



NEWSLETTER

June 2026

Kirra Past & Long Serving Members Association

[Established 29th November 1978]

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ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER



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'



Kirra SLSC – Honorary Life Membership

The Kirra Surf Life Saving Club over its one hundred and ten years (1916 – 2026) has had several thousand active members, families and supporters associated with the Surf Club. All volunteered their time and contributed to the Surf Club's continuing success in surf lifesaving operations and the provision of quality member services. Of those thousands who have been involved since year 1916, only 'seventy-nine' have been bestowed Kirra's highest honour of Life Membership... "Vigilance and Service"

"Above: The Kirra SLSC 'Honorary Life Member' badge may be small in size but it sure does mean so much to so many who are associated with the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club!"



"Above: Twenty-eight of Kirra SLSC's surviving Life Members gather together on Sunday, 14th June 2026 in front of the Kirra SLSC Life Members Honour Board on receiving their Life Member 'Blazer' with State Member for Currumbin Laura Gerber and Federal Member for McPherson Leon Rebello"



KIRRA
SLSC

**LIFE MEMBER
& LIFE GOVERNOR
BLAZER PRESENTATION**

14TH JUNE

11AM

**KIRRA
SUPPORTERS
CLUB**



Everyone Welcome



“Right: Kirra SLSC Life Governor Members who received their Blazer (L-R) Loretta Cassone (#6/2019), Yvonne Papadimos AM (#12/2024), and Rose Gear (#7/2019)”

Max Winders (LG #10/2022) attended the Blazer Presentation event. Max’s grandfather and father’s history dates back one hundred and ten years to the foundation of the Surf Club. Life Governor (#4/2012) Bob Singleton offered his apology and best regards for a successful day for all attending.

BLAZER PRESENTATIONS

“A very special initiative!” Kirra SLSC Life Members and Life Governors were offered a Club Blazer by the ‘Board of Management’ in recognition of their long standing and dedicated service to their Kirra Surf Club.

On Sunday, 14th June 2026 those who accepted this generous offer attended a special ‘Life Member and Life Governor Blazer Presentation’ event held in the licensed Kirra Supporters Club.

Blazers were presented to each Life Member and Life Governor by Club President Hayden Lewis-Fox who was assisted by our State Member for Currumbin Laura Gerber (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support, and Minister for Corrective Services) and Federal Member for McPherson Leon Rebello. Our newly endorsed Life Member (#79/2026) Cheryll Fenton assisted Life Member (#49/1986) Peter Beauchamp AFSM with organising the order of ceremony and blazer presentations.

It sure was a packed house at the Supporters Club with invitations extended by the Surf Club Secretary to not only the Blazer recipients, but also to the recipient’s families, Club members and supporters.... “It was indeed a very special Surf Club and family day held at Kirra Beach”.



“Left: Life Member (#78/2026) Ivo Garafalo receives his Life Member cap from the Association’s President and Secretary on Sunday 14th June 2026”

“Above: Kirra SLSC Life Member (#79/2026) Cheryll Fenton receives her Life Member cap from Association President Peter Beauchamp (LM #49/1986) and Secretary Adam Day (LM #58/1998), Sunday 14th June 2026”



2026 KIRRA GOLF CLASSIC

Supported by the Kirra Past & Long Serving Members Association

FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2026: COOLANGATTA & TWEED HEADS GOLF CLUB

PRESENTATIONS WERE HELD AT THE KIRRA SUPPORTERS CLUB FROM 5:30PM (ALL WELCOME)

This was another **'Return to Kirra event'** and an opportunity for past, long serving, and current Surf Club members with Kirra family members and supporters to join in and enjoy catching up with their 'olde' Kirra Surf Club mates. Over twenty turned out for the 'Kokoda' challenges of 'The Classic'. Originally forty were playing however owing to the wet, no electric carts were permitted on the day (only pushcarts).... *"It was a long haul!"* Players encouraged each other and offered tips to their mates



on the methods to strike that elusive little white ball.... *"Keep your head still; eyes on the ball; stay out of the water; watch that sand trap; need a refreshment; beers are cold; and so much more!"*. Even though it was a lengthy walk, all enjoyed a fun day of golf and the fellowship in the licensed Kirra Supporters Club when the round was finished..... *'Stories were told and fun times remembered!'* 😊

"Left: Best Pair (L-R) Ian Wright and Tony Moran receive 'The Elke' from Life Member Brashie Bell with Kirra Life Members Lance English and Peter Kelly observing the presentation"

A big thank you to all who participated in our annual 2026 Kirra Golf Classic, and to our Kirra Life Members Peter Kelly and John (Brashie) Bell for coordinating on this special day.

Staff of our Kirra Supporters Club provided their friendly customer service for those who attended the presentations. Good to have our immediate past Club President (Cheryll Fenton) join in the fun at the Supporters Club. Best wishes and apologies were offered from our current Club President Hayden Lewis-Fox who unfortunately could not attend the presentations.

'The Kirra Golf Classic is supported by the Kirra Past and Long Serving Members Association; the licensed Kirra Supporters Club; and the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club'



"Left: Adam Beauchamp with the trophy and gifts for achieving the 'Longest Drive' of the Kirra Golf Game. Adam and his dad (Beecho) finished the round in second position behind winners Ian and Tony"



"Left: Kirra SLSC members and family including Life Members Ron Gurnett, Bob (Polo) Wilson, and Barry Mullins watching the presentations for the 2026 Kirra Golf Game"

"Left: John Finnemore and Roly O'Regan (with Brashie Bell) were amongst the prize winners for the 2026 Kirra Golf Classic.... John and Roly, it is great having you both a part of this annual Kirra Golf Classic"

KIRRA SLSC – NEWEST HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Congratulations to long-time member 'Cheryll Fenton' who at the Annual General Meeting held Sunday, 14th June 2026 was bestowed the **seventy-ninth** Honorary Life Membership of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club. *"The highest honour to be awarded a Kirra SLSC member!"*

Cheryll gained her SLSC Bronze Medallion in Surf Lifesaving on the 15th October 1989 (#Q8987885) and subsequently joined the Kirra Surf Club in September 1991.

She has been an active participating member in surf lifesaving for over thirty-five years, participating in such activities as Beach/Surf Patrols; Jet Rescue Boat Patrols; Member Skills Development and Mentoring; Revenue Generation and General Fund Raising; Surf Sports Competition (loves Surf Boats); Community Engagement; Kirra Nippers; Surf Club Administration; Executive Management; and so much more....

Cheryll is only the second female member of the Kirra Surf Club elected as 'Club Captain' in its **eighty-one** year history to that time. Her unique achievements were acknowledged at the Kirra SLSC '100 Year Celebration Dinner' held at Twin Towns in January 2016.

She again stood up and demonstrated exceptional leadership and initiative in performing the senior executive role of Kirra SLSC 'Club President' from February 2022 to June 2025. Cheryll is the **first** female President in the long '110 year' history of the Kirra Surf Club.

Cheryll Fenton is a recipient of the SLSC '30 Years Long Service Award' as a member of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club (#Q12393309 - 23rd May 2024).

'Cheryll's full history will be detailed in the Club's Newsletter and the 2026/2027 Annual Report'



Honorary Life Member (79/2026) – Cheryll Fenton

'Out and about with our new Kirra SLSC Life Member!'

"Left: Cheryll joins with Laura Gerber for a fun filled 2026 Australia Day at Kirra Beach. Laura is a wonderful supporter of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club"



"Club President (Cheryll) at a planning session on the 23rd October 2025 at the clubhouse with Kin Architects and Life Member Peter Beauchamp for the Kirra SLSC Building Redevelopment Project"

"Below Left: Kirra SLSC (160 years) Female Surf Boat Crew on the Silver Medal podium at the 2024 World Life Saving Championship, Gold Coast"

"Below: Female Beach Patrol group at Kirra Beach, March 2026 with Councillor Gail O'Neill, Div 14 of City of Gold Coast"





"Left: Cheryll with Leon Rebello, Federal Member for McPherson at Parliament House, Canberra ACT on the 27th July 2025 for Leon's maiden speech in the House of Representatives"

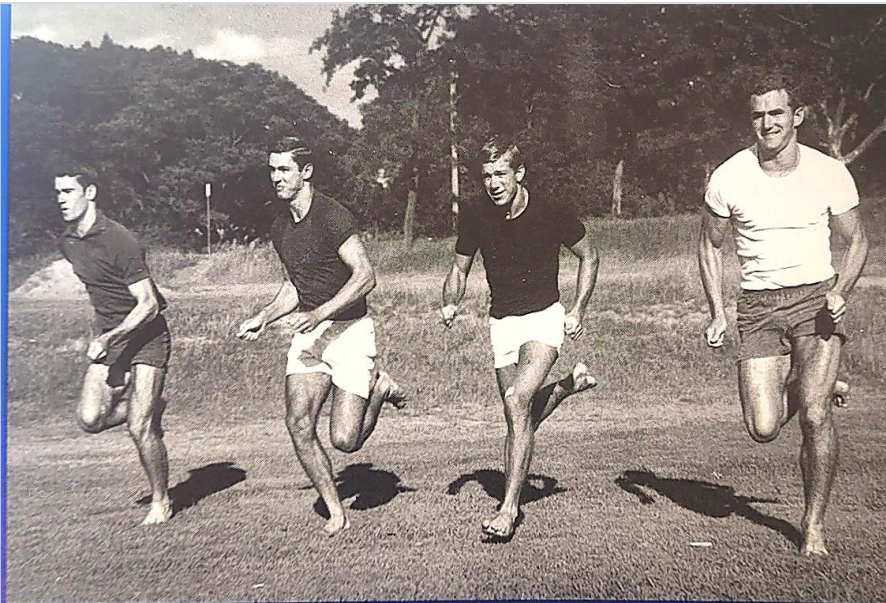


"Left: Our new Life Member (#79/2026) Cheryll Fenton with Laura Gerber MP, State Member for Currumbin and Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support, and Minister for Corrective Services – in the foyer of Cheryll's Griffith Street Dental Clinic, Coolangatta. Wearing the mighty MAROON colours, both are staunch supporters for the 'State of Origin' series and the great State of Queensland (May 2026)"

GO QUEENSLANDERS!

"Congratulations Cheryll on being bestowed the seventy-ninth (LM #79/2026) Life Membership of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club (Est: 07/01/1916)."

MEMORIES...



Beach Relay Team 1968
L-R: Dave Carlton, Jim Schofield, Lance English, Ron Gurnett

"They were Beach Sprinters and fast!"

Extract: Kirra SLSC 100 Years by PD Kelly: Page 167: *"They recorded a number of wins at some very big carnivals throughout the 1967/1968 season. Their coach was Doug Boulton from the North Caloundra Club.... He (Doug) concentrated mainly on the Team's baton changes and speed out of the blocks.*

This training proved beneficial, particularly the baton changes, and they won the Beach Relay final at the January 1968 Maroochydore surf carnival, beating a hot field including the local club's team that comprised

some strong individual runners who achieved 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings in the Beach Sprint final that day.

The Kirra 'Beach Relay Team' went on to win the Point Danger Branch 'Open Beach Relay Championship'. At the State Titles the Kirra SLSC 'Beach Relay Team' almost won the Open Championship. Dave, the Club's final runner, stumbled on some uneven sand and was just beaten over the line". (End of Extract)

Dave, Jim, Lance and Ron are all exceptional members of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club who contributed over many years to enhancing the Club's capability to deliver quality community surf lifesaving services. All were successful Kirra SLSC Committee members and administrators. Jim, Lance and Ron were instrumental in establishing the Kirra Old Boys Association on the 29th November 1978.

Ron Gurnett (#38/1973) and Lance English (#67/2012) are proud Honorary Life Members of their Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

MEMORIES... cont'd:



"Above: The year was 1918 and the narrow track around Kirra Point had only recently been opened for the driving public. Your Kirra Surf Life Saving Club formed on the 7th January 1916 was only two years young... Kirra Beach became renowned for attracting plenty of locals and visitors to the beach."



"Left: A surf carnival at Kirra Beach was a formal affair with officials and spectators dressed accordingly - Early 1930s"



"Above: Kirra Juniors (Nippers) in the early 1920s... They were a World's FIRST!"



"Left: Kirra Surf Club member Jack Evens was an outstanding ocean swimmer and competitor winning many competition events. With Doug Brockhurst, Earle Smith and Bill Gillies they were Branch and Queensland Surf Teams Champions, and placed second in the event at the Aussies held at Coolangatta for the 1946/1947 season. The photograph of Jack at Kirra Beach is in year 1947. Jack hosted the famous Porpoise Shows at the Snapper Rocks Pools and then at the Aquarium he built beside the Tweed River"

"Right: Jack Evan's Snapper Rocks Pools in the 1960s... Kirra SLSC members would often complete their annual pool proficiency swims (400 metres in eight minutes) in the main pool during the 1960s and early 1970s"



YEAR 2026 – YOUR CALENDAR

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

NOTE THESE DATES – CONFIRMED EVENTS FOR THE ASSOCIATION

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>48th Annual Christmas Reunion of the Association</p> | <p>Friday, 27th November 2026 Pineapple Hotel, Brisbane Commencing from 5:30pm <i>'All welcome – bring a friend'</i></p> |
| <p>Annual Kirra (Bumpo/Elke) Remembrance Day</p> | <p>Sunday, 27th December 2026 Kirra Supporters Club Commencing from 2:30pm <i>'All welcome – bring a current or past Kirra Surf Club and family member'</i></p> |

They were boaties!



“Right: Kirra SLSC first ever Australian IRB Champions claimed victory at Thirroul Beach NSW in year 1995: (L-R): Michael Harrison; Belinda Elms; and Darren Tink. Outstanding IRB competitors who assisted in laying the foundations of IRB Surf Sport for the Kirra Surf Club. Belinda continues to compete with success at State/National/World events in this challenging sport”

“Left: Kirra Junior Surf Boat Crew in year 1972: (L-R): Greg Ward; Jack Hunter; Alan Beauchamp; Graham (Bumpo) Freeman. All joined their Surf Club in year 1970 and were quality long-term club members. Alan remains connected with his Surf Club as an active participant of the Kirra Past & Long Serving Members Association”



KIRRA SUPPORTERS CLUB



"Left: It is always an early start for our staff at Saltys – opens 6:00am every day throughout the year. Sunrise showcases both Kirra Beach and the famous Saltys Coffee Shop – morning of the 20th May 2026. The best venue for a great morning coffee!"

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, and the best ocean views of the Gold Coast!"



'New uniform 'dress' for our Head Chef!'
 Head Chef Adam Phillips of our licensed Kirra Supporters Club 'fame' came to work in a new uniform on Sunday morning of 7th May 2026. Club Manager Justin Fletcher, always a stickler for presenting a good community image for the Club with staff correctly attired, was quick to question the Head Chef as to why the uniform change? The simple response from the Head Chef was: "I had a bet with my son that if Broncos lost to the Titans I would wear a dress to work!" Adam is a staunch Broncos fan whilst his young son goes for the Gold Coast Titans.
 Adam leads a small yet 'top class' Bistro kitchen team preparing and serving quality family meals.



'They reigned as Australian Premiers'

"The Kirra SLSC Six Man R&R Team took out the blue ribbon event on a freezing Easter Sunday in mountainous seas at the 1977 Australian Surf Life Saving Championship held at Bancoora Beach (south of Geelong), Victoria. L-R: Peter Clancy; Peter Kelly; Barry Mullins; Trevor Klingner; Bob Littler; Graham White; Brian Brymer; Arch Nicholson (Coach)"

"Five in this photograph were bestowed Life Membership of their Kirra Surf Club"

KIRRA SLSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following were elected/endorsed at the AGM held Sunday 14th June 2026 at the Surf Club as 'Office Bearers' for the 111th season of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club (Est: 7th January 1916).

Kirra SLSC Board of Management

Voting Office Bearers of the Board of Management

President – Hayden Lewis-Fox;

Deputy President – Ian Wright;

Secretary – Yvonne Papadimos AM; **Treasurer** – Loretta Cassone;

Captain – Mitchell Mackay; **Vice-Captain** – Dion Sharman;

Education and Training Officer – Brayden Zarn; **Sports & Competition Officer** – Cheryl Fenton;

IRB Officer – Andrew McAuliffe; **Youth Development Officer** – Kety Nah Philip;

Chairperson, Junior Activities Committee – Bianca Clark (Sunday);

President, Kirra Surf Life Saving Supporters Association – Michael Hill.

Kirra SLSC Honorary Office Bearers

Non-voting Honorary Office Bearers of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club

Patron – Dr Stephen Barry;

Legal Officer – Roly O'Regan; **Medical Officer** – TBA;

Auditor – Michael Harth.

'Congratulations to all and a successful 111th season of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club'

Thank you for your support of our Kirra Surf Club and the Kirra Past & Long Serving Members Association.

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

ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER