

NEWSLETTER

October 2026

Kirra Past & Long Serving Members Association

[Established 29th November 1978]

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Email: kirra@kirraoldboys.com
Web: www.kirrasurfclub.com.au

ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER

NOTE YOUR CALENDAR – BE GREAT TO SEE YOU THERE!

Association's Annual Christmas Reunion

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!"



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

'Complimentary refreshments and finger food'

Reasonably priced accommodation available at walking distance to the Pineapple Hotel

'Special acknowledgement and thanks to Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Governor Bob Singleton, his family, and the Pineapple Hotel staff for their ongoing support of the Surf Club and our Association….THANK YOU'

Annual Kirra SLSC (Bumpo/Elke) Remembrance Day

Sunday 27th December 2026 – from 3:00pm

Kirra Supporters Club

Kirra Beach

'A special day for all Kirra SLSC current and past members, our families and supporters –

A day of the annual calendar not to be missed! Come along and make it a day to remember….wear your Royal Blue and Gold!'

"We remember those who served and are no longer here with us!"

ALL WELCOME

'Be good to see our mates and long-time Kirra supporters from Valleys RLFC join us on the day… Many Kirra SLSC past and long-serving members played for the mighty Valley Diehards!'

'Complimentary refreshments and finger food'

Reminder!!! Booked your accommodation on the southern Gold Coast to attend the Kirra SLSC (Bumpo/Elke) Remembrance Day…..
Get in early and have it walking distance to the Kirra Surf Club!

DOWN MEMORY LANE

'Feedback received on the September 2026 Newsletter'

FROM GEORGE DONIGER: *"Hello Peter, once again the Newsletter is a credit to you and the Old Boys. Sad news about Margaret, she was a wonderful lady. I recognised most of the names from the Inaugural Meeting of the Old Boys in year 1978…. I have attached a few photos you may be able to use at some time".*

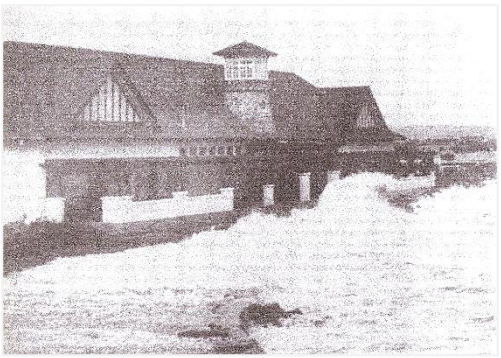
- Another angle of the surf carnival with the 3-story clubhouse in the background.
- Two (2) photos of the damage caused to the beach during the year 1954 cyclone. Apparently, the waves took out all the doors and windows of the clubhouse. The road around Kirra Point was closed for three (3) days because of the waves washing across it. It was great for kids, because we had 3 days off school, I was in Grade 8 at St. Augustine's.
- The other photo showing the sand hills continuing right up to the road north of the clubhouse. Interesting to note the clothes both men and women worn to the beach at that time.

(George) *"Again, well done mate. Look forward to seeing you at the Bumper/Elke day, if not before".*

"Keep Smilin" 😊 😊 😊 😊 ---- George Doniger.







FROM HARVEY MILLS: *"G'day George, I remember Joe when he was doing all sorts of things, one was a truck driver with the Council; and his effort at Kirra Point! Oh man, wasn't that something! I'm not sure, but I think the last time we met was when you were trying to sell us floor coverings when we were in Enderby Street , Mt. Gravatt. I was at 'The Club' one day during that 1954 cyclone and there was a very large cream truck in the north car park, and a wave came up and took it out on to the road…. and yes, the water (waves) were washing up beneath the club house. There was a manhole in the floor as the building was then, in the gear room where you went into the urinals. Poor old me, I just went to the school on the hill, where all us learned people went* 😊*".*

(Harvey) *"Good to hear from you and cheers to all"* ----- Harvey Mills

 # George Doniger is the son of Kirra SLSC legend and Life Member Joe Doniger (LM #19/1940) who founded the North Kirra SLSC. George gained his Bronze Medallion in year 1958. He is a Life Member and Patron of his North Kirra Surf Club; and a long-time supporter of the Kirra Surf Club and our 'Past Members Assn'.

 # Harvey Mills continues his long association with his Kirra Surf Life Saving Club through the Past & Long Serving Members Assn. He gained his Bronze Medallion in Surf Lifesaving on the 23rd March 1952 (#31424).

"Those were the days my friend, they should have never end!"



Left: Another photograph from the *'George Doniger Collection'*. Kirra Beach has been popular with visitors and bathers who enjoyed a safe beach that is patrolled by Kirra surf lifesavers. As George mentioned: *"Note the sand dunes on the north side of the clubhouse (Kirra Beach Pavilion) continuing right up to the road!"*

The place seemed to have a village atmosphere (or so we were told!) that evolved with the establishment of the Kirra Surf Club on the 7th January 1916, that continued for several more decades right up to the turn of the century (year 2000). The surge in building development *'came marching in'* and with it also came a significant increase in both long-term residential and visitor population to our Kirra Beach. *(Note in the photograph: The clubhouse members area (dormitory and amenities) on the future first level of the Pavilion building is yet to be built!)*



Our latest Kirra Bronzies!

