



NEWSLETTER

March 2025

Kirra Surf Club

Past & Long Serving Members Association

(Formerly named the Kirra Surf Club Old Boys Association)

'Established 29th November 1978'

'An Association for all past active and long serving male and female members of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club'

ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER

Kirra SLSC Annual General Meeting & Annual Dinner

Saturday, 31st May 2025 – Kirra SLSC Clubhouse

- # The 109th Annual General Meeting of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club to be held in the 'Members Recreation Room' of the clubhouse on Saturday, 31st May 2025 from 9:00am.
- # The Kirra SLSC 109th Annual Dinner to be held in the licensed Kirra Supporters Club on Saturday, 31st May 2025 from 5:00pm (pre dinner drinks) *"A back to Kirra event!"*

'Sure be wonderful to see a good attendance by the Club's Honorary Life Members and Life Governors at the Annual General Meeting followed by a fun evening at the Annual Dinner'

A big thank you!

'Letter from the Kirra SLSC Secretary' – On behalf of the Board of Management and the entire Kirra SLSC we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association for your continued support and for ensuring that this important Kirra SLSC Honour Boards project is continually updated.

We would also like to congratulate the Association on the successful Kirra (Bumpo/Elke) Remembrance Day held at the Supporters Club in December 2024. It was great to see so many members celebrating the Surf Club and the contributions of those members who have passed. There is no doubt that this event is one that our members enjoy and look forward to every year. Once a date for this year's celebration is confirmed, please let us know so that we can promote widely to our current and past members.... **'Once a Kirra member – always a Kirra member'**

Yvonne Papadimos

Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Governor (#12/2024)

Secretary, Kirra Surf Life Saving Club



Kirra Surf Club

(Bumpo/Elke) Remembrance Day

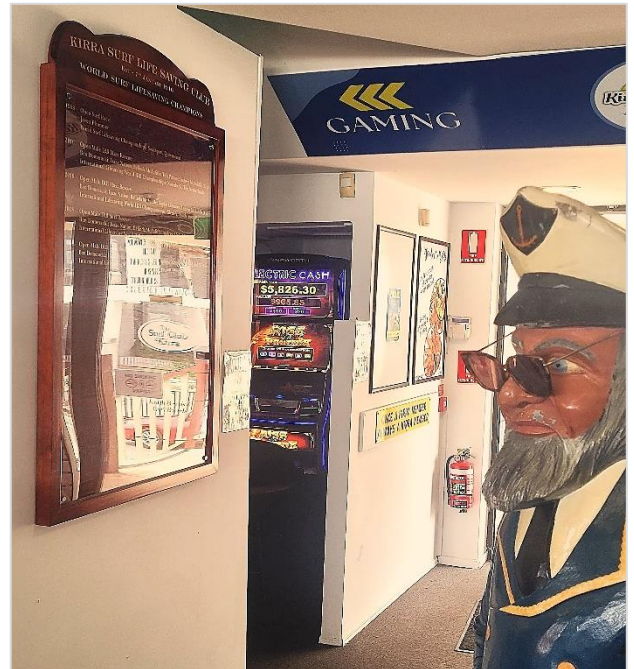
Sunday, 28th December 2025 from 2.30pm

Kirra Supporters Club

'Be proud to wear your Royal Blue and Gold'

Kirra Surf Life Saving Club Honour Board/s Project

(A Project of the Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association started in Year 2019)



“Above Left: Updated Kirra SLSC Honour Boards (February 2025); and Above Right: Salty checking out the newly installed Kirra SLSC World Lifesaving Champions Honour Board – The Honour Boards are located in the licensed Kirra Supporters Club for members and public viewing”.

The current Kirra SLSC Honour Boards that are part of the major ‘History Project’ coordinated and financed by the Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association were first installed and unveiled in October 2019 during the Kirra SLSC Life Members Reunion. These Honour Boards are maintained and periodically updated by the Association to ensure their currency.

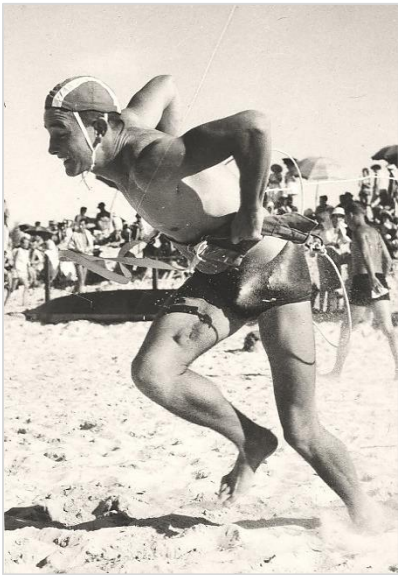
The Project originally commenced with the provision of the KSLSC Life Members and Patrons Honour Boards. To this have now been added the Australian Champions, Life Governor Members, and World Lifesaving Champions Honour Boards. *“Showcasing the history and outstanding performance of the Kirra SLSC’s membership over the past 109 years – Est: 07/01/1916”*



“Left: Technicians from Sign Age – Redcliffe update the current Kirra SLSC Honour Boards and install a new World Lifesaving Champions Honour Board”

A big thank you for the generosity and financial support provided by the ‘Bevis and Bartels Families’ that assists with this Kirra SLSC Honour Boards update and the provision of the new Kirra SLSC World Champions Honour Board.

The ‘Bevis and Bartels Families’ are long time benefactors who continue to generously support their Kirra Surf Life Saving Club – WE THANK YOU.



Vale – Roger Wickham

“At the 1959 Australian Surf Lifesaving Championships held at Mooloolaba Qld., Roger Wickham (left with Belt) won the Australian Junior Surf Belt Race Championship”



“Left: Kirra SLSC Point Danger Branch and Queensland Junior Surf Team Champions; 3rd Australian Championships – Year 1958/89: L-R: John Dunsdon; Bob Carson; Roger Wickham; Edgar Richards”

Roger Wickham, a Kirra SLSC immortal, passed away peacefully on the 14th February 2025 in Miles, Queensland. Roger’s sister Paula and his daughter Tracy were with him.

Roger obtained his Bronze Medallion in Australian Surf Lifesaving on the 20th April 1958 – BM # Q1457. He was an outstanding individual and quality swimmer who quickly fitted into the surf club life culture of mateship, beach patrols and surf sports competition.

He was an excellent ocean swimmer who demonstrated his ability at surf carnivals. He was a member of Kirra teams that won Branch and State R & R and Surf Teams Championships. His Kirra teams were regularly placed at Australian Championships.



Roger Wickham and Ken Wiles achieved a unique double when they both were outstanding winners at the Australian Surf Lifesaving Championship held at Mooloolaba in year 1959. Roger won the Australian Junior Surf Belt Race Championship with Ken taking out the Australian Senior Surf Belt Race Championship, in back to back finals. They shared the same surf belt for their individual championship final events.... This famous belt is now framed and showcased for members and public viewing in the licensed Kirra Supporters Club as a cherished surf club memorabilia item of times past.

“Above: L-R – Ken Wiles and Roger Wickham at their Kirra Surf Club on the 21st August 2012 with The Belt!”

Roger’s performance at surf sports championships was curtailed when he was called up and later joined the Australian Army. He served in Vietnam and maintained a long association with the Australian Armed Services.

Kirra SLSC legend Earle Smith often stated that Roger Wickham was the most perfected freestyle swimmer that he had ever seen. Roger’s daughter Tracy would inherit her father’s swimming talent and go on to achieve Commonwealth gold medals and world records in both the 400 metre and 1500 metre freestyle international championship swimming events.

Roger’s outstanding association with his Kirra Surf Life Saving Club throughout the late 1950s and early 1960s can be read in the publication ‘Kirra SLSC 100 Years’ by PD Kelly (1916).

Our sincere thoughts for Roger’s family and friends on his passing... **‘LEST WE FORGET’**

ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER

Jet Rescue Boats at Kirra Beach!



'JRB's in action – top to bottom'

"Smith boat with Barry Cameron as driver – Year 1978"

"Smith boat off Kirra Beach – mid 1970s – R-L: Barry Cameron, Peter Beauchamp, Ron Halpin, Col Paterson (Palm Beach)"

"Mutimer boat north of Kirra's little groyne in year 1987"

"JRB Conference at Noosa Surf Club – August 1995: L-R: Anthony McKeaton; Kevin Dunn; Max Klingner; Peter Beauchamp"

"IRB/JRB off Kirra Beach: IRB crew of Darren Gilby and Butch Gear – and the JRB in Year 1987"

"JRB Area 1 coffee mug... a collector's item!"

"JRB on standby in Currumbin Creek – August 1996: L-R: Kent Maguire (Tugun), Peter Beauchamp (Kirra), and Anthony (Merv) McKeaton (Rainbow Bay)"

The early years – Kirra and JRBs

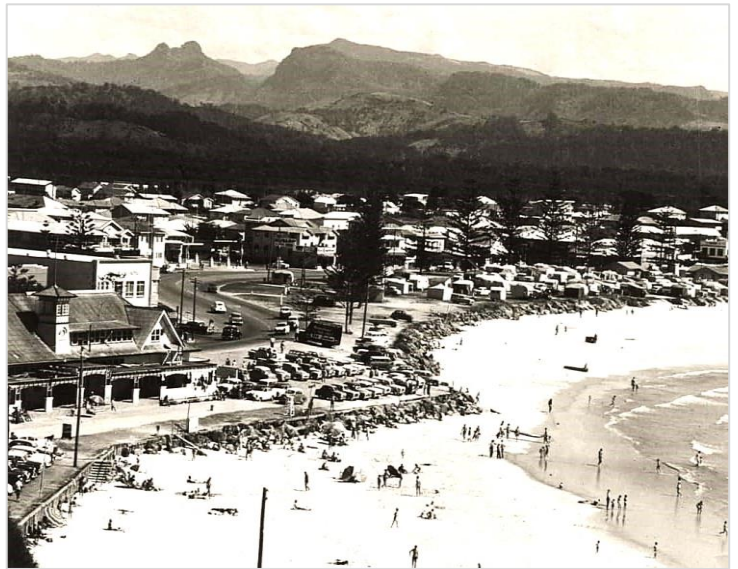
Finance was secured to purchase the ‘first’ Kirra Surf Club ‘Jet Rescue Boat’ through generous public sponsorship with official acknowledgement held at the Kirra Beach Hotel. This first Jet Rescue Boat of a ‘Smith’ design was delivered and operational in the second half of the 1972/1973 patrol season. *‘It should be noted that the concept and use of the ‘Inflatable Rescue Boat’ was still some years from being considered and/or introduced for beach patrols in Australia’.*

Four senior Kirra Surf Club members were chosen as the inaugural JRB Drivers to perform the first Kirra SLSC ‘JRB’ surf patrols. These Kirra Surf Club members to obtain their ‘JRB Power Boat Medallion’ were Ron Halpin (KSLSC Life Member #30/1965), Max Klingner (KSLSC Life Member #24/1954), Rick Sellwood (KSLSC Life Member #45/1981) and Les Sellwood (KSLSC Life Member #44/1980) *“All were long serving, dedicated and experienced surf lifesavers!”*

During the 1973/1974 season, Kirra Surf Club’s Vice-Captain Peter Beauchamp (KSLSC Life Member #49/1986) and Surf Club Captain Barrie Thorne (KSLSC Life Member #42/1977) were next to gain their JRB Power Boat Medallion. They were ‘assessed’ by Alan Seeney of the Southport Surf Club. Alan was the ‘first’ JRB driver/operator to be appointed as a Queensland SLSA – JRB Examiner. Blair Carter as Kirra’s Vice-Captain for the 1974/1975 season (Peter Beauchamp was Club Captain) soon followed and obtained his JRB driver qualification. Long serving surf club member Barry Cameron (KSLSC Life Member #41/1976) was next to gain his JRB Power Boat Medallion during the 1975/1976 season.

