



A CENTURY OF SERVICE AND VIGILANCE TO BE PROUD OF



Chances are the active members down on the beach are too busy with the weekend-to-weekend water activities and patrolling to ever wonder who is paying attention to just what it is we do pretty damn well... preventing tragedies that can shatter families and ruin Coolum Beach's fine reputation as a safe place to swim.

As the Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club is about to embark on its Centenary Celebrations, our ten decades of keeping the beach safe (with the amazing Dave Cush having patrolled more than half of these years and is still going strong), you'd be surprised who's paying attention.

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk



"Congratulations to Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club for a century of service. Fittingly you are celebrating this major milestone over the Easter long weekend because it was the start of that holiday in 1919 that the first lifesaving reel and rescue line was put on Coolum Beach and the first patrols were conducted by local swimming club captain Mr Jack Morgan.

"Fast forward 100 years and your club is now a much-loved and respected community institution, with over 240 patrolling members, 200 nippers, a growing surf sports team and an upgraded clubhouse. Last season, your club's 14 patrols watched over 65,805 beachgoers and not a single life was lost thanks to their vigilance and preventative actions.

"On behalf of everyone who has enjoyed a dip at Coolum, thank you for being a constant, reassuring presence on the sand and 'the heart of Coolum since 1919'."

This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of our Gold Sponsor

Ken Mills



IN THIS EDITION

- > A century of service and vigilance
- > Public thanks Coolum Clubbies
- > Our clubs legacy is built on the strength of its characters
- > Ten CBSLSC legends you'd love to patrol with
- > A march to remember in our centenary year
- > Glory days as trailblazing lifesavers take to the street

Sunshine Coast Mayor Mark Jamieson

"Celebrating 100 years of serving our Sunshine Coast community is certainly a significant achievement and I would like to congratulate the Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club for reaching this major milestone.

"There is no doubt surf life saving clubs are the lifeblood of our coastal communities and Coolum Beach's dedicated and passionate volunteers are to be commended for their contribution to the area since 1919.

"The safety of our residents and our visitors while enjoying our pristine beaches is paramount and I thank the members of Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club for the hours they devote in volunteering to help keep the beach safe.

"Community groups like Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club are the very heart of what makes the Sunshine Coast such a great place to work, visit, live and play."

Surf Life Saving Queensland president Mark Fife, OAM

"On behalf of Surf Life Saving Queensland, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Coolum Beach SLSC and its members, both past and present, for this wonderful milestone.

"There is no questioning the profound impact that Coolum Beach SLSC has had on its local community over the past century, and there are countless people out there today who literally owe their lives to the club and its members.

"To celebrate 100 years of patrols is a truly remarkable achievement and something that all members should be rightly proud of. From the men and women who have helped shape the club over the years, through to the volunteers today who raise the red and yellow flags each weekend, I say thank you; thank you for your dedication, your bravery, and your continued vigilance and service.

"Your efforts have served to significantly strengthen the reputation of the surf lifesaving movement while delivering safer beaches across Queensland. Congratulations once again, and here's to the next 100 years."

Member for Fairfax Ted O'Brien

"Congratulations to everyone on a proud milestone, keeping generations of local families and visitors safe on the beach for 100 years. This town has changed a lot in the past century but the spirit of the club continues to thrive as the pulse of this vibrant community."

"To my mind, however, you are far more than a surf lifesaving club. You are the central point of energy and organisation for the Coolum Beach community and I thank you for it. As your Federal MP, I am pleased to assist where I can because we all want to see the club thrive into the future. So, congratulations once again, enjoy the celebrations and here's to 100 more years of successful beach patrols."

Coolum Beach Councillor Stephen Robinson

"I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the Coolum Beach Surf Lifesaving Club as it celebrates 100 years of beach patrols and keeping our residents and visitors safe."

"What an amazing achievement and distinguished history for the club. I would like to acknowledge all past and present members for their bravery and dedication to our community and for making this piece of paradise a far better place to live, work and play."

Coolum Beach SLSC President Fred Stokes

"It's an incredible honour to be the President in the Centenary year. The Centenary Celebrations are designed to show respect for the history of the club that it deserves."

"So much has happened over the years and so many good people have put so much effort into the place to make it an extremely successful club"

"Others over the years like World War II Digger Richard Lugge, who drowned while bravely going to the rescue of swimmers in massive seas, have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. We also honour all the club members we lost serving their country at war."

"My biggest sense of pride always comes back to the club members being prepared to give up their time to come down there to the beach to look after other people, to make sure they have a safe swimming experience."

"If the next 100 years is anything like the last 100, then the members can be very proud of who they are and what they are accomplishing for the good of the community."

PUBLIC THANKS COOLUM CLUBBIES 'FOR MAKING US FEEL SAFE'

Just weeks out from the Easter Centenary Celebrations of the Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club, the Coolum Pulse dropped by to ask what this Sunday afternoon crowd thought about 100 years of vigilance and service without a life lost between the flags.



Terry and Maureen of Verrierdale were watching from the beach terrace as the PM patrol watched over calmer waters after weeks of powerful swells generated by no show blowhard Cyclone Oma.

Having lived locally for 20 years, they both agreed that having this long and steady presence of the lifesavers on the beach has helped the township of Coolum Beach grow into its present prosperity.

"The surf club brings in money as well, it's all got to help, hasn't it? It keeps things going and it keeps people safe on the beach," Terry said.

Amanda and Ellen from Brisbane with Canadian visitor Gina of Calgary, where it was -40 degrees, were just packing up after an enjoyable beach visit. Ellen said: "One hundred years is an awesome milestone ... keeping people safe. I think it's fantastic, I come here and you feel safer."

"Lifesavers, they're iconic, they're part of our culture."

Amanda said: "This is my first time at Coolum, but anytime I go to the ocean, the flags are always the first thing I go for. I'm not a super confident ocean swimmer."

Gina, "as a person who lives in a place that does not have oceans, at least not for 14 hours from where I live" puts her trust in the lifesavers.



Upstairs on the clubhouse veranda taking in the beach scene, was Marcoola surfer Debbie and friend Emma from Coolum. Debbie has lived at the beach for more than 30 years while Emma has been a local for 16 after moving up from Sydney. "I think they're great," Emma said of the red and yellow caps below.

Debbie said: "I think it (the flags) is really important for people who don't know the ocean. People who don't know the oceans should really heed the signs."

And Emma added: "And swim between the flags."

OUR CLUB'S LEGACY IS BUILT ON THE STRENGTH OF ITS CHARACTERS

By PETER GARDINER

Every great club has them – people of character who leave an indelible mark on their community and more importantly set the tone for the organisation's DNA.

These are legacy leaders, and few come better in Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club's the late, and always will be, great Alan 'Acer' Cameron, slight of build but huge of heart.

Once again, as it does every year, Coolum lifesavers will pay their respects to Acers club contributions and competing in the Acer Cameron Memorial Board Riding Comp on Saturday, April 20, starting 6 am.

This is one of the most prestigious trophies in the club's bulging trophy cabinet and contemporaries of Acer still patrolling today like life members Ian and Paul Norman, over the years have gone all out to out-surf their mates for bragging rights.

Ian and Paul are an integral part of the surf club's Centenary Celebrations Committee, planning four key Centenary events for this once-in-a-life-time-year, where the club gives a nod to its rich past and looks ahead to a bright future.

The committee is headed up by the next generation of Normans, Kate Stockley, daughter of Ian, who has twice represented Coolum Beach SLSC, as its Summer Surf Girl.

Their aim is to do Acer and a legion of great legends of the club proud with the April 20, 3pm Easter Saturday Centenary Celebration launch, a very special Centenary annual dinner at season's end, a Centenary Community beach celebration day in late August capped off with a Centenary Back To Coolum club gathering with a traditional end-of-patrol "Keg in the Shed" in October.

Acer is among a trio of club's immortals from the modern era, lost in their prime doing what they loved. They shared the same spirit of adventure and service and love of a good time as the like of champion club members like Ray "Sting" Zillman, Brian "Doggie" Clem and the great Ernie Berg to name just a few of Coolum Beach's finest.

In Acer's case apart from the surf and the beach, his passion was for flying. And he spent all his considerable energy and earnings into gaining his commercial pilot's licence.

That would eventually take him to the heights of New Guinea and some of the most challenging flight conditions in the world. Sadly, Acer lost his life when his plane crashed in 1988, sending shock waves way back in Coolum Beach.

The club never entirely recovered when it suffered another emotional body blow in 1994, with the sudden loss of young boat rower Michael Rutledge, who was strong of limb and brimming with youthful exuberance.

Michael was on his way to boat training Brisbane on Melbourne Cup Day when the 19-year-old was killed in a car accident. His stunned mates were anguished that this just was not right, that Michael, given a chance at a fuller life, could have done anything. As it was in his short time at Coolum Beach SLSC, he was the best company his mates could have.

Every year the best of the best boatie's at Coolum is awarded the Michael Rutledge Memorial Trophy, one of the club's highest badges of honour.

Coolum Beach has for more than six decades had a strong boat culture and in 1999, the club finally cracked its Holy Grail by winning the gold at the Aussie titles.

The crew swept by Australian lifesaving legend Peter 'Grub' Grant contained a young Australian Air Force doctor and thrill seeker called Paul McCarthy.

Paul and a doctor mate are still honoured by the Ocean Rowing Society for their feat of finishing second in a 2001 epic rowing race across the Atlantic without prior experience.

This Squadron Leader inspired all who knew him and always led from the front. He was aboard a Sea King helicopter in 2005 flying a relief mission to help Indonesian earthquake victims, when it crashed tragically killing him and eight other personnel. This was after three-months deployment bringing aid to tsunami survivors.

In 2015 when the Coolum Beach SLSC held its moving commemorative 100th Year Anzac Day commemorative row-in with Coolum Beach RSL watched on by a large crowd, Paul and the club's many past armed service members, were a large part of the observance.

