

Making Waves

February 2011

a community
make your place
project



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Blue Poles meets Dixon Park

BANLAW
MINING TOUGH!

Merewether SLSC Flagpole

It is important to keep some things forever and thanks to the efforts of a small

group of gents, the original flagpole which had stood at Merewether SLSC premises since 1937 was recovered from a pile of rubbish. Thanks must go to Tamba who along with other club members organised the restoration of the flag pole.

On Sunday 26th November 2010 , having been beautifully restored, it was re-erected in pride of place on the front of Merewether SLSC and now proudly flies the Australian flag.

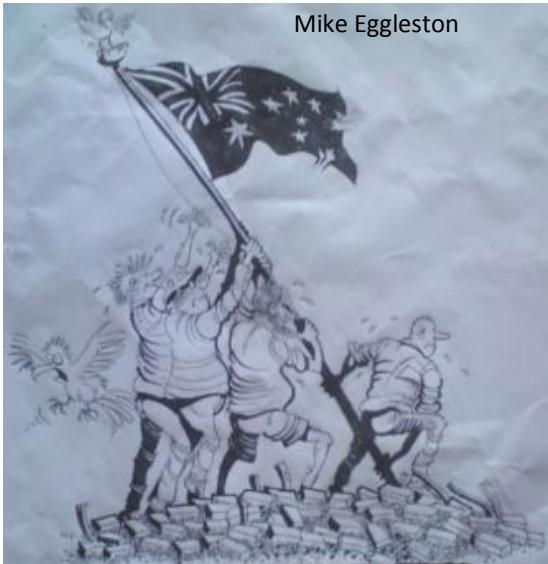
Thanks go out again to Tamba for making this happen and we must also thank those people

outside the club who offered their services to restore the flagpole.

- Mark at MP Stainless Cardiff for the fabrication of the stainless steel.
- Purnell Trophies for engraving.
- CDA Broadmeadow for providing the fixings to get the job done.
- Local builder Anthony Murphy for restoring the pole itself.

Is there a more stirring sight as the club comes into view?

Mike Eggleston





Colin Chapman
FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE



Mick Phillips
SALES CONSULTANT
Mobile: 0437 686 249
Phone: (02) 4926 1400

Property prices have changed considerably in Newcastle during the last 12 months. Residents I have spoken to are most interested to know the current value of their property. This information allows them to pursue new endeavours or to verify their home is adequately insured. To assist our local residents we are conducting an exciting initiative.

Over the next 3 months I will be offering an opinion of value for every home in the area. Each appraisal will only take approximately 10 minutes.

What you will receive:

- Property appraisal on your home
- Detailed area market analysis for properties sold over the past 12 months

How do you participate?

Call Mick Phillips at Colin Chapman Real Estate on 4926 1400 or 0437 686 249.

Strict confidentiality will be adhered to.

Ljubo Milicevic – Boots and All!

We all know of the passion that Ljubo displayed on the park as a defender for the Newcastle Jets, but for those who meet him away from the soccer field, they meet a polite and friendly gentleman who impresses with his thoughtful nature.

When Ljubo found out about the campaign by Merewether Carlton Rugby Club to collect and distribute boots to the boys of the Virreyes Rugby Club in Argentina, Ljubo jumped onboard - not only offering some of his own boots but he decided to make it a "cross-code" campaign. He has offered to use his friendships across the A League to obtain a number of barely used boots in various sizes for distribution in Virreyes.

Bon Voyage Ljubo - know that your friends here will miss you. We hope the move brings you all that you hope for.



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Meet Skye – another of the talented Swell girls!

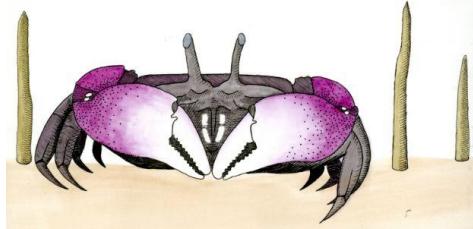
After travelling and living overseas Skye returned to Newcastle to study Natural History Illustration at Newcastle University. She recently completed a Field Studies Assignment featuring shore crabs. Her career goal is to be a published children's book illustrator.

Favourite

beach:

Whitehaven
beach ,
Whitsundays –
because of the
stunning
location

Favourite eatery:Cold Rock Ice Creamery – so many flavours!

