

# NEWSLETTER

February—March 2025



## From the President - Laura Dixon



What a busy time and so many events! I was going to do a few special mentions though when I start I don't know where to stop! I think given the season and the sheer number of events organised I have to name Jo Coates for all the function planning and set ups and meetings and phone calls, for getting us through the

markets including sorting any issues on the fly! We had so many other fantastic helpers including old hands, newbies, juniors, seniors and the Salties.

A lot of what we do at Surf Club is about giving people confidence in and out of the water and educating them on safety. Surf Club is also about community, about fostering the importance of giving back to your community and feeling a sense of belonging. It is what we strive for and I hope that we can continue to grow and improve in this space to bring through the next wave of volunteers into the future. Without volunteers there would quite simply be no club and no opportunities - for education, life saving, community engagement or any other events or undertakings.

If you are new to the area or have some time and are looking to become more involved in our local community please consider reaching out and joining our club. We have some Committee / Board vacancies coming up at the next AGM and would love to chat about how you could help. Contact us on our email: [portsorellslc@gmail.com](mailto:portsorellslc@gmail.com)



## Community Christmas Lunch

Our first ever Christmas Day lunch proved to be quite popular. We all had a lovely time with around 50 locals - some clubbies and a wide cross-section of individuals who chose to share Christmas with us. Thanks also to **Mountain Dew Ice** who kindly offered some money to help with catering costs. We are really happy with how the community supported this event and will keep it in mind for next Christmas.

## Key dates

### Sun 23 February

Penguin Island Swim - registrations from 10.00 am, first race commences at 11.00 am.

### Sat 22 March

Last day of Nippers.

### Sun 23 March 2.00 pm-5.00 pm

Volunteer Thank You Afternoon.

### Sun 30 March, time TBC.

Neighbour Day. Keep an eye on Facebook and the Surf Club Noticeboard for more details. Lots of fun activities for the whole family.

### Sun 30 March

Last patrol day for the 2024/2025 summer season.

## Markets by the Beach

The markets were epic - great support from our community and a fabulous turn out by stall holders including some of our own Nipper kids / families having stalls - so many entrepreneurs in our midst!

After the November market was cancelled due to inclement weather, it was lovely to be able to host three more markets over January and see the great crowds for each one. The markets contribute to raising funds to support the life saving services we provide to the community.

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## Penguin Island Swim

The Tasmanian Ocean Swim Series Penguin Island Swim, proudly supported by our major sponsor, Leaping Goat Coffee, will be held on Sunday 23 of February.

There will be a 500 m swim and a 2 km swim, so regardless of whether you are just starting out in your ocean swim journey, or you're a seasoned swimmer, come along and have a go. Check out our Facebook page closer to the date for registration information.

Sorella Coffee Van will be in attendance serving up our favourite Leaping Goat coffee brew!

Spectators are well catered for, given the many vantage points of the coastal reserve from Freers Beach to the Hawley Beach boat ramp.



**Website:** [www.portsorellslsc.org.au](http://www.portsorellslsc.org.au)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/portsorellslsc>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/portsorellsurflifesaving>

**Email:** [portsorellslsc@gmail.com](mailto:portsorellslsc@gmail.com)

## State Junior Carnival

The Port Sorell SLSC hosted the State Junior Carnival on Sunday 19 of January, and it was a huge success. Nippers and families travelled from all over the state to our beach with some staying close by and contributing to the local economy.

However it is a lot of work to organise and manage. We had approximately 75 of our own club volunteers in action on the day with 338 kids entered in events. I think everyone was totally exhausted by Sunday night!

Our club was thrilled to win the All Age Relay and had other notable results on the day. We have a lovely bunch of kids who all enjoy each other's company and are supportive and enjoy participating.

Hosting a state competition showcases our club and our community and provides our Nippers with the opportunity to compete on home turf.

A special mention to our Port Sorell Salties who despite being relatively new members, have stepped up to support our club by volunteering at our events.



**Above:** Nippers in action on Freers Beach at Nipper Carnival.

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## New Gold Sponsor - Richey Fishing

We are delighted to welcome our new Gold Sponsor, Richey Fishing.

Richey Fishing was started by Dick Richey in 1947 with a small 11 meter trawler and has grown to a fishing business holding quota and licenses in a number of southern fisheries including the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery, Tasmanian scallop fishery, Victorian scallop fishery, Southern squid fishery, Tasmanian squid fishery and the Tasmanian Australian salmon fishery.

Richey Services came as an offshoot from Richey Fishing in the 1980's when the business started doing small offshore charter operations and has grown to specialise in handling offshore scientific moorings, supporting ROV operations, Marine Mammal observers, seismic chase boat and anything that is a bit out of the ordinary.

