

# Making Waves



March 2011

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

We thank our sponsors who assist us to deliver this newsletter to you at no cost.

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*Thank you Mr Tinkler!*

*original image by Steve*



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## Meet Kate



Kate has been involved in Salsa dancing for approximately 5 years and has found her niche in Zumba, the Latin inspired, easy to follow ,calorie burning, dance fitness party. She is bringing the Zumba fitness experience to Merewether Beach!

**Favourite Beaches:** Nobby's for the gentle waves and Merewether for the people

**Favourite Eatery:** Honeysuckle hotel - they have the best lamb cutlets!

**Favourite Movie:** The Notebook – a tear jerking romance – up there with “Ghost”

**Weekend activity:** relaxing at the beach with my friends and family

**Favourite Sport:** Dance of course

**Favourite activity:** learning new Zumba routines

**Favourite thing about your job:** Seeing the happy, smiling faces of the people in my classes

**Quote:** “Let’s Zumba” – you are going to hear that one on Merewether Beach!

**Final Word:** “Be the best you that you can be”...

**PARTY**  
YOURSELF  
INTO **SHAPE**

**MONDAYS @6.30-7.30pm**  
MEREWETHER SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB  
COMMENCING  
**MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**\$10 PER CLASS** (active members \$8.00 per class)



Image by Jenni

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## Spotlight on Les Johns



It was my pleasure recently to meet Les and his wife enjoying our beachfront. Born in 1942 in Newcastle, Les spent his early years in Morgan Street Merewether before moving to Stockton with his family at 16 years of age. Les played his junior football at Souths and went on to be well known as an Australian rugby league player, playing 1<sup>st</sup> Grade for Newcastle's Souths club (1961-62), then the Canterbury-Bankstown club (1963-71), as well as the New South Wales and Australian representative sides. He has been named among the nation's finest footballers of the 20th century. Les was a blond-headed fullback of considerable flair and on his day could be one of the most brilliant attacking and defensive players in the game. Johns played nineteen games for New South Wales and fourteen Tests for Australia.

In the 1960s, Les Johns became a legend when as a fleet-footed fullback and a member of the Newcastle Representative team, he took on the might of the English and won. That was where he stamped himself as an international before heading south to Sydney to link with the Canterbury Bankstown Berries. As popular on field as he was off, Johns enjoyed a wonderful career and has been named in many notable sides.

What is less well known about Les Johns though is his participation in both Cricket and Surfing. Les played cricket for both Merewether and Stockton clubs and had a long career with a number of Sydney clubs over 25 seasons.

He was a familiar figure at Merewether Beach in the early 60's gaining his Surf Bronze in 1959 and was a handy beach competitor and longboard rider. Les was part of a Merewether team that won the beach relay at a Merewether carnival. He owned units in Watkins Street across from the beach for many years which maintained his ties to the area when he moved to Sydney.

*It was a delight to hear that whenever he is able to return to Newcastle that Les's first port of call is Merewether Beach!*

Les Johns –  
Merewether Beach  
January 2011





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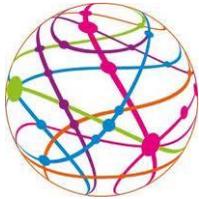
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Merewether Beach – Australia Day.

An eerie sight!

Image by Toni Lee



## Student Expression Section

*The team at Making Waves find it very rewarding writing the articles that come to you each month.*

*We would like to offer students attending schools in the local area the opportunity to see their writing or artwork in print.*

- Student stories can be up to 300 words.
- Local focus preferred but is not essential.
- Stories may be accompanied by an image if desired.
- Stories must be submitted through the student's school.
- Students will only be identified by christian name, age and school.

