

# NEWSLETTER

## September 2026

## Kirra Past & Long Serving Members Association

*[Established 29th November 1978]*

ABN: 66 429 080 066
Email: kirra@kirraoldboys.com
Web: www.kirrasurfclub.com.au

## ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER

# *ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS REUNION*

*This will be the forty-eighth occasion that the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS REUNION has been held since the Association was first established on the 29th November 1978....*

*This is an annual event for past and current Kirra members, families and supporters to come together to celebrate Kirra's amazing one hundred and eleven years of continuous surf lifesaving, and to strengthen the connection between the olde and the new of our Surf Club.*

# Friday 20th November 2026 from 5:30pm




## *At the* 'famous' Pineapple Hotel

***(just walking distance from the Gabba)***

***ALL WELCOME: WEAR YOUR ROYAL BLUE AND GOLD – BE GREAT TO SEE YOU THERE WITH US!***

*"Complementary refreshment and finger food!"*

## *'BRING A FRIEND!'*



***Let us fill the place with the 'Royal Blue and Gold' of Kirra SLSC***

***"A wonderful evening of fellowship and good yarns catching up with Kirra Surf Club past, long serving, and current members, and just good mates"***

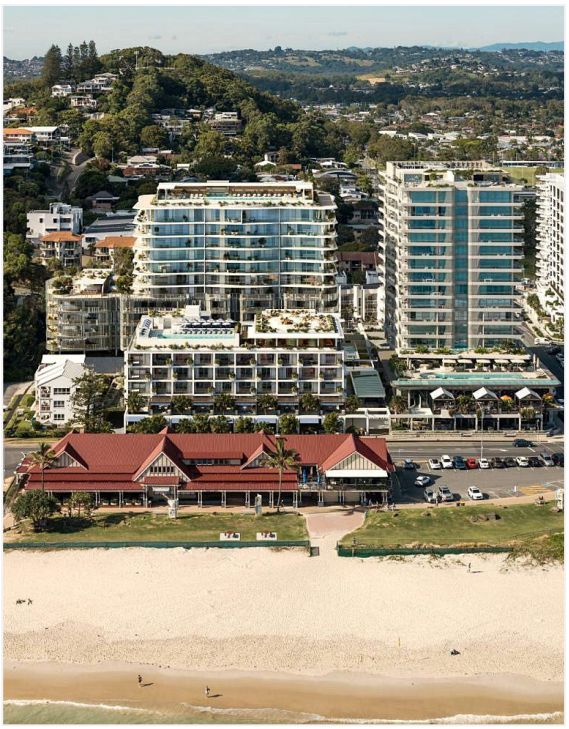
***"Reasonably priced accommodation within walking distance to the Pineapple Hotel"***

*'Special acknowledgement and thank you to Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Governor (#4/2012) Bob Singleton, his family, and the staff of the Pineapple Hotel for their continuing support over many years of our Kirra Surf Life Saving Club and the Association ....THANK YOU'*




*"Right: Attendance at the Year 2025 Association Christmas Reunion… Gosh there are thirty-one Kirra legends in this group photograph!"*

# KIRRA BEACH REDEVELOPMENT



The next stage of the Kirra Beach Hotel redevelopment is progressing with site preparation in advance of construction. This image shows the completed Project with apartment and business units now advertised for sale. This development along with the many high-rise buildings now completed in Kirra Beach over the past decade *(and more to come!!)* has significantly increased the residential and tourist population of our once quite beachside community.

These major building redevelopments at Kirra Beach provide **'THE CHALLENGE'** for our Kirra Surf Club. Trained and qualified members accommodated in a contemporary surf lifesaving operations and member's facility (our clubhouse) must be available to meet this local Kirra Beach and the broader Gold Coast community demands on our capacity to deliver quality frontline community services, today and for the future! **'VIGILENCE AND SERVICE'**

*"A stated icon of the Gold Coast, the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club is recognised and acknowledged nationally and internationally for its community services, lifesaving innovation, Surf Sports achievements, and as the* ***'COMMUNITY HUB'*** *of the renowned Kirra Beach".*

Your Kirra Surf Life Saving Club urgently requires our Kirra Beach community acknowledgement and support of the Surf Club *(shout it from the rooftops!!)* for the proposed redevelopment of its *'ninety-one (91) year'* old clubhouse. A clubhouse built in year 1935 to provide surf lifesaving community services for that time with very limited equipment (Reel, Line, and Belt) compared to the modern and technically advanced rescue and training equipment available for today's surf lifesavers in year 2026.

Your Kirra Surf Life Saving Club is the second oldest surf club in Queensland *(Est: 7th January 1916)* and is one of the longest continuously operating surf lifesaving clubs of this great nation of Australia.

Kirra SLSC is a *'strong surf club'* that is built upon sound foundations of community service, mateship, and surf lifesaving traditions. In its one hundred and eleventh (111th) year, the Kirra Surf Club has a solid membership base who are well trained and qualified to deliver competent voluntary surf lifesaving and safe community services; Supports a successfully coordinated Kirra Junior (Nipper) Association educating our lifesavers of the future; Applies sound business administration and financial arrangements for its membership, operational, and revenue streams; Is supported by a large cohort of surf lifesavers of yesteryear; and is well connected within its local Kirra Beach community.

**'NOW IS THE TIME TO DECLARE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FUTURE!'**

## ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER







# VALE: MARGARET NICHOLSON

It was indeed sad news for many to hear of the passing of Margaret Nicholson, a long-time supporter and friend to many associated with the famous Kirra Surf Life Saving Club (Est: 7th January 1916).

Wife of renowned R & R Coach and Honorary Life Member (#27/1961) Arch Nicholson OAM and mother to Sue and Lisa, Margaret has been associated with and supported members of her Kirra Surf Club for over seventy years.

As mentioned by our Surf Club Secretary, Yvonne Papadimos AM: *"Marg was of course referred to as 'Mum' to all the Kirra boys her beloved Arch coached to many Australian Lifesaving titles"*. Margaret is another of those Kirra legends whose charm and friendliness will always be remembered.

Our sincere condolences from the Association membership to Margaret's daughters Sue and Lisa…. **'Lest we Forget'.**

**ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER AND SUPPORTER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER AND SUPPORTER**

# YEAR 2026 – YOUR CALENDAR and SPECIAL EVENTS

| SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – YEAR 2026 | PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – YEAR 2026 |
|---|---|
| **Queensland**<br>Back to school – 27th January<br>4th April to 20th April<br>27th June to 12th July<br>19th September to 4th October<br>End of school year – 18th December 2026<br>**New South Wales**<br>Back to school – 27th January<br>7th April to 17th April<br>6th July to 17th July<br>28th September to 9th October<br>End of school year – 18th December 2026 | **Queensland**<br>Australia Day – Monday 26th January<br>Easter – 3rd/4th/5th/6th April<br>Anzac Day – Saturday 25th April<br>Labour Day – Monday 4th May<br>Royal (Qld) Show – Wednesday 12th August<br>Kings Birthday – Monday 5th October<br>Christmas Day – Friday 25th December<br>Boxing Day – Saturday 26th December<br>Boxing Day (Public Holiday) – Monday 28th December |

## NOTE THESE DATES – REMAINING ASSOCIATION EVENTS YEAR 2026

### *48th Annual Christmas Reunion of the Association*

**Friday, 20th November 2026**

**Pineapple Hotel, Brisbane from 5:30pm**

***'All welcome – bring a friend'***

### *17th Annual Kirra (Bumpo/Elke) Remembrance Day*

***(Established: December 2010)***

**Sunday, 27th December 2026**

**Kirra Supporters Club from 3:00pm**

***'All welcome – bring a current or past Kirra Surf Club member and supporter with you!'***

***"Wear your Royal Blue and Gold"***

# FOUNDATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

*"Look back and remember with pride!"*

**The Association:** The inaugural meeting organised by Ron Gurnett (Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Member #38/1973) for the 29th November 1978 at the International Hotel, Spring Hill in Brisbane (Hotel Licensee: Bill Wright – long serving Kirra SLSC member and past Club Vice-Captain) had forty-two current, long serving, and past active Kirra SLSC members in attendance. At this meeting those present unanimously supported establishing the Kirra Old Boys Association with Ron Gurnett endorsed as the Association President.

