



# The Mine

## Newsletter of Point Leo SLSC

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### This Month in the Mine

President's Note	1
John Marshall and a mystery clock...	2
The season as through the Club Captain	3
A Bronze Camp Reflection	5
Nipper Report	6

### President's Note

Another great season for our club is in full swing. Thank you to all the wonderful members whose voluntary contributions are essential to delivering lifesaving services, the Nippers program, surf sports training and the social occasions that bring us all together. As usual there are many highlights and individuals to acknowledge.

### Changerooms and Kitchen Renovations

In October 2018 we had the official opening of the renovated changerrooms and kitchen. Thank you to all members who worked many hours over the past years and aided in making this significant stage of the overall re-development of our clubhouse a reality. As a result of strong financial management by past committees, the Club was in a good position to proceed with this much needed work; we were fortunate to receive some state government funding and a substantial contribution from the Balnarring & District Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank who funded the rebuilding of the kitchen. It has been fantastic seeing these new facilities put to good use over the season. Planning and fundraising continues for the next phase of redevelopment to enable to club to better serve the expanding membership and community.

### Boxing Day Swim

An early season highlight was the record numbers and fantastic weather for the Boxing Day Swim. It's always a thrill to be involved in this wonderful event and to see the great team spirit that so many members contribute. This year the event was better than ever and a huge thanks to all those who contributed. It's nice when someone takes the time to say thanks and copied below is a heartwarming note from one of the swimmers. Well done to all the water safety and particularly to Pippa Woods! The club received a message from a swimmer who felt she would have "quit" had it not been for Pippa's encouragement! She would like to applaud all of the people at the club, as she feels too often young people are criticized – great work everyone!

### Disabled Surfing

With the all-abilities ramp well established now it has been very pleasing to see Point Leo beach more accessible than ever. The Disabled Surfing Association (DSA) have



DSA on the 12th Jan 2019

just held their latest event with help from many of our members and utilizing our improved club facilities to make it all work really well.

### **The Woodchuck patrollers were given a nice thankyou following a recent patrol:**

'Hi guys, just a quick note to say thank you so very much for everyone's help today. We arrived with our daughter who is in a wheelchair. We couldn't get down onto the sand as the boardwalk had a big drop at the end. I spoke to a lifesaver and he grabbed a shovel and sorted it out. He also grabbed your sandcruiser wheelchair and we got my daughter down to the water. When she was in the water you guys never took your eyes off her and when it was time to get her out you were all there to help her back into the chair. You then walked her back up the beach. When it was time to go 3 guys got her back up onto the boardwalk and showed us an entry to use the disabled bathrooms. It was an absolutely wonderful experience for all of us and we just enjoyed our day so much! There was so stress at all! Thanks again for everything!!!' – Carol

### **Lifechanger**

In early January we were proud to launch Lifechanger (wave 2) for over 80 of our young members aged 10-15, led by the inspirational Trevor Hendy, Trent Dennis-Lane, Scott Watters and the rest of the Lifechanger team. This program followed a successful pilot run in 2018 which also trained club members in mentoring, well done to our home grown mentors who are contributing and also developing their own life skills



*Lifechanger Launch (wave 2) - Jan '19*

Thanks to the Balnarring & District Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank, the Gary Tierney Foundation, Red Hill Op Shop and the Flinders Lions Club the Lifechanger program is delivered at no cost to our young members. We need further financial support to be able to continue to deliver this program and I would love to hear from any member, community group or business who would be prepared to contribute to this great development opportunity for our young club members.

### **Nippers**

I recently thanked all of the volunteers involved in helping run the holiday Nippers sessions program which has been a great success under the organizational guidance of Sarah-Jo Mason this season. Our BBQ maestro's have penned their inaugural report which captures the sentiment that I think we can all relate to:

*Like many great Australian events and services that which is delivered at Point Leo SLSC is the product of a volunteer army. The power of the volunteer in Australia is unique. So much of what we enjoy is the product of over committed volunteers. At Point Leo the Nippers programme is an extreme and spectacular success as a result of the power of volunteers.*

*The humble sausage on bread has become the icon of the volunteer. We have institutionalised the snack and in Victoria we have perfected it. Single slice of bread, onions a top sausage and choice of Tomato or barbecue sauce. It is an egalitarian symbol of active fun.*

