Bar Beach and Nobbys

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
Callaghan College Jesmond Senior Campus and Surfest

Callaghan College Jesmond Senior Campus has been in partnership with Surfest for the last 7 years. Over 120 students are involved each year. Students are involved in every aspect of the event from the catering, multimedia and marketing teams, judging area, photography, building the compound and administration. It is a wonderful opportunity for the students to be involved in this flagship event in our city which allows them to work alongside industry professionals and allows them the opportunity to give back to the community at the same time.

Supervising teachers this year commented on how well the students bonded to those around them as they realised the importance of building relationships and developed their skills while working in a team.

The multimedia students learned so much from the professionals from the BLive video team and showed their own professionalism on the day the heavens opened just as Steph Gilmour’s first heat entered the water. The heat had to be postponed for some time for the safety of the surfers and when it was finally completed the only group still there to record and interview the winner was from Callaghan College. Everyone else had taken cover from the storm, so the only interview with Steph was with the lucky student shown here. It is history now that Steph did not survive her next heat so this was THE final interview with her at 2014 Surfest – what a reward for the enthusiasm and tenacity of the Callaghan team!
Surfest’s Warren Smith said “as organisers we have enjoyed sharing our knowledge and experience with the students and have been overwhelmed by their enthusiasm and willingness to learn. There have been many students that excelled in the work environment of event management and it is satisfying to know that Surfest provides the opportunity for them to learn these skills.”

The Commonwealth Bank Mentor Program with Callaghan College Jesmond Senior Campus takes the whole involvement with Surfest to the next level. It gives students an opportunity to learn skills critical to their particular work interest and from Surfest 2014, 6 students will be chosen to participate in this mentoring program.

BREAKFAST – LUNCH - TAPAS - CATERING
Open 7 days from 7AM

Cafe Llewellyn + Catering
Ph: 4963 1516 32 Llewellyn Street Merewether
Fay - An inspiration to all who know her!
This amazing lady has become an integral figure on our beachfront over many years. She starts her mornings early, stepping out from her home in The Junction and walking up towards Empire Park where she often stops for a little bit of Tai Chi before moving on to Bar Beach for her next set of exercises.
As she walks her well worn path she greets her passers-by with a huge smile and good wishes for a happy day. Most she knows by name and they know hers.
From Bar Beach Fay wends her way down towards Merewether and until recently the baths area where she completes another set of Tai Chi exercises before heading back towards home before the day gets a bit too hot.
Fay was born in China, and grew up in Hong Kong. Her husband came to Australia in 1953 and she followed him here in 1960. They had 3 children – 2 girls and a boy who was born in Australia. He and 1 of his sisters now live in Sydney with the other daughter living here in Newcastle. She now has 9 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren who have all done very well in their lives. Fay considers that she has been very lucky in her life and that Australia has been very good to her and her family even though some members are now living overseas in Singapore and the US due to their work commitments.
She began her Tai Chi ritual along the beachfront in 1998 and rarely misses a day. When asked, Fay says that she does the Tai Chi and the walking for her exercise, balance and well being. She certainly is a living example of the advantages regular exercise can give - her appearance belies her age!
Did I forget to mention Fay is 87 this year...or as she prefers to say 86 plus!

I hope she continues to grace our beachfront for many more years to come - if you see her don’t forget to introduce yourself!
Behind the scenes of Surfest

There is nothing glamorous about being tucked away in the compound that takes over the Merewether Carpark during Surfest, but without the people working over there in the background, the event would not run nearly as smoothly as it does.

Making Waves had the pleasure of spending time with the “Jill of all trades” – Stacey Woollams aka Sponsorship and Event Manager for Surfest 2014.

Stacey’s primary role was to look after the various competition sponsors – from the provision of hospitality down to ensuring that correct sponsor signage is prominent for their relevant events and fine details such as staff working each event being attired in the correct sponsor clothing.

Fine details are Stacey’s speciality and she does an amazing job balancing her primary role with that of ensuring the smooth running of the events. She constantly monitors the sound and webcasts going out, always watching and listening for audio or visual glitches which may need attention from attending technical staff that rely on her for her alerts.