Check out their website [www.richeyfishing.com.au](http://www.richeyfishing.com.au)

All of our sponsors provide valuable financial support and they are integral to our clubs operational success. We ask members to consider purchasing or promoting them.

If you know of other businesses who may be interested in sponsoring our club, please refer them to our Sponsorship Officer Sarah Merrick on 0412 025 015.



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## Sponsorship acknowledgement

While we warmly welcome **Richey Fishing**, we would also like to acknowledge our returning sponsor **AFI Logistics** both who are **Gold Sponsors**.

**IGA Shearwater**, also a **Gold Sponsor** have kept our patrollers fed and watered over the summer and will continue to do so for the remainder of patrol season.

**Elite Constructions Tas, Gold Sponsors** did us the most fantastic favour and cleaned our gutters and roof over the summer. This was long overdue and took two of their staff all day with a fair bit of equipment.

Our **Gold Sponsor Ghost Rock's** recent Wine Drive in the lead up to Christmas was also a wonderful fundraiser and we had plenty of happy customers.

**Gold Sponsor Costa** have donated berries to our carnival canteen and our Christmas Community Lunch and also kitted us out in fabulous new high vis vests for markets and carnivals.

**Harcourts Devonport and Shearwater** provided us with some more club baseball caps and we even have new stubby holders for those warm days at the club bar! Make sure you come in and purchase one the next time our bar is open.

To all our other **Gold Sponsors - Shearwater Health and Fitness, Mechfield FM, Leaping Goat Coffee** and **Uplons**. We are so very grateful for your support.

A really powerful way we can show our appreciation to our sponsors is by supporting their businesses. Our sponsors logos are displayed both inside and outside the surf club, so please consider purchasing from them or like and share their Facebook pages, or let your friends and family know, these businesses help our surf club provide community programs.

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## Summer beach patrols

Our volunteer surf life savers who patrol our local beaches to keep the community safe, have given an enormous 1056 hours of their time. This doesn't include patrols for the remainder of February and March. Those hours don't include the time taken to meet competency requirements for first aid and swimming and general life saving skills, which generally occur in November and December of each year.

So far this season our patrols have performed 823 preventative actions, seven rescues and several emergency response team activations. One such incident resulted in our members assisting a vessel that had run aground on the The Carbuncle rocks (at the mouth of the Rubicon Estuary) after losing engine power.

In another instance patrol team members observed a mast snap on a vessel sailing near Penguin Island while patrolling between the flags. The IRB was tasked to head out and investigate, finding that the vessel had indeed snapped a mast and it was taking on some water. The IRB safely retrieved the two people on board and towed the vessel back to the boat ramp.

Additionally, members provide water safety for events such as the Penguin Island Swim and the recent State Nipper Carnival.

During routine patrols of a weekend and public holidays, the patrols are based on the northern end of Freers Beach and surveillance is carried out in the IRB from the boat ramp at Port Sorell through to the Dog Beach at Hawley and across to Penguin Island.

Further roving patrols are carried out on foot and in our Cam-Am to nearby beaches.

The last day of Patrols will be on Sunday 30 of March. If you are unsure of when our beaches are patrolled,

## Rainbow beaches 2025

Our club will be celebrating Rainbow Beaches this Sunday 8 February. Rainbow Beaches is an annual event led by Lifesavers with Pride to support surf clubs to showcase the colours of the Progress Flag on their beach. This visibly demonstrates our inclusion and support of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Everyone is welcome at our club and at the beach. We will be flying the colours of the Progress Flag and we welcome the community to join us.



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## Port Sorell Salties

Have you heard about the Port Sorell Salties? If not, read on. Port Sorell Salties is part of Surf Life Saving Australia Silver Salties. It is a participation program for older Australians at Surf Life Saving Clubs promoting physical activity, social connections, and involvement in the surf lifesaving community. While it targets older Australians, anyone 18 years and older are welcome and the best part, it is free to join.

Participants enjoy Surf Life Saving Australia 'community membership' and limited personal accident cover insurance while participating in Salties programs.

Currently we have 50 people registered and activities this summer have included coastal walks, beach games and opportunities to paddle surf boards.

Future activities will occur once per fortnight and will be based on the Salties interests. So far we have had requests for group kayak paddles, social pool swims and more beach games.

Our Salties have also recently volunteered at our Markets by the Beach and our Nipper carnival.

We know from feedback from members that Salties is providing an opportunity to socially connect with people and our beaches, try new skills (paddling a surf board - see pic below) and becoming a part of our surf club community.

If you'd like to know more, please email: [portsorellslc@gmail.com](mailto:portsorellslc@gmail.com)



## Silver Sponsors



## Bronze Sponsors



We always welcome new sponsors - please give our Sponsorship Officer, Sarah Merrick a call on 0412 025 015

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## Gold Sponsors



## Gold Sponsors cont.



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