

# Why ... and Later

50 Years Reviewed in Pictures

Avoca Beach S.L.S.C.  
Avoca and Kincumber  
Districts



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AVOCA BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

1929 – 1979

Why...

...and Later

A review in pictures of 50 years

*A tribute to Members, past and  
present, and to the people of  
Avoca Beach and Kincumber*

E. A. POOLE

# Acknowledgements

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# Aerial Views of Avoca and District

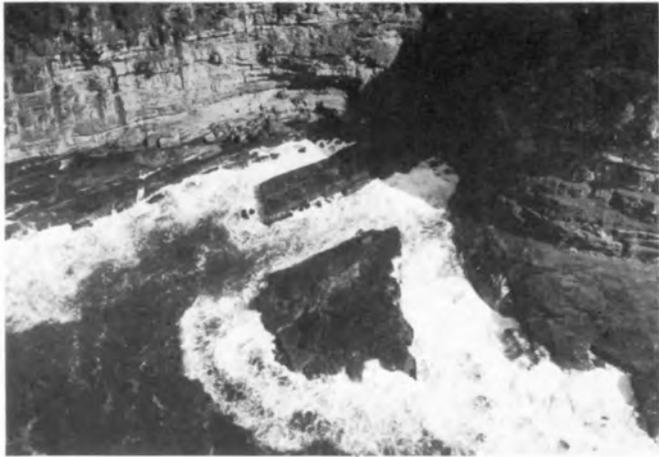


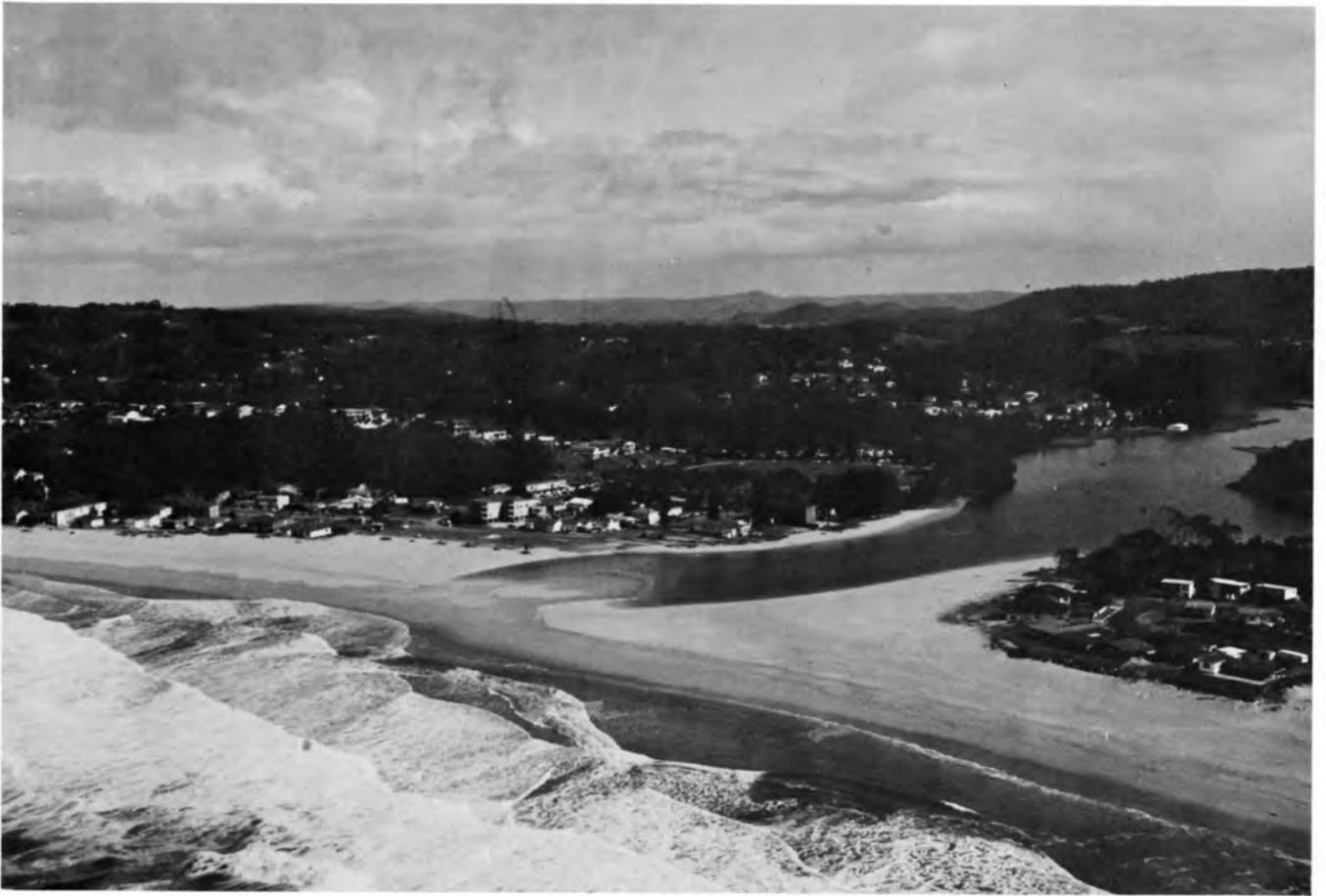
## ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

The information contained in this "Review" is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate, and supposition and assumption have been avoided. However, research has been hampered by lack of early records, and many photographs supplied by generous people have not been included because of space or their quality to reproduce.

Notwithstanding the above, errors can occur. If I am in error or have omitted something which the reader may feel important, my sincere apologies.

E.A.P.





Avoca Beach, looking south-west towards Kincumber. May 1979



The south arm of Avoca Lake, looking north-east. May 1979

(Gosford Photographics)

# Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| RESCUES RECORDED                       | One thousand and sixty |
| BRONZE MEDALLIONS                      | Five hundred and three |
| RESUSCITATION CERTIFICATES             | Eighty-seven           |
| ADVANCED RESUSCITATION<br>CERTIFICATES | Seventy-one            |
| QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES                | Eighty-seven           |
| INSTRUCTORS CERTIFICATES               | Sixty                  |
| EXAMINERS CERTIFICATES                 | Six                    |

\*\*

|                   | 1929-30    | 1978-79      |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| Value of Building | £ 115. 0.0 | \$250.000.00 |
| Members .. Active | 12         | 135          |
| Associate         | 23         | 98           |
| Nippers           | Nil        | 57           |
| Nipperettes       | Nil        | 75           |
| Ladies Auxiliary  | Unrecorded | 45           |

(Avoca Beach has always had an excellent Ladies Auxiliary – we owe them much.)

\*\*Except for Bronze Medallions and Examiners Certificates which have been recorded for 50 years, all statistics are from 1963-64 to 1978-79 for which period our records are complete.

# Bryce Norman President 1962-1979

## Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club

Looking back, I feel the people of Avoca Beach in 1929 must be commended on their prompt action in the formulation of a Surf Club within days of the double drowning that occurred.

Throughout the years this action has been evident whenever changes to life saving and resuscitation techniques have needed to be implemented. Although this Club has not necessarily agreed with some of these changes, they have been accepted and implemented. As we have improved from the standard reel, line and belt to rescue boards and ski and motorised units, the finance necessary to run our club has increased out of all proportion and many thanks to club members, local people, donors and organisations that have assisted throughout these fifty years.

The liaison our Club has enjoyed with the Central Coast Branch, State Centre and National Council has been of great benefit in assisting us to keep abreast of the many happenings in the life saving movement.

Physical fitness is a must in surf life saving and having become a highly competitive club, we find this is one way of keeping most members in the peak of condition, giving them the action and comradeship found on the competition scene.

The club has kept in contact with the local scene, helping us to keep the confident respect of the area. This has been clearly shown on numerous occasions, especially during the period of building our new clubhouse where local people came forward with interest-free loans and voluntary help in assisting club members during the building programme.

We have thrown as many bricks as bouquets at our three tiers of government, Local, State and Federal but at present the relationship with these bodies is strong and I am sure it can only improve.

A Club is only as strong as its members and administration. Therefore, to all our members – deceased, foundation, pre-war era, old clubhouse days, bunk-room era and all present day members, also our Ladies Auxiliaries, Nipper and Nipperette sections – mine and the Club's deepest appreciation for your activities and dedication to the Surf Life Saving movement and the Avoca Beach Club, as everyone has contributed in some way.

To all committees, I thank you for your guidance and prompt action in handling the many situations that have arisen.

With the changing facets of Surf Life Saving, the Club must make decisions, accept and implement the decisions of the Association, look to its members and committees for guidance and, if this is done, in another fifty years people can look back with as much, if not more, pride on 100 years of surf life saving as we do today on our past 50 years.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

BRYCE NORMAN





John Rosewell

# President Central Coast Branch Surf Life Saving Association of Australia

It is a pleasure and privilege, as President of the Central Coast Branch of the S.L.S.A. of A. to make this contribution to the Avoca Beach S.L.S.C's commemorative publication in respect of its fifty years of service.

The Avoca Beach S.L.S.C. has been a vital and dominant force in surf life saving activities on the Central Coast since the early days of development of these activities.

It was one of the original five pre-Second World War clubs which developed from the early 1920's onwards and were administered to directly in those days as No. 8 District of the Head Centre of the S.L.S.A. of A. in Sydney.

The evolution of the Central Coast Branch as it is structured to-day did not occur until 23/10/38, but in the intervening years it has prospered strongly to be now recognised as a leader in many fields and a prominent contributor to the high standard of surf life saving in N.S.W.

These intervening years have seen the Branch's strength increase now to a total of fifteen clubs within its confines, ranging from south of Catherine Hill Bay in the north to the Hawkesbury River in the south.

It is in this setting, probably over the last decade, that the Avoca Beach club has enjoyed its

peak period. It has controlled without default a highly popular and extensive area of surfing beach and played a major part in the general administration of surf life saving and the competitive arena.

This competitive sphere has produced many Branch title holders and representatives and a very respectable tally of State and Australian titles.

It has always boasted a strong Ladies Auxiliary and junior club and has concentrated as a nursery for its younger members on the way through.

This in itself has meant a deep family involvement within the Club, and through this, of course, a deep community involvement.

With its pleasant "village" background, this situation looks certain to continue for the foreseeable future.

The opportunity is now taken to congratulate Avoca Beach upon its first fifty years of existence and thank the Club for its extensive contribution to surf life saving on the Central Coast during this time.

Thank you –

JOHN ROSEWELL  
President

# Why . . .

The written word seems inadequate to describe our appreciation of our members and many supporters who have contributed to the growth of our Club since January, 1929.

Fifty years is a long time and yet, in talking to some Foundation Members, it appears to be all too short. At Avoca Beach our beginnings were similar to those of many surf clubs throughout our young country.

We have used photographs to depict the atmosphere of a small, closely-knit community, and then, using the same technique, to display what happened later.

The early part of the 19th Century, from 1820 onwards, saw land grants recorded for the foreshores of what we know as Brisbane Water. Among these was a grant of 100 acres in 1823 to a Mr. Patrick Humphreys, where the Kincumber South Orphanage building and historical church

now stand. Sometime around 1830, among others, a grant of 60 acres of land adjoining Humphreys' grant was made to William Sampson Pickett. From the basis of these early grants the Kincumber Avoca settlements were formed.

The area abounded in much sort after varieties of timber, suitable for building homes, warehouses, wharves and ships. By the end of the century, orchards and farms began to play an important part. The spread of activities included "Moore's Grant", which was on the southern side of Bulbararing Lagoon and was finally named Avoca Beach.

After changing hands, "Moore's Grant" was sold by Mr. I. S. Clements on the 12th November, 1908 to a Mr. Henry F. Halloran, who is credited with building the first bridge across Avoca Lake and constructing the original Avoca Guest House, which he later sold to James F. Heazlett.





Guests from "Avoca House" could be practising for the competition on the guest house nine hole course.

The old bridge at Avoca Beach, pictured in the 'thirties.





By 1900 farms and orchards were well established in the Kincumber-Avoca areas (Pickett's Valley). They were an important industry.



May 1979. Pickett's Valley Farms? Orchards?



Some of the crop.



Gentlemen of Kincumber and district, 1920's.  
 Back: Jim Frost, Tom Humphrey, J. Price  
 Front: (Unknown), Dan Bowcock, Bill Rogers, Jack Henderson, Jim Lansdowne

*"I remember it (Avoca Beach) all bush, and the only house was at that time on the site of where Mr. Dennett now lives (adjacent to the present Scout Hall 1979). The owner was a Mr. Clements and he, to decide a wager on the distance from Gosford, did it this way. He placed a yellow painted band or line across the back wheel of the old-fashioned 4 wheel buggy, put his son Percy in the back seat and told him to count and mark down each revolution of the wheel, as he walked the horses all the way to Gosford. The journey completed he measured the circumference of the wheel, and by mathematics returned the distance as 9 miles. On todays measurements it was a very good effort one would think."*

(from "Knots of Knowledge" by W. J. Norman)



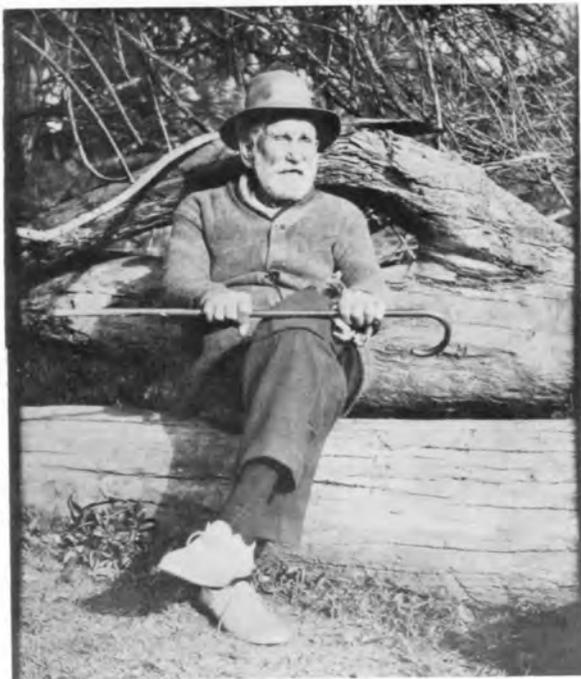
Pre Surf Club days.  
 L to R: Bryce, Richie, Betty, Ray and Eileen Norman.



The Union Jack was raised for important events. Picketts Valley early 1900's.



George "Matey" Norman



Mr. Owen Norman was reputed to be the first white man born in Kincumber (1841).



Elizabeth and Richard Norman 1965  
Often called Bessie and Dick, but to the surf club from 1940's they were Mother and Father Norman.



Wally Pickett and company  
off to Little Beach for a  
weekend's camping and fishing.

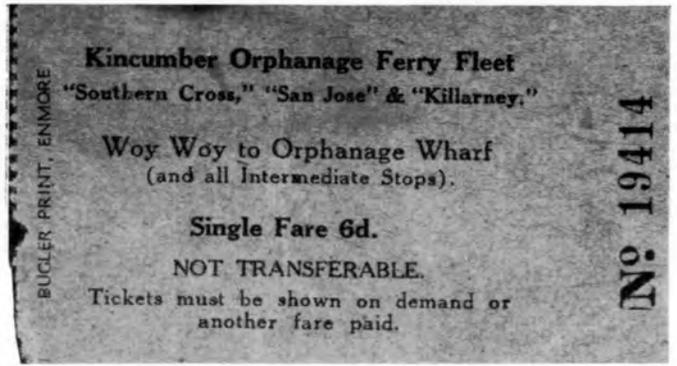


This 1928 photograph of "The Log Cabin" clearly shows the construction of the walls, roof and chimney. Some of our 1979 designers would be pleased with the result. We are informed that the Bowcock brothers, Bob and Dan split the oak shingles locally.

*"When I was a boy my grandfather had about 200 head of poultry, running wild everywhere, and his neighbour Mr. James Cameron grew lettuce and beetroot and small greens, which he used to take to the Gosford Markets every Thursday for auction sale, by the general storekeeper Mr. W. Burns. Well, the grandfather's fowls discovered the lettuce beds and created merry hell, with the result that Mr. Cameron came to my grandfather and told him if he did not keep his fowls away from his gardens he would shoot them. The grandfather being as he was, a bad tempered and obstinate mule, refused point blank to do anything about it, with the result that Cameron did shoot a prize rooster and three or four hens, and came to Norman and told him he had shot them, and for Norman to come and remove them. Here's what happened!!!*

*"Norman went down to Mr. G. Frost his friend and told him the story, so lo and behold they yoked up 12 bullocks with a long snig chain, and came up to Camerons and snigged the fowls out one by one in spite of all the protests Cameron made, so you can image the state of his garden property after this melee."*

(From "Knots of Knowledge by W. J. Norman)



Thomas Humphreys, son of Mr. Patrick Humphreys, holder of the original land grant in 1825. Thomas Humphreys granted three acres of land for the Holy Cross Church and cemetery.

Pictured below is St. Joseph's Orphanage for Boys, Kincumber South, close to the Holy Cross Church. The orphanage was opened in 1887 and, among other activities, it conducted a ferry service on Brisbane Water for over half a century.





Berthed in Kincumber Creek.

"Avoca" and "Kincumber" shown on Kincumber Creek. They were owned by the Kincumber Growers' Co-operative Company Limited. According to Charles Swancott's book "The Brisbane Water Story (Part 3)", "Kincumber" started running produce on October 31, 1921. The book also states that "Avoca", a small launch, was purchased and used for carrying mails from Kincumber to Woy Woy at the end of 1922. However the mail contract was lost in the following year and "Avoca" was sold and a larger boat "The Grower" built for the passenger trade.

Claude Frost and bullock team moving along the road to McMasters Beach.





George Frost bought 14 acres (opposite the present Kincumber Post Office) and constructed a training track for his racehorse "Kincumber" and his son Herb's "Ayr Girl". Pictured above are Manasseh Frost and his mother Elizabeth Frost with "Ayr Girl".

John Pryce, who retired in 1938 after 39 years as headmaster of Kincumber Public School. His wife Mabel taught the children music and sewing.

Members of Kincumber Cricket Club on the Frost ground at Kincumber about 1920. From left: Jim Frost (president and umpire), Ted Kerns, Tom Humphrey, Jack Dunlop, John Pryce, George Norman, Ivor Chapman, Olaf Barker, Horace Frost, Bill Lindsay, George Skiller, Lance Smith, Alan Frost, Alva Humphrey, Bill Rogers, Bill Frost, Bill Norman, Charlie Ives. George Frost's family included 11 sons and they formed their own cricket team on the land near their father's shipbuilding yard.





**AVOCA BEACH** Social and Recreation Club, Social Evening, Thursday, August 15, at the Bridgehaven Hall. Games, dancing, supper. Admission 6d. Dorothy Balston, Hon. Sec.

Bill Bryant, Jim and Jean Bryant, Kath and Bob Wilson  
Heather Bryant and Stan Pickett

Bill Bryant was one of Avoca's first carriers and often transported the Avoca Beach surf boat and crew.



William Norman  
(1896-1978)

**"Knots of Knowledge"**

Throughout this book you will find extracts from "Uncle" Bill's notes which were hand-written and presented to Bryce Norman and family for their enjoyment.



*"Your scribe here could possibly lay claim to the first lifesaving attempt, successfully carried out at Avoca Cliffs on the night of November 11th, 1918 for which I was presented with a gold medal and wallet of notes."*

("Knots of Knowledge" by William Norman)



Who they are we cannot say. The size of the black "billy" indicates they enjoyed a "cuppa".

Syd Gould's property, 1925.  
(Now "Sunny Bank")



Mrs. Bill Jackson and daughter Freda, later Mrs. Syd Gould.  
Kincumber Corner, 1924.



1920 Dot Jackson, later Mrs. Matt Goodman,  
at Avoca Beach.



L—R: Clyde Walters and Robert Tolsen stump grubbing on Ken Ross' property, Kincumber. Early 1900's.



"Ladies of The Valley" beside two nice logs. Picketts Valley.



Harold Hutton (proprietor of Avoca House for some years after the death of J. F. Heazlett) poses under a log with R. Burns and Barry Blair.

Left: A common practice to avoid unwanted butt timber.

# Tragedy . . .



At Avoca Beach on Sunday, 30th December, 1928 the sky was slightly overcast and a mild surf, the after-math of a southerly previously in the week, made conditions very pleasant for the local people who were there, enjoying the brightest and happiest time of the year.

During this time, Avoca House generally had a full complement of well-to-do guests who could be seen enjoying the facilities of the area, including the golf course and the beach where, adjacent to the southern side of the lake and set well out into the sand towards the ocean's edge, a shelter and changerooms constructed of corrugated iron and timber lattice had been erected by Mr. Henry F. Halloran for the use of his guest house patrons. This area of the beach (which in Avoca's early days had often been referred to as Moore's Beach, after John Moore who held the original land grant)

and the oval were both popular recreation places for visitors and locals. However, it seems the guest house visitors preferred a little more seclusion and privacy and the public were encouraged to use the less accessible southern part of the beach.

On the day referred to, a crowd of about thirty local people were on the beach. Some had arrived early to enjoy a full day at the beach and a variety of picnic boxes were scattered around. The familiar black billy and water bag were standard equipment. Fresh water could be obtained from a spring at the cliff face (near to-day's Quarterdeck Flats), or from a well in the north-eastern corner of the present camping area. The children had taken great delight in collecting billy cans of black perriwinkles, boiling them over a fire and then opening them with a bobby pin. These were a favourite delicacy.



Above: The original Avoca House, a fashionable haven for the elite.

Left: An elegant, happy group bids farewell to departing fellow guests.



Below: Looking south across the lake from North Avoca, showing the original guest house dressing shed partially hidden by the tree.



By around two-thirty a reasonable sandbar was in evidence and, in spite of overcast conditions a group of grownups and children were enjoying the sea, bobbing beneath the broken water or trying to roll with the waves as they broke across the bar. Few ventured beyond their depth, as the number who could actually swim was limited. Occasionally, waves in sets of three and larger than usual would force surfers back towards the beach. The aftermath of storms and heavy winds had produced what is termed a "dying sea", the most unpredictable of all as even small waves can generate surprising power. A series of these waves began to erode the sandbar close to shore, forming a gutter through which the water dispersed, mostly towards the north. A further series of waves struck the bar, and to the astonishment of those in the water, the sandbar was almost completely eroded in a matter of minutes, leaving bathers out of their depth some fifty to sixty yards offshore.

**Astonishment turned to panic.**

Those on the beach were almost completely helpless to assist except to wade into water waist-deep to try and grasp bathers who were being swept about at the will of the current. Those who had some idea of swimming supported others but in most instances the inexperienced clung to the experienced. The Pickett boys, some of whom were already in the water at the time, succeeded in assisting several bathers to the beach. Eventually, all appeared to be safely ashore, with those who had assisted now in a very much exhausted state.

**But, all was not as it appeared.**

Two young girls, Elsie May ("Biddy") Bowcock and Beryl West, were sighted being swept north-east and about 150 yards from the shore. At this stage they were separated and desperately fighting against the current. Attempts were made to reach them but the exhausted condition of the rescuers made the task impossible. The two friends were next sighted out to sea and beyond the break, clinging to one another for a short period until finally they disappeared from view.

**Onlookers stood and watched in silent despair.**

Word of the tragedy spread quickly and those people still searching along the beach and wading through manageable surf were soon joined by more residents and holidaymakers. The Bowcock family, who were completely unaware of the happenings on the beach, arrived around this time. "Biddy" had left home earlier to walk to the beach. She had been given a ride by Jack and Eileen Pickett and had met her friend Beryl on arrival.

Somehow word was passed to Rachael West, who joined her husband, Alexander, at the beach to continue the search for their daughter.

Late that afternoon, "Biddy" Bowcock's lifeless body was recovered close to shore. The search for her friend continued throughout the night with the aid of hurricane lamps and torches, then into the next day. The search was in vain, for Beryl West's body was never recovered.





Bob and Amy Bowcock, their son Willis, and their newly acquired Crosley.



Picketts, Picketts and more Picketts.

Avoca House beach carnival.



**DROWNED AT AVOCA BEACH, 30th DECEMBER, 1928**



**Elsie May ("Biddy") Bowcock,  
aged 13**

**Daughter of Daniel and Elsie Bowcock**



**Beryl West,  
aged 13**

**Daughter of Rachael and Alexander West**

Elsie Bowcock's body was recovered and interred in St. Paul's Church Cemetery, Kincumber. The body of Beryl West was never recovered.



**Historic St. Paul's Church,  
Kincumber**

# and Formation



This tragic happening stirred the people of Avoca, Kincumber and surrounding areas to take action to prevent further drownings. Surf life saving clubs had already been established at Terrigal, The Entrance and Ocean Beach but our people knew nothing of their structure or requirements. Terrigal Club came forward in these uncertain days with advice and help, which has been long remembered by the formation group.

