

Making Waves

July 2011

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

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Why I love life – image by Glenn C



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Student Expression Session

All student stories published receive a \$20 voucher from Marketown

Last month, Years 4 & 6 from Holy Family at Merewether, ventured down to Flaggy Creek, along Burwood Beach, for a few hours of tree planting with the school's Environmental Education Manager, Jenny Robinson.

It was not the first time Holy Family students have been involved in environmental work down at Burwood. On previous occasions we have tested the water in the creek, gone on excursions with the Discovery Rangers from the National Parks and enjoyed many environment days at Glenrock, all within walking distance to school!! This tree planting morning was no different to any other, with the usual high pitched screaming and silly echoing noises from the students as we headed through the tunnel under Frederick St. After we had passed the baths we cautiously made our way across the pipe, avoiding slippery rocks and unwanted injuries, though a few weren't so lucky, having to put up with wet shorts for the morning. As we walked along the beach we were greeted with a fantastic view of the ocean and gentle waves. It was a perfect morning. Once at Flaggy Creek we split up into groups of four, ate our morning tea whilst listening to the volunteers from Trees in Newcastle explain how to carefully and effectively plant the seedlings. We were told that before we put the seedlings in the holes we dug, we had to put in a spoonful of fertilizer called Terracottum. The Terracottum was to help keep moisture in the sand for the plants. In about two hours we planted about 500 native Australian seedlings in the effort to stop the further erosion of sand dunes. It was great knowing we had been able to help.

Before we set off back to school we were thanked by the volunteers from Trees in Newcastle and said goodbye. It had been fun. *Astrid: Year 6D - Holy Family*

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Beach Community Spirit – Priceless!

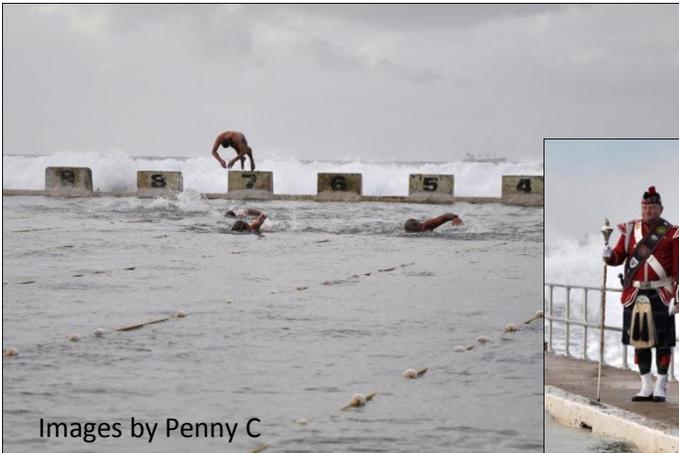
A schoolteacher on holidays – lets call him “Mick”, had been struggling to read a very large book. Every day he brought it to the beach, but some days he struggled to even read a page. One day, as he was leaving the beach, he placed the book on the roof of his car and inadvertently drove off. Unknown to “Mick”, the book flew off the roof as he rounded the corner of Mitchell and Lingard Streets.

Later that day along came another early morning beachgoer driving far more sedately, and seeing the large book on the road thought it posed a danger so he stopped to pick it up and move it off the road. Looking inside, he saw that the book belonged to a local school library.

Next day, providence saw him ask “Mick” if he knew anyone who worked at that school – not knowing that in fact “Mick” did.

“Mick” soon realised that it was the book that he had lost the previous day and it was soon restored to his possession, a little the worse for wear. **Nice one Ralphy!**

Scenes from the opening day of the Merewether Mackerels 2011 season.



Images by Penny C

New members welcome
any Sunday – Merewether
Baths from 8 AM



Meet Glenn - people call him Chit Chat or ChittersIt's a long story!



I grew up in Newcastle and left in the middle of the eighties because I hated it. 20% unemployment and smog so thick you felt your life was evaporating quickly. I followed my dreams, saw the world and returned 3yrs ago with my little family to find the greatest, most livable city on earth. I now travel

Australia singing its praises. I feel more centred and connected to the people around me now than at any other stage of my life.

