

# Making Waves

September 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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Image by Jenni



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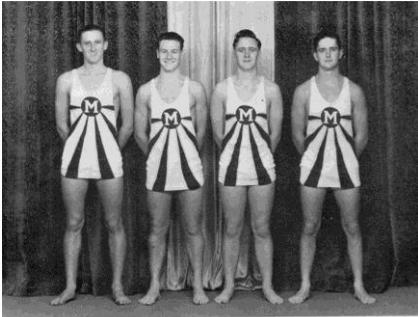
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**SPECIALISING IN HONDA, HYUNDAI AND 4 WD'S****Merewether Baths – Training pool of Champions.****Laurie March**

With the opening of Merewether Baths in 1935, it was only a matter of time before swimmers from Merewether SLSC would



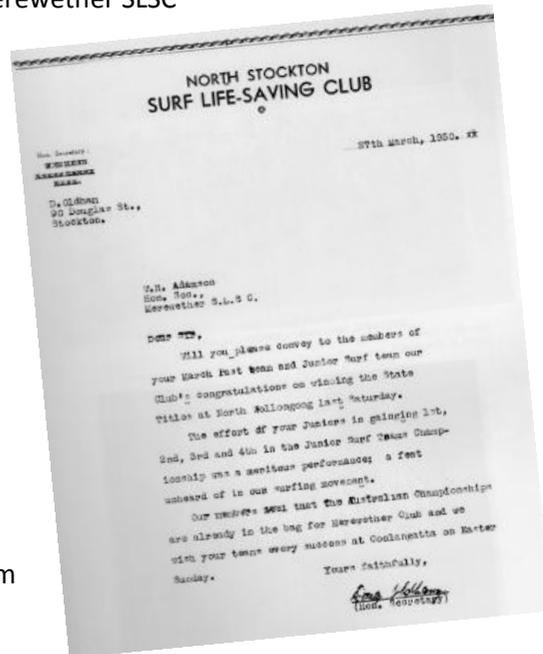
Australian Junior Surf Teams Champions – 1949-50  
L to R: L. March, W. Webster, W. Jones, W. Brien

emerge  
and go  
on to  
become

Australian Champions. In just 10 years, the club claimed its first Australian Gold Medal which was won by the junior surf team of 1946 – Alan Taggart, Noel Long, Geoff Davis and John Beeton.

In 1950, just 3 years later, this team's effort would be eclipsed by another outstanding Merewether SLSC Junior team - "Wagga" Brien, Laurie March, Bill Jones and Bill Webster.

This team went on to win branch and NSW Titles with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places in the teams races. They then went on to win Merewether SLSC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Gold Medal with a 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places. A feat never equalled to this day.

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### 'Take 3 – A Clean Beach Initiative'.

On June 26, 2011, Tim Silverwood embarked on a voyage sailing across the Pacific Ocean from Honolulu to Vancouver to undertake important research into plastic pollution in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

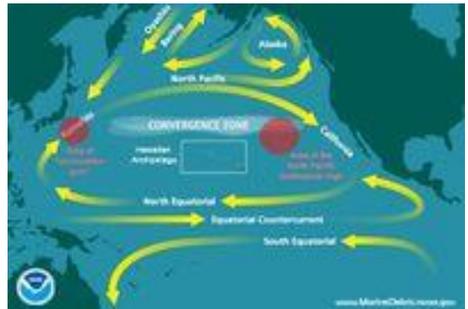


Reportedly twice the size of the France and growing exponentially, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch has been compared to a 'monstrous plastic soup' and is threatening to become one of the great ecological disasters of our time. It's here where ocean currents from Asia and North America converge, bringing together tonnes of plastic debris into a swirling vortex that is rumoured to be doubling in size every 10 years.

Approximately 80% of marine debris is initially discarded on land and is blown, rolled or washed out to sea via our beaches, streams, rivers and storm water drains.

Tim Silverwood is an environmentalist, film maker, photographer and surfer from Merewether. He is co-founder of 'Take 3', a non-profit organization devoted to raising awareness of marine debris and reducing plastic waste in the ocean.

