WELCOME

Welcome to the May edition of the Nipper Newsletter, where we will focus on the North Queensland Region as they begin their nippers season! If you have any feedback on the content for the newsletter, or anything you would like to contribute, please contact:

Nicole Palmer, SLSQ Membership Development Officer - npalmer@lifesaving.com.au

UPCOMING MEETINGS

North Queensland Branch Executive Meeting
Tuesday, 11 June 2019
Smithfield Regional Office

North Queensland Branch AGM
Saturday, 15 June 2019
Smithfield Regional Office

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

> Around the Branch
> Upcoming Meetings
> SLSQ App
> Safeguarding Our Nippers
> Junior Activity Preliminary Evaluations
> Breaka Nipper of the Week
WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND THE BRANCH

PORT DOUGLAS SLSC
- We have had a great turnout this year for our sign-on day, with 20 new families joining Port Douglas SLSC along with five new active senior members who will commence their Bronze Medallion training this coming Sunday. They will be joining 12 other candidates undertaking Bronze Medallion and Surf Rescue Certificate training this season, plus five candidates doing the observers course.
- We believe the influx of new families has been helped by running a ‘Come and Try’ day for nippers on 10 March this year. Many of our new families have 6-8 year old nippers. The club is also developing a good relationship with the Meteors Swim Club, and this may prove to be great for recruitment in the coming seasons.
- Adults have been recruited also through swim clubs, and via media promotion about the courses we run, and we believe through a general increased interest in volunteering and giving something back to the community.

ELLIS BEACH SLSC
- Ellis Beach Surf Life Saving Club kicked off the 2019 Nipper season on Mother’s Day with fun activities for new families to get to know the kids and parents already involved with the club.
- Around 60 nippers played games, learned about beach safety and swam in the stinger net before taking turns on the boogie boards.
- With around 45 new members joining since sign-on day on 27-28 April, Ellis Beach currently has more than 300 members which is a very healthy size for our little clubhouse, a 40-minute drive north of Cairns city.
- Our first Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion candidates for the year have been training weekly so they can be available for water safety roles.
- Our dedicated band of nippers who compete at carnivals and state level slipped straight back into early Sunday training, while the U15 team who are returning as U17s have barely had time to rest after competing at the 2019 Australian Youth Surf Life Saving Championships.
- They were the first team from Ellis Beach to compete at this level for more than a decade and they did us proud. Anastasia Wynberg was the 20th fastest U15 surf swimmer in Australia – a great achievement for someone who trains in North Queensland waters – while her team mates Mackenzie Whitehouse, Alaina Smith and Connie Southwood also put in a solid performance.
- Ellis Beach has a firm focus on pathways for our members and we are delighted that these young athletes and many of our graduating nippers are returning to volunteer with training our younger members.
- This year we are running an all-abilities program called Sea Eagles alongside Nippers to encourage kids of all abilities to enjoy surf life saving and have fun on the beach.
- Fundraising kicked off with a Mother’s Day stall at Bunnings and the inaugural Bikers for Nippers ride from Cairns city to Ellis Beach. Our first Ellis Beach club event is a social function at the clubhouse on 25 May so the new members can get to know other families.
- One of the most exciting group volunteer activities for our club will be running a food and water station for the bike leg of IRONMAN Asia-Pacific, which comes past our clubhouse on the spectacular Great Barrier Reef Drive on 9 June.
- We have started pool rescue training on Saturdays in the lead-up to the North Queensland Branch Championships on 23 June.
- Later in the year Ellis Beach SLSC is looking forward to hosting the Kozii Challenge to give our Nippers a taste of a different beach competition and a surf clinic to hone their skills before the North Queensland Branch Championships in October.

CAIRNS SLSC
- The Cairns SLSC sign-on days, from 27 - 28 April were a huge success with lots of returning and new families signing up.
- Our first nipper day is the 26th May, our Age managers are excited, the BBQ coordinators are raring to go and the kids just can’t wait for the new season to start.
- One of our main goal this year is family participation and, going by the amount of parents who popped their hands up to help this coming season, it looks as though we may be onto a winner.

ETTY BAY SLSC
- Etty Bay SLSC kicked off their season with their sign-on day on April 28. The Club is continuing to hold Come and Try days throughout May with positive interest shown to join the club so far.

MISSION BEACH SLSC
- Mission Beach SLSC hosted the North Queensland Branch Memorial Day on the 5th of May, providing lifesavers with an opportunity to pay their respects to those who tragically lost their lives in the surf over the past 12 months.
- Mission Beach held our Come and Try day on the 28th of April where we welcomed five new families to the club.
- Nipper sessions in May are running on Friday evenings at Mission Beach pool.
Those who attended the NQB Junior Activities Forum would be familiar with the SLSQ App and all the useful information that it contains. But for those who didn’t, it’s a great source of information for members regarding all things lifesaving including news, carnival calendars, junior activities, and much more!

**It is free to download so simply follow the below links to get it now!**

- Android Devices: [Click here](#)
- Apple Devices: [Click here](#)

Did you know that there is also a desktop version you can access from your computer? Simply save the following link as a favourite to have all the information at your fingertips!


---

**SAFEGUARDING OUR NIPPERS**

Surf Life Saving Queensland recognises that the identification and management of risks of harm to children and young people is essential to the creation of a safe and supportive Surf Life Saving environment.

SLSQ provides guidance and support to clubs in developing and implementing child and youth risk management strategies, through the provision of information, resources and administration conferences.

However, like other liability management provisions, responsibility for developing, monitoring and reviewing child and youth risk management strategies rests with individual clubs/branches who are considered to be best placed to evaluate the services they provide and the service environments in which they are provided.

The strategy will help ensure organisations are providing a safe and supportive service environment for children and young people, by identifying and minimising risks. Screening employees and volunteers through the blue card system is part of the strategy.

SLSQ has developed a range of templates and resources for clubs and members so, for more information simply head to the SLSQ App [HERE](#)!

All members working with children are required to complete the annual Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy Induction which provides an overview of all the policies in place to ensure you are promoting a child safe environment. Have you done your annual CYRMS Induction?


**User:** cyrm

**Password:** member1819

For North Queensland Branch Members you must complete the induction by **31 July 2019**. Unsure if you need to complete it, find a full list of roles in the SLSQ Blue Card Screening Policy on page 4 [HERE](#).
Junior Preliminary Evaluations

To ensure that all children have a suitable swimming ability to allow them to participate in junior activities, SLSQ has developed a Junior Preliminary Skills Evaluation for each age group. All distances set out in the Junior Preliminary Skills Evaluation Table are the standard – find it HERE.

The Junior Preliminary Evaluation has two parts to it:

**Pool Evaluation**

Every junior member is required to participate in the pool evaluation prior to any junior activities being undertaken. It includes a pool swim and a timed survival float. Any child that does not meet the required pool evaluation level cannot participate in any junior activities until the child can successfully complete the pool evaluation.

**Beach Evaluation (run swim run)**

Any child that does complete the pool evaluation successfully must then complete the competency beach evaluation (run-swim-run) for their age group. This ensures all children can demonstrate a standard of competence to enable preliminary levels of survival skills at a beach with conditions similar to what would be experienced during weekly junior activities programs.

**POOL EVALUATION + BEACH EVALUATION = NIPPER PARTICIPATION**

**Competition Evaluation**

The junior competition evaluation is based on the swim competition distances as set out in the current SLSA Surf Sports Manual for that age group and is a standard in the form of an open water swim.

Before junior activities members can complete the Junior Competition Evaluation they must complete the Junior Preliminary Skills Evaluation (Pool Swim and Run-Swim-Run).

**PRELIMINARY EVALUATION + COMPETITION EVALUATION = SURF SPORTS PARTICIPATION**

**FAQs**

**Q:** Is it mandatory for every Nipper to successfully complete the competition evaluation?  
**A:** No, only if the nipper wishes to compete in surf sport events at carnivals.

**Q:** What if my child doesn’t competently complete the preliminary evaluation – beach (run swim run)?  
**A:** If not completed competently, the run-swim-run does not preclude (at the clubs discretion) the child from becoming a member or continuing with junior development or training activities. If the club elects to allow them to participate, it is a requirement that these children must be supervised with a 1:1 ratio until the child can successfully complete the run-swim-run.

**Q:** If a nipper wants to compete at a carnival after 1 January 2020, when should they complete their competition evaluation?  
**A:** After 1 July 2019.

For more information head to the SLSQ App in the Junior Activities Section.
Looking to change up your weekly nipper activities, but stuck for ideas on what to do? The SLSQ games manual offers a variety of different games which promote lifesaving skills in a fun environment. For example:

**Wading Bull Rush** *(surf or flat water)*

**Equipment**
- 4 x water safety officers used as markers

**Minimum Numbers**
- Five per group (you can combine age groups if needed)

**Objective**
Participants are required to wade from each side without getting tagged by the person who is ‘IT’. If a participant is tagged then they are ‘IT’ as well.

**Related Events**
- Wadding

**Instructions**
1. Mark out the area with four water safety officers/parents in the participant’s knee depth of water.
2. Choose one or two participants to be ‘IT’.
3. The ‘IT’ person calls out the name of a participant who then has to run across the course without getting tagged.
4. Participants start at the northern end of the course and must wade to the southern end without being tagged.
5. If a participant is tagged then they are ‘IT’ as well.
6. Game continues until one person is left and caught.

**Other Options**
- Boards bull rush

You can find the games manual on the SLSQ App [HERE](#)!
After a successful North Queensland Branch Junior Activities Forum this month, to all our returning and new members and families in North Queensland Branch – we wish you all the very best for your new season. It is also great to see the Family Participation Program being rolled out in the clubs and this will assist all clubs enormously. Good luck to all our nippers and young surf lifesavers competing at pool rescue carnivals this winter.

With the off-season now upon us in the southern branches it’s now time to start planning for next season, with committees in place and key position holders (eg. age managers coaches and officials just to name a few) all in place and working on club calendars, information booklets and uniforms. If you need any assistance at any time please do not hesitate to contact us.

RAY FIEN
State Junior Activities Advisor
Surf Life Saving Queensland

JAMIE FINDLAY
Membership Development Manager
Surf Life Saving Queensland