we have reverted to our old strip being light blue red, and white. Exciting times."

NIPPERS READY FOR BEACH ACTION

By JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN JAMES BLACKMORE



Coolum Nippers is back on the beach this summer, resplendent in the lifesaving fluorescent pink. This year Surf Lifesaving Queensland is celebrating the official 50th anniversary of Nippers. The team at Coolum Beach Surf club have been working really hard for months now to design this coming summer's Nipper program to be the best ever. The focus this summer, as it has always been, is on Fun, Family & Friends.

A Nipper at Coolum has so much opportunity for fun and learning. On Sundays Nippers runs from 8am to 10am (a bit shorter for the U6 & 7 age groups). Nippers run, swim, paddle boards, learn lifesaving skills and play games with their friends nearly every Sunday morning over summer. But Nippers is not only on Sunday. Coolum Beach Surf Club makes training available to Nippers most weekdays to improve skills and fitness and compete at surf carnivals for fun and bragging rights. There will be opportunities to contribute to the community and raise funds for the surf club and there is opportunity to wear the club clobber with pride.

We are expecting over 200 Nippers to sign up for Coolum Nippers this year with plenty of action. Sunday sessions start on 21 October. Every year we need age managers, water safety, carnival officials, coaches, a gear steward, a committee. Many Nipper parents love their Nipper experience so much they now contribute to the club as patrolling members, first aiders and in other volunteer positions.

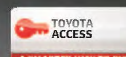
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