With his colleagues from 'Take 3', Tim is encouraging Australian schools to become involved in the issue of marine debris by following the interactive blog developed by Algalita titled, 'Ship 2 Shore'. Once registered with the free program, primary and high school students: have access to a wealth of information about marine debris; can post questions online for the team to answer; and receive updates from the vessel as it studies the Garbage Patch.



*The aim of Take 3 is to encourage visitors to our beaches to collect just 3 pieces of rubbish to take with them when they leave.*



**MONDAYS @ 6.30-7.30pm**  
**MEREWETHER SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**  
**\$10 PER CLASS** (active members \$8.00 per class)

### **Cook's Hill Life Saving & Surf Club Centenary Dinner, 16 April 2011**

#### **A Parade into History: A Panorama of official costumes. *John Ramsland OAM***

Over the span of a century, Cook's Hill Club official costumes have taken many forms as governed by changing times.

The current Surf Life Saving Association outfit in gold and red is meant to provide the lifesaver on patrol with uniformly the best protection from the sun's rays. The women — Chief Instructor Shaleigh Lennox, Abbey Coburn, Junior Lifesaver of 2010–2011 summer season, and outstanding surfboat rower Rachael Joyce — are splendidly parading this gear with panache.



The men are wearing the different forms the different decades demanded. They have been competently and accurately reproduced by Julie Harrison after many hours of work. The members paraded this gear with reasonable, good (but not carnival-winning) skill, marching in bare feet on the wooden dance floor boards. Their feet are more familiar with the sand of Bar Beach. The team was

drilled for only a couple of hours by Past President and former surfboat rower Rod Harrison.

Phil Garroway wore the most recent and the barest informal outfit: royal blue and white speedos which certainly

enhanced the almost bare buttocks needed for surfboat rowing competition.

The late 1930s and early 1940s costume, the singlet variety in navy blue with Cook's Hill Surf Club emblazoned on the chest, may have seemed the most modest in more ways than one and was frequently worn in the R&R competitions. Long-serving Club Captain Daniel Solomon — who wore the belt in the March Past — is modelling this number with perfect modesty and dignity.



The fashion in the 1910s and 1920s, however, was to wear a kind of tight-fitting pair of underpants over the top revealing how well hung (or not) was the wearer. Such an overlay could be quite revealing as many early group photographs attest. Ken Lawrence, Club Deputy President, is wearing a white number from the 1928–1929 season with two blue horizontal hoops and a red one in between.

Club Secretary David Knight and expert boatie and Past President Courtney Street are modelling the two dominant styles of the 1920s and 1930s — again the singleted costume with modesty skirt as befitting the times. Courtney's 1920s costume is navy blue with a club badge over the left breast and a white stripe around the hips; David's (1934/5 model) is more striking — a slightly paler blue with a club shield on the lower chest and two white horizontal stripes.

During and after World War II, white costumes seemed particularly favoured, the first with two broad diagonal blue slashes fringed with red (1945 model) as worn by Club stalwart David O'Hara; next, an even more predominately white costume with a club logo shield in the centre of the chest, the current formal number, is worn by Andrew Howard, Club President carrying the Club flag. All were singleted, but there were, over the years, too many other variations to describe here. Nevertheless, the colours used were always blue, white and red.

The centenary parade, presented by the Master of Ceremony former Knights player Mark Glanville, was magnificently led in by the splendid music of an authentic Scottish military band wearing black-watch tartan and bear-skin busbies — the City of Newcastle RSL Pipe Band.

Now sadly, the March Past as a carnival competition event is well past its use-by-date and rarely takes place except in retro terms. At the centenary dinner, however, the March Past nostalgia resulted in a most entertaining display that held the large gathering enthralled. It kicked off the evening of centenary celebrations in a most successful manner. The March Past participants were in high demand returning later in the evening at the request of Club patrons Roy and Kay Duffy who offered a most generous donation for their return. Then the historical costumes were auctioned, raising more funds for the Club.



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The great variety of costumes throughout its hundred years is displayed in the centenary history book, *Cook's Hill Life Saving & Surf Club. The First Hundred Years* by John Ramsland. This is now available from the clubhouse which is usually open between 3.30 and 6.30pm most Sundays.