**Foundation Committee:** The foundation Committee included Ron Gurnett (President); Bob Littler (Secretary); and Graham Byrnes (Treasurer). Within weeks Graham advised that given his work demands he was unable to fulfil the voluntary role of Treasurer. Jim Schofield was called upon and he willingly accepted this inaugural position of Association Treasurer.

**Membership:** The Association with over three hundred (300) members continues in year 2026 to remain 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.

**Renamed:** Given that the Association encourages Kirra SLSC past active and long serving male and female members, family and club supporters to be listed as members, the Association was renamed in April 2024 as the *'Kirra Past and Long Serving Members Association'*.

## Association Foundation Meeting – 29th November 1978

***'Names as recorded in the meeting's Attendance Register'***

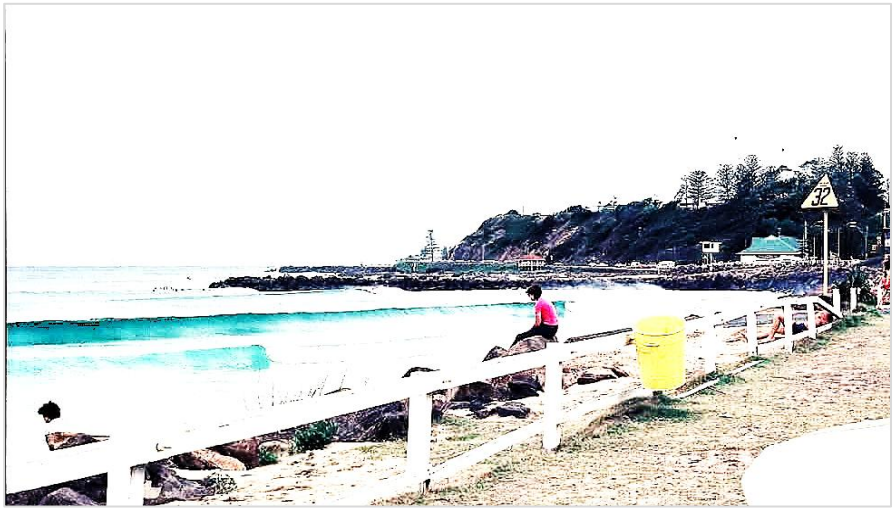
**Ron Gurnett; John Bowler; Steve Paul; Ross (Bundy) Edmonds*; Bob Littler; Graham Byrnes*; Jim Schofield; Barry Robinson; Vic Arnall; Garry Power; Cameron Leagh-Murray*; Mal Stockwell; Lech Gacia*; Tom Laffan; Dennis Boucher; Keith Boucher; Greg Dunn; John Littler; Roger Cresswell; Colin Wright*; Bob Gear*; Ron Porter*; Lance English; Graham Booth*; Carl Godwin*; Barry Godwin*; Peter Beauchamp; Keith Hamilton*; Barrie Thorne*; Stan Hilton*; Col Heydt*; Roger Hawkes; Graham Stephens*; Jim Steel*; Max Greatorix; Terry Challenger*; Malcolm Jardeen*; Dave Seeley*; Barry Cameron; Mick Mulchay; Bill Wright; Jim Devlin*.**

***(*) denotes those who sadly were now deceased....***

## ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER

# DOWN MEMORY LANE:

***"Do you remember?"***

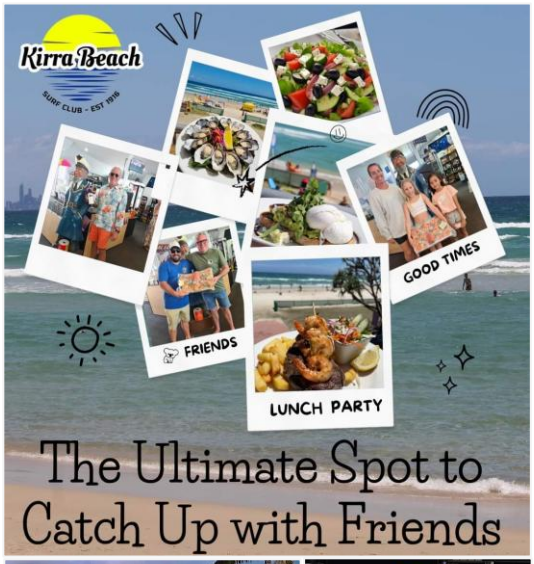


***"Left: Kirra in the early 1980s…. Once there was a large and popular caravan and camping grounds on the foreshore of Kirra Beach!"***

