



The Mine

Newsletter of Point Leo SLSC

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August 2023 Edition

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Editor: Emily Davey

John Horwood – Life Patron

At the 2023 AGM, Members of Point Leo SLSC voted John Horwood to the Membership Category – Life Patron.

The Club has only ever bestowed such recognition on 2 previous members in the past. Geoff Raws, the inaugural President, and Richard (Dick) Ellis a founding member.

The Constitution of the Club allows for the appointment of a Life Patron

from the Life Members where the continued service has been deemed exceptional.

The President, Julia O'Shaughnessy, was delighted and moved to acknowledge the appointment of John Horwood to Life Patron. She did so graciously on behalf of all members of the Club.



Pictured 1 - John Horwood being appointed as Life Patron at the AGM with Life Member Andrew Barnes (left) and Club President Julia O'Shaughnessy

John first attended Point Leo SLSC in 1955, when invited to the Club by Alan Forster (founding member). John was a member of the Camberwell Swimming Club. As with many of his peers of the era, swimming club members often joined Surf Life Saving Clubs. John completed his Bronze in 1956.

John became an exceptional member of the Club from the beginning. In 1959 he took on the role of Honorary Treasurer and held

the position until work relocated him to Sydney. In the early 1970s, he returned to Melbourne with his work and immediately returned to an active role in the Club. He first joined the "Bobbas", the coterie group for the Club. The Bobbas were a collection of present and past members tied by an affiliation to the Club and raised many thousands of dollars for the Clubs functions. Especially for capital expenditure.

John served as part of the team to run the Australian Championships at Point Leo in 1985, with Geoff Waters leading and further served as part of the team to rebuild the Club House back on the beach with Geoff Kinsey as the lead.

In 1995 John rejoined the Committee and over the next 22 years served as President, Secretary, Vice President, General Committee and Team Manager. Inclusive but not limited to those roles, John took on the responsibility of leading the Club House renovations to completion for that period. He served on the sub-committee to organize and celebrate the 50 years milestone of the Club. This celebration was over a weekend and reunited many past members with friends and colleagues. John subsequently was also on a small

committee to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Club in 2015 at Kooyong LTC.

John served as Meet Director for the Point Leo Swim Classic, the major fundraiser for the Club. He also managed the usage of Club House facilities for educational programs for members and school groups. He served with a group of older members who managed the weekly Roast Nights at the Club House which have been attended by Members and campers for years.

John's network is so incredibly extensive he has been able to collect, collate, maintain, and curate presentations of club memorabilia. At the presentation of his Life Patron, he was served with the custodianship of the original handwritten Constitution from 1955.

Identifying the exceptional service that demonstrates how John has mentored and fostered the development of so many to progress through the Club and life:

Team Manager; John for many years was the identifiable personality that served so many to pursue their Surf Sports career. Accommodation, transport, entries, administrative responsibilities, everything to do with assisting members was never too hard for John.

Hall of Fame; After the resolution by the Club to establish a Hall of Fame to honour the Club's outstanding competitors, John served on the panel of three to establish the criteria and recommend the first eight inductees.

Gary Tierney Foundation; In consultation with the Tierney family, John assisted in the establishment of the Foundation. Scholarship

recipients from the Foundation have had the opportunity to develop their skills and credentials that they have carried throughout their lives.

Bobbas; for greater than 15 years, John has served to maintain the network of Bobbas, a loose connection of past Active Members. The Bobbas has served the Club as coterie group, fundraising, providing maintenance support for both active lifesaving services and aquatic surf sports. The value of the Bobbas cannot be measured, but their success in large is attributed to John Horwood.

Statesmen; John has served as the Club statesmen in more recent times and hence the elevation to the position of Life Patron was unanimous. John has spent decades fostering the development of so many who have wandered through the Club and so many are indebted to his contribution as a mentor to them.

The Club greatly appreciates and wholeheartedly recognized the contribution of John Horwood and is extremely proud to have a member so suitably credentialed to be the Club's Life Patron.

President's Report

Welcome to the 2023/2024 season at Point Leo SLSC!

Huge welcome to all our returning club members! I take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing contribution to our club, ensuring it remains the unique place it is.

As club members, we are strongly connected by our shared passion for Surf Lifesaving and Point Leo Surf Lifesaving Club. I thank you all for

fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and joyful place for us all to belong.

A massive welcome to all our new members, I hope that you settle into our club, feel connected and become part of this wonderful community. Please reach out to me, the committee, and other club members if you have any questions. We are here to help you settle into our club.

Election as an Honorary Life Member is one of the highest awards any club can bestow on a member. Life Membership recognises the distinguished and exceptional contribution to a club and in this instance to our incredibly unique Point Leo Surf Lifesaving Club. Congratulations to our two newly appointed life members, Jon Ford, and Andrew Welsh. These are two outstanding and worthy recipients for this very prestigious recognition of their commitment over many years to our club. *You can read all about their contributions within this edition of The Mine.*

Congratulations also to the following people who made it as a finalist in the LSV Awards of Excellence for 2022/2023 Season: Junior Lifesaver of the Year Award (14-17 years): India Mair, Nipper Volunteer of the Year : Tarena Murray, Emerging Official of the Year: Chris Oldham, Official of the Year: Kylie Clark and Nipper Program of the Year: Point Leo SLSC. And a huge congratulations to our incredible team of Frank Christian, Jon Ford and Tim Farrell for receiving the LSV Award of Excellence for Masters Team of the Year. This is a tremendous achievement, and we are immensely

proud of Frank, Jon, and Tim. Well done!

Welcome to the new committee! Massive thank you to those that have nominated to remain on the committee. There has been a bit of a reshuffle within the committee. A full list of the committee with positions can be found within this edition of The Mine. Please take the time to read and note those in specific roles. The committee is comprised of a great mix of club members and are a dedicated, and enthusiastic bunch of people and we greatly appreciate their commitment to our club.

I would also like to thank those for assorted reasons have not renominated including Andrew Barnes, Mick Treadwell, Ella Swaney, Lachie Robinson, Ella Laussen, Fiona Romari, Tim Farrell, Sharyn Clarke, Amber Skehan, and Dean Pullar. Most of these committee members have been on the committee for varying 1 to 3 seasons. Special mention must be made to two outgoing members who have devoted many, many years being on our committee. Mick Treadwell who was on the committee for 16 years, starting in 2007. He has taken on the role of VP Grants where he has done an amazing job in successfully obtaining grants to assist in the operations of the club as well as obtaining sizeable Government grants that allowed us to make the very much needed building upgrades. Additionally, he was Radio Officer for a number of years. Thanks Mick! You have contributed so much over the years with your knowledge, efficiency, expertise, and passion for our club. You will be sorely missed but I have no doubt that you will return to the

committee in future years! Huge thanks also to Andrew Barnes who was on the committee for 13 years from 1983 to 2000 and then another 6 years more recently. Andrew was on the team that reviewed and updated our constitution, which was an enormous task. His expertise, knowledge and experience with governance assisted in developing the constitution as well as providing ongoing advice to the committee on governance matters. Andrew has over the years contributed exceedingly positively to the committee and he also has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to the history of the club. Andrew will continue to provide support on governance matters to the committee in the future. In Andrew's words "I am just down the road when you need me!". Thanks Andrew, you are greatly appreciated.

Point Leo SLSC is a completely volunteer-run organisation. The Committee recognises that there are several important activities to be performed and managed across the various portfolios of the Club to ensure efficient and successful operations. There is an extensive list of non-committee 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. And we need 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!

Ingrid Barnes, as Sustainability Lead for our club, has met with SLSA team members and Zero Positive Program coordinators to discuss a

new Sustainability Program to be implemented at Point Leo SLSC.

Along with data capture of electricity usage, a component of the program is climate change education with the plan to have two training/education days on the subject. The first of these sessions was held at 12.30pm on 6th August. Well done and a huge thank you Ingrid for being proactive with this initiative. The program launches at Point Leo and North Bondi Surf Lifesaving Clubs before expanding to other additional locations. I look forward to further developments on this program.

You can read more about this ground-breaking program to reduce energy use and carbon emissions on the link below.

<https://sls.com.au/carbon-emission-reduction-program-launched-with-zero-positive/>

Finally, 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, CF Fulton, Millar-Merrigan, Paton Real Estate, Mornington Prime Cuts and O'Connor Beef 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.

Stay well and stay safe. See you at the club.

Julia O'Shaughnessy

Our Purpose:

To provide a safe and healthy coastal environment, through proactive and equitable member

development, while forging meaningful and enduring community connections.

Our Values:

Respect: We recognise and value our club members, our local community and our environment, treating all with respect.

Safety: We commit to promote and sustain an environment in which all in our care are safe.

Teamwork: We pursue endeavours by listening, respecting, and valuing all contributions, enabling connection and collaboration to achieve our shared purpose.

Community: We strive for genuine and enduring connection between our members, our local community, and our key stakeholders.

Inclusiveness: We foster a culture of inclusivity, whereby member and community diversity are recognised, valued and championed.

Kim Williams – SLISA Long Service Award

Congratulations to our own Kim Williams who is the recipient of the SLISA Long Service Award for her 25 years sustained and outstanding volunteering contributions with Point Leo SLSC.

Kim commenced her Point Leo SLSC volunteering journey as Team Manager when her children were participating in Nippers and competing for Point Leo SLSC at LSV carnivals. Her children then went on to compete and be successful at a State and National level.

She quickly moved to what she does best, the Committee position of

Club Registrar. A woman with so much patience, as she has spent 23 years in annually assisting members to negotiate the SLISA, and payment systems to register members with the Club. She has seen the Club grow from a couple of hundred members to over 1,400 members during this time. Much to her pleasure (and relief!), the registration systems she manages have improved over time as well, progressing from paper-based forms sent through the post with a cheque attached, to the streamlined online payment and SLISA membership portal.

In her committee role as Treasurer for over 20 years, she has brought great benefit to Point Leo using her professional expertise to steer the Club through many peaks and troughs to be in a strong financial position today.

Kim became a Life Member of Point Leo SLSC in 2013. She has a reputation for being firm but fair because she takes her volunteer Committee responsibilities seriously and has only ever operated with the best interests of the Club at heart.

She has also mentored and steered countless other Point Leo SLSC volunteers through the maze of Lifesaving nuisances, drawing from her extensive lifesaving knowledge and experience. She has been described by some as 'doing too much', but it's people like Kim that make lifesaving clubs like Point Leo so great. It's no wonder she is seen as the Club 'go to person' for all thing lifesaving, as she is so willing to give so much of her time and impart her knowledge to a club she loves. She has recently pulled back from saying 'yes' to every request that comes her way, to empower

the new generation of volunteers coming through the club.

Kim's passion and commitment to Point Leo SLSC remains unwavering, and she has another reason to see Point Leo into the future with her grandchildren now participating in the Nipper program.

"I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with so many great people who make Point Leo the great Club it is today. I am so grateful to have the opportunities to give back to a Club that has already given so much to my family and continues to do so", said Kim.

Congratulations Kim, you are already recognised as a highly valued member of Point Leo SLSC family, and we are thrilled that your outstanding contributions have also been recognised by SLISA.

Sarah-Jo Mason

*Vice-President Member
Development*



Pictured 2 - Kim Williams

Karen Nyholm (Lillywhite) - Australia Police Medal

We have so many humble club members who continue to give so much to the wider community.

In this edition we recognise one of our members, Karen Nyholm, who received the prestigious Australian Police Medal as part of the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours. The Australian Police Medal is the highest police honour in the Australian Honours System.

Commander Karen Nyholm is considered a trailblazer in her field and throughout a near 30-year career she has demonstrated outstanding service and commitment to Victoria Police and the Victorian community. During this time, she has worked across a range of areas including the Prosecutions, Investigations and Legal units. She recently performed the role of Deputy State Police Commander in COVID Response Command, overseeing the closure of Victorian state borders. Throughout her career, Commander Nyholm has been an advocate for equity in advancing women in policing.

Congratulations Karen on your outstanding achievement.

Sarah-Jo Mason

*Vice-President Member
Development*

Junior 'Nipper' Parent Survey 2022/23 Season



Pictured 3 – Nippers on the beach

At the end of last season, we emailed a survey to all parents of nippers to obtain feedback regarding our Junior Surf Lifesaving program (JSLP). Our JSLP is one of the best in Victoria (so we think!) but there is always opportunity to develop and improve the program each season. Furthermore, last season was a return to more relaxed JSLP following the years affected by COVID restrictions. We did, however, incorporate some of the aspects of the COVID affected program last season, for example, shorter sessions for the Cubs. We wanted to take stock of where we were at and where we should be heading. The survey provided an opportunity to understand parents' attitudes towards the current program as well as perceived strengths, areas for

improvements and potential ideas for the JSLP.

Thank you to all the nipper parents who took the time to complete the parent survey. We had a huge number of parent responses, over 115 in total. This is an excellent response rate and demonstrates the high level of involvement that our nipper families have with our program.

The survey data certainly provided considerable information for input into planning for this seasons JSLP. We thought it would be valuable to share some of the key points from the data with you.

Aspects that parents enjoy most about the JSLP included:

- Sense of community with real connection and belonging
- Making and building friendships
- The positive, inclusive, welcoming and supportive nature of the Program
- A well organised and managed program
- Provision of an intensive, well focused program educating nipper in water safety awareness
- Whilst also providing a healthy, active and fun program
- Ability for nippers to develop skills and confidence in the water
- Leader and mentoring skills of older children/youth in assisting with the JSLP
- Building resilience, trying new things and increasingly challenging nippers
- Acceptance of all skill levels, focus on participation and having a go

- Teamwork within the program

Aspects that were strongly appreciated from last season:

- Specific areas for each age group
- Return of the “Nipper of the day”
- Instigation of spot “prizes” which embraced a sense of fun whilst being educational
- The introduction of Starfish nippers and with this the connection with the JSLP
- The dedication of the Age Managers
- The dedication and experience of the Activity Leaders
- The opportunity provided to the nippers to gain confidence in the water
- Return of the Sausage sizzle

Aspects that parents would like to see improved in the JSLP nipper intensive program:

Many commented that could not think of improvements as they were very satisfied with program as is. Some Responses were split with respect to focus of nipper required development of skills or were more skilled and requiring more advanced skills/competition.

Some key areas of improvement included:

- Less focus on competition in the JSLP
- Greater skill development and focus on technique
- Greater support and instruction for new nippers/less skilled
- More experienced/ mature Activity leaders in younger age groups
- And/or more support for Younger Activity Leaders

- Greater focus or more effective incorporation of Surf education
- Swim assessments to be completed prior to the commencement of the JSLP
- No last-minute changing of sessions
- More social opportunities

Responses regarding Age Group Managers were overwhelmingly positive and focused on

Effective attributes:

- Friendly, encouraging, and supportive
- AGMs Well organised
- Effective leaders that are inclusive, knowledgeable, and got to know individual nippers
- Strong role models
- Experienced, AGM provide continuity by remaining in the role each season
- Clear and effective communication
- AGMs keep the sessions fun
- AGMs are caring, kind and enthusiastic

Improvements:

- Communication in some Age groups
- Knowledge in some Age groups

Responses were mostly very positive regarding the effectiveness of Activity Leaders (ALs) including mostly:

- Passionate and enthusiastic
- Friendly, encouraging and supportive
- Inspiring role models for nippers
- Well planned sessions
- Kept activities moving, fun and motivating
- Well skilled and knowledgeable

- Focused on skill building and got to know nippers and their level of skill/experience
- Separate U14 program and AL’s here very positive

Areas for improvement:

- Smaller groups for some activities
- Younger activity leaders lack experience and confidence so require greater support/guidance and mentoring
- Some ALs require more knowledge and/or greater communication skills
- Some ALs require guidance on involving all skill levels/all nippers
- Drop off in ALs in later sessions



Pictured 4 – Nippers practicing water entries

Whilst the feedback was that many of the Activity Leaders are experienced, skilled and have communication and personal skills to deliver engaging programs, there is opportunity to up skill and develop these attributes across all activity leaders.

There were also a lot of considered and constructive feedback in the components we can do better. We have listened and greatly appreciate the time and thought you all put into your feedback.

A key theme was people wanting the nipper intensive sessions to be concluded by the end of the second week of January. You spoke and we have listened!

Check out this season's JSLP Nipper dates [here](#).

Other key themes for us to work on were:

- Water safety organisation in some areas particularly with providing guidance with the younger SRCs
- Greater communication between Age Managers and Activity Leaders in some areas
- More opportunity for parents to volunteer/feel connected to the club
- Adult/ nipper parent bronze course opportunities
- More social functions and events
- Knowing the timetable and rotations in advance (for each age group)
- Continue to grow the mentoring program of young leaders!

Stay tuned for further details about all things nippers and how we will continue our commitment to deliver the best JSLP Nipper program we can.

Tarena Murray
Nipper Co-Ordinator

Andrew Welsh – Honorary Life Member

Andrew Welsh (“Welshy”) joined Point Leo Surf Lifesaving Club in 2007 when his three (3) children began Nippers.

Andrew immediately took on volunteer roles, becoming an Assistant Age Manager, and within three years was a member of the Point Leo Club Committee, being acknowledged for his contribution across juniors, sport and general club activities.



Pictured 5 - Andrew being appointed as an Honorary Life Member with Life Member Andrew Gibson (left) and Club President Julia O'Shaughnessy (right) at the AGM

Andrew completed his Bronze Medallion in 2012 and has patrolled every season since as a mainstay of “Legends Patrol”, except for the current season where a shoulder injury has prevented completion of Skills Maintenance.

While not a keen competitor, ‘Welshy’ has had a run with the Point Leo Masters team, winning a Gold Medal in Beach Relay.

Andrew has twice been awarded the Dick Catterick Award and continues to serve on the Committee as well as undertaking extensive work behind the scenes to keep the Club gear and activities running. He willingly supports new disciplines as they come into the Club (March Past, Boats) and immediately takes responsibility for their gear.

Not known to most is the amount of work Andrew does on boards at home, where he has converted a whole garage into a repair shop, often paying for board repair supplies from his own pocket.

While he has made innumerable contributions to the Club, he is probably best known for managing set-up and pack-up during the Nipper summer intensive. Andrew largely conceived the system of transporting boards for Nippers on two flat trailers and, with Nick Clarke, manufactured the trailers. His true passion is for the big orange Nipper trailer and Nipper boards (he is the reason our nippers are looked upon with envy when they roll into carnival carparks across Victoria).

Andrew has led Leo as Carnival Organiser for many years; often with very little notice when Pt Leo is nominated as the ‘backup beach’ and carries most of the pre-organisation, but also the bulk of the physical work on Carnival Day.

In addition to these contributions and many others that go under the radar to keep the gear and club house in working order, we believe that it is Andrew’s reliability and calm and considered manner that truly reflect the values of the Club. Andrew is often the voice of reason in decision making and planning.

Finally, Welshy is a real ‘people person’. His relaxed inter-personal style welcomes many new people into the Club and cajoles, encourages and enthuses them to assume responsible roles.

Jon Ford – Honorary Life Member

Jon Ford's involvement with the Point Leo Surf Life Saving Club started in 2005 when his daughter, Bella, joined Nippers and brother Nic followed in 2006. Jon joined as an Associate Member in 2007 and was immediately drafted as Nipper Activity Leader, assisting Andrew Forrest, continuing as a Nipper Activity Leader for three seasons.

In 2010 Jon gained his Bronze Medallion and has completed his required Patrol Hours every season since. Jon joined the Club Committee in 2011 as Board and Ski Captain and immediately teamed with Chris Munro to develop Point Leo as a force in Surf Sports competition. In 2015, Jon became the inaugural Head Coach, a role he has held since.

The list of initiatives instituted by Jon at the Club are many and varies and include:

- The Ski Squad was started 2011 and continues;
- In 2017, Jon started a Kayak Squad with the dual purpose of improving surf ski technique and offering elite competitors the chance to qualify in an Olympic sport. The kayak Squad continues;
- In 2018 Jon conceived of the Victorian Surf Sports Academy, offering development coaching to all Surf clubs.
- As Head Coach Jon instituted a panel of Team Coaches covering all disciplines and established training options at venues on the Mornington

Peninsula and in Melbourne, including running, beach disciplines and pool training as well as a whole suite of Surf Sports training at the Club.

- The Life Changer program was instituted in 2017, aimed at personal development of youth members.
- The Leo Gold annual Iron Race was instituted in 2013 and has become an annual event. The Leo Gold stimulated interest in the famous Coolangatta Gold. Each year, Point Leo Club Members enter this iconic event and some have won their divisions.
- Jon organised regular interstate training camps and each season leads teams to compete at interstate carnivals.
- Jon commenced the Kooks on Craft, which has now become Development Ski and still ongoing. This leads Junior athletes into early development of surf ski skills and technique and stimulates Masters competitors to develop ski proficiency to broaden their events.

Jon first competed at Victoria Masters Competition in 2011 and has been a driving force behind Point Leo's continuing improvement from single-figure team numbers culminating in the State Masters Three-peat in 2021-22-23 with over 40 competitors competing annually. Significant too has been his goal of improving female Masters participation from zero to the

current 15 competitors.



Pictured 6 - Jon Ford (middle) with Frank Christian (left) and Tim Farrell (right) after winning Gold in 170+ Male Surf Team Race and Bronze in 170+ Male Taplin at Aussies this year

Jon's own personal medal tally at the Victorian Masters Competition cannot be counted – suffice to say he wins a 'swag' every year, and totally dominates his age-group and has won the Ironman Title for 8 years in succession. Jon competes annually at the Australian Championships and has won Bronze and Gold medals.

Jon believes in setting personal goals, planning to achieve those goals and working hard to stick to the plan. He encourages all competitors to set stretch goals and helps them with strategies and mentoring to achieve their goals. Ten years ago, Jon set himself a goal of achieving an Aussie Masters Gold medal, which he achieved as part of a team in 2023!

In his time as Head Coach, Jon has been pivotal in reviving and stimulating interest in all forms of surf sports competition. He fosters cohesion and cooperation across all competition elements in the Club,

blending March Past, Beach, Swim, Board, Ski and Boats into one Competition Team and enhancing transition between Juniors, Seniors and Masters. Jon is the driver of our competition teams and has been a leader of Point Leo achieving high levels of participation and significant success at all levels of competition.

An interview with Bobba's John Horwood & Eddie Kidd – Back in Time – An insight into the history of Point Leo SLSC

I had the pleasure of having a chat with Mr John Horwood & Mr Eddie Kidd, two members of Point Leo SLSC going back to 1955. The following exchange are just a taste of some of our club's history that I hope you all find of interest.



Pictured 7 - Bobba's John Horwood & Eddie Kidd

(Interview by Marc Aliotti)

Q1: How did you become involved with Point Leo?

JH: It all started in 1955 when Eddie & I were attending Camberwell High. We also swam at the Camberwell Swimming club. Their

swimming coach at the time was Alan Forster, a dynamic entrepreneur who was a radio commentator on the ABC, played VFA footy for Northcote & covered events on the radio such as the Stawell Gift. He and Dick Ellis (Snr) were both members of the Portsea SLSC. Both Alan & Dick had a desire to start a new club and subsequently left Portsea and viewed Point Leo as a good place to start the new club. Along with John Marshall and with the support of the then foreshore committee the club was to be.

EK: Alan Forster had been involved in the Australian Army & had contact with Point Leo area during the war. There was an outpost assigned at Point Leo during the war.

JH: Alan Forster organised several swimmers from the Camberwell Swimming Club & Scotch College to come to Point Leo and from there the first bronze squad occurred (Nov 1955), with the club having started in April 1955.

EK: Point Leo in those days had a dirt road running towards the Point and only 5 houses. Both John & I went to Point Leo for the first time in October 1955. We were 15 years old. The fact that Alan Forster was involved, there was no hesitancy from parents allowing their teenagers to attend; such was the standing of Alan Forster in the community.

JH: By the time Eddie & I had got down to Point Leo the initial group of members who had been from Portsea, Sorrento & Warrnambool SLSC's had commenced the construction of the new Point Leo club house.

EK: The land was acquired with the leadership of Alan Forster who engaged the support of the foreshore committee and a local landowner Mr Jeff Raws. Mr Raws was very accommodating to the SLSC.

Q2: What was Point Leo like in so far as its landscape?

JH: As you looked towards Suicide from the club it was all sand dunes, no trees. In front of the club house the trees were dense. At carnivals people would sit on the sand dunes (up to 12,000 people). The camp sites being behind the sand dunes. There were very few paths and tracks to the beaches.

Q3: Were there other groups such as board riders in the early days?

EK: Hardly any. Most would be on the west coast around Torquay & some at Portsea area. For those who knew of Leo it was referred to as lake Leo even back then.

Q4: What was the history of "The Shacks"?

JH: Back in 1962 we were not allowed to sleep in the club house. (We did but were not meant to!!). We slept on the floor.

EK: The club house was a work in progress. We would come down for a few days and end up nailing floorboards down. The club was at lock up in early 1966.