Many other Kirra SLSC members would subsequently earn their Jet Rescue Boat qualifications and support the JRB Surf Patrols initially operated by the Kirra Surf Club, then as JRB technicians for SLSQ Surf Patrols (Area 1) for the Gold Coast. In June 2016, Surf Life Saving Queensland made the determination to ‘terminate’ JRB Surf Patrols for the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast after almost fifty years of outstanding community service provided for the bathing public.... ***“Saving Lives!”***

Kirra Beach of yesteryear!



“Above left: Kirra clubhouse during the mid-1940s... note the long timber pole wall that was constructed by the surf club and the large open area between the club veranda and the wall. The caravan/camping park sure looks busy!” and “Above right: Our Kirra clubhouse and the small Kirra community in year 1962. That caravan/camping park continued to be a very popular family destination for holidays and fun times at Kirra Beach!”

Kirra Golf Game

Thursday, 17th July 2025: Tee off at 10:28am
Coolangatta & Tweed Heads Golf Club



Thirty-six (36) player positions have been booked for the 'River Course' teeing off at 10:28am sharp. The organisers have requested that you please arrive by 10am to finalise your green fees and cart payments, and to attend a player briefing and group photograph prior to tee off.

When you confirm your attendance, Peter has asked that you inform him if you have a preferred 'four' players for your group. "Please book your game early... The Kirra Golf Game is a great day with surf club good olde mates!"

Kirra Golf Game presentations and celebrations to be held at the Kirra Supporters Club. Right: 2024 Kirra Golf Game: Winners of the Elke Trophy – Kirra legends 'Chookie Robinson & Brashie Bell'.

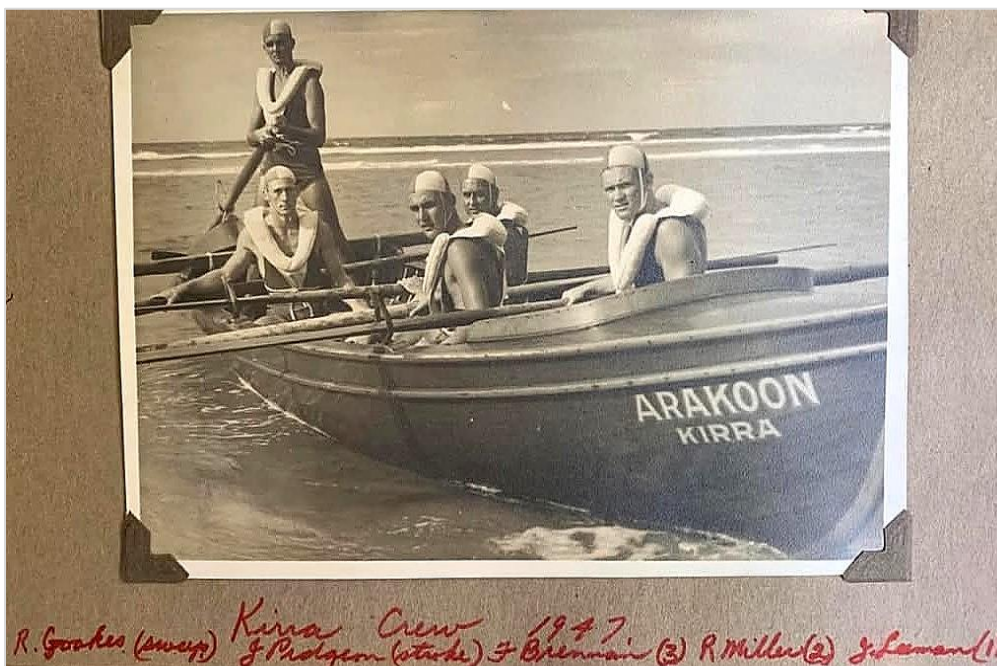
Peter Kelly: Mobile – 0418 785 207; John (Brashie) Bell: Mobile – 0401 172 521.



'Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association' established on the 29th November 1978 has more than three hundred male and female members. It continues to remain very active and supports its Kirra Surf Life Saving Club. The Association is one of the largest of its type amongst surf lifesaving clubs in Queensland.

Down memory lane: (Surf Boats)

Surf boat crews and competition has always been a significant part of your Kirra Surf Life Saving Club. "Q/. Did you know that the Kirra Surf Club was the first surf club in Queensland to have a surf boat?" Extract: Kirra SLSC 100 Years by PD Kelly – Page 44: "The matter of the provision of a 'life' boat was reviewed in 1927, as a result of which the first surf boat for use on a Queensland beach was introduced by the Kirra Club... The boat was originally named 'Whitewings' (a donation



to Freshwater SLSC by the Flour Company) and on the 23rd September 1927 it was re-christened 'Arakoon' (Roar of the Surf).... Member George Shambrook was the Club's first Boat Captain and as a result the first person to hold such a club office in Queensland surf lifesaving history!"

"Left: Kirra members kitted out for a row in an Arakoon surf boat in Year 1947"

R. Gookes (sweep) Kirra Crew 1947
J. Prohgen (stroke) & Brennan (3) R. Miller (2) J. Leman (1)

Kirra Surf Life Saving Club (*Established: 7th January 1916*) is the second oldest surf lifesaving club in Queensland, and one of the longest continuously operating surf lifesaving clubs in Australia'

What is on at the Kirra Supporters Club?

www.kirrasurfclub.com

BREAKFAST

New menu



Kirra Beach
SURF CLUB - EST 1916

Open from 8am
Saturday & Sunday



Kirra Beach
SURF CLUB - EST 1916

GOOD TIMES

FRIENDS

LUNCH PARTY

The Ultimate Spot to
Catch Up with Friends

Surf Club Raffles

Saturday & Sunday From 12:30pm



Kirra Beach
SURF CLUB - EST 1916

Fabulous Friday Raffles

From 6pm

Prizes
Meat Tray, Seafood Trays,
Gift Vouchers and Much
More!



Kirra Beach
SURF CLUB - EST 1916

Trawler to Table

Chefs selection of trawler fresh seafood

Every Saturday & Sunday

until Sold Out



Kirra Beach
SURF CLUB - EST 1916

COFFEE SHOP

Refreshments from 6:00am - 1:00pm



Kirra Beach
SURF CLUB - EST 1916

Kirra Supporters Club - BAR, BISTRO, GAMING and SALTYS COFFEE

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

Christmas celebrations at the Pineapple Hotel

Friday, 28th November 2025 - from 5:30pm



It is a wonderful evening of fellowship and good yarns whilst catching up with Kirra Surf Club past and long serving members and just good mates.

ALL WELCOME – WEAR YOUR ROYAL BLUE AND GOLD – BE GREAT TO SEE YOU THERE WITH US – BRING A FRIEND!

'Special acknowledgement and thanks to Kirra Honorary Life Governor Bob Singleton and family of the famous Pineapple Hotel for their continuing support of our Association'

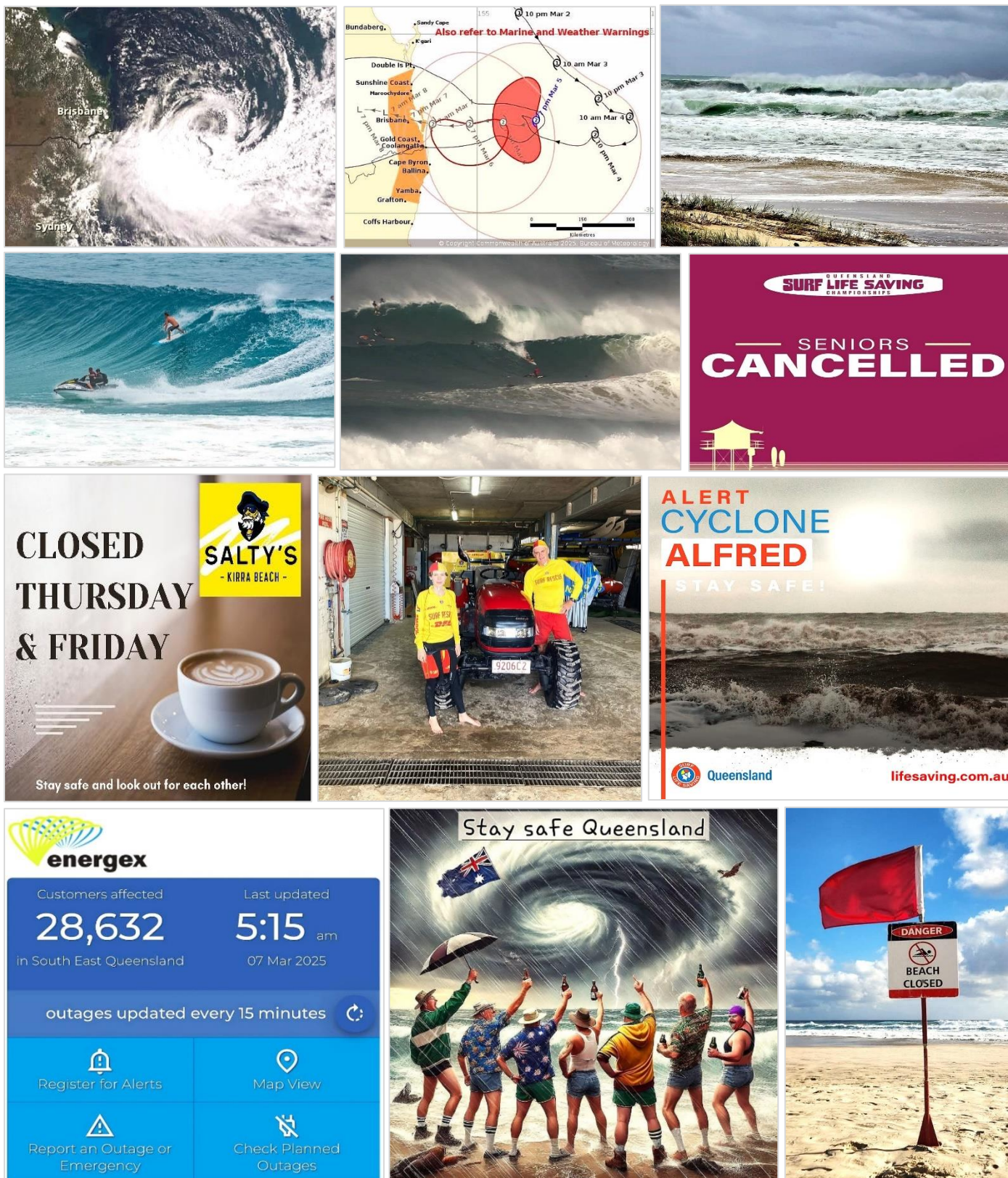


Many thanks for your support of the Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association.
Committee: Peter Beauchamp AFSM (President); Adam Day (Secretary); Paul Cameron (Member)

ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER

Images – Cyclone Alfred (Cat 2):

Cyclone Alfred hit landfall in south-east Queensland in the early hours of Saturday morning of the 8th March 2025. Gale force winds and constant rain impacted on Gold Coast City and the hinterland, and south-east Queensland and the northern rivers districts of New South Wales.



'Over 450,000 homes and business were without power for several days in SEQ. Your licensed Kirra Supporters Club was closed for a week and experienced significant trade and product loss, and major electronic equipment damage (including poker machines) on the return of power to the building and Kirra Beach'

'Remain aware not alarmed!'