

Making Waves

December 2011

A free community newsletter for Bar Beach, Merewether, Dixon Park, and The Junction

Enquiries, contributions, sponsorship, ECopy
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A Banner for All Seasons - John Ramsland. Hon. Historian Cook's Hill SLSC

Recently local resident Cynthia Roberts, the daughter-in-law of Frank Roberts, was going through family papers at home and found this unique postcard

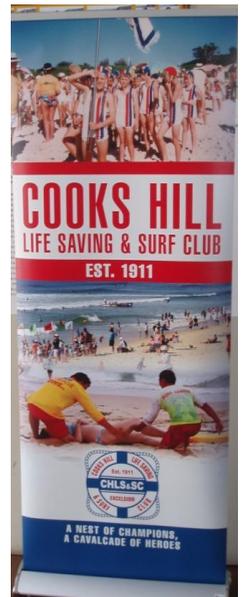
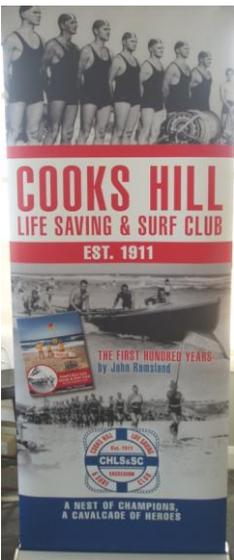


snapshot of a group of Cook's Hill lifesavers in front of the original surf house at Bar Beach in January 1915. Frank Roberts was one of the founders of the club and became a life member. On the back of the card Cynthia

recognised the handwriting of her father-in-law: 'What do you think of chap sitting on post — Eh !'

The well-muscled and extremely fit Frank with his legs crossed is sitting on the post of the staircase of the verandah. War hero and club captain, "Big Jim" Antcliff can be seen towering over the others in the back row. The club's first surf reel is behind the man in the cork belt. But the unique thing about the postcard was to publicise the club and the carnival to be held at Bar Beach on Anniversary Day (now Australia Day). This was the first home carnival — a carnival that was run strictly under the auspices of the NSW Bathing Association (later the NSW Surf Life Saving Association) and its rules.

The banner was probably responsible for attracting many spectators to the 'Grand Monster Carnival' at the height of the Great War. Banners quickly became a tradition at Cook's Hill and have a continuity through to the present day, the centenary year of the club's



continuous existence. No wonder that their motto Excelsior, meaning 'Go higher' or 'Reach higher', is so apt.

Sports commentator Spartacus Smith wrote in 1925: 'Its members must be strong in the best sense of the word, fit to encounter the dangers of the deep of heavy seas, with lungs and minds in their best condition. Surfers in excelsis. Their works devoted to the service of humanity, keeping themselves in the pink of condition ready for the call'.

Copies of the club's heroic history by John Ramsland are now available from the club's bar on Sundays at the clubhouse between 3.30 and 6.00pm.

One of the stanzas of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem 'Excelsior' (1841) reads:

The shades of night were falling fast,
As through an alpine village passed
A youth, who bore, 'mid snow and ice,
A banner with a strange device
Excelsior



Student Expression Section

We offer students attending schools in the local area the opportunity to see their writing or artwork in print.

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THURSDAYS	Mexican Fiesta Fun - \$9.90 and Original Soloists Corona Promotion - \$4.90
SUNDAYS	4 - 7PM UDL Promotion - \$5
FRIDAY to SUNDAY Newcastle's Best Live Entertainment	



This month, well known Merewether identity Graham **Tamba** Adam shares a couple of shark tales with us.

2001 – Boxing Day – heatwave conditions and the beaches were absolute packed. I was doing some ski paddle training with local identity Mark “Woody” Woodcock and we were probably about 100m past the shark nets when out of the blue – right in front of us, a very large shark appeared – approx 10 ft long! We both saw it at the same time and I said to Woody “See you later – I’m going back in!” It was probably the first time I have been in front of Woody in my life because he is much younger than me and he is a very good ski paddler.

We warned the lifeguards and the beachgoers. Warren Smith patrolled the beach on his jetski but that shark wasn’t sighted again!

.....Over the last couple of years when I paddle my ski to Redhead or Dudley and back I have spotted a number of sharks off Leggy Point and I have warned the local surfers there several times. They now know me and quite often I share waves with them – a rare privilege. About a month ago, one of their long term members “Jenno” presented me with one of their club tee shirts specially printed with the words: **“Tamba – Leggy Point Shark Spotter!”**

1998 Gloucester King of the Mountain -Winners of the Teams event

Brian Fisher	20k bike ride through Gloucester mountain
“Tamba” Adam	11k Kayak on Gloucester River
Greg Cairns	10k run to finish



Greg Cairns – A Sporting Life!

Greg Cairns prides himself on training every day around Merewether and coaches others to become and stay fit. He teaches an outdoor Boxercise class every Saturday at 8am at Dixon Park and welcomes anyone to join his class.

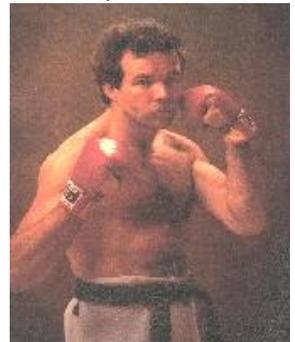
But why choose Greg as your trainer over any other bloke? Because Greg knows his stuff! A former Australian Kickboxing Champion, Greg also holds Karate Black Belts and competed around the world in Kickboxing. In his words, this is his story.

I am a born-and-bred Kurri boy. At age eight I was already actively involved in boxing and at 12 I began Karate. A true Kurri boy, I was also heavily involved with, and still am, racing dirt bikes and the speedway (something about taking the boy out of the bush and all that). At 18 I was successfully playing first grade football, but at my love of 'fighting' won out when I won the New Zealand Championships, and at 21 I chose to pursue Karate as a career. I travelled all over the world competing in Karate tournaments, obtaining my Black Belts in Japan. I travelled to Thailand and America where I discovered the world of Kickboxing. Using all the techniques I learned from the different martial arts I developed a unique and successful fighting style.

Living in America provided me with the opportunity to learn from some of the best fighters in the world. This held me in good stead heading in the 1980 World Titles where I had the honour of representing Australia. In the years that followed I competed in 364 amateur and 62 professional fights—winning 58 (31 by knockout). I also won both NSW and Australian Karate titles and continued to represent our country in international competitions.

In 1985 I retired from professional fighting, but that wasn't the end of me. I then went on to be the conditioning coach for the Merewether Carlton Rugby team and started competing in triathlons. In 2000 I was inducted into the Sporting Hall of Fame for Martial Arts.

These days I am actively involved with the Dixon Park Surf Life Saving Club, running, and training sporting groups. I have started the Boxercise class because I want to help people get fit and my history tells me that Boxing is a great workout that anyone can do - especially with the beach as a backdrop.





Mitchell Park Memorial Gates Restoration

The Memorial originally incorporated ornamental gates, which had been replaced by brickwork over the years. A couple of years ago, Merewether RSL Secretary Phil Winney and President Geoff Rich found an old photo incorporating a small part of the original gates and approached Mick Eggleston to draw up a design for a new set of gates in the original heritage style.

In due course these gents approached Newcastle City Council to have the project approved and were flabbergasted when they found not only council support and assistance with the design of the new gates incorporating the design principles of post World War 1 but also that council would fund the construction of the new gates. The council made available the skills of their own blacksmith to assist with the construction and the newly completed gates are a sight to behold – a fitting tribute to commemorate the service and sacrifice of the local men who fought and fell in WW1.

The gates however are only stage 1 of the restoration project.

Stage 2 will incorporate a circular wall behind the gates which will include the names of those who participated in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts.

A paved pattern in the shape of a rising sun will extend from the wall, under the gates and into a garden where seating will be provided for reflection and remembrance.

Keeping in mind the centenary of the Gallipoli landing in 2015, applications have been made at both state and federal levels for any grants available to assist with the construction of Stage 2 which is anticipated to be complete to commemorate that anniversary.

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WATERMAN



Merewether SLSC's Bronze Penny –in mint condition!

Lately while you were sitting having your coffee on a Sunday morning at Merewether, have you ever wondered who the group is doing surf training on the beach. They go through a drill of surf signals, running and swimming, they dive in and out of the ocean with enthusiasm, rescuing each other with boards and tubes. You're probably watching the current Merewether Bronze group in training to become the new surf lifesavers on your local beach.

There's the usual mix. For the young ones, it's a natural progression from nippers. Others are doing it to attain a necessary qualification. But, others are driven by a sense of community, responsibility and a sense of family. Penny Britz our oldest female candidate is driven by the latter. Doing her Bronze to support her best friend's daughter who is also enrolled in the course, Penny is keeping pace with both the buff and brawn, and the youthful energy of the young'uns. Penny's motivation of 'extended family' highlights one of the core values of MSLSC, and reinforces the strength of the wider community.



Keep your eye out for details of Merewether Surf Clubs next Bronze Medallion Course, which will run in the New Year.

Penny, Isabelle and Jen take a breather after their run swim run while training during Merewether Surf Clubs Spring Bronze Course.


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Shark Attack Facts

Sharks have a terrifying image, but only a handful of people are killed each year by their attacks. The reality is that people are more likely to be killed by lightning or a bee sting.

Last year there were 79 recorded attacks resulting in 6 deaths according to the International Shark Attack records – only 14 of which took place in Australia.

According to the Australian Shark Attack File, kept by researchers at Sydney's Taronga Conservation Society, there have been 873 shark attacks in Australia since records began in 1791, 211 of which have been fatal.

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Mondays
4.30—5.45pm

~Congratulations to Merewether's Brett Graham and his Ledbury Restaurant~



The Ledbury has been recently voted top UK restaurant for the 2nd year running in the UK National Restaurant Awards for 2011. The Notting Hill Restaurant which was caught up in the London riots in August took top spot again in the list of the Top 100 restaurants in the UK. Brett and his team were also winners of the Front of House Award for the 2nd year in a row - no mean feat!



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Merewether Council Chambers



Merewether Council Chambers, Merewether, August 1894

This image was scanned from the original glass negative taken by Ralph Snowball. It is part of the Norm Barney Photographic Collection, held by Cultural Collections at the University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia.



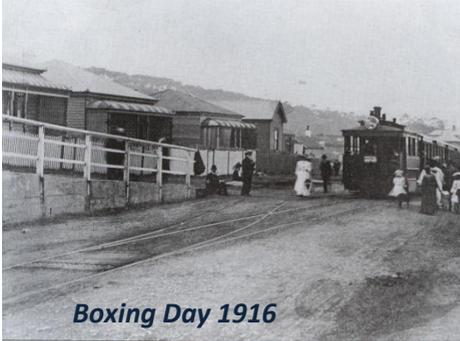
This building was replaced in 1923 by a larger brick structure which in turn was demolished to make way for the extensions to the RSL . This old wooden building survived and can now be found much altered at the rear of the carpark attached to St Augustine's Church.

Merewether was proclaimed as a Municipality in the NSW Government Gazette, 20 August 1885. The first election of councillors took place in 1885. Those elected were: Thomas Kempster, Jenkin Williams, Andrew Curry, Thomas Price, George Hall, William Armstrong, Joseph Orr, Robert Jury, George Brown. The first Mayor elected in the Municipality was Thomas Kempster. The first Council

meeting took place in the Mechanic's Institute, Burwood on November 3 1885. R. Simpson was appointed Council Clerk. The original Merewether Council Chambers building was originally located on Llewellyn Street opposite the Post Office.



The corner of Frederick & Ridge
Streets Merewether – 95 years
apart *David Barrow*



Boxing Day 1916



Sunday 9 October 2011

Merewether Carlton Rugby Club – History



Recently ,Making Waves was asked about the significance of the “Carlton” in the name of Merewether Carlton Rugby Club. After numerous hours at the Local History section of Newcastle Library we now seek your support . Please contact Making Waves if you can help solve this mystery.

Merewether Carlton is the most successful club in the Newcastle competition. The rugby club was formed in 1930 from the amalgamation of Cooks Hill Carlton and Cooks Hill Surf club. Cooks Hill Carlton was established in 1887, making it one of the oldest clubs in Australia.

For two years the jersey was sky blue with a Waratah emblem until the NSWRU requested a change. Bottle Green was then chosen.

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Merewether Baths Cleaning Schedule December 2011

2 December	Friday	5.00 AM	0.6
5 December	Monday	7.30 AM	0.6
9 December	Friday	10.00 AM	0.4
12 December	Monday	12.00 noon	0.3
16 December	Friday	2.30 PM	0.3
19 December	Monday	6.00 AM	0.5
22 December	Thursday	8.30 AM	0.3
27 December	Tuesday	1.00 PM	0.2
30 December	Friday	4.30 AM	0.6



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