Congratulations to (L-R) Leon Rebello, Angelina Perugino, and Ross Payne who successfully gained their SLSAA Bronze Medallion in Surf Lifesaving (September 2026) and joining the great Kirra Surf Club family of lifesaving. Of interest, Leon is the elected Federal Member for the local Electorate of McPherson.

"Well done to all!"

YEAR 2026 – YOUR CALENDAR and SPECIAL EVENTS

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

SHOWCASING KIRRA MEMBER'S HISTORY AND PERFORMANCE....

The second *'Glass/Trophy Cabinet'* was delivered (manufactured in Melbourne) on Thursday 1st October 2026, and is in pride of place at the main entrance to the Kirra Supporters Club. The Surf Club now has two *'Glass/Trophy Cabinets'* to house the trophies and memorabilia of our Kirra Surf Club that may have been collected over the past **one hundred and eleven (111) years**.

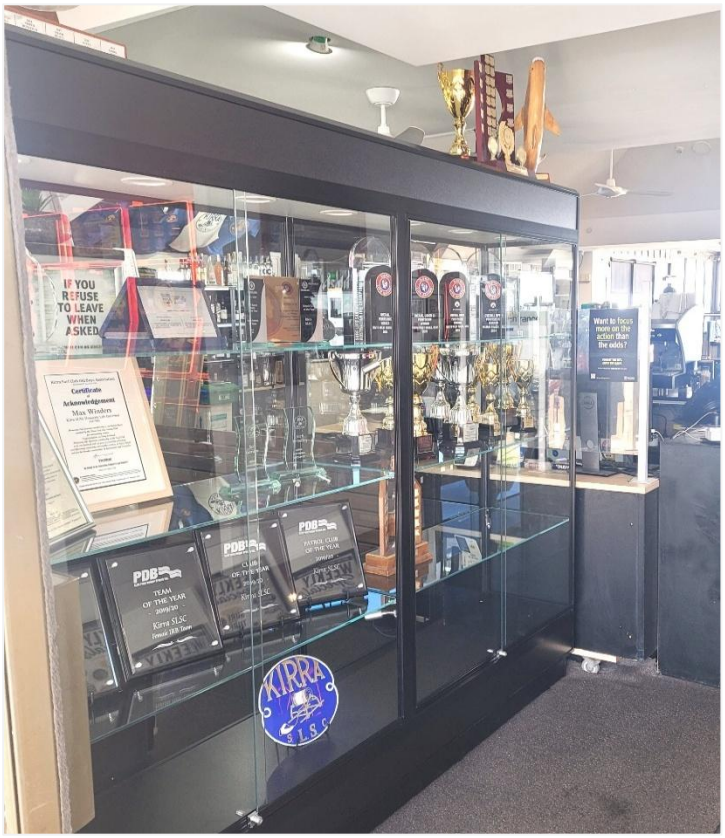
The *'Glass/Trophy Cabinets'* take prime position at each of the Kirra Supporters Club entrances, and by position showcase Kirra SLSC member's success in Surf Sports and Surf Lifesaving Operations to the broader public and visitors to our Surf Club.

There is now the opportunity for current and past members to consider placing their Kirra trophies and/or memorabilia collecting dust at your home that could be better displayed for your family and fellow Kirra members in the secured *'Glass/Trophy Cabinets'* for all to see and acknowledge. 😊😊

If you are interested please **Email** supporterssecretary@kirraslsc.com to make arrangements for your memorabilia to be delivered to the Kirra Surf Club Office or the Kirra Supporters Club.

'The first cabinet was donated to our Kirra SLSC by the Kirra Past & Long Serving Members Association; and the second cabinet was donated to the Surf Club by the Kirra Surf Life Saving Supporters Association'









'CATCH UPS AT THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS REUNION – DEC 2024'

"Far Left: (L-R) Rob Anderson; Steve Wilson; Brian Hunt; Greg Dunn"

"Left: (L-R): Alan Beauchamp with Keith Boucher"



'Was this the first Kirra SLSC rescue using the reel/line/belt?'

This photo was taken in year 1916 and is purportedly of a rescue made at Kirra Beach before the Kirra SLSC first clubhouse was built. *(Extract: Kirra SLSC 100 years by Peter D Kelly_1916_Pg 21)*

It could be assumed that this was possibly one of the earliest surf rescues performed by members of the newly established Kirra Surf Life Saving Club (Est: 7th January 1916). Members are using the reel/line/belt to perform their rescue activity. Note the recently broaden track around Kirra Point... *"The first Kirra clubhouse was yet to be built; No observation shelter constructed on Kirra Point; No buildings or observation decks on top of Kirra Hill; A huge adventure into the future for the newly established Kirra Surf life Saving Club"*

'MORE PHOTOS OF PAST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS REUNIONS'





"Far Left: (L-R) Ron Gurnett with Roger Cresswell"

Life Member Ron Gurnett was the inaugural President of the Kirra Old Boys Association founded 29th November 1978.

"Left: (L-R) Lance English and Glen Brockhurst"

"Far Right: (L-R) Ken Smart; Mick Thompson; and Dennis Boucher"

"Right: Vernon Kent and Scott Byrnes"

SEE YOU ALL ON FRIDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER AT THE PINEAPPLE HOTEL





STOP THE PRESS – KIRRA SLSC TO HOST A SURF BOAT CARNIVAL AT KIRRA BEACH

Kirra SLSC has been selected to host the 'Surf Boat' State Selection Carnival to be held at Kirra Beach on 30th January 2027 – The best three surf boat crews in their age group are competing to represent Queensland at the ASRL event to be held in Wanda, NSW in February 2027.

'A BACK TO KIRRA EVENT'

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













Kirra Supporters Club

"The popular Kirra Supporters Club is the place to enjoy icy cold refreshments, tasty family meals, welcoming staff, hot coffees, all with the best ocean views of the Gold Coast!"



Certificate of Appreciation

THE HON KAREN ANDREWS MP
WARMLY THANKS

KIRRA SURF CLUB OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

For your service to the people and community of the Southern Gold Coast.

The Hon Karen Andrews MP
Federal Member for McPherson

CHRONICLES OF YESTERYEAR

RECOGNITION: Who would have thought that all the hard yards, generosity, and support so freely given by the *'Past and Long Serving Members'* of our Kirra Old Boys Association would receive such exceptional recognition.

The Association was renamed the *'Kirra Past & Long Serving Members Association'* in acknowledging the three hundred (plus) men and women who remain connected with their Kirra Surf Club through the Association.

The current elected Federal Member for MacPherson is Leon Rebello MP, a wonderful supporter and member of his Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

Vale – David Seeley (1950 – 2026)

Former Kirra Surf Club member David Seeley passed away on Friday, 2nd October 2026. Dave joined the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club during the 1968/1969 season and obtained his Bronze Medallion in Surf Lifesaving (Q6231 – 10th October 1968). A popular member, he contributed to and enjoyed surf lifesaving at Kirra Beach for several years during the late 1960s and early 1970s era.

Statement – Wynnum Golf Club: *"A passionate golfer, Dave became a member of the Wynnum Golf Club in 1983 and gave many years of dedicated service to the Club. During his more than four decades as a member, Dave served as Club Captain from 1998 to 2004 and as President from 2004 to 2007 and again from 2009 to 2011. In recognition of his significant contribution and commitment to Wynnum Golf Club, Dave was conferred Life Membership of the Wynnum Golf Club in year 2021. Dave's contribution to the Wynnum Golf Club extended well beyond the positions he held. He was part of the fabric of the Golf Club for more than forty years, giving generously of his time and helping shape Wynnum Golf Club into the community we enjoy today".*

The Funeral Service for Dave will be held at the Hemmant Cemetery, Friday 16th October at 9:30am and then at the Wynnum Golf Club.

Several of Kirra SLSC past and long-serving members are also registered members of the Wynnum Golf Club. On their behalf, and the Committee and Members of the Kirra Past & Long Serving Members Association, we extend our sincere condolences to Dave's family during this time of sadness…. **'LEST WE FORGET'**

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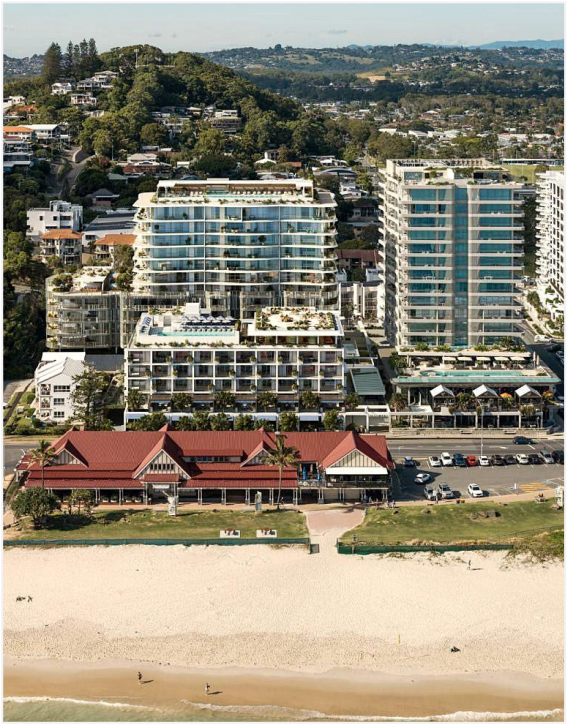
'Thank you for your continuing support of our Kirra Past & Long Serving Members Association, and in doing so supporting the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club'

'Association Committee'

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

ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER

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 lifesaving 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 at 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, operations, 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



