



# NEWSLETTER

**‘November’ 2025**

**Kirra Surf Club**

**Past & Long Serving Members Association**

*(Formerly named the Kirra Old Boys Association)*

*‘Established 29<sup>th</sup> 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**

**NOTE YOUR CALENDAR – BE GREAT TO SEE YOU THERE!**

## Association’s Annual Christmas Reunion

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
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 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025 –  
from 2:30pm**

**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 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!**

## Vale: Garth Robert Gear (04/10/1960 – 14/10/2025)

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Member (#68/2013) Garth Gear who passed in hospital on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 following a long and courageous battle with illness. His funeral service and celebration of his life was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025.



On behalf of Kirra SLSC and the Association, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Garth's beloved wife Rose, an Honorary Life Governor (#7/2019) of the Kirra Surf Club, their children Marissa, Stephanie, and Matthew, their partners, and Garth's cherished grandchildren. Our thoughts are also with Garth's brothers, Brendan, Gaven, and Darren during this difficult time.

*"Left: The Gear Family enjoying an afternoon together in the old Kirra Beach Hotel... This was the final day of service for the famous front bar prior to its closure and the hotel demolition"*



The eldest of four sons to Kirra stalwarts Bob and Joan, Garth spent his life associated with and supporting his surf lifesaving club. It could be said that he participated in the activities around Kirra Beach his entire life given that his parents enjoyed most weekends and holidays at their second home.... 'Kirra Beach'.

From those early years, he acquired a love of the ocean that saw him become a champion lifesaving competitor, patrol member, Club Captain, Nipper coordinator, supporter of the Kirra Past Members Association, and always proud to wear the club's 'Royal Blue and Gold'.

*"Above: Kirra Nippers during the 1968/1969 season... Garth is sitting in the second row, third from left."*

During those Nipper years he became an excellent ocean swimmer and competitor, contesting Branch and State level championships. In the 1971/72 season he was a member of the successful Kirra Surf Team that participated in the Queensland Junior Surf Championships held at Yeppoon on the central coast near Rockhampton. Garth also attained his SLSA Qualifying Certificate in the 1974/75 season that was the gateway to progressing from the Nippers to the Senior Club as a Cadet Surf Lifesaver and Beach Patrol Member.... *"Gosh where did the past years go?"*

During his first year as a Kirra SLSC Cadet, he was a member of the successful 'Cadet Surf Team' that won 'Gold' at both the Branch and Queensland Championships. Members of this successful team included Garth Gear, Michael Bohl, Brian Bartels, and Glen Brockhurst.

For his contributions in supporting the broader activities of his Kirra Surf Club, Garth was presented the 'Most Willing Cadet' award at the 1975/76 Annual Dinner and Presentations gala evening. At the following year's Annual Dinner, Garth's outstanding competitive performance was further recognised with him receiving the 'Club Junior Champion Lifesaver' trophy.

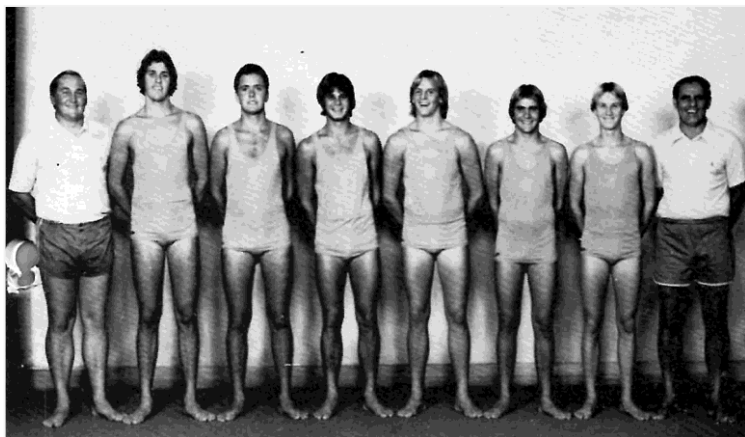
Garth obtained his SLSA Bronze Medallion in Surf Lifesaving on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1975 (Q10353). He also was successful in attaining both the SLSA Instructors Certificate and Advanced Resuscitation Certificate. He regularly assisted with training new members for their qualifications at Kirra Beach.

During the 1960s to the 1980s era, the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club was acknowledged as a powerhouse in 'Rescue and Resuscitation' competition with its Senior, Junior and Cadet teams regularly on the dais at Branch, Queensland and Australian Championships. Garth Gear quickly progress into this prestigious level competition. In the 1977/78 season, Garth's 'Junior R&R Team' won the Point Danger



Branch and Queensland Championships and were placed third at the National Championship held at Cudgen Beach NSW. *"This was a forerunner to greater things to come!"*

At the Australian Surf Lifesaving Championships held at Trigg Island in Perth WA, the 'Junior R & R Team' of Garth Gear, Brian Bartels, Brenden Gear, Jeff Gibson, Glenn Brockhurst, and Michael White



(coached by Australian pool and ocean swimming legend Graham White, and assisted by Garth's dad Bob Gear) stood up to beat all other national teams to claim the 'Australian Junior R & R Championship'. This was just an amazing achievement. With Kirra's 'Senior R & R Team' also winning, the Kirra Surf Club became the first surf club outside of Sydney NSW to win the Australian R & R Premiership and Junior R & R 'double' in the same season.... *'It was another first for the famous Kirra Surf Life Saving Club!'*

*"Above: 1978/79 Australian Junior R & R Champions: (L – R) Graham White; Brian Bartels; Jeff Gibson; Garth Gear; Brenden Gear; Michael White; Glen Brockhurst; Bob Gear – They became friends for life!"*

Garth continue to be involved in Surf Sports contesting water, craft, beach and boat events for several more years. Whilst still a formidable competitor, the 1978/79 season was the ultimate achievement in Surf Sports for him. However, there was still plenty of activities for Garth who willingly volunteered his time and energies by being involved in supporting his Kirra Surf Club at Kirra Beach, and 'Pub Raffles' and 'House to House Collections' and other events in Brisbane.

At the year 1980 Surf Club 'Annual General Meeting', Garth stood up and was elected the 'Club Captain' for the 1980/81 season. The role of Club Captain is always challenging, however with support from his Vice-Captain Joe Dixon, Chief Training Officer Barry Mullins, Secretary Peter Beauchamp and Treasurer Greg Dunn, Garth did a first-rate job in providing sound leadership and ensured the provision of quality Beach Patrols and surf safety for bathers at Kirra Beach. It is interesting to note that Garth along with these above-mentioned surf club colleagues would all in future years be bestowed Honorary Life Membership of their Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.



The 1980s was a decade of change and growth for surf lifesaving and the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club. Garth was an integral part of this significant enhancement from what was once, to a future of unlimited possibilities. It was a time for embracing females as equal partners in surf lifesaving; Inflatable Rescue Boats, modern Rescue Boards and Tubes replacing the Surf Reel for rescues; Club membership continuing to grow and finances were strong; strong participation in competition; a new and popular licensed Supporters Club that was popular with clubbies and locals alike; and so much more!

Whilst Garth's focus moved from surf club to having his own family with Rose; building a successful business; and cherishing the opportunities to share his life with their children and grandchildren, he never lost his love of the ocean and Kirra Beach. With their children joining the Kirra Nippers, both Rose and Garth again became more involved and successfully built the 'Kirra Junior Activities' as a strong sub-group for their Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

In year 2013, Garth was a recipient of the highest honour that can be bestowed by his Surf Club as its sixty-eight 'Honorary Life Member'. Up to that time (year 2013), of the many thousands who were associated with the Kirra Surf Club, only sixty-eight were so privileged to be called 'Life Member'....

**LEST WE FORGET**



**‘Kirra Surf Life Saving Club established on the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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!"**



# SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – YEAR 2026

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



## 2026 KIRRA GOLF CLASSIC

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



**FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 you are 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....**
- # Your participation details to be provided to Game Coordinators Peter Kelly and John 'Brashie' Bell

Thinking of attending, than email [supporterssecretary@kiraslsc.com](mailto:supporterssecretary@kiraslsc.com) to confirm your interest to join in this annual 'RETURN TO KIRRA EVENT'

# Ron Gurnett: Volunteer of the Year – Family of League

## Volunteer of the Year

### Steve Calder Queensland Volunteer of the Year award

#### Ron Gurnett – Moreton Committee

Former Valleys Diehard & Brisbane representative centre Ron Gurnett was an inaugural member of the Moreton committee in July 2018.

During the last seven years he's been active across all committee activities, but none more so than in the wellbeing space.

Since 2024 Ron has documented 250 occasions where he's contacted people from within the rugby league community who've been doing it tough.

The majority have been visits to homes or hospitals, coffee catch-ups, lunches or often

just taking someone to the park. There have been frequent phone calls in between the visits.

In the last 5 years, considering travel time, Ron's personal commitment has been well over 700 hours of wellbeing care.

Wellbeing aside, he's used his extensive networks to secure raffle prizes and corporate and individual bookings for Moreton events, amongst the most successful across Australia.

Ron is dedicated, selfless and unassuming and displays great compassion & empathy in support of others - he genuinely cares about people.

There are very few of us who give so much of their time over so many years to ensure others get the emotional, social and financial support they need.

Many have commented on the striking similarities between Ron and Steve Calder, the man after whom this award is named. Both exceptionally kind men with an incredible commitment to caring for others, the very essence of what Family of League is about.

Thank you and congratulations Ron!



### Volunteer of the Year past winners

**2012** Ron Atkins  
Brisbane Committee  
**2013** Ray McKenzie  
Sunshine Coast Committee  
**2014** Andrew O'Brien  
Toowoomba Committee  
**2015** Terry Dodd  
Bundaberg Committee

**2016** Tony Durkin  
Sunshine Coast  
Committee  
**2017** Kev Embrey  
Fraser Coast Committee  
**2018** Vance Rennie  
Brisbane Committee  
**2019** Reg Green  
Brisbane Committee

**2021** Steve Ricketts  
Brisbane Committee  
**2022** Mick Legg  
Sunshine Coast Committee  
**2023** Peter Affleck  
Moreton Committee  
**2024** Peter Stephensen  
Fraser Coast Committee

Ron is undoubtedly one of Kirra's enduring legends who has given so much towards advancing the ideals of his Surf Club and surf lifesaving in general. An Australian R&R Champion; past Club Captain; Club administrator and ambassador; fund raising guru; founding President of the Past Members Association; our longest surviving Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Member (#38/1973); and so much more.... Ron continues to support his Kirra Surf Club whilst generously providing his time to helping those past rugby league players and their families 'in need' through the Family of League... *"Yes, undoubtedly Ron is one of Kirra's and Rugby League's true and finest legends!"*

## Watch this space!



Approval has been granted to SignAge of Redcliffe to update the Kirra Honour Boards at the Surf Club given the recent success at the Australian IRB Championships, a new Life Member (Ivo Garafolo), and minor changes to the Patron's Honour Board. Staff from SignAge should be at Kirra Beach in the next few weeks to complete their updates and general maintenance.

The provision of the 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 being finalised for the Surf Club's Board of Management approval.

*'Yes, watch this space!'*

## '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](mailto:kirra@kirraoldboys.com)



# Out and about!

This Award (October 2025) recognises all of Kirra SLSC who contribute to the Surf Club in providing quality community services and safe Beach Patrols at Kirra Beach and for the greater Gold Coast community.... Congratulations to all who through their generous efforts have contributed to this continuing success for our Kirra Surf Club.



*"Left/Below: Past Kirra SLSC President Cheryl Fenton collects the McPherson Award from Leon Rebello MP (Federal Member for McPherson) on behalf of Kirra SLSC that was recognised as a finalist in the category 'Service Club of the Year' at the ceremony held 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025"*



## WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEIR FRIENDSHIP AND SERVICE

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



# Dare to dream!



On **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025**, Kirra Surf Club representatives met with Kin Architects to discuss the Kirra SLSC Building Redevelopment Project. Kin Architects attendance included Leah Gallagher (Kin Director/Architect), Ashlee Chimes (Kin Architect) and Dan Hall (Kin Architect). Surf Club representatives (at the clubhouse) were Cheryll Fenton (Past Club President) and Peter Beauchamp (Hon Life Member, Secretary Supporters, and President Past Members Association). On-line for the meeting were Loretta Cassone (Hon Life Governor, Club Treasurer, and Supporters Accountant/Finance Officer), Michael Hill (Hon Life Member and Supporters President), and Ian Wright (Club Deputy President). Apologies were provided for Hayden Lewis-Fox (Kirra SLSC President) and Adam Day (Hon Life Member and Secretary Past Members Association).

*“Above: (L-R) Kin architects Ashlee Chimes; Leah Gallagher and Dan Hall with Kirra representatives Peter Beauchamp and Cheryll Fenton – 22/10/2025 at the Kirra clubhouse”*

It has been a busy and initiative-taking year 2025 for the Project with significant funding sourced for the engagement of professionals (e.g. Town Planner/s; Traffic Engineers; Surveyors; Quantity Surveyors; etc). Numerous meetings were held with key stakeholders, in particular Local and State Government officers on the *‘footprint and tenure’* of the site and investigating the potential for growing the land space necessary for a new Kirra SLSC clubhouse.

Our Town Planner (Cameron Adams of Adams & Sparkes) was also on-line and updated the meeting on his progress in particular on preparing information for *‘Pre-Lodgement Meeting/s’* with the City of Gold Coast and State Government in the next few weeks. Cameron stated that the meeting/s will assist in determining details on the *‘footprint and tenure’* and also to advance the proposed development application either through Local Government arrangements or by a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) with State Government. Leah Gallagher (Kin Architects) as the *‘Project Manager’* to be fully engaged and provide direction throughout this process.... *“Watch this space!”*

As has been regularly mentioned, this Kirra Project is *‘UNIQUE’* when compared to other surf club sites across Queensland that are proposed for redevelopment. Significant impacts that our Project Management Team (Kin Architects) have been working through have included (but not limited to): Determining the State Government Reserve ownership of the building footprint and car park/s; Limited *‘footprint’* area for the surf club building expansion and growth; Heritage listing of the *‘Kirra Beach Pavilion’*; Maintaining the small number of carpark spaces; Proximity to the beach; Bolder wall and A-Line; Environmental considerations; Traffic flow; Occupancy needs of the surf club and design fit; Head-Lease with Council; Waste management; Finalising the Master Plan and building design concept aligned to the available footprint; Project development approval arrangements; and so much more.

Thank you to the Kirra SLSC *‘Board of Management’* for their continuing faith and support in this Project, and all associated with the Surf Club for their enthusiasm and patience to see this through....

***“Dare to dream... and to make the dream a reality!”***

***‘Only a concept of what may be achieved’***







## Vale – Kevin Brasch AM

Born 30th April 1934, Kevin lived a fulling life that was connected with Rugby League and his Kirra Surf Life Saving Club. He passed in hospital on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 after a short battle with illness. A private family funeral service to be held for Kevin.

Kevin was twenty years of age when he joined the famous Kirra Surf Club, obtaining his Bronze Medallion in Surf Lifesaving (Q97) at Kirra Beach on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1954.

Kevin Brasch was a valued member of the Surf Club during the 1950s/1960s era. He volunteered his time in supporting Surf Club activities including Beach Patrols, fund raising, and assisting with many social activities held at Kirra Beach. He was quite a character and very well respected by his fellow surf club members.



*"Left: Kirra Bronze Squad (1956) L to R: Neil Geddes; D Martin; J Ashurst; D Taylor; Brian Geddes; Peter Pryor; Frank Dolan; Front: Kevin Brasch; Graham Daggers"*

Kevin was an excellent football player and also enjoyed playing in the Kirra SLSC 'Beach Football' competition over several years against teams from local accommodation houses of the southern Gold Coast. He was at the forefront of organising the Kirra Team that included several senior grade players and rugby internationals. The matches were tough with good spectator turnout cheering their favourite team. Kevin was also a keen supporter of the 'Kirra Old Boys' regularly attending annual functions to catch up with mates.

Kevin would go on to be known not only for playing the game of Rugby League and as an Assistant Team Manager for Queensland (including State of Origin teams with Dick 'Tosser' Turner) and Australian Rugby League teams; but as a highly respected Rugby League administrator. His achievements have included:

- A long history as a player and well known administrator of Rugby League.
- Played for Huddersfield in England.
- Player of several Queensland country and city teams including for the mighty Valley Diehards in the 1950s.
- Twenty years as a QRL Director.
- Long term Chairman of the Queensland Rugby League (QRL).
- Chairman of the Australian Rugby League (ARL).
- Awarded the Order of Australia in year 2015 for his services to Rugby League.
- Manager of Queensland and Australian Rugby League Teams.
- Board Member for the Australian Rugby League; Rugby League World Cups; SQ Crushers; Gold Coast Chargers; and the Schools Sports Foundation of Queensland.
- 1990 – 2007 Chairman, QRL South East Division.
- Long term Chairman, QRL History Committee.

Kevin, outstanding performance and dedication to Rugby League and sports in general were acknowledged with him being bestowed Life Memberships of:

- Queensland Rugby League.
- Australian Rugby League.
- Norths Devils Rugby League Club, Brisbane.
- Eagle Junction State School Swimming Club.

Our sincere thoughts are for Kevin Brasch's wife Tilly, his family and dear life-long friends on his passing.

***'Once a Kirra member – Always a Kirra member'***



**Many thanks for your continuing support of the Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association and our Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.**

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