

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2022



Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association

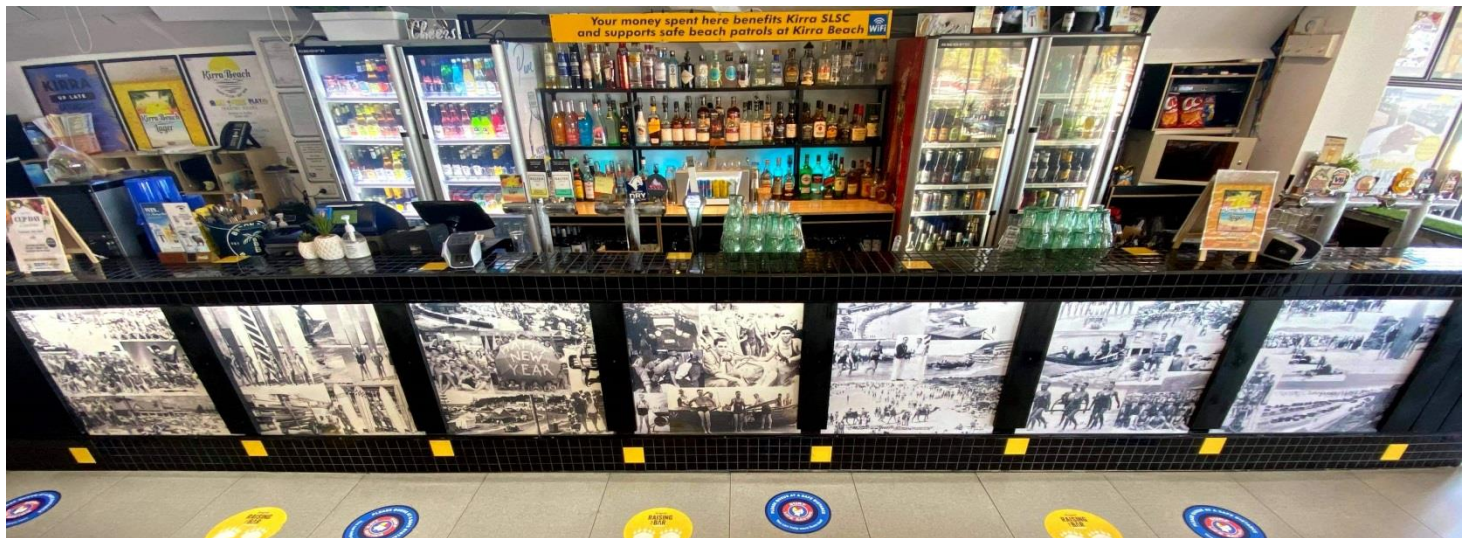
-: The Association was established on the 29th November 1978 :-

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

ABN: 66 429 080 066

‘A FABULOUS COLLECTION FROM YESTERYEAR’

Images of our Kirra surf lifesavers and friends from those times past are proudly displayed across the front of the bar in the licensed Kirra Supporters Club.



KIRRA BEACH SURF CLUB – Bar, Bistro, Gaming and Saltys Coffee

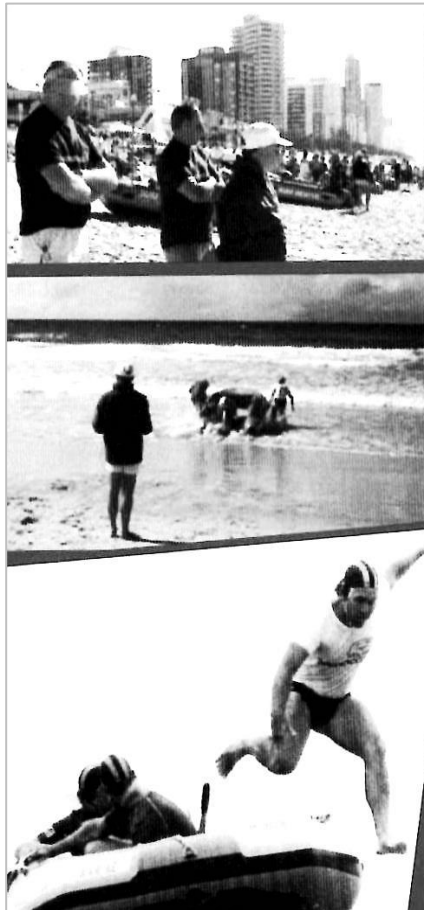
The licensed club is open daily from 11:00am until late! It is the place to be for icy cold refreshments, tasty meals, friendly and professional staff, and the best views of the Gold Coast. Takeaways provided for members. Breakfast menu is available Saturday and Sunday mornings from 8:00am... Saltys Coffee is open daily from 6am!

