



# The Mine

## Newsletter of Point Leo SLSC

Point Leo SLSC  
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### This Month in the Mine

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## President's Note

Congratulations to all members involved in a great summer season for the Point Leo SLSC. We had well attended patrols and skills training, a bumper Nippers season, great competition and plenty of social and community activities.

A few weeks ago, the club successfully hosted a senior carnival at Point Leo - thanks to all involved in making it a great success. It was fantastic to welcome representatives of the Balnarring and Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank who presented Young Leadership awards to Charli Cassel-Ashton and James Paton - congratulations to you both for this achievement. Excitingly, the Bank also announced they would be donating \$47k to fund the upgrade of our clubhouse kitchen as part of the upcoming renovation. This is one of the largest donations the Bank has made and as the Bank grows so does their ability to contribute further to the community. We are very grateful to Bendigo Bank for their wonderful support and we look forward to an ongoing relationship with this great local business and organisation and encourage all members to support them.

Congratulations to all our Nippers who competed with such great spirit at the State titles at Warrnambool. There are many thank you's due: to all the parents who have provided the support to get them there, Jason Romari (competition manager), Jan Williams (new March Past guru), Nick Clarke and all the coaches, and Kim Williams and Andrew Welsh for great support with administration and equipment. Finally, thanks to the organising skills of Anna Findlay and Kate Collingwood, we had a fantastic end of competition club dinner on Sunday night with over 100 nippers and parents to celebrate our team spirit and achievements. Well done to Richard Hoskins and Sarah-Jo Mason who guided the ship for a very successful season. The U14s saw the end to their Nipper competing years in great style!

Good luck to our senior competition teams as they compete at the state titles and head to the Aussies in Perth.

As recently advised via the club email, we are very fortunate to have an opportunity to participate in a pilot with the Lifechanger organization. This is a fantastic initiative driven by some of the country's most inspiring leaders and mentors. I encourage all our members from 11-16 to join in if they can.

Thanks to all our sponsors and supporters (see back page for details) including Flinders Hotel, Paton Estate Agents, Point Leo General Store and the Balnarring and Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank who were all sponsors of the very successful Boxing Day swim. Huge thanks to Mornington Prime Cuts who this year donated all of the sausages for the Nipper BBQ - a great fundraiser for the club. Please thank our sponsors by spending with them whenever you can.

The all-abilities boardwalk and patrol observation platform is now under construction and the change rooms and kitchen renovation will commence at the end of the season. It is exciting to see these much needed works commence and thanks to Cox Architects, Fraser Maine and Millar Merrigan who have contributed significantly to the clubhouse rebuild to date. Fundraising now continues in earnest for the next stages of redevelopment.

Simon Merrigan  
President

Keep an eye out in the weekly notices for dates and details of this year's Presentation Night and our Annual General Meeting.

All patrollers are reminded to wear full and proper uniform (including caps), to arrive on time and to ask permission from the Patrol Captain to leave patrol for any reason.

# The Bobbas

## The Early Years

The club officially commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1955 – so happy 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday coming up! The environment back in those days was a lot different to that of today around the club and this ultimately led to the Bobbas being formed in 1968.

Firstly, there were no active female members until the first female Bronze squad in December 1980, most of the members in the first five years were from suburban Melbourne, initially there was no clubhouse and in winter it was almost impossible to drive along Western Parade. Females – wives, mothers, girlfriends – joined the club as associate members and in many respects became the backbone of the club.

So, in those first five years active members, over summer, slept in tents, cars, in and around the w-i-p clubhouse, and in winter came down to Point Leo on Sundays after playing footy, hockey, whatever on the Saturdays.

And those initial five years were fairly hectic at Point Leo with work on the clubhouse continuing on very much a voluntary basis and patrol commitments, competing at carnivals being undertaken by a limited number of active members. Strong friendships were formed.

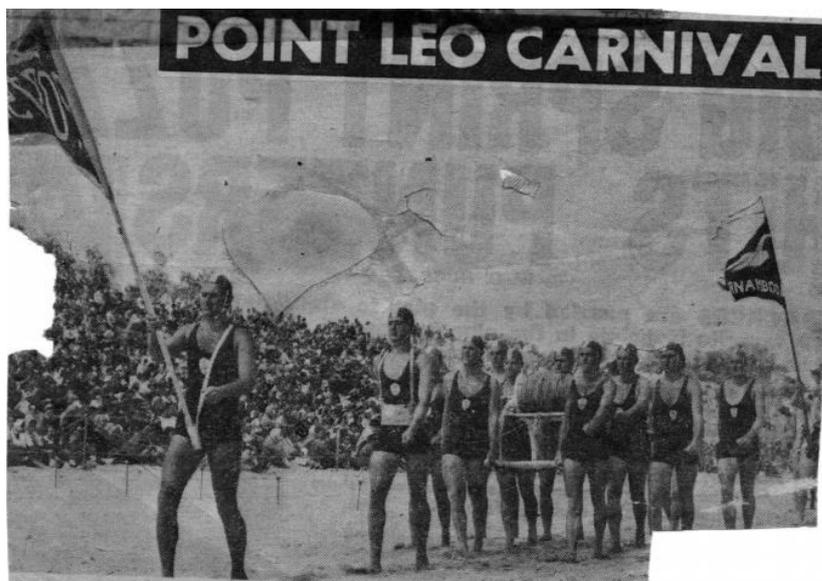
To make matters worse there was no bunkroom in the clubhouse – sleeping in buildings constructed on the foreshore was not permitted. From time to time this rule was broken but it meant sleeping on the clubhouse floor and being out of the building at day break! Hence the building of the shacks on the other side of the gulch – but that is another story.

