



# WHALE BEACH SLSC

***THIS HISTORY IS  
DEDICATED TO ALL  
THOSE PEOPLE WHO IN  
THEIR OWN SPECIAL WAY  
HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO  
THE GROWTH AND IDEALS  
OF THIS CLUB.***

In keeping with the pledge of "vigilance and service", so many have given of their time and physical skills, putting their lives at risk to patrol this beautiful beach. Over 3,000 rescues have been recorded in the 50 years.

Thanks to the vision of the foundation members back in 1937 and to that nucleus of dedicated members, who over the years have given so much of their time and skills, this Surf Club now has assets approaching the one million dollar mark. A unique situation in the Surf Lifesaving movement.

There are family, friends, special individuals and business houses who have provided personal support and financial assistance. However small, their contributions have all been important.

This heritage of physical endeavour, fellowship and service to the community will surely be carried forward by future generations of young Australian men and women.

# 1788 .. EXPLORING THE PENINSULA

**ON MARCH 2ND, 1788 GOVERNOR PHILLIP SAILED FROM FARM COVE WITH A LONG-BOAT AND CUTTER TO BROKEN BAY, EXPLORING TO BRISBANE WATER, THE HAWKESBURY AND NAMED "PITT WATER", STAYING EIGHT DAYS IN THE AREA.**

Later in August 1788, he led a party from Manly Cove to Pittwater overland, exploring along the route and made rendezvous with a boat on arrival.

Lt. William Dawes walked to "Barranjoe" headland (derives from Aboriginal for Wallaby, i.e. Barranjo, Barenja, Barranje, Barranjuii) in 1790 and declared that the highlands along the route were suitable for grazing sheep!

In 1796 Governor Hunter surveyed Broken Bay and found the many Aborigines complaining that they were being driven inland from the foreshores by settlers, fishermen and timbergetters and the shell-gatherers who shipped their harvest to Sydney to the lime-burners for mortar. The Governor is reputed to have promised no more settlement on the Broken Bay foreshores and that they would be preserved for the Aborigines!

Old inhabitants testified to large numbers of Aborigines living around Pittwater and many shell middens are still evident and rock platforms along the peninsula retain carvings made by them.

In 1810, Mr. R. Mackintosh is recorded as being a Constable residing at Pittwater, where he grew potatoes, oats, wheat and ran cattle. He employed runaway convicts.

Other early settlers between Newport and Mona Vale are reported to have shot and stolen one another's stock, resulting in feuds which would have been the envy of any fabled hillbilly.

## THE FIRST LAND OWNERS

Only twenty-eight years after the arrival of the First Fleet, on the 6th of March, 1816, Governor Lachlan Macquarie made a Land Grant to James Napper, a Naval Surgeon, of four hundred acres extending from Barrenjoey Headland to approximately Malo Road, Whale Beach. Later the Grant was divided into allotments carrying from five acres to sixty five acres; each lot reached from the ocean to Pittwater, and Napper named the Estate "Larkfield".

September the 9th, 1829, saw Governor Bourke grant 1400 acres to the well-known Catholic Priest, the Rev. John Joseph Therry.

The Grant encompassed all the land between ocean and Pittwater, extending from Malo Road, Whale Beach to Newport on the South, including the districts now known as Whale Beach, Careel Bay, (also called "Evening Bay") Saltpan, Clareville, Avalon and Bilgola.

## WHO NAMED WHALE BEACH?

There is no record of the naming of Whale Beach, but in past times a vertebra was found in the sand and perserved by the Meadows family and perhaps the name sprang from the legend, that a whale had stranded and died there in earlier times.

Reverend Therry named the flat area of Careel Bay "Joseptown" and Avalon Plateau "Mount Patrick!" In later years he built a small church near Therry Street and Patrick Street, Avalon and a stone hut on Pittwater foreshore, near Refuge Cove.

His enterprising nature drove him to explore for coal and in 1863 he spent a great deal in employing a number of "aged men" to dig a mine shaft 220 feet deep on the present Avalon golf course.

A Dr. Burgon grew wheat, maize, onions and wild coffee to feed the miners. Eventually he and five of the old men were buried at Careel Bay.



Whale Beach 1920. Tents can be seen middle left.  
Creekbed is where Surf Road now meets The Strand.

## TRAVELLERS TALES

Until 1880 when a wooden bridge was built at Narrabeen Lake, travellers had to ford across. Later a ferry took over. A road of sorts was built to Pittwater by 1822.

A wagon track extended to Palm Beach jetty opposite which a Chinese gentleman named Ah Choe managed a dried fish and abalone business.

During the late 1800's horse drawn coaches would rest at the Rocklily Tavern at Mona Vale to refresh passengers on their journey to Church Point from where they would continue by boat to Pittwater and to Hawkesbury River destinations. A small coach took travellers as far as Newport and further travel was by foot or boat.

The traffic passing the Rocklily Tavern was recorded for the week ending 19th May 1889 and comprised 59 horse coaches, 125 private vehicles and 123 foot travellers!

Travellers and goods were also transported to Newport, Patonga and the Hawkesbury settlements by steamer from Sydney.

By the turn of the century the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club members were sailing to enjoy the delights of Pittwater.

## 1919 WHALE BEACH LAND FOR SALE

In 1900 a syndicate named the Barrenjoey Land Co., Ltd., bought the Napper Estate for a reputed 500 Pounds. It was sub-divided and auctioned on site on the 5th of June 1900. Not one block was sold! At this time the only permanent residents of Palm Beach were the Customs Officers and Lighthouse Keepers at Barrenjoey. A rough road was made from Newport to Palm Beach in 1910.

Later sales on the 26th January, 1912 were more successful, lots selling from 50 Pounds to 252 Pounds at Palm Beach.

The purchase by a land company of the J.J. Therry Grant is reputed to have helped him to finance the building of St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.

The first real estate auction of Whale Beach land from the original Napper and Therry grants took place on the 27th of January, 1919.

Weekenders followed adventurous fishermen into the roadless but beautiful beach, which at that time was clothed in low scrub, Eucalypts and Banksias; the tallest trees being the small grove of Cabbage Tree Palms (*Livistona Australis*) at the southern end of the beach and the Angophoras on the hill above Beauty Drive.

## THE WEBSTERS CARVE A PLACE IN HISTORY

Land sales by the Palm Beach Land Co., followed in 1921 and 1927 which resulted in the company engaging J.W. (Jack) Webster to build roads from Avalon to Whale Beach and Palm Beach and a house for himself, which was sited on the bend



## READY FOR ACTION



*The committee of the Royal Life-saving Society recently reported that the life-saving gear on a number of beaches was inefficient, particularly at Whale Beach, where the life-line consisted of 150 yards of rope, with belt attached, rolled up in a kerosene tin in a hopeless tangle. Local surfing enthusiasts, spurred on by the report, formed a life-saving club within a fortnight with Mr. J. Young as its president, and Mr. W. Young, junr., as its captain. By membership fees and subscriptions a first-class reel was purchased and now this band of volunteers supplies a patrol all day on Saturdays and Sundays. Life-savers state that if Whale Beach's example was followed by other small beaches used chiefly by week-enders, the loss of life would be considerably minimised. The photograph shows Whale Beach's first life-saving team with the new reel.*

### FROM A NEWS CUTTING, about 1926

in Surf Road, above Moby Dick Surfers Club, presently the Montgomery home stands there.

Jack Webster and his sons Jack Jnr., Alf, Noel, Keith and Colin later were involved in service in the surf club, while the family's skills in masonry in those earlier times were renowned and many present-day homes stand on sturdy foundations of their creation. Jack Webster Snr., was a legendary figure in the area, accompanied by his horse-drawn cart. He always wore a grey flannel work-shirt and a battered hat. No one was a greater font of local lore and his wisdom in the basic needs of building on the local steep terrain was legend. His son Jack Jnr, inherited his talents and continues in the family traditions. Jack Jnr., although now in his seventies, with a wealth of local knowledge, imparts a remarkable repartee to all and sundry, of advice and anecdotes with rare good humour. He was also the first Captain of the Surf

Club and played Rugby until he was seventy, which should be in the Guinness Records!

When Jack Snr., took up residence as the first permanent citizen of Whale Beach, the nearest water supply was a stand-pipe at Mona Vale. Food was brought from Sydney by the Steamship "Erringhi" to Palm Beach Jetty, while bread was delivered to Surf Road, by "Griegs Bus". If passengers sat on the bread bag some of it would be only fit to feed the Webster's horses.

The last of these was "Major", a Grey, who was a familiar sight on the foreshore while grazing, until the 1950's.

Jack Webster Snr., was still hefting stone with ease and dexterity in his 80's. When asked the secret of his great strength he patted his stout belly and with his famous toothy grin and twinkling eyes said "Corned Beef and Cabbage"!

Currently the Webster family is represented in club membership by third generation Bryan, BUT more are coming!

Early builders of weekend homes during the late 1920's and the 1930's were T. Mort, A. DuBoise, T. Lamb, J. Young, Mr. Geddes, S. Newlands, W. Fielder, F.J. Timms, N.G. Renshaw, A. Beechag, D.C. Cameron, G. Brown, The Barrell Family, D.J. Doyle, A. Young, The Hinds and Yates Families.

### THE FIRST LIFESAVERS

Following several near fatalities by drowning in the surf at Whale Beach in 1925-26 summer, local patrons decided that 150 yards of tangled rope with a cork-filled belt attached and dumped into a kerosene tin, was dangerously inadequate.

Mr. J. Young formed a squad of lifesavers equipped with a council reel, line and belt and began patrols all day each summer Saturday and Sunday.

This arrangement is believed to be short-lived and it was a decade later when an increasing number of property owners, campers and visitors patronised the beach at weekends and holidays, that the present Whale Beach S.L.S.C. was formed in 1937.

When F.J. "Pop" Timms built his weekender in 1932, he was President of Northbridge Amateur Swimming Club. His sons Fred and Malcolm were members and brought their swimclub pals with them to camp at "Timms Shack", as it was dubbed.

Among those swimmers were Sid Bacon, Noel Greenfield, Merv Fidden, George McRobert, Stuart Wilson, John Clark and Hal Baily.

Encouraged by "Pop" Timms, this group canvassed campers, weekenders and friends, to join in establishing a surf lifesaving club at Whale Beach. Local people also interested were Jack Webster Snr, his sons Alf, Jack and Keith and Bill Fielder.

## 1937: SOCIAL SHACK TO SURF CLUB

The birth of Whale Beach Surf Lifesaving Club wasn't an instant creative act, but was the child of a long pregnancy which was born from the experience, recreation and fun of a number of young men and the inspiration and wisdom of some mature gentlemen.

We came to enjoy the "Shack" so much that weekends, Easter's 4 days holiday and 10 days at Christmas became a longed for escape from work or school and we hurried to Whale Beach and its delights.

The few houses and people made it heaven - people were still to be seen arriving by horse and buggy! Everyone bought food from Laws' Pacific Store on the Strand and their water came from a pump on the flat near "The Gunyah", owned by the Newlands family.

Our transport was by tram from The

Spit to Narrabeen and a bus from there, or by bicycle from Willoughby for some at first. Later the Timms boys and Noel Greenfield cannibal-



Timm's Shack  
around 1937

ised two 1925 model Hudson Tourers, bought for twenty pounds and the motor and transmission of one was transferred into the better body of the other.

It became our community transporter, being a long-body 8 seater with fold-down canvas hood, wire wheels with a spare on the running-board and a trunk at the back.

Eight big cylinders and Fred Timms at the wheel made us feel like kings and the old Hudson used to take 14 of us (being 2 water-polo teams) to matches all over Sydney on Tuesday nights and at weekends to "Whaley".

The weekend usually began at Northbridge Pub as a meeting place, then progressed as far as "Newport Arms" for a refresher. A community bank would then buy a few "quarts", which were 2 pint bottles of "Draught" with corks tied in with string, for one shilling and nine pence each, including three pence back on the bottle!

At the shack the empties were stacked under the bunks until they added up to the price of a 5 gallon keg, when they would be carted off to the "Arms" and exchanged for a keg which would then be the source of much frivolity at a sausage sizzle and "Jungle Party" at French's Forest, far from interference with suburbia.

These exploits were the lead-up to recognition of a need for a lifesaving facility following several near-drownings and rescues, at Whale

Beach.

Discussions among campers, residents and at the shack culminated in the conception of the Surf Club. Its birth in 1937 and the proud acquisition of the Bronze Medallions in 1938 was the catalyst which resulted in regular patrols by trained lifesavers, followed quickly by the enthusiasm which started us off on expeditions to compete in carnivals.

There was a variety of transport such as Jack Wiseman's Ford Anglia, George McRobert's and Sid Bacon's Amilcar, Merv Fidden's and Noel Greenfield's motor-cycles, Fred's Hudson, Con Jensen's Glaziers truck, public transport and Charlie Gough bringing up the rear, towing the surf boat, loaded with a cheering crew.

These were halcyon days, with calls on the way back at "The Bachelors", a shack at North Narrabeen, run by that surf club for outrageous entertainment or a stop at "The Arms".

More fun was had attending dances at Queenscliff S.L.S.C., an occasional invasion of Palm Beach S.L.S.C.'s elevating social functions or a dance at the Palm Beach "Palladium".

The interruption of World War II was a tremendous challenge to all S.L.S.A. clubs and ours suffered some loss of members, but many Ex-servicemen returned to relieve those stalwarts who had carried on during the War.

This history endeavours to impact some concept of the enthusiasm and dedication our members and supporters have given towards the Club's progress.

It would be unfair to attempt to list all the individuals who made outstanding contributions to the birth and future life of our Club, so many were they, in their unstinting efforts from our birthday until our 50th year.

Just let it be said that each of them could say today "I was a member of Whale Beach Surf Lifesaving Club", with pride and satisfaction, knowing that each one willingly gave "Vigilance and Service".



Foundation Members in front of the tin shed that housed the first reel.  
L. to R. Back: Mal Timms, Fred Timms, Noel Greenfield, Ralph Ramsden.  
Front: Bill Fielder, Arthur Barrell, Merv Fidden.

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

*The following extracts from the Minute Books of the Club provide a summary of landmarks along the path to our Fiftieth Year of Service.*

### THE INAUGURAL MEETING

The inaugural meeting of the Whale Beach Surf Lifesaving club was held in the old timber dressing pavilion which was sited where the present modern pavilion stands.

From the Minutes dated 3rd of October, 1937:

"Chairman was Mr. Adrian Curlewis, (Later Knighted for service to Surf Lifesaving) President of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia."

"After discussion it was decided to affiliate with the Surf Lifesaving Association of Australia.

Mr. F.J. Timms Snr., was elected President  
Mr. S. Bacon, Secretary  
Mr. A. Barrell, Treasurer.

The Captain was to be elected later from the enrolled members, as would be delegates to the S.L.S.A.A. The following Committee was elected:

Keith Webster, F. Field, Noel Greenfield, N.G. Renshaw, J.W. "Jack" Webster Snr., A.L. Garauer, Mr. Yates Snr.

It was moved that active members' annual subscription will be five shillings.

The President called on those who proposed to join as active members to enrol with the Secretary before leaving the meeting. Twenty three were registered from the attending forty persons.

## THE FIRST CAPTAIN

*At a special meeting of the committee and probationary active members on Sunday, 16th October 1937, Mr. Jack Webster Jnr., was elected unopposed as captain.*

Sid Bacon, Noel Greenfield and Jack Webster, Capt., were elected to arrange foot races to raise funds.

The following were elected as a Social Committee:

Mr. N.G. Renshaw, Mr. J. Webster and Mr. Alf Webster.

## CLUB COLOURS CHOSEN

*The first General Meeting of Whale Beach S.L.S.C. was held on Sunday, 31st October 1937, at the "Pacific Store" on The Strand, at 2 p.m.*

An extract of the Minutes follows:

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and received.

Messrs. Douglas Doyle, S.W. Harris, M.R. Germaine, J.L. Mort, F.B. Laws, were elected Vice Presidents.

It was decided that the fee for Associate Membership will be one guinea.

During General Business the Committee's suggestion that Associate Members of the Committee become Vice Presidents was adopted.

The Committee recommended Alf Webster for the position of Gear Steward. He was elected unopposed.

The Treasurers Report was received and approved.

The Delegates to the S.L.S.A.A. Report was received.

The Chairman read the Rules and Constitution of Coogee S.L.S.C., and after discussion and minor alterations, they were adopted for use.

It was decided to open the Club's Bank Account at the Commonwealth Bank's Head Office, Sydney.

The Committee recommended that the colours of chocolate, light blue and gold be adopted. Carried.

**The Club colours were chosen for the reason that chocolate brown should represent the rocks, blue the sea and gold the sand.**

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. F.B. Laws for the use of the closed verandah of the "Pacific Store" on The Strand, to conduct meetings and also for the display of Club Notices on the shop counter. The Meeting closed at 4.35 p.m.

It is notable that for many years to follow, Management Councils always contained a number of Associate Members and Vice Presidents who gave generously of their wisdom, moral and financial support and were endlessly involved in backing every project necessary to promote the progress and success of the Club.

At a Committee Meeting on the 28th November, 1937, a requisition was made for the purchase of the club's first reel, line and belt.

Thanks were conveyed to the Ladies Committee for their fine work in assisting in making our first dance a success, held at the "Palladium" store at Palm Beach. (This building is now the residence and office for Palm Beach Films, a Production Company.)

## 19TH DECEMBER, 1937 - MANAGEMENT MEETING

The Management Council Meeting on 19th December, 1937, (hereafter called the Management Committee) received a letter from Palm Beach S.L.S.C., expressing their willingness to co-operate in Bronze Medalion Squad Training.

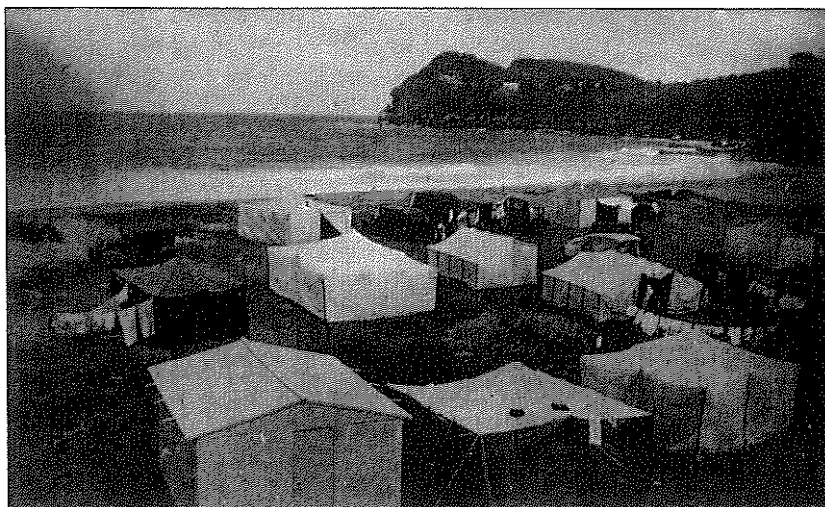
The first Life Saving Committee was elected, the Members being Captain Jack Webster, W. (Bill) Fielder, Mervin Fidden, Malcolm Timms and Gear Steward Alf Webster.

Keith Webster and N.G. Renshaw were appointed to enclose the shark look-out tower to provide shelter for lifesaving equipment.

"An amount of duck" was purchased to enclose the patrol area.

A new belt was ordered at a cost of one pound, six shillings. Petty cash in hand is thirteen shillings and eightpence.

Mr. P.C. Spender was nominated, following an interview, as Patron. (Later Sir Percy Spender, M.H.R.)



Whale Beach around 1947

A request was made to the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia (hereafter indicated as S.L.S.A.) to provide an examiner to conduct a preliminary examination of No. 1 and No. 2 Bronze Squads on Sunday, 26th December, 1937.

The actual examinations were made on the 9th January, 1938. The following members all achieved the Bronze medallion:-

No. 1 Squad

S.W. (Sid) Bacon  
W. (Bill) Fielder  
M. (Merv) Fidden  
H. (Harry) Dismorr  
G.J.L. (George) McRobert  
K. (Keith) Webster

No. 2 Squad

A. (Arthur) Barrell  
J. (Jim) Brown  
N.V. (Noel) Greenfield  
M. (Mal) Timms  
J. (Jack) Wiseman

Other early Bronze medallions were awarded to:-

Charles Mort (3.4.38), John Thoroughgood (3.4.38), Stuart Wilson (3.4.38), Brook Hannaford (19.2.39), Neville Gough (19.2.39), Max Gadd (19.2.39), Paul Young (19.2.39), John Clark (19.2.39), Carl Cowan (19.2.39), Ted Elvy (12.2.40).

*Photographs of the rescue were presented to the club, framed in wreckage from the launch, by onlookers and remain on view in the clubhouse.*

## 'A MERITORIOUS RESCUE'

Whale Beach S.L.S.C.'s first testing challenge of its skills happened on 26th January, 1938. (The first bronze medallions were awarded on 9th January, 1938).

A disabled motor launch with two men aboard was noticed being swept by a very heavy swell at the south end of the beach, beyond the rock pool.

Noel Greenfield dived from the rocks into heavily breaking waves and swam to the launch in an endeavour to help start the motor.

Proving unsuccessful and finding the crew to be non-swimmers, Noel returned to the rocks, donned a belt and line and succeeded in bringing ashore one victim, both suffering severe buffeting and lacerations on the rocks.

James Barnes with companions from Palm Beach S.L.S.C., arrived to assist in the difficult rescue. He also donned belt and line and courageously rescued the other crewman in similar hazardous conditions.

Both he and Noel received the Meritorious Award in Bronze by the Meritorious Awards Committee of the S.L.S.A. of A.





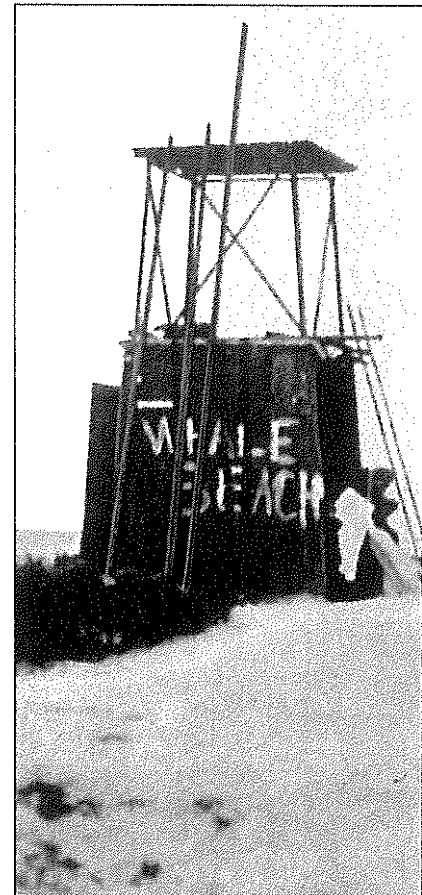
# THE FIRST CLUBHOUSE 1937



1938 Photo: Standing: L. to R. G. McRobert, A. Barrell, J. Webster, V. Barrell, S. Bacon. Sitting: J. Hillsdon, W. Fielder, N. Greenfield, M. Timms, P. Heath, M. Fidden, H. Dismorr.

This structure was originally a wind-mill water pump on the beach-front of the "Gunyah", a still existent house which was opened by the Newlands family. As the water was too brackish for household use, the pump was demolished and the base frame was utilised by the Club as our first Clubhouse and Shark Look-Out!

Inside the structure was room for two surf reels or for two people to change.



## 6TH FEBRUARY, 1938 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:

The Social Committee arranged a dance at Palm Beach "Palladium", to raise funds.

Two shillings and sixpence will be charged for lost Club caps and for Bronze medallion fees.

President F.J. Timms, Secretary S. Bacon and Captain J. Webster were elected to find means of funding pur-

chase of a surf boat.

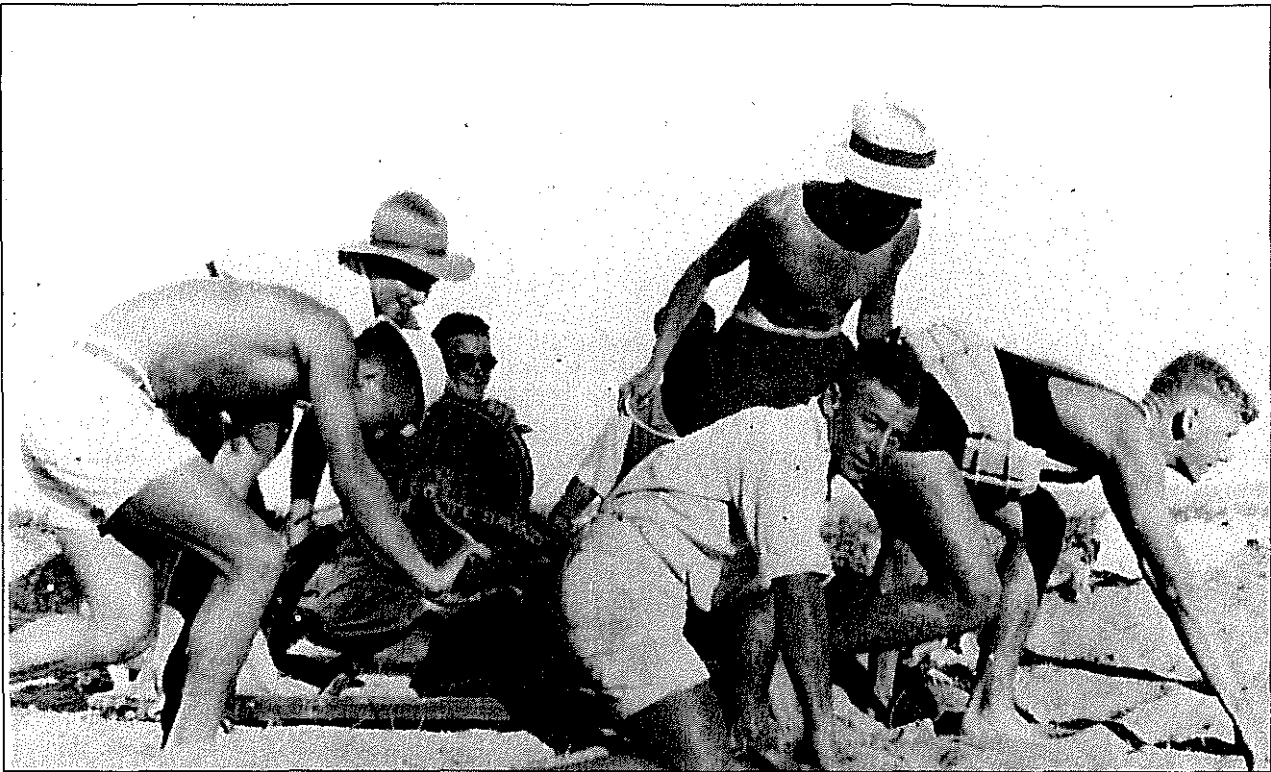
\* Congratulations were conveyed to Noel Greenfield on his fine rescue, carried out in rough seas, when he brought ashore with a belt and line, across the rocks, one of two men from a drifting motor-launch.

Bill Fielder was elected Vice Captain. The club badge design was adopted. A first-aid box was made and donated by Mr. A.E. (Ernie) Bacon, father of Sid Bacon.

## THE SECOND SEASON

25TH SEPTEMBER, 1938 -  
THE SECOND ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING OF  
WHALE BEACH SURF  
LIFESAVING CLUB, HELD  
IN THE DRESSING SHED.

Members and visitors present were Mr. F.J. Timms, Chairman, Mr. R.B. Millar representing the S.L.S.A.,



#### 1937-38 SEASON

L. to R. Noel Greenfield, Bill Fielder, Fred Timms, Merv Fidden,  
Ralph Ramsden (standing), Mal Timms, Arthur Barrell (Beltman)

Jack Webster, Phillip Heath, John Hillsdon, George McRobert, Jack Wiseman, W. Brian, Harry Dis-moor, Malcolm Timms, Mervin Fidden, John Clark, Mr. F. Field, Keith Webster, Noel Greenfield, Bill Fielder, Hal Baily, Jim Brown, Sid Bacon, Arthur Barrell, Brook Hannaford.

Patrons: The following gentlemen were elected ....

M.P.C. Spender, M.H.R., Mr. A.E. Reid, M.L.A., Mr. Green, President of Warringah Shire Council.

President: Mr. F.J. Timms was unanimously elected.

Vice Presidents: Mr. M. Fidden moved that the incoming Committee list prospective Vice Presidents and present same to the next meeting. Seconded by K. Webster.

Captain: Mr. J. Webster was again elected and expressed his appreciation.

Vice Captain: Mr. W. Fielder was elected.

Secretary: Mr. S. Bacon was again

elected amid much enthusiasm.

Assistant Secretary: Mr. G. McRobert was elected.

Hon. Solicitor: Mr. H.W. Jermyn.

Hon. Architect: Mr. Lindsay Scott.

Hon. Auditors: Mr. F. B. Laws and Mr. N.G. Renshaw.

Delegates to S.L.S.A.: Mr. G. McRobert, Mr. S. Bacon.

General Business: Mr. R. B. Millar advised the Club to apply to S.L.S.A. for Fifteen Pounds for a Gear Grant.

Mr. J. Webster moved that the Committee consider Honorary Membership for juniors.

The Meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.

### £2'2'0 STARTS THE FIRST BOAT FUND

#### 2ND OCTOBER, 1938 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:

The Club's first gear inspection is to

take place on 16th October, 1938.

North Steyne S.L.S.C. offered use of their Clubhouse and gear for Bronze Squad training.

M. Fidden applied for the (first) Instructors Certificate.

Two Pounds and two shillings was donated by Mr. Warwick Fairfax to the Boat Fund.

J. Webster, J. Wiseman and W. Fielder were appointed to investigate purchasing a used surf boat.

Mr. R.B. Millar drafted a letter to the Council regarding the urgent need for accommodation for the Club members and their equipment.

The President suggested a notice board be erected at the "Pacific Store".

S. Bacon suggested that Twenty Five Pounds be allotted to a Boat Fund and that a barometer of funding be installed at the Pacific Store.

The first juniors enrolled as Probationary Members were Colin Webster, Les and Ken Holden, Keith and Ron Elvy and Neville Gough.



The first Finance Committee were elected: J. Webster, W. Fielder, G. McRobert.

The Lifesaving Committee were elected: M. Fidden, N. Greenfield, K. Webster, J. Wiseman.

\* Brook Hannaford and John Clark were enrolled as probationary Active Members.

*\* Brook Hannaford and John Clark served the Club well in a variety of responsibilities, particularly John, who was Club Secretary for 15 years, a delegate to the S.L.S.A., having also been a Vice-President of Sydney Branch. John was a sterling crewman in early surfboat exploits and a dedicated instructor. "Brookie" was also a boat crewman and a Club belt champion.*

*He was the first of three generations of the family to serve as active members up to the present, while his brother George Snr., was a long time supporter of the Club, serving on committees, giving a spectrum of practical help and advice and he was supervisor of the erection of the present clubhouse.*

### **30TH OCTOBER, 1938 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:**

The Finance Committee valued the Club Reel at Ten Pounds, Ten Shillings and the Alarm Bell and Tripod at One Pound, One Shilling.

The Boat Committee reported that Dee Why Surf Boat "Black Swan I" is for sale, requiring Ten Pounds expended on repairs. No purchase was decided.

The Social Committee reported that a dance at Palm Beach "Palladium" was arranged for 12th November, 1938. Admission will be two shillings with supper provided by the ladies.

Sid Bacon moved that 50% of dance takings be allotted to the Surfboat Fund. Carried.

Merv Fidden is to instruct No. 4 Bronze Squad for experience, in gaining his Instructors Certificate.

\* An acknowledgement from the Council was received regarding the Club's request for a club house.

\* Subsequently, protracted correspondence, meetings and lobbying over a period of fourteen years proved fruitless until the club finally purchased the present site, beginning voluntary labour on the foundations of the present building in 1952.

We thus became the second Club to own a private clubhouse, following the advice and example of Palm Beach S.L.S.C., founded in 1921.

The following were elected Vice Presidents of the Club:

W. Jackson, D.J. Doyle, Mr. Gregory, J.L. Mort, C.E. Jensen, S.W. Harris, D.C. Cameron, H.W. Jermyn, R.G. Bellgrove, G. Brown, F. Field, F.B. Laws.

Absent: M. Fidden excused as he is instructing a squad.

K. Webster excused - he is on patrol.

Meeting terminated at 3.55 p.m.

### **'RIPTIDE' OUR FIRST SURF BOAT!**

### **4TH DECEMBER, 1938 - MANAGEMENT MEETING**

Reported success of Palm Beach dance on 12th December, Secretary stated a nett profit of Sixteen Pounds, Three Shillings and Sixpence. A vote of thanks was recorded to the Webster family for their whole-hearted support in catering supper.

The Lifesaving Committee reported that new members were attending North Steyne clubhouse on Wednesday nights for Bronze Drill and a team was training for Rescue and Resuscitation work. A notice is calling for further applications for this team.

Dee Why S.L.S.C. advised in correspondence that they have donated their old boat "Black Swan I" to our Club. This boat became the pride of Boat Captain Noel Greenfield and at his request it was named "Riptide",

which by "coincidence" happened to be Noel's favourite popular song of that time!

Moved that the Dee Why gift of a boat be appreciated by presenting them with a photograph of the boat with a suitable inscription.

The Gear Steward recommended purchase of galvanised iron flag-stands.

K. Webster is to approach East Hills Swimming club re purchase of a stretcher and typewriter.

The Secretary was authorised to buy a sweep and oars, for the surf boat.

The Lifesaving Committee is to select carnival competitors.

From the last dance profits, Ten Pounds was allotted to the Boat Fund. Mr. D.J. Doyle and Mr. F.B. Laws donated One Pound, One Shilling each to the Boat Fund.

Warringah Shire Council proposed extending the dressing sheds to accommodate the Surf Club. The Secretary to advise council this is unacceptable. Mr. D.J. Doyle placed his car cover at the club's disposal to cover the boat.

D. Murphine accepted as Probationary Active Member.

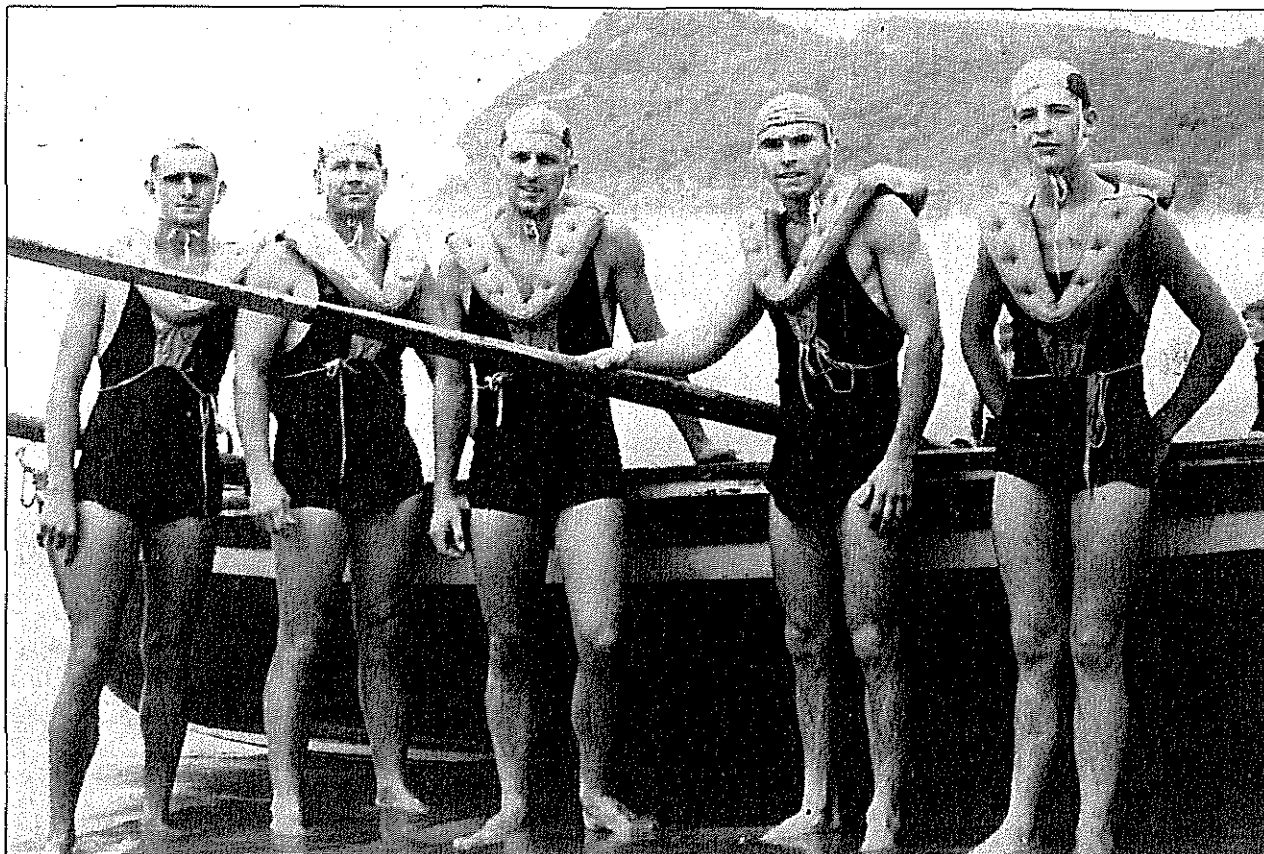
### **SPECIAL MEETING OF ACTIVE MEMBERS - MONDAY, 26TH DECEMBER, 1938.**

A special meeting was held at Mr. Timms cottage at 10 a.m. to discuss future use of the surfboat.

Unanimously decided that the Captain be in charge of the boat until a Boat Captain be elected.

It was decided that we purchase a new oar and sweep-oar to replace those broken yesterday, Christmas Day!

Also decided to approach Mr. L. (Laurie) O'Toole of Dee Why Club to visit and coach our members in boat work.



**'RIPTIDE'**

L. to R. Brook Hannaford, Ted Elvy, Clem Morris, Keith Webster, Kevin McMillan

Laurie O'Toole was a long term member of Dee Why S.L.S.C, with great expertise as a Boat Sweep and was renowned for his exploits in rough seas.

He made a heroic effort to save a victim of a shark attack when he swam to his rescue while the shark was still savaging the swimmer, with fatal results. He was granted the highest award by the meritorious Awards Committee of the S.L.S.A

#### *14TH JANUARY, 1939 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:*

Mr. F. (Fred) Heath and Mr. C. (Charlie) Gough were elected Vice Presidents.

Mr. Max Gadd and Mr. Pal Young were elected Probationary Active Members.

All four above elected Members gave long and dedicated service and were influential in the progress and direction of the club.

#### *12TH FEBRUARY, 1939 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:*

Election of First Race Committee: A. Barrell (Handicapper), C. Gough, F. Heath.

Received grant of Fifteen Pounds from S.L.S.A.

New Member: Joe Duggan, of Northbridge, A.S.C.

#### *19TH MARCH, 1939 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:*

Terrigal S.L.S.C. wrote suggesting a social visit to our beach. Decided that the Lifesaving and Social Committees attend to catering and competition arrangements and that Avalon S.L.S.C., advised they would co-operate in the Terrigal visit.

Decided that five boat safety jackets be purchased. Secretary to attend.

#### *THE HIGH COST OF CATERING*

Joint Meeting of the Social and  
Lifesaving Committees, 19 March  
1939

Re: Terrigal Visit

"It is estimated that requirements to cater for visitors from Terrigal, Palm Beach, Avalon, Newport and our club would be -

1 x 9 gallons of beer  
2 x 5 gallons of beer  
2 cases of soft drink  
3 tins of biscuits  
5 pounds of cheese

Cost would be about 6 pounds.

The Hon. Secretary suggested applying to Tooths Brewery for a donation of beer (!)

#### *3RD MAY, 1939 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:*

(The first meeting held at the S.L.S.A. Rooms at Phillip Street, Sydney.)

There was inconclusive discussion on acquiring clubhouse premises through the Council.

Roy Dibben of Terrigal S.L.S.C., wrote in appreciation of the visit to Whale Beach. (Roy maintained a long association with the Club result-

ing in further inter-club visits. He later joined this club for a period.)

It was moved that reel, line and belt be accepted from the S.L.S.A. in place of the Fifteen Pounds gear grant. Arrangement made to wax the line.

A long discussion resulted in a decision to have a reel-end painted in Club colours. A further motion resulted in the decision being deferred!

Arthur Barrell advised his tennis court was available free on 21st May, to raise funds; a fee of two shillings per head would be charged.

A picnic was set down for the 4th June at Birkshire Park. One shilling per head to be charged.

A letter to be sent to Alf Webster on his becoming a father!

## TYPEWRITER TO THE RESCUE

### 27TH JULY, 1939 - MANAGEMENT MEETING

N.S.W. Dept of Public Works rejected the Club's application for a Five Hundred Pound Grant towards a Clubhouse.

Club letterheads to be purchased and a typewriter. Seven Pounds, Fifteen Shillings allocated for the costs.

### 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1939 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:

A typewriter was purchased for Six Pounds. Endorsed.

### 9TH NOVEMBER, 1939 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:

Palm Beach Dance on 20th October, yielded Eight Pounds, Eight Shillings, leaving a debit of Five Shillings and Elevenpence to be reimbursed by the club!

Decided to purchase a waxed line and to write to council requesting another box-line.

A garden seat to be purchased for the patrol at cost of One Pound, Seven

Shillings and Sixpence.

## MEMBERS ANSWER THE CALL TO MILITARY SERVICE

### 13TH DECEMBER, 1939 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:

L. Treble, D.J. Doyle, A.E. Primrose, A.E. Cooper elected as Vice Presidents.

Warringah Shire Council is approaching N.S.W Government for a Grant to build a Clubhouse and or Boathouse.

\* Stuart Wilson applied for leave to attend Military Training and exemption from patrols. Granted.

Dr. Thompson made a donation of Ten Pounds.

Members called up for military training on application to the Executive, will be exempted from patrols.

A reel cover to be procured at a cost of Thirty Five Shillings.

Decided that a Surf Race be held every Sunday, weather permitting.

M. Gadd, P. Young, J. Hillsdon, J. Wiseman donated a Pennant in memory of deceased member, Harry Dismorr, to be competed for in inter-patrol events to be formulated by the Lifesaving and Race committees.

It was left to M. Gadd to procure a flag-pole from which to fly the pennant.

Brook Hannaford donated a shark spear. The Boat Fund being Fifty Seven Pounds, One Shilling, it was decided to transfer Two Pounds, Nineteen Shillings from current account to the Boat Fund to bring it to Sixty Pounds. Donations from Vice Presidents will be diverted to the Boat Fund.

Noel Greenfield was nominated Boat Captain with responsibility for the boats' seaworthiness and for its equipment.

Permission was given to purchase two oars and a sweep, to be kept for an emergency.

S. Wilson advised he was going into military training.

\* Stuart began the long list of members who served in the Armed Services during World War II, which left a very depleted membership of dedicated people to carry on, both young and old!

## SHOWING OUR COLOURS AT CARNIVALS

### 10TH JANUARY, 1940 - LIFE SAVING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Competitors chosen for Manly Carnival:

R and R Team: M. Gadd, N. Greenfield, G. McRobert, B. Hannaford, A. Barrell, K. Webster.

Boat Crew: N. Greenfield, J. Wiseman, M. Gadd, J. Hillsdon, J. Clark.

Beach Relay: P. Young, M. Gadd, N. Greenfield, J. Hillsdon, M. Fiddens, S. Bacon.

Novice Surf Race: N. Greenfield, G. McRobert

Sack Race: K. Webster.

Surfboard Race: B. Hannaford, K. Webster.

Surf Ski Race: J. Wiseman

Pillow Fight: P. Young

Entry fees were One Pound, Eight Shillings and Sixpence!

### 10TH JANUARY, 1940 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:

Accounts passed for payment were:

1. Nock & Kirby, Boat Seats: One Pound, Two Shillings & Sixpence
2. S.L.S.A. Capitation Fee: Two Shillings & Sixpence
3. W.M. Ford - Oars: Three Pounds, Six Shillings

4. Petty Cash:  
Thirteen Shillings & One Penny

5. Cartage on New Reel:  
Five Shillings

6. Reimbursement for Petrol used  
for towing boat - C. Gough:  
Ten Shillings & Sixpence

7. Transfer from current to Boat  
A/c:  
Two Pounds, Nineteen  
Shillings

Noel Greenfield offered his services  
as Swimming Coach. Accepted with  
thanks.

The Design committee submitted  
March-Past costume designs, No. 5  
being chosen.

Decision to proceed was deferred  
owing to the war creating unsettled  
conditions (!)

## THE WAR EFFORT

### 7TH OCTOBER, 1940: - LIFESAVING COMMITTEE MEETING

Patrols for season 1940 - 1941:

1. Capt. J. Hillsdon, N. Gough, J.  
Wiseman, H. Leslie, R. Hudson, W.  
Jackson.

2. Capt. K. Webster, P. Young, C.  
Morris, L. Lawson, T. Kerry, A. Bar-  
rell.

3. Capt. Brook Hannaford, J. Henley,  
J. Cowan, C. Webster, R. Barrell.

4. Capt. M. Gadd, P. Heath, J. Clark,  
A. Boyd, J. Wheatley.

5. Capt. Ted Elvy, A. Barrell, K.  
Baily, J. Brown, J. Allison, C.  
Jackson.

Suggested by the Chairman that pa-  
trol volunteers for the duration of the  
war who were poor swimmers but able  
to assist with beach rescue operations,  
be designated Honourary Members.  
Carried.

### 11TH JULY, 1940 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:

No. 1 and No. 6 patrols deadheaded in  
the first Harry Dismorr Memorial  
Pennant Shield.

\* Secretary Sid Bacon resigned as  
he had enlisted in the R.A.A.F. for  
war service.

Moved by N. Greenfield that his re-  
signation not be accepted and that he be  
given leave of absence, with much  
regret. Mr. Fred Heath was elected  
Secretary pro Tem.

Moved by A. Barrell that One  
Hundred & Twenty Five Pounds be  
drawn from the Boat Account and that  
War Savings Certificates be pur-  
chased. An amendment that the sum  
be One Hundred Pounds was moved  
by J. Clark. Carried.

\* During June, 1940, Sid Bacon en-  
listed in the R.A.A.F., George  
McRobert, already a serving Sergeant  
in the peace-time artillery A.M.F.,  
enlisted in the A.I.F. as did Hal Baily  
who was serving in the 8th Field Coy.  
Engineers, on National Service.

### 2ND SEPTEMBER, 1940 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:

A letter was received from Eastern  
Command of the War Department  
requesting details of the nature and  
layout of Whale Beach. (Secretary to  
attend.)

The S.L.S.A. initiated a Schoolboy  
Training Scheme to supplement  
membership attrition caused by war  
service. K. Webster volunteered to  
train boys on Saturday afternoons.  
The S.L.S.A. was informed.

The Boat Fund box at the store con-  
tained four shillings (!)

## THE THIRD SEASON

*The Third Annual General Meeting  
held in the Dressing Rooms, Whale  
Beach on 6th October, 1940 at 3 p.m.:  
Present:*

F.J. Timms (In Chair), F. Heath, C.  
Gough, Dr. Baldwin, F. Field, H.  
McKinnon, A. Young, Snr., C.E.  
(Con) Jensen, E.R. (Ted) Elvy, Max  
Gadd, John Hillsdon, Jim Brown,  
Merv Fidden, John Clark, Pal Young,  
Noel Greenfield, Keith Webster, Jack  
Webster, Sid Bacon, Arthur Barrell,  
New members Alan Boyd, Clem  
Morris, Len Lawson.

Election of Officers:

Patrons: Mr. P. Spender, D. Doyle,  
Pres. Warringah Shire.

President: Mr. F.J. Timms (Unani-  
mously).

Vice Presidents: Messrs. Laws,  
McKinnon, Harris, Cooper, Brown,  
Cameron, Dawson, Young, Heath,  
Gough, Jensen, G. Wiseman, Kerry,  
Primrose, Hannaford, Dr. Baldwin,  
Dr. Thompson.

Secretary: F. Heath, Ass. Sec-retary:  
Phil Heath

Treasurer: A. Barrell

Captain: P Young,  
Vice Captain: K. Webster.

Management Committee: J. Clark, E.  
Elvy, J. Hillsdon, M. Gadd, J. Wise-  
man, G. Brown, C. Gough.

Gear Steward: B. Hannaford.,

Delegates: P. Young, F. Heath.

Chief Instructor: J. Clark.

Social Secretary: J. Webster.

Hon. Medical Officer:  
Dr. Baldwin.

Hon. Architect: L. Scott.

Auditors: F.B. Laws, N. Renshaw.

