

Making Waves

March 2012

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

Enquiries, contributions, sponsorship, ECopy
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<http://makingwaves.yolasite.com/>



Proudly supporting local Surf Life Saving Clubs

- great new burger menu
- breakfast, lunch and dinner 7 days a week
- best double cooked chips on the coast
- all meals prepared in-house with local produce
- healthy grilled options available
- fresh local seafood dishes
- from 7.00 am – breakfast through to dinner



Image by Jason



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How to Walk on Water –Merewether style - March 2010

In March 2010 The Maritime Centre contracted to challenge their patrons to walk on water at Merewether baths to attend their annual fundraiser.



Not only were the patrons challenged but so were Pacificgrp, the company chosen to erect the scaffold platform in the ocean baths in a restricted timeframe of 8 hours to allow a 300 person marquee to be installed onto it. The platform included a raised section for the entertainment. All scaffold under the waterline had to be fully concealed.



Their engineer and management team designed the scaffold platform for dead and live loads required in a salt water environment. The design allowed the installation to be installed in the 8 hour timeframe before the water was allowed to re-enter the ocean baths. The design had to deal with the wind loading and the tidal water levels.

The event was a great success, and for those taking their daily dip in the ocean baths at that time it was really interesting to watch that marquee take shape.



We thank David Barrow for the memory of that interesting sight.



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

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| NEWCASTLE – MARCH 2012 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| LAT 32° 56' | | LONG 151° 47' | | TIME ZONE – 1000 | | |
| TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS | | | | | | |
| ▼ Denotes Event Day/Public Holiday | | | | | | |
| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
| TIME | M | TIME | M | TIME | M | TIME |
| | | | | 1 ☉ | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | 0140 1.47 | 0245 1.47 | 0353 1.50 |
| | | | | 0823 0.72 | 0939 0.71 | 1049 0.65 |
| | | | | 1410 1.15 | 1532 1.14 | 1648 1.19 |
| | | | | 1954 0.75 | 2109 0.76 | 2220 0.73 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 ☉ | 9 | 10 |
| 0454 1.57 | 0546 1.66 | 0010 0.56 | 0057 0.46 | 0143 0.38 | 0231 0.31 | 0321 0.29 |
| 1144 0.56 | 1228 0.46 | 0633 1.75 | 0718 1.82 | 0802 1.85 | 0848 1.84 | 0935 1.79 |
| 1745 1.27 | 1830 1.37 | 1306 0.36 | 1344 0.28 | 1422 0.23 | 1500 0.22 | 1542 0.25 |
| 2319 0.65 | | 1913 1.48 | 1954 1.59 | 2035 1.70 | 2118 1.78 | 2202 1.83 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 ☉ | 16 | 17 |
| 0414 0.30 | 0510 0.34 | 0611 0.41 | 0035 1.75 | 0139 1.69 | 0251 1.64 | 0404 1.63 |
| 1024 1.69 | 1115 1.57 | 1212 1.43 | 0717 0.48 | 0832 0.52 | 0947 0.54 | 1055 0.52 |
| 1624 0.31 | 1710 0.41 | 1800 0.52 | 1315 1.32 | 1431 1.25 | 1553 1.25 | 1703 1.31 |
| 2249 1.84 | 2340 1.81 | | 1857 0.62 | 2006 0.69 | 2124 0.71 | 2238 0.68 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 ● | 24 |
| 0509 1.65 | 0603 1.67 | 0033 0.56 | 0117 0.52 | 0158 0.49 | 0235 0.48 | 0313 0.48 |
| 1150 0.48 | 1235 0.44 | 0649 1.68 | 0731 1.67 | 0809 1.64 | 0845 1.60 | 0919 1.55 |
| 1758 1.39 | 1844 1.48 | 1314 0.42 | 1347 0.41 | 1418 0.42 | 1447 0.44 | 1515 0.48 |
| 2341 0.62 | | 1923 1.55 | 2000 1.61 | 2033 1.65 | 2105 1.68 | 2137 1.70 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 ☉ |
| 0349 0.49 | 0428 0.52 | 0508 0.56 | 0553 0.60 | 0002 1.58 | 0053 1.53 | 0155 1.50 |
| 0955 1.49 | 1030 1.43 | 1109 1.36 | 1152 1.30 | 0644 0.65 | 0744 0.68 | 0852 0.67 |
| 1545 0.52 | 1616 0.58 | 1650 0.64 | 1729 0.70 | 1242 1.24 | 1345 1.20 | 1459 1.20 |
| 2209 1.69 | 2243 1.67 | 2320 1.63 | | 1815 0.76 | 1915 0.81 | 2030 0.82 |

