



The Mine

Newsletter of Point Leo SLSC

May 2022 Edition

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President's Report

Thanks to all our club members for your ongoing dedication to our club and your contribution to ensuring that operations and programs were delivered in a Covid Safe manner.

The last of our patrols ended on the long weekend with the Woodchucks finishing on ANZAC day. Massive thanks to the Patrol Captains and Vice Captains for their ongoing dedication in managing their teams. Thanks to the Captains and Vice as follows:

Legends: Andrew Gibson and Michelle Royal- Hebblewhite;

Woodchucks: Nick Wood and Chuck Warner;

Patrol 3: Rhys Cole and Harry Atkins;

Patrol 4: Georgia Cassell-Ashton and Hannah Scott;

Patrol 5: Bella Warner and Liam Whitehouse.

Patrols ran smoothly and efficiently, and thank you to all those that patrolled so vigilantly throughout the season, you are the public face of the club and ensure that our beloved beach remains a safe and welcoming sanctuary.

We had a great celebration with Pride Patrol on the 12th of February. Fabulous work Romy Lipszyc 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. We also had a great turn out for our annual Pink Patrol on the 19th of February. Special mention to Bridget Barnes who organised the pre-patrol celebrations, including the most impressive IRB demonstration rescue.

On Saturday 19th March, the Disabled Surfers Association Mornington Peninsula (DSAMP) held its annual event at Point Leo. This was a special one as a celebration of ten years! It was a glorious day in terms of weather and just the right amount of wave. It was an incredibly

successful event with a huge turnout of both participants and volunteers. There was even a DJ and live music! Huge thanks to those Point Leo Committee and Club members that volunteered on the day. And special thanks to Andrew Gibson and Mick Treadwell for their involvement. I had the pleasure of handing out sausages in bread to participants and volunteers and it was fabulous to see so many happy faces.

On the 30th of March, Simon Merrigan and myself represented Point Leo SLSC at an event to mark the commencement of works to build a new accessible kiosk and amenity block (Pictured 1). In attendance were Chris Brayne MP, Member for Nepean, representing Minister D'Ambrosio as well as Anthony Carbines MP Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers as well as members of the DSAMP, representatives of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and of course Tony Wallington, the ranger. The event was to recognise grant funding from the Victoria's Great Outdoors Camping and Caravan Grants (funded by DELWP) and Changing Places fund (funded by the Department of Families Fairness and Housing). Works are underway and

plans are that by next season we will have a new kiosk and accessible amenity block.



Pictured 1 - Marking the commencement of building works to build a new accessible kiosk and amenity block

Many of you may know that the Bobba's meet up on Friday early evening in the bar when possible and I have had the pleasure to join them on occasion. On Friday 1st of April, it was the 67th anniversary of the club so a perfect opportunity to toast the club and listen to stories and memories of the past. The Bobba's truly have some fabulous stories and we look forward to getting some of these stories into future editions of The Mine.

It is with overwhelming sadness that I received the news of Dick Ellis passing last week. I encountered Dick manning the nippers Barbeque, which he did for many years, long before his legendary club status was revealed. Dick was an impressive presence, always carrying a smile and often chuckling away. He was engaging, considerate, warm and incredibly supportive of the club he co-founded. An absolutely lovely man who will be sorely missed. My thoughts are with Heather and family.

SurfSports:

What a fabulous Junior carnival held at Point Leo SLSC on 6th February.

We turned on a momentous day, many thanks to Andrew Welsh for all his organisation. Thanks to Kate Stern and team for organising official's 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 of February, an incredible win from the ever-impressive team. Many medals and laughs to be had! Well done Jon Ford for inspiring such greatness and Gabi McMeeken for being Team Manager. There were many outstanding individual and team medals. So fabulous effort.

On the same weekend, we had the Boaties compete. Congratulations to Masters Male and Masters Female both receiving medals! Ant Williams' dedication, passion, and energy in leading the Boat section is inspiring. He continues to recruit and grow

the section offering opportunities for try outs and a comprehensive training program. The Boaties have had some impressive results over the season so make sure you read all about it in the Annual Report.

The Junior State Carnival was held at Lorne on the weekend of 19 February but by all reports, it was a huge three days of racing. The conditions were extremely challenging, but our Point Leo SLSC nippers showed immense courage and resilience throughout the carnival. In true Point Leo spirit, they gave their best and all should be proud representing our club.