Publicity Officer: K. Webster.

General Business:

M. Gadd moved the purchase of an-  
other surf boat and that a sub-commi-  
tee approach Warringah Shire Coun-  
cil to help build some structure to  
house the surf boat and gear.

Mr. H. McKinnon recommended that the Club raise funds by asking Council's permission to charge parking fees at the beach.

### **MANAGEMENT MEETING HELD SAME DAY AT 6.30 P.M. AT WHALE BEACH:**

Moved that the Boat Purchasing Committee, B. Hannaford, G. Hannaford and Secretary, be empowered to spend Thirty Pounds. Moved A. Young, Seconded J. Hillsdon that members on "Active Service" to be given Honorary Membership for the duration of the war. Carried.

Moved A. Young, Seconded J. Brown that members serving outside Territorial Waters and at Darwin on "Active Service" be sent Canteen Orders for Ten Shillings each, as a Christmas gesture. Carried.

It was decided to elect our Foundation Secretary S. Bacon, R.A.A.F., and M. Fidden on National Service, as Vice-Presidents.

### **LET'S BUILD A BOATSHED**

### **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING AT WHALE BEACH, 4TH NOVEMBER, 1940 AT 5 P.M.:**

Chairman: Mr. H. McKinnon

The delegates to Warringah Shire Council reported that they were favourably received but Council expressed their inability to assist the Club financially, owing to the very difficult year. They would however, recommend to full Council that assistance be given by supplying material, if the club gave assurance that they would provide voluntary labour to erect a Boat Shed.

P. Young moved and N. Greenfield seconded that the delegates be empowered to proceed with the matter.

Council agreed to the Club collecting a parking fee from motorists. It was decided to ask for voluntary contributions by taking a collection box to the motorist.

Meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.

### **MEMBERS GAS UP TO KEEP GOING**

### **19TH DECEMBER, 1940 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:**

Thirty Four Pounds and Ten Shillings was to be drawn from the Boat Fund Account for purchase of a boat from Cronulla S.L.S.C.

Treasurer A. Barrell was absent on Military duties, R.A.N.

Moved that a letter be sent to Palm Beach S.L.S.C. to enable their Probationary Members to proceed with their tests for their Bronze Medallions by training at Whale Beach.

\* Moved by E. (Ted) Elvy that the Club apply for "Petrol Ration" tickets

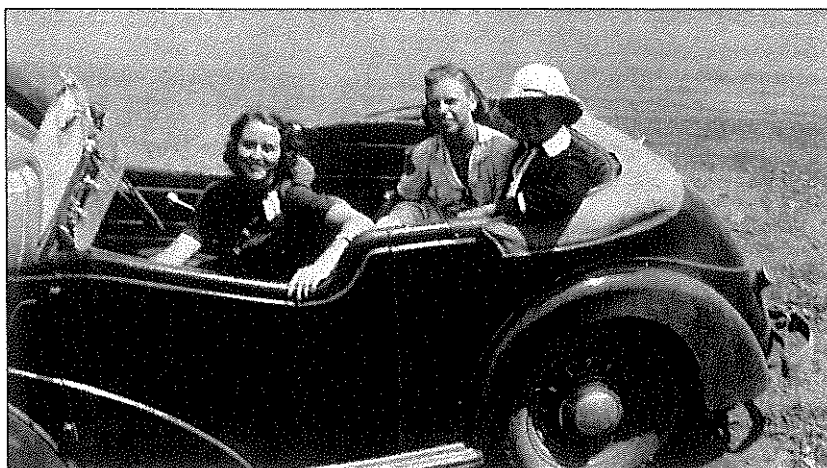
from the S.L.S.A.

\* A private motorist was issued, on application, with tickets allowing a purchase of four gallons of petrol per month, for "pleasure" motoring(!)

Some Member's cars were converted to operate on a mixture of kerosene and petrol to extend the ration and others carried a side or rear mounted "charcoal burner" which looked like a huge incinerator from which the gas produced was directed to the carburettor.

Also, roof racks carried huge inflatable bags filled with town gas, which was a fore-runner of today's gas fuel! Some more radical methods included the use of methane gas created from pig droppings!

One car which ran dry was able to get home by using a can of turps, as an emergency!



George McRobert with friends in Jack Wiseman's Anglia



L. to R. Phil Heath, Jack Wiseman, Arthur Barrell,  
Pal Young, Max Gadd at rear.

## 16TH JANUARY, 1941 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:

S. Bacon reported to Warringah Shire Council the good work members of the Club were doing in erecting a "Boat House" of stone at Whale Beach.

J. Hillsdon submitted a design for costume and blazer badges - cost to be five shillings.

The surf boat bought from Cronulla S.L.S.C. was discussed and it was decided to carry on the "Riptide" name and call the new boat "Riptide II".

It was moved that all surf events be held at noon Sundays and beach events in the afternoon.

A discussion took place re the possibility of rewarding Mr. J. Webster Snr., for his very generous help in erecting the stonework in the "Boat House", but at the suggestion of K. Webster it was decided the matter be left in abeyance.

A letter was read from Newport S.L.S.C., re an impromptu carnival and it was unanimously decided to attend Newport Beach in force (!)

It was moved that Jack Brown Jnr., age 15, be posted to No. 3 Patrol and be granted the rights and privileges of an Active Member.

## BOATHOUSE OPENING

### 20TH FEBRUARY, 1941 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:

Jim Brown moved and E. Elvy seconded that the "Boat House" be opened on April 6th, at 2 p.m. J. Clark moved that a program be drawn up and invitations be sent to Barrenjoey, (later North Palm Beach), Palm Beach, Avalon and Newport Clubs to attend a "Gala Day", for competition and the \*Boat-house Opening.

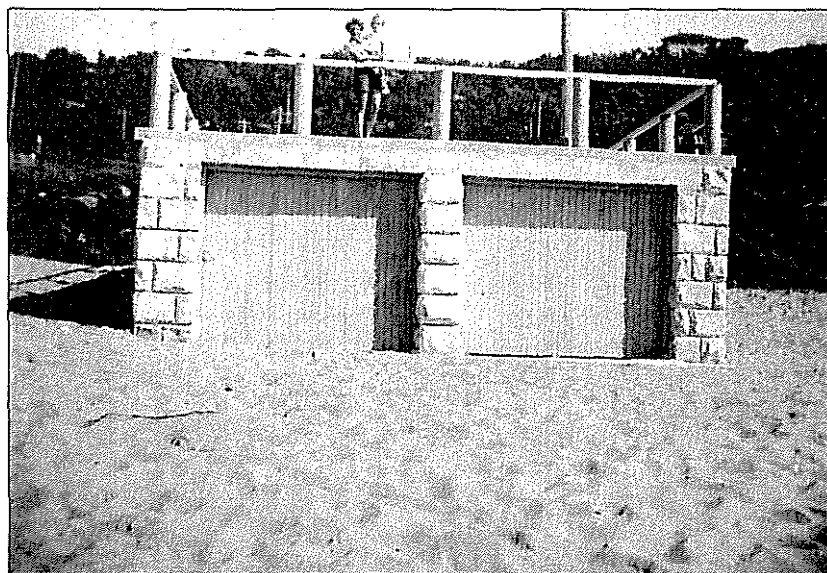
Mrs. H. McKinnon offered the use of her home for a social evening and the Presentation to Mr. J. Webster Snr. Accepted with thanks.

\* The Whale Beach "Gala Day" Carnival became an institution for clubs in the Warriewood to North Palm Beach zone.

These zone carnivals generated great camaraderie and were noted for their keen friendly competition and usually concluded with an appropriate "social".

\* Herb and Freda Wilcox were hard workers at every club function and Herb with Ted Elvy, being butchers, ensured every barbeque was blessed with tender steaks and "snags".

Mr. B. Hannaford was presented with a wallet for his Belt Championship and Mr. N. Gough was the recipient of a wristlet watch for his dual



The first boathouse built on the sand

## MEMBERSHIP GROWS

### THE FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WAS HELD AT THE WHALE BEACH BOAT HOUSE ON SUNDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1941:

Mr. F.J. Timms, Chairman.

The meeting was opened with one minute's silence as a mark of respect to our Late Member, Jack Henley, who met with a fatal accident on 21st September, 1941.

Present:

F. Heath, P. Heath, H. McKinnon, R. Doyle, P. Kerry, N. Gough, C. Gough, K. Webster, J. Brown, J. Benjamin, F. Laws, J. Clark, N. Greenfield, A. Boyd, T. Kerry, J. Brown, M. Gadd, F. Tickle, C. Cowan, C. Webster, J. Webster Snr., C. Morris, C. Cooper, Dr. Baldwin, E. Elvy, B. Hannaford, C. Jensen,  
\* H. Wilcox, Mr. Daignon.

wins of Surf Race Championship and Pointscore Events. A. Boyd received a wallet for his win in the Beach Sprint Championship.

### ELECTED TO OFFICE WERE:

Patrons: Mr. P.C. Spender, M.H.R., Mr. D. Doyle, Shire President.

President: Mr. F.J. Timms (Unanimously).

Vice Presidents: Messrs. Laws, McKinnon, Cooper, Brown, Cameron, Young, Heath, Gough, Jensen, Kerry, Wiseman, Primrose, Hannaford, Benjamin, Rawlings, Bacon, Fidden, Dr. Baldwin, Dr. Thompson.

Secretary: F. Heath.

Treasurer: P. Heath.

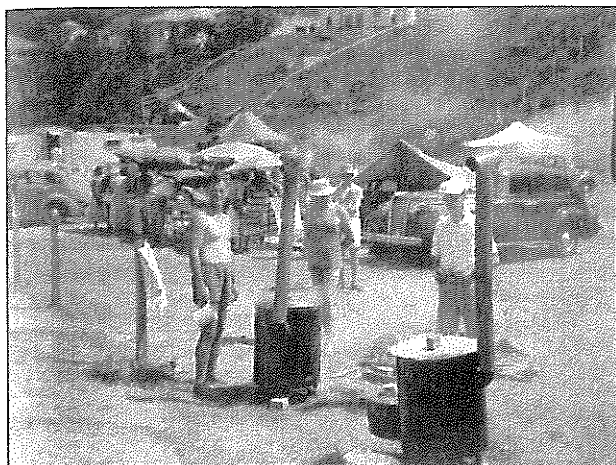
Captain: K. Webster.

Gear Steward: B. Hannaford.

Chief Instructor: J. Clark.

Social Secretary: A. Boyd.





Selling hot water and cakes to raise funds. L. to R. Herb Able, Fred Heath and visitor.

R. to L. Ted Elvy, Clare Elvy, Glad Jensen, Beryl McRobert and visitors.

Medical Officer: Dr. Baldwin.

Auditors: Messrs. Laws and Renshaw.

Management Council: E. Elvy, M. Gadd, N. Greenfield, F. Tickle, J. Brown, C. Morris, C. Cowan.

### **3RD NOVEMBER, 1941 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:**

Mr. H. McKinnon, Acting Chair.

A letter to be written to President F.J. Timms expressing the club's sympathy in his illness.

It was moved that an instructor be sent to Barrenjoey S.L.S.C., to instruct members for their bronze medallion.

### **11TH JANUARY, 1942 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:**

A motion by K. Webster and seconded by A. Boyd was made, that owing to the dearth of members because of war enlistments, all committees be abolished and that club management meetings be open to all members for the duration of the war. Carried.

Owing to the enlistment of Noel Greenfield and Max Gadd, Boat Captain is vacant and nominations were F. Tickle and J. Clark.

A vote was taken and F. Tickle was elected Boat Captain and J. Clark Vice Boat Captain.

Moved that club championships consist of the following:

Belt Race, Surf Race, Beach Sprint, Beach Distance Race and Beach Tennis, both single and doubles. (The latter event surely being innovative within the S.L.S.A.!) )

## **BOAT SHED AS AIR RAID SHELTER**

### **14TH SEPTEMBER, 1942 - MANAGEMENT MEETING:**

A letter from Warringah Shire requesting use of the boat shed for an air raid shelter (!)

A circular received requesting co-operation with S.L.S.A., in providing hospitality to members of the military forces of the U.S.A.

\* Discussion regarding camping rights at Whale Beach. Secretary to write to Shire.

\* This perennial question was debated from 1937 until the final completion of the clubhouse.

## **1942/43: THE FIFTH YEAR**

### **THE FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT WHALE BEACH BOAT HOUSE ON 4TH OCTOBER, 1942:**

Mr. F.J. Timms, Chairman

Present: Mr. Crain, S.L.S.A., F. Heath, C. Jensen, W. McKeon, W. Matthews, M. Gadd, F. Tickle, R. Kerry, T. Kerry, L. Lawson, C. Morris, E. Elvy, A. Boyd, J. Clark, B. Hannaford, P. Young, C. Gough, K. Webster

Good wishes were received from members on active service.

Praises were recorded for the work done by officers and members who helped keep the club functioning during the difficult times.

Mr. Crain, Deputy President of the S.L.S.A., apologised for the absence of the President, Mr. R. Doyle and praised the club's continuing work under adverse conditions.

### **ELECTED OFFICERS:**

Patrons: Mr. P. Spender, M.H.R., Mr. D. Doyle, President W.S.C.

President: Mr. F.J. Timms was unanimously elected.

### **Vice Presidents:**

Messrs. F.B. Laws, H. McKinnon, A.E. Cooper, J. Brown, D. Cameron, A. Young, F. Heath, C. Gough, C. Jensen, R. Kerry, G. Wiseman, A. Primrose, G. Hannaford, A. Benjamin, G. Rawlings, S. Bacon, Mr. Fidden, Dr. Baldwin, Dr. Thompson, W. Clark, Mr. Nippard.



Secretary: H.E. Heath

Treasurer: C. Morris

Captain: K. Webster  
Vice Captain: B. Hannaford

Gear Steward: B. Hannaford

Delegates: H. Heath, C. Morris

\* Bronze medallions were presented to E. Coram, Jack Brown, W. McKeon, W. Matthews and a qualifying certificate to K. McMillan. A. Boyd was presented with the instructors certificate.

It was proposed that 15 pounds be spent on the surfboat. New members Jack Saker, Ron and Keith Elvy were welcomed. (Ron and Keith being sons of Ted Elvy.)

\* W. (Bill) McKeon gave long and sterling active service to the club at a mature age, when most had finished athletic pursuits. He was a strong beltman and patrolman and his prowess and advice in practical matters was often sought and freely given.

His old vintage Essex car was famous and his wife Clare is long remembered for her hospitality to younger people, when she plied all-comers with her tea, cakes and good humour.

#### **GENERAL MEETING - 24TH DECEMBER, 1942**

Clem Morris resigned owing to his transfer to Newcastle, on a promotion.

Received with both regret and congratulations, Mr. Morris being Treasurer, Ron Elvy was elected to his place. Mr. Morris's position of boat captain was filled by Jack Brown Jnr.

Council continued permission for members camping.

#### **GENERAL MEETING - 14TH FEBRUARY, 1943**

The President gave praise to the members for their excellent showing at the zone carnival at Palm Beach, especially Noel and Colin Webster.

It was moved that the boat fund be

declared closed as it had reached its goal of being sufficient to buy a new boat and equipment after the war(!)

It was decided to open a new account called "The Building Fund Account."

#### **GENERAL MEETING - 4TH APRIL, 1943**

\* Congratulations were extended to E. (Ted) Coram on passing his instructors examination.

\* Although not able to achieve championship standard, Ted Coram Jnr., has been a pillar of strength as was his father.

Ted Jnr's son Phillip continued the family's contribution with his active membership. Ted's constructive advice as an accountant was appreciated and continued as Honourary Club Auditor and Hon. Secretary.

#### **THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 3RD OCTOBER, 1943**

Members were congratulated on their service in wartime conditions.

The Treasurer reported One Hundred and Forty Six Pounds Nine Shillings and Sixpence in the boat fund and the general account Eighteen Pounds Six Shillings and Four Pence.

Jack Brown won the point score.

Brook Hannaford won the belt championship (absent R.A.A.F.).

Jack Brown won the surf championship.

Alan Boyd won the beach championship.

The club's first examiners certificate was presented to Keith Webster, the Bronze medallion to K. McMillan.

#### **LETS BUY LAND**

#### **GENERAL MEETING - 18TH JUNE, 1944**

Moved Alan Boyd and seconded Jack Brown that a committee be formed to enquire into the prospect of acquiring land suitable for building a clubhouse.

This was stood over until after the Annual General Meeting.

#### **FIRST LIFE MEMBER**

#### **THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 1ST OCTOBER, 1944**

Mr. F.J. Timms in the chair.

Bronze medallion presented to J. Laker, K. Elvy, R. Elvy, A. Curchod, K. McMillan.

Instructors certificate to J. Brown Jnr.

The Treasurer reported a profit for the first time in four years.

The Club's first Life Membership was conferred on President, F.J. Timms.

Ted Elvy, Arthur Curchod and Keith Webster were selected as a committee to initiate moves to purchase land for a clubhouse.

#### **GENERAL MEETING - 13TH FEBRUARY, 1944**

\* Neville Gough was welcomed back to the club while on leave from R.A.A.F. duty and was congratulated on obtaining his "Wings".

#### **GENERAL MEETING - 28TH AUGUST, 1945**

First mention of Bill Powell, Neil McCool, Joe Marston, A. (Aussie) Humphreys.

Joe Marston an outstanding soccer player for Australia, later lost to the club, was the first Australian to be chosen to play for an English 1st Division club, with considerable success. He later coached Australian teams on his return after several years overseas.



Club members, their wives and friends camping at Whale Beach during wartime.

### 8TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1945

\* The chair was taken by Mr. D. Cameron Snr., who asked all present to observe two minutes silence as a mark of respect to our Late President, Mr. F.J. Timms and Late member Jack Brown.

\* "Pop" Timms, Foundation President, first Life Member and an inspiration to all members.

\* Jack Brown Jnr., a valued officer, boat captain and active member and keen competitor was tragically killed in an industrial accident.

#### ELECTED OFFICERS

Patron: Sir Percy Spender, M.H.R., K.C.

President: E.R. Elvy

Secretary: H.E. Heath.

Treasurer: E. Coram

Captain: G.L. McRobert

Vice Captain: K. Webster

Chief Instructor: A. Boyd.

Boat Captain: K. McMillan

Publicity: B. Smith

Gear Steward: W. McKeon

Social Secretary: A. Humphreys

Moved that club order a new surf boat from A. Townes of Mayfield, Newcastle (The first new boat).

Bronze medallions presented to Bill Powell, Mal Robson, Don Cameron Jnr., Ray Hinds, Joe Marsdon, George Knispel Jnr., Neil McCool, Keith Jones, A. (Aussie) Humphreys.

New members Brian Cliff, John Clifton, Bob Holden, Doug Cragg,  
\* Ken Hall, Doug Hall and Alan Wilcox (Juvenile).

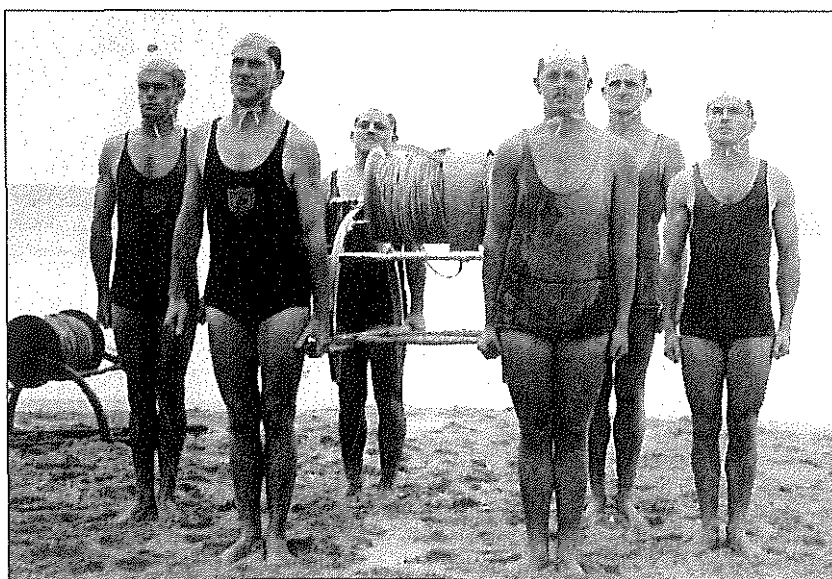
\* Ken Hall and his older brother Douglas were active competitive spirits. As well as being fine swimmers, they gave administrative service and brought their friends as new members. Later Ken brought his sons Glen and Derry into the club in the family tradition.

The in-law association of the Hall family, with the McRobert clan of George, Ivan, Duncan and Martin, welded a chain of strong support over many years. Glen now has a son, could there be another Hall recruit?

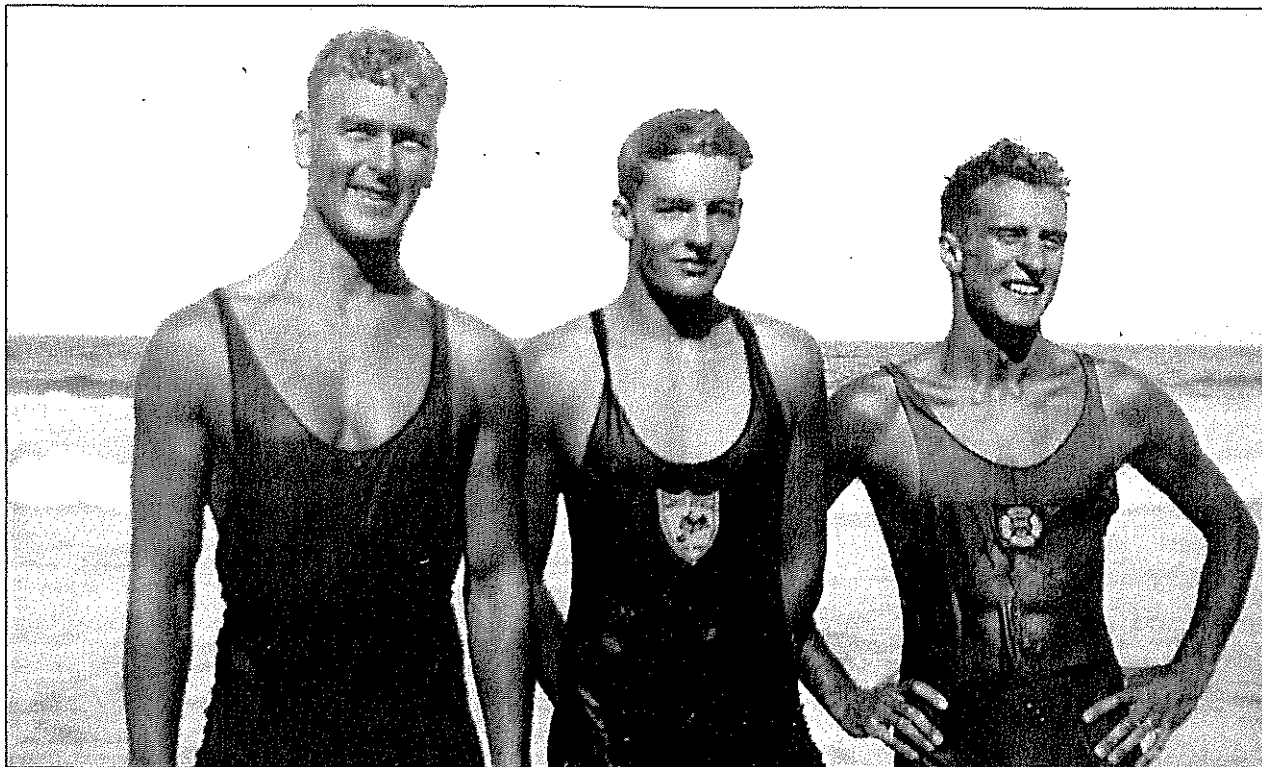
### GENERAL MEETING - 10TH NOVEMBER, 1945

New members: Jack Uren, \* Harry McIntosh.

\* Jack joined the club after his war service and prior service with top boat crews of Freshwater S.L.S.C. He became coach and sweep of Whale Beach, training crews who won titles over several years.



1944-45 - R. & R. Team: L. to R. Noel Webster, Bill McKeon  
Jack Brown, George McRobert, Brookie Hannaford, Keith Webster



Surf Race Championship 1945-46  
L. to R. Hal Baily - 1st, Doug Hall - 2nd, Neville Gough - 3rd.

## OUR SERVICEMEN RETURN

*GENERAL MEETING -  
4TH FEBRUARY, 1946*

Service members Sid Bacon, Pal Young, Phil Heath, John Hillsdon, Neville Gough, Ken Hinds were welcomed back from overseas duty.

A donation was made to "The Food For Britain Fund".

*MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING ON  
26TH OCTOBER, 1946  
HELD IN H. BAILY'S TENT!*

A new tent purchased for member accommodation, by Club Captain G. McRobert.

W.S.C. requested to connect water supply to the boat shed.

H.R. (Fred) Heath nominated for Life Membership.

## WE BUY LAND AND A NEW BOAT

*SPECIAL MEETING HELD  
ON THE SAND 24-11-1946*

Chairman: E. Elvy

\* A letter was received and read offering a block of land for sale at 375 pounds being Lot 8, The Strand.

It was moved by G. McRobert and seconded by D. Hall that the club purchase the land. Carried.

The new surf boat was to be named the "Pop Timms."

*8TH DECEMBER, 1946  
SPECIAL GENERAL  
MEETING, IN BOAT HOUSE*

The Management Committee's action in negotiating the purchase of Lot 8, The Strand, Whale Beach, was confirmed by the meeting.

Moved by A. Barrell, seconded by W. McKeon that Mr. Fred Heath be elected a Life Member of the Club.

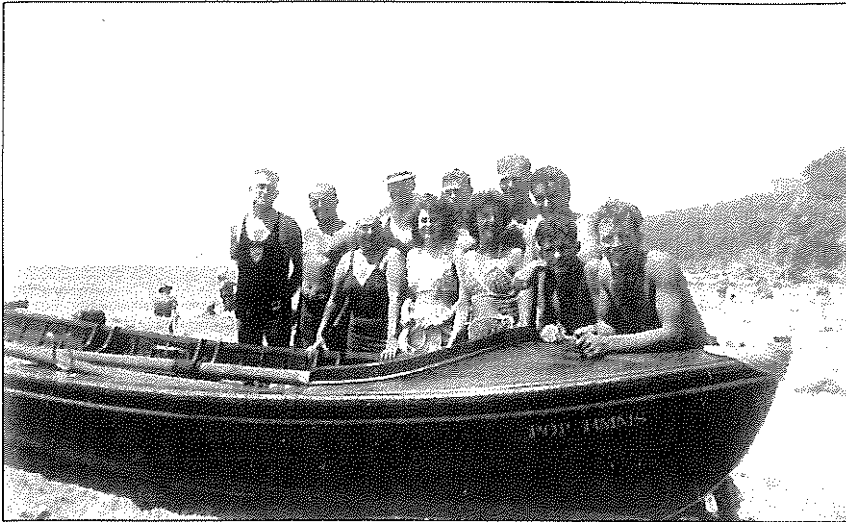
Supporting speakers complimented Fred's long service since foundation

On 12th July, 1946 a welcome home dinner was held at Sargents Ltd, Market Street, Sydney, for our servicemen returned from active service.

The ex-servicemen present were:

Sgt. Malcolm Timms  
S/Sgt. Jack Uren  
Lt. George McRobert  
Lt. John Hillsdon  
P/O Phil Heath  
Sig. Colin Webster  
Bdr. John Clark  
Sgt. Hal Baily  
Sgt. Alex Baily  
Pte. Ken Baily

S/Sgt. Pal Young  
F/Lt. Jack Wiseman  
Sig. T.R. Kerry  
Sgt. Max Gadd  
Group-Capt. A.H. Baldwin  
W/O. N. Gough  
Sgt. K. Hinds  
F/Sgt. Sid Bacon



Back Row L. to R. Bill McKeon, George Knispel Snr, Fred Heath,  
Alex Baily, Hal Baily, George Knispel Jr.  
Front: Jan Shepherd, Daphne Baily, Betty Baily, John Clifton,  
Ivan McRobert

of the club and his diligent work as Secretary throughout the war years when the strained financial state was alleviated by his arrangement of many social and other fund-raising projects, at a time when membership was depleted by war service enlistments.

Fred accepted a Vice-Presidency.

Mr. J. (Joe) Glass, Mr. Lyle Moore and Mr. E. (Ted) Elvy were elected trustees, by ballot.

### *2ND MARCH, 1947 - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING*

The Secretary, A. Barrell moved that Whale Beach Surf Club erect a building for a Clubhouse on Lot 8 The Strand, seconded by H. Baily.

An amendment was moved that the decision be postponed owing to the disappointing attendance (28) and the impossibility of such a small club deciding a major issue without outside help. The amendment lapsed for want of a seconder.

It was moved by A. Barrell and seconded by George McRobert that the Club be formed into a company limited by guarantee, with the prime object to erect a Clubhouse on Lot 8, The Strand.

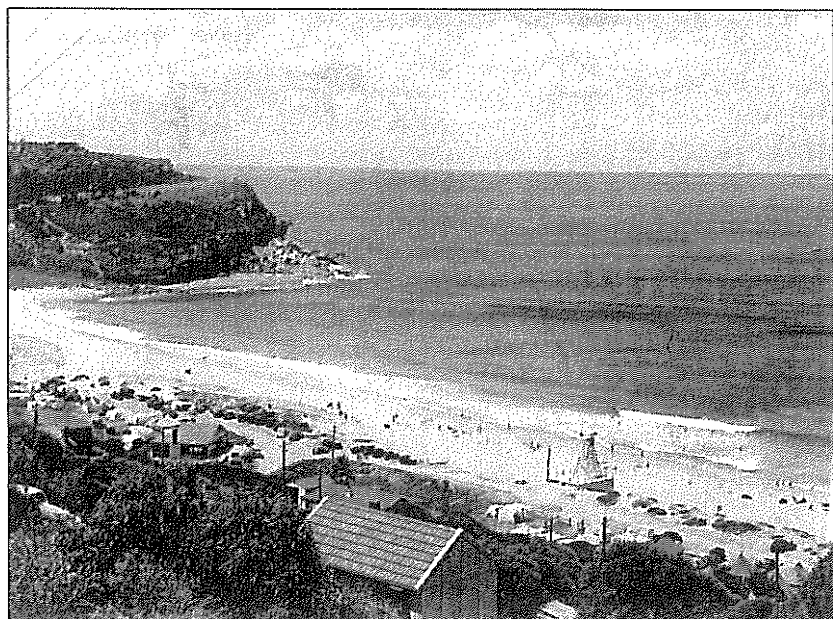
### *8TH MARCH, 1947 - MANAGEMENT MEETING*

Moved that John Clark be elected to the Management Committee.

\* Moved that Ron and Keith Elvy be excused their fees as active members, due to their late demobilisation from active service in the Royal Australian Navy.

\* Ron and Keith were in the R.A.N. force which continued hazardous service after war ended, by eliminating the many charted and uncharted mine-fields of both the allies and enemy, in the Pacific.

Whale Beach approx. 1946, with the watch tower on the boat shed



### *12TH AUGUST, 1947 - THE 11TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*

Juvenile membership was granted to George Hannaford Jr., Owen Ramsay, Alan Wilcox.

These members retained a life-long interest in the Club, being exemplary members and competitors with a prolonged influence on club progress.

### *THE SHARK TOWER*

### *22ND SEPTEMBER, 1947 - MANAGEMENT MEETING*

The lookout tower erected on top of the Boat House was reported completed by members.

This tower existed for many years for patrol observation and as a shark look-out and was connected to the emergency siren, also it was a welcome shelter on wet days!

The Treasurer reported that the bank balance was one hundred and seventy-five pounds, three shillings and two pence!

An inventory of club property is listed here:

- 1 Garden Seat (patrol)
- 1 Reel Cover (canvas)
- 1 Reel Cover (metal)
- 3 Reels, lines and belts
- 1 Table
- 2 Sweeps
- 6 Sculls
- 3 Small sculls
- 5 Boat crew belts
- 1 Eves rocker  
(a resuscitation stretcher)
- 1 Stretcher
- 1 set of boat buoys
- 1 Patrol area (canvas)
- 2 Surf Boats
- 1 set of signal flags

### **31ST AUGUST, 1948 - 12TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Keith Webster was elected a Life Member.

Keith, a foundation member and one of the Webster family who were pioneers of Whale Beach was an energetic, volatile, tireless worker for the club and served in any capacity both active and administrative where he saw the need. His enthusiasm was infectious and inspired many.

### **SID BACON: A TRAGIC DEATH**

#### **13TH OCTOBER, 1948 - MANAGEMENT MEETING**

\* The meeting began with a minute's silence in memory of Sid Bacon, Foundation Secretary.

\* Sid was a great loss to the club. He was a person of tremendous good humour and ability, loved by all.

A fountain of jokes and capers, an entertaining pianist, filled with enthusiasm for work or play and a great supporter of surf lifesaving.

He was one of those who helped found the club and served actively

until sent on active service in the Pacific region as a Flight Engineer, Aircrew, in World War II.

After the War he continued service with the R.A.A.F. flying Catalina Flying Boats (P.B.Y.'s) until his tragic death at Lord Howe Island in September, 1948, where the aircraft crashed, following a mechanical failure.

Only one of the crew survived.

It was moved that a memorial trophy be instituted to commemorate Sid. The Sid Bacon Trophy would be a perpetual one awarded to the club member who attained the greatest individual points at the Club's Annual Carnival.

#### **9TH JUNE, 1949 - MANAGEMENT MEETING**

\* It was decided to buy a "Ross" safety belt. (A New Zealand surf life saving invention).

\* Some near-tragedies and at least one fatal belt rescue had occurred when rescue lines had been fouled with seaweed or caught on rocks during surf rescues.

The extraordinary pressure exerted on the belt prevented the beltman abandoning the belt, to survive prolonged submersion.

The Ross release-pin system corrected this fault contributing to the rescuer's safety.



Sid Bacon, Foundation Secretary 1937 killed on service 1948.



# THE 1950'S: A GREAT PERIOD

## WE TAKE THE CHALLENGE TO BUILD

### 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1950 - MANAGEMENT MEETING

#### General Business:

\* "It was moved by H. Baily and seconded by W. McKeon that the club secure an overdraft from the Rural Bank of One Thousand Five Hundred Pounds to acquire land for a clubhouse, and that the Trustees be empowered to execute the following documents:

(A) Firstly, by a real property-mortgage over the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Vol. 5825, Folio 146, Lot 8, D.P. 11067, now owned by the club.

Secondly, to purchase the whole of the land in Certificate of Title Vol. 3736, Folio 110, being Lots 9 and 13, D.P. 11067 (which latter lands are to be purchased out of the said overdraft advance of One Thousand Five Hundred Pounds, from the present registered proprietor Hector Piercey), and -

(B) A Bill of Sale over (inter alia) the Club's water pipes (!) buoys, oars, first aid equipment, typewriter and all lifesaving equipment - sundries.

CARRIED!

The above motion was a historic moment for the club, following thirteen years of fruitless endeavour by the Committee to negotiate with the Shire Council for club premises.

Finally the decision to follow Palm Beach Club's example and to build our own Clubhouse on our own land won out as a challenge to our initiative.

### MANY TO THANK

The wisdom, generous help and advice of many officers, members and supporters contributed to the project.

Many trades people and building material suppliers gave discounts of cost and wholesale prices for materials.

**Special credit must be given to some individuals for their extraordinary efforts as a building committee in the planning and supervision of the program:**

Club President  
E.R. (Ted) Elvy

Hon. Architect  
A. Bolot

Building Supervisor  
George Hannaford Snr.  
Arthur Curchod  
George McRobert  
Arthur Barrell  
John Clark

\* The Club first bought Lot 8 for 375 Pounds, following its offer for sale by letter, in November 1946. The (then) Cumberland County Council later notified a resumption of all foreshore land adjacent to and including Lot 8.

We then raised a mortgage on Lot 8 and an overdraft of 1500 Pounds, plus a bill of sale on nominal club gear, to purchase Lots 9 and 13 at a total cost of 1800 Pounds. The cost of Lot 13 (being our present site) was 675 Pounds.

The resumption of the residue of our property by Council resulted in a reimbursement of 1500 Pounds. The current value of the land and the building is cost.

### 17TH SEPTEMBER, 1951 - 14TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

\*The President, E.R. Elvy and G. Hannaford Snr., were nominated for Life Membership.

\* Both Ted Elvy and George Hannaford were tireless workers for the club. They and their wives Clare Elvy and Gladys Hannaford were involved in many functions to raise funds.

Ted served with distinction as President for 14 years while George gave years of service on committees and practical advice and supervision in building projects and boat maintenance.

In January the Club received a donation of \$1,000 from Newland Bros. Pty. Ltd.

### 17TH FEBRUARY, 1952 - MANAGEMENT MEETING

The meeting voted that twenty five pounds be allocated towards financing a team to Byron Bay to compete in the championships there.

Keith Jones, Boat Captain to be Manager.

(This is the first record of a team being sent to a country venue).

### 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1952 - MANAGEMENT MEETING

"It was moved by President Ted Elvy that the retiring Club Captain, George McRobert and Vice Captain Hal Baily be given a vote of thanks for their dual record of seven years continuous service in that capacity. It was carried with acclamation".

Moved that the Boat Captain be empowered to enlist members to clear land, to raise money for the boat fund!

# Newlands Brothers Pty.Ltd.

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SFN/E.Mc.

252 RILEY STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

15th January, 1951.

The Secretary,  
Surf Life Saving Association of Australia,  
(Sydney Branch),  
16 Hunter Street,  
S Y D N E Y.

Dear Sir;

Enclosed please find a Cheque for  
Onethousand Pounds (£1,000/-/-), to be used by  
the Whale Beach Surf Club in the erection of  
their new Club House.

I am,

Yours respectfully,



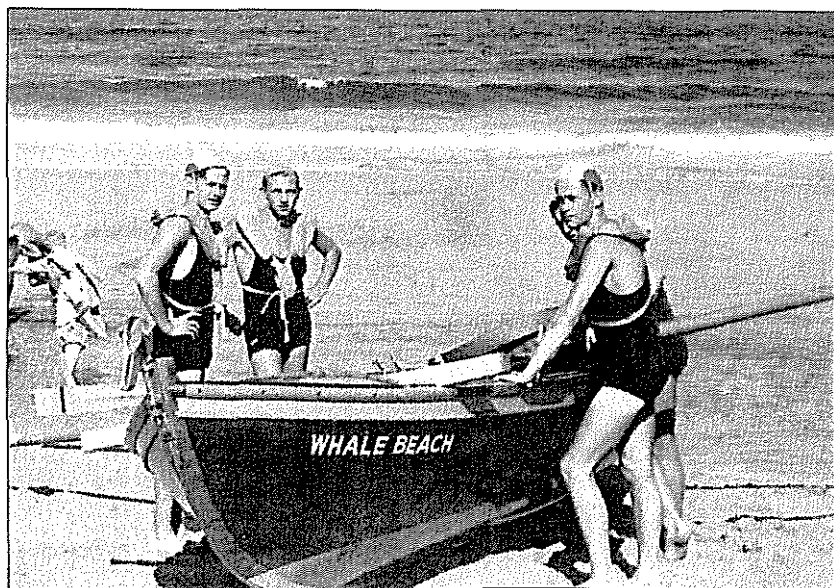
S.F. NEWLANDS.

Moved that Vice Presidents, Associates and Reserve Active members be canvassed to donate one day's labour per month for the working parties erecting the clubhouse!

Moved that all members request that two friends make a donation to the building fund.

The Annual Ball profit was one hundred and eighty six pounds.

Junior Boat Crew,  
Palm Beach 1950







Junior Boat Crew wins State Championship at Caves Beach 1953, 2nd in Aust. Champs. Newport 1953.  
Crew: Keith Jones (Sweep), Brian Graber, John Baird, Spike Gilligan, 'Croco'.

THE PERIOD FROM THE EARLY 1950'S TO THE 1980'S WAS EXTRAORDINARY IN THE LIFE AND GROWTH OF THE CLUB.

SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE PASSED THROUGH MEMBERSHIP AND STIMULATED THE TRADITIONAL AIMS OF THE CLUB AND THE S.L.S.A. OF 'VIGILANCE AND SERVICE', ALTHOUGH IT IS NOTABLE THAT THE PAST-TIME OF 'STUDYING FORM' HAS NOT DIMINISHED!

Some passed through but others stayed so that today we feature Vet-

eran patrols who annually qualify from the ranks of Active Reserve and are rostered on patrol, where a high degree of efficiency is evident in spite of a few grey hairs below the caps and an occasional tell-tale bulge!

New members join us from the children of veterans and there is a continuing influx of local members, which will auger well for future punctuality and ongoing interest and activity.

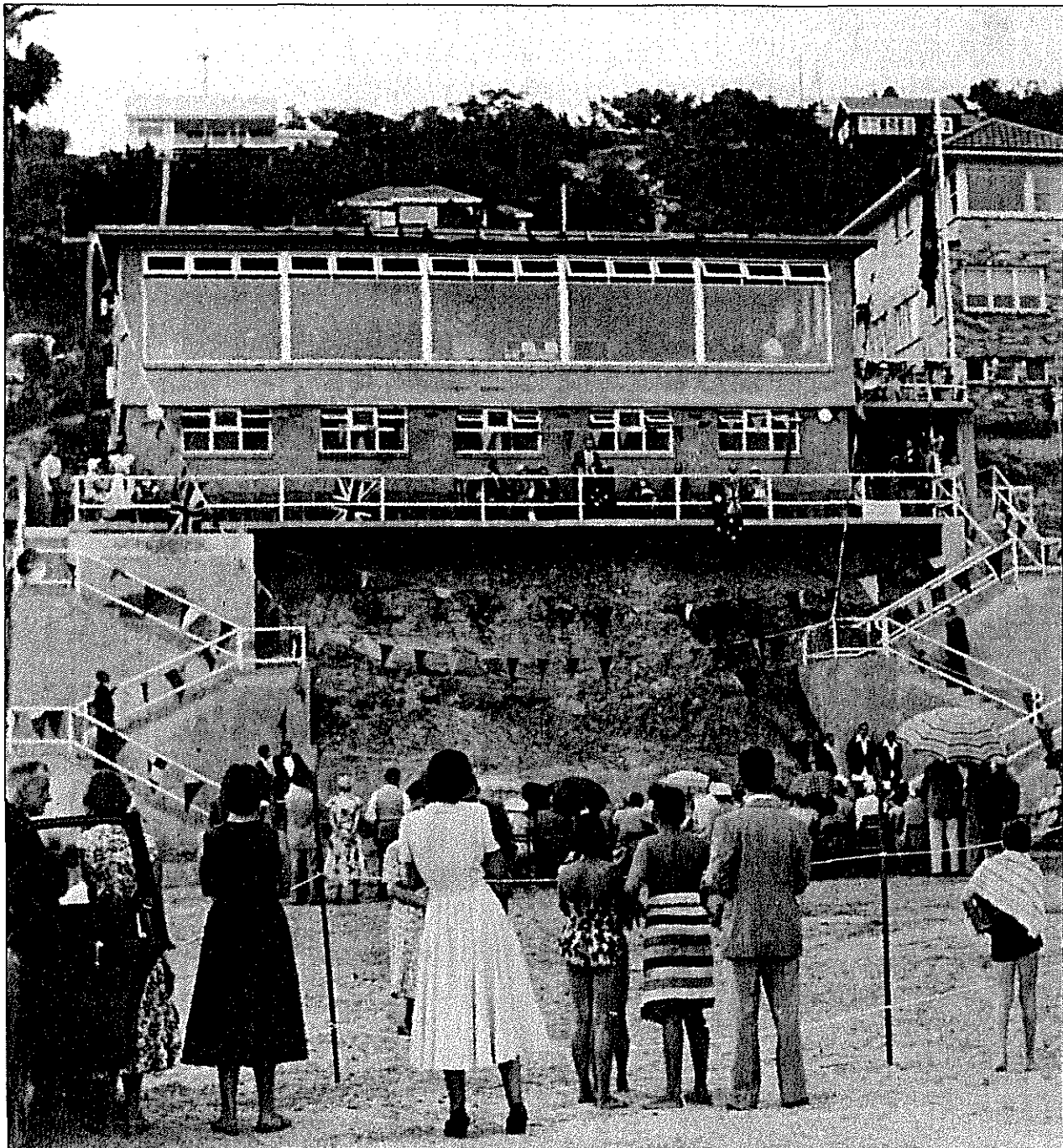
In 1953-54 season our boat crew won the Sydney Metro championship.

## THE CLUB GOES UP AND UP

The first two floors of the clubhouse were in full use at this time, but the area was too small to hold a sizeable social fund-raising function. So, it was time to give serious thought to building the third floor.

The club, through the Trustees' account (who were jointly responsible for the debt) in June 1955 was over-drawn five thousand and seventy pounds.

It was in 1955/56 that the manage-



20th December, 1953. Opening day of the 2 storey club house.

ment committee decided to complete the building at an approximate cost of eight thousand pounds for materials and skilled labour.

In April 1956 a special resolution was passed to relieve the trustees of their financial responsibilities to the Rural Bank of N.S.W. (now the State Bank).

It should be remembered that Hon. Secretary John Clark and Life Member, through a special liaison with Jack Lynch of the Rural Bank, was

instrumental in our close association with the bank, in arranging finance.

In 1956 George McRobert was elected Deputy Chairman to our long serving President, Ted Elvy. George brought a wealth of business acumen to the management committee and they jointly led a very active committee with wisdom and energy through the ensuing difficult years, when the clubhouse was completed and eventually the Moby Dick Surfers Club was incorporated.

A stalwart and friend from the S.L.S.A., was Geoff Hatton our district supervisor. In recognition of his work and special interest in Whale Beach, we appointed him an Honorary Member in November 1956.

On 30th September, 1956 Richard Stewart was enrolled as a cadet member. Now after long and dedicated active service, a notable competitive career in surf skiing at carnivals and innovative, astute periods as President, Richie is still with us, with 30 years service.

## MANAGEMENT MEETING - FEBRUARY, 1957

President Ted Elvy made a plea to all members to assist with excavations for the top floor of the club.

This was forthcoming in the usual Surf Club manner, from the "hard core" and this is still the case when there is hard work to be done!

## REMARKABLE VOLUNTEER EFFORT

Throughout the period of building the clubhouse, a long list of donors contributed snacks, tea, meat for

barbeques and an occasional "keg" to sustain the "slaves" on site, who as volunteers (and some by strong coercion) dug trenches, carted bricks, mixed and carried mortar and cement and generally jumped to the orders of our very expert building supervisor, George Hannaford Snr.

Considering the usual weight of duties carried by officers and members in maintaining a lifesaving club, it was in hindsight, a remarkable effort to, in parallel, physically build a (then) three storey building, and to do so with a leavening of much good humour mixed with the dust and sweat!