DOWN MEMORY LANE:

IRB racing has been a major feature of Kirra SLSC team competition for members dating back to the early 1980s.

In the winter months of year 1985, a small group of club members formed the first Kirra IRB Team to contest a Queensland IRB Championship held at Surfers Paradise. They were young and willing to learn, and demonstrated from this first IRB championship that Kirra would continue to develop and become a powerhouse in IRB competition and championships.

(See Kirra SLSC 100 Years by PD Kelly: Page 217 – 1984/1985 season)



1 Steve Barry, Bob Gear and Earle Smith (2) Scott Byrnes, Adam Day, Darren Gilby, Dale Nicholls, Butch Gear and Mick Harrison (3) Earle Smith (4) Mick Harrison, Adam Day, Butch Gear, Officials, Earle Smith and Allan Taylor (5) Scott Byrnes (left)

What is that saying? *“Once an IRB competitor – always an IRB competitor”*

Kirra Surf Life Saving Club (Est: 7th January 1916)

“Established for the many, never for the few – Be proud of your membership and life association with your surf lifesaving club”



From those early beginnings in IRB competition launched by a dedicated small team of Kirra members throughout the 1980s, Queensland, Australian and World Championship results would be earned through research, persistent hard work, and dedicated training. The rest would become history for the record books.

Kirra SLSC's first Australian IRB Champions!

Gold Medal Winners – Open IRB Surf Rescue 1995 Australian IRB Championship held at Thirroul Beach, NSW
(L-R): Michael Harrison (Driver); Belinda Elms (Patient); Darren Tink (Crew)

“Belinda Elms (Bronze Medallion #Q29530 – 16/12/1994) who was the patient for this Australian Champion IRB Team became the first female member up to that time in Kirra SLSC's seventy-nine year history (1916 – 1995), to be recorded as an Australian Champion on the Kirra SLSC Australian Champions Honour Board!”

Out and about (Feb/March 2022 Floods)!

Our Kirra Old Boys Association and Kirra Surf Club members, along with the population of south-east Queensland and the NSW Northern Rivers Region have experienced constant heavy rainfall that resulted in major flooding with significant property and public infrastructure damage..... *“Sadly, several people have perished including one QSES Volunteer responding to assist others in need”*. Our sincere thoughts are offered to the families and friends of those who lost their lives during this disaster event.

Kirra members have had their hands full as the water receded with cleanouts, wash downs, and possibly major building reconstruction owing to the flood inundation and damage to their homes and businesses.



“(Left/Above): Adam Day has a major clean-up at his workplace with ground level offices, kitchen and warehouse located in Rocklea inundated with muddy floodwaters. Kirra SLSC mates Darren Gear and Mark Rogers stood up and gave their support for Adam with the cleanout”

Adam is a Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Member (#58/1998); the current Secretary for the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association; and a past President of his Kirra Surf Club. Adam is also a Board Member and Treasurer of the Souths Rugby Union Club, Brisbane.



“The flooded Kilcoy Race Club – (Above Left): Looking in from near the patron’s entrance across to the Trackside Pavilion Steakhouse and cafeteria; (Above Right): The home turn leading into the main strait and finish post of the Kilcoy race track.

Con Searle who is the President of the Kilcoy Race Club, along with his dedicated band of workers and volunteers have plenty to do to get the Race Club facilities and track back to the quality racing venue as it was prior to the flooding.

Con Searle continues to maintain his association with the Kirra Surf Club that dates back to when he first joined and gained his Bronze Medallion in Surf Lifesaving: #Q4876 – 4th August 1965. Con is a long-term member and wonderful supporter of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association. Every year Con reserves a table for his friends who are former Australian diggers and volunteers for the Kilcoy Race Club, at the annual ‘Kirra Old Boys’ Sports Lunch held at the famous Pineapple Hotel in Brisbane.