Favorite beach: Merewether of course. The community, I love that I can drink incredible coffee and watch my daughter play safely within a hundred metre radius. We have so many new friends we've met through the beach that I feel will be lifelong friendships. It's a play group for kids and parents. Just don't swim at Merewether, the shore dump is a mtherf#\$@%r.

Favorite Eatery: My brother's front courtyard. The mud crabs delicious, the company superb and the beer is always cold. If you ever get to eat there make sure you bring your own bag of ice though or he'll get grumpy. Apparently beer doesn't make itself cold.

Movie: I used to love movies but along the way TV got way better. Breaking Bad, Mad Man, Weeds, Boardwalk Empire and True Blood.

Weekend: Coffee at the beach and a walk to Strzelecki and back with the family, growers market and an afternoon nap. Although with a brand new baby an afternoon nap is a luxury I dare not try and get past my beautiful wife.

Sporting Team: I hate sport always have. I do engage in the physical and psychological challenge of trying to out think and maneuver a 3 ½ year old while attempting to keep a 6week old subdued. Does that count?

Favorite activity: I used to travel the world getting paid to be messed up and literally throwing TV's out of windows. Now I'm really getting extreme for my midlife crisis and I've become addicted to gardening. I'm in it every day tending to my fruit and veg. Man it's good, feel free to ask me for some fresh tabouli.

Favorite thing about my Job: I'm a music presenter on Max which is a cable TV channel.

What's not to like. I'm flown around the country to interview the world's top bands.

I'm also making a six part documentary series about the "Great Music Cities of the World" which mean in Aug I fly to all six cities, in the States and Europe, to talk to the icons who made them great. Just don't bring this up with my wife.

Quote: My mum said at my wedding "don't marry someone you can live with, marry someone you can't live without". Luckily for me I did.

Final Word: It took me 38 years to realise that contentment isn't a dirty word.



Saturday 8th February 1895

- Submitted by David Barrow

An Italian Fisherman, Russo Norfio, had a rather unfortunate experience, on February 8. At noon he swam ashore at Merewether Beach and landed in a very exhausted condition. He stated that he left here on Friday morning at 8 o'clock for Sydney in his fishing boat. At about 10 o'clock while under sail, a violent gust of wind struck and capsized his vessel. Norfio swam for shore, which was three miles distant and landed after a desperate struggle with the waves.



InZane Football is Newcastle's first Football Academy to cater for junior and youth players.

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David Thompson

Inside a small vegemite jar.

By John Ramsland -Hon. Historian Cook's Hill SLSC

A vegemite jar was found in a box lying in a corner of a cupboard in Cook's Hill's surf clubhouse. Unscrewing the rusty lid, I found medallions and badges, the remnants of an elderly man's involvement in lifesaving, going right back to before the Great War. After examining them, I realised they belonged to David Hall Thompson, the founder of Cook's Hill Life Saving and Surf Club at Bar Beach. I had before me the remains of a man's dedicated life.

The earliest medal was inscribed 4 April 1911 — a Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) embossed with scenes of sea rescue and resuscitation. The RLSS was established in England in 1891 and had migrated to Australia before the surfing boom had got underway. The bronze has a Latin inscription: *Quemcunque Miserum Videris Hominem] Scias*: "Whenever you see a fellow creature in distress, remember that he is a man."



Thompson was awarded the Society's Associate's badge no 206 with the symbol of a rope clove crossed with an oar and long rescue hook. In 1922 came the

ornate Silver Medallion from London headquarters with the goddess Aphrodite holding a victory wreath with the sun rising on the sea in the background and inscribed with 'D.H. Thompson for distinguished service in promoting the objects of the Society'. The Surf Life Saving Association of Australia (SLSAA), Newcastle Branch presented him with an Honorary Secretary's badge with the famous surf reel symbol in 1921. Another badge of later vintage indicates he was made a life member in 1959-1960 of the RLSS, Newcastle Branch, when he retired from the organisation six years before his death. The badge was presented on 5 October 1961 by the Lord Mayor Alderman Purdue at the Newcastle Town Hall.