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National Tidal Centre Datum is Lowest Astronomical Tide

Add one hour to the times when Daylight Saving Time is in force

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There are 4 main components of the program:

- Water safety knowledge
- Resuscitation and emergency care
- Aquatic exercise
- Personal survival and lifesaving skills

For more information visit: www.royallifesaving.com.au/



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MONDAYS @ 7.30 - 8.15 ZUMBA® TONING

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Jersey Boys

by Marie Ramsland

In June 2010, Jersey celebrated fifty years of Australian lifesavers undertaking the duties of life guards on this, the largest of the Channel Islands. Over the years, several young men from Newcastle lifesaving clubs chose to spend our winter months sharing their skills with the people of Jersey during their summer. At the same time, they experienced a European

adventure and a sense of freedom while learning about the island's fascinating culture. Some repeated the experience, not once but several times. Friendships developed that have lasted over time and distance.

Stephen "Gasso" Porter has retained friends made at Newcastle Technical High

School and joined Cook's Hill in his early teens. He established further firm friendships as a lifeguard in Jersey where he spent six European summers in the 1970s. It was here he met his wife, Vicki. She had been advised to stay away from life guards (Marcia Martine said Newcastle girls were given the same advice in the 50s and 60s!)

Stuart "Cocka" Bear

joined Cook's Hill in 1964. In 1975, as an experienced lifesaver, he left Australia and the club captancy for Jersey. Stuart drew on skills he had learnt as an amateur lifesaver at home. Australian training in lifesaving was highly regarded in the United Kingdom. Such a reputation had preceded Stuart's visit and he was well able to enhance it. He found his overseas experience an enriching cultural exchange.



Steve & Vicki 2nd row right to left, *Jersey Evening Post* 4 June 2010 image by David Ferguson



Peter “Moth” Martine, a foundation volunteer in the local helicopter rescue service and Chief Instructor from 1980 to 1985 of Cook’s Hill Club, spent four memorable seasons in Jersey (1986-1989) living in the “Dog House” with other Australians – a 3-storey building provided by Jersey’s States of Tourism at a special weekly rent for seasonal workers. At the Jersey beaches, Peter found the old-fashioned Royal Lifesaving Society’s portable buoy boxes still in use although they had proven to be useless in the modern context. He managed to avoid using them despite the need to undertake several rescues – all successful. After a couple of seasons, he was appointed deputy life guard at St Ouens.



Doug Ogram known as “The Thug” (derived according to Doug from his name not his personality) was a member of the lifesaving club at South Newcastle for three years from 1969. After six months in London from November 1973, he was employed in Jersey as a pool lifeguard for the Silver Springs Hotel in St Brelade.

He spent quite a lot of time with other Australian lifesavers on the island and travelling in Europe and has vivid memories of those years. In 1978, he returned to the family home in Stockton. He then joined Cook’s Hill Club to gain his resuscitation certificate.

According to Doug, Jersey was ‘one of the better places you’ve ever been to’ coming from working-class Newcastle. It was ‘another world’ – a sentiment shared by all “Jersey Boys”





All New Menu

| | |
|---|--|
| MONDAYS | Steak Night - \$12.90 |
| TUESDAYS | Pasta - \$9.90 and Pool Comp |
| WEDNESDAYS | Schnitzel Night - \$9.90 and Trivia |
| THURSDAYS | Lamb Ribs Night |
| SUNDAYS | 4PM Live Entertainment followed by DJ at 7PM |
| FRIDAY to SUNDAY - Newcastle's Best Live Entertainment | |

This month, well known Merewether identity Graham **Tamba** Adam talks about one of the toughest men ever to play Rugby League. Great Britain and Manly enforcer and former Knights coach – **Mal Reilly**.



One night in 1996 I was having a couple of beers at the Beach Hotel when I saw Mal Reilly doing the same thing at another table by himself. He walked over and approached me and said “aren’t you the guy who goes out on the board and ski at Merewether a fair bit?” and I said “yes”. He then said that he would like to learn how to paddle a ski and a longboard and asked if there was any chance I would show him the ropes - of course I again said yes!

I was looking forward to our first training session as I was a Manly fan from way back in the late 60’s and early 70’s when Mal joined Manly.