\* It was at this time we first heard quoted:

*"It is said that any organisation is made up of 4 bones:*

*There are the wish bones*

*Who wish someone else will do the work*

*There are the jaw bones*

*Who talk and do little else*

*There are the knuckle bones*

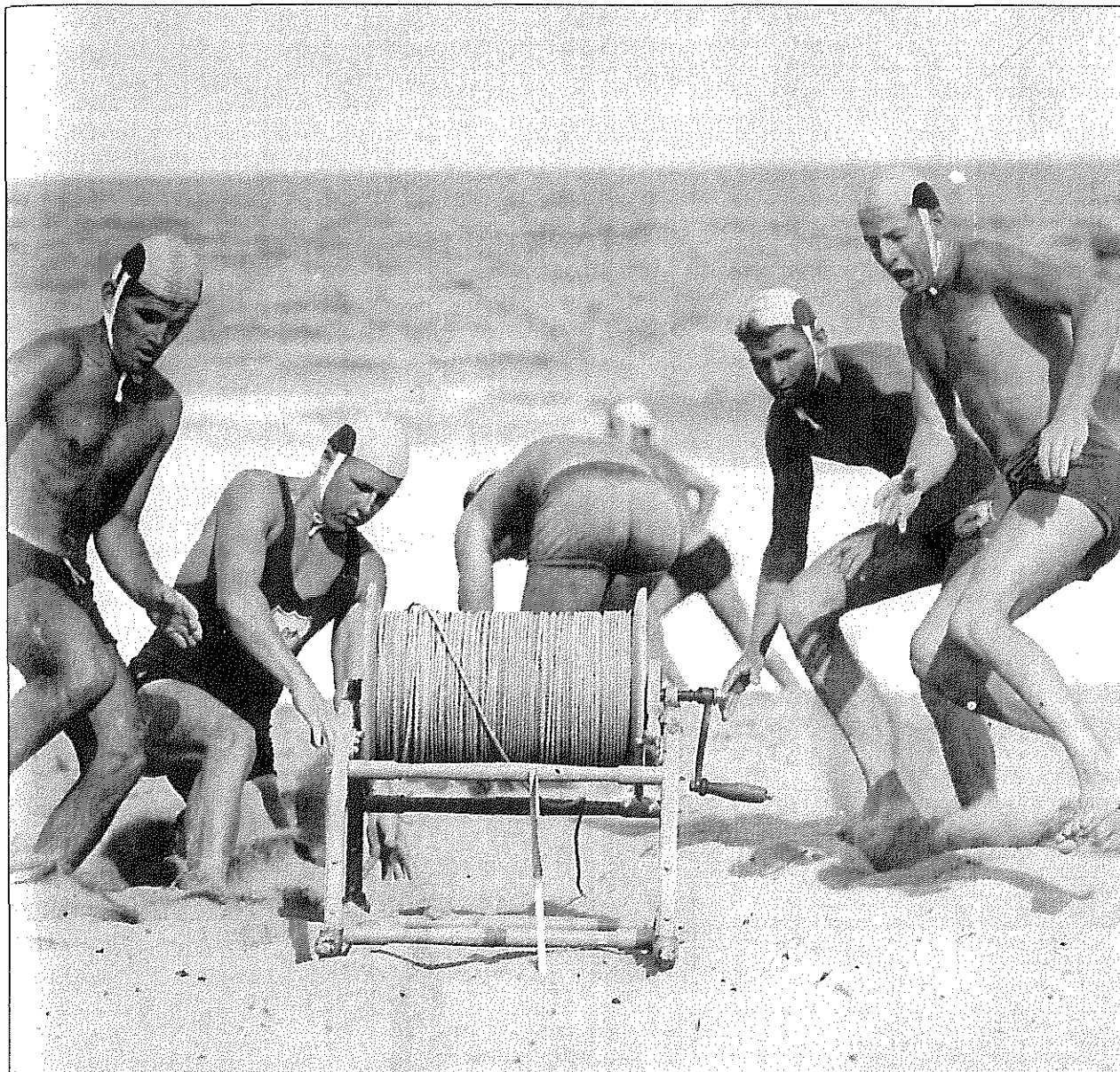
*Who knock everything*

*Finally -*

*There are the back bones*

*Who get under the load and do the work!"*

\* A fine voluntary contribution was made to the club by Hamilton Clyne. Seeing the building activity while passing, he enquired what it was for. Although never a member, he began working on the site every weekend. "Ham" became a loved companion to



A fine action photo of our members at the 1955 Newport Carnival at which Hal Bailey won the belt race.  
L. to R. Ron Olsen, John Hansford, Hal Bailey's bottom, Warwick (Dusty) Saunders, Bill Dainton.



us all, as he slaved at any heavy work he saw, with good humour and good fellowship, until the clubhouse was erected.

\* Another resident, also not a member, who made great efforts to physically help was the late Ted McConnell.

Up to July of 1957, lifesaver uniform on the beach was a full length "speedo" costume. But things were changing and trunks were becoming the accepted male attire.

So the S.L.S.A., relaxed their rules and allowed half-skirted trunks on patrol and for competitions, except for R and R.

### *MARCH, 1957:*

JOHN CLARK WAS APPOINTED TO THE EXECUTIVE OF SYDNEY BRANCH OF THE S.L.S.A.

### *OCTOBER, 1957:*

JOHN CLARK WAS APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT OF SYDNEY BRANCH OF THE S.L.S.A.



The 'top deck' under construction.

## **BELL, BOAT AND CARRY-ON**

Throughout the 1950 to 1970 period the lighter side of club activity usually and traditionally included an "Annual Smoko".

The function mostly began with a measure of genteel decorum, being compered by a hired entertainer whose stock of jokes, however questionable, always managed to have everyone howling with laughter.

Accompanied by good food, ample ale and the stimulation of reunion with old friends, the occasion always devolved into a hilarious recounting of past victories and debacles, with an infusion of good humoured stirring.

It was a fine opportunity to "let your hair down and finish up with a sore head", but a wonderful adjunct to the serious side of lifesaving and contributed greatly to club spirit.

The first fibre-glass surf boat was named "George Hannaford" in honour of our redoubtable and tireless worker and Life Member.

The boat was among the early experimental examples of this material and although serviceable was too heavy for competition success, earlier craft having been of cedar construction, or of marine plywood.

Tom Mort, the elder son of the pioneer family of early residents, donated a 28 pound weight, cast bronze bell for the shark alarm. It was consequently frequently used!

## **THE FABRIC OF GOOD MANAGEMENT**

It had been the habit of the management committee to meet in Sydney firstly at the S.L.S.A. rooms in Philip Street, then at their later premises at Hunter Street, being a convenient venue for members attending after work.

George McRobert, who worked at "Yvette Fabrics", a wholesaler of dress fabrics, approached his managing director Ted Mansfield and was permitted to conduct our monthly meetings in the company's office at 27 King Street, Sydney.

This generous gesture began a long period of association with the company and John Holme who was the accountant was a willing recruit of George's and became the Honourary

Treasurer of the surf club for many years.

The meetings were the catalyst for a very pleasant social event, as several members met, wine and dined prior to the meeting, which sparked some lively repartee.

This ritual continued until a growing number of members resident in the Whale Beach area demanded an alternative venue at the clubhouse.

## **THE FIRST PROFESSIONALS**

As will be seen elsewhere in this history, Ted Mansfield took a great interest in the welfare of the club and served as trustee and was patron for many years.

During 1958, council expanded it's professional lifeguard service during Christmas holidays, to Whale Beach. They recruited George Hannaford Jr, who worked Monday to Friday with a 1/2 hour lunch break for the lowly wage of 16 pounds 5 shillings and six pence (\$32.56). Later years saw Leon Greenfield, Duncan McRobert and Peter Blundell follow the lead.

Other items of interest in 1958 were that the Rural Bank approved an overdraft of six thousand pounds to enable continued progress with the clubhouse building program.

## **FAMOUS 'GALA' SURF CARNIVALS**

From the late 1940's the club held a restricted carnival each season which included the northern zone from Warriewood to North Palm Beach.

To promote this event and to thank our donors and workers, two generous members, Joe Glass and Lyle Moore, both residents and trustees, sponsored a luncheon prior to the carnival.

This became known as the "Gala Day" luncheon. It began at the beach store owned by Alex Hendrikson. (Another stalwart famed for his dedication to the club, for his contribution of three sons as members, his club

photo history and last but not least - his inspiring speeches!)

It was at such a luncheon in January 1951 that the Late S.F. (Steve) Newlands donated One Thousand Pounds which gave us the start to finance our land and building venture.

## DONORS HELP BUILD THE DREAM

FUND RAISING LUNCHEONS WERE HELD IN OUR CLUBHOUSE WHERE THE "LADIES AUXILIARY" CATERED AND WAITED WITH FINESSE AND A WEALTH OF GOOD HUMOUR, AS WAS THEIR USUAL HABIT.

The guests were visiting club presidents, association officials, senior club officials, and donors (God Bless 'em).

Again in January 1958 when we were really scratching for funds to complete the clubhouse top floor, several of our members made very generous donations as follows:

J.J. Kuner (Patron) all steel fabrication work;

E.K. Mansfield (Patron and trustee) all glass work;

H. Worrall aluminium doors etc.;

M. Whitton one hundred pounds.

There were many other smaller donations also. It is interesting to note that 70 guests attended this luncheon enjoying an excellent repast with ample refreshment, catered by our faithful "Ladies Auxiliary", the total cost being twenty seven pounds, ten shillings (\$55.00).

1958 brought the Queen and Prince Phillip on an Australian visit. A Royal Carnival was planned at Bondi and we, as all Sydney clubs did, provided a member for the guard of honour. A boat crew competed and Hal Baily and his belt crew came 4th in the final of that event, among representatives from Australia, Great Britain and New Zealand. Our March Past team also took part.



Opening day October 5, 1958. President Ted Elvy with R.W. Askin M.L.A.



## THE CLUBHOUSE COMPLETED

The top floor of the clubhouse being finished building following the years of "Hard Yakka", an official opening was arranged in September, 1958.

George McRobert was appointed chairman for the day and the following were welcomed as guests by president E.R. (Ted) Elvy and his wife Clare:

Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Askin, Premier

Mr. and Mrs. W. Berry, Shire President

Mr. and Mrs. J. Clark, Club Secretary

Mr. and Mrs. Murden, M.L.A.

Councillor Reynolds, H.R. Cooper, A.M. Bolot (Hon. Architect) Deputy

President of National Council, S.L.S.A. K. Watson, Secretary of National Council, Ces Mack.

Mr. Gus Staunton, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Meagher, (President of State Centre), J. Lynch (Rural Bank).

Mr. and Mrs. George Hannaford, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Greenfield, Mrs. G.J.L. McRobert, Mr. Jack Lyons.

Active members who attended as a guard of honour were R. Gallagher, E. Fitt, R. Olson, C. Timms, R. Stewart, R. Clark, B. Wonders.

## COUNTRY CAPERS

During 1959 a well known member and worker, Bill Matthews, due to a change in business activities went to Dunedoo to manage a hotel.

When settled, he invited the club to

send a team for a weekend to give a lifesaving demonstration as part of a fund-raising event to finance a swim pool for the local shire and swimming club.

There was a fair, golf competition, swimming races, joy flights in private planes and a host of activities.

A cheerful team went - Ted Elvy, George McRobert, Hal Bailly, Tom Guyatt, Bruce Bonny, Bill Dainton, Owen and Tom Ramsay, Ron Olsen, Dusty Saunders and Noel Greenfield.

It had rained for a week and the dam used for the swimming races had slimey mud banks and was polluted and thick with mud.

The exit from it was up a slippery bank, so that at the end of a race each swimmer was a brown hue (not suntan!) and festooned with straws and





Back: Bill Matthews, Hal Baily, Ted Elvy, Ian McKee, Bruce Bonny, Bill Dainton, Tom Guyatt, Ron Olsen, Owen Ramsey.

Front: Warwick Saunders, Noel Greenfield, Tom Ramsey.

sheep droppings.

Great hilarity was engendered by these apparitions from the dirty depths by both pals and spectators.

The next event was our March Past and R and R Display, dressed in orthodox costumes and gear but with the addition of thongs, sandals or shoes which was very funny, but not as funny as the huge three pointed bindiis and spiked thistles!

Needless to say, with the added frivolity on Saturday night at Bill's Hotel, a great weekend was long remembered!

Bill Matthews although not a strong swimmer, was always a fearless volunteer for a scratch boat crew.

One day when a big north-east swell was rolling, Bill took an oar in a crew to crack the waves at the north-end "wedge".

The boat was swamped on a huge "hump" and was caught by the north rocks notorious rip, which quickly swept it to sea beyond the island rock at the point.

Heads were counted and Bill was missing. A frantic search resulted in Bill being located wedged under a seat of the upturned craft. When dragged out he was a pretty shade of purple and distressed.

A belt team ran north and a long swim in the belt by Hal Baily enabled Bill's rescue and recovery and another long belt swim rescued the boat. Bill still rowed on later.

Among our boat crews were some keen fishermen, and as our veteran boat "Sid Bacon" was past competition and showing it's age, it was decided that as it was "spare", the boat was given to them as a "hobby horse", to their delight.

We don't remember ever getting free fish though!

## TED ELVY STEPS DOWN

Ted Elvy, after 14 years as President, retired and George McRobert was elected in his stead, at the 1959 Annual General Meeting.

It was the end of an historic era and another began under George McRobert's astute helmsmanship, which led to many changes in the financial fortunes of the Surf Club as well as a period of rapid advances in lifesaving techniques.

In October 1959, our surfboat "Kerel Webster" was sold and replaced by the "Charles Anderson", a member who donated 100 pounds and loaned

Ted Elvy, Club President 1944-1958



250 pounds interest free, to defray the boat's cost of 3 hundred and 50 pounds.

The next major change began when in May 1959, we sent John Hansford and Owen Ramsey to a meeting of north of the harbour clubs at North Steyne, to discuss the formation of a new branch of the S.L.S.A. In July the clubs applied to Sydney branch for permission, which was refused. Application was then made to State Centre, S.L.S.A.

The Club President, Secretary and Delegates attended a further meeting of a steering committee, at N. Steyne. The ensuing months brought final permission, the Manly-Warringah Branch was formed with it's first meeting in February 1960. Mr. Alan Fitzgerald was elected President. Our own Jack Clark was elected Secretary.

\* Alan, a past Australian Belt Champion, was an able guide to the new branch and a very active instigator of initiative advances whose fine character and example fired all clubs in the area to greater effort.

## MOBY DICK IS FORMED

1960 saw formation of "the ways and means" sub-committee to enquire into the acquisition of a liquor licence for the top floor, as the general feeling of members was that creation of a licenced social club would discount the over-draft which A special meeting called to ratify

The sub-committee were: Arthur Curchod, Frank Patterson, George McRobert, Hal Baily, Richard Hansford and A. (Mick) Hogan, Hon. solicitor.

This resulted in a report tabled to a special general meeting recommending we proceed to form a separate corporate club to be named "The Moby Dick Surfers Club".

The special meeting called to ratify the actions of the "Moby Dick"

Committee was attended by 145 surf club members, supporters and wives.

The list of persons attending may be seen in the "History of Moby Dick Surfers Club".

The ensuing year saw great activity by the "Moby Dick" Committee in raising funds and running functions for the surf club.

By November 1961, we agreed to lease the top floor to Moby Dick Surfers Club Ltd., at an annual rent of five hundred pounds, subject to yearly review.

During this formative period, considerable assistance in our licensing requirements was given by Frank (Darcy) Patterson, Hon. Secretary.

## WONDERFUL WORK BY THE LADIES

Club policy during these years retained a close co-operation with Warringah Shire Council, resulting in our offer of the premises to Councillor W. Berry, Shire President for the Presidential Ball, which was duly held with great success in October 1961.

In this year there was a waning of interest in our wonderfully supportive ladies auxiliary, due to a clash of personality among a few people.

This was a great pity, as thousands of pounds has been raised over the years by the ladies constant efforts and it is certain that we could not have accomplished so much without their untiring enthusiasm and help. Their great contribution will always be acknowledged with thanks.

*Of particular note was the tireless efforts of Mrs. Beryl McRobert, the first President of the Ladies Auxiliary.*

It is pleasing to note that after 3 years things settled down and from September 1964, the ladies auxiliary reformed. By this time, funding was not such a desperate need, thanks to Moby Dick Club's support, so the ladies continue to give support with their usual good cheer on a social level.

After 15 years as Surf Club Secre-

## DEDICATED SECRETARIES

After 15 years as Surf Club Secretary, John Clark's resignation was accepted with regret. He was a diligent worker in that honorary capacity and his wealth of knowledge of the intricate workings of the parent S.L.S.A., was often used to our advantage.

He was replaced by his assistant Frank (Darcy) Patterson, who carried through for 13 straight years with similar dedication and his characteristically rapid repartee.

Colin Timms, the grandson of our founding President worked tirelessly for 8 years as Club Secretary. His wit and wisdom in meetings became renowned. Colin also served as Club President from 1977 to 1980.

Subsequently Frank Baker was an excellent secretary for the club for several seasons and he has been followed by Phil Cullis, the current secretary.

## NEW MEMBERS

1962 saw the introduction of a "Learn to Swim" campaign organised by the Manly Warringah Branch. The idea was to instruct the general public in surf safety and surfing skills. Owen Ramsay was appointed organiser assisted by Hal Baily and George McRobert.

The November management meeting proposed a funding and recruitment drive, by members doing a door knock of all residents. It was titled the "Hill Drive" and Noel Greenfield arranged delivery of 300 letters. The drive was very successful financially and brought an influx of new members.

Members who assisted were E. Elvy, J. Holme, R. Stewart, C. Timms, I. McKee, H. Baily, J. Johnson, W. Graber, O. Ramsay, T. Ramsay, B. Wonders, T. Guyatt, N. Greenfield, J. Lyons, J. Baird, R. Naylor, T. Coram, A. Barrell, I. McRobert, G. McRobert.

## 25 YEARS ACHIEVEMENT

THIS YEAR WE RECOMMENDED OUR FIRST LIST OF MEMBERS FOR THEIR S.L.S.A. 25 YEARS SERVICE BADGES:

JACK LYONS  
GAINED HIS BRONZE IN 1933 -  
NORTH NARRABEEN

HAL BAILY  
GAINED HIS BRONZE IN 1936 -  
NORTH BONDI

GEORGE MCROBERT  
GAINED HIS BRONZE IN 1938 -  
WHALE BEACH

ARTHUR BARRELL  
GAINED HIS BRONZE IN 1938 -  
WHALE BEACH

NOEL GREENFIELD  
GAINED HIS BRONZE IN 1938 -  
WHALE BEACH

MALCOLM TIMMS  
GAINED HIS BRONZE IN 1938 -  
WHALE BEACH

KEITH WEBSTER  
GAINED HIS BRONZE IN 1938 -  
WHALE BEACH

It is noted that Jack Lyons was an active member with North Narrabeen S.L.S.C. before joining our club, where in youthful days he was a member of their senior R. and R. team and a beltman of note.

He also played first grade rugby union and league football.

Keith Webster, a foundation member, was in a reserved occupation during the war and served valiantly with great energy, enthusiasm and dedication through and after the war years. He was an essential factor in the club's survival in that trying period when "Vigilance and Service" depended on a very few young adults and those who were older or younger than would normally be expected to be active members.

## MEMBERS SEE SERVICE IN VIETNAM

\* In the 1960's during the Vietnam War in which some of our members served, Australian soldiers soon found surfable beaches for recreational purposes where rescue facilities were needed as their fathers and grandfathers found in World Wars I and II. Members of this club who saw active service there were Terry Collier, Bryan Webster, Danny Crisp and Mark Ferguson

This club sent a reel and line for patrols, in recreational zones.

### A COUNCIL BOAT

In November we received our first donation of a surfboat from Warrigah Shire Council. The scheme had continued for several years, and our turn came up! It was named "Ted Elvy" in honour of our esteemed Life Member and Past President.

## 1964: ASSETS AND REPUTATION GROW

At the Annual General Meeting on 15th February, 1964, Ted Elvy whilst speaking on the annual report said, "We have a building here worth over 30,000 pounds and we owe less than 8,000 pounds". By comparison a 1985 valuation placed the building at \$443,000 and the land at \$45,000 which is grossly undervalued for such a prime position on current market values.

At this meeting our long and loyally serving members Darcy Patterson Senior and Owen Ramsay were elected Life Members, with acclamation.

In October the club organised a statewide carnival attended by a visiting team from New Zealand, which was a great success and reflected good organisation on the part of our carnival committee.

November brought a special branch meeting to fund a touring team to South Africa, from Manly-Warrigah.

We donated 100 pounds.

In December we held the first of many teenage dances which were very popular and organised by the Ladies Auxiliary, they were supervised by older members and were well patronised.

## 1965: MUSIC BRINGS MONEY

In January, Moby Dick Club advised that henceforth 100 pounds per month would be paid against our overdraft until it is paid off. They also advised that Miss Winifred Atwell, an internationally famous concert pianist, would donate her services for a concert to fund a new surfboat.

This resulted in raising 680 pounds. Subsequently the boat was delivered and named "Winifred Atwell", the oars being named for the members of her band!

It was the first time in memory that a boat was christened indoors as it was a pouring wet day and the ceremony had to go on.

*In this and other fund raising activities the Surf Club owes much to the efforts of Vic and Jess Withers. Vic was the long serving Manager of Moby Dick.*

May brought another grand donation of 3,000 pounds from Moby Dick Club towards our overdraft.

In October Dr. G.C. Cockburn, a local resident and foundation member of Moby Dick Club composed the "Whale Beach Boat Song" and sang it when presenting it to the club. At the time Radio Station 2UE held a competition on it's surf report session, for the best surf club song and as memory serves me well, we won it!

George Cockburn coached a hoarse voiced bunch of members and the song was recorded and was often sung and played in ensuing years, after it's debut on radio.

In December we were pleased to welcome back to the membership Frank Gardner. Frank was a fine rower and sweep who made his mark at many a boat race but left us to follow a family tradition in car racing. His name was constantly in the news in touring car racing in England and Europe for a number of years and his skill, experience and sharp humour are still part of Australia's car-racing scene.

He was a member of the Jack Brabham driving team in his racing days, later he managed the B.M.W. racing team.

## 1966: CLUB DEBTS CLEARED

History was made in 1966 at the A.G.M. of the Moby Dick Club on the 6th March, when the Hon. Secretary Len Smith and the Treasurer Herb Wilcox handed President George McRobert a cheque for 2,400 pounds which finally liquidated the club's debt to the Rural Bank!

It is noteworthy that from the opening of Moby Dick Surfers Club in August 1963, when the surf club's debt was 10,000 pounds, their donations in addition to rent freed us from debt in less than three years.

It was a remarkable achievement in the total view of our hand to mouth financial state of the past, to this new concept of finding ourselves reaping the rewards of so much "hard yakka"

and the wisdom and fore-thought of our initial "ways and means" committee.

For the first time we were able to send a team to the Australian Championships - all expenses paid - a miracle!

At the Surf Club's A.G.M. in August, John Baird and John Holme were elected Life Members, in recognition of their long and valued contributions to the club.

Also at this meeting our associate membership was closed to prevent any possible abuse of the Moby Dick Club's articles, which required 5 members of the surf club to be elected annually to that board. It was feared that unrestricted entry to the board could occur through associate membership, so dominating the



President George McRobert receives a cheque for 3,000 from Winfred Atwell.  
Bill 'Dolph' Fleming and Richie Stewart are the Honour Guard



board with people without a proper concern for the interest of the surf club.

(This worked well for many years, but in 1981 a lack of interest by our members in service as board members necessitated a change of Moby Dick Club articles so that now only three surf club members are required to represent us, which is a pity).

\* A violent storm and huge seas in August 1966 severely damaged our stone boathouse (erected 1941-42). Requests to Council for help to repair it were negative, so Greg McGrath prepared plans for boat sheds which are now Council property and erected in front of the clubhouse.

\* The huge seas in 1974, which caused destruction of foreshore property and long term erosion problems along the eastern seaboard resulted in the undermining and final collapse of the stone boatshed. The

remnants now lie buried beneath the sands, taking with them a long history of the shed's service as our only clubhouse.

We kept gear there, boats were hung from a ceiling framework, we emptied it and held barbeques there, and wore out many a pair of shoes and sandals trying to dance on it's concrete floor to the strains of Bill Graber's famous accordion and the hiss of a keg!

At that time most members had tents or caravans sited at Whale Beach and all our amusements were simple ones, although at Xmas to New Year period we sometimes hired a large marquee and laid a prefabricated dance floor, where the most extraordinary fancy-dress functions were held to the delight of everyone. Morning invariably dawned on those hardy enough to survive the night and the surf would be breached to refresh ourselves for the coming

days activity and clean-up.

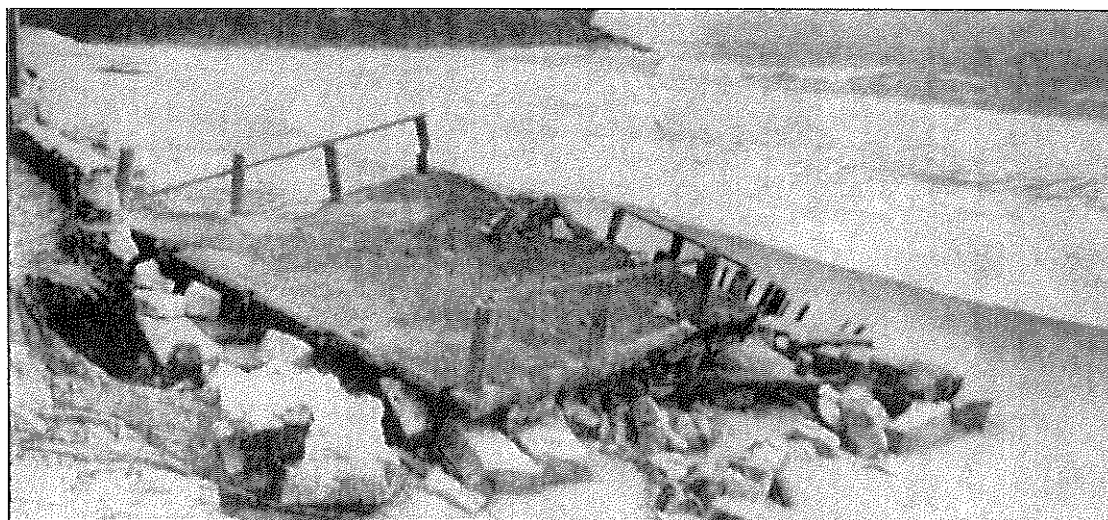
## INTERNATIONAL CARNIVAL AT WHALEY

During the 1966/67 season an international carnival was held at Whale Beach on 29th January 1967.

Our club was greatly honoured when Owen Ramsay who was an S.L.S.A. Examiner was appointed organiser of the carnival. It was a Test Match carnival between the Australian and visiting touring team from South Africa.

The event was a great success and the dignitaries and the visiting team were entertained at a luncheon, again catered by our ladies auxiliary who excelled themselves.

Owen Ramsay was also appointed Liaison Officer to the South African



REPRINT FROM "THE SUN" AUGUST 1966

### TWO THIRDS OF THE BEACH GONE!

WHALE BEACH crowds will find that over two-thirds of the beach is gone. Exposed rocks at the southern end of the beach could be a problem should a swimmer find himself in difficulty in that area.

"The unfortunate thing is that the sand doesn't appear to be coming back," says Mr. G. McRobert, surf club president.

The beach proper is about 20 yards from the water's edge to the cliffs. It used to be over 100 yards wide. A boatshed and siren system disappeared during the winter storms.

"Beach patrols will have to concentrate on the northern end of the beach which we expect most bathers will use," Mr. McRobert said.

There is a small park facing the ocean, and shops in the area.

team and accompanied them on their tour to the Illawarra and Newcastle Branches.

## 1967/68: OARS GIVE WAY TO POWER

Just prior to 1967 Newport S.L.S.C. had acquired a laminated ply rescue boat powered by a De Havilland jet marine unit from a V8 engine. It proved very useful and seaworthy but was costly to run and maintain and needed a large manpower to launch and recover. It was named the "Bartender".

It wasn't long before our club got the bug and formed a power boat committee.

It should be remembered that George McRobert was President of the surf club and Chairman of Moby Dick Club while Darcy Patterson was Hon. Secretary of both clubs.

The wearing of both hats had many advantages and it was natural that when the surf club had a need, there

were those who were aware of the situation in both camps who were already convinced and dedicated! So it wasn't long before Moby Dick Club held a power boat appeal.

### *SUPPORT FROM THE STARS*

At a "Winifred Atwell Night" \$1200 was raised, then entertainer Dick Valentine donated his services too and raised another \$600.

Later functions brought further entertainers who willingly gave their time free, among famous ones were Dave Allen, Dawn Lake and Bobby Limb and Lorne Lesley from U.S.A.

This good fortune was engineered by entrepreneur Jack Neary, who as a Moby Dick member worked miracles to conjure up artists to help fund the club's needs.

In January 1968, Moby Dick Club requested permission to extend their premises. Many meetings ensued, also with reference to the power boat fund until in March 1969 Moby Dick announced that the target had been

reached and \$6000 was available for purchase.

By June we had decided the specifications for the jet boat which was to have a fibre-glass hull, so an order was placed at a cost of \$4750. When delivered in November, it was named "Moby Dick" by Jack Neary, Bobbie Limb and Dawn Lake.

The boat became the proud "baby" of Paul Hughes and Noel Greenfield as power boat captains who between active usage were constantly engaged in its maintenance and the training of crewmen.

It served in many rescues both on and off-shore but had long periods of down-time because of technical and ignition problems. Solid-state water proof ignition systems were not then available and reliability was a constant problem due to salt saturation when traversing rough surf, and it was difficult to launch with little manpower in an emergency.

\* Eventually following several years of service and hard knocks, the "Moby Dick" sank off Barrenjoey Headland but was salvaged and later sold.

## 1969/70: A NEW CAPTAIN, A NEW BOAT

At the A.G.M. in August 1969 R.E. (Bob) Lynch was elected Captain with dynamic results, by reason of his fine character, camaraderie and innovative ideas. He encouraged full participation by everyone and brought a wide spectrum of resident interest to the support of the club as well as inspiring active members to greater effort.

This season brought a new surfboat allocated by Warringah Shire Council, which made the "Ted Elvy" superfluous. The new boat was named "Jack Uren" in honour of our newly elected Life Member and long term sweep and coach.



Dawn Lake christens the new powerboat "Moby Dick".

We donated the "Ted Elvy" boat to the "Outward Bound" movement, whose aims were to encourage mental and physical fitness, initiative and confidence in young people. They needed a boat for their program at their Hawkesbury River Camp. As several of our members had and were to attend their course, it was an appreciated and practical donation.

Moby Dick Club then provided sponsorship of two members to the Outward Bound Course and the two lucky ones selected were Brian Lamrock and Bill Weston.

It was quiet in 1970 until in October; Warringah Shire Council, following months of negotiations decided to proceed with the erection of the new boatshed, the cost being \$11400 with a council subsidy of \$2500. On completion by council labour and supervision, we were billed with a further over-cost of \$2853!

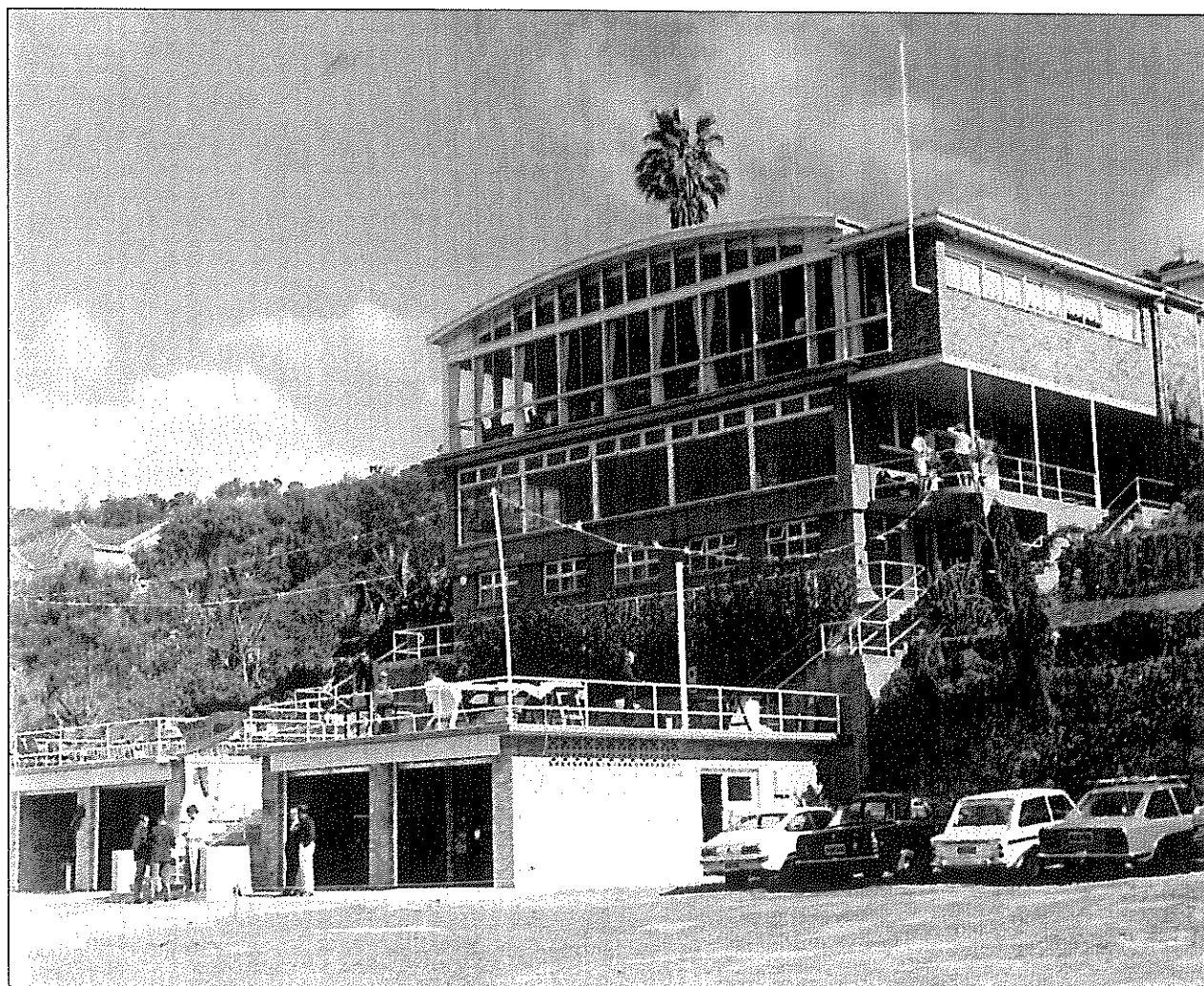
After considerable protest and discussion, this over-cost was waived.

Considering this club's initiatives in building our own clubhouse, so

absolving council of that responsibility and cost, it was a paradox that 32 years of fruitless negotiation for accommodation resulted in an over-charge!

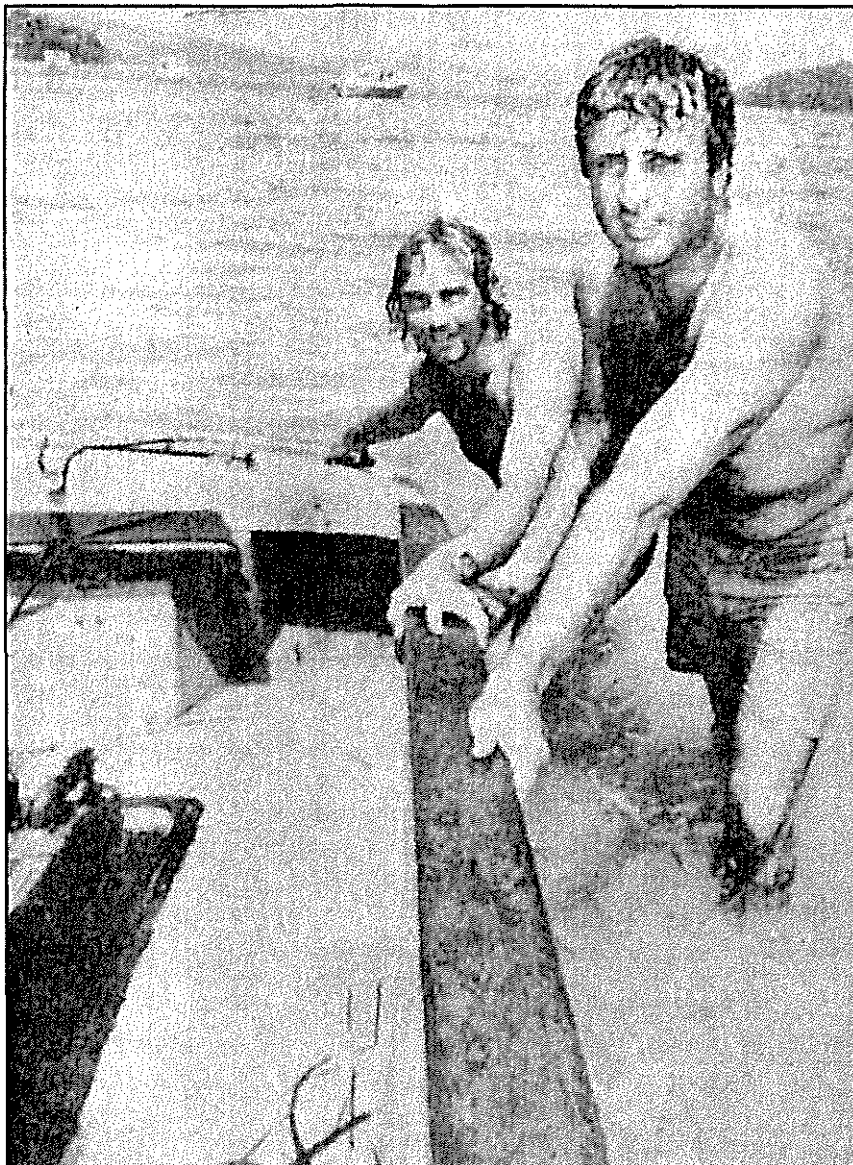


Darcy Patterson, George McRobert, Jack Uren



The boathouse was opened on Sunday May 30th, 1971





*From The Manly Daily Jan. 26, 1974*

## NEAR TRAGEDY FROM SHIRE RESCUE HOAX

**The Whale Beach power rescue boat capsized and sank in heavy seas about half a mile offshore on Saturday on the way to answer a distress call.**

The distress call that a fishing boat had sunk was later reported as a hoax.

Police said a call was first received at the northern command of the power boat rescue organisation.

The Whale Beach craft, manned by John Uren, 23 of North Avalon and Richie Stewart, 28, of Whale Beach set out to answer the call.

Half a mile from the beach the rescue boat developed mechanical trouble and water began seeping into the boat.

Uren and Stewart battled to save

themselves in the midst of a huge swell and windy conditions.

Northern Command received their distress call and summoned the police launch, Falcon.

When the Falcon arrived only two feet of the bow of the power boat was showing above the water.

Uren and Stewart, with the aid of the police, took about 45 minutes to right the boat before it was towed to Sandy Point, Palm Beach, by the Falcon.

Neither Uren nor Stewart was affected by their ordeal.

## 1972 CONSTITUTION REVISED

At a Special General Meeting a revised constitution was adopted. This was the result of much work by the Constitution Committee consisting of Ted Elvy, John Adamson (Hon. Solicitor), Noel Greenfield, Richard Stewart and Jack Uren.

The Committee had met at Ted Elvy's house for over a year and rationed the monthly meetings to 2 bottles of beer!

John Adamson, now resident near Young on his country property, used his expertise to write the constitution in it's present legal terms.

## 1973: THE PASSING OF A PRESIDENT

A very sudden and sad event in October was the passing of our loved and revered past President E.R. (Ted) Elvy. His experience, advice, sincerity and sparkling good humour saw us through many testing circumstances and he inspired a great team spirit in the club, being ably supported by his wife Clare, whose interest continues, both in auxiliary work and as Patron of Moby Dick Club.

In April the club was awarded the Branch Patrol Efficiency Competition's first place. It was a reflection of the effort and guidance of Club Captain Peter "Smiley" Blundell.

As a result of The Australian S.L.S.A., team visit to the U.S.A., when competition Tests were held in Hawaii and California and an instructional tour was combined, several new ideas were brought back. Among them was the use of look-out towers placed strategically along the beach with inter-communicating radio, and to a command - centre. Ancillary use was made of 4 wheel drive vehicles and inshore boat patrols. The scheme was investigated by most clubs but was not considered a practical alternative to our patrol system as a voluntary body, the American system being a county sponsored professional one.

## 1974/75: THE RUBBER DUCK ARRIVES

This year our Clubhouse was in dire need of exterior painting and refurbishing. We appealed to our "Golden Goose" the Moby Dick Board, who agreed to assist financially. The total cost was \$5,500 to which Moby Dick contributed \$4,500.

Over recent years the use of Jet Powered Rescue Boats became widespread but their disadvantages of down-time with break downs and escalating maintenance costs were becoming obvious.

As our jet boat was involved in a mishap at sea at Palm Beach which resulted in serious and expensive damage, it became almost a write-off. We received \$1,800 from the insurance claim and sold it "as is" for \$910. As sponsorship was not then available as generously as it is now, we bought a "rubber duck" or as the S.L.S.A. nominates, an "Inshore Rescue Boat or I.R.B."

Shortly before this time Warren Mitchell of Avalon S.L.S.C., pioneered the concept of adapting inflatable rubberised-fabric boats fitted with an outboard motor to surf rescue work; they used an "Avon" craft which was used by most Commonwealth forces for commando exercises and for exploration work.

The idea caught on rapidly and spread throughout the S.L.S.A. We purchased a scow shaped craft which was far from sea-worthy and was better suited to submarining! However among our early operators were Jamie MacNab, Paul Young, Phil Cullis, Steve Vidgen and Hal Baily, who were more intrepid than the craft's capability, consequently suffering frequent dunkings.

### LEARNING THE HARD WAY

In September this year the need was obvious for rationalising the use, technique and maintenance skills of

the varied craft, motors and styles of operation.

A national live-in I.R.B. operations course was organised at North Cronulla S.L.S.C, where we first experienced a formal course lead by Harry Brown, a highly respected exponent of I.R.B. operations.

\* The superiority then, of "Zodiak" craft was obvious and Jamie MacNab, Paul Young, Steve Vidgen and Hal Baily took part in the course and later gained their Power Boat Bronzes.

As a result of the course, standardised specifications were established for qualifying operating crewmen, for rescue methods and surf skills and for motors and their care. (At present electronic ignition ensures a higher degree of reliability).

The rapid approach of these craft to surfers in distress has revolutionised patrol efficiency, but in those rare instances of surf conditions being hazardous or impossible for I.R.B. use, it becomes incumbent on active members to retain their skills in the use of belt and line or other manual techniques.

\* While on the course Paul Young and Hal Baily had a capsize in our old "scow" which then with throttle jammed open ran over Paul's back and the propellor chopped off part of Hal's right big toe! This resulted in capsize technique being formalised and crewmen adopting a "ball" stance until clear of the craft instead of being open to injury by being spreadeagled.

## 1975/76: TRAGIC LOSSES

Our "Gala Day" Carnival was held in March, 1975 and as a special attraction one of our earlier active members John Patterson (son of Darcy) who was a skilled aerobatics pilot gave a stunt flying exhibition during the carnival.

The plane was an American "Pitt Special" designed for aerobatics and

John's display of his flying skill amazed the audience.

### JOHN PATTERSON

Later in 1977-78 season while John was taking a student pilot for instruction, his plane crashed and John was killed. He was a twin brother of Darcy Junior, both fine club members, and we are fortunate to still have Darcy as a Reserve Active Member.

At the July M.M. the President George McRobert and Secretary gave notice that they would not seek re-election.

At the A.G.M. in August Richard Stewart was elected President and Colin Timms (grandson of the Foundation President) was elected Hon. Secretary. It was ironical that in October the past President, George McRobert broke his leg and was out of action for several months!

George was our third long-serving President and as was the case of the holders of that office preceeding him, his resignation was received with considerable regret following a long and honourable service since the Club's foundation.

The incumbent President Richard, was to continue the tradition with an astute and dedicated term in office. He had been Club Captain for 4 years after serving as Vice-Captain for 2 years and Treasurer for 5 years, prior to becoming President.

### BOB LYNCH

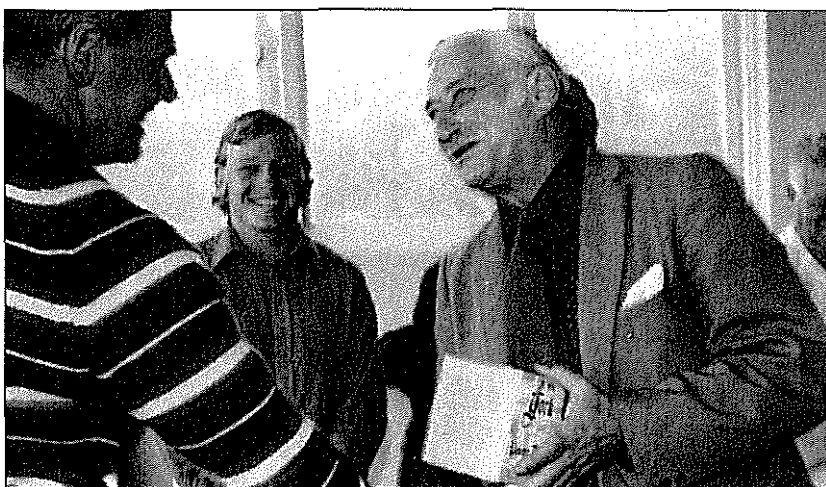
April, 1975 brought a tragic accident, when Bob Lynch was killed while riding his Police Traffic Patrol motorcycle home from work, along Wakehurst Parkway. It was a shock to all and a loss of a loved friend and a fine man. His ashes were scattered at sea in a Surf Club ceremony.

Members and the N.S.W. Police formed a guard of honour on the beach and Richard Stewart conducted the ceremony at sea, on board Ted Allan's boat.





Alan Fitzgerald, George McRobert, Darcy Patterson



Bob Lynch thanks Doc Bill Ferguson for his services  
Peter Blundell, centre

### *DARCY PATTERSON SNR.*

In January, past Hon. Secretary Darcy Patterson Senior was hospitalised by a severe stroke. He didn't fully recover and died adding to a year of great personal loss to the club.

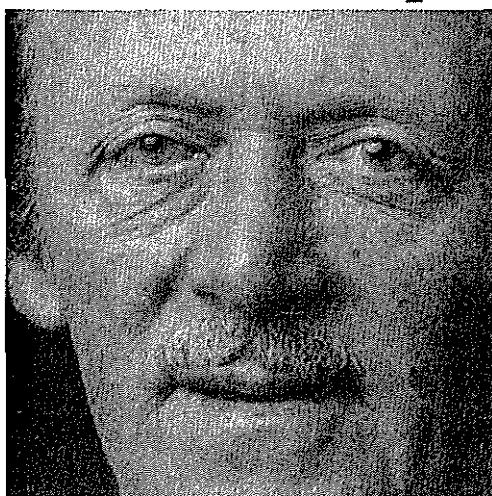
### *NOEL GREENFIELD*

November, 1976 brought the final blow when Foundation and Life member Noel Greenfield passed on, following a long courageous fight against illness. Noel's unique contributions to the club in an endless variety of ways and responsibilities made his absence felt deeply by all.

The Management Meeting this month was begun with a minute's silence in memory of Noel Greenfield. It was decided that a wreath be laid at sea prior to the beginning of the Surf Race on Sunday 23rd November.

It was typical of Noel, that he willed his body to the University for medical research. Later his ashes were consigned to the sea he loved in a Surf Club ceremony, when a guard of honour of club members stood on the beach surrounded by friends.

## **Surf club president hangs up his cap after 15 years**



Mr McRobert

George McRobert, a foundation member of the Whale Beach Surf Life Saving Club and its president for the past 15 years retired at the recent annual meeting.

Tribute was paid to him for his great contribution to Whale Beach and to the surf club movement as a whole, by Alan Fitzgerald, the Manly-Warringah branch president.

The new president is Richard Stewart, a long-serving member of the club who has been a club captain and served as treasurer for many years.

He will be ably supported by a new committee with many club members taking positions for the first time.

Also retiring, after 16 years service as club secretary, is "Darcy" Patterson.

His efforts and contributions to the club were warmly acknowledged by the meeting.

The new secretary is Colin Timms, whose grandfather was the first club president.

A presentation of gifts from the members in appreciation was made to Mr McRobert, Mr Patterson and also to Mr Noel Greenfield who has served the club in an outstanding manner for years.

During the 1974-75 season, members of the Whale Beach Club made 49 rescues.

The club was awarded a new surf reel and line by the Manly-Warringah branch, for being "the most improved" club in the branch.

His wife Gwenifer was taken to sea by Ted Allan on his boat, where Life Member and friend H. Bailly conducted a brief ceremony.

### **TRIBUTE TO SIR ADRIAN**

During 1975 a retirement dinner was held by the S.L.S.A., to honour Sir Adrian Curlewis, the founding president of the National Council of the S.L.S.A.

Sir Adrian was a dedicated and respected leader in Surf Lifesaving from the early 1930's, and during his service many innovations were made in resuscitation techniques and a special medical advisory board was created who continually revise methods, including perfection of the present system of expired air resuscitation and cardiac compression.

Curiously, Sir Adrian was totally opposed to Surf Clubs acquiring liquor licences or being associated with such premises and was displeased with our close working arrangement with Moby Dick Surfers Club. Perhaps this was because of his respected association with the judiciary.

The President Richard Stewart and the immediate past President George McRobert accompanied by their wives represented the club on this special occasion.

### **MANY RESCUES, FEW RECORDED**

Whilst there is a lamentable lack of detailed records of notable rescues in the clubs minute books, the following acknowledgement of a letter was recorded in the M.M. minutes of December 1975: "Letter of thanks from a Mr. and Mrs. Benson for saving their son." Such brevity is inadequate. Although many letters in similar vein have been received over the years, there is a need for a more detailed record of events and the names of those involved, to give a true history of the club's activities for posterity.

### **1976/77: WE JOIN THE CHOPPER SQUAD**

At the A.G.M. in August, 1976, B.R. (Richard) Stewart and C.M. (Colin) Timms were unanimously elected Life Members.

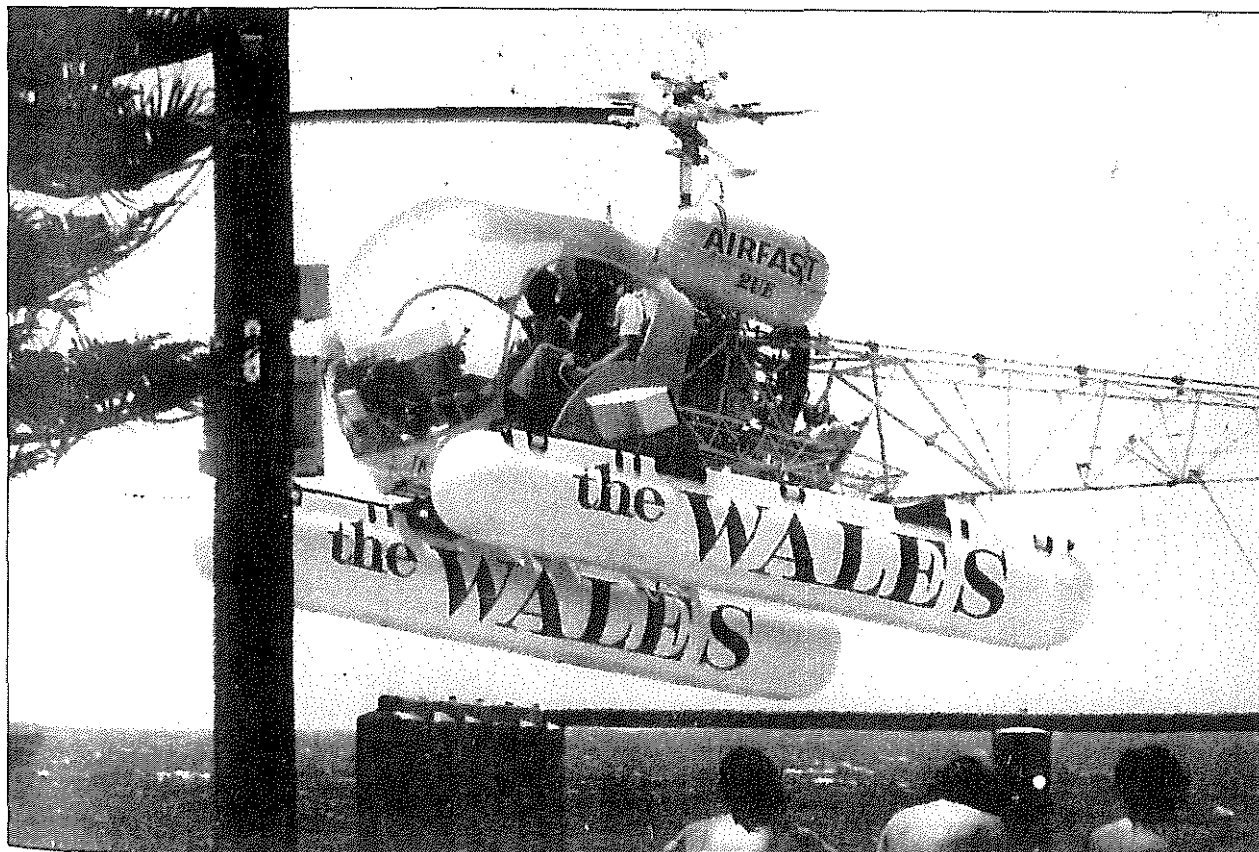
At the August M.M. delegates to the branch reported that Council was seeking nominations for Community Service Awards and George McRobert and Hal Bailly were nominated.

A report in December 1976 recorded that three people were taken to hospital from Whale Beach by helicopter. This rescue service has been active for several years and was sponsored by the Bank of N.S.W. (the Wales), later being renamed Westpac.

The helicopter service is manned by professional pilots and group of highly trained para-medics qualified in a stringently demanding course as volunteer crewmen.

Some are volunteers from the W.S.C., Lifeguard Service but predominantly from Surf Lifesaving Clubs and the rescues encompass hazardous operations at sea, on coastal rocks, on cliff-faces, surf rescues, bush fires, road accidents and in almost any emergency.

Our well known very gregarious member J. (Jono) Uren qualified as a helicopter crewman and his service



was a compliment to the club and himself, which was rewarded by a congratulatory letter, tabled at a M.M., in appreciation of his sterling duty with the Helicopter Rescue Service.

Jono followed his father Jack Uren, whose skills as a boat sweep and coach is legend. An all round ability in surfing skills gave Jono great pleasure and resourceful initiative in many rescues. His administrative skills were notoriously "Gung Ho" but his courage could never be questioned.

Later in 1983-84 season Glen Babacci also gained his helicopter crewman's certificate and Glen is nowadays a permanent member of the helicopter crew.

## MACNAB'S ARMADA

Jamie Macnab, a very dedicated member and safety officer for the Marathon Swim, made a report detailing the boats available for patrol of the course from Palm Beach to Whale Beach, in this year's event:

1. The police launch
2. Ted Allan's trawler
3. Ted Allan's small boat
4. 50 ft. yacht "Investigator", (David Williamson)
5. William's boat
6. Jamie's boat
7. Russell Lerpiniere's yacht

Various other craft including a marine ambulance.

These craft verify the clubs regard for safety, as numbers of swimmers are growing each year and the need for safety is growing with it. Each year that has followed, Jamie has organised a bigger fleet to match the swimmers.

## 1977/78: RICHIE TO CANADA

\* At the January meeting the Marathon Swim Committee reported that



Friendly Frank Baker with Tina Gowing at the Marathon Swim Presentation.

40 swimmers have individually been insured for \$10,000 death or disability indemnity and \$100 per week for minor disability!

The March M.M. decided to name our annual "Point to Point" swim in honour of our late Life Member, Noel Greenfield. This event begins from the North Rocks and finishes at the South Rocks and if there is a big swell, the take-off can be hazardous. Although a "handicap" it is really in the nature of a lucky-dip result and there is definitely no prize for the Hon. Handicapper!

The M.M. in July foreshadowed the departure to Canada of much admired Club President R. Stewart for a three year term of duty for his company.

Richie announced he would not seek re-election for this reason.

In "general business" it was recorded that a motion by Rob Berry and Phil Cullis expressed the club's appreciation of the work and sportmanship by Richie over the years. This was endorsed by a spontaneous burst of applause and 3 rousing cheers. As a result of the feelings expressed, Mr. Stewart with tears in his eyes, closed the meeting with those famous last words: "I'll buy a beer for everyone!"

## SPEAKING FRANKLY

At the A.G.M. in August 1977, Mr. Colin Timms was elected President and Mr. Frank Baker, Secretary.

Frank Baker had past service in North Steyne Club and was a S.L.S.A., member of the Board of Examiners. His mid-life entry to our club brought a wealth of experience and a gregarious nature which combined his services to both the Surf Club and the Board of Moby Dick Club. He served as Secretary and later a Handicapper and was a long term member of the Management Committee. His community spirit involved years of service with the Avalon Lions Club also, until his departure for business reasons to Queensland in 1985.

## 1978/79 'JACK HIGH' FUNDS WINNER

At the August M.M. it was reported that Jack Lyons and team are to represent the Club at the Annual Bowls Club Day at Harbord. This event is held to raise funds for Surf Clubs and Surf Club's veteran members take part and can win cash prizes of considerable value for their clubs. Fine donations to the club have been raised by our "mature" representatives over many years and numbered among them are Jack Lyons, George Hannaford, Len Smith, John Holme, Bill McKeon and many others.

Paul Young was a very popular Club Captain encouraging members in competition with his own fine example. Patrols were kept on their toes with 68 rescues being recorded.

Eighty swimmers competed in the Bob Lynch Memorial Marathon swim. Line honors went to Cadet Mark Olsen in a time of 29 minutes.

Sunday morning club competition was keenly contested and Whale Beach was well represented at Surf Carnivals.

At the Branch Championship 3 of our members were medal winners.

Mark Morgan, 1st Open Surf Race, Mark Olsen, 3rd Cadet Surf Race, Gary Montgomery, 3rd Open Musical Flags.

Under manager, Ron Olsen, we sent a team to Trigg Island, Western Australia for the Australian Titles.

## 1979/80: OUR HOGAN HERO

Mr. George McRobert presented Mr. A. (Mick) Hogan, the Clubs Hon. Solicitor with a commemorative plaque after his remarkable 40 years honorary service to the club. Mr. Hogan had given great assistance on legal matters over all these years, with willingness and patience.

Also at this meeting, Robert Berry and Jack Lyons were unanimously elected Life Members.

Both Rob and Jack have a long active association with the club in a wide area of contributions and still continue to serve on the Management Committee.

Rob Berry's business acumen has been of great help in promotional work. His competitive spirit is still very apparent when his youthful skills in beach events, pillowfights and surf ski racing brought him many wins and medals in branch and state championships and he still surprises younger men in the Club and veteran events.

At the December M.M., 1980, it was reported that the soft drink company "Mr. Juicy", had donated \$100,000 to the S.L.S.A., over a period of three years, with each club to receive \$1,000. This was a most constructive sponsorship.

Bryan Webster carried on the family tradition of service to the Club by taking on the responsibility of Club Captain which he handled admirably.

Saturday morning patrols were introduced which put a big demand on our active members.

## WE WELCOME WOMEN

\* Another auspicious occasion was the passing, from a notice of motion, "that female members be admitted to active membership". This factor had been discussed for several years on both the S.L.S.A., and club level and was now generally accepted.

\* Our first bronze medallion holders among the female members were Tina Gowing, Sarah Peters, Jill Peters and Marion Robb. They were very enthusiastic patrol members and took part in our club events, surprising many of the males with their prowess and some were backmarkers in handicap surf races.

Carnivals now included a surf race for women and Tina Gowing honored herself and the club by winning the first open carnival surf race for women members, at Whale beach, while later in the year Sally Morgan won the women's surf race at Freshwater carnival.

## 1980/81: CONTENTIOUS ISSUE

The A.G.M. of 1980 saw the return of past President R. Stewart from his tour of company duty in Canada, where incidentally he retained his fitness for surf skiing by canoeing and skiing.

\* He was elected President and Colin Timms who ably "kept the chair warm", was elected Hon. Secretary.

\* Colin Timms was Club Captain for 1 year and Hon. Secretary for 2 years prior to this period of 3 years as President. He was then re-elected Secretary and up to 1986 had totalled 8 years in that onerous position.

About this time Mr. Rick Le Cornu joined the Surf Club, having been a member of a north coast club. He quickly made his presence felt by his enthusiasm, his experience as an Instructor and Examiner and his organising skills.

The branch delegates reported to the May M.M., that Rick had been elected as "Life Saver of the Year".

At the 1981 A.G.M., Rick was elected Club Captain which is recognised as a prestigious position in any club.

Unfortunately, by the November M.M. his priorities had changed radically and the Management Committee felt that his ego and behaviour was not compatible with the aims of this surf club's traditions and he was suspended and later left the club. Many regretted the circumstances that eventuated.

Consequently a division of opinion by members resulted in a Special General Meeting being called in 1983, to question the action of the Management Committee in the matter.

Following prolonged discussion, a resolution was passed confirming the members' confidence in the deliberations and action taken by the Committee.

This was the first occasion in the club's history that action such as this had been necessary against an officer of the club.

*The club was helped during the season by Mike Bartlett of Bilgola S.L.S.C. who stepping in to coach and sweep our keen but inexperienced*





From left: Sarah Peters, Tina Gowing, Jill Robb.

enced boat crew. His help and dedication were greatly appreciated.

Frank "See me later" Baker handled the high pressure task of handicapping with an excellent even hand.

### 1981/82: A RECORD YEAR

Bryan Webster continued the challenge of being Club Captain with excellent results.

Whale Beach won the Branch gear inspection and was judged top club in Manly Warringah based on overall performance.

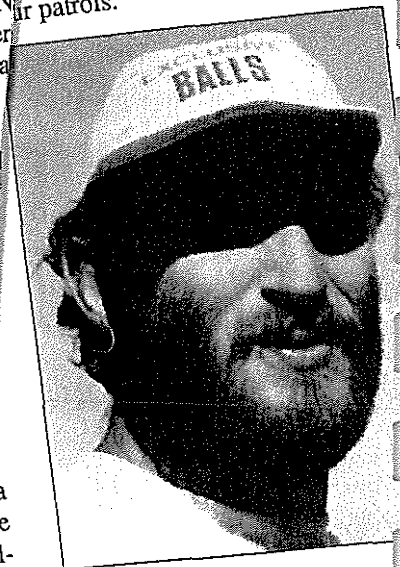
We won the Restricted Carnival at Whale Beach and the club was again

well represented at nearly every event, including State and National with junior and senior rowers, board paddlers, swimmers and competitors.

Club members also earned 105 Association Awards this season, including 29 Bronze Medals and 16 "25 Year Awards".

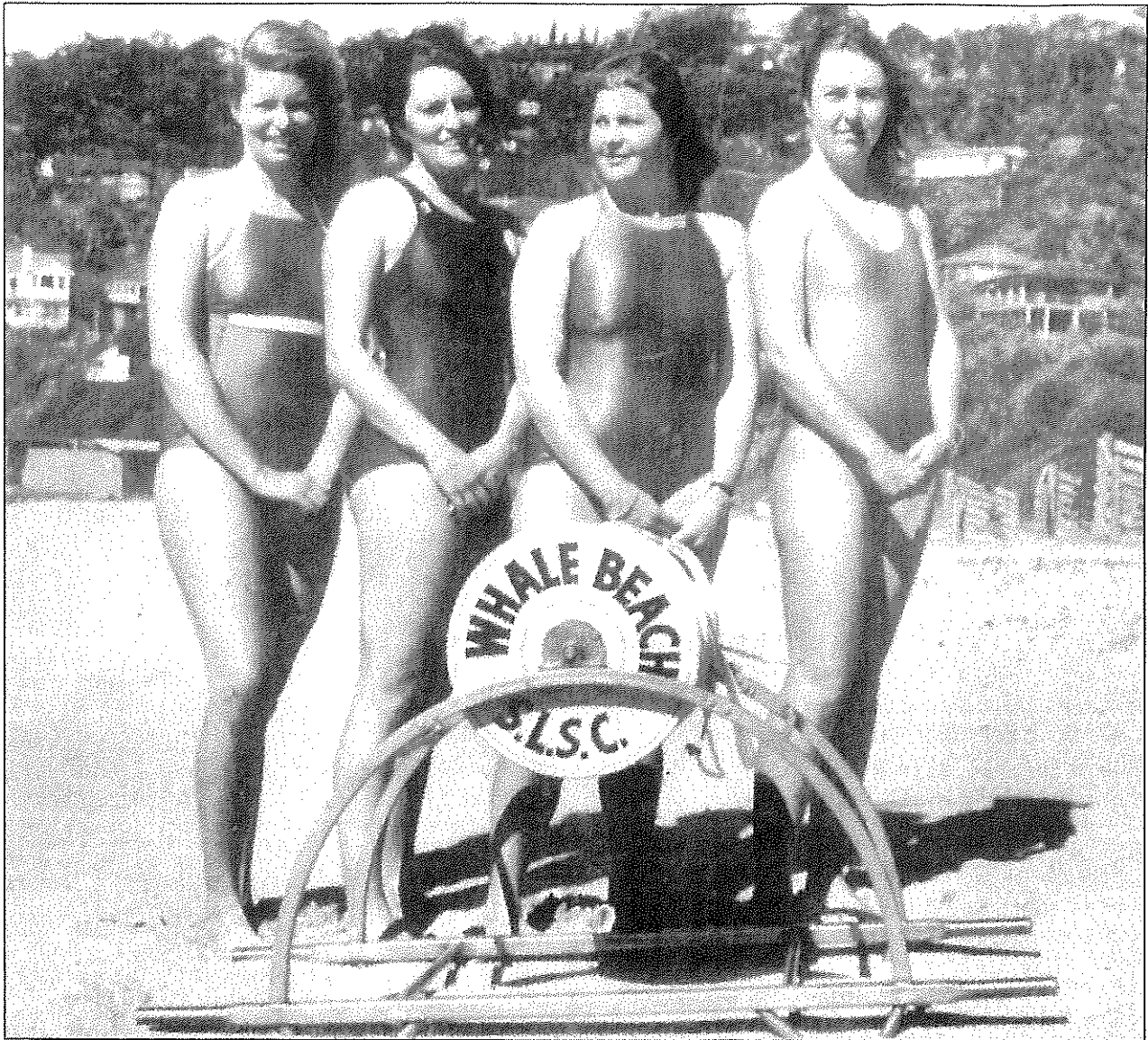
Richard Dill Macky blitzed in the Marathon Swim recording the fastest time as well as a handicap.

More girls joined the Club this year. Finlay, Glenda Wood, Montgomery gaining Bronze Medals. Lead by Mario



Bryan Webster





From left: Sarah Peters, Tina Gowing, Jill Peters, Marion Robb.

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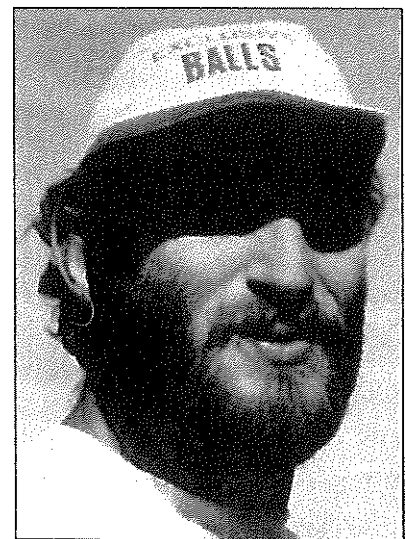
well represented at nearly every carnival, including State and Nationals, with junior and senior rowers, ski and board paddlers, swimmers and beach competitors.

Club members also earned a total of 105 Association Awards during the season, including 29 Bronze Medallions and 16 "25 Year Service Awards".

Richard Dill Macky blitzed the field in the Marathon Swim recording the fastest time as well as winning on handicap.

More girls joined the Club with Zara Finlay, Glenda Wood and Kate Montgomery gaining Bronze Medallions. Lead by Marion Robb the

dozen girl members made an important contribution to the efficiency of our patrols.



Bryan Webster

## 1982/83: FINE INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES

Thanks to sponsorship by Apple Computers we purchased a new I.R.B. which was named the "Hal Baily" in recognition of Hal's outstanding services to the Club and the community.

Many difficult rescues were carried out by the I.R.B. crews during the season in which particularly bad surfing conditions were experienced.

Club Captain for the season was again Paul Young who also admirably handled the task of Power Boat Captain as well.

An outstanding effort was put in by Paul Gonsalves as Chief Instructor with 19 new members getting Bronze medallions.

Mark Morgan and Richard Dill-Macky put in some wonderful swimming performances at carnivals. Mark was 3rd and Richard 4th in the Surf Race at the Australian Titles in Hobart.

Richard again won the Bob Lynch Memorial Marathon in a time of 29.40 minutes.

It was the biggest swim yet with 320 competitors and received Australia wide television coverage.

A very popular member during this season was Bill Healy who was senior club champion.

It was an outstanding year for Paul Gonsalves who was junior champion, winning five out of the six monthly point scores in close competition with Robert Lerpiniere. Champion cadet was Ian Stewart. Brothers Damien and Brendon Goff were keen competitors in surf races and beach events.

In November, Life Member Owen Ramsay donated a vintage hollow sea-ply paddleboard which is now

mounted in the clubhouse as an honour board. Relics like this are of historic value and was received with thanks and appreciation.

## 1983/84: OLDIES BUT GOODIES

Our active club membership numbers were not enough to provide full patrol strengths now that Saturday morning patrols were obligatory. Many reserve active members responded to the call and formed Patrols which were called the "Geriatrics". These members were R. Berry, M. Fountain, P. Hall, L. Morgan, C. Timms, P. Young, J. Bosson,

J. Fielder, J. Hall, A. Stewart, J. Uren, P. Blundell, R. Gallagher, C. Hendrikson, R. Stewart, S. Vidgen, D. Crisp, B. Graber, M. Morgan, P. Smith, B. Weber.

These veterans also performed well in competition. John Lerpiniere, Mike Connor and John Jeffers won the Silver Medal in the I.R.B. Veterans Team Rescue Event. The Whale Beach team including Hal Baily, Richie Stewart, Noel Pickering, John Uren and Rob Berry were the top team at the Warriewood Masters Surf Carnival. Brian Graber performed well at surf carnivals in the over 40's surf ski events, travelling far both north and south to show the Club colours.



The "Hal Baily" Christening.



Rob Berry, Richie Stewart, Brian Graber, Jon Uren, Mick Conner, Peter Fulton, Hal Bailly  
Masters Carnival, Champion Team

Paul Young continued in his role as Club Captain while John Lerpiniere worked hard as Power Boat Captain. John gave of considerable time to maintain the two I.R.B. and their motors in top condition.

Club member David Strong, Managing Director of the "Apple" Computer Company again gave generous support and sponsorship this year, resulting in the Company donating two computers to the club and with the company's consent, one was retained for club use and one was raffled, which considerably boosted funds.

\* During the M.M. in October 1983 the bakery firm, Gartrell White of "Big Ben Pies" fame made a generous donation of \$4,000 towards a new surf boat. \* This donation was later invested in a new I.R.B., being a welcome updating of our rescue facilities.

### REMEMBER ALEX

This season we recorded the passing of Alex Hendrikson. Alex owned the Whale Beach Kiosk and many, many times provided his courtyard facilities for Club social functions. A keen

photographer, Alex was the Club's official photographer for many years. Alex's sons were club members and eldest Chris has been a top member of boat crews and club management committees.



Alex Hendrikson

### 1984/85: PATROL CHAMPIONS

In a difficult season with a very low level of active members Mick Conner took on the tough task of Club Captain.

Many extra hours were put in by members to maintain patrol strengths and reserve active members were again much needed.

In spite of the active member problem, it is to the credit of Mick Connor and a small dedicated group of members that Whale Beach still won the Branch Patrol Efficiency competition.

Awards of "above and beyond the call of duty" go to Ian Stewart and Richie Stewart in particular for the many times they stepped in to make up patrol numbers.

### VITAMINS GIVE SWIMMERS A LIFT

A new sponsor was obtained by the Marathon Swim. Thanks to Noel Pickering, Vitamin Supplies Pty Limited gave generously. This followed many seasons of support by Liquid Paper Australia through its managers, brothers Ian and Errol Abbott. Both keen surfers and past members of Long Reef and Manly S.L.S.C..



It was great to see Darcy Patterson Jnr take out the Senior B Handicap section of the Marathon Surf Swim with Mark Morgan again recording the fastest time for surf club members.

As well as taking over as Treasurer this season, "Pirate" Pete Fulton also took out the Sportsman's Trophy for the most consistent effort in Club events.

A relative newcomer to the club this season was Greg Robinson who won the George McRobert Trophy for the most improved member.

We said "Goodbye and many thanks" to Frank Baker and Wife Margo. After many seasons of service to the Club as handicapper and treasurer, Frank moved to a new life in Queensland.

## 1985/86: WE WIN MORE GOLDS

A bright and very fit young man stepped forward to take the position of Club Captain in a very popular vote. Robert Lerpiniere showed great leadership qualities and bought an insurgence in club membership and put Whale Beach back into the Surf Carnival scene.

The Cadet Malibu Relay team won the Branch and Metropolitan Championships. The team was Cameron Stone, Ben Nicholson and Saul Brown. The over 35 Wave Ski S.L.S.C. Branch Championship was won by Brian Graber with Robert Lerpiniere a fine second in the open malibu.

At the Branch I.R.B. titles we came away with two 1st's, two 2nds and a

3rd place. Our team lead by John Lerpiniere was Tim Garben, Aaron Bird, Jason Murphy, Jon Uren, Greg Withers and Robert Lerpiniere, Steve Park in consistent outstanding performances in the water and on the beach was the Club's Senior Champion. Ian Stewart won the Junior Title and Saul Brown the Cadet.

Using monies donated by Gartrell White through Jack and Eve Dunn, we purchased a new I.R.B. to back the 'Apple' craft. The new boat was christened "Jack Lyons" in honor of his long service to the Club.

This season another sterling effort by John Lerpiniere in maintaining the craft and their motors.

In a fine display of dare-devil surfing, Jon Uren won the Boomer Boy Trophy.



Accepting the new I.R.B. donated by Gartrell White  
L. to R. Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Lyons, Jack Lyons, Eric Dunn

The Vidgen family through Broken Bay Real Estate was again very appreciated sponsors for the Monthly Point Score Trophy.

It was good to see the return of 'Honest' Phil Cullis from the north coast to take the job of Club Handicapper.

## 1986-87 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

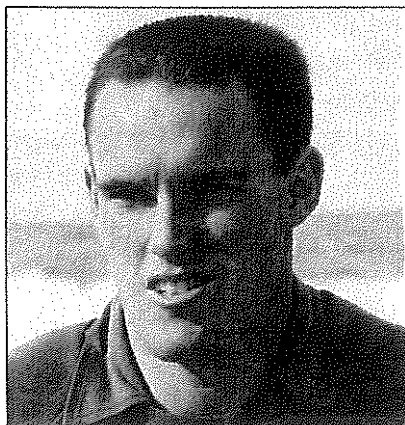
This season was one of further achievement with 35 bronze medals being awarded to new Club members.

Amongst five Instructors Certificates was the first female member of this Club to obtain this award. Congratulations to Helen Shilkin and to our Chief Instructor, Greg Robinson.

The Club membership in this season was 230, of which 180 were Active or Reserve Active Members.

The two IRB's, the "Jack Lyons" and the "Apple" were put to constant use and were involved in 32 rescues. There were another 20 recorded rescues by boat, ski or torpedo buoys.

It is interesting to note, that for the first time in the Club's history no rescues were made with reel, line or belt. This equipment is no longer officially required to be used by Patrols.



Club Champion, Steve Park

Steve Park won the Club Championship for the second season in a row. The Junior Champion was Ben Nicholson and Cadet Champion, Simon Laithwaite.

The Marathon Surf Swim was the biggest yet, with 480 entrants and with sponsorship by Apple Computer Australia, the event raised \$4,000 for the club.

### Big Paint Job!

In celebration of the 50th season, the Clubhouse exterior was repaired and painted. This major project was organised by, and a lot of the work was done by, Ted Allan. Over the years Ted has contributed much to the Club through coaching our surf boat crews and in maintaining the building.

This season the Club mourned the passing of Foundation and Life Member Arthur Barrell. He was the Club's first Honorary Treasurer and also served many years on the Board of Moby Dick. Arthur's sons Brian and

Graham have also given many years of service to the Club and are Reserve Active Members.

Captain Robert Lerpiniere put in another sterling effort. Robert organised the carnival entries and the logistics of attending carnival throughout the season. He also was manager of the club's team that went to Western Australia.

Luke Howarth and Dean Cockle won Championship medals in the Junior Board Riding Championship. Both qualified for the New South Wales contingent to the Australian Titles.

The Junior Boat Crew trained hard and competed in many carnivals, with Teddy Allan as coach and sweep. They also gained valuable experience competing in Western Australia.

Thanks to Kwikasair we were able to take the boat to Perth at no cost.

The Club gained a new surf boat this year thanks to the generosity of Reserve Active Member, John Johnston who donated \$5,000.



Robert Lerpiniere with Champion Cadets.

Saul Brown, Cameron Stone and Ben Nicholson





Club members gathered for a 50th season celebration.

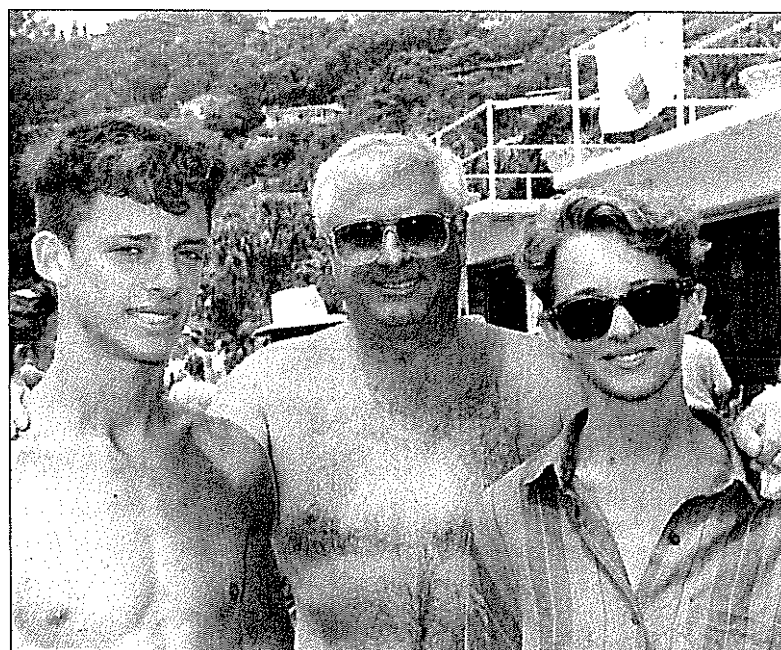
## The Club is 'Incorporated'

A milestone in this 50th year was the Club becoming an Incorporated body. The new and correct name of the Club is now "Whale Beach Surf Lifesaving Club Incorporated".

A tribute is due in the pages of this history to Richie Stewart, the Club President in our 50th year. From a junior member through to President, Richie has been a devoted and tireless

member. He has won many medals for the Club in carnival competition. He was Club Captain for 4 season, Treasurer for 5 years and Club President for 9 years.

According to Association records, Whale Beach is the first NSW Surf Lifesaving Club to Incorporate. We thank in particular the Club's Honorary Solicitor, Mick Hogan, for his service over nearly 50 years and the Club Trustees, George McRobert, Col Timms and Rickie Stewart.



Club President, Richie Stewart with his son Ian and daughter Melinda, both also outstanding Club members.

# MEMBERS REMEMBER

## BALLS AND ALL

The Annual Balls we used to hold at the Leichardt Town Hall, the Grace Brothers Auditorium, Mark Foys Ballroom, and Warringah Hall at Neutral Bay, in the 1940's and 1950's, when friends and relatives, girls and members would fill the ballrooms with up to 800 people?

Often featured would be a member's ballet such as this:-



L. to R. Hal Baily, Noel Turner, Eddie Fitt, Doug Cragg, Ken Hall, Keith Jones, Keith Elvy, Ivan McRobert, George McRobert, (around 1950).

## THE COUNTRY CONNECTION

During the late sixties and seventies Whale Beach Surf Club experienced a great cross section of members, some local, a lot from town and a handful from country regions. A strong affiliation was sought by the rural dwellers to stay overnight at the beach. These members, led by the Hall brothers, firstly and later, as far a field as Kandos, shone through how dedicated some Lifesavers are to enjoy the surf and care for others whilst developing skills in the waves. Hal Baily had the pleasure of two such members in his first Bronze Squad, namely, Lance Stevens and Greg Ryan and no two funnier people ever stood together

looking out to sea trying to perform the then current belt drill, hence appropriately earning themselves the nickname "The Windsor Clowns".

## HOW ABOUT HUGHSIE!

In 1968-69 season Paul Hughes who was a past Mid-North Coast Surf and Belt Champion joined our club.

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As Power Boat Captain, his initiatives implemented the "Moby Dick" power jet boat into operational duty and we acquired a landrover to tow the craft this year, thanks to efforts by Jack Neary.

Paul was an organiser and motivating spirit in the introduction of the "Nipper" movement in our Club.

## HEROES, CHARLIE AND JONO

Also in 1969, Charles Cavanagh and Jonathon Uren were commended for

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their individual courage in a mass rescue in which all members on the patrol showed outstanding team work and stamina.

Rescues with line were 65, without line 33 and by boat 2.

## COURAGEOUS CON JENSEN

Con Jensen although never an active member and a poor swimmer, was a pillar of strength in the club's early days. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word; he had a wonderful sense of humour and his one-liners and repartee were the source of endless laughter. Yet his support and help was also endless and from 1940 he served on the Management Committee with a host of practical suggestions, while his help both practically and financially during the building of the club house is legend.

On one memorable occasion when several people were swept off their feet in a deep inshore rip outside patrol hours, Con raced to their rescue fully clothed and plunged into the surf neck-deep and held onto them in a human chain, until help did arrive, at great personal risk. He should have won a medal!

## NIGHT RESCUE!

It was a dark night in the middle of the week during 1971-72 summer and the only indication of frivolity at 1 a.m., was an occasional scream of laughter drifting faintly up to the houses at Whale Beach from a beach drinking party.

Suddenly almost every resident was awakened by the continuous raucous wailing of the emergency siren and shark alarm on the old boathouse on the foredune.

Within a couple of minutes Noel Greenfield, Paul Hughes and other members of the Club and residents began arriving on the scene to find a male friend of the party, who was an off-duty soldier, had entered the heavy surf near the southern rocks and

experience and fine competitor who represented us in carnivals into his 30's.

As Power Boat Captain, his initiatives implemented the "Moby Dick" power jet boat into operational duty and we acquired a landrover to tow the craft this year, thanks to efforts by Jack Neary.

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## HEROES, CHARLIE AND JONO

Also in 1969, Charles Cavanagh and Jonathon Uren were commended for

been swept out in the fierce rip running out there.

Quickly a dozen or so cars were organised to shine their headlights onto the surf, while a scratch crew lead by Noel Greenfield were launching the power jet boat "Moby Dick I".

They searched beyond and through the break for some minutes, when Hal Baily caught a glimpse of the victim falling down a wave in the outer line of surf. Stripping to underwear, he swam out, calling "where are you" at intervals as it was impossible to sight him in the breaking waves, hurling spray and dazzling lights.

Finally swimming out to the Moby Dick rescue boat and finding their search fruitless too, he swam ashore again, only to find himself being run down by the power boat. A quick duck-dive avoided injury by the dazzled crew. They all beached to find the victim had been washed into the shallows by succeeding waves in an unconscious state and was sighted and recovered by other members.

Resuscitation was immediately commenced until the arrival of an ambulance with oxygen equipment. The patient was taken to hospital and died there.

## THE BARE CHEEK!

The 1976-77 season.

John Giddey was joined by P. Giddey and B.D. Giddey. Our best "Baker", good supporter, rower and prize-winning slowest Marathon swimmer Alan Murphy, was in good company when Mick Nolan joined up at the same time. The latter is a forthright raconteur and good-fellow.

One of the Mick's most famous exploits happened when on a hot, sunny, crowded beach-day he hosed a Club barbeque crowd.

In retaliation he was carried into the surf and dumped there bereft of his swim-togs. The revenging club-mates ran back up the beach in glee, imaging him left there in a naked di-

lemma. Not so for Mick; in full view of the crowd, the lunchtime diners at Moby Dick and the barbeque party including our elders of the Ladies Auxiliary, he slowly strolled back, showered and dressed in complete aplomb.

But earning cheers among gales of hilarity!

## OUR FIRST PROS

Jamie Macnab was our first professional full-time Lifeguard when in 1973 he was appointed as Jet Power Boat Operator for Warringah Shire and later became Rescue Headquarters Radio Officer, where his expertise has directed countless rescues.

Paul Young became a Warringah Shire Professional Lifeguard in 1975, graduating rapidly to Deputy Supervisor of Lifeguards and later to be a very enterprising and a popular Chief Supervisor. His skills have benefitted our Club and the community and his expertise has kept our I.R.B. craft and crews in tune. Most of our I.R.B. operator skills in these craft and their seamanship derive from his guidance and example.

By 1978 Peter Hall joined their ranks as a professional and both Paul and Peter fill their Winter period as members of a team who lecture, demonstrate and teach resuscitation technique to students and the public in addition to their continuing interest in Club activities.

## WHAT A CIRCUS

During 1978, Steven Vidgen and his Social Committee excelled when they held the gala turn of the decade with "The Circus Ball" at Moby Dick. A fabulous night and a laugh a minute, with some outrageous fancy dress.

Frank Baker umpired the cricket match against Qantas Staff where David Laird showed how to make the right strokes and other unnamed players stroked themselves out by playing too hard - but it wasn't cricket!

## YOUNG MARK MADE HIS MARK!

In 1978-79 season, Mark Morgan and Richard Dill-Macky along with protégé Mark Olsen swam and surfed at many carnivals with good results as did our Junior Boat Crew and other members.

It was a vintage year for Mark Olsen whose sense of application was tested by travelling from the Blue Mountains to attend carnivals and his patrols.

His list of competition success that year in Club events is boggling: Junior Surf Champion, Junior Belt Champion, Junior Board Champion, Annual Point Score, 4 or 6 Monthly Point Scores, The Sid Bacon Memorial Trophy, The President's Trophy, The Handicapper's Trophy, The Moby Dick Trophy, then to top it off

Our illustrious cricketers







Ivan Campbell planned and directed the big dig. Season 1976/77

he won the handicap in the Marathon Swim which was won by Richard Dill-Macky with Line Honours.

who improved performance was a compliment of both crew and coach.

After the job was finished, more fluid passed down the worker's throats than the drains could cope with!

## A BOUQUET FOR 'BIKKIES'

Michael Bartlett, Life Member of Bilgola S.L.S.C., earned a bouquet for his skill and dedication in coaching and sweeping our Junior boat crew,

## THE BIG DIG

A huge physical effort was made by valiant volunteers who under the expert supervision of Ivan Campbell, dug up and then replaced our drainage system. At one stage it was reminiscent of the trenches of W.W.I.

## WELL DONE!

In 1981-82, the great efforts by Club Captain Bryan Webster, Scott Unicombe, Marion Robb and Rick Le Cornu who worked so hard to achieve patrol efficiency this season, resulting

Our drainage experts try their skill at draining a glass of amber fluid





in 6th place in the branch efficiency contest. No lives lost again!

While our Gear Steward, Jamie Macnab earned praise for the Club, himself and his helpers when his efforts brought 1st place in the Branch Gear Inspection.

Rick Le Cornu's efforts as Chief Instructor earned congratulations for supervising tests for 89 awards, including 29 Bronze Medallions, 6 Instructors, 17 A.R.C.'s. Many of the awards went to pupils of Barrenjoey High School.

The Zodiac I.R.B. earned it's keep on many rescues including two mass rescues and one very dangerous rock rescue of a scuba-diver at the southern end, full credit for which went to veteran Power-Boat Men Jon Uren and Paul Young for their quick thinking and actions in that situation.

## A FEAST OF MEMORIES

All those Marathon Swim days, carnivals and social occasions at the Club, when your taste-buds were tantalized by the wafting odour of roasting sucking pig or lamb or sizzling snags and steaks? For years these delights were concocted, stroked and sweated over (while they cooked on amazing contraptions of Heath Robinson designs) by a band of stalwarts who had a range of alcoholic marinating fluid which would have made the chefs of fame turn pale.

Among them were Ian Waite, Graham Anderson, Jim Daniel, Richard Whitfield, Frank Baker, Rob Schey, Kel Smith.

Of course regularly doing their bit on the ticket selling table have been Irene and Norm Murray and Jack Lyons.

\* Latter times saw the Avalon Lions' Club take over, led by supporters and past Presidents of the Lions, Kelvin Smith, Frank Baker and their merry band who roar into action with their mobile barbeque and heaps of humour, goodwill and cooking skill.

The Avalon Lions Club's Association with our Club began on the 18th of March, 1961 when the Lions Club was chartered at a special function which was held in the Surf Club premises which is now Moby Dick Club.



### 82/83 Members



## SHARKS

From the earliest days of Surf Lifesaving in 1900's, a constant menace was the threat of shark attack.

Sharks were constantly sighted inshore, as shoaling mullet and salmon were seasonally prevalent and were commonly to be seen in such numbers that they appeared as a dark mass, which were rounded-up and attacked by schools of sharks.

Pioneer Jack Webster Snr, recounted how he used to throw sticks of dynamite into the sea to disperse huge schools of sharks sunning themselves on calm days at Whale Beach, during the 1920's.

A series of attacks on humans occurred in the 1920's and 1930's many of which were fatal and included members of Surf Lifesaving Clubs. Survivors usually suffered horrifying injuries.

Most club patrols had a shark tower from which a look-out was maintained and the presence of a shark was followed by an alarm by bell or siren and the surf boat crew would try to chase the culprit away, often using a hand-harpoon.

This prompted scientific research of shark behaviour. Conclusions worldwide were that the only predictable pattern of reaction by sharks was that it was unpredictable! One aspect however, appeared to predominate and that was that most attacks seemed linked to attacks by locally domiciled shark which defended their territory as a dog would, and maintained a continuous patrol of the area.

To correct this, the NSW Government implemented a system of meshing on all Metropolitan beaches. Nets 400m long, hanging curtain-wise from below the surface at each beach, were designed to entangle any shark which, while patrolling its territory, should confront the nets.

# MONSTER SHARKS OFF BEACHES

## SURFBOAT RACES TO SAVE BATHERS FROM 14FT. GIANT

Giant sharks drove bathers from the water at four Sydney beaches yesterday.

There were eight alarms. Bronte had three, Maroubra two, and North Curl Curl, North Narrabeen, and Whale Beach one each.

Most of the sharks sighted were between 12 feet and 15 feet long.

### Hauled Back to Beach

Two probationary members of North Curl Curl Surf Club were hauled 250 yards to the beach at noon yesterday while the club surfboat headed off a 14ft shark.

The shark alarm rang just as Ken Howes (beltman) reached his patient at the buoys during an examination swim for the Surf Life Saving Association's bronze medallion.

Linesmen on the beach rapidly hauled beltman and the patient ashore while the surfboat raced towards the shore and drove it out to sea.

*Three sharks between eight feet and 12 feet were seen by the surfboat crew at Whale Beach while the boat was standing by the swimming buoys just before the start of the junior surf championship.*

*When 150 yards from the beach, the boat was hit by a large wave and swamped. The crew was hurled into the water.*

*Although aware of the presence of the three sharks, four members, George McRobert, W. McKeown, Neil McCool and Ken Hall, donned belts and swam to the rescue.*

*The club belt champion, Harold Bailey, swam out unhindered and was advantage of the undertow, swam with him out to sea to get beyond the breaking waves.*

*Bailey supported Craig until beltman McRobert arrived and took*

him over.

*The other crew members rescued by beltmen were J. Marsden, Brian Cliff and H. McIntosh.*

### Remained all Day

The sharks remained cruising off Whale beach all day, and bathers were forbidden to venture out more than knee-deep.

A 12-footer was seen 60 yards off North Narrabeen Beach just before the start of the club surf race, at 11 a.m.

Shark meshing off Sydney surf beaches will begin again tomorrow night after a lapse of two years.

In the past two months, 53 shark alarms have been sounded on the beaches, including a record of 14 in one day, a week ago.

Captain C.R. Stuart, who had operated two boats under Government contract from 1937 and 1943, signed a fresh contract with the Government last week.

Between 1937 and 1943, 2800 sharks were caught and killed.

During that period there were no casualties caused by sharks at any meshed beach.

Captain Stuart has contracted to mesh all beaches from Palm Beach to Cronulla to the end of April, 1947, at a cost of £5250.

He said yesterday that a big haul of sharks would be meshed off Sydney beaches this week.

"During the winter we will prevent the birth of thousands more sharks," Captain Stuart added.

"Female sharks come in close to the beaches to spawn in winter.

"When netted they are often found to be carrying between 30 and 40 baby sharks."

Daily Telegraph,  
March 4, 1946

The system proved so efficient that at it's inception in 1936, up to 1500 sharks were caught per week!

A factory was set up to process the by-products, such as the skins for shoes and handbags, livers for oil and fins and tails for Chinese cuisine.

Eventually, the declining shark population made the factory unprofitable. So effective was the meshing system that today only an average of 5 sharks per week are now caught.

The system spread internationally as a viable counter to shark attack on surfing beaches.

Since 1936 no surfer has suffered a fatal attack on a meshed beach, although spear-fishers have.

Predatory sharks still are able to traverse a meshed beach while hunting fish and it prudent to take special care on any unmeshed beach.

It is now a rare occasion that a Surf Carnival is interrupted by a shark alarm or all swimming events cancelled, as has happened in past times.

## Veterans in surf battle

- as reported in the Manly Daily 1970

*SURFING VETERANS HAL BAILY AND PAUL HUGHES TURNED BACK THE CLOCK AT YESTERDAY'S WHALE BEACH CARNIVAL.*

Baily, 52 and Hughes, 33 revelled in heavy seas to halt the usual domination of open surf races by younger surfers.

The two Whale Beach members battled through dumping 10 to 12 feet waves and cross rips before Hughes won the open surf.

The two were almost impossible to see through driving rain at all times.

"Hal should have won the race", Hughes, a former Central Coast surf and belt champion, said later. "He went a bit further north to crack a big wave, so I was able to pick up a small wave and win."

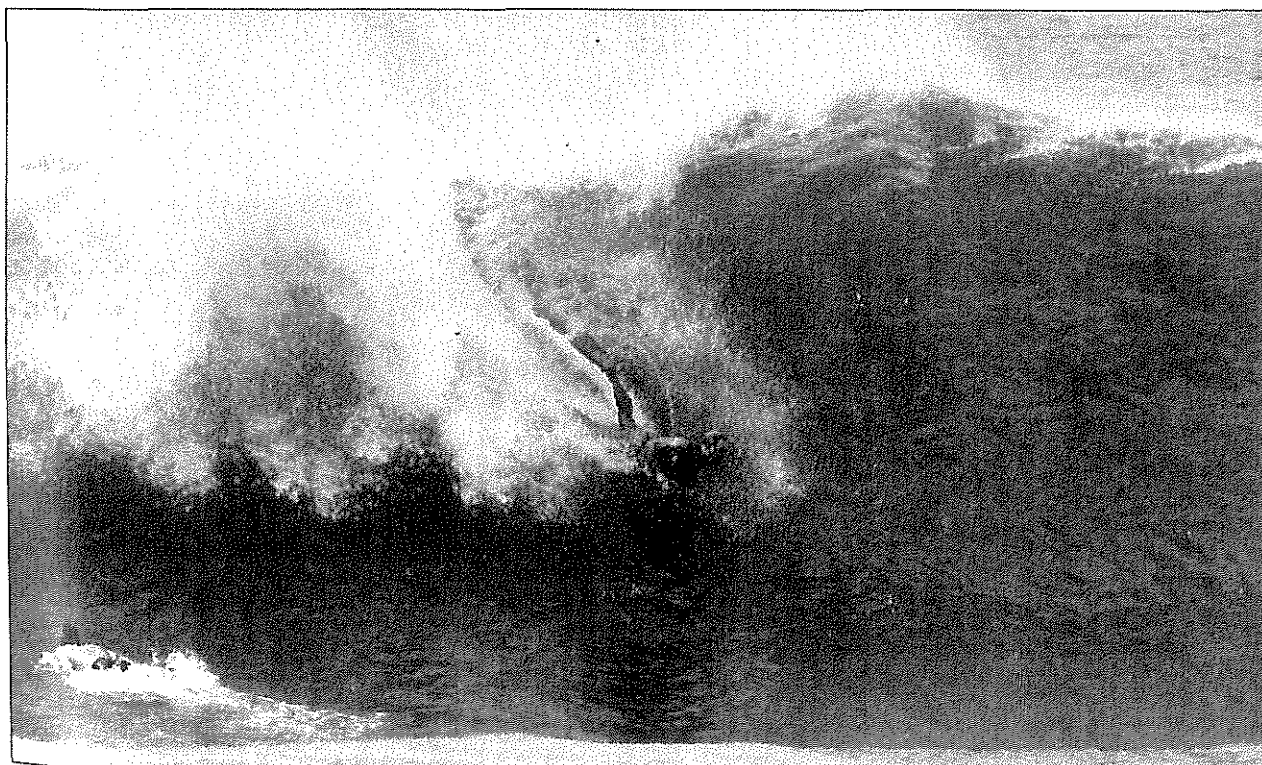
Baily began his lifesaving career with

North Bondi Club before World War II. He was North Bondi Club Champion in 1938 and a member of the R and R team. His last major open carnival placing was third in the metropolitan belt championship, when he was 33.

"The surf today was good, it makes it easier for someone of my age; if the surf is flat, all the sprinters get there", he said.

After the race Baily and Hughes decided the heavy surf was too good to waste.

They went out to "try a couple of waves" where the surf was even bigger at the northern end of Whale Beach.



Hal Baily on a Whale Beach Howler

## MAN DROWNED AND FOUR SAVED AT WHALE BEACH

A man was drowned at Whale Beach yesterday while surfing with his two sons.

He was George William Bridger, 47, of Bardwell Park.

Five lifesavers used lines to rescue Bridger's two sons and two other men.

One of the lifesavers, Colin Timms, is only 14. The others are John Kirby 17, Bill Marlin 19, Les Singleton 19 and Les Chamberlain 19.

Kirby said: "There are two rips running in opposite directions, they met in the middle of the beach and ran out to sea with a vicious undertow.

I went out with a line and could see five people being swept out. When I reached one of the sons he shouted 'get hold of my father'.

So I let go of him and went out to his father who was in great difficulty.

