

Making Waves

October 2011

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

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Image by Jenny R

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**SPECIALISING IN HONDA, HYUNDAI AND 4 WD'S****Launch Breaks down - "Birubi" gives Assistance***Saturday 13th May 1933*

The Pilot Steamer "Birubi" was called out last night to the aid of three fishermen drifting off Merewether Beach in a disabled launch.

The fishermen left Newcastle in a "Twenty Four Foot Launch" about midday and fished until dusk on the grounds off Merewether. The Engine misfired and when they attempted to start and when they took the cover off the engine, spray from a wave went over it, putting it completely out of action. There was a sail in the boat, but it was useless, because there was no centre board.

About 7 pm the "Signal-Man" on duty at Nobbies noticed a light flashing regularly from a "Small Boat off Merewether Beach". He interpreted it as a distress signal and advised the Master of the "Birubi", who at once put to sea.

The launch was picked up and towed into port in quick time. While the launch was in no immediate danger, there was an "In-shore" wind blowing and it was drifting slowly towards the beach.

Submitted By David Barrow

Footnote: Frank Long featured elsewhere in this edition remembers his time on the "Birubi" as "the best job of his life."

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**BANLAW***"innovative refuelling specialists"*

The beach girls' luncheon

It must be the sea air that gives people like Val Gibbs such tireless energy. Not content with family commitments, bowls, being a foundation member of Souths Netball association and fundraising for cancer research, prompted by her husband and the Nobby's beach boys' luncheon, Val took up the challenge of organising a similar luncheon for the Cooks Hill girls. Val and good friend Marie, also invited some of the Nobby's girls along, and they had 40 attendees at their inaugural lunch in 2001. The news quickly spread and most of the local surf clubs were represented at the 2nd lunch with 56 girls attending.



Val now has 86 on her mailing list and with an attendance between 55-60 at each beach girls' luncheon, she is proud to say that the majority of those who cannot attend send their apologies. Of course, they have lost some friends along the way, but they are remembered through stories on the day.

She attributes the success of the luncheons to the fact that they are not expensive. The luncheons are held at Souths Leagues and the club helps the ladies out by providing great service and a few extras to keep costs down.

New girls can be a bit intimidated thinking they won't know anyone there, but invariably they do and they renew old friendships and form new ones, said Val.

The luncheons are held twice each year, in June and November and are eagerly anticipated by all



the girls. They are very happy lunches with a minimum of formality where happy tales and stories are told (with an element of truth hopefully !)

Val is often approached with people asking "what is this beach girl thing"?

She says that if you have ever had your bum on a beach – you qualify!

So if you have, you are female, and you are free in late November this year, you might like to give Val a call on 4963 6288 and join this happy group of ladies for a great day – you never know who you might meet up with!

Frank Long - Oh What a life!

Plaque presented to Frank in 1990 recognising 50 years service to NSW SLSCA



Born in 1923, Frank had a happy and colourful childhood which eventually brought him to Lloyd Street Merewether. He recalls “we didn’t arrive until dark. It was a miserable night – raining and blowing a gale....little did we realise we were on top of a high cliff overlooking the city and the sea..the colour of it next morning was love at first sight and that love endures to this day.”

Frank’s brother Noel became an Australian Surf Champion and Frank joined Merewether SLSC aged 16 where he gained his still water and surf Bronze Medallions. He acquired a surf ski and began competing in surf carnivals in swimming and surf ski races.

Frank was a very powerful breaststroke swimmer and he used his ability to full advantage in big seas. Frank loved 2 things - his surf ski and a big wave. He knew no fear of surf conditions and eventually he became a beach inspector and served at Merewether Beach and baths , Stockton Beach and Lambton Pool.

He defined himself as a “dreamer seeking that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, dreaming of those faraway places with strange sounding names” firstly however he became a fitter and turner at BHP and when he decided to up and follow his dream, he found out that his work was

a “protected industry” and he was yanked off the ship that he first boarded as a budding merchant mariner. The next attempt was more successful however and he boarded a large Norwegian tanker as a deck boy with his globite suitcase in hand “as proud as punch”. The chief engineer called out to him “you made it this time – did you run away from home?” he recalls! That trip lasted 4 years 1942 – 1946 and took young Frank between Capetown and Durban in Sth Africa and Aberdare in the Persian Gulf on the Tigris River transporting oil.They had a bit of trouble with a chinese cook in Durban on one occasion And after a bit of a commotion, the crew were transported to the “clink” and locked up overnight, before being sentenced to 3 months hard labour. The Durban prison was full of Pommie deserters however and the crew appealed and were let out after a month. Frank recalls the prison diet of mealie mealie, coffee and bread soup. In