Not only is Con Searle the President of the Kilcoy Race Club, he is a licenced Bookmaker of more than fifty years, and very successful in business being the founder of Searles Garden Products, About the Garden Centres, and Magazine.

Kirra SLSC members with Surf Life Saving Queensland assisted Queensland Fire and Emergency Services - QFES in the disaster response and evacuation taskings in Brisbane and the Tweed District. Kirra IRB's crewed by Andrew McAuliffe and Anthony Cassone (both members of the Kirra Old Boys Association) performed evacuations in the suburbs of Brisbane including Milton. Anthony and his daughter Shayna were there supporting residents in Chinderah NSW...



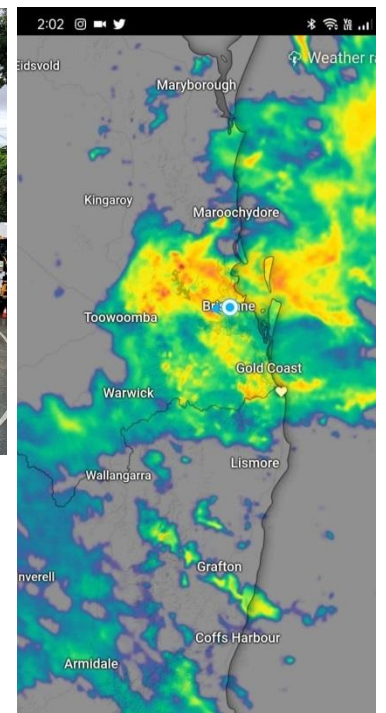
“Great effort and well done!” **Note: The IRB donated by the Kirra Beach Hotel is used to support communities in need during the major floods of February/March 2022.**



(Below): No traffic on the usually busy Kennedy Drive, Tweed Heads. Tina Thorne provided a view from her balcony of the flood waters surrounding her home.... Tina was optimistic that this was as high as the flood waters would rise, and that the damage to her property would not be severe.



(Above): Our thoughts are with Peter Clarke and his work colleagues given their workplace was fully inundated with flood waters... Hoping that the damage is repairable and the business will be back operating as soon as possible. Peter's post on Facebook says it all: *“Big flood, our shop in the middle!”*



(Above Left): Plenty of water in the back yard of the Cassone residence in Tweed Heads. (Above Centre): Land slip in Garrick Street, Kirra Hill... A major power outage impacted the Coolangatta/Tweed communities on Monday 28th February with businesses closing. The Kirra Supporters Club was closed for a period. (Right): Major flooding resulted from the weather cell that positioned itself over south-east Queensland for several days. This is the BOM Radar image from Saturday, 26th February 2022 at 2:02pm.

VALE: Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Governor – Carl Bartels

It was a sad duty to inform our members of the recent passing of Carl Bartels, a long-term supporter for almost seventy years of his Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

Carl and his wife Carmel (deceased) made Kirra Beach their second home from the 1960s and with their children Narda, Brian and Leigh would spend all their free family time at the beach. It did not take long for the Bartels Family to become involved with their local Kirra Surf Club. Carl and Carmel generously supported the Surf Club and no request for assistance was ever refused. Whether it was for rescue or competition equipment, internal renovations to the clubhouse, or assistance with some special project, the assistance was always forthcoming. Their generosity towards the Kirra Surf Club was so special and very much appreciated.

Carl and Carmel's children also quickly connected with the Surf Club and made life long mates. Brian joined the Kirra Nippers in 1969 and would go on to be an Australian Champion for the senior Club. Narda and Leigh were always available to support any event planned at Kirra Beach and at fund raisers in Brisbane. When the opportunities are available they and their families continue to attend and support activities of their Kirra Surf Club and the Kirra Old Boys Association.

Carl and Carmel were true champions of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club and are sadly missed.

