

SORRENTO  
Surf Lifesaving Club



Victoria

**Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club Inc.**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**1999 - 2000**

**SORRENTO SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**  
**COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT**

**SEASON 1999/2000**

**PRESIDENT**

KEN de HEER

**VICE PRESIDENT – LIFESAVING**

RUSSELL WHITE

**VICE PRESIDENT – SPONSORSHIP**

ROSS WARREN

**VICE PRESIDENT – FINANCE**

DAVID POURRE

**TREASURER**

STEVE HIPWELL

**SECRETARY**

ANDREA WELSH

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

KAY BARKER

**CLUB CAPTAIN**

PETER ROBERTSON

**NIPPER COORDINATOR**

SALLY ROBERTSON

**PATROL CAPTAIN**

LINAS SPOKEVICIUS

**COMPETITION CAPTAIN**

CATHERINE SCHAEFER

**JUNIOR CLUB CAPTAIN**

CHAD WELSH

**BOAT CAPTAIN**

CRAIG NOLAN

**GEAR STEWARD**

JOHN STRINGER

**SOCIAL DIRECTOR**

MICHAEL SCHULDT

**CLUB HOUSE DIRECTOR**

ARTHUR PEAD

**STATE CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE**

KEVIN RANDALL

**DISTRICT SUPERVISOR**

JANIS HOUSE

**SCHOOLS PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

SAM CREA, ANTANAS SPOKEVICIUS

**EDITOR**

JANE SCHEER

**CHIEF INSTRUCTOR**

VACANT

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Well we are 2 years old and still going strong. Although we had some minor hiccups through the season everything worked out well with our patrols and the nippers. Our club will be put to State Council for Full Membership in August and this is because of the work of all members, and everyone can be justifiably proud of this achievement.

At the time of writing this we are awaiting notification of our plans for the new clubhouse and our 'dollar for dollar grant'. Our main aim as a club has been focused on the new building [after patrols of course], and because of delays in approvals by Parks Victoria we were not able to launch our building fund drive until the end of the season. Therefore missing the lucrative holiday season!

I have to say in all honesty, that we have found the local Parks Victoria Officers the most intransigent, frustrating bureaucrats to deal with. We have constantly had to go to ministers and heads of departments to get anywhere. We cannot understand their reasoning as *they also* have a duty of care for the people that visit our beaches!

The Committee has set a target of \$100,000.00 to raise, and set in place functions to raise this amount. It will take a lot of hard work but we are confident of raising the money, and if you have any idea's or know of sponsors please contact us as the rewards are in our future new club house.

A special mention must go to the Super Patrol that started as a much-needed part of the Nipper Program to help take on more children, and then they became part of the Clubs full patrol scene. Thanks Marc [tippy] Clavin for your drive and coordination.

Also congratulations to Sally Robertson and her mum 'Bernice' for their work in the very successful Nipper Program. It is a testimony to their group that the success of the Nipper Program has grown from 40 to 80 nippers in two seasons. Unfortunately we had to turn away 70 nippers as we are bound by the rules of - one Lifesaver to every five kids in the water, but with an increase in membership we may be able to increase our intake this coming season. On a sad note Sally will not be doing nippers this year, but has a new idea that she wants to develop for the club. Go sally!

It is heart warming to see our young members "putting in" on their own initiative. Two members; Antanas Spokevicius and Sammy Crea, have started training 22 new recruits for their Bronze Medallion at Rosebud Secondary College with swimming lessons, lectures and practical experience culminating with a Bronze Camp and exam prior to the beginning of the season. What a great boost for the club!

Also many thanks to Arthur Pead who has brought about a great feeling of pride in our club on the hill. I am sure the young members appreciate Arthur's work around the clubhouse.

Finally thanks to the Committee who work so hard behind the scene and give of their time all year round at meetings to see that the club continues to function well.

I would like to wish the new incoming committee and the Club all the best for the coming season it is a big challenge! But worth it.

***Ken de Heer***

## Vice President Report – Lifesaving

My congratulations to all Members who patrolled the beach this season, and a warm welcome to the new patrol members who have taken on this demanding responsibility for the first time this year. It is very heartening to see all active members of the Club growing in confidence and ability.

Having obtained the basic life saving qualification required as a minimum level of proficiency, the number of active members extending their knowledge (and the Club's strength), by training for and achieving advanced courses such as Rubber Duck Driving, Advanced Resuscitation and Training Officer, is very healthy for the Club's future. All are encouraged to advance the Club in this way.

The growing number of rescues and preventative actions reinforces the need to be proficient and alert.

We all realise that it has not always been easy. Operating a life saving service out of the boot of a car in the car park (yes, and a trailer) requires perseverance and dedication to the cause. Hopefully we will have a new clubhouse (at the beach), in the not too distant future. This will ease the burden and give our Club a far greater sense of identity and efficiency.

As you would all be aware, Sorrento SLSC is operating with a minimal level of equipment. With additional equipment we will have the resources to perform more efficiently on the beach, and facilitate the all-important training of members.

Safety in the surf mainly stems from knowledge. That is where the Secondary School Training program and the Nippers have their real strength. Many see these programs purely as a recruiting exercise, building the future of the Club. But they are far more than that. The Surf Awareness gained through these programs has a lot to do with the 'all important' Prevention aspects of Surf Life Saving. I commend all those involved in these very important programs.

Finally, to all Club members I would like to remind you that this Club is yours. Don't be too shy to become more involved and grow with the Club. The history of this Club is what you make it. Make it good, make it fun, and make it something we can all feel proud of.

Cheers

*Russ White.*

Parks Victoria Officers and decided to go right on with it. The next stop Head adviser to Minister for Environment which eventuated in a compromise. We are now situated in front of the toilets to the west of the car park still only one story structure but a bigger footprint on the ground and an observation platform above.

There has been a mighty effort put up by the Executive to preserve with our plans because with the combined experience we believe we know what is required to manage this beach. To Ken de Heer a massive effort Russ White every supportive at all Government meetings and a special thank you to Marc Clavin who gave of his time to assist and acquitted himself in a very professional manner.

So you see it hasn't been easy Personally it has been frustrating as I have had Corporate Citizens waiting in the wings with various levels of support and have not been able to do nothing with them till now. You will by now be aware of our Marketing Program 'PUT ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL' this has had no major focus to date as our status with PARKS VIC. Was not clear however we can utilize our full resources now. Which is FULL ATTACK ON THE LOCAL MARKET THRU MEDIUMS AS RADIO 3MP, 3AW, GTV 9 NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS more LETTER DROPS and TELEMARKETING FOLLOW UP. I believe once in full swing we will achieve our goals as we have set them out Building fund of Minimum \$100,000 (our share).

In my opening comments I spoke of the challengers on the beach, one is worthy of note that was our MASS RESCUE on the Jan long week end, some 20 swimmers were whisked to safety when late in the afternoon the conditions turned filthy and dragged people out to sea. All rescue tools were mustered Ducks, Boards and Tubes went into action only a few needed first aid treatment but I guess the most valuable thing earned that afternoon was the experience.

I am sure that will hold those involved in very good stead for the opportunity taken.

I would like to thank my fellow colleagues for their support and assistance all trough the year and look forward to a bumper season 00-01 THE YEAR OF THE CLUBHOUSE.

***Ross "Cactus" Warren.***

## Vice President Report – Marketing Sponsorship

Season 99/00 proved extremely challenging both on and off the sand. After the inaugural seasons success, patrols working awards flowing and a highly successful Nipper program every one was extremely confident about our future particularly our planned CLUBHOUSE.

The season started well with our Golf Day we were fortunate enough to secure a \$3000 Sponsorship from Skilled Engineering (who as you will remember helped us with a portable first aid facility the previous year) every body seemed to enjoy both the game and the BBQ that followed aptly compared by SIRRO many thanks and a job well done.

Every body was now looking to the major project for probably the next few years The Sorrento S.L.S.C. on the beach. The President was very busy going to the statutory Authorities to seek approval for our plans. The Shire was for it the Regional S.E.S. were more than happy and the Governing body for S.L.S. in Victoria, S.L.S.V. had given us there blessing to proceed. There was only one other body to approach (which we had verbally approved and received agreement in principal) PARKS VIC. This turned into one of the biggest nightmares of all time.

The President started his approach to them formally as he was told, in his initial letters he pointed out the Urgency for this to proceed with haste for many reasons. We had to have First Aid facilities, Communications Facilities and Storage of Prime Rescue Equipment and necessary back up equipment at hand right on the beach. This was for RESPONSIBLE and PROFESSIONAL reasons. Each time we would have a meeting they would agree in principal however, when the meeting minutes would come from PARKS VIC. (or in fact any correspondence) none of it was representative of what was presented and was totally twisted around. We made issue of this to the local officers after several EXTREMELY UNPRODUCTIVE meetings and said we were totally dissatisfied not only with the lack of progress but with the TREATMENT we were receiving.

It is pertinent that I point out what was happening they PARKS VIC. Sorrento Office HAD TAKEN UPON THEMSELVES to dictate not only Environmental Policy (which in fact most of it is referred to in their manuals as GUIDELINES) but to also take it upon themselves to tell us S.L.S.A. procedures and how to select a viable clubhouse site and its size. When they suggested an option, was at REAR OF THE CARPARK, and to be of size approx 8 m x 10m and a single story, that was enough.

We couldn't see the surf let alone RESPONSIBLY MANAGE the beach. We asked how they expected us to cover emergency contingencies, such as a Duck Flip Over, they had no idea SO WE RESPECTFULLY SUGGESTED THEY SAVE THE DUNES AND TREES AND LEAVE THE HUMANS TO US. We then went direct to the Premier.

Ken de Heer made direct contact with Mr Bracks at an official function where the Premier assured us that he would speak to the necessary Ministers to get some meaning full dialogue under way to expedite this Priority program. He was true to his word the Pres. and Vice Pres. Had a very fruitful meeting with the Minister of Youth Sport and Recreation Madden and he gave us various assurances that he would help. We had another wasted meeting with the local

## Club Captain

Congratulations everyone for taking part in another successful season at Sorrento. Once again I have witnessed our committed members work feverishly in all aspects of the Club. And once again there were no lives lost at Sorrento Back Beach.

A special mention to one group this season, which became commonly known as the Super Patrol, for their fantastic contribution. This group mainly comprising of parents was mustered up to increase patrol numbers and to generate support at Nippers. This group went on to gain their Bronze Medallions in record time. Then their A.R.C. and also managed some I.R.B. training. Not to mention patrolling and helping out with Nippers.

The person mainly responsible for the initiation of this group was Marc Clavin. Very sharp performance guys. I remember Marc continuously nagging me for training, more training, dates and times. So in typical fashion I palmed this off to Dave (I can do anything Pourre), and Kevin Randall. Thanks for generating us some brilliant Bronzies. Nice one fellas.

Thanks also to Janis from Pt. Leo, who is always willing to lend a hand.

Well done Jason for putting together an absolute belter of a season. Gaining a Bronze, A.R.C., Training Officer Certificate, and training two new sharp Bronzies, and trying to produce some of the Peninsula's best Pinot all in the one summer. Fantastic effort.

Good on ya! Sal for making Nippers so worthwhile again.

Keep up the good work Sam and Antanas with training our high school kids. Just try and keep the boat upright.

Well done to all the Committee and I can't go without mentioning our Club House Director, Arthur. If he isn't keeping the place in pristine knick he'd be ripping someone's head off.

I could fill the page mentioning people, however, just enjoy the break, and I look forward to seeing everyone again next season along with plenty of new faces.

*Peter Robertson.*

## TREASURER REPORT

The Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club has continued to develop from strength to strength over the last financial year through gaining in membership support as well as donations to the Club.

The Club has begun the 'Brick In The Wall' appeal earlier this year to raise funds for the building of a permanent beach side club rooms incorporating first aid and storage amenities.

As of the 29<sup>th</sup> of June the operating profit for the Club has been approximately \$27,994.40 with expenses of approximately \$31,488.59.

Expenses for the Club have included the refurbishment of the log cabin as well as the purchase of a second hand Land Rover for use of patrols in hauling the IRB and patrol equipment to and from the beach.

Fundraising activities have included a golf day, Portsea Twilight Run, Sausage Sizzle, Sorrento Festival Dog Show and our major fundraising event 'Brick In The Wall'.

Financially the Club is strong but there is optimism that we will raise the amount needed in the next 12 months to support our building priority.

We continue to grow and expand for the betterment of this community.

***Steve Hipwell***

## PATROL COORDINATORS REPORT

This season was always going to be tough, with it being our first year by ourselves. However, it can be said that this season was a success.

Although the beginning was a little shaky and there was a crisis meeting toward the end. For such a small group of patrolling members it was a job well done. Considering each person was patrolling a full weekend every month.

Yes, there were a few bad points to come out of this season, The lack of consistency from members with their patrols and the shortage of adequately trained members for each patrol. But the end result was that we made it through the season, doing quite well in the patrol checks.

Now as one season finishes and another begins we can look back at our mistakes, learn from them and make this the best season for the Club in its short history. Hopefully with a new clubhouse to patrol from?

All members of the Club deserve a big thankyou, for without you on the beach every Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday of the summer the Club would just not survive.

*Linus Spokevicius*

## Junior Club Captain Report.

From what I observed over the season the Junior members of the Club had a fairly impressive year with many of them gaining their Surf Rescue Certificate, and some advancing to the Bronze Medallion level.

It was good to see that the Cadets were clocking up some patrol hours and gaining the beach experience that is needed for them to take over from the previous generation of patrolling lifesavers.

This season I have reached the age that I could obtain my Bronze Medallion and my Advanced Resuscitation Certificate, I was successful in gaining both of these awards, and with this experience under my belt I will help to train other Junior members so that they too will become more qualified patrolling members.

Next season we are initiating a Cadet program which will be the link between Nippers and patrolling status. I hope to be involved in running this much-needed program.

Congratulations to all the Junior members for a great season. Well done.

*Chad Welsh*

## **Nipper Co-ordinator**

First of all thank you to everyone involved your help, donations, time and efforts greatly benefited the program. Once again we were unable to take in all children hoping to join Nippers.

As our Club grows we will increase the size of our group, but at this stage we need to maintain the quality our small program offers.

To bridge the gap between Nippers and their future as patrolling members, a Cadet program is under development for this season. It would be great to see our Nippers progress to patrolling members in the future.

Next season it would be good to have more younger active members getting involved in our program. The Nippers missed you this season as they had great fun and responded well to you in our first year.

The parents who gained their Bronze Medallions this season, known as the 'Super Patrol' – you were Super! Your efforts to gain your Bronze Medallions were well worth it and benefited the Nippers program immensely.

***Sally Robertson***

## **SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATORS REPORT**

This is a new position on the Committee that has been established to better serve the students involved in the schools program. In the 1999-2000 season Sorrento Surf Lifesaving Club and the Rosebud Secondary College agreed to run a joint program from a government initiative set up to improve leadership skills with in year ten students. The program involves the students working towards achieving their duke of Edinburgh Award. Part of this award involves the students gaining a new skill and continuing that skill for at least six months. The students are gaining their Surf Bronze Medallion for this section of the award.

After last years inaugural group of students failed to achieve an acceptable standard with in the surf lifesaving movement we decided that more Club involvement was essential in order for these students to succeed. Last years failure was in part both the Sorrento Surf Lifesaving Club and Rosebud Secondary Colleges lack of commitment towards these students. With last year behind us, and lesson learnt we plan to make this years program an overwhelming success.

We believe with more involvement from the Club and better communication with Rosebud Secondary College as well as more interaction from members with the students this program will create a much-needed source of new young members. This year's group is made up of 22 students, which gives us the opportunity for increased active member numbers for the future. In light of last seasons patrol crisis we believe that it is essential that Sorrento Surf Lifesaving Club foster this relationship wholeheartedly and provide abundant and guaranteed support.

As we have already started this year's program we have already received encouraging feedback from Club officials, school leaders and students. We hope with constant involvement from current members we can mould these students in life long members of Sorrento Surf Lifesaving Club.

*Sam Crea and Antanas Spokevicius*

## Gear Steward's Report

With our second season closing I am pleased to report that we have improved and increased our equipment to a standard that is commendable to all who have worked so hard to achieve so much, in so little time.

We now have one I.R.B., two new motors, trailer; two surf boats and trailers, a reel, and all of the First Aid and related equipment that goes with these. Also we have just purchased a Land Rover that is soon to be ready for use.

A big 'Thankyou' must go to our Clubhouse Director, Arthur Pead for all his long hours of commitment and dedication in improving and maintaining our Clubhouse and Equipment.

Also Congratulations to the Lifesavers who treated all our equipment with care and consideration throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing the Club go from strength to strength in the forthcoming years.

Thanks to Committee, Members and sponsors.

Yours sincerely

*John Stringer.*

## Coming of age

On a long weekend in March Sorrento Ocean beach was packed with holiday makers. People were still coming down the ramp to the surf in droves at 4.30pm in the afternoon, as it was still quite warm.

The surf was large and the wind was from the north, the lifesaving patrol was considering to get ready to pack up.

Suddenly the wind changed to the east and this changed the conditions at the beach. It forced the swell up to the western end of the beach [rock pool area] and created a rip along the front of the beach between the shore and the reef [underwater] that runs parallel to the shore.

The large waves created havoc by sweeping peoples towels and personal gear into the sea as they were in swimming, it also started to take people out in the rip along the face of the beach and out passed Darby's rock.

The patrol swung into action. There was no panic, every one co-ordinated well and within a period of forty minutes 20 people were rescued by board, rescue tube, I.R.B. [rubber ducky] and individual swimmers.

The patrol was then keep busy walking the length of the beach searching for lost belongings and warning adults and children of the danger of the rip and a viscous shore break. Still some people disregarded this warning and there were several minor incidents.

The patrol decided to stay till 7.00 p.m., as there was still a large crowd, and until conditions were safe.

In thirty years of lifesaving it was the most professional and unselfish performance that I have witnessed by a group of volunteer Lifesavers and given that, the change in conditions were a rare phenomena and this was a new club in just its second season.

Congratulations to those members for upholding the traditions of Lifesaving and giving credence for why we are here!

The Phantom.

**SORRENTO SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**  
**ACTIVE MEMBERS**

**SEASON 1999/2000**

**ACTIVE SENIOR MEMBERS**

Warren Barnett	Marc Clavin	Sam Crea	Ken de Heer
Stephen Davies	Mathew Foster	Tim Grayson	Rebekah Haig
Steve Hipwell	Teraya Jellif	Kylie Long	Ben Lusas
Jerry Lute	Trevor McCarthy	Michael Mann	John Merlo
Tyson Murphy	Parker Neale	Leeam Neary	Craig Nolan
Marie O'Brien	Anne-Marie Paterson	Rob Pitt	Jason Quin
Sally Robertson	Peter Robertson	Catherine Schafer	Jane Scheer
Linas Spokevicius	Antanas Spokevicius	Chris Tepaske	

**ACTIVE JUNIOR MEMBERS**

Alana Archer	Nicole Arnold	Paige Benetti	Tara Blewitt
Crystal Clancy	Jonathan Copeland	Georgia Dawson	Trevor Doggett
Lisa Jones	Callan Hayes	Crystal Jutton	Sarah Gwynne
Crystal Livesey	Emma Reed	Natalie Rose	Kate Rutherford
Danielle Singleton	Nicholas Burgess	Samuel Marton	Shelly Paterson
Marc Plubridge	Simon Reilly	Chad Welsh	Peter Younger

**SORRENTO SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**  
**ACTIVE MEMBERS**

**SEASON 1999/2000**

**FAMILY AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Bainbridge family	Barker family	Blackburn family	Ralda Bourne
Boyington family	Brugess family	Busst family	Campbell family
Clavin family	Crough family	De Heer family	Dijkgraaf family
Doggett family	Finnin family	Grant family	Grayson family
Haynes family	Holland family	Les Horner	Eliot Reid
Janiszewski family	Jones family	Sam Kent	Kingston family
Leine family	Lute family	Mann family	Metcalf family
McColl family	Helen Newman	Nott family	Paterson family
Pead family	Phippen family	Linda Pinchbeck	Pitt family
David Purre	Quin family	Brendan Randall	Robertson family
Russell family	Sheppard family	Scheer family	MichaelSchuldt
Spokevicius family	Stringer family	Welsh family	Walsh-Hipwell
Fiona Cunningham	Ross Warren	Dawson	Cally family
Russell White	Julia Clemente	William Conly	Hammond family
O'Brien family	O'Connor family	Tracey family	Wright family
Yencken family	Croad family		