*Now we at Point Leo have taken that humble snag and made it a hero. The extraordinary generosity of MORNINGTON PRIME CUTS was an incredible launch. Last Sunday we invited parents in attendance to make a contribution to covering the cost of our other input items. Within an hour we had the costs of the season's cordial, bread etc close to covered. We have a little way to go so if any of you would like to join the movement the opportunity is still open. -Hoppo and Max*

I also want to thank **Mornington Prime Cuts** who have come on board as the major club sponsor and have been so generous in supplying the substantial number of sausages that our nipper cohort consume. With the help of a number of families who have also contributed, the full proceeds of our BBQ this year will all be able to go into the funds for helping to improve our clubhouse and surrounds with the next phase of redevelopment.

Thanks also to Paton Estate Agents and the Balnarring & District Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank for their continued support, including sponsorship of events on Boxing Day. We encourage our members to continue to support the great businesses that support our club and have for many years.

All the best for the rest of the season and I look forward to seeing you on the beach!

**Simon Merrigan**

## **John Marshall and a mystery clock...**

One of the highlights of senior surf carnivals held at Point Leo has been the John Marshall Memorial Surf Race – one for males and one for females. It is of particular significance to the Point Leo SLSC as John Marshall was one of the co-founders of the club, along with the late Alan Forster and

with Dick Ellis who is the current Life Patron of the club.

John Marshall was an absolutely amazing pool swimmer who represented Australia at the Olympic Games in London in 1948, in Helsinki in 1952 and in Melbourne in 1956. During this period John held the freestyle world record in the pool over every distance from 100 yards to one mile. This alone is quite a remarkable achievement - it probably has not been conquered since, and doubtfully ever will be completed again. To add to that, John swam into the final of the 100 metres butterfly at the Melbourne games.

John gained his Bronze Medallion with Point Leo in March 1956 and not long after that he swam second in the Senior Surf Race at the State Titles in Anglesea, beaten by Graeme Bennett of Torquay who cracked a wave at the buoys to the beach. All this whilst he was training to represent the country in butterfly at the Olympics. John was then chosen to represent Victoria in the National and International Titles that were held in Torquay immediately following the Olympics. Swimming for Point Leo at these titles he finished a close second in the National Senior Surf Race to Brian Hutchings of Bondi, probably one of the best swimmers in the history of surf lifesaving.



*John Marshall's photo is displayed in the club's training room.*

Unfortunately John Marshall was killed in a motor vehicle accident whilst on the way to compete in a country swimming carnival in Victoria

in February 1957. The Point Leo SLSC has commemorated John Marshall in various ways since that tragedy and will continue to do so as he is very much part of the history of our great club

Interestingly, the club received an email from a lady in the United States who had discovered in her late husband's workshop the pictured clock. She had no idea who John Marshall was, no idea how the clock was in her possession and decided to find out more.



*A woman living in the US has discovered a clock of John Marshall's...*

With the use of Google she learnt about John, and amongst other things she found out that he was a co-founder of Point Leo SLSC back in 1955 (also the date shown on the clock). She learnt of John's marriage to Wendy Byrne back in those days, his swim for Australia at the '56 Olympics in Melbourne and of his death in February '57. I enlisted the help of old club members Loftus Overend, Geoff Byrne who in turn contacted Wendy, Dick Batchelor, and I think Eddie Kidd. But whilst we could put together things that occurred with John Marshall and Point Leo SLSC we were not much help in regard to whether he did return to Yale in 1955-56, and if he did how the clock

finished up in this lady's house and not back with John's family in Australia.

Wendy is living in the States and hopefully she will make contact with this 'clock lady'. There was another Aussie swimmer Rex Aubrey who was at Yale around the same time as John Marshall, and we found out that he is still alive, 83, and living in the States, so he might be able to assist but that will be up to our friend the clock lady to follow up.

