

SAWTELL SLSC

Newsletter APRIL 2010

Email lifethebeach@hotmail.net.au

Webpage www.sawtellspsc@hotmail.net.au

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I had the pleasure of attending the assessor's course at our clubhouse on the 27th-28th March. Sawtell club had been asking for this course for some time as we have members who are qualified to assess but couldn't get the course run. The Club was represented by Dennis Meagher, Rob Lyons, Steve Rayson, Steve Foster and Neil Robinson. Steve Kelly and myself were invited to present at the course. My thanks to all those who attended and gave up another weekend to help with community service. It means that we now have more latitude to run and assess more courses for our club and for the Branch.

Congratulations to all members who represented at the Aussie titles - especially to Marg Gill who won another medal, this time gold. "I now have the full set!" she said to me having won a silver and bronze previously.

I urge you all to attend the end of the patrolling year get together on the 24th April. It is the club's way of saying thanks for another great patrolling effort.

And do set aside the last Saturday and Sunday in June for our presentation night and our AGM. There are jobs available for 2011.

I would like to hear from anyone who would like to nominate someone for any of our club awards. There are many members who give plenty and we may not always know what they have done.

It would also be good to see us support the Rotary club's function this weekend (see later). See you on the beach.

Kevin Clancy

CLUB CAPTAINS MESSAGE

With the club championship part two finished I would like thank all involved whether they be competitors, water safety, coaches or officials for a great effort. It was all done with a smile in trying conditions.

The highlight was the patrol cameron won by patrol 2 (Gary Tisdell's patrol) who were unstoppable even with a massive handicap placed on them.

It was great to see how competitive the masters are becoming which looks good for next season with Marg Gill leading the way to defend her Aussie gold.

I have been lucky enough to sub for a couple of different patrols this season and to say I have been impressed with the standard is an understatement.

On the training front Steve Foster, Cheryl and Dennis are doing their now famous branch leading courses in Bronze, SRC and ARTC.

An extra bronze squad is programmed for the off-season mainly for competitors. My thanks also go to the patrol captains and their patrols for keeping our beach safe during the Easter break with the large number of visitors and large swells. See you in the water.

Rob Lyons

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Does anyone have a photo of members who achieved 100% patrols in the late 90s and early 00s.

With some records missing a photo would at least provide a useful starting point.

BEACH WHEELCHAIR

Members may be aware that following the efforts of Margaret Burns and the Sawtell community the Club has, in our Rescue Room, a beach wheelchair.

It is there to be used not only by Club Members but also by members of our community and their friends.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate and benefit from the use of such wheelchair, please contact the Club or see Janice at the Café.

SAWTELL ROTARY CHARITY AUCTION

A reminder of the Sawtell Rotary club Dinner Dance spectacular this coming Saturday 10th April. The cost for the night is Dinner and entertainment at \$35.00 per head with music by the "inimitable" Johnny Spence. The venue is Sawtell RSL club from 6.30 pm. Please contact Steve Kelly or Dianne Clark if interested.

CLUB MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

Please make it known to all and sundry that the club multi-purpose room is available for hiring for activities such as conferences, meetings or training.

Should any organiser of such activities wish to view our facilities ask them to email the Club so that a convenient time can be agreed.

AWARDS

Still waiting for your IRB Drivers Silver Medallion or Bronze Medallion??
So is the Club as they have not yet been received. The Club has the Certificate(s) but prefers to hand the awards out together.
Surely they will be here by Presentation Night (Saturday 26th June)

COASTALWATCH CAMERA

Please be advised that Sawtell Chamber of Commerce have agreed to take responsibility for the coastal watch camera for a 3 month trial period starting 1st April.

COMPETITION REPORT

This year Sawtell had 11 Open, 4 Masters, and 5 Boaties, make the trip north to Kurrawa to contest the Australian SLS Championships. We had all been on cyclone watch and knew the combination of an open beach and a north easterly ground swell with an easterly wind was going to be a challenge.

Most of the squad stayed at Montana Palm units, or nearby, so communication was excellent. The Masters competition commenced Tuesday and concluded Wednesday. Leanne and Louise competed in the board, swim, 2km beach run and rescue tube races. The conditions were heavy and definitely a challenge for all master competitors. Wednesday I found out that Margaret Gill had won the flags in her age group **WELL DONE MARG**. I attended the compulsory team managers meeting at which time the referee stressed that the conditions were being monitored hourly and we would be notified of any changes to venues. We had a light training at 3.00pm and also erected the tent in the U17 area. Unfortunately Marlee and Klaryse had a mishap in the surf and damaged their boards but were able to use the club boards we took for this purpose.

Thursday 7.15am

Warm up. Daniel in the Opens and the U17s had a full day of events starting with rescue tube, swim teams and board relays, taplin and board rescue. Later in the day ski and boards were scheduled. The conditions again were heavy with all events taking much longer than expected, including timing out of competitors not able to make the course. By days end they were at least a half day behind. The U15s had been moved after lunch to North Kirra which was reported to have a gentler break on the bank.

The U23 boat crew won their first heat before events were cancelled. A great effort from Nova and the crew

Friday

6.00am warm up . Events were carried over from Thursday with the U17s competing in the swim team final (well done) and then being relocated to Kirra to start their boards at 12.00noon.

