

Making Waves

March 2013

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

Enquiries, contributions, sponsorship, ECopy
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Merewether – the waves and the reefs

Recently, while relaxing at Merewether, a group of us were approached and asked directions to “The Ladies” surfing landmark.



Note: the Merewether National Surfing Reserve declared in 2009 is shown in red.

Of course we obliged and I later commented that the only point I wasn't sure of was the "Bommie" and it was the ensuing conversation which led to this article on Merewether's unique combination of rock shelves and reefs.

Starting in the north:

Poggos:

a small left hand break which can be as good a tube as you will find anywhere when conditions are right

Pipe:

works best in a noreast swell and can be surfed from ½ metre to 3 metres

Middle:

Locale of the goofy footers, rideable on almost any swell

Rocks:

The wave that best defines Merewether – revered for its consistency

Ladies:

a perfect little right hand barrel breaking in shallow water

Second Reef: Often linked to The Rocks to provide clean wave face with critical sections

Bommie:

the righthander works in most swells

Pumphouse:

Jumping off point for 3rd reef to access 3rd reef in big surf

Third Reef:

starts breaking at 2 metres, often more than 300 metres from the beach

Blocks:

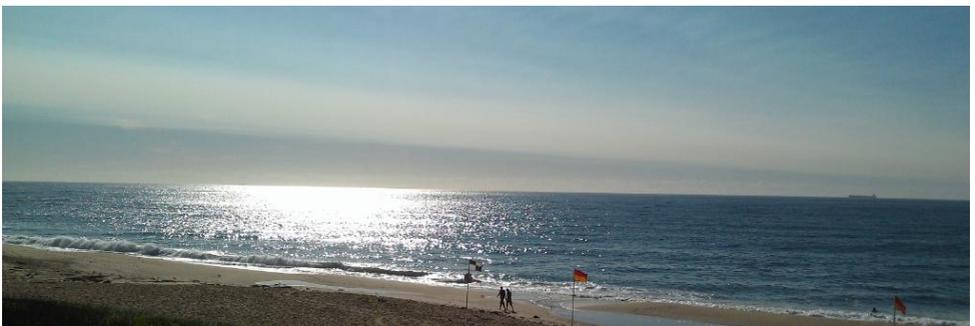
another jumping off point to Third Reef on a big day

Racetrack:

picks up a north-east swell and best up to a metre – perfect for grommets

Point X at Burwood :

not a great wave but along with Racetrack has become a grommie rite of passage.





NEWCASTLE						
LAT 32° 56' LONG 151° 47' TIME ZONE -1000						
TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS						
MARCH - 2013						
SUN. TIME M	MON. TIME M	TUES. TIME M	WED. TIME M	THURS. TIME M	FRI. TIME M	SAT. TIME M
31 0510 0.36 1115 1.51 1700 0.50 2330 1.83					1 0424 0.41 1033 1.65 1639 0.35 2302 1.70	2 0515 0.44 1119 1.55 1720 0.42 2349 1.69
3 0611 0.49 1211 1.43 1807 0.50	4 0043 1.67 0716 0.53 1313 1.33 1902 0.58	5 ☉ 0146 1.64 0830 0.55 1429 1.26 2012 0.64	6 0259 1.64 0949 0.53 1552 1.26 2129 0.64	7 0412 1.68 1100 0.47 1705 1.33 2243 0.59	8 0517 1.74 1159 0.39 1805 1.43 2346 0.52	9 0615 1.80 1249 0.33 1856 1.52
10 0043 0.45 0706 1.82 1333 0.29 1942 1.61	11 0133 0.40 0754 1.82 1414 0.28 2025 1.67	12 ● 0221 0.38 0838 1.77 1451 0.31 2104 1.71	13 0306 0.39 0919 1.70 1527 0.36 2143 1.72	14 0350 0.43 1000 1.60 1600 0.43 2219 1.70	15 0432 0.48 1037 1.50 1631 0.50 2256 1.67	16 0515 0.54 1115 1.40 1704 0.58 2332 1.63
17 0600 0.60 1156 1.32 1740 0.66	18 0014 1.57 0649 0.65 1243 1.24 1823 0.73	19 0101 1.52 0746 0.69 1341 1.19 1919 0.78	20 ☉ 0200 1.47 0854 0.71 1455 1.18 2032 0.81	21 0309 1.46 1002 0.68 1613 1.21 2147 0.79	22 0415 1.49 1101 0.62 1714 1.28 2252 0.73	23 0512 1.55 1149 0.55 1800 1.37 2345 0.66
24 0600 1.61 1229 0.48 1840 1.47	25 0030 0.57 0643 1.67 1304 0.42 1917 1.57	26 0113 0.49 0724 1.70 1338 0.37 1954 1.67	27 ○ 0155 0.41 0805 1.72 1414 0.34 2032 1.76	28 0239 0.36 0849 1.71 1451 0.33 2113 1.83	29 0326 0.33 0934 1.66 1530 0.36 2156 1.86	30 0415 0.33 1023 1.59 1614 0.42 2241 1.86

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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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Why do you never see baby seagulls on the beach?

One morning in February, while enjoying an early morning swim at Bar Beach, Wendy posed this question. It didn't take very long to find the answer:



Seagulls nest away from the beaches, on cliff faces, islands, spits and even moored boats. Seagulls are very protective of their newborns. Newborn gulls do not leave the nest (or the immediate area) until they are able to fly and find their own food. Until the newborn is able to fly, the parents will feed the newborn.

The young gulls grow quickly, and by the time they leave the nest, they are almost the size of an adult gull. The best way to distinguish if a gull was born recently is by the colour of its feathers. Almost all newborn gulls have brown feathers covering their entire bodies. It is quite possible that you have seen a young gull (also referred to as a juvenile) who recently left its nest, you simply did not realize it.

Merewether stalwart Laurie Graham added that the very best place to see baby seagulls nesting and hordes of baby seagulls is on Cockatoo Island in Sydney and that you can do an ecological tour of the island..but if you do, keep an eye out for snakes as they too are in plague proportions on the island as they gorge themselves on the smorgasbord of eggs and baby birds to be found in such abundance there. In fact Laurie quipped , it could just as easily have been called "Snake Island"!



And on the subject of seagulls I often wonder why they often stand on 1 leg. Bird's legs have a unique system of blood veins in their legs called "rete mirabile" (pronounced ree-tee mee-rah-bi-lay) that minimizes heat loss. Here is how it works: The arteries that transport the warm blood from the heart into the legs lie in direct contact with the veins that return colder blood back to the bird's heart. The warm blood in the arteries therefore warms the cooler blood in the veins. By standing on one leg, and pulling the other leg up against the warmth of its body, a bird can reduce by up to half, the amount of heat lost through its legs. In short, they stand on one leg to warm up a little bit.

So there you go Wendy – seagull trivia!



All New Menu

MONDAYS	Steak Night - \$12.90
TUESDAYS	Crumbed Lamb Cutlets and Pool - \$15.00
WEDNESDAYS	Schnitzel Night - \$9.90 and Trivia
THURSDAYS	Hamburger Night
SUNDAYS	4PM Live Entertainment followed by DJ at 7PM
FRIDAY to SUNDAY - Newcastle's Best Live Entertainment	



*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.*

February 7, 2013 – the end of an era at Merewether Beach

This day saw the beginning of the end of the last of the original old “beach” houses adjacent to Merewether Beach. There used to be houses like this in Frederick Street opposite the Beach Hotel as well as those which faced Watkins Street. This old landmark which used to face the Merewether Beach carpark was



the marital home of Jim and Shirley Gillard. After Shirley had passed away, Jim eventually sold the house to a neighbour about 6 years ago. He moved into a unit in Frederick Street, and also lived with a family member for a while but now in his mid 80's, Jim resides in a nursing home. I used to sit on the balcony with Jim here and we talked about the old days of the surf club as well as sharing some “fishy” stories as Jim was a keen rock fisherman until age and health issues forced him to stop. Shirley was a very good netballer who played into her



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50's but unfortunately she passed away some years ago.

Jim joined Merewether SLSC in 1948 and was a very capable surfer and reliable clubman. He was always a conscientious patrol member and member of the March Past Team. He could always be relied upon to take the boat out – whether it be to lay the patrol buoys or to go fishing, and he did not discriminate on sea conditions. He was invariably pressed into service as the truck driver to pick up equipment and transport gear and members to carnivals.

He was one of the 4 drivers who (with the reel on the top of the vehicle) took the March Past team to Torquay, Victoria in the Olympic year, 1956.



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Special delivery – times two!

2 special babies made their entrance to the world in January 2013



Phoebe Adelaide O’Hanlon’s dad Jim was a feature profile in our August 2010 edition and he shared his story behind the 1st known Making Waves wedding in our November 2011 newsletter!