Over the period from April 1955 to December 1960 some 90 active members gained their bronze at Point Leo, so it was not a big club back then. There were a few qualified members who transferred to Leo from other clubs. Of that 90, there are 27 who keep in contact with the club through their involvement with the Bobbas – often donating toward club financial causes, assisting with Nipper's BBQs, attending working bees and social events and in fact organizing social events. Sadly, from the initial 90, at least 12, that I know of, have passed away.

There are currently 80 on the Bobbas email address book and another half dozen who haven't quite mastered emailing, who we keep in contact with via mail or phone. We get together officially on four occasions each year – three times for lunch at Kooyong LTC and one Bobbas and partners lunch at the clubhouse at Leo.

Generally Club President Simon and Club Secretary Andrew attend these lunches and are able to keep Bobbas up to date with what is occurring around the club.

A number of Bobbas live interstate, one in Scotland, and via our emails we able to keep them up to date on club matters, particularly results at carnivals and future planning.



It is against this early club background that the Bobbas were formed in 1968 and in the next article Peter Braithwaite, initial President of the Bobbas, explains it all in more detail.

John Horwood  
Bobbas Convenor.

## The Bobbas legacy

It all started in Dave Roff's backyard (where John Horwood now lives) one sunny summers afternoon in 1967. Sitting around the BBQ sharing a bottle of red were Dave Roff, Don Roberts and Peter Braithwaite, discussing how with the responsibilities of growing families and the move from Active to Active Reserve membership status, some of our friends were drifting away from the club. The need was seen to keep these friendships together – these were the members who had in those first 10 years established and built up the structure of what was already becoming one of the leading surf lifesaving clubs in Victoria.

In May 1968, a meeting was held to lay the foundation of the "Bobbanarings" (the name being taken from the aboriginal name for Point Leo). In addition to the above trio, the following members also attended: Don Campbell, Mike Caraher, Dick Ellis, Alan Forster, Eddie Kidd, Loftus Overend, John Scambler and John Silver, with Peter Braithwaite being elected the inaugural President. To quote from the 'Bobbanaring Bugle' issue number one, the philosophy of the group was to be 'informal, to bring together earlier members and their families and to assist the Club...an ideas group, feeding fund raising and other recommendations back to the Club committee. On the social side, the group would emphasise families rather than individuals.'

Subsequent meetings took place on Friday evenings at the Mt Erica Hotel Prahran, but soon moved to the Melbourne Bowling Club in Windsor, and later becoming a monthly luncheon at the Hot Pot Cafe South Melbourne. The 'Bobbanaring Bugle' edited by Dave Roff and later for many years by Dick

Batchelor maintained contact with members. The Bobba's organised an assortment of functions with wine tastings being a fairly regular choice. Other frequent events, to quote the 'Bugle' included –

*Childrens Christmas Parties.* 'Unconfirmed reports that Father Christmas will parachute from a jet...parent sitters will ensure that adults don't interfere with the children's day out.'

*News Year Eve at The Block.* '43 people expected, at one count 280.'

*Golf Days.* 'The unique Roberts handicapping system was used, which explains why Don Campbell, who has still not completed last year's game, was a place getter. The Don Bradman Trophy for the highest score was won by Dead Eye Dick Batchelor from Bob Harper.'

*Dinners.* 'Because last year's testimonial dinner for Randall Raper and Col Davies was so good, the organisers want someone else to retire.'

*Working Bee's on the Club House.* 'A greater amount of labour will be required on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> when reconstruction of parts demolished on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> will be undertaken. (quote from Dick Ellis).'

*Harbord Diggers Frigid Frogs vs Point Leo Relays.* These weekends are remembered for events other than swimming. Jeff Sonderhof was in fine voice and startled the Saturday morning bar patrons with his early practice for the coveted Chuckers Cup, one of the Trophies to be contested the following day.'

After some years of activity interest gradually waned until in the 1980's through the efforts of 'The Dude' Geoff Kinsey, the Bobba's were resurrected as 'The Legends' meeting twice yearly at the Prince Alfred Hotel in Richmond. Eventually, and under the guidance of John Horwood, the name 'Bobbanarings' was restored and our regular meeting luncheons these days are held at the Kooyong Tennis Club three or four times a year.



In 1968 at Anglesea the "C" boat crew won Leo's first gold medal in the boat section.  
Phil Boyce (bow) Alf Treadwell (2) Keith (boots) Haig (3) Robert (syd) Sterling (stroke) and  
Kev Rydberg (sweep)

These occasions are generally attended by about 30/50 members and guests, and it is now timely to consider our future. The name and ethos of the group are far too much a part of the Clubs history to let go as we get older, and now is the time to consider our future to ensure our continuity. The first and most important move is to ask the lady (Bronze Medallion holder) members who are no longer on the Active list, to join us. Since the 1980's they have become an integral part of the Club and contributed in all aspects of our carnival successes and club management and we should welcome them to the Bobba's. Secondly, we should now actively start to recruit the younger members who are able to attend our luncheons.

In undertaking these two moves we will ensure the continuity of that incomparable group known as the 'Bobba's'.

Peter Brathwaite

### Looking forward

The Bobbas and Partners lunch at the Clubhouse is planned for Sunday the 25th of March.

There will be the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to and naming the 1955-6 first club members,

Also, a collage painting of the Club's history has been commissioned by Don Campbell, a Bobba, and this will be unveiled to.

## Captains' Report

The 2017-2018 season has been one of usual activity and flurry, yet as we enter March and the annual exodus of the masses from the Peninsula occurs, the momentum continues at the club, with countless training sessions, competition nipper sessions, patrols and building works set to keep us busy throughout the "off-season".

First and foremost, a couple of admin notes. To keep everyone up to date, Adam Lipszyc and Andy Nott (those writing) have taken over from Jack Garner and Zach Richter as Club Captain and Club Vice-Captain, respectively. We'd like to take a moment to thank both for their immense and ongoing contributions to the club.

Jack Garner has acted in many capacities at the Club, including but not limited to: Club Vice-Captain, Club Captain, Patrol Captain, Bronze camp trainer and Bronze assessor. Jack is a Gary Tierney Foundation fellow (2014), and holds the coveted "Cert IV" in life saving assessing. Jack's commitment to the community at large goes well beyond the surf club. For example, last year Jack helped organise and execute a non-stop ultra relay run from Adelaide to Melbourne, to raise funds for the Movember Foundation, a group with a strong emphasis on mental health and suicide prevention. His ability to give so effortlessly and to stand so vertical with a resting heart rate well below 60 is a testament to his well-rounded character. Jack – we thank you for your service so far, and your continued service as a senior mentor and assessor to the club.

Zach Richter has been in several deserving positions within the club including: Patrol Captain, Club Vice Captain, Bronze camp trainer and a valued member of our comp team. In 2015 Zach was nominated to be a Gary Tierney Foundation fellow in recognition of the great work he has put into the club. Zach is also a Professional Australian Beach Lifeguard holding his Gold medallion, doing paid patrols Monday through to Saturday Zach is one of the most senior members of the team just finishing his 10<sup>th</sup> season, the experience and knowledge gained over the years is astonishing. Zach – We thank you for your amazing commitment to the club so far and look forward to seeing it shine in the coming years.

### Patrol report:

With 42 total patrols this season and only a handful left it really shows how time flies. We have had a couple changes to the 2017/18 season. Firstly, we added a new patrol team for the more seasoned professionals, Captained by Nick Woods and Vice Captained by Chuck Warner. They creatively named themselves the Woodchucks Patrol, we congratulate the entire Woodchuck team as being thrown into the deep end can be a little daunting, but they managed to ace the season with astonishing numbers and qualifications on all patrols. We also introduced four new and amazing Patrol Captains this season. Ella Sawney took over the reins from Trystan Precht, Romy Lipszyc switching with Adam Lipszyc, Pat Hough swapping with Zach Richter and of course Nick Woods starting from scratch. This season our patrollers so far have done 444 preventative actions, 10 Minor first aids and 3 majors and have completed 1 rescue via IRB. These stats are a testimony to all patrolling members as without our patrolling members we wouldn't be able to operate. Looking forward to the coming season we have partnered up with Brittany Morgenthaler our Chief Instructor with the plan of spreading qualifications throughout all our active members to avoid having only one person on patrol holding all the awards. We are also looking towards certain senior members expanding their expertise from comp to teaching, especially in the forms of the Patrol Comps. All in all, the season so far has been an absolute blast, we hope you have enjoyed it as much as we have.

Around the club, we're very excited (as are many people) with news that major renovations are soon to begin. Phase 2 involves a refit of the kitchen – the heart and soul of any home – with the addition of a DSA-partnered fully-accessible boardwalk adjacent to the club. The club is the home to many hundreds of members and is used by

the wider community, so we're excited to see it be upgraded in order to keep providing a space for so much good work to be done. We tip our collective hats to Brit for all her hard work organising the requals, the SRC and Bronze camps this year. It's great to see more and more young members get qualified, and then go on to get further awards. Several of our young members go on to lifeguard at various beaches on the Mornington Peninsula – what a great way to make some money! We've had an amazing Boxing Day swim, a payoff for all the many months of planning by the committees involved. Nippers continues to be a great success, as do our competition teams both in the traditional water and beach work, but in areas such as Champion Lifesaver too. We're super stoked to see the club get its very own Instagram (don't be shy, throw a few likes this way) and we're looking to revamp the Facebook page in the near future.

Speaking of the future, preparations for the club's annual awards night are under way, with it set to be something a little more exotic and special this year – so watch this space! Muso night went off with a bang, with Red Hill Brewery providing the beers, and did you grab a pint from Burnley Brewing on Boxing Day? The Dude's bar is getting more and more equipped, thanks to Nick Woods' work training club members to get their RSA and organising the local kegs. Anyway we better stop now or we'll keep yabbering on for pages.

We want to thank all patrolling members for their stellar work so far in the season, including our new captains and vice-captains who have taken on their new responsibilities in stride. To the broader Point Leo SLSC community we congratulate you in whatever way you contribute to the club and we'll see you at the beach!

Adam and Andy (Club Captain and Club Vice-Captain)

## Muso Night

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of Jan, the Board and Ski section of the club kicked off one of the best social events of the year, the community renowned "Point Leo Muso Night". We started the night upstairs for some acoustic numbers, drinks and nibbles and a lovely sunset. As always, we had an amazing line up, starting with a quality performance from Matt Hicks. We then had Bella Ford and Ellie Doherty play a couple of soothing soul numbers as well as the Joe Morton Experience playing some unreal tunes.

The time then came to run the annual auction featuring star auctioneer Blane Paton! Blane did an exceptional job and the auction was extremely successful, contributing massively to the funds raised for the board and ski section. After the auction, that's when the real fun started as everybody made the move to the downstairs area complete with a stage, professional sound system and even synchronised lighting!

The Leo All Stars kicked off the dance floor with some classics from Dire Straits, the Spencer Davis Group, AC/DC and INXS with special guests Matt Bunting-Frame, Joe Morton and Justin Wheelahan. Mike Starr and his band the FunDaMentals were up next with some rocking numbers that really got everybody dancing. Our final act featured Jon Ford, Scott Haligan, Jack Mannock and special star Eddie Perfect! These guys had all the crowd pleasers covered and rocked the night away. True to tradition, the last song had everybody in an embrace, an indication of the love that members of Point Leo hold for each other.



*Eddie Perfect*

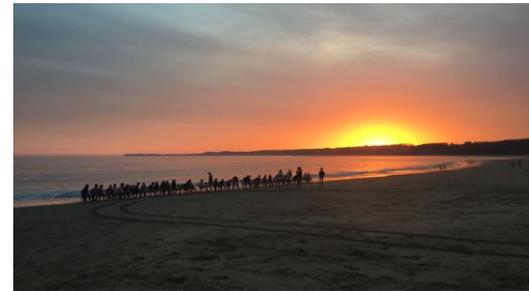
Many thanks to the donors of auction, food and drink items as well as a massive thank you to those who made the night possible. Thanks to Stacey Lethlean, Michele Ford, Kate Stern, Jane Starr, Bella Ford, Matt Bunting-Frame, Matt Hicks, Kim Williams, all that helped in the bar and on the door and the board and ski athletes that helped with set up and pack up. A special thank you to Andrew Gibson who constructed the stage and helped with set up and pack up. We raised a massive amount for the board and ski section and thanks everyone for coming to the best muso night yet!

Nick Ford

## Club Training

This season has been another great success with the training and assessment within the club. We had many members who have completed new awards such as; Bronze medallion, IRB crew and drivers, Spinal management and Surf Rescue Certificate. All of the training and courses were run at their full capacity with the SRC and Bronze camps peaking at the highest numbers to date.

Thank you to those who helped me run these courses: Romy Lipszyc, Adam Lipszyc, Andy Nott, Morgan Jones, Kaitlin Russell, Andrew Gibson, Bernadene Hansen and Abbie Hansen.



*Bronze Camp*



*Spinal Management*

The Skills Maintenance days were successful with members requalifying their awards in November and December. Thank you to Andrew Gibson, Jack Garner, Adam Lipszyc, Andy Nott and Morgan Jones for helping make the skills maintenance days run smoothly and efficiently.

Brittany Morgenthaler  
Chief Instructor

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