***Writers of all stories published receive a \$20 voucher courtesy of Marketown.***



☒ Sunday Coldies 4-7 PM

☒ Supporting Merewether Surf Club

☒ Members, their guests and visitors welcome upstairs

☒ Family friendly environment

☒ Beer on Tap

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**MONDAYS** Steak Night – \$12.90

**TUESDAYS** Pasta - \$9.90 and Pool Comp

**WEDNESDAYS** Schnitzel Night - \$9.90 and Trivia

**THURSDAYS** Mexican Fiesta Fun - \$9.90 and Original Soloists  
Corona Promotion - \$4.90

**SUNDAYS** 4 – 7PM UDL Promotion - \$5

**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.

**Australian SLSC Titles  
March 1960  
Merewether Beach.**

I was 9 years old that cloudy Saturday and the sea was a large 6-8 ft. It was like a 3 storey building to me as a 9 year old . I had never seen such a crowd of spectators. The only other comparable crowd of spectators at Merewether beach would be the 2006 Surfest finals day.



The highlights for me were the surfboats and the skis. I watched the Wanda surfboat heading down a huge wave and snap in half and the surfboat from Merewether that was taking out the buoys get smashed to pieces! Skis were getting washed in with no one on them and 1 guy got a ski in the head. He had a huge gash and had blood all over him. I remember seeing that!



The Sunday was a bit calmer but still spectacular and for years after, everytime I go away to Titles and blokes know where I'm from they remember that day as the most spectacular carnival day that they had ever been to, and also one of the best organised! Only 5 years ago as I was putting my ski in the clubhouse, an old bloke came up and said "Gee, skis have changed since my day" and it turns out he won the ski race in 1960 and well into his 70's he had just dropped in to Merewether that day to again see the beach where he won his title. Ironic! I watched the race as a little boy and met the winner all those years later.

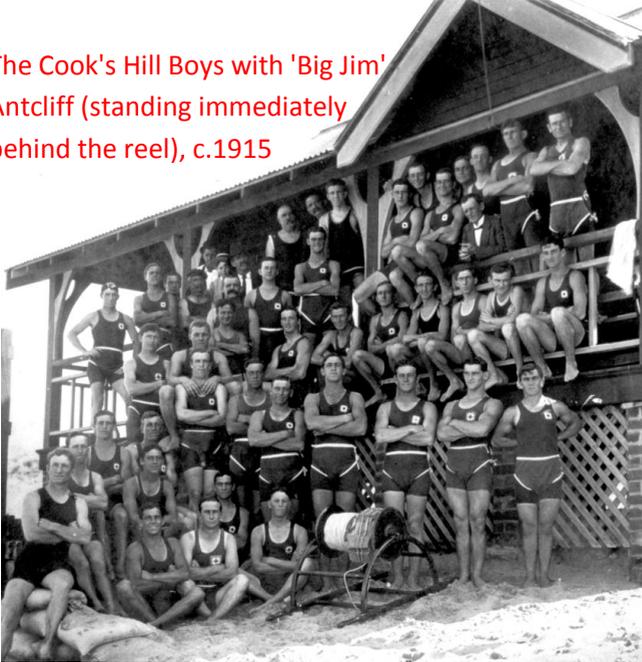


### **'Big Jim' Antcliff,**

### **Club Captain of Cook's Hill Surf Life Saving Club and World War I Hero**

*(Story and images courtesy of John Ramsland – Official Historian Cooks Hill SLSC)*

The Cook's Hill Boys with 'Big Jim' Antcliff (standing immediately behind the reel), c.1915



James Antcliff was Cook's Hill Surf Life Saving Club's third captain in the 1914-15 summer season after James Thompson and David Thompson (the Club founder, April 1911). Known as 'Big Jim' because of his height and muscular build, he was a handsome prince of men and stood out in every club activity, including several successful heroic rescues. He was among the first in the club to be awarded the Royal Life Saving Society and the Surf Bathing Association (later the Life Saving Association) Bronze

Medallions. He captained the successful Rundle Cup R & R team over the three seasons of competition. The Cup was awarded permanently to Cook's Hill by local tailor R.T. Rundle, 'Dick' Rundle, at their first carnival at Bar Beach on Anniversary Day 1915. Dick Rundle presented Captain Jim Antcliff with a tiny 'gold brick' as a memento of the occasion.

Born in the Sandhills (Cook's Hill) in 1893 the eldest of twelve children, James enlisted in the AIF in May 1916. At the time, he was the family's breadwinner as his father had been killed in a train accident. Jim had completed his six year apprenticeship as an iron moulder at Goninan's.