Pictured 2 - Nippers at the Junior Carnival held at Point Leo

It was an absolute privilege to watch Youth and Senior competitors give it their all at Warnambool at the LSV State Carnival on the 11th of March. There were some fantastic results. Some competitors were chasing medals and others were there in pursuit of their own personal goals. It was great to see a Point Leo March Past team and even greater for this team to win Bronze in their first season. It was fabulous to see a Point Leo entry into the

Lifesaver relay, a relay which includes all disciplines (with surfboats!) and all age groups. A great watch!

Thank you to the officials, water safety and IRB volunteers who make competition possible. Thanks to coaches and team managers for getting the competitors on the beach trained up and inspired. Go Leo!

There was strong representation at Aussies this year across Youth, Seniors and Masters with some good results and invaluable experience gained in this extremely high level of competition. You can read all about it in the Annual Report. Thanks to Caleb Grey as Senior Team Manager and Jon Ford as Head coach for providing much needed support and inspiration to the team. And well done to all competitors for their amazing efforts. Go Leo!

Sponsors:

We acknowledge with gratitude all our sponsors including Vantage Fuels and Bowser Bean Café, BlueScope Westernport, Paton Real Estate, CF Fulton and O'Connor Beef and Mornington Prime Cuts for their support of our club throughout the active season. We value our relationship with the Balnarring and District Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank continues to strengthen a As a Community Bank, support from the bank is directed to organisations in the community like ours. If you are thinking about your banking needs, please talk to our friends at the Balnarring and District

Community Bank to see how they can meet your banking needs.

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

Club President

Richard N. (Dick) Ellis

Dick Ellis was a few years ahead of me at school and I had never spoken to him prior to my joining Point Leo in December 1961. However, I was aware he had been a member of the school swimming team and had co-founded Point Leo SLSC in 1955.

At the time I joined the club Dick was coach of the Senior Rescue and Resuscitation (R&R) team and on State Centre's Board of Examiners. The first surf carnival I attended (Lakes Entrance, 28 January 1962) was an historic day in the Club's history, as it saw Dick's team score the club's first ever Senior R&R win. For the record, the team comprised Geoff James, Eddie Kidd, Mike Caraher, Geoff Ewert, Alan Warby and the late Doug Woolley. This success inspired Geoff Ewert and Eddie Kidd to take on R&R coaching roles the following season and led to several years of outstanding results at state and national level, which in turn inspired the late Geoff Waters to coach Point Leo teams to further

successes, building on the foundations originally laid by Dick.



Pictured 3: The celebration of the club's first bronze squad in April 2012. From left to right: the late John Forsyth, Geoff Ewert, Ian Stuart, Dick Ellis (Coach), Claus Newhouse, Don Roberts

Dick maintained his association with Point Leo all his life, serving as Captain for the Club's first two seasons and Chief Instructor from 1959-61. He was an Honorary Life Member and later Life Patron of the Club. After retiring from the workforce, he and Heather turned their holiday house at Shoreham into their permanent home. For several years he spent many long hours cooking sausages for the nippers and their parents and thoroughly enjoyed catching up with other members of the Bobbas in performing this service, as we did in seeing him again.

Unfailingly affable and friendly, Dick was a great figure in the history of our club.

Richard Batchelor

Aussies Wrap-up

After months of speculation, Aussies was finally moved from Perth back to the Gold Coast due to WA border closures.



Pictured 4 - Frank Christian receiving his bronze medal in the 60-64 surf race

It started off with our Youth team at North Kirra, getting some valuable experience by racing, and, at times matching it with the best in the country. They represented the club proudly and should all hold their heads high. It's been particularly pleasant watching our Youth team remain consistent throughout the season and show maturity beyond their years. Great people first, great athletes second.

Our Masters were lucky enough to remain at Broadbeach for their Championships, with many placing in finals and pushing so close to medals. Congratulations to Frank Christian and Haydn Tierney who both came away with bronze medals in the 60-64 surf race and 40-45 2km swim, respectively.

The Open Championships were relocated to North Kirra, as wild conditions were forecast throughout the carnival. This proved true, as even the slightly protected North Kirra beach was challenging on the outer bank. Everyone handled and embraced the moment with maturity. It was a superb standout performance by Harry Atkins in the Open Men's Belt Race with Fifth place in a stacked final.