Stacey’s studies included a Bachelor of Business majoring in Event Management. She first joined the Surfest team 3 years ago in a volunteer capacity working with Anne-Marie Green and Brooke Cross and in 2013 the role at Surfest was her Internship for her degree. Stacey became the Sponsorship and Event Manager for Surfest 2014 when Ann-Marie moved on and when Brooke took a position with the Jets.

Stacey’s main concern that I could detect when I last spoke to her was the responsibility she was feeling as she had to judge Miss Surfest that evening – I’m sure had news of her concerns got out that there would be plenty lining up to assist her in that task!

Congratulations Stacey – you did a great job!
Well known Merewether identity Graham Tamba Adam has been keeping a daily record of events for over 30 years. Each month he shares some aspect of his life with us.

My story on Beattons Cafe last month generated a lot of interest and talk about how things have changed at Merewether beach, especially with the completion of the new viewing deck. Most people say they like it and that it looks good. I know that we all have to move forward and that we can’t go back in time but there are so many people who can’t help but compare what we see there now with the fond memories they have of running down the sandhill, feet burning from the black sand, at the back of Beattons Cafe to where the surf club is today.

The old surfboat shed - the surfboard riders winter headquarters in the 60’s
In the mid 60’s the surf club only had a little boatshed on the lower promenade. We used to sit up on the roof of the shed and watch the surf. During the week, it was often just you and your mates!

Despite all the changes to the beach front in the name of progress, I still prefer the old days of sand dunes and saltbush – no carpark and no concrete. Just you and your mates, people interested in surfing – rather than today’s latte set!

**This will be the final edition of Making Waves. Sadly, due to circumstances beyond her control, Glenis will no longer be able to continue putting it together. I know that she has loved the journey we have travelled as we have put these newsletters together for the Merewether community since June 2010. It certainly grew into something that neither of us anticipated when Adam first put the idea to us!**

When I was first asked to put my stories into print, I was a bit hesitant but as time has gone on, I have really enjoyed my involvement and I do think it has been a good thing to have these recollections and stories recorded.
A visit to Merewether SLSC’s sister club in the UK

On his recent trip to the UK, Merewether SLSC Education Officer Richard Taylor visited members of Merewether’s sister club – North Norfolk SLSC.

Richard reports that the club is having growing pains, which is exciting news. They have outgrown their clubhouse and now looking for a larger venue to hold club meetings and training.

The installation of hot water showers into their beach clubhouse has hit a council roadblock, and the committee is actively working to get around that. I would have thought hot water showers there would be a necessity and in fact a sideline proposed for the club is the possibility of selling hot showers during the cooler months. So that would be all year round, except a few days in summer!!

At the national SLSC awards North Norfolk were very successful. This shows the club’s drive and commitment to Surf Life Saving. They are only one of two clubs to run the junior lifeguard program this year, for 7-14 year olds.

The Australian SLS thongs from Merewether SLSC were eagerly received and will ensure great envy from other clubs at national events. A new award provided by Merewether SLSC using a Thong mounted on a large wooden block will be presented at the end of the year to the member that has had the most unforgettable act in the surf. I have been informed that there will be stiff competition, much like there is for Merewether’s wooden spoon.

Maintaining the integrity of rescue boards is a problem at North Norfolk. Mike, the chairman, was signing a cheque for a new board in the club house recently and before the ink was dry, he could hear the board hitting the stone shore line and cracking. They are now looking at purchasing Kevlar boards to reduce the repair bill.

Richard was pleased to meet the new Club Patron David Whiteley. As a TV presenter on “Inside Out in the East” his role as a patron to the club should raise its profile considerably and provide a useful source of media interest.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0071mjk
Rugby Union has a long distinguished history in Newcastle that started in the late 19th century. Representative sides often did well against visitors. In September 1885, a combined side defeated the oldest, most powerful club in Australia, Sydney University, by 12 to 6 – the only game University lost that year.

Since then Newcastle produced a number of representative and international stars until World War I when all Rugby Union competitions were discontinued for the duration of the war. Rugby, apart from a few fixtures at Empire Park, did not recover fully until a district competition was established in 1925 stimulated by a crowd-pleasing successful fixture at Empire Park between GPS Old Boys and Novocastrians. In 1926, the old GPS Old Boys Club was reformed as Wanderers. Waratah Rugby Club had been established in the first year of competition in 1925.

Cook’s Hill Surf Rugby Union Football Club was then formed. At a meeting in the surf club on 1 March 1927, Cook’s Hill Surf Rugby Union Football Club was established formally with strong support from star rugby halfback Syd Malcolm. At the meeting, Malcolm was elected secretary for the newly-formed rugby club. The meeting also decided on the club colours: a white jersey with a four inch red band around the middle, black socks with red, white and blue tops and blue shorts. Nearby Empire Park was decided upon as their home ground. And a membership fee was decided upon:

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Membership Fee: Moved by J. Malcolm and seconded by W. Owen, that membership for playing member be 10/-; associate member 2/6
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In the rugby season that followed that month, the club amazingly won the district premiership by the end of the winter season in both grades and the club premiership for the year.

Soon after Cook’s Hill Surf Club Rugby Football Club and Cook’s Hill Carlton Rugby Football Club (which too had a short life) merged to become Merewether-Carlton. They demonstrated they were one of the strongest clubs in the district competition. Merewether-Carlton (who absorbed Cook’s Hill colours) was stacked with extremely fit Cook’s Hill lifesavers. They won the Newcastle First Grade

**Newcastle First Grade Premiership Winners:**
1925 – Kurri Kurri; 1926 – Wanderers; 1927 – Cook’s Hill Surf Club (photo below; Captain front row, 3rd from right)

On Sunday, 27 April 2014 at 2pm at Empire Park, Bar Beach, Cook’s Hill SLSC presents Cook’s Hill SLSC Golden Oldies versus Merewether-Carlton Rugby Old Boys for the Rugby Formation Cup in 20-minute stimulating halves of creative rugby to celebrate the formation of Merewether-Carlton from Cook’s Hill Surf Club Rugby Football Club and Cook’s Hill Carlton Rugby Club.

Celebrations will continue at Cook’s Hill Surf Club from 3pm.

**Hamilton South Community Playgroup Centre**
Thomas St, Hamilton South

Hamilton South Playgroup Centre is a well equipped play area which caters for indoor, craft and outdoor activities in informal sessions where mums, dads, grandparents, caregivers, children and babies meet together in a relaxed environment.

Contact Sarah 0433 951 311 for more information
ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE  
Friday, 25 April 2014 at 6:15 am  
Mitchell Park Memorial Gates  
Mitchell Street, Merewether

Anzac Day is Australia’s most significant day of national remembrance. On 25 April 1915, the Australian & New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed on the shores of Gallipoli and, for the eight months that followed, suffered heavy casualties (including 8,000 Australian soldiers killed) and endured unimaginable hardship. While the campaign failed in its military objective and ended with an evacuation of allied forces, the ANZACs bequeathed an intangible but powerful legacy that has become an important part of our national identity.

The 25 April has become the day on which Australians remember the sacrifices of those who died or suffered in war and in the defence of our Nation, our freedoms and our way of life. Last year’s Anzac Service marked the completion of Stage 2 of the Mitchell Park Memorial Gates Upgrade Project. The Merewether-Hamilton RSL Sub-Branch is anticipating the commencement of Stage 3 later this year. The proposed work includes the installation of night lighting, improved pathways and a new memorial wall commemorating those who laid down their lives in the defence of this Nation in WW2 and subsequent conflicts.

*The original Memorial Gates were officially opened on 12 March 1921 by Brigadier-General John Paton who, as a Colonel, in December 1915 was in charge of the last party to evacuate from the shores of Gallipoli.*
Emma Gale who won a national masters title in 2010 with Merewether as a rower is now the 1st accredited female boat sweep in the Hunter and is seen here directing the Merewether all female crew through the white water at Stockton in the Womens Open division at the Peters Surfboat Titles.

– image by Woody