We did eventually learn that the lady's late father-in-law was an amateur clock tinkerer. Maybe he was working on the clock for someone prior to his death and the clock was not returned/forgotten about. The lady lives not far from Yale and I have suggested that she go there and see if they can help. They might want the clock back though. I also informed her know that if she wants to pass on the clock to someone who would care for it, Point Leo SLSC would be very pleased to place it in the clubhouse trophy cabinet. There has been some interest shown by the Australian Sports Museum, situated at the MCG, in gaining the clock and possibly displaying it there

John Horwood

## The season as through the Club Captain

2019, here we go! As I write this I'm thousands of miles away from the club, but I can hear and smell it so clearly. The ding of the shark bell, the scintillating smell of snags on the BBQ, the roar of the IRB engine in the tank, the flutter of the patrol flags as the wind swings Southerly (boo!) – it must be another summer season at Pt Leo, and I probably spent way too much time at our beloved club but I can't help it. Our illustrious leader Simon has highlighted many of this season's events thus far, so I won't cover ground already trodden,

however I do want to list some of my personal highlights.

### **Bronze Camp**

The baby of many senior club members, Bronze camp this year was another roaring success. Every year it seems that the bronzies arrive fitter and stronger than the previous season's – we had to enlist Club legends Josh Doherty, Lachie Robbo, Lachie Swaney and Bella Ford to take them through their paces. This season they displayed a level of calm and maturity we haven't seen in some time! An ongoing concern for members such as myself is that after Bronze camp, Bronzies tend to float away, never to be seen again. It was so pleasing to see the vast majority of them straight back again at the Boxing Day swim – many of whom were complimented by swimmers for their acts of encouragement and selflessness! It was super nice to see the best and brightest of last years Bronzies donning the fluoro vests as well. Perhaps most pleasing of all, was the attendance of many fresh bronzies on our IRB course held just days ago at Pt Leo and Flinders. Many forget that Bronze camp instructors receive zero incentives or payment to attend Bronze camp, in fact the majority have to take time off their paid work to volunteer hours. Their duties over 7 days include trainer, assessor, mentor, cook, dietician, allergist, cleaner, first aider, physiotherapist, DJ, sport coach, friend, enemy and many more. Our trainers volunteer their time to teach the next generation, and I'm so happy to see a great vat of fresh blood ready to take over. An amazing effort by Brit for organising yet another successful camp and a hat's off to all the trainers, from those who popped in to run a session, to those that stayed the whole 9 yards (and then to do equal the next day).



*Bronze Camp 2018*



*Bronze Camp 2018*

### **Boxing Day Swim**



*Swim Classic Finish Line*

Simon touched on this, but a massive pat on the back to the organisers and the key volunteers – you know who you are, first in and last out as always!

Big props to Sam Richardson for upgrading the scope of the event to fall in line with the highest standards of event execution, especially with regard to SAR protocols, rescue response times (cheers Rhys on the ski) and emergency response capability. Additional thanks to Mick T, Andy N, Nick W, Mark A, Mark L, Simon M and the many others who put in the hard yards to make the day run as smoothly and successfully as it did.

### **Awards**

Due to great foresight on behalf of senior committee members in addition to the immense practical efforts of Chief Instructor Brit, Pt Leo SLSC is in a very strong position regarding in-house training and assessing. As such, we have the scope to run numerous courses at the club over the season. Some, such as SRC and Bronze camp, many would consider bread and butter, however even these courses are not offered at every club and we are lucky to be able to run them with such high numbers. Furthermore, completion of numerous adult Bronze courses means that we are churning out huge numbers of qualified Leo members, and it is very heartening to see so many parents getting involved! Cheers to Gibbo for running his 10th adult Bronze course so far! What makes the club even more specialised is our offering of advanced awards: Spinal, Airway Management, Senior First Aid, IRB driver and Crew. We even run RSA courses (I've done it - super easy) at a steal of a price, allowing our very own to man the bar over summer. Nothing better than pouring your mate a beer on a beautiful summer's day! The club has a long term plan to have in-house trainers and assessors for the LSV awards, and that plan is well underway. Several aspects have nearly been achieved already. In a practical sense this means that said courses can be run (trained) and assessed by local Leo members. As you can imagine, this is pretty unique and gives as great variation in terms of setting dates and keeping costs down! I would

encourage all Bronze members to apply for these awards, as this kind of opportunity really is unique to only a handful of clubs. I would also encourage those younger members who have assisted with camps to complete their trainer and/or assessor awards – the natural progression from student to teacher (don't worry I'm emailing you as we speak). A big round of applause to the most recent recipients of IRB crew and driver awards, which wrapped up last week. Cheers to all those who dedicated their time to train and assess (Bern we love ya!) – the drone footage is really cool.

