

NT Surflife 19 March 2009

NT Surflife is for members, friends and supporters of Surf Life Saving Northern Territory. It provides brief information on the latest news and activities on the national and Territory scene. It is not designed to replace club newsletters - the primary source of news from your local club.

New items in this edition of NT Surflife...

Interstate Team wins handicap trophy again

Mindil Beach Patrol Team unflustered by shark attacks, drunks and ducks

NT Duo paddle for inaugural Womens Double Ski Championship

Thankyou to North Cottesloe SLSC

New Website for Lifeguards

NT Wins Interstate Handicap Trophy Again

For the second year in a row a talented NT Team has won the handicap trophy for the Surf Life Saving Interstate Team competition. The emphatic win came in big surf and difficult conditions at the 2009 Whereis® Australian Surf Life Saving Championships at Scarborough Beach. SLSNT President Bob Creek said it was a great performance with many NT competitors showing great courage to tackle the wild seas that confronted them on the day. "There is no doubt this surf experience helps our members use all the skills they learn in the surf lifesaving training and it was great to see their courage and skill on the day," Bob said. Due to the heavy surf conditions, the surfboats were limited to one round of racing after officials decided it was too dangerous to continue. This was disappointing for the Gove Peninsula Womens Surfboat Crew who on Sunday competed in the pre-Aussies carnival at Fremantle and won their division against all local and interstate competition. The crew will compete again tomorrow (Friday 20th March) in the first rounds of the Australian Open Championship. The NT Interstate Team was supported by selected draft competitors, all of whom jumped at the chance to compete for the Top End. The NT members of the team were...

Darwin SLSC - Julia Bridle, Rachel Chalada, Kim Clark, Hanna Mitchener and Sherie Tracey;

Broome SLSC - Carrie Selten and David Aristei;

Gove Peninsula SLSC - Alan Cross, Charles Rue, Greer Ashby, Brinkley Dennerley, Keara Blundell and Denise Marrable.

The final Interstate Team handicap scores for 2009 were:

1st NT 452.80; 2nd VIC 411.40; 3rd WA 411.30; 4th TAS 407.40; 5th SA 400.30; 6th QLD 387.20; 7th NSW 385.00

Mindil Beach Patrol Team unflustered by shark attacks, drunks and ducks

The Mindil Beach SLSC patrol team performed creditably yesterday (Wed 18th March) at Trigg Beach in Perth when they contested the Champion Patrol competition of the 2009 Whereis® Australian Surf Life Saving Championships. The team of Craig Croke (Capt), Tony Snelling, Thanh Thanh Thai, Carney Broadbent, Moira and Michael Wigley are the first time Top End patrol team to enter this national competition and received great praise and encouragement from their competitors and the officials for their efforts. The patrol scenario was a highlight according to Captain, Craig Croke. He said the team had to check and prepare their patrol equipment in three minutes then, in the next 10 minutes they were assessed on their responded to a range of surf rescues and emergency situations. "We had a body surfer

with a broken hand, a surfer with a shark bite to the legs, two drunken men who stole a boat and rammed it into the beach - one suffering a dislocated shoulder then, to cap it all off, a distressed lady who had found a seabird with a broken wing asked us for help.” Craig said it was great experience and according to some of the veteran competitors ‘the most difficult patrol scenario ever used at the Australian Championships’.

NT Duo paddle for inaugural Womens Double Ski Championship

Jo Gardiner and Sherie Tracey have paddled their way into the semi-final of the inaugural Open Womens Double Ski race at the 2009 Whereis® Australian Surf Life Saving Championships at Scarborough Beach. Their performance today in the surf was very heartening as the talented duo put on a flawless performance around the course, easily mastering the surf and out maneuvering their opposition around the triangular 750m course. This is the first year an Open Womens Double Ski Championship has been offered.

Thankyou to North Cottesloe SLSC

The North Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club have been terrific supporters of the NT Interstate Team and all NT competitors in the Australian Championships. They have helped with the loan of gear and equipment and made their club facilities available to our Territory lifesavers for breakfast each day and for team meetings. To Club President, Craig Smith-Gander, and Club Administrator, Kelly Moss, we extend our deep appreciation for your wonderful hospitality. Also a big thankyou to the North Cott Boaties who helped prepare the new surfboat for the Gove Peninsula SLSC - Jack Alliss and James McLaughlin in particular.

New Website for Lifeguards

The new Australian Lifeguard Service website is now live! Go to: www.lifeguards.com.au The website is invaluable for all lifeguards regardless of where they work or who employs them. Check out the great news and information and don't miss the brilliant new promotional video in the multimedia section. The official launch of the website will be witnessed by NT Surf Lifesavers tomorrow (Fri 20th March) at the 2009 Whereis® Australian Surf Life Saving Championships at Scarborough Beach.

