

SURF BOATS

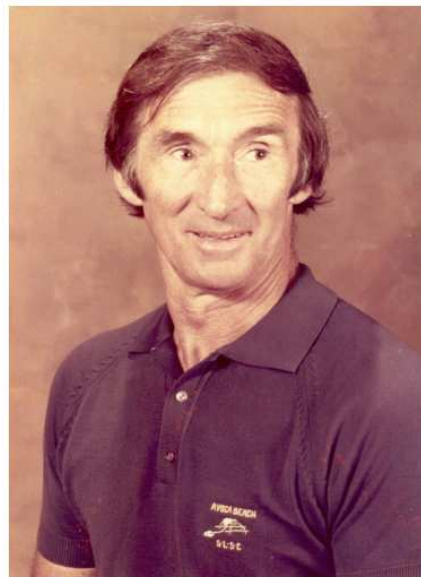
DEVELOPMENT OF SURF BOAT RACING AT AVOCA BEACH

Avoca Beach has a long and proud history of surf boat competition going back to that very first surf boat in 1930.

In the clubs early years and into the 1950's most members competed in many different events and it was not until the 1960's that boat crews competed in very little else and dedicated themselves almost solely to the boats.

Adrian Pickett is recognized as one of the clubs out standing boat sweeps in the 1940's and 50's and in 1962 Richard Gee transferred from The Entrance club to Avoca Beach and changed the face of our boat crew racing forever.

He developed a dedicated training ethic which has flowed through the whole club ever since. He was still sweeping and coaching when he tragically died from cancer in 1989.



“The late Dick Gee”

Other sweeps and coaches who have greatly contributed to the clubs boat success include Phillip and Dennis Gee, John and Jim Mitchell, Richard Brierty, Ross Ibbett, Craig Kelly, Paul Nicholls and many more.

It is though their dedication and team leadership that Avoca Beach is now recognized as one of the top boat clubs in Australia.

Detailed records of crews commenced from 1962, however in the preceding 33 years of the club, many members competed in the boats. Names like Dick, Jack, and Wally Pickett and Charlie Grey were among the first crews. Then followed names like Norman, Poole, Harpur, Worrall, Mantova, and many more.

(We are always seeking more information about these early years and if you can contribute, please call Mike Tamblyn on 0243 821218)

At this time we can count almost 400 members who have dedicated their time to training and competing in surf boats.

A list of these athletes is attached to this section. If you believe you should be on the list or know someone else who has competed in our boats and is not listed, please let me know.

A comprehensive schedule of crews since 1962 and their achievements are listed elsewhere in this section.

Updated by Mike Tamblyn, July 2009