A meeting was held on Sunday, 6th January 1929, seven days after the drowning. It was well attended by both locals and visitors and the following Foundation Office Bearers were elected:-

President James F. Heazlett  
Secretary Chas. Grey

Treasurer John G. Harper  
Captain Walter C. Pickett  
Patron Henry F. Halloran

Having established the Club's structure, the next and largest problem was training and instruction to produce experienced and qualified Bronze Medallion Holders. The northern arm of Avoca Lake was known as Smee's Arm, named after the Smee family who had an orchard and farm property adjoining the lake. Alfred Smee came forward and offered his services as an instructor. He was a member of North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club and a very experienced surfer. He supplied the drive, the expertise and encouragement to the extent that on the 7th April, 1929 the following members became our Foundation Bronze Medallion Holders:



Alan Frost  
 Charles Grey  
 Ted Kerns  
 Bruce Lindsey  
 Bert Maloney  
 Norman McLeod  
 Wally Pickett  
 Jack Pickett  
 Adrian Pickett  
 Dick Pickett  
 George Whiting  
 Sid Whiting



A box line outfit, equipped with a canvas covered cork belt, had been acquired. It was sometime before the Club acquired its first reel. The Schaefer method of resuscitation was practised in 1929 and, apart from Alf Smee and our Terrigal neighbours, few knew much about it. However, discipline and drill were a part of examination requirements and in this area Jim Agnew, who lived within a mile of Smee's on the ridge to the south-west, proved to be a tireless worker. Jim had a lung complaint caused by gas in the 1914-1918 World War and was unable to swim. He was very much the "army type", a strict disciplinarian and drill instructor, and his contribution in late 1929 and the early thirties was significant.

An approach was made to Erina Shire Council and a site for a club house was allocated, roughly midway between our present club house and the lake, on a flat area of grassed sandbank, bordered on both sides by young Norfolk Island Pinetrees which had been planted in the early nineteenth-hundreds by staff of Mr. Henry F. Halloran. (The late William Norman claimed to have assisted Mr. Jim Burns, both of Kincumber, to have accomplished the task.) The present stormwater drain was close to the southern boundary.

Funds were almost non-existent and money had to be raised through public subscription. Again, the guests of Avoca House played their part. These people were doctors, solicitors and businessmen from Sydney and Newcastle, and also graziers and property owners from all parts of the

State. The guest house was licensed to sell wines and other spirituous liquors and at each well-attended party the hat would go round for donations to the new surf club and, more often than not, would be followed by nomination forms for associate membership. It was from this source that a substantial amount of original income was derived. Eventually, sufficient money was raised to purchase materials to commence building. The structure was erected by voluntary labour and many people assisted. However, the two men accredited with playing major rolls were Bob Bowcock and Wally Pickett. For many years an unnamed photograph of Bob Bowcock was mounted on the rear wall inside the club house.

Interest and enthusiasm were high after the official opening. A decision was required as to the Club's colours. This was most serious and took several meetings. These were general meetings and it appears that most anyone could attend and vote, without necessarily being a member or a male. The first decision was in favour of green, gold and blue (our present colours), as against fawn and black. This apparently did not set too well with the Captain, Wally Pickett, who, it is reported, called a second meeting a short time later, attended by most of the Picketts and their wives and relatives. At this meeting the original decision was rescinded and fawn and black became our official colours. It wasn't until the late 1930's that a further rescission motion was applied, and the green, gold and blue were reinstated.

The year 1930 saw the arrival of our first surf boat and a further six Bronze Medallions were gained on the 27th April. They were:

Foster Creighton  
Alfred E. Lindsay  
Ian Pryce

James W. Richards  
William Townsend  
Harold Woods

The Club was now well established and the talents of members were emerging, some showing a preference for boats, and others for surf swimming and belt racing, or beach events.



“Resuscitator Ready” the Schaefer method

North Bondi visitors in the Alarm Reel event





Alf Smee  
Original Instructor  
North Bondi S.L.S.C.



First examination day, 7th April, 1929



Some of the North Bondi Club Members on one of their visits to Avoca Club.  
Most of our Club Members are present also. Sitting on the fence at extreme left: Adrian Pickett, Jack Pickett is standing right in front of him. Standing next to Jack; L to R. Ian Pryce, Vic White, (Terrigal) Chas Gray, The famous Aub and Jeff Laidlaw of North Bondi. NB: Aub Laidlaw was still associated with the movement as recently as the early seventies concerning the Bikini blitz. On the extreme right standing is Alf Smee our first Instructor.



Jim and Kathleen Agnew



**JAMES F. HEAZLETT**  
Foundation President



**WALTER C. PICKETT**  
Foundation Captain

## **THE SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

### **INTRODUCTORY.**

#### **SURF LIFE SAVING ON AUSTRALIAN BEACHES**

The history of Surf Life Saving in Australia forms a narrative of heroic accomplishment and steady progress, in conjunction with the great summer recreation of surf bathing.

The movement of surf life saving has steadily developed, until it is now spread throughout the Continent, and ranks amongst the greatest voluntary, humane organizations of the world.

It is sought in this introduction to give a brief outline of the surf bathing conditions in Australia, and to trace the surf life saving movement from its inception in 1907.

#### **AUSTRALIA'S BEACHES**

Australia possesses innumerable sandy beaches of varying length, directly facing the open ocean, or forming the foreshores of the countless bays and inlets around the coastline. With warm sunshine prevailing for the greater part of the year, these beaches offer ideal facilities for sea or surf bathing—facilities which are eagerly sought by the large section of the population which inhabits the numerous coastal towns and cities of the Commonwealth.

#### **SURF BATHING GENERALLY POPULAR**

New South Wales might be regarded as the home of surf bathing in Australia. The beaches extend along the

7

coast, almost in a continuous chain, and many are in close proximity to Sydney, the capital city. In all the Australian States, however, sea bathing is indulged in to a large extent, and Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania have their popular and beautiful bathing beaches.

#### **EARLY RESTRICTIONS**

Bathing on the open beaches was strictly limited at the beginning of the present century. Apparently imbued with the idea that the human form in bathing costume was indecent, authorities framed regulations which precluded surf bathing except in the early hours of the mornings, or late in the day, and insisted on the segregation of the sexes. The result was that beaches which are now the concentrating points of thousands of bathers, picnickers, holiday makers, and sightseers, and are famous the world over for their beauty and the glorious advantages they offer, were then comparatively empty, desolate spaces for the greater part of the year.

#### **BAN REMOVED IN 1902**

In 1902, thanks to the efforts of a small band of enthusiasts who defied the regulations, the restrictions were waived, and bathing on the beaches became general. Thus was created a new field of pleasure in which the young and old of both sexes were enabled to enjoy together the combined benefits of the sun, sand, and salt water with the utmost freedom.

#### **SEASIDE VILLAGES BECOME POPULOUS CENTRES**

Surf bathing has increased in popularity, year by year, until every beach within reasonable travelling distance of the populated areas has its numerous devotees, while more distant beaches are the haunts of motorists, campers, etc. But perhaps the truest reflex of the effect surfing has had, is the transformation of once unimportant seaside villages into thickly-populated, residential, holiday and business centres, with a real estate value far beyond conception in the early days of surfing.

8



## Kincumber May 1979

(Gosford Photographics)





## Kincumber May 1979



The creek in the right background is Kincumber Creek. To the left, near the sports field was the vicinity of Frost's Shipbuilding yard.

(Gosford Photographics)



**KINCUMBAR R.L.F.C. 1st GRADE 1933**

Back row: Alan Pirie, Frank Verden, Nev. Harge, Sid Farrow, ? Thompson.

Centre: Arch Pirie, Sid Whiting, Mark Keo, Sid Partington, Frank Martin, Mick Lavender.

Front: Bobby Morsello, Bruce Verden (ball boy), Jerry Beashal.

Below:

**KINCUMBAR R.L.F.C. 2nd GRADE 1933**

Back row: Sid Pickett, Jerry Beashal, Loyal Flaherty, Doug Whiting, Ted Swan, Jack Walters.

Centre: Nev Harge, Bill Settree, Ockey Jack, John Baigent, Vic Hart, Skipper Merritt.

Front: Ray Settree, Bruce Verden (ball boy), Bill Hancock.



## PLANE DROPS LIKE A LOG

### Airman's Miraculous Escape

While on a meteorological survey on Tuesday morning two airmen in an Air Force Hawker Demon plane experienced miraculous escapes from death when the machine dropped like a log on to the reserve at Avoca, Beach. Both the pilot and wireless operator escaped with minor injuries, but the plane was wrecked, the wings being badly smashed, wheels ripped off, undercarriage shattered, and engine damaged.

The first inkling of the likelihood of trouble came when residents saw the plane circling about 3000 feet up with the engine missing. Over the dense forest and out to sea went the plane, the pilot evidently seeking some open land upon which he could bring the plane down safely.

Those watching the movements of the plane then heard the engine splutter and stop, and state that the machine dropped like a stone. It narrowly missed tall pine trees skirting the reserve, and nose dived into the ground about 20 yards from the fence.

One of the first on the scene was Mr. James Burns, foreman of Avoca Estate. Interviewed, he said that he first saw the plane at about 3.30 hovering over Avoca Beach. It appeared to be in trouble and when the engine cut out it nose dived to the earth. Coming in from the west over the pine trees, the nose struck the ground with terrific force and, turning over, was wrecked. Mr Burns said that the wireless operator was thrown 30 yards from the machine,

while the pilot was hanging out of the plane. Thinking that the wireless operator had been badly injured, Mr. Burns rushed over and lifted his head, and the man returned to consciousness a minute or so later. Meanwhile the pilot had extricated himself and had walked over to find out how his mate was.

Those in the plane were, Pilot John (Sandy) Burgess, 26, and Wireless Operator Allan Charles Lord, 21. Both were from the Air Force Squadron, stationed at Richmond Aerodrome.

Mr. Callan, Postmaster at Avoca Beach, immediately rang Gosford and the ambulance, police and a doctor were quickly on the scene, and Burgess was treated for severe abrasions on the legs and face, and several stitches were inserted in a bad wound on the lip, while Lord escaped with contusions to the legs.

Constable Albury was stationed at the plane until a late hour in the afternoon when it was removed to Sydney.





Fred Brough, far left. Note the ruins of Avoca House in the background.



This more recent photograph gives us some idea of what the pilot must have had to cope with.

# Avoca Beach Progress and Pastimes

## Xmas Pantomime

### Avoca Beach Success

#### "The Sleeping Beauty"

Displaying in remarkable fashion, the talent of the young actors and actresses of Avoca Beach and Kincumber, "The Sleeping Beauty" pantomime filled Bridgehaven social hall on Dec. 28 and 29. This "fairy extravaganza" was admirably staged, and was presented with skill and enthusiasm.

Hearty congratulations have been bestowed from all quarters upon Mrs Callan, the producer, Mrs Toole, Miss Helen Blood, of Sydney, and Mr. D. Pickett, who supplied the music. Mr. W. Warwick painted the most realistic background for the wood scene. Mrs Dr. Paul, who took a keen interest in the effort, kindly lent an old style spinning wheel.

The attractive costumes were practically all home-made, and were distinctive and colorful, while in absolute keeping with the pantomime. Special mention should be made of the dainty dresses and wings of the entrancing fairies, the lovely white silk gown of the Sleeping Beauty, and the gorgeous golden robe of the Queen.

Irgenuity, and affare for dramatic effects were evident in the display devised for the many scenes, some of which were spectacular and intriguing. One of the most charming was the lace chamber, with its sleeping Princess and attendants.

In such an ambitious display, where all were admirable and each child delivered its lines like a veteran, one hesitates to emphasise particular merit but all will agree in the bestowal of special praise on Miss Doris Chapman (Princess Amoretta), and Mr D. Sheardown (Prince Belamore). Miss D. Balston, as the bad fairy Avaritia, and Miss A. Hitchcock, as the good Annabel, were decided favorites with the audience. Of course, King Pomponella, Sovereign of Pumpkin Land, otherwise Mr. F. Hitchcock, and that other sovereign figure, King Whatwazee (Mr T. Chapman) were excellently portrayed.

Among the fairies were the Misses M. Chalmers, B. Miller, D. Miller, J. Chapman, L. Balston and D. Parsons, while Master Rod Miller was a perfect fairy page. My Lords Longtymeago (Master B. Parsons), Boozle (Master J. Parsons), Coodle (Master C. Callan), and Briddlegoogle (Master K. Marriott) were a genuine delight to the audience.

Miss Laura Ives made an elegant Queen Wasabella, well supported by the Misses Eileen Hancock (Duchess of Dismalissa), and Lily Hancock (Lady Flirtilletta). As for Goody Grope, the oldest inhabitant!—ask the audience what they thought of the way in which Miss June Ives filled the role. Deserved praise is also due to Messrs T. Smith and G. Norris, who acted as courtiers.

Included in the programme were the following popular features: Toe dancing and recitation by Miss G. West, national dancing and recitation by Miss Ives, recitation by Mr. T. Smith, and duet by Miss Dorothy Balston and Mr. G. Norris.

At the conclusion of the pantomime, bouquets were presented to the principal performers and to the two ladies most responsible for the success.

A dance followed, to excellent music supplied by Mr. J. Skiller, Jun., and Mr. R. M. Pickett. The hall was tastefully decorated. The ladies of the Social and Recreation Club were greatly delighted at the double success of the evening.

Perhaps the finest tribute to an outstanding success is the chorus of eager inquiries regarding the next pantomime! As a preliminary, why not repeat the present success in another portion of the district?

## Avoca Beach Progress

### New Dance Hall Opened

Avoca Beach Surf Club was privileged in being the first to use the handsome new dance hall at Avoca Beach on Dec. 26. There was a large attendance at the opening ceremony and dance.

Mr. J. F. Heazlett, President of the Club, declared the hall open and cut a ribbon placed across the stage. He congratulated the district on its possession of the new hall and the surf club upon its first use of the hall. A happy feature of the ceremony was the introduction of Mr. Heazlett by Mr. T. Toole, who paid a warm and much appreciated tribute to his fine service to the surf club since its formation.

The club's boat crew, who won the boat race at Killcare Carnival, were presented by the President with an open order for 10/-, the donor being Mr. C. Townsend.

An excellent supper was served by members of the Ladies' Auxiliary

## AVOCA EN FETE

*Linda*  
MANY HOLIDAY ATTRACTIONS.

Avoca folk made an especially commendable community effort to provide entertainments for visitors to their seaside village at Christmas time.

The gala week commenced the Saturday before Christmas with a community picnic, with Santa Claus and a Christmas-tree for the kiddies, and ended last Saturday night with the second performance of the pantomime, "The Sleeping Beauty," in the new hall.

Everybody agreed that the Avoca Women's Auxiliary, which took a leading part in all the social events, were chiefly responsible for the success achieved. Their work in connection with the Christmas-tree and picnic earned high praise. Through their collection of between £7 and £8, a large number of toys was purchased and distributed by Santa Claus. None of the toys cost less than 2/6 each. Naturally, the youngsters were delighted—and the adults enjoyed the event nearly as much.

The official opening of the "Bridgehaven" Hall, designed, and the construction supervised by Mr. Barclay C. Millar, and built by Messrs. Lewis and Son, of Avoca, took place on the evening of Boxing Day. Mr. J. F. Heazlett declared the hall open and complimented Mr. Leslie Bridge on his enterprise and local helpfulness in providing a community meeting-place for Avoca beach folk. This was followed by the Surf Club's annual ball, a well attended and enjoyable function.

The new hall is a decided acquisition for Avoca, and will make possible the holding of many enjoyable social events to bring local people and visitors together. An excellent dancing floor has been put down, and there is a large stage.

Financially, the surf carnival was successful, although Saturday afternoon's storm caused most of the events to be abandoned. They will be run at a later date—probably on Anniversary Day.

The pantomime, "The Sleeping Beauty," proved an attraction which packed the hall to overflowing on Friday and Saturday nights. The parts were taken by local players, who gave a most creditable performance. The audience showed their enthusiastic approval by unstinted applause.

This was the first occasion upon which Avoca people had arranged an ambitious programme of entertainment, and its success will probably encourage them to make a similar effort at future Christmas seasons.



Helen Pickett (Pearce). Background right may be compared with the Bowling Club photograph.



Shark fishing with surf line late 1930's.



Mr. N. A. Hunter (centre) with sons Norman (r.) and Mervyn (l.). The Hunter family have had considerable influence on the development of the Avoca Beach area and their contribution to the community and the surf club has been significant.



Lower Hillside Road, Avoca Beach. May, 1979.  
The low level of the lake exposes the weed growth.



"West's Corner" on Avoca Drive, at the junction of Lower Hillside Road.  
May 1979.



## Father Christmas Pays First Visit to Avoca

Visiting Avoca Beach for the first time, Father Christmas distributed toys freely to delighted children. The ladies of the Social and Recreation Club were responsible for the invitation to this distinguished visitor and junior members of the Club collected £8 for this wonderful treat for the children. A Christmas cake raffle was won by Mr. Dunlop, of Kinumber. The event is characteristic of the growing esprit de corps of Avoca and Kinumber, and links itself with the enjoyable pantomime.

## Avoca Surf Carnival

### Good Effort Despite Rain

Despite a veritable cloudburst, Avoca Beach S.L.S. Club staged an impromptu programme on Dec. 31, and postponed the more important events in the annual beach carnival. The Entrance, Terrigal and Killcare Clubs were represented, stalls and a chocolate wheel were in full blast, and everything was ready for an enjoyable carnival when the rain roared down.

The following events were decided: Chariot race, Avoca 1. Beach Sprint, Russell (South Brighton) 1; Pillow Fight, S. Pickett (Avoca) 1; Musical Flags, A. Burgess (Killcare) 1; Beach Relay Race, The Entrance 1; Boat Race for "A" Crews, Terrigal 1, Avoca 2; for "B" Crews, Avoca 1, Terrigal 2.



A tranquil Avoca Lake can become a torrent when released to the ocean. Chasing fish at the mouth of the lake can be rewarding fun.



*"The first drowning at Avoca that I remember was James Boardman who was chauffeur to F. Halloran at the time. He was lost one afternoon about 4 pm and we recovered his body a week later...."*

(from "Knots of Knowledge" by W. J. Norman)



A big difference to 1929. "The southern corner", May 1979.



"Bulbararing Lagoon", Avoca Lake about half full. May 1979.

(Gosford Photographics)

# Clubhouses

The original clubhouse was gazetted in the annual Head Office Report of 1929 as being valued at £115, with active members listed as 12 and associates as 23. This building served us well for ten or eleven years, the only alteration being the addition of a skillion roofed boatshed on the northern end and an outside spear-point and pump on the southern side.

Building along the beach increased as time went on. Access to the clubhouse, apart from across private property, was limited to an undeveloped foot-track and motor vehicles were forced to travel farther south. Camping was becoming more and more popular during the holiday season and the then Moana Park and the public area, where the present clubhouse stands, would be crowded with tents. Situated where they were, the campers and general public tended to swim close to the corner near the boulders, where a dangerous rip constantly runs. Throughout the history of the Club this rip has required close supervision. More people have been rescued from that area than any other portion of the beach. (It is also a blessing in disguise and permits a relatively safe passage to sea for surf boats and other craft, even on the roughest days.)

These circumstances required club members to be constantly shifting the boat and other equipment down the beach, and the situation was brought to a head when, after continuing heavy rain and pounding seas, the club house was in danger of being broken up. On the eastern side facing the ocean, the sandbank had been eroded away by wave action, and on the southern corner the discharge from the stormwater drain had undermined one pinetree and begun to further

erode the bank. Approaches were made to the Council and the building was moved and relocated on the site of the present clubhouse.

Further additions were made. The front verandah was boarded up to waist height and then a skillion roof was attached to the rear, allowing for supper and heating facilities. This roof was later extended for the length of the building, leaving the main hall about 35 feet by 15 feet clear for general use and making the addition, which had access at the rear, available for a change-room. Wooden lockers were later built in this section. A tank and stand for the collection of rainwater was a further addition. Exposed timber studs and bracing were eventually covered with flat fibro sheets.

As the Club grew, the storage of surfboards and surf skis became a problem and, whilst some racks were made available, craft were often found lying in the boat or the boatshed, on the verandah, or sometimes in the clubhouse itself. By the early 1950's accommodation was becoming unmanageable as the beach and Club increasingly attracted people from the Sydney area. These members were permitted to stay in the clubhouse overnight at weekends, and for almost twenty years this practice played a major part in increasing the strength and activities of the Club.

It was not until 1958 that we were able to finalise plans and finance to commence our new building. Using voluntary labour wherever possible and through necessity, the present clubhouse was completed in the 1964-1965 season. In 1971 a major extension was added to the rear of the building, providing extra kitchen space, dance floor area and boat, board and ski storage.



FRONT ELEVATION  
ACCOMMODATION: 50:



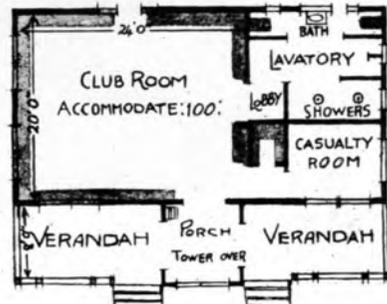
THE PLAN

SUGGESTED PLAN FOR CLUB ROOM FOR 50 MEMBERS.

278



FRONT ELEVATION  
ACCOMMODATION: 100:

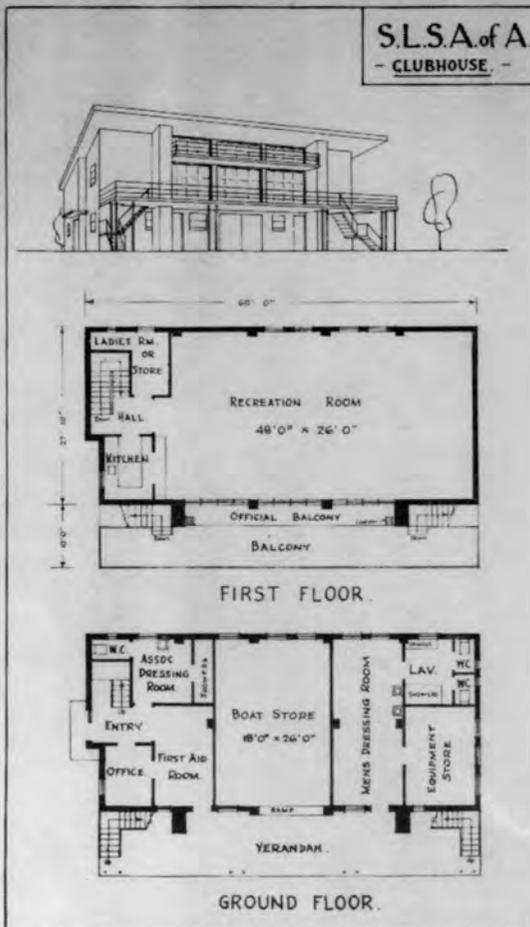


THE PLAN

SUGGESTED PLAN FOR CLUB ROOM FOR 100 MEMBERS.

277

Extracts from 1938 and 1955 Handbooks.



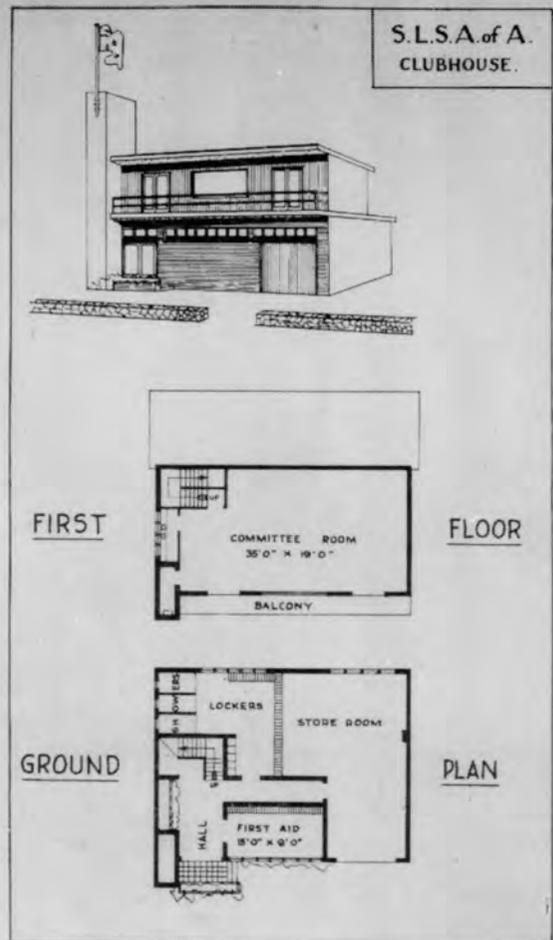
S.L.S.A. of A.  
- CLUBHOUSE -

FIRST FLOOR.

GROUND FLOOR.

DRAWING 31: Plans showing Surf Club House design and layout.

185



S.L.S.A. of A.  
CLUBHOUSE.

FIRST

FLOOR

GROUND

PLAN

DRAWING 33: Plan showing a Surf Club House design and layout.