TEN COOLUM BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING LEGENDS YOU REALLY WOULD LOVE TO PATROL WITH:

1. **Jack Morgan:** The club's bedrock – the surf club founder whose skills and the unflinching character started what we have. You would learn plenty.
2. **Ernie 'Diamond' Berg:** An all-round sports talent who could handle anything life threw at him and not even the German Army in WWII could keep him under lock and key. Never a dull moment.
3. **Richard Lugge:** A decorated war hero and tragically a one patrol wonder. He put his life on the line in the 1948 Boxing Day tragedy in monster surf at Coolum Beach. Lived and breathed courage under fire.
- 4/5. **Keith Peterie and Ron Want:** Always the better for being a double act who had all the right stuff to keep the club going. Patrolling would never be dull with Keith telling his cracking yarns. A pair of out and out champions.
6. **Sting Zillman:** Fearless out in the break. Would look at you as if you'd gone mad if you told him the "risk-averse" boat officials were cancelling the carnival due to rough conditions. Life of the party.
7. **Don 'Bear' Kennedy:** Lifeguarding pioneer at Coolum Beach and talented axeman who could cut any challenge down to size. Go hard and celebrate with your mates even harder.
8. **Mal Burns:** An annoyingly good man to have on the beach especially when your back is to the wall. Could be in three places at once if he had to and was always right ... or so he said. Priceless.
9. **Alan Patterson:** Another of the club's many "go to" men who was never happier than when organising events that could build the skills of his fellow clubbies. Solid gold.
10. **Dave Cush's Patrol 13:** With hundreds of years of lifesaving skills standing on the beach, it would be impossible not to learn how to be a better, smarter lifesaver. Age has not wearied them.

PEREGIAN GOLF
COURSE

Partner PASS

- PARTNER RATES: 20% OFF GREEN FEES - 7 DAYS A WEEK
- DISCOUNTS ON MOTORISED CARTS - 7 DAYS A WEEK
- SPECIAL OFFER: 1 X FREE CART WITH YOUR FIRST PARTNER ROUND!

FREE FOR ALL CURRENT MEMBERS OF:



Register today at peregiangolf.com.au or call (07) 5471 5400

A MARCH TO REMEMBER IN OUR CENTENARY YEAR

By BASIL CAFFEY



Anzac Day March and Service Yandina 10.45AM Thursday 25th April 2019

Coolum Beach Lifesavers are invited by the Yandina/Eumundi RSL to take part in their ANZAC Day March and Service. The day is for remembering all who have served in war including those from our Surf Club especially the seven young Coolum Beach lifesavers from the Yandina Maroochy River District who made the supreme sacrifice while serving their country in WW2. Six of these seven men are honoured on Yandina's Cenotaph. On ANZAC Day we will not only remember the band of young men from the Coolum Beach club, who when called upon volunteered to fight for their country in WW2. We will also be paying a tribute to the people of the Yandina Maroochy River District who all those years ago volunteered and contributed much to the club, helping to lay the foundations for it to become the successful club it is today.

An article from the Nambour Chronicle November 10 1944, best describes the situation at the time and the contribution and sacrifice our club and its lifesavers made for our country.

"Owing to many of the club's officers and members on military duty, and in the Fighting Services, it has been quite impossible for the committee to do more than hold the nucleus of the club together until better times arrive or it appears appropriate to make an endeavour to place the club on a more active basis. No less than 32 active members were in the services — practically the whole of the club's active strength. Some of these lads have been wounded or taken prisoner, several are



Jim Berry was one of the Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club members killed during WWII.

missing, and four of them— Barry Evans, Butten Singh, Jim Berry and Lance Jensen have paid the supreme sacrifice."

[Click here](#) for the Yandina/Eumundi RSL and 2019 ANZAC Day Program. Lifesavers wanting to March: Contact Surf Club Admin 0754461148. Early confirmation required to assist RSL with their planning.

GLORY DAYS AS TRAILBLAZING LIFESAVERS TAKE TO THE STREET



So get a load of Coolum Beach's "blazer of glory". This photo, according to Barbara Want, wife of life member Ron Want, shows Coolum Beach lifesavers marching possibly for the first time in their new club blazers. Barb thinks the occasion is the 1955 Golden Pineapple Festival parade in Nambour.

The festival featured the Pineapple Queen Ball at the Nambour Show Pavilion, where Miss Yandina Patty Rafter (aunt of tennis ace Pat Rafter) helped raise funds for the surf club. Years on Ron still cuts a fine figure as he models his very dapper club blazer.

Phone: 5446 1148
Fax: 5471 6473
www.coolumsurfclub.com.au



STILL
FEELING
IT

2018 RAV4 RANGE
NOW IN RUNOUT
WHILE STOCKS LAST



at KEN MILLS TOYOTA #1 Choice For Locals



Ken Mills Toyota

Sugar Rd, Maroochydore
T (07) 5443 6277

www.maroochydore.kenmillstoyota.com.au

Coronation Ave, Nambour
T (07) 5441 1544

www.nambour.kenmillstoyota.com.au