JH: We were not meant to stay overnight in the club, and some years we stayed in tents. Good fun for us but not so good for the campers who had to put up with "the clubbies". In 1962 I got hold of a builder's construction shed and Eddie & I with the help of tradies moved and constructed the shed in the area on the Western side of "the

Gulch” opposite to where the old grey toilet block stood until recently.

EK: The Shack was set up properly on concrete stumps and within it were bunk beds and a kitchen with an ice box & a gas oven run on bottled gas. The Shack was connected to the main car park area via a ramp crossing “The Gulch”. At the end of a day the members would gather and sit around the shack with a few yarns told while enjoying a few beers.



Pictured 8 – The Shack, located near the Clubhouse was a gathering place for members in the 60's

Q5: How did the Bobba's commence & who are they?

JH: In the late 60's early 70's, some of the original members were starting families and were moving away from the club activities. They did not want to lose touch with Pt Leo and so they loosely formed the Bobbanarring's (The indigenous name for Point Leo) and abbreviated to “the Bobba's as we know them today. Their meeting point in town was the Hot Pot Shop in South Melbourne.

Q6: On reflection what has the Point Leo SLSC meant to you both?

JH: My mother would have suggested that without the club I

may have headed towards a few weeks in jail. Joining the surf club & meeting people like Mr Jeff Raws, Alan Forster and Dick Ellis had a lasting influence on us. They didn't put up with nonsense and would put us back into line. Good culture & discipline.

EK: We had solid people who we looked up to & who did not suffer fools.

JH: The SLSC gave us the opportunity to travel to surf carnivals around the state and interstate. Then there were the social events such as the Pyjama party in 1962, many dances and new year events. All events were fund raisers to enable travel to carnivals.

Q7: In the off season did the club members stay in touch with each other?

JH: We all played footy for the Hartwell presbyterian football club in the eastern suburban church's association. We would finish playing footy and then head for the Tower Hotel.

EK: In the 80's there was a group that would also catch up at Falls Creek at the Camber Ski Club.

JH: We would meet at Spencer Street railway station car park, and we would divvy up into cars and head for Lorne or Anglesea. Compete at the carnival then drive to the Richmond pool and play water polo, playing for your city club and finish up with a few beers after that.

EK: In the 1960's we would have an annual footy match against Portsea SLSC. Played at Flinders or Sorrento grounds.

General comments & stories:

- For the first 25 years of the club there were no female members who could compete or do patrols. There was a strong ladies auxiliary, who raised money for the club. Events like the crazy wrist night (card games night) were good fundraisers.
- A typical long day involved with the Point Leo SLSC:

Our chat went on covering many other stories and history regarding the Point Leo SLSC. There is a strong tie that keeps the Bobba's together. It is both John and Eddie's wish to see this group continue well into the future years. It's something as a club we need to nurture.

I thank these two great clubmen for their time and look forward to my next interview with another Bobba.

Marc Aliotti

Vice-President Bobbas

Committee 2023/24

At our AGM, alongside welcoming our new Life Patron and Honorary Life Members, we welcomed our new committee for the 2023/24 season. The new roles are listed below.

President	Julia O'Shaughnessy	Gear Steward	Andrew Welsh
Senior Vice-President	Andrew Gibson	Head Coach	Jon Ford
Treasurer/ Registrar	Kim Williams	Team Manager (Seniors)	Darius Alekna
Secretary	John Gallagher	Athlete's Representative	Caleb Gray
Club Captain	Bridget Barnes	JLSP (Nipper) Co-ordinator	Tarena Murray
Chief Instructor	Brittany Morgenthaler	JLSP (Nipper) Representative	Cassandra Kitto
Vice-Captain (Patrols)	Georgia Cassell- Ashton	Team Manager (Juniors)	Tarena Murray
Vice-President Communications	Emily Davey	Vice-President Juniors	Erin Van Delft
Vice-President Youth Development	Felicity Perry	Committee Member 1	Anthony Williams
Vice-President Grants	Hamish McKenzie	Committee Member 2	Iris Cassell
Vice-President Fundraising and Sponsorships	Simon Merrigan	Committee Member 3	Dianne Summers
Vice-President Bobbas	Marc Allioti	Committee Member 4	Myles Irwin
IRB Co-ordinator	Chris Oldham	VP Member Development	Sarah-Jo Mason
Vice-President Lifesaving Services	Romy Lipszyc	Vice-President Facilities	Jason Romari

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