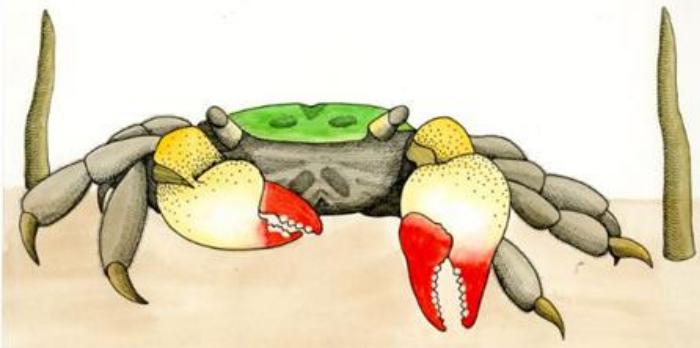


Favourite book:"Marley and Me" - The book is so much better than the movie.

Weekend Activity: Music Festivals – dancing with friends in the sunshine!



Favourite sport: Snowboarding – it's all about the style!



Favourite sportsperson:

Torah Bright – that girl can shred!

Favourite thing about your job:

The view – and I can listen to Triple J all day!

Quote: I go hard, I go home.

Final Word: HAVE FUN!!!

Great work Skye!

BANLAW
MINING TOUGH!

Spotlight on Eliza Smith – a girl in a hurry!



17 year old Eliza Smith from Merewether must have been a bit lost over the Christmas break after her very busy schedule in December 2010. On December 5, she won the female elite division of the 2.4 km Bondi to Bronte ocean swim which had over 2000

entrants. The next weekend she took out the female division of the 1.5 km Bilgola Ocean swim and then backed up to be 'pipped at the post' in the 1.5 km Baths to Bar Swim on December 19 by good friend and training partner Erin Killey.

Eliza has enjoyed a successful career so far in Surf Life Saving, winning several NSW State Championship medals in her favorite surf sports (swim, board and diamond lady) over the last few seasons.

Recently Eliza (swim) teamed up with Emily Chaffey (ski), Marni Robinson (run) and Graham 'Tamba' Adams (board) to take on the inaugural 'Goldie' Ironman Challenge in Lake Macquarie, despite the adverse weather conditions and obvious handicap on the board leg, the team finished a very credible 7th overall.

The start of 2011 is no different for Eliza who will be competing in NSW State and Australian National Swimming Championships being held from January through to April this year.

Eliza is hoping to obtain a sports scholarship at the end of the year to study and train in the USA in 2012. We wish her well!



THE PUMPHOUSE BAR



Well known Merewether identity
Graham **Tamba** Adam has been keeping
a daily record of events for over 30 years.



Bells Beach and the World SLSC Titles at Lorne – February 2006

I drove down with Terry Wall who came to Newcastle in the 70's from Melbourne.

We drove straight through and I was really looking forward to my first surf at Bells! We had a paddle at Torquay on arrival then a couple of beers at the Torquay pub right on the beach. Next day we arrived at Bells to 3-4 ft waves rolling in. My 1st Day at Bells was very enjoyable...but it got better. Next day it was a 6-7 ft perfect Bells offshore – the best waves I had ridden in a long time.



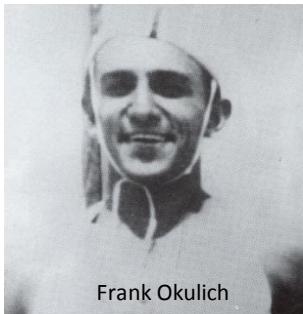
Terry had had an onsite van at Torquay since the 60's – but it wasn't until I met his mates down there that I realised what a legend Terry was down that way. He is listed in the Top 10 Best Ever Victorian Surfers –winning the 1st Bells comp known then as the Victorian Titles and placing in the 1st 3 Bells Beach surfing contests!

His dad was the 1st President of Torquay SLSC and the Torquay Ironman held every New Years Day is held in honour of his father. The World Titles events began on our 4th day and we both did quite well – Terry placing 4th in the Over 60's board race and I came 2nd in the Over 55's – but the real highlight of this trip for me was the time I spent getting to know Terry Wall. A 12 hour drive each way and a week spent in "his stamping ground" made me realise that there was a lot more to Terry's life than I had previously realised. Terry features on the Wall of Fame in Merewether Surf Club where his many SLSC Titles are listed....and we haven't even mentioned his academic and professional achievements!

MONDAYS	Beach Steak Night - \$12.90	
TUESDAYS	Pasta - \$9.90 and Pool Comp	
WEDNESDAYS	Schnitzel Night - \$9.90 and Trivia	
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	



Frank Okulich - A short history of shark meshing of Newcastle Beaches



Frank Okulich

The first recorded shark attack was in 1894 when the Hewison Brothers, Horace and Hereward were surfing at Newcastle Beach. Horace was seized by the arm and his brother tried to prevent him being dragged into deeper water. Horace survived, but lost his arm. He was the first of many of our city's best swimmers to be taken by a shark.

In 1918, again at Newcastle beach Arthur James Cook, an

excellent swimmer who was to compete in a Stillwater race at Manly the following day, was taken by the arm. Doug Arkell, who won an event the previous weekend in which Cook came 3rd, would himself survive a shark attack just 10 months later!

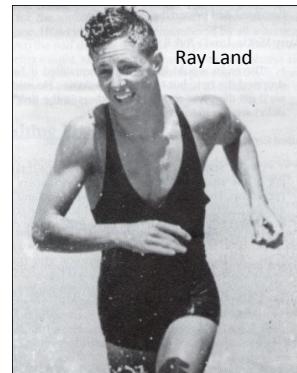
The establishment of a surf club at Merewether Beach was prompted by a shark attack on Edward Nolan aged 26, a miner from Kurri in October 1907.

The first fatality that can certainly be attributed to shark attack was again at Newcastle beach in 1925. Jimmy Canning again was an experienced surfer and excellent swimmer. The council lifesaver Gordon Lees became an instant hero as his efforts to rescue Canning were watched from the shore.

Ted Pritchard(Merewether) ,Arthur Edward Lane who became the 2nd recorded fatality when taken north of Dixon Park, Reginald Ogilvie (Redhead), John "Brickie" Welsh (Bar Beach),and the death of Ray Land who was killed while competing in the R&R at Bar Beach in 1949 caused public outcry and an urgent call for meshing.

Finally, in December 1949 the first nets were laid but unlike in Sydney, there was one more fatal attack which would take from Newcastle another outstanding lifesaver and champion competitor. Frank Okulich the then current Australian Single Ski Champion, was taken at Merewether beach in 1951.

History shows it was the surf lifesaver that was most vulnerable to attack and that the public have little to fear if they do not surf alone and stay close inshore.



Ray Land

"The Wave"

by the late George McNamara

This true story tells a great yarn for the history buffs about a day in Merewether. I could not find a photo of George McNamara but the other 4 that day are shown below.



George Hinchcliffe



George Knight



Jim Sullivan



Ted Jefferson

In 1940, the Merewether boat crew regularly assisted the Military by anchoring targets about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile out to sea off Murdering Gully for target practice. George "Stugga" Hinchcliffe was the Boat Captain and he could read the surf like nobody else at the time and he exuded confidence with his magnificent judgement.

On this day *"The seas were mountainous, and as I stood in the protection of the Surf Club building looking out across that wind-whipped ocean, I felt anxious and apprehensive..."* but with "Stugga" at the stern, they pushed off to fulfil their obligation to the Military.

When they were in position, Jim and Ted arranged the targets and they turned to head back to shore with a huge southerly swell at their backs, and for some time they were riding high on the crest of a huge swell and these men felt a momentary exhilaration and mateship that was unsurpassed until... *"the giant mass of water fell...and totally engulfed the boat."*

Whet your appetite?

**For a rollicking good read find the full story on the history tab of the
Merewether SLSC Website:**

<http://www.merewetherslsc.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=20088>

Thanks to Tony Robinson for bringing this story to our attention

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 STEPHEN ANSEN

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Old Bikeriders' Heaven



By Tony McRae

I got my first longed-for bike on my eleventh birthday in 1954, and, growing up in The Junction, it didn't take me long to discover Mitchell Park – and the quarter-mile cycle racing track that ran around the oval.

A whole new world opened up for me. I was amazed at the speed and ability of the riders, and totally enchanted by the beautiful machines they rode. Special racing equipment with exotic names like Campagnolo, Fiamme and Cinelli became objects of desire, and consumed all my

pocket money. I would hang around Mitchell Park at training sessions after school, and, on my clunker of a bike, ride in the slipstream of the "gun" riders – until they got serious. Legends like Jim Sandford, Ian Chapman and John Tressider, Maurie Hager, Peter Taylor and Jock Bullen became my heroes.

On more than one occasion, caretaker J R Townson, after whom the oval is now named, would have to remind me to go home before it got too dark to ride on the roads.

By 1956, I had pestered my parents into submission, and was allowed to compete in the Juvenile division. The next five years were an extremely happy part of my life. I enjoyed moderate success in the Juvenile and Junior ranks, and had a wonderful social life among the cycling brotherhood. We travelled as far afield as Tamworth and Moree, south to Picton and Goulburn and to Sydney for State Championships. And of course, every Wednesday night in summer, we'd race on our home turf – Mitchell Park.

But time moved on. By the age of seventeen I had discovered cars, and like many of my contemporaries, found the extra training needed to keep improving was a bit onerous. The cycling faded away, though many of the friendships survived, and I never lost my love of beautiful racing bikes.



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Fast-forward fifty years. It's 2006. I'm contemplating retirement and wondering what the hell I'm going to do with myself to fill my days after fifty years in the workforce. Then, on a sunny Thursday morning, I'm driving down Mitchell St Merewether past what is now named Townson Oval, and notice quite a number of cyclists circulating on the track. I stopped for a look, and couldn't believe my eyes. It was as if I'd ridden into a time-warp. Many of my heroes of yesteryear, now known as the Townson Oval Seniors - plus many prominent riders from other eras, all meeting on a regular basis for a ride and, of course, a yarn about old times. And the bikes! The bikes were all the beautiful steel machines of a bygone era, all lovingly restored or preserved. No aluminium or carbon fibre here – just shining examples of the framebuilder's art. Suddenly retirement couldn't come fast enough. By 2008 I had retired, acquired a suitable bike, and entered Old Bikeriders' Heaven.

Nowadays, if you're looking for me on a Tuesday or Thursday morning, don't come to my house – I won't be there. But you could try Townson Oval.

Seascape and Beyond 2011
ART EXHIBITION

**Open Community and Professional Artists
Art Exhibition and Fundraiser**

Merewether Surf Life Saving Club
Friday 8 April – Sunday 10 April 2011

For more information and Exhibitors' Entry Forms please go to
www.merewetherslsc.com.au

Or collect at Swell espresso bar Merewether Beach
 Enquiries: Juliet 0411 744 041
 or email julietclark@optusnet.com.au

Proudly supporting *beyondblue: the national depression initiative*

Do you have an idea that could improve our community?

If so, you should consider the "Make Your Place Community Grant Program" which provides for grants of up to \$1000 to for projects that:

- Benefit existing users of a place with potential to increase community use in a positive way - by providing physical improvement to the place, eg additional activity, comfort, appearance, or by encouraging use of the place through a community gathering
- Show evidence of collaboration and/or partnerships
- Involve community members in doing the project.

For more information:

http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about_newcastle/place_making

Madam Susie Sparkles

February

Astrology Guide



	Aquarius January 21 – February 19 Your poor parking skills result in yet another fractured hub cap this Friday.
	Pisces February 20th – March 20 th The sun is moving into your 5 th house around the 12 th , so expect to get seriously sunburnt.
	Aries March 21 to April 19 Achieving a balance in your life is a priority as too much work is sending your stress levels skyrocketing.
	Taurus April 21 – May 20 The water is warm and the fish are moving. Grab a board and test your skills as a means of exercise.
	Gemini May 21 – June 21 Make sure your roadside assistance cover is up to date this month or a holiday road trip could end in disaster.
	Cancer June 22 – July 23 My crystal ball is very foggy for you Cancerians this month, so remember your windscreen wipers whilst driving.
	Leo July 24 – August 23 A lucky break on the 18 th leaves you feeling on top of the world. Be reckless now, before your luck runs out.
	Virgo August 24 – September 23 The older you get the less you like young people. It's no wonder they don't like you!
	Libra September 24 – October 23 With prices rising this month for all basic necessities, it's time to become a little more shopping savvy.
	Scorpio October 24 – November 22 Swap your decaf morning coffee for a triple shot latte – and your performance at work will earn you a pay rise.
	Sagittarius November 23 – December 22 Ditch your mobile, Facebook and Twitter for a whole month and enjoy being socially disconnected from all your "friends".
	Capricorn December 23 – January 20 Mars in your sign is showing good signals for your love life. It is time however to care more for your partner than you do yourself.

Merewether Baths Cleaning Schedule

February 2011

4 Feb	Friday	12.30 PM	0.3
7 Feb	Monday	1.30 PM	0.4
11 Feb	Friday	4.30 AM	0.6
14 Feb	Monday	7.30 AM	0.5
18 Feb	Friday	11.00 AM	0.1
21 Feb	Monday	1.30 PM	0.2
25 Feb	Friday	5.00 AM	0.5
28 Feb	Monday	8.00 AM	0.4

Note: Cleaning may be altered if the weather conditions are unsuitable



www.jetset.com.au/thejunction

Picture perfect!



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MINING TOUGH!