



The Mine

Newsletter of Point Leo SLSC

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President's Report

Welcome to another season at Point Leo SLSC!

Firstly, thank you to all the Club members who completed our Club Survey. We had a strong response rate, and it was great to obtain satisfaction levels and some useful feedback on how we could improve our administrations, operations, and programs. Your opinions on mission, purpose and values are highly valued and will drive the committee strategic planning session organized for next month. Once analysis is complete, key results of the club survey will be published for your viewing.

Congratulations goes to the Lion's Den Youth Program for receiving Most Outstanding Achievement at the LSV Awards of Excellence

presentation. What an incredible achievement and massive thanks goes to Sarah-Jo Mason for developing the program and to Sam Hunt and Sarah-Jo for delivering the program. We are very appreciative that BlueScope Westernport has sponsored the Lion's Den and excited to announce that BlueScope Westernport has committed to supporting this innovative program for the upcoming three years. With this support, the Lion's Den will continue to grow and develop providing much needed engagement amongst the youth of our club.

A huge congratulations also to Georgia Cassell-Ashton for receiving the LSV Award of Excellence for Emerging Official. This is a tremendous achievement, and we are immensely proud of Georgia and look forward to seeing her development in this space.

I would like to welcome and thank the new committee. Most of our committee members have hung in there even after the challenging and somewhat exhausting season last year. There has been a bit of a reshuffle, namely, Adam Lipszyc moving into Vice President Lifesaving Operations and Romy Lipszyc moving into the role of Club Captain. We have Bridget Barnes moving into Vice Club Captain and Andy Nott moving from this role into IRB Coordinator.

Iris Cassell, after a long tenure as Senior Team Manager, has moved into Vice President Membership Development. The Committee also welcomes Caleb Grey as Senior Team Manager, Fiona Romari as Vice President Youth and Adam Kyriacous in a general committee position. We also welcome back Marc Alliotti, former President, in a general committee position as well.

The committee is comprised of a diverse blend of experience, youth, and fresh faces, and it is exciting to be collaborating with this passionate and committed group of people in delivering in the best interests of Point Leo SLSC.

The Committee acknowledges that there are a number of important activities to be performed and managed across the various portfolios of the Point Leo SLSC to ensure efficient and successful operations. There is an extensive list of club activity roles. I urge you to get involved; there are plenty of opportunities across all areas to find something that will interest and inspire you. Please contact me at president@pointleoslsc.com.au if you feel like you would like to contribute or be involved in any way. Involvement is rewarding and can be much fun

We acknowledge with gratitude all our sponsors including Balnarring

and District Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank Branch, BlueScope Westernport, Vantage Fuels and Bowser Bean Café, Paton Real Estate and Mornington Prime Cuts for support of our club through the active season. We will forge ahead with mutual recognition for the upcoming season. We encourage our members to support these businesses where possible.

We continue to live in an increasingly challenging time with much uncertainty. Please be kind to yourself in this incredibly tough time and let's look forward to when we can be back together on the beach again with a season that is more relaxed, open and social.

Stay well and stay safe.

Julia O'Shaughnessy

Life Saving Victoria – Awards of Excellence

Congratulations to our Point Leo Award winners in this year's LSV Awards of Excellence, Georgia Cassell-Ashton and The Lion's Den.

This edition of the Mine we profile Georgia and find out more about her amazing contributions that crowned her the winner of the Emerging Official Award

Georgia Cassell-Ashton Winner – 2021 Life Saving Victoria Emerging Official Award

In her second year as a Technical Official, Georgia was selected to fulfil the role of Area Risk Response Officer (ARRO). In this role she was responsible for making sure that every athlete who entered the water returned safely and, in the case of an emergency, would also be responsible for facilitating the rescue operations for a designated area.

Georgia was a member of the Safety Team at the Victorian Youth/Senior and Master's State Championships in 2021. Both events were particularly challenging given the surf and adverse weather conditions.

Georgia loves being an official and finds it a very rewarding experience to be part of a large team of officials at carnivals that all work together to make the carnivals safe and enjoyable.

Thank-you Georgia for representing Point Leo so professionally as an official. It is very fitting that your great contributions and talents have been recognised through this State Award.

Congratulations, we are so proud of you!



Pictured: Georgia Cassell-Ashton in her role as ARRO at a Carnival

The Lion's Den youth program Winner – 2021 Lifesaving Victoria Outstanding Achievement Award

The Lion's Den is a new youth program for Point Leo SLSC that bridges the gap between SRC & Bronze medallion qualifications.

Despite COVID-19 we challenged ourselves and launched something brand new. We took a different approach and created a wholistic approach to youth wellbeing, and we couldn't have been more thrilled with the results.

We increased participation for our 14 & 15 year old members and created a sense of excitement, anticipation

and a true pathway for our youth at the Club.

