

NT Surflife

8 October 2009

NT Surflife is for members 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 intended to replace club newsletters – the primary source of news from your local club.

NEW ITEMS IN THIS EDITION ...

SLSNT Annual Presentation Evening – come and celebrate on Saturday 14th November

We're looking for some heroes

Pool Comp on Sunday 8th November

Darwin's top Women Lifesavers tackle Tasmanian endurance event

Jo Gardiner – first NT Lifesaver to enter the Coolangatta Gold

Call for Interstate Team nominations

Thanks to Lifesavers at Swimming NT Champs at Lake Bennett

SLSNT Annual Presentation Evening – come and celebrate on Saturday 14th November

Surf Life Saving NT is celebrating 20 years as a peak body for surf life saving in the Top End – an achievement that will be formally recognised at the SLSNT Annual Presentation Evening on Saturday 14th November at the 'The Coffee Club', a brand new café-restaurant in the glorious Waterfront precinct. The function will be held from 6.30pm with food and a complimentary drink on arrival. **Tickets are essential but are limited**: Adults \$25 (18 years and over), Youth \$10. Highlights of the evening will include the announcement of our Surf Lifesavers of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Lifeguard of the Year. We'll also be presenting some Lifesaving Commendations and the first SLSA Bronze Medallions to members of the Walngawu Djakamirri Surf Life Saving Club. Mark this special occasion on your lifesaving calendar now – more details next week.

We're looking for some heroes...

Over the next 3 weeks nominations are being called for Surf Life Saving NT's peak recognition awards ...

- Surf Lifesaver of the Year (U17, U19, Open)
- Volunteer of the Year
- Lifeguard of the Year
- Lifesaving Commendations – anyone performing an outstanding act of lifesaving

For the Surf Lifesaver and Volunteer of the Year nominations clubs are invited to submit one nominee each. Circulars 06, 07, 08 and 09 have all the required information – please email surf@lifesavingnt.com.au or call 8985 6588 for all the details. Nominations close Friday 31st October.

Pool Comp on Sunday 8th November

SLSNT's competition season will officially finish with a Pool Rescue Competition on Sunday afternoon, 8th November, 2-5pm at Casuarina Pool. Events will be contested in 4 person teams and will include the 200m Obstacle Relay, Line Throw, and Manikin Tow, some adapted events such as Board Rescue, and some fun team events including the hilarious Lane Surfing event. Age categories for the teams are Junior (U11-U14), Seniors (U15 & above) and Masters (each competitor aged 40 years or over). Teams can be all one gender or mixed. Circular 10 has all the details or call SLSNT on 8985 6588.

Darwin's top female Lifesavers tackle Tasmanian endurance event

In two-person teams Lee-anne Kelly & Jo Gardiner and Carrie Turner & Kristen Edwards are tackling the multi-sport Freycinet Lodge Challenge in Tasmania this weekend. These awesome women will run, paddle kayaks, and ride mountain bikes and road bikes around craggy and dramatic mountains, sea cliffs, forest tracks, and across the striking blue-green sea of the gorgeous Wineglass Bay, all on the east coast of Tasmania. Last year Carrie and Kristen won the Womens 2-Team category and they're out to defend their title. For Jo Gardiner and Lee-anne Kelly the Top End rivalry will be a huge incentive with Gardiner using the event as a peak effort leading in to the Coolangatta Gold next week – see more news below on this one. Our best wishes go to these amazing women, all are also great surf lifesavers.

Jo Gardiner – first NT Lifesaver to enter the Coolangatta Gold



When Surf Life Saving challenged the nation's athletes with the iconic nib Coolangatta Gold Ironman race our very own Jo Gardiner thought, why not? Undeterred by the reputation of this unrelenting test of endurance, the ultimate test of torture and the inevitable battle with unforgiving conditions Jo single-mindedly embarked on a comprehensive training program earlier this year to produce the peak level of physical fitness needed to compete in 'the Gold' on Sunday 18th October. Jo will be paddling her ski and board, swimming and running over a spectacular 30.5km Gold Coast course in the Masters Womens division. More details next week.

Call for Interstate Team Nominations

The Surf Life Saving Interstate Championship will be held in Sydney on Sunday 24 January 2010 at the Warringah Aquatic Centre followed by surf and beach events on Monday 25 January at scenic Freshwater Beach on the North Shore near Manly.

Interstate Team members will also be invited to compete in the Freshwater and Manly Surf Carnivals, before and after the Championships, making this an awesome competition and development experience. SLSNT is looking for men and women to contest 12 pool rescue events and 18 beach and surf events in 3 age divisions – Under 15, Under 17 and a combined Under 19-Open group. It will be a great competition, full of action including beach flags & sprints, board, ski and ironman races and 3 rounds of Mens & Womens surfboat racing. A travel and accommodation subsidy will be provided. If you performed at a high level in the NT Champs, and/or in your club surf sports program, and would like to be considered for the Interstate Team please contact SLSNT on 8985 6588 or email surf@lifesavingnt.com.au Nominations close Monday 9th November.

Wanted - Interstate Team Manager & Interstate Team Coach

SLSA is seeking members for the volunteer roles of Manager and Coach (2 separate positions) for the 2010 NT Interstate Surf Life Saving Team. Experience in Surf Life Saving competition - as a competitor, official or coach - and good organizational and communication skills are essential and - a travel and accommodation subsidy will be provided. These are highly rewarding and enjoyable roles as you will be part of a talented, highly motivated team of athletes as they defend the NT's status as the National Handicap Shield Champions (two years in a row, can we make it a hatrick?). A full job description and more information can be obtained from SLSNT CEO Tony Snelling on 8985 6588 or email tony.snelling@lifesavingnt.com.au Nominations close Monday 9th November.

THANK YOU - Surf Lifesavers at Swimming NT Open Water Champs

It was dark when an excellent team of volunteer Surf Lifesavers left Darwin last Saturday morning to provide class water safety for competitors in the Swimming NT Open Water Championships last Saturday at Lake Bennett, some 80 km south of Darwin. A big thankyou for the excellent job done by Stefan Krampe, Jack Adams, Daniel Anderson, Julie Snelling, Rachel Chalada, Rhiannon Oakhill, Darryl Bullard and Tony Snelling for manning the IRB, surf skis and rescue boards needed to look after this long distance swimming championship. And a special mention for Robert Gerlach, also a member of the Darwin SLSC, who won the 10 km swim – not bad for a 14 year old!!!

Great Weekend at the NT Surf Life Saving Championships (26-27 Sept)

The 2009 Westpac Junior Surf Life Saving Championships and the Perkins Shipping Senior Surf Life Saving Championships, hosted by the Gove Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club last weekend in Nhulunbuy, saw 176 competitors from the Gove Peninsula, Darwin, Mindil Beach, Broome and Walngawu Djakamirri Surf Life Saving Clubs compete in over 120 events.

On Saturday, the Senior Championships kicked off with surfboat racing with Broome winning the Open Womens surfboat while Gove, coached by veteran sweep Charles Rue, smashed the opposition with a powerful Open Mens crew and backed up to win the surfboat relay.

The U15 female events were dominated by Gove's Maddi Reid and Gabby Parsons while the male events were a clean sweep for Darwin's Robert Gerlach. In the U17 events Sam Putland (Gove) won every event, including the ironman while clubmates Emma Whelan and Maria McGill took care of the female events but there were no gold medals for Gove in the U19 division where Broome's David Aristei and Darwin's Megan Gallagher were dominant. Both have improved enormously in the last 12 months and have developed into multi-skilled athletes with superb skills in surf swimming, board and ski paddling.

In the Open Mens events nobody dominated the gold medals. Talented Darwin swimmer Josh Mitchener won the Surf Race, Darwin's Ross Peasnell won a hotly contested ski race while Joshua Edwards took out the beach sprint and beach flags events. Gove fought back when a super-fit Alan Cross won the board race. It was different in the Open Women's events where outstanding Broome lifesaver Carrie Selten won four gold – board, ski, beach flags and beach sprint but she couldn't catch Megan Gallagher in the swim. Gallagher went on to also win the grueling ironwoman race, a remarkable effort considering she doubled her workload by competing in her U19 age category as well as Open events.

Masters competition continues to grow in NT surf lifesaving and all events were strongly contested. Darwin competitor Ross Peasnell, recently transferred from the Anglesea SLSC in Victoria, was unbeatable in the ski race despite the best efforts of Tony Snelling (Mindil Beach) and Charles Rue (Gove) who picked up the silver and bronze medals. In the female masters events Adrienne Willing (Gove) was too good in both beach events, Moira Wigley (Mindil Beach) won the swim and board races and Darwin President, Helen Gould, showed skill in the surf to win gold in the ski race.

The senior ironman race capped off a great day for the host club when Gove's Alan Cross defeated Darwin Surf Club's Sam Creek and Dale Frew. The three athletes were shoulder to shoulder in the swim and surf ski legs of the race and threw themselves back into the water for the board paddle with less than 5 metres separating them. In the closing stages of the board leg Cross opened up a few precious metres to take the lead back onto the beach - it was just enough to hold off Creek and Frew in the final 100m soft sand run to the finish, much to the delight of the home crowd.

The overall club points score for the senior championships was Gove Peninsula SLSC - 639 points, Darwin SLSC - 556 pts, Broome SLSC - 145 points, Mindil Beach SLSC - 130 points and Walngawu Djakamirri SLSC - 12 points.

SLSNT President Bob Creek said the standard of competition in the NT continued to increase and paid special tribute to Mundul Ganawurra, Rulminydwuy Mununggur and Yanggurrk Wunungmurra for being the first members of the new Walngawu Djakamirri SLSC to contest championship events. Mundul was the centre of another special occasion when she was drafted by Broome for the All Age Relay resulting in a bronze medal.

On Sunday strong south-easterly winds pushed up a consistent surf break and a steady northerly inshore current but this didn't deter over 80 junior lifesavers in their age divisions from U8 to U14. Each age division contested the beach sprint, beach flags, board race and surf swim while the U11-U14s also competed in the ironman races.

The Gove Peninsula SLSC was completely dominant in the U8, U9, U10 and U11 categories thanks to age champions Tyler Beauchamp, Olivia Russel, Nicolaas Ploegsma, Jordin Ritchie, Tom McGrath, Sinead Salisbury, William Briggs and Elizabeth Kestel. In the U12s Paul McNamara and Gemma Britton from Darwin were convincing age champions while in the U13s Darwin's James Parry was male age champion and Gove's Ellen Guiney had a great day to win the U13 female title.

Broome SLSC's Wade Clark won the U14 male title and shows great promise for the future as he now moves toward the senior competition. Wade was a very deserving recipient of the inaugural Tony Tilley Junior Encouragement Award. The overall club points score for the junior championships was Gove Peninsula SLSC - 731 points, Darwin SLSC - 321 pts, Mindil Beach SLSC - 66 points, Broome SLSC - 31 points.

Bob Creek praised the performance of Top End's young lifesavers, swimming and paddling their boards through nearly 300 metres of choppy surf conditions. "These young people have developed a superb level of skill and confidence in open water and are great ambassadors for their Surf Clubs and their communities," he said. "I am sure they will grow up to be terrific lifesavers." He also praised the referees, officials, work party, water safety and staff who made the 2009 Championships enormously successful.

Major Change to Ordering Surf Life Saving Gear & Equipment

The Creta / Surftrade ordering system is no longer available to supply patrol gear, manuals and equipment to clubs. In its place is a new and improved Online Shop due to open for business by mid October. The new system will reduce the cost to clubs of key products and expand the range of relevant gear available to clubs (including a range of fundraising merchandise for clubs). SLSA will notify all clubs with details of the new Online Store soon.

General Information...

SLSNT contact details follow...

Phone: (08) 8985 6588. CEO mobile phone is 0417 173 287.

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Post: PO Box 96, Nightcliff, NT, 0814

Email addresses follow:

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

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

Key Dates for your Diary...

Sun 18 October: nib Coolangatta Gold

Sun 8th November: Pool Rescue Competition, 2pm-5pm.

Sat 14 November: SLSNT Annual Presentation Evening.

22- 26 Jan 2010: Interstate Champs, Manly & Freshwater Surf Carnivals.

Tue 16 March to Sun 21 March, 2010: Whereis Australian Surf Life Saving Championships, Kurrawa Beach on the Gold Coast.

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