



PULLING TOGETHER IN TOUGH TIMES

What a start to the new century for Coolum Beach. After a great year of centenary celebrations the Corona virus curve ball came along to test our resolve.

With the ongoing evolution of the COVID-19 situation Coolum Beach, once again, has been able to show it is up to the task. The club has had to rethink how we go about the business of looking after our members and keeping the beach safe to ensure we can manage the potential COVID-19 exposures. Some tough decisions have had to be taken like stopping club training and closing down the members area but it is great to see that members understand the need for these restrictions and have accepted it well. President Ian Norman said "I am immensely proud of the Management Committee and all members for the way in which the whole club has responded. There is still some way to go before we see the other side of this situation and I am confident we can and will get through it. Over the years we have seen some tough times and survived and we will get through this by supporting each other and coming together as one club with one vision – keep the beach safe". Special recognition to the club's Energizer Bunny Club Captain Mick Sell who, as always, has been working tirelessly to keep things on track.

NUMBER ONE BEACH IN QUEENSLAND!

Take a bow Coolum Surf Life Saving Club founder Jack Morgan and all the many loyal club stalwarts who have shaped this club into what is today.

And that according to Surf Life Saving Queensland is the best patrolled beach in the state. CBSLC president and Life member Ian Norman who has been actively involved with keeping the beach safe for almost half of its hundred years plus of "vigilance and service", believes this first-time accolade is the perfect follow up to the club's outstanding Centenary Celebrations.

Ian's reaction: "What a great start to our new century. To be named Queensland's Number 1 beach by SLSQ is a fantastic feather in our cap. Although, I suspect most of our members would say that this is just making official what we already know." "We have been driving a strategic direction for many years now that has at its core 'to be the safest and friendliest beach' and it is great to see that this has been effective and has been recognised."

"Throughout our long and proud history we have never aspired to be the biggest club or the strongest competition club – we have always aspired to be the best at what we do which is keeping the beach safe." "Our members take a lot of pride in being able to handle any surf conditions with Coolum Beach being recognised as one of the best places to go if you want a wave. This season also saw Coolum Beach become one of the wheelchair accessible beaches with our volunteer members diligently putting down the blue matting at the start of each patrol day." "It has been great for our members to do their bit in making someone's life just that little bit better. Every member, past member and supporter of the Coolum Beach lifesaving club should justifiably feel proud of this accolade," Ian said.

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Released to coincide with the end of summer, the annual list of Queensland's top 10 patrolled beaches ranks popular locations based on safety, facilities and nearby services. Alma Bay (Magnetic Island) and Burleigh Heads on the Gold Coast make up the top three with SLSQ Sunshine Coast lifesaving co-ordinator Caige Price summing up Coolum's winning edge ... patrols that are on the ball. "Safety is our core focus as we aim for zero preventable deaths in Queensland public waters," Mr Price said.

Coolum Beach lifesavers watched over more than 270,000 beachgoers during summer, with surf lifesavers and lifeguards performing 30 rescues, 2275 first aid treatments and carrying out more than 8000 preventive actions. "When determining our top beaches, we consider patrol times and services, incident history, coastal conditions and the quality of visitor information on display," he said.

Coolum is patrolled 365 days a year by dedicated volunteer surf lifesavers and lifeguards, Mr Price said, with a second set of flags located at Coolum North providing beachgoers two safe swimming areas in proximity. "We also look at other factors such as how user-friendly the beach is, which includes considerations such as amenities, its location, access to parking and public transport, nearby services and cleanliness."

Across all of Queensland this summer, more than 1700 rescues were performed by surf lifesavers and lifeguards, a decrease of 33 per cent compared to the 2018/19 summer period. "It is a timely reminder to always consider your safety and swim between the red and yellow flags, no matter which beach you choose to visit," Mr Price said. "The flagged areas not only represent the safest conditions on that particular beach but are also patrolled by qualified surf lifesavers and lifeguards."

Certainly, the above and beyond efforts our club goes to ensure Coolum beachgoers love coming back here has not gone unnoticed judging by our Facebook posts. Kim Gourlay: "Wow that's great, congrats to all involved." "Scotty Taylor: "Love where you, live great work guys." And Greg Whiteley summed up the club feelings: "Fantastic effort to all involved. We are a great club and we now have the best beach as well."

DOING OUR BIT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COMMUNITY

Imagine 150 trees sprouting from the roof of Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club, sucking in tonnes of Co2 and pumping out oxygen over the beach. No, the surf club management committee in their wisdom has not decided to channel their inner earth child ... but had the foresight to install banks of solar panels on the clubhouse rooftop.