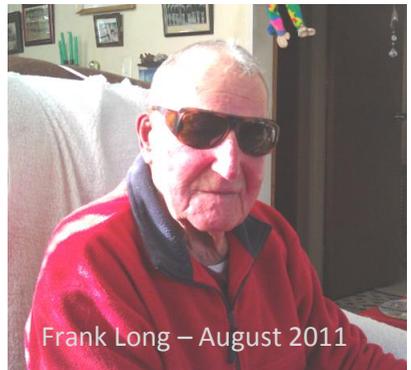


due course, the front page of the Durban Press carried the headline “Gaoled for Nothing –whole Scandinavian crew.” Upon release they were taken to the “Flying Angel” in Durban until they got another ship. The Norwegian consul intervened when a full crew were required at Port Elizabeth so off they went. First stop Capetown to pick up guns thence Dutch Guiana and the Mongo River, Trinidad and then New York. Frank recalls that as there was no insulation on these old ships – the decks were red hot in the Persian Gulf and then the crew were freezing in New York. Frank’s travels took him to US occupied Italy -Naples, Palermo, Sicily,

Alexandria, Egypt, France and back to New York. He and a friend were “jumped” in Alexandria and robbed of the shoes and the clothes on their backs, the other fellow ended up with a broken skull! Finally the ship picked up a cargo of phosphates and was bound for Port Kembla and Newcastle. Xmas was in the Indian Ocean, and finally Frank arrived home to the family in Lloyd Street.

After the war, the family moved to Curry Street. When Frank’s career as a beach inspector began, he used to “warm-up” for the day at Merewether by tying a cotton rope onto a drum and drag it behind him swimming a few laps of the baths to start the day. Once he was

transferred to Stockton, he used to swim across the harbour and back each day to get to work and home again. Frank was a real character whose exploits are many – one day he decided to paddle his surf ski to Sydney taking wine and bread in his waterproof backpack. He ran into a southerly around Swansea so turned back but on his return it was noted that the wine was gone, but the bread remained untouched! Frank was awarded Life membership of Merewether SLSC in 1964 for meritorious service.



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The New Flags

The previously blue flags have been changed to black and white check flags following a decision by Standards Australia to adopt 'an international' standard.

Councils and other managers of lands with beaches where there is lifeguard supervision will adopt these black and white check flags however the signage in symbols and words usually posted with these flags indicating surfcraft prohibited between these black and white check flags, or surfcraft permitted away from the supervised area, remain unchanged.

Like the chequered flag at a finish line, you can consider your race is run if you go into the swimming area marked by these flags with your surfcraft.



Student Expression Section

Year 1 from Holy Family School , Merewether Beach have been studying wet and dry areas.

Student work published receives a \$20 Marketown voucher



Merewether Rock Pools

At the rock pools you can see lots of stuff. A crab is moving along the rocks. You can see sea snails. You can see some starfish or two or maybe three. There are some sea urchins. Don't try to touch them they're spiky.

You can see some little and big shells. They are different shapes and sizes. A sea gull is flying. Another sea gull is walking on the sand.

By Caitlin Age 7 Holy Family, Merewether



Merewether's surfing pedigree in safe hands

The wins by Ryan Callinan and Philippa Anderson on July 16 in the Men's and Women's ASP Fantastic Noodles Pro Junior Titles at Waitpinga Beach on the Fleurieu Peninsula in South Australia highlight the pair as the next emerging ASP World Tour surfers from Merewether Beach.

For Philippa Anderson the win was all the more sweet as she also secured the ASP Australasian Pro Junior Series for season 2011 and qualified for the upcoming ASP World Pro Junior Championship Series, a series of three elite events which begin in Bali during October move to Brazil for round 2 and concludes at Manly Beach in January 2012.

"I never expected to win the Pro Junior Series this year and I can't believe how good I feel right now" said Anderson after her win.



Phillipa has had a busy July and August as she surfed in a 6 star event in Sri Lanka followed by a quick trip to Spain and Portugal for 2 more 6 star events as she tries to qualify for the Dream Tour next year.

The Fantastic Pro Junior Men's final saw Ryan Callinan jump to an early lead thanks to a ride which included a very committed and well executed air reverse final move. He was never headed by his nearest rival Thomas Woods who won the 2011 Series.



Ryan said "These are super hard events to win and I've picked the right one to win because it has also secured my place in the World Juniors in Bali so it's just perfect for me – I love the wave they surf the opening World Pro Junior in (Keramas on Bali's East Coast) and I'll go there full of confidence."

Ryan has had a month to remember in July, being featured in numerous Australian



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surfing magazines and also appearing on the cover of a US surfing magazine doing a huge backside air. In August he finished 3rd in the 6 star Lacanau Pro in France which took him from 495 to 184 on the ASP world rankings.

Another young Merewether local is also making his presence felt in the junior



surfing world. Jackson Baker placed 5th in both the Occy's Grom competition and the Rusty Gromfest. Aged 14, Jackson competed for the 1st time in the U16 competition and he has qualified for the Australian

U16 Surfing championships to be held in Coffs Harbour in November after exceeding expectations at the NSW Junior Titles at Boomerang Beach on the mid North Coast. From there he hopes to earn a place in the world junior championships.

His next big assignment is in Newcastle where he is the two time defending champion of the International Teenage Rampage event. Results of that event were not to hand unfortunately at the time of printing.