About 70 yards out I caught hold of the father, but a huge wave dumped me and I lost him. The other lifesavers and I then brought in the two sons and the two other men.

We then started searching for the boy's father. Les Singleton found him floating face down.

Singleton held him up while Marlin and I got a line around him."

Marlin said: "The rip was the most vicious I've ever felt and it made rescues terribly difficult. When we got the Father in I applied artificial respiration. We worked on him for 40 minutes."

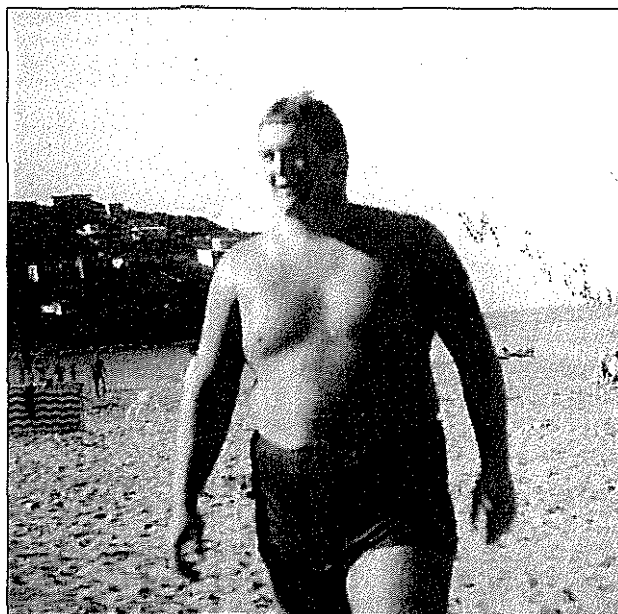
Dr. David Low said he could see the rescues being carried out from his Whale Beach week-ender.

"I rushed to the Beach and gave the father an injection, but he appeared to be dead," said Dr. Low.

"The lifesavers did a wonderful job in the conditions."

Lifesavers praised the efforts of 14 year old Colin Timms, a Cadet Lifesaver, who helped bring in two men.

The fatality was the first and only on Whale Beach during a Beach Patrol. The Club received a letter of commendation for the personal courageous effort by Cadet Colin Timms and for the Patrol's efficiency in difficult circumstances.



Col Timms, hero, outstanding belt swimmer, long serving Club Secretary/Club President.

## LIFESAVER RISKS NECK TO SAVE EXHAUSTED DIVER

A lifesaver risked his neck to save an exhausted diver who was being battered by heavy seas at Whale Beach on Sunday.

John Uren, a member of the Whale Beach club, battled boiling seas to haul the diver to an in-shore rescue boat.

Captain of the boat, Paul Young, superintendent of Warringah Shire Council's lifeguards, praised Mr Uren's courage in bringing the diver to safety after both of them were hurled toward the rocks.

Mr Young said Mr Uren reached the diver with only a few seconds to spare.

The drama began when the man, later treated at Mona Vale Hospital, swam into trouble while diving with friends.

His cries for help were heard by a nearby resi-

**By Doug Ryan**

dent who alerted the surf club.

The inshore rescue boat, with Messrs Young and Uren on board, put to sea while lifesavers ran around the rocks.

"When we arrived, the man was clinging on to rocks," Mr Uren said.

"He must have been exhausted because as soon as I hit the water with the torpedo tube he let go.

"He had ditched his tanks and weights," he said.

"The swell was bad with wind chops, and he was being covered with every wash," Mr Uren said.

"I managed to pull him out of the surge and swam back to the boat."

The man collapsed when the boat reached shore.

Lifesavers gave him oxygen until the ambulance arrived.



Rescuer John Uren.



# THE "NORTH NARRA" CONNECTION

Jack Cameron was a member of North Narrabeen S.L.S.C.

As well as being an active member of that Club he was an Examiner and as District supervisor, took an earnest interest in Whale Beach Club and it's progress. So much so that he encouraged long-term association between our Clubs which was expressed in a very enjoyable annual Interclub Carnival.

The event was held alternatively at each beach and was usually followed by a social get-together.

Many friends were made from the regular meetings and the keen competition engendered a comradeship which was enduring and a compliment to Jack, whose enthusiasm and dedication to the aims of the S.L.S.A.,

continued until his sudden death. Since then, the event was held in his memory and was called the Jack Cameron Memorial Shield.

Although held in a very friendly spirit, the events were hotly contested with on many occasions the winner of the day being decided with the last event, the pillow fight. Each club nominated a team with an agreed number of competitors. Events included surfboat race, belt swim, surf race, ski and board races, sprints and flags, chariot race and pillow fight. Recorded results for the Jack Cameron Shield show North Narrabeen wins, Whale Beach wins.

The parties that have followed the beach competitor have also resulted in some spectacular action. As memo-

rable as that day's events may have been, the next day, many a member has been heard to mumble, "Oh don't remind me about that!"

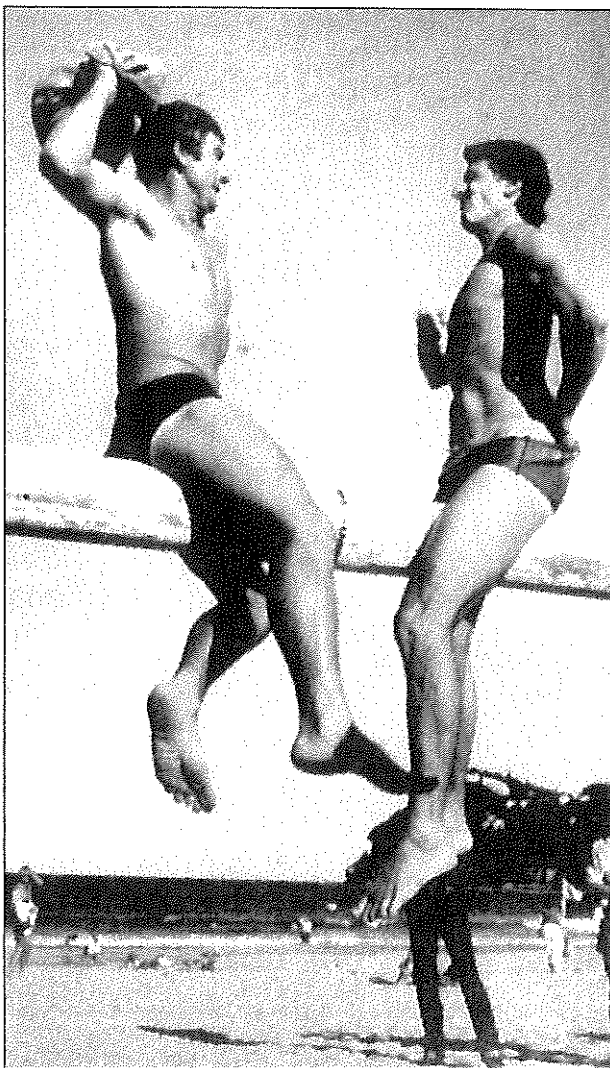
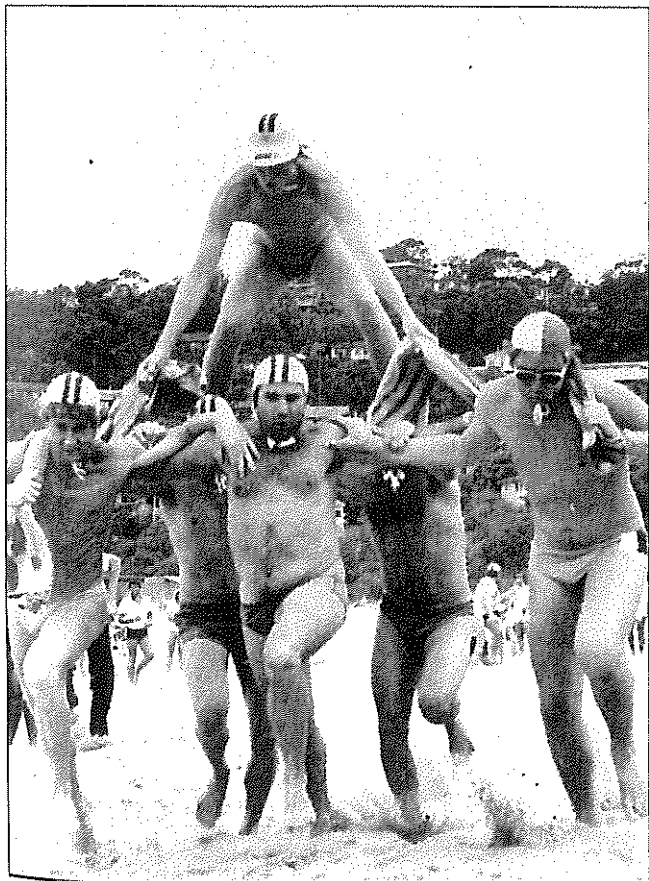
Another fine character was Bill Barnett, North Narrabeen's long-time sweep and boat coach, who assisted our crews by coaching them, sweeping their crews to a ripely mature age.

In pre-war days a similar Inter-club contact was enjoyed with Queenscliff S.L.S.C, engendered by Northbridge Swimming Club friend Ralph Ramsden who belonged to both Clubs.

Among Queenscliff members who held constant interest and friendship with our Club were Ralph, Alan "Deacon" Parsons and Alan Rogers.

The deciding event at the 1980-81 conflict was the pillowfight. After a rugged battle 'Bucky' went down to Whale Beach champ Rob Berry.

The Whale Beach Chariot team romps home.





# MEMBERS REMEMBER

## "I WAS ABOUT TEN AT THE TIME"

ALAN WILCOX  
REMEMBERS

My first memory of the Whale Beach S.L.S.C. was the windmill-stand clubhouse, the original position of the water-pump having been in front of a house called "The Gunyah", four doors south of the present clubhouse.

I was 6 years old in 1937-38 when Mum, Dad and I used to camp on the hill above the old wooden dressing sheds, at the south end of the beach. In 1940 we changed camp site to the flat area a little in front of the present boathouse.

During 1941 the club members built the old stone boathouse on the beach and I remember Bill McKeon chasing me and my friends off the excavations, before the cement was poured.

One day they told we kids that someone had caught a mermaid on the northern rocks, so that got rid of us for an hour or two!

The war was on and all the able bodied boys had gone overseas, so all those left were the "old, infirm and the kids", there were about 6 of us.

The club had an old double-ended surf boat called "Riptide" which was given to the club by Dee Why S.L.S.C. and in 1941 the club bought their second boat named "Riptide II" from Cronulla S.L.S.C. On Sundays it would take all members to haul it up the beach to put it away.

During the war there were about 40 or 50 houses at Whale Beach, so the number of surfers was small, so the small number of club members could cope with the patrols on a Sunday.

But when the war ended we needed a

clubhouse for the increased numbers of members and surfers. "The Gunyah" was one option, but the Club Executive decided to buy the present site (wise move!).

In 1945-46 season I was a juvenile member and was know to all as "Butch" as my two generations before me were butchers.

I won the Juvenile Trophy that season, which I still have as a treasured possession in my house. The big night for receiving it was at the Annual Ball at Grace Bros. Auditorium.

By the time I was 14 years old my weekends were spent at Whale Beach, as Mum and Dad had built a house there. I had met my two mates, George Hannaford and Owen Ramsay, through the Whale Beach Surf Club and have had a very close lifelong relationship.



1943 - Back Row: Brook Hannaford, ?, Clem Morris, Bill Eyles, Ted Elvy, Frank Tickle, Ray Tickle, Pop Timms  
Centre Row: Col Jenson, ?, ?, Bill McKeon, Keith Webster, ?, Jack Brown, Fred Heath  
Front Row: Alan Boyd, ?, ?, Alan Wilcox, ?

1952 was a big year for the club, as it was the year the first sod was turned for the building of the clubhouse.

I will always remember Ted Elvy calling a meeting on the beach and telling the boys that it was a historic day for the Surf Club, as we were going to clear the blocks of land that day for the start of the building that would make us independent of the Council. We would own our clubhouse and land eventually.

The only other privately owned club was Palm Beach, but ours would be new and not handed to us by residents and ratepayers.

Keith Jones was employed by the club full-time and slowly it took shape. George Hannaford Snr was also a very active worker, and supervised construction.

They were hard times for members as there were 4 patrols. The weekends you were not on patrol you were expected to work on the building. This soon divided the men from the boys - those that would see the club through and the ones that wanted to parade on the beach. So we didn't see a lot of growth in the club membership in those days!

I mentioned it being a big year for the club, but it was a big year for me too, as it was the year I received my Bronze medallion and I have it still, tucked away in a safe place.

The other big year was 1953-54 season for me, as I won the club pointscore, a fluke I'm sure as I was not able to train much owing to working for the family shop.

Father's motto was "Business before pleasure".

By 1953 the clubhouse's first 2 floors were ready to be opened and Judge Adrian Curlewis was there for the ceremony. There were a couple of hundred people on the lawn in front, but a storm broke and it had to be held inside, but it didn't matter as everybody was happy to have somewhere to go now.

We had seen plans for the top floor, but none of us thought it would eventuate, as we had no money and had trouble paying the two lower floors off. The Executive decided the only way to make money was to build the top floor for dances.

So with the help of the Rural Bank we put the top floor on and in September 1958 we opened same, but could not make enough money to pay the interest on the loan. I attended some of the Management Committee meetings and know how desperate we were for funds. I would call this period "our darkest hour" of the club's 50 years history, until 1962.

BUT - the Executive decided to try for a "licence" for the top floor. I do not know if everybody knows what went on "behind closed doors" at the club, but I had better not elaborate as most involved are dead now, but it was all constructive.

A certain Judge was not going to see "surf club members drunk", but with the help of the late Ted Elvy, Darcy Patterson, Herb Wilcox and those still alive, there came a memorable day in 1962 when Whale Beach S.L.S.C. came alive with an injection from the Moby Dick Surfers Club.

What about the Sunday lunches we put on at "Moby"! Dad would cook a lot of corned beef at the shop. I would bring the meat slicer to the club and all those wonderful ladies of our Auxiliary would make great salads and we would put on a lunch for all members to show the Licencing Sergeant how badly we needed a Liquor Licence for our members. That is what I meant about "behind closed doors".

Well, the next 25 years I think is general knowledge. The club has gone from strength to strength financially, but as time changes some of today's youth still do not want to be regimented into an organised club, as surfing and lifesaving is.

I have many memories which would take too long to write about, but my life has been made richer by being involved with the people of Whale

Beach Surf Club since 1937. I am lucky to have witnessed the 50 years of progress by the club. I still have many years left of my life and I hope to see the 75th Anniversary in "two thousand and twelve", God willing!

#### SOME NAMES THAT BRING BACK MEMORIES:

\* HARRY DISMORR, SID BACON, JACK BROWN, "POP" TIMMS, FRED TIMMS, NOEL GREENFIELD, TED CORAM SNR, JOHN & DARCY PATTERSON, DARCY PATTERSON SNR, TED ELVY.

Thank you for the opportunity to express some of my experiences with the chocolate, blue and gold.

"WHALE BEACH SURF LIFE  
SAVING CLUB FOREVER!"

ALAN WILCOX

#### Editors Notes:

\* 1) All deceased members.

\* 2) During the period from the opening of the top floor until we obtained a Liquor Licence, the small kitchen-bar was very ably manned by Ted Coram Snr as voluntary steward.

Ted was an inimitable character, always quick with a joke and a laughing anecdote which would start the ball rolling whenever he opened the bar at mid-day and sundown (closing time was indicated by the ringing of Ted's large and raucous alarm clock!)

Most senior members used to attend regularly and a great sense of comradeship was enjoyed by all, particularly after the Sunday morning events when everyone had worked up a thirst!

Of course the situation was illegal according to the liquor laws. Perhaps it was not co-incidence that Darcy Patterson Snr held an Executive position in a branch of the N.S.W. Police Dept, which helped us to maintain this fund raising activity, until we eventually became licenced!

The many social events we held in this period were always catered by our Ladies Auxiliary, who over so many years worked tirelessly with wonderful dedication and good grace in raising funds and concocting delightful meals for a never-ending series of occasions.

During earlier camping days before we had a clubhouse, they worked every weekend by setting up table-stalls to sell cakes, biscuits, scones and jam, sandwiches etc., while their men bought war-disposal "coppers" which they valiantly stoked with wood and sold gallons of boiling water to (picnickers) for their "bilys" and teapots! (Beryl McRobert was the first President of the Auxiliary and was later followed by Clare Elvy.)

It was truly a time of self-help and a comparison with this era's generous sponsorships could not be imagined then!

Occasions such as New Years Eve, which were celebrated by erecting a row of trestle tables 20 feet long on the road outside our tents which the ladies loaded with home-made goodies.

Everyone sat down to a huge feast for supper until midnight came, lighted by a row of kerosene pressure lanterns.

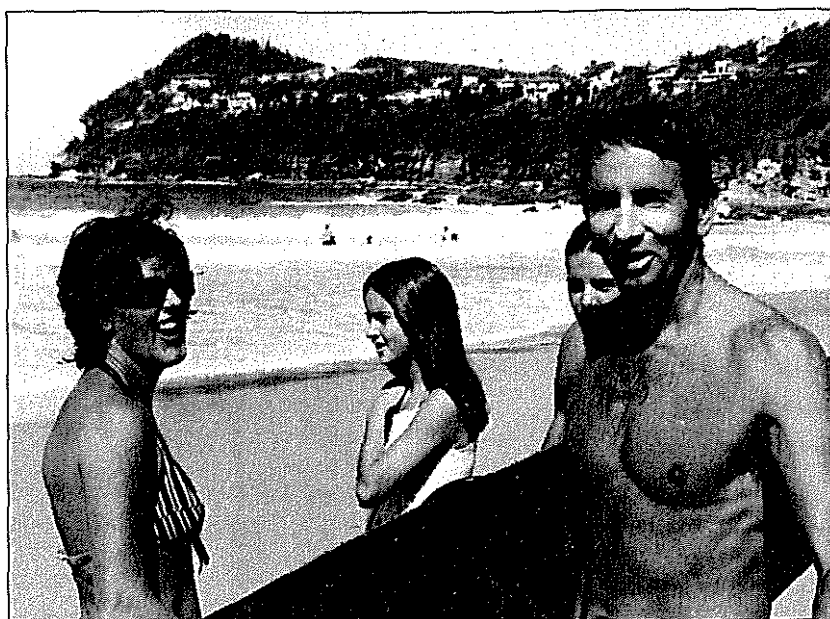
Grog was rationed in those war-time days and this particular celebration went through until dawn without any alcohol, when we all finished the night by fooling around in the pool making fountains and pyramids!

Many barbeques were held in front of the old stone boathouse which would be emptied of gear, pressure lamps brought out and sing-songs and dances were held to the tunes played by Bill Graber and his accordion or violin.

Dancing on the concrete floor must have given a boost to the bootmaking trade!

## "A Long, Long time Ago"

by Peter Taylor



Peter Taylor, wife Beverly, daughters Kim and Kerry

It was going to be one of those unbearably hot days in Sydney's western suburbs: 120F no matter what you drank. So, we put the Morris Minor convertible under the fourteen foot long plywood surfboat and headed for the coast. We wanted to stop at Avalon, but the board didn't and as it had the kind of control of soaring hawk exercises over a chicken it's carrying, we submitted its greater inertia and finally stopped at Whale Beach.

There we were surprised and amused to find among the morning swimmers what appeared to be a group of nomadic tribesmen, each looking like "Lawrence of Arabia" after a fierce battle (which had been lost), slowly making their sorry way from the north end sandhills towards the old sandstone boatshed. Ian ("Animal") Watson, Peter ("Plum") Bourne, Bruce ("Mantis") Bonny, Bill ("Dolf") Fleming, John ("Macka") McDonald, Billy Marlin and Warwick ("Dusty") Saunders were making a slow recovery from what must have been a very entertaining evening and a slower preparation for their Sunday of vigilance and service with the Surf Club.

Later, they (rudely) suggested that the Minor didn't look as if it would cope

with many more long drives and therefore we should join the Club so we could sleep in the Clubhouse overnight. This sounded like a good idea as the dormitory wouldn't be crowded at night with "Animal" & Co. sleeping in the sandhills and during the day, it would be like having continuous free entertainment from our very own comedy theatre group.

We hesitated and so were quickly introduced to Noel Greenfield who surprised us by asking the strangest surf club admission questions imaginable. Not the expected question: "Can you swim (at all)?" but "Can you push a wheel-barrow?" and not: "How fast can you swim (if at all)?" but "How fast can you push that wheelbarrow?"

We were very impressed by the fearless manner in which these hulking, bronzed lifesavers caught waves. Richie Hansford impressed most with his cries of "All on", until we realised, after he had "conned" us into catching two successive ten foot "dumpers", that he simply couldn't see without his glasses. Ted ("Randy") Eager and John Hansford encouraged this dangerous activity like beneficiaries.

Soon, Don Curchod, Jim Docker, Peter Kuner and I were simultane-

ously enrolled in the Club, a Bronze squad and the surf club additions labouring "party".

When it was too dark to play any more excavation games, we attended Dr. Resch's revival seminars under the personal guidance of Ted Coram; if the alcohol didn't "get you", the cigar smoke did. Ted seemed to think the smoke created "Gentleman's Club" atmosphere and was for our benefit rather than his, so he unselfishly dispensed most of it to us with the beer, in the apparent hope that the timber benches would feel like leather "Club" lounges. In that tiled environment they never could or did.

After a typical afternoon's work on the "site" and a few beers, "Animal" & Co. took some full bottles and fishing lines out in the surfboat to catch the evening meal. By default of others, "Animal" was the sweep, a position for which he was not particularly well qualified. They didn't fish for very long, but they drank for a long time and rowed back into the "break" at about dusk. A swell had come up, but by this time, there was no pain and no fear. Well, almost no fear. The rowers didn't realise they were in trouble until they felt the boat surge forward onto "a big one" and at precisely the same time, saw "Animal's" face change to very sober and very white. Realising that he was the only one who could actually see where they were going, the rowers received the distinct impression they could be going somewhere very unpleasant indeed. As there is no known Surf Life Saving Signal for what he was about to do, "Animal" gave none. He just dived overboard. Whereupon the boat swung parallel to the giant wave and came rolling sideways down it with all oars out, like a pin-cushion in a washing machine, except that with all the broken timber, corks and empty bottles bobbing about, it looked like a ship-wreck. Which it was.

To ensure that we couldn't "wreck" our new boat, it was made of timber and then clad in (baby blue) fibreglass. It was twice as strong and approximately twice as heavy as a normal boat. It didn't go over the waves but

more through them. Our oarsmen Eddie Fitt, Geoff Gardiner, Vince Gallagher, Brian ("Bronco") Johnston and Brian Graber developed a technique of holding their breath and rowing under water for long periods. Our boat race opponents learned when "cracking" a wave, that to collide with the fibreglass submersible was to be sunk, so they stayed well clear as our boat swerved violently to left and/or right like a wild sea monster seeking and accelerating across the faces of waves towards its plywood prey.

Owen Ramsay and Hal Baily led the March Past team, members reluctantly donning the yellow, woollen costumes like ballet dancers dressing in prickly-pear tights. Bill Dainton, Ron Olsen, Ric Donaldson, Barry Fawcett and I were in the R & R team at about the same time as we were doing National Service training. George McRobert made the drill sound much the same, or at least our pain was.

But we tried to set an example to the Juniors: Richie Stewart, Col Timms, Tommy Ramsay and Kerry ("Chicken") Graham, who required help on a windy day or he'd blow away with the stray beach umbrellas. Col didn't.

Occasionally, those with quick vision would catch a glimpse of John Baird, Ross Hennessy or Wes Leach actually standing up on a board on a wave: at the aft end of a "sixteen-footer", as if seen through the wrong end of a telescope.

We slept in the clubhouse and contrary to the expectations, it was rather crowded with all the stretchers laid out in rows on the parquet floor. By 1 a.m. on a Sunday morning, it resembled an overcrowded World War 2 hospital, using beer as an anaesthetic. Which probably explains the searchlight. It was to have been used for night sea rescues but was in fact employed for night sand rescues. The light had an intensity of illumination that would have picked out a Zero over Newcastle, so it must have seemed like the sun itself landing beside you on the (otherwise dark) beach.

John ("Father") Stubbs couldn't cope with all this revelry, so he quietly stole away to sleep in his car. Being considerate fellows, we decided to move him well away from the noise, so we equally quietly carried his car down (well down, in fact) on to the beach. But it was low tide. Come morning, John awoke in our first amphibicar.

One of our members rode a big, black Sunbeam motorbike with shaft drive to make it quieter and no baffle plates in the exhaust to make it noisier. One day it was very quiet, with a flat battery, so we tied it behind the girlfriend's Zephyr convertible at the northern end of the bomb-cratered gravel parking area and the two vehicles headed south at increasing speed. When the "tower" and the "towee" reached the boatshed, the speed was in the vicinity of 30 m.p.h. and increasing. The leaping bike was air-borne half the time like a rodeo horse determined to throw off near the pine trees, making the Zephyr's load lighter still, so that it catapulted forward before skidding to a wildly slewing halt near the toilets. Which, for the driver's immediate requirements, was an appropriate place to stop.

Gradually, inevitably, we all married. Club members knew of these arrangements almost as soon as the betrothed, because Ian McKee made the rings. So there was ample time to lay elaborate plans for the utmost inconvenience to the groom at his buck's party. The most disappointed group ever to set foot on our beach must have been the "Truth" newspaper reporters and cameramen arriving at 2 a.m. one Sunday morning to expose a reported orgy, when all they found, spotlight by the searchlight, was a naked, rather drunk lifesaver chained to a railway sleeper, urgently requesting release before the next train came. The prize for the most inconvenienced went to the member who was awakened from a drunken sleep on the morning of his Sydney noon wedding, with no return ticket, money or identification, in the sleeping compartment of a train at Wagga Wagga.

PETER TAYLOR

# BEWARE THE YELLOW PERIL!

By Phil Cullis

The year was 1975 or 1976 and the occasion was the Whale Beach Surf Carnival. We had recently sold our jet boat and purchased our first rubber inflatable boat. I still refuse to call it an Inshore Rescue Boat because I don't believe it qualified. It was a yellow and blue chisel nosed thing which preferred to float upside down. It had a particularly bad characteristic of unexpectedly bending in the keel when power was increased. This had the effect of increasing the drag through the water which then required more power and so the situation kept deteriorating.

Anyway to get back to the story. There was a reasonably large surf running with a nasty north-east chop. Typical summer surf. All the buoys had been set and the boat had performed as per usual by turning turtle and stopping the motor. The spare motor was a 20 H.P. unit (instead of the usual 25 H.P.) clapped out, badly turned and with a disfigured propeller. This didn't enhance the boat's performance, and as I recall it didn't detract much from it either.

The water events referee was one Lindsay Paton, (known by various other names,) he was a stickler for the rules and meticulously fair. He wanted to go out and check that the swimming bouys were parallel with the beach. The majority of people could see that the boat was not suited to the conditions but no - Lindsay insisted he had to check the bouys.

Getting out through the break was no big problem, you drove straight at the broken wave, it went over the top of you and sometime later you surfaced not very far from where you had were



Jono and Phil Cullis in our first 'Rubber Duck'

started. Eventually we reached the bouys and thankfully no adjustments necessary because I doubt we had the power to carry them out. By this time I think Lindsay was wishing he had stayed on the beach but there were more surprises awaiting him.

Turning back towards the beach we chose the back of a big green wave and decided to follow it in. The wave broke ahead of us and as we entered the white water the keel began to bend. The nose rose out of the water and we slowed dramatically. I knew by the

look on Lindsay's face that there was not enough time to correct the problem. He was in the bow looking back over my shoulder, eyes bulging like golf balls, jaw slack - and I suspect slightly incontinent. Behind us there was a large green wave about to drop into the boat. Suddenly my end of the boat was lifted high in the air while his end was driven straight down.

To this day I can still see those eyes staring in disbelief and a smile comes to my face.

Phil Cullis





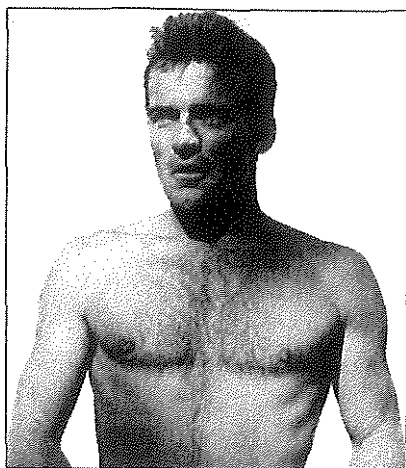
# A CLUB CAPTAIN RECALLS

## Paul Young's Story

Whale Beach became my first love over twenty years ago whilst on a Junior Rugby Union football BBQ at the age of 12. I was introduced to members of the Surf Club the by Ken Hall family. These memories of that day stayed vivid until I was allowed to join the Surf Life Saving Club at the age of 14 years in 1968 and subsequently I enjoyed many days of early morning surfs, mud fights with the seniors and constant 'Bronze Squad' training.

Initially only able to do my qualifying, now called the Surf Life Saving Certificate, training was strict and very regimented. The drill for the Bronze was based on a military style formation not programmed for the action response which lifesaving has now accepted. After gaining the qualifying certificate, thanks to Instructors, Phil Cullis, Jamie MacNab and Peter Blundell, it was swimming training in the belt for another season to gain my Bronze and I mean 'SWIMMING', the first time I tried it I nearly drowned. At this age I was relating my good times at the beach to friends and many from the Drummoyne district joined to enjoy the surf, stay at the Surf Club and experience the comradeship one gains in doing patrol duties.

As a Junior member, Whale Beach and surfing were foremost in my mind, now with the Bronze in sight. The examination was fortunately at Whale Beach, only by that time the number of people training had swelled from the usual (6) six man squad to (9) nine. After the two hour Bronze Drill, Beltswims and Resuscitation Examination the squad had changed position so many times, fellow member, John Archer, was congratulated for doing the quickest Beltswim. Strictly speaking, John ended up on the reel twice and I actually did his swimming. The result was everyone passed and we all celebrated together and threw our Instructor in the water in true traditional Surf Club style.



Club Champion, Club Captain,  
Paul Young

The seasons seem to go very fast after the Bronze and it wasn't until the Club and Lifesaving in general became interested in IRBs that I took any more interest in training. The Inflatable Rubber Boat always intrigued me, as I never did like the 1st "Yellow Peril", 'Moby Dick 1', our Jet Rescue Boat made of fibreglass with a large in-board motor. In 1974 the Inshore Rescue Boat or Rubber Duckie became very popular in Surf Lifesaving and of course, Whale Beach was not far behind. Hal Baily, Jamie MacNab, Steven Vidgen and myself attended a national IRB School at North Cro-

nulla early the next year to improve our skills in operation and maintenance of these craft. Actually, we ate and drank really well and even learnt a lot, unfortunately Hal lost half a big toe and Steven never stopped drinking.

The problem with our early efforts in Rubber Duckies is that we had the wrong craft, a chisel nosed 'Beaufort' boat which would nose dive on returning to shore. Nevertheless, we went in the competitions and were always first out except the time at the Soldiers Beach Rubber Duckie Weekend when Jamie fell out of the boat at the shore-break and Steven thought he was still there until the boat went around in circles by itself. The Club Management Committee saw that the rubber boat was here to stay and invested in a new Zodiac boat, properly surf rescue converted and sponsored by The Moby Dick Surfers Club and named 'The Noel Greenfield' after his time and efforts donated to Power Surf Rescue.

This new boat proved to be a great asset to the Club and many members showed their interest in the craft. I had been delegate to the Branch and Vice Captain that season and therefore suitably earmarked for the position of



Paul Gonsalves, Paul Young, John Lerpiniere, Ian Stewart,  
Greg Dunn, Greg Babicci, Rick Le Cornu

Club Captain. Under the direction of our new Club President/Secretary, Ritchie Stewart and Col Timms, we formed a good team to bring Whale Beach up to date with the latest Life-saving methods and techniques. To be Club Captain was one of the most rewarding tasks that I remember in my years of involvement at Whale Beach. We had a keen committee and an enjoyable social life in the summer arranging BBQs and cricket days at Hitchcock Park.

At this time we encouraged greater enthusiasm into the Club and carnivals. Small northside competitions were arranged between North Narrabeen and ourselves then later triangular carnivals with Palm Beach and the North Palm Beach Clubs. This proved to be successful in attracting champions Mark Morgan and Richard Dill-Macky as the basis of a Surf Team for open carnivals and Whale Beach competitors began to branch out of the Craft Section. After three seasons as Captain I took on the role of Power Boat Captain and ensured that we always had the rubber duck operational.

In later years there was a split in the direction of the Club, whether to be a member simply for carnivals and not be concerned with the primary duties to the public. This problem was con-

fronted and I accepted the position of Club Captain once more. After two seasons this tension died down and it was time to rebuild the ranks again.

Mick Connor took on the role of Captain and concentrated his efforts once more on the beach. This has now been followed up by the youngest Captain of the Club has ever seen in the name of Robert Lerpiniere who, with the help of my good friend, Ritchie Stewart, (incidentally, whom Robert calls the 'Old Digger'), have brought the Club up to its 50th year in splendid form. This enthusiasm has provided the surfing public of Whale Beach with a very valuable service and one which makes me proud, therefore it is with pleasure that I contribute to this history.

**PAUL F. YOUNG**  
CLUB CAPTAIN

Seasons 76-77, 77-78, 78-79, 82-83, 83-84.

*Editor's Note:*

*At the 1987 Annual Meeting Paul Young was honoured with a Life Membership.*

## **OUR REMARKABLE TWINS**

Identical twins have been a confusion and an asset in our Club since early times, the paradox being that we have all had problems distinguishing one from another in each case, but in all cases the twin brothers have been personalities with unique contributions to the integrity of our good record as lifesavers.

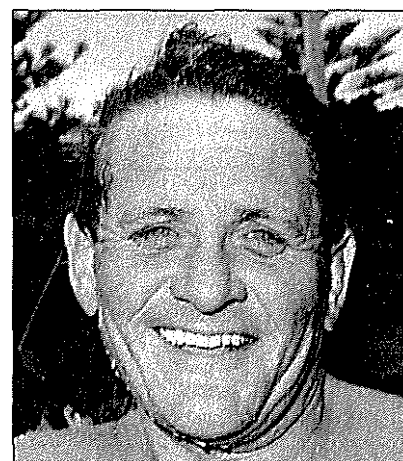
They all proved fine competitors, sportsmen and executives and in their mature years have made constructive efforts to continue support in a most commendable fashion, resulting in truly remarkable financial support by their initiatives and sponsorships.

### **THE ELVYS**

The first twins to join the club were Keith and Ron Elvy, sons of past President Ted Elvy, back in the war-

time "camping days". They joined us at the 5th Annual Meeting on 4th October, 1942 and gave long service with an admirable sense of dependability, in their patrols, in individual events and were long term stalwarts in R and R competitions and on committees.

Their personalities were a compliment to Ted Elvy's guidance, as they shared a friendly demeanour, humour and integrity, remembered with affection by many members.



Is it Peter or is it David?

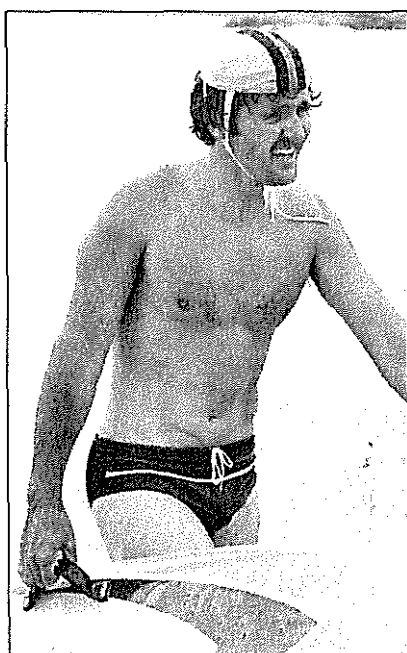
### **THE STRONGS**

Strong by name and nature was a hallmark of twin brothers David and Peter Strong. Both were men of rugged physique with the all-round ability which stamped them as first class lifesavers.

Their skills encompassed a range of activity in R and R, surf races and surfcraft in which David still succeeds in enjoying and frequently gives young members a fright!

Peter's enthusiasm was earlier lost to us by his move to America for business reasons, where he rapidly reached the top in his chosen profession.

David emulated Peter's business success, becoming Managing Director of "Apple" Computers and his enthusiasm in supporting our Club by his and his company's many generous sponsorships is legend and a fine example of the dedication without which lifesaving would be poorer.



Mick Connor - Capt. 84-85



John Patterson, John Stacey, Darcy Patterson at a 1950's Club Function.

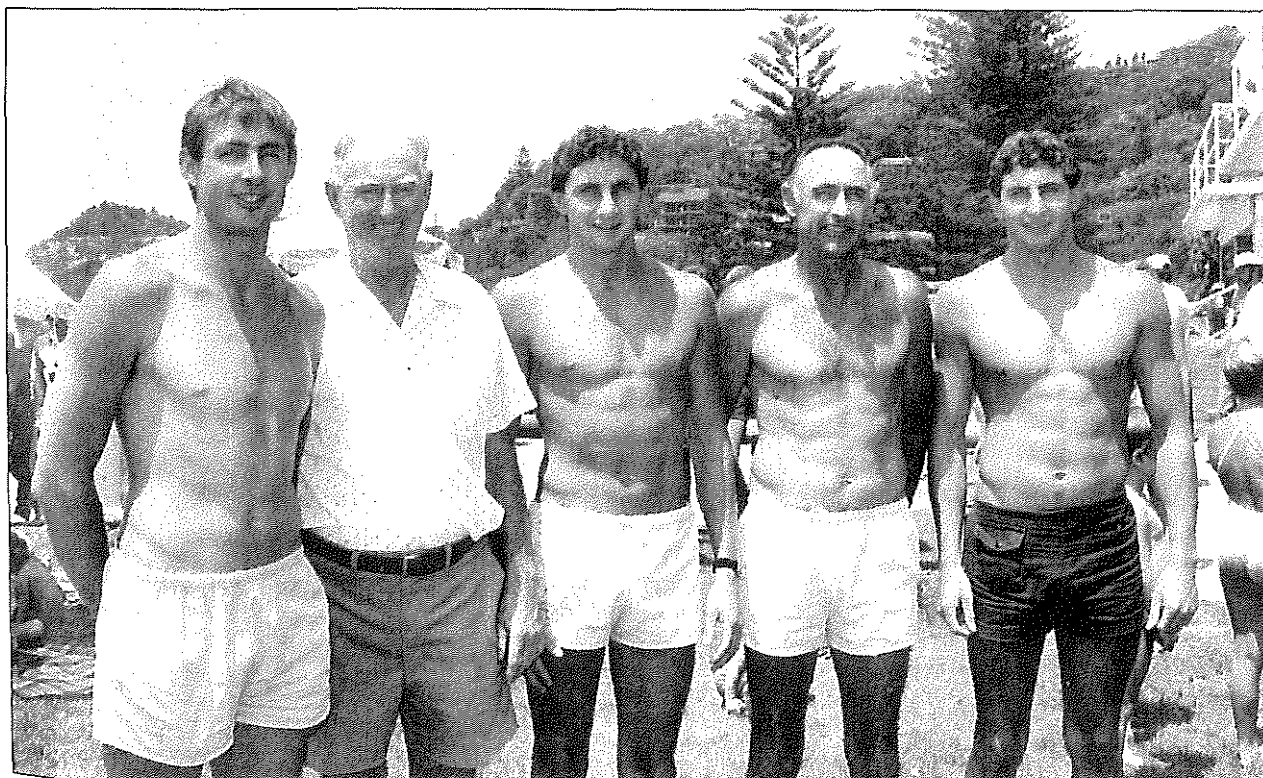
#### THE PATTERSONS

Later additions to the list of twins were John and Darcy Patterson, sons of Frank Patterson, past Secretary and Life Member. Both brothers were dynamic members, making their mark in every aspect of competition, particularly as fine swimmers, boat crewmen and in beach events.

They notched up impressive Championships individually and as well as being exemplary patrol men, extended their skills as Committee men and were unstinting in their help in any situation. Sadly, John was lost to us in an aircraft crash in his prime, but we are fortunate to still enjoy Darcy's companionship and interest.

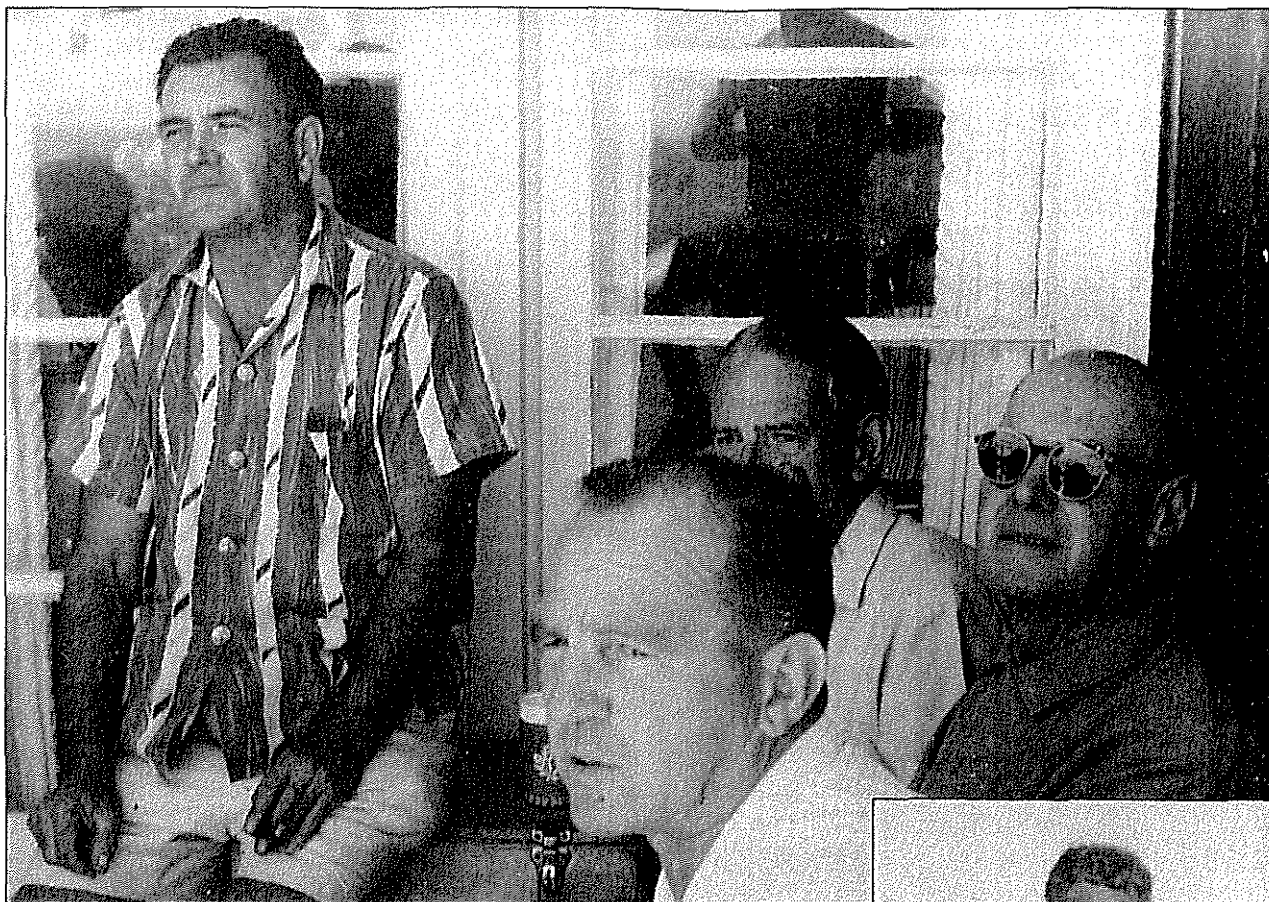
#### THE HANNAFORDS

Our latest twins are Greg and Grant Hannaford, third generation members of the redoubtable family to give service to the Club. Both fine young men continued the traditions of their forbears George Snr and Brook, their father George Jnr and their older brother Gary.



The Hannafords L. to R. Gary, George Snr, Greg, George Jnr, Grant.





1966. Fred Timms, Alf Newlands, Fred Heath, Noel Greenfield

## MEMORABLE CLUB CHARACTERS

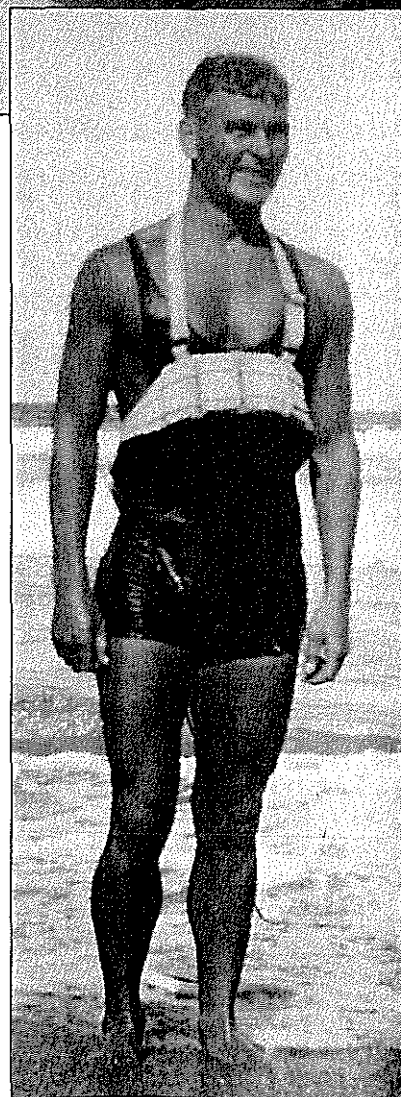
*Whale Beach S.L.S.C. has been fortunate in the high calibre of physical performance of its members and also in "characters" who've done so much to build the spirit of the Club through their overall dedication and their good humour. We pay tribute to but a few of the many:*

Hal Baily was a dual member, having joined the North Bondi S.L.S.C., in 1935 where he was a member of their R. and R. team which was runner-up in the Australian Titles of 1938-39 and was senior surf champion of that club, in that season, before joining the A.I.F., and was on active service in the Middle East.

Following war service he renewed his interest in active membership of

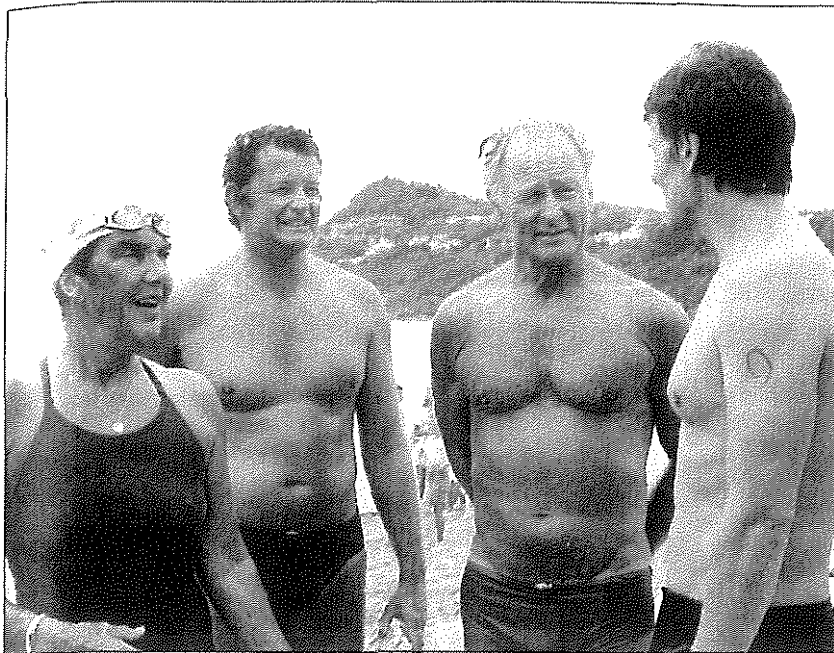
our Club and enjoyed competitive swimming at carnivals until he was over 50 years of age, specialising in belt races with some success.

How can one mention Hal without including the happy, gregarious Betty Baily. They have been for over forty years a much loved part of the Whale Beach and Peninsula area scene. They have given so much to the Surf Clubs and the youth of the area. Both gallant fighters in the preservation of our beautiful area, Hal and Betty have been an inspiration to all. Now in their mid sixties, the Bails continue as keen surfers and swimmers and still meet the challenge of the Marathon Swim. We salute this exceptional couple.

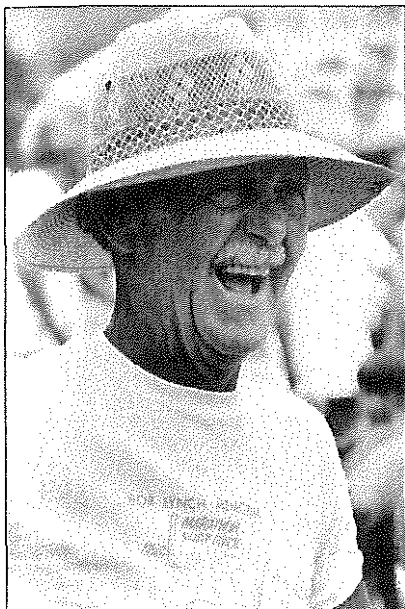


Hal Baily 1945-46 Season





Betty Baily, Noel Pickering, Hal Baily and Rob Berry at the finish of the 1984 Marathon



George McRobert 1984

George McRobert was Club Captain from 1945 to 1952. Club President from 1960 to 1974. He was also Chairman of Moby Dick Surfers Club for 12 years. His continued service and advice on the management of Club affairs has been without parallel.

\* George McRobert saw active service in Darwin, the Middle East and New Guinea. He had the rare experience of taking part in a surf carnival during World War II in 1941 in Pales-

tine. Many surf club members served in the forces and the beach at Gaza (of biblical fame) and the beach at Dier Suneid sported patrol flags and a duty patrol with a reel and belt, formed from convalescent lifesavers serving in the A.I.F. Equipment was donated by the S.L.S.A., and individual clubs.

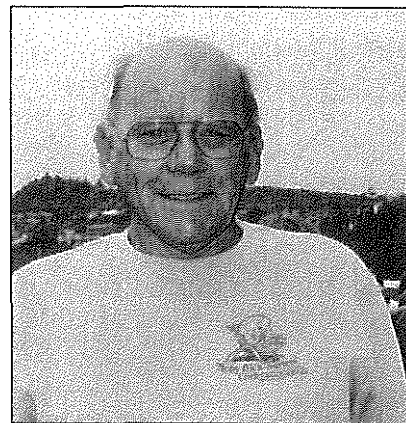
On several occasions there were enough lifesavers in the locality between campaigns to stage a greatly enjoyed carnival. The patrols were kept busy rescuing the many troops from other northern hemisphere coun-



Hal Baily, Mal Timms, Reg McRobert in Beirut, August 1941.

tries who had no experience of surfing and it's dangers. We were pleasantly surprised to find on occasions, that a good surf would roll in and it was common to go out for a wave to find ourselves among a crowd of acquaintances from clubs at home.

On one occasion Hal was able to purloin a vehicle and drive to Rayak Airport in Lebanon, pick up Mal Timms who was serving there with the famous No. 3 R.A.A.F. Fighter Squadron and Reg McRobert, George's brother and then drive across the 9000 feet high Lebanon Range to Beirut where we searched out George McRobert. Hal also was able to meet up with his own brother Ken, in the Middle East.



Arthur Barrell 1986

Arthur Barrell served in the R.A.N., was foundation treasurer and continued his interest until 1986, as auditor of the Surf Club.

His youthful days included sterling service in every area of endeavour and his fame was legend as a far from questionable exponent of quality "Fancy-Work" as well as being the club's top keg tapper, when he could be relied upon to see it out to the last drop! His brother Ray was a member as are his sons Brian and Graham. Arthur was a regular R and R man, boat crewman and fine all-round. Later he could be found crewing the judge's boat at carnivals.



Noel Greenfield 1969

Noel Greenfield served in the Australian Occupational Force in Japan. A live-wire adventurer, he was an early Club Captain, Club Champion, Boat Sweep, Jet Power Boat Captain and before the term "Iron Man" became common, he was one!

Towards the end of his life, which was cut short by terminal cancer, three days after leaving hospital following surgery, he swam from Palm Beach to Whale Beach in the marathon and finished!

Noel raised scratch crews on two occasions to row to sea at night to effect rescues of vessels in trouble offshore and knew no fear in any emergency, as was instanced in his actions in a meritorious rescue in 1938.

An amusing escapade of Noel's was, when returning from army service in Japan, he brought back a host of items. Among them was a piano! Inside the piano he smuggled an oil painting of a striking Japanese lady wielding a Samurai sword.

He hung it in the Clubhouse where it initiated much bawdy comment for a long time!

## AN INSPIRATION TO ALL

### ROBERT (BOB) E. LYNCH

Bob was a member of the Police Traffic branch and while on duty in Paramatta Road, Leichhardt he became friendly with Peach Kyle and family who have a business there. They extolled the beauty of Whale Beach to Bob and he came to the beach and joined many others in falling in love with it.

Bob built his home here and later joined the Surf Club and Moby Dick Club. He was an inspiring member to young and old with an engaging, humorous personality and boundless energy. His skill in public relations encouraged many local residents and older members to sponsor events, donations and prizes for the Surf club.

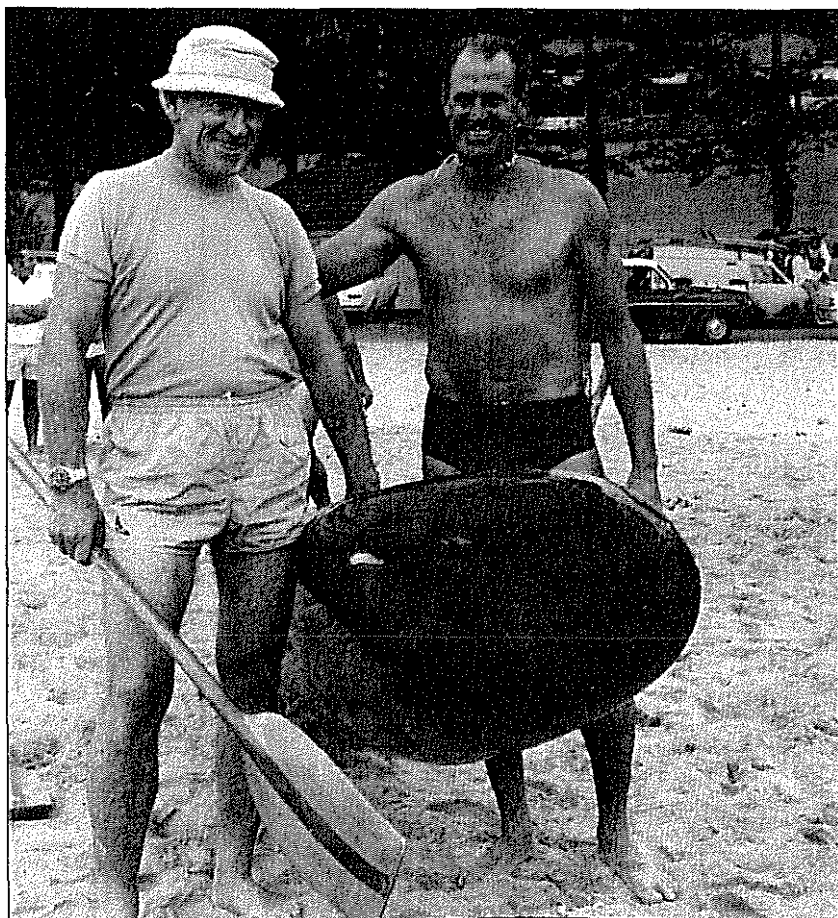
As a lifesaver and sportsman he generated enthusiasm among our members

and on committees was endlessly sparking innovations such as the "Concretor, Fun-Run and Obstacle Race", point to point events and his master-stroke was to propose the Palm Beach to Whale Beach Marathon ocean swim in June, 1974, which is now an established annual event.

Bob Lynch was past Club Captain and a Sergeant in the Police Road Safety Patrol and an instructor of Motorcycle Patrol Officers, with headquarters at North Sydney from where he rode home at night by motorcycle. In April 1975, Bob was involved in a tragic collision on Wakehurst Parkway and was killed. He left his wife Barbara and sons Barton, Clayton and Trent.

The ocean race was subsequently named the "Bob Lynch Memorial Race" and his family have been introduced and presented awards.

Barton (whose Godfather and No. 1 fan is Richard Stewart), was No. 2 in the 1986 World Professional Surfboard Championship.



Jack Uren and Bob Lynch

## A LIFE SAVER

### Neville Gough

Neville Gough joined Whale Beach S.L.S.C. on 19th February, 1939, the son of Charlie Gough who was a great supporter of our Club from its beginning in the camping days.

Neville was a Club Champion, a fine swimmer, surfer and patrolman. He later moved to Narooma, where in the early 1970's he formed a sea-rescue team, using an Avon inflatable and outboard motor, independent of the S.L.S.A.

Narooma has a rugged coastline and a dangerous harbour entrance which has caused a long list of fatalities.

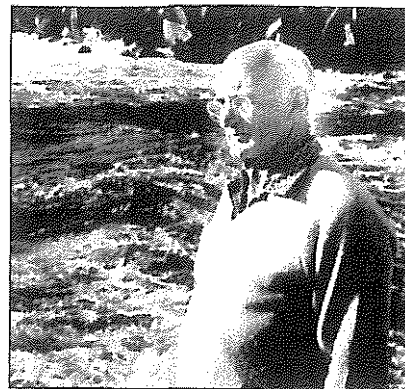
Heading the area State Emergency Service, Neville and his crew have performed an amazing number of rescues of craft, surfers and fishermen in hazardous circumstances. Some rescues of rock fishermen were made by riding breaking waves onto the rocks and others on the turbulent sand-bar at the river entrance.

On 14th May, 1986 Neville received the first Castrol Sea Safety Award for saving one of two men, when he swam to their rescue in huge seas on New Years Day 1985, at the Narooma sand-bar.

As he was then in his 60's it was an outstandingly courageous effort. The man saved survived because a balloon of air was trapped in the shoulder of his long-sleeved shirt, keeping his face above water until rescued by Neville, his companion was already drowned.

It is of interest that when effecting rescues at otherwise inaccessible cliff-bottom situations, Neville developed the technique of partly deflating the I.R.B., allowing a hazardous but effective way of riding a swell onto the rocks and then returning to sea in a lull.

The meritorious record of this rescue group has prompted a recommendation to the Royal Humane Society for a suitable award, not yet approved at the time of writing, but well deserved.

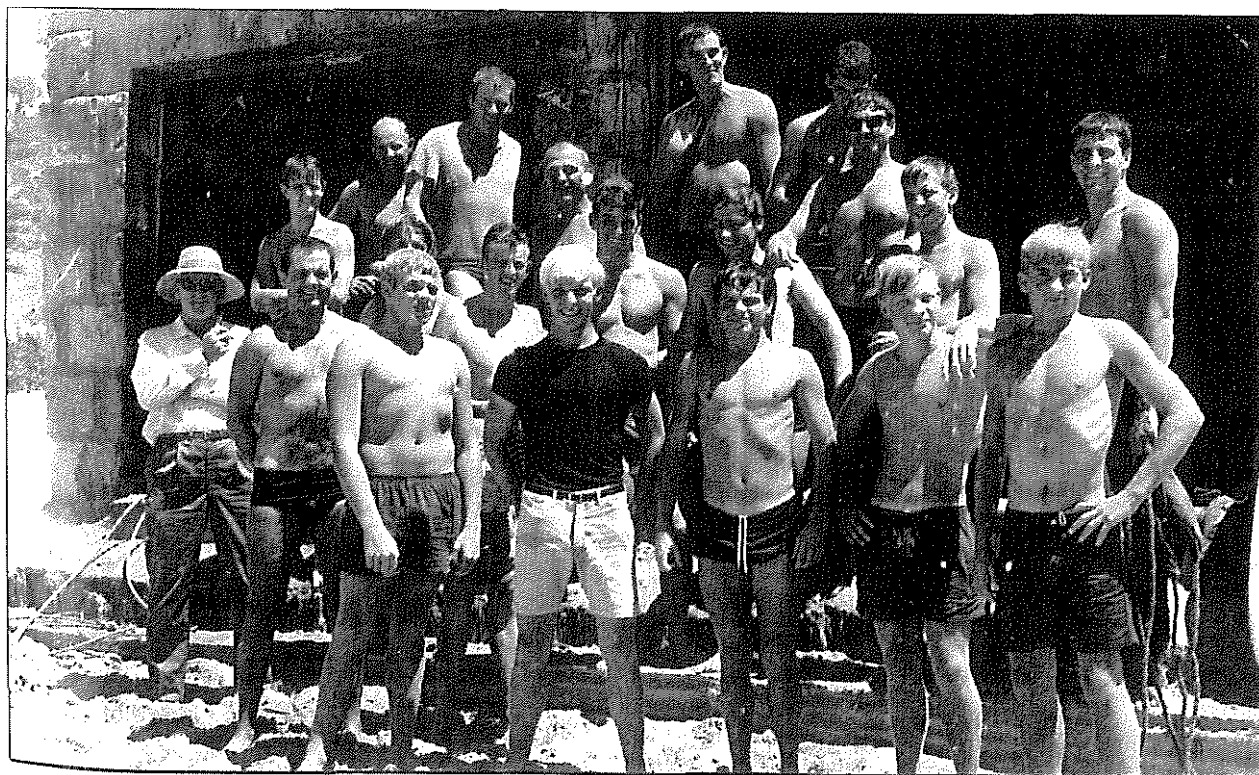


Neville Gough on the Narooma sea wall

The boat seconds before the fatal capsiz



Some Memorable Club Characters, 1967







Winner, and only competitor to complete the course at a Mona Vale Carnival, Owen Ramsay

## THE RAMSAY BROTHERS

Great contributors to the life of the Club have been the Ramsay brothers, Owen and Tom. Outstanding in swimming and craft events, they took the Club colours to first place in many Surf Carnivals. Over many seasons both Owen and Tom won many club championships and trophies. Here's some wins over just two seasons.

Owen Ramsay



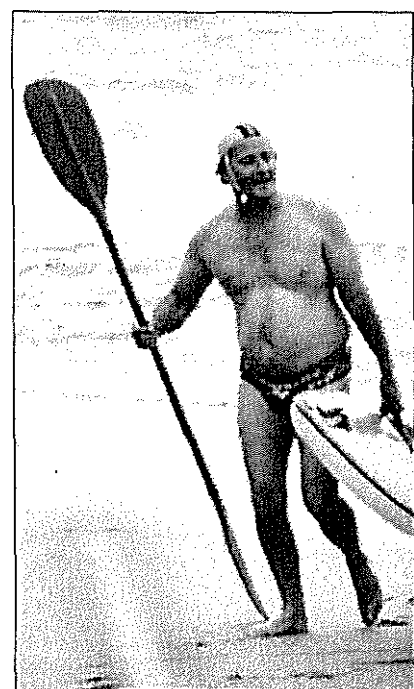
1957-58  
Senior & Junior Surf Champion  
Tom Ramsay  
Senior Belt Champion  
Owen Ramsay  
Surf Board Champion  
Owen Ramsay  
Surf Ski Champion  
Owen Ramsay

1958-59  
Senior Surf Champion  
Tom Ramsay  
Senior Belt Champion  
Owen Ramsay  
Surf Board Champion  
Tom Ramsay

Owen's all round abilities extended over a long period of competitive excellence from when he first joined Whale Beach in 1945. His dedication to the Surf Lifesaving movement encompass many years serving on the Board of Examiners as a Carnival Official, Referee and Craft Referee. He is both a Life Member of Whale Beach S.L.S.C. and the Manly Warringah Branch S.L.S.A. Owen paired with Richie Stewart on the double ski winning numerous medals in Branch Championships.

Tom Ramsay was a highly skilled surfer, very much at home in the water or on a long board or surf ski. He won many swimming events and is still a regular winner in age group competitions with the Masters Swimming clubs. Tom has competed in most of our Marathon Swims, recording very fast times.

Tom Ramsay, 1982





## "PORTRAIT OF A CHAMPION"

When Mark Morgan joined Whale Beach S.L.S.C. he had already won the bronze medal in the 1976-77 S.L.S.A. National Titles surf race. A gold and silver in the State S.L.S.A. titles and medals at the Metropolitan and Branch Titles, as a member of Collaroy S.L.S.C.

AS A MEMBER OF THIS CLUB HE WON:

### 1977-78:

1st in marathon run-swim at Manly Carnival.  
3rd in open surf race, Branch titles.  
3rd in open surf teams, Branch titles.

### 1978-79: Inter-Branch Championships -

2nd in open surf race.  
2nd in open belt race.  
2nd in open surf teams.  
2nd in taplin relay.

### 1979-80:

1st in Inter-Branch Championships, open surf race.  
1st in open surf race, Branch titles.  
Also was 1st in open surf races at Manly, Freshwater and Newport Carnivals.  
10th in Metropolitan titles, open surf race.  
8th in State titles, open surf race.  
6th in Australian titles, open surf race.

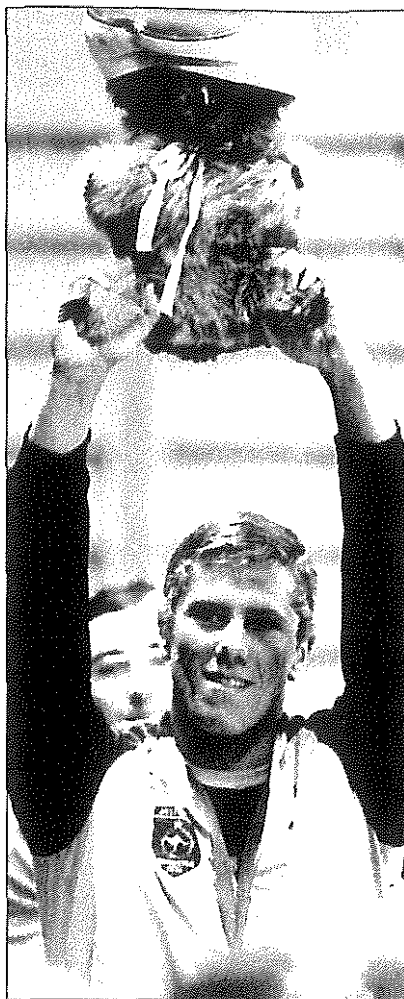
1980-81: An injury prevented competition.

### 1981-82:

7th in Branch open surf race.  
8th in Metropolitan open surf.

Mark continued his competitive surfing in the 1982-83 season in the Over 24 category -

Branch: 1st in O/24 surf race.  
Metropolitan: 2nd in O/24 surf race.  
State: 4th in O/24 surf race.  
Australian: 3rd in O/24 surf race



### 1983-84:

1st in O/24 surf races at Avalon, Manly, Coogee and Newport Carnivals, but contracted glandular fever, preventing further competition in this and the following (1984-85) season.

### 1985-86:

Improved health this year allowed him to return to competition.

4th in the Branch O/24 surf race  
9th in the State O/24 surf race

A fine all-round athlete and sportsman, Mark's representation of his Club has been consistent and successful and an inspiration of younger members. His Club Championships have been equally impressive.

Much of his surfing skills were lost to us by the demands of his contributions to Australia's International swimming teams where he represented his country with distinction:

1978 Commonwealth Games, Vice Captain (Edmonton).

2 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze medals  
Games record 100m freestyle.

1978 World Championships (W. Berlin) Vice Captain, finalist.

1979 Japanese National Championships (Tokyo) Captain.

Gold medals for 100m and 200m freestyle.

1979 International Meet (London), Captain.

Gold medals for 100m and 200m freestyle.

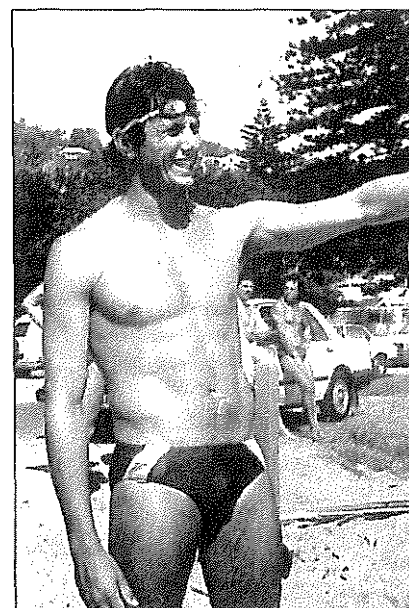
1979 Sportakiad Games (Moscow) Captain.  
Finalist 100m and 200m freestyle.

1979 F.I.N.A. World Cup (Tokyo) Captain.  
5th in 100m and 200m freestyle.

1981 World Student Games (Bucharest) Captain.

1981 International Swim Meet (Tokyo) Captain.

Mark was captain of the swimming team when he was awarded a scholarship to the Australian Institute of Sport in its inaugural year in 1981.



Mark Morgan, also a  
Marathon swim winner

From 1978 to 1985 he was National Champion, holding five national records on five occasions, .N.S.W. Swimmer of the Year in 1979, and was individual State Champion on 15 occasions.

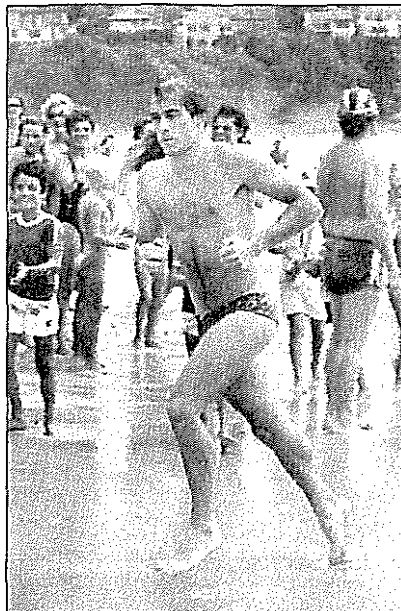
A law graduate, but now a professional coach, Mark continues his swimming and surfing talents in age and masters events, having won a Gold Medal at the 1986 Masters World Championships held in Tokyo. His age group title for 100m was only 1 second slower than his 1978 Commonwealth Games 100m time, when he won the Gold for that distance. In the Tokyo Masters he also won Silver in the 100m and 50m butterfly and a Bronze in the 50m freestyle.

Even with all this activity, Mark could also be relied upon to do his patrols or arrange a substitute.

## Richard's Mighty Race Record

Another outstanding club member and competitor has been Richard Dill-Macky. Richard's performances in still water events, surf carnivals and the marathon swim have closely rivalled those of his great friend Mark Morgan.

He has represented Whale Beach S.L.S.C. with distinction at local,



Richard wins the 1983 Marathon

State and National Titles carnivals.

Some of Richard's wins in club events are:

Fastest Time Marathon: 1977-78  
 President's Trophy: 1977-78  
 Moby Dick Trophy: 1977-78  
 Senior Surf Champion: 1978-79  
 Moby Dick Trophy: 1978-79  
 Senior Belt Champion: 1979-80  
 Frank Baker Trophy: 1979-80  
 Fastest Time Marathon: 1979-80  
 Hcp & Fastest, Marathon: 1981-82  
 Frank Baker Trophy: 1981-82  
 Senior Surf Champion: 1982-83  
 Hcp & Fastest, Marathon: 1982-83  
 Senior Surf Champion: 1985-86  
 Frank Baker Trophy: 1985-86

## BELT CHAMPION

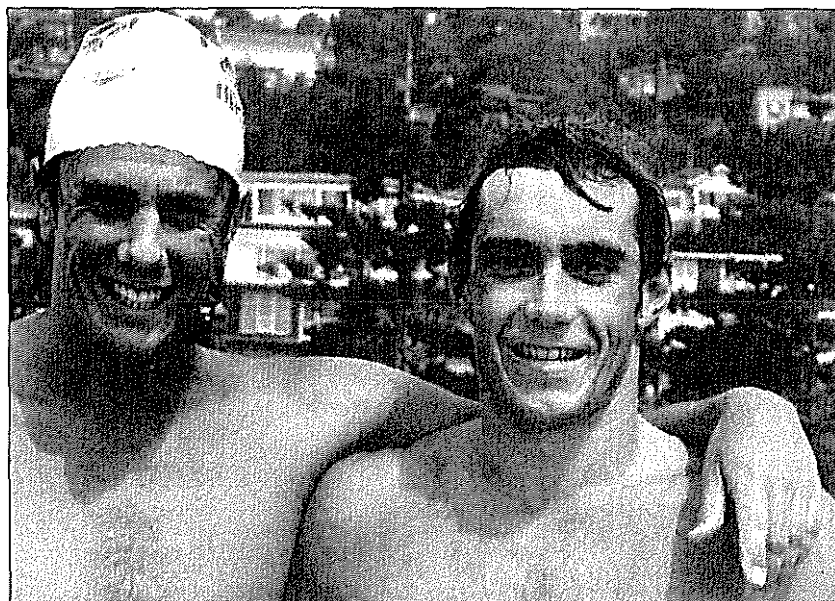
Geoffrey (Geoff) Martin

His career with the Club was brief but memorable when he joined as a Junior. Already a fine competitive swimmer he gained his Bronze and immediately made his presence felt in surf and belt races.

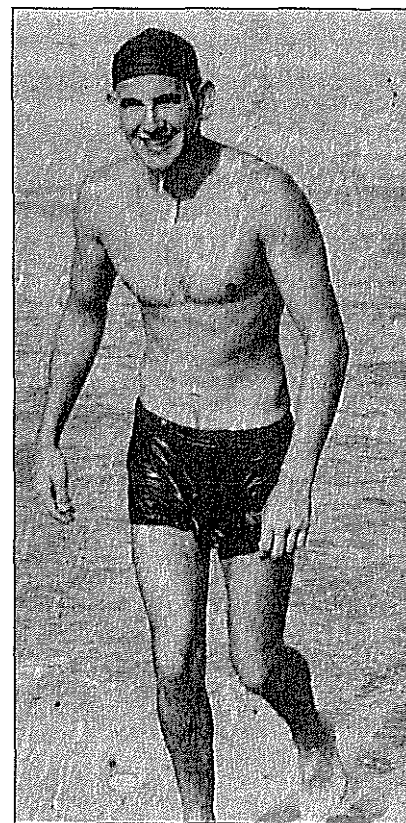
Almost unknown in the wider field of open carnivals he was an "outsider" when the time came in 1953-54 season for the annual titles. In the Metropolitan Championship he won the Junior Belt in definite fashion, followed up in the State Titles by again winning the Junior Belt. His finale was to then take the "gold" by becoming Australian Junior Belt Champion.

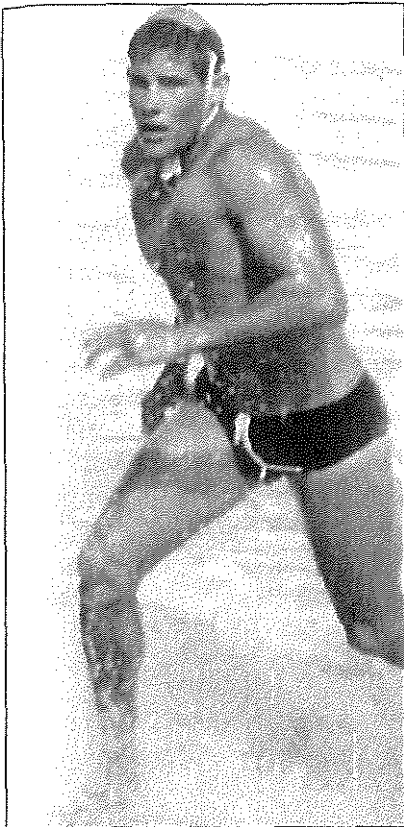
He was a bright prospect in the club's eyes, an outstanding senior representative in competitive surfing, a fine athlete and a young man with great ability and character.

However, he chose to join the National Parks and Wildlife Service which required his location far from surfing facilities. The qualities he exhibited as a surfer have taken him in his career to high executive office, but he was a great loss to surf lifesaving.



Mark Morgan, Richard Dill-Macky at the Marathon Swim





Tom Landis wins the Metropolitan Surf Championship Long Reef 1967.

## Tom Landis

Tom Landis was resident in Australia for three years; he had been a life-guard in California as a student and a member of the U.S.A. team which competed against the Australian S.L.S.A. Instructional Visit there; where he befriended Hayden Kenny, (father of Grant Kenny) the former being the first Australian Ironman Champion. Their friendship sparked Tom to bring his wife Toni here and extend his teaching and surfing experience. They had a daughter born here after Tom joined Whale Beach S.L.S.C. He was a fine surf-lifesaver following his award of the Bronze Medallion.

An accomplished pool swimmer and outstanding surfer, he represented our club on many carnival occasions with distinction, winning titles, club championships and was a winner of the Bob Lynch Marathon Swim.

He and Toni now operate a mountain expedition business in Oregon, using trained LLamas as pack-animals, far from the surf!

## Brian Graber

Brian Graber was a keen hard-training member of our 1950's top crews whose exploits in surf boat racing will be long remembered. Later he joined our still active and competitive ski paddlers, Richard Stewart, Noel Pickering, David Strong and Rob Berry in many sterling performances at carnivals.

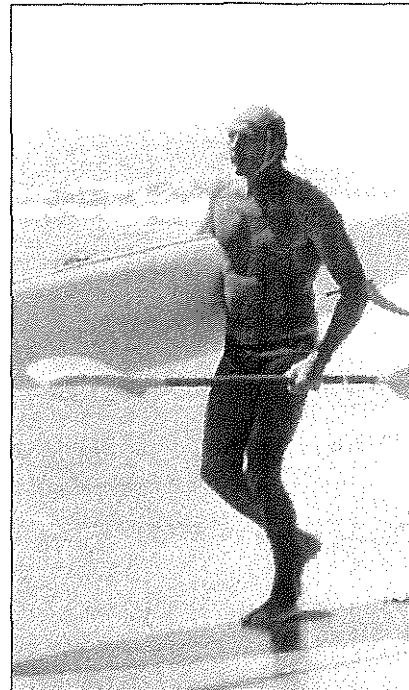
Recent years are witness to their further continuing skill and stamina in both club and carnival veteran ski events. No young paddler can afford to take these men in their late forties - early fifties cheaply!

1986 saw Brian Graber at 50 years of age win a Branch Gold Medal on his ski and a 15 kilometre open paddling event against all comers, which is a great compliment to his interest in the sport and to his remarkable fitness!

## "Tupp" Lahiff

In 1976-77 G. "Tupp" Lahiff was a very able and popular Vice Captain to Paul Young.

He was posted to Sydney by his Perth, W.A. company, where he had been a long-time member of Cottesloe S.L.S.C. His experience there was extensive, from being a wild but outstanding Junior, then an all-round exponent of surf lifesaving, a member



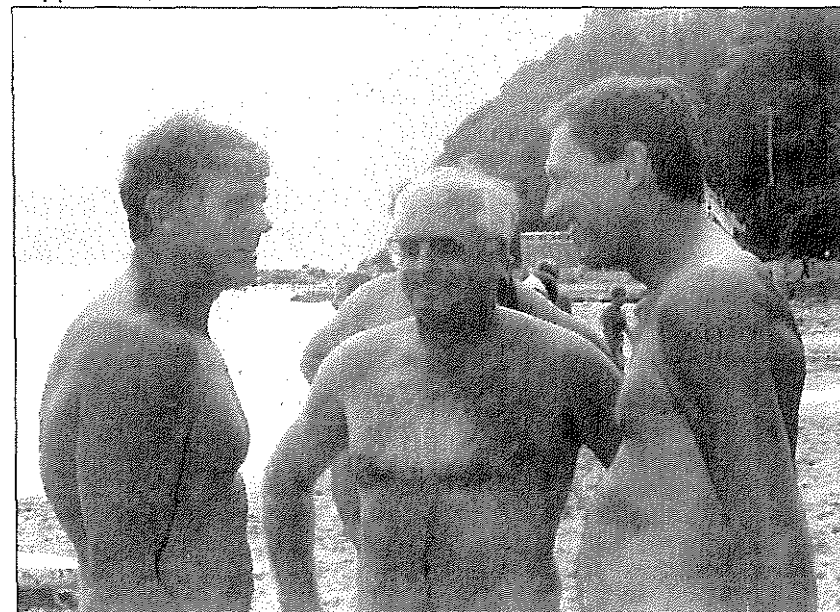
Brian Graber 1986

of many R and R teams, graduating to coach of many of Cottesloe's successful R and R exploits and finally their Club President in 1981, 1982 and 1983.

A great sportsman and surfer, he enhanced the good fellowship of our club and his return visits to Whale Beach are always an excuse for a happy reunion. He was in Sydney in 1986 to compete in the Marathon Swim.

"Tupp" played host to our Whale Beach team, in Perth for the 1987 Australian Titles.

Tupp Lahiff, Richie Stewart, Brian Graber at the 1986 Marathon Swim



# LIFESAVERS WITH BRAINS

## AND BEAUTY

For many years, the introduction of female members to active service in the S.L.S.A., had been delayed on Club, Branch and National level.

The National Council announced a policy change making it possible as from 1st July, 1980.

Local girls had on a casual basis frequently swum in the regular surf races held by Whale Beach, among them were Tina Gowing, Marion Robb and sisters Jill and Sara Peters.

They were excellent swimmers and anxiously waited for the big decision. For the first time in the Association's 74 year history, the opportunity to serve as active lifesavers and to compete on an equal footing with men had arrived.

So Sydney first female Bronze Medallion winners were Tina, Marion, Jill and Sara.

Their bronze training began in winter in chilling conditions but they were all very fit and their good spirit and perseverance paid off when Branch Examiner Lindsay Paton, reputed for his meticulous observation of the rules, rated them one of the best squads in his experience.

Even before qualifying they were involved in the rescue of a fisherman swept off the rocks, when they assisted in resuscitation and the organising of emergency rescue services.

"We worked well together, it was a great inspiration", commented Jill. They also praised the male club members, whom they say "encouraged them all the way."

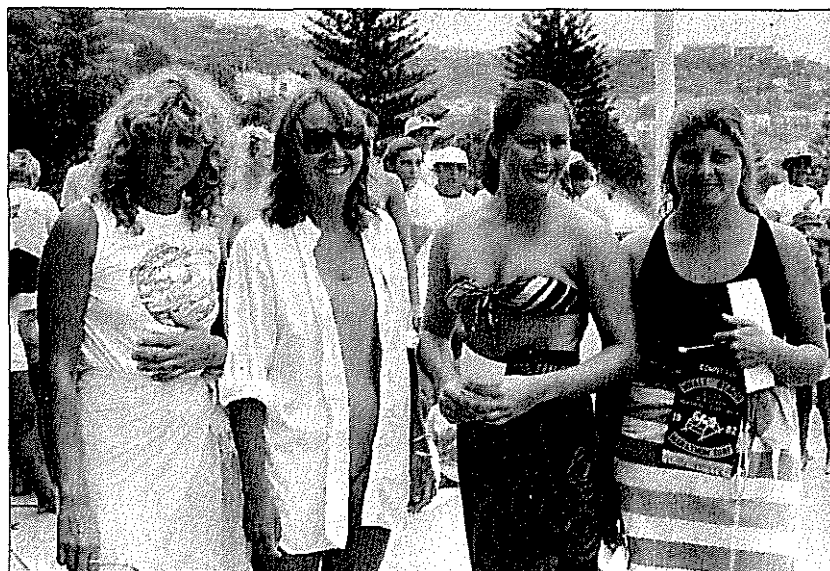
Carnivals initially held Women's Surf Races in open carnivals and the first one was at Whale Beach and was won by Tina Gowing.

Later, women entered open events at Carnivals, where a Cronulla girl won the Open Surf and was a member of the winning Open Surf Teams event, creating history in doing so. She later was chosen as a member of a National Team which won the World Title.

Later in the season Sally Morgan (Mark's sister) also gained her Bronze medallion. As a noted competitive swimmer and able surfer she could beat many males. At the Freshwater Carnival, the Lady's Surf Race was won well by Sally Morgan.

In our 50th season, the Club can boast of a grand contingent of girls, with another 9 earning the Bronze Medallion this season.

Currently our active girl members are: Melinda Stewart, Caroline Park, Helen Shilkin, Anja Taylor, Danielle James, Alison Ridgers, Leone Bradbury, Margaret Kerr, Chemaine Palmer, Gabrielle Palmer, Katherine Sheehan, Katherine Taken, Moana Brown, Michelle Davis.



Sarah Peters, Marion Robb, Lisa Gowing, Jill Peters  
Marathon Swim 1982 Ladies Team Winners



Kelly Turner, Gillian Gallagher, Kate Montgomery



# WHALE BEACH S.L.S.C. SURF BOATS AND CREWS

From our earliest days surf boats have been an essential ingredient in our function as a Lifesaving Club.

We had donated boats, hand-me-down boats, some were bought at bargain prices; our first boat being donated to us by Dee Why S.L.S.C. It was "Black Swan I" which we accepted with elation. Minor repairs were necessary which were carried out by our members.

It was re-named "Riptide", a clinker "double-ender" and a good sea-boat, on which our crews learned their skills the hard way, until Laurie O'Toole, Dee Why's famous sweep, gave pa-

tient encouragement and instruction.

She served well until 1941, when we bought a used boat from Cronulla S.L.S.C., which we named "Riptide II". Clem Morris was Boat Captain during these war-time years, followed by Frank Tickle.

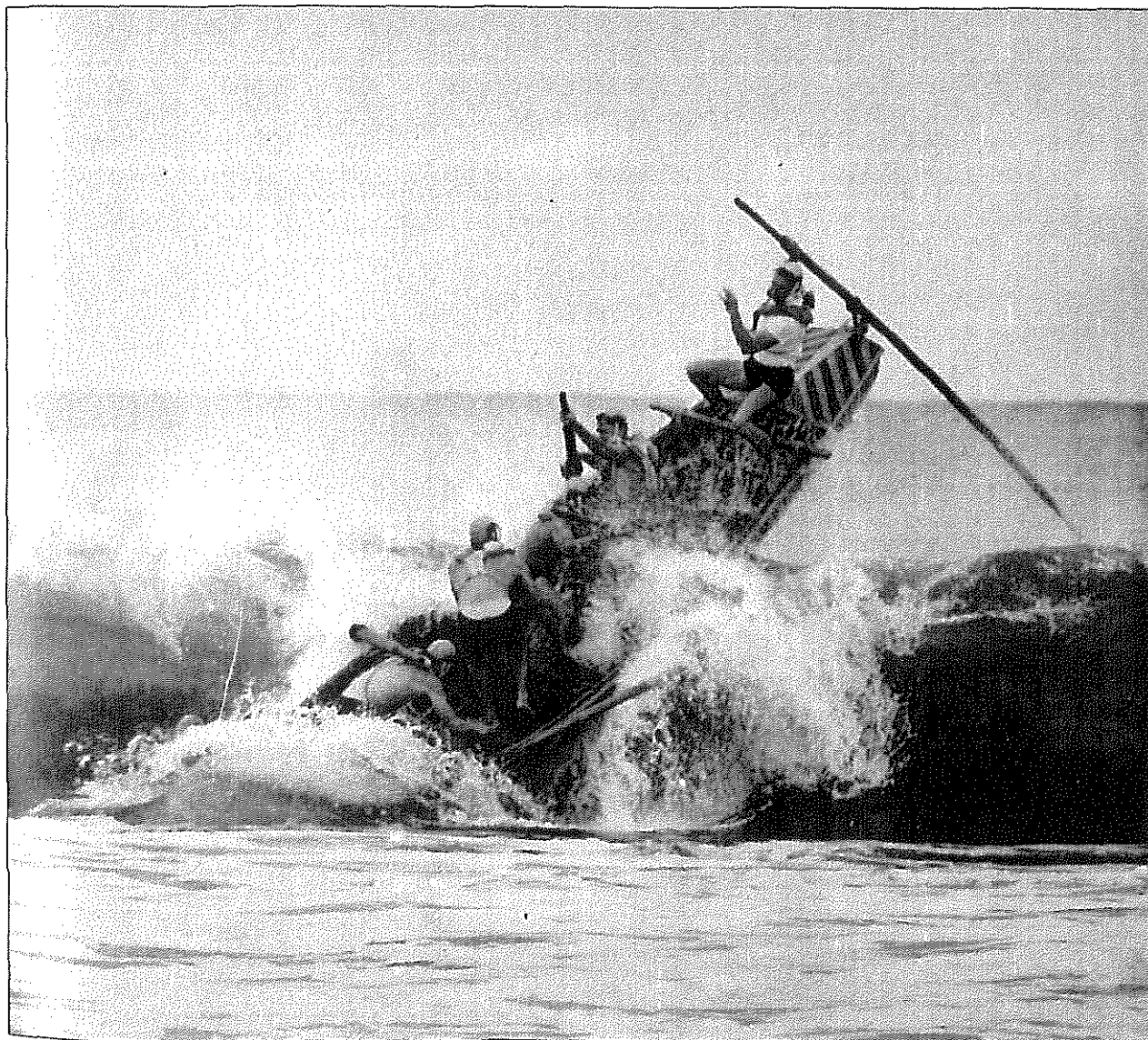
Somewhere in this period (of when we have no record) we acquired a narrow-beamed boat named "Sword Fish" which we fitted with outriggers in an endeavour to improve its inadequate beam and stability. Being a "one-off" oddity it raised comment and derision at every carnival.

An ongoing boat-fund begun in 1938, reached fruition in 1943, but because of World War II it was decided to hold the money in War Bonds and reserves until "better" times.

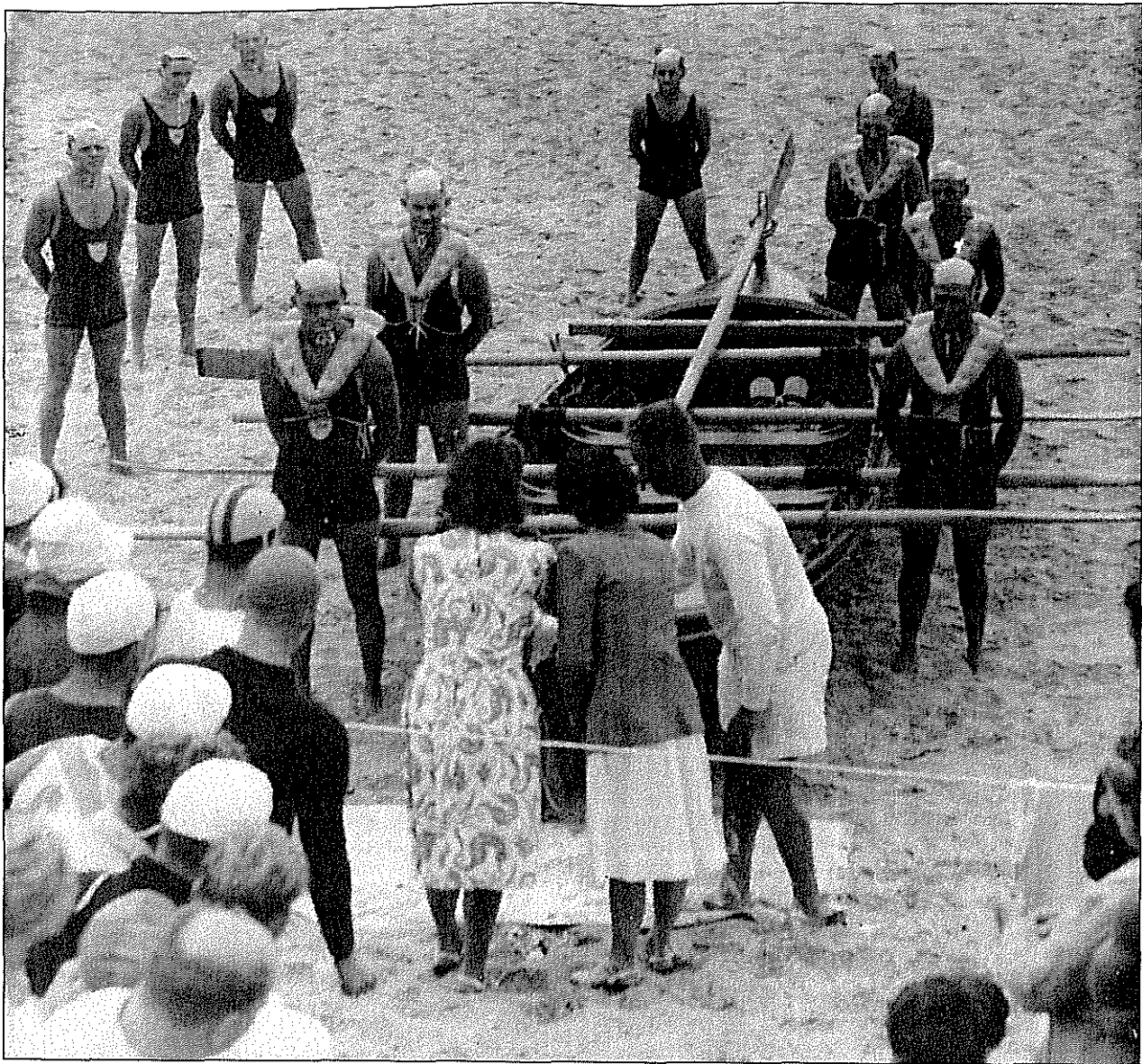
Better times arrived at the 8th A.G.M. in September, 1945 when it was decided to order a new surfboat from A. Townes of Mayfield, Newcastle - a respected and popular boat builder.

We took delivery in November 1946 and our first new boat was named "Pop Timms" in honour of our Foundation President.

Our next and last "Double-Ender" was the "Sid Bacon" named for our Foundation Secretary who died in a R.A.A.F. air crash in 1948. It served valiantly until replaced by a second-



Collaroy Surf Carnival December 1955, Senior Boat Race: Sweep Frank Gardner.  
The Whale Beach Crew recovered and won the event!



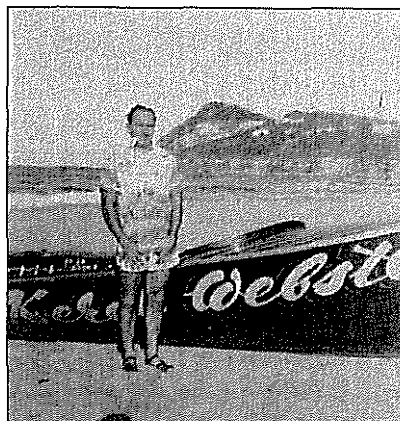
November 1946. Naming the "Pop Timms". Centre performing the christening: George McRobert, Joan Timms, Norma Timms. Club Members (clockwise): Harry McIntosh, John Hillsden, Ivan McRobert, Ken Hall, Doug Cragg, Keith Jones, Jack Uren, Arthur Barrell, John Clark.

hand tuck-stern craft which we bought to help our promising crew of that time, to stay with the other clubs in competition. However, although faster, it was not fast enough. It was built by Humphries, a famous builder.

So, being funded by hard work, we commissioned another famous builder of speedy boats - Ray Phillips - to create a craft to fit a fine crew. The raffle to raise funds gave the winner the choice of naming it, and as Keith Webster won, it was named after his daughter Kerel.

"The Kerel Webster" proved a great boat and won more events than any other craft and crew in our history, so far, during 1953-54.

Later we invested in a fibreglass boat which were the "going thing", but it was heavy and only suitable as a work boat.



Keith Webster 1953

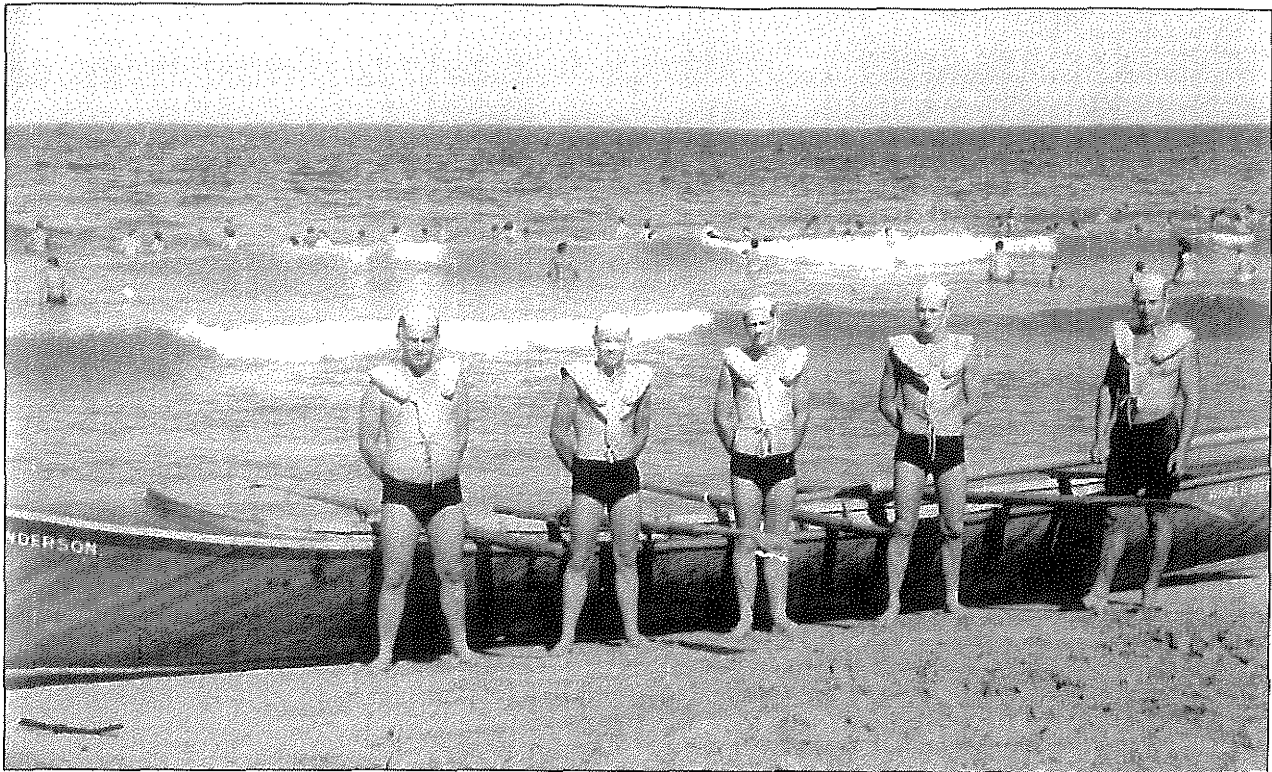
It was named "George Hannaford".