187



Jack Pickett  
Foundation Bronze Medallion  
Holder



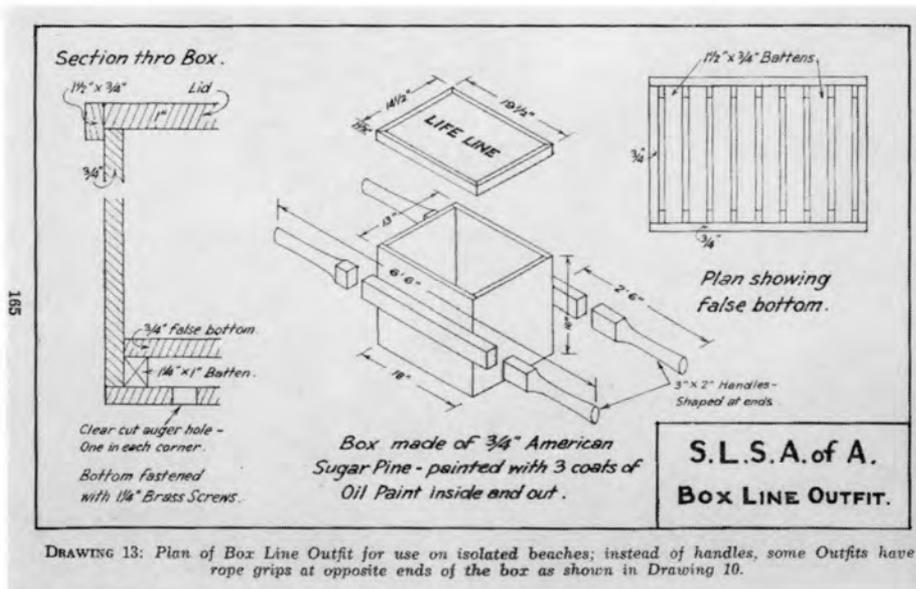
Mr. C. D. Paterson, President Surf Life Saving Association of Aust. officially opens the Clubhouse at Avoca on Sunday, October 6th, 1929.

Right: Foundation President, Mr. James Heazlett, addresses the gathering.





Young pinetrees planted by James Burns and William Norman around 1902.

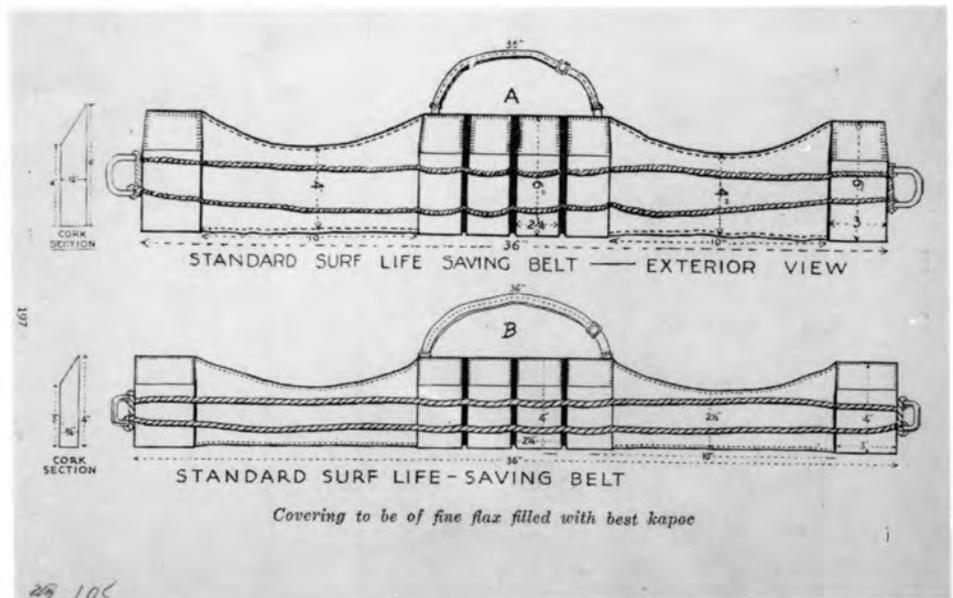


Bob Bowcock

DRAWING 13: Plan of Box Line Outfit for use on isolated beaches; instead of handles, some Outfits have rope grips at opposite ends of the box as shown in Drawing 10.



William Norman





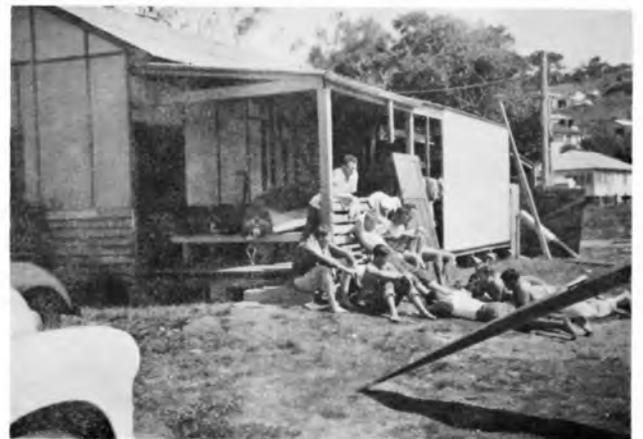
Our clubhouse relocated safely.



Todd Bryant



Craft became popular in early 'fifties.



The "Bunkroom Boys", 1951.

The old clubhouse building was donated to the Cricket Club. It now has a skillion roof and serves as a dressing shed at Heazlett Park.



Ken Kilduff



End of an era.



Moana Cottage and camping area.



Camping in the southern corner of the beach.



Benson's Store, left background



Eric Benson, Snr.  
Life Member



Judge Sir Adrian Curlewis, President of the National Council, S.L.S.A. of A., lays the Foundation Stone for the new Clubhouse.

(Centre wearing sunglasses is Laura Pickett and on her right Kath Bridge. Background, right are Ken May and Jim Harpur.)



"More bricks needed upstairs, fellas."

L. to R: Grahame Dwight, Dennis Dwight and Ken Ibbett "resting" at the rear of the clubhouse.



# Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club



HOME AT LAST, 1964-1965

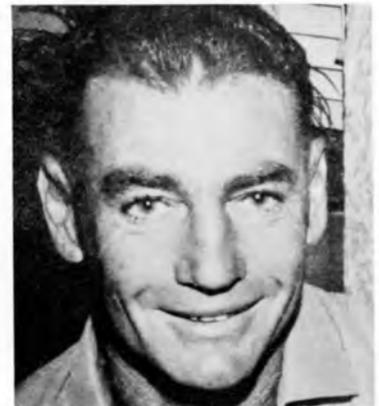
Built at a cost of \$15,000, this building was indeed a community effort. No grants were received. Loan monies were raised through the generosity of our supporters and the Herald Gear Fund. These loans have long since been repaid in full.



Colin Smith  
Architect



Jack Woods  
Supervisor



Jim Harpur  
Slave Driver

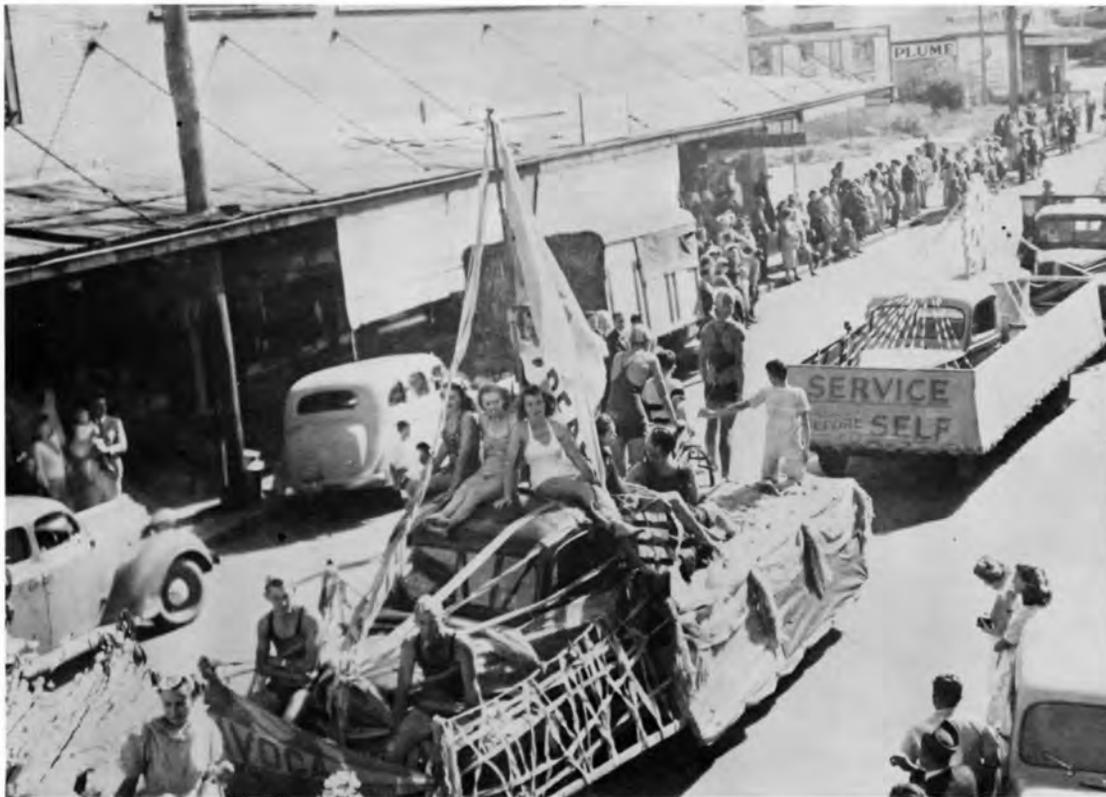
# Fundraising and Other Activities



"Mamma" Tony Licciardo looks over "Bambino", Ray (Barney) Fyffe, who wants money in the pram, although (left) Terry (Beans) Tamblyn and brother Mike (Peas) Tamblyn think it could be safer in the box.



Two of our most loved supporters, Bill and Bert Postill. They were ever present for collections and raffles. Identical twins, these men took great delight in confusing people.



1950. Kevin and Reg McKinnon on "Pop's" front mudguard. Seated on roof L to R: Val Scott (Poole), Doreen Bellamy (Thompson), Thelma Briggs (Pizzy). Behind flag; Shirley Bower (Moye).

1949-52: Flo Lee, Pearl Witter, Sylvia Gallard, Doreen Thompson, Kathleen Quigley, Marie Bellamy, Lorna Thompson, Beryl Pizzy. (Maiden names only.)



Fred and Jean Perry.  
Fred was responsible in the early 'fifties for organising our present method of administration and compiling our Constitution. Jean was a worthy Ladies' President and fund raiser.



The ladies around 1953.



L to R rear: Dorren Catt, Dot Gallard, Joan Hill, Lorna Snelling, Mr. Doug Catt, Barry Catt. Front: Robin and Faith Catt.



Bi-Centenary Parade 1950.  
L to R: Milton Bellamy, Una Ives, Ted Poole, Shirley Moye, Tom Guilbert, Flo Lee, Bill Barker.



Guardians of the Surf.  
Col Hodgekinson and Tom Guilbert. Driver – Adam (Paddy) Pickett.

BOAT LAUNCHING PARADE  
1949



Note Jim "Pop" McKinnon's truck in the background.  
The voice of experience: "Never march on hot tar with bare feet!"



This March Past includes Joyce Harpur (Belt), Val Poole, Pat Norman, Shirley Albert, Beryl Erskine, Monica Catt, Pat Allen, Ann Cole, Joan Hill.



It happened in the mid. 'sixties.



The patient was lost during treatment.

.... the best Ladies Auxiliary  
in Australia

Every now and then they  
got out of hand, and then ....

**Crazy Women**

**Crazy R. & R.**

**God**

**Help**

**Us**

**All**



Elsie Albert and Monica Catt.  
(See what we mean? Crazy!!)



Alan Whelpton (now National President) remarked after watching this event, "She just kept smiling and knocking them down." Joyce Harpur in action.



1959  
L-R Back Row: J. Harpur, R. Ruwald, L. Robertson, H. Cheadle, M. Wearne, J. Ruwald, F. Bridge. Front Row: G. Gibson, E. Bull, R. Catt, G. Lockie, J. Reed.



"Roaring Twenties" 1960-61



B. Norman, E. Hancock (James)  
Kincumber Fancy Dress Ball about 1950.



Keith Jones goes down for  
the count.



Central Coast Leagues Club Hawai-  
ian Night, about 1970. A. Mc-  
Cudden, I. Pickett, B. Cahill, A.  
Nowland, J. Witherall, R. Way,  
P. Britton.



Doreen Bellamy (Thompson), Emily Bellamy (Pickett), Marie Winter (Bellamy) – Fund Raisers and Workers all.



L-R: Tom Bryant, Don Green, Ron Blair, Shirley Moye, Bill Barker, Pearl Witter.



June Adams, Helen Lovell, Val Poole, Patricia Allen, Ann Laird.



Nanna Honderdors supported every fete and stall we ran for years. A grand old lady. Does anyone remember the mechanical crowing rooster let loose in the middle of presentations?



Front L-R: Mrs. E. Norman, Mrs. Gwen Chalmers, Mrs. R. Pierie. Back: Mrs. B. Sivell, Mrs. O. Chalmers and Mrs. Elsie Howard.



Emily Bellamy (Pickett) presents our new flag on behalf of the Ladies. First boat launching ceremony Post War.



1950's - Jim Thompson, past office bearer, helped by his wife Vi and daughters Doreen and Lorna - great supporters and fund raisers.

Pop McKinnon in the cabin with Bill Jnr. and Snr. and Doug Barker in white. Ladies L-R: Leone Melrose (Barker), Katie Jones (Walters), Emily Bellamy (Pickett), Dorothy Gallard (Starky).





Jim (Pop) McKinnon and Dorothy (Dot) Gallard.

THE SHARK TOWER 1929-30

.... the first of many.

(The children loved them.)



—MUSICIANS—

Who could forget —

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Dick Pickett's    | PIANO       |
| Pop McKinnon's    | SQUEEZE BOX |
| Duke Moy's        | VIOLIN      |
| Stan Green's      | PIANO       |
| Ted Johnson's     | DRUMS       |
| Ted Wailes'       | SAX         |
| Freda Gould's     | PIANO       |
| Spider Moss'      | HORN        |
| Alan Ryan's       | DRUMS       |
| Chica Ryan's      | BASE        |
| Col Nolan's       | PIANO       |
| The Count Worrell | M.C.        |
| Bobby Scott       | VOCALIST    |



Some of the Ladies Auxiliary, 1974-75 Season:  
 Rhonda Sainsbury, Norma Gee, Peg Gee, Annette Cahill, Margaret Hunt, Elaine Horne, Elaine Johnson,  
 Helen Walters, Lola Robinson, Betty Boden, Jan Hoban, Sue Messenger, Joyce Harpur, Amy Britton,  
 Cecely Norman, Ruth Ellis, Maree Bootle, Iris Townsend.



The Central Coast Instructional Tour to the West Coast of America included 10 Avoca members.

.....

Tours cost money so to raise funds they got together, built and sold 2 houses.

.....

Avoca went to Western Australia in 1965 so they ran an art union, east-west. At right: Errol Carrol, Ted Harris, Nev. Byrnes (organiser), Joyce Harpur (Ladies' President).





Social Committee 1977-78.  
 Neil Robinson, Eric Walters,  
 Grahame Hunt, Mark Patton,  
 Peter Hunt, Craig Kelly.  
 Missing – Alan Horne



Some of the Ladies Auxiliary 1977-78.  
 D. McAtamney, L. Robinson, E. Horne, B. Paterson, M. Bootle, P. Gee, J. Britton,  
 M. Parnell, H. Walters, A. Britton, J. Harpur, P. Hunt, H. Peebles

Presentation Night concluded in the A.M., home for a short rest and back again before noon. This rear-guard squad of "Staunchies" has a well deserved rest after cleaning up the Club House. L to R rear: Helen Walters, Geoff Thomson, Kay Jones; foreground looking away: Bryce Norman, Barry Jones and Terry Gavenlock. Far right is Ray Fyffe.





Ex-Chief Instructor, Mick Kendall, going through the drill.



The Club barbecue is a serious business for Len Cook and Ruth Ellis.



If giggles were worth a cent each, we wouldn't have to chase funds. Cecely Norman, Helen Walters and Peg Gee are at it again.



If the Treasurer could only see this – “The case of the disappearing bullock”. Grahame Love, Geoff King and Harold King show how it's done ....



Bulbararing Lagoon (Avoca Lake), May 1979

(Gosford Photographics)



The Cliffs on the right are those referred to on the medal awarded to W. J. Norman.

# Outstanding Rescues Awards and Recipients

## 1932 S.L.S.A. Award

At Avoca Beach on 6th April last, Mr. H. G. Harper, while assisting with a fishing net, was capsized from a small canoe and swept to sea by a strong current.

As there was nobody on the beach at the time capable of rescuing Mr. Harper, his case seemed hopeless. Fortunately, the trouble was witnessed by Mr. J. D. Miller from the verandah of his home near the beach. Mr. Miller is a probationary member of the Avoca Club. Though incapacitated with a bad leg which had confined him to hospital for some time, he hurried to the scene as fast as he could with the aid of crutches.

He stripped at the water's edge and donned a belt attached to a box line. Eye witnesses state that Mr. Harper was now out about 400 yards and apparently helpless. Mr. Miller swam until he exhausted the full length of the line, which was said



Stan Pickett

## 1933 S.L.S.A. Award

19th January, 1933 Avoca Beach. Sydney Lambert and George Payne were swept from the rocks during a heavy sea, and both were in extreme danger. Fortunately Payne was washed back and was able to go for assistance. A box-line was brought to the spot, and after a number of attempts Lambert managed to grasp a life-belt that was thrown to him. Owing to the heavy surf breaking on the rocks it was impossible to pull him in, so it was decided to draw him along until he could be landed on the beach.

This operation proved extremely dangerous. The line frequently became entangled in the rocks, and had to be freed at the water's edge where the waves were breaking heavily. The line was freed by Stanley Pickett of Avoca, and Father Louis Loughnan, principal of Riverview College. Both suffered badly through being cut about during their efforts by the jagged rocks, and Father Loughnan was forced, as a result, to spend some weeks in hospital.

While these activities were in progress, news of the trouble reached the guest house, where Mr. J. D. Miller, a member of the Avoca Club, and who received the Bronze Medal for a

to be over 400 yards, when another line from a reel was joined on. Mr. Harper was unconscious when Mr. Miller reached him. Both were hauled ashore by helpers on the beach, and, being the only one who understood anything of resuscitation, Mr. Miller, despite his tiredness, proceeded with resuscitation until Mr. Harper regained consciousness.

Two ladies present who appear to have rendered valuable assistance in various ways were Mrs. O'Reilly and Miss Ives. Mrs. O'Reilly states that the rope parted on one occasion and Miss Ives ran into the water and managed to catch the end of it as the current was sweeping it out. She also had the initiative to send for blankets and coffee before the patient was brought ashore.

The other men on the beach were all elderly. All pay tribute to the great work of Mr. Miller, who had only novices to assist on the line; who had difficulty in getting across the net on his way out, and who, despite the trouble his leg must have been causing him, bore the greater part of the work in getting the unconscious body of Mr. Harper to the beach after being brought into shallow water.

brilliant rescue in 1932, was in bed resting a bad leg.

Undeterred by his incapacity, Mr. Miller volunteered to take a boat out through the surf. In this dangerous undertaking Father Felix Conlon and Mr. Bernard O'Brien were ready to join. They succeeded in launching the boat but before getting clear of the surf it was capsized and the occupants were precipitated into the water. All were fully clothed. Mr. Miller secured lifebelts that were stowed in the nose of the boat and gave one to each of his companions. It is difficult to ascertain exactly what happened after this. Mr. Miller decided to swim for the shore and asked the others to follow him. Father Conlon disappeared and was not seen again. Mr. O'Brien remained with the capsized boat, which was carried by the current along the beach. Mr. O'Brien was washed from the boat by a large wave, but fortunately, when exhausted, he was rescued by C. Ives of the Avoca Life Saving Club, who, with R. Pickett, another member, arrived with a reel at a critical time.

In the meantime, Lambert was brought safely to shore, and eye-witnesses stated that, "There was no doubt that his rescue was due to the efforts of Stanley Pickett, Bernard O'Brien, J. D. Miller."



Frank Gallard

1948 Royal Shipwreck Relief & Humane Society of N.S.W. Award

Frank T. Gallard, Peat's Ridge, Gosford, on the 9th October, 1948, was in a 15 foot rowboat with two companions, two to three miles seaward of Avoca Beach, when their craft received a violent jar, and a large shark-like fish projected part of its body over the bow, causing the boat to suddenly dip and fill with water. The fish fell back and disappeared, but the boat submerged till the

gunwales were just below sea level. Bailing was useless, and the boat was unmanageable. After a hasty conference Gallard, the strongest swimmer, volunteered to swim to the land for help. He set out with two floorboards as floats, but soon discarded them. At last he reached Winnie Beach in an exhausted condition, after a two to three miles swim. After resting he reached a house. The Police at Terrigal and the Surf Club at Avoca were contacted by telephone, and assistance was sent out to the two men remaining in the derelict boat.



Terry Hunter

1961 S.L.S.A. Award

On Monday 20th February, 1961 mountainous seas were prevalent at Avoca Beach. A lone club member in the area, Terry Hunter, was retiring to the clubhouse, having decided against entering such a dangerous surf when his attention was drawn to a group of bathers who had been quickly whipped to sea from the shallows.

With the aid of Donald Sutton, a past member of Balgowlah S.L.S.C., Hunter raced a reel to the beach and had no hesitation in entering the surf with line and belt.

Having secured his first patient after an exhaustive swim of some 150 yards, a haul-in was commenced from the beach. However, the inexperience of the linesmen gravely endangered the life of both Hunter and his patient by their speed of hauling in, before Donald Sutton on the reel could gain command of the situation.

At this stage, Hunter shed the belt and passed the end of the line to his patient who was then hauled to the beach to safety.

Hunter was then sighted making his way through the surf towards a group of four bathers some 100 yards distant. Upon reaching this group Hunter was primarily responsible for their safe

return to the beach and rescue from possible drowning.

With his own return after such efforts Hunter was in an extremely waterlogged and exhausted condition, and whilst in this state of near collapse was advised of a remaining patient just visible well out to sea and in distress.

Hunter rallied himself with great effort and again donned the belt and proceeded towards his patient. Some 150 yards from the beach Hunter reached and secured his patient and with the aid of line and linemen now under the control of Donald Sutton, returned his patient safely.

In spite of his own condition Hunter's first concern was for the care of his patient and immediately commenced the treatment for immersion, drainage and shock.

Terry Hunter showed great courage and fortitude throughout, in a surf which he had considered too dangerous to enter himself, this being magnified by his exhaustion and the very real danger of inexperienced assistance throughout.

Terry Hunter's actions were far in excess of what could be considered the normal duty of a surf lifesaver and in the strongest interests of humanity, whereas a total of six persons have been saved from possible drowning.

Commendatory Letters

Letter of Commendation was forwarded to—  
Mr. Milton Gallard, Avoca Beach S.L.S.C.  
for a rescue performed at Avoca Beach on  
Sunday 19th September, 1961.



Milton Gallard

1961 S.L.S.A. Award

Letter of Commendation to Mr. Milton Gallard:

Dear Sir,

Consideration has been given by the Meritorious Awards Committee with respect to a rescue performed at Avoca Beach on Sunday, 10th September, 1961. Having regard to all the circumstances in connection with the action taken by you we are of the opinion that you acted in a most courageous and efficient manner and accordingly

we extend to you the sincere congratulations of the Association. By resolution of the Surf Life Saving Association of N.S.W. we ask you to accept this Letter of Commendation in recognition of your courage and bravery in connection with this rescue.

Yours sincerely,  
B. Brewin,  
Hon. Secretary, NSW State Centre,  
S.L.S.A. of Australia.

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1973 Royal Humane Society of N.S.W. Award

On March 1, 1973 it was reported that a person was in danger of drowning at Avoca Beach. At the time there was a large surf with waves as high as 20 feet breaking about a half mile out and an extremely strong current running south. Sergeant Lambert set out on a surf ski and was accompanied by Beach Inspector Gibson riding a surf board. Subsequently Gibson was swept out to sea and when unable to return to the beach paddled his board two miles to reach Terrigal Beach. Meanwhile, Sergeant Lambert had been swept from his

surf ski, almost pounded against rocks by huge waves and then carried by the current towards Copacabana. Senior Constable Paterson dived from the rocks and swam through the heavy water to assist Sergeant Lambert. Both then were swept along in the current for more than an hour and carried nearly a mile out to sea. They were subsequently rescued by the Jet Power Rescue Surf Boat from The Entrance. In spite of all efforts none of the would-be rescuers sighted any other person in difficulty and as no one was reported missing it appeared the original call for help was a false alarm.



Bob Paterson



Gordon Lambert



Avoca Beach Bowling Club, May 1979. Sandy and Hilda Smith's cottage on the right and in the background preparatory excavations for the proposed motel.

*"On the eastern side of Kincumber Mountain was the home of the Koala and larger grey bear. They lived there in hundreds, and the big bears often frightened me at night-time with their cry. The koalas eventually were wiped out by a disease of blindness, and you could find them dead at the foot of trees through starvation. Also there and in the gullies were great flocks of black cockatoos and blue flock pigeons, and lots of wallabies, but not now. They are gone."*

(From "Knots of Knowledge" by W. J. Norman)

*"Mr. Donald McMaster was met by Mr. Kerns riding home from Gosford on horseback, and he had a sack of flour on his shoulder, and Kerns said to him, 'What are you carrying the flour for, Donald?' and he replied, 'To make it lighter on the horse you damn fool man'."*

(from "Knots of Knowledge" by W. J. Norman)



**Ron Buist**  
**N.S.W. State**  
**President S.L.S.A.**

On behalf of Surf Life Savers all over New South Wales, I am pleased to have this opportunity of congratulating Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club on successfully completing fifty years of service to our community. The Club has established itself as one dedicated to the protection of the surfing public and in so doing, has upheld the highest principles and ideals of our Association.

As one of the original Central Coast Branch Clubs, Avoca Beach S.L.S.C. has grown with that Branch, lending it great support, both in its administration and in its surf life saving strength. Avoca

Beach S.L.S.C. has a proud record of achievements to its credit and I am sure that all of its Members, both past and present, will find great satisfaction in the Club they have built. To the Officers, both past and present, my congratulations for the efforts so successfully applied.

The New South Wales State Centre is proud to have Avoca Beach S.L.S.C. as one of its Member Clubs.

Ron Buist,  
President,  
NSW State Centre

# Swimmers and Drill



A proud moment for Avoca.

It took Avoca Beach 33 years to achieve its first Rescue and Resuscitation Branch Championship. His Honour, Judge Adrian Curlewis, President of the National Council S.L.S.A. of Australia officiating. A delighted Arthur McCudden accepts the accolades.

The Team, L to R: C. Barker, A. McCudden, F. Luckie, T. Hunter, J. Pollock, R. Grant, (John Pollock absent).





Sid Pickett, Club Champion 1936-37. To his right Jack Hitchcock and Charley and Clem Ives kneeling. Jack Pickett (hand over eyes) and Leo Cahill in blazer.



North Bondi regularly featured in our early days.



Early R & R competition.



The New Year's Day Carnival.



Richard (Dick) Pickett  
Foundation Member  
Our first qualified Examiner



Bronze training 1947. A. Scott, J. Bowcock, D. Green, E. Poole, R. Fairbrother, W. Jackson.



The 1948-49 R & R Team. Ron Blair, Frank Fahey, Bruce Wall, Alan Scott, Bryce Norman, Bill Blackburn.

## STANDARD SURF LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT

All Life Saving Gear supplied by the Association is thoroughly tested and inspected before issue.



The Standard Reel, Line and Belt. Weight 85 lbs.

Complete outfits as above, of standard pattern, may be obtained through the Association.

### SPECIFICATIONS OF STANDARD REEL STRUCTURE:

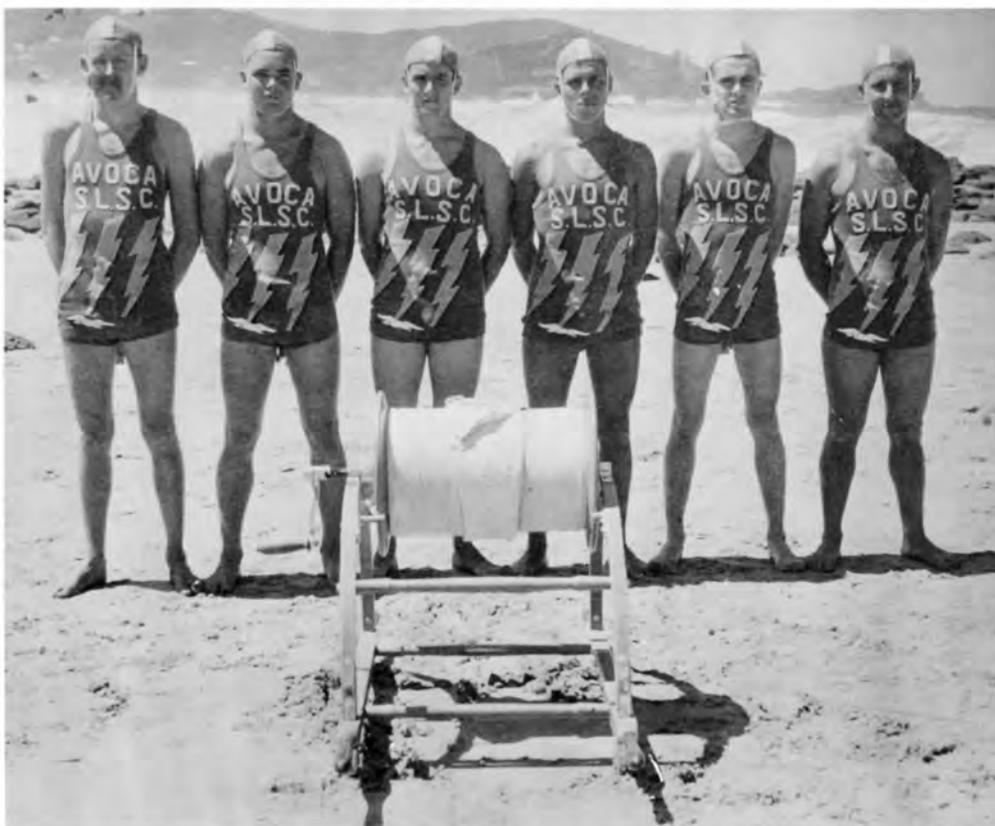
- Handles.**—Coachwood.
- Flanges of Drum.**—Queensland Kauri.
- Circles for Battens.**—Maple or Pine.
- Battens.**—Pine (fastened with copper nails).
- Spreaders.**—Coachwood.
- Arches.**—Tasmanian Blackwood.



[Photo by courtesy Sydney "Sun"]

Manning the Reels in a Surf Belt Race—a study of speed and action.

Extract from 9th Ed. S.L.S.A. Hand Book 1935.



Snr. R & R 1952.  
D. Catt, T. Gallard, A. Scott, R. Way, E. Poole, B. Norman.

## Surfing<sup>13. 10. 50</sup>

Terrigal Surf Club's patrols for Sunday are:

Morning: J. Kay (c), C. Griffen (vc), T. George, P. George, J. Lambert (cadet), J. Burgess (supervisor).

Afternoon: K. May (c), J. Bunt (vc), B. Caldwell, B. Stuart, K. Flaherty (cadet), H. Vickery (supervisor).

### AVOCA BEACH

Bryce Norman won Avoca Beach Surf Club's senior handicap swim on Sunday from A. Scott and J. Mantova.

The junior handicap swim was won by C. Gallard from D. Poulton and S. Green.

W. Jackson won the beach sprint. K. Jackson was second and B. Gray third.

The musical flags resulted: K. Jackson 1; W. Jackson 2; B. Gray 3.

Fourteen junior club members are training for their bronze medallions.

Four members are competing for the instructor's certificates.

Patrols for next Sunday are:

Morning: R. Parnell (c), K. Callan, D. Catt, A. Ellis, A. Ryan.  
Afternoon: K. McKinnon (c), W. Jackson, S. Green, K. Jackson, C. Fairbrother.



Ron Blair (deceased)  
1949

L to R: Bill Phillips, Barry Osborn, Graham Ryan, Alan Ryan, Neil Sainsbury, Michael Allen.  
Instructor Kevin Cheadle, Examiner Dick Pickett.



Ray Tinker, Tony Licciardo, Michael Allen, Frank Buckley, Bruce Hibbard.  
Duty Boat 1956.

Looks like the lobsters  
were about this day.



Some of our successful Taplin Relay Team  
1979



Arthur Ellis was always "at ease" with R & R events. Pictured with "Matey" in this junior R & R shot of 1952 are Clem Gallard, Graham Catt, Ted Poole, Nev. Ryan and Stan Green. Arthur reckons the others were all wrong standing at attention.



Clem Gallard



The rewards of ability and training. Milton, Trevor and Clem Gallard.



THE DREADED EVE ROCKER.  
If the patient wasn't ill before treatment, he was later.



The Holger-Nielsen Resuscitation.



Clem Gallard, Bill Turnbull, Kevin Cheadle, A. Cooksey and Phil Casier.



At long last an R & R Premiership 1961-62 in action. L to R: Frank Luckie, Jim Pollock, John Pollock, patient Col Barker, beltman Ron Grant. Reelman not shown.



What they won we couldn't recall. Max Sainsbury couldn't swim, Ian Lambert couldn't run, but they're all smiling with a Branch pennant. L to R: Frank Luckie, Graham Morris, Ray Fyffe, Max Sainsbury, Ian Lambert, Col Barker. At right is Terry Hunter. Perhaps a place in the Chariot Race.



Could be an ad. for Palmolive. The carrying party of Ken Ibbett, Bob Haynes, and Noel Duff, together with beltman Dennis Barker, transport patient Col Barker up the beach. Reelman John Cheadle was the other member of that Branch winning R & R team of '66.



Applause for the winners. Bob Haynes claps Noel Duff, John Cheadle and Ken Ibbett for helping him win the Branch Senior Teams. Bob Deakes is in the background left, a champion surfer from The Entrance Club.



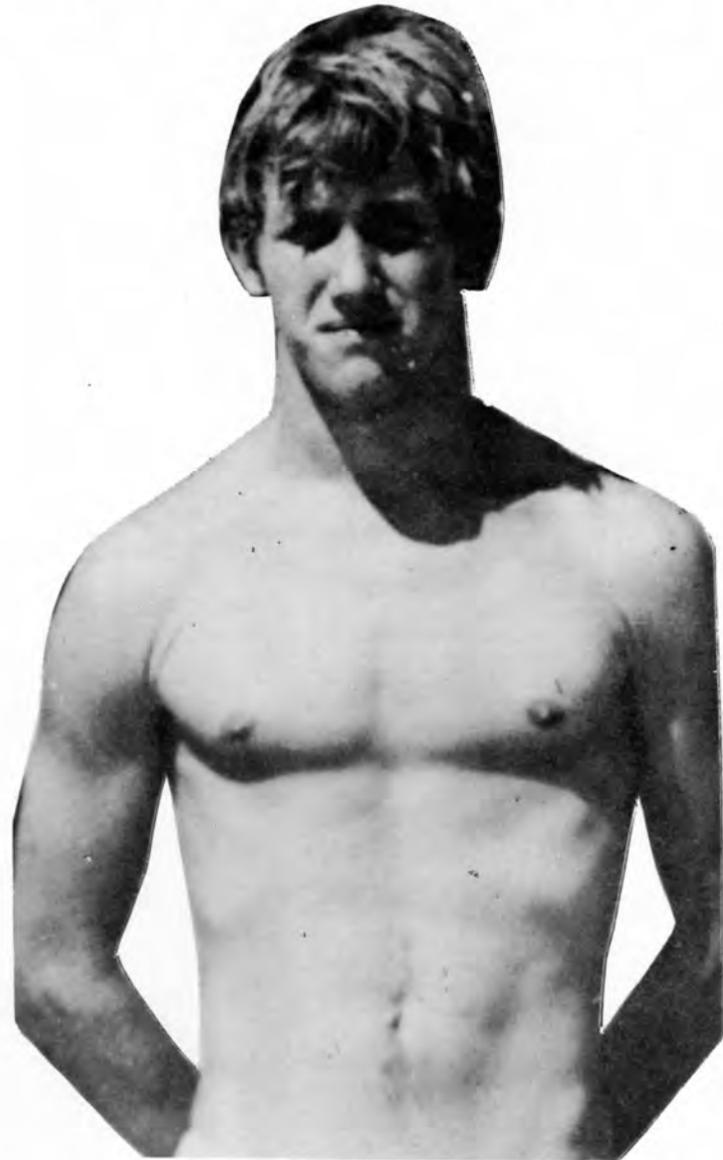
Jim McAtamney started young and is now a hairy good surfer.



An early Inter-Districts dash for the Robert Orren Memorial Shield, showing Don Boland, Dennis Barker, Kev. Bootle and Bob Haynes in an open belt race.



Some of our "fitter" veterans: Dave Garnham, Andy Hoban, Mick Kendall, Bob Paterson. 1974-75 vintage.



Only with the Club a short while but Greg Richardson had a superlative season winning Club, Branch and State honours.

# TONY BOOTLE WINS SURF THRILLER AT TERRIGAL

## Avoca and The Entrance share carnival honours

Tony Bootle (Toowoan Bay) won the Central Coast branch surf title at Terrigal on Saturday after a great battle with the former Illawarra branch titleholder, Ron Grant.

● Bootle and Grant (Avoca) had a stirring struggle and they emerged from the surf together. Bootle, more powerfully built, ploughed through knee-deep water to win the race up the beach.

Last season's champion Bob Deakes did not defend his title. Bootle and Grant had been tipped to fight out the title.

Versatile Brian Cahill came in third and Avoca won the teams race.

Cahill proved too good in the open belt race and won comfortably from the two Toowoan Bay aces, Peter Cox and Bootle.

Avoca and The Entrance clubs each won five branch titles.

Avoca won the blue riband R and R title by two points from Toowoan Bay with The Entrance, last season's champion, third.

The Entrance lost all chance with a poor display of resuscitation.

There were few surprises at the carnival although competitors had to contend with some moutenous waves.

### Gallard Regains Title

Trevor Gallard (Avoca) regained his surf ski championship, State and branch titleholder Gordon Lambert (Terrigal) paddled on level terms with Gallard to the buoys but his condition gave out soon after.

Lambert had not started in the ski previously this season.

Ron Sumner, generally favoured to win, looked a big show late in the race but he veered off course, leaving Gallard a comfortable winner.



BRIAN CAHILL.

Two fine prospects, Howard McKee (junior) and Col Pritchard (cadet) had surf wins.

Champion Dennis Gee came from behind to retain his surf board title.

John Shore, having only his second competitive start led the field on the run home and ran into difficulties.

Gee and Laing passed him near the line.

There was somewhat of a surprise in the double ski when Col Swadling and Dick Gee downed the hot favourites Sumner and Rodgers.

Surprise starter in the pillow fight Phil Stubbs beat the Australian champion Ron Way.

Stubbs is a former State title holder.

Terrigal club dominated the beach events.

As expected The Entrance was untroubled to win the senior boat title, in an uneventful race.

From a spectator's viewpoint the junior event was more colourful.

Avoca surprised by defeating favourites Ocean Beach.

McMasters Beach again showed superiority by winning its speciality the March Past. Detailed results are:

Open R. and R.: Avoca 10.6s, 1; Toowoan Bay 12.6s 2; The Entrance, 14.03, 3. Junior R and R.: Ocean Beach 12.1, 1; The Entrance 17.65, 2; Terrigal, 18.77, 3. March past: MacMaster's Beach, 1; Terrigal, 2; Ocean Beach, 3. Single ski: T. Gallard (Avoca), 1; R. Sumner (MacMasters Beach), 2; R. Hanaford (Ocean Beach), 3. Open surf: T. Bootle (Toowoan Bay), 1; R. Grant (Avoca), 2; B. Cahill (Avoca), 3. Open team:

Avoca, 1; The Entrance, 2; Terrigal, 3.

Cadet surf race: C. Pritchard (MacMasters Beach), 1; H. Ferrier (The Entrance) R. Hoyer (Ocean Beach), dead-heat, 2; Junior surf: H. McKee (The Entrance), 1; K. Purdon (Ocean Beach), 2; S. Bateman (The Entrance), 3. Junior teams: The Entrance, 1; Terrigal, 2.

Surfboard race: D. Gee (The Entrance), 1; C. Laing (The Entrance), 2; J. Shore (The Entrance), 3. Senior belt race: B. Cahill (Avoca), 1; P. Cox (Toowoan Bay), 2; T. Bootle (Toowoan Bay) 3.

Junior boat race: Avoca, 1;

Ocean Beach, 2; The Entrance, 3. Beach sprint: P. Graham (Terrigal), 1; P. Hume (Avoca), 2; G. Gregory (Terrigal), 3. Musical flags: K. Graham (Terrigal), 1; M. Stewart (The Entrance), 2; M. Sainsbury (Avoca) 3. Senior boat: The Entrance, 1; Killcare, 2; Ocean Beach, 3.

Double ski: C. Swadling and R. Gee (The Entrance), 1; R. Sumner and T. Rogers (MacMasters Beach), 2. Beach relay: Terrigal, 1; Ocean Beach, 2; Killcare, 3. Chariot race: Umina, 1; Terrigal, 2; Ocean Beach, 3. Pillow fight: P. Stubbs (Terrigal), 1; R. Way (Avoca), 2; R. Nunn (Avoca), 3.

## Rescue & Resuscitation

The blue ribbon event designed to incorporate as much of surf lifesaving as possible.....commonly known as R & R.

## Our Post War Debut

Kilcare Carnival around 1950 was the scene of Avoca Beach's re-entry into R & R after the Second World War. The day was extremely hot and the beach very well attended, and the surf was living up to Kilcare's reputation of turning strapping, bronzed heroes into nervous wrecks by presenting an eight feet shore break.

The carnival announcer, Mr. Roy Dibben, gave Avoca a considerable amount of praise and encouragement, and we marched proudly into the competition area (not necessarily in step). The draw was completed and the "patients" swam to their respective buoys, Avoca arriving some considerable time after all other competitors. Our belt man, on the signal, strutted forward, proudly donned the belt and pranced his way down to the surf. He dived in enthusiastically and swam up the face of the shore break, only to be most unceremoniously dashed flat on his back on the almost bare sand. And that was the end of that!

After unravelling the line and the beltman, a very dejected team quietly made its way from the area. And from the commentator – not a word!

\*\*\*\*\*



Harold Baldwin, Jim Harpur, Alan Scott, Kerry Worrall, Bob Dorrell, Bryce Norman, John (surname unknown) and Warren Wearne.



"Go Brown-John." L-R: D. Barker, L. Cook, D. Garnham, J. McAtamney, John Andrews in the belt.



"You must look the part, lad." Paul Horneman lets father Ron fuss at the N.S.W. Championships.



Len "Loopy" Cook.

The Branch winning R & R team of 1974, with coach Dennis Barker, on reel. L to R: Len Cook, Steve Harpur, Greg Price, John Andrews, Jim McAtamney and Trevor Way.

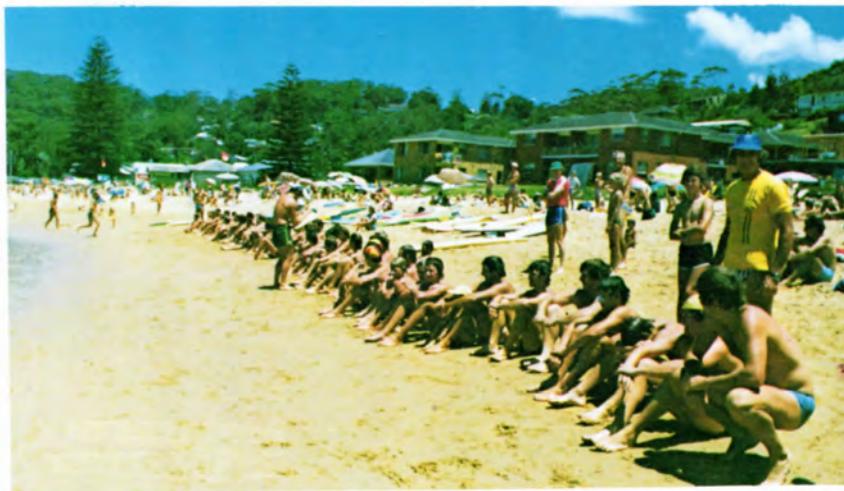




Avoca Beach 1979..... Club events are keenly contested.



Don Hoban refuses to face the camera.



Who would like a start in a Sunday Club surf race?





One of the annual Seminars: 1977



Norm Boden (centre) doing breathing exercises while on patrol.

Keith Jones, John Spindler and Fred Spindler on "Bikini" Patrol.





## Alan B. Whelpton President S.L.S.A. of Australia

As President of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia, I have many times had the pleasure of being requested to make contributions to books celebrating clubs history and achievements.

In the case of Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club, it is with personal knowledge and friendship that this has been written.

In 1953 I joined neighbouring McMasters Beach Club and in the years that followed, had a close relationship with Avoca. Avoca's Saturday Night Dances, family functions and the many close friends I made, played a substantial part in my surf life saving years. I also had the honour and privilege of joining and rowing with the Avoca Boys throughout the Maitland Floods – an experience I am sure all those who went to Maitland will never forget.

Avoca today is one of the strongest surf clubs in Australia, both in service to the Public and in competition. It's Management Team and supporters are among the finest and the Club's success over the past decade is a tribute to their forward planning and ability to educate and motivate the youth of today.

From its humble beginning back in 1929, throughout its history, to 1979, rest assured Avoca can hold its head high among surf life saving clubs throughout Australia today.

Congratulations and well done to all members of this great family surf life saving club.

Alan B. Whelpton  
President  
Surf Life Saving Association of Australia.

Maitland 1955. Richard Cunningham (dec'd), on left, and Alan Whelpton second from right (both from McMasters Beach), assist with transportation of foodstuffs.



# The Maitland Flood



## A Reporter's Frightening Eye-Witness Picture

I HAVE been watching a city drowning—Maitland, a few days ago happy and prosperous, now a place of mourning.

In a city of 23,000, great areas are under water, three out of four people are homeless, at least 20 are dead, and nobody can tell yet what further disasters the raging waters of the Hunter River will bring.

The spirit of the people of Maitland is still alive and strong, but the normal life of the city has ceased.

A flood does not strike all at once, like a bold enemy, but stealthily, stealing life like a thief. It is a terrifying thing to watch. I think there may be a lesson for the people of the State, as well as for the people of Maitland, in what I have seen in the past three days.

**M**AITLAND has had floods before — lots of them. So it was not altogether surprising that the people of Maitland did not get excited about this one when it first started.

At first, I found an air almost of complacency.

The general attitude seemed to be: "This won't hurt us too much if it is no worse than the 1949 flood or even the 1950 one."

I have had to wade and swim, half-naked, to find telephones in working order to send these messages; to you in warm clothes and dry beds they may seem disjointed; but here is a day-to-day, and sometimes an hourly, account of the drowning of a city, as far as my memory and my sodden notes serve me . . .



A section of Maitland Railway Station



High Street, Maitland

## Thursday :

**F**OR a town facing a flood, Maitland seems remarkably quiet and unafraid.

This evening, water lay across the road for a short stretch of High Street.

Through the night, the preparations have been going on.

At the Town Hall, nerve centre of flood relief operations, two beds have been carried into the Council Chambers. One is for the 76-year-old Mayor of Maitland, Alderman Alexander S. McDonald; the other for the Town Clerk, Mr. S. J. Dunkley.

### Familiar Routine

The flood routine, so familiar from long experience to Maitland's city fathers, is smoothly and unhurriedly being carried out.

**LATER:** The Mayor and his colleagues have assembled in the Town Hall, resigned to a night of waiting.

From time to time telephone calls go through to Singleton, 35 miles higher up the river.

The news is grave now. Singleton is cut off, and its people are being evacuated.

The voice of the Town Clerk of Maitland came grimly over the local radio a few minutes ago.

He told people in low-lying areas to leave their homes and go to higher land.

He advised them where to go, how to get help in moving furniture. He made it clear that everything was organised; that there was no need for panic.

At midnight the elderly Mayor yielded to persuasion and went to bed in the Council Chamber.

## Friday :

**T**HIS is Friday afternoon, and the picture has changed with terrible swiftness.

Last night, as those in the Town Hall waited for news, I walked up Maitland's High Street. Its shops showed their wares in gay neon-lit brilliance. The rain had eased a little, strollers made their way to the city's Belmore bridge to watch the river.

To-day I have seen water cascading through shops and hotels, belching out of every doorway, Belmore bridge under water with only its upper girders to indicate its existence.



Belmore Bridge



**A**T 11 a.m. to-day I inquired about trains to Newcastle.

The booking clerk said a train would be leaving at 11.50.

I saw trains on tracks that were high and dry, though floodwater lay on either side.

At 11.50 the rails were under 3ft of water.

The others in our party feel they are trapped in the hotel where we have been staying. The water's four feet deep on the ground floor. I'll stay here for a while I think. It is a good observation post.

The peak of the flood is expected about midnight.



### Boats In Street

**F**ROM the bedroom of my hotel whose bars below are deep in water, there are shouts in the street.

Six men are attempting to row a boat up High Street on a mercy errand.

I see the craft tossed about crazily by currents coming out of side streets.

There is a crash of breaking glass as it is hurled against a shop window.

Massive trees and other debris, the carcasses of horses, cattle and sheep, are borne along the water—mad whirligig of death that I hope never to witness again.