The club upstairs hospitality operation is also vitally aware of the need to look after the environment and has set about actively reducing its carbon footprint, which has led to cost savings to be distributed down the line. A few of the things they are doing include :

- the use of renewable energy through 100 Kw solar system removing 100 tonnes of Co2 from the atmosphere, or the equivalent of planting 150 trees each year.
- plastics have been removed along with styrofoam wherever possible in favour of biodegradable products.
- pulping four tonnes of food waste every week and converting it to ecofriendly fertiliser and recycling all the glass through its Bottle-Recycler system.
- using eWater (water quality and quantity modelling) to reduce the clubhouse chemical footprint by 50% and uses recycled rainwater before town supply.
- buying locally wherever possible to support the local growers and suppliers.

And now that free energy from the sun and green benefits is paying back big dividends, not only to its members and the environment but is helping the club give back to its active lifesavers and appreciative community groups.

Our Supporters club set up its community benefit fund in 2010 to make donations to not-for-profit charitable entities both financially and in kind. Since then local groups to be given valuable support include; St Vincent de Paul, Meals on Wheels, Coolum and North Shore Coast Care, Quota and Lions Clubs of Coolum. In the past 12 months much-needed funds have been donated to the Townsville flood victims, Coolum Rural firefighters and the CWA to help drought affected farmers.

If you think all this charity begins at our home club sounds like a fine sentiment, our Coolum Beach volunteer lifesavers raised \$400 through raffles at the annual patrol Christmas party and donated to 'Buy A Bale', a fundraiser making a difference to Australian farming families and Rural Aid as the crippling drought dug deeper into the famous bush "resolve". As has been duly noted on our club's Facebook: "The hay drive started back in September 2014 and has delivered over 160,000 bales of hay across four states and the money donated by our members will help contribute to another 20 bales of hay — feeling proud."



THANKS TO KEN MILLS TOYOTA

None of the club's members' contribution to preserving life on the beach has been lost by Gold Sponsor Ken Mills Toyota, who also have a long history of community support where it counts.

One of Coolum Beach Surf Club's best supporters, his team have a 'Pay It Forward' program where a donation is made on the customer's behalf to one of the Ken Mills Toyota charity partners every time a customer purchases a new or used vehicle from them.

The pay-off recently was a significant cheque made out to the club presented to club President Ian Norman and treasurer Shane Mackenzie. Ian's last word to the satisfied Ken Mills customers: "Thank you to everyone who nominated us".

And keeping the local connection Shawn Loffler, Sales Manager at Ken Mills Toyota, Nambour has called Coolum Beach home for the last seven years and hopes to be a regular face this year at Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club. When he is not at the dealership, he can be found camping, fishing or wakeboarding with his wife and two boys - one of whom is at Coolum Beach Primary and the other at Coolum Beach State High School. A passionate

Sunshine Coast resident, he loves a beer and loves a chat so please feel free to say hi if you see him around!



TEeing UP TO HELP OUT

On Friday March 6, it was the community's chance to pay back the surf club with its annual Brad Read Design Charity Golf Day at Peregian Golf Club with monies raised going towards the purchase of vital surf lifesaving equipment that help our volunteers keep Coolum Beach safe.

Generous corporates "chipped in" with vital sponsorship to make this day, what else, but a swinging success. Congratulations to the winners on the day - Mooloolah River Fisheries and a special mention to Ian Telley from Fresh Meats who got a hole in one on the third.

And for the final word on the club's rescue ute standing out and looking sharp with a little help from our corporate friends, you have to look no further than the new 4WD signage "proudly sponsored by Coolum Beach Mitre 10 and the Sunshine Coast Daily". The official last word from the club hierarchy - "it really stands out!" Thanks to artistic efforts from the CV Media & Signage team at CV Services Group.

YOUNG GUNS DOING US PROUD

Nothing measures the vitality of the club than its next generation and our finest young members have earned the club some positive press in the Sunshine Coast Daily. Thirteen nippers from a small sunshine coast surf club will take on Queensland's best at the upcoming Queensland Youth Surf Life Saving Championships.

Coolum Beach Nippers was excited to have so many of our best nippers qualify for state titles at the Branch Championships on February 8 and 9 and will now compete for the title of Queensland's best club in March.

Coolum Surf Club junior activities chairman and coach Mick Nagle said it was great to see so many kids qualify. "We had 23 go to branch and 13 who qualified, so that was a pretty good number and we will have a couple more nominate, so we will probably have a team of 18 compete," he said.

"It's awesome, it shows the other kids that they can be a part of the team and putting in the training and want to commit to join that team and go to the state titles and compete with all the clubs from North Queensland and the Gold Coast."

Mick joined the club nine years ago and said it was amazing to see it excel in the water side of Surf Lifesaving. "When I turned up, we were a beach (events) club and we have developed and pushed in the water, and now we've had the under 11 boys qualify for the swim team, which I believe is the first time," he said. "We have some strong individuals coming through and the team is really good."

Coolum Beach Surf Club under-11 athlete Brisa Canina qualified for the 1km run, the iron and board races and said she had some unfinished business. "I'm most excited for board. I want to beat the girls that beat me in the board final, which I came fourth in."

Under-11 1km runner Kaia Francey said she hoped to place within the state's top 10 but was just looking forward to the experience. "I love hanging around all my friends and having fun," she said. "So, I'm looking forward to going down and having some fun."

Mick said it was great to see the girls qualify for their first state titles. "This is Brisa's second season in nippers, so she has come along really well especially in board. "And Kaia has done nippers for a couple years and she has just taken off in the water this season and it's been good to watch them both develop."

The Queensland Youth Surf Life Saving Championships are being held from March 20 to 22 at Alexandra Headlands.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE FESTIVE SEASON

And here is more proof that the Coolum Beach's richest assets is its human capital, so much of it bonded together with blood ties and a love of testing their skills out in the surf.

Patrolling member Emma Rahui said the fun, family day out, that most holidaymakers enjoy at Coolum Beach, would have been very dangerous if it wasn't for the volunteer lifesavers. "There would have been trouble yesterday if we hadn't been here," she said.

"It was a bit hectic — there was some flash ribs popping up and there was a gutter at low tide and people get stuck and they can't find their feet." Emma, her husband Teril and their son Locki regularly volunteer on the Christmas Day patrol but have gone above and beyond this year. Volunteering on both Christmas and Boxing Day the family said they love spending the day giving back.

"We don't mind, we are quite an active family so to come down and be with our friends and give back is great," Mrs Rahui said. "We are from New Zealand and we don't have family here and the surf club is kind of our family, so it makes sense that we come down here and hang out." Locki, 13, said the unstable conditions meant he had to use his recently learnt skills. "It's my first year of patrols and I did my first rescue with a tube yesterday (Christmas) and mum did three," he said.

Holiday-maker Matt Tubb said the lifesavers gave him "piece of mind" that his family was safe. "It's awesome just to know that these guys are watching over us," he said. "It's one of those thankless jobs and it's a credit to them because they are out on Christmas Day and Boxing Day when everyone else is having a holiday and they are down here helping."

Coolum Beach Boxing Day patrol captain Jarrod Sweetman said with challenging conditions over the Christmas period the lifesavers were focused on prevention. "The surf conditions have been a little bit challenging but other than that the suns been out and there have been no rescues which is good," he said. "We always focus on prevention and everyone's done the right thing and kept in close which is good."

TRAINING THE NEW RECRUITS

The work of training up new patrol members, so the volunteering gene pool stays strong going into our second century, is a task that just like the beach tides, can never stand still. In February the club proudly reported that after one Sunday of skills testing, saw "six of our newest volunteer patrol recruits complete their Surf Rescue Certificate assessment".

The SRC provides the skills and knowledge of basic patrolling and surf awareness in order to carry out water safety for Nippers but also standing down by the red and yellow flags. Our Facebook said: "A warm Coolum Beach welcome to – Alana B, Carolyn B, Ross B, Leaf B, Tim E, Nicholas P."

None of this would happen without the our dedicated trainers and assessors

including the likes of Jarrod Sweetman, Russell Carr and Shane Urban for their dedication and duty. Any member of the public who wants to experience the special feeling of service and accomplishment can contact the club admin office on (07) 5446 1148 (ext 7).

BOATIES TO THE FORE

Boaties ... they are a breed apart and Coolum Beach has been privileged to have been a home away from home for generations of outstanding oarsmen and sweeps, but increasingly now our finest are part of the 'Me Too' generation.

The Under 19 girls' surfboat team are quickly building a reputation as a force out on the water and a positive force on the beach during patrols. Recently they did a make-up patrol on Peter Gardiner's team five and he was impressed by their willingness to join in by the flags rather than just make up the numbers.



"They were really keen to help out and stick together by the water. One was from the Gold Coast and fairly new to surf boats, learning the ropes, but loving the challenge. Another I think was a Brisbane river rower who was right into her new calling. I'd have them back anytime," Peter said.

This comes as they have been aiming high as part of a strong Coolum Beach surf boat team of rowers as they and the Under 23 girls and the Reserve Grade Men battled it out at Mollmook four-day ASRL event earlier in the season in 6-8 ft surf. The Reserve Grade men made it through to Sunday finals with the girl's crews having no luck on the massive shore break. The Coolum Beach Under 23 crew was the only Queenslanders left in this division at final time finishing in the top 16 out of more than 60 crews.