## Meet Maxine Stokes - National Finalist for Miss World Australia 2011

### First ever Miss Newcastle

[www.maxinestokes.com.au](http://www.maxinestokes.com.au)



**Intro** – I am a born and bred Merewether girl, I have travelled and worked in fifteen countries through Europe, the Middle East, and various parts of Asia and around Australia in a 1971 Volkswagen Kombi. Living with the barest of comforts and luxuries for nearly 12 months was a stack of fun and a great experience. One of my greatest achievements was when I walked the Pilgrimage Trail from France to Spain - 900 km in 2008. Currently Studying Communications &

Media Full time, Volunteering & fundraising, working at The Junction Hotel as Promotions Manager and Hosting Trivia Keeps me very busy.

**Favourite Beach:** Cable beach in Broome WA, I will never forget how blue the water was and how white the sand was, plus we could park the kombi on the beach all day!

**Favourite Eatery:** My House, Barbeques on the veranda, there is nothing like it!

**Favourite "thing":** Spending an entire day at the beach from sunrise to sunset with my friends and family.

**Favourite thing about your jobs-** There is always something new to learn and I love the variety of people I get to meet every day.

**Spare time is spent** – Keeping fit and healthy – I have just gotten into Yoga and I am loving it!

**Quote:** "Laugh as much as you breathe and love as long as you live."

**Final word:** Newcastle is the BEST location to live in the world, there is no place like home. I feel extremely lucky to have lived my life in such a beautiful place!... Life is meant to be lived, take risks, have no regrets and do what you love. As everyone around the world says.....Life is too short so get LIVING!

***When life gives you lemon – Make lemonade!***



Year 1 from Holy Family School , Merewether Beach have been studying wet and dry areas – here is some of their work!  
*Student work published receives a \$20 Marketown voucher*



### Take Care of Our Beach

Do not litter at the beach so the animals don't die.

Do not drop litter in the rock pools.

Do not leave fishing line around the beach.

Do not take shells home because they can be used for homes.

LOOK BUT DO NOT TOUCH!

*By Miller – Age 7*



# GO INZANE

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

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>MONDAYS</b>  | <b>Steak Night - \$12.90</b>   |
| <b>TUESDAYS</b>   | <b>Pasta - \$9.90 and Pool Comp</b>  |
| <b>WEDNESDAYS</b>   | <b>Schnitzel Night - \$9.90 and Trivia</b>   |
| <b>THURSDAYS</b>  | <b>Mexican Fiesta Fun - \$9.90 and Original Soloists<br/>Corona Promotion - \$4.90</b> |
| <b>SUNDAYS</b>  | <b>4 - 7PM UDL Promotion - \$5</b>   |
| <b>FRIDAY to SUNDAY Newcastle's Best Live Entertainment</b> |  |



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.

**Saturday September 18, 2010.** I was returning home after 2 days at Port Stephens and as I drove round the Beach Hotel corner, I saw the biggest, cleanest swell I had seen in quite a while. 6-8 feet with the odd 10 footer. As I turned the corner I saw a bomb on the 3<sup>rd</sup> reef and a paddleboarder was on it! At first I thought it was big wave legend Archie Mawkes from Dixon Park but then I realised it was local lifeguard Drew Blatchford. I turned and parked up above the baths to watch and see where would be the best place for me to get out. As I watched I saw a bloke jump off the blocks behind the baths. He got smashed up pretty bad, so I decided to walk around to Burwood just past the 2<sup>nd</sup> pipe. A place I spend a lot of time fishing. If you don't time it right there, it can get pretty nasty but I got out pretty clean this time. The final of the Mattara surf classic was being held at Merewether at the time when I went into the water. There were several other free surfers out as well but they were giving the contestants a fair go. I probably got the best half dozen waves I've had on the 3<sup>rd</sup> reef for a long time that day. On 1 wave I took off, looked inside and saw Ryan Callinan inside me take the drop and realising he was in the final, I pulled off straight away and I'm glad I did because it was his wave and he went on to win the final! His father Gary was very happy to see me pull off the wave when I did. Later, I was sitting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> reef having a chat with Mick Adam and Martin McMillan when someone yelled "out the back"! The first wave of the set broke on my head and the force of the wave just snapped my board in half..... It was a long swim back in!



