



# Coolum Pulse

April Volume 1

The beat of the Coolum Beach SLSC

## Surf Club's \$2 Million Baby Christened By Treasurer Swan



Treasurer Wayne Swan and Surf Club President Officially open the New Clubhouse renovations.

Not many surf lifesaving clubs in Australia can lay claim to having the pulling power of the Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan, the SLSA president Ron Rankin and his CEO Brett Williamson, along with the Sunshine Coast Mayor Big Bob Abbot. But then not many clubs can pull off a \$2 million expansion during a global economic meltdown to give its active and social members facilities that are the equal of any surf club in Australia.

Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club's official clubhouse upgrade opening on December 12 was one of proudest moment's of this lifesaving icon's 90-year history.

And talk about bang for the buck – with the season all but over and no major incidents to report and lives saved – the training room has been churning out quality new recruits. The new u-beaut gym has gang loads of fitness fanatics lifting away with, Rowan 'Bogga' Hay finally connecting with his cherished chin-up bar.

The new clubhouse has just survived the running of the Red Bull surfing promo with Coolum IRB capt Michael 'Fred' Stokes and his crew in charge of water safety and the whole marketing event is set to be beamed overseas. With the Great Tsunami alert safely weathered, the club is powering on. The bronze training will be unsurpassed once key instructors like John Roderick and Russell Carr master their lap top power point presentations.

But back to the big opening day. There were none more prouder than the Treasurer's big brother Ian Swan, who was one of the driving forces of the club building committee which pulled off this minor miracle that provided a major economic stimulus to Coolum.

Thanks to the "yes we X#\$\$^&\* can" Bob the Builder types like Peter Hopley and Jim Priddle, the Nippers also have their own dedicated space downstairs, and upstairs the extended entertainment area and function room have stunning views of the best beach on the Coast.

A candid and relaxed Treasurer Swan was full of praise for the club's forward thinking after revealing how, as a new bronzie down at Alex SLSC, he had to do his swim-run in the nuddy. It gives new meaning to the term "hot financial streak".

"What we are celebrating here today in opening this clubhouse is something very special...what we do for our community by working together to make our community a better place," Mr Swan said at the opening which featured a series of lifesaving beach displays including a chopper rescue, with surf club admin officer Shane Urban doing the Bondi Rescue commentary voiceover.

"That's why this club has put so much work into this community over a long period of time. I know it is deeply valued, congratulations to all of those who are on the committee. It is never easy, being involved in organisations...there are always problems, but what happens over times is the good that that brings to the community, is something that we can treasure. "As Treasurer of the day, I declare this clubhouse officially open."

Mr Rankin also was generous with his plaudits. "It's a great development, it's great for the local community, and could I just say, that it wouldn't be possible without the great support the Coolum club gets from the local community and hopefully that will continue and that will grow, because they do such a great job on this beach," he said. "It's a great club, it's a credit to you."

Coolum club president Dave Cush knew exactly who to thank. "What we have here today is the result of many years of outstanding service in so many ways by so many members. The contribution by these members, who have been part of this club, has traditionally been forgotten. But today their involvement should be remembered."

This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of our Gold Sponsor, Ken Mills Toyota



COOLUM BEACH SLSC

## Club Central

### What makes the club tick

Welcome to the club's new newsletter, designed to keep you better in the picture about the goings on and occasionally the carry-ons at Coolum Surf Club. With our latest clubhouse incarnation operating a treat, it's time to do some serious navel gazing about getting the club dynamics right by tweaking our human resource development. That is now being addressed with the Our Club Our Future members' survey and the follow-up April 24 workshop to provide what acting club secretary Richard Long calls a "vision for the future". Club life member Michael Daly instigated some timely volunteer soul-searching when the club this season found it had no senior surf sports competitors – plenty of masters, but no prime young blood kicking competition butt.

"I can't remember that ever happening. There are three key areas we want to look at - obviously our core business of patrols on the beach, improving our surf sports and training of course," Michael said.

"We have some really good nippers coming through and unless we do something to keep them interested here, we'll lose them to other sports or other clubs.

"We also want to engage more with the community - with other groups and clubs in Coolum and be a training centre for outside organisations."

Of course the club directional review can have any wider scope you want – all you have to do is get involved in the process that club stalwarts like Michael and fellow life member Ian Norman are driving.

## Clubbie Profile

### Your chance to get to know more about your club mates

Michael 'Fred' Stokes, 43, is a cabinetmaker who lives in Coolum with his partner and fellow clubbie Paula Savage. They have three kids Chloe, Phoebe and Joel who is a nipper. At the club he is IRB captain, and IRB trainer and member of the tight-knit IRB racing team and does extra Waverunner jet ski patrols.

A few years back Fred helped rescue a fellow club member while they were both on separate Waverunner patrols after he came a cropper badly in rough surf and broke his back at Hells Gates.

"I was always called Fred from when I was a real young fella – I think it's because I was always watching Fred Bassett. Then when I started work the boss was called Fred so they called me Mike, which felt really weird."

"I joined the club in 2004 – I've always loved the water. We got involved through the kids as Nippers. Paula joined first and then I went down to the club one time and a some of us had

a few beers and decided we might join up. Joel is still doing Nippers and Chloe has just started work upstairs at the club.

"I'm on Patrol 15 with the likes of captain Dan Rogers, Dick Cocks and Jim Priddle – they call us the Latte Patrol because we're always drinking coffee.

"My best moment in lifesaving was joining the IRB racing – we started off last year and were pretty ordinary but by the end of the season we had made a semi. It's not just about getting out and back fast, it's very technical and they dock you points for little things."

They are preparing for the winter racing with a competition hit out at Straddie Island which Fred said will be awesome. Asked about his most embarrassing time as a clubbie, he said there have been many, but losing his jet ski in a big dump at Sunshine and having to swim ashore in front of bemused Sunshine clubbies comes close. But he reckons while recently testing the turning capability of the new IRB Thundercats, both he and crewie/driver Warren Foxwell hit a wave mid-turn and did an aerial impersonation of the Flying Santini Brothers.

"We both ended up in the surf with the IRB running around at about a third throttle."

Fred's favourite team is the Broncos, he was blown away by his favourite band AC/DC recently, reads surfing mags mostly and when he's not out in the surf, loves riding his Ducati motorbike.



Michael 'Fred' Stokes -  
Club member since 2004

## To The Rescue

### Insights into how to make a difference on patrol

Chief instructor John Roderick has a quick quiz for all you patrollers:

Does three rings of the bell or three sharp soundings of the alarm mean:

A. The patrol team sandwiches are ready. B. Club cellarman Poodles Kemp is locked in the cold room and needs help. C. A mass rescue alert. D. The new tsunami false alarm works a treat. E. A great sound you want for your phone ring tone. The answer is C.

But if you are having to think about this, it really means you do not have a working knowledge of your lifesaving signals – occasional practice of your basic lifesaving skills does not make things harder, it makes saving lives and passing inspections easier.

## Under The Pump

The monthly members forum topic  
[club@coolumsurfclub.com.au](mailto:club@coolumsurfclub.com.au)

Hands up all those who "enjoyed" their proficiencies this season? The fragmented, multi-session testing this season may have suited some members who could not devote the time to doing their written, run swim run, rescues and resuscitation and IRB all in one hit. But for others it may have seemed too drawn out. What do you think the best approach is for next season? Just email your response to the address above and include a suggested monthly forum topic, if you like.

## Saving Grace

Recognising those who go above and beyond

This initial Saving Grace award goes to patrol captain Jason Moore and his surfing sidekick from Patrol 16 Patty Lynch for their mighty efforts down at the Aussie Titles. In particular their cool heads in saving the day for Erica Henderson after she snapped her board. They quickly found another one and calmly sent her on her way to victory. Their efforts in developing young surfing talent at the club have been paying off.

## A Sporting Chance

Competitive happenings in the surf and across the sand.

Coolum's most successful competitor at the tragedy-marred Australian titles, local surfer/teacher Erica Henderson was in awe of what she saw during her time down at Kurrawa on the Gold Coast.

She may have taken gold and silver in the short and longboard events in unforgiving surf, but she could not believe the skills and courage of some of our young junior board riders.

"I was just blown away by their ability – I saw James Pocock surf around an oar and a boat without missing a beat," said Erica, who was named Best Master Female Board Champion for her gutsy efforts.

"Some of the juniors were set for some good results before they were called off."

That was of course due to the terrible loss of Under 19 ironman competitor Saxon Bird that cast a pall over what is normally an inspirational event. Certainly Erica, and masters mate Paula Savage with bronze in her board paddle final, did their level best to get Coolum fists pumping.

"It was really tough," Erica said, "the surf was big and I snapped my only board - but thanks to the Coolum team on shore, I was given a club board and managed to continue competing."

After that win, the state title winner had a go at the longboard for a silver effort.

"I only managed to catch one wave because I couldn't get out again, but it was the highest ride point score for the event and good enough for second."

Erica said it may be her first and last board titles bid because she will not be able to devote as much time and effort to the cause next year. Instead she will settle for the early morning family surfs and helping the surfing kids at Coolum State School who were her inspiration to fire up at the titles.

"I really think board riding is going to be the thing to keep kids in the surf club."

All the efforts of Surf Sports director Alan Patterson and Co at the state and nationals, set the club up for a challenging club championships on April 18 – details on that in the next club newsletter.



Club member  
Erica Henderson  
carving it up! -  
Photo by Nick  
Reynolds

## Spotlight on Sponsor



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## Time To Remember

### A look back at where we came from

If you've been to the clubhouse upstairs any time of late, you will have seen the glass art history panels newly set into the verandah. They represent a collaboration between Peregian glass artist Stacey Phillis, club life member Paul Norman (brother of Ian) and clubbie Peter Gardiner who is in the final stages of writing the club history. They are visual time bubbles commissioned by the club committee to reveal our past and help inform our future.

The club on the morning of April 24 scheduled its annual iconic event to honour one of its finest - the Alan 'Acer' Cameron Memorial Board Riding Contest. Former Coolum club captain of the 1980s Glen Garrick was a personal friend, and admired Acer for his determination to save \$30,000 to train as a pilot

by going off to work in the mines for a while.

"What happened to Alan 'Acer' Cameron was a real tragedy. He was a great bloke – a very good board paddler and a very good athlete generally...a quiet, unassuming bloke.

"Anyway after he finished (pilot) training, he was flying up there in northern Australia and then he got a job flying in New Guinea. He died on the 8th August, 1988. We were all shocked – the only story that I got...that was being told at the time, was that he did the right thing. Whatever action he took resulted in the passengers on board not dying." Glen said there was one monster surf on a Sunday that Acer thrived in.

"It was part of the Acer legend too, Big Sunday. He got on to this tube, where he was completely enclosed and everyone thought he was cactus and, somehow or other, he was spat out the other end."

## Being There

### Dates you should try and keep

Monday May 3

Flags down for the season 5pm - join your clubmates to celebrate another big season of successful patrolling.

Saturday May 8

Annual Dinner - a week after patrols finish Labor Day so everyone can party.

## Coolum Dump

### Paying out a line or two for the sake of a laugh

He could be the wettest ex-Wallaby ever to try and drive an IRB. Coolum's former Australian rugby rep Dick Cocks has IRB instructor Fred Stokes scratching his head, not sure if he might make a better sea anchor than a rubber duck driver.

In one of their last water sessions before the four latest trainee drivers go for their final test, Cocksy came a cropper more than once – somehow flying out the boat while in the driver's seat.

"I don't know what I'm going to do, maybe tie him in," Fred joked.

[www.coolumsurfclub.com.au](http://www.coolumsurfclub.com.au)

Keep an eye on the club web site, as our Webmaster is back and new information and changes are starting to happen.

### Club Contacts

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