In February in round 2 of the Qld ASRL at Maroochydore, Coolum Beach for the first time in some time fielded an A Grade men's crew in good conditions



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with a 3-4-foot wave on the back bank. The U19 girls were also keen to get back into the swing of things and try and prove to a few selectors that leaving them out of the Queensland team selection trails was a mistake. Our U23 girls could not row due to one rower being overseas.

The A grade men had a solid start with a close 4th in the first race, but a sweep oar broke while surfing a wave in the second race which cost a second place or first place. They finished 5th on points, but the good news is that the crew had plenty of speed, and turned a few heads with their performance in A Grade ... watch this space.

As the boaties tell it: "The U19 girls had a great day of racing - over the four races they finished with three 2nd and one 1st to just miss out on winning the carnival on points. The two seconds were very close so there was a little bit of disappointment from the crew. Otherwise the girls are quick and looking strong for the remainder of the season."

In Round 3 of the ASRL at Dickies Beach on February 29, Coolum Beach's three crews gave it their all ahead of the state titles. The club online review: "Our Reserve crew rowed in the Open Men's division performing well to make it to the semi-finals. In the lady's crews our Under 19s and Under 23 crews competed well and were unlucky to not make the final rounds."

IN THE BOARDROOM

And where there are boaties, there are usually waves ... and where there are waves there is usually Coolum Beach club surfies like Bruce Dunne and Patty Lynch, who are the senior role models of a swell pulse of talented youth and now the best of rivals.

At the recent state board-riding championships held at Alexander Headland our surfers thrived in the "very contestable 2-3 foot swell". Bruce dominated the longboard section winning the 40+ age group and coming in fourth in the open. Patty Lynch, who came second in the longboard, turned it all around in the 40+ shortboard with Lynch winning that section and Dunne coming a close second for most of the final. He then had to settle for third place after Michael Landon got a great wave right at the end.

Bruce's always upbeat wife Heidi showed class and style to win bronze in the women's longboard and powered on in the short board for fourth in the women's final. Kye Atkinson displayed a powerful style for bronze in the Under 19 final after that winning wave eluded him to surf to his full potential.

As the club's Facebook summed up the contest: "Two rising stars to keep an eye on in the future is Lachlan Andrews and Brisa Soares Canina who showed tremendous surfing ability. Lachlan winning convincingly the Under 15 male shortboard and Brisa gaining a Bronze in Under 11 female shortboard."

CLUB CHAMPS

And so to the Coolum Beach Club Championships; close to thirty athletes ranging from 13 years to 60+ fiercely competed for the age group trophies recently at the beach and water Club Championships pre-Branch training session.

The competition included swim, board, ski, sprint, flags and ended with the iconic Ironman event. All competitors wore the historic Centenary cap and this will be the last time this cap will be worn which means that the people on the day are now part of the club's rich history.

Age category winners will be announced and trophies awarded at the club's presentation night on the 16th May. The event was a great hit-out for the Branch, State and Aussie competitions coming up. Thanks to all competitors and organisers for making the event a success.

THE FUTURE OF SURF SPORTS

You may well ask how has all this come about? Certainly not by fluke with 39 keen Coolum Beach nippers and cadets attending its first Summer Training and Skills Week. The club's online report said they were put through a full range of swim, board, beach and ski training activities guided by an amazing group of professional coaches and athletes from Alex Heads SLSC led by Jamo Porter.

We were also very fortunate to round the week out with a special training session with 2019-20 Ironwoman Lana Rogers. Open and flat-water sessions were held in various locations across the coast including Cooloolaba Beach, Mooloolaba Spit, Maroochy River and Blast Aqua Park Cooloolaba lakes to keep it exciting and help build a variety of skills.

The training was broken up with fun activities like beach volleyball, games, touch footy and a movie. The energy, drive and positive attitude shown by all of the Nippers and cadets throughout the whole event was outstanding with everyone looking forward to next year.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped out throughout the week on everything from water safety, activity supervision, transport, catering, as well as the mammoth job that is Summer Training and Skills Week event organisation.



BRANCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

With the recently announced cancellation of the State titles and Aussies it is great to report that a strong team of 24 competitors donned the red cap to represent Cooloolaba for the Sunshine Coast Branch Titles.

Well done to all competitors with Cooloolaba club placing third overall in the Branch and the team bringing home 19 gold medals, 19 silver medals and 18 bronze medals.



The Cooloolaba youth lifesaving competitors, known as the Young Guns, did the club proud winning the Board relay and performing strongly in the other events. Special thanks to the many supporters on the day including the team manager, officials, water safety team, coach Jobbo and behind the scenes people who make it all happen.

So, take another bow Cooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club ... 100 first-rate years done and dusted and still powering on.



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