



NEWSLETTER

May 2026

**Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving
Members Association**

[Established 29th November 1978]

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ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER



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 are open to any current/past member, family or supporter of the Kirra Surf Club'

'Book now!! There is accommodation available for Friday 29th May 2026 in the Tweed area (near Twin Towns) and just walking distance to your Kirra Surf Club; and the Surf Club 'dormitory' is available over-night for Life Members and past Kirra Members



- # Forty (40) player positions....and nineteen (19) carts have been booked
- # Book in at the PRO-SHOP by 10am for course fee and cart payments
- # Presentations and fellowship to be held at the Kirra Supporters Club
- # TROPHIES for 'Best Pair', 'Longest Drive' and 'Nearest to the Pin'
- # The famous 'ELKE' trophy to be presented to the Best Pair
- # Additional awards to be presented for exceptional performances!!
- # Friday evenings at the Kirra Supporters Club is a 'Market Raffles Night'
- # Depart early if travelling from Brisbane or the Sunshine Coast (M1 can be busy)

Thinking of playing in the Kirra Golf Classic and wish to confirm your attendance (bring a mate!) than contact Life Member Peter Kelly on Mobile: 0418 785 207 or email supporterssecretary@kirraslsc.com

BREAKING NEWS..... BREAKING NEWS..... BREAKING NEWS

Kirra SLSC Life Member and Life Governor 'BLAZERS' to be presented by the Surf Club.

This is an initiative of the Surf Club's 'Board of Management' during Cheryl Fenton's tenure as Club President to offer a Club Blazer to Life Members and Life Governors in recognition of their outstanding long-term dedicated service to their Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

Note your calendar: Presentation of the 'CLUB BLAZER' is scheduled for **Sunday, 14th June 2026 from 11:00am in the Kirra Supporters Club** (following the Surf Club's Annual General Meeting). An invitation is extended by your Surf Club to all Blazer recipients (thirty-four Life Members and five Life Governors) and families.... "A special Surf Club and Family Day at Kirra Beach"



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

It is all happening at Kirra Beach – 'Where else would you rather be!'



APRIL 2026

'Still doing it for their Surf Club! – On patrol at Kirra Beach'



Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Members Greg Dunn (LM # 62/2004) and Peter Kelly (LM # 57/1997) continue to be regularly rostered and perform 'Beach Patrols' at their famous Kirra Beach.

"Left: Greg Dunn and Peter Kelly on their Beach Patrol – April 2026"

Both are long term Kirra SLSC members and collectively have given almost one hundred and twenty (120) years of service to their Surf Club.

Peter and Greg are outstanding ocean swimmers who achieved success at Branch, State, and Australian Championships. (Check out the Australian Champions Honour Board in the Supporters Club).

Greg and Peter participate in morning swims with the 'Kirra Krocs', a group of local community residents who enjoy an early daily swim with mates off Kirra Beach, followed by fellowship, good laughs, and an enjoyable coffee at Saltys. "Peter and Greg.... Thank you for your continuing support of your Kirra Surf Life Saving Club – 'Simply the Best' as Tina Turner often sang!"

'Once a Kirra member – Always a Kirra member'

'Beavis & Bartels Families – Longtime supporters of their Surf Club'

Following recent discussion with long term past Kirra SLSC member Brian Bartels, the 'Beavis & Bartels Families' have confirmed their ongoing financial commitment towards their Kirra Surf Club through the Kirra Surf Club Past & Long Serving Members Association.

As a continuation of the Association's commitment to building and showcasing the history of our Kirra Surf Club, this further donation of \$3,000 will be used to complete and erect the 'Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Members and Honorary Life Governors Photographic Gallery'. This new 'Photographic Gallery' will replace the current aged, incomplete, and outdated 'LM display' located in the downstairs foyer (gym area). This new 'Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Members and Honorary Life Governors Photographic Gallery' will be a tribute to the seventy-eight (78) Honorary Life Members and twelve (12) Honorary Life Governors for their dedicated service to their Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Member Scott Byrnes OAM has a (JPEG) file with the majority of Honorary Life Members. It will be a simple task to obtain the remaining photos to update this collection. The Association's President has had positive discussion to date with a framing business in Oxenford who can assist with the Project. The design of the 'Photographic Gallery' will provide easy access to enable the adding of future photographs to maintain currency of the display.