Jim loved the new sport of surfing and played a dominant role in the club. during the 1915-16 swimming season, he became the district's 100 yards swimming champion and headed the club's triumphant March Past team at local carnivals.

Sadly, Jim Antcliff died in action at the age of twenty-three on the Western Front on 7 June 1917, the first day of the assault on Messines Ridge (Hill 60) in Flanders. He and his carrying team were blown apart when an exploding shell hit the parapet of their dugout. He had been a special favourite among the men of Company B, 36<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Newcastle's Own) and well liked by everyone. He was considered a good soldier, always played the game and took and gave a joke, always cheerful and smiling.

Back at home, the Cook's Hill Club members deeply regretted that Antcliff's 'fine manly figure' would never again head their March Past on Newcastle beaches at carnivals. It seemed hardly credible to them, so profound was the shock of their loss.

James Hartley Antcliff is remembered on the Newcastle War Memorial and the Cook's Hill War Memorial at Bar Beach (where his name is incorrectly spelt). He is buried in the 110 Toronto Avenue Cemetery in Belgium near Dead Horse Corner (where his name is spelt correctly)

Read more about the adventures of the Cook's Hill Boys in *Cook's Hill Life Saving & Surf Club. The First Hundred Years* (Brolga Publishing, Melbourne, 2011) to be launched by Sharon Grierson MLA at the Cook's Hill clubhouse on 31 March at 7am. Breakfast provided.

Winning team in the  
Rundle Cup R&R  
competition, Jan 1915.  
Captain Jim Antcliff  
standing behind the Cup



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## The Townson Oval Senior Cyclists



Some time back a friend suggested I take a look at an interesting group of cyclists who meet at Townson Oval, often dressed in the most amazing assortment of clothing..Especially in winter!

Let me introduce a few of these inspirational gents to you, with thanks to Jane Mountford! (Featured in our November edition)

**Kevin Gearing** – Started riding in the early 1950’s on a Wednesday night when Jack Fogo who had an electrical shop at Wallsend and would take him in and together they would assemble the speaker system before the races and take it down afterwards. About 10 years ago he joined the Townson Oval Seniors and found a lot of his old mates that he raced against all those years ago. At 81, Kevin still rides and enjoys the company of his old mates!

**Kevin Wright** - Now aged 76, Kevin is the oldest rider to finish the Grafton – Inverell Cycling Classic (227 kms) 5 times. The last time aged 60. Some years ago, after being stung on the face by a bee during a race in Seaham, a lady jokingly offered him mouth to mouth as he was a bit wonky at race end and his partner at the time flew into a rage, abused them both and left him there. He says it is funny now but certainly wasn’t at the time.

**Maurice Hager** – now aged 74 began racing in 1951 and started winning NSW Junior Track and Road Championships in 1954. In 2001 at the Australian Masters Games, Maurice won 5 Gold Medals in Track, and a further 3 Gold medals in Road - Scratch, Criterium and Hill Climb!

In 2002 at the Australian Masters in Alice Springs he created a new World Record when he won the 500M Time Trial, as well as another 2 Gold and 2 Silver medals before being declared Masters Cyclist of the Year.

**Thomas Martin** – now aged 74 and commenced cycling with Police Boys amateurs

at approx 14 years of age. Twice Northern District Champion as an amateur, Thomas also made his mark as a professional in NSW Track Sprint Championships in 1971-72. Thomas won his first Masters Gold in the 35-40 year age group.

**Bob Ryan** – Bob again began cycling at age 15. His Australian Championship Record stands at 7 wins and 22 places spanning the years 1967 - 1988 when he was declared Australian All round Track Champion. He also won 22 State Championships. Bob's 5 sprint titles are the most professional sprint championships won by 1 person. He has also won 4 international 6 day bike races. But I am going to leave the final word to **Harry Pallister** – now aged 71.



