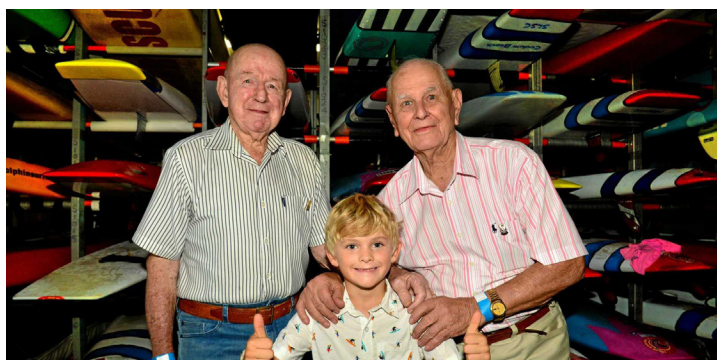




The beat of the Coolum Beach Surf Lifesaving Club



CENTENARY SEASON LAUNCH



Ron Want and Keith Petrie with Malachi Nagle at the season launch

There was one moment, captured concisely in two telling words at the official Easter Saturday launch of Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club's historic Centenary Celebrations, on a windy afternoon with past and present members and dignitaries crowding the members' terrace, that said all that had to be said. Life Member Keith Peterie, 87, one vital half of the "heart and soul" of the surf club, turned to a fellow serving Life Member seated beside him and said: "Good job".

Beside Keith was his lifesaving brother in arms, Ron Want, still sharp of mind and straight of stature as he and Keith later posed with Coolum Beach SLSC acting Club Captain Mick Sell dressed in the club's traditional red, white and sky-blue competition cap.

Overhead, as threatening rain clouds scudded in the 25km wind gusts, causing quite a flap in the club's proud Centenary Flag. This had just been raised for the first time as the club's symbol of strength and unity, made unbreakable over 10 decades of community service.

On the beach a traditional "old school" patrol arena with tower and clubbie dressed in Speedos in a homage to the 1960s and 70s. He was the embodiment of Vigilance and Service, eyes always out to sea.

Shortly after 3pm, this pivotal nod to all that had gone before and all the greatness yet to come, began with traditional custodian Lyndon Davies, a proud Gubbi Gubbi man, and his didgeridoo performing the Welcome to Country.

Watching on with huge relief, as more than 15 months of planning, that could not be dampened by a brief rain squall which sent the mass of Centenary Launch guests scurrying

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Ken Mills



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inside for 10 minutes until the all-clear was sounded, was Centenary Committee chair Kate Stockley. Kate and her committee of (Kate's father and Life Member) Ian Norman, Paul Norman, club historian and Life Member Peter Gardiner, Greg Bott, Emma Rahui and Trudy Pieters, had planned meticulously to give this occasion the very special stamp it deserved.

A proud 2018/19 Club President Fred Stokes had no doubt that this club had stood the test of time (but only just on one very dark drowning tragedy) as he welcomed one and all. He said this club was built on the spirit of volunteers wanting to do something for someone else, "community-minded people with hearts as big as Phar Lap" who "put their lives on the line to save someone else, and I'm very proud to be in your company". Then local State MP for Ninderry, Dan Purdie, a former policeman who knew all about putting your life on the line for others in times of emergency, paid tribute to the lifesavers' effort.



Coolum Beach Nippers with the Ocean 6 competitors

"What makes Coolum special is that community culture that we have here and central to community and culture, is and always has been the last 100 years, the Coolum Surf Life Saving Club." "When you break it all down – lifesaving is about donating your time to look after those people at the beach in the water. The Coolum surf club has set that tone for the wider community." Patrol 5 Patrol Captain (PC) Peter Gardiner then stepped up to launch the update of the Club's official history book he'd completed in a hectic 18 months, along with the words for the special coffee table pictorial companion to mark the century. The narration of this was told with writer's licence in the first person by club founder, the late and always great, Jack Morgan. Peter said the early patrol pioneers like Jack Morgan, Spencer Browne, Ernie Berg and George Warren passed on their skills and dedication to the likes of Keith Peterie and Ron Want "whose baptism of fire as young clubbies was the 1948 Boxing Day drownings, when war hero Dick Lugge was dragged under while attempting the bravest of belt rescues in a truly monstrous surf". "None of us will ever be able to pay back the debt we owe Keith and Ron in early 1949, for not walking away from this club when they were the last two members standing. They were the club's lifeline when we needed it the most and they came through by recruiting and training up a bunch of young kids to carry on the Coolum Beach SLSC legacy. Life Member John Ellingsen, a very colourful club lynchpin among many, then had the privilege to interview Ron and Keith, as they relived, anecdotally, their famous walk up the beach to decide whether to leave the club, which would have closed its doors. Their watershed decision is now the stuff of local legend and a powerful backmarker to a club defined, after 100 years of outstanding volunteer dedication.

PRESENTATION NIGHT



Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club members

The Coolum Beach's May 25, Centenary Celebrations Annual Presentation Dinner at a Coolum State School hall decked out with nostalgia was a barometer for good things to come for the next 100 years. Outgoing president Fred Stokes spoke of the club's pride in reverting back to the historical club colours for its competition cap and of the Coolum Beach SLSC March Past Team making a comeback at the Australian Championships. "With our very own centenary merchandise, the launch of our club history books and our very own Centenary Ale, we certainly have a lot to be excited about," Fred said. "We have seen many different clubhouses as part of the building evolution to what we have today. We're very fortunate to be in a position to purchase a second property on the outskirts of town and we've almost finished construction of a rather large storage shed. "All these material things are of course appreciated and make life comfortable, but the club wouldn't be the place that it is today, or as successful, if wasn't for the 100 years of grit and determination, camaraderie and mateship and the unwavering commitment to attempt to perform basic lifesaving services throughout the year to keep Coolum Beach safe," Fred said. And it was one of last official duties to unveil the Centenary art work donated by club member and accomplished artist John

Pearson to be displayed in the club room, a forerunner to the commissioned public art piece by Coolum artist Blair McNamara, who was one of the club's early nippers. Acting club captain Mick Sell recapping on the previous season spoke of the club's commitment throughout some tough conditions, including being hit by the still powerful forces of Cyclone Omar. Mick thanked all the rescue crews in the IRBs, on boards and with tubes, and all those who stood watch on the water including the tower radio operators "who have such an important role to play in keeping the beaches safe". He said these eagle-eyed radio volunteers reported changes in the beach conditions and reported them to the patrol PCs. Di McFarlane and Bruce Moulard won the Frank Wood Memorial Trophy for Best Radio Operator. "I'd also like to thank Chief training Officer Gail (King) and the TAF (trainers, assessors and facilitators) this year for their hard work this year and the trainers for helping run our bronze squads and keeping members proficient. He thanked the Management Committee, the admin officers, the nippers crew and all these combined efforts "make us the successful club we are today". Eighteen-year veteran Gail, who was bowing out from her influential role in the club, paid tribute "the effort, commitment and personal time that these awesome members put into making the Coolum Beach Training Team". There were 107 new training awards achieved, an amazing 44 new bronze members and 13 new SRCs, the juniors who are the lifeblood of the club. She paid tribute to the efforts of all, including Chris Smithies and Ernie Burrows for going above and beyond and to Shane Urban for being named Instructor of the Year. All the PCs were brought on to the stage first up to receive special presentations for their invaluable guiding hands, while the awards kept coming thick and fast such as Champion Patrol to Patrol 5. That season the PCs oversaw a remarkable 12,011 patrol hours, with 7,374 preventative actions for zero lives lost. Colm O'Reilly and Kaitlin Webster shared the Most Promising New Member Award, while Logan Pieters logged an amazing 150 hours plus for the season to take out Outstanding Patrol Service. Not far behind in their dedication to the red and yellow duties were young gun Ben Campbell, Shane Urban and Janina Cook who completed more than 100 hours.

The surf sports award winners were: **Coolum Bin Chickens** for the coveted Michael Rutledge Memorial Trophy for Contribution to Surf Boats.

Coolum Quick Cobbas for the Surf Boat Captain's Trophy.

Rubber duckie racing rev head **Alistair McGregor** was awarded the IRB Racing Team Trophy. **Jodie Waring** was a tearaway winner for the Surf and Sand Award. Super surf fish **Griffin Willey** again proved too good in the Kennedy Cup swim series. **Andy Johnson**, the pocket rocket, felt six foot five and bullet proof after taking out the Acer Cameron Board Trophy. But the stand-out possibly was former lifeguard **Bruce Dunne** who has discovered the elixir of youth when it comes to board riding to take out his fifth straight Australian Longboard Champion plus picking up gold in the Short Board in



Annual Acer Cameron competition final

tough conditions at Broadbeach on the Gold Coast. Very few members can match **Ben Campbell** for his dedication to patrols, including Wave Runner extra duties and IRB racing and his role as club IRB officer. He's among the new wave of emerging young leaders in the club, so it was fitting he was awarded the Dick Lugge Best Patrol Member. Surf sports coach **Chris Atkinson** has been one of the club's best contributors to its reborn competitive "muscle" in recent years and Sting Zillman would have been proud to have the trophy named in his honour presented to Chris. Veteran PC and club historian **Peter Gardiner** took out the David Cush Meritorious Award for his efforts to help preserve and enhance the club's amazing culture of public service.



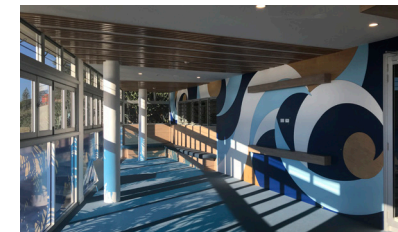
Winner of the David Cush Meritorious Award, Peter Gardiner

AGM

A well-attended club AGM this year saw outgoing Treasurer of nine years and incoming President, Ian Norman succinctly sum up the net worth of the bricks and mortar that continues to pay an incalculable dividend to help retain its all-important human capital. "In our Centenary season, it is great to be able to report the club remains in a strong financial position.



Club President, Ian Norman



New all-weather common area

His brother Paul, who heads up the club's Joint Finance Committee which has been handling the acquisition of the club's second property out near the industrial estate called Coolum West, said the Coolum Yandina Rd asset will cater for the increased surf sports gear and patrol equipment heading into the future. And he's delighted by the members' reaction to the downstairs overhaul of their all-weather common area featuring canteen facilities, dedicated training room and improved first aid set up. The club has made major inroads through its energy audit and solar power push to greatly reduce its carbon footprint in a world increasingly on edge over climate change as the weather seems to turn increasingly extreme and nasty. After three years as Club President Fred Stokes stood down. President elect Ian Norman will have the strong support of Management Committee members Dan Rogers



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(Deputy President), Shane Mackenzie (Treasurer), James Blackmore (Secretary), Mick Sell (Club Captain), John Roderick (Chief Training Officer) Greg Bott (Surf Sports Officer) and Kate Stockley (Members Officer).

Faith Liberato is Cadet Youth Officer, Ben Campbell IRB Officer, Gear Steward Andy Johnson Gear Steward, Caleb Thomas Transport Officer, Paul Schloss Surf Boat Captain and Bobby Le Roux is Board and Ski Captain with Fred Stokes IRB Captain for the remainder of the IRB season.

In the earlier Supporters Club AGM, President John Ellingsen accepted his 17th year in the role, with Bruce Mouland (Deputy President), Garry Green (Treasurer) and Peter Howard (Secretary) continuing in their roles. Committee members this year are Paul Norman, Lee Francey and Gary Barben.

NEW LIFE MEMBER



Sharleen Swan, new life member

A highlight of the proceedings was the vote to bestow Life Membership to Sharleen Swan, the better half of Ian (Swanny), who was made a Life Member in 1991.

Sharleen, known by IRB crews as Mother Swan, has been a member of the Coolum Beach Surf Lifesaving Club for three decades plus and has held various committee positions at club and branch level, spending countless hours as an official and trainer.

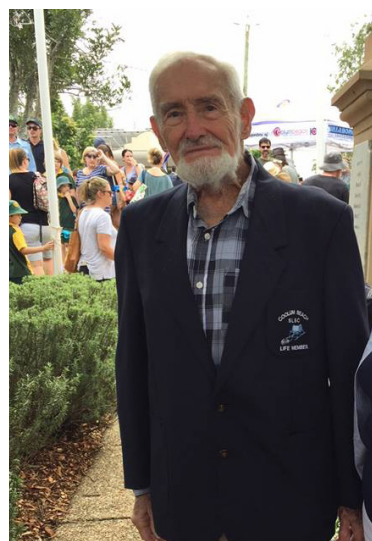
She played a key role in rejuvenating the clubs surf sports section and continues to work tirelessly as an official for the club and remains heavily involved with the clubs mighty IRB team.

PETER LAMBERT

In June this year Coolum Beach lost one of its important living links to its rich history with the passing of the Life Member Peter Lambert who was still active in his early 90s.

This bear of a man who in his competitive days was a strong belt swimmer, loved nothing better than a body surf out the back with his fellow 79ers, The Coolum Beach SLSC blog reported: "It is with much sadness that Coolum Beach Surf Lifesaving advises of the passing of Life Member Peter Lambert on 28 May 2019.

"Peter was a highly regarded architect who designed the iconic 1962 "shark tower" Coolum Beach clubhouse which became a much-loved Sunshine Coast landmark until it was replaced in 1985. Retiring to Coolum Terrace in the 1980s Peter was a foundation member of the famous 79ers early morning swimmers along with Cole King and Ron Hooper. Despite the chilly conditions on June 22, the 79ers swam out to honour Peter as his ashes were spread in the water he loved so much.



Life Member Peter Lambert



Honour of Peter Lambert June 22

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