Western end of High Street, Maitland



Overlooking the Long Bridge towards Maitland Hospital

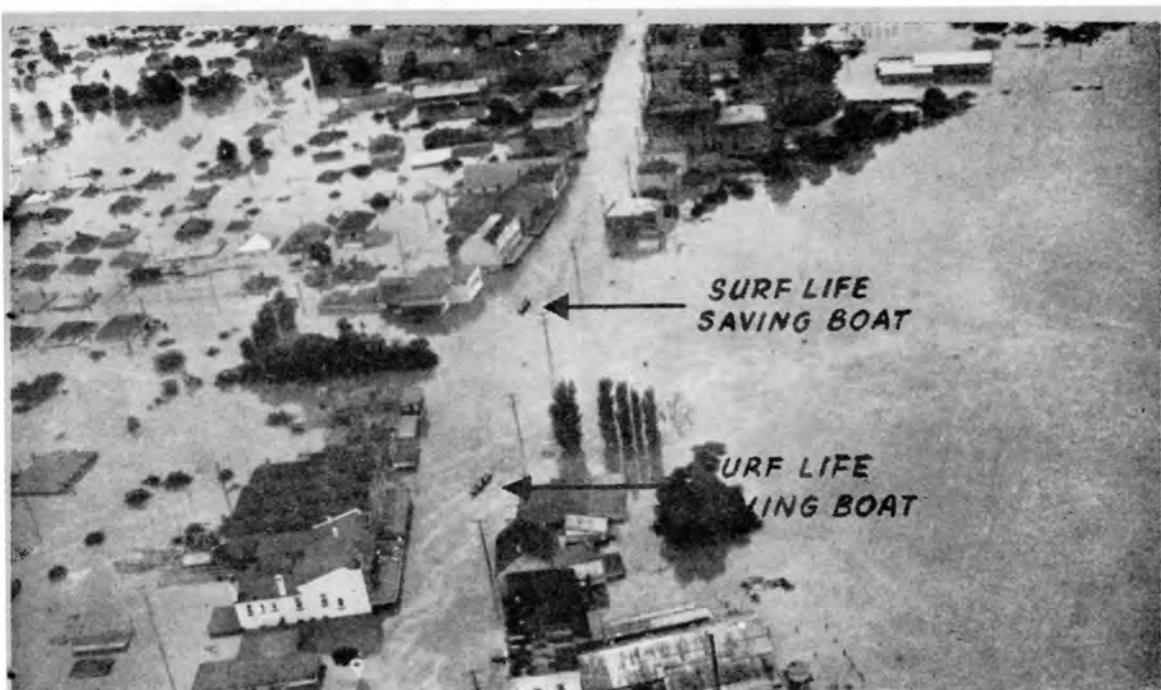


PLATE 28: Aerial view of section of Maitland during the 1955 floods, showing two surf boats in rescue activities.

## Saturday:

INSTEAD of rising, the river has dropped a little, although the relief is temporary only.

Reports come flooding in of death and disaster. Twenty dead in this area alone seems a conservative estimate — the death roll easily may be twice as high; we can't tell yet.

Meanwhile families with missing members, are frantically trying to trace them, getting round the town as best they can.

This morning I rowed through the town, on my way to interview the Mayor at the Town Hall. Most of it is still under water, with isolated strips here and there standing out.

Parts of High Street, the city's main thoroughfare, are now clear of water. There is a foul carpet of mud and silt over everything.

Many of the principal shops are still under water — 15 feet and more deep — but in others, staffs are working like ants to clear out the mess and scrape out the horrible mud.

The refugees from the worst areas, who can't find accommodation in private homes, have been put in the schools.

It's a weird sight — families with their scanty possessions crowded into small classrooms.

Some of them have insisted on bringing their pets along. I'll never forget one bedraggled kookaburra sitting with a family. I didn't think a bird could look so dejected.

## Food Supply Problem

HOW these people are to be fed is a problem. I have already sent out the Mayor's appeal for help. The trouble is that there seems scarcely any way to bring food in.

Air drops would be extremely difficult — nine times out of ten the food would drop in water. Helicopters, if there were enough of them, might get in, but it's a risky business — the danger of power lines has been shown twice.

Surf boats seem the surest way, if only the food can be brought to some place where the boats can go.

There's no power in the town now, no gas, no normal transport. Boats help, but one often has to wade or swim.



PLATE 29: Surf Boat crews (double-ender type in front followed by a tuck stern) delivering milk and foodstuffs during the 1955 Maitland floods. Surf Skis, shown in the foreground, were also used for rescue work in the area.



**LATER:** I've had bad news this afternoon. There's another big wave coming down the river, according to our latest reports. It's due in Singleton soon, so they'll go through it again. It should reach Maitland some time to-night.

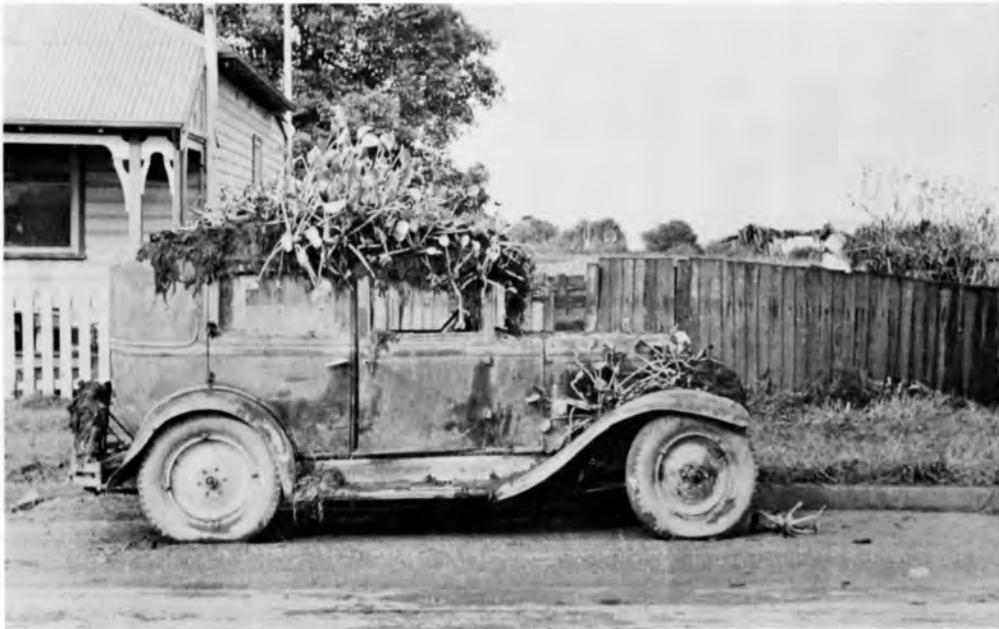
At this stage, it's impossible to say what a fresh flood will mean to this sodden, battered city. We can only hope the new flood won't be as serious as the people up river seem to think.

I've hardly the heart to tell these people working like beavers that they may be wasting their time trying to restore the city now.

The full story of this flood can't be told yet. It won't be known for weeks. There's much quiet heroism here that won't ever be known.

If I had to pick out anybody for special praise it would be the switch girls and the surf-club men.

But there are so many more—the staffs working in the emergency hospital (also in a school); the army men in their "ducks"; the officials trying to find and distribute food . . . the list could go on endlessly.



### **Lesson Of The Floods**

**T**HE frightening thing about these floods is that everybody knows they must come again.

Everybody seems to accept it as something inevitable. There's no serious suggestion of moving towns a few miles out of the way, although there is certain to be a lot more talk about flood control.

There seems something fatalistic in Maitland, preparing now for still more water—if not to-night, then in some dim year ahead.

Belmore Bridge



Club crews combined to carry out a wide variety of tasks.

Ray (Roly) Norman (Avoca) in white singlet, assisted by Max Brewer (McM.B) and Ray Martin far right (McM.B) and others loading.





From above North Avoca Beach, showing first and second points of Captain James Cook's Cape Three Points. May, 1979.



The southern tip of Avoca Lake. Left foreground "The Palms" Caravan Park and Bowtell's Caravan Park on the lake edge. May, 1979.

(Gosford Photographics)

# Club Competition Results

| PATROLMAN OF THE YEAR |              | CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR |              |             | CLUB CHAMPIONS |              |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
|                       |              | Senior              | Junior       | Cadet       | Senior         | Junior       | Cadet        |
| 1964                  |              | D. Barker           |              |             | G. Dwight      |              |              |
| 1965                  |              | J. Cheadle          |              |             | K. Ibbett      | F. Grayndler |              |
| 1966                  |              | D. Barker           |              |             | N. Duff        | F. Spindler  |              |
| 1967                  | *            | C. VanHaren         |              |             | G. Edwards     | A. Cook      | J. Walsh     |
| 1968                  | B. Cahill    | M. Powell           |              |             | N. Duff        | A. Cook      | L. Cook      |
| 1969                  | A. Licciardo | N. Hillyard         |              |             | F. Spindler    | A. Cook      | M. Edmondson |
| 1970                  | N. Perry     | L. Cook             |              |             | M. Sainsbury   | J. Walsh     | C. Way       |
| 1971                  | G. Sherwin   | N. Duff             |              |             | S. Harpur      | L. Cook      | J. McAtamney |
| 1972                  | B. Cahill    | G. Love             | *            | *           | ---            | ---          | ---          |
| 1973                  | M. Tamblyn   | B. Low              | J. McAtamney | R. Norman   | ---            | ---          | ---          |
| 1974                  | B. Jacobs    | R. Gee              | M. Loggie    | P. Hoban    | ---            | T. Way       | M. McAtamney |
| 1975                  | J. Adamski   | M. Tamblyn          | C. Kelly     | J. Horneman | J. McAtamney   | T. Way       | S. Cannon    |
| 1976                  | D. Hoban     | Q. Riley            | N. Cannon    | M. Benson   | J. McAtamney   | T. Smith     | M. Benson    |
| 1977                  | N. Boden     | R. Cairncross       | R. Earl      | R. Harvey   | J. McAtamney   | J. Horneman  | J. Laing     |
| 1978                  | N. Boden     | A. Peebles          | S. Cannon    | M. Walters  | H. King        | J. Horneman  | P. Horneman  |
| 1979                  | M. Sainsbury | D. Gee              | W. Mitchell  | M. Walters  | J. Mitchell    | B. Scott     | P. Horneman  |
|                       |              | P. Kelly            |              |             | J. Horneman    |              |              |

\* Commencement year  
 --- No Records

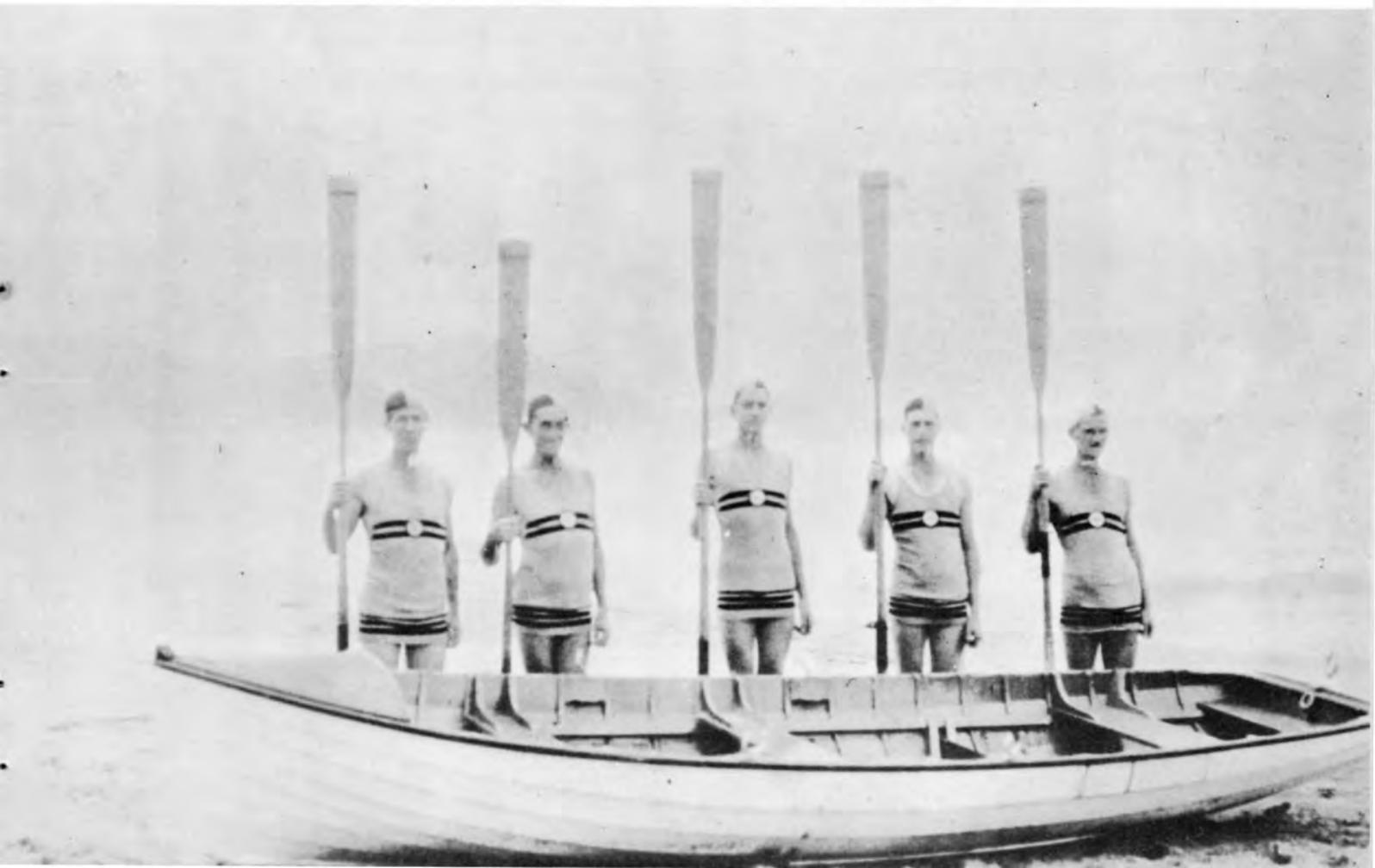




Our first surf boat. 1929-1930 Launching. A big moment.

## Boats and Boaties

"The Boat Crew" looking splendid in their new fawn and black costumes.  
L to R: Charles Grey, Richard Pickett, Adrian Pickett, Jack Pickett, Wally Pickett.





Mrs. James Heazlett christens the "Surf Queen", 1935-36.



Frank Verden (far left) casts a critical eye over the new craft: "Where can I hide the lines and bait?"



Adrian Pickett and crew in the "Surf Queen"





Kevin McKinnon, Adrian Pickett, Reg McKinnon, Keith Callan (in background), Bruce Wall, Bryce Norman.  
1949



"There is still some left."  
Launching Surf Queen II, 1949



Avoca crew winning the Open Boat, Kilcare Carnival 1936.  
Sweep: George Hancock, Alf Lindsay and Jack Hitchcock also in crew.

L to R: Bruce Wall, Trevor Gallard, Bryce Norman,  
Adrian Pickett, Alan Scott. 1951





Kim Harpur lost his life in a fall while climbing Avoca cliffs, Dec. 1964.



President Bryce Norman, Ladies President Joyce Harpur, Captain Jim Harpur, Boat Captain Dennis Barker, Branch President Frank Payne at rear.



The official ceremony and launching. "Kim Harpur", Feb. 1965





Mick Powell, Les Yule, Jim Mitchell, Warren Elwell, Dick Gee. 1965





Wamberal 1962. Rex Norman was injured when a huge wave crashed the "Surf Queen" onto a sandbar. L to R: Stan Michelson, Bob Dorrell, Ted Poole, N. Boden, John Wetherall, Tony Licciardo and Keith Wilson (back to camera).



The extent of the damage.



The "Kim Harpur" after another Wamberal mishap. 1966



"When you're winning, you're grinning." Post War Branch Champion Boat Crew: A. Scott, T. Gallard, A. Pickett, R. Way, B. Norman.



"You have to be tough to be a truckie." Tom Guilbert and Pop McKinnon's Ford.

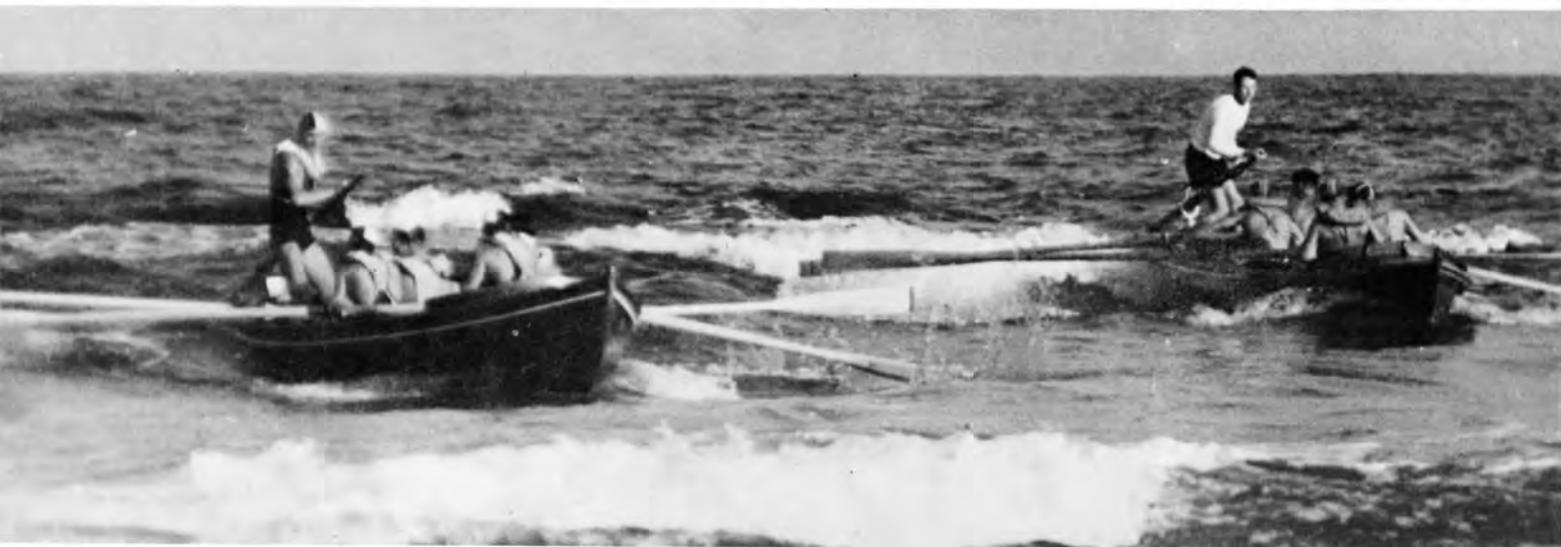


Wal Hunt transported boats and gear and was also Social Secretary for a time.



"A close finish." 1946. Boat Sweeps Les Hurley (The Entrance) and Adrian Pickett (Av. Beach)

Dorren Catt, "Boat Sweep"





Frances Smith launches yet another boat, the "Ron Smith", 1974



At Dee Why Australian Championships



Avoca cops one – Kilcare, 1973





Mrs. A. Deegan does the honours for "S.T.C. II", while Bryce Norman and Dick Gee look on. 1972



The reserve boat — a top crew and a cheeky one, as Tom Wilson clearly displays.

"Miss S.T.C. II" heads for shore.





Coolangatta 1965 Australian Championships, semi-finals. Avoca on right.



Frank Verden



George Hancock (Townsend)



Right: Mel, Kim, Debbie Byrnes, Rex, Michael, Carol, Peter and Dot Norman. 1964



1972 Central Coast Branch Champion boat.  
 R. Gee, M. Tamblyn, J. Mitchell, M. Powell, A. Hoban, J. Mitchell



N.S.W. Championships, 1977. 1st place  
 Reserve Boat. L to R: R. Ibbett, J.  
 Michell, T. Wilson, M. Napier, G. Yates.

Below: Central Coast Championship 1975. 1st place. M. Tamblyn, R. Gee, W. Bissaker, L. Upston, B. Low.





Scarborough, W.A. 1965  
Aust. Championships (unplaced). L to R:  
D. Barker, R. Gee, M. Tamblyn, R. Norman,  
R. Bryant.

Up, up and away!



This is what a "boatie" looks like. When out of the boat they stay well back from the water's edge.



1972 Finalists, Junior Boat, Australian Championships, Swansea. R. Gee, J. McAtamney, C. Way, R. Jackson, D. Corrigan.



Junior Boat Crew, 1976 Branch Champions.  
L to R: I. Parker, R. Earl, R. Gee, C. Kelly, M. Patton.



If you want "boaties" to laugh, let them win.



Junior Boat Crew 1975 Branch Champions. R. Gee, M. Loggie, T. Way, I. Parker, C. Kelly.



James Heazlett  
Foundation President  
1929-1957



Richard Pickett  
President  
1957-1962



Bryce Norman  
President  
1962-1979

## Club Presidents

### IN 50 YEARS OF ACTIVITIES AVOCA BEACH S.L.S.C. HAS HAD THREE PRESIDENTS

#### Club Positions and Records.

Regrettably, Club records are not available beyond the 1963-64 Season. We have opted not to make any entries prior to that date, as conjecture and guesswork are insufficient basis for conclusion. However, we do know that the following names held the positions we have listed below.

Our Foundation Captain was Mr. Wally Pickett, followed by Messrs. Richard Pickett, Jack Hitchcock, Reg McKinnon, Eric Benson, Bryce Norman and Ken May.

Foundation Secretary was Chas. Grey, followed by Wally Pickett and Adrian Pickett. Others were Messrs. Ranson, Lumb, Perry, Stanley and Smiles.

Treasurers have been even more difficult to ascertain. Those confirmed are Messrs. Harpur, Carver, Norman, Thompson, McKinnon and Parnell.

To those members who have held office and whose names have been omitted due to lack of successful research, our sincere thanks for your previous efforts and your present understanding.

# The Little Ones



Early 1930's. Jim Agnew conducting events for the Little Ones.

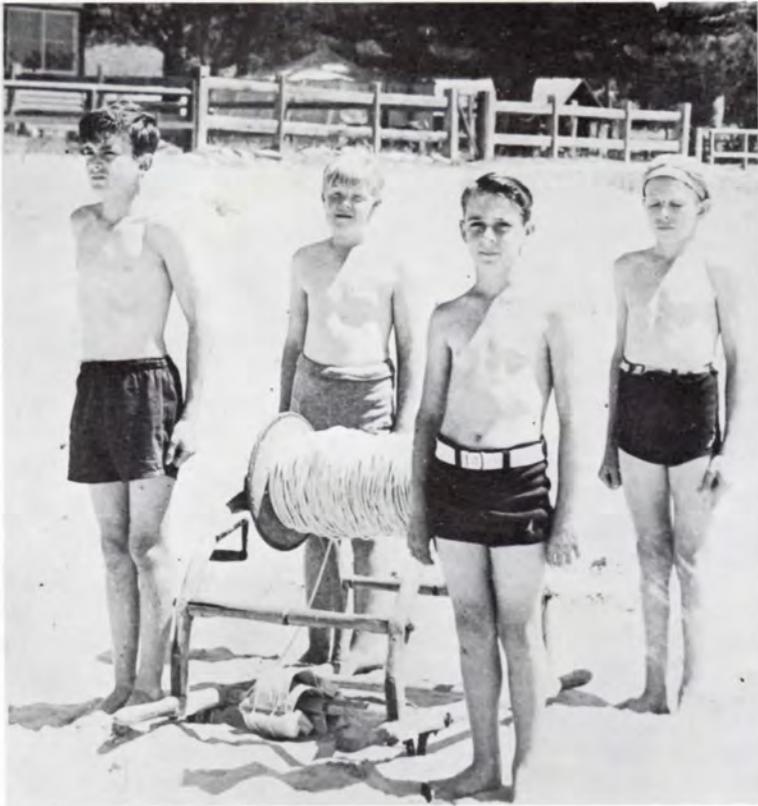
It is interesting to note change. Not so long ago, young children interested in surf life saving were not encouraged around clubs. The big boys' conversation with them was limited to "Bring in the flags", "Put that board back" or even "Sell these tickets". However, these children grew up and some stayed with the movement.

The little ones of today are a most valued part of surf life saving. They have been called

nippers, juveniles and now juniors. There is also a strong section open to young girls – called Nipperettes. Call them what you will, with the right encouragement and training they will look after tomorrow's problems – and the surf life saving movement is a good training ground. Oh, yes. They still get to sell raffle tickets and do menial tasks, but isn't it good to hear "please", "do you mind" and "hold on lad, I'll show you."



1945-46? Who are they? Try and pick R. Norman, W. Barker, E. Poole, D. Green, T. Guilbert, J. Moye, S. Green, T. Bryant, J. Smith.



1945-46 – Col. Lionel Lumb and others decided the Club needed additional members, so they shook the bushes around Avoca Beach and out popped, among others, these beauties. L-R: E. Poole, J. Smith, T. Bryant, T. Guilbert. Note the condition of the reel, line and belt – particularly the split in the reel spreader bar.

20 YEARS LATER

1966-67 Richard Norman does his thing at pillow fighting. Ron Way (in white) looks on.

*“The Nippers cover boys 8 to 12 years who are too young to be members of the Surf Club. The Nippers Club is conducted under the auspices of the Surf Club although it is a separate organisation.”*

*“It is with some pride that we are able to report that this Club was largely instrumental in the formation of the Central Coast Branch of the Juvenile S.L.S.A. Early in the season this club convened the meeting which formed this Association.”*

(Extracts from “38th Annual Report and Financial Statement 1966-67”)



1978-79 – Nippers contest the Beach Flags at Copacabana.



Willing officials are a necessity. A target for criticism at times, they have a great deal to cope with and deserve all the help they can get.



1966-67 L to R; Dick Norman, Peter Hunt, and Mark Patton, who were presented trophies by Auxiliary President, Joyce Harpur (pictured), for being the most consistent triers throughout the season.



1978-79



1968 L to R: Jim McAtamney, Trevor Way, Doug Heyman, Mark Rudolph. Initial approaches by Pat McAtamney and Jim Harpur influenced Les Lazarus, licensee of Gosford Olympic Pool and an Australian Champion in his own right, to agree to encouraging still water swimmers to participate in surf clubs. The above four were among many.



F. Byrnes, M. Harvey, A. Love, A. Robinson, G. Sutherland, B. Raynor, C. Smith, S. Paterson, A. Peebles, B. Ellis, G. Harvey, M. Walters, S. Raynor, G. Sainsbury, P. Horneman, R. Harvey, B. Paterson, W. Mitchell, D. Peebles, D. Byrnes, R. Bootle, S. Byrnes, D. Bissaker, M. Tamblyn, G. Hoban. Only 1974-75 and yet you will find many of these names and faces in other chapters.



Our girls – “Nipperettes” – are equally as keen as our boys.



John Cook and Bryce Ellis.



1967-68 South West Rocks Nipper Club visited us over a full weekend and were billeted in our clubhouse. Many of the visitors were aboriginals from the Kinchilla Training Centre. We were informed that the Centre catered for lads who had been convicted of being neglected children. Their instructors and supervisors were wonderful people and all of our visitors were a delight to have. Unfortunately, it seems that at the age of 16 these lads were returned to their principal environment. There were few dry eyes among the farewell group as the bus departed.



The gentleman with the beard turns up about the same time every year. His popularity never wanes.

Anthony Love in action.





Just awarded their Resuscitation Certificates – A. Robinson, M. Abella, W. Parnell, A. Love, S. Weller, A. Collins and P. Horneman.



Presentation of Qualifying Certificates. W. Mitchell, R. Harvey, B. Paterson, A. Hodges, S. Rayner, G. Harris, P. Short and G. Gallard with instructors R. Cairncross and R. Gee.



Nippers S. Vallance, T. Ross, D. Byrnes and M. Sainsbury receive their Resuscitation Certificates from N. Smith. M. Kendall at rear. 1977-78



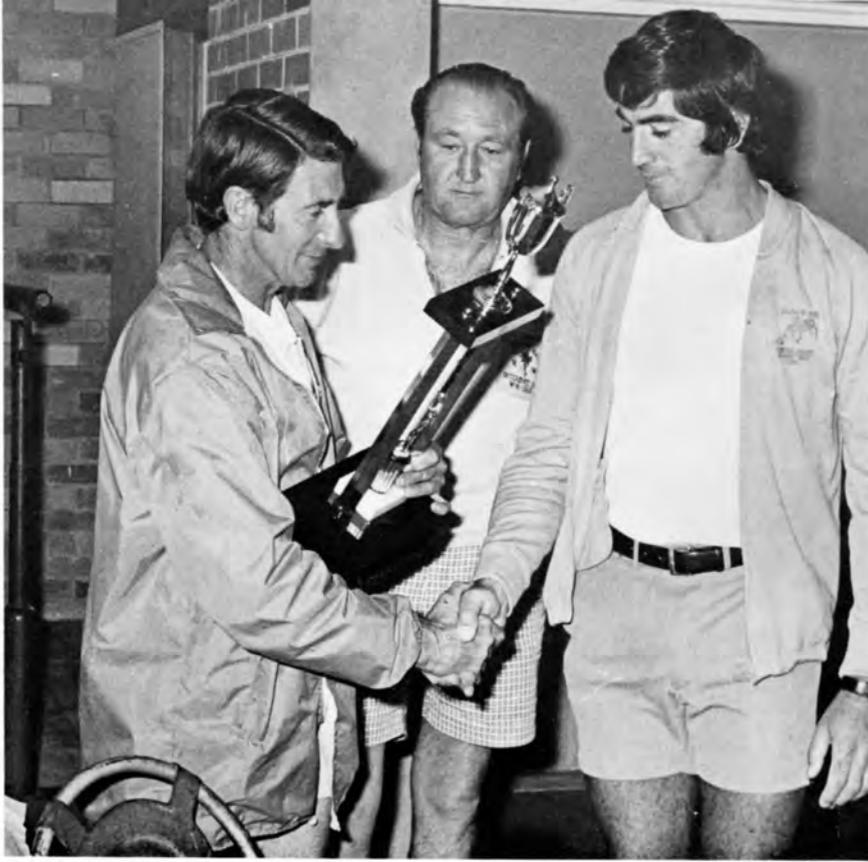
L to R rear: L. Benson, K. Hoban, S. Hunt, S. Paterson, B. Paterson (insert). Front row: L. Walters, J. Gee, J. Bootle, L. Gee, K. Hoban, J. Hoban, M. Bootle.



Nipperettes L. Benson, S. Paterson, J. Hoban and K. Hoban.



A group of our Nipperettes and the Ladies Auxiliary receiving Resuscitation Certificates.



**"ON THE JOB"**  
 Branch Officers making a presentation.  
 L-R: Ron Field, Superintendent, John  
 Rosewell, President; Dennis Barker  
 receives the Robert Orren Memorial  
 Trophy.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE BEARERS FROM AVAILABLE RECORDS**

|      | PRESIDENT | SNR. VICE-<br>PRESIDENT | SECRETARY   | TREASURER    | CAPTAIN       |
|------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1964 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | I. Lambert  | G. Dwight    | J. Harpur     |
| 1965 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | D. Lloyd    | G. Dwight    | J. Harpur     |
| 1966 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | D. Lloyd    | G. Dwight    | J. Harpur     |
| 1967 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | D. Lloyd    | G. Dwight    | J. Harpur     |
| 1968 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | A. McCudden | J. Cheadle   | J. Harpur     |
| 1969 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | A. McCudden | J. Cheadle   | J. Harpur     |
| 1970 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | A. McCudden | J. Cheadle   | J. Harpur     |
| 1971 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | A. McCudden | J. Cheadle   | J. Harpur     |
| 1972 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | G. Love     | B. Jacobs    | J. Harpur     |
| 1973 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | G. Love     | B. Jacobs    | D. Gee        |
| 1974 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | G. Love     | B. Jacobs    | D. Gee        |
| 1975 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | G. Love     | B. Jacobs    | D. Gee        |
| 1976 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | G. Love     | I. Messenger | M. Kendall    |
| 1977 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | G. Love     | I. Messenger | M. Kendall    |
| 1978 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | B. Jones    | I. Messenger | B. Cairncross |
| 1979 | B. Norman | R. Way                  | B. Jones    | I. Messenger | G. Love       |



*Coming in on a Surf Ski.*

Extract: 1938 Hand Book 10th Edition

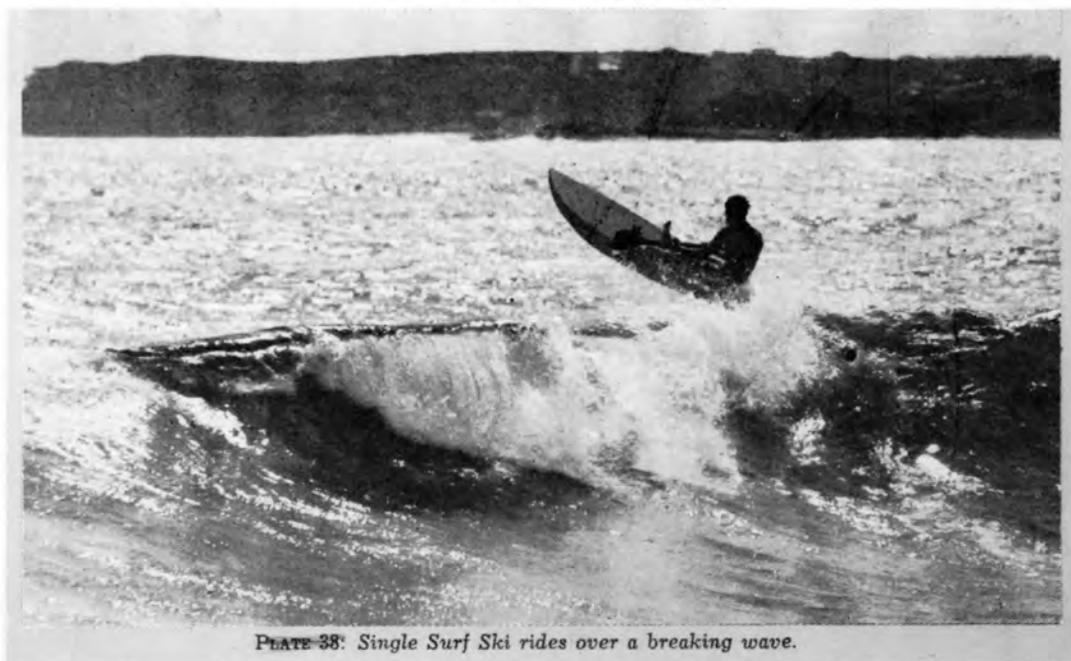


## Planks and Paddles



*Coming in on Surf Skis*

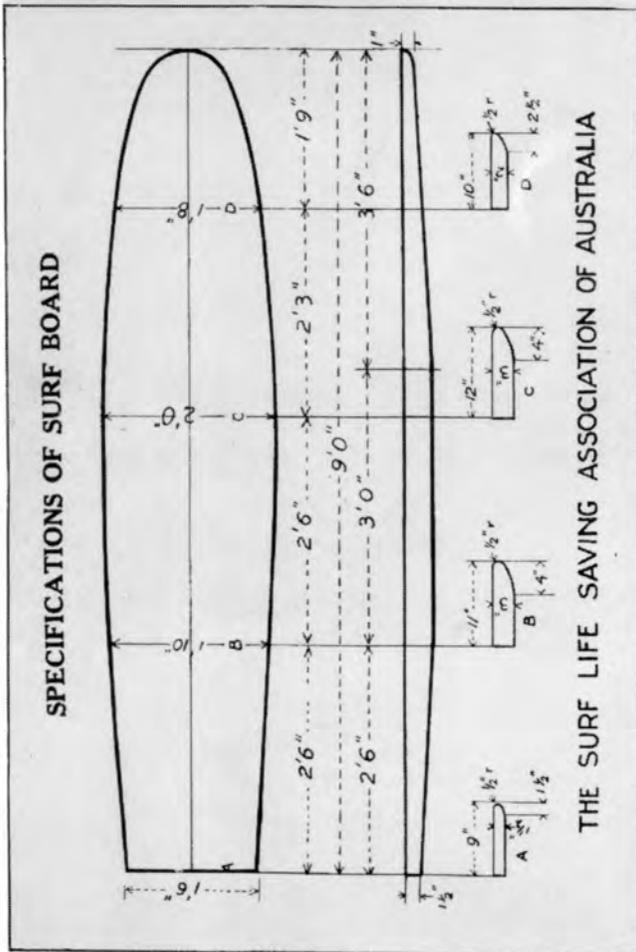
Extract: 1938 Hand Book 10th Edition



**PLATE 38:** *Single Surf Ski rides over a breaking wave.*

Extract: Gear & Equipment Hand Book 1st Edition 1955

PART V.—SECTION 2.



- 3—The first Board with Patient on and Rescuer in control to reach the beach shall be declared the winner.
- 4—The Patient must be carried the whole journey on the Board, and can only help in the paddling of the same whilst the Rescuer is in control of the Board.
- 5—In cases where a Patient is washed off he must be immediately picked up. The Patient must not swim towards shore.
- 6—In cases where Rescuer is washed off, the Board must not be propelled by the Patient.



*Surf Boards and Riders.*

Extracts from S.L.S.A. Hand Book. 10th Edition. 1938.

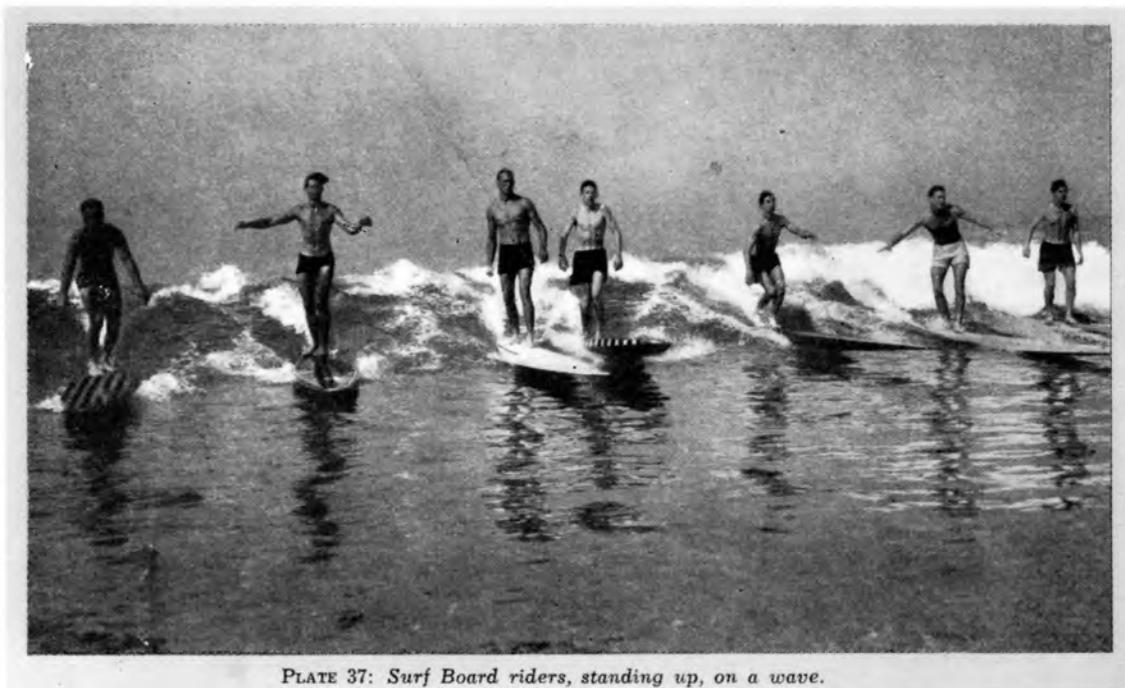


PLATE 37: Surf Board riders, standing up, on a wave.



**SECTION 5.—SURF BOARD AND SURF SKI RACES.**

1. No Board shall be permitted to start in a race unless it is equipped with a grip handle at the stern.

2. In surf board rescue events, the patient may assist by paddling the board.

3. Two buoys should be used and placed about 50 yards apart about 75-100 yards beyond the swimming buoys for surf board and surf ski events.

4. The start shall be as follows:—Boards to be afloat in line in the water with each competitor holding his board ready to push off (Plate 54); the distance between boards at the start should be five feet.

5. At the pistol shot, whistle or other given signal from the Starter, the boards shall be paddled around the buoys right hand in and return to the beach. The Judges shall set a finishing line between two flags in a position where the boards will be afloat. Boards must finish from the front or seaward side of the finishing line.

6. Should a competitor lose or not regain control of his board, or return to the beach without his board, he shall be disqualified.



PLATE 31: *The prone and kneeling positions for propelling Surf Boards, and position of the paddler on a Single Surf Ski.*



PLATE 32: *The start of a Surf Ski and Canoe race in December, 1938, showing early broad-beam style Surf Skis and Surf Canoes which competed in races together.*



Bryce Norman and Jim Gillespie in action on solid cedar surf boards, 1938-39.



Bryce Norman 1938-39.



This little man stood his this way,



This little man stood his that way,



This little man rode his with his hat on,

### SOME INTERESTING COMPARISONS

In 1945 H. R. Biddulph won the N.S.W. 100 metres Championship in a time of 1.02-2 minutes. Recently, Mark Margin of Avoca Beach S.L.S.C. and Gosford Swimming Club swam this distance in 58 seconds.

In 1950 D. Agnew won the N.S.W. 440 yds Championship with a time of 5.07-7 minutes. Murray Rose won the event in 1955 with a time of 4.37-2. Greg Richardson of Avoca Beach S.L.S.C. subsequently covered this distance in 4.23-4 minutes.



But this little man didn't have one,



And this little man rode his all the way home!



We tried  
laying  
back  
....  
We tried  
the  
cross-over  
toe hold  
....



We tried  
conventional  
....  
We tried  
side saddle



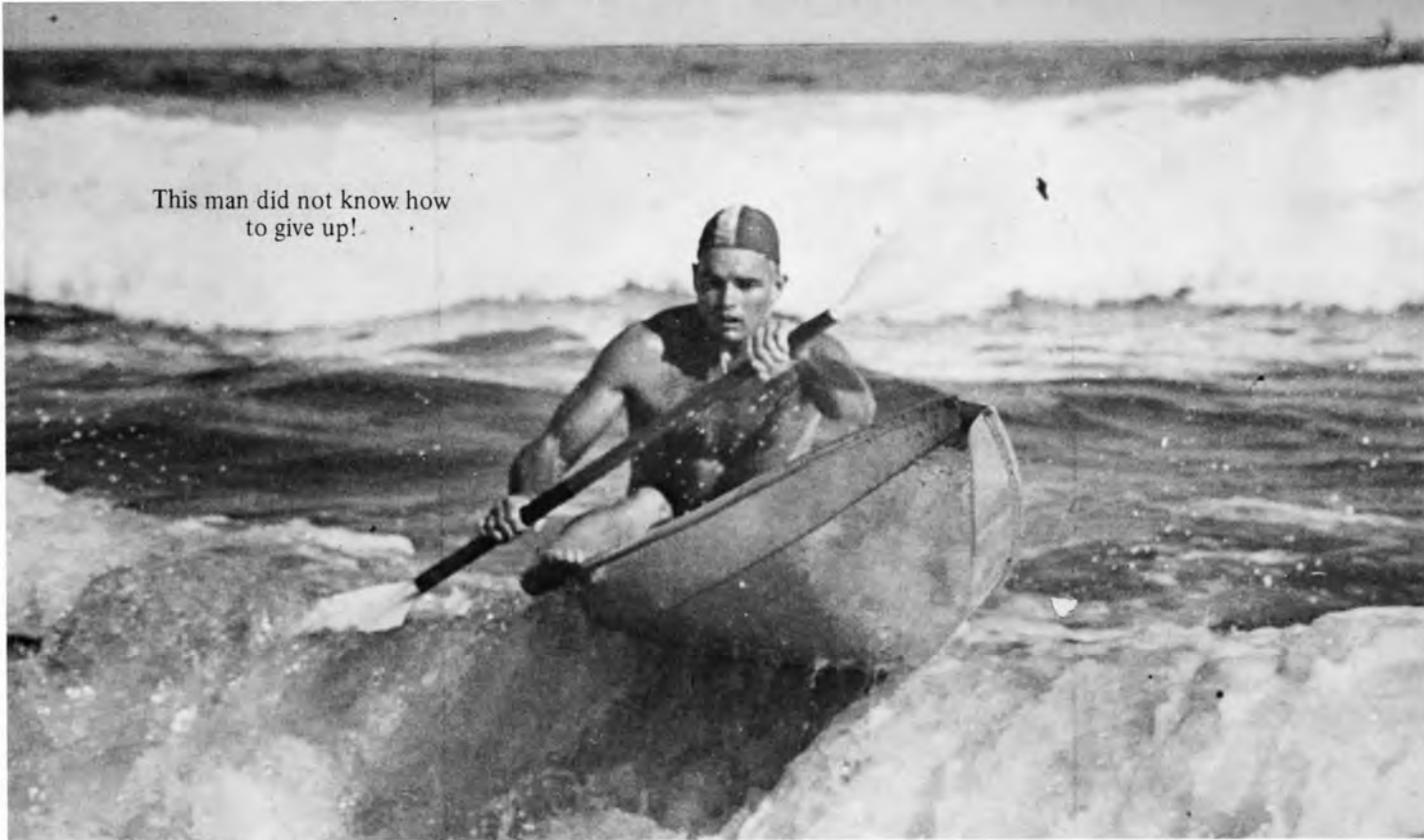
We tried  
inside out  
upside down  
pushing  
kicking  
swearing  
and  
We tried  
and  
We tried  
and  
We tried  
and  
then



and  
THEN



We gave up and took the  
bloody things home!



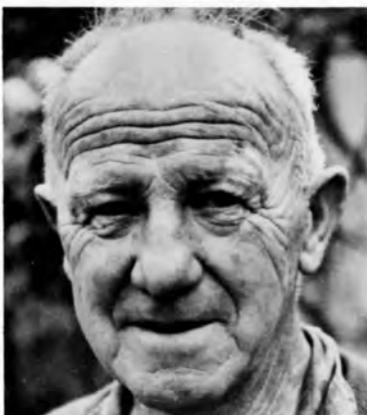
This man did not know how to give up!



TREVOR GALLARD set an example in training and dedication to ski racing, which not only made him a legend in our Club but an Australian champion as well.



This photograph speaks for itself!



Ken Ross, a world class cyclist in his day, encouraged Trevor with training methods and advice.



# SPORT EXPRESS



John Alexander (Avoca), an impressive winner on Saturday at North Avoca.



John Mantova and Barry Bennett  
1953

## SURF BOARD DOUBLE TO

*Carnival 3/1/70*  
1 (By "Rip")

Avoca Beach Surf Club's promising paddler, John Alexander, scored an outstanding board double when he won the long board and malibu races at the fifth annual North Avoca carnival on Saturday.

Alexander won his second successive long board race in defeating current branch champion, Kevin Bootle, and New Zealand tourist, Dennis Gee.

Later, he paddled to an impressive win in calm seas to defeat Terrigal's highly rated pair, Lindsay Lucas and Harold King, in the malibu section.

Lucas suffered disqualification when he lost control of his board near the shore, giving King second place and Dennis Gee third.

Alexander's recent form must be causing an embarrassment to branch selectors, who omitted him from the branch teams this year.

He made the branch "shadow" team last year and went on to win selection in the State Taplin relay side which finished second to Victoria in the Australian championships at Tasmania.

Kilcare's Brian Gregory and Avoco's Greg Richardson

were the local members of the 1970 New Zealand touring squad to score wins in their last carnival before heading for New Zealand to-day (Friday) with the N.S.W. Country representative surf team.

Gregory again won the open beach sprint from his "shadow" clubmate Bob Neal, with the improving Ocean Beach sprinter, Lindsay Makepeace, edging Stafford Mison out of third place.

Gregory then teamed with Mison, Neal and Brad Berry to score a narrow win over Ocean Beach in the relay.

Ocean Beach, however, was disqualified for breaking, and The Lakes was awarded second berth, with the Kilcare "B" team third

Avoca's Greg Richardson had to call on all his resources to stave off the strong challenge by the brilliant MacMasters junior, Don Boland, in the open surf race.

The race, swam in moderate surf, was, perhaps, the longest this season, and former champion Rod Marks was the early pacemaker to the buoys before Richardson took over.

It was on the home run, however, where Boland showed his tremendous potential in drawing up on Richardson.

They hit the beach together, with the Avoca star winning the sprint up the beach by about two feet.

A further MacMasters junior in Jeff Cox swam well for third spot, and Marks finished fourth for

the second successive week. tion, the first time ever.

Such was the height of the wall that branch superintendent Ron Field allowed the teams to lower their patients, walk up the bank and resume the carrying position without loss of points.

The junior section attracted only two teams in Ocean Beach and The Lakes with Ocean Beach downing the first round winners by six-tenths of a point.

The Central Coast branch representative team competed by invitation in this section and returned a por 16.5.

It is obvious that manager-coach Paul Smith will have to spend considerable time on the team to bring it to a reasonable unit by inter-branch day.

A good roll-up of nine clubs competed in the grand parade; pleasing to both officials and spectators alike.

Ron McClure's The Entrance team, second placgetter at Avoca the previous week, returned to the winning list with a 25 points deduction to defeat Ocean Beach and Avoca.

The iron man race again developed into a crowd pleasing spectacle, with the competent visitor from Nobbys, P. Lowe, scoring a 20 yards win over Avoca's Len Cook and Ocean Beach's Alan Cook.

Avoca Beach, netting 38 points from seven firsts, six seconds and five thirds, just managed to win the points score from the consistent Ocean Beach and Kilcare clubs.

### FAREWELL

At the conclusion of the carnival, host club North Avoca provided refreshments and steak sandwiches for the members who stayed behind to farewell the five local members of the N.S.W. Country team which left on a 14-day tour of New Zealand.

Branch president John Rosewell, in one of his customary brief speeches, spoke in glowing terms of the local lifesavers chosen to represent the branch and the State.

The five are Gordon Lambert, Brian Gregory, Dennis Gee, Peter Reynolds and Greg Richardson.

The branch also made a

# AVOCA DOMINATES CARNIVAL



The thrilling finish to the final of the senior malibu board race at the Avoca surf carnival. John Alexander (left) flashed through to defeat Harold King (centre) and Dennis Gee. —Laurie Andrews photo.

## ALEXANDER

presentation of a travelling case to each member.

Branch superintendent, Ron Field, also spoke, and he predicted a fine tour by the team. He was confident that the local members would acquit themselves well on the sands of New Zealand's beaches.

Touring captain Gordon Lambert, of the Terrigal Club, suitably responded.

The team will arrive in New Zealand to-night and go straight into carnival competition to-morrow in the Auckland championships.

Saturday's results at North Avoca were:

Senior R. and R., Ocean Beach "A" (10.62) 1, Ocean Beach "B" (11.54) 2, Avoca (12.10) 3; junior R. and R., Ocean Beach (15.1) 1, The Lakes (15.7) 2; march past, The Entrance (25) 1, Ocean Beach (29) 2, Avoca (46) 3; open surf, G. Richardson (A) 1, D. Boland (MacM) 2, J. Cox (MacM) 3; open teams, MacMasters (17) 1, Avoca (34) 2, Ocean Beach (47) 3; junior surf, D. Boland (MacM) 1, J. Cox (MacM) 2, P. Johnston (NA) 3; junior teams, North Avoca (18) 1, Avoca (18) 2.

Single ski, M. Cole (SB) 1, C. Staniland (SOC) 2, C. Smith (MacM) 3; double ski, Lambert and Ledson (T) 1, Cole and Cooper (SB) 2, Smith and Smith (MacM) 3; cadet surf, J. Andrews (A) 1, D. Heyman (A) 2, F. Wivel (W) 3; senior belt, G. Richardson (A) 1, L. Cameron (K) 2, F. Van Aalderen (OB) 3; junior belt, P. Johnston (NA) 1, L. Cook (A) 2.

Senior sprint, B. Gregory (K) 1, R. Neal (K) 2, L. Makepeace (OB) 3; beach relay, Kilcare "A" 1, The Lakes 2, Kilcare "B" 3; senior flags, R. Jones (L) 1, A. Said (K) 2, M. Sainsbury (A) 3; junior sprint, K. Treacy (OB) 1, R. Co-mans (K) 2, P. Carter (L) 3.

Open boat, Avoca 1, The Entrance 2, Ocean Beach 3; junior boat, Soldiers Beach 1, Ocean Beach 2; "B" boat, Avoca 1, Terrigal 2, Soldiers Beach 3; long board, J. Alexander (A) 1, K. Boothe (A) 2, D. Gee (A) 3; malibu board, J. Alexander (A) 1, H. King (T) 2, D. Gee (A) 3; chariot race, Shelly Beach 1, The Lakes 2; tug-o-war, North Avoca 2, Kilcare 2, The Lakes 3.



Barry Bennett

Open Surf, Surf teams and R & R events, as well as being an exceptional long board rider. Little wonder that he played a major part in changes to surf boards and riding.



Inter-District Competition Avoca 1971. From rear left: Darrell O'Donnell and Kieran Tracy (Ocean Beach), Dennis Gee (Avoca), John Harris (Terrigal) and Phil Gee (Avoca).



1974-75 Jim McAtamney



Bill Mitchell – has served notice on elder brothers, Jim and John. A “Nipper” in 1975, then a cadet, now junior club captain and junior clubman of the year.



Murray Braund in action



Brad Paterson applauds Dennis Barker in the Iron Man event.



Just made it! Paul Horneman winning the 1979 Cadet Board Championship, N.S.W.



Kevin Bootle

L to R: Brian Grace, Chris Bond, Jim Mitchell (glasses), Greg Jarman, Murray Braund, John Mitchell. Ski Paddlers, 1979.





The swiftest craft in surfing.....



Double Surf Ski racing.....



Requires precision and timing.....



And brotherly love!



Waiting for the starter's shot.



Brian Grace  
"Possum"  
1979.

Bill Mitchell studies the disaster while Ray Fyffe is lost for words.





Gordon Lambert, a ski champion in his own right, joined us at Avoca and partnered Trevor Gallard on the double ski for two seasons.



“What were you up to, Greg?”

Murray Braund seems concerned about his partner, Greg Jarman.





Well dad, it's like this....." Bryce Ellis – first place Australian Cadet Board Riding Display, 1979.



Arthur "Matey" Ellis, Bronze Medallion, 1950, Central Coast Long Board Champion, 1958, "Proud Father".



Board riding is a very serious business – says Derrick Patton after looking at the surf.  
2nd, N.S.W. Cadet Board Riding Display



Bryce Ellis in formal dress.



“The Gulf”. This island of sandstone has had an attraction for surf club members. Since the Club began, they have swum around it, sat on it, paddled boards, boats and skis around it. Asked why, they give a strange, knowing look and say nothing!  
(Gosford Photographics)



The rock ledge at Winnie Bay near First Point. The drilling site for the Gosford and District sewerage outlet. May 1979.

# The Sandmen



The fawn and black of 1929-30. Wally Pickett – standard bearer, Adrian Pickett – beltman.  
“Please remove that dog from the competition area.”



The new flag 1948-49, displayed by E. Benson, R. McKinnon, T. Sumner, R. Blair, H. Bellamy, B. Wall, R. Bryant, R. Parnell, A. Scott, B. Maloney, R. Pickett, M. Bellamy and others.



NEW COSTUMES – 1950

L – R back row: J. Stanley, B. Wall (d'cd), D. Catt, T. Gallard, C. Gallard, B. Norman, T. Bryant, R. Way. Kneeling: W. Dobinson, G. Catt, E. Poole, A. Scott, S. Mantova, N. Ryan (d'cd). Front: S. Green, A. Ellis, E. Reid, N. Oakes, G. Reid.



This 1951-52 team includes: Bill Barker left spindle, Keith Callan second from right in centre rear row, and Harold Baldwin in front of him.



We eventually learned to roll the flag around the standard at McMasters Beach mid-fifties. Tony Licciardo and Frank Luckie on the reel.



The interesting question of this 1938 photograph is: What happened that Frank "Tiger" Payne, Terrigal stalwart, donned Avoca's belt and costume?



Ready for "The Surf Relay"  
Avoca Beach, 1933

A twenty man March Past Team takes a lot of organising.



Bill Blackburn ready  
for the R & R, 1950





1932 L-R: Adrian, Wally, Jack and Dick Pickett.

PILLOW FIGHTING IS NOT FUNNY  
"IT HURTS!!"



Ron Way  
Australian Pillow Fight Champion  
1960



Dressed in the original fawn and black costumes, Avoca members adjudicate over yet another battle. 1932



Pillow Fighting 1950



You win some.....



You lose some.



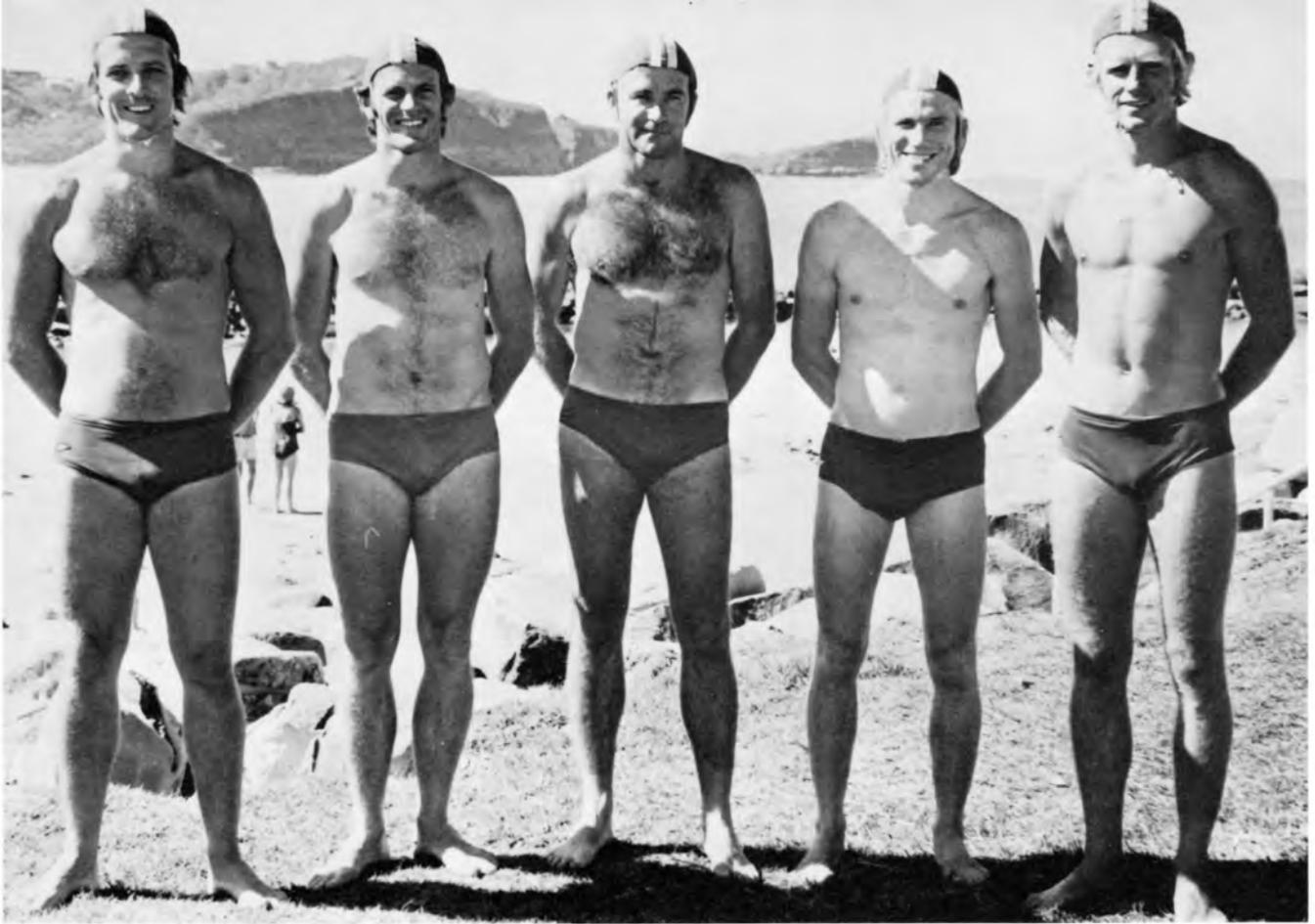
Tom Guilbert did both in the 'fifties.



This twelve man March Past Team also had new costumes. L to R: N. Duff, D. Gee, R. Gee, R. Paterson, J. Cheadle, D. Barker, J. Harpur (standard bearer), R. McDonald, D. Dwight, C. Barker. Avoca mid 'sixties.

The Royal Carnival, Coff's Harbour, 1971. (Pick the Wamberal ring-ins.)





“The Beach Sprinters” Relay Team. Brian Gregory, Bob Neal, Lindsay Makepiece and Bob Cairncross. Centre: John Annand, coach. A very speedy quintet. 1st placings in Central Coast and N.S.W. Championships and 3rd place in Australian Championship.



Mark Walters — 1st place N.S.W. Championship Cadet Beach Flags 1978-79. Mark won every event he contested that season except the Australian Championship at Trigg Island, W.A.



Bill Jackson — beach sprint and beach flags. Bill won a Branch championship in the early fifties, probably our first Post-War win.



1979 Inter-Patrol competition.  
Jockeys up and ready for the Chariot Race.



Max Sainsbury, "The Human Coil Spring", in action at Kilcare. A top beach competitor for years, Max has a record of over 20 years active patrol duty.



We visited North Bondi 1939.  
Sid Pickett – Standard Bearer.

*“We were all very proud of our new flag which had been made and donated by the local ladies. This beautiful flag was quite large and had been decorated with rosettes and ribbons.*

*“We journeyed to Freshwater Carnival, where we had the usual trouble of rounding up our twenty men to make a March Past team. The ages ranged from 15 to 50 and the shapes and sizes were similarly varied. We commenced to march, carrying our new flag, when the wind began to blow in very strong gusts. The flag would catch a gust of wind and away would go the standard bearer. When the wind dropped he would veer back on course again. The end result was that our leader, whom we all know to be as sober as a judge, was reported for being under the influence and was replaced. Avoca Club was chastised.*

*“None of us had the brains to suggest rolling the flag around the standard and thus reducing the area, but we thought it was a pretty fair catch anyway, as the back line of that particular team could in no way have stood close inspection.”*

*(Anonymous)*



Avoca Beach March Past Team 1954.



Maximum effort plus wins Central Coast Branch, N.S.W. State and Australian National championships, and that is what Bob Cairncross gave and achieved.



A "hot" relay team with "cold" feet.  
Bancoora, 1977.



Brian Gregory receives the Branch Championship March Past Pennant at Umina 1977-78.



Avoca's March Past, 1973 with a fair sprinkling of Zinc Ointment and hair.



“Who won?” 1978.



1979 Michael Kendall watches his opponent closely!



“All the world’s a stage.....”  
1979? Although,  
t’was ever thus.



Being involved is  
important!



The "Green, Gold and Blue" and "Cheer's Boys" take up Rugby Union. They won the premiership first time round, 1975. Back L-R: Bill Hodges, John Mitchell, Mick Kendall, Darren Dargin, Kim Byrnes. Centre: Jim McAtamney, Nev. Hillyard, Bob Cairncross, Jim Mitchell, Mick Norman, Tom Wilson. Front: Terry Woodward, Andy Hoban, Dennis Barker, Greg Jarman.

"Oh, but it's fun!"



# On Tour



Avoca Beach Junior Boat Crew training on the Swan River, Perth, W.A. 1965. Bow J. Sparrow, second bow F. Grayndler, second stroke K. Byrnes, stroke P. Robinson, sweep R. Gee.

*"The means of visiting Gosford was of course by horseback, or horse and sulky and if you did not possess one, well you simply walked."*

(*"Knots of Knowledge"* by W. J. Norman)



Time to go. L to R standing: Dennis Barker, David Lloyd, Keith Van Haren, Ted Poole, Joyce Harpur, Jim Harpur. Kneeling: Nev. Byrnes, Bryce Norman, Dick Gee. R rear: John Sparrow and Kim and Mel. Byrnes.

## "TRAVELLERS FOUR"

A large group of members and friends were on hand on Friday afternoon to bid "Bon Voyage" to the "Travellers Four" from the Avoca Surf Club.

The party consists of Ted Poole, Richard Gee, K. Van Haaren, and G. Dwight, plus a heavily loaded panel van, plus boat.

Where everybody will sit for the overland journey of 3,000 miles is a question only the "Travellers Four" could possibly answer, judging from the amount of gear and luggage taken.

To the accompaniment of cheers, and a few tears the party moved slowly away from the "Express" building, bound for the Australian Surf titles at Scarborough, Perth.

Whatever the outcome of the titles, you can bet that the "Kim Harpur" will give a good account of itself, with the help of Richard "Captain Bligh" Gee, and a very capable crew.



We visited North Bondi in 1949.



Some of the group at North Bondi, 1949. L-R back row: A. Scott, R. Blair, T. Guilbert, A. Caton. Front: F. Fahey, T. Bryant, N. Oakes, W. Barker.



Off to a carnival, 1947.  
Haesler's utility.

### STOREKEEPERS

The business people throughout Avoca Beach and Kincumber have given great support over the years. Because of its close proximity to the clubhouse, "The Beach Store", regardless of its proprietor at the time, has been most considerate and helpful. These proprietors, currently represented by Michael McAuliffe and his family, have been Eric and Ida Benson, the Smith family, Jim and Vi Thompson and their daughters, Chas. and Kath Bridge, Kevin and Lorna McKinnon, the Escotts, Paul and Sheila George, and Bill Brown and family.

The South End Store has also had a variety of proprietors, all of whom have been helpful, but at one stage this store was called "The Little Brown Jug" and Mr. Arthur Meares proved to be a patient and considerate proprietor.

WE HAD VERY LITTLE MONEY – WE HAD VERY FEW VICTORIES

WE HAD ONE HECK OF A GREAT TIME. 1948



In these photographs you will find – Gladys, Ann, Marie and Marshall Haesler, Kathleen Quigley, Jim Bowcock, Dulcie Settree, Bruce Wall, Shirley Moye, Frank Fahey, Bill Blackburn, Pearl Witter, Beryl Pizzy, Alan Scott, Bill Barker, Lorna Jefferies, Val and Ted Poole.



The "EI" in 1961 was a regular meeting place on Friday evenings.



"A good year, 61." In this group at Terrigal's "Florida" were Dennis Barker, Ian Lambert, Grahame Morris, Mal Grey, Bob Grace, Ray Lambert.



"Who put the cap on the dog at Gundagai?"

To Warnambool, 1960's. M. Tamblin, D. Barker, K. Ibbett, R. Winter, R. Ibbett, R. Gee, R. Bryant, F. Grayndler, H. Morris.



“The Castaways?”

L to R: Ross Ibbett, Ken Ibbett, Wal Nicholls, Ash Churches, Grahame Morris, Frank Grayndler

To Tathra, N.S.W. Championships 1960-61

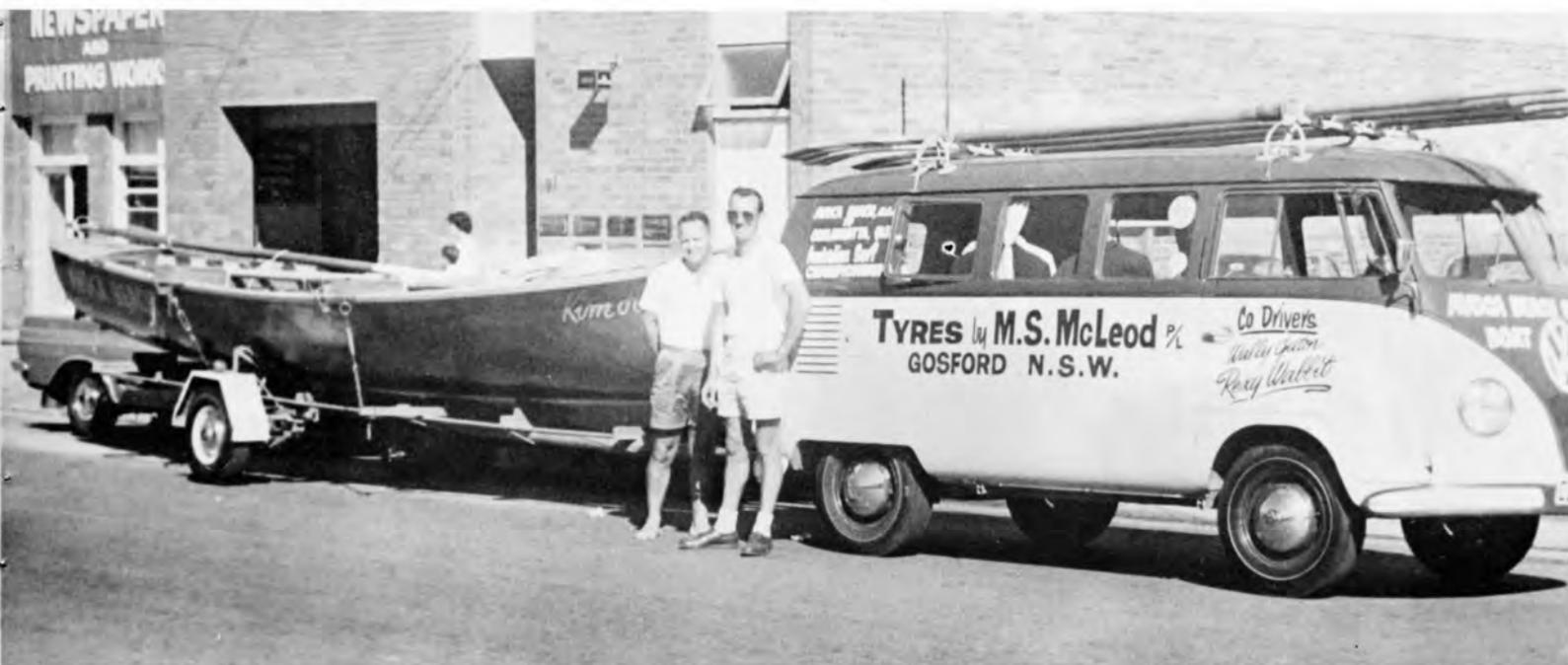


Whose turn to cook breakfast? L-R: K. Worrall, J. Harpur, Terry (Beans) Tamblyn, R. Winter, J. Witherall, F. Luckie, I. (Snowball) Lambert, C. Barker.

Looks like “D.B.” lost out. Terry Hunter supervises Dennis Barker cooking while John Spindler and Terry Tamblyn give encouragement.



“You load 16 tons and what do you get?” Ron Parsons doing his usual thing at Bancoora, 1977.



To Coolangatta, Queensland – 1966 Australian Championships.  
Rex Norman and Wal Hunt.



To Clifton Beach, Tasmania – 1976 Australian Championships. This illustrious group “all at sea” L-R; Geoff Thompson, Gerry Hoban, Bryce Norman, Peter Hunt, Don Hoban, Alan Horne.



To Phillam village, Manila – Overseas Instructional Tour 1976. Left: John Beven (Stockton Club), Mike Tambllyn (Avoca Beach) with a squad in training.



1977-78  
Quentin Riley arrived  
late and scored the  
left-over board.



"Food is important,  
gentlemen."



"The Don" would not  
be impressed, Mark  
Patton.  
Hawks Nest.

Clifton Beach, Tas. 1976. From top left: B. Low, L. Upston, J. Mitchell, D. Kelly, I. Parker, K. Bootle, J. McAtamney, G. Love, W. Bissaker, G. Jarmaine, T. Smith, M. Tamblyn, Q. Riley, R. Gee, L. Cook, P. Hoban, J. Horneman, R. Earl, R. Norman, M. Patton.



Bancoora, Victoria 1977 – P. Gee, Jim Mitchell, I. Parker, M. Napier, J. Michell, G. Yates, W. Bissaker, J. Horneman, N. Stephenson, L. Upston, R. Earl, G. Price, M. Patton, R. Ibbett, B. Grace, G. Jarmaine, C. Kelly, G. Malone, H. King, A. Hoban, J. Laing, J. McAtamney, M. Benson, J. Mitchell, B. Paterson, S. Rayner, C. Smith, W. Mitchell.



Barry Jacobs – the silent sentinel.  
Fingal Beach



To Bancoora, Victoria – 1977 Australian Championships.  
 “AVOCA’S LAST STAND”

North Narrabeen 1979 N.S.W. Championships



L-R: Arthur Ellis, John Horneman, Paul Horneman, Sharon Paterson.



Grahame Love, Arthur Ellis, Ron Horneman at North Narrabeen, 1979.



Alan Horne (2nd from left) and Margaret Parker (far right) – Bancoora, 1977.



To America 1976.  
 L-R back: Jim Mitchell, Dick Gee,  
 Kevin Bootle, Phil Gee, Dennis  
 Gee. Front row: John Mitchell,  
 Greg Jarmaine, Graham Love, Mark  
 Benson, Jim McAtamney.



To New Zealand 1975.  
 L-R: J. McAtamney, J. Andrews, D. Gee, B. Norman. Front: B. Grace, P. Gee, R.  
 Cairncross.



Inter Cities Representatives 1975.  
 M. Tamblyn, L. Upston, J. Andrews, J. Mc-  
 Atamney, R. Cairncross, W. Bissaker, B.  
 Low, G. Love, R. Gee, D. Barker, B. Grace.

# Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club

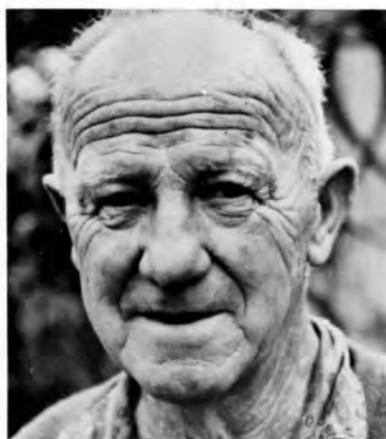
## Life Members



James Heazlett  
1930



Eric Benson  
1945



Ken Ross  
1948



Dick Pickett  
1958



Bert Maloney  
1959



Adrian Pickett  
1959



Jack Woods  
1960

# Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club

## Life Members



Colin Smith  
1960



Bryce Norman  
1962



Jim Harpur  
1967



Ron Way  
1971



Joyce Harpur  
1972



Cecely Norman  
1974



Amy Britton  
1976

# The Machine Age



Grahame Love and Brian Cahill hitch a ride on our first Beach Mobile, donated by Tom Waterhouse.

