



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

Kirra Surf Club

Past & Long Serving Members Association

(Formerly named the Kirra Old Boys Association)

'Established 29th November 1978'

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

ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER

Annual Kirra (Bumpo/Elke) Remembrance Day

Sunday 28th December 2025 – from 2:30pm

Kirra Supporters Club at Kirra Beach

'This is 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 all 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 again on the day. Many Kirra SLSC members/supporters played for the mighty Diehards!'

'Complimentary refreshments and finger food'

Bumpo (Graham Freeman) and Elke (Ian Sommer) were both keen boaties and rugby league football players during their long association with their Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.



"Left: Kirra Senior Boat Crew – 1972 (L R): Keith Cook; Ian (Elke) Sommer; Barrie Thorne; Barry Robinson; and John Bowler"



"Above Right: Kirra Junior Boat Crew – 1972 (L-R): Greg Ward; Jack Hunter; Alan Beauchamp; and Graham Freeman"



FUN NIGHT AT THE 47TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS REUNION

Friday 28th November 2025 at the famous Pineapple Hotel

There was a good turnout for the annual 'Christmas Reunion' of the Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association held at the famous Pineapple Hotel in Brisbane on Friday, 28th November 2025. Ten of Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Members were there and along with other attendees were wearing the mighty 'ROYAL BLUE AND GOLD' of our Surf Club.

The Association was founded on the 29th November 1978 and for every year since, this 'Reunion' remembers those forty-two of Kirra SLSC who attended that original Foundation Meeting where they unanimously supported the establishment of the Association.... 'Only twenty-two remain today'.

It is also a special occasion for all Surf Club long serving and past members, family, and supporters to gather and enjoy the Kirra friendships made over many years; discuss the activities of the past twelve months; and enjoy the fellowship on such occasions.

Sure was special to have our Association 'Foundation President' Ron Gurnett (Kirra SLSC Hon Life Member #38/1973) and 'Foundation Secretary' Bob Littler (Kirra SLSC Hon Life Member #39/1974); as well as 'Foundation Members' and the Associations immediate 'Past President' Keith Boucher (Kirra SLSC Hon Life Member #71/2017) and 'Past Secretary' Lance English (Kirra SLSC Hon Life Member #67/2012) with us on the night. All continue to be active supporters of their Association and the Kirra Surf Club.

The current members of the small Association Committee who 'put their hands up' and came together eight years past in December 1917 were again endorsed for another year (their ninth year together) and include – President: Peter Beauchamp; Secretary: Adam Day; and Committee Member Paul Cameron.

A big thank you to Bob Singleton (Kirra SLSC Hon Life Governor #4/2012) of the Pineapple Hotel for his, family, and the hotel staff continuing support of the Association and our Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.



'Once a Kirra member – Always a Kirra member'

"There were many 'Thousands of Hours' of Beach Patrols, Jet Rescue Boat Patrols; and Helicopter Crew Patrols performed by this group of Kirra SLSC Past and Long Serving Members!"



2026 KIRRA GOLF CLASSIC

Supported by the Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association



FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2026

**COOLANGATTA & TWEED HEADS GOLF CLUB
WEST COURSE - TEE TIME FROM 10:32AM
PRESENTATIONS AT KIRRA SUPPORTERS
CLUB FROM 4:30PM (ALL WELCOME)**

'Player positions open to current/past members, family and supporters of the Kirra Surf Club and the Association'

NEED ACCOMMODATION: 'Book now!! Accommodation is available for Friday 29th May 2026 in Kirra/Coolangatta and just walking distance to your Kirra Surf Club'



- # This annual Kirra Golf Classic in year 2026 to be played on a Friday
- # Forty (40) player positions....and nineteen (19) carts have been booked
- # Contact your friends and book out all player positions
- # A good day for an 'RDO' for those players still working....
- # Presentations and fellowship to be held at the Kirra Supporters Club
- # TROPHIES for 'Best Pair' and the 'Longest Drive' and 'Nearest to the Pin'
- # The famous 'ELKE' trophy to be presented to the Best Pairs
- # Additional awards to be presented for exceptional performances!!
- # Friday evenings at the Kirra Supporters Club is a 'Market Raffles Night'
- # Surf Club 'dormitory' available for Life Members and past Kirra Members
- # Depart early if travelling from Brisbane or the Sunshine Coast (the M1 can be busy)

LET US MAKE THIS THE BEST ATTENDED ANNUAL KIRRA GOLF CLASSIC TO DATE....

Thinking of attending, than email supporterssecretary@kirraslsc.com to confirm your interest to join in this annual 'RETURN TO KIRRA EVENT'

Those who have contacted and/or requested a 'Game Position Reservation' include:

Peter Kelly; Ron Gurnett; Lance English; Keith Boucheer; John Bell; Ian Wright; Jim Schofield; Rob Anderson; Brian Hunt; Peter Beauchamp; Adam Beauchamp; Bob Wilson; Mark Cutts; Alan Beauchamp; Greg Dunn; Dennis Boucher; Mick Thompson; Justin Fletcher; Roly O'Regan; Roger Cresswell; Michael Hill; Friend of Hilly; Barry Mullins; Michael White; Barry Robinson; Steve Paul; Brian Hurley; Glen Sommer; and will be more with forty (40) player positions available!!

Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association:

Established 29th November 1978.

Over three hundred past/long-serving male and female members and supporters registered with the Association.

Committee: Year 2026: Secretary – Adam Day; Member – Paul Cameron; President – Peter Beauchamp

Aims of the Association:

Remain active and positively support the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

Provide opportunities for past active and long serving members, families, and supporters to continue to be associated with their Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

Build fellowship amongst current and past Kirra SLSC members through encouraging participation in surf lifesaving and special events, and social activities.

Promote, co-ordinate, and support revenue generating activities with finances raised benefiting both the Association and the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.



Vale: Bernard (Bernie) Leary

It is with sadness that we advise of the passing of a quality past Kirra Surf Club member Bernard (Bernie) Leary on Wednesday evening the 12th November 2025 after a long illness.

Bernie (aka Water Rat) joined the Surf Club in the 1976/1977 season. He gained his SLSAA Bronze Medallion (Q10634) on the 24th October 1976 and developed as a high performing surf lifesaver for his Club.

In his first year at Kirra. He was the recipient of the 'Most Willing Junior Member' award. He continue to develop as a versatile surf lifesaver and was a member of the Club's Junior R & R Team that gained 'Bronze' at the Australian Championships held at Cudgen NSW. He also enjoyed Beach Sprint and Surf Boat Rowing events as a junior and senior member with his Kirra mates.



Bernie was a 'well liked' mate and member who enjoyed his active time spent during the 1970s/1980s era at Kirra Beach. He also continued to support the Kirra Old Boys Association.

Our sincere sympathies to Bernie's family on their sad loss..... Yes this saying is so apt when we think of Bernie:

**"Once a Kirra member -
Always a Kirra member"**

"Left: Bernie joining his Kirra buddies at a fancy dress party... Gosh there are some well-known Kirra members in this photograph taken 45 years ago and all seem so young! (L-R standing): Terry Schatz; Peter Beauchamp; ???; Trevor Klingner; Jeff Gibson; Bob Arnold; Keith Nellor; Bernie Leary; (L-R kneeling): John McCarthy; Rodney Beare; John Dawson

'The Kirra Surf Life Saving Club established on the 7th January 1916 is the second oldest surf lifesaving club in Queensland and one of the longest continuously operating surf lifesaving clubs in Australia'

'Electronic mailing address...the way to go!'

Have you provided your updated electronic Email address? Of the Association's membership of approximately three hundred members, less than fifty are still to provide their electronic Email address. The Association's Committee invites you to provide your electronic mailing address (should you have one). Details of your Email may be forwarded to Association Secretary Adam Day at kirra@kirraoldboys.com

What is on at the popular Kirra Supporters Club?



Kirra Supporters Club - BAR, BISTRO, GAMING and SALTYS COFFEE "The popular 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!"

Festive Season Closures; Events; and a major Australia Day event....

- # Kirra Supporters Club closing on Christmas Eve with trading to ceased from 5pm;
- # Kirra Supporters Club and Saltys Coffee are closed on Christmas Day;
- # Kirra Bumpo/Elke Remembrance Day on Sunday 28th December **'for all members'**;
- # **Australia Day major event** for the whole Surf Club at Kirra Beach. The Surf Club will host 'A Fun Day' including jumping castle, beach activities, BBQ, and much more from 9am – and from 12pm the Kirra Supporters Club will keep the action going through an afternoon of activities, food specials and live music

**“Wishing you and yours
a fun filled and safe
Festive Season; and a
healthy, happy and
successful year 2026”**





“Merry Christmas from a ‘Kirra Family’ – (L-R): Sienna; Charissa; Michael; and Alex”

Michael ‘Hilly’ Hill is an Honorary Life Member (#75/2021) of the Kirra Surf Club, a past Club Captain, and past Club President. ‘Hilly’ is the current President of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Supporters Association that is responsible for the licensed Kirra Supporters Club, a position that he has successfully held for the past eight years; Charissa is a long serving member of Kirra SLSC who has previously held positions of Club Secretary and Club Treasurer, and she continues to support both her Kirra Surf Club and the Kirra Supporters Association; Alex and Sienna regularly enjoy the sun, surf and sand activities at Kirra Beach.... ‘Yes, another Kirra SLSC family’.



Kirra SLSC Honour Boards

“A project of the Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association”

Given the recent success at the Australian IRB Championships; a new Life Member (Ivo Garafolo); and minor changes to the Patron’s Honour Board, SignAge of Redcliffe has now completed the update of the Kirra SLSC Honour Boards at the Surf Club.

The provision of new Honour Boards and regular maintenance of these is currently provided and coordinated by the Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association. Research on a new ‘Committee (Executive Officers) Honour Board’ and a ‘Queensland Champions Honour Board – First 100 Years’ are also being finalised for the Surf Club’s Board of Management approval.

Thanks for your continuing support of the Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association and our Kirra Surf Life Saving Club – Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Committee: Peter Beauchamp (President); Adam Day (Secretary); Paul Cameron (Member)