The Newcastle branch of the SLSA made him a life member and presented him with the appropriate badge. His name is inscribed on the back.

Beyond these awards, a social was held in 1945 in his honour and prior to the launching of the 'David Thompson' surfboat at Cook's Hill Club. He had received



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life membership of the club. *David Thompson* was the first Cook's Hill boat to compete at post-war carnivals.



David (1964)

Thompson was born in 1883 to James Thompson, coal miner, and Margaret Isabel (née Robson) in the impoverished village of Hetton Le Hole Downs in County Durham. Seeking a better life, the family migrated to Australia when David was four. They settled in Cook's Hill.

David, who was presented with a bravery award for the rescue of a drowning boy in a pond near the Seapit colliery, became a storekeeper and in his spare time guided the Cook's Hill SLS Club's formative years during the Great War and throughout the 1920s. He was the second Cook's Hill Club captain and served as its chief instructor. In doing so, he presided over the Annual General Meetings. He was its honorary secretary for ten years. An articulate spokesman, he was dedicated to the Club's progress. He aimed to make it an asset for the community at large.

He coached Cook's Hill in the R&R for the 1915 informal State Championships (the Roth Shield) beating Bondi and Manly to become the first team outside the metropolis to finish in front of any Sydney team. While highly commended, they did not bring home the shield. The teams David coached in Grand Parades and March Pasts were something out of the box.

Until he retired, David Thompson was involved in the RLSS as branch president. Most of his life, he lived with a single sister at "Ravensworth", a terrace home in Brooks Street Cooks Hill. He never married. He died on 31 August 1966 aged 83 and was buried in Sandgate Cemetery. His death was unheralded at Cook's Hill SLS Club — a forgotten man until the Club's history was later explored. *The medallions and badges in that tiny glass vegemite jar remain as his memorial.*



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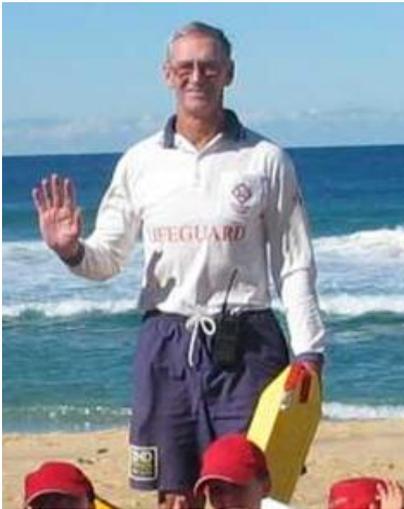
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Spotlight on Paul Kirwan

Paul Kirwan has been as much a part of Merewether as Surf House or Third Reef on a big swell. Paul hung up his rescue board aged 63 after 42 years of service as a beach inspector at Merewether beach and baths making him the longest serving beach inspector employed by Newcastle City Council.

Paul grew up in Cessnock and learned to swim in the local pool but one day, his mum took him to South Newcastle beach on the train and from that day "I just wanted to surf" he said.



He credits himself fortunate to have spent his working life "in paradise".

Paul has rescued or helped hundreds of people over the years but said "you don't get as many rescues if you keep an eye on the people, anticipating the rips and dangerous conditions before they get into trouble. The surf can be dangerous at times so you have to learn to have a lot of respect for it, but the beach is just a great way of life".

His 1st shift was in 1963 when the ambulance room was located in Surf House. In the 1970's, the ambulance room was relocated to the rebuilt Merewether Surf Life

Saving Club building. Paul Kirwan spent every summer from then on at Merewether Beach until 2001 when he transferred to Merewether Baths where he carried out the lifeguard duties for the next 4 years until his retirement.

Paul still enjoys the ocean, paddling his racing ski but the occasional incident around Swansea channel has seen him come to grief and know what it feels like to be on the receiving end of a helping hand which he has offered to so many people over the years.

With thanks to Greg Wendt

 An advertisement for Organic Groceries. On the left, there is a logo featuring a bird perched on a branch with the text "natural tucker" in a white oval. To the right of the logo, there are several glass jars containing various organic products, set against a background of a green field and a cloudy sky.