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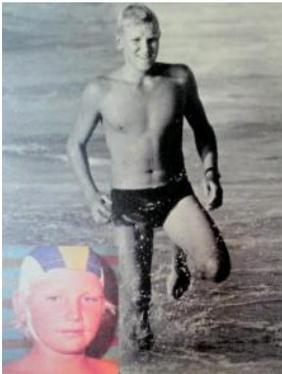


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THURSDAYS	Mexican Fiesta Fun - \$9.90 and Original Soloists Corona Promotion - \$4.90
SUNDAYS	4 - 7PM UDL Promotion - \$5
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Well known Merewether identity Graham **Tamba** Adam has been keeping a daily record of events for over 30 years. Each month he shares a day in his life with us.

In September 2010 I told of the day we lost Scott Mason at the age of 19 – a state champion surf swimmer, and well loved larrikin. On August 20 this year, a group of friends and family came together at the Beach Hotel to celebrate the 20th anniversary of his passing. There were over 100 people in attendance to celebrate the life of this fine young man, some travelling from as far as Queensland to be with his parents Bob and Del and other family members and friends.



It was a great night – a lot of stories told of Scott and a lot of happy memories shared. The large photo collage of Scott including 10 special pictures was much appreciated by all in attendance. I would like to thank Wayne Horton for doing that collage. Great stuff!

I caused a bit of trouble on 5 September this year (the actual day Scott lost his life) when I paddled out on my surf ski to a point just North of Dixon Park to where Scott passed away and raised my paddle in a minute's silence in his memory. That caused a bit of consternation at Dixon Park as a raised paddle is a sign of a shark sighting. Fortunately, one of the Dixon Park boys realised that it was 20 years to the day and that I would be out there paying my respects to Scott.

Taken from us at 19 years of age, so fondly remembered by so many 20 years on.

RIP Scotty



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Waterman News

C4 Team rider Glenn Turner won the September SUP Central contest on the Central Coast. This comes after his win earlier this year in the annual Snowy McAlister contest at Manly Beach. Congratulations Glenno!"

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) has recently approved the new C4 Waterman inflatable rescue (iRescue) board for use by surf clubs and their members. This groundbreaking design utilises state of the art rigid inflatable construction

comprising heavy-duty military grade PVC material with finely stitched high tensile seams.

The iRescue board is a rough and ready surf/paddle/rescue tool that is pliant enough to bounce off rocks, yet still deliver performance and reliability comparable to a rigid board.

Designed for travel, safety, portability and performance the iRescue boards deflates easily for travel and storage and comes complete with a travel bag and hand-pump. The board is soft but stiff, lightweight but strong, portable but rigid when inflated.

The board can be inflated and ready to go in under 3 minutes, making it convenient for all kinds of situations.

But best of all, it can be banged and bumped without being damaged or dinged. The rubber flexible fins also provide safe and functional steering and stability, with less risk of harm or injury to the rider or patient in the event of wipe out or impact.

All this for under \$1000 (excluding delivery). **For more information, or to try out the new iRescue board contact C4 Waterman at www.c4waterman.com.au.**



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In 2010 South Newcastle Rugby League Football Club celebrated it's centenary. Over the next few months "Making Waves" will highlight some of the characters who represented the "red and whites" with distinction .

Barry Lawrence



Barry Lawrence

Barry Lawrence was an outstanding all round sportsman who not only excelled at Rugby League but also surf lifesaving, hockey, and aussie rules. But it was his contribution to the history and performances of the South Newcastle rugby League Club that elevated him to "club legend" status that stands him above almost everybody else before or since.

The arrival of former Great Britain representative player Nat Silcock midway through the 1961 season heralded a golden era for the Souths Club.

In 1962, Souths were emerging as a serious contender for premiership honours when 6 members of the playing squad including Barry were chosen to represent Newcastle against Northern division. Newcastle won this match 37-21.

During his career, Barry played in 4 first grade grand finals for South Newcastle , winning in 1964 and 1968 but beaten in 1962 and 1965.

Throughout his playing career, Barry was never averse to having a chat with the referees and touch judges, being only too happy to give his opinion as to where they were in error. Nor did he mind a little friendly banter with opposing players, none of which can be printed here, a trait that elevated his sledging reputation to legendary status.

Barry was a very successful coach of the u19 sides, winning 2 premierships and guiding future stars through the junior ranks to grade. In 1970, Barry coached the South Newcastle 2nd division side and when the first grade coach, Geoff Noble resigned in July 1978, he took over the reins and guided that side to the grand final.

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Merewether Baths Cleaning Schedule
October 2011

4 October	Tuesday	4.30 AM	0.6
7 October	Friday	8.00 AM	0.5
10 October	Monday	10.00 AM	0.4
17 October	Friday	12.30 PM	0.3
21 October	Monday	2.00 PM	0.4
24 October	Friday	6.00 AM	0.6
28 October	Monday	12.30 AM	0.3
31 October	Friday	2.30 PM	0.1

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

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