*"I retired back in 1994 and I have an old mate, Jack Welsh who had been cycling competitively from an early age. He told me "Harry, you cannot sit on the front verandah watching the traffic go by. I see men doing this while out on training rides. I see them sitting there day after day for about 6 –7 months then suddenly they disappear never to be seen again." So on this advice, I decided to buy a bike and become a competitor. It can be a dangerous sport but very enjoyable and exciting – but not as dangerous as sitting on the front verandah apparently.*



**Mick Phillips**  
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## How to do a Phd.

If you are silly enough to be contemplating doing a Phd, at least pick a more cheerful topic to be thinking about 24 / 7 for seven years than the history of political opposition to full employment. But if you can't help yourself and you start a Phd on a topic like that, which is bound to make you very cynical with how society operates, I suggest doing as much of it as possible in the vicinity of Merewether beach, in convenient reach of coffee.

There among the passing parade of surfers, kids, business entrepreneurs, dogs, skate boarders, life guards, medicos, retirees, journalists, Christians, uni students, tradespeople, mine workers, parents, grand-parents, unemployed people, academics, baristas, and other beach-addicted types, a less morbid perspective is promptly restored. Important matters such as verification of water temperature and the non-presence of stingers are established through broad consensus-seeking, as you plough through the Statute of Labourers of 1349, or an 1886 debate in the House of Commons.

Even the perennial question of 'have you finished it yet?', and looks of withering disapproval when admitting you hadn't, seem strangely encouraging.

So if you do find yourself contemplating doing a Phd, first seek urgent medical attention, and then book yourself a comfortable spot at Swells. Please do not eat the carrot walnut and banana slice though, as they tend to run out of it as it is.



(Dr) Victor Quirk

*Congratulations Victor on a job well done!*



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# Madam Susie Sparkles

## March

### Astrology Guide



	<b>Pisces</b> February 20th – March 20 Instead of hitting snooze six times every morning like you usually do, this month harden up and get up early like you intended to do.
	<b>Aries</b> March 21 to April 19 Be very wary of whom you make friends with this month. The moon's shadow in your sign is allowing a deceptive Taurean to barge into your life and cause a few headaches.
	<b>Taurus</b> April 21 – May 20 A big change is coming for you Taureans this month. Expect to see several differences occurring for you in your career or social scene as the end of summer brings several new beginnings.
	<b>Gemini</b> May 21 – June 21 Your usual outgoing and extraverted personality has taken a back seat this month. You put your foot in it big time with a friend last month so it's time to seriously keep your mouth shut.
	<b>Cancer</b> June 22 – July 23 Expect to have even more strange and deluded dreams this month. However, don't worry your dreams have no real impact on what is actually going on in your life.
	<b>Leo</b> July 24 – August 23 A friend or relative you haven't seen for some time shows up this month. Whether this is a good thing or a bad thing is not yet showing up in my crystal ball, so you work it out.
	<b>Virgo</b> August 24 – September 23 Stop procrastinating! Your star sign is Virgo, not Procrastittarius! For once in your life, stop planning and talking about what you are going to do, but actually go out and do it!
	<b>Libra</b> September 24 – October 23 The start of Autumn is giving you a chance to turn over a new leaf. I foresee many good things coming for you Librans this month, including a new lover blowing in with the wind.
	<b>Scorpio</b> October 24 – November 22 This March it is time for you to face that challenge that you set yourself so long ago. Although you may feel some nerves, I will let you know now, it is all going to go fine..
	<b>Sagittarius</b> November 23 – December 22 It's time for you to switch off to all those emotions that have been getting you down and causing you so much stress. Stress less Sagittarians!
	<b>Capricorn</b> December 23 – January 20 An asteroid has exploded in your sign. Capricorns, be very aware, you're usually so calm and steady under pressure, but not this month, March is going to be one hell of a ride.
	<b>Aquarius</b> January 21 – February 19 With mercury in your sign until Feb 22 you are at your lively entertaining best. Tackle projects that require innovative thinking and an original approach – you'll be glad you did!

**Merewether Baths Cleaning Schedule**  
**March 2011**

4 Mar	Friday	11.00 AM	0.3
7 Mar	Monday	12.30 PM	0.4
11 Mar	Friday	3.00 PM	0.6
14 Mar	Monday	6.00 AM	0.5
18 Mar	Friday	10.00 AM	0.2
21 Mar	Monday	12.30 PM	0.2
25 Mar	Friday	4.30 AM	0.4
28 Mar	Monday	6.30AM	0.5

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



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Image by Steve