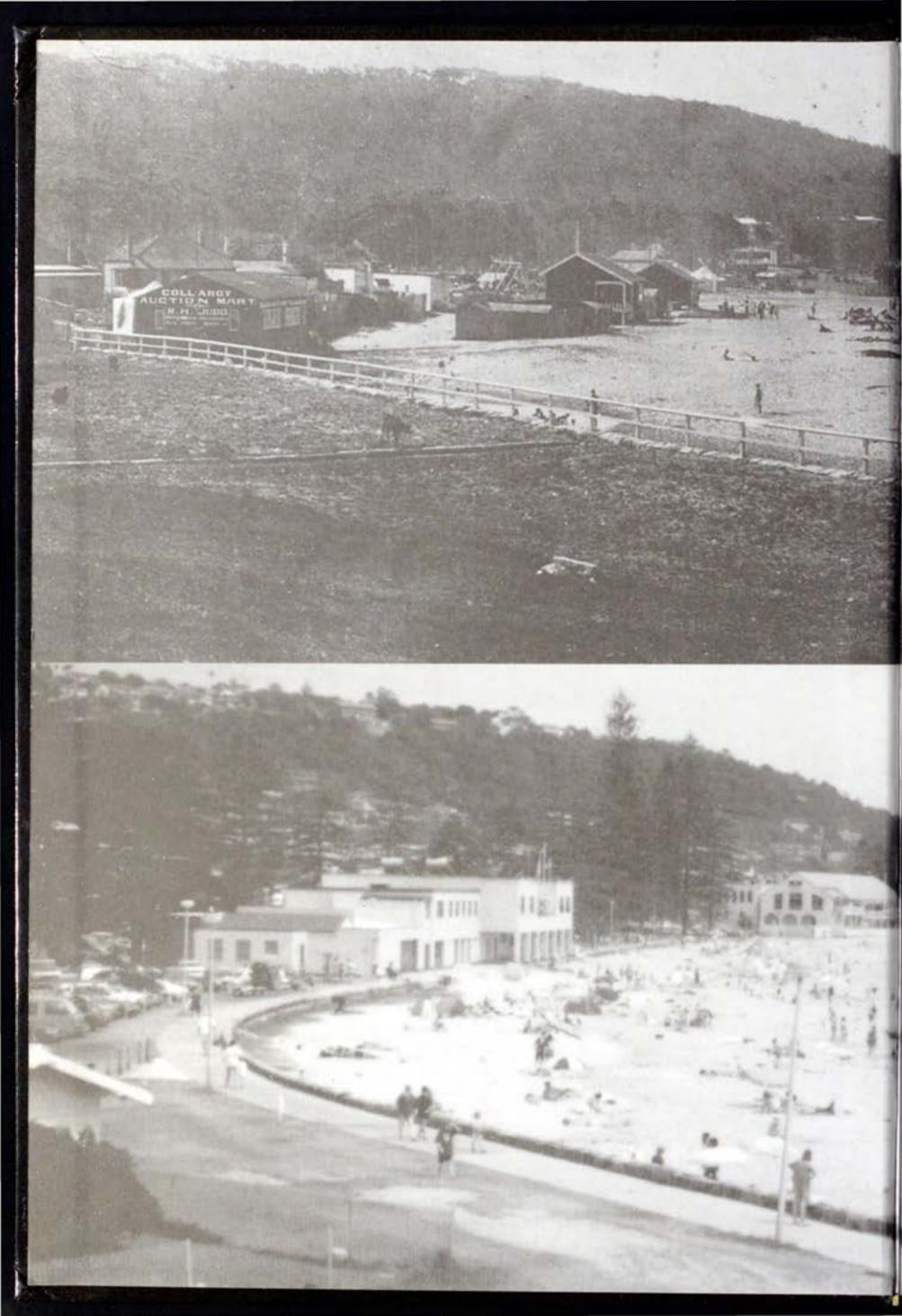
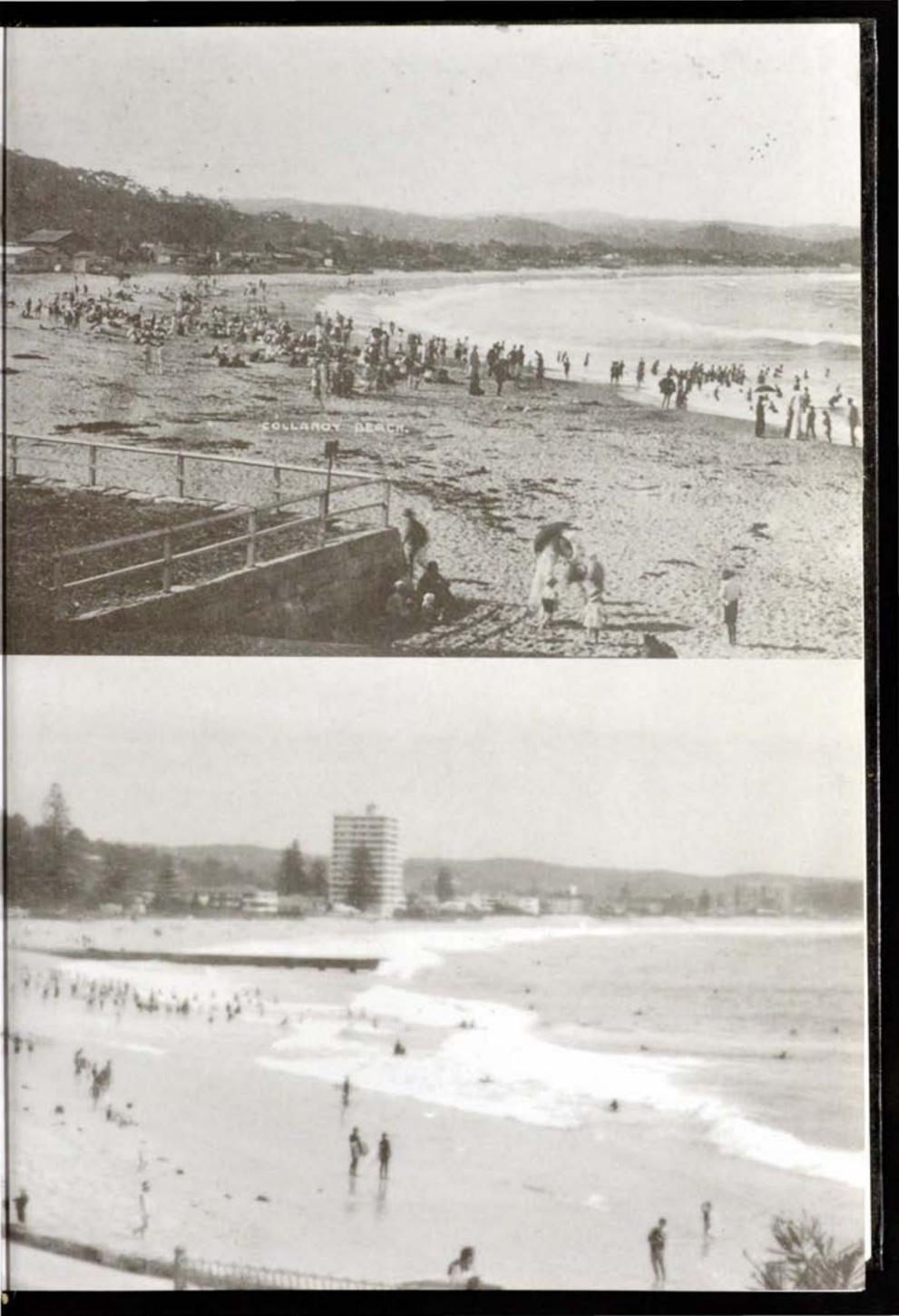
# VIGILANT AND VICTORIOUS



A COMMUNITY HISTORY OF THE COLLAROY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB 1911-1995

SEAN BRAWLEY









## COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front cover: Club Members 1915.

Back cover :Collaroy Beach and Clubhouse circa 1912

Inside Front cover, Top :The beach 1918.\*

Bottom:The Beach 1996

Inside back cover:Club Members, 1995.



# VIGILANT AND VICTORIOUS



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A COMMUNITY HISTORY OF THE COLLAROY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB 1911–1995

SEAN BRAWLEY

COLLAROY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC.

Published by Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club Inc.

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This book is dedicated to all those Men and Women who, as members of Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club, have contributed to the Club's proud record of Vigilance and Service since formation in 1911.

### Collaroy

Here Nature dwells in charmed content,
'Mid scenes she loves, and doth disclose
Bush, beach and sea, in beauty blent,
Where all, 'neath Heaven's smile, repose,
At Collaroy.

From fern-clad heights see Collaroy

Whose beach gleams white, a cresecent bright,

Its golden hours without alloy

Where unto me, croons a blue sea

At Collaroy.

And oh! There's music in the tide,
O'er sand-bars rippling from the sea,
As happy moments passing glide
Yet treasured in our memory.
Of Collaroy

The purple shadows of the night Steal o'er the waves from Western hills, And Ocean's beach in mystic light, With Mystery and Romance thrills At Collaroy

Oh! years have flown, I'm
older grown, yet still the charm of land and sea
Will lure me back, to where I own
A tiny place, though all to me
At Collaroy.

Walter R. Dibbs Former Member

### Forewords

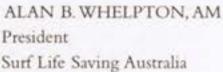
I am delighted to support the Foreword for the Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club in this unique history book that is a fitting tribute to the Foundation members right through to the current members at Collaroy.

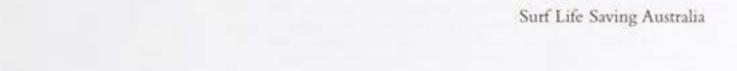
The Collaroy Club is one of the oldest and most respected Surf Life Saving Clubs in Australia and this excellent book details its full history as the Club enters its 85th year of voluntary service to the community. It is a publication that all members will be eager to read and I am sure very proud to share.

Author, Dr Sean Brawley has written Collaroy's history in his unique style that flows so well to portray the accuracies of all aspects and readers will find it difficult to put it down prior to reading the very last page.

Collaroy club is one of the icons in Surf Life Saving history. It has produced many champions but above all has a very proud history of service on the beach and to its community.

I congratulate the Collaroy club and all responsible for the production of such a quality publication and wish Collaroy many more years of continuing service and success.





My family and Company association with the Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club is now in its 50th year since your famous boat rescue back in 1946 and to see that the Club has completed and published such a high quality history book covering all of your 84 years really does give me great pleasure.

The book details all of the main activities and events from the foundation meeting and formation some 84 years ago right up to recent times and is a credit to the Club's Author, Dr Sean Brawley, and all those who have assisted him.

All members of the Club who have contributed over the years in Vigilance and Service by voluntarily patroling Collaroy Beach and, thus preserving the public's safety, will be enriched on seeing and reading this outstanding publication.

Congratulations,



DON McWILLIAM Patron Collaroy SLSC Inc.

# History Book Committee

Discussion within the Collaroy Club of the proposed writing and publishing of our history commenced proper late in 1993 and a Club History Committee was duly elected. From day one members of this committee were unanimous in their belief that the finished book would be one of a very high literary standard and contain as many photos as possible.

Our next problem was to find a suitable author and it was not until April, 1994 that the committee approached the School of History at the University of NSW and met Lecturer Dr Sean Brawley. From then on we knew that we had the author that really suited and one who also was a life saver.

Sean's skills as a writer are most evident in this history and his finished product is really something that is beyond our wildest dreams in quality. It is a literary product that, in our eyes, is just outstanding.

Over a ten month period Sean has conducted interviews with some 170 individuals, as well as conducting research in various libraries and historical bodies etc.

To the following, on behalf of all members of Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club, we say a special 'thank you' for, without your time, effort and contributions this project would not have been possible:

Dick Twight OAM, Miss May Fowler MBE, Mrs Rae Milsted, Wal Eadie, Eddie and Mrs Robinson, Phil Pfafflin, Brian Batty, Noel Hall, Ron and Pam Hall, Arthur Calder, Dave Spear, Les Deveridge, Miss Betty Sheldon, Val Davoren (nee Deeney), Jim Sowerby, Charles Adams, Ed Playfair, Bert Chequer, Ray Barker, Wilfred Perry, Bill 'Woofa' Barnett, Pat Armstrong, Lance Try, Graeme Bruce, Wal Osborne, Miss Eva Osborne, Mrs Phyllis Williams, Ian Proctor, Stan Twight, Bill Abbott, Warringah Shire Council, Peter Montgomery, Peter and Judy Murphy, Wal McGrigor, Neil and Dot Montgomery, Jean Allan, Bob Langbein, Bob Cooley, John Ison, Bill Whitnall, Ritchie Lytham, Bernie Carr, Geoff Small, Ken Coulston, Dean Hyland, Andrew Denovan,



John Ison



John McGennan

Belinda Kelleard, Celina Chaffer, Rick and Robyn Dilger, Wayne Springall, John Lewis, Jonathon Farrell, Dick Graham, Col Newman, Graham Carlisle OAM, Lawrie McGaw, Paul Booth, Len Gibbons, Tom Pring, Mark Reece, Peter MacMahon, Greg MacMahon, Sean Kenny, Paul De Kort, Peter McDermott, Lionel Bray, John Ellis, Alan Wright, Greg Falk, Ray Isaacs, Gary and Michelle Milsted, John Ward, John Adams, Ed Diggins, John Dolman, Ken Hyde, Tom Whelan, Local History Resource Unit — Warriewood, Bill Goodman OAM, Neil McGaw, Gary Montgomery, Chris Montgomery, Tony Haworth, Warringah Library, Mal Ticehurst, Alan Lance, Vince Holdt, John McGennan, Australian War Memorial, John Bradford, Mitchell Library, Judy Macarthur - Westpac Archives, Steve Rodriguez, Mick Chapman, National Library of Australia, David Rogalsky, Reid Barton, Peter Hall, Sandra Darrock, Manly Daily, Hector McDonald OAM, George Redwood, Les Redwood, Barry Cripps, Mrs Leonard, Tim Bristow, Rod Macqueen, Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society Inc, Bob Moore, Ian 'Inky' Montgomery, 'Snow' Swift, Manly Library, John Woodley, Des Woodley, Andy Collins, Ian Rylands, Macleay Museum, Roy Wildman, George Reid, Olga Bray, Marj. Macqueen, Darryll Ford, Geoff King, Rob Senior, Eddie McIver, Tony Hickey, Peter McCurtayne, Surf Life Saving Australia, Rob Urquhart, Don West, Don McWilliam, Steve Scott, Steven Woodley, Salvation Army, 'Tim' E H Loneragan, Ian Faviell, Max and Shiela Lyne, Len Wildman MBE, Graham Bartlett, Doug Hart, Geoff Booth, Chris Bradford, Gayle Robson, Kent Broadhead, Ted Ashby, Jack O'Neill, Brian Keys, John Morcombe, Miss Elsie Greenwood, Brian Booth, John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd, Palm Beach Surf Club, Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc. In addition, a further special thank you to all those who have contributed by providing scrap books, photos and newspaper clippings etc.

The title Vigilant and Victorious was selected as it depicts all aspects of our Club activities. 'Vigilant' in our Club's primary responsibility of ensuring the public's safety whilst they are enjoying our beach and 'Victorious' not only as winners in the competition arena but in meeting the many varied challenges which have confronted us over the years.

Your history committee's final hurdle was in printing and publishing our manuscript and from the beginning we had no idea how this most expensive task would be achieved.

These special people have come forward and DONATED their individual skills and business resources enabling us to produce this extremely high quality publication. 'Thank you' —

Bill Sheridan — Photographer

Gloria Dive and Peter Shepherd — Sub Editors

Leonie Felan - Supplementary Typesetting

Ray Isaacs - Typesetting and Layout

Mick and Mitchell Chapman, Management and Staff of Film Combiners Pty Ltd - Lithography

Hyde Family Trust - Printing Benefactor

At the end of this book we have detailed the Club's Honour Boards and all Bronze Medallion holders since formation.

We do hope you enjoy reading this Club history book as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

JOHN ISON and JOHN McGENNAN

## About the Author

Dr Sean Brawley (SLSA Bronze Medallion N39740) is a lecturer in the School of History at the University of New South Wales and is also the Honorary Historian to Surf Life Saving Australia. His publications include *The White Peril: Foreign Relations and Asian Immigration to Australasia and North America*, 1919-1978 and Beating the Odds: Thirty Years of the Totalizator Agency Board of New South Wales. In winter his interest is rugby union and in 1995 he was North Cronulla Surf Lifesavers Rugby "Clubman of the Year". He lives in Sutherland Shire with his wife Susan Shaw.



In approaching the history of Collaroy SLSC I have attempted to ensure that the end result is not simply a work which looks into the Club but one which also looks out to place it in the wider surf lifesaving movement, the Collaroy community and the nation. To denote this intent I have inserted the term 'Community History' in the title. This term can be taken to mean many things. Community History was once more commonly known as 'Local History'. The reasons for changing the label included the realisation that the history of a community need not be bound by locality — a fact amply demonstrated in this book. More generally I would like to assert for this book an importance for the local Collaroy community. I hope I have adequately demonstrated the importance of the Surf Club in the development of the Collaroy township. The fact that the Surf Club was the first community organisation or business in the area to use the label 'Collaroy' in defining itself, is illustrative of this point. The community's pioneers were the Surf Club's pioneers. Finally, the wider surf life saving movement is another 'community' encapsulated in this book. As the centenary of the movement in 2007 approaches and attention turns to the history of surf lifesaving, individual club histories will become even more important. It is from within such histories that incidents can be seen at first hand which later shaped the movement as a whole.

In writing the history of the Club I have attempted to make the book appealing not only to members but other interested parties, including sports historians. Whether I have found this balance is not for me to decide but as my earlier comments would suggest I believe such histories to have an importance which transcends the Club itself.

The book is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter traces the development of the Collaroy area after white settlement and the events both within and outside the local community which led to the formation of the surf club in 1911. The chapter concludes with the impact of the Great War on the Club and the arrival of the surf boat and surfboard at Collaroy. The second chapter examines the 1920s, a decade which proved to be one of the most successful in the Club's history. During this period the Club secured its first Australian Championship win amidst a plethora of competitive success. The Great Depression, however, marked the beginning of waning fortunes highlighted by economic woes and the first death of a member whilst in the service of the Club. The 1930s are captured in Chapter Three.

The fourth chapter traces the war years, when many members saw service overseas and the Club was kept going through the efforts of a small group of senior members ably assisted by juniors and boys as young as 10 years. The war years see a resurgence in the Club's competitive stakes and lead to Maroubra Beach in 1946 and the final of the Senior Boat Race. The Chapter concludes with a story of heroism and the beginning of an association between the Club and McWilliam's Wines which continues to this day.

The period from the late 1940s to the end of the 1950s are captured in Chapter Five. These years are marked by the construction of a new club house, amusing incidents such as the voyage of the 'Hellship', and the events of 1956 which saw both triumph and tragedy for the Club. The 1960s are characterised by the emergence of the Malibu Board era and its consequences for the Club. The decade also sees the Club host its first Australian Championships and hails a resurgence in competitive fortunes. These incidents and issues are captured in the sixth chapter.

The penultimate chapter traces the Club's ups and downs from the early 1970s to the mid-1980s. During these years the Club underwent significant changes reflecting not only internal issues but wider developments in the surf life saving movement and the community more generally. The Club had great difficulties during much of this period, culminating with the threat of closure and the Club's salvation during the 1985/86 season. The last chapter is a survey of the Club's achievements in the last ten years. The importance of some issues and events during this period may only become apparent in a later time and place — a job for a future Club historian.

As noted, the research for this book has included interviews with over 170 people — members and non-members alike. Most of these interviews were recorded on audio tape leaving a living archive of over 200 hours of reminiscences — the earliest memories dating back to the early 1920s through the reflections of individuals such as E.H. 'Tim' Loneragan (whose nickname was used by another member, Charles Bristow,

as the name of his first son). With three of those interviewed (Phil Pfafflin, Bert Chequer and Steve Rodriguez) having since passed away, the importance of these tapes needs little explanation. They form an important community archive which will be held by the Club. Obviously not all the stories held on these tapes have found their way into the book. These tapes, therefore, still have many tales to tell. What I have been unable to include in 1995 may prove captivating to future historians.

One of the reasons for the amount of Oral History undertaken in completion of this project was the dearth of written material held by the Club of its past activities. When I commenced this project I was given little more than a set of Annual Reports, which in themselves held considerable gaps such as from Foundation to the Mid-1920s and the late 1930s to the early war years. As research has progressed some of the missing reports have been found and other documentation has appeared through scrapbooks and earlier efforts to chronicle the Club's history. This material will also be held in the Club as a resource for interested members and historians.

Oral History is, understandably, an imprecise science when it relies fundamentally on human memory. Memories can became confused placing events in different times and places or different perspectives can produce different recollections. Part of my job as historian has been to try and corroborate testimony against other testimony or the written record. Some times this has been possible and on other occasions it has not. Readers may find that the book's chronicling of a certain event is not how they recall it — that is the nature of history and history writing. Sometimes it says more about the present than the past.

I strongly endorse the expression of thanks extended by the Book Committee to those individuals who have offered their time and assistance in support of this project. Praise must also be directed to the Book Committee itself which has overseen the project to its successful conclusion. As the historian completing the task I was greatly assisted by the Committee who were essentially my research assistants for the project. Much of the testimony and other written and photographic material uncovered was a product of John Ison's ability to track down long forgotten members and their memorabilia. On occasion 'Iso' simply opened a phone book and made calls until he found the person he was seeking out or someone who knew them. That the project has been completed at all owes much to John McGennan's administrative and liaison skills. 'Macca' kept the project on track even on occasions when I was having my doubts. The dedication and persistence of these two men often left me flabbergasted and their enthusiasm was contagious. Never in my wildest dreams had I expected that this large tome would be the outcome when I started this project. The efforts of 'Macca' and 'Iso' allowed it to be so — with strong support from Ray Isaacs, Mick Chapman and Ken Hyde. I have no doubt they take as much pride in the end result as I do. Finally I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my wife Susan who read the drafts of each chapter and offered countless useful suggestions.

SEAN BRAWLEY

# Contents

	Forewards	ix
	Preface x	iii
1	Beginnings	1
2	Halcyon Days	35
3		85
4	War and Reformation	21
5	Reconstruction	59
6		25
7	A Surf Club Lost — A Surf Club Found	77
8	Building on Success	29
	Notes	53
	Office Bearers, Honour Boards	63
		87
		95
		99
		03



# Beginnings

Many a pretty surfer, many a happy toddler, many a bronzed life-saver, and many a big blue wave will romp and break on the lovely ocean front where the Collaroy left her name.

In the time between the Dreaming and European settlement the Cannalgal clan lived and died around what are now described as Sydney's Northern Beaches.<sup>2</sup> For the Cannalgal the sea was the focus of their daily lives. The sea provided not only one of their main sources of food and a focal point for rituals but was also a source of recreation. Long before a European had seen the Northern Beaches the Cannalgal people had surfed its many beaches.

Collaroy Beach was one such area where the Cannalgal lived their lives. It was beside this beach (where the present playground is situated) that the Cannalgal would sometimes prepare their food and engage in rituals. The large headland, part of a long extinct volcano, which jutted

out into the sea nearby was sacred ground, housing a burial site.

Members of the Cannalgal still lived and surfed around Collaroy in 1770 when Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook RN claimed the Australian continent for England. Neither Cook nor any of his crew set foot in the area, though the Endeavour's log recorded the sighting of Long Reef headland on 6 May 1770. Cook described the headland as a 'promontory' but did not name it.

The arrival of the First Fleet in January 1788 saw the beginnings of European encroachment on the Northern Beaches. On 15 April that year Governor Arthur Phillip returned to the small cove on the northern shore of the harbour which he had called 'Manly' after the stature of the male members of the Cannalgal he had seen there a few months earlier. From Manly, Phillip's party moved overland along the northern beaches to a large body of water he had earlier named Pitt Water after English Prime Minister Sir William Pitt the Younger.

The story of the white settlement of Collaroy begins in 1797, on the other side of the world. That year, in Wiltshire, England, a man named James Jenkins was sentenced to death for stealing sheep. With the sentence later commuted to transportation, Jenkins soon after found himself in the penal colony of New South Wales. Being a stone mason by trade, he discovered that his talents were much in demand in the new colony. Earning his freedom he was granted

parcels of land near Balmain and soon held extensive farming interests.3

His search for good farmland brought him to the Northern Beaches in the early 1820s. At that time the area between Long Reef and the Narrabeen Lakes was dominated by two large estates. Four hundred and ten acres covering much of Narrabeen and Collaroy were held by John Ramsay. Because his grant covered part of the imposing plateau (Collaroy Plateau) which dominated the area, the plateau was named Mount Ramsay and the grant became known as the 'Mount Ramsay Estate'. South of the Mount Ramsay Estate, in the area around Long Reef (which had been named in the early 1800s to distinguish it from Little Reef imediately north of Bungan head), were two land grants which had been held by William Cossar. These consisted of a 500 acre grant encompassing Long Reef which was known as 'Cloonagun' or

'Clurigan' and a further 200 acres south of the Dee Why lagoon. Some members of the Cannalgal still lived in the area, though up to 80 per cent of their number had died of European diseases within four years of the arrival of the First Fleet. Those remaining were gradually dispossessed of their traditional lands by the encroachment of European settlement.

In 1823, due to financial difficulties, Ramsay lost control of his grant and it was bought by James Jenkins. Jenkins placed 200 head of cattle on the grant but found he needed more land. Two hundred acres to the north, around Warriewood and Mona Vale, was owned by Jenkins' friend, Alexander MacDonald, who bequeathed the land to Jenkins' children on his death. Eventually Jenkins also secured Cossar's land, some of which had been sold in the interim to the the Government Surgeon D'arcy Wentworth, who also had extensive interests around Manly. The Long Reef headland became the centre of the Jenkins estate and the property became known simply as 'Long Reef'. With convict labour Jenkins had a road built from Collaroy to Balgowlah to service his properties.

By the 1850s the Parish of Manly Cove, which encapsulated the Jenkins estate, was still sparsely settled — even the Jenkins family (James having died in 1846) was not living in the area on a full time basis. In 1852 Henry Gilbert Smith, an Englishman recently arrived in the Colony from Sussex, acquired much of the land around Manly. With memories of the Sussex resort of Brighton still firmly in mind, Smith resolved to turn Manly into an antipodean version of the popular English seaside town. As the first step in his plan he renamed the area 'New Brighton' and purchased two ferries which would be essential to bring the residents of Sydney town to the resort.

As the century progressed and more of Smith's plans were realised, New Brighton became an increasingly popular vacation destination for Sydney's well-to-do families. With its popularity the resort town moved slowly northward along Steyne beach, drawing attention to locales further along the coast.

Into the latter half of the nineteenth century the Jenkins estate remained virtually untouched. The Long Reef estate and the MacDonald bequest were owned solely by Jenkins' daughter Elizabeth while the remaining parcels of the estate were jointly owned by Elizabeth and her siblings, Martha and John. Neither Martha nor Elizabeth ever married — Elizabeth being of the opinion that marriage was a sin — and they lived together in a large homestead near the present day Homestead Street in Collaroy. The northward progress of Manly would have eventually focussed attention on the area but events on the night of 21 January 1881 hastened Collaroy's development.

In the 1880s most trade between Sydney and Newcastle was carried out by sea. One of the ships which made the Sydney-Newcastle-Sydney run was a paddle driven steamer, the SS Collaroy. The Collaroy had been built in Birkenhead, England, in the 1850s for the Grafton Steamship Company. It was named after a large sheep station between the Liverpool Range and the Goulburn River, to the west of the central western New South Wales town of Merriwa. Perhaps as early as 1824 the land encompassing the station had been promised by the Crown to Walter Stevenson Davidson. An Englishman, Davidson was the sole proprietor of W.S. Davidson and Co. which had held commercial interests in New South Wales, England and China. In New South Wales Davidson played an important role in the early development of the wool industry and was a close friend of the Macarthur family. It appears that Davidson originally called the property 'Carleroi' and left it, at some time in the 1830s, to the management of his nephew Patrick Leslie. Leslie mismanaged the property and so Davidson



An early survey map of the district detailing the Ramsay and Cossar Estates — Salvation Army Heritage Preservation Section.

decided to sell, despite the fact no deed to the land had ever been issued.<sup>5</sup> In August 1839 Davidson sold the property to George Clive (a descendant of Lord Robert Clive of India) and Edward Hamilton. Over the years, the property's name had evolved from 'Carleroi' to 'Carleroy' to 'Collaroy'. In a letter dated 16 August 1839, Davidson informed the Macarthur family that Clive and Hamilton had 'purchased my property and become occupiers of Collaroy'. The station's role in the development of Australia's wool industry was significant. In September 1882 the *Illustrated Sydney News* noted that the fame of Collaroy's Merino flock was widespread. A 'Collaroy Ram' was a prized possession.

By 1881 the SS Collaroy was owned by the Newcastle Steamship Company and had been plying the Newcastle-Sydney-Newcastle run for 28 years. In the early hours of 21 January 1881 Sydney harbour was covered by a dense fog which hampered shipping. The Collaroy was overdue from Newcastle, but its tardiness was put down to the weather conditions. Around midday, however, the Harbour Master received a telegram from Manly stating that the ship had run aground 'on a beach close to Long Reef'. With further regard to the vessel's location the Sydney Morning Herald later reported: 'The place where she is on shore is the most sheltered in the locality. As the tide rose the waves beat her further on the beach just where the low lying road to Pittwater takes a sweep near the sea, and had the 'COLLAROY' been able to get a trifle more than her length inshore she would have been athwart the Queen's highway'.

The Collaroy's skipper, Captain Martin Thompson, reported to authorities that while relieved of duty on the bridge, the ship had become disoriented and when called from his cabin to attempt to identify Long Reef he discovered to his horror that the ship was actually bearing down on a beach. He ordered full steam reverse but the vessel did not respond before it had run onto the beach. So soft was the ship's encounter with the beach, Thompson reported, that the sleep of the ship's 40 passengers was not even disturbed.<sup>9</sup>

Less flattering explanations of the accident centred on the Collaroy's slow speed and Thompson's habit of keeping the vessel close to the coastline to make up time against those



Artist's impression of Collaroy Beach from the Basin 1861 — Artist George Ingelow 'View from Long Reef'
Dixson Galleries, State Library of New South Wales..



Captain Martin Thompson - Master of S.S. Collaroy.

faster vessels which navigated farther out to sea. On the day the Collaroy left Newcastle it was supposedly locked in a race to Sydney with a rival, the SS Morpeth. Thompson was awoken to find his ship bearing down on Long Reef and so in an attempt to save the vessel he deliberately ran it onto the beach, directly in front of where the Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club house now stands.

Upon the vessel running aground the crew and passengers waited for low tide before simply being lowered onto the beach. Seeing the light from the Jenkins sisters' homestead, the survivors approached the house only to find that, presumably frightened by the commotion, the Jenkins sisters refused to offer any assistance — it being claimed Elizabeth called: 'Get off the premises, or I will sool the dogs on you'. 10.

A tug boat, the Commodore, under the command of Captain Ned Francis happened upon the Collaroy the following afternoon as it was proceeding to sea for a fishing trip. Two lines were sent across to the steamer but the Commodore was unable to move the beached vessel. Late in the afternoon another tug, the Mystery, arrived from Sydney and in

partnership with the Commodore tried to wrest the Collaroy from the sand, but to no avail. In the following days a combination of tugs from Sydney and Newcastle attempted to pull the steamer off the beach without success. Not only were such efforts proving unsuccessful but they were also expensive. Two tugs from Sydney, the Bungaree and the Prince Alfred, had alone cost the Collaroy's owners over £300 to hire for only a few days. 11 The ships cargo of wool, potatoes, tallow hides, 40 pigs and 30 sheep were unloaded and transported by land to Manly. While there had been no casualties during the accident, tragedy struck on the following Sunday morning. The ship's long boat was conveying an extra anchor out to sea when it was capsized by the surf. One seaman, Horace Dalziel, lost his life 'being entangled in the heavy sea growth'. 12 The first death to Collaroy's seaweed had been recorded.

With the vessel only partly covered by insurance the *Herald* concluded that the *Collaroy* 'now promises to be a total loss'. <sup>13</sup> The paper's predictions, however, did not come to fruition. With the vessel sheltered from the more destructive surf further along the beach, it remained locked but undamaged in the sands.

In the ensuing months news of the spectacle spread to Sydney town drawing tourists to come and inspect the beached vessel. Within a short space of time a trip to see the *Collaroy* was one of Sydney's premier tourist attractions. The *Collaroy* was even viewed by Queen Victoria's grandsons, Prince George of Wales (later King George V — Queen Elizabeth's grandfather) and Prince Albert Victor (the Duke of Clarence) during a trip from Manly to Newport as part of their visit to Australia in 1881. The Princes recorded their approach to the 'Deewhy' Lagoon and Long Reef whereupon they saw 'the hull of a coasting steamer which had gone ashore . . . lying stranded and deserted, though she looked comparatively uninjured by the sea'. <sup>14</sup> Fishermen would often camp in the now empty vessel during week-end fishing trips, 'using the steerage or the saloon according to their fancy' after paying the watchman a small fee. <sup>15</sup> As

well as the spectacle of the beached vessel, many visitors were captured by the natural beauty of the area.

Despite continuous and concerted efforts by the ship's owners they failed to refloat the Collaroy. Eventually it was sold to a local Sydney businessman who used soap and candle grease to coax the vessel off the sands — a man being killed during the attempt when a cable snapped. On 19 September 1884, nearly four years after it first ran aground, the Collaroy was refloated. It returned to the Sydney-Newcastle route for a few years before having its steam engine and paddle removed and being converted to a masted barquentine. It made two trips to the West Coast of North America carrying coal to San Francisco and returning with wood from Puget Sound before it was wrecked on a reef north of San Francisco in thick fog in June 1889.

Few traces of the Collaroy's adventure remained except for its anchor chain which was quickly buried under the sand (being unearthed periodically by large seas for many years), and a life saver buoy which later took pride of place at the front of the Narrabeen Public School. The Collaroy's biggest legacy was the name it would eventually give to the area near where it was beached. For the time being, however, the area remained known as Narrabeen and the

beach continued to be known as Long Reef Beach.

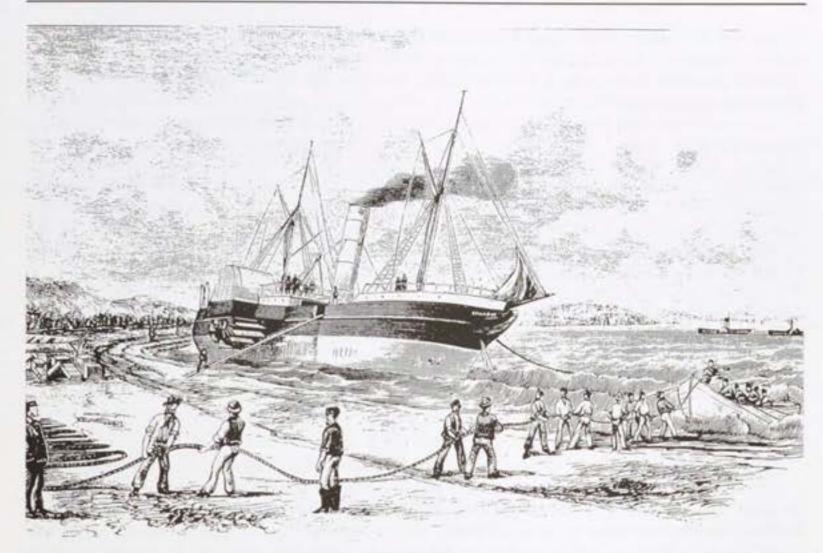
In light of the refloating of the Collaroy the first efforts to promote the area as an idyllic residential location were made. A property developer by the name of Obed West bought from the Jenkins family land between current day Eastbank Avenue, Collaroy, in the south and Malcolm Street, North Narrabeen, in the north. In the west it was bounded by the approaches to the plateau and the Narrabeen Lakes, while in the East absolute waterfront blocks were established from Collaroy to North Narrabeen. In West's subdivision there was no public access to the beach other than at the the end of streets and a small reserve set aside at the southern end where the playground backing onto Birdwood Avenue is now located. Given that much of the land was from the old Mount Ramsay Estate the new subdivision took the same name. Pittwater Road was then known as Ocean Street and carried on down the present Ocean Street at a fork near Goodwin Street. The road that carried onto the present day Narrabeen shops was known as Victoria Street and continued into Waterloo Street. All the other street names in West's subdivision were as they are today except for Lisle Street, Narrabeen, which did not exist. Noting the area's location with the imposing plateau of Mount Ramsay behind it, a promotional flyer for West's 'Mount Ramsay Estate' enthused:

The railway must come here soon and with the railway the people of the city. The railway should bring Narrabeen country within an hour of the city and then — let us make the most of now and never heed then, nor linger, nor ponder too long about any single hill. If the tide be low get down to the beach at the side of the mountain, down where a year ago the Collaroy lay stranded and there you may ride as you please for three miles upon the hard white sand.<sup>17</sup>

West had mixed success with his Mount Ramsay Estate. His plans for a suburb were not realised and those blocks which were sold were purchased as sites for weekenders, rather than permanent homes. Most purchasers were themselves speculators and did very little with the blocks they purchased. Despite West's plans for the subdivision it remained rural and isolated.

West, however, was not the only person whose dreams had drawn him back to the area. One of the many thousands of visitors to the Collaroy during its incarceration was a young 15 year old by the name of Stanley Charles Twight. Like many other visitors, Twight was enamoured with the pleasant aspect of the area but unlike most he determined then and there that once he was married he would return to the area to live. In the mid 1890s Twight met and married a New Zealander, Florence Mabel Penny, and so set about realising his ambition.

By the mid 1890s the disposition of those lands remaining in the hands of the Jenkins family had been greatly complicated. A change in circumstances for Elizabeth Jenkins, however, proved fortuitous for Twight. In 1892 New South Wales experienced a disastrous bank crash which helped pave the way for the Depression of the 1890s. Jenkins held substantial interests in the Australian Banking Company and held fears that she would have some financial responsibility to depositors. An arrangement was reached with the Salvation Army, of which



Two views of the beached S.S. *Collaroy. Above:* a sketch of the scene shortly after the accident. In the foreground crew members attempt to take securing anchors to sea whilst cargo is unloaded — *Illustrated Sydney News. Below:* the S.S. *Collaroy* became a popular tourist attraction — *John Morcombe Collection.* 



she was an ardent supporter. She would give the Army an amount of her estate in return for their acceptance of her liability with the Australian Banking Company which was estimated at £2400. She later bequeathed the whole of her estate to the Salvation Army, resulting in

protracted court action by her relatives.

It was during this period of economic distress that the Twights secured six acres of the Jenkins estate at the foot of the plateau escarpment behind the deadend Collaroy, Jenkins and Fielding Streets which at the time went no further up the hill than lots 19, 19 and 15 respectively. This area had been originally cultivated as an orchard by John Ramsay around 80 years before and still held the name 'Ramsay's Orchard'. It was here that the Twights established a small orchard selling Nelson cooking apples and Rustic eating apples to the Sydney Produce Markets in Ultimo. The family prospered and in 1897 Florence gave birth to a son, Norman, who was followed by another son, Charles, in 1902.

By the turn of the century the grounding of the Collaroy was a distant memory for most Sydneysiders and the area remained a quiet and relaxed backwater for those who knew of its existence. Events in Manly, however, were having an indirect bearing on the area's future.

The first recorded death from surf bathing in Australia was reported in the Sydney Gazette on 18 July 1818. The opportunities for surf bathing in the new colony, however, were limited. In 1833 the Government passed an Act prohibiting bathing in Sydney Cove or Darling Harbour between 6am and 8pm. In 1838 this law was extended to the nearby beaches. The law banned bathing 'near to or within view of any public wharf, quay, bridge, street, road, or other public resort within the limits of any of the towns'. 19

Such laws on public bathing had been very much influenced by English precedents where 'open sea' bathing had been frowned upon. Of course such laws failed to appreciate local climate and conditions and were reflected in other aspects of Australian society such as heavy European dress. Sydney had weather conditions which in no way matched conditions in Great Britain yet in summer Sydneysiders stifled in attire not designed for the environment and

unable to partake of a refreshing dip in the ocean to cool off.

In the latter half of the nineteenth century such bans on daylight bathing came to be increasingly challenged. By the 1870s medical opinion was coming to the view that the sea air and the sea itself held therapeutic qualities for the inhabitants of increasingly industrialised and polluted cities. In this context Manly (which had reverted back to its original name in 1877) increasingly came to be seen as a 'natural sanitarium'. In the 1890s a brief sea bathe at Manly was advocated by the *Popular Encyclopaedia* as a cure for such maladies as scrofula and epilepsy. Prohibition of daylight bathing, however, made it difficult to partake of the therapeutic benefits of the surf, and surf bathing at night was a dangerous pastime.

To take advantage of the therapeutic qualities of the surf yet still meet community standards on public bathing, 'bathing boxes' or 'bathing machines' appeared at Manly as early as the 1860s. Based on an English contraption, the device was essentially a mobile dressing shed which was pushed into the water, from where the occupant descended into the water, to enjoy its therapeutic qualities. Of course the swell at Manly did not always allow this facility to operate as much as it could in English resorts such as Brighton where the surf was usually

nonexistent.

Rather than being weakened, laws concerning public bathing were only reinforced in the late nineteenth century as Victorian notions of morality strengthened earlier motivations for non-bathing. Next to this essentially middle class Victorian puritanism, however, emerged a local belief which saw such laws as draconian and clearly unsuited to the Australian climate. Just because a law existed in England did not necessarily mean it was applicable in Sydney.

Such individuals continued to surf bathe during daylight hours and, in an added insult to Victorian morality, often did so naked. In an attempt to curb such activity, the Manly Council employed Thomas Leahy over the summer of 1888/89 as Inspector of Public Nuisances. Leahy's task was to patrol the beach and prevent daylight bathing. He filed many reports to the Council concerning day time bathing and nude bathing.

The Council's efforts, however, were for nought. While in the 1890s the Council in a concession to bathers allowed surf bathing until 8am, an increasing number of vistors and residents deliberately flouted the law. Surf bathing had also been transformed during this period with the introduction of 'surf shooting' - more commonly known today as body surfing. In the 1880s the art of body surfing was introduced to Australians by a young Polynesian gardener in Manly named Tommy Tanna. While body surfing in Polynesia was far from revolutionary it caused a sensation at Manly where those who did enter the surf had usually only frolicked in the foam of the breakers. With a number of local boys receiving tutoring from Tanna and soon mastering the thrill of surfing 'a la Samoa', shooting soon became a popular pastime for boys and young men. Unlike previous surf bathing practice, body surfing brought with it a degree of skill and dexterity which elevated surf bathing to the height of a sport. 'Surf Shooters', as they became known, became a sub-culture of the Australian beach culture as it existed at the time. They became a group apart and bonded in ways not dissimilar to board riders seventy years later. As with board riders they were also initially perceived negatively and body surfing actually retarded rather than hastened the end of restrictions on surf bathing.

By the turn of the century pressure on the Council to overturn surf bathing restrictions had grown but it stood firm with the support of many local residents and business owners who held grave fears for property values and business opportunities if the low class 'louts' who body

surfed during daylight hours had their way.

The issue came to a head in 1902. In September a yacht ran into difficulties off Manly and, after a struggle lasting several hours, made it to Steyne beach. Exhausted, the crew plunged into the surf to cool off, whereupon they were promptly arrested by police. With the laws not only draconian but now farcical, the editor of the Manly and North Shore Times, William Gocher, decided to publicly challenge them. A frequent surf bather himself, Gocher had become convinced of the physical benefits of the pastime. Through the pages of his paper, he announced that on three separate Sundays in October he would enter the surf at Manly whereupon he challenged police to arrest him.

At noon on 2 October Gocher entered the surf but was not arrested. His actions, were condemned by Manly Council, especially its Mayor, Alderman E.W. Quirk. At the next meeting of the Council, a majority of councillors agreed that they would not accept all-day bathing. Gocher's second swim also failed to attract police attention but at the conclusion of the third swim on 16 October he was met by two policemen and escorted to



E. W. Quirk - Warringah Shire Council.

the local station. Gocher was not prosecuted but met with the Inspector General of Police.

Gocher interpreted this as police sanction of his actions, which it was.

Throughout the summer of 1902/3 police failed to support the Council in enforcing the daylight bathing ban. Interestingly, many local businesses also seemed to have a change of heart on the matter. Rather than retarding business surf bathing was seen to be attracting more tourists to Manly. As a consequence local business interests became more supportive of removing the restrictions on surf bathing. At the forefront of such business pressure was the Port Jackson and Manly Steamship Company which operated the ferry service to Manly. Its passenger figures seemed to support the new view that surf bathing aided business growth and that the repeal of surf bathing laws would be an economic bonanza for the community. Historian Douglas Booth has noted that: 'Property-owners, land speculators, and a myriad of small businessmen such as food, transport, souvenir and entertainment vendors, welcomed surf bathing as "a commercial Godsend" '. 'But for prudishness and false modesty', wrote one observer, 'the waves breaking on the sands might have been rolling sovereigns into the pockets'. Surf bathing was increasingly being seen as simply another aspect of development and progress conducive to swelling the populations in seaside towns and suburbs.21 Even Mayor Quirk, himself a local storekeeper and land agent, was beginning to examine the ways in which the community could capitalise on the growing popularity of surf bathing.22

With Gocher's campaign now gaining the support of influential business leaders (many residents still remained concerned about the low class louts attracted to surf bathing), the Council was compelled to lift the ban on daylight bathing on 2 November 1903. It insisted, however, that all bathers would have to be properly attired in a 'Canadian' neck to knee

costume. The surf bathers had triumphed.

The increased deregulation of surfing activity soon turned attention to the safety of surf bathers. Prior to deregulation, surf bathing, especially in the evening, had been a dangerous practice which had resulted in a number of fatalities. In 1900 the Australian branch of the Royal Life Saving Society was instrumental in the establishment of rescue posts at Manly, Bronte and Coogee. The posts were fixed in the ground and held a line and life saving buoy which could be used in rescues. In another manifestation of Victorian morality surf bathing was sex segregated — a post was set on the beach, with men entering the surf to the right and women to the left. Such a practice, however, resulted in tragedy in 1902 when a woman drowned at Manly before male bathers in their area could arrive in time to rescue her. In 1902, before daylight bathing dramatically increased the numbers of Sydneysiders surf bathing, 17 drownings were recorded at Manly.<sup>23</sup>

For local business leaders the issue remained important. The attraction of bathing at Manly would soon be lost if the beach gained the reputation of being unsafe. During the Summer of 1903, the Sly brothers — fishermen from Fairy Bower — performed a number of rescues at Manly using a clinker built longboat. Pressure was immediately exerted on the Council to act to protect bathers by employing the Sly brothers as life guards. On Boxing Day 1903 the brothers held a public demonstration using their boat to support such calls. Fearful of the cost involved, especially if forced to support a professional service as existed in the United States, the Council claimed the protection of surf bathers was in fact a State responsibility. The State Government, also wary of the cost, refused to be drawn and maintained it was a financial

responsibility for local councils.

The stand off continued until 1907 when community leaders, seeing the situation as intolerable, formed the Manly Surf Club. As an indication of the public acceptance of surf bathing since Gocher's first swim, the Mayor of Manly became the Club President while the State's Governor accepted the position of Patron. As well as a social club, its members would voluntarily patrol the beach to protect the bathing public. On the southside of the harbour a similar club had formed at Bondi and affiliated itself with the Royal Life Saving Society so as to avail itself of the society's expertise and training structure in lifesaving techniques. The Society's awards had been developed for stillwater swimming in Britain in the 1890s and so

were based on swimming and the use of a rescue line, rather than of craft. The post, line and buoy, however, had proven of little practical value in surf conditions and so efforts to adapt the rescue line were investigated. The result of these investigations was the now familiar line and reel which became known as the 'Alarm Reel'. The first recorded use of a reel was on 23 December 1906 at Bondi when a young Charles Kingsford Smith was rescued. The Manly Club also affiliated with the Royal Life Saving Society and adopted the new line and reel as the basis of surf lifesaving.

With Manly Council already responsible for supplying facilities such as dressing sheds, it was accepted that the Council also had some responsibility for the protection of surf bathers. During the same year that the Manly Surf Club was formed, the Council, following the American example of permanent life guards, appointed a New Zealander as its first 'Permanent Lifesaver'. The Permanent Lifesaver patrolled the beach during the weekdays and Saturdays, while on Sunday it was patrolled by the volunteers of the Surf Club. The Council soon became an enthusiastic supporter of the new club which helped to defray the cost of protecting the beach. The only major opposition remaining were Church leaders who saw voluntary patrolling and surf bathing on Sundays as sacrilegious.

While the Council quickly came to appreciate the commercial boon for the district that surf bathing was providing, remnants of Victorian morality persisted. Even as late as 1905 the Daily Telegraph had turned up its nose at sea bathing claiming bathers were 'dirty ignorant louts . . . dirty bodily and mentally, for they go not there to bath, but to indulge unchecked in their horseplay on the beach and naked if they so desire'. While nude bathing had all but vanished at popular beaches such as Manly, grave concerns were raised by the keepers of public morality that the Canadian neck to knee costume was the nearest thing to nudity, especially when it was wet and clung to the figure.

In response to such agitation Waverley, Randwick and Manly Councils introduced new bathing costume regulations which insisted that skirts had to be worn over male and female



Early bathers at Manly. Members of the short lived Blue Bottles Surf Club 1909.

costumes. At Manly the policing of this new rule was one of the considerations governing the appointment of a permanent life guard. The regulations caused a public outcry, especially from the surf clubs which argued that such skirts were actually dangerous, impeding a swimmer in the surf. Clubs were warned that if their members removed the skirt to effect a rescue they would be fined £10. In response the members of a number of surf clubs borrowed women's skirts to lampoon the ordinance. On 18 October 1907 representatives of Bronte, Bondi, North Bondi, Coogee, Tamarama, Maroubra, Woollahra and Manly lifesaving clubs met at the Sydney Sports Club to discuss the skirt issue. The result of this meeting was the formation of the Surf Bathing Association of New South Wales. The surf life saving movement had begun.

In March 1906 the Warringah Shire Council was established, removing areas such as Collaroy from the jurisdiction of Manly Council. Responsible for a very under-developed and isolated area, the new Council saw an effective transportation system as the key to the Shire's future. In 1907, and in conjunction with the State Government, it unveiled its plans for a tram system from Manly to Narrabeen to replace the unsatisfactory wagonette service which operated at the time. With an efficient and convenient public transport system in place it was

hoped the Shire would attract more visitors and residents.

One of the early members of the new Council was none other than E.W. Quirk. As well as having been Mayor of Manly, Quirk had also been an Independent Member of the State Legislative Assembly for the seat of Warringah between 1901 and 1904. His career in State politics had ended in 1904 when he stood for the seat of Middle Harbour but was defeated by the Liberal candidate, and Mount Ramsay Estate land owner, Dr Richard Arthur. Quirk maintained his position on Manly Council even after the incorporation of Warringah, being an alderman in Manly and a councillor in Warringah at the same time for some time. While Quirk represented the 'A' Ward which lay north of Narrabeen, he maintained a strong interest in the Collaroy area. Like Dr Arthur he too owned land in the Mount Ramsay Estate.

Within the new Shire, the southern end of what was now known as 'Narrabeen Beach' was regarded by many as the best location to attempt to attract tourists and their money. With its pleasant aspect and a beach more sheltered than many others in the area it was seen as ideal. One of the strongest supporters of this vision for Collaroy was Councillor Quirk. Quirk had seen first hand how Manly's reputation as a tourist destination had been enhanced in the early 1900s and saw no reason why Collaroy could not emerge as a similar tourist destination. To this end the Council built a 'ladies dressing box', a wooden structure measuring 15 × 10 feet, and offering changing accommodation for 20 women.<sup>27</sup> The structure was located near the present day Arlington Building near the car park that is the continuation of Collaroy Street. There were no dressing facilities for men.

Stan Twight was not convinced that the vision for the area held by the likes of Councillor Quirk could be realised. Being acquaintances, Twight was well aware of Quirk's argument but he was extremely sceptical. Less sceptical was Florence Twight. She had always liked the idea of opening a tea room on the beach, allowing patrons to enjoy the attractive views, but her husband had always rejected the plan in the belief that such an enterprise would simply flounder because of lack of patronage ('It wouldn't keep a parrot in corn', he insisted).<sup>28</sup> While

the number of weekenders allowing tourists to stay in the area had grown, such an enterprise would rely on day trippers from the city, not individuals on prolonged vacation.

Slowly, however, Twight became convinced of the practicality of opening tea rooms on the beach. With the Manly to Brookvale section of the tramway due for completion in 1910, and the section to Collaroy by 1912, the area would soon be within a comfortable journey of Sydney, opening the area to day trippers. The ever increasing popularity of surf bathing also



Collaroy Pioneers, the Twight family.

Left to right: Florence, Charles, Norm & Stan.

meant that such an establishment would greatly benefit from the custom surf bathers would bring. The 'Shed' as the ladies dressing box had become known had attracted surf bathers to the beach, although it was abused by groups who would spend the night inside it.<sup>29</sup> No doubt Quirk also pointed out to Twight the fact Manly was undergoing a property boom which the press attributed to the popularity of surf bathing.<sup>30</sup> Eventually Twight was converted.

The Twights had already purchased an absolute waterfrontage block on Ocean Street (Pittwater Road) from a speculator named William Long in October 1905. The block had a 50 foot frontage and was 100 feet to the north of present day Brissenden Avenue near where the entrance to the surf club car park now stands. In 1908 they commenced construction on this block of the first commercial premises in Collaroy, Twight's Tea Rooms. While a day trip to the area remained a long one, even after the completion of the line to Brookvale from where the wagonette service took over, the tea

rooms' business gradually grew, rewarding Florence Twight for her foresight. Within two years the tea rooms had generated sufficient income to allow her to purchase the two adjoining blocks to the north from Real Estate Agent George Richardson and the construction of a home on the beach.

As it had at Manly, the increased number of tourists raised community concerns about the safety of surf bathers. The beach remained sheltered from the heavy seas which often pounded the Narrabeen end — one of the beach's attractions, especially for the novice surfer — but the surf was still dangerous enough to require the provision of some protection for the public. Warringah Shire Council accepted some of the responsibility for the protection of bathers and in the summer of 1908/9 the Council established life lines on a number of its beaches including the northern and southern ends of 'Narrabeen Beach'. These lines consisted of a two yards square wooden box on a pole which contained a neck to waist cork belt and 50 yards of coir rope. The lines were used by fellow swimming patrons to rescue those in difficulty but, as noted earlier, their effectiveness was limited. This was the extent of the Council's efforts, with its resources in this area being concentrated on the provision of infrastructure such as dressing sheds.

Warringah Council sought to encourage the development of voluntary surf clubs along the lines that existed in Manly and in the Eastern Suburbs to meet the needs of weekend visitors to the Shire's beaches. The first voluntary surf club to emerge in Warringah was at Freshwater Beach. The Freshwater Surf and Life Saving Club was formed in 1908 and affiliated with the Surf Bathing Association in December of that year.<sup>32</sup> The beach and the surf club were dominated by mainly working class campers who would set up semi-permanent camps around the beach on privately owned land. While the area could not compete with Manly in the the tourist stakes (indeed it soon gained an unsavoury reputation motivating the Council to have the area's name changed to Harbord), its further residential development held much promise. In this context a safe beach for potential local residents was just as important as a safe beach for



Collaroy Beach circa. 1907 showing the ladies dressing 'shed' - M.A.B. photo, National Library of Australia.



Visitors to Collaroy Beach September, 1910. In the background young men frolic in the surf on rented horses

— Allen Family Photograph, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

tourists. Taking advantage of the new club's development local real estate agents began to claim that Freshwater was the 'Safest Beach in Australia' — thanks in part to the vigilance of its surf club.

As the Collaroy area was still viewed as a tourist destination, rather than a residential suburb, such claims and developments at Freshwater were illustrative. Of greater interest, however, were developments elsewhere on Narrabeen Beach. Perhaps as early as the season of 1909/10 the Narrabeen Life Saving Club was formed on the middle of the beach near Waterloo Street. Interestingly the club had both active male and female members. Further north, weekenders and holiday visitors formed 'The Mouth' Life Saving Club during the season of 1910/11. It has been claimed that this surf club was formed by members of the Narrabeen Lakes Brigade which had protected users of the Narrabeen Lakes since the late 1890s. The Narrabeen Lakes since the late 1890s.

Such developments did not bode well for the southern end of the beach because it was feared they would draw visitors away from the unprotected Collaroy end to the protected middle and northern ends of the beach. If the southern end, which was increasingly being referred to as 'Collaroy Beach', was to continue to develop and continue to be an attractive destination to tourists, a surf club would be needed. The question which remained unanswered, however, was who would actually patrol the beach. Fortunately Collaroy's community leaders did not have to look past the beach itself to find their lifesavers. Collaroy Beach had been unofficially patrolled for some time.

As alluded to earlier, surf shooting had developed as predominantly a peer group activity which was largely male and adolescent. Even into the early 1900s these young men were engaging in a pastime that was still considered by many elements of the community as a fringe or even illegal activity. As a result such bands of youths continued to maintain a certain notoriety even in the communities which most benefited from surf bathing. Around 1906 a group of young men from the Eastern Suburbs came to visit Collaroy Beach on a regular basis. They established a camp in Fielding Street. This group of young men became known as the 'Wombats'. The backbone of the Wombats were two sets of brothers; the Dellits — Greg, Austin and Bernie; and the Rankins — Tom, Ted and Johnny. The Rankin family owned a large produce store in Sussex Street in the city.

The Wombats would surf shoot at Collaroy Beach. Their very presence in the surf attracted others to bathe nearby. In these early days the Wombats often assisted swimmers in difficulties. With the construction of the 'Shed', the opening of the tea rooms and the locating of the Council lifeline, the beach became more popular and the Wombats now had life saving equipment to assist them. Though in no organised or methodical way, the Wombats were ensuring the safety of surf bathers on Collaroy Beach. All that was needed was for the community leaders and the de facto lifesavers to get together and organise a surf club.

It was through the efforts of a local holiday home owner W.D. (Bill) Mitchell that the Wombats and Collaroy community leaders were brought together and the surf club formed. Mitchell first visited the area in 1908 in a 'phaeton' (an open pleasure carriage) drawn by two cream ponies and immediately fell in love with the area. He proceeded to purchase an absolute water front block on the south eastern corner of the intersection of Collaroy Street and Pittwater Road where the car park on the southern side of the Arlington building now stands. He built a weekender there fronting Pittwater Road. Soon after its completion he was approached by a young man named A.C. 'Arch' Greenwood. Greenwood had seen the potential of the Collaroy/Narrabeen area and desired to open a Real Estate agency. Seeing Mitchell's weekender as the best location for an agency he approached him and stated that if a large window was placed in the front of the house he would rent the premises as an office and residence for one pound a week — an enormous amount for rent in those days. Mitchell readily agreed and built another weekender at the back of the block facing the beach. He had some difficulty with Warringah Council, however, over his plans to have a roof top deck for sunbathing. Victorian morality persisted and he was instructed by Shire Clerk Paddy Crew that

having a roof designed for that purpose was 'indecent'. Council blocked the roof deck until

Councillor Quirk stepped in.