I'd like to pay thanks to every single helper who put up their hand this year and made my life easier. Being a larger club means we often have a larger quota in providing officials, IRB drivers, crew, water-safety and set up/pack up crews. There's also a

handful of parents who went above and beyond to ensure our competitors could put their foot on the line. Thank you to Kim Williams for processing and handling all entry fees, something I'm not envious of. Thank you to our wonderful sponsors who are always there to support the club, particularly Vantage Fuels who help get our craft around the country. Our Aussies competitors are also very appreciative of the assistance from The Gary Tierney Foundation.

Finally, a great big thank you to Head Coach Jon Ford for the numerous late nights, early mornings and all hours in between that he puts in. He provides everyone with the opportunity to reach their potential on and off the beach.

Caleb Gray

Senior Team Manager

National SLSA Medal for Sustained Service

We warmly congratulate our three Point Leo SLSC members, Andrew Gibson, Michelle Royal-Hebblewhite, and Clayton McDonald who have each been awarded the prestigious Surf Lifesaving Australia National Medal for their sustained service and commitment to Surf Life Saving.

The National Medal is awarded to individuals on behalf of the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General of Australia, His



Pictured 5 - Myles Irwin (front) and Harry Atkins (back) competing in the Open Championships at Aussies

Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd).

Established in 1975 as a military recognition award, the National Medal has since branched out into government and voluntary organisations and is now Australia's most awarded civil medal.

Other organisations that present the National Medal include emergency services such as Police, Fire and Ambulance services as well as other voluntary organisations such as search and rescue groups and Surf Life Saving.

The National Medal is available to Surf Life Saving Australia volunteers who are eligible with a minimum of 30 hours each season, who have completed a minimum period of 15 seasons, from 1986.

Andrew has patrolled for 24 consecutive years and amassed a total of 1471 hours of patrol. Each season he patrolled for over 30 hours thereby meeting the criteria for the National Medal. Most seasons he completed over 50 hours. In two seasons he completed over 80 hours.

Michelle has patrolled for 18 consecutive years at Point Leo for a total of 1019 hours. In 15 of these years Michelle completed over 30 hours of patrol thereby meeting the criteria for the National Medal. In two of these seasons, she was also patrolling at Bonbeach SLSC completing 136.75 hours one 2007/2008 and 122.25 hours in 2008/2009.

Clayton has completed over 1283 hours of patrol since he started patrolling in the 1979/80 season. He has completed 30 hours or more of patrol for over 20 years which meets the criteria for the National Medal for sustained service to Surf Life Saving of 30 hours of patrol for 15 years since 1986. In 6 of those seasons, he patrolled for more than 50 hours.

We have three outstanding volunteers at our club that continue their selfless commitment to Surf Lifesaving. They are incredible leaders, role models and absolute veterans of the club.

Congratulations again Andrew, Michelle and Clayton, this Award recognises your remarkable contributions, and we thank you for your service to our community.

Sarah-Jo Mason

Point Leo Facility Update – Works are about to begin!

Many of us have had the chance to enjoy a wonderful summer at Leo this year, and while use of the clubhouse has been limited for much of the past 12 months, the Club's Building Committee has not been asleep. So time for the next update!

Members will recall the substantial redevelopment concept plans that were first presented at the 2017 AGM. These exciting plans envisaged a staged process that would see the renovation and extension of the Point Leo Facility with a view to providing a safe, effective and enjoyable place to serve the Club's growth and emerging needs, and those of our community.

With the generous support of the State Government, Lifesaving Victoria, and Bendigo Bank, and several kind donations from amongst the membership, in 2018 we undertook Stage 1 of the works: a major refit of the toilets, change



Pictured 6 - Future Works to take place at Point Leo Clubhouse

rooms and downstairs kitchen. Since then, the club has been thankful to have funding support from the Mornington Peninsula Council for the preparation of a master plan (by Cox Architects), and has been successful in gaining some critical grants including from the Federal Government and Lifesaving Victoria for the Stage 2 works. This will allow us to tackle some major issues, which have been split into 'internal' and 'external' works. The proposed works are summarised below

Internal works (due to begin construction April 2022):

Providing a multipurpose room that can be used for training courses, meetings, group presentations and as a 'youth hangout' space, with dedicated multimedia equipment and training furniture storage;

Relocating the caretakers room to the North East corner of the clubhouse, to free up much needed space in the more 'active' part of the clubhouse adjacent to the first aid room.

Detailed design has been completed in close consultation with the Club committee and the Club's training and youth leaders. We've now secured funding, approvals and a builder to begin undertaking the 'internal' works, with works scheduled to begin shortly. The new spaces will be completed within a few months, and will be ready for members to enjoy for next summer!