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### The Merewether Carlton Crest

In the 1980s, Merewether Carlton Rugby Club adopted the crest of the Merewether family, the original settlers of the Merewether area.

The crest carries the latin 'Vi Et Consilio', which translates to 'with strength and wisdom'.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  2011

# Awabakal Wildflower Walk

## Awabakal Nature Reserve

Meet in the car park at the far end of Ocean Street, Dudley  
**Sunday September 4, anytime 10.00 – 3.00**

Join us in a day of nature-based activities to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk. Guided tours and activities with botanical experts, nature photographers, ecologists, and National Parks Discovery Rangers. Enjoy a slow guided walk through the spring wildflowers of the coastal heath against the backdrop of the Pacific Ocean.

All members of the public, all ages welcome. Easy walking along sandy tracks.  
Bring a hat, a camera, and something to drink.

**For more information phone**  
John Simpson 0400 882 897  
Maree McCarthy 0410 405 815  
Greg Giles 4961 1105 (A.H.)

Organised by the National Parks Association (Hunter Branch)



Making Waves is pleased to announce that copies of the newsletter are being added to the Local Studies collection at Newcastle Region Library in the Cultural Centre on level 2 and preserved for future researchers.



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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 .***

### Cliff Ireland

Cliff Ireland retired during the 1972 season. He is recognised as another of the legendary South Newcastle players of his era. He is a quiet, unassuming man but he was a deadly defender who with Paul Mahoney formed an almost impregnable barrier for any opposition for many years.

Cliff began his career with Souths under 16's. In 1961 he graduated from the juniors straight into first grade. After only 6 first grade games, he was selected to represent Newcastle in the country championships. He represented against England in 1962.

Due to injury and work commitments, Cliff missed most of the 1963, 64 and 65 seasons. He resumed playing in 1966 and finally in 1968 his dreams of a grand final win were realised when South Newcastle defeated Lakes United 9-6. Cliff played in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row and contributed greatly to the win with a try and some punishing tackling.

In 1969 Cliff played his 100<sup>th</sup> grade game for South Newcastle and again won the "Best Forward" award in 1970 and 71 – a testament to his talent and endurance.

a true model citizen and athlete. Cliff is a Life Member of Merewether SLSC (1982). Cliff spent 39 years in the NSW Fire Brigades before retiring. He joined

Merewether SLSC and attained his Surf Bronze medallion in 1958. He started surf rowing as a 16 year old with Merewether, and some 53 years later is still going; competing recently at the 2011 Aussie Titles at Kurrawa in the 240 years age group (average age of 60 years per rower). In recent years, crews that Cliff has rowed with have won NSW, Australian and World titles. Cliff is still a member of the club and can be found every morning at the club gym, followed by a swim and a cup of tea.



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### The Shape of things to come?

Over recent months, a number of East Coast Lows have seen our beaches pounded by huge swells and waves which have seen beach erosion that will take months to repair.

Researchers from the University of NSW Water Research Laboratory are studying Dixon Park Beach and 9 other beaches along the NSW coast over the next 3 years as part of a project to develop a global tool to forecast how changes in wave patterns and rising sea levels affect beach erosion.



The research team is using equipment mounted on quad bikes, power skis, aircraft, fixed cameras and buoys to measure the height, power and impact of waves. Each beach is photographed throughout the day, and surveyed each month by quad bike. Specially equipped jet skis and boats study the ocean floor to a depth of 20 metres.

Scientists presently do not have a tool which enables accurate predictions of how changing wave patterns and rising

sea levels will affect beach erosion and the subsequent impact on planning decisions regarding coastal building in the future.

***It could well be that this research will reveal that wave activity is a bigger influence on beach erosion than sea level rises.***

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## Merewether Baths Cleaning Schedule

### September 2011

|              |          |          |     |
|--------------|----------|----------|-----|
| 1 September  | Thursday | 12.30 AM | 0.2 |
| 8 September  | Thursday | 7.30 AM  | 0.5 |
| 15 September | Thursday | 11.30 AM | 0.4 |
| 22 September | Thursday | 5.30 AM  | 0.6 |
| 29 September | Thursday | 11.30 AM | 0.1 |

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

# Jetset

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Matt Hoy – Merewether. July 7, 2011



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