Australia's first Surf Life Saving Club in an Indigenous Community

History was made on Saturday 7th March 2009 when Djawa Burarrwanga and Stuart Kellaway represented the fourth club to be affiliated with Surf Life Saving Northern Territory - the Walnawu Djakamirri Surf Life Saving Club. The affiliation was unanimously supported when the motion was put to affiliate the new club following a presentation about the growth and development of the club over the last 2 years. SLSNT President said the club had emerged from the highly successful Indigenous Water Safety Program for Yirrkala and the surrounding homelands communities.

It is Australia's first Surf Life Saving Club in an indigenous community.

Djawa and Stuart spoke enthusiastically about the Surf Club concept in Yirrkala and thanked the staff and volunteers for their commitment to this innovative project. Recognition was also made of the local community, especially the youth at the Yirrkala Community Education Centre and the Yirrkala Homelands School, who

worked so hard to complete the requirements of their accredited lifesaving training.

There is still much work to do with a major opening of activities planned for the weekend of 13-14 June at Shady Beach, Yirrkala, including the launch of the Nipper program.

Gove Peninsula club up for SLSA's "Club of the Year"

The selection for SLSA's 2009 Club of the Year includes the Gove Peninsula SLSC and will be announced tomorrow night (Fri 20th March) at the SLSA Awards of Excellence. The Gove Peninsula SLSC is an active club in all aspects of Surf Life Saving and have the remarkable distinction that around 1 in 5 people in Nhulunbuy are members of the club - recognition of the amazing amount of support from the community for the club. This year it has progressed its ambitious building program, initiated a best practice patrol audit system and conducted numerous youth development activities.

Bernie, Craig and Charles nominated for National Recognition Awards

Our Lifesaver of the Year, Bernie Whelan and Volunteer of the Year - Craig Croke, were interviewed today (Thurs 19th March) by an SLSA Selection Panel in Perth as part of the search for Australia's Lifesaver and Volunteer of the Year. Bernie is also being considered for a Trainer of the Year award, Craig is up for an Official of the Year award and Charles Rue is nominated in the Coach of the Year category for his untiring efforts with the Gove Peninsula Women's Surfboat Crew and their interstate successes during 2008. To be nominated for these national awards is a huge honour and our thoughts will be with them this Friday evening, 20th March, at the SLSA Awards of Excellence, when the national winners are announced.

Rachel McLean - Superfish

Popular Darwin Surf Club member, Rachel McLean, competed last weekend in the 2009 Australian Open Water Championships in Sydney and recorded the amazing time of 1 hour and 5 seconds for the 5 km event. This awesome performance means she is ranked nationally as 2nd in her age group (girls 17-18yrs) and 7th in the Open Women's category. Congratulations Rachael, your commitment and hard work is really starting to pay off!

Telstra Offer includes Surf Club Donation

Connect today to an eligible Next G mobile or Bigpond Broadband service (ADSL or Wireless), mention this offer and Telstra will contribute \$30 to the surf life saving club of your choice! To find out how simply visit www.answerthecall.co.au or drop in to the Telstra Shop. This excellent fundraising opportunity is backed by World Life Saving Champions and Surf Life Saving star, Zane Holmes who said, "Our surf lifesavers need support to keep our beaches safe. This an easy way to help with much needed resources". You also get an awesome Surf Life Saving Beach Towel, valued at \$39.95 (while stocks last). The offer ends on 26th April.

Arafura Games 2009

The Arafura Games are in Darwin Saturday 9th May to Sunday 17th May. This premiere international event is held every two years and key features of the International Lifesaving program are:

- A fully revised and exciting program of lifesaving events and coaching.
- An Interclub Competition in Open Water and Beach events. Interclub competitors will compete separately to the Arafura Games events but the same rules apply.
- Invitation events - 2 km beach run, 2 km board paddle, 5 km ski paddle (single and double). Also Masters!

Things that need to be done now...

We urgently need officials and a workforce for setup and packup! All officials and volunteers should register during February. See Arafura Games accreditation information below or call SLSNT on (08) 8985 6588 for advice on how you can help.

NT Academyline...

Academy Courses - Trainers Needed

The Australian Lifesaving Academy NT is under great pressure with lifeguard training and an unprecedented demand from the community for our courses. Our reputation as providers of excellent courses is spreading rapidly and we are struggling to meet the demand. If you are able to be a casual or part-time trainer please contact Julie Snelling on 8985 6588 or email julie.snelling@lifesavingnt.com.au

General Information...

SLSNT Contact details follow...

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Schools Coordinator, Amy Rudolph: schools@lifesavingnt.com.au

Lifeguard Supervisor: Cameron Griffin: lgsupervisor@lifesavingnt.com.au

General/Public Enquiries: surf@lifesavingnt.com.au

Key Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 17th March to Sunday 22nd March: Australian Championships, Scarborough Beach, WA.

Saturday 20th June: Darwin's Classic Fannie Bay Swim

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