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The long and the short of it!

Images and story by R Gosling and Jane



In September 2010 Jane Mountford defended and retained her world champion title in sprint distance triathlon (750m swim, 20km bike, 5km run) for women 60-64 in Budapest, Hungary. She won the title in 2009 at the Gold Coast after a 4th place in Vancouver, Canada in 2008.

Late in 2010 with no more mountains to climb in the Triathlon world, Jane decided to turn to Ironman events.

In May 2011 Jane travelled to Port Macquarie and competed in her first Ironman event in over 10 years. This event

consisted of a 3.8km swim followed by 180km bike ride and then a 42km run. Jane's time for the event was 14hrs 13min 58sec.

Jane said she was happy with the swim and the bike legs but the run tested her recently reconstructed ankle. Overall though she said it was a great event and she couldn't have gone any faster.



Jane can often be seen around Newcastle training with her dog Chief.

*She has a small ladies wetsuit for sale – contact **Making Waves** for details.*



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SUNDAYS 4 - 7PM UDL Promotion - \$5

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11/12 June 2011 –another East Coast Low at Merewether Beach



The problem

Saturday, June 11 and the stormwater overflow outlet had forced so much water across the sand that it cut a swathe across to Sailors Rock and as it pushed the sand

over the rocks it threatened to ruin the surf break for some time to come.

Something had to be done, so questionably assisted by Steve, Tamba and Chris headed down to cut an opening in the sand to the water's edge to divert the damaging torrent. It was pouring rain and they only had 1 shovel between them, but undeterred they gave their all to the cause. Eventually though, they had to accept defeat and return to the anxious onlookers who had been watching the proceedings.

Overnight, they had the opportunity to rethink their strategy and our heroes returned with a plan, more shovels, and a hoe. Greg, who had watched the Saturday attempt stepped up to be an extra man. They all had the determination to succeed.

Dressed in wetsuits they went down the ramp armed with their tools and work began. They toiled for almost an hour and many who were watching didn't give them much chance of success, but they soldiered on. After trying to dam the swathe of fast flowing water with logs, they attempted to block it with Tamba's ski, but that too was also soon carried away.



The application

Another storm front approached- it was “do or die”!



As the overflow became stronger their channel started to widen...slowly at first then 1 metre, then wider and wider till it was 4 metres across. Success!!! The stormwater had been diverted, and the surf break saved!

Our 3 “heros” were applauded as they returned to the shelter of the surf club.

Madam Susie Sparkles
July
Astrology Guide



| |
|---|
| Cancer June 22 – July 23 When it comes to solving problems – 2 heads are better than one |
| Leo July 24 – August 23 It’s great to catch up with friends but resist the temptation to pass on gratuitous gossip. |
| Virgo August 24 – September 23 Don’t be afraid to try new methods and experiment with fresh ideas to get the job done. |
| Libra September 24 – October 23 You need to let people do things for themselves and make their own mistakes. |
| Scorpio October 24 – November 22 The more you look after your body, the better you’ll feel physically and emotionally. |
| Sagittarius November 23 – December 22 Sharing the good times with a group of friends puts a spring in your step this month. |
| Capricorn December 23 – January 20 To have more fun, this month you need to be more flexible and adaptable. |
| Aquarius January 21 – February 19 It’s a great time to get together with close friends for lunch or dinner. |
| Pisces February 20th – March 20 Don’t be a martyr in love. If your partner isn’t treating you well, show them the door. |
| Aries March 21 to April 19 Turn up the Aries charm and sex appeal. Your energy and enthusiasm inspire others. |
| Taurus April 21 – May 20 The sun boosts your confidence. Don’t promise more than you can deliver. |
| Gemini May 21 – June 21 Twins are feeling twitchy. Variety is the spice of life as you juggle projects like a pro. |

Merewether Baths Cleaning Schedule**July 2011**

| | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|------|
| 14 July | Thursday | 3.41 AM | 0.33 |
| 28 July | Thursday | 2.33 AM | 0.49 |

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

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Image by Steve



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