We sold Kerel Webster in 1959 and replaced that gallant lady with the "Charles Anderson", funded by our member and supporter of that name.

The "Ted Elvy" followed in 1963, which was the first boat donated by Warringah Shire Council. They instituted a roster and annually donated a boat to one of the clubs in the Shire. It was named for our past president and life member.

1965 saw Winifred Atwell, an internationally famous concert pianist donate her performance at a concert at Moby Dick Club to fund a surf boat.





"Charles Anderson". A crew, Don Loxton, Peter Blundell, Jamie MacNab, Bryan Webster, Ted Allan.

Consequently the boat was named "Winifred Atwell" and the oars were named for each of her musicians (!)

During 1969-1970 season we won allocation of another boat from Warringah Shire Council, which in the tradition was named "Jack Uren" for our famed sweep, coach and life member.

The "Jack Uren" was followed by a new boat named for our Past President, Life Member, trustee and foundation member, George McRobert. In 1985-86 season the "George McRobert" was intensively used by junior and senior crews. Encouraged and coached by veteran oarsman and sweep Ted Allan they reached a degree of excellence which rewarded their training and effort by reaching finals in "hot" company, and are on an upswinging curve.

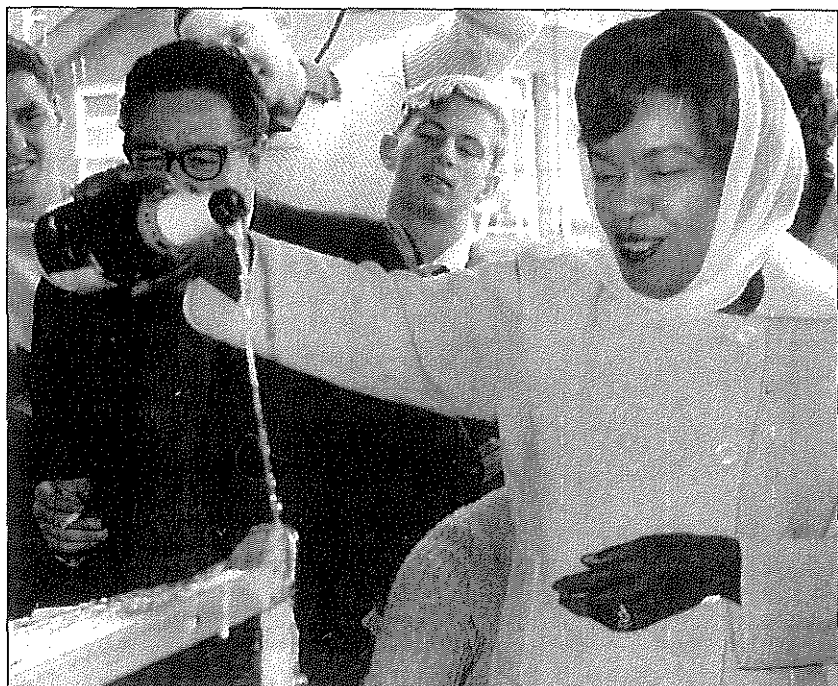
Ted Allan, who derives from a Palm Beach pioneer family, has been an enthusiastic crewman since his junior membership. He crewed many a race as both oarsman and sweep, and has recently emulated the role of past coach Jack Uren, by the inspiration and experience which he imparted to our crews.

In his heyday he crewed in the 60's and early 70's when for example the "A" crew of John Archer, D. McCosher, Ted Allan and G. Shaw won the senior boat at North Narrabeen on 26-12-69, with sweep Jack Uren.

Besides Laurie O'Toole, Jack Uren and Ted Allen another coach who devoted time and effort to our crews with real dedication and sportmanship

was Michael Bartlett, a sweep and coach of great repute who was instrumental in raising crews to title level in his home club of Bilgola S.L.S.C. He was also an executive member of Manly-Warringah branch.

An indication of the high degree of skill, fitness and dedication which can be achieved, may be gauged by the successes of two remarkable crews, listed on the following page.



Winifred Atwell with husband Lew, 1966.

# THE JUNIOR BOAT CREW OF SEASON 1953-54

Garth Crabb, Jim Winslade, Brian McKay, Les Singleton, Bob Prince  
Jack Uren - Sweep and Coach

<u>Carnival</u>	<u>Place</u>
Dee Why	1st
Nth Narrabeen	1st
Avalon	3rd
Maroubra	2nd
Newport	1st
Mona Vale	3rd
Sth Narrabeen	1st
Bilgola	2nd
Nth Cronulla	3rd
Nth Palm Beach	1st
Whale Beach	1st
Warriewood	2nd
Freshwater	1st
Royal Carnival (Bondi)	2nd
State Championship (Terrigal)	4th

# THE SENIOR "A" BOAT CREW OF SEASON 1953-54

John Arblaster, Frank Gardner, Alan Gonsalves, Mal Robson  
Jack Uren - Sweep and Coach

<u>Carnival</u>	<u>Place</u>
Dee Why	1st
Avalon	1st
Nth Palm Beach	2nd
Freshwater	2nd
Mona Vale	1st
Bilgola	1st
Whale Beach	1st
Newport	2nd
Palm Beach	1st
Queenscliff	1st
Metropolitan Championship (Coogee)	1st
Australian Championship (Southport Qld)	2nd

A later crew also achieved some success in the seasons of 1968-69 and 1969-70.

They were:

Ted Allan, John Archer,  
D. McCosker, G. Shaw

Jack Uren - Sweep and Coach

# "TOP CREW"

## BY MAL ROBSON

In the early 1950's I began training with Keith Jones, Frank Gardner, Alan Gonsalves and John Arblaster in the "Sid Bacon", named in his memory following his death in a R.A.A.F. aircrash in 1948.



2ND AUST. CHAMPS (1953-54) Judge Curlewis, Frank Gardner,  
Mal Robson, John Arblaster, Alan Gonsalves, Jack Uren.





Junior Boat Crew, Frank Gardner Sweep. Palm Beach Carnival 1954-55.

Jack Uren, past sweep of Freshwater crews had spent a lot of time watching us from the north headland with some degree of nostalgia.

Finally, unable to contain himself he approached us, after a dunking. He was smoking a cigar, but with a twinkle in his eyes said "If five blokes like you keep on going 'down the mine' as often as you do and keep coming back for more I'd have to be Blind Freddie not to be able to make a top crew of you".

From there he set out to cajole, badger and mould us until he created a sense of harmony, fitness and team spirit which did give Whale Beach a top crew.

At a period when most winning crews

were of a hefty build more suitable to front-row forwards, we were a light crew by comparison. However Jack Uren made up for this with a regime of hard dedicated training sessions, no smoking, no drinking and a severe reprimand if anyone wasn't punctual.

If someone didn't turn up without a darned good excuse they were out!

In search of better performance than the 'Sid Bacon' could deliver and as tuck stern design was now common, the club bought a second-hand one built by Humphries. However it didn't have the speed we hoped for.

So after two years hard training and modest success in competition, the club commissioned the well-known boat builder Ray Phillips to build us a boat with speed.

A fund raising raffle to finance the boat entitled the winner to name the boat.

Keith Webster worked with his usual enthusiasm and loyalty to club and crew, so that when his name was drawn as winner it was greeted with applause and the boat was named "Kerel Webster" after his daughter.

At the naming ceremony on the beach the boat was covered and the crew felt some trepidation, as Frank Gardner had the name emblazoned along the length of the craft in large letters so they could be read rounding the bouys in a race! (Positive thinking!)

The unveiling of this secret was greeted with a roar of approval and on many later occasions gave instant

identity to the distant boat's success, as it did prove a speedy craft and a complimentary tool in the hands of a fine crew.

Jack Uren's strategy as coach and sweep was to demoralize the other crews. When crews were sore and tired after their successive heat rows through the "break" in the surf, Jack when his crew was training them, could be heard shouting loudly "take it easy, don't bust yourselves", or "steady-on or you'll leave them for dead". The effect of course was that the other crews, hearing that in their state of tiredness would be inclined to "pack up", thinking that we were fresher and overtaking powerfully.

Jack was a smart cookie and taught us tricks, cunning and technique. We all had physically demanding jobs at that time, but the general fitness, training and know-how we acquired stood us in good stead and our success rate rapidly increased so that we became a crew of some reputation at any carnival in spite of our light weight.

It is unfortunate that no comprehensive record remains of all our wins and places, but without doubt no other crew has so consistently represented Whale Beach before or since that era.

By 1953-54 surfing year our training and skill paid off, when to culminate a winning season, we won the Metropolitan Surfboat Championship and followed that by winning the Silver Medals for second place (by losing half a boat-length) in the Australian Surfboat Championship.

In the beginning of our team, Keith Jones had been in our crew and had a period as sweep, until he moved to the North Coast for business reasons.

Frank Gardner followed as sweep and continued as a rower when Jack Uren became our mentor, coach and sweep. Frank too left to continue his interest in car racing, in England and Europe, where he had considerable success for several years and gained international fame and reputation in the sport. That interest and skill he enjoys in the management of teams and individual drivers today in various formulas.

Newspapers and newsreel films were popular in those days and Whale Beach's boat seemed to have a monopoly on featured pictures and episodes in both sport pages and newsreels. Hedonistic crewmen could go on Monday and view their epics in detailed re-runs at the theatrettes and local cinemas.

Ten years after the crew broke-up, they were attending Whale Beach's Annual Carnival as specators and found we didn't have a current active crew to represent us, so they dragged out the boat, donned their gear and without training won through heats, semis and final to win the Senior Boat Race. Jack Uren and Noel Greenfield, watching on the beach were not the only ones to be moist-eyed at that nostalgic trip down memory lane!

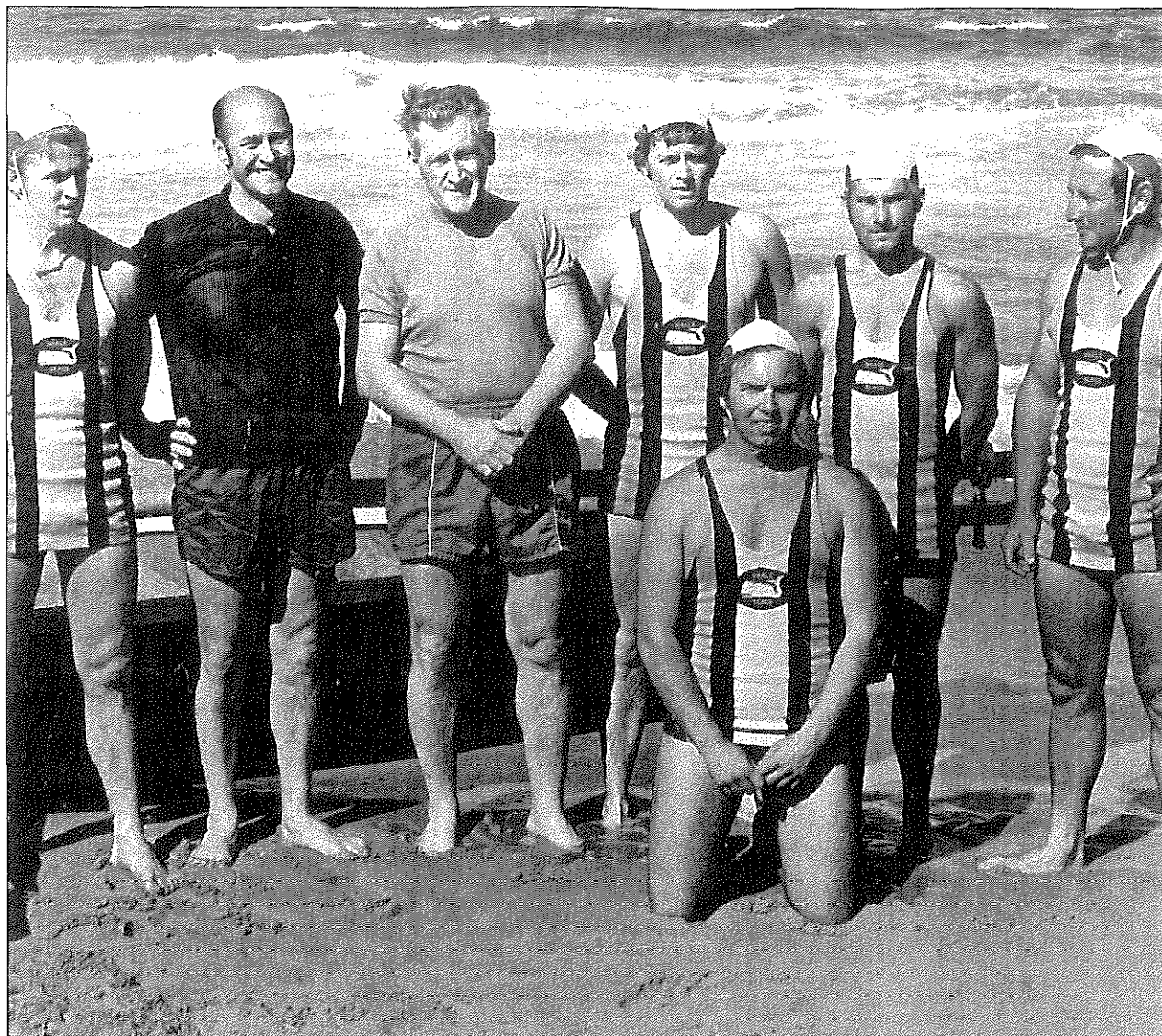
*IT IS FITTING THAT THE FOLLOWING NAMES OF THAT STERLING CREW SHOULD BE LISTED IN THE HISTORY OF OUR CLUB:*

SWEEP : JACK UREN  
STROKE : MAL ROBSON  
2ND STROKE : ALAN GONSALVES  
2ND BOW : FRANK GARDNER

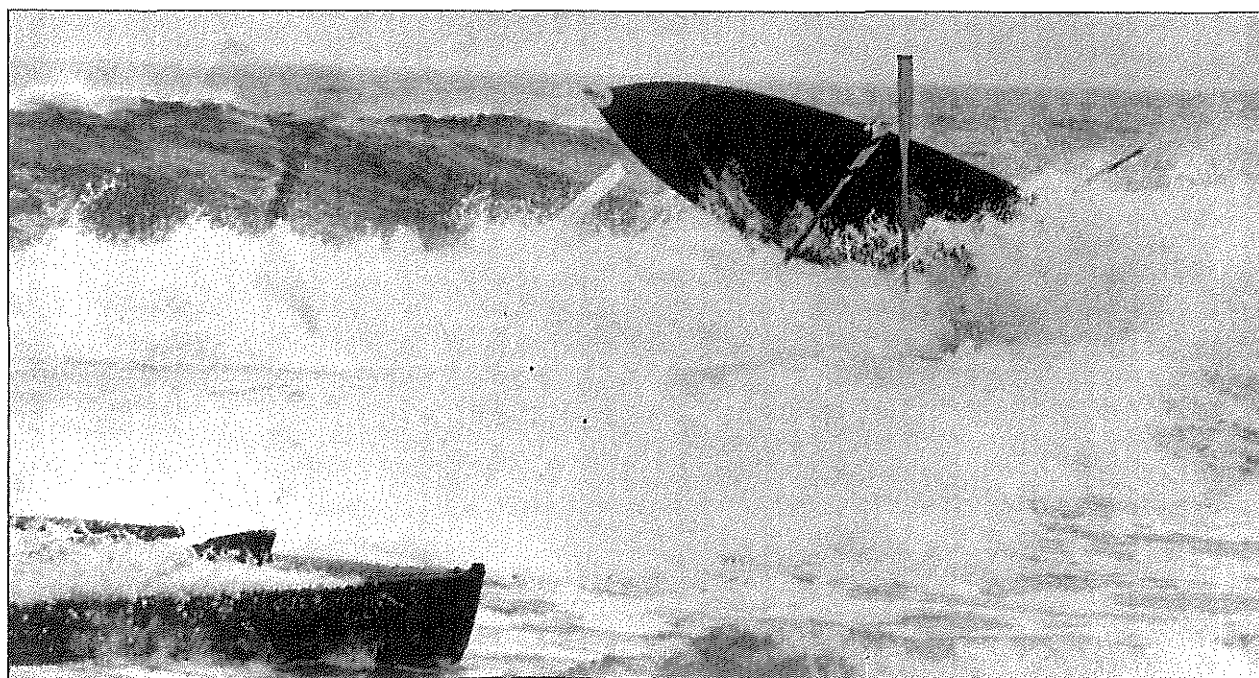


Frank Gardner, Alan Gonsalves, Mal Robson, John Arblaster, Keith Jones - 1951-52





"JACK UREN" (1969) L. to R. Bryan Webster, Col Huntington, (Shire President) Jack Uren, Graham Shaw, Jon Uren, Ted Allan, Ivan Campbell.



Whale Beach boat at Mona Vale 1953-54. The plain oar is from another boat UNDERNEATH ours!

# SWEEP LOST FOR 20 MIN. WHEN SURF BOAT CAPSIZES

*Reprinted from the Sunday Telegraph, January 18th, 1948*

The sweep of Whale Beach senior boat crew, Neil McCool, was missing for more than 20 minutes after his boat had been swamped in the first heat of the senior boat race at Dee Why surf carnival yesterday.

McCool was swept out to sea when the Whale Beach boat was swamped by the biggest wave of the day. The boat and the rest of the crew were washed towards the shore, but McCool was caught in a freak current and swept seawards.

Four beltmen were sent out to look for McCool, and Dee Why surf boat covered a large area searching for him.

Officials were about to abandon the search when McCool appeared on the crest of a big wave, 500 or 600 yards out. He slipped his life jacket off and "shot" the wave to the beach.

McCool said on reaching the beach: "I was terrified. At times I couldn't even see land. I caught that big wave in sheer desperation."

Another member of the crew Russell Lerpiniere, had his knee severely wrenched when the boat struck him as it capsized.

## Events Cancelled

All water events except the senior surf

race were cancelled yesterday because of the heavy seas.

The events cancelled were: Novice surf race, junior surf race, senior belt race, Junior R. and R., surfplane race.

In the final of the senior boat race, North Narrabeen and Manly boats collided and finished the course locked together.

Two of the Manly crew pushed the Narrabeen boat away to prevent damage. Narrabeen crew then alleged that Manly pushed their boat back to prevent them winning. The judges, however, did not change their decision.

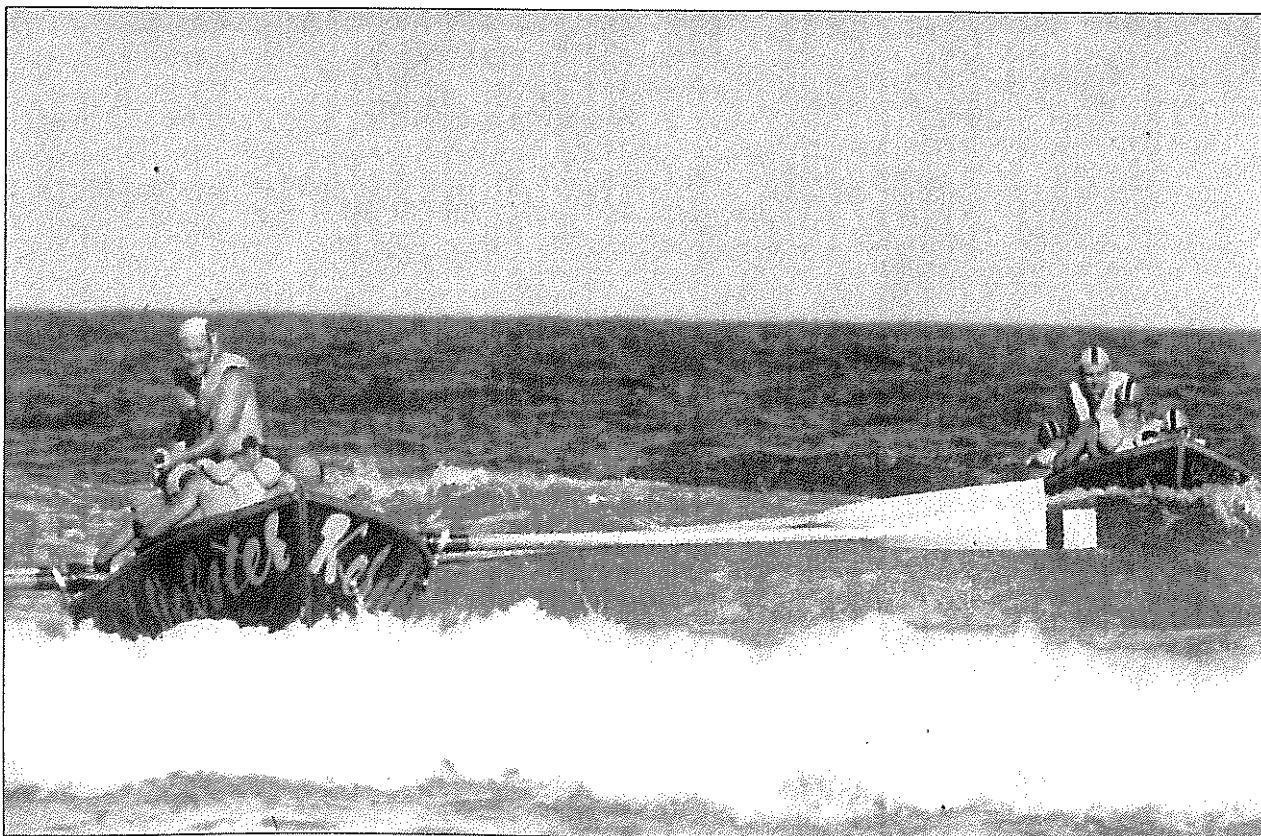


An unconscious Frank Gardner, after a Surf Boat mishap.

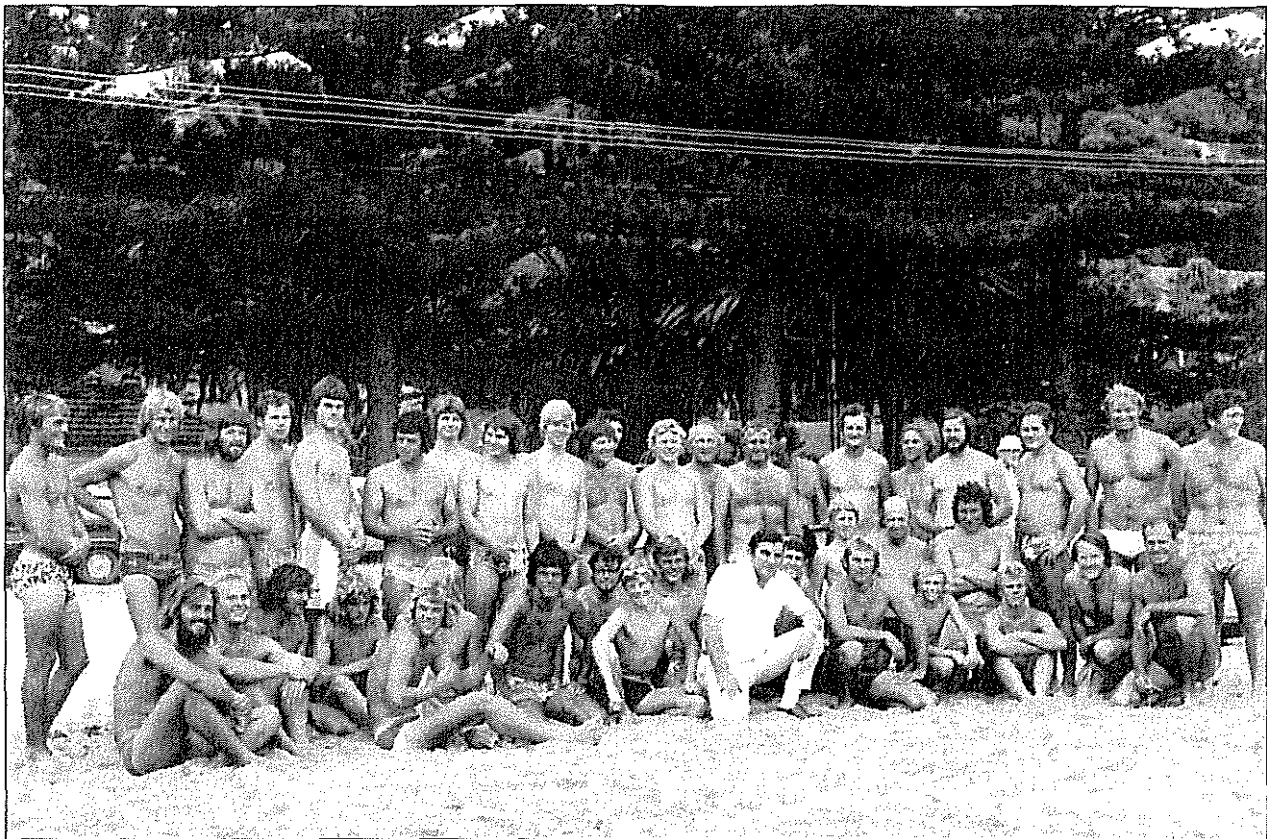




"POP TIMMS" (1946) L. to R. John Hilsden, Harry McIntosh, Jack Uren, Jack Wiseman, John Clark.



"KEREL WEBSTER" (1953) The "A" Crew with Jack Uren as sweep wins the Sydney Metropolitan Championship.



The first swim competitors, 1974. Bob Lynch kneeling at right

## THE MARATHON SWIM

### Palm Beach to Whale Beach

During the 1973-74, the idea of a marathon surf swim from Palm Beach to Whale Beach was put forward by Bob Lynch. The challenge was taken up and the first swim planned. In very overcast sky, extremely choppy seas and a strong northerly current, 48 club members took to the water. It was quite an adventure for all with much talk of 'what to do if there's a shark attack' adding both humour and tension to the event. Paul Hughes was the winner of the inaugural race. This year was also remembered because of the performance of the oldest competitor, Noel Greenfield. Discharged from hospital just four days prior after major cancer surgery, Noel competed in the swim finishing well up in the field.

In honour of Bob's contribution to the Club and the community, following his unfortunate accidental death in 1974, the swim became known as "The Bob Lynch Memorial Marathon Swim".

### Taking the rough with the smooth

"After shark scares and postponement the Bob Lynch Memorial Swim was held in conditions atrocious enough to make a shark seasick". So reads a section in the Clubs 1975-76 season Annual Report.

About 40 fearless(?) surf club members answered to challenge. Most times were well over 60 minutes, whereas subsequent average times are around 40 minutes.

By contrast the 1976-77 swim was in the smoothest season yet experienced with some 60 swimmers competing. The winner this year was Bobbie Priest who took out both line honours and fastest time with Alan Ward winning on handicap.

By 1977-78 the swim had attracted around 80 competitors with Richard Dill-Macky producing the first of his many "fastest time" wins with a time of 31 minutes.

Young cadet Mark Olsen powered on to win the 1978-79 swim with a time of 29 min 42 sec. Rob Berry won on Handicap.

The competition numbers grew to over 100 starters in the 1979-80 swim and Richard Dill-Macky again came in with the fastest time.

1980-81 saw a further lift in the number of competitors with many starters from other surf clubs. The event was now news with Australia wide coverage on ABC Television.

230 swimmers hit the water in 1981-82 swim, heading out through a 1-2 metre surf and a strong swell. Richard Dill-Macky again showed his class winning line honours overall with the fastest time. There were also teams events for the various surf clubs. Whale Beach won both the mens and the ladies sections.

Another 100 people turned up in 1982-83 to swell the starting line to 320. Conditions were ideal for the swim. Richard Dill-Macky recorded the fastest time.



Receiving an award for his support, Ossie Fabris

1983-84 was rather overcast and choppy seas but again the starters numbered well over 300. Steve Park won on handicap with Mark Morgan the fastest time of 26 minutes.

A very hot day and calm seas greeted starters for the 1984-85 swim. George McRobert and his team of marshalls were almost overwhelmed by the 410 people who wanted to swim. All had to be recorded and covered by insurance, which was generously donated by Barrell Insurances, the Club's Insurance Brokers.

This year there were two handicap sections for Club members. Senior A was won by Peter Smyth and Senior B by Darcy Patterson.

The 1985-86 swim saw Mark Morgan winning the fastest time for the third year running. 480 swimmers registered for the race.

Apple Computer continued its sponsorship in 1986-87, providing essential support in the now very big task of financing this event. Competitors numbers have now topped 500.

*From Bob Lynch's initial vision of a challenge for Whale Beach Surf Club members, the Marathon Swim has become an important event in the Sydney sports calendar.*

## Good on you Ossie

The Marathon Swim would not have got off the beach without Ossie Fabris. A local resident and proprietor of "Jonah's Restaurant", Ossie gave generously and organised further supporting sponsorship and prizes for a period of nine years.

Sponsorship was then provided by Liquid Paper Australia for some three years.

Vitamin Supplies Limited was another valued sponsor which was gained through the effort of Noel Pickering.

In 1985 Apple Computer became the main sponsor of the swim thanks to the involvement of David Strong.

Many local business people have provided donations of prizes year after

BOB LYNCH MEMORIAL MARATHON SURF RACE PALM BEACH TO WHALE BEACH			
YEAR	HCP WINNER	FASTEST TIME	
74	P. HUGHES	P. HUGHES	42M 20S
75	P. ROPER	P. HUGHES	37M 10S
76	C. GRAY	T. LANDIS	38M 30S
77	A. WARD	R. PRIEST	36M 40S
78	R. GRAY	R. DILL-MACKY	31M 0S
79	R. BERRY	M. OLSEN	29M 0S
80	M. OLSEN	R. DILL-MACKY	28M 45S
81	M. McROBERT	M. MORGAN	29M 0S
82	R. DILL-MACKY	R. DILL-MACKY	33M 16S
83	R. DILL-MACKY	R. DILL-MACKY	29M 40S
84	S. PARK	M. MORGAN	26M
85	P. SMYTH	M. MORGAN	28M 35S
86	D. PATTERSON	M. MORGAN	
	M. WEBB		28M 31S
87	S. BROWN	M. MORGAN	31M



year. They include Avalon Sports Store, Eatons Building Materials, Totally Tom Service Station, Seaview Auto Parts, Nataoka Boutique, John Stone Photographics.

## "Keep 'em in sight"

A very reassuring presence at each swim has been the flotilla of craft ready to pick up distressed swimmers or to act quickly in the event of a shark sighting. Organising of the fleet has been done each year by Jamie Macnab and Ted Allan. The Club thankfully acknowledge the many people who have assisted.

## Thanks fellows

One of the most enjoyable parts of the swim is the "refreshments" at the finish. Many, many enjoyable hours have been spent with some amber fluid and hot meat and bread roll in hand, as friends recount their experiences in the swim.

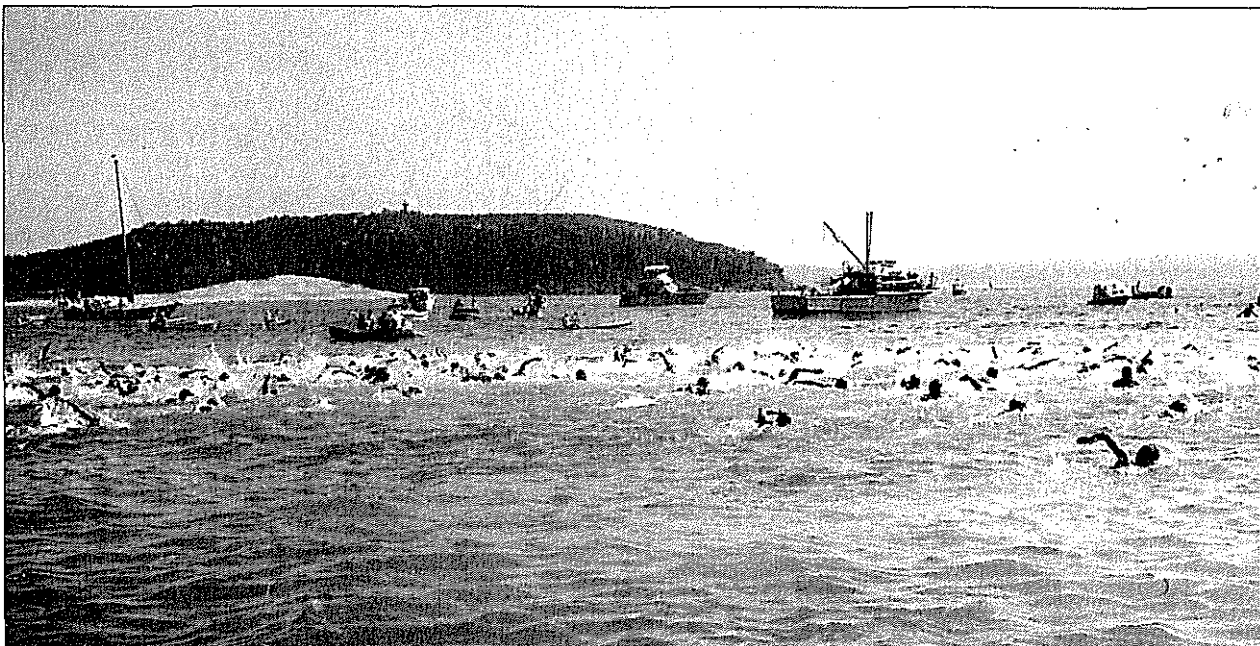
Providing these refreshments which have included roast pig, whole lambs and other delights, has been a dedicated team of workers. Their cooking skills and good humour add much to

each Marathon Swim day. We recall in particular, Ian Waite, Graeme Anderson, Jim Daniel, Ray Peddler, Richard Whitfield and Kel Sherwood.

Year after year, the Avalon Lions have also given outstanding help.

What swim would be complete without the efforts of Alan Murphy who has baked thousands of bread rolls to feed the multitudes.

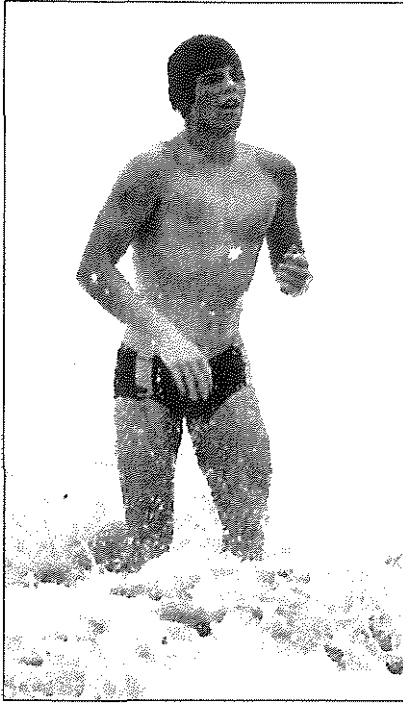
1975-76 Starters



1986



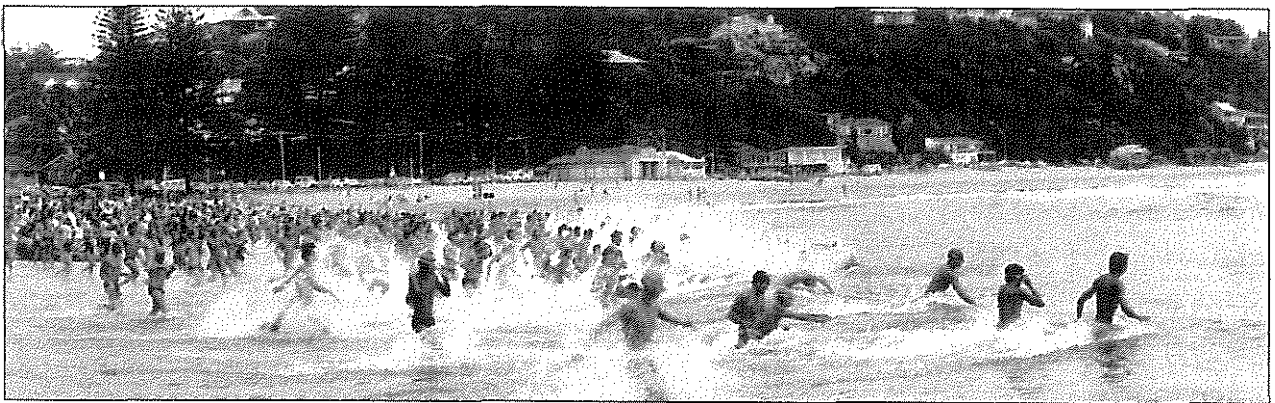




Bobby Priest, Winner 1977



1984-85 Marathon



1982-83 Start

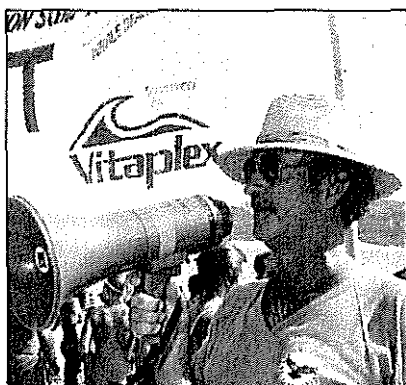
1983-84 Finish





1986-87 Start

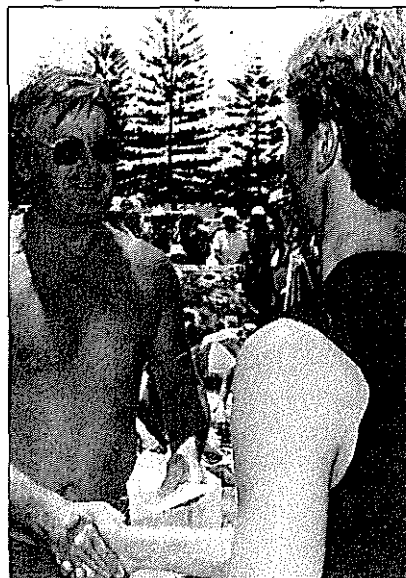
Right, just another 300 metres  
to the headland



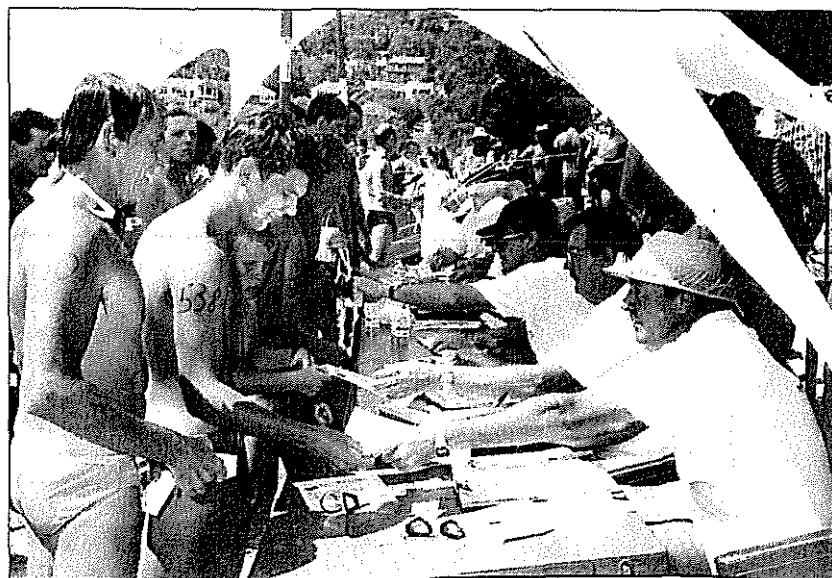
Frank Baker,  
Our esteemed Starter



'86 Hcp winner Darcy Patterson Jr  
congratulated by Barton Lynch



A magnificent job by the Marshal to  
control and record over 500 swimmers



# WHALE BEACH S. L.S.C.

## CHAMPIONS

### SURF CHAMPION

### BELT CHAMPION

### CLUB CHAMPION

37-38	N. Greenfield	N. Greenfield	N. Greenfield
38-39	N. Greenfield	N. Greenfield	N. Greenfield
39-40	N. Greenfield	N. Greenfield	N. Greenfield
40-41	N. Gough	B. Hannaford	N. Gough
41-42		No Record	
42-43	J. Brown	B. Hannaford	J. Brown
43-44	W. McKeon	A. Curchod	J. Brown
44-45			No Record
45-46	H. Baily	H. Baily	H. Baily
46-47		No Record	
47-48	H. Baily	H. Baily	H. Baily
48-49	J. Kelly	H. Baily	
49-50		No Record	
50-51	H. Baily	H. Baily	H. Baily
51-52	H. Baily	H. Baily	D. Patterson
52-53	O. Ramsay	H. Baily	D. Patterson
53-54	O. Ramsay	H. Baily	A. Wilcox
54-55	O. Ramsay	H. Baily	R. Olsen
55-56	G. Martin	G. Martin	O. Ramsay
56-57	T. Ramsay	T. Ramsay	B. Fawcett
57-58	T. Ramsay	O. Ramsay	W. Saunders
58-59	T. Ramsay	T. Ramsay	T. Ramsay
59-60	T. Ramsay	T. Ramsay	T. Ramsay
60-61		No Record	
61-62	T. Ramsay	C.M. Timms	B.R. Stewart
62-63	T. Szagmeister	C.M. Timms	B.R. Stewart
63-64	T. Ramsay	T. Szagmeister	B.R. Stewart
64-65	G. Sparrowhawk	G. Sparrowhawk	B.R. Stewart - D. Strong
65-66	G. Sparrowhawk	G. Sparrowhawk	P. Cullis
66-67	T. Ramsay	C.M. Timms	P. Hughes
67-68	T. Szagmeister	T. Szagmeister	P. Cullis
68-69	M. McRobert	M. McRobert	C.M. Timms
69-70	P. Hughes	C.M. Timms	P. Taylor
70-71	M. McRobert	C.M. Timms	C.M. Timms
71-72	P. Hughes	J. Uren (Jnr)	J. Uren (Jnr)
72-73	A. Stewart	G. Lahiff	P. Blundell
73-74	H.W. Langford	P. Hughes	J. Uren (Jnr)
74-75	P. Hughes	C.M. Timms	H.W. Langford
75-76	H.W. Langford	C.M. Timms	H. W. Langford
76-77	A. Ward	C.M. Timms	P.F. Young
77-78	M. Morgan	M. Morgan	P.F. Young
78-79	R. Dill-Macky	M. Morgan	M. Olsen
79-80	M. Morgan	R. Dill-Macky	M. Olsen
80-81	M. Olsen	P.F. Young	G. Dunn
81-82	M. Morgan	M. Morgan	S. Unicombe
82-83	M. Morgan	M. Morgan	P. Gonsalves
83-84	M. Morgan	M. Morgan	R. Lerpiniere
84-85	M. Morgan	M. Morgan	L. Zaska
85-86	R. Dill-Macky	Not Held	S. Park
86-87	P. Young	Not Held	S. Park

# WHALE BEACH S.L.S.C. OFFICERS

SEASON	PRESIDENT	CAPTAIN	SECRETARY	TREASURER
37-38	F.J. TIMMS	J. WEBSTER	S. BACON	A. BARRELL
38-39	F.J. TIMMS	J. WEBSTER	S. BACON	A. BARRELL
39-40	F.J. TIMMS	J. WEBSTER	S. BACON	A. BARRELL
40-41	F.J. TIMMS	P. YOUNG	H.E. HEATH	A. BARRELL
41-42	F.J. TIMMS	K. WEBSTER	H.E. HEATH	P. HEATH
42-43	F.J. TIMMS	K. WEBSTER	H.E. HEATH	C. MORRIS/R. ELVY
43-44	F.J. TIMMS	K. WEBSTER	H.E. HEATH	R. ELVY
44-45	F.J. TIMMS	K. WEBSTER	H.E. HEATH	E.W. CORAM
45-46	E.R. ELVY	W. McKEON	H.E. HEATH	E.W. CORAM
46-47	E.R. ELVY	G.M. McROBERT	R. LERPINIÈRE	P. HEATH
47-48	E.R. ELVY	G.M. McROBERT	J. CLARK	P. HEATH
48-49	E.R. ELVY	G.M. McROBERT	J. CLARK	P. HEATH
49-50	E.R. ELVY	G.M. McROBERT	J. CLARK	R. ELVY
50-51	E.R. ELVY	G.M. McROBERT	J. CLARK	R. ELVY
51-52	E.R. ELVY	G.M. McROBERT	J. CLARK	R. ELVY
52-53	E.R. ELVY	G.M. McROBERT	J. CLARK	A. BARRELL
53-54	E.R. ELVY	R. ELVY	J. CLARK	A. BARRELL
54-55	E.R. ELVY	N. GREENFIELD	J. CLARK	J. HOLME
55-56	E.R. ELVY	N. GREENFIELD	J. CLARK	J. HOLME
56-57	E.R. ELVY	N. GREENFIELD	J. CLARK	A. BARRELL
57-58	E.R. ELVY	N. GREENFIELD	J. CLARK	A. BARRELL
58-59	E.R. ELVY	W. SAUNDERS	J. CLARK	S. DRODER
59-60	G.J.L. McROBERT	J. HANSFORD	J. CLARK	S. DRODER
60-61	G.J.L. McROBERT	W. SAUNDERS	J. CLARK	J. HOLME
61-62	G.J.L. McROBERT	N. GREENFIELD	J. CLARK	J. HOLME
62-63	G.J.L. McROBERT	N. GREENFIELD	F.A. PATTERSON	J. HOLME
63-64	G.J.L. McROBERT	N. GREENFIELD	F.A. PATTERSON	J. HOLME
64-65	G.J.L. McROBERT	N. GREENFIELD	F.A. PATTERSON	J. HOLME
65-66	G.J.L. McROBERT	N. GREENFIELD	F.A. PATTERSON	J. HOLME
66-67	G.J.L. McROBERT	B.R. STEWART	F.A. PATTERSON	J. HOLME
67-68	G.J.L. McROBERT	B.R. STEWART	F.A. PATTERSON	J. HOLME
68-69	G.J.L. McROBERT	B.R. STEWART	F.A. PATTERSON	J. HOLME
69-70	G.J.L. McROBERT	B.R. STEWART	F.A. PATTERSON	J. HOLME
70-71	G.J.L. McROBERT	R.E. LYNCH	F.A. PATTERSON	B.R. STEWART
71-72	G.J.L. McROBERT	R.E. LYNCH	F.A. PATTERSON	B.R. STEWART
72-73	G.J.L. McROBERT	R.E. LYNCH	F.A. PATTERSON	B.R. STEWART
73-74	G.J.L. McROBERT	P. BLUNDELL	F.A. PATTERSON	B.R. STEWART
74-75	G.J.L. McROBERT	P. BLUNDELL	F.A. PATTERSON	B.R. STEWART
75-76	B.R. STEWART	C.M. TIMMS	C.M. TIMMS	R. GODSALL
76-77	B.R. STEWART	H.W. LANGFORD	C.M. TIMMS	R. GODSALL
77-78	C.M. TIMMS	P.F. YOUNG	F.O. BAKER	R. GODSALL
78-79	C.M. TIMMS	P.F. YOUNG	F.O. BAKER	A.J. STEWART
79-80	C.M. TIMMS	P.F. YOUNG	F.O. BAKER	A.J. STEWART
80-81	B.R. STEWART	B. WEBSTER	C.M. TIMMS	A.J. STEWART
81-82	B.R. STEWART	B. WEBSTER	C.M. TIMMS	A.J. STEWART
82-83	B.R. STEWART	B. WEBSTER	C.M. TIMMS	A.J. STEWART
83-84	B.R. STEWART	P.F. YOUNG	C.M. TIMMS	A.J. STEWART
84-85	B.R. STEWART	P.F. YOUNG	C.M. TIMMS	F.O. BAKER/P. FULTON
85-86	B.R. STEWART	M. CONNOR	C.M. TIMMS	P. FULTON
86-87	B.R. STEWART	R. LERPINIÈRE	P.R. CULLIS	P. FULTON
87-88	B.R. STEWART	G. ROBINSON	P.R. CULLIS	P. FULTON



# WHALE BEACH S.L.S.C. LIFE MEMBERS

This prestigious membership is not given freely in most Clubs and the same applies in this instance. Our constitution requires that in order to obtain Life Membership, a member must have performed outstanding service for the Club and must be a member for at least 15 consecutive years.