Meanwhile Kayla was marshalled for her boards events when the unthinkable happened.

Suddenly all competition in the U19 and Open men's area stopped and the IRBs and jet skis started a search pattern through the competition areas. There was a hush on the beach. Thousands of competitors and spectators were silent. This went on for about 15 min then spontaneously about 150 athletes spread out in the water and searched for another 20minutes until the police called to clear the water. Saxon Bird was found about 500m down the beach.

The carnival was suspended and a decision was to be sent to us the next day via text as to what would happen next. That decision was to cancel all water events. The beach events and march past were completed on Sunday. Sawtell attended and we marched as a colour party and stayed for the ecumenical service. Klaryse finished the carnival competing in the flags.

I would like to thank the club for its support all season for our efforts representing Sawtell and supporting surf sports, Also Barry, Terry, Kathy and all the parents for making this possible for the competitors.

Unfortunately the tragedy that occurred prevented us from completing the competition. However I believe that all our competitors benefited from the programme that we had in place, and they were ready to compete at this high level to the best of their abilities.

Our thoughts are with the family of Saxon Bird and the memory of this tragedy will be in our thoughts for some time to come.

Greg Russell

The following news item was sent to local newspapers. Photos can be found on line at <http://www.coffscoastindependent.com.au/news/local/sport/general/sawtells-gill-claims-national-surf-title/1788590.aspx> and <http://www.coffscoastadvocate.com.au/story/2010/03/27/gill-flags-a-new-national-champ/>

SAWTELL'S Marg Gill claimed gold at the Australian surf life saving championships held at Kurrawa Beach recently.

She joins a prestigious list of Sawtell Surf Club members to have won national titles.

Competing in the masters beach flags, Gill showed determination and strength to overcome 14 rivals.

Gill puts in many hours of training every week to keep her in great shape to perform her duties as a volunteer surf life saver on Sawtell Beach and regularly competes in competitions.

She also recently won gold in the beach sprint and flags at the NSW Country titles.

The Sawtell club's under-23 years boat crew also contested the national titles.

Despite only being together for three months, the crew came away with a convincing win in their only race before the event was cancelled due to the conditions.

On what was undoubtedly the biggest wave day of the carnival, Nova Cassin - who was the first competitive female sweep in Australia (there are still only two females competing) - navigated her crew 'The Spartans' through waves that made far more experienced sweeps and rowers concede to its strength and saw considerable damage to their craft.

The rowers - Kris Kent, Justin Hardaker, Nic Hoiles and Ben Wallace - were committed and showed real conviction and strength to race.

"To do what many others didn't, which was to get out unscathed through the biggest waves we've seen all season and turn the can to hold a monster wave straight through to the back of the first break, then to catch another almost straight off the back of that one to take us to the beach, was an awesome effort," Nova said.

"The carnage was extreme and the surf was mayhem."

The Sawtell club's title at the national titles was helped by supporters MI Organics, Geoff King Motors, Sawtell Hotel, Renet.com, Repco Coffs Harbour and Cooee Screen Prints, who allowed the club to buy spare equipment and repair existing gear so that it could compete.

The club also had support from neighbouring clubs, including Coffs Harbour, Minnie Waters, Woolgoolga, Urunga and Wauchope Bonny Hills.

COURSES

The IRB Crewpersons Course starts next Sunday, 11 April at 07:00 am at the clubhouse.

Any questions give Steve Rayson a call 0429 025 845 or email on sssrayson@exemail.com.au

THANK YOU

To the person who returned the missing chairs - Thank You

The Club is pleased to consider loaning out equipment if advance warning is given.

MEMBERS LOCKERS

The Club acquired 9 lockers for use by members. The initial idea behind their acquisition (under the Volunteer Grants Program) was for members to store their

valuables whilst on patrol. This would require the member bringing their own lock so as to eliminate the problem of locks/keys going missing. They are currently placed in the member's room upstairs but may be moved later when all cupboards are completed. Alas it was not the intention to become a permanent storage unit for members gear. The management of the lockers is under review

COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAMS

The treasurer's task in ensuring the Club remains financially sound is made that much easier through the various community benefit schemes and promotion programs set up by the business community.

The Club takes this opportunity to remind members of these organizations and what you can do to enable funds to flow back to the Club:-

* IGA - The Club can supply you with an IGA card if you shop there even occasionally and do not support another organisation.

* BCU - The Club asks that you discuss the opening of a community saver account directly with them if your financial institution is the Bananacoast Credit Union. For more information go to www.bcu.com.au and click on the Sick of Fundraising prompt.

*Telstra - are again assisting surf life saving through their Telstra Affinity Program.

This promotion ends 30th June so the Club asks that any member, their family and their friends who deal with a Telstra shop or Telstra dealer to ask about the promotion and nominate Sawtell SLSC as their "beneficiary". From each approved transaction the Club earns \$30. Sawtell this year is way below what has been previously earned.

END OF SEASON BBQ

As a thank you to those members for patrolling Sawtell Beach from September to April and as a thank you to the Clubs supporters the Club is holding a BBQ on Saturday 24th April at 4pm.

The Club will supply meat and salad but asks that you bring your own drink and nibbles.

To assist with catering can you please advise your Patrol Captain of whether you will be attending.

Take the opportunity on this day to check out improvements made to our training room and gym (hopefully will be completed by then)