We had fantastic engagement and connection with our youth, and they began to truly understand how much we valued them.

The greatest benefit was highlighted by seeing them all catch up and have a great time with their lifesaving friends. These were invaluable opportunities during the pandemic.

A big shout out to our youth for making the Lion's Den so great.



Pictured: The Lion's Den team

For full details of the program, please refer to the May 2021 Edition of The Mine, where the program was featured.

Sarah Jo Mason

Thank you to Adam, our outgoing Club Captain

Adam has managed to subtly step-away from his four years of club captaincy in the shadows of Covid-19 and chaos. His immense dedication and achievements as Club Captain at Point Leo SLSC warrant recognition and celebration. Adam took on the role of Club Captain in 2017, after years of captaining patrols and volunteering to help with training courses. It was evident from the start that Adam undertook the role with a

clear focus and a number of goals in mind.

Adam, and his Vice-Club Captain Andy delivered a number of initiatives and changes to the way the club's patrols operate. From re-jigging patrol teams, to working closely with Britt (Chief Instructor) to encourage upskilling among members and delivering a safe patrolling season with constantly changing COVID19 restrictions, Adam and Andy have made the job of Bridget and I (new Club and Vice-Club Captains) significantly easier. This is a true testament to the incredible work undertaken by the two of them.

Adam began Point Leo SLSC's relationship with Lifesavers With Pride, has facilitated Point Leo marching with Life Saving Victoria in the MidSumma March twice and has constructed and executed the club's inaugural Pride Patrol. I know Adam plans to continue working within this space in his new committee position as Vice-President Life Saving Services.



Pictured: Adam and Andy Nott, the outgoing Vice-Club Captain, in 2015

Throughout his time as Club Captain, Adam put in hours and hours of time, and immense effort and personal resources into mentoring younger members of the club, including myself (often against my will). He

had the ability to engage with 13-year-olds doing their SRC, 15-year-olds on Bronze Camp, fellow young adults on patrols and at events like Muso Night, and members of the committee and the wider Point Leo community itself.

I encourage you all to extend your thanks to Adam when you next meet, as his work has been *club-changing*. But don't tell him I said that.

Romy Lipszyc

Introduction to our new Club and Vice Captains

We hear from our new Club and Vice-Club Captains, Romy Lipszyc and Bridget Barnes, who tell us about when they started at the club, the roles they've undertaken and what keeps them coming back to the club each year. In their new position, Romy and Bridget will organise patrols, mentor and facilitate new initiatives for younger members.

Romy:

I first started coming to Point Leo SLSC to watch my older siblings at nippers, but when I got into nippers myself I had very mixed feelings about it; I was terrified of the waves, but I loved being in the water and had such a great time frothing around with my friends! I loved to help my mum teach first aid and resuscitation, we made up scenarios that I would act out – limping into the first aid room with fake blood dripping from my nose and purple face paint blotched over my 'rolled ankle'.

In terms of the key roles that I've taken on in the club, I'd like to think that my biggest achievement has been normalising wearing goggles during boards. Apart from that, I

started to help train SRCs and Bronzies about 5 years ago and am still a trainer now. I was a patrol captain up until this season and have been a member of the club's committee for a couple of years as The Mine Editor and Vice-President of Communications.



Pictured: Romy at nippers

I think what brings me back to the club each season is the people, there is something so unique about our club and the people it draws in. School doesn't matter, work doesn't matter – those who don the orange and navy are equal and are companions.

I've met incredible people at Point Leo SLSC who have supported me and continue to guide me through all areas of my life, and every year I meet new people and make more friends. The club offers opportunities like nowhere else, and it supports people to be vulnerable, try new things and make mistakes. Writing all of this is making me so keen for the season to start!

Bridget:

I started at Point Leo SLSC back in 2007 as an Under 8 nipper, but my family had been involved at Point Leo well before then, so doing nippers was always a given. I fell in love with competing after my first Cosy Corner Carnival and stayed on the Competition Team until Under 14s (and even won a few medals along the way).

In my final year of nippers, I became the Junior Vice Captain, which was really the first role I took on in the club. However, my only role was to create a team mascot called 'Jimmy' who was carried from event to event and wore his own orange nipper cap.



Pictured: Bridget at a carnival during nippers

I started as an Activity Leader at nippers in 2015, began helping with training as a Bronze and SRC instructor in 2019 and joined the committee as Vice President of Life Saving Services in 2020. In 2019, I was also part of the group that started Point Leo's first Pink Patrol, and was acknowledged for this at the 2021 LSV International Women's Day Breakfast.

Each year I'm brought back to the club by the people and the atmosphere. Point Leo offers such a unique opportunity to give new skills a go; there is always someone at the club to help and support you to try something new.

In addition, the friends I made during nippers are still some of my closest friends today, and even though we have all grown up and moved into different career paths, the surf club is still what brings us back together time and time again. The opportunity I have to come to Point Leo every

summer to learn surrounded by my best friends is something I am immensely grateful for.

The One Man Surf Boat

Those members who have been fortunate recently to visit Point Leo may have seen a dinghy on a trailer out the front of the Barnes/McKellar household in Western Parade. Called 'PatriciaAnn', it is unofficially described as a 'One Man Surf Boat', and there is quite a story to it.

Many years ago there was a legendary surf lifesaver named Keith Hurst, nicknamed "Spaz". Keith was a member of North Bondi and was best known as an elite Boat sweep. He was the first inductee into the Australian Surf Rowers League Hall of Fame in 1996 and was acknowledged by SLSA as a Legend of Surf Lifesaving.

During the 1980's Spaz organized the building of his one man surf boat with the ambition to row this craft around Australia. 'Spaz' started the trip as a Bicentennial Project in 1988 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lt38vV3GCNs> where he took off

from Yamba in northern NSW and paddled up to Cooktown – about 2600 km by sea. He did this entirely on his own, with just his wife providing support on the land. Just after Cooktown he ran out of sponsorship and had to abandon the project.

Not long after this, one of the foundation members of Point Leo SLSC, the late Bob Harper, ran into Spaz. At this point in time, Spaz had decided to sell the boat and guess what, Harps bought it.

Harps arranged for the craft to be transported to his house in Sorrento and we understand that his intention was to row this one man surf boat around the beaches in the bay near Sorrento.

Harps arranged for the craft to be transported to his house in Sorrento but unfortunately took ill with a cancer related problem and after a long illness passed away in September 2019. The craft sat in his backyard on a trailer for quite a number of years untouched. Angus Milligan, who did his Bronze at Leo and is an active Bobba, became involved in helping with the Harper estate, in particular the PatriciaAnn.



Pictured: The PatriciaAnn at the Barnes/McKellar House at Point Leo

Garry McKellar came up with a plan to bring the boat to Point Leo where he would organize a project to completely renovate the craft with the Leo boaties involved. Because of the Covid situation this has not commenced and it currently sits on a trailer in Western Parade.

John Horwood, Andrew Gibson, Angus Milligan. Photo provided by Andrew Barnes

The Point Leo Shacks

In the beginning there was no accommodation at Point Leo for the new club members as the building of the clubhouse didn't contain a bunk room for members. In 1962 or thereabouts a disused builders shed was identified as being available and arrangements were made by a small group of keen club members to transfer the shed to the foreshore at Leo. There was a bit of trade experience amongst the group and a site was found on the foreshore at Leo between two gulches, situated behind where the ladies and gent's toilets are now.

So, the building was transported to Point Leo and after much discussion, and over the odd cold drink or two, it was determined that there would be eight bunks at the rear of the shack

and the front area was kitchen, dining and socialising.

Co-founder of the Club, Alan Forster wasn't that impressed and he came up with the term "The Exclusive's Shack". There was quite a shack community in that foreshore area, but there was only one Exclusive's Shack. Other shacks followed on, the Town Hall with Max Jeffrey and the Camberwell mob, Ponderosa the Rydberg/Treadwell unit, a very professional one built by the Tankards and the R&R unit built by Blab and co.

And we could tell a lot of stories, but there are a couple we can share:

The Exclusive's Shack was used for many Club social functions. Bun fights after carnivals, Club BBQ's, even a cocktail party hosted by the Club President and more.

After a carnival at Portsea we invited the Torquay boat crew back for a drink at the Shack and of course when we arrived at the shack whatever refreshments we had left in the icebox had been consumed. So, a quick phone call to Geoff Raws, Club president, and we were able to borrow a dozen longnecks. The next weekend one of the guys was sent to purchase the dozen. When we arrived back at the shack that evening the dozen was being

consumed so weekend after weekend we went through the same process. Not quite sure whether Geoff ever got the dozen back but it wouldn't have worried him – a very generous man.

A bridge was constructed over the gulch using two light poles and it made it easier for ladies to come over to the Exclusive's, although there were stories that mothers told their daughters that they were not to go anywhere near that Exclusive's Shack. Never confirmed.

It did get to the stage though, where the Club committee and the Foreshore Trust ruled that the shacks had to be removed. By this stage most of the original occupants had gone from the Exclusive's Shack but all retained their Club membership and lifesaving involvement. It is interesting to note from this "ratbag" mob the Club gained a Club captain, Presidents, other committee leaders, respected coaches and competitors, and five Honorary Life Members.

It was a terrific period in the Club's history and it also was something that you wouldn't get away with nowadays. Some great memories.

John Horwood, photos provided by Rhona Horwood



Pictured: Doug Woolley and John Horwood relaxing at the Shack



Pictured: The Exclusive's Shack during construction

As always, many thanks to our wonderful sponsors:

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