- The long Kirra groyne (built mid 1970s) brought back the beach to the southern side of the wall in front of the clubhouse.
- It was an experience to climb the long ladder to gain entry to the observation tower when on your beach patrol!
- Back to a green roof for the club building…. The Pizza Hut had only recently opened (where Siblings is today).
- The beach run to Bilinga started and ended with a good ocean swim.

# KIRRA SUPPORTERS CLUB 'The place to be with mates!'

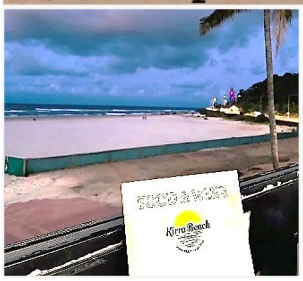
























## Kirra Supporters Club - BAR, BISTRO, GAMING and SALTYS COFFEE *"The popular Kirra Supporters Club is the place to enjoy icy cold refreshments, tasty family meals, welcoming staff, hot coffees, with the best ocean views of the Gold Coast!"*





***"Left: It was the 1930s and all was happening at Kirra Beach… So it continues in November 2025!"***

***'Note the three level Kirra Surf Club on Kirra Point!'***

# *'Kirra SLSC – Our History and Traditions are important!'*

*'History and Traditions'* are important to any institution or voluntary organisation because they provide a sense of identity and helps those in such organisations to understand the past through connecting to their roots. They foster social cohesion, preserves cultural heritage, and offer emotional connections to those who came before us.

By valuing and acknowledging our *'History and Traditions'* and honouring those who came before us, we have the opportunity to ensure the continuity of our Surf Club's core cultural values whilst its social identity is shared with those who follow into the future.

Our *'History and Traditions'* provide a sense of purpose and belonging, and helps to guide us in making decisions about the future. Whilst the original and fundamental purpose of our origin continues to evolve and change, valuing our *'History and Traditions'* assist in laying the framework for making decisions that reflect our values, beliefs and customs, and those constantly evolving practices relevant to providing surf lifesaving frontline community operations and member services.

Acknowledging our *'History and Traditions'* assists us in remaining true to who and why we are blessed to be a part of this unique organisation, the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club. They remind us of the importance as to why we commit to preserving our culture that is to be shared with current and future generations of Surf Club members, administrators, and decision makers.

Those who came before us, those who are here with us today, and the many who will follow into the future, are the *'Custodians of our Kirra Surf Lifesaving Club'*. During our brief moment of time, however short it may be, we have an obligation to preserve the *'History and Traditions'* of the past, whilst ensuring a sustainable and successful pathway forward for our Surf Club through an ever changing future.

Our *'History and Traditions'* play a significant role in shaping our future cultural identity, values, beliefs and practices. It is the means by which we accept our responsibility to pass on the organisation's knowledge, customs, and rituals from one generation to the next.

In today's rapidly changing world, it is so important to understand the significance of our *'History and Traditions'* and why they are crucial in preserving our heritage, thereby guaranteeing forever that we remain connected to our origins. '*This ensures that we will always remember who we are, where we came from, and why we are here!*

*'We the membership'* are the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club that was established on the 7th January 1916, the second oldest surf lifesaving club in Queensland, and one of the longest continuously operating surf lifesaving clubs of this great nation of Australia.

**THE MEMBERSHIP ARE THE KIRRA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB!**

***'Thank you for your continuing support of our Kirra Past & Long Serving Members Association, and in doing so supporting the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club'***

***'Association Committee'***

***President – Peter Beauchamp AFSM; Secretary – Adam Day; Committee Member – Paul Cameron***

***ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER***