

Shellharbour Surf Life Saving Club February - April 2009

As the warm summer days become a thing of the past and the cool and wet autumn months are now with us it is time to review the last 3 months of the club activities. Even though the patrolling season is coming to an end the winter months will be busy with the construction of the extensions to the clubhouse being the major point. Meetings and SLS Awards training will continue into the winter months. After a few weeks rest winter board, ski and boat training will commence. The Branch sports development days will run also start by the end of June.

Significant dates for upcoming events will be the Shellharbour SLSC Presentation night at Warilla Bowling club on 23rd May and the club Annual General Meeting on Sunday 21st June. I hope that you can make these events, as they are very important for the members of this wonderful club.

Branch Championships

In early February Shellharbour SLSC hosted the 2009 South Coast Branch Championships. On Saturday the 7th February there were around 120 senior members displaying their lifesaving skills at the Senior Branch Championships. It was almost a Warilla versus Shellharbour day with a few other competitors from other clubs. Despite this the Shellharbour competitor members rose to the occasion to claim many gold, silver and bronze medals. The pleasing thing was to see a second March Past team from Shellharbour challenge the highly proficient and experienced ladies team when it looked like the event would not be held due to a lack of entries.

On Sunday 8th February our beach was very busy with about 300 juniors from 8 clubs taking part in the Junior Branch Championships. The water conditions were testing, especially for the younger competitors. Shellharbour provided a large number of competitors and triumphed in the overall point score. There were many outstanding results from the Shellharbour juniors, too many to mention here.

A big thanks to all the club members who helped make this event a success by collecting equipment, helping to set up the competition arenas and packing up at the end of each day. The pleasing thing is that there are so many who helped that it made it easier for everyone. The Branch President and many others have congratulated you for how well the carnival was set up and run. The following Saturday the Branch board riding events were also held at Shellharbour in unpleasant weather conditions. The Shellharbour members performed well taking out a number of events. The board-riding referee also congratulated the members who helped set up and run this day.

The boat events were to be held with the Illawarra clubs on this day but were postponed until a later date. The Shellharbour veteran men's crew came home victorious in their event.

Patrol Service Agreement

At the end of January the Executive of the club met with members of SLS NSW and the South Coast Branch regarding our Patrol Service "Agreement". Even though the club had reached an agreement with Branch before the start of the patrolling season, SLS NSW was not willing to agree to it.

The club has always had a good relationship with Shellharbour Council in regards to our patrol hours. They are happy with the present system, but SLS NSW is not.

SLS NSW said that they would only agree to it if we patrol Shellharbour North beach next season in way, which will require no lifeguards to be at our beach. The club Executive reluctantly agreed to this when it was pointed out that if we did not we would jeopardize competition at State and Country Championships and funds from SLS NSW.

2010 Patrols

Patrols for next season are now being organized. We have increased the number of patrols that we have to 13 patrols. Patrolling members have been putting their names down for next year's patrols in the booklet at the clubhouse.

Shellharbour City Sports Star of the Year

Congratulations to Joanne Helson who was awarded the Shellharbour City Veteran Sports Star for 2008. This is reward for outstanding results at NSW, Australian and World Championships results.

Life Saving Awards

The club trainers continued to put many members, new and present, through SLS awards. There have been Bronze Medallion, Surf Rescue Certificate, Beach Management, Advanced Resuscitation, Senior First Aid, Spinal Management, Defibrillation, IRB crewman and one Gold Medallion achieved. Well done, a total of 101 of new awards. What award will you be getting next?

There is still a chance to do some awards at Warilla SLSC on 16th, 23rd and 24th May.

Junior AGM and Presentation Day

Around 200 junior members attended the Juniors Presentation day at the end of March.

This day recognized the excellent efforts of the trophy winners over the season. Cavo and his committee did a great job of organizing and presenting all the trophies and awards.

The Junior Activities Committee AGM was held before the presentations. Most positions were filled and will be again be led by Captain Cavo.

Annual Lake Conjola camping trip

In early April around 30 families traveled to Lake Conjola for the annual club camping trip. A great time was had by all and the fishing competition was a hit. A big thanks to Cavo for organizing this event.

State Championships

We had 14 members attend the NSW Junior Age Championships. Congratulations to Keeleigh McCauley won the U/12 beach flags and Kiara White came 3rd in the U/9 sprint despite running with her broken arm in a cast. All the other competitors performed admirably up against the best competitors in the state.

A large contingent of members attended the NSW Masters Championships. Jo Helson was outstanding, collecting 3 gold medals. Steve 'X-ray' Ballard also won a gold medal in the beach sprint. The guys that traveled up and back on the bus had a very enjoyable time.

At the Open Championships our U/15 competitors performed extremely well. Zoe Elkerton collected 2 medals, as did Abbie Taddeo and the U/15 female beach relay team. Karri Ryan and Chelsea Flood also performed well in the water events. The ladies March Past team performed well by climbing to 9th place and reducing the number of points deducted.

Coolum Youth Exchange

Club Junior's captain Laura Elkerton took a small group of our younger patrolling members to the Sunshine Coast, Queensland in early April. The trip exposed our members to how patrols and surf life saving operate in another region of Australia. Thanks to Laura for her organization and foresight in undertaking this venture. Thanks also to Cameron Burton for assisting as a chaperone.

Club Championships

In February and March the junior and senior members took part in the final rounds of the club championships. The events were keenly contested in the junior events and the seniors. The last round of the senior championships saw a number of Warilla take part. Both the locals and visitors enjoyed the events and the post competition debrief. Full results will be revealed on Presentation night.

Transfield Shellharbour Ocean Swim

The 2009 Transfield Ocean swim was conducted in late April. A record 184 competitors took part this year, growing from about 110 in the first event 4 years ago.

There were many positive comments from the participants regarding the organization & the conducting of the race. A large crowd stayed for the

presentation of the prizes after the race had finished. Thanks to Transfield, Subway Shellharbour, Tourism Shellharbour and the Green Poppy for sponsoring the event this year. We appreciate all the other local businesses and companies that supported the event by donating prizes or equipment needed for the event. Thank you to all the club members that helped with the organization and running of the event.

ANZAC Day

Members of Shellharbour were again on hand to assist the running of Two-Up at Shellharbour Workers Club. All money raised goes to the Illawarra Diggers home.

2009 Club Presentation Night

The 2009 Club Presentation Night will be held at Warilla Bowling & Recreation Club on 23rd May 2009. This is where we formally recognize and acknowledge our members who have performed and contributed above others this season. The Club-person of the Year will be voted on this night. Contact Sharon Rose for tickets.

100% Patrol attendance

Once again we have a very large number, about 85, who have been able to complete 100% attendance of patrols this season.

Annual General Meeting

The Club AGM will be on Sunday 21st May starting at 10am. This meeting will elect the committee for the 2009-10 season. It is very important that present and intending members attend and put up their hand to assist with the many tasks that are required to run a Surf Life Saving Club. Remember many hands make light work. Members need to be financial to vote. Fees can be paid any

time from 9 am. Nomination forms are available on our website.

Building Extensions

Terry Barton has continued the preparation of the work required that will see extensions to the present clubhouse. The Construction Certificate has been passed by Council and a final quote is likely to be accepted by the end of April. Members need to immediately remove any privately owned gear, as the clubhouse will need to be completely emptied. Club owned equipment will need to be stored. It is anticipated that the demolition and construction work will get underway in early May. A working bee, or two, on a date to be advised, will be needed to clear everything out of the present clubhouse and gear shed. Please come and help out.

Branch Youth Camp

A number of U/14 and U/13 members attended the Branch Youth Development Camp in mid March. Laura Elkerton ran the camp and was ably assisted by Trina Jensen. The Branch Executive was very pleased how the camp was organized and conducted.

Branch Presentation Night

The Branch Presentation night will be on at Shoalhaven Heads Bowling club, Saturday 30th May. Cost is \$30 per head. Shellharbour has nominated our members for every award. Contact Dene Herbert if you wish to go.

Thanks to all

Thanks to everyone who has assisted Shellharbour SLSC & its members achieve so much over the season. Patrolling the beach is our core aim and each and every member that has patrolled this year has contributed to this. Thanks to all members that have done even one patrol. Thanks to everyone

else who has helped by educating juniors, coaching competitors, fundraising, administrative tasks, cooking barbeques, etc.

Support our Sponsors

If possible we would like our members to support those that support us. Shellharbour Workers Club, Warilla Bowls & Recreation Club, Oak Flats Community (Bendigo) Bank, Notts Smash Repairs, Transfield Services, Telstra, Kel Campbell P/L, Ray White – Shellharbour City and Shellharbour Village, BJ Love Financial Services.

Upcoming Events

Even though patrols have finished there are many events coming up in the winter months. Keep an eye on our website for these events.