A big thank you to the 'Beavis & Bartels Families' who have been fabulous supporters of their Kirra Surf Club over several decades. Both Keith Beavis and Carl Bartels were bestowed Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Governor Membership in year 2011 for their long-term commitment to the Kirra Surf Club.



(L-R): Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Governor Member (#1/2011) Keith Beavis; and Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Governor Member (#2/2011) Carl Bartels

"Left: Photos of Keith and Carl in the publication 'Kirra 100 years – Page 347' by Peter D Kelly"

Brian Bartels and Jeff Gibson are planning to attend the Association's Annual Christmas Reunion to be held at the Pineapple Hotel on Friday 27th November 2026 from 5:30pm.... 'A great opportunity to come along and catch up with good longtime Kirra mates'.

Kirra SLSC – Honorary Life Membership



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. Over its one hundred and ten years (1916 – 2026), there have been several thousand active members, families and supporters associated with the Kirra Surf Club. Many have in their own way voluntarily contributed their time to the Surf Club's continuing success in surf lifesaving operations and providing member services..... *"Vigilance and Service"*

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

Of those thousands of members, families and supporters who have been involved with their Kirra Surf Life Saving Club's over its one hundred and ten (110) year history, only **'seventy-eight'** have been bestowed the highest honour of Honorary Life Membership. Of those seventy-eight (78) Kirra SLSC Honorary Life Members, there remain only **'thirty-four'** who are still with us as of May 2026.

"Who will be next to be bestowed this highest honour of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club and be the seventy-ninth Honorary Life Member?"

A YARN FROM THE PAST – MEMORIES!

'WoW! – We are now qualified surf lifesavers!'

'It's a good day for our Bronze Medallion examination!' – Saturday morning the 15th November 1970 was scheduled for new members of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club to complete their examination for the highly prized 'SLSAA Bronze Medallion in Surf Lifesaving'. Participating in this examination were the Beauchamp brothers, Peter and Alan, along with fellow Surf Club probationary members John Bowler; Gary Douglas; Michael Dellit; Graham Freeman; Keith Mullen; Greg Ward; and Ross French. All with the exception of 'Frenchie' lived in the southern Brisbane suburbs of Morningside, Carina, and Camp Hill. These suburbs including Holland Park were catchment areas for Kirra Surf Club new members during the seventies. Ross French came from the western suburbs of Brisbane. 'All became good mates through surf lifesaving!'

The Bronze Medallion examination in year 1970 comprised both theory and practical assessments. On successfully completing the written theory paper and demonstrating correct resuscitation techniques, it was off to the beach for this *'Band off Brothers'* in their Speedo swimmers to participate in the practical part of the examination, the *'Surf Reel and Line'* patient and belt swims *'out to the cans'*. As there was no beach immediately in front of the clubhouse, so it was a short walk carrying the surf reels to the sandy beach available in front of the renowned Kirra Caravan Park.

Standing on the beach waiting for these *'newbies to surf lifesaving'* were Point Danger Branch examiners smartly dressed in their official whites, ready to officiate the examination for the prized Bronze Medallion.... *'It was no Bronze Medallion – no surf club membership'*. One of the Examiners was Norm Rabjohns, a legend in surf lifesaving who was an outstanding ocean swimmer and competitor for the Currumbin Surf Club. Norm contested and won numerous Queensland and Australian Surf Lifesaving Championship events.

The *'Surf Reel and Line'* belt swim for the Bronze Medallion examination included – *Donning the surf belt and by swimming and with assistance from your mates, 'pull' the surf line that was connected to the surf belt, off the surf reel; Swim through the surf 'shore break' from the beach to the swim buoys that were positioned approximately 'one hundred and twenty metres' off shore to simulate a surf rescue of a 'patient in need'. The patient was one of the Bronze examination participants who had already swum out to the swim buoys; On reaching the swim buoy and securing the patient, raise the arm vertically to signal to the 'beach Surf Reel team' to commence hauling in the surf line that was attached to the surf belt... 'Needed to hold the patient as high as possible to minimise the patient swallowing salt water on the return journey to the beach'; On arriving at the beach, it was further patient assessment and demonstration of resuscitation techniques.*

Each Bronze Medallion examination participant had to successfully complete their duties on the surf reel; perform both a patient and belt swim to the *'buoys'*; and undertake a patient rescue and assessment.... *'All tasks to be performed as a competent member of the Rescue Team!'*

Barrie Thorne (Bazza) and his surf boat crew of senior club members had previously laid the swim buoys, *'swim cans'* as there were called, out the back of the ocean surf break in front of the Caravan Park. Bazza and his crew were standing on the beach waiting for the examination to commence before rowing the surf boat back to a position behind the *'swim cans'* to standby in case one of the Bronze Medallion participants got into trouble during their patient or belt swim. *'Swim Buoy's colours were Red/Yellow; Black; Green; Red; Blue with a four-inch White stripe; Yellow; White. These were coupled into a line in order from left to right, with the buoys and line held in position by two heavy sea anchors'.*

As the *'newbies to surf lifesaving'* prepared to undertake their *'Reel, Line, and Belt'* swims, Kirra Surf Club legend and Valleys Rugby League Football Club player Ron Gurnett arrived to provide his *'morale support'* for those participating in their Bronze Medallion examination. Ron had personally encouraged both Alan and Peter Beauchamp to join his Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

As would be expected, Bazza invited Ron to ride in the surf boat to observe the belt swims from behind the *'swim cans'*. During the position rotations and patient/belt swims, it was noticed that the surf boat positioned behind the *'swim cans'* had *'sunk to the waterline'*. There was water flowing over the gunnels with all of the surf

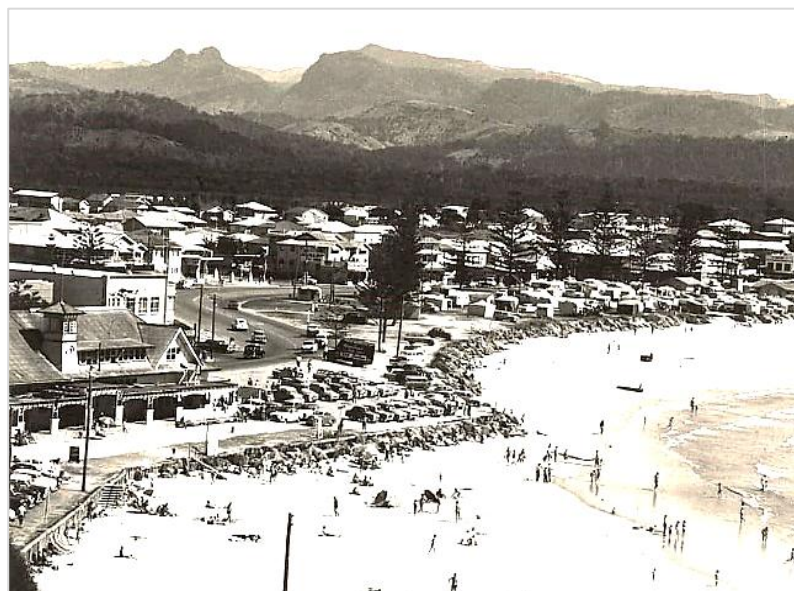
boat crew laughing and splashing each other, including the dressed Ron Gurnett. It was a 'Surf Reel and Line' belt swim back out to sea to rescue the water filled surf boat and its crew with a slow haul on the surf line to return the surf boat to the beach..... *"An unexpected part of the Bronze Medallion examination.... a pass mark for sure!"* Once the surf boat crew return to shore, the question was asked as to why the boat filled with water. All had a good laugh when told: *"Bazza pull the bungs out of the surf boat!"* Whilst Ron Gurnett appreciated the good humour, there he stood on Kirra Beach wearing his clothes that were well and truly drenched.

'Let's call it a day!' stated the Branch examiners. It was then a short walk back to the clubhouse with the surf reels, and *'all hands available'* to assist in carrying the surf boat up the beach to the club's small boat shed located between the Kirra Beach Pavilion and the First Aid Room.

There was a short break to allow the Point Danger Branch examiners, dressed in their official whites, to finalise their assessments and complete the required examination paperwork. The nervous *'newbies to surf lifesaving'* were subsequently informed that all were successful in gaining their Bronze Medallion and were officially recognised as qualified surf lifesavers of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia and their Kirra Surf Life Saving Club. *'Celebrations were next for these proud and qualified SLSA Bronze Medallion recipients and Kirra SLSC members. Thornie organised a timber keg in the small boatshed for the new Bronzies and those Kirra senior members who assisted with the examination'.*



"Above: Kirra clubhouse in late year 1974. No veranda awing (for twenty years) following cyclonic damage caused in late January 1974. On the western end of the Kirra Beach Pavilion was a small Boat Shed, First Aid Room, and Ladies Accommodation for wives and girlfriends. There were no female active members permitted in surf lifesaving until year 1980. This photograph was taken several months prior to these surf club facilities being demolished for the construction of the new western annex building that provided the surf club with a large boat shed, member amenities, female dormitory, caretakers unit, and the members lounge known as the Blue Room (future Kirra Supporters Club)"



"Those who participated in this Bronze examination feel as though it only occurred recently, but in fact it happened more than half a century ago!"..... Rescue buoys (tubes) and rescue boards were still on the horizon to be mandatory for beach patrols. Powered rescue craft like rubber ducks and jet skis were just non-existent. The 'Surf Reel' and the 'Surf Lifesaver' were the principal items available for performing ocean rescues on patrolled beaches.

"Left: The village of Kirra Beach during the 1960s"

'Memories.... It all just seems like yesterday!'

YEAR 2026 – FOR YOUR CALENDAR

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – YEAR 2026

Queensland

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

New South Wales

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

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – YEAR 2026

Queensland

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

‘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 place to enjoy icy cold refreshments, tasty family meals, welcoming staff, hot coffees, and the best ocean views of the Gold Coast!"



**‘IF YOU GOT IT,
 THEN FLY IT!’
 ‘PROUD TO BE
 AUSTRALIAN!’**

**NOTE THESE DATES – CONFIRMED EVENTS FOR THE ASSOCIATION :
YEAR 2026**

Annual Kirra Golf Classic

Friday, 29th May 2026
Coolangatta & Tweed Heads Golf Club
TEE OFF AT 10:30
Presentations at the Kirra Supporters Club
'See advertisement in this Newsletter – Player positions are still available – All welcome'

48th Annual Christmas Reunion of the Association

Friday, 27th November 2026
Pineapple Hotel, Brisbane
Commencing from 5:30pm
'All welcome – bring a friend'

Annual Kirra (Bumpo/Elke) Remembrance Day

Sunday, 27th December 2026
Kirra Supporters Club
Commencing from 2:30pm
'All welcome – bring a fellow current or past Kirra Surf Club member'



Weekend raffles at the Supporters Club

Are you aware that the Surf Club members do raffles during Saturday and Sunday lunch in the Kirra Supporters Club. This is a great opportunity for the Club to continue to raise that ever needed finance to support surf lifesaving operations and the provision of member services.

The Kirra Surf Life Saving Supporters Association that is responsible for the licensed Kirra Supporters Club donates the cost of the raffle trays (over \$10,000.00) to the Surf Club each year.

"Left: Winners are grinners!"

KIRRA'S ANNUAL DINNER

Enjoy a 3-course meal for \$75 per person



13 ★ JUNE ★ 26

6:00pm start
Kirra Supporters Club
Dress code: semi formal

RSVP by 5th June 2026, tickets to be purchased through a JotForm link

KIRRA SLSC 110th YEAR ANNUAL DINNER

The 110th Year Annual Dinner of the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club will be held in the Kirra Supporters Club on Saturday 13th June 2026 from 6:00pm.

A great opportunity for members to come together to celebrate the performance of their Surf Club over a challenging yet successful 2025/2026 season. It would be special to see the Club's Life Members and Life Governors if available to join in this fun filled evening.

"Left: See the poster for the Annual Dinner reservation details"

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

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

ONCE A KIRRA MEMBER – ALWAYS A KIRRA MEMBER