Power surf rescue unit.  
Jet craft – standard and mini.



Keith Van Haren has taken a keen interest in power surf rescue work almost since its inception.



The current Beach Mobile equipped with radio, rescue, first-aid and resuscitation gear – a most effective acquisition. 1979.



Inshore Rescue Boat Captain, Larry Thorncroft, and Crewman, Peter Kelly, handling the "Rubber "Duckie". Ease of handling and manoeuvrability close to shore make this craft invaluable for quick rescues.



The Bank of New South Wales, The Central Coast Leagues Club, Radio Station 2GO and Scuse-Air Helicopters have provided an effective air patrol and rescue service to the Central Coast beaches.



**AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS  
AVOCA BEACH MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENTS TO THIRD PLACE**

EXTRACTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE RECORDS

| YEAR | EVENT               | COMPETITORS NAME                                 | PLACING |
|------|---------------------|--|---------|
| 1952 | Single Ski          | T. Gallard                                       | 1st     |
| 1960 | Pillow Fight        | R. Way   | 1st     |
| 1968 | Surf Board          | D. Gee   | 3rd     |
| 1973 | Long Board Race     | D. Gee   | 2nd     |
| 1974 | Junior Malibu Board | J. McAtamney                                     | 3rd     |
| 1975 | Beach Sprint        | R. Cairncross                                    | 1st     |
| 1976 | Beach Sprint        | R. Cairncross                                    | 3rd     |
|      | Single Ski Relay    | John and Jim Mitchell, G. Jarmaine               | 3rd     |
| 1977 | Beach Sprint        | R. Cairncross                                    | 1st     |
|      | Senior Single Ski   | M. Braund  | 3rd     |
|      | Single Ski Relay    | G. Jarmaine, M. Braund, J. Mitchell              | 3rd     |
| 1978 | Junior Single Ski   | R. Martin  | 1st     |
|      | Single Ski Relay    | M. Braund, John and Jim Mitchell                 | 1st     |
|      | Senior Double Ski   | M. Braund, G. Jarmaine                           | 2nd     |
|      | Senior Single Ski   | M. Braund  | 3rd     |
|      | Beach Relay         | B. Cairncross, B. Neal, B. Gregory, L. Makepeace | 3rd     |
| 1979 | Cadet Board Display | B. Ellis   | 1st     |
|      | Single Ski Relay    | M. Braund, G. Jarmaine, Jim Mitchell             | 1st     |
|      | Cadet Malibu Board  | P. Horneman                                      | 3rd     |

**NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS  
AVOCA BEACH MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENTS TO THIRD PLACE**

EXTRACTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE RECORDS

| YEAR | EVENT                    | COMPETITORS NAME                                 | PLACING |
|------|--------------------------|--|---------|
| 1951 | Pillow Fight             | B. Norman  | 3rd     |
| 1952 | Double Surf Ski Race     | T. Gallard, G. Lambert                           | 2nd     |
|      | Open Musical Flags       | S. Green   | 2nd     |
| 1953 | Single Surf Ski Race     | T. Gallard                                       | 2nd     |
| 1954 | Single Surf Ski Race     | T. Gallard                                       | 2nd     |
| 1955 | Single Surf Ski Race     | T. Gallard                                       | 1st     |
| 1962 | Pillow Fight             | R. Way   | 3rd     |
| 1965 | Pillow Fight             | R. Way   | 3rd     |
| 1968 | Senior Surf Teams        | N. Duff, G. Richardson, R. Orren, C. Orren       | 3rd     |
|      | Board Race               | D. Gee   | 3rd     |
| 1969 | Open Musical Flags       | D. Dwight  | 2nd     |
|      | Long Board Teams Race    | J. Alexander, D. Gee, K. Bootle                  | 2nd     |
|      | Malibu Board Teams Race  | J. Alexander, D. Gee, K. Bootle                  | 3rd     |
|      | Malibu Board Race        | J. Alexander                                     | 3rd     |
| 1970 | Open Surf                | G. Richardson                                    | 3rd     |
| 1971 | Surf Board               | D. Gee   | 2nd     |
|      | Long Board Relay         | A. Ellis, J. Alexander, D. Gee                   | 2nd     |
| 1972 | Open Long Board          | D. Gee   | 3rd     |
| 1973 | Junior Iron Man          | J. McAtamney                                     | 3rd     |
| 1974 | Junior Malibu Board Race | J. McAtamney                                     | 2nd     |
| 1975 | Open Beach Sprint        | R. Cairncross, B. Neal, B. Gregory, L. Makepeace | 1st     |
|      | Open Double Ski          | Jim Mitchell, John Mitchell                      | 1st     |
|      | Open Long Board Relay    | P. Gee, D. Gee, K. Bootle                        | 2nd     |
|      | Open Malibu Board        | D. Gee   | 3rd     |

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (C'td.)

| YEAR                  | EVENT                             | COMPETITORS NAME  | PLACING |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------|
| 1976                  | Open Beach Sprint                 | R. Cairncross   | 1st     |
|                       |                                   | L. Makepeace  | 2nd     |
|                       | Open Beach Relay                  | R. Cairncross, B. Neal, B. Gregory, L. Makepeace        | 1st     |
|                       | Open Single Ski                   | John Mitchell   | 1st     |
| G. Jarman             |                                   | 3rd   |         |
|                       | Open Long Board Relay             | D. Gee, P. Gee, K. Bootle                               | 2nd     |
| 1977                  | Reserve Grade Boat Race           | R. Ibbett, G. Yates, T. Wilson, M. Napier<br>J. Michell | 1st     |
|                       | Junior Boat Race                  | R. Gee, M. Patton, C. Kelly, R. Earl, I. Parker         | 3rd     |
|                       | Open Double Ski                   | M. Braund, G. Jarman                                    | 1st     |
|                       |                                   | John Mitchell, Jim Mitchell                             | 3rd     |
|                       | Open Single Ski                   | M. Braund   | 3rd     |
|                       | Junior Single Ski                 | R. Martin   | 3rd     |
|                       | Open Malibu Board Display         | R. Lloyd  | 3rd     |
| Open Single Ski Relay | G. Jarman, M. Braund, J. Mitchell | 3rd   |         |
| 1978                  | Open Single Ski                   | M. Braund   | 1st     |
|                       | Open Single Ski Relay             | M. Braund, Jim Mitchell, John Mitchell                  | 1st     |
|                       | Open Beach Relay                  | R. Cairncross, R. Neal, B. Gregory, L. Makepeace        | 2nd     |
|                       | Cadet Single Ski                  | W. Mitchell   | 2nd     |
|                       | Cadet Malibu Board Display        | D. Patton   | 2nd     |
|                       |                                   | B. Ellis  | 3rd     |
|                       | Reserve Boat Race                 | R. Ibbett, G. Yates, M. Napier, G. Price,<br>J. Michell | 3rd     |
| Junior Double Ski     | M. Coulter, R. Martin             | 3rd   |         |
| 1979                  | Cadet Beach Flags                 | M. Walters  | 1st     |
|                       | Cadet Malibu Board Race           | P. Horneman   | 1st     |
|                       | Open Surf Boat                    | R. Gee, A. Hoban, D. Gee, K. Bootle, M. Patton          | 2nd     |
|                       | Open Double Ski                   | Jim Mitchell, John Mitchell                             | 2nd     |
|                       | Open Single Ski Relay             | Jim Mitchell, M. Braund, G. Jarman                      | 2nd     |
|                       | Cadet Malibu Board Display        | A. Robinson   | 3rd     |
|                       | Senior Malibu Board Race          | J. Horneman   | 2nd     |

**CENTRAL COAST BRANCH CHAMPIONSHIPS  
AVOCA BEACH MEMBERS FIRST PLACINGS**

EXTRACTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE RECORDS

| YEAR | EVENT             | NAME  | YEAR | EVENT             | NAME   |
|------|-------------------|---|------|-------------------|--|
| 1956 | Junior R & R      | Avoca Beach   | 1967 | Open R & R        | K. Ibbett, R. Haynes,<br>J. Cheadle, C. Barker               |
|      | Junior Surf Teams | Avoca Beach   |      |                   | D. Barker, N. Duff,  |
|      | Single Surf Ski   | T. Gallard  |      | Junior R & R      | F. Spindler, A. Cook,<br>S. Reynolds, S. Harpur              |
| 1957 | Unavailable       |   |      |                   | W. Ritchie, S. Brennan                                       |
| 1958 | Junior Surf       | B. Cahill   |      | Open Surf         | R. Haynes  |
|      | Junior Surf Belt  | B. Cahill   |      | Open Surf Teams   | B. Cahill, B. Bennett,<br>J. Cheadle, S. Harpur              |
|      | Surf Board        | A. Ellis  |      | Cadet Surf        | L. Cook  |
| 1960 | Open Surf Teams   | Avoca Beach   |      | Junior Surf Teams | S. Harpur, F. Spindler,<br>A. Cook, S. Reynolds              |
| 1961 | Open R & R        | C. Barker, A. McCudden  |      | Open Belt         | R. Haynes  |
|      |                   | F. Luckie, T. Hunter,<br>J. Pollock, R. Grant,<br>John Pollock              |      | Junior Belt       | F. Spindler  |
|      | Single Surf Ski   | T. Gallard  | 1968 | Junior R & R      | Avoca Beach  |
|      | Open Surf Teams   | Avoca Beach   |      | Open Surf Teams   | Avoca Beach  |
|      | Senior Belt       | B. Cahill   |      | Junior Surf Teams | Avoca Beach  |
|      | Junior Boat       | Avoca Beach   |      | Open Iron Man     | A. Cook  |
| 1962 | No First Places   |   |      | Cadet Surf        | L. Cook  |
| 1963 | Open R & R        | Avoca Beach   |      | Musical Flags     | M. Sainsbury   |
|      | Junior Boat       | Avoca Beach   |      | Long Board        | D. Gee   |
|      | Senior Boat       | Avoca Beach   |      | Malibu Board      | J. Alexander   |
| 1964 | Junior R & R      | Avoca Beach   | 1969 | Open Surf         | R. Orren   |
|      | Open Surf Teams   | Avoca Beach   |      | Open Surf Teams   | R. Orren, C. Orren,<br>G. Richardson, S. Harpur              |
|      | Junior Boat       | R. Gee, P. Robinson,<br>M. Tamblyn, H. Morris,<br>K. Byrnes                 |      | Junior Belt       | G. Richardson  |
| 1965 | Junior R & R      | W. Fuller, F. Grayndler,<br>R. Liddell, G. Smith,<br>P. Robinson, A. Harris |      | Junior Surf Teams | R. Orren, C. Orren,<br>L. Cook, G. Richardson                |
|      | Junior Boat       | R. Gee, F. Grayndler,<br>G. Smith, J. Sparrow,<br>K. Byrnes                 |      | Open Iron Man     | A. Cook  |
|      | Open Boat         | R. Gee, D. Barker,<br>M. Tamblyn, R. Bryant,<br>R. Norman                   |      | Cadet Surf        | D. Heyman  |
| 1966 | Open Surf         | N. Duff   |      | Musical Flags     | G. Agnew   |
|      | Open Surf Teams   | N. Duff, J. Cheadle,<br>R. Haynes, K. Ibbett                                |      | Open Boat         | F. Grayndler, D. Barker,<br>D. Gee, K. Bootle,<br>M. Tamblyn |
|      | Junior Boat       | R. Ibbett, G. Ellwell,<br>P. Powell, John and<br>Jim Mitchell               |      | Long Board        | K. Bootle  |
|      | Musical Flags     | M. Sainsbury  |      | Malibu Board      | J. Alexander   |
|      | Open Boat         | R. Gee, D. Barker,<br>R. Bryant, R. Norman,<br>M. Tamblyn                   | 1970 | Junior R & R      | J. Walsh, M. Edmondson                                       |
|      |                   |   |      | Open Surf         | G. Richardson  |
|      |                   |   |      | Open Surf Teams   | G. Richardson, L. Cook,<br>C. Orren, R. Orren                |
|      |                   |   |      | Junior Surf Teams | L. Cook, R. Orren,<br>C. Orren, J. Walsh                     |
|      |                   |   |      | Cadet Surf        | J. Andrews   |
|      |                   |   |      | Open Boat         | R. Gee, M. Tamblyn,<br>Jim and John Mitchell,<br>M. Powell   |
|      |                   |   |      | Long Board        | D. Gee   |
|      |                   |   |      | Malibu Board      | J. Alexander   |
|      |                   |   |      | Junior Iron Man   | L. Cook  |
|      |                   |   |      | Junior Malibu     | L. Cook  |
|      |                   |   |      | Cadet Surf Teams  | J. Andrews, D. Heyman,<br>D. Corrigan, J. McAtamney          |
|      |                   |   |      | Iron Man          | A. Cook  |

CENTRAL COAST BRANCH CHAMPIONSHIP (C'td.)

| YEAR | EVENT              | NAME   | YEAR | EVENT   | NAME   |
|------|--------------------|--|------|---|--|
| 1971 | Long Board         | D. Gee   | 1975 | Open R & R                                      | L. Cook, S. Harpur,<br>G. Price, J. Andrews,<br>J. McAtamney,<br>D. Barker, T. Way |
|      | Cadet Malibu       | J. McAtamney   |      | Open Long Board<br>Open Single Ski<br>Open Boat | D. Gee   |
|      | Long Board Teams   | A. Ellis, J. Alexander                                       |      |   | J. Mitchell  |
|      |                    | D. Gee   |      |   | R. Gee, M. Tamblyn,<br>L. Upston, B. Low,<br>W. Bissaker                           |
|      | Malibu Board Teams | A. Ellis, J. Alexander                                       |      | Open Double Ski<br>Junior Boat                  | Jim and John Mitchell<br>R. Gee, M. Loggie,<br>T. Way, I. Parker,<br>C. Kelly      |
|      | D. Gee             |  |      | Avoca Beach                                     |  |
|      | Open Surf Teams    | Avoca Beach  |      | Board Relay Av.Bch                              | D. Gee, P. Gee,<br>K. Bootle   |
|      | Junior Belt        | R. Orren   |      | Open Sprint                                     | R. Cairncross  |
|      | Open Boat          | R. Gee, M. Tamblyn,<br>Jim and John Mitchell<br>M. Powell    |      | Junior Surf Teams                               | Avoca Beach  |
|      |                    |  |      | Malibu Relay                                    | Avoca Beach  |
|      |                    |  |      | Ski Relay                                       | Avoca Beach  |
|      |                    |  |      | Open Beach Relay                                | R. Cairncross,<br>R. Neal, B. Gregory,<br>L. Makepeace                             |
| 1972 | Long Board         | D. Gee   | 1976 | Open Iron Man                                   | J. McAtamney   |
|      | Long Board Teams   | Avoca Beach  |      | Open R & R                                      | Avoca Beach  |
|      | Open Surf Teams    | Avoca Beach  |      | Cadet Surf                                      | M. Benson  |
|      | Junior Surf Teams  | Avoca Beach  |      | Cadet Surf Teams                                | Avoca Beach  |
|      | Junior Belt        | D. Corrigan  |      | Open Boat                                       | R. Gee, B. Low,<br>L. Upston, W. Bissaker,<br>M. Tamblyn                           |
|      | Open Boat          | R. Gee, Jim and John<br>Mitchell, A. Hoban<br>M. Powell      |      | Reserve Boat                                    | P. Gee, T. Dickerson,<br>K. Bootle, T. Wilson,<br>P. Powell                        |
|      |                    |  |      | Junior Boat                                     | R. Gee, C. Kelly,<br>I. Parker, R. Earl,<br>M. Patton                              |
|      | Junior Iron Man    | J. McAtamney   |      | Open Iron Man                                   | L. Cook  |
|      | Veterans Surf      | B. Cahill  |      | Open Long Board                                 | D. Gee   |
| 1973 | Open Surf Teams    | Avoca Beach  |      | Open Malibu Board                               | J. McAtamney   |
|      | Junior Surf        | D. Heyman  |      | Long Board Relay                                | J. McAtamney, P. Gee,<br>D. Gee  |
|      | Junior Surf Teams  | D. Heyman, J. Andrews  |      | Team  | J. McAtamney, P. Gee,<br>D. Gee  |
|      |                    | C. Way, J. McAtamney   |      | Malibu Board Relay                              | J. McAtamney, P. Gee,<br>D. Gee  |
|      |                    | Avoca Beach  |      | Team  | J. McAtamney, P. Gee,<br>D. Gee  |
|      | Cadet Surf Teams   | Avoca Beach  |      | Open Single Surf Ski                            | B. Grace   |
|      | Open Belt          | L. Cook  |      | Open Ski Teams                                  | G. Jarmaine, Jim and<br>John Mitchell  |
|      | Junior Iron Man    | C. Way   |      | Taplin Relay                                    | Avoca Beach  |
|      | Open Beach Sprint  | R. Neal  |      | Open Beach Sprint                               | R. Cairncross  |
|      | Open Boat Av.Bch   | P. Gee, D. Barker,<br>K. Bootle, M. Tamblyn,<br>T. Dickerson |      | Open Beach Relay                                | R. Cairncross,<br>L. Makepeace, B. Wood,<br>B. Gregory                             |
|      |                    | B. Grace   |      |   |  |
|      | Open Single Ski    | D. Gee   |      |   |  |
|      | Open Long Board    | A. Ellis   |      |   |  |
|      | Open Malibu        | J. McAtamney   |      |   |  |
| 1974 | Junior Malibu      | J. McAtamney   |      |   |  |
|      | Junior Surf Teams  | J. McAtamney   |      |   |  |
|      | Junior Iron Man    | J. McAtamney   |      |   |  |
|      | Open Beach Sprint  | R. Cairncross, R. Neal,<br>B. Gregory                        |      |   |  |
|      |                    | M. Tamblyn, T. Dickerson,<br>R. Bryant, P. Gee, K. Bootle    |      |   |  |
|      | Reserve Boat       | J. McAtamney, Jim and John<br>Mitchell                       |      |   |  |
|      | Ski Relay          | J. McAtamney   |      |   |  |
|      | Junior Ski         | Jim and John Mitchell  |      |   |  |
|      | Open Double Ski    | A. Ellis, D. Gee,<br>J. McAtamney                            |      |   |  |
|      | Long Board Relay   | A. Ellis, D. Gee,<br>J. McAtamney                            |      |   |  |
|      | Malibu Relay       | A. Ellis, D. Gee,<br>J. McAtamney                            |      |   |  |
|      | Junior Malibu      | J. McAtamney   |      |   |  |

CENTRAL COAST BRANCH CHAMPIONSHIPS (C'td.)

| YEAR                     | EVENT                                   | NAME  | YEAR              | EVENT   | NAME  |             |
|--------------------------|---|---|-------------------|---|---|-------------|
| 1977                     | Junior Surf                             | T. Smith  | 1979              | March Past  | Avoca Beach                                   |             |
|                          | Open Surf Teams                         | J. Andrews, L. Cook,<br>M. Benson, S. Harpur                |                   | Cadet Surf  | J. Cook                                       |             |
|                          | Junior Surf Teams                       | M. Benson, T. Smith<br>R. Earl, J. Horneman                 |                   | Cadet Surf Teams  | J. Cook, S. Jackson,<br>A. Welsh, C. Smith    |             |
|                          | Cadet Surf Teams                        | J. Laing, B. Paterson<br>R. Harvey                          |                   | Restricted Surf   | L. Cook                                       |             |
|                          | Open Belt                               | J. Andrews  |                   | Open Iron Man   | J. Horneman                                   |             |
|                          | Junior Belt                             | M. Benson   |                   | Open Beach Relay  | D. Gee, R. Cairncross<br>B. Gregory, B. Wood, |             |
|                          | Open Boat                               | R. Gee, L. Upston,<br>W. Bissaker, G. Price                 |                   | Cadet Beach Flags   | M. Walters                                    |             |
|                          | Junior Boat                             | R. Gee, I. Parker,<br>M. Patton, R. Earl,<br>C. Kelly       |                   | Open Single Ski   | J. Mitchell                                   |             |
|                          | Reserve Boat                            | R. Ibbett, G. Yates,<br>M. Napier, T. Wilson,<br>J. Michell |                   | Cadet Single Ski  | P. Horneman                                   |             |
|                          | Open Long Board                         | D. Gee  |                   | Senior Ski Relay  | Jim and John Mitchell,<br>G. Jarmaine         |             |
|                          | Open Long Board<br>Relay                | D. Gee, P. Gee,<br>K. Bootle                                |                   | Open Double Ski   | Jim and John Mitchell                         |             |
|                          | Open Malibu Board                       | D. Gee  |                   | Junior Double Ski   | W. Mitchell,<br>B. Paterson                   |             |
|                          | Open Single Ski                         | M. Braund   |                   | Open Long Board   | H. King                                       |             |
|                          | Junior Single Ski                       | R. Martin   |                   | Open Malibu   | J. Horneman                                   |             |
|                          | Open Double Ski                         | John and Jim Mitchell                                       |                   | Junior Malibu   | B. Paterson                                   |             |
|                          | Open Ski Relay                          | G. Jarmaine, M. Braund,<br>J. Mitchell                      |                   | Cadet Malibu  | J. Cook                                       |             |
|                          | Open Beach Sprint                       | R. Cairncross   |                   | Open Malibu Relay   | J. Horneman, H. King,<br>B. Paterson          |             |
|                          | Open Beach Relay                        | R. Cairncross, L. Makepeace,<br>R. Neal, B. Gregory         |                   | Open Long Board<br>Relay  | J. McAtamney,<br>B. Paterson, H. King         |             |
|                          | 1978                                    | March Past  |                   | Avoca Beach   | Open Wave Ski                                 | P. Hoban    |
|                          |   | Open Surf   |                   | M. Benson   | Junior Wave Ski                               | W. Mitchell |
| Cadet Surf Teams         |   | P. Horneman, B. Tuddenham,<br>S. Smith, C. Smith            | Open Taplin Relay | J. Horneman,<br>B. Paterson, C. Bond,<br>M. Braund, M. Margin,<br>M. Benson |   |             |
| Open Belt                |   | J. Andrews  |                   |   |   |             |
| Open Beach Sprint        |   | R. Neal   |                   |   |   |             |
| Open Beach Relay         |   | R. Neal, R. Cairncross<br>B. Gregory, L. Makepeace          |                   |   |   |             |
| Open Boat                |   | D. Gee, K. Bootle,<br>W. Bissaker, M. Tamblyn,<br>L. Upston |                   |   |   |             |
| Reserve Boat             |   | R. Ibbett, G. Yates,<br>M. Napier, G. Price,<br>J. Mitchell |                   |   |   |             |
| Open Single Ski          |   | M. Braund   |                   |   |   |             |
| Senior Ski Relay         |   | M. Braund, Jim and John<br>Mitchell                         |                   |   |   |             |
| Open Double Ski          |   | Jim and John Mitchell                                       |                   |   |   |             |
| Open Long Board          |   | H. King   |                   |   |   |             |
| Open Malibu Board        |   | P. Gee  |                   |   |   |             |
| Junior Malibu Board      |   | D. O'Grady  |                   |   |   |             |
| Junior Ski Relay         |   | R. Martin, M. Coulter,<br>S. Cannon                         |                   |   |   |             |
| Open Long Board<br>Relay |   | P. Gee, J. Horneman,<br>H. King                             |                   |   |   |             |
| Junior Double Ski        |   | R. Martin, M. Coulter                                       |                   |   |   |             |
| Open Malibu Relay        | J. Horneman, D. O'Grady,<br>B. Paterson |   |                   |   |   |             |



## Epilogue

*The opportunity to compile this "Review" has permitted me to redeem a closeness and awareness of the extent of the Club's operation. It contains 60 pages more than the 100 originally intended. To tell the story completely would take twice that again and considerably longer than the 18 months spent in compiling it. The project has been a most satisfying and rewarding one and I hope the reader feels we have succeeded in demonstrating that Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club upholds the ideals of service and dedication that were pledged 50 years ago.*

*Today's club activities and the services offered to the public by the Central Coast Branch are so diverse and complex as to be staggering in their magnitude, and I have asked myself the question where are we going and how far and for how long can we apply the pressures that we do to our voluntary members. Some form of professionalism in administration and specialised services seems unavoidable but the simple answer to this complex situation is as it was fifty years ago. We*

*need additional members to the Branch, Board of Examiners and specialised services and we need support and sponsorship.*

*Throughout this book I have attempted to avoid singling people out for special acclaim. However, my involvement since 1945 has brought me in touch with two men who, among the many hundreds of dedicated people, have been so outstanding in their leadership and devotion to surf life saving that they must be recognised. They are Bryce Norman, President Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club, and John Rosewell, President Central Coast Branch S.L.S.A. We have progressed through their example.*

*In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation for having been permitted to compile this "Review" to the members and committee of Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club who have given me their fullest co-operation and understanding.*

*E. A. (Ted) POOLE*



Avoca Beach, looking south-east towards Hunters Hill, around 1930



Avoca Beach, looking north-west from Hunters Hill, around 1930