

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2020



Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association

-: Established 29th November 1978 :-

Email: kirra@kirraoldboys.com Web: www.kirrasurfclub.com.au | Old Boys

ABN: 66 429 080 066

“Who are we?”

Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association



A meeting of over forty past and long serving Kirra SLSC members arranged by Honorary Life Member Ron Gurnett (*KSLSC Hon. Life Membership – #38/1973*) was held on the **29th November 1978** at the International Hotel, Spring Hill in Brisbane (Hotel Licensee was Bill Wright – long serving Kirra member and past Vice-Captain). At this meeting those present unanimously supported and celebrated the formation of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association. Ron Gurnett was endorsed as the inaugural Association President.

Today in 2020, the Association with up to three hundred members, continues to remain very active and positively supports the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club. The Association is one of the largest of its type amongst surf lifesaving clubs in Queensland.

From its origins over forty years ago, the goals of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association have remained consistent, and include:

- Providing an opportunity for long serving and past Kirra SLSC members to remain connected and involved with their surf lifesaving club;
- Building fellowship amongst past, long serving and current Kirra SLSC members, families and supporters through participation in planned social and surf lifesaving annual activities and events; and
- Coordinating and supporting revenue generating activities for the overall benefit of the past, current and future membership, families and supporters of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

As a result of the major project initiated by the Association to showcase the Kirra Surf Club's amazing 105 year history and approved by Surf Club management in 2018, revenue currently raised by the Association is used for achieving the goals of this very special Kirra Historical Project.

The Committee office bearers are dedicated to ensuring the continuing success and growth of the Association. They bring a collective surf lifesaving and business knowledge to the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association. **The Committee endorsed for Year 2021 include:**

- **President:** Peter Beauchamp (*Kirra SLSC Hon. Life Member #49/1986*);
- **Secretary:** Adam Day (*Kirra SLSC Hon. Life Member #58/1998*);
- **Member:** Paul Cameron (*Kirra SLSC long serving member*); and
- **Member:** Mark Rogers (*Kirra SLSC long serving member*).



“On behalf of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and successful Year 2021”

Bumpo/Elke Remembrance Day

SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2020

from 3:30pm at the licensed Kirra Beach Surf Club

“An annual event for all associated with the Kirra SLSC and not to be missed!”

Come along and wear your Kirra SLSC or Kirra Old Boys Association polo shirt

“A special occasion for all past and current surf club members, their families and supporters to come together in fellowship to celebrate the lives and contributions of our Kirra SLSC members who sadly are no longer with us”

LEST WE FORGET

“Complimentary refreshments and fingerfood provided for all attending”

Coordinated and sponsored by the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association

Volunteerism: “The principle of donating one’s personal time and energy through providing support for the benefit of other people and/or an organisation within the community as a social responsibility rather than for any individual gain, reward or financial opportunity”

KIRRA BEACH SURF CLUB – BAR, BISTRO AND GAMING

“Sure is the place to be for an icy cold refreshment, tasty meals, welcoming and professional staff, and the best views of the Gold Coast..... Takeaways now provided for members..... Come along and try the breakfast menu available every Saturday and Sunday morning from 8:00am”



Members, families, and visitors are most welcome.... Visit the licensed club and view the wonderful Kirra Surf Club history that is now showcased throughout the venue..... Kirra Beach Surf Club”

CALENDAR DATES CONFIRMED – Year 2021

“Lock in these dates that are now confirmed into your calendar for Year 2021 and plan your attendance at the ‘Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association’ fund raising and fellowship events”

Friday 7th May 2021: Kirra Sports Luncheon at the Pineapple Hotel commencing from 11:30am to 3:30pm.... This year it is a ‘State of Origin’ theme with wonderful Guest Speakers. Enjoy the Pineapple Hotel’s famous Seafood Lunch and cold refreshment that is all included in the price of your ticket. Guaranteed to be a fun afternoon with good friends and Kirra mates.... TICKETS ON SALE SOON!!!

Sunday 11th July 2021: Yes it’s back!!! The Kirra Golf Game will be held at the Wynnum Golf Club. The date booked early this year by Greg Dunn has now been confirmed. More details to be forthcoming from our 2021 Kirra Golf Game coordinator and Kirra SLSC Hon. Life Member John (Brashie) Bell.