### Development opportunities

As Club Captain, I read a billion LSV circulars (or I'm meant to) and in nearly all of them are what's called Development Opportunities. These are, usually, LSV-run camps, courses, awards and even trips (I'm talking Japan, Sri Lanka, Sydney) that are offered to literally every single age-group of club members. As most club members don't read LSV circulars (shock), we disseminate this information in weekly reminders. I encourage all members who are interested in these opportunities to shoot the club an email – that's all it takes! I myself am interested in applying for a leadership program that involves a paid overseas trip to Sri Lanka! Previous club members have done these courses and raved about them (Kim Lipszyc, Jack Garner) therefore we should be flooded with emails! All right, enough badgering – but seriously keep an eye out for that ones that appeal to you and apply ☺

### Sponsors

Everything I've listed above (and more) simply would not be possible without the generous and ongoing support of our many club sponsors. They provide a vast array of services for the club, and they should be duly recognised, for without them, the enormous impact the club has on

beach safety and the wider Peninsula community wouldn't be the same.

### What's around the corner?

A lot! Nippers may have finished but the hardcore will continue to train – apparently even through winter?! DSA has just finished (what a day!) and Leo's multicultural day is coming up at time of writing this. Muso night is up ahead, always the merriest of evenings, as is Presentation Night in the distant future (plan your outfits now plz).



*Multicultural Day*

Good luck to our competition members, I feel like every weekend the Leo Insta blows up with amazing results – great effort to those who work so hard, especially in the “off-season”. The Dude's bar is open a lot at the moment, cheers to those with RSA that man it and Nick W for organising. With that, I'll see you at the beach – or Dude's bar!

Adam Lipszyc

Club Captain

## A Bronze Camp Reflection



*All bronze camp participants successfully obtained their award!*

I completed my Bronze Medallion this year at Point Leo Surf Lifesaving Club. The camp was a week long and each day was in preparation for the assessment on the final day.

We were woken up every morning by possibly the best song to exist; the Baywatch theme song. We dragged ourselves out of bed to complete some form of morning fitness each day, which was definitely one of the hardest aspects of the camp. Each day held new challenges for us, and one of my favourite parts of the week were the activities the instructors would organize for us during the day.

There was a very strong theme of mateship throughout the week. Everything we did, we did together. If someone misbehaved or wasn't paying attention, we were 'punished' as a group. And although at times this was tiring and pushed people to their breaking point, it gave everyone an awareness of how one person's actions affected others.

I felt that I got so much out of this week and at the end of it I was able to say that I had the knowledge and skills needed in situations that are so commonly faced by lifesavers. There were times during the week where we were all too tired to function, but the fact that everyone was feeling the same and we were all experiencing it together helped a lot.

I think the instructors played such a huge role in the camp and it really would not have been possible without them and all the laughs that they provided.

Vanessa Carr

## Nipper Report

The 2018/2019 Nipper season is well underway! We have over 260 nippers participating this season and they have experienced waves, sun, heat, friendship... and most of all – plenty of fun!

We thought it would be good to touch base with one of our new nippers to see how she was enjoying her first season with us. Under the leadership of Sharyn Clarke as AGM in the Under 11 girls it was always going to be a great experience.

Say hi to **Emma Somogyi**.....

**Why did you want to do nippers?**

Because I like to be in the ocean.

**What did you do on your first day at nippers?**

We were tested on things that we will need to be able to do if you want to be

a life saver, such as survival float, 50m swim and treading water. It was really fun and I achieved my test.

**What is the best thing you have done so far?**

In the board rotation we played netball - but on boards. We had teams of 15 and 5 were on land and the rest were on the boards. It's the same rules but you have to try in your teams to get the ball through the two flags.

**What is your favourite rotation?**

My favourite rotation is when you have boards because it's like surfing.

**What are your favourite conditions?**

When it is calm, has small waves and warm.



**What is your favourite item from the uniform shop?**

The Pt Leo SLSC bags because it is so many pockets and I can use it for other things too.

**Do you think you would like to compete in a comp?**

Yes, I want to compete in the junior carnivals. It looks like lots of fun and I would love to be part of the team in the future.

**What do you have for your breakfast before nippers?**

I have a big bowl of cereal, and then ½ an hour before nippers I have a banana.

**What do you like to do after nippers?**

I love visiting the BBQ for the Point Leo sausage and when I get home I relax, have a shower and watch a movie with some popcorn.

Sarah-Jo