External works (estimated date 2023-2025):

Replacing the existing shipping containers that we currently use for

storing competition and lifesaving gear, and building an attractive and environmentally sympathetic storage space

Better access on the east side of the facility providing direct access from the carpark to the changerooms and separating pedestrian and vehicle movements

New external shower, communal and barbeque areas

Plans are currently being discussed with relevant agencies (including Council and in the near future the Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning), and we are optimistic of in-principle approval. We can then share plans and move to detailed design.

Future Works:

We also have an eye to Stage 3 and beyond. The Future Facility plan provided an exciting master concept. We will be simultaneously testing and validating the concept plan over the coming 12 months, drawing on the experience of several other lifesaving facility redevelopments around the coast. We are looking forward to moving forward on this with your support!

Luke Treadwell

Chair, Building Subcommittee

Pride at Point Leo

We continue to make strides in the space of better recognition and celebration of our LGBTIQ+ community. It is with pride that we see the issues and concerns pertaining to the LGBTIQ+ community within surf lifesaving

getting the platform they've so long deserved and needed. Pride Patrol is one occasion for us to come together and celebrate the diversity of our club and ensure all feel welcome, safe and loved. It is also an open door for criticism, concerns and ideas – an annual get together where the focus is the LGBTIQ+ community at Point Leo SLSC and within Surf Lifesaving more generally.



Pictured 7 - From Left to Right: Charlotte Ashby, India Mair and Riley Mair at the 2022 Pride Patrol

Over the 2022/2023 season, the initiative of a Pride Patrol spread beyond our Point Leo shore, with similar events held throughout Victoria. Similarly, members from Portsea and Dromana Surf Lifesaving Clubs joined Point Leo members, representing the Mornington Peninsula at the Saint Kilda Midsumma Pride March. Unfortunately, the timing wasn't spot on as Point Leo SLSC was hosting a nipper carnival – but we hope for stronger numbers next year! Participation in these initiatives is fantastic and eye-opening, but there is still much more work to be done.

I was heartbroken to conclude that our club scored single digits when I completed the 2022 Pride in Sport Index on behalf of the club – where well over 60 points were up for grabs. The Pride in Sport Index is an initiative of the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Australian Sports Commission and a legacy of the Bingham Cup, Sydney. The Pride in Sport Index is the first and only benchmarking instrument specifically designed to assess the inclusion of people with diverse sexualities and genders within Australian sporting organizations and codes more broadly. Participating in the index allows Australian sporting organizations to not only assess their own practice, but determine that which constitutes good practice, along with the ability to benchmark their own initiatives against an external measure and other sporting organizations. Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) and Life Saving Victoria (LSV) scored similarly to us – so it is clear there is a nation-wide need to prioritise the issues of the LGBTIQ+ community in surf lifesaving. I look forward to continuing to strive for better at our club, a place I know is a welcoming and safe place for all.

Romy Lipszyc

Club Captain

Legends Rescue

Easter Saturday, three Leo members and Woodchuck Patrollers, Charlie Appleton, Bryce Appleton and Chuck Warner were surfing at Suicide, when another surfer was identified as requiring assistance.

Taking control of the situation Bryce and Chuck assisted him ashore sending Charlie to alert the Legends patrol, captained by Andrew Gibson & Michelle Royal-Hebblewhite - knowing the surfer would be in good hands.

Patrol Captain and First Aider Michelle responded immediately in Mule 1, along with Welshy, Mick and Angus. The patient was conscious, slightly disoriented, was slurring slightly and had high colour. Other Patrol members arrived shortly after in Mule 2, as backup.

The new pulse-oximeter proved its worth when it was easily established that oxygen saturation was low and oxygen supplementation was required. There being no radio contact at The Point, LSV Comms were contacted by mobile phone and an ambulance arranged. Phone was far superior to radio both for clarity and because we were put directly in touch with the ambulance service, who gave advice and real-time updates.

After a time on oxygen, the patient was stabilised and taken to the First Aid room via Mule. He regained improved colour and coherence and was very cooperative. The Ranger was advised of the ambulance coming and a Patroller was sent to the gate to greet it. Two ambulances arrived promptly and the patient was transported to Frankston Hospital.

He advised us the following day that tests had indicated a heart attack and he was commencing treatment with a cardiologist.

Well done to the rescuers and the Legends patrol. Later that same day, Legends treated a bodysurfer for a dislocated shoulder. He was sent to hospital in his family car.

Andrew Gibson and Bryce Appleton

As always, many thanks to our wonderful sponsors:

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