Sunday 3rd October 2021: The very successful Kirra Car Raffle is back for Year 2021!!! The Car Raffle Draw will be held at the licensed Kirra Beach Surf Club between 3:00pm and 5:00pm with complimentary cold refreshments for ticket holders. Additional prizes to be available throughout the afternoon..... TICKETS ON SALE SOON!!! *“It is a fun afternoon with mates and a chance to WIN A NEW CAR!!*

Friday 26th November 2021: Be at the ‘Kirra Old Boys’ Christmas Function/Annual General Meeting at Bob Singleton’s famous Pineapple Hotel commencing from 5:30pm for a fun evening with Kirra mates.

Monday 27th December 2021: Come together for the annual Bumpo/Elke Remembrance Day at the Kirra Beach Surf Club commencing from 3:30pm..... A special day for all associated with the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.... Let’s have a sea of Royal Blue and Gold: *‘Wear your Old Boys or Kirra SLSC polo shirt’.*

VALE – James (Jim) Devlin

It is my sad duty to advise that past Kirra SLSC member; foundation member of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association; and dear friend **James (Jim) Devlin** passed away in Sydney after a long battle with illness.

Jim Devlin joined the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club in the 1969/1970 season and from the start was a dedicated surf lifesaver and committed Club member. With gaining his Bronze Medallion in Surf Lifesaving on the 24th January 1970 (#Q6942), Jim quickly embraced the responsibilities of performing his regular Beach Patrols at Kirra Beach. His additional volunteer activities in supporting the operational and fund-raising activities for his surf club achieved recognition with Jim being awarded the Club's prestigious 'Most Willing New Member' trophy for the 1969/1970 season. Jim gained his SLSA Instructors Certificate through training new members for their Bronze Medallion and mentoring these newbies on their Beach Patrols.

Jim was a regular at the surf club on weekends throughout the early/middle 1970s performing his rostered Beach Patrols; assisting with fund raising activities such as 'Chook Raffles' on Saturday afternoons at the famous Kirra Beach Hotel; and generally lending a hand where he could in supporting his fellow members and his Kirra Surf Club.

With work and family commitments, Jim was unable to continue with the active duties for his surf club from the middle 1970s. However, he was there at the inaugural meeting held on the 29th November 1978 at the International Hotel, Spring Hill (Brisbane) where those present unanimously supported and celebrated the foundation of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association. As a 'Foundation Member' of the Association, Jim remained interested and ever connected throughout his life with his Kirra Surf Life Saving Club. Jim's funeral service and celebration of his life was held in Sydney on Saturday, 28th November 2020. Our sincere thoughts and deepest sympathies are extended to Jim's family; and to his many close friends and colleagues. *(On behalf of the Association Committee and Members)*

Trophy Display Cabinet for the surf club



As part of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association - **'KIRRA HISTORICAL PROJECT'**, the Association Committee approved and ordered a large Trophy/Display Glass Cabinet with delivery planned for the end of November. *(AS Safety Glass and shelving; Down lights and Spotlights; Lockable Sliding Doors; Black Aluminium Frame; etc)*



Extract: Facebook - Kirra Surf Club (Friday 4th December): "The new *Kirra SLSC Trophy Cabinet* was today (Friday 4th December 2020) received and is positioned in the licensed Kirra Beach Surf Club. A number of Club trophies and memorabilia have already been placed in the cabinet, but there is plenty of space for those many Kirra SLSC team trophies, awards, and other items of interest that would have been collected over the past decades. It would be wonderful to have these items on display showcasing the many outstanding achievements by Kirra Surf Club members over the past 105 years..... The Trophy Cabinet is to be locked to ensure the security of those special items on display".

Seeking your assistance.... Should you have any Kirra SLSC trophies and lifesaving memorabilia from yesteryear (in your care for safe-keeping) that could be placed in the lockable/secured display cabinet, please consider providing these items to the Surf Club and pass on to either Gabrielle (Club's Office Manager) or Patrik (Licensed Club Manager) for safe keeping and displaying in the cabinet.... **OR** contact your Association Committee on Email: kirra@kirraoldboys.com and arrangements can be made to collect these items..... *'An initiative of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association.... proudly supporting the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club'*

Bumpo/Elke Remembrance Day

"A special occasion when we come together to remember and celebrate the lives of our fellow Kirra surf lifesavers, family and supporters who sadly are no longer with us..... LEST WE FORGET"

Beginning in the early 2000s, long term Kirra SLSC and Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association member Ian (Elke) Sommer began what is now known as the annual Bumpo Freeman Remembrance Day. Graham was a dear friend of many and a past Kirra SLSC member who sadly succumbed to long term illness in his early fifties.

Given the special intent of this annual Remembrance Day and the potential to expand the occasion to not only celebrate Graham's life, but to include all those Kirra SLSC members, family and supporters who sadly are no longer with us, the then 'Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association' President (Keith Boucher) and Secretary (Lance English) met with Ian Sommer and offered to coordinate and sponsor this event for the Association. Ian supported this initiative and remained involved as an anonymous financial sponsor. He continued to encourage the attendance of past and current Kirra Surf Club members and families; and those colleagues of his Valley Diehards Rugby League Football Club from the 1970s/1980s era. Many of these Valleys RLFC players are members of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association. ***"Once a Kirra member – Always a Kirra member"***



Graham (Bumpo) Freeman joined the Kirra Surf Club gaining his Bronze Medallion on the 15th November, 1970 together with Greg Ward, Ross French, John Bowler, Michael Dellit, Jack Hunter, Gary Douglas, Keith Mullen, and the brothers Alan and Peter Beauchamp. He was a quietly spoken person who was highly respected by all members of the surf club and those who had the pleasure of meeting him. Graham served as a Kirra SLSC office bearer on the Management Committee, including holding positions of Surf Boat Captain and Club Captain. He enjoyed competition surf boat rowing with mates from his Kirra Surf Club.

"Left: Kirra SLSC Junior Boat Crew with (L-R) Greg Ward; Jack Hunter; Alan Beauchamp; and Graham (Bumpo) Freeman at Kirra Beach"



Ian (Elke) Sommer joined the Kirra Surf Club in 1968 and remained continually connected with his surf club throughout his life. He willingly took up the challenges of lifting the standards of beach patrols as one of two Patrol Captains, and diligently served as the Club Vice-Captain. Ian achieved success in the Open Surf Boat and continued to row surf boats in competition for many years. He was a member of Kirra Masters Surf Boat Crews in the 1990s.

"Left: Elke Sommer (middle) with Kirra SLSC Hon. Life Members Jeff Callaghan and Lance English at the Remembrance Day held 27th December 2019 in the licensed Kirra Beach Surf Club"

Ian remained an active surf club member for many years keenly participating in such events as the weekly Bingo nights at the Homestead Hotel at Zillmere throughout the 1970s; regularly attending annual Brisbane and Ipswich House to House Collections; and supporting pub raffles in Brisbane and at the famous Kirra Beach Hotel. Ian proudly wore his Kirra Surf Club 'Royal Blue and Gold' polo shirt on many occasions throughout his life. Ian was a quality rugby league player and Vice-Captain who achieved Brisbane Rugby League (BRL) Premiership success with his Valleys Diehards Rugby League Club. It was a shock to all when Ian suddenly passed away early this year.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association held at the Pineapple Hotel on Friday 27th November 2020, past Association President Keith Boucher and Secretary Lance English proposed to rename the Remembrance Day in acknowledging the significant contributions by Ian (Elke) Sommer for firstly initiating and then continuing to financially support this special day of the Association's calendar. Kirra SLSC Life Member and Association foundation President Ron Gurnett and several others present at the AGM also spoke favourably for the name change. It was resolved to rename this Association event as the Bumpo/Elke Remembrance Day.

The Bumpo/Elke Remembrance Day is a very special occasion when all past, long serving and current Kirra members and families may come together annually to remember and celebrate the lives and contributions of all those who have been associated with the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club who sadly are no longer with us.....

"LEST WE FORGET"

STOP THE PRESS..... 'LAST DRINKS AT THE KB!'

As advised in our 'Old Boys' November 2020 NEWSLETTER, the famous Kirra Beach Hotel that was opened on Friday, 30th November 1956 will be closing its doors in February 2021 for building demolition to make way for the approved multi-million dollar Kirra Beach Hotel redevelopment of a modern pub, shopping and accommodation precinct. **The final trading day for the Kirra Beach Hotel will be Sunday, 28th February 2021.**

Past Kirra SLSC members and those from the North Kirra Surf Club have lasting memories of fun times of fellowship, chook raffles, and social bonding in the front bar of the Kirra Beach Hotel. During the era of restricted trading sessions, a practice that was disbanded in the 1970s, hotels were only permitted to open on a Sunday between 11am to 1pm (lunchtime session) and again from 4pm to 6pm (afternoon session). It was not uncommon through the hot summer months to see up to thirty Kirra Surf Club senior lifesavers sitting on the hotel's front bar steps and footpath enjoying icy cold refreshment during the Sunday lunchtime session. Yes there was a seating 'pecking order' with the newbies sitting on the footpath looking up at those more experienced club members sitting on the steps.....

George Doniger, a wonderful supporter of our Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association, Life Member and Patron of the North Kirra SLSC, and son of Kirra legend Joe Doniger, has proposed '**LAST DRINKS at the Kirra Beach Hotel**' when long serving and past members of both the Kirra and North Kirra Surf Clubs can come together in fellowship to recall and celebrate past fun times and mateships established.

WATCH THIS SPACE..... Further discussion will be had with George on a day and date to be confirmed for LAST DRINKS..... *"One of those special occasions to be enjoyed by many!"*

Families supporting Kirra SLSC

It is regularly proven true time and time again!! **'Once a Kirra member – Always a Kirra member'**

The Kirra Surf Life Saving Club has a proud history of families joining and remaining involved for life as members of their surf club. Peter Kelly's *Kirra SLSC 100 Years* (Published 2016) documents and acknowledges the many Kirra families who have provided wonderful and enduring legacies in advancing the ideals of their surf lifesaving club. One such family that has been associated with Kirra for many years is the 'Flannery Family'. Brothers John, Terry and Peter have made lasting contributions to their surf club over many years with their involvement in surf club



management; lifesaving operations including beach patrols; and surf sports particularly with surf boat rowing.

Peter Flannery (*Kirra SLSC Hon. Life Member #69/2014*) continues to be regularly acknowledged for his contributions to ensure safe bathing at Kirra Beach with his many hours performed on Beach Patrols. It is not uncommon to see Peter on patrol on any given weekend throughout the summer months. His wife Vicki is proud of Peter and her family's involvement with the surf club. She also contributes to and supports the ongoing success of her Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

A special milestone achievement for the Flannery Family: On the 8th November 2020, Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Member Peter Flannery was joined for the first occasion on patrol at Kirra Beach by his son Martin and grandson Tim who recently gained his Bronze Medallion. This was a family first with all three being together on patrol at Kirra Beach..... *"A wonderful achievement for this Kirra Surf Club family"*

"Left: On patrol at Kirra Beach are (L-R) Peter Flannery, Martin Flannery, and Tim Flannery proudly joined by Vicki Flannery"

Out and about



“Above Left – Kirra legends they are all! Enjoying an opportunity to catch up at the Noosa Yacht Club are Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association members (L-R) Ross ‘Bundy’ Edmonds; Ron Gurnett (KSLSC Life Member #38/1973 and Association Foundation President); Steve Paul OAM; Jim Schofield; and Barry ‘Chookie’ Robinson”

“Above Right – Past Kirra SLSC past Queensland and Australian Champions enjoying their time together and showing their excellent teamwork in the kitchen are (L-R) Peter Hollingworth and Ian Wright”



A time to celebrate!

“Right: Members of the Kirra SLSC family come together to hear the announcement of the 2019/2020 Australian Surf Club of the Year... Kirra SLSC as the ‘Queensland Surf Club of the Year’ was one of the six national finalists out of almost four hundred Australian Surf Life Saving Clubs nation-wide. Penguin Beach SLSC from Tasmania was announced as the winning surf club”.



Hope you enjoyed this December 2020 Newsletter..... Please share this Newsletter with your circle of friends and work colleagues. Should you have an item and/or photographs for the next Newsletter then please forward to the Association’s Email address: kirra@kirraoldboys.com

Many thanks for your continuing support of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association.
Committee – Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association

President: Peter Beauchamp; Secretary: Adam Day; Committee Members: Paul Cameron and Mark Rogers

“A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY, HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR 2021 FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY”

Once a Kirra member – Always a Kirra member!”