

Reminiscence of the Life Member – 1973

After a meeting convened by A.M. Ashton amid the sand dunes at Park Beach when three men: Dave Walch, Esmond Dorney and myself; and two women Mrs. Esmond Dorney, and Mrs. Dave Wright and daughter, one dog (name unknown) plus Ted Davies with his boat crew from Hobart Carlton S.L.S.C. attended to discuss the formation of a surf club at Park Beach. Unanimous decision by all including a yelp from the unnamed dog, most likely bitten by a Jack Jumper at appropriate time.

First committee consisted of A.M. Ashton, chairman, R. Wright, secretary/treasurer, DA. Walch, J.R. Esmond Dorney, Dr .P. Dorney, C.A. Facey and the late W.E. Hallam, with power to co/op our first committee meeting held at the home of Dave Walch in Pine Street, West Hobart

After a lot of hard work by individuals our first bronze squaad Alan Bryce, Henry Brvce, Cliff Wright, Phil Edwards, Garry Woolford, and Rex Wright became the first Active Members of the Park Beach S.L.S.C. Park Beach was patrolled by members from 14th February 1960 the day after gaining their bronze.

These members conducted patrols on our beach under difficult conditions, having to cart the equipment up and down to the Dorny Beach House where it was kept during the week.

Some members started cutting an access to our club house site (after our good Samaritan with a bulldozer was hijacked by Hobart Carlton. When two public minded gentlemen took pity and offered to do the job with a dozer from Webster Woolgrowers.

With the help of C.W.J. Falkinder and the late Athol Townley M.H.R. .s we were able to produce a building from the Department of the Interior and convert it into our present club house, the cutting up and resurrection of the building was in the capable hands of the late Dave Wright helped by all members plus a few civic minded people.

Our thanks in getting Park Beach on the surfing map goes to all those previously mentioned plus:

- Burnie club for the loan of a reel, line and belt.
- Mr. Keven Baldock Proxy delegate to State Centre meetings.
- Mr. E.C. (Ben McKay M.L.C. for transport etc.
- Mr. Noel Davies Hobart Carlton S.L.S.C.
- Mr. Ben Lovelock Hobart Carlton S.L.S.C donation of trophy. Sorell Municipal Council and Mrs. Newberry concerning allotment of land for club activities.
- Mr. Frank Jenkins Hobart Olympic Pool.
- Mr. Trevor Newman transportation.
- Mr. Norman for advise concerning land.
- Mr. Hall Department of Interior.
- Mr. Carl Rector, Mr. Barry Cole, and Mr. Allan Wilson for advise on matters appertaining Surf Lifesaving.

- Mr. Bob Newbiggen transport etc.
- B.P. for equipment.
- The public for cooperation and help to our patrols.

Our club was granted affiliation with the S.L.S.A. of Australia at the Annual General Meeting of the Tasmanian State Centre prior to the 1959-60 season.

On Saturday 30th January 60 Mr. R. Bryden Chief Superintendent of Nation Council accompanied by Mr. B. Lovelock met A.M. Ashton, f. Dorney and R. Wright at Park Beach to discuss the 1962 interstate carnival at Carlton. Mr. Bryden was very impressed with our beach.

The Park Beach flag was flown for the first time at Penguin in March 1960.

We always seem to be concerned about our finance but at the conclusion of our first year we finished with £12.13.2 in the bank.

From an initial membership of 6 active and 6 others we seem to have gone a long way.

“Some of our early members that have left their mark in the history of Park Beach are:

- Rex Wright – Past captain secretary treasurer.
- Ian Dugid – Past secretary and his wife Elizabeth, who designed our sea house.
- Grame Williams – Past treasurer.
- Esmond Dorney – Hon. Architect
- Arthur Griffith – Past Vice President whose offices we used for meetings.
- Brian Dunkin – Past publicity officer.
- Tom Bates – Valuable services rendered.
- George Debnam, E.J. Pool – Sign writing
- E. Hill
- Peter Biscoe – Past club captain
- John Mulcahay – Past chief instructor.
- G. Salmon – Past boat captain.
- Gary Woolford – Past gear steward.

1961-62 Bronze Medallion Holders Still Active

Chris Guesdon – President

Jeff Morley – Secretary

Gil Oakes – Vice President.

Ian Mullholland – Country member

Geoff Moffat – Past secretary.

The late Tom Keenan – Past Assistant Secretary / Registrar

Ted Cruise – Past Vice President.

1961-62

A boat shed had to be added to our club house to accommodate our first boat the *Captain Bradlev*, passed down from Ulverstone S.L.S.C. We also acquired the *E and M Stone* on a pass down from Hobart Carlton and re named the *Marc Ashton*. Our gear then being valued at £205 and a club house of £800.

This was the year that our Ladies Auxiliary was formed and what a marvelous job they are still doing without them this club would not be so far advanced.

It was in the 1962-63 season 9th and 10th March that our first competitive team went interstate, consisting of B. Foley, I. Mulholland, J. Morley, W. Cannon, C. Guesdon, G. Moffat (Team Manager). Our patrol tower was constructed through the courtesy of Tom Bates by Wonderlich Ltd. and paint supplied by Dulux Ltd.

This is a brief summary of our club from 1959 to 63. I hope it brings back fond memories to our old members and information to present day club men.

Marc Ashton – Life Member