



DECEMBER 2022

SHARK ATTACK



AVOCA BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB



**The
Holiday
Season is
here, let's
all be safe
on our
beach**

PRESIDENTS WELCOME

STUART HARVEY

The season is fully underway and it's great to see our Beach back open again with our members in the red and yellow patrolling the beach. Our patrolling members have been working hard to complete their proficiencies while keeping the beach safe. Remember everyone needs to complete a proficiency each year to patrol the beach or act as water safety at carnivals.

We have already seen some dramatic rescues carried out by our members. We have some very dangerous conditions and if you haven't been down to the beach lately, we have lost a huge amount of sand on the beach which is causing some extremely dangerous rips forming. Hopefully, we see this sand come back before the Holiday Season.



We have seen a change in our Administration Staff, with Kylie Hoban finishing up in the last week. I would like to publicly thank Kylie for her dedication to her role for the club over the last 12 years.

"Kylie has gone beyond expectations in helping our members and helping move the club forward. I wish Kylie all the best in her next career move. Thank you Kylie. ."

THE BOARD

The Board has decided to split the admin role into 2 sections - one area will be looking after Surfguard and general day to day administration duties and the other staff member will be working on our social media. These are not full-time jobs; they are employed on a casual basis with hours allocated for each position. The office has displayed on the door the time that the office is opened for members to sort out any issues. We need to adhere to these hours.

Since the new Board has started in August, we have seen a few changes around the Club. Our Board is committed to achieving a strategic plan over the next 3 months that will help us deliver our services over the next 3 to 4 years. Much work in this area has been completed and we will soon be asking members for feedback.

The Board also made a few decisions around our financial position. While we are in a healthy state financially, we need to ensure we can stay that way. We have seen some difficult times over the last 12 to 18 months with Covid. We are committed to ensuring upgrades to the building occur and providing a maintenance plan with good financial backing.



This season we are asking members who compete in surf sports to pay for their own entry fees. I understand this is not a popular decision. This is across the entire Club and will be reviewed as we start entering the titled carnivals - Branch, State, and Nationals. All carnivals need to be entered in by the member, via a JOT Form that is sent to the members. Without payment through the JOT Form, the individual member will not be entered into the carnival.

There also is the expense of traveling to the Australian Titles. We understand the expense of transporting equipment to Western Australia is very expensive. We will be working with members to help cover some of the costs associated with the Aussie Titles. It's great to see the fundraising activities happening as well.

Last week we held a small forum for women in our Club. This has provided us with some insight into improving accessibility to all areas of our Club. More information will come from this, however, one of our aims is to ensure women are represented across all our club management committees.

We have also been working hard in grant applications, hoping that we have some success early in the new year. We are planning on a complete upgrade of the kitchen, upgrade of all the upstairs bathrooms including the disabled bathroom, and upgrades to the entry and middle foyers and stairwells. This will also include an electric automatic closing main door. Another grant has been submitted to install a completely new video surveillance camera system throughout the Club and the surrounds of the building.



I would like all members to be aware of the cost of the utilities for our club. It is very expensive to run the club and keep up with all the maintenance issues. Just last month saw our gas bill increase by \$1000. We need to ensure we are responsible and don't misuse the club. Can I ask all members and the parents of our Nippers to understand to take short showers and there is no need to be standing under a shower for 10 mins in a wetsuit. We do not want to limit the times when showers will have hot water.

If you haven't renewed your membership please do so straight away. Unfinancial members will lose access to competition rights and will be uninsured. On a brighter note, it is so pleasing to see so many of our members active around the Club. It is great to see the large number of members actively training in surf sports or in training to gain the skills to upgrade their awards or achieve the prestige award of the Surf Life Saving Bronze Medallion.



Sunset's
BAR AND BISTRO

Finally, Sunsets has been going well. We introduced a specials night on Thursdays. A steak and chips or char-grilled calamari special for \$20 or \$25 with a standard beer or wine and a kid's spaghetti for \$10. This has been very popular. Heading into the holiday season this will finish, and we will convert back to our normal menu which will see a few little changes as well, and be back to being open 7 days a week. There will be a slight price increase in some of the meals due to the cost of goods but still good value.

The bar has also seen an upgrade from 4 beer lines to 8 lines which has enabled us to support a couple of our local brewers by having 2 taps dedicated to the Block n' Tackle and the other to Six Strings Brewery.

Hope to see you in Sunsets over the Holidays!

Stay safe and hope to see you on or around this great beach of ours.

**Stuart Harvey
President Avoca Beach SLSC**



NEWS UPDATE



LIFESAVING SURVEY

The recent survey captured the input of 59 of a potential 276 patrol members. The survey input provides a good benchmark and will help guide changes in the Lifesaving program. A follow-up survey will be undertaken at the end of the season.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Requalification/Membership renewal - a reminder to ensure renewals are submitted to allow re-qualification on Patrol by 31 December.

Patrol numbers - Bronze/SRC courses are almost complete and I expect most patrols to have a minimum of 15 patrol members by Christmas.

Junior Club Captain and Vice-Captain - we are looking for interested young men and women between the ages of 17 and 25 to be part of the lifesaving leadership team. If you are interested please contact Nick on 0411 249713.

Women's week 2023. We have applied for a grant through the Office of Women to celebrate women's week in March 2023. The maximum we can get is \$5,000 which we have pitched at holding a 'women in the water' brunch as an outreach to attract more women and girls to our Club. The idea is for female members to bring female friends. Aiming for 250 attendees with a high profile surf sport female speaker and some surf activity demonstrations after - date 12 March 2023

Lifesaving Skills shortfall - We are looking to increase IRB Driver and Crew numbers and each Patrol Captain can run training on patrol for those interested in gaining the qualification. There are also First Aid, ART, and Patrol Captain courses with dates to be provided once course dates are confirmed.

Rescue Clothing on Patrol - It is important that we all wear Petrol Rescue clothing as an easy way for the public to identify lifesavers. Patrol Captains have access to the Clothing Cabinets in the Captain's office to distribute clothing when needed.

Patrol Rescue Equipment - work is underway to replace old rescue equipment through grant applications. In the meantime, we are crowd-funding the purchase of 2 new rescue boards for delivery in the New Year. Link to Go Fund Me donations (which are tax deductible) as follows:

[CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN](#)

Please spread the word and share the link.

Fundraising Opportunities - Crosswalk/Markets fundraising over holidays - more to follow.

Work Parties - paint First Aid Room/Patrol Office/Captains office - keen for Patrol help. I have access to the paint, brushes etc. Let me know if anyone/patrol interested in helping.

Social Activities - Captain's Keg/weekly SIPS will return in the New Year.

Christmas Patrol - a call for volunteers for Christmas Day am/pm Patrols from 8 am to 1 pm and 1 pm to 6 pm. Let Nick know if you are available - 0411 249713

Lifesaving Support Positions - Looking for a First Aid Officer (from February 2023), and Equipment and Radio Officer to help Director Lifesaving out.

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