With some 23 on our Honour Board, we have elected less than one every two years of our life. In most cases all were Active Members, but those who were not, in their particular sphere made a great contribution to the welfare and success of the Club.

We give you a brief resume of each Life member. They are in alphabetical order and not seniority.

## H.O. (HAL) BAILY

Hall joined the club in 1943 after gaining his Bronze Medallion at North Bondi S.L.S.C. in 1935. Hal first came to Whale Beach with the original foundation group including the Timms and Greenfield families and he quickly established himself as an exceptional swimmer, particularly in the belt but more so as a man who loved big waves. Even as age advanced Hal has continued to astound the younger members with his fitness and prowess in big seas.

For many years Hal lived on the south side of Sydney, and moved to Whale Beach in recent years, but Whale Beach was his family's Number 1 beach. Competing for Whale Beach, Hal was one of the Club's most outstanding and successful competitors, particularly as a belt swimmer.

An interruption from the surf during the war years, unfortunately resulted in a war injury to Hal's back, which occasionally immobilises him completely. Hal's treatment for this back problem is to rest until he regains mobility and then swim. Because of this, Hal continues to be a familiar sight swimming point to point at Whale Beach all year round.

Throughout his life time of surf club membership, Hal is a fine example to the Club's young members of physical fitness and he is always available to advise and assist in training members in surfing techniques if requested.

## J. BAIRD

An Active Member who served in many positions on the Committee and was a keen competitor and a diligent worker over many seasons - particularly as Gear Steward.

John's battery shop in Palmer Street, East Sydney became an inner city meeting place after work for surf club members and many a cold ale was consumed amongst the bottles of battery acid and cases. The drive was very successful financially and brought an influx of new members. John was always willing to help out the younger club members with car problems and he was a good source of a cheap battery for all members.

## R. BERRY

An outstanding member, who like others, has made the Surf Club a very important part of his life. A strong competitor in craft events and a specialist at the "Pillow Fight". Rob has won many more of these events than he lost. Our social activities have been under his expertise for many years and still are. He is a peer amongst the younger senior members and is highly respected by all.

Rob commenced his Surf Life Saving at the Grange Club in Adelaide before moving to Sydney. He joined Whale Beach in 1962 and for every year since he has been involved in the organisation of the social and fund raising activities of the Club. Rob has a special knack of extracting valuable prizes for Club raffles or competition. He has talked sponsors into donating money, diamond rings and many other items.

As a competitor, and in addition to the Pillow Fight, Rob was a very competent ski paddler and competed at carnivals

for many years. Rob continues to compete in Club events and is rostered with a Reserve Active patrol of 'Cronies'.

## A.M. BOLOT

Through an old associate member Joe Glass, he came into the Club as our Hon. Architect and subsequently designed and supervised our Clubhouse at absolutely no cost, so saving us many hundreds of pounds.

## J.L. CLARK

Joined as an Active Member in 1937 and shortly after returning from War Service took on the very important office of Hon. Secretary, a task he carried out in his typical efficient manner for 15 years. He then became the first Hon. Sec. of the Manly Warringah Branch, giving his expertise in the early years of the Branch's existence.

## E.W. CORAM, Snr.

A very solid and hard working member whose forte was organising and dispensing liquid refreshments to the members at official and unofficial occasions - at the same time raising funds and imparting his good humour and fellowship to all concerned.

## A.B. CURCHOD

Arthur was amongst the early members and was one of those responsible for carrying on the Club whilst the younger members were away at the War. He carried on his interest in the post war years and was of great assistance to the committees for many years imparting advice and practical help. He was also responsible for having the foresight and drive for the Club to obtain a liquor licence so that we could sell liquor officially on our premises. Hence the conception of the Moby Dick Club.

## E.R. ELVY

An exceptional man, also an early camper, one who stepped in and

helped run the Club, both actively and otherwise during the War. What more logical man to takeover the Presidency after the untimely demise of our Foundation President "Pop Timms" in 1945. 'Ted' was responsible for steering the Club through those very important and formative years through to 1959/60. It was during Ted's term that the Club acquired the land, built the Clubhouse and was Chairman of the Steering Committee of Moby Dick. He was an inspiration to all those who worked with and followed after him. Ted never lost his interest right up to the time of his death.

### **N.V. GREENFIELD**

Noel, a Foundation Member, with great expertise in all phases of Surf Lifesaving. Noel was one of the few club members with the ability to excel in all competitions. You name it, he could do it! In his first year as Lifesaver he participated in an outstanding rescue which saves two lives and earned him a Meritorious Award in Bronze. He held almost every office, Club Caption, Boat Captian, Power Boat Captain, Gear Steward, etc. As they say, a good all rounder and one of the band who made the Club a very important part of his life. A tireless worker, and never pulled his punches verbally or physically.

### **G.M.L. HANNAFORD**

One of the quiet achievers, our unpaid foreman during the building of the Clubhouse. Currently the senior of three Hannaford generations in the Club. George was always available for practical advice and had a general interest in all things, particularly the boats and any building projects. He was a Foundation Director of the Moby Dick Club.

### **J.A. HOLME**

John, although not an active member took a great interest in the Club and subsequently took office as Treasurer, a post which he performed for 14 years with his usual dedication and efficiency.

### **H.C. HEATH**

Affectionately known by everyone as 'Fred', he took over the Hon. Secretary's job during the War and was instrumental in holding things together in that area during and in the post war years. A very respected senior member.



### **J.D. LYONS**

Jack gained his Bronze with North Narrabeen S.L.S.C. in the early thirties. He came to Whale Beach in the late forties and was soon embroiled in Club activities. Jack, or more affectionately known as "Smiler" was a very friendly 'Handicapper' very few ever complained about Jack's decisions. A very genuine friendly type and is still one of the old guards serving as a Senior V.P. on our Management Committee.

### **G.I.L McROBERT**

As with Ted Elvy, George is an exceptional man. He served as Club Captain and for a record number of 14 consecutive years as the Club's President.

During George's term as President his energy and enthusiasm ensured the long term financial viability of the Club through his efforts with others in the incorporation of the Moby Dick Surfers Club. This Club was formed to fund the Surf Club's activities through the payment of rent for the top floor of the Surf Club building. George, during his term as President, and after, also served on the Board of Directors as Chairman of the Moby Dick Club. This dual responsibility proved a winning formula and through George's astute and business like management, the two Clubs enjoyed ongoing success, not only financially but liaison between both organisations was exceptional. George is also a Life Member of the licenced Club.

George is, and will always be, a disciplined and precise man, due no doubt to his military background as an officer during World War II. He is not a man swayed from what is right and best for the Surf Club and many members and ex members can recall a verbal dressing down from George when they were in the wrong and required re-direction.

Always a keen and active sportsman, George was a familiar competitor in the Sunday morning surf race. George continues a close and active interest in the Surf Club as a Trustee. He also has, for the past 5 years, been the Beach Referee at the annual Palm beach to Whale Beach swim. With his band of hard working Marshalls, George has ensured a disciplined and efficient approach to the start and finish of the Marathon Swim. With upwards of 500 competitors in the swim each year, no other approach would suffice and it is a credit to George's organisational ability that this event is conducted in a safe and uniformed manner.

As with other members, George's family also served in the Surf Life Saving movement at Whale Beach.

His wife Beryl, was a long serving member of the Ladies Auxiliary and at times, the Auxiliary President. George's two sons, Duncan and Martin also were Active Members for many years of the Club.

#### F.A. PATTERSON

Darcy, a great personality, and an outstanding Secretary. One of the few men who was an expert shorthand writer, consequently, our Minutes during his term of office were the best ever recorded in the Club. He was always there with friendly advice and good fellowship. Ironically after retiring from office in August 1975, he was stricken down with a stroke in December 1975 and passed away the following year.

#### O.Mc.L. RAMSAY

Owen, a very efficient and dedicated Life Saver and categorised with many others who have made the movement an important part of their lives. Owen is also a Life Member of the Manly Warringah Branch and still holds the title of official starter for craft events at State and National level. He was a very enthusiastic competitor, leaning towards water and craft events, and it is said that he has a special room for his trophies.

As a competitor, Owen is probably the most successful competitor in the Club's history. In a career that spanned over 20 years, Owen competed in craft events, and in particular the 16 foot Racing Board, Single Ski and Double Ski. He won many medals at Branch level, particularly in the Double Ski.

#### L.D. SMITH

Len came to the Club during the post war years, took a great interest in the Club and gravitated to the social side, holding the office of Social Secretary for many years. During this time he was responsible for many successful functions which raised much needed funds. He was on the Steering Committee for the Moby Dick Club as Hon. Secretary and it was in this position he was responsible for the sub-

mission and appearance in obtaining a liquor licence for Moby Dick. He was also Hon. Secretary and Director of the Licensed Club an office he held with distinction for many years.

#### B.R. STEWART

Richard is currently President, an office he has held for 9 years, having joined the Club as a Cadet in 1956 - progressed through 4 years as Captain, 2 years as Vice Captain, 5 years as Treasurer and ultimately took over the leadership in 1975. He is another of those mentioned earlier, very loyal, dedicated, efficient and popular, also a very good competitor, specialising in craft events, a very good exponent of the Double Ski in association with Owen Ramsay and Rob Berry.

He is also a very keen competitor at the Club level and holds the distinction to this day of being the outright Club Champion for three consecutive years. He was a Club Surf Champion as a cadet and junior and won many Club Ski Championships, even after he had passed the ominous age of 40 years.

He has been responsible for some of the best years in the Club's history.

Richard first saw the possibility for raising money through the annual Marathon Swim. He and Rob Berry organised the promotion and sponsorship of the swim and introduced an entry fee which to this day provides around four thousand dollars annually to the Club's income. He was also instrumental in obtaining the Club's first major sponsor, Apple Computer.

He was also the driving force behind the incorporation and became the Club's inaugural Public Officer when the Club incorporated on 23rd January, 1987.

Richard continues to serve the Club on the beach, and he continues to perform patrol duties.

He has also followed in other's footsteps by having his son and daughter as Active Members in the Club.

#### C.M. TIMMS

Colin, a grandson of the foundation President, and naturally came to the Club at an early age, a very good swimmer - he has served the Club well and has been Captain, Secretary and President. These offices he has held with enthusiasm and dedication. He is currently a Trustee and still very interested in the Club's welfare.

During his Active years, Colin was an outstanding belt swimmer and won the Club's Belt Championship a record number of times. Colin was a powerful swimmer who could tackle any seas and as a young member he made an outstanding contribution to many serious and dangerous rescues.

Colin has a great sense of humour, and some of the one liners he included in reports and Minutes of Meetings, are classic. He once, years ago, gained notoriety in the local press, after he chided the Warringah Shire Council for a donation. Reflecting on our situation, whereby Whale Beach must pay Council Rates, plus all repairs and maintenance because we own our premises, Colin wrote a letter of thanks to Council, which included the statement that Council donations were "Better than a poke in the eye with a burnt stick." Letters of apology followed but Colin had made the point very clear.

Colin is one of the rostered Reserve Active patrol members who continued to serve the Club and the public on the beach.

#### F.A. TIMMS

Fred, the elder son of the founding President, a senior officer of the R.A.A.F., before during and in the post war years. On retirement Fred took up permanent residence at Whale Beach, at the same time becoming actively involved in the Club.

Fred earned the nickname 'Fiery Fred' when he took on the onerous task of Handicapper. He was strict and righteously believed himself fair. Many a member copped an earful

when he questioned Fred's handicapping judgement. Fred was also good for a cold beer (Reschs Pilsener only) for any member who dropped into his workshop for a yarn.

#### F.M. TIMMS

One of the leading figures in the formation of the Club and our first President. He, assisted by other Senior Members, kept the Club going during the second world war years. He held this important position from 1937 until his death in 1945.

#### I.W. UREN

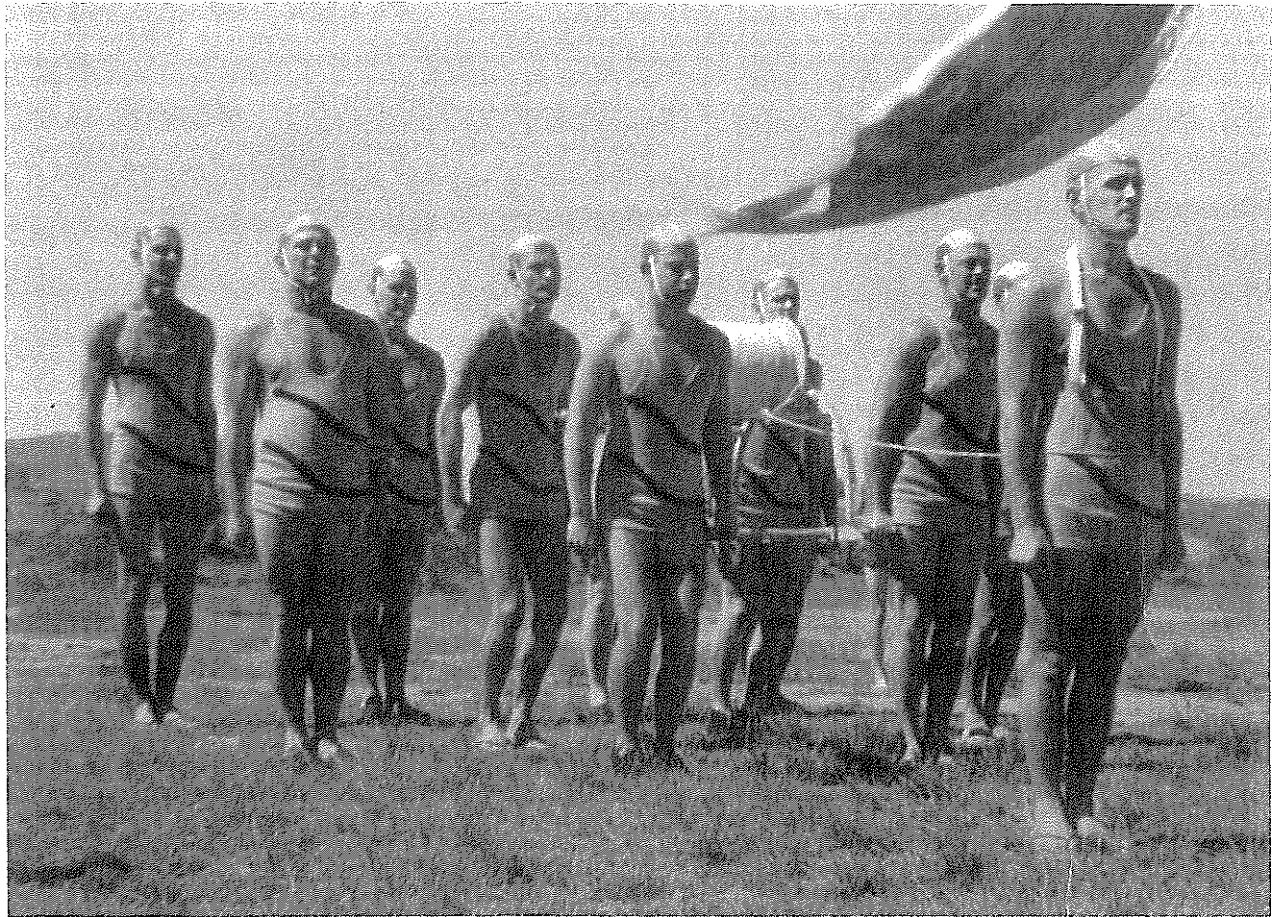
Anyone knowing surf boats would know Jack, he was an expert! He joined the Club from Freshwater in 1945, and very soon, due to his prowess as a Boat Sweep was elected Boat Captain, an office which he held for many years during which he trained and led many boat crews in competition with significant effect in many cases. He left us for a few years returning to Freshwater but did come back to us, resuming his old position.

#### G.K. WEBSTER

Keith, a foundation member, son of one of Whale Beach's original residents and brother of the first Club Captain. He was a tireless and dedicated worker in the earlier years, became an Examiner in the Branch, so becoming a very familiar figure at Surf Carnivals. It was our loss when Keith, due to family commitments, left the district.

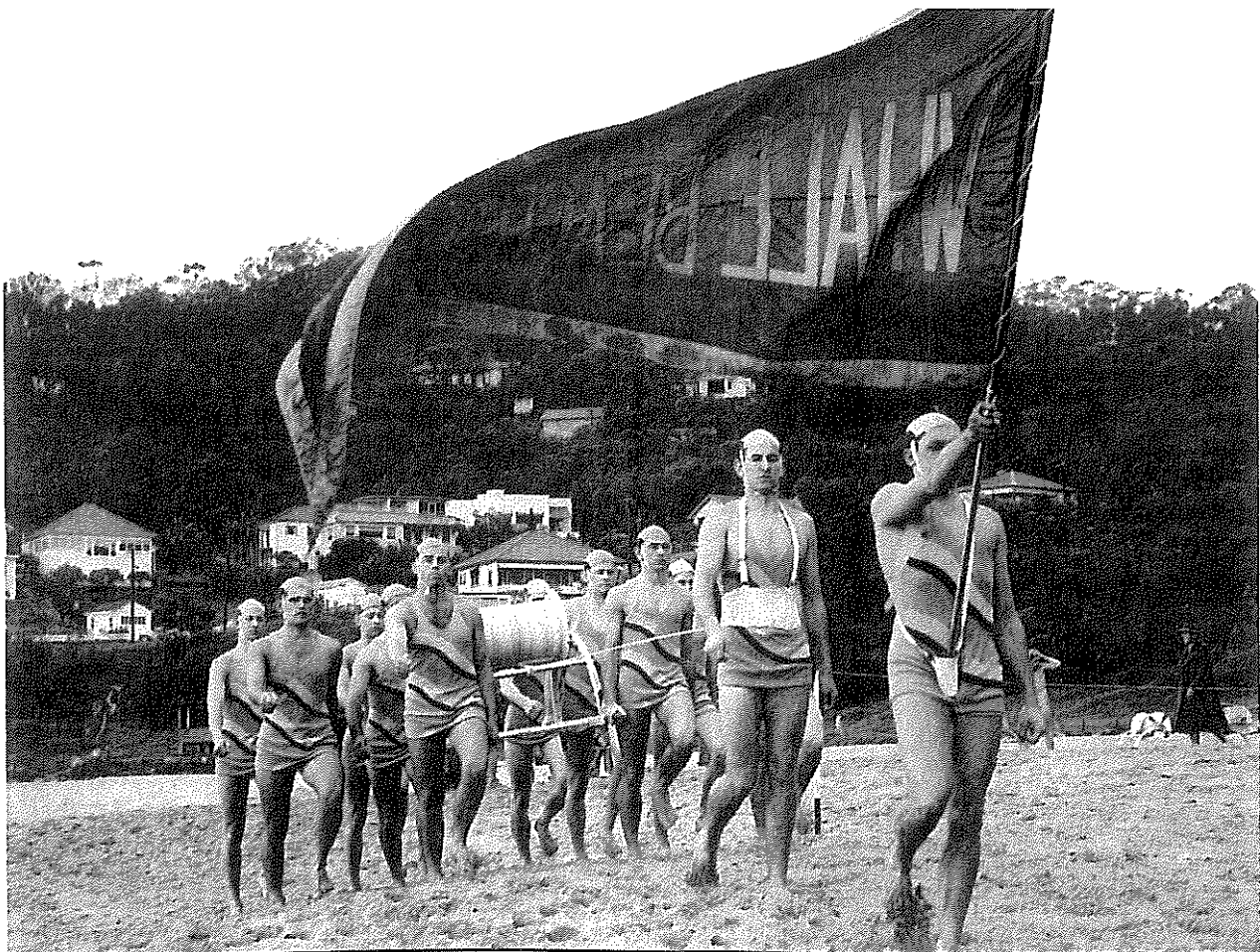






Dundee Doo

1952



50th Anniversary Whale Beach Surf Lifesaving Club

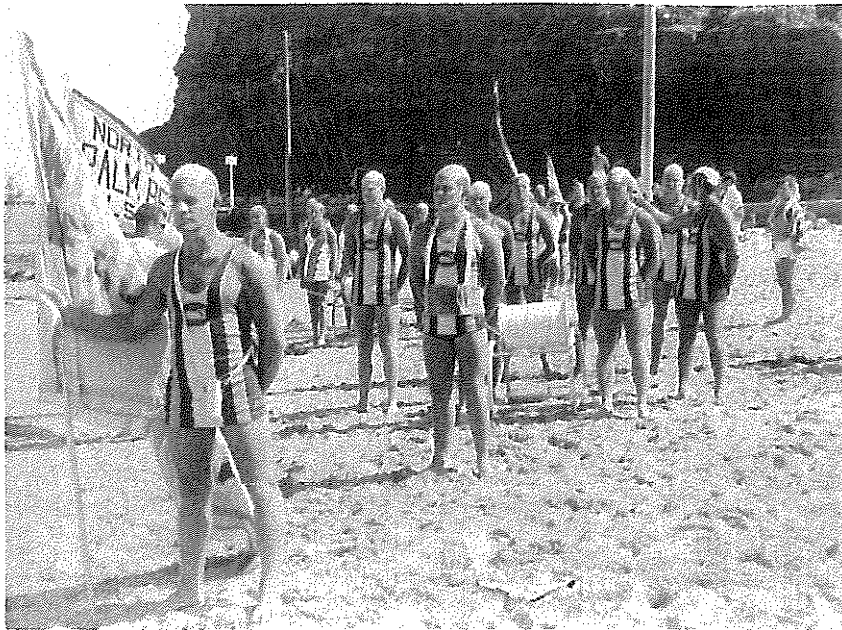


1967

1976





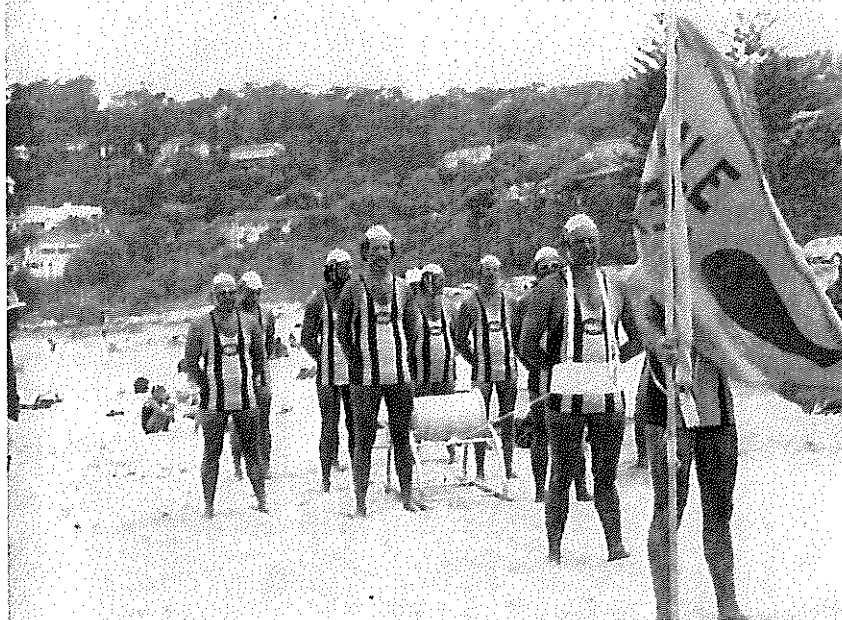


1965 March Past Bilgola



Howard Langford  
Club Captain 1976-77

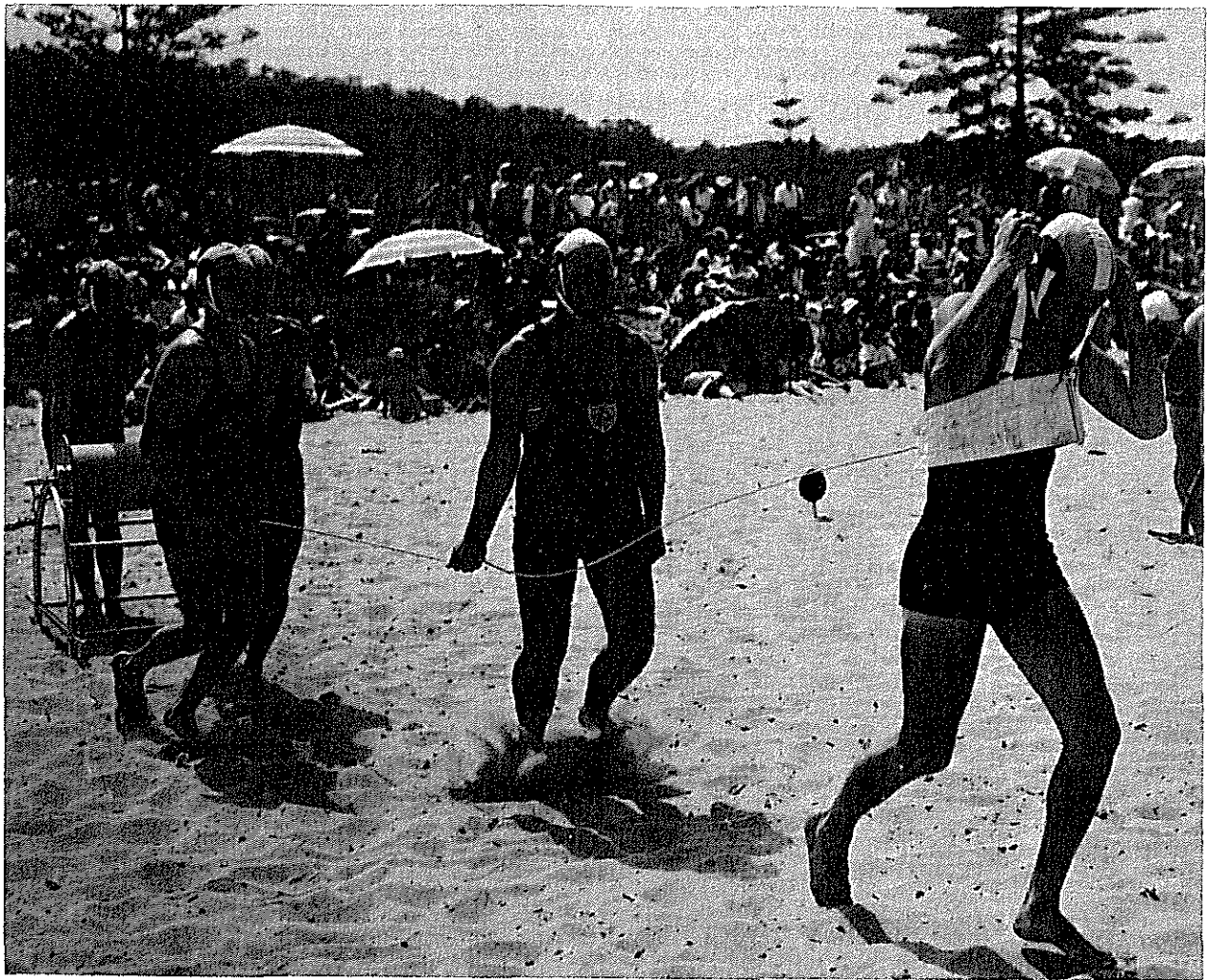
Life Member, Jack Lyons



1970 Whale Beach

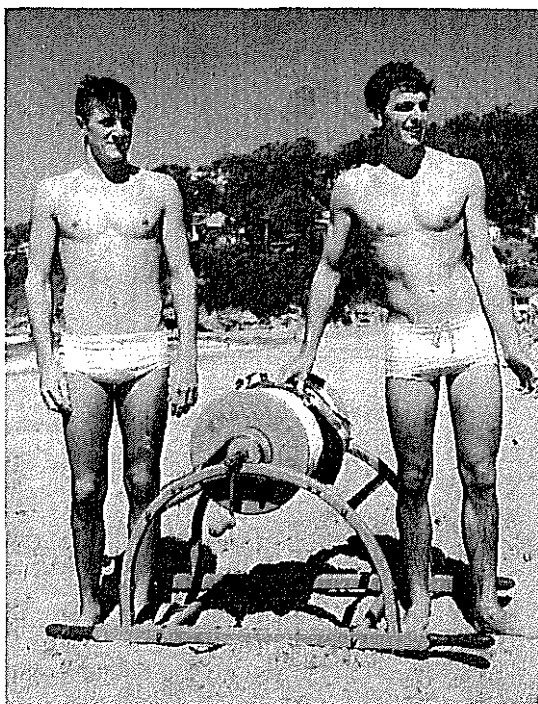


1982-83 Dee Why



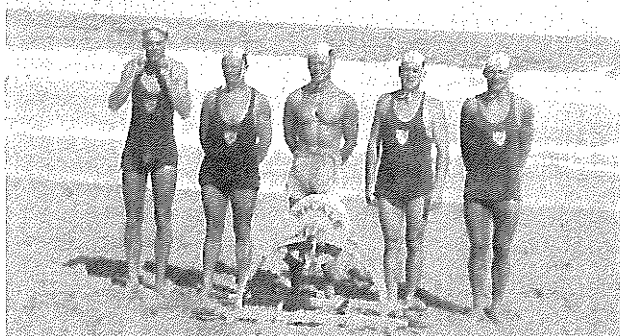
Whale Beach R & R winners, Newport 1954-55. D. Patterson (Patient), W. Dainton (Belt), O. Ramsay (1st Linesman), J. Patterson (Resuscitator), R. Olsen (3rd Linesman), R. Hansford (Reelman).

Glen Sparrowhawk. Phil Cullis  
Senior and Junior Belt Champions,  
Season 1964-65



Whale Beach R. & R. Team, Season 1964-65.  
L. to R. Greg McGrath, Robert Elvy, David Strong,  
Chris Hendrikson, Richard Stewart.





1948-49 Senior Belt Team.  
Jim Kelly, George McRobert (Beltman,  
Hal Baily, Bill McKeon, Joe Marston.



1981-82 Winning Junior Surf Team.  
Steve Hawkins, Glen Barnes,  
Martin Jones, Scott Unicombe.

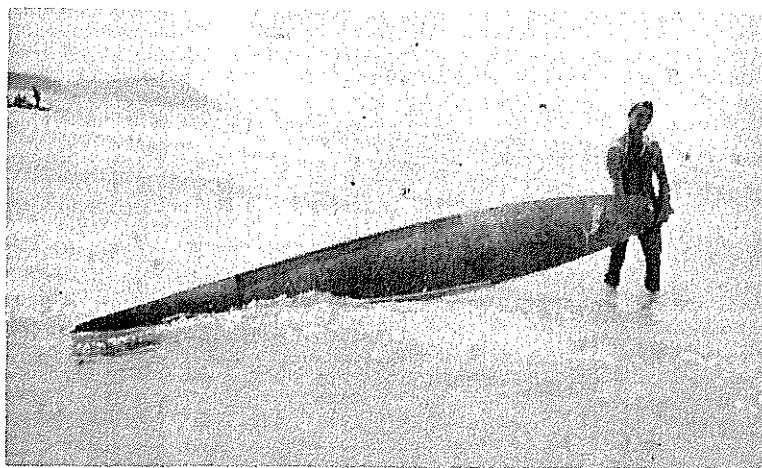
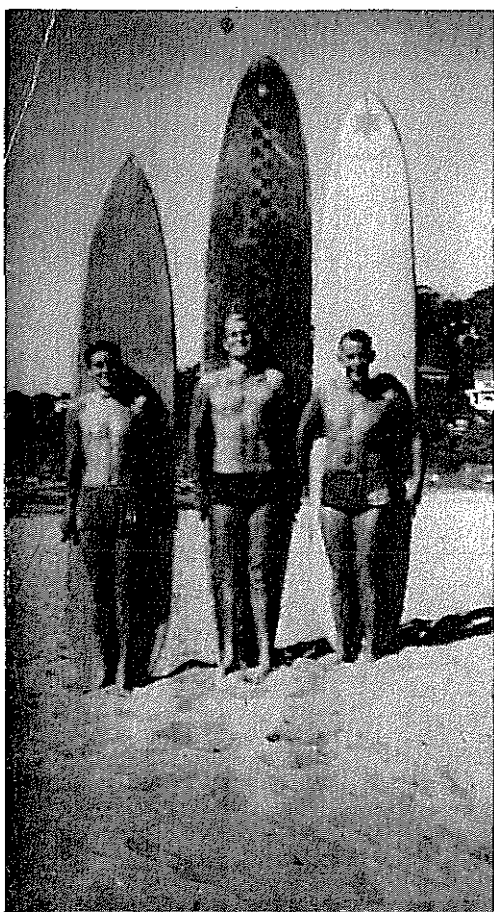
Out through the seas go the Whale Beach shes!



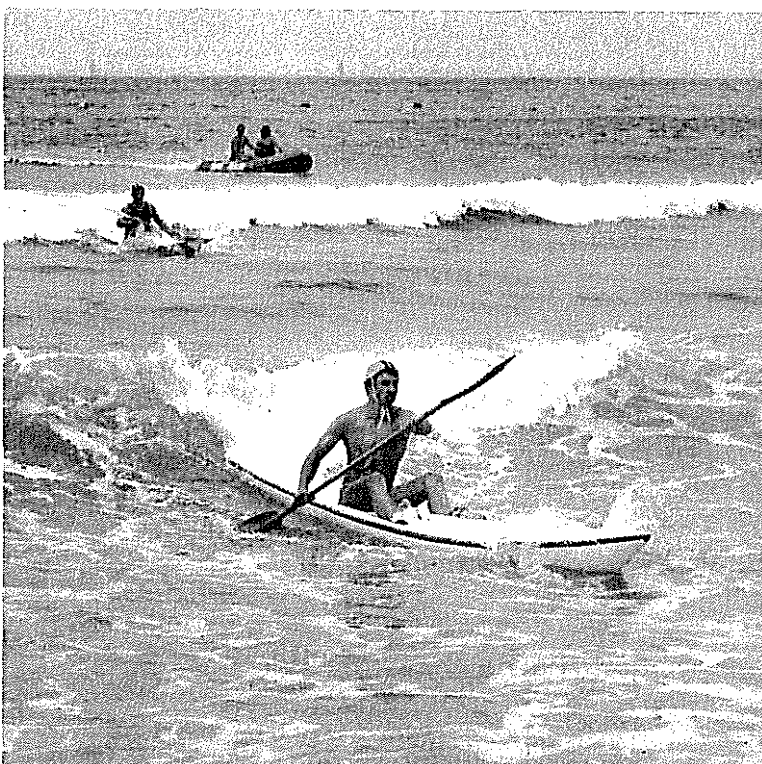


J. Wiseman with Pre War Surf Ski.

1960 Whale Beach. Richie Stewart,  
Dusty Saunders, Tom Ramsay.



1954. Owen Ramsay at State Titles, Terrigal.  
The long board is now displayed at the Club.



Paul Gonsalves, wins at Whale Beach Carnival 1982.

Club Wave Ski event 1985.







Whale Beach Team, Coolangatta Pub 196?, Australian Titles.

1980-81 Season Club Group



50th Anniversary Whale Beach Surf Lifesaving Club



Whale Beach S.L.S.C. Team, 1986-87 Australian Titles W.A.

1973. A Club Celebration

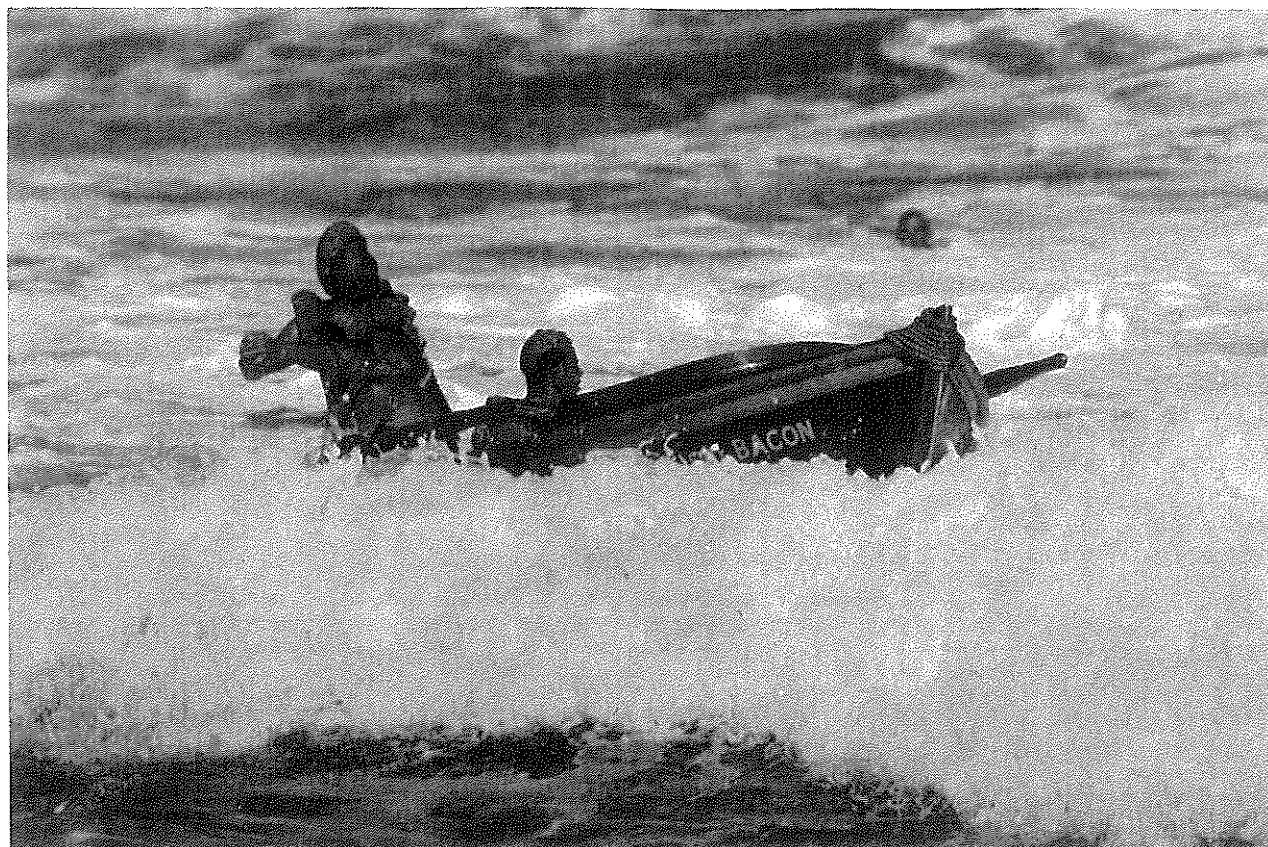
Back Row: Mike Stokes, Robert Lerpiniere, Andrew Mills, Tim Garben.

Centre: Ben Nicholson, Luke Howarth, Geoff Waite.

Front Row: Cameron Stone, Dean Cockle, Paul Brown, Sean McCarthy, Damien Rose.





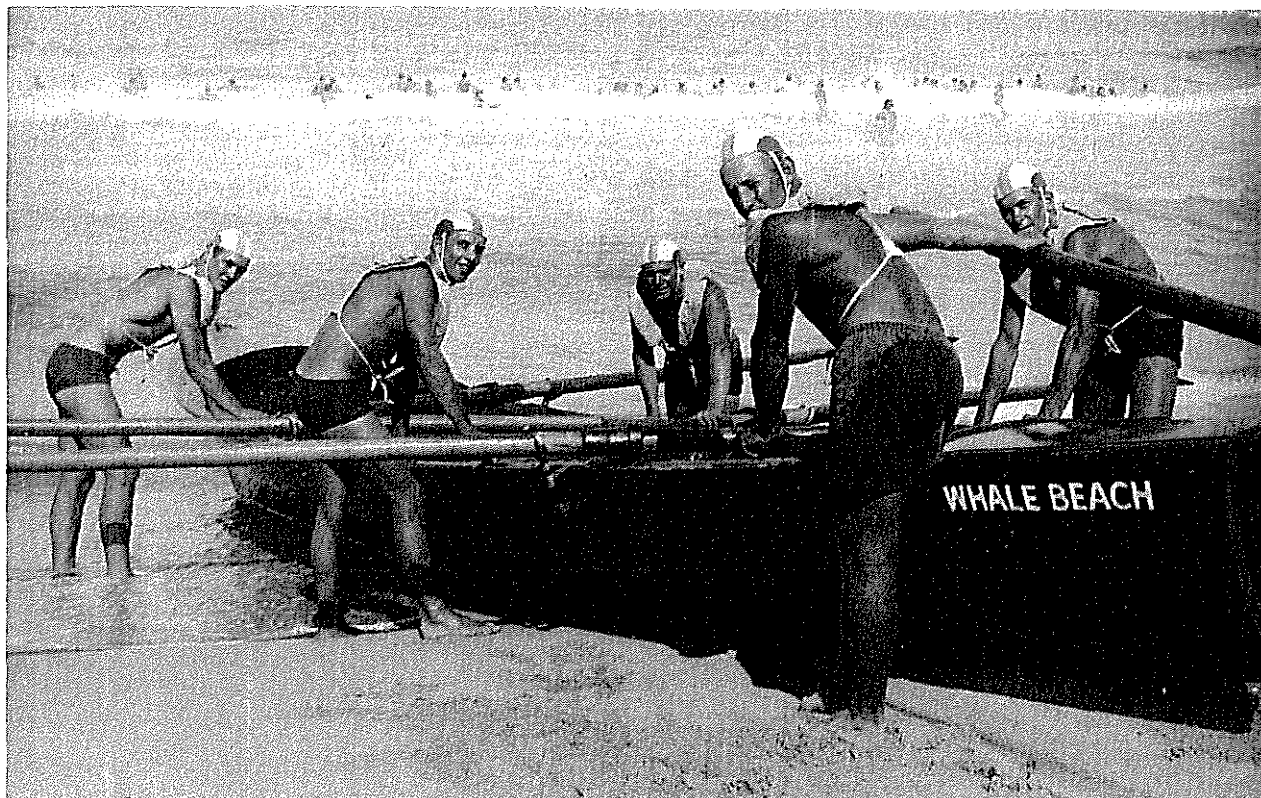


1950 Junior Crew, Avalon Carnival. Brian Graber in the water.



Senior B Crew 1954 with "Mascot"!

Spike Gilligan, Lexie Patterson, Brian Graber, John Baird, Ted Allan.

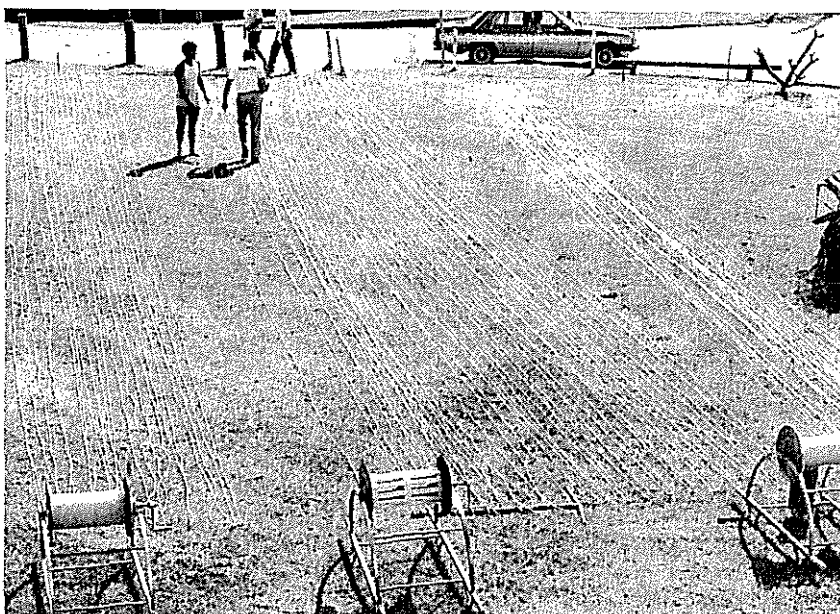


'Jack Uren' 1972-73



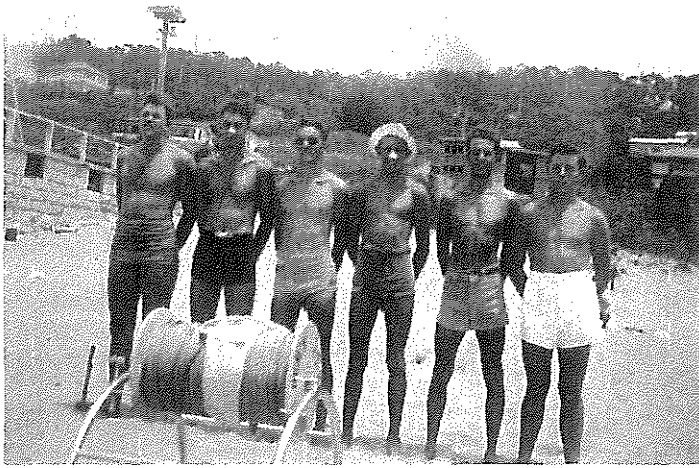
L. to R. John Beecroft,  
Chris Hendrickson,  
Richard Marden, Ted Allen,  
Michael Hendrickson.

'A' crew at Manly.  
Season 1953-54.

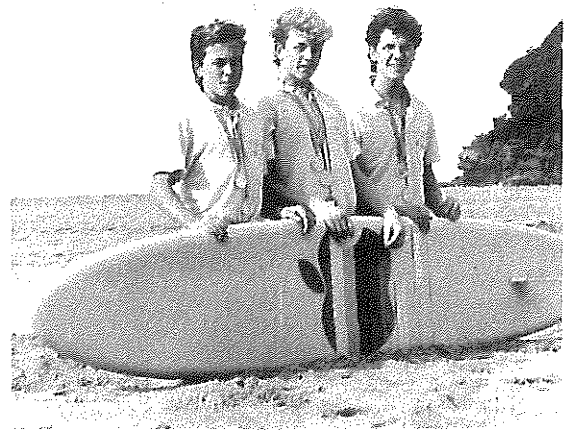


A memory for all  
those hard working  
Gear Stewards ...  
presentation of all  
surf lines and other  
equipment for  
inspection by the  
S.L.S.A. Branch officials.



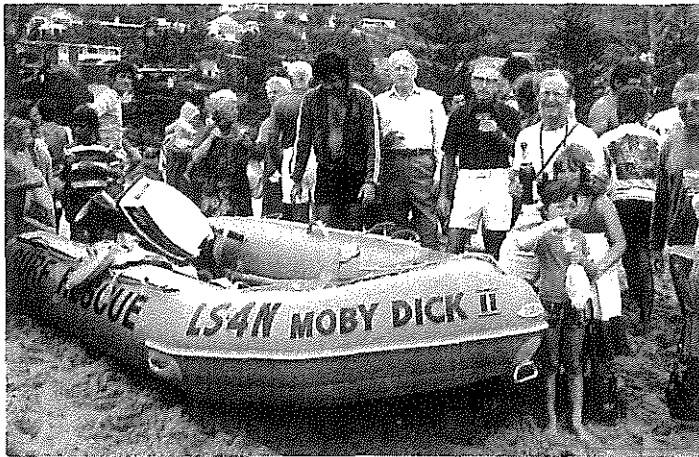


The outstanding 1949-50 R. & R. Team, part of the great competitive record of the Club.

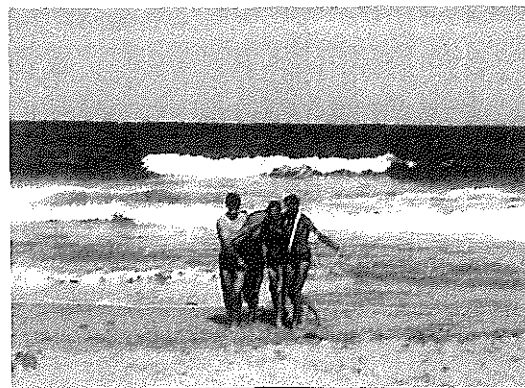


Ben Nicholson, Saul Brown, Cameron Stone  
1985-86 Branch & Metropolitan Malibu Teams  
Gold Medal Winners.

The Club owes much to the Boards, Managers and members of Moby Dick  
Surfers Club and particularly the fund raising efforts of Vic and Jesse Withers.



Left: A belt and line rescue around 1950.  
Above: 1985, Paul Young gives oxygen  
therapy to a rescued surfer.



**50 Years of  
vigilance and service.  
Well done Whale Beach SLSC!**

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The Club gratefully acknowledges the effort, time and donation of materials and money by our members and supporters that have enabled the production of this 50 year History.

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**Film:**

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**Printing:**

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