

NEWSLETTER

June - July 2025



From the President - Laura Dixon



We recently held our Annual Awards Presentation and it was a great opportunity to reflect on our achievements and acknowledge the contribution of members. Our Club has had another successful year, living up to our objective of 'Bringing the Community to the Beach'.

Our Nippers and Cadets have had a great season with excellent numbers at training and carnivals. This year has seen our Silver Salties program go from strength to strength and it is lovely to see another cohort engaging with our Club. Our summer markets and other events still prove popular with the community who really do embrace what we do.

We are here first and foremost to provide beach safety and I'm pleased to advise that our volunteers racked up 1700 patrol hours, 837 preventative actions and seven successful rescues this season.

Our dreams for much needed extension works to provide additional storage and disabled toilet facilities upstairs are coming closer to fruition. We have developed plans and submitted a Development Application to Latrobe Council. We are very grateful to the Labour party for promising the funds to get the initial stages underway soon.

It's important to reflect and acknowledge the history of our club. The tragic drowning of 15 year old Todd Rockcliff in the mouth of the Rubicon River in January 1985 led to the founding of Port Sorell Surf Life Saving Club in 1986 under the direction of Lyn and Dennis Barratt. The local boat hire operator at that time had rescued more than 25 people from the water between 1984 and 1986. By 1992 the Club had ten Bronze Medallion holders and 40 Nippers but had nowhere to store any equipment or use as a training base.

The Barratts continued to work tirelessly with the Club Committee to secure support from all levels of Government for the development of a Club House while continuing to provide youth activities and lifesaving services from a tent and then a caravan on the Hawley Esplanade.

From the President cont.

The ongoing barriers placed before them at that time from some locals, and the Department of Environment and Planning, saw a barrage of articles and letters in the local newspaper over a period of twelve years which finally led to the Club being disbanded in July 1998.

Fortunately for the area, during 1999 a lobby group formed under local spokesperson Keith Haines to ensure that lifesaving services would establish a patrol at one of the local beaches over the summer and would continue to pursue the development of a Club House.

Keith's efforts and other volunteers who supported him, succeeded in establishing our Club House. This has resulted in hundreds of people training as Nippers, Cadets or Patrollers or volunteering in some capacity. Keith Haines, sadly passed away in December 2023 and we have honoured his contribution to our Club by establishing an award in his honour.

Key dates

Saturday 21st June - Time to be confirmed.

Solstice Splash and Motor Neurone Disease fundraiser. Dress up or not, but come along and wade in our cool waters. A fun afternoon with more details to be announced soon on Facebook.

Sunday 22nd June - 3.00 pm

Annual General Meeting @ the Surf Club. All positions are declared vacant and we are keen to fill our Secretary and Bar Manager role.

Saturday 26th July - Time to be confirmed.

Jazz at the Beach, Nadira and friends. Booking details on Facebook or contact Jo on 0448 819 848.

Other events during August will be advertised on Facebook or the Club Noticeboard.

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Annual Awards Presentation

Grace Greenhill is the recipient of the **Keith Haines Youth Volunteer Award** this year has spent a considerable amount of time patrolling our beaches and frequently assisting with water safety at events, and helping out at our markets and is always willing to help if called upon. Keith Haines' wife Kerrie and son Tim presented the award.



Bev and Martin Sullivan are the recipients of the **Greg Hall Breaker Award**. They carried out a power of work, week in week out during summer ensuring our nippers were fed and watered. They were integral to the success of our Statewide Nipper carnival.



Our **U19 Surf Life Saver of the Year** recipient is Jack Waddle. Jack has received this award before but with 85 patrol hours logged this season there was no-one else who came close.



Greg Preece is the recipient of the **Presidents Award**, a valued member of the Board for the past two years, looking after many aspects of the function and facility aspects of the club. He is a wealth of knowledge of policy and procedure and risk management, a mentor to the President and is incredibly practical and efficient.



Website: www.portsorellslsc.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/portsorellslsc>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/portsorellsurflifesaving>

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Port Sorell Surf Life Saving Club, 1 Dumbleton Street, Hawley Beach

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Annual awards cont.

Our recipient of **Competitor of the Year** is Jordy Armitstead. His commitment to his training and his unwavering drive has seen him embracing surf sports opportunities wherever he can. He was a member of the Tasmanian State team and Super Surf League team which competed over three days at Cronulla Beach in NSW and was the strongest Tasmanian swimmer and Iron competitor in his age group. He has had many successes in the Surf Sports competition arena and is encouraging to his fellow senior competitors even assisting in planning and delivery of training sessions. A normal Training week includes four swim sessions, three board and one iron person, athlete development and gym sessions, a 5 km run and the occasional football training. Phew!



The **Georgina Crantock Coaches Award** recipient is Ryan Febey. He has been a dedicated and committed Nippers coach since his kids joined six years ago and was actually a Nipper himself and gained his Bronze Medallion at a few years ago. This year Ryan offered to provide additional sand coaching sessions for all kids interested in improving their competitive sand skills and as a result our performance in flags and relays were greatly improved by the end of the season.



The **Miles Ford Clubman Award** recipient is Claudia Baldock, who has made an outstanding contribution to the Club. Claudia has been on the Board of Directors and held additional committee roles is hard working, dependable and incredibly passionate.

Pictured below are our other Senior's team members.



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Annual awards cont.

The **Todd Rockcliff Memorial Life Saver of the Year** recipient is Rose McWilliam. Rose has been with the Club for just a couple of years but her enthusiasm, passion and commitment has not gone unnoticed. She has taken on further training at every available opportunity and continues to push herself to learn more and get more involved in the Lifesaving movement. She volunteers for extra patrols (85 hours for the season) and water safety opportunities, and gained her IRB crew certificate this season whilst participating in SLST's Lifesaving Development Camp. Not one to be idle, she is volunteering for Ambulance Tasmania to keep busy through winter.



Our **Senior Coaches Award** recipient is Freja Harris. Freja was selected by Surf Life Saving Tasmania to represent the state in the Surf Life Saving Pathways interstate championships at North Kirra, Qld in April this year. Freja trains hard and is a dedicated member of our Senior squad.



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