Our first session was at Horseshoe on the double ski. We paddled up to the bridge at Carrington (4kms) and I asked if he would like to take a break before we went back and Mal replied – no, he was fine to head back...and then he asked if it was alright to do some sprints. We did 100 strokes flat out and then after a short

rest we did it again. We did this 4 times and I then asked how he was feeling. He said he was a bit sore in the shoulders but wanted to continue doing them . He was a hard man – aged 58 at the time.

The next weekend we came to Merewether Beach to get the paddle board out and so I told him to put a leg rope on the paddle board. He wanted to know what it was for and I told him that he would find out soon enough. The plan was to go to Bar Beach and back. Round about Dixon Park, I told him to get off the board and swim, dragging the board behind him. Mal said “stuff that, we are a fair way out and there are sharks out here!” but I told him that I was the coach now so off the board and start swimming. He swam about 200m and he looked at me again and asked how much further. I replied “just keep going”. By the time we got back to Merewether he had done 4 of those swims.


We did that for quite a few months.

One day he said “I think you are trying to break me – but you won’t”. He had heard about the time I broke Danny Buderus. Danny also wanted to learn to paddle, but he only came the once and never returned!

I realised then how much of a tough man Mal was. He was doing it hard but he kept on turning up each Sunday and always completed whatever I asked of him.

I have great respect for Mal Reilly and we continue to be good mates.

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350 reasons to support Surf Life Saving

A Merewether Icon - Tracy's Horses

The history of Tracy's horses goes back to before World War 2 when Wal Tracy and a gentleman named Danny Lysaght formed a partnership to operate a "*Horse Riding Academy*" in Merewether. Danny was also a Fitter on the Glebe/Redhead Railway Lines and he was still employed in that capacity until the mining operations ceased in 1954. The Academy operated from a then vacant block of land at the corner of Berner and Merewether streets.

World War 2 was a "Boon Period" for the partnership with the arrival of the American Army in 1942 who were attracted to the Academy. Once the war finished and the railway serving the mines south of Merewether Baths ceased operations, the partners took over the former "*Coffee Pot Shed*" (who remembers the old shed?). Here they had the run of the land on the eastern side of the Junction School, though he kept the horses a special corral, with only a proviso being that the slip rails were removed on Sunday Nights to allow the coal trains to pass through to the Mines at the Glebe.



Left hand photo **Coffee Pot shed note water tower in school yard and no houses on the Burwood Ridge--**Right Hand Photo **Bridge over Llewellyn Street, the horses were taken over this, no OH&S, not even a saddle!**

Sometime between the end of the War and 1950 Tracy bought Danny out and the business then became known as Tracy's Horse Yard. For almost 20 years, until the opening up of Merewether Heights and the Burwood Ridge for housing, Tracy had a free run with his horses through the week in what remained of the Merewether Estate.

The horses were rounded up on Saturday Mornings and taken down the railway line to the Junction. Saturday afternoon was for the younger children, with his famous "Riding Walk", which left the Coffee Pot Shed, up Glebe Road then Macquarie Street to what was known as the "*Wee Shop*" where Tracy bought

each rider a small bag of lollies, returning the same way until Lingard Street and back down Merewether Street. Imagine doing this today?

Saturday Nights the horses usually went to Number Two Sports Ground and were taken back to the Junction early Sunday Mornings.

Sundays the older riders usual went to one of two places, the Lagoon in summer and a water hole where the Kotara Industrial Estate is today and just under the main railway line;-affectionately know as the 'Lazy B'. Sunday nights it was back to the Merewether Estate.

Tracy was also generous with his lending of his Two Shetland Ponies "Billie and Albert" to the local schools on their Annual Fete Days for fund raising.

Countless generations from all over Newcastle at one time or another enjoyed some time at 'Tracy's', which sadly today because of "Progress?" and "Bureaucratic Intrusion" has made a Merewether Icon all but a memory, but a very happy memory.

David Barrow

sally and jane

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and Beyond**

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Merewether Baths Cleaning Schedule
March 2012

| | | | |
|----------|--------|----------|-----|
| 2 March | Friday | 6.00 AM | 0.6 |
| 5 March | Monday | 9.00 AM | 0.4 |
| 9 March | Friday | 11.30 AM | 0.2 |
| 12 March | Monday | 2.00 PM | 0.3 |
| 15 March | Friday | 4.30 AM | 0.4 |
| 19 March | Monday | 9.00 AM | 0.4 |
| 23 March | Friday | 11.30 AM | 0.4 |
| 26 March | Monday | 1.30 PM | 0.5 |
| 30 March | Friday | 4.30 AM | 0.6 |

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Image by Jason



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