The funeral service for Carl was held at the Albany Creek Crematorium on Friday, 11th February and there was a good attendance to celebrate his life by the 'Royal Blue and Gold' of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

On behalf of the membership of the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association and the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club, we express our deepest sympathies to Brian, Narda and Leigh and their families with the passing of their father, Carl.... ***"Once a Kirra member – always a Kirra member"***

Carl and Keith Beavis are acknowledged in the 'Kirra SLSC 100 Years' publication for their outstanding assistance of the Kirra Surf Club. For their continuous long term support and significant financial contributions, Carl and Keith were unanimously endorsed and bestowed Honorary Life Governor membership of their Kirra Surf Life Saving Club in Year 2011.



2011 - Keith Beavis and Carl Bartels

Keith Beavis and Carl Bartels first met in the late 1940s during their Apprenticeship days. Jointly they started a business together in the early 1950s as 'Beavis & Bartels Plumbing and Drainage Contractors' or the short version as we know it, Beavis & Bartels. They started out with one 'Ute' between them and, operating out of Keith's parent's house in the Brisbane suburb of Bowen Hills, then later moved to their own new premises at Mayne Junction. They were obviously determined and hard working as the company grew to be one of the top three Plumbing Companies in Queensland working for F A Pidgeon & Sons, Westfields, Concrete Constructions and many others. They were both great supporters of the local 'Mayne Australian Rules Football Club'

and the Kilcoy Turf Club. A 'Keith Beavis Memorial Handicap' was later run in Kilcoy in June 2012. Their company, Golden Downs, has made significant contributions to the Club.

"Above: Extract from Kirra SLSC 100 Years by Peter Kelly: Page 347 – Honorary Life Governorship (Published 2016)"

UPDATING YOUR CONTACT DETAILS



The best way for your Association to keep in touch with you is through our regular newsletters sent to your electronic mailing address or your residential (postal) address. If your address details have changed then please contact the Association Secretary: (Adam Day) at kirra@kirraoldboys.com

It costs nothing to join the Association!

It is so simple to join! Just Email your name and contact details (Email address; postal address; telephone/mobile) to the Association Secretary, Adam Day: kirra@kirraoldboys.com

ATTENTION: Message to all of our Kirra Surf Club current senior, long serving and past active members; Kirra Nipper Association coordinators and past members; and to the many Kirra families and supporters associated with the Surf Club:

An invitation is extended for you to register and receive your monthly Newsletter detailing many items of interest; stories on the history of our Kirra Surf Club established over 106 years ago; and announcements of special fund raising events planned by the Association.

In March 2022, there are more than three hundred (300) male and female past/current members and supporters of Kirra Surf Life Saving Club registered on the Association's mailing list. Given this membership number, the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association is one of the largest of its type amongst surf lifesaving clubs throughout Queensland.

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Did you know?

Extract: Kirra SLSC 100 Years by PD Kelly (Published 2016): Page 27 – *"In another first, the first Junior Surf Life Saving Club **in the world** (as far as can be ascertained) was formed at Kirra and later became affiliated with the parent Club. It was run by Bill Winders and initial membership comprised Bob, Dorothy, Winifred and Alf Moore; Dot, Charlie and Jack Winders; Marjorie and Gordon Allen; and 'Ginger' Holbird and Harry Rawdings..... The Junior Club that operated from 1920 to 1924, supplemented Kirra Club patrols and assisted the paid Patrol, and also gave a number of public displays. One of those public displays was before the Governor of Queensland (Sir Matthew Nathan) at the official opening of the Kirra SLSC clubhouse in 1922".*

Bill Winders is the grandfather of our present Kirra SLSC 'Patron' Max Winders. The young member Jack Winders, who is standing on the left in the photograph below, is our Club Patron's dad....



(Left): Kirra Kids in Year 1920 – L to R: Jack Winders; Charlie Winders; Dot Winders; Winnie Moore; Dorrie Moore; Gordon Allen; Ginger Holbird; Harry Rawdings; and sitting: C Lawton and Alf Moore"



Hope you enjoyed the articles and photographs in this March 2022 Newsletter. If you have any items of interest or photographs for our future Newsletters, please contact the Association's Secretary: kirra@kirraoldboys.com and arrangements can be made to collect these, copy and return to you. Many thanks for your continuing support of the Association and its Committee

'Once a Kirra member – always a Kirra member'