



The Mine

Newsletter of Point Leo SLSC

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February 2022 Edition

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President's Report

It was so lovely after another year of distance and isolation to see so many joyful faces and to have personal interactions with so many fabulous club members. Such a great club vibe even when we have restricted ability to mingle. What a great summer we had!

Another challenging season due to Covid restrictions and adoption of CovidSafe plans across all programs and operations. A huge thanks again to Tamara Brawn for continually managing and ensuring implementation of CovidSafe plans

within our Club. This was a huge task and incredibly time consuming, but ensured compliance and safety across all our operations.

Britt Morgenthaler as Chief Instructor did an amazing job leading an incredible team of volunteers to deliver SRCs, Bronze and Skills Maintenance sessions in very restrictive conditions.

Patrols continue to run smoothly thanks to our Dynamic Duo Club Captain, Romy Lipszyc and Vice Club Captain Bridget Barnes. And many thanks to all the Patrol Captains and their teams in keeping our beach safe and presenting such a welcoming and settled environment.

We also had a great celebration with Pride Patrol on the 12th February. Fabulous work Romy for organising our Pride Patrol in support of our LGBTQIA+ members of our club and community and fostering a welcoming and inclusive culture within our club. And a great turn out for our annual Pink Patrol on the 19th February. Thanks to Bridget who organised the pre-patrol celebrations including the most impressive IRB demonstration rescue.

I also want to thank all the committee for their hard work and dedication behind the scenes. The Committee are comprised of such a fabulous and valuable bunch of people who are committed to delivering in the best interests of the club. Thank you.

Swim Classic:

Hooray, we were able to hold our annual Boxing Day swim and whilst conditions were challenging, it was a fabulous day and a well-attended swim. Thanks, Simon Merrigan, for organising and all those who assisted on the day. The new Surfboat was "christened" on the day so many thanks to our friends, Balnarring and District Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank who generously donated the surf boat to our club.



Pictured 1 - Ant Williams christening Point Leo's new surfboat with members, sponsored by Balnarring Community Bank

Juniors:

After another difficult year, it was heart-warming to see our nippers finally being able to get on the beach and participate in a Junior Surf Life Saving Program (JSLP). Diana McKellar, Tarena Murray, Sarah-Jo Mason and the massive support team of parents delivered a fantastic program in tough conditions and we all appreciate the hard work and many hours put in by the JSLP team as well as those who assisted in the very onerous set up and pack up; particularly Andrew Welsh and Nick Clarke. Mornington Prime Cuts came to the rescue again in supplying amazing beef sausages to provide



Pictured 2 - Nippers taking part in flags

sustenance to our incredible water safety team and to feed our hungry nippers. Thanks Tim and O'Connor Beef for your ongoing support. Hats off to Mark Hopkinson who organised the BBQ and team. Well done!

And thanks to our trusty Bobba's Max, John and Alf BBQ for filling in when needed.

Needless to say, organising and managing the JSLP was exhausting for the JSLP Team so let's hope that now they have all had time to chill and recover!

The Junior Sunday Sessions followed the intensive JSLP and this program focuses on participation, inclusion and skill development. Daniel Kogler graciously again led the charge on these Sunday Sessions. This program was a great success so special thanks to all involved.

The Junior Surf Sports Program is an extension of the JSLP and Sunday Sessions; it offers Nippers an additional level of training and

continues to strengthen and grow with inclusivity. Amber Skehan as Junior Coach leads this program and we thank her for her dedication and passion in giving these Juniors an opportunity to further their skills, build team spirit, respect and camaraderie.

All the Junior Programs exist only because of the amazing contribution of parents and club member volunteers. You guys are incredible in your commitment to your roles. I urge those of you that are not currently involved to step forward next year and volunteer. It is hugely rewarding and it is great for your Nippers to see you become part of their program. There are many different ways to be involved so you do not require any specific skills, and everyone has something to offer.

Youth:

The Cadet Youth Program, the Lion's Den, was hugely successful and culminated in the well-attended "Swim Camp". Thanks to Fiona Romari, Lachie Robinson, Harry Atkins for organising such a fabulous program and harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of this age group. Thanks also to Sam Hunt and Caitlin Robinson for assisting. Our Youth group are remarkable in being involved and assisting in water safety and patrols, and as activity leaders. We also thank and greatly appreciate the generosity of BlueScope in support of this Youth program within our Club.

Surfsport:

The Point Leo Gold event was a fabulous day which we will continue to build on in the future. Massive thanks again to Jon, Nick and the Surfsport Team for organising this spectacular event. It was so awe-inspiring to watch the many Nippers, Seniors and Masters giving it their all. And doing it all together!

What a fabulous Junior carnival held at Point Leo SLSC on 6th February. We turned on a great day, many thanks to Andrew Welsh for all his organisation. Thanks to Kate Stern

and team for organising officials' lunches and Mark Hopkinson and Dianna McKellar for organising the BBQ. It was fabulous to see such a big carnival go so smoothly.

Another great weekend at Lorne for the Masters for the LSV State Carnival on the 16th February, an incredibly back to back win from the ever impressive team. Many medals and laughs to be had! Well done Jon Ford for inspiring such greatness and Gaby McMeeken for being Team Manager. There were many outstanding individual and team medals. Such a fabulous effort, Go Leo!!!

On the same weekend we had the Boaties compete. Congratulations to Masters Male and Masters Female both receiving medals! Ant Williams continues to lead the boaties so thanks for his great effort here.

A great celebration was held on the Saturday evening where many of the Masters, Youth, Boaties and Seniors met to celebrate the Carnival and share the success. It was wonderful to finally be able to socialise and mingle.

On the Sunday, the Youth and Senior Teams also had a carnival with some incredible results. Well done to competitors and of course thank you to all the coaches, officials, water safety and supporters who make the Carnivals happen.

As I write this, The Junior State Carnival is being held at Lorne and amazing results keep coming in on TeamApp. Looking forward to hearing about all the personal achievements and the camaraderie.

Recognition:

Congratulations to Romy Lipszyc and Harry Atkins for being awarded the

Gary Tierney Foundation Fellowship. Both these candidates are amazing young leaders and well deserved of this recognition.

Also huge congratulations to Michelle Hebble-White being honoured as the newest Honorary Life Member.

Read about them and their achievements below.

Sponsors:

We acknowledge with gratitude all our sponsors including Vantage Fuels and Bowser Bean Café, BlueScope, BlueGum, Millar Merrigan, Paton Real Estate, C Fulton Garden and Supplies, O'Connor Beef, and Mornington Prime Cuts for support of our club through the active season.

Our relationship with the Balnarring and District Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank continues to strengthen. We have developed a strong partnership with the Community Bank and value our enduring relationship and look forward to further collaboration. As a Community Bank, profit is directed to support groups like ours. If you are thinking about your banking needs, please talk to our friends at the Balnarring and District Community Bank about what they can do for you.

We are sincerely grateful for the contribution of all Point Leo SLSC sponsors and encourage club members to support these businesses in acknowledgement of their support.

Julia O'Shaughnessy

John "Fizzle" Forsyth OAM

John "Fizzle" Forsyth was post-humously honoured with the Order of Australia Medal in today's announcements. Fizzle received the award for his "services to the community of Wollombi Valley". Fizzle was a very proud member of Point Leo SLSC and of the Bobbas. His CV with our Club is extensive and can be seen below. It has to be noted that John was in the first Leo Bronze squad back on 11th December 1955, and won the first medal for the club at the Aussies at Torquay in 1956. John is an Honorary Life Member of the Club, likewise at Manly LSC, the club he joined when he moved back to Sydney back in the mid-sixties. All of his mates at the Club should be very proud of this achievement.

Awarded John Wishart Memorial Medal 1961

Australian Titles

1955-56 Torquay

Third Junior Belt

Member State Teams

1955-56 Torquay

1958-59 Mooloolaba

1959-60 Merriweather

1960-61 Moana

State Titles

1955-56 Anglesea

Second Junior R&R

First Junior Belt

Second Junior Surf

Second Junior Teams

1957-58 Lorne

Third Junior R&R

Second Senior Belt

1958-59 Portland

Third Senior Belt

1960-61 Anglesea

Third Senior Belt

First Senior Surf

1962-63 Wye River

First Senior Surf Teams

1963-64 Point Leo

Second Senior R&R

Second Senior Belt

Second Senior Teams

John Horwood

Masters State Championship Wrap-up

A huge congratulations to all Master competitors. Point Leo successfully finished on top of the leaderboard with 499 points. To put this achievement into perspective the second club on the board had 197, a breathtaking result. Most notably, this was a position that we maintained from last year!

The medal tally of 75 medals included individual and team events; 30 gold, 21 silver and 24 bronze. The team of 46 athletes were extraordinary across all the disciplines and we had new members join, adding to the high calibre of competitors. Credit must go to Jon Ford for coaching and bringing the team together and Andrew Gibson for actively recruiting from the Bronze courses.

The sea of orange caps was very impressive at Lorne and certainly depicted the strength of the Masters team, and more broadly our club.

The conditions were incredibly challenging with direct onshore winds and a significant swell on the Saturday. It took a lot of courage and determination to get around the cans and not all achieved this feat, including myself. The 42 medals in the water events were a combination of skill, fitness and true grit.

Sunday was humid and hot in the beach arena; however, the Point Leo determination and athleticism resulted in 33 medals.

With a total of 75 medals achieved across the Point Leo Masters team, there are many highlights of incredible performance. I'll take this opportunity to mention a few.

This year the boat crew consisted of two Masters crew; a Senior Men's (Platos) 200+ achieving gold, and the Ladies (Pandoras) 180+ team achieving silver.

Jon Ford won his 7th consecutive ironman gold medal and Nick Clarke won gold in ironman also. Bravo coaches!

Well done to all other competitors across all disciplines in the swim, board, ski, surf boats, board rescue, 2km run, sprint and relays. We couldn't have done the competition without support from both water safety and our officials, a huge thank you must go to both groups.

We are always looking for potential members to join this great community and it is truly

inspirational when you see competitors in the 70+ age category. We welcome every member in the 30+ age group to come and give it a crack next year. All the best to the athletes who are going to the Aussies. Go team Leo!

Gabrielle McMeeken



Pictured 3 - The Point Leo Masters and Seniors team at Lorne



Pictured 4 - Amber Skehan competing at Masters



Pictured 5 - Frank Christian, Jon Ford and Tim Farrell winning gold

Lion's Den Program 2022

Lion's Den is the Point Leo SLSC program for the U15 and U16 cohort (aka Cadets), following on from their Nippers graduation. The aim is to provide our youth with special opportunities to keep getting involved in all aspects of the club, as valued and active members, and to continue having lots of fun hanging out with their lifesaving friends and enjoying life.

Lion's Den is in its second year and the pilot program, developed by Sarah-Jo Mason and sponsored by BlueScope Westernport, won the LSV Outstanding Achievement of the Year award in 2021. Wow!

This season, despite the ever-changing COVID environment, we were able to do most planned activities, with some modifications. It was fabulous seeing the kids walking around in their exclusive Lion's Den T-shirts, thanks to the talented Anna Cahill. There were two beach and water sessions, a First Aid course, a Mates mentoring session for U16's, and a two-day swim camp for the U15's (which included a range of activities; including motivation and connection, yoga, water sessions and of course a great merchandise pack thanks to Bluegum). The only activity that had to be cancelled was our blow-up outdoor cinema social night – so we look forward to this next year!

In addition, and importantly, this group eagerly provided water safety

to the Nippers, following the U15's completing their SRC skills maintenance and the U16's achieving their Bronze medallion. This group were also able to find other ways to be involved, including rostered patrols and surf sports.

This program could not have run so well without the combined support of many people. A special shout out to our young leaders who played a crucial part; Harry Atkins, Lachie Robinson, Bella Warner, Jasper Romari, Caitlin Robinson, Kate Brookes and Myles Irwin. Thanks to Sarah-Jo Mason, Kim Williams, Julia O'Shaughnessy, Sam Hunt, Adam Kyriacou and Tamara Heffernan for the roles you all played, volunteering your time and expertise.

Finally, a big thank you to the kids for embracing Lion's Den and bringing their positive attitudes, enthusiasm and smiles – you are amazing young people and what a great asset to the club you all are! We look forward to another fantastic Lion's Den program next year.

Fiona Romari

Vice President Youth Development



Pictured 7 - U15 and U16 Cadets at the Lion's Den Program



Pictured 6 - The 2022 Lion's Den T-Shirts

Harry and Romy awarded the 2021 Gary Tierney Foundation Fellowship

Harry Atkins and Romy Lipszyc speak on what the Gary Tierney Fellowship means to them, and what they plan to do within the club going forward.

Romy

The Gary Tierney Fellowship is an incredible asset to our club – providing young members the opportunity to be recognised and supported for their commitment and enthusiasm in whatever their area of surf lifesaving is. Every year, I see that recipients of the fellowship embody key values of our club, whether that's altruism, excellence in a sport or at training, community mindedness, or other. Looking at the list of recipients, I see the whole of Point Leo SLSC represented by these young people. I've been brought up with Point Leo SLSC always playing a role in my life – from nippers at the young age, to now being Club Captain. Every year I'm excited to be involved in patrols, the committee, bronze and SRC courses, and whatever else I can be involved in at the club. The Gary Tierney Fellowship will help me to continue participating in club activities and initiatives. It is an absolute honour and privilege to be awarded the Gary Tierney Fellowship, and I'm incredibly humbled by the award. I have learnt and gained so much, from being a part of Point Leo SLSC, and I hope others are as lucky as me in reaping the rewards that the club and its community have to offer. I'd

love to see the club continue to grow and flourish in the years to come, and there's ample opportunity for it to do so, and our community members to jump on board with it and excel and develop as individuals.

Harry

There aren't many awards at the Point Leo SLSC that embody all attributes of life saving much like the Gary Tierney Fellowship award! I believe it to be intrinsic to the club, providing members with an opportunity to be recognized for their extensive involvement in and support towards all things Point Leo.

To receive the Gary Tierney Fellowship Award this year, and to be placed alongside some incredible past recipients, who I have tried to mimic and that have inspired me, is both an honour and a privilege.

I have always tried to be as involved in the club as much as possible to both serve the Pt Leo community and to be a valued mentor towards others at the club. From participating in nippers at a young age, to now heavily involved in competitive surf sports and patrolling, I have come to love the sport of surf lifesaving with a true passion.

This award will greatly enhance my ability as a surf sports athlete, and enable me to have a greater impact on our younger members so they too may challenge themselves and better their life skills in the process.

One program which provides such opportunity for our younger members and that is very important to me is the Lion's Den program. This program helps bridge the challenging

transition between nippers and senior level involvement at Point Leo and I am personally committed to making this transition easier for all.

The Gary Tierney Fellowship Award speaks volumes of the club's generosity and commitment to develop and enhance the character of all members in our Pt Leo community. I plan to be around this great club for many years to come, and, as a proud recipient of this year's Gary Tierney Fellowship Award, I intend to continue in advocating the vast impact that the club has had on me personally and how it can make a difference to many others as well.



Pictured 8 - Romy Lipszyc and Harry Atkins receiving the Gary Tierney Foundation Fellowship at the 2021 Presentation Night

As always, many thanks to our wonderful sponsors:

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