Mitchell was in his late 20s when he built his weekender and was an avid surfer. He soon befriended the younger 'Wombats' who became regular visitors to his home. Mitchell was able to convince the Rankin and Dellit brothers of the importance of forming a surf club. It appears that some of the Wombats may have already had some life saving experience in the Eastern Suburbs. Greg Dellit, for example, became not only a life member of Collaroy but of Tamarama Surf Life Saving Club also.<sup>37</sup> Mitchell was able to get the Wombats to meet community leaders such as Stan Twight and E.W. Quirk at Twight's Tea Rooms on the evening of Friday 11 August 1911. In attendance were Stan Twight, Stan's brother-in-law Doug Graham, Councillor Quirk (who would chair a meeting a few weeks later which would form the Manly Life Saving Club),<sup>38</sup> local residents Jack 'Zif' Evans, Frank Donohue and Tim May, and the Dellit and Rankin brothers. All agreed that a surf club to protect the bathers of Collaroy Beach should be formed and thoughts turned to its structure and the election of office bearers.

The inaugural President was Jack Evans, who lived with his young family in Jenkins Street. Bill Mitchell became Club Captain. Mitchell's tenant Arch Greenwood became Honorary Secretary, seeing the usefulness of the surf club from both a community and business point of view. Frank Donohue became Treasurer and Johnny Rankin was nominated as Instructor — another possible clue to the Wombats' earlier involvement with surf life saving. Dr Arthur MLA accepted the position of the Club's honorary doctor. He would also become

patron of the Manly Life Saving Club a few weeks later.

Most surf clubs of the period had patrons and so the Club approached the recently elected Federal Member for North Sydney, Granville De Laune Ryrie. Ryrie had been born in 1865 and spent much of his youth on his family property near Michelago. After attending the King's School, Ryrie became a jackeroo and was a noted horseman. His main sporting interest was boxing and he was twice runner up in the NSW amateur heavyweight championship. Ryrie served as a commissioned officer in the Boer War before being seriously wounded in 1900. On his return to Australia he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel commanding the Third Light Horse Regiment. In 1906 he became a member of the NSW Legislative Assembly and in 1911 secured the federal seat of North Sydney which encapsulated the Northern Beaches.

At the foundation meeting thoughts also turned to a name for the Club. With the southern end of the beach now commonly known as Collaroy Beach it was decided to name the club after the beach — the first use of the name 'Collaroy' by any business or community organisation in the area and undoubtedly a decision which popularised the use of the name to describe the community around the southern end of the beach. Following the example of Freshwater it was decided that the new organisation would be a 'Surf and Life Saving Club'.

The 'Collaroy Surf and Life Saving Club' was formed.

The formation of the Collaroy Surf and Life Saving Club was also spurred by the interest in the beach demonstrated by the New South Wales Government's Surf Bathing Commission. The Commission was formed in 1911 to investigate the state of surf bathing in the Sydney metropolitan area and make recommendations as to what facilities were needed on Sydney beaches to accommodate and protect surf bathers. The Commission had a number of members from the SBA such as Charles Paterson.

The Commission examined several of the beaches within the Warringah Shire including 'Narrabeen Beach' and visited the area on Saturday 5 August 1911, the weekend before the Collaroy Club's foundation meeting. On 23 August 1911 Councillor Quirk gave evidence to the Commission. Although he made no mention of the formation of the surf club 12 days before, he did suggest that the southern end of Narrabeen Beach had great potential and advocated that Warringah Council and the State Government should fund the construction of dressing accommodation and a sun baking enclosure (it was still considered improper to sun bake in public at the time) for 500 patrons. Patrons should be charged to use the facilities.<sup>39</sup> In



Bill Mitchell and family at home in Thomleigh, 1919.



A. C. 'Arch' Greenwood, Collaroy's first real estate agent.



Collaroy's first patron, Granville Ryrie, on his horse 'Plain Bill' in front of a Bristol Box kite; Sydney, 1914 — AWM P1221/02.

making its recommendations to the Government the Commission claimed that on weekends and holidays between 400 and 500 people used Narrabeen Beach between Collaroy Beach and The Mouth. While noting that with the opening of the tramline there would be 'a very large increase in patronage of the whole beach' it concluded that the greater proportion of these patrons would remain at the southern end. As a consequence it recommended the construction of dressing accommodation at the southern end but only to cater for 150 males and 50 females. Some concern was expressed about the fact public access to the beach was limited because of private land ownership along the beach front. As a consequence the Commission recommended that several vacant blocks to the north of Bill Mitchell's weekender be resumed to allow greater public access to the beach and provide land on which the new dressing sheds, and a surf club, could be built.

Neither the State Government nor Warringah Council, however, were prepared to spend the money required to resume the land, and the money which was set aside for the construction of new dressing sheds on Collaroy Beach was not sufficient to build accommodation for 200 surf bathers. In the interim Doug Graham with the assistance of surf club members had commenced construction of a club house on the beach in front of Twight's Tea Rooms. Fortuitously for the Twights' business the Council also decided to build the dressing accommodation on the beach and to the south of the new surf club to take advantage of the public access provided by the park on the southern boundary of the Twights' property. If financial contingencies had not helped the Council make up its mind the surf club and dressing sheds could well have been located near where the Arlington Building presently stands.

The season of 1911/12 was preoccupied by organisation. The club house which was built over the Christmas/New Year was little more than a place to change and store club equipment. Included in this equipment were two 'Standard Alarm Reels' donated by Charles Ludowici. Ludowici was a prominent manufacturer from Lane Cove who was one of the founders of the New South Wales Chamber of Manufactures, He owned a beach side cottage on Pittwater Road on the northern side of the vacant blocks which the Surf Bathing Commission had recommended for resumption. His son Harry became an early member of the Club. Bernie Dellit designed the Club emblem — a seagull atop a life saving buoy. The design was adopted by the Club committee and eventually graced Club stationery and costumes. For many years the Club and its members were known as the 'Seagulls'.

The backbone of the Club remained the Wombats — young men who did not even reside in Warringah Shire. Their decision to assist in the formation of the Club and meet the responsibilities entailed could not have been taken lightly. The very effort of getting to Collaroy for patrols was itself an adventure for these young men. With most occupations' working hours extending until 12 noon on Saturdays, a journey to Collaroy usually commenced early that afternoon. The Wombats would make their way from their place of employment to Circular Quay where they would catch a ferry to Manly. For the first season, before the tramway to Collaroy was completed, they would catch the newly electrified tram to Brookvale before then walking or catching the wagonette service to Collaroy.

While the SBA had created its own award structure in 1910 to replace the Royal Life Saving Society awards surf club members had gained in the past, the Club did not move to have its members trained. Interestingly the Club also did not seek affiliation with the SBA. The reasons for its inactivity in this regard are unknown.

On 1 May 1911 the Manly-Brookvale line was electrified and on 3 August 1912 its extension to Collaroy Beach was publicly opened by Mrs McGowan, the wife of the Premier. On the same occasion the water turning on ceremony connecting the area to the town water



View of Collaroy & Long Reef circa. 1912. The newly constructed club house and dressing sheds are visible on the beach in front of Twight's Tea Rooms — Historic photographic collection, Macleay Museum, University of Sydney.



Collaroy beach looking south circa 1913. In the middle of the picture stands the first club house. Directly behind it is the dressing sheds and sunbathing enclosure. Twight's Tea Rooms stand behind the dressing sheds. The fenced area to the rear of the tea rooms was land still held by the Salvation Army. It contained private dressing accommodation and access to the beach through a white gate.

supply was also performed.<sup>40</sup> A civic reception was later held at Twight's Tea Rooms. The extension of the tram guaranteed the area's continued development. Now only 41 minutes from Manly, Collaroy was within easy reach for day trippers from the city. The tram also greatly increased the attractiveness of the area to those seeking to secure holiday homes and also allowed many periodic residents of the area to consider the possibility of permanent residence.

Coinciding with the opening of the tramline, the Salvation Army released for subdivision the area to the south of the beach around what was known as 'Jenkins' Cove' or the 'The Basin'. The area also became popularly known as 'Fishermen's Beach' but, further entrenching the name 'Collaroy', the estate was originally known as 'Collaroy Park'. The town address remained 'Narrabeen'. The land was mortgaged to the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia in July 1912 before being subdivided into 119 blocks for public purchase. The street plan was as it is today except the Army had not released the land between present day Birdwood and Brissenden Avenues. The street which is present day Florence Avenue also did not exist being outside the original subdivision. Present day Anzac Avenue was known as Government Road and did not cross Pittwater Road. The first blocks in the new subdivision were purchased in February 1913 but sold slowly. In January 1916 Hardie Gorman Property Ltd and Arch Greenwood attempted to auction the remaining blocks. A promotional flyer for the auction noted that the estate had 'no Equal in Australia' and that 'Situated right on the Pacific, its eastern elevated aspect means health'. Noting further that 'Some of the Most Shrewd People in the State have already purchased at C.P' the flyer continued, noting that the estate was neighboured by a 'Safe Surfing Beach'. In conclusion it claimed: 'Live at Collaroy and put ten years onto your life'.41 While the sale was successful the last remaining block was not finally sold until 1928. At the same time that the Salvation Army released the Basin for subdivision the State Government resumed the Long Reef headland and dedicated it as public space. Griffith Park was named after the Minister of Works of the period who had secured the land.

The opening of the tramline and the release of the Collaroy Park Estate for subdivision resulted in Collaroy experiencing something of a building boom. While the houses being constructed were mainly holiday homes, the building activity attracted a number of builders and other tradesmen. In the Basin area a New Zealander named Harry Armstrong began building holiday homes and soon built the business into a major concern with a number of full time employees and sub-contractors. Armstrong would later become convinced of the benefits offered to the community by the surf club and became a Vice-President of the Club in the early 1920s. Although Armstrong's reputation for workmanship and propriety were often questioned by locals, his 'stucco' homes have proven very resilient, leaving an enduring and distinct

architectural legacy.

In the late nineteenth century a land speculator by the name of Fuller had purchased from the Jenkins estate a large parcel of land on the Collaroy plateau with the aim of subdivision. Unfortunately he was financially ruined in the attempt and the land was later purchased by Mrs Jessie Green who contracted Arch Greenwood to sell off the land based on Fuller's original subdivision. The only remnants of Fuller's folly are the street names such as Claudare and Stella which were named after his daughters and Fuller which was named after himself. The 'Green Estate' as the Plateau became known became connected to Collaroy Beach below through a steep track which became the continuation of Alexander Street. While some blocks did sell the majority did not, leaving the area deserted.

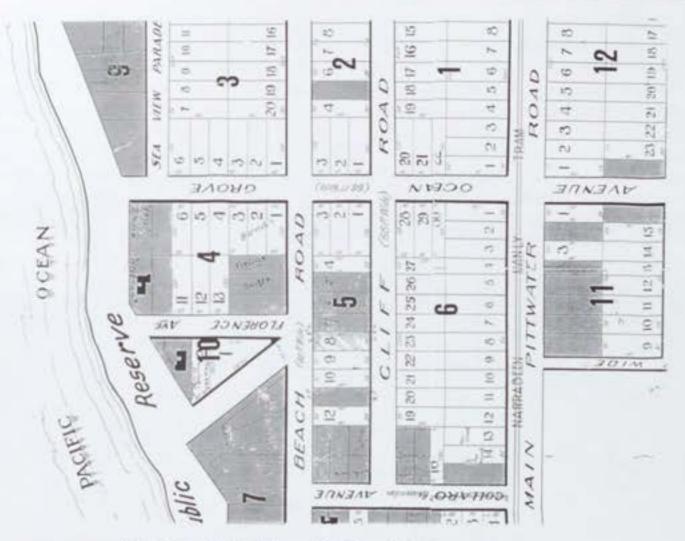
One family, however, decided the plateau was the perfect location for a holiday home. Jack and Rose Lee lived at Willoughby from where the family conducted its building business. Jack held a fascination for hillsides and so saw the plateau as far more interesting a location for a holiday home than the beach. From the plateau one had fantastic views out to sea and to the north and south. With the assistance of his many sons, Lee built a weekender with a large wrap around verandah and the family became regular weekender and summer holiday visitors to Collaroy. Soon Lee's eldest boys, Bill, Les and Al, were drawn to the beach and the newly formed surf club. The interest of his sons in the surf club drew Jack also and at the first AGM



With the introduction of the tram service Collaroy's popularity grew. Above: Picnickers enjoy the beach.

Below: A good example of the increased patronage of the beach — John Morecombe Collection.





The Collaroy Park Estate as of 1916 - Favielle collection.



Early Collaroy pioneers, the Osborne family, outside their home 'La Vista' at the top of Alexander Street, 1914.

of the Club in 1912 he replaced Jack Evans as President. The Lee family quickly became stalwarts of the Club.

It was not until the 1912/13 season that the Club's membership began to increase. Most notably the Wombats were able to convince a camp in the Narrabeen area to join them. This group of young working class men from the North Sydney/Crows Nest area camped and later rented a cottage near Mactier Street on Narrabeen Lakes. On Sunday mornings the group would leave their camp for a surf at Collaroy. Their cottage was known as 'The Crows' so they decided to appropriate it as the name of their group. Early members of the Crows were the Abbott brothers — H.W. 'Bon' and R.N. 'Tiny' —, Les 'Buster' Quinn, Roy Sholly, and Bill 'Beno' Shepherd. With the Crows showing the same level of dedication to the new club as had

been exampled by the Wombats, the fledgling Club's future looked promising.

In the course of the 1913/14 season the Club had its first major setback when the club house was destroyed by the surf during a strong easterly gale which lashed the coast and also destroyed the council dressing sheds. While the Club's equipment was recovered before the building was flattened by the surf, its loss was a major blow. With Councillor Quirk still involved and the Club having demonstrated its importance to the community, Warringah Shire Council stepped in and built the Club a new and better club house on the beach. The new club house closely resembled the building originally suggested by the Surf Bathing Commission being of wooden construction and having a raised floor with a small verandah and stairs at the front. Initially it was painted a dark red but in later years either through repainting or weathering the colour became black. The design was paralleled throughout the Shire and the Council-built club houses at Freshwater and Newport, for example, were very similar.

It was not until 19 October 1914 that the Collaroy Surf and Life Saving Club finally became affiliated with the Surf Bathers Association. With its affiliation secured the Club could now move to have its members sit for the examinations of the Association. Twenty members of the Club sought to complete their Surf Bronze Medallions and with no medallion holders, let alone instructors in the Club, instruction was provided over a number of Sundays in November and December 1914 by the SBA's Instructor-in-Chief and Bondi member Bill

Craven.

The examination of Collaroy's bronze squads was set down for 6 December 1914 and was to be conducted by SBA Chief Examiner and Freshwater stalwart Roy D. Doyle. At the completion of an examination a form was filled out for SBA records noting the date of the examination and the names of the candidates. Sometimes these records were simply kept on a piece of unmarked paper as was the case with the Collaroy examination. Doyle also forgot to date the document. In the old SBA files the document lies between two other examination records dated 6 December 1914. If the examination was held on Sunday 6 December those Collaroy members sitting for their Surf Bronze Medallions had been disadvantaged. The week before the examination, Sunday 29 November, a misunderstanding resulted in Instructor Craven not showing up for what was presumably the last training opportunity for the bronze squads.43 If the squads were examined on 6 December the fact that none of the candidates failed the examination is even more extraordinary. In the early days of the bronze examination the failure rate was not insignificant and Doyle was renowned for the rigour with which he examined candidates. Tiny Abbott became Collaroy's first bronze medallion holder, gaining the 446th medal issued by the SBA, and Bill Shepherd was the 20th, gaining medallion number 465.

In the early days of the movement, Surf Carnivals were as much spectaculars as competitions for lifesavers to hone their life saving skills. Events aimed to test a lifesaver's

## Collaroy Park

as an Ocean Beach Estate has no Equal in Australia

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Stuared right on the Pacific, its eatern elevated aspect means health. The suftness of its almate during the wiener mostle is owing to the fine range of falls at the rese westward.

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The Balance of the Estate is to be sold By Auction on the Grounds

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## COLLAROY PARK

Auction Sale

Wednesday, Jany. 26

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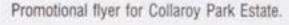
Hardie & Gorman Propty.

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TITLE TORRENS



James Lee - The Club's second President.





Alexander Street looking east, the street itself was later continued linking Collaroy Beach with the Plateau. The fill for the road came from the excavation of the original rock pool. Note original club house in background.



Construction during the linking of Alexander Street with the Plateau.



The earliest known photograph of Collaroy club members which appeared in the *Town and Country Journal* 18 February, 1914. As can be seen the Club catered for all ages. *Left to Right, back row:* — unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Lionel Sheldon, unknown, unknown, Arch Greenwood. *Second row:* unknown, Greg Dellit, Austin Dellit, Laurie Borig, Len Chinchen, unknown, unknown, unknown. *Third row:* unknown, James Lee, unknown, Hilton Borig, Bill Mitchell, Bill Blakeman, Eddie Rankin, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown.



The second club house, 1918 - Manly, Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

ability in the water were interspersed with entertainment as varied as Fancy Dress Parades, 'Treacly Apple' races, cockfights and blind fold boxing. While not part of the competition, exhibitions of 'Surf Shooting by Ladies' were also popular. Contesting surf clubs would pay to enter teams in specific events and compete not usually for trophies but for prizes (most often gift vouchers to local stores). In 1911 the entry for a team in the R&R event at the Freshwater carnival was one guinea. Events were held on Saturday afternoons or Public Holidays, because sporting activity on Sundays was still illegal and even patrol activities continued to raise the ire of Church leaders.

Surf carnivals were also important opportunities for local entrepreneurs to attract people and business into their area. This was especially the case in the developing northern and southern suburbs. Just as the establishment of clubs had helped local commercial interests, the holding of major carnivals furthered such efforts. Programs of carnivals were littered with advertising to entice spectators to reside in or use the businesses of the local area. An advertisement in the program of Freshwater's second Annual Carnival on Australia Day 1912 pushed a familiar line noting 'Buy Land at Freshwater. Safest Beach in Australia'.

The Club staged its first surf carnival during the 1913/14 season. Little is known of the event other than that because the Club still had not affiliated with the SBA the carnival was unofficial and confined to a few local clubs in a similar position. With affiliation the club was eligible to compete in the SBA endorsed carnivals of other clubs and also seek permission to

hold its own carnival.

On 19 December 1914 the Club attended its first SBA endorsed surf carnival, two weeks after its successful surf bronze examinations. Because of the novice status of its members the club only competed in a few events. North Sydney resident Athol 'Athy' Sheldon and Len Chinchen (a resident of Collaroy Street, local grocer and relative of Arch Greenwood) were the first members to represent Collaroy in a surf carnival when they entered the 'Beach Reel Race' which involved two men running 50 yards to a reel, one of them putting the belt on and running back to the starting line before removing the belt and his partner winding it back to the reel. The Club did not enter the R&R but did enter a Novice Alarm Reel Race which cost five shillings for a chance to win the prize of 15 shillings to the beltman and seven shillings and sixpence to the reel and linesmen. The team consisted of Ted Rankin (belt), Bernie Dellit, Austin Dellit, Johnny Rankin and a new member of the Crows Bill 'Cas' Forbes. In the Allied Flag Relay Race which involved teams running with a full size flag of Britain's allies in the Great War (which was now over three months old) the Collaroy team consisted of Athy Sheldon, his uncle Lionel, Len Chinchen, and another new member to the club Laurie Borig. Borig's brother, Hilton, a railwayman and musician, played in the same band as Club Captain Bill Mitchell and they were great friends. Hilton Borig joined Collaroy with Mitchell's encouragement and brought his younger brother with him. Laurie Borig soon befriended the Crows and joined their camp. In the final event of the day the Club contested the tug o' war with Norm Casey, Laurie Borig, Tiny Abbott, Greg Dellit, Austin Dellit, Les 'Snowy' Lee and Lionel Sheldon as team captain.

Collaroy's team was resplendent in newly purchased club costumes which were coloured red with a white stripe across the midriff. Added to this was a red team cap. The red cap caused some confusion with Freshwater whose members also competed in a red cap but rather than Collaroy changing its colour, Freshwater introduced a red and white cap. The red of the Freshwater cap eventually evolved into its now familiar maroon. The addition of black to the Collaroy colours did not come until later when the Club replaced the red costume with a black one. Why black was chosen is again unknown but it may well have been because of the Club's strong connection with the North Sydney area. Red and black were the colours of the North Sydney Rugby League Club which had formed in 1908. Amongst its early players were Tiny and Bon Abbott and Cas Forbes. With the Crows also hailing from North Sydney, Collaroy in the Federal Seat of North Sydney, and the battalion which was raised in the electorate during



The Club's first Bronze Medallion qualifiers 6th December, 1914 outside the second club house. The examination was viewed by a visiting party of New Zealand lifesavers. Left to right, back row: NZ visitor, Jack Evans (foundation President), Ted Rankin, James Lee (2nd President), unknown, Frank Donohoe (foundation Treasurer), Jack Lette, NZ visitor, unknown, NZ visitor. Third row: Bernie Dellit, R.N. 'Tiny' Abbott, Bill Sullivan, Johnny Rankin, Laurie Borig, Austin Delitt (wearing his Council Beach Inspector badge), Greg Dellit, Len Chinchen. Second row: V. 'The Bait' Clements, Athy. Sheldon, Bill Blakeman, Bill Mitchell (foundation Club Captain), Bill 'Cas' Forbes, Harry Ludowici, Eddy Rankin, Hilton Borig.

Front row: Ron Hunter, A. Lette, Lionel Sheldon, E. Lette, Bill Shepherd — Betty Sheldon collection.

Col '61, Local History Resource Unit, Warriewood.



Spectators at the Club's first surf carnival in early 1914 — Local History Resource Unit, Warriewood, courtesy Eileen Barnett, COL34.

At the North Steyne carnival and other carnivals over the Christmas/New Year of 1914/15 Collaroy members paid special attention to the organisation of such events. Less than two weeks after the Club had been affiliated to the SBA in October 1914 it had sought permission to host its first official carnival.44 The SBA granted this permission and the date of Saturday 13 February 1915 was set. To ensure the day would be a success a Carnival Committee was quickly formed under the directorship of Councillor Quirk who had replaced Jack Lee as club president during the 1914/15 season. Honorary secretaries of the Carnival were Arch Greenwood and Bill O'Sullivan. The Club attracted the financial support of both the Warringah Shire Council and the Port Jackson and Manly Steamship Company. Both organisations saw the success of their respective endeavours to be still strongly tied to the promotion of surf bathing and life saving. A number of individuals made private donations including Jack Lee, Athy Sheldon, Shire Councillor and local resident A.G. Parr and Charles Ludowici.

A little less than three months after its first entry in an official competition Collaroy hosted its first SBA surf carnival. While the Club had expended much effort in organising the day, its actual running was left to representatives of the Association. The carnival officials for the day were a who's who of the surf life saving movement. The Carnival Referee was Charles D. Paterson, the Check-Starter was Donald D. McIntyre, with Roy D. Doyle one of the Timekeepers. The 'Megaphone Operator' was F.C. 'Freddy' Williams - the first Australian to be taught how to body surf by Tommy Tanna. A Refreshment Committee was also established for the day under the supervision of Mrs Lette (whose sons Jack and Vince were members) and Mrs Evans (wife of former President Jack).

A carnival program was printed for the occasion. On its cover was a picture of the Collaroy members paying out line from a reel. In 1915 the method of paying out line over the head had just been formalised so the photograph is one of the earliest demonstrating the official

technique. The Carnival program was used to sell not only the attractiveness of Collaroy to visitors but Warringah Shire more generally. It included a welcome from Shire Clerk, R.G. Jamieson, who noted that 'Today's great carnival on the Collaroy Beach, will give visitors an opportunity of seeing one of the many beautiful beaches this shire possesses'.45 A number of local businesses took the opportunity to advertise in the program. Arch Greenwood used the carnival to announce the opening of the Yowal Estate (it being claimed that the Yowal or Yowie were the Aboriginal tribe which populated the area before white settlement). The estate was located near Pittwater Road and Mactier Streets, 'Overlooking the Ocean and close to Coffee Palace'. The Coffee Palace was one of the first businesses further down the beach and still stands today as the Olinda Flats. Stevens Cash Store offered 'Groceries and High Class Provisions, Produce, Ironmongery, Brush and Tinware, Stationery, Haberdashery, Patent Medicines etc'. The program shows that by 1915 a number of businesses had opened to serve the needs of the rapidly growing. The official program of the Club's first S.B.A. authorized community.



carnival.

The day was a major success. Eight teams entered the Carnival with Cronulla and North Wollongong up against six northern beaches clubs including North Narrabeen and Narrabeen. A large crowd gathered, partly thanks to the carnival at Dee Why the week before when Hawaiian Olympic swimmer Duke Kahanamoku had performed a demonstration of surfboard riding. The demonstration had heightened public interest in surf bathing and no doubt some spectators came hoping to see another appearance by the Hawaiian. The only hiccup was that the Club had set as its prizes money orders with a jeweller in Manly which could be converted to trophies by the winners of events. Apparently this procedure was deemed by the SBA to be against Association rules for reasons which were not recorded in the Minutes of the SBA's monthly meeting. 47

With a member of the Collaroy Club at some time since the North Steyne carnival having won a novice alarm reel race, the Club entered both the senior and novice races. Members competed in the beach sprint while two teams were entered in the beach relay. A 'Boys' race, a stretcher race, an obstacle race and a R&R display by the Newport Ladies Surf Club were features of the day. Amongst the Club's competitors were Lionel Sheldon, Norm Casey, Bill Blakeman, Laurie and Hilton Borig, Austin, Bernie and Greg Dellit, Harry Ludowici, Jack Lette, Len Chinchen, Bill Shepherd, Johnny Rankin, Bill Mitchell, John Hunter, Bon and Tiny Abbott, and Frank Tindale.

One month after Collaroy's first surf carnival, the first Association Championships (the forerunner of the Australian Championships) were held at Bondi. While very successful they were not held again until 1920. The war in Europe that was supposedly going to be over by Christmas 1914 was far from conclusion by the end of the 1914/15 surfing season and with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps' baptism of fire on the beaches of Gallipoli just over a month after the Bondi championships, more and more surf lifesavers were answering the call of 'King and Country'. The question of whether sporting events should continue during a national emergency was also raised. Sports such as Rugby Union and Cricket abandoned



Dee Why versus Narrabeen in the first heat of the tug-of-war. Members of the Collaroy club stand behind megaphone operator F.C. Williams. The Collaroy members brace themselves against the cold as they wait for their heat against Freshwater.

competition while Rugby League's continuation brought great criticism and charges of disloyalty. While the surf life saving movement could justify the continuation of patrols on the grounds of a community service it did not attempt to defend the continuation of major carnivals.

By the time of Collaroy's first carnival Bon Abbott had been to war and returned, being a member of the expeditionary force which wrested New Guinea from Germany. This was the reason he was not one of the first twenty members to gain their surf bronze. Despite Abbott's absence the war up till 25 April 1915 had had little impact on the Club or community. There had been strong local support for the Belgian Relief Fund and Shultz Avenue in Cromer was renamed Ryrie Avenue but little else had occurred. The Gallipoli landings, however, greatly changed the way many viewed the war and the Shire Hall saw more and more men fronting up for war service.

In its recruitment efforts the Government began to especially target sportsmen such as lifesavers. In 1916 the call went out for the formation of the 'Sportsmen's 1000', a unit representing the height of Australian manhood. The surf life saving movement itself later noted that 'as only could be expected, the men who so readily gave their time and services free in the interests of common humanity, were among the first to place their services at the command of their country in the time of strife'. The SBA's Annual Report for 1915 noted that with the war just on one year old 'Already considerable inroads have been made into club membership' and that all Clubs should be encouraging junior membership to fill the gaps. Whether such calls were attractive or not Collaroy lost 10 of its original 20 bronze medallion holders to war service and by 1918 at least 37 members of the surf club had enlisted, including Bon Abbott who

re-enlisted for service in Palestine and France and Club Patron Granville Ryrie.

With the beginning of the Great War Ryrie became Brigadier-General of the Second Light Horse Brigade of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and on 19 May 1915 landed at Gallipoli where he commanded the southern flank of the battlefield. To this day a section of this Turkish countryside remains known as 'Ryrie's Post'. 'Bull', as his men fondly referred to him, was well regarded because he shared the hardships of the common soldier and unlike some senior officers opposed pointless attacks. Twice wounded at Gallipoli he later served in the Middle East, taking part in one of the last cavalry charges in military history during the battle for Beersheba in October 1917. He was knighted for his war service in October 1919 shortly before his return to Australia. On returning to Australia in early 1920 he resumed his seat in parliament and became Assistant Minister for Defence. The famous historian of the Great War C.E.W. Bean claimed that 'Steady, consistent success marked his [Ryrie's] leadership all the way'. <sup>51</sup> More generally Collaroy Club members saw service in every theatre of the Great War in which Australians served; from Gallipoli to Palestine to France to Russia to the high seas.

Back on the home front, the loss of lifesavers to war service impaired the movement generally, bringing the 'days of marking time' when 'juniors backed by a leaven of veterans donned the harness and kept the movement going'. The 1918 Annual Report of the SBA noted that the Association's activities remained 'considerably restricted owing to the fact the operations of our organisation have been cut down to the finest possible limits during war time'. Some Clubs, however, did not survive including the Narrabeen Club which collapsed through lack of membership. At Collaroy the loss of so many senior members was great but members such as Austin and Bernie Dellit, Athy Sheldon and Bill Mitchell were able to keep the Club going with the assistance of members not yet old enough to volunteer for overseas war service.

The only known recollections of the Club during the war years are those of a young member of the Crows camp, Ken Hall. Hall was one of the youngest members of the group having been born in February 1901, the son of recently arrived English migrants. In 1916 he joined the Sydney Evening News as a cadet journalist and it was around this time that he joined the Crows and the Surf Life Saving Club. While several years older than Hall, it appears his connection to the Crows was Beno Shepherd. Hall recalled that the war years were a great time



Major General Ryrie (second left) and senior officers of the Fifth Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli, 1915 — AWM P1541/12.



Collaroy member E. M. Brissenden (on right) with a colleague from the Third Australian Divisional Headquarters in a rest area at Fauquembergues, France, November, 1917 — AWM E01341.



Young members filling the breach. Training during the war years — Local History Resource Unit, Warriewood, courtesy Eileen Barnett, COL32.

for young men such as himself, who were not quite old enough to enlist, because with so many men away they attracted the attention of older women when patrolling the beach. In early 1918 just before his 18th birthday Hall attempted to enlist, although the minimum age for such enlistment and overseas service remained 21. When his mother and his wounded brother, recently returned from France, heard of his plans they contacted the Army and had his enlistment stopped. In recalling why he had wanted to join he noted that because of his height he was often ribbed by 'sports interests' as to why he was not in 'Khaki'. Given the time of year, these interests must have been members of Collaroy. Young Ken Hall later became Ken G. Hall one of Australia's greatest film directors who revived the Australian film industry in the 1930s with a number of films including his very popular *Dad and Dave* series based on the characters of Steele Rudd. His old friend Beno Shepherd later became a camera-man and film editor when Hall was head of Cinesound.

While the war years retarded the development of the surf life saving movement in Australia there were still a number of significant developments. One major development was the wholesale adoption of the surf boat as rescue and competition craft. At the forefront of such developments was the Warringah Shire Council which decided to equip its surf clubs with boats following an incident at Dee Why on 22 February 1914. The Dee Why club had only been in existence for a short time when during the Sunday patrol the sandbank collapsed washing two people quickly out to sea. A beltman gave chase, having several lengths of line added to the reel during the pursuit, but with the beach heavily seaweeded and so much line paid out, it became too heavy for the beltman to pull, forcing him to return to shore. With the swimmers now well off Long Reef a visiting lifesaver suggested that a row boat be used. A leaky row boat and some oars were procured. The visiting lifesaver, H. Duckworth, rowed the boat while the club's chief instructor Jack Taylor bailed and they eventually rescued the swimmers. Having seen the usefulness of the boat in the rescue the Council ordered surf boats for its surf clubs.

By 1914 the design of surf boats had become specialised thanks to the efforts of Bronte member Walter Biddel who in 1907 designed the 'Albatross', a highly rockered clinker built double ended ship's lifeboat to which he had added floatation tanks. Biddel's basic design was then improved in 1913 by Manly member Fred Notting who designed the 'Banana Boat' which was loosely based on a Norwegian work boat. At about 20 feet in length Notting increased the rocker in the keel and included a 'quarter bar' located between the legs of the sweep oarsmen and overlapping the gunwale by six inches either side. This allowed the stroke oarsmen to use the bar to help sweep the boat. 55 The Council based its order on Notting's design. The boats were built by W.L. Holmes of McMahons Point and their dimensions were 18 feet long (two feet shorter than Notting's design) with a beam of five feet, six inches. 56 The cost of each boat was £36.57 While Collaroy gratefully received the new surf boat when it was finally delivered, dubbing it 'Collaroy', the Club had also learnt from the Dee Why incident, and Lionel Sheldon had in the meantime built the club its own boat out of canvas stretched over a wooden frame. The canvas boat, however, was quickly superseded when the new boat arrived, giving club members another piece of rescue equipment with which to acquaint themselves. The new boat's first sweep was Les 'Snowy' Lee who had gained practice on Lionel Sheldon's canvas boat. The first Surf Boat race ever held took place as a novelty event at the Freshwater Carnival of 1915 beginning an important surf life saving tradition.

The other major development in surf life saving and surf bathing more generally was the visit of Duke Kahanamoku in 1915. His board riding demonstrations at Freshwater and Dee Why attracted a number of adherents including Manly lifesaver Claude West, who proceeded to introduce the surfboard to the Manly club as a piece of life saving equipment. West used the surfboard in a number of rescues before being reprimanded by the SBA. The popularity of the surfboard, however, grew.

At Collaroy it was Jack Lee's son and Club member Alf ('Weary') who had seen the Duke at the Dee Why Carnival and made plans to build his own surfboard. While he initially



The Club's first surfboat. Above: the crew find a novel way to return to the beach.

Below: Weary Lee on Collaroy's first surfboard shares a wave with a crowded surfboat

Betty Sheldon collection, Local History Resource Unit, Warriewood, Collaroy SLSC boat.



followed the design of the Duke, in the later war years Lee began to experiment and designed the first hollow board seen on Sydney beaches. The board was wooden ribbed and covered in canvas. Its design, however, was short lived, the board still being very heavy and unresponsive. Many young Collaroy boys, however, caught the surfboard riding bug riding double on Weary Lee's board, which was stored in the club house. Lee was frequently seen in the southern corner of the beach near the rocks perfecting his board riding skills.

## Halcyon Days

Oh the Collaroy boys are happy
As happy as can be
For Les [Quinn] can have his whisky
And Laurie [Borig] have his sprey
But we'd all drop dead
If Monty [Smith] said
Come and have a drink with me
Old Collaroy Victory Song<sup>1</sup>

Seven Collaroy members were among the 60,000 Australians who never returned from the Great War. Laurie Borig's brother Hilton did not return inculcating in his mate Bill Mitchell a fierce hatred of war and a lifelong commitment to pacifism. Mitchell later named his home at Thornleigh, 'Hilton'.<sup>2</sup> The Lee family lost their son and brother Albert in the trenches of France while eldest son Bill, who was one of the first Club members to join up, was spared the nightmare of Gallipoli when his appendix burst on the transport ship in the Dardanelles — he later saw service in France.<sup>3</sup> Norm Casey, P.E. Bateman, T. Connel, A. Ball and K. Gillies were the other members of the Club to be killed in action. Of course the families of Club members were also struck by loss. Tiny and Bon Abbott's brother Jim had not been as lucky as Bill Lee and made the ultimate sacrifice at ANZAC Cove.

Those members of the Surf Club who did survive the Great War returned different men from those who had left. Some had physical scars; Buster Quinn's back was riddled with shrapnel scars which were plainly visible when he wore his costume; Bon Abbott had lost a toe to frost bite on the Western Front and his hearing was impaired from artillery fire; Laurie Borig returned to Collaroy with the aid of a walking stick, courtesy of a German bullet which removed much of his calf on one leg. Other scars could not be seen but were just as traumatic.

The majority of those Collaroy members who had enlisted did not rejoin the Club on their return. Snowy Lee, for example, was gased on the Western Front and partially recovered in England before joining the Allied force which was sent to Russia to intervene in the Russian Revolution. He never fully recovered from the gassing, however, and would often vomit blood if exposed to sunlight for too long, thus effectively ending his involvement in surf life saving. Lionel Sheldon returned to Australia before the end of the war 'totally and permanently incapacitated' and was granted a 40 acre Soldier Settlement block at Annangrove. Despite the assistance of surf club members who helped the Sheldons clear the land and prepare it, the farm failed seeing the family make a return to Collaroy in 1928. Many others married on their return from the war and new homes outside the district or new family responsibilities saw them drift away from the Club. Tiny Abbott, for example, married after the war and moved to the upper North Shore. While his membership continued into the early 1920s growing family responsibilities drew him away from active participation in the Club.

In commemorating those residents of the Warringah Shire who had died during the war, the Council with the assistance of local community groups instituted a pine tree planting





Above left: The Club's Honour Roll. Above right: The Corso, Manly, Anzac Day 1918. The flowers were arranged by Lionel Sheldon's wife Jessie — Betty Sheldon collection, Local History Resource Unit, Warriewood. Manly War Memorial 1918.

scheme as a form of commemoration. In Collaroy these trees were planted near the Twight's Tea Rooms on the eastern side of Pittwater Road. The Surf Club responded by making Life Members of all those Club members who had served during the Great War. In later years an honour roll of club members who served 'King and Country' in the Great War was unveiled in the club house.

While for most war service members the Surf Club no longer featured in their lives, for a few it became a focal point. For these ex-servicemen the Club had been a constant in a world which had been transformed. Much had changed but the Club had waited for their return. For the likes of Buster Quinn, Beno Shepherd, Laurie Borig and Bon Abbott it was a tangible connection with the old carefree days which fate had stolen from them.

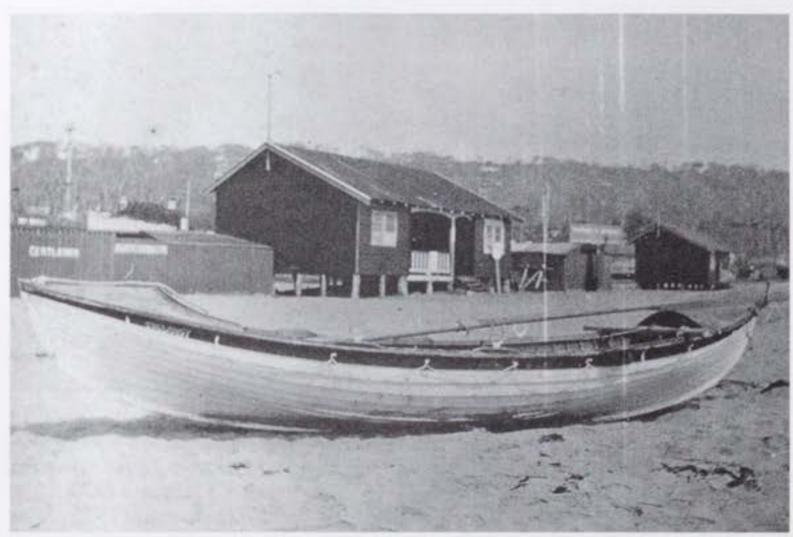
The Crows were re-formed and moved into a house owned by Lionel Sheldon at 1157 Pittwater Road. If military life had taught them one thing it was the enjoyment of a beer and the importance of mateship. The bond between these young men was stronger than it had ever been. Saturday nights at the Crows quickly gained a reputation for the enthusiasm with which they and their guests emptied the contents of a keg. While the Crows had named themselves after the name of their original cottage, their new premises on Pittwater Road was known as the 'Brewery'. To many locals it appeared the Crows partied as if there were no tomorrow. Many of the ex-soldiers had adopted this philosophy in the mud of France. Saturday nights were a celebration of survival and mateship. Many ghosts from the World's greatest conflict were laid to rest before they would return the following morning.

Lifelong friendships had also been made in the trenches and Collaroy members invited former comrades in arms to join them in the Surf Club. Tiny Abbott, for example, encouraged his mate Leo Wearne to join in 1920. Wearne then encouraged his brother Frank to join and both became enthusiastic club members. In 1920 Buster Quin formed a new camp known as the 'Dingbats' with mates from the war such as Eric Davidson, Sandy McDonald, Leo McLellan, Bill English and one of Australia's most decorated soldiers Ronald 'Bonar' White

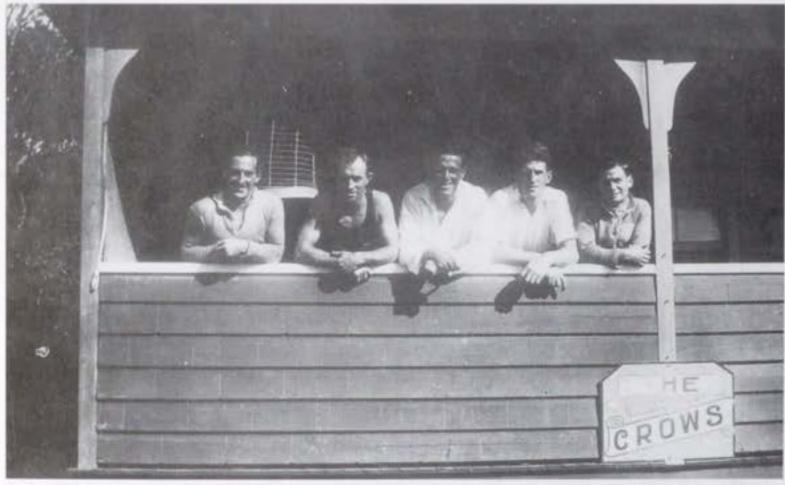




Club members help clear the land on Lionel and Jessie Sheldon's Soldier Settlement Block at Annangrove, 1920.



The Club's first surfboat and second club house circa. 1919. To the right of the club house is the boatshed and beside it is the Ladies Surf Club.



Some 'Crows' and 'Dingbats'. L to R: Sandy McDonald, Cas Forbes, 'Tiny' Abbott, Laurie Borig and Bonnar 'The King' White.

(also known as 'The King'). The Dingbats rented a cottage in Fielding Street and in the early 1920s united with the nearby Wombats. A year or so later the Dingbats moved into the northern half of the cottage on Pittwater Road occupied by the Crows. Now united, Saturday nights gained a reputation which even surpassed the Crows most recent exploits.

The pranks between the two camps became the stuff of local folklore, with each group attempting to outsmart the other. Stories from this time include the Crows' decision to pour a bucket of water down the Wombats chimney. On their return to their kitchen, however, they found that they had poured the water down the wrong chimney. On another occasion the Dingbats cajoled a nearby grazing cow into the Crows kitchen with unpleasant results. Passers by were not immune to their pranks. The external toilet for the Crows held a sign reading 'Public Telephone'. In later years the Crows and Dingbats eventually united as their numbers were gradually depleted as members left the



Mateship and beer. Members of the 'Crows' and 'Dingbats' pose behind one of their main forms of Saturday night entertainment. L to R: Laurie Borig, Bon. Abbott, unknown, Bonnar White, 'Tiny' Abbott, Cas. Forbes, unknown.



An early post war Club football team. It is unclear what code was being played as the photograph includes both league and union players.

fold for married life. A hard core of members and some new additions from time to time, however, ensured that the Crows remained in their camp on Pittwater Road until 1953. As the years went by and younger men who had not experienced the horrors of war joined them, the members of the Crows still had one thing in common — they were all supporters of the Surf Club.

Those ex-servicemen who returned to Collaroy found a township in transition. The area was now one of the most popular holiday and tourist destinations in Sydney and to meet these new demands a commercial building boom paralleled the residential building boom which had continued through the war years. The most obvious and imposing new structure in Collaroy was the Arlington Amusement Hall which was opened in 1919. The complex included a bank of new shops which fronted Pittwater Road as well as a large hall at the rear which looked onto the beach. During the interwar years this hall had a number of uses from silent movie theatre, to dance hall, to roller skating rink to mini-golfcourse. The Arlington, however, was nearly lost less than a year after its completion. A huge easterly gale brought the sea right across Pittwater Road, threatening the foundations of the new building. A number of waterfront homes were lost but thanks to community groups such as the Manly Sand Bag Brigade which was formed to help protect the buildings in the area, the Arlington was saved and then reinforced. Upon losing the pine tree in his front yard Charles Ludowici had attempted to sell his house but the price, which went as low as £5, was not accepted. Fortunately the house was saved.

On the western side of Pittwater Road a number of other buildings were constructed and businesses opened as part of the new Collaroy Beach Estate which fronted Pittwater Road and Alexander and Collaroy Streets. The new estate was managed by Arch Greenwood although by the early 1920s two other real estate Agencies (Twight and Fraser, and R.H. Judd) had opened their doors in Collaroy.

One of the more famous Collaroy businesses which opened at this time was 'Joe Cornwell's Collaroy Butchery' on the corner of Pittwater Road and Alexander Street. The



Collaroy beach front following the great storm of 1920. The surf club is visible in the background - Faviell Collection.





Two views of Collaroy in the 1920s showing its rapid development.

Cornwells were one of Collaroy's earliest families. Cornwell's grandfather and family patriarch, Joe Cornwell Snr, owned a large abattoir in Lidcombe and a number of butcheries which were operated by family members. Early in the century Cornwell built three holiday homes on Pittwater Road near Stuart Street, having bought land from West's Mount Ramsay Estate. The weekenders were used by his large family, especially the families of his three daughters, the Larkins, the Pattersons and the Halls. Soon after the death of Joe Snr, his wife set up their grandson, Joe Jnr, in the new shop on Pittwater Road. Cornwell employed Dingbat Bonar White for many years and also became Collaroy's first starting price bookmaker.

Other businesses to emerge in Collaroy at this time were; L. McVeigh's 'House of Quality' where groceries, crockery, drapery, boots, ales, 'fancy goods' and many other items could be purchased; 'Tierney's Ham and Provision Store' which offered 'City Prices' and specialised in 'Fish Sandwiches'; Parr's Newsagency where the proprietor's son Keith would deliver newspapers in a new Model T Ford while steering with his feet; and Twight Brothers hire car service, operated by Stan Twight's sons and offering the most 'up-to-date cars to and from Collaroy and District'. The township was also served by Chinese green-grocers from the market gardens around Brookvale who would sometimes push carts with fresh fruit up and down Pittwater Road. Many of the new businesses in Collaroy were opened by returned servicemen and the words 'Late AIF' (Australian Imperial Force) often followed the name of a proprietor in the hope that a sense of patriotism might attract business. One such individual was Bob Larkin who had had lost a leg during the Great War and operated the Collaroy post office store.

While there were no community owned buildings in Collaroy, other than the dressing sheds and club house, the year 1922 saw the construction of two privately owned public halls which became the centre for much community activity in the township through the interwar years. The first was Rivoli Hall in Alexander Street which was operated by H.N. 'Pop' Head. Until its floor was condemned in 1938 and it was bought by the Catholic Church, the Hall held many community social events including those run by the Surf Club. After the Collaroy Methodist Church was formed in 1928 a not unusual weekend for the hall was a Surf Club dance until midnight on Saturday. After the dance, Head would stay and clean the hall and erect a collapsible altar from which Mass for the local Catholics would be conducted the following morning at 7am. By the early afternoon the hall's denomination would change with the Methodist Sunday School before the Methodist Church service on Sunday evening. Head was a strong supporter of the Club, gaining his Surf Bronze Medallion in November 1925, although his main work remained in the Club's administration. He also supported a competition for Northern Beaches clubs during the mid-1920s which was known as the Rivoli Hall Cup. The other focal point for community functions which was opened in 1922 was the Masonic Hall on Pittwater Road. It too was the site of many successful social functions run by the Surf Club.

In the early postwar years Collaroy gained its first policeman, Tom Huckins, an English ex-serviceman who had seen service not only in France but Ireland. Huckins patrolled the area from Long Reef to Warriewood on bicycle. Local lore claimed that on those occasions when disturbances were reported in a weekender, rather than entering a room he would draw his service revolver and point it around the corner. Such a sight usually led to an abeyance of the disturbance, whereupon he would say: 'You will be out of this district in 10 minutes, or I'll come back and pull the trigger'.<sup>7</sup>

Those ex-servicemen who returned to the Club did so in dribs and drabs. While the war had officially ended on 11 November 1918 the logistical difficulties of getting not only tens of thousands of Australians but New Zealanders, South Africans, Indians, Canadians and Americans home put an enormous burden on shipping. Many waited months in barracks in England for passage home. While the return of these Club members and the mates they brought back with them bolstered Club numbers and expertise on the beach, membership





Above left: Park Street boys Chic Proctor, Maurie Walters and Bill Palmer circa. 1921. Above right: The Collaroy Street mob. Back row: Alex Rand, unknown; 2nd row: Keith Hamilton, Les Phillips; front row: Wilfred Perry and Tom Steele. A Sunday morning in 1921.

more generally benefited in the immediate postwar years as a new generation of young men joined the Club.

These new members came from three main sources. First, there were a number of young men who began to set up their own camps around Collaroy in the early postwar years. In 1920 two new camps were established in the area. One of them was the 'Park Street Boys' who were ex-students of Sydney Technical High School at Ultimo. One of the group was a young chemical engineering student named Morrie Walters. Walters' family lived at Five Dock but had been regular visitors to the Collaroy area from 1908 when they used to stay with Mrs Walters' brother Jack Lockley, who owned an old stone cottage on the corner of Park and Mactier Streets. Some time later the Walters themselves bought a block of land in Park Street which at the time was still little more than a steep walking track. There they built a holiday shack out of wooden piano crates. During the war years Jack Lockley bought a block of land in Wetherill Street and built two houses naming them 'King Tea' and 'Queen Tea'.8 With King and Queen Tea more comfortable than the Park Street shack the Walters spent more time in Wetherill Street giving Morrie the opportunity to invite his mates to the shack in Park Street. Amongst Walters' friends were Bill Palmer, Charles 'Chic' Proctor, and Gordon 'Dollar' Olsen. Walters later married Harry Armstrong's daughter Cleat and his continued interest in paints and varnishes saw him form a backyard company with his father, who had been in charge of the Polishing Department at Beal's. The new company was called 'Wattyl'.

The other camp was known as the 'Bachelors' and included Adrian Keary, Cec Richardson, Bob Gee and Johnny 'Snowy' Reibelt. The Bachelors, like the Crows hailed from the North Sydney area and Reibelt was a graded player with the North Sydney Rugby League Club. A third group which became associated with the club in 1921 was a group of young middle class men from the Lindfield area who became known as the 'Collaroy Street Mob'.

Amongst the members of this camp were Wilfred and John Perry, Tom Steele, Les Phillips, Alex Rand, Allen 'Jacko' Jackson and Keith Hamilton. Like the other camps the Collaroy Street Mob looked forward to their trip to Collaroy for the weekend 'debauch'. Unlike the Crows, the Collaroy Street boys preferred whisky to beer when they were getting 'shickered' on a Saturday night. Like these other new camps the Collaroy Street boys joined the Surf Club because it was 'the thing to do'.9

The second group of new members were the sons of the increasing number of families that owned or rented holiday homes in Collaroy, especially the Basin. New members from this section of the Collaroy community included Ron Harris and his brother Frank whose parents owned a weekender in Brissenden Avenue; Jack Yeldham and his brother Arthur whose family (prominent in Sydney legal circles) had bought a weekender in the Basin at the suggestion of prominent Sydney barrister and former Club member E.M. Brissenden; and E.H. 'Tim' Loneregan whose family (prominent in the Mudgee area) owned a weekender in Beach Road.

The third group were the sons of those families which had settled in Collaroy permanently. Most were the sons of local tradesmen or business owners. They included Stan Twight's eldest son Norm, Jack Evans' sons Max and John, and Shire President, Newsagent and Surf Club Vice-President A.G. Parr's son Keith.

While the Club had already had the services of Ken G. Hall, another member who would later gain prominence outside life saving was future tennis great Harry Hopman who used to visit Collaroy with his family and joined the Club with his brother Jack. While Harry never attained his Bronze and drifted away from the Club, Jack gained his Bronze in December 1920 and served his ten years before being transferred to the Active Reserve list. He remained on this list until the early 1950s.

On the cessation of hostilities the first task of the Club was to increase its number of Bronze Medallion holders. As the 1919/20 season commenced it had been just on five years since the last Collaroy squads had been trained and examined. Of equal importance for the Club was having one of its members qualified as an instructor to speed up the training process. In late 1919 training commenced with Austin and the recently demobilised Greg Dellit assisting in preparation for their Instructor's Certificates. On 1 February 1920 they were examined and eleven Surf Bronze Medallions and two Instructor's Certificates were secured by the Club.

The increased complement of Club members trained in resuscitation techniques, paid dividends the following April when the Club was involved in a rescue at 'Middle Narrabeen' where the Narrabeen Surf and Life Saving Club had been located. A swimmer had got into difficulties and was rescued with the Council rescue line box but was found to be unconscious with no one present skilled in resuscitation. Members of the Collaroy Club were summoned and performed the standard resuscitation technique of the time, the Schaeffer method. The SBA was informed that if the Collaroy lifesavers with their newly acquired resuscitation skills had not been alerted the rescue 'would have ended disastrously for the patient owing to the ignorance of the general public of this particular general knowledge'. 10

With the Club having two instructors, its ability to train squads was greatly increased. In the following season the Club had a remarkable 37 members successfully examined for their Bronze — six more than had been trained in the previous ten years. Most were young men new to the Club though the squads included Buster Quinn and Bon Abbott who had missed the first two squads due to war service. Abbott especially made up for lost time, successfully completing both his Surf Bronze and his Instructor's Certificate on the same day, 7 November 1920. Another prominent member to gain his Bronze during this time was former President Jack Evans who occasionally rowed for the Club at carnivals. He was beaten to his Bronze by his son Max 'Tin Arse', though he underwent his training with another of his sons, John.



Ex-Servicemen drifted back to the club slowly. Members 1920. L to R, back row: Sandy McDonald, Wilfred Perry, unknown on shoulders, 'Tiny' Abbott, unknown, unknown, Cas Forbes, unknown, Laurie Borig, unknown; middle row: unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Bill Shepherd, unknown, unknown; front row: unknown, Max Evans.



Megaphone operator Freddie Williams attracts the attention of the crowd at Collaroy's first carnival after the Great War.



Bathers at Collaroy, early 1920s.



Members of the Club's senior boat crew, 1919/20. L to R, back: Eddie Rankin, Cas Forbes, Austin Dellit; front: 'Tiny' Abbott, Les Quinn, Bon Abbott, Laurie Borig.

With the end of the war the surf carnival program was resurrected with vigour and Collaroy attended a large number of carnivals. The Club, however, was still little known within the movement. For example, the prize for Collaroy's win in the Tug o' War at the Manly carnival in December 1918 was sent, not for the first or last time, to the Clovelly Club. 11

At the start of the 1919/20 season the Club decided that it was ready to host its second carnival. In a bold step the Club applied for and received permission from the SBA to host its carnival on Boxing Day. That the Club had succeeded in gaining such a significant public holiday was seen as a major coup which guaranteed a large number of entries and spectators. Credit for the decision must have partly rested with Greg Dellit who on his return from war service had become increasingly involved in the Executive of the SBA and was later Collaroy's first appointment to the Board of Examiners and long time Deputy-President to the movement's governing body. As an added bonus, the Collaroy Carnival became part of the Cecil Healy Memorial Surf Shield competition. Healy was an Olympic gold medallist and former club captain of the Manly Surf Club who was killed during the Great War. The competition in his honour was competed for over a number of events at several carnivals. Its aim was to find the best all-round Club in the Sydney area. The Collaroy carnival was assigned the Surf Relay Race as its event in the Shield Competition. The Club's role in this competition further ensured that the state's premier surf clubs would see the Collaroy Carnival as a mandatory fixture on their carnival programs.

Another popular carnival attraction of the early 1920s was the 'Johnnie Walker Surf Life Boat' competition. The competition was spread over a number of carnivals with first prize being the donation by the Johnnie Walker Company of the use of a new surf boat for the following year. If a club won the competition on two occasions the boat would be theirs. The Manly Life Saving Club achieved this goal and the competition was perpetuated with the donation by the company of the Johnnie Walker II. The origins of this very popular competition of the period, which also led to the emergence of the Johnnie Walker style of surf boat, lay at Collaroy. Ron Harris' father was a senior executive with Johnnie Walker. After approaches from the Club about a replacement for the Collaroy he urged the company to donate a new boat to Collaroy. Senior management agreed and it appeared the Club would have a new boat. Unfortunately before the deal was finalised the company decided that its sponsorship pound could be better spent in sponsoring a surf boat competition with the boat originally destined for Collaroy as the prize.

It appears, however, that the Club did secure a new boat shortly thereafter which was launched on 22 September 1923. The old Collaroy remained with the Club until 1925 when it was given to the fledgling Mona Vale Club during the 1924/25 season and the 'new boat' was 'overhauled'.12 How the Club gained this new boat is uncertain. It has been claimed by former member Dave Spear that, presumably in the wake of the unsuccessful Johnnie Walker deal, the Club approached McWilliam's Wines which had recently established a depot at Brookvale, not far from Johnnie Walker. Spear claims that the Club invited the head of the depot to Collaroy to watch a mock rescue and have explained the reason for the Club needing a new boat. 13 Spear claims that the Company acceded to the request and a new surf boat was built for the Club by Cedric Williams of Church Point. Spear's story is supported by former member Max Lyne who also recalls a surf boat in the 1920s donated by McWilliam's Wines. 14 Perhaps surprisingly, if the story is correct, the company did not seek naming rights over the boat and it was simply called Collaroy. Neither the Club nor the McWilliam's company have any record of such a donation. Interestingly the 1923 Annual Report, in annoucing the launch of the Club's third boat, stated that it was 'purchased'. The financial records, contained in the report, however, make no reference to the Club spending any of its own funds on such a purchase - thereby giving further weight to the claim that the boat was donated. 15

In 1920 the Surf Bathers Association changed its name to the Surf Life Saving Association of New South Wales (SLSA of NSW) to more correctly reflect the purpose and activities of its member clubs. Collaroy along with the other member clubs of the old SBA affiliated with the new organisation and Jack Lee was appointed as one of the Association's Vice-Presidents. While supposedly representing Warringah Council more than Collaroy, another Vice-President was Councillor Parr. With Lee and Parr active participants in Association meetings and Greg Dellit's involvement, Collaroy was starting to gain the input into the administration and direction of the movement which the bigger, founding Clubs had always taken for granted.

With the suspension of championship competition in 1915, the second Association Championships were not held until March 1920 at North Steyne. While it would be anothertwo years before the Association would again change its name to the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia (SLSA), the Association Carnival was already being called the 'Australian Championships' in some circles despite the fact that only New South Wales clubs were represented. While some clubs had confused Collaroy with Clovelly in the past, the 'Seagulls' performance at the Championships helped banish such misunderstandings. It heralded the elevation of the Collaroy Surf and Life Saving Club to a position of preeminence as one of the movement's most competitive clubs.

While beach sprint events had been part of carnival competition for some time they were not events at the inaugural Association Championships. This omission, however, was corrected at the 1920 titles with the inclusion of both Beach Sprint and Beach Sprint Relay events. On the sand Collaroy was well endowed. As well as the likes of strong runners in Athy Sheldon and the formerly successful track athlete Buster Quinn, the Club had recently gained two gifted sprinters into its ranks. James (Jas) and John (Jack) McManamey hailed from the North Sydney area and both had been quite successful in amateur athletics while students of North Sydney Boys' High School. In more recent times they had both been graded as three-quarters



Crew returning boat to club house early 1920s.

with North Sydney Rugby League Club. In the beach sprint at the Association titles both the McManamey brothers and Athy Sheldon found themselves through to the final. In that final Jim McManamey won the first senior beach sprint title ever held and with it Collaroy's first Australian Championship title. To round off such a strong performance Athy Sheldon ran second. Surprisingly, given such results, they failed to win the beach sprint relay, finishing second. In the boat race the *Collaroy* finished third behind the North Narrabeen and Freshwater entrants, showing the benefits of the Council surf boat scheme. Collaroy finished the titles as the third most successful club in the Association. Only North Steyne and Manly

had finished with more impressive results on the day.

This competitive success carried on into the 1920/21 season. Highlights included a win for the junior boat crew (Ron Harris, Alex Greville, Gordon Olsen, Maurie Walters and Bill Palmer) at Dee Why and several wins for the March Past team. At the Association Championships at Bondi in April 1921 the Club's prowess on the sand was once again displayed with Jim and John McManamey, Athy Sheldon and Buster Quinn securing the Beach Sprint Relay and the Club's second Australian title. The Club's strong showing in the March Past through the season was also rewarded with a second at the Championships behind Newcastle. Collaroy was again placed behind North Steyne and Manly though the honour of third best performing club was shared with Freshwater, North Bondi, Newcastle and Dee Why. Given such results the Club was a little disappointed that it was only placed sixth in the Cecil Healy Memorial Shield at the end of the season. The problem was seen to lay in the

Club's uncompetitiveness in the water.

At the beginning of the 1921/22 season the Club's increased profile within the movement was rewarded with the Club receiving its first representative honours when Bon Abbott was selected as Vice-Captain of an Association team for an Instructional Tour of the Far North Coast. 17 In competition the Club's strength in March Past continued with a number of successes including a win at the North Steyne Carnival in December. 18 Success on the sand continued with the revamped relay team of Athy Sheldon, Buster Quinn, Cas Forbes and H. Evans following the Club's loss of the McManamey brothers. Most importantly, however, the 1922 Championships held at Manly saw the Club finally gain respectability in the surf after having dominated the sand for two seasons. Besides another second to Newcastle in the March Past, Ron Harris won the Alarm Reel Race (the equivalent of today's surf belt title) beating stillwater champion and Olympian Frank Beaurepaire who had been lured from his home in Melbourne to compete. Harris' line and reel team consisted of Bon Abbott, Maurie Walters, J. Kehoe and Bill Palmer. In celebrating his victory, Harris' family commissioned Buster Quinn (a cabinet maker with Anthony Horderns) to make a surf board. Quinn made the board from a single piece of Californian Redwood at the Dingbats' Camp. Before it was completed, however, Harris' father died and the family left Collaroy. Chic Proctor acquired the board in Harris' absence and it remains in the club house to this day as the Club's Life Members Honour Board. For three consecutive years the Club had not left the Championships without a title and Harris' win left North Steyne as the only Club with a better record at the Championships. The Club was again honoured by the Association with both Ron Harris and Bon Abbott selected for an instructional tour of the North Coast and Abbott being elected Captain of a team which was considered to contain 'the most proficient men enrolled as Surf Life Savers' 19

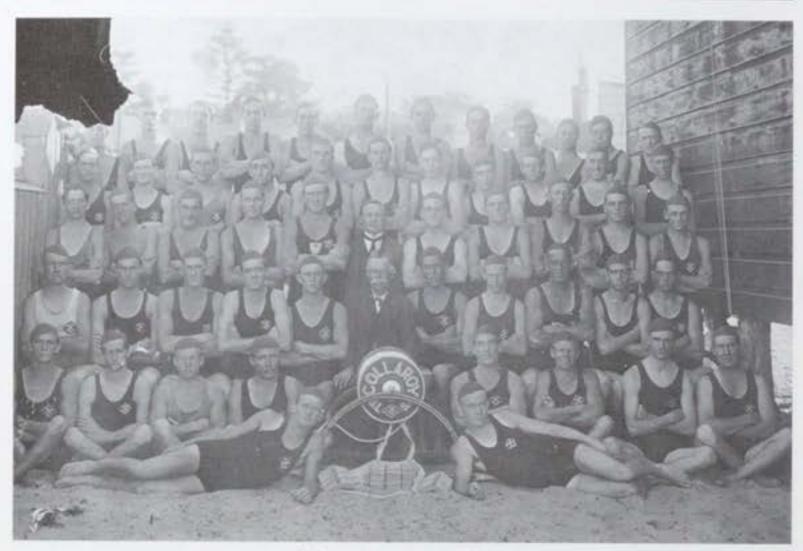
While Collaroy was experiencing success it did not escape controversy. On Boxing Day 1920, the same day as its third carnival, the Club also held its fourth Bronze examination for 10 members. The group included Chic Proctor, the McManamey brothers, Jack Evans and son



Association beach relay champions 1921 L to R: Athy. Sheldon, Jim McManamey, Jack McManamey, Les Quinn.



Club's march past team, second 1921 Association Championships. L to R, back row: Sandy McDonald, Leo Wearne, unknown, unknown, unknown, Jack Lette, Keith Parr, Laurie Borig, Alf. Lee, Vince Lette, ? Black, Les Quinn; middle row: Bill English, Johnny Rankin, Tiny Abbott, Cas Forbes, Austin Dellit, Athy. Sheldon; front row: Bon Abbott, Eddy Rankin.



Club members, season 1922/23.



Early Collaroy members undergo bronze training.



Association belt champion 1922, Ron Harris. Collaroy's first belt champion.

John, and Arthur Yeldham. Another Club member who sat for and passed the test was a young man named Wallace Batty, a very promising swimmer. At the time the minimum age for Bronze examination was 16. Wallace Batty, however, was only 14 when Club officials had allowed him to sit for the examination and helped him falsify his birth date to the examiners.

With his Bronze secured Batty competed in junior swimming events including a carnival at Manly at the end of the season in which he won the junior surf race. Upon winning the race Batty was approached by George Dempster, an official of the Dee Why Club and a Vice President of the SLSA. Dempster asked Batty if he was over 16 years of age to which Batty replied in the affirmative. Dempster was unconvinced and during the winter months received evidence which showed that Batty was not 16 years of age. In August of 1921 the Dee Why Club wrote to the Association complaining that Batty had been entered at the Manly Carnival but was under 16. At its monthly meeting the



Harold Taylor's certificate awarded by the Royal Relief, Shipwreck and Humane Society of NSW.

Association requested Collaroy to prove that Batty was over 16. With the charade exposed the Club was forced to admit that Batty was under 16.

By 1921 Greg Dellit was the Club's Chief Instructor and, as noted, a member of the Board of Examiners. George Dempster believed that Dellit must have known Batty was under 16 and so had knowingly contravened the rules of the Association. At the September meeting of the Association Dempster moved a motion which read: 'That Mr Greg Dellit be struck off the Examiners Board for including Mr Batty in a squad to be examined, knowing him to be under the age of 16 years'. <sup>20</sup> Calls were also made that Dellit be suspended from competition for 12 months. While the meeting took the issue very seriously it decided not to act until Dellit, who was absent, could defend himself. A letter, however, was drafted to the Collaroy Club requesting the return of Batty's Bronze Medallion on the grounds that it remained the property of the Association.

The issue had not been resolved by the time of the 1921 Annual General Meeting of the SLSA of NSW. There appeared little chance, however, that Dellit could successfully defend himself on the grounds that he had been misinformed as to Batty's age. His removal from the Examiners Board and suspension from competition seemed inevitable. The situation and Dellit's plight, however, had outraged many younger members of Collaroy. They were especially angered that a member of the Dee Why Club had raised the issue when it was well known that three of their recent Bronze Medallion holders had gained their awards while under the age of 16. With this information Athy Sheldon, the Club's delegate to the Association, felt he had enough ammunition and so when the Batty controversy was raised at the AGM he noted that the problem was not only widespread in the movement but that the Dee Why Club itself had three underage Bronze holders.<sup>21</sup>

With most clubs at that time holding members who had gained their medallions before their 16th birthday and all fearing the damage of a widespread witch hunt, the punitive motion against Dellit was withdrawn. An amnesty of sorts was introduced where all clubs stripped under age Bronze Medallion holders of their awards with the clubs not being held responsible for breaking Association rules. At Collaroy, Ron Harris' younger brother Frank had his medal withdrawn and was forced to sit for the examination again in December 1922, nearly three years after he had first successfully completed the examination. The Batty incident speeded up discussions concerning an award system for those under 16 and at the November meeting of the Association, Austin Dellit seconded a motion calling for the introduction of a 'Qualifying Certificate' which could be completed by youths between the ages of 14 and 16.<sup>22</sup>

Throughout this period the Club's raison d'etre as ever remained the protection of the bathing public. In 1922 the Club received its second bravery award for a rescue performed by Harold Taylor on 5 January [the first award, gained by Charles Bristow is described later in this Chapter]. Taylor, who had not yet completed his surf Bronze Medallion (and would fail his examination two weeks later) received the Royal Humane and Shipwreck Society's Certificate and Silver Medal for the rescuing of a young boy, Arthur Willoughy. Taylor was on a voluntary weekday patrol with George Moules and Arch Duckworth, when Willoughby got caught in a rip in the southern corner of the beach and was quickly carried out to sea. In Taylor's own words:

It was a big, rough sea and the beltman was having a lot of trouble trying to get out through the break to the drowning man. The situation looked hopeless. So I ran along the beach and went out on the rocks to see whether I could get around behind the raging surf. Between swells, I dived in off the rocks and swam around to Willoughby, who by then was rather desperate. After the long run and swim, I wasn't interested in the usual struggle associated with the standard violent-patient release drill, so I simply told the patient to

turn around and relax or I'd leave him there to drown. He quickly turned around. Then it was just a long, exhausting rescue without line and reel. We were both very glad to regain the beach.<sup>23</sup>

The only loss of life in the surf off Collaroy in the 10 years of the Club had occurred outside patrol hours in 1919. In 1923, however, the Club recorded its first death during patrol hours. A swimmer, named Loxaine, bathing near the southern corner of the beach got into difficulties in a big surf and was quickly whipped out to sea by a strong undertow. Bon Abbott entered the water without a belt and battled his way towards the man to secure him while fellow club members attempted to get a line out. After a tremendous struggle this was eventually achieved by Max Evans who dragged the belt through the breakers. Upon securing the patient the three men began to be hauled back to the beach. As they entered the breakers, however, they were caught on a sand bar by a huge dumper which dashed them heavily against the sand. While it was not immediately apparent to the lifesavers, the



Rescue and rescuer, Arthur Willoughby and Harold Taylor.

dumper had caused serious internal injuries to the already semi-conscious Loxaine. Once on the beach the Club's honorary doctor and an ambulance was summoned but the patient later died in hospital from these internal injuries. Seeing that the patient had not drowned and had died in hospital several hours later it was deemed that the Club's record of 'no lives lost' had been maintained.

While no records of the Club's rescue activities in its first twelve years exist the 1922/23 Annual Report gives some insight into a normal season. The report noted that for the season the Club had performed 42 rescues with 'no casualties' and special mention was made of a rescue performed by Life Member Austin Dellit on Boxing Day 1922. In the 1924/25 season 27 rescues of a 'minor nature' were made while in 1926/27 17 rescues were recorded despite a 'great influx of visitors'. For the first time this report also specified how these rescues were performed. Seven were performed with line, six were by swimmers without line and four were performed by the surf boat. Four patients required resuscitation on their return to the beach. The rescue report showed that the Club was also engaged by the local police in body recovery, performing two such tasks during the season — one the result of a drowning off Narrabeen and the other a probable suicide off the cliff at Collaroy. These figures, when compared to other Clubs of the period, are relatively small and while they could be accounted for in part by Collaroy's reputation for being a safer surfing beach than many others in Sydney, other factors ranging from the Club's ability to prevent swimmers getting into trouble or different recording methods or criteria for what constituted a rescue may explain such discrepancies.

One important life saving development in the Warringah Shire in the early 1920s was the appointment of 'permanent' lifesavers. At the time life saving clubs only protected the beach on Saturday afternoons and Sundays with some occasional voluntary patrols on weekdays during school holidays. This meant that on Saturday mornings and on weekdays during most of the busy summer holidays the beaches of Warringah Shire lay unprotected except for the council reel. In 1921 the residents of Palm Beach, through their Progress Association, decided it was

their responsibility to protect the bathing public and so resolved that they would hire a 'Permanent Lifesaver' who would protect the beach on weekdays and Saturday mornings. The Shire's first permanent lifesaving position was secured by Austin Dellit, who also became the Honorary Instructor of the Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club which formed soon after. Amongst Dellit's first Bronze squad at Palm Beach was future SLSA President and Life Governor, Sir Adrian Curlewis. In its Second Annual Report, the Palm Beach Club noted:

The Club was again fortunate in having obtained the services of Mr. Austin Dellit as Life Saver last season, and he has once more proved his worth by the able manner in which he attended to his duties. It is a tribute to his ability that since the inauguration of the Club, three years ago, there has been no serious accident on our beach. The Committee and Club members fully realise that it is due to Mr. Dellit's influence and instruction that the Club has maintained its high order of efficiency.<sup>24</sup>

Dellit's devotion to duty and the foresight of the Palm Beach Club was amply



Austin Dellit at Palm Beach.

demonstrated on the afternoon of Wednesday 16 January 1924. While Dellit was on patrol that afternoon he noticed a shark seven to eight feet in length in a channel close to shore making its way towards a group of small children. The Official report noted that:

Grasping the situation immediately and realising that it was too late to reach the children before the shark, Dellit rushed across the beach into the water and diving straight at the shark threw himself on top of the monster, which was by this time within a yard of one of the children and so frightened the shark that it disappeared out to sea and did not return.

In late 1923 the SLSA introduced its own meritorious award system. Dellit received the Association's first meritorious award in Bronze which was seen as the 'equivalent to the Civil V.C.'. A grateful Palm Beach community responded with a dinner in Dellit's honour at Palm Beach House where he received the medallion and a cheque for £75.25 Dellit's actions convinced the Warringah Council of the usefulness of a permanent lifesaver and its responsibility for the protection of the surf bathing public outside volunteer patrol hours. It agreed to pay Palm Beach half of the permanent lifesaver's salary and offered a similar arrangement to its other clubs. With Dellit a Collaroy member the Club was well aware of the benefits of the scheme. Some years earlier the Club had itself had an unofficial and unpaid permanent lifesaver in the form of Tim Loneragan. In the early postwar years Loneragan's father had purchased two blocks of land at the northern end of Beach Road which were owned by local Real Estate Agent Robert Judd.26 Two weekenders were then built on the sites by Harry Armstrong and Loneragan's father gave one of them to his sister. At the end of 1920 Loneragan had finished school and was given a six month holiday at Collaroy before he had to return to Mudgee and begin his career in the family business. He was on the beach almost every day and performed a number of rescues outside voluntary patrol hours. One of the more interesting involved saving the Club surf boat and its crew - which was made up of community leaders including foundation member Stan Twight. None of those onboard knew how to use the sweep oar properly but the surf was so flat that it had not posed a problem as the men had rowed out for a short fishing trip. Several hours later, however, and a large swell

had blown up trapping some of the town's most prominent members several hundred metres out to sea. At this point in time Stan Twight suffered what was later diagnosed as a heart attack and slumped to the floor of the boat. From the shore Loneragan saw the flurry of hands indicating that the crew of the surf boat were in trouble. He grabbed his trusty 'red-winged' canoe, which had been purchased as a gift by an auntie from Nock and Kirby's. The canoe worked on a principle not dissimilar to a surf boat and had two air tanks in it which made it unsinkable. During the 1920s and 30s a number of carnivals held races for such craft and the Association examined their usefulness for rescue work. Loneragan had used the canoe on past occasions when the surf had been considered too big for a surf boat or the weed was too thick to use a belt. He reached the surf boat, and although himself a novice, took the sweep oar and managed to negotiate his way back through the heavy surf. Twight was given medical attention on the beach and survived the attack.<sup>27</sup>

The move towards appointing a permanent lifesaver was also strongly supported by local businesses. If the beach was patrolled during weekdays and Saturday mornings it would attract more bathers and hence more business. Many local business owners had also tired of performing midweek rescues themselves. In such endeavours Norm Twight and Keith Parr

had come to the fore, stopping work to perform rescues on numerous occasions.

The Club, therefore, decided that it would meet half the salary of a Permanent Lifesaver. The position was advertised and Club Vice-Boat Captain Cas Forbes was selected. Forbes held the position for a number of years performing many rescues in that time. A newspaper report in the late 1920s noted that 'his vast experience in life saving makes him one of the best patrolmen on the coast'. 28

While Dellit's encounter with a shark gained national media attention, the issue of sharks and shark attacks were concerns on which the Collaroy Club actively discouraged publicity. As seen, the formation of the Club had been in part the product of business and political interests which regarded its creation as essential to the development of the area. These community leaders had continued to guide the future of the Club through the postwar period with their financial support and administrative involvement. The Club and the beach continued to be seen as a vehicle for the area's further development. Beach attendances and therefore the area's development were threatened, however, if visitors to the beach were scared away due to reports of shark attacks. Most retail businesses in Collaroy made most of their money for the year over the six week Christmas/New Year break through visitors to the beach. If bathers were scared off the beach it would be an economic calamity. Community leaders and senior club officials, therefore, deliberately concealed shark attacks at Collaroy.

Unfortunately the Narrabeen-Dee Why area was especially susceptible to sharks. Several hundred metres off Long Reef and 40 feet down lay a gutter which in later years became known as 'Shark Alley', renowned amongst those interested in sharks as the biggest concentration in the Sydney area. In the late 1950s and early 1960s shark hunters Ron Taylor and Ben Cropp filmed their documentary *Shark Hunters* in Shark Alley.<sup>29</sup> These sharks often made their presence felt on nearby beaches and shark bells received consistent use during a surfing season.

It is not known how many people were attacked by sharks at Collaroy during this period or how often the Club's shark bell rang. It is known, however, that on at least two occasions during the early postwar period shark attack fatalities on Collaroy Beach were reported to the

press as drownings so as to avoid unfavourable publicity.

The first shark fatality occurred in December 1919 and involved a new member of the Club, Charles Bristow. In February of that year the Bristow family bought a block of land in the Basin and built a holiday home. By the beginning of the 1919/20 season the weekender had been completed by Harry Armstrong and the family were regular visitors to Collaroy. Young Charles Bristow proceeded to join the Surf Club and became a member of the second Bronze squad.

One weekday Bristow found himself on the beach when he was alerted to two swimmers in difficulty off the rock pool. The rock pool was only a few years old and had only increased the strength of the run out in the southern corner of the beach. Bristow entered the water and proceeded to reach the man and woman. Making a decision based more on chivalry than life saving procedure, he secured the female patient and calmed her. The man, while in difficulties and further out, appeared to be having little trouble keeping afloat. It was agreed between the two men that the woman would be returned to shore first whereupon Bristow would return to rescue the man. As Bristow was proceeding to shore, however, the man let out a blood curdling scream whereupon he disappeared. Surrounded by blood he resurfaced for a second before again being pulled under. With a patient already secured Bristow could do nothing but watch helplessly as the man was taken by a shark. He was later awarded for his bravery in attempting to rescue the two swimmers in difficult conditions, being the first member of the Club to receive such a commendation. No mention of the shark, however, was made to the press or in the Club's report and in the description of his action for the bravery award it was simply stated that the man had drowned before Bristow had been able to return to him.

The second incident, which occurred on Sunday 15 March 1925, gives an even clearer picture of the Club's practice on sharks. This day found Collaroy entertaining members of the Corrimal Club. Though formed many years earlier, Corrimal had only become affiliated with the SLSA in the 1922/23 season and so it sought some tuition in SLSA life saving methods from one of the bigger Sydney clubs. It appears Collaroy was approached at this time by the President of the South Coast Branch of the SLSA, H.W. Ramsay Sharpe, to see if such a relationship could be forged between Corrimal and Collaroy. Ramsay Sharpe would later become a financial supporter and Vice-President of the Collaroy Club.

The first weekend visit by Collaroy members to Corrimal occurred late in the 1922/23 season. The visit was an outstanding success though many of the Collaroy members had



On the road. Collaroy members visit the Corrimal Club, season 1922/23. L to R, back row: Chic Proctor, Laurie Borig, unknown, Eric Davidson, Bonnar White, Harry Mellor, unknown, unknown; 3rd row: Pat Curran (Corrimal), Charlie Bristow, Cas Forbes, unknown, unknown, Jack Lee, unknown, Max Evans, Alex Lee, Dave Spear, Leo Wearne; 2nd row: Ralph Chequer, Les Quinn, Bill Abbott, unknown, unknown; front row: Lil Abbott, Bon Abbott, Sandy McDonald.

arrived at the South Coast town slightly worse for wear thanks to Laurie Borig procuring half a crate of whiskey from Waterfall Station. On Saturday evening members of both clubs broke into the local band rotunda which was the object of some envy by the local surf club and an impromptu procession down Corrimal's main street followed before the band stopped to enjoy some watermelon which had been procured form the local green grocer.<sup>31</sup>

On Saturday 14 March 1925 members of the Corrimal Club paid a visit to Collaroy. The frivolity of earlier visits, however, had evaporated and the mood of the day was sombre in light of the recent death of Corrimal's club captain James King during the R&R event at the Wollongong carnival when tangled lines had pulled him underwater and to his death.

On Sunday morning it was the turn of the boat crew to demonstrate their skills to their visitors. With a strong nor-easter blowing, the Corrimal members were given a spectacular demonstration of the usefulness of the surf boat as it cleared the shore break, firming their resolve to make a boat their next acquisition. At the conclusion of the demonstration, the members of both clubs changed into their 'best clobber' for afternoon tea and entertainment in the club house before the Corrimal members made the long return trip south.

One of the members of Collaroy who was in attendance was Dave Spear. Spear lived with his family in Ocean Street, Narrabeen. Spear's father had built the original Narrabeen Hotel before losing a large sum of money in building a road to Palm Beach. Spear was going to join North Narrabeen but was convinced by his two mates, Ralph Chequer and Harry Mellor, to join Collaroy. The three youths, often known as the 'Three Must Get Theirs' gained their Bronze Medallions in December 1922.

At about 2pm a motor lorry with five young men aboard arrived at Collaroy and hired costumes from Jack Evans' store which was between Twight's Tea Rooms and the Arlington building. They then proceeded to enter the surf near the northern end of the Arlington 'several hundred yards along the beach from the bathing area'. Around 2.30 the five were 'caught in a vicious undertow' and taken out to sea where the 'choppy waves buffeted them severely'.



Club members at the Avalon carnival 1925. L to R: Keith Parr, Ralph Chequer, Dave Spear, Seaton Bremner, Maurie Walters, Adrian Keary, Bert Chequer, Vince Head, Bill Palmer, Harry Mellor, Paddy McDonald, Bob Kay, Max Evans.

Spear was standing on the verandah of the club, talking to a couple of guests when a young boy approached the club house: 'Mister, there's a man drowning out there'. Thinking it a prank to spoil the afternoon tea, Spear responded: 'Oh piss off will ya' and re-entered the Club. A short time later he returned to the verandah, this time with Max Evans and a new member, local resident Bob Kay. As they were chatting the young boy returned, this time in the company of another boy: 'Mister, there's two men drowning out there now'. The three men looked in the direction the boys were pointing and some distance beyond the shore break they could make out not two but four heads bobbing in the surf.

Not wanting to disturb the festivities inside the club the three ran up the beach. On reaching the northern end of the Arlington they saw the fifth member of the party struggle to the shore exhausted after having battled the rip and won. Spear and Evans stripped to their shirts and their prized Oxford bags, with 21 inch bottoms, and dived into the rip in pursuit of the four bobbing heads which were now well over half a kilometre out to sea. Both had agreed that they did not think they would be able to reach the drowning men in time. With a better appreciation of the seriousness of the situation, Bob Kay decided to raise the alarm at the club house. Perhaps surprisingly, however, his return to the club house was broken by a visit to his home in Alexander Street where he donned his costume.

With both Spear and Evans strong swimmers (being members of the club's open surf team) and the rip being quite ferocious, the pair reached the four swimmers relatively quickly and found them all still conscious but near exhaustion having wasted their energy fighting the rip. The current was still strong and continuing to take them out to sea. Looking back to the beach Spear recalled that the people there looked like dolls and he calculated he was about three quarters of a mile from shore. The question for Spear and Evans was how could they return the four men safely to the beach. Very quickly they realised there was nothing they could do but try and keep the four men afloat until more help arrived.

Upon reaching the group, three of the men were close together while the fourth was further our to sea but only about 10 feet away. Spear and Evans grabbed two of the men with one arm each while the third held onto their shoulders to keep afloat. With this arrangement they realised that it would be impossible to reach the fourth man, all their effort was being expended simply keeping themselves and the other three afloat. While nothing was said they both realised that the fourth man would have to be sacrificed if the other three stood any chance of being saved. The fourth man, Ernest Hayes of Beecroft, beseeched the lifesavers to help him. When they did not respond he called to his mates. 'Come out to me Ted' he asked of his best friend, Edward Shields of Pennant Hills, the man resting on the lifesavers' shoulders, but a sense of self-preservation coupled with exhaustion meant Sheilds did not offer any assistance.

With the group simply being taken by the current further our to sea, Evans and Spear realised they would have to act. Spear noted that he was on the inside of the current. He suggested that if they both kicked high and let the legs of the patients dangle, they might be able to get out of the current. Evans agreed it was 'worth a go'. Just as they were about to attempt the manoeuvre Spear gave one more look to Ernest Hayes, realising that he was now certain to drown. At that moment Spear saw a dark object in the water behind Hayes. Before he had a chance to even give a warning Hayes screamed in agony and disappeared under the water. The sea turned to dark red instantaneously and Ernest Hayes was never seen again.

At the time Hayes had been taken he had still been no more than 15 feet away from the rest of the group. The three patients started to panic but fortunately Spear and Evans were able to calm them stating that a shark never returned to the scene of an attack. They neglected to tell the three men that such attacks, however, sometimes tended to attract other sharks. Spear's composure was all the more remarkable because he had had a close encounter with a shark as boy in 1919 when he had assisted North Narrabeen champion George Proudfoot in a rescue. Upon clearing the breakers and reaching what turned out to be a man who had fallen from a

boat and had long since died, Spear noticed that they were being circled by a shark. Upon pointing out the unwelcome visitor Proudfoot nonchalantly responded: 'Take no notice. He'll swim around and have a look at us. By the time he's made up his mind we'll be in the breakers'. Proudfoot's judgement proved correct but at the time Spear vowed never to enter the surf again. With the group hundreds of metres from the shore break Spear's composure, in an already stressful situation, was remarkable.

Back on the beach Bob Kay had reached the club house and raised the alarm. Club members grabbed a reel and headed to the northern side of the Arlington, whereupon Kay donned the belt. It was quickly realised that the group was still too far out to sea and that extra line would need to be added to the reel. To make matters worse the surf had a heavy concentration of seaweed, which limited even further the distance which Kay could swim, and

his speed.

Through great persistence Evans and Spear were able to finally get themselves and their patients out of the rip. They were still, however, many hundreds of metres from the shore and in an area far less protected from the swell than in the southern corner of the beach. As they made their way to shore the group were buffeted by a large set of waves which washed away the man who had been holding onto Spear and Evans' shoulders. By this stage the man had recovered somewhat and volunteered that he would attempt to swim to shore himself. Offered good luck by the lifesavers the man began to swim off as Evans and Spear could now use their free arm to help propel them and their remaining patients towards shore.

Back in the belt Bob Kay had reached a point where he could go no further either because of the weight of the seaweed or because he had simply run out of line. He had no choice but to simply tread water and wait for the patients to come to him. While the surf boat had been prepared and a scratch crew gathered, the conditions were deemed too dangerous to attempt to use it. Eventually the man swimming independently for shore reached Kay. With the man able to tread water Kay decided to wait for Spear and Evans and then signal the beach to pull them

all in. Many minutes later Evans and Spear finally reached Kay with two patients whose condition had severely deteriorated. Kay then

gave the signal to be hauled in.

The hauling in process, however, created yet another challenge with the amount of weed tangled on the line. If the linesmen pulled in too fast the group was dragged under water. Thankfully the linesmen were all well experienced and so knew when to slacken off the line to keep the group afloat. Finally Kay, Evans and Spear and their charges reached the shore over an hour and a half after they had entered the water. By the time they had reached the beach their two patients were unconscious and required resuscitation which was successfully performed by other members of the Club.

Amongst those in attendance on the beach was Constable Huckins who was informed by Evans and Spear that the fourth man had been taken by a shark. Also on the beach was former Club Secretary and current Vice-President, Arch Greenwood. Greenwood took Huckins and a number of senior club members aside and a discussion in



Collaroy's first policeman, Constable Tom Huckins.

whispered tones followed. Shortly after the three patients were placed in an ambulance, Greenwood and Huckins took Spear and Evans aside. They were told to forget about the shark incident and to say nothing to the press because it was 'out of their hands'. Huckins stated that in his report he would simply be noting that Hayes had disappeared and presumably drowned. Spear and Evans were then reminded that both their fathers worked in the local area and if word of a shark attack at Collaroy got out many jobs including their fathers' could be threatened. Mention was made of two recent attacks at Coogee and Bronte which had severely reduced their patronage. They were then asked to promise that they would tell no one about the shark for 20 years. With that they were both patted on the back and told they would be nominated for bravery awards. Spear and Evans agreed to keep the attack a secret. Evans took his knowledge of the incident to his grave while Spear finally revealed all to the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader 68 years later. No bravery awards were ever forthcoming.

Later in the afternoon the surf boat was sent out to look for the shark and any sign of Hayes. Just off Collaroy the crew came across a huge bronze whaler which was estimated to be between 16 and 17 feet long. Max Evans' brother 'Lal' who was riding bow vomited at the sight of the creature. It was assumed that the whaler had been the shark involved in the attack. The club's shark spear was thrown at the creature but simply bounced off. With that the crew made

a hurried exit to shore.

On the Monday morning following the attack, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that the weekend had been a poor one for surf bathing and that 'disturbed and treacherous undertows threatened life at numerous spots'. The report noted that 'At Collaroy a young bather was carried out, and, though no one saw him disappear there is little doubt that he was drowned'. The Club's annual report perpetuated the charade but claimed it was not until the first three men were rescued that the Club was informed that a fourth man was still in the surf. Most importantly the Club report noted that 'These rescues were effected outside the bathing area'. 33

Several weeks later a number of Collaroy members were enjoying a local pastime of running and then sliding on weed amassed by the water's edge. On this occasion Beno Shepherd had set off for a slide when his foot struck something in the weed. Unearthing the object he turned to his friends and inquired: 'Which one of you have died in the last week?'. In his hands was a human skull which the group presumed was that of Ernest Hayes. On returning to the club house Constable Huckins was summoned. Huckins, however, expressed no interest in the grisly discovery, telling Shepherd: 'You bloody fool! Why did you call me for. Go out in the bloody boat as far as you can and chuck it over'. Dutifully the life savers obeyed the policeman's request and the skull was thrown from the surf boat several hundred metres off the beach.<sup>34</sup>

In 1929, the Club and community leaders were unable to keep a shark attack quiet because the young female victim, though badly mauled, survived.<sup>35</sup> The incident, however, had only been the latest in a number of shark attacks on Sydney beaches that year and so rather than Collaroy being targeted it simply added fuel to the public outcry for greater protection of the surf bathing public. A public inquiry did eventuate resulting in moves to net beaches and other measures such as shark spotter planes were introduced. The Club's response to sharks and shark attacks clearly demonstrates the importance with which surf bathing was viewed as the key to Collaroy's continued development.

While the dangers of sharks was one of the more unpleasant aspects of surf life saving, involvement in the Club did have some decided advantages. One of these was in the area of romance. Prior to the Great War the icon of Australian manhood had been the Bushman. During the Great War a new icon emerged, that of the laconic but brave 'Digger'. With the



Romance on the beach, early 1920s.

cessation of hostilities this mantle of Australian manhood was assumed by the surf lifesaver. The icon of the bronzed lifesaver probably reached its zenith in the 1930s, before another war resurrected the Digger, and the postwar world seemed less mystified by the image of the lifesaver.

As a consequence lifesavers held a romantic attraction during this period. Their usually healthy physiques, tanned skin and exposed flesh fluttered many hearts and created aspirations for young boys. Of course for many lifesavers such attention was one of the motivations for patrol duty — impressing a woman with their bravery in a rescue, or even better rescuing a 'fair damsel in distress'. Many women held the same fantasy and on many occasions young women put themselves in potentially dangerous situations so they could be rescued. Some women were not satisfied with one rescue and would become vexatious, seeking assistance over andover again. Some times the lifesaver would play along, while on other occasions a vexatious swimmer in difficulty would be forced to return to the beach embarrassed that she had not been rescued or alternatively the lifesavers would insist she was not as well as she thought and perform a very rugged Schaeffer resuscitation.

In his autobiography Ken G. Hall described his first encounter with his future wife.

This happy-go-lucky kind of life went on for years — until Irene showed up in a bathing costume on a surfing beach one sunny Sunday morning. The beach was Collaroy, near Sydney, and I was a member of the Surf Life Saving Club, on patrol, looking for someone to save. She looked a million, even in the two-piece neck-to-knee, bloomer type costume all young ladies of the period were expected to wear. It was a hook-line-and sinker job for me. She became my girl and so remained through forty seven years of a good marriage.<sup>36</sup>

By the 1920s the therapeutic values of the seaside were seen as invaluable in patient recovery. As a result Collaroy became an attractive location for both public and private hospitals and a number appeared during this era. The first was a military convalescent hospital which was established in 1915 in the former holiday home of George Sargood on the southern corner



A view from the children's hospital towards the beach in the late 1940s. Sunbaking in this manner was deemed part of their therapy — Mitchell Library.

of the beach. In 1921 Sargood donated the site to the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital. The Manly-Warringah Maternity Hospital was built in Collaroy Street in 1925 (becoming the place where many a future Collaroy lifesaver stepped into the world) while the 'Long Reef' or 'Florence Avenue' surgical hospital was opened in the late 20s. In the 1930s 'Whone' and 'Warringah' on Pittwater Road were also added. Many of the nurses to these hospitals, especially those at the children's hospital annex, were visitors to the beach and a number of romances blossomed between nurses and lifesavers during this period. Some of these romances even culminated in marriage, including Charles and Josie Bristow. Mrs Bristow had been a nurse in the children's hospital.

The beach was also the location for wedding receptions. In 1920 Bon Abbott was the first of a number of Club members to have his wedding reception in Twight's Tea Rooms, overlooking the Club house and the beach. The Club, however, usually lamented the ring of wedding bells and an obituary of sorts was listed in annual reports noting those members of the Club who had been lost to the 'Benedicts'. Invariably the married lifesaver had less and less time to commit to the Club. In offering congratulations on Maurie Walters' marriage to Collaroy local, Cleat Armstrong in 1929, the Annual Report noted 'Congratulations Morrie but do let us see you occasionally'. Throughout the Club's history many marriages have been made, and some broken, on Collaroy Beach.

In 1922 Jack Lee stood down as President of the Club, a position he had regained from Councillor Quirk in 1915. He was replaced by Jack Evans until 1925 when he resumed the position for one year. At the AGM of 1926, however, with none of his sons still associated with



Collaroy members heading for home after the cancellation of the Bondi carnival 1925/26. L to R (on truck): Seaton Bremner, Alex Greville, John Allan, 'Bluey' O'Farrell, Harry Meyn, Bon Roberts, G. Roberts, Monty Smith, Vince Head, Bert Chequer, Charlie Bristow, Ralph Chequer; standing (ground): Hilton Smith, Bon Abbott; driver: H.N. Head.



Club members outside the second club house circa, 1925. Amongst the group are W.B. Chequer (left on step) H.N. Head (right of post), Maurie Walters (on sand), others include Johnny Rankin, Hilton Smith, Max Evans, C. Russell, A. Jackson.

the Club, he finally resigned after 14 years of invaluable service, much of that time as President. With regard to the position of Captain, Cas Forbes replaced Bill Mitchell on his return from the Great War and was himself replaced by Bon Abbott (who had been Vice-Captain) in 1922. Abbott held the position until 1928 and his vice captains during that period were Ron Harris, Maurie Walters and Alex Greville.

Lee's replacement as President in 1926 was William Berty Chequer (known as 'Weatherboard' because of his initials W.B.) Chequer and his family (Cora and four sons Syd, Ralph, Bert and Roy who died at age three) had originally hailed from the coal mining town of Jumbana in the East Gippsland of Victoria. Chequer was an ironmonger, bandmaster and secretary of the local Lodge of Oddfellows. In 1914 he developed a respiratory complaint which was attributed to the fine coal dust which covered the town. With the assistance of the Lodge, the family moved to Dandenong where Chequer maintained his work and community interests. His ailment, however, persisted and specialist advice in Melbourne warned he may

CLUB APPEAL.

8-Day Clock Campaign.

(Authorised by the Hon. The Attorney-General.)

Tickets Hours Man. Secs. Tickets

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FIRST PRIZE

Diamond-set Expanding Bangle Watch, value £40.

Two 3rd Prizes: Diamond-set Bangle Watches, value £20 each.

Two 3rd Prizes: Handsome Gold Expanding Bangle
Watches, value £10/10/- each.

Under the auspices and supervision of the Collaroy Surf Club Committee.

A LIEE W MANNSFIELD.

She conditions other side.

Early 1920s club fundraising guessing competition — 'At what time will the clock stop?'

not survive another cold and wet Victorian winter and should move north to warmer climes. Once again Chequer's Lodge came to his assistance offering to help relocate the family to either Norfolk Island or Port Macquarie. Port Macquarie was chosen because of the better educational opportunities for the boys.

It was at Port Macquarie that the Chequer boys learnt to surf. At the time early attempts were being made to start a banana plantation industry around the mid-north coast of New South Wales. To assist in the industry's development a number of Samoans had been given exemptions from Australia's strict non-white immigration policy. The Samoans spent much of their spare time body surfing and the young Chequer boys would join them, at first hanging onto the Samoans necks while they surfed. The family soon moved to nearby Kendall for four years but continued concerns about their sons' education (Syd had gained a bursary but Taree was too far to travel) saw them turn their sights to Sydney. The decision to choose Collaroy came from a suggestion from a family friend, William Bird, of the prominent country retail chain Biddles and Bird. Bird was familiar with the area and suggested it to the Chequer family as an excellent place to bring up a young family. Not long after the Chequers moved to Collaroy the Bird family followed buying a block of land in the Basin. In 1921, however, the Bird home was burned to the ground and the family with daughter Nancy (later to become the famous 'aviatrix') moved to Manly. Chequer directed his talents to building and was able to take advantage of the construction boom the district continued to enjoy in the early 1920s.

The Chequer boys quickly took advantage of the nearby beach, polishing the surfing skills they had learnt in Port Macquarie. Syd joined the Club in 1920 and was followed by Ralph in 1922 and Bert in 1925. As well as joining the local Lodge, Weatherboard Chequer followed his boys into the Surf Club, becoming a regular donor to club funds and one of the Club's vice presidents in 1924. With their father's election to President in 1926 the Chequer boys also began to take an active role in Club administration.<sup>38</sup>

Chequer adopted a more activist role as President assuming responsibilities to do with the running of the Club which under Lee had fallen to the Club Captain. The fact that Chequer was a local probably meant he had greater opportunities to devote spare time to the Club apart from the 26 committee meetings, two general meetings and four Executive meetings which were held during his first season. Chequer's first initiative was very ambitious — the building of a new club house.

In 1921 the Club had established a new fund for the purpose of 'extending and improving the present Club Room'. The fund was launched at the 'Welcome Stranger Dance' which was held in the Arlington Hall after the Boxing Day Carnival of 1921 and raised £45. In late 1922 an Art Union was run which was drawn in February 1923 and realised over £300. At the time the fund was commenced the biggest problem with the existing Club was that it was simply too small to cope with the large increase in membership. By the mid 1920s, however, the building itself was showing the worse for wear, prompting the Club to change its plan from renovation to the erection of a 'new Club House worthy of our beach and numbers'. At this time the fund had a total of £372/0/1.

Up until 1926 no firm decisions had been taken about the project. Upon gaining the presidency, however, Chequer stole the initiative and set in train definite plans for the new club house. The plan was to build a new brick club house which would be set further back on the edge of the beach. While construction of the Club house would be the responsibility of the Club itself, the Council defrayed some of the cost with a subsidy towards construction of £100. Cost of the project was further offset by the selling of the old club house for £65 to former president Jack Evans. The building was moved to a vacant block of land in Jenkins Street where it became a weekender named 'Clu Hou' after a few letters were removed from 'Club House'. The building was still located in Jenkins Street in the early 1960s.

It was estimated that the new club house would cost over £1000 and to finance the project the Club would have to gain on overdraft of approximately £300. In designing the new building some consideration was taken into Collaroy's continuing reputation as a holiday location. Club Secretary and owner of the Rivoli Hall, H.N. Head noted: 'We have taken into account the increasing value of this prosperous district, and the Club House will be of brick with tiled roof'.

With the Club's commitment to building a new club house, fund raising gained a new importance. At the same time as the Club was financing the new building it also had to meet its normal operating costs. An added financial commitment during 1927 followed a serious accident sustained by Bon Abbott when he was severely lacerated after breaking the plate glass window of a shop front in Collaroy. Out of action for some months, club members and community leaders decided to hold a testimonial year for Abbott to help his family meet its bills and in recognition of his great work in the district in connection with surfing and life saving. The Fund was organised by the Club Committee and sponsored by the Manly Daily. At a function at the Rivoli Hall to mark the Testimonial, Abbott was presented with a cheque for £153/13/7.

To help protect its revenue the Club insured the 1926 Annual Carnival against loss of earnings. The decision proved fortuitous because the Boxing Day Carnival was marred by heavy rain though gate takings were not too seriously affected. As a result a claim against the insurance policy saw the Club receiving a cheque for £50 bringing a total profit for the Carnival to £122/10/-. By June 1927 construction on the club house was well advanced but club funds were quickly running out. A hastily convened committee meeting decided that a voluntary levy of 10/- would be made on members to help raise one quarter of the cost of the new building. These levies became part of a larger Building Fund which sought support in the wider community. Other donors included local business people such as local Pharmacist A.E.B. Puttnam, the Salvation Army and Toohey's Ltd which helped the fund reach its desired total of £250. The remaining three quarters, roughly £750, was available in club funds.



Third club house during construction.



Opening of third club house, 20 November 1927. L to R, back row: M. Lyne, T. Martin, unknown, J. Green, C. Proctor, K. Parr, J.H. Evans, L Stevenson, S. Rodd, J. Allan, R. Kay, H. Britton, A.T. Britton; sitting on stairs: S. McDonald, M. Smith, H. Smith, A. Jackson, W.B. Chequer (President), A. McDonald, W. Lyne, H. Meyn, H. Head, H.W. Abbott, G. Barlow, H. Pfafflin, R. Chequer, W. Forbes, G. O'Farrell; sitting on verandah: G. Roberts, A. Matthews, V. Head; standing on left of stairs: A.M. Evans, A. Greville, A. Greenwood, J. Reibelt; standing on right of stairs: E. Wareham, L. Wearne, H.N. Head, H. Mellor.

The new club house and Council built dressing sheds which were placed next door to it were opened on 20 November 1927. The cost was reported in the Press as being £1006. In light of the new building Club Secretary Bert Chequer noted: We would like to stress the fact to the residents of Collaroy that this fine brick building was erected at a cost of £1000, solely by Club members and supporters, and as the building is on Shire property, the Club does not own one brick of it, being a present to the township of Collaroy. In noting the 'Red Caps' delight with their new home, the Sun newspaper claimed that there was 'no more energetic club on the coast than Collaroy'.

The new club house was officially opened by the Club's new patron Robert Archdale Parkhill MHR. Parkhill was born in 1878 in Paddington, the son of a stonemason. He rose rapidly through non-Labor politics firstly as an Alderman with Waverley Council during 1904-9 and more importantly as the Secretary of the Liberal and Reform Association. The Muswellbrook Chronicle described him as 'a hard-hitting, but fair fighting young Australian'.46 Quickly earning a reputation as a political powerbroker - Melbourne Punch labelling him the 'doyen of Australian political organisers and makers of politicians' 47 - he became closely associated with Prime Minister Billy Hughes in the formation of the National Party (the forerunner of the United Australia Party and the Liberal Party) after Hughes' defection from Labor. Soon after the Great War Parkhill decided to stand for Federal Parliament. In 1922 a new seat, Warringah, was created out of part of Sir Granville Ryrie's old seat of North Sydney. Ryrie decided to contest the new northern beaches seat and with his deeds during the war still well known he gained the new seat with the phenomenal majority of 31,000 votes. 48 Parkhill had entered to stand for the old seat of North Sydney but came into conflict with Prime Minister Hughes, who was seeking to gain a safer seat in Parliament. Frustrated, Parkhill surrendered his candidacy of the blue ribbon seat and returned to his administrative role in the National Party.49

In 1927 the Club's patron Sir Granville Ryrie was rewarded for his service to the nation with the prestigious positions of Australian High Commissioner to London and Australia's representative to the League of Nations. As a result his seat of Warringah became vacant giving Parkhill his long awaited opportunity. With a campaign motto of 'New Blood — Good Service' the people of Warringah, including those Collaroy residents who cast their vote in Twight's Refreshment Rooms, elected the long time aspirant.

With Ryrie leaving Australia, he relinquished his position as patron of the Surf Club and in doing so suggested Parkhill as a worthy replacement. During his days on Waverley council Parkhill had seen the development of surf life saving in the Eastern Suburbs and remained supportive of the movement. Upon being approached, he readily accepted the position. Demonstrating his commitment not only to Collaroy but the movement more generally he instigated a competition for Northern Beaches clubs which became known as the 'Parkhill Cup'. This progressive point score competition was launched at the carnival which celebrated the opening of the club house. As well as the major cup a number of replicas were made and awarded at the end of each carnival.

The inaugural Parkhill Cup competition saw North Narrabeen secure first place and Collaroy overcome stiff opposition from Manly, Freshwater, North Steyne and Dee Why to secure second, thanks largely to Ralph Chequer's efforts in the surf.<sup>51</sup> The Parkhill Cup was contested for three seasons, and Parkhill was a regular visitor at Northern Beaches carnivals, often being photographed with dignitaries including Prime Minister Stanley Bruce, the Governor-General Lord Stonehaven and SLSA President Charles Paterson. Even on the sand Parkhill was rarely without his trademark blue cravat, grey spats and large cigar.

Parkhill's strong support and presence in surf life saving, which saw him elected a Vice-Patron of the SLSA, was disrupted in 1931 when the United Australia Party under the leadership of Joseph Lyons was elected after two years of Labor rule. Parkhill was appointed Minister for Home Affairs and Transport, and later became Minister for the Interior before



Club Patron Archdale Parkhill (second from right) and members of the Lyons Ministry. Prime Minister, Joseph Lyons, is seated centre — National Library of Australia.



Ralph Chequer (third from right) in Honour Blazer relaxes with friends in the late 1920s.



Ralph Chequer, Australian belt champion 1927 and 1929.

becoming Postmaster General. Often mentioned as a potential prime minister, he served as acting Prime Minister in 1934 and was appointed Minister of Defence. With his commitments in Canberra of growing importance, Parkhill was an increasingly infrequent visitor to the Club and the position of patron during the 1930s became increasingly symbolic.

While much time and effort was dedicated to raising funds for the new club house, this diversion did not hamper the Club's competitive success. The period saw the emergence of Ralph Chequer as one of the Club's finest competitors. Before joining Collaroy, Chequer's swimming skill and strength had been revealed while the family had been living at Kendall. On joining the Club, senior members were very excited by his talent and with the likes of Ron Harris and Bon Abbott offering their wide experience great hopes were held for his future. With

Wallace Batty, Max Evans and Ron Harris already swimming for the Club, thoughts turned to

the surf teams event with the addition of Chequer to the ranks.

By the mid-1920s Chequer had chalked up an impressive list of wins at carnival level and ward off a challenger in Club events, Robert 'Wazza' Dixon. Tired of swimming second to Chequer, Dixon left Collaroy and joined the newly formed Mona Vale club. Most of Chequer's training was conducted in Collaroy's rock pool where he would spend many hours. Often he would use a makeshift harness to drag a heavy block of wood and thus increase his

strength and stamina.

At Championship level, Chequer's favoured event, the Alarm Reel Race, was dominated by Clary Ward of Cooks Hill who had taken the title from Ron Harris in 1923 and held it for three years. In 1926 Ward was finally beaten by another Champion swimmer, Tom Meagher of Bondi. Early in the 1926/27 season, Chequer had a number of tussles with Meagher and another Sydney based contender for the belt title, North Narrabeen's Wally Proudfoot. In early February, at the Manly Surf Carnival, the weekend before the Association Championships on the same beach, Meagher clinched first, with Proudfoot second, and Chequer third. With Meagher, Ward and Proudfoot contesting the belt title at the Championships, Chequer was considered 'somewhat of an outsider'. In his heat, however, Chequer had a convincing win and the final appeared a four way contest between him, Ward, Proudfoot and defending Champion Meagher. In the end Chequer was victorious securing the Club's second Australian belt title in six years. In other performances at the Championships Vince Head won his heat of the Junior Surf Race while Harry Mellor ran second in the Beach Sprint final.

Chequer's success at the Association Championships was rewarded with his selection into a SLSA representative team which was sent on an Instructional Tour of Western Australia over the Christmas/New Year Break of 1927. This was Chequer's second representative cap after being selected, with Max Evans, to be a member of two Association instructional teams which



South Coast Instructional Team 1925. Max Evans (back row far right). Future Association President and Life Governor, Sir Adrian Curlewis, was also a member of the team (middle row far left) — SLSA Archives.



Ralph Chequer en route to Western Australia encourages locals to dance during a refueling stop.

toured the South Coast of New South Wales in 1925. It had been hoped that the team bound for Western Australia might also give some displays in Melbourne but the idea was effectively vetoed by the Victorian equivalent of the SLSA, the Royal Victorian Life Saving Society (RVLSS).

On the team's arrival in Perth, it carried out a number of public exhibitions on the beaches of Perth and Fremantle, as well as competing in a Christmas carnival held by the North Cottesloe Life Saving and Athletic Club. Surf life saving in Western Australia was developing in isolation so the trip by the Sydneysiders proved especially valuable in notifying Western Australian lifesavers of several developments in technique. The 'deportment' of the Association team in R&R drill was especially noticeable to the large crowds which gathered to watch. The manager of the team was SLSA Chairman and President of Manly Club, Captain Arthur 'Skipper' Holmes. Of his team, Holmes commented: 'These chaps are a cheerful lot, good men all of them and thorough gentlemen . . . '55 On the return journey the team stopped off in Melbourne. Despite the RVLSS ban, the St Kilda Club made a direct approach to the touring team and invited them to give a display before their train for Sydney departed. The tour covered more than 5000 miles and was deemed 'most successful'. The team was greeted back in Sydney by Roy Doyle and Weatherboard Chequer representing the Association.

In another impressive win for the Club, the Senior Boat Crew won the surf boat race at a Carnival held in honour of the Duke of York (the future King George VI) who was visiting Australia to open Parliament House. Those who remember the win recall it as one of the best performances by a sweep in the history of surf life saving to that time. Sydney's coast had been buffeted by gale force winds for some days before the event at Manly ensuring that competitors greeted a huge sea on their arrival. Collaroy's crew consisted of Dave Spear, Harry Mellor, Paddy McDonald and John Allen with Chic Proctor as sweep. Proctor was known by club mates as an excellent judge of a wave but his notoriety was overshadowed by the likes of Freshwater's Don 'Big Dick' Mathieson and North Steyne's Harold 'Rastus' Evans. Collaroy made it to the final

but little hope was held against such stiff competition.

Perhaps surprisingly, Collaroy made the buoys (the system of rowing to only one buoy had been abolished the season before after violent incidents at a number of carnivals) with a large lead. Four of the six remaining crews, however, were swamped attempting to get out leaving only North Steyne and Manly in pursuit. Upon rounding the buoys, however, Proctor called his crew to a halt as he gazed out to sea. With the other two boats bearing down on them and seemingly good waves going begging, a number of the crew asked in less than polite language if Proctor might like to get them on a wave and win the race. Proctor's response with each passing wave, however, was simply 'No [pause] no [pause] no' as he slowly gauged the merits of each approaching wave. By this time the two other crews had rounded the buoys, a point which was conveyed to Proctor in no uncertain terms. And then he called 'Go!' and they were away on a mountain of a wave which took them all the way to the beach and victory. No other boat finished that day and while Proctor was well known for his rowing with Mosman Rowing Club's Eight, he gained a new respect from the likes of Evans and Mathieson for his skill in the surf with the sweep oar.

The 1927/28 season also saw the delivery of Collaroy's fourth surf boat, donated by Tooths and Co and named KB. The boat was delivered directly to a carnival at Bondi where a short christening ceremony took place. The christening was performed by an actress claiming to be Miss Jessica Harcourt, a fictional character whose stories of adventure appeared each week in the Sunday News. Rather than the normal champagne the boat was christened with a bottle of KB lager. The KB was of a new design, only the third four seater in the movement after Manly's Sawfish (which first saw competition at Collaroy on Boxing Day 1926) and North Steyne's Blue Bottle. The boat was much lighter than conventional boats of the period and more

manoeuvrable.

The honour of sweeping the new boat in the carnival was given to Ralph Chequer. In a heat against both Manly and North Steyne the KB got away to a flying start, in part because the



Sole survivors on the day. Collaroy's crew at the Duke of York carnival, Manly 1927. L to R: John Allen, Paddy McDonald, Chic Proctor (sweep), Harry Mellor, Dave Spear.



Miss Jessica Harcourt christening the 'K.B.' at the Bondi carnival 1927/28. Ralph Chequer holds the tail of the club banner.



Club members were also on hand when a mini-cyclone left a trail of destruction through the streets of Collaroy in the mid-1920s.

crew found the boat so light. As the boat approached the buoy and prepared to round it, however, Chequer dug the sweep oar in hard, still thinking he was sweeping the old brute the Club had had for so long. The boat turned so sharply that Chequer was catapulted into the sea and by the time he had re-boarded the boat his arch rivals had already passed him — Sawfish winning the day. Of the new boat one newspaper noted: 'Collaroy's crew feel mightily happy to possess such a boat — and they can never feel thirsty in it, because its name is 'KB". 59

During the same season the 'Red Caps' played a less characteristic though no less important role in protecting the Collaroy community when they mobilised to fight bushfires on what became known locally as 'Black Sunday'. The fire started at Clay Point before reaching the Plateau heading in a south westerly direction. The Surf Club gained many friends that day usually fighting the fire with no water thanks to Collaroy's notoriously bad mains pressure. Surf Club members saved several houses before the fire moved on towards Brookvale.

On a sad note the year 1927 saw the deaths of a number of prominent members including Wallace Batty and Ron Harris. Batty had suffered from 'consumption' for some time which had reduced his ability to combat pleurisy which led to his rapid decline and death at the age of 21. At Batty's funeral an honour guard of 13 Club members led the coffin. Ron Harris died at the beginning of the following season from peritonitis aged only 25. With associate member L.W. Burdekin and Vice-Patron W.A. Makim also passing away during 1927 it was noted, perhaps a touch insensitively, that 'The Grim Reaper has been busy during the year'60

In 1928 Chequer prepared to defend his title but was unable to beat a strong swim by North Narrabeen's George Proudfoot. The loss made Chequer determined to regain the title but two days before the 1929 titles, he was struck down with a severe case of flu. While confined to bed for Thursday and Friday, he was still determined to race on Saturday. His doctor, however, strongly advised against such action warning that given his condition such an exertion of effort could be life threatening. Undeterred Chequer fronted up to Manly on Saturday afternoon and competed in the heats of the belt race where, despite his condition, he scored an impressive win. The final was a contest against his old rivals but little hope was held for him given his condition and energy already exerted in the heats. In the final Chequer started poorly with Queenslander Tommy Boast setting a cracking pace. Unable to maintain such a pace, Boast was caught by Tom Meagher who appeared to have the race sown up. Suddenly, out of nowhere, Chequer appeared as a contender, pulling past Boast and directly challenging Meagher. With the shortest of distances between them, Chequer gained first place.

Under the heading 'Surf Dope that was the Goods' the Truth newspaper reported:

The crowd treated the win of Ralph Chequer in the belt race mildly, but had it known the whole strength of the story, Ralph would have got the world's best reception. As late as Friday night Ralph was on the broad of his back with 'flu but you can't keep these bronze chaps down, and he was on deck Saturday. But he felt as cheap as a ha'porth of cat's meat and didn't raise even one kick when his mates called in a medico to give him the once over. The doctor tipped him off as not fit to swim but when the stubborn Collaroy lad told him to try another funny story the medico got his hypo and squirted some dope into him. Must have been real stuff for after Tommy Boast (3rd) champion of Queensland had been indulged with a lead and Tom Meagher had looked all over a winner (2nd) Chequer made a mad dash and touched him off. Talk about pony dope stories, they've got nothing on the surf dope.<sup>61</sup>

To add to this remarkable story Chequer also rowed that day in the Club's unsuccessful bid for its first surf boat title.

When the surf life saving movement had commenced in Australia it had been dominated by young males who had made surf shooting their own. As the SBA had emerged the surf life saving movement was still male dominated but no rules existed which expressly prohibited women from surf club membership or sitting for an SBA award. For a short time women were active members of clubs such as the Narrabeen and Manly surf clubs and on the South Coast the Wollongong Surf Bathing and Life Saving Club (later North Wollongong) had over 25 female members. In November 1914, three women from the Wollongong club gained their Surf Bronze Medallions, having been examined by H.V. Craven, Charles Paterson, Roy Doyle and H. Rathbourne. One of the women, Lili Noble, also secured her Instructor's Certificate. Such developments, however, were not welcomed by the SBA hierarchy and moves were made to ensure that women did not became active members of surf clubs. The decision was in contrast to that made by the New Zealand Surf Life Saving Association, which had been so closely modelled on its Australian counterpart. In New Zealand women were allowed to gain their Surf Bronze Medallions and indeed some all female surf clubs were formed to patrol beaches.

As noted earlier, Australian beaches had their own 'ladies' surf clubs and these groups often drilled in R&R and other life saving techniques, and displayed their skills at surf carnivals. During the later war years and partly in response to the reduced membership of the male surf club a 'Ladies Surf Club' was formed at Collaroy. Little is known about the first incantation of this club except that a small club house was built on the beach to the north of the Surf Life Saving Club and that the Club was financially supported by the retail store 'Farmers' which encouraged its female staff members to join. The Ladies Club drilled in a number of life saving techniques as well as conducting its own competitions. It also carried out a number of displays at local carnivals.

Whether it was because of the end of the war; the SBA's opposition to female lifesavers; the loss of financial support from Farmers; or simply a loss of interest, the Club began to wane



A member of the Collaroy Ladies Surf Club dons the belt in training with members of the Surf Life Saving Club.

and by the early 1920s it had become little more than a convenient changing shed for local women.<sup>64</sup> A new Ladies Swimming Club emerged in its wake and conducted competitions in the rock pool. Among the stalwarts of the Club were Mrs Greenwood and Mrs Zeitz.<sup>65</sup>

At the beginning of the 1925/26 season the Ladies Surf Club was resurrected as the Collaroy Ladies Surf and Swimming Club and the club house was relocated to the south of the Surf Life Saving Club. It was reported in the press that local women were not satisfied with rock pool swimming and that 'surf sports appeal most to the girls'. One of its other motivations was to assist 'the men in the work of life saving'. With such a motivation it was claimed that the Club was the only one of its kind in the world — a debatable assertion given the New Zealand experience and the fact that a number of other women's surf clubs had persisted into the 1920s.

The reformed Club conducted open surf races, shoots and swims and received instruction in life saving technique from the Surf Life Saving Club. The Club structure was not dissimilar to their male counterpart's with Eilene Head elected Captain and Mrs Vennard its President. Other members included Kathleen Burton, Edna Nash, Mollie Vennard, Phyllis Batty, Vera White, Vera Nye, Bonnie Head, Aylma Downs, Hazel Friend and Lillian Abbott (wife of Bon). A championship cup based on a point score competition was donated by the Surf Life Saving Club and the surf race for the competition was held during the 1927 Boxing Day carnival. The competition's first winner was 18 year old Kathleen Burton who was described as one of the 'most promising surf swimmers on the northern side of the Harbour'. Her nearest rival was 14 year old Edna Nash who was described as a swimmer with 'rare powers, giving promise of records later on'. It was jokingly remarked upon that Burton and Nash were better than a large percentage of male swimmers in the Surf Life Saving Club.

The two clubs became closely associated and conducted a number of joint socials including the visit of Myrle Ridgway who had recently been crowned Miss Australia and was



Early members of the Collaroy Ladies Surf Club.



North Narrabeen's R&R Team competing at Collaroy in the late 1920s. Note, this photo clearly shows the hession enclosure and the crowd enjoying the spectacle for free on 'Scotchmans Hill' — John Morcombe Collection.

also a South Australian champion swimmer. Ridgway was treated to a surf boat ride in the chilly conditions as well as gaining some tuition from Bert Chequer in surfboard riding. The day concluded with a dinner at Mrs Rodd's Collaroy Beach Store and a motor trip to Newport before musical entertainment ended the evening.

The Ladies Club also offered its assistance when surf carnivals were held. As well as assisting in victualling, members would don their club costume (blue with a red 'C' on the chest), grab a money box and head to the headland overlooking the baths. From this vantage point members of the public could view the carnival without having to pay the entrance fee to enter the hessian enclosure. The women of the Ladies Surf Club would attempt to coax some money from those who preferred to watch the carnival free of charge on 'Scotchmen's Hill'.

Early in the 1928/29 season Madge Brown, a member of the Ladies Surf Club, was at the beach one weekday when an elderly gentlemen swimming in a heavy surf was caught in the run out in the southern corner. Brown immediately entered the surf and upon reaching the patient supported him until such time as she was reached by Surf Life Saving Club member

G. 'Whiffle' Russel and W. 'Pud' Hynes.

Prior to the rescue, Surf Life Saving Club Secretary Bert Chequer had been instructing members of the Ladies Surf Club in resuscitation techniques. Brown's rescue, however, started him thinking. While he accepted the conventional wisdom of the period that woman should not be allowed to sit for their Surf Bronze Medallion because they were not strong enough to tow a belt through the surf, he did believe there were many aspects of surf life saving that did not require such physical attributes.

Around this time Chequer pasted in his scrap-book a newspaper clipping claiming that the Randwick and Coogee ladies swimming clubs were planning to form a surf club at Coogee. The report noted: 'The Surf Life Saving Association looks askance at the opposite sex showing signs of talking (sic) part in beach work, but has no objection to certain instruction being given

to the girls'. 68 With Chequer already giving instruction in resuscitation he saw no reason why members of the Ladies Club should not be taught other aspects of life saving. Indeed he saw no reason why women could not sit for the Association Proficiency Certificate. The Proficiency Certificate was open to individuals over the age of 16 and was devoted to skills such as resuscitation and reel and line work. It did not involve water based aspects of surf rescue such as belt swimming.

If members of the Ladies Surf Club gained their Proficiency Certificate they would be able to help the Surf Life Saving Club in two important ways. Firstly they could render assistance to the Permanent Lifesaver on weekdays. While the Council supplied the beach with a reel, Cas Forbes could rarely use it because the seaweed meant that he had to rely on experienced line and reel operators, not members of the public. With most women of the time engaged in domestic duties and most members of the Surf Club living or working away from the under Chequer's scheme the Permanent Lifesaver would have a reliable and qualified source of assistance. Second,



Bert Chequer in club blazer about to set off for the Ashes Test in Melbourne, late 1920s.

qualified women could be stationed in the Casualty Room. Chequer was of the opinion that male lifesavers should play as small a role as possible in reviving female swimmers, especially

when standard practice called for removing their costumes to get them warm.

Chequer approached five local young women who were members of the Ladies Surf Club. Colin Brigg's two sisters, Vera White, Molly Vennard and Doreen Rodd became part of the squad. Over a number of weeks Chequer trained his students to a standard which he believed was sufficient for them to be awarded the Proficiency Certificate. While the Club was very supportive of Chequer's initiative and it gained some media attention, the SLSA was far from impressed when Chequer wrote to them seeking an examiner of the squad. Chequer explained his justification for training the squad but the Association was not convinced and refused to allow the women to qualify for an Association award. While the Sun newspaper offered to publicly champion the issue, Chequer felt that such action would be useless and so disbanded the squad much to the disappointment of all involved. In appreciation of his efforts he was presented with an inscribed cigarette case by his squad. Over 50 years would pass before the women of Collaroy would be able to don the patrol cap and play their role in the surf life saving movement.

The Ladies Surf Club continued into the 1930s, their building being shared with the First Narrabeen Scout Troop from 1931. <sup>69</sup> By the mid 1930s, however, the Club had waned once again and reverted back to being more simply a place where women could change and mothers could take their infants. Without warning the users of the building, Council later removed it and relocated it beside Narrabeen Lakes where a Ladies Swimming Club had formed. It was later moved to Hinckler Park in Manly where it housed the Manly squadron of the Australian

Air League until very recently.

Women continued to play a role in the Surf Life Saving Club throughout this period but it was only in a supporting role which was confined mainly to providing assistance during social events or carnivals or in providing donations. Certainly some of the Club's biggest donors during the 1920s were women. An elderly widow, Mrs Clifford Love, was a regular donor to the Club throughout the early 1920s and upon her death in 1925 she bequeathed the Club a very valuable £46. Another prominent donor was Miss Maud Armstrong who had bought a block of land in the Basin during the Great War. In 1924 she and another woman, Mrs C.A. Williamson, were made Vice-Presidents of the Club.

Another development of the late 1920s was the formation of the Collaroy Juvenile Surf Life Saving Club. While it has been claimed that Collaroy formed what would have been the first juvenile or 'nipper' club in Australia in mid-1920, 70 there appears no supporting evidence. Certainly a Juvenile Surf Club was formed at North Narrabeen the following season which claims to be the first nipper club in Australia. If a juvenile club had formed at Collaroy in the early 1920s it collapsed very soon after, leaving the North Narrabeen club to itself.

In 1928, however, the Collaroy Junior Surf Life Saving Club was formed (or reformed) through the initiative of Bob Kay who was now an instructor with the senior club. At a meeting on 18 March 1928 those boys interested in forming the Club met at the surf club and elected a committee. While Kay became Secretary the other club positions were filled by the boys themselves. Eric Hall became Chairman and Treasurer, C. Freeman Captain, P. McSullea Vice Captain, Bill Makim Assistant Secretary and the Selection Committee consisted of C. Freeman, A. Armstrong and Frank Hall. Narrabeen resident and local fisherman Charlie Proudfoot agreed to build a miniature reel for the new club. Proudfoot first built a miniature reel for the North Narrabeen juveniles after they had used their home made reel to rescue him after his boat was swamped. A belt was purchased by the new club for 12/6, the cost being met by donations by Max Evans and Bob Kay and the raffling of two boxes of chocolates by Frank Hall.

With juvenile clubs also at Dee Why and Newport, the Collaroy meeting decided that it would host a juvenile surf carnival — the first in the history of the movement. A date was set for 8 April with 1/- to be charged to each competitor. Letters were sent to these juvenile clubs as well as a late letter to Curl Curl Life Saving Club after it was ascertained there was a juvenile club on Curl Curl Beach. Kay also wrote to the press notifying them of the carnival. In a form letter forwarded to the Daily Telegraph, Labour Daily, Daily Guardian and Sydney Morning Herald, Kay noted:

These Junior Clubs comprise lads under age to qualify for the S.L.S.A. Bronze Medallion, who nevertheless train on the approved lines and compete in the Surf in a similar manner to that of the Senior Clubs. From this you will observe that the early training of the juniors is building for Australia a very fine body of lifesavers, who in a few years should be a great asset to the community, fit in every possible way to take over the work of present clubs who are doing such fine work in the Surf. 73

In running the Carnival the junior club sought the help of the surf life saving club. In seeking the assistance of the senior club in 'several matters indispensable to the successful management of the Carnival' the junior club sought line for the reel under construction, use of the club room, and members of the senior club to act as carnival officials, place the buoys and station the surf boat off them for water events.<sup>74</sup>

The carnival commenced at 2.30pm on Sunday 8 April with a 20 man March Past by the competing teams. Pre-empting changes in surf life saving that were generations away, teams in the R&R event could be selected for specific positions rather than being subject to the ballot. Other events included a beach relay and sprint, alarm reel race, open surf race and hand surf-board display. Novelty events included a wheelbarrow race, sack race and pillow fight. As reported in the *Manly Daily* the Dee Why Club 'practically carried all before them' in part because of their 'larger stature' in comparison to the two other competing teams, North Narrabeen and Collaroy. The senior members of all three clubs assisted with the running of the day helping to make the event very successful.



The Collaroy Junior Surf Club R and R team, 1931. L to R: Royce Patterson, Len Wildman, Frank Hall, Ron Freeman, Neville Freeman, Roy Wildman.

Whilst Collaroy gained a second place in the open surf race through Wallace Batty's younger brother Brian, the Club's major successes were on the sand. The beach relay team of Eric Hall, C. Freeman, R. Read and W. Geary won their event while the March Past team were also winners. Prizes for the day included pen knives, fountain pens and 'Eversharpe' pencils and the results were published in the Daily Guardian, Labour Daily and Sydney Morning Herald.

The Collaroy Junior Surf Club continued into the early 1930s, but its carnival was the last of its kind until the war years saw a brief resurrection of such competition before the birth of the modern nipper movement in the postwar period. The North Narrabeen Club disbanded shortly after the carnival when two of its leading figures Roy Atkins and his brother Norm (who came second in the alarm reel race) moved to Cooks Hill in Newcastle. The Dee Why Club followed shortly after and nothing was ever heard from the supposed clubs at Newport and Curl Curl.

As Kay noted in his letters to the press part of the motivation behind forming the junior clubs was to attract young people into the surf lifesaving movement. In this endeavour the Collaroy Junior Surf Club was a success. Of the 20 boys who marched in the winning March Past team at the 1928 carnival, nine later joined the senior club (Hall, McSullea, Patterson, Batty, Freeman, Wildman, Geary, Morgan and Swift). Another member of the senior club who was introduced to life saving with the junior club was Bill Abbott. One of the stars of the Dee Why team at the carnival was Brian Lilley. Lilley later joined Collaroy where his competitive success continued.

By the late 1920s the future for Collaroy and its Surf Club looked bright. The Daily Telegraph Sunday Pictorial noted in October 1927 that Collaroy was 'one of the prettiest and



Members of Collaroy Junior Surf Club 1931. L to R, back: W. Freeman, J. Lockley, L. Wildman, W. Lockley, A. Marcroft, W. Abbott; middle: R. Patterson, J. O'Neill, G. Patterson, C. Bottle, F. Hall; front: R. Wildman, L. Patterson, R. Freeman. Absent: J. Sheldon, F. O'Neill, R. Hall. Coach: R. Kay.

most popular beaches and waterside villages on the Manly-Broken Bay Ocean front'. The Club Carnival program for that year claimed that Collaroy was 'The Premier Surf Resort'. The area was also becoming increasingly popular as a desirable residential location. Aware of the area's growing significance the State Government gave support to such developments with initiatives such as the building of a new police station in Ramsay Street and the upgrading of the station's complement from one first class constable to a sergeant and three constables. Huckins remained at Collaroy having been given a motorcycle to replace his bicycle. One of his new colleagues was a young constable by the name of Charlie Adams. Adams would become a pillar of the Collaroy community eventually becoming the officer in charge at Collaroy before his retirement in 1964.

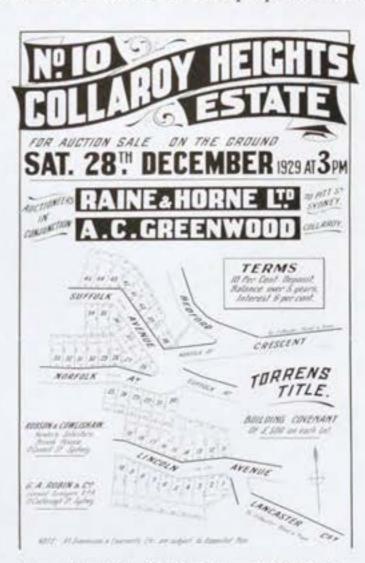
In 1929, the Collaroy Heights Estate was opened with the sales pitch that it was 'only a few minutes from the surf'. With the Sydney Harbour Bridge well under construction the area's increasing proximity to Sydney was a major selling point: 'With the advent of the North Shore Bridge and concrete thoroughfares, those who establish their homes at Collaroy will be only 30 minutes pleasant run to the centre of the City'. With 'all domestic services' it was argued that

'Collaroy is fast becoming one of Sydney's leading seaside suburbs . . .'.77

The opening of the Roseville Bridge in 1924 had greatly increased vehicular access to Warringah Shire and was the lynchpin of a plan by the Town Planning Association of New South Wales to build a 'cross-country grand highway between Roseville and Dee Why'<sup>78</sup> A local railway league was also vigorously campaigning for a railway to Newport. By the late 1920s Pittwater Road was a busy arterial road, linking Sydney with its northern beaches. An individual might have to wait up to five minutes on a Sunday afternoon for a break in the traffic to get across the road. On the beach the end of an era passed when the land on the waterfront owned by the Twight family was resumed by the State Government and left as open space. Originally Stan Twight had planned to sell some of the land for residential purposes but his

plans had raised concerns from members of the local Progress Association who successfully petitioned to have the land resumed and dedicated as public space.

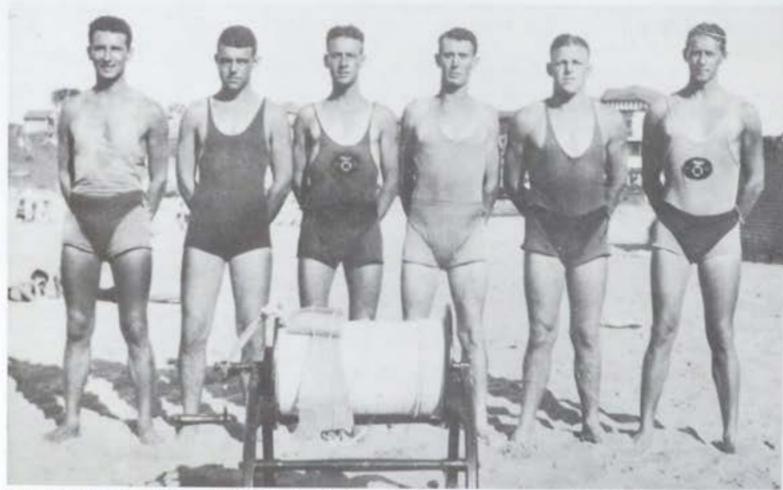
With the new Surf Club more pleasing to the eye and the new dressing sheds providing some of the best facilities for the bathing public in Sydney, Collaroy Beach remained as popular as ever. The Club's hope that the new club house would attract new members to enjoy its facilities was also realised. In September 1927 a new camp appeared in Collaroy, the 'Black Cats'. The Black Cats had 17 members and was formed by Max and Bill Lyne who had joined the Club the season before. The Lyne brothers attracted their two other brothers Mansel and Terry as well as 13 other mates including Len Connolly, Bill and Brad Pearce, and Vic Hannon. 79 Another new camp to emerge around this time was the Wanderers. The Wanderers hailed from Balmain where a number were associated with the local Police Boys Club. The group held a great interest in cricket and made a valuable contribution to the local Cricket Club but were also supporters of the Surf Club. Members of the Wanderers included



A promotionial flyer for the Collaroy Heights Estate.



In the late 1920s the *Daily Guardian* newspaper attempted to promote a new sport — sackball. The paper decided to launch the game at Collaroy using surf club members. Those in photo are: *L to R, standing*: M. Lyne, B. Chequer, G. O'Farrell, H. Smith, B. Pearce, A. Cameron, G. Redwood, H. Meyn, H. Pearce, H. Mellor, *sitting*: B. Abbott, L. Connelly, A.M. Evans, B. Chequer, J. Allan, S. McDonald, W. Wilson, W. Martin.



Collaroy's senior R and R team late 1920s. L to R: Hilton Smith, unknown, unknown, 'Bluey' O'Farrell, unknown, Horrie Radcliffe.

Bill Wilson, Maurie Glazer, Manus Sullivan and his cousin, future Club President Tom Parsonage. As they had in the past these new camps became recruitment points for the Surf Club and, as in the past, the Black Cats and Wanderers produced a number of dedicated Club members.

While the Club was gaining new members it was also losing some of its pioneers. The Dellit brothers drifted away, although Greg continued to play an important role in the Association and paid regular visits to the Club. Athy Sheldon who had been a pioneer in radiography in Australia died at a young age from work related cancer. Alex Greville, the son of a Church of England

Minister, and the man responsible for training many of the Club's Bronze squads left the club when he moved to Brisbane. A member of the Association's executive for a number of years,

Greville played an important role in furthering surf life saving in Queensland.

Despite such personal losses the Club's future continued to look bright. On the social side, the Club's social functions, from dances in the Rivoli Hall to film nights in the Arlington, to the inauguration of an Annual Dinner in the City, were roaring successes, bringing valuable funds into club coffers. The only blight on the Club's otherwise happy horizon was the standard of patrol efficiency. From the mid-1920s Annual Reports warned members about the poor state of patrols, especially patrol attendance. In the 1927 report Pop Head noted 'Sufficient members were on patrol to attend to the various rescues that transpired, but nothing less than the full attendance of members allotted to patrols can be considered wholly satisfactory'. <sup>80</sup> In the 1928/29 season harsher penalties including suspensions for various periods of time were instigated by the Committee for absence from patrols and while Bert Chequer noted that it was a 'slight improvement' there was 'still room for vast improvement'. Owing to the unsatisfactory nature in which patrol records were kept no patrol awards were made for the season. Patrol Captains were reminded that Patrol-books had to be 'a faithful and accurate record'.

Despite this area of concern the Club still reported that the 1928/29 season was one of the

most active and successful in the Club's history. The report noted that:

A high standard of efficiency and discipline has been maintained and we look to our members to try and raise the standard even higher, as only by doing so can we progress and look forward to the years to come.<sup>81</sup>

Unfortunately the great hopes held for the 1929/30 season would not be realised. Events of an international nature would conspire against such forecasts. The halcyon days of the 1920s would give way to years of frustration and disillusionment.

## Depression and Waning Fortunes

Hurrah, hurrah for Collaroy, Collaroy, Let your cheers ring out with joy, with joy, For our patrols all day keep everyone in sight, And they take their colleens out at night, out at night Old Collaroy Battle Hymn<sup>1</sup>

On Thursday 24 October 1929 share prices on the New York Stock Market plummeted during a morning of panic selling. 'Black Thursday' or the 'Wall Street Crash' as it became better known heralded the collapse of international financial markets. European markets, never having recovered from the burden of debt created by the Great War, had been dependent on American finance throughout the 1920s and so crashed even harder as this finance was withdrawn by American investors in their vain attempt to save the American market. The collapse of financial markets had a dramatic impact on economic activity around the world. The result was the 'Great Depression'.

With Australia dependent for its economic prosperity on overseas capital and overseas trade, especially with Great Britain, the collapse of international financial markets had a tremendous impact on the domestic economy. The Australian economy had already been suffering under the weight of falling world commodity prices which had greatly affected national income from its prime export products — wool and wheat. Within a matter of months Australia's unemployment figure had risen from 80,000 to be 300,000 (13%) by the end of 1929.<sup>2</sup>

In Collaroy the Depression hit hard. With most local businesses dependent on the discretionary spending of tourists over the summer months, such revenue quickly began to dry up. The only activity for local business was tending to come from the shrunken pockets of local townspeople and the middle and upper class families who, in managing to escape much of the Depression's worst effects, continued to visit their weekenders during the summer. For Charlie Adams, Tom Huckins and their colleagues at the Collaroy police station, crime, especially burglary, increased. The uncovering of a major racket involving the theft and reselling of clothes from council dressing sheds in the area was one of many incidents during the period.3 While the clothing racket involved the wife of a prominent Dee Why doctor, many locals attributed this rise in crime to the shanty town which had developed in the camping area at Griffith Park. All along Sydney's beachside suburbs such impromptu communities had developed where impoverished families lived in appalling conditions and hoped to augment the small government handout with the bounty of the sea. The most famous was 'Happy Valley' at La Perouse which housed several hundred people. The contrast between the subsistence shanties in Griffith Park and the holiday homes of the nearby Basin were stark. The occupants of the shanty town joined with unemployed local residents to queue outside the Rivoli Hall to collect the 'dole' or 'susso' coupons (the official phrase was 'Sustenance'). On more than one occasion Griffith Park was cleared by police under instructions from the



The depression wreaked havoc in Collaroy. Pittwater Road on a wet Saturday in the early 1930s.

Warringah Council and the State Government. With nowhere to go, however, the shanty town was quickly reconstituted.

The Great Depression did not only impoverish the nation it also created tensions which divided it. Frustrated men and women searched for answers to the problems of the day, and many turned to political extremes for solutions to the predicament that plagued the nation. Both Communism and Fascism attracted new adherents during this period. The election of the Labor Government of J.T. Lang in New South Wales in October 1930 prompted much of this tension. Lang's unorthodox approach to many issues quickly polarised the community. Many people saw his approach as the worst type of socialism and questioned his loyalty to the British Empire when he advocated defaulting on Government loans from British financiers in order that the money could be used to ease the suffering of the people of New South Wales.

One group which emerged during this time to resist Lang, and if necessary effect his removal from office, was the conservative paramilitary organisation, the New Guard. Other than its leader Colonel Eric Campbell, the Guard's most famous son was Captain Francis de Groot who usurped Lang in cutting the ribbon at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932. The New Guard had a number of 'Locality Branches', one of which was formed in Collaroy in February 1932 under the command of C.J.P. Hill. The New Guard met in the Masonic Hall and usually had a musical program by local artists at each meeting. It is unquestionable that many members of the Surf Club were members of the New Guard. The Guard had appealed to those men, many ex-servicemen, who had become convinced that communism posed a direct threat to Australia and that Lang was the embodiment of this evil. The Bondi New Guard was commanded by a 'Mr Dellit' — quite possibly ex-serviceman and Collaroy life member Greg. The Lane Cove Locality was dominated by the Ludowici family including Collaroy Life Member Harry. Within the Surf Club, however, both politics and religion remained unwelcome topics of discussion as they had since the Club's formative years.

Club members lined up on either side of the political and religious divides of the time, but their worth was not judged by such affiliations but by their commitment to the Club.

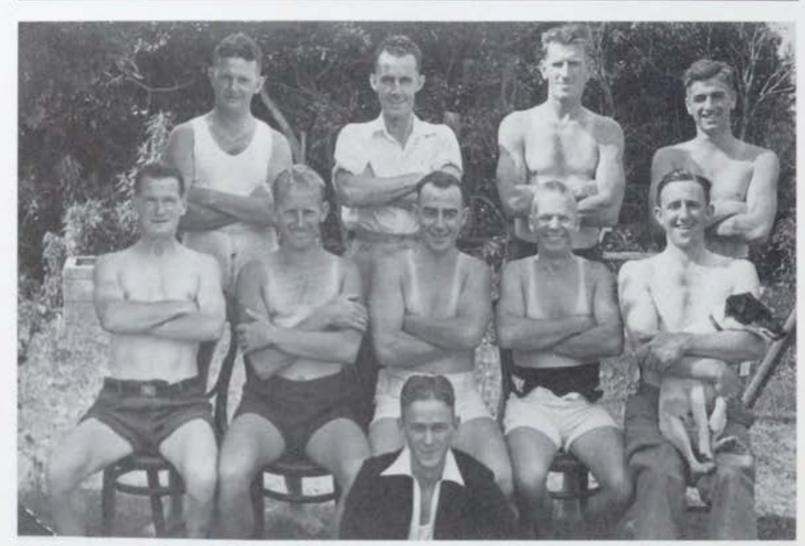
The Surf Club entered the 1929/30 season with a £100 debt thanks to the new club house. Miraculously, however, the Annual Report for 1929/30 recorded that while the club had 'staggered under debt' for a number of seasons, by September of that year the debt had been fully repaid. This outstanding debt had been met through dances in the club house, a dance at the Masonic Hall (where half the profits were donated to the Manly District Hospital — an acknowledgement by the Club that the economic downturn was not just affecting it) and two 'Smoke Concerts'. The success of these social activities was traced to the Club's social committee of Syd Chequer, A.T. 'Sandy' or 'the mad surfer' Britton and Colin Briggs.

The Club's concentration on removing its debt, however, greatly restricted its expenditure. This 'lack of funds' prevented the Club's gear being brought up to 'first class standard' — the only purchases for the season were a collapsible stretcher and a casualty chest. Donations to the club also began to wane, the most significant donation for the season being a Shark Alarm Bell from Dennis Trucks following the Sydney shark scare of 1929. The Annual Report noted that 'the season just ended has been one of extreme financial worry to the majority of members and supporters'.8

In its continuing efforts to improve patrols — to stop 'willing workers' carrying the 'lazy men's loads' — a revision of club rules to allow a quicker punishment of patrol offenders was placed on hold because 'financial stringency' prohibited the printing of a revised rule book. In efforts to economise or raise extra money, the surf boat was now towed to carnivals, where possible, using Sandy Britton's one horse power launch. More concerted efforts to rent the Club's carnival seats (which had been constructed in the late 1920s) were made; 18 shillings was raised through a Golf Night in the miniature golf parlour in the Arlington building; and 17 shillings was raised through the public exhibition of a large shark which had been caught off the beach — financial contingencies evaporating the Club's obedience about the non-publicising of sharks. Warringah Council also introduced a system whereby the Club received a percentage of the car parking fees the council charged for entry to the reserve.

Competitively the Club seemed relatively unaffected by the economic maelstrom which had engulfed the nation. At Carnivals the Club had an excellent season with highlights including Brian Lilly and Noel 'Nugget' Spargo's success in junior and novice surf events, Ralph Chequer's continued success in the open events, Syd Chequer and Vince Head's achievements in board events and Harry Mellor's success on the beach. A reconstituted R&R team also performed admirably, capturing a number of places including a first (91.68%) at the North Steyne Carnival.

In 1928 Ralph Chequer had replaced Bon Abbott as captain but the following season found Abbott back in the chair. At the 1930 AGM, Abbott made his intentions clear that he no longer wished to hold the position and that he would be retiring from active participation in the Club. In the vacuum that was created by Abbott's departure, a young accountant named Richard 'Dick' Swift volunteered his services. The Swift family lived in Killara but used to rent a cottage in Alexander Street over the Christmas vacation. A block of land was purchased in the Basin on Beach Road in 1919 but was not built upon until 1924 when Swift's father received a sizable wool cheque from a sheep station in Queensland in which he had an interest. The weekender was built by W.B. Chequer, with the assistance of sons Ralph and Bert, and was named 'Woolfang' after the same Queensland property.9 The Swift family had three boys, Dick, Peter and Robert or 'Snow' as he was better known. Being several years older than his brothers, Dick joined the surf club in early 1928 gaining his Bronze in April. He was quickly identified as an enthusiastic member of the Club and became a Patrol Captain the following season; welding together an effective patrol team against lack-lustre competition. Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, given the calibre of members in the Club and Swift's short period of service, he was elected to replace Bon Abbott as Club Captain.



The 'Crows' camp in the early 1930s. L to R, back row: Allan Jackson, Arch Duckworth, Laurie Borig, Bob Smith; middle row: Bonnar White, Aus. Cameron, Keith Chapell, Les Quinn, Manus Sullivan; front row: Jack Stevens.

Commenting on the end of the 1929/30 season with its competitive successes and the fears and prospects for the coming season, Club Secretary and Crow, Arch Duckworth concluded: 'From now on we hope to see the name Collaroy a power in the surfing world — something that can only be attained by intensive training and the assistance of each and every member in discharging to the very best of his ability his obligations of membership'. The Warringah Pictorial agreed: 'Collaroy, like every surf club, has its vicissitudes, but with such advantages offering, this year will prove that the club is definitely on the upward grade'. <sup>10</sup> Unfortunately the coming season would prove to be the worst for the Club on record.

At the beginning of the 1930/31 season the Club was rocked by a collapse in its membership. The Club lost three of its six active life members, 18 of its 49 active seniors, one of its 11 juniors, two of its probationary members and five of its nine associate members. Many members still lived outside the area and the cost of travelling to Collaroy as well as meeting associated expenses such as subscription fees were too great. In a message to members Club Secretary Sandy Britton noted: 'It is regretted that many of our old members, being hard hit by the Depression, were unable to continue their weekends at Collaroy this season, but it is hoped that they will be able to come down regularly next season and rejoin the Club. If they do so they can rest assured of a hearty welcome back'.<sup>11</sup>

This loss of membership, especially in the senior ranks, had a direct financial consequence in the loss of subscriptions revenue — a fiscal problem not dissimilar to that which was faced by governments all around the world. Reflecting national fiscal policy of the time, Club Treasurer Syd Chequer introduced an 'economy campaign'. The Annual Report noted that Chequer's 'insistence on limiting our expenditure to our income prevented the Club from being involved in a financial morass'. The only purchases for the whole season were six new oars and a sweep oar. It was claimed the turnover for the Club was the smallest in its history.

With regard to the continuing issue of patrol attendance a 'marked improvement' was recorded though cautions for non-attendance were given to several members and two members, one of whom was the Club Registrar, were suspended. Eddie Robinson, a young man who had just completed his Bronze Medallion training, became the new Registrar. On the positive side of the ledger the Club held a number of successful social events in an effort to augment depleted Club funds. Three dances were held in the Club house on Saturday evenings in December and March, while two dances in conjunction with the Ladies Surf Club were held at the Rivoli Hall in January and April. A further jointly organised function was another miniature golf night in the Arlington Hall.

In the competitive field financial constraints greatly reduced the Club's entries in carnivals. One result of this problem was the decision to enhance the status of club competition with the introduction of a Club Championship at the beginning of the 1931/32 season. The Club Championships proved immediately popular and provided the opportunity for all

members to compete.

It was left to junior Noel 'Nugget' Spargo to keep the Collaroy flag flying at carnivals. Spargo had joined the Club in 1928/29 as a probationer with his brother Bill. His skills in the surf became quickly apparent and in his first season he won the Ralph Chequer Cup for junior competition. The 1929/30 season being only his second, Spargo at club level won both the Cameron Cup (donated by club member Aussie Cameron) for individual competition and the Jacob's Cup for junior competition. Success at local carnivals saw him through to the 1930 Championships in the Junior Surf Race where he swam second to Manly lifesaver and Empire stillwater champion Noel Ryan. His talent continued to blossom into the 1930/31 season where he won every junior surf race he entered including the Australian Championship at North Steyne. Collaroy had another Australian title holder, its first in surf race competition and its first junior title.



Australian Junior Surf Champion, 'Nugget' Spargo.

Spargo's success was somewhat marred at the time by the sensational circumstances in which Ralph Chequer was disqualified in the heats of the belt race at the Australian titles. Chequer had been listed on the program as swimmer number six, meaning that in his heat he would be swimming to the sixth buoy. Before the heat began, however, swimmer number five pulled out due to injury. Race officials decided Chequer would now swim to the vacant five buoy rather than number six. Unfortunately no official informed either the Collaroy team or the race marshal nearest to Chequer of the change. In his heat Chequer swam to the sixth buoy and won the race by over 20 yards - the most convincing performance in any of the heats. On returning to the marshalling point, however, he was disqualified for having swum to the wrong buoy. At the next Executive Committee meeting of the SLSA the Club expressed its concerns at 'irregularities on the part of judges at the Championship Heats'. Collaroy's argument was put forcefully by SLSA executive member Jack Allen who in a heated exchange with another delegate alleged a conspiracy against Chequer and the Collaroy

Club. Allen was asked by the Chair to withdraw the statement but he refused although he later expressed regret at the incident. The Judge's decision was final. Outraged, Chequer vowed to never compete again.

With the Club having lost 30 of its members the previous season, Dick Swift saw that one of his most important duties as Club Captain lay in recruitment. In this endeavour the Club was quite successful and was able to make up 17 of the 30 active members lost. Overall membership fell only from 85 to 72. Part of the Club's recruitment efforts was directed at students of the Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore) of which Swift was an old boy. The School's link with the surf club, however, predated Swift's involvement. Collaroy's first Bronze squad had held Harry Ludowici and Bill Blakemen, two Shore old boys. Through the 1920s a number of Shore old boys, including the Yeldham brothers, Charles Bristow, the Bremner brothers, Alex Greville, the Lyne brothers, and Nigel 'Laddy' Curlewis (a cousin of Adrian Curlewis) had worn the red cap.

Upon becoming Club Captain, Swift increased his efforts to attract surf club members from the old boys and students of Shore. The recruitment drive was not as successful as it might have been because many Shore boys had strong links with the Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club. The drive did attract Shore students and old boys such as O.C. 'Roy' Glandfield, Mick Reynolds, F.R.K. Staniland and the Greenwell Brothers. Richard and George 'Jordie' Greenwell were mates of Snow and Peter Swift and the sons of Dr and Mrs George Greenwell of Killara. While Richard became part of a Bronze squad, Jordie and his mate Mick Reynolds were made probationers. Richard successfully completed his Bronze with a squad that included



A view of the beach from the top of Collaroy Street in the early 1930s - John Morcombe Collection.

Peter Swift and future Club Chief Instructor Eddie Robinson in January 1931. Amongst the Probationers Jordie Greenwell's swimming strength was immediately evident; a far stronger swimmer than his brother and most of the new Bronze squad. His competitive potential was quickly noted by senior members of the club and both Greenwell boys became very popular Club members.

The Club's Presentation Dance for the 1930/31 season was held in the Rivoli Hall on Saturday 25 April. With Richard to be presented with his Surf Bronze Medallion, the Greenwell boys borrowed their parents' car and set off for Collaroy. The presentation of awards was made by SLSA President C.D. Paterson and it was unanimously agreed that the evening was one of the best ever for the Club. From such heights the Club's future looked bright despite the economic woes which surrounded it. Less than 24 hours later, however, the Club would be at its lowest ebb.

With the Presentation Evening lasting to near midnight and the prospects of a long drive back to Killara, the Greenwell Brothers decided to spend the night in Collaroy. The following morning they found few people on the beach or around the club because the patrol season had ended the weekend before. There had been some contemplation of a swim that morning but the water was thick with a mass of seaweed which stretched for about four hundred yards along the beach. The swell was also heavy and the weather poor. At some time that morning Chief Instructor Bert Chequer paid a visit to the club house and, seeing the conditions on the beach, decided to post the beach closed signal to warn off any late season swimmers. He young with George's friend Mick Reynolds in the Greenwell family car which was parked on the headland overlooking the beach.

At around 1.15pm three people arrived on the beach. One of them, Mr F. Bryant, entered the water alone. Before his feet even touched the water this man set in motion a chain of events which would end in tragedy. Being unfamiliar with surf conditions and Collaroy Beach itself.

Bryant made an error of judgement which accounted for many of the rescues performed by the Surf Club. Upon finding the surf thick with weed, he proceeded to search for a section of the beach where the seaweed was thinner. Such a location he found in the southern corner of the beach near the baths. Of course the weed appeared thinner beside the baths because the tide was changing and the powerful run out in the southern corner of the beach was taking the weed out to sea whereupon it would be returned to the beach further north. Bryant therefore entered the surf at its most dangerous point. Two hours later Club honorary physician Dr

McInnes was on the beach declaring 'life extinct' in the body that lay before him. The body, however, was not that of the foolhardy swimmer.

After only a few minutes in the surf Bryant was caught by the strong current in the run out and also became entangled in a thick mass of weed which had been lying under the surface. He struggled for about five minutes to remove himself from both the weed and the current before signalling for help. Still sitting in their car on the headland, the Greenwell Brothers and Reynolds saw Bryant's signal for assistance and sprinted down the steps and onto the beach. Jordie Greenwell was by far the best swimmer of the three and so he waited near the rocks to maintain visual contact with the patient while his brother and Reynolds ran to the club house to procure a reel. On their return Greenwell donned the belt and dived into the current.

During the season of 1930/31 Collaroy beach had been menaced by seaweed on most weekends. Surf Club members were often reminded of the danger of the weed to both the public and themselves, and many Club members had personal stories of close escapes. This danger had been reinforced the month before when Club members had been forced to discard the belt in favour of the surf boat and surfboards because a heavy barrier of weeds prevented use of the lines. Given these facts it might appear curious that the Greenwell brothers and Reynolds had decided on using the belt. That they were aware of the danger was demonstrated by the fact the reel was positioned on the rocks rather than the beach to give the line more elevation over the seaweed closer to shore.

With the aid of the current and despite the weed Greenwell made good speed towards Bryant. Unfortunately Greenwell was not aware that Bryant had managed to move out of the current and as a result he actually was carried past his patient by about ten yards. He now had to fight the current to return to his patient. Bryant was now about 80 yards off the rocks.

By this time, however, Greenwell's line had become badly fouled by the seaweed which was being washed to sea in the run out. He had to contend not only with the current but now pull a line which itself was being pulled out to sea. Against this combination he had little luck. Although originally only ten yards away from Bryant he was unable to reach him. The line which continued to be paid out from shore was simply becoming more and more tangled in the weed. Greenwell had no recourse but to slip the belt and secure Bryant unaided.

The belts of the era did not have an emergency release pin. To slip such a belt involved lifting the neck strap over one's head before grabbing a length of the line and pulling it towards the body to create sufficient slackness in the belt that it could be pulled over the shoulders or pushed over the waist and past the legs. If the line was taut such an exercise was difficult. In this case Greenwell had trouble gaining the sufficient slackness with the weight of the weed on the line.

With his attention now focussed on his efforts to remove the belt Greenwell was caught unawares by a large plunging wave which hurled him to the bottom and buried him under a mass of weed. With himself now entangled in the weed as well as the line Greenwell found it impossible to return to the surface. His only hope was to slip the belt while still underwater and entwined by the weed. Back on the beach Richard Greenwell, who was acting as the linesman while Reynolds manned the reel, lost sight of his brother when he was hit by the wave, but continued to pay out line in the expectation that he would appear at any moment. As the seconds elapsed and there was still no sign of his brother, Greenwell took a pull on the rope. It was only then that Greenwell and Reynolds realised how badly fouled the line was.

Pulling with all his might Richard Greenwell hardly made an impression on the line.

With still no sign of Jordie, Richard Greenwell ran back to the club house and gathered a surfboard. Mick Reynolds, abandoned the reel and proceeded to swim towards Bryant who was still visible. Richard Greenwell entered the run out and proceeded to paddle the 90 yards to where he had last seen his brother. Upon reaching the approximate location he attempted to part the weed with his hands as he yelled his brother's name. Shortly after Reynolds reached Bryant, secured the patient and turned for shore. Upon reaching the shore Reynolds re-entered the surf and swam towards Greenwell who was still searching for his brother - his calls of 'Jordie' were now mournful sobs. By this stage members of the public had raised the alarm and other club members were on the beach and swimming out towards Greenwell and Reynolds.

Back on shore a number of Club members headed to the abandoned reel with the intention of hauling the line in. With so much weed on the line the task was difficult and under its weight the line quickly snapped.



George Greenwell.

Fortuitously for the searchers the line had snapped either at its point of attachment to the belt or nearby, because Greenwell soon after floated to the surface, whereupon he was grabbed by Club members and put on the surfboard and brought back to the beach. While Greenwell had removed the neck strap the belt was still firmly around his waist. By this stage Dr McInnes had arrived and in conjunction with club members he commenced resuscitation. At some time after 3pm Dr McInnes stopped resuscitation and declared Jordie Greenwell to be deceased. As the original rescue was overtaken by events, it appears that the original patient, Bryant, was forgotten.

At the time of the drowning Snow Swift was still a boarder at Shore. He had been down the beach that morning and been in the company of Greenwell for a short time before he had returned to his family's weekender for lunch. Not knowing anything of the incident, Swift had arrived back at school that evening. It was only as he was sitting in Chapel that one of the Masters announced to the congregation that George Smith Greenwell was dead.

With what might be considered undue haste Greenwell was cremated at Rookwood Cemetery at 2.15 pm the next day after a funeral procession from Killara organised by Wood Coffill Motor Funeral Directors. Despite its short notice the funeral was widely attended not only by family, his girlfriend Faith Petersen (of the physical culture family the Bjelke-Petersens), school mates and teachers, but also some Club members who had read the funeral notice in the Sydney Morning Herald.

In the wake of the tragedy, the exact circumstances became distorted. Such a problem was exacerbated by the Sydney Morning Herald which misreported several aspects of the drowning the next day including a claim that Greenwell had only been 25 feet from shore and only half way to his patient when the weed pulled him under. In Club lore as it has been passed on from member to member - Jordie Greenwell reached his patient and it was while being hauled in that he was pulled under water. It was an often levelled criticism of the time that well intentioned members of the public often jeopardised the safety of lifesavers and their patients by trying to help to pull in the line. Understandably believing that the quicker the beltman and patient reached the shore the better, they would haul in very quickly which tended to drag the beltman and patient under water. With heavy weed the danger was even greater. Certainly interference by the public in haul-ins had occurred at Collaroy. In the early 1920s Tim Loneragan had nearly died when he had been forced to rely on members of the public to man the reel in a weekday rescue. Pulled under water and caught by the weed Longregan just managed to slip the belt before it was too late. And so it was claimed in the Greenwell case. Members of the public interfered with the haul in resulting in Greenwell being pulled under water. Realising the danger, Greenwell released his patient and then attempted to slip the belt. Another aspect of Club lore was that a human chain had to be formed to search through the weed to locate Greenwell. As seen from the description of the drowning based on the report of the Meritorious Awards Committee (which was based on eyewitness testimony) no such chain was formed. A human chain, however, was formed in a rescue in 1935 (described later in this chapter) and it would appear that in many minds these two rescues have been mingled into the one recollection.

The drowning itself was widely reported in the press and was the first topic of discussion at the meeting of the SLSA that Monday evening. The minutes of the meeting record that: 'The members present stood as a mark of respect whilst a motion of sympathy with the relatives of George Smith Greenwell, and also with the Collaroy Club was passed'. Unaware that Greenwell's funeral had already taken place it was agreed that a wreath should be forwarded and as many surf lifesavers attend the funeral as possible. Advertisements were to be placed in the Sydney Morning Herald and Daily Telegraph encouraging members to attend. Presuming there would also be an inquest, it was decided that the SLSA should be represented and Adrian Curlewis (himself a Shore old boy) was to be consulted in this regard. The official Club report and an eyewitness report was then presented to the meeting and a general discussion followed.

The central theme of the discussion was a castigation of the SLSA's Gear Committee. With it now clear that Greenwell's inability to extricate himself from the belt had been largely responsible for his death, members of the Committee were asked why a report on 'Self Releasing Belts' which had been promised for some months had not been forthcoming. The minutes recorded that the mood of the meeting was that the Gear Committee was 'not functioning as it should'. Plans for the testing of a new belt with a release mechanism were made.<sup>18</sup>

The issue of a safer belt, however, had had a longer history than just a few months. In 1924 a dramatic drowning took place at the Wollongong carnival when, as noted, members of Corrimal's R&R team hauled in a dead beltman — club captain James King — after the six lines in the event became tangled. As a result of the incident, a Manly lifesaver named Steve Dowling designed a safety belt that enabled a beltman to withdraw a pin in the belt causing it to fall apart. Dowling gave the patent rights to the SLSA. <sup>19</sup>

The 'Dowling Release' was recommended to Clubs by the Gear Improvement Committee<sup>20</sup> and was featured as the standard belt in the 1926 update of the Association Handbook. Few clubs, however, actually purchased the new belts and those that did appear not to have kept them very long. By the early 1930s, clubs, including Collaroy, were still using the

old style belt which had no emergency release.

As had been the case with the King drowning, the activity which followed Greenwell's drowning eventually dissipated and nothing was changed. It would be another 20 years, after drownings at Dee Why and North Cronulla, that the 'Ross safety belt' became compulsory

equipment for surf clubs.

The Greenwell drowning was also referred to the Association's Meritorious Awards Committee which included Greg Dellit. The Committee used eyewitness testimony, the Coroner's findings and the official club report to examine the circumstances of the incident. Its report, dated 10 June 1931 concluded:



Life Member Greg Dellit, who remained active within the senior echelons of the SLSA — characature by Gerald Keep of the South Narrabeen Club.

In view of the above facts and that although George Greenwell well knew the dangerous condition prevailing, he still tried to reach his patient until the end, when he might by releasing the belt, have saved himself, we recommended that he be granted the Association's highest award — posthumously — the Meritorious Award in Silver, and that a letter of Appreciation be written to the Collaroy Club for the efforts of their members in this rescue, particularly M. Reynolds.

The recommendation of the committee was adopted and Greenwell posthumously received the Meritorious Award in Silver.

Back at Collaroy plans were made to build a memorial porch in Greenwell'shonour and his uncle, Carlyle Greenwell, became the Club's first honorary architect. A fund to pay for the porch was set up and did raise some money but the project was never started and the money found its way back into general club revenue. With regard to the porch, a later Annual Report noted 'We have done our best and hon, architect has carried out his many tasks very satisfactorily, but the Warringah Shire Council has absolutely led us astray in many ways'. Some members of the time

claim they recall the doorway from the parking lot into the club house being known as the George Greenwell entrance.

Despite the tragedy Richard Greenwell and Mick Reynolds continued their association with the Club. Mick Reynolds became Chief Instructor, replacing Bert Chequer in 1933, and held the position for two seasons before he became a Club selector. He left the Club in the season of 1934/35 and was killed during World War II. Richard Greenwell remained an active member until 1935.

While Greenwell's drowning resurrected the debate on surf belts, there were two more immediate and positive developments from the drowning. The first was an intensification of Association trials using waxed line to see if it would 'overcome the difficulty of seaweed'. The other was the Association's endorsement of the use of surfboards as life saving equipment. In the Greenwell drowning itself, the surfboard had proved its usefulness in a heavily seaweeded surf.

In the 1920s surfboards had been used by a number of clubs as rescue apparatus. While the line and reel remained the predominant rescue technique, the surfboard rivalled the surf boat for the number of rescues accorded to it each season. Such use, however, had been against the wishes of the Association and, as noted, lifesavers such as Manly's Claude West were reprimanded for their use. From the 1929/30 season the Collaroy Annual Report began to record rescues performed by board noting that two such rescues had been performed during the season. The following season four such rescues were recorded. The figure was probably in fact much greater, the surfboard often being used to assist a swimmer who may have been getting into difficulties. While confined almost exclusively to surf club use, surfboards were usually only used by members who were not on patrol duty.

These declarations in club annual reports concerning the use of surfboards in rescues demonstrated to the Association that most clubs saw them as useful rescue craft. Within the Association individuals such as Greg Dellit, Adrian Curlewis and Bert Chequer (who had joined the Board of Examiners) began to champion the surfboard. It was soon agreed that they should be trialled so their usefulness could be gauged. These trials were held in the swimming pool of the Tattersals Club in Sydney and proved very successful. The usefulness of the board as a flotation device in a multiple rescue and for a lone lifesaver were quickly apparent. The fact they mostly went over rather than through sea weed was also noted. With the trials a success it was left to Greg Dellit, during a visit to the Cronulla clubs, to publicly announce that the surfboard would now be considered a piece of rescue apparatus by the Association.<sup>22</sup>

Interestingly the dimensions of the Association approved surfboard matched exactly the dimensions of a surfboard Bert Chequer had been commercially manufacturing for a few years. In the early 1920s Chequer had been captivated by the likes of board riders such as Weary Lee, Chic Proctor and Ron Harris and made his first surfboard at 17 using a design similar to Buster Quinn's. As the years progressed, however, he refined Quinn's design, to produce a board which was the envy of many other board riders in the Club. Dick Swift requested he build him a board (the board is still in the Club house) and with delivery of the board a flood of similar requests were forthcoming. With little work in his father's building business, Chequer decided to try his hand at commercial surfboard building — one of the earliest such enterprises in the country.

The cost of a Chequer board was £5 which included delivery. Chequer bought his timber from Hudson's timber merchants where it was kiln dried before delivery. Whilst he preferred cedar, its expense meant that he was forced to use Californian Redwood. The board would be crafted from a single piece of wood, meaning that Chequer's small workshop was usually a sea of wood shavings. A board took just on two days to build and was totally shaped by hand. Once shaped the board was coated with Linseed oil, before two coats of Velspar yacht varnish was applied. In his initial experimentation with the varnish on his own board, the yellow finish it gave off prompted the board to be known as the 'Yellow Peril'. Boards were usually intricately marked either with a name, the initials of the owner, or with the Club emblem.



Boardriders off Collaroy in the 1930s.

Chequer was soon supplying individuals and clubs up and down the New South Wales coast and as far away as Phillip Island in Victoria. While the business was relatively successful, there was a downside for Chequer. Because he was a surfboard manufacturer, making money out of what was now regarded as a piece of life saving equipment the Association claimed he was no longer an amateur by their definition. He was therefore prohibited from surf life saving competition between 1932 and 1936.

The usefulness of the surfboard was clearly demonstrated to Collaroy members one Saturday afternoon in late 1935. With the Club at a carnival, the beach was not being patrolled. The only member of the Club present on the beach was Bert Chequer, who was sun baking having dug his board into the sand to protect him from strong nor-easter blowing. Chequer had been surfing in the southern corner, catching green waves then pulling out to avoid the seaweed which as usual had built up near the shoreline.

Earlier, a party of ten visitors to the area had entered the surf. As was often the case, the group had been frustrated by the seaweed and searched for a section of the beach free of the weed. Their search left them just off the Arlington building and, of course, in a rip. Soon a number of the party were being pulled out to sea by a strong undertow and into the two to three metre shore break. Would-be rescuers in their party pursued those in difficulty but soon found themselves in trouble. Chequer heard the commotion and saw the situation. With so many people in distress he considered his only option to be his surfboard.

In the Club house 13 year old Bill Abbott, the son of Club stalwart Bon, was in the company of some mates including future Rhodes Scholar and Headmaster of the Shore school, B.H. 'Jigger' Travers. The group saw Chequer hurrying with his board towards the northern end of the beach and then noticed the party of swimmers in distress. While Bill Abbott and his mates had a strong grounding in surf awareness thanks to the lessons of Bon Abbott, and Bill had been a member of the junior surf club, he and his mates' knowledge of surf life saving had

mainly been gleaned by observation and imitation. The group ran onto the beach, grabbed the reel sitting there and headed towards the Arlington building.

By the time Chequer reached the group they were among the breakers with some of the swimmers, both male and female, quite hysterical. One man panicked and tried to grab the surfboard. Chequer was left with no choice but to administer a sharp jab under the chin which seemed to quieten the man. All he could do was gather the people towards the board to offer some floatation. Although it crossed his mind to attempt to head the board back towards shore, he was preoccupied recovering swimmers who were washed off the board by passing waves.

Back on the beach the best swimmer of the boys gathered around the reel was Bill Abbott. Donning the belt Abbott entered the surf and proceeded to pull it through the heavy surf towards Chequer and the swimmers. Whilst having learnt belt signals as a young boy he had

forgotten most of them.

By the time Abbott reached Chequer it was obvious that any attempt to take in one patient at a time with the belt would be too time consuming. Chequer asked Abbott to hold onto the board and then signalled for him to be hauled in. Abbott lost his grip of the board on several occasions and so he removed the belt and tied it to the board. Getting back closer to the break

a number of patients were washed off and had to be retrieved.

Unfortunately, the line snapped as the board and its passengers moved through the breakers, washing them back out to sea. Abbott returned to the beach where another reel with a newer line was waiting. Swimming back to the board he fixed the line to the board and signalled to be hauled in. Coming through the breakers again two patients were washed from the board and began drifting hopelessly out to sea. The rest of the party made the shore, whereupon Abbott once again donned the belt and proceeded to collect the two patients. By this stage word of the rescue had reached the township and a number of Club members including Bon Abbott came running.



A young Bill Abbott and friends outside the club house, late 1930s. L to R: Bob Maladay, Ron Hall, Bill Abbott.

In light of the rescue a phone call was made to the Daily Guardian. When told of the rescue at Collaroy the editor asked 'Where's that?'. When told it was six miles north of Manly the editor claimed the story would only have been newsworthy if it had occurred at Manly or Bondi. The rescue was not even reported in the Annual Report for the year and if young Bill Abbott was proud of his achievements such pride quickly evaporated. He was roundly chastised by club members and his father for not knowing the correct signals. The rescue did, however, demonstrate the usefulness of the surfboard as a piece of rescue apparatus.

The drowning of George Greenwell rocked the Club. With the shadow of Greenwell's death still hanging over it, the 1931 General Meeting was a sombre affair. When the Club's economic position was also explained to the membership there seemed little reason for hope in the coming season.

A major blow to the Club which only worsened its economic position was the decision of the SLSA to refuse permission to the Club to host its traditional Annual Carnival on Boxing Day. The decision came out of the blue and left the Club greatly disadvantaged because, with the season already having commenced, most suitable alternate dates had already been granted to other clubs. While many members lamented the breaking of a tradition which had existed since 1919, the bigger worry was the financial loss which would now inevitably result. Collaroy's population swelled with visitors over the Christmas/New Year period and the Boxing Day carnival was an annual attraction which drew large crowds. With no opportunity to stage the carnival at any other time over this holiday period the potential gate takings from the carnival were greatly reduced. In the end the Committee was unable to find a suitable date which it felt would attract sufficient entries and spectators to cover the expense of running the event. The Club was forced to announce that there would be no Annual Carnival for 1931. The SLSA's decision started the rumour mills spinning and many members were convinced that the SLSA's sudden decision to end Collaroy's Boxing Day Carnival after 12 successful years was a malicious payback for the Club's outburst over the Chequer disqualification at the Australian titles. Club morale, already weakened by the drowning of Greenwell, was ravaged by the SLSA decision.

In an effort to regain some of the revenue lost and to attract new members the Club instituted a Fancy Fair which was held on the Reserve beside the Club from Boxing Day to New Year's Day. The chocolate wheels, rides, life saving demonstrations, bands and other forms of entertainment at the Fair raised 70 valuable pounds for the Club. With the end of one tradition, another had been born. It did little, however, to increase Club morale.

Low morale was most obviously exampled by a significant deterioration in patrol attendances. In an attempt to address the issue the new Committee introduced a new patrol roster system. The Committee believed it would not only improve patrol attendances but stop the drainage from the Club of members who lived outside the district and found the cost of regular visits to Collaroy prohibitive. An initiative of Dick Swift's, an all-day roster system was introduced to replace the two and a half hour system that had operated previously. An all day roster meant that Club members would be rostered for patrol on far fewer occasions in the course of a year and therefore the cost of travelling to Collaroy for outside members would be greatly reduced.

With the Club at this time 'almost entirely composed of week-enders'<sup>23</sup> the move appeared a sound one and attendances improved. The system, however, did not meet with the approval of those members who lived in Collaroy. With the old system they did not necessarily lose a whole Sunday to the Surf Club — now they did. Many also questioned the effectiveness of a patrol towards the end of the day when it had been on the beach for such a long period of time. By the New Year patrol captains were reporting that the system did not appear to be working and that local Club members seemed prone to leave the beach from time to time during their rostered patrol.

All of these events combined to create a groundswell of dissatisfaction in the Club Committee. For undoubtedly the wrong reasons the new Committee was also blamed for many of the Club's ailments, including the loss of the Annual Carnival. The roster system was beginning to be seen as simply the latest evidence of the Committee's inability to get the Club back on an even keel. Just as Australian voters blamed the Labor Government of James Scullin for its failure to end the Depression, the Executive of the Surf Club was blamed for the Club's predicament, although in both cases events far outside the control of both were to blame.

With so many non-residents dominating not only the patrols but the Club executive, many local members began to feel that the Club was being taken over and that their wishes were being overlooked. The Surf Club was a part of the Collaroy community but was controlled by individuals who were only members of that community for a few weeks over summer. Forgetting that the Club's early success had been built by many individuals who had



Club Captain, Dick Swift, with members of his patrol mid 1930s. L to R: Dick Swift, Geoff King, John Blundell, Keith Maddox. Note the surf-o-plane franchaise in the background.

resided outside the district, a parochialism which had never been a part of the Club started to emerge.

Much of the disquiet about the state of the Club was levelled at Dick Swift. Although re-elected as Club Captain at the 1931 AGM rumours about dissatisfaction in his leadership soon grew. Laments for the halcyon days of the 1920s were heard more often and the changes Swift and the