Our sincere congratulations to Jim and Cressida on the safe arrival of baby Phoebe!

Another much awaited baby for the Merewether latte set was that of popular Swell barista Samantha Sjaardema and her husband Steve. Baby Seth was seen recently making himself right at home as the centre of attention as he celebrated his 4 week anniversary at the beach. We wish the new parents all the joys of family life with their new arrivals!



Merewether beach – 1907

If you look closely you can see a fence of sorts along the beach front where John Parade is today. The chimney is possibly that of the Sea Pit which was near St Johns church in Darby Street and the old water tower was on the hill at the top of today's Memorial Drive.

Submitted by David Barrow

Presentation – Bob Carter patrol trailer

At the Merewether Season Launch and Life Members breakfast in September 2012, all present were thrilled by the presentation of a \$15,000 cheque from Bob Carter to Club President Ross Taggart. Bob is an old member of the club and he wanted to provide some much needed financial assistance for the club to enable them to purchase a fully equipped patrol trailer.



On Sunday, January 20th 2013 the club was pleased to have Bob present. He handed the new trailer to Ross who in turn passed it onto Patrol 4 who were able to take it carefully down the ramp for it's first day of official duty on the beach. The presentation was followed by a morning tea at which many club members were able to thank Bob personally for his generous donation.



This new trailer is now being used on the beach on patrol days, so why not keep an eye out for it and even take a closer look at just how well designed it is to support our volunteers on patrol at Merewether Beach.



Check your local SLSC Club for their next Bronze Medallion course!

Golden Bell Fair, Salvation Army Effort – Monday 4th September 1933



The Merewether Salvation Army Hall (Railway Street) was crowded on Saturday Afternoon, when the “Golden Bell Fair” was opened by Brigadier Annetts. Reverend A. H. Venn, of St Augustine’s, congratulated members on their efforts and the Ladies for their “Well Filled Stalls” and their decorations.

Pastor Piper of the Baptist church, supported the remarks and wished the

promoters every success.

During the afternoon a programme was contributed by Master Vern Stallard, Mr. Mewett, Mrs Beven, Miss Martin, Nita Cause, and lieutenant Jarrett.

The Stall-Holders were:-Jumble, Mesdames Stonier and Saunders;- Handkerchief, Sunbeam Leader Sneddon;-Toys, Messrs Snow and Butler;-Drapery, Mesdames Parker and Butler;-Hot Peas, Mrs Snow and Miss Carpenter;-Ice Cream, Mr Tuttle;-Drinks, Messrs Saunders and Chapman;-Lollies Mr & Mrs Cause;-Cakes, Mesdames Tuttle and Stevenson;-Flowers, Mrs Adjutant Smyth;- Jams, Captain Anderson;-Refreshments, Home League Ladies.

At night the Tighes Hill Band played selections and were assisted by the “songsters” grade. Adjutant Smyth was the chairman and congratulated all who had assisted to make the Fair a success. The funds are for the “Social and Missionary Work”.

by David Barrow



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Community Spirit

Usually, it's the public raising funds for the Hunter's Westpac rescue helicopter. But this time the service's employees, together with their emergency services mates and colleagues from other rescue helicopters, dug deep for one of their own and for The Hunter Melanoma Foundation.

A 24-hour paddle on Lake Macquarie was organised to raise funds for the foundation as well as to assist a colleague to beat the disease.

More than 100 paddlers were to hit the water from 7am Friday February 1 to go around an 8.3 kilometre course from Belmont 16 Footers continuously until 7am the following day. Water police, fire crews, lifeguards, John Hunter Hospital staff and members of other helicopter services were all there to lend a hand.

Unfortunately due to terrible weather conditions, and after a number of rescues, the night section of the event had to be called off in the interests of safety.

Hats off to our local paddlers Woody, Tamba, Katie, Drew, Adam, Glenn and Dale who all offered to participate in this event and whose efforts assisted to a healthy contribution to The Hunter Melanoma Foundation!



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Merewether Baths Cleaning Schedule
March 2013

1 March	Friday	1.30 PM	0.3
4 March	Monday	4.30 AM	0.5
8 March	Friday	8.30 AM	0.3
11 March	Monday	11.00 AM	0.2
15 March	Friday	1.30 PM	0.4
18 March	Monday	4.30 AM	0.6
22 March	Friday	7.30 AM	0.5
25 March	Monday	9.30 AM	0.4
28 March	Thursday	12.00 PM	0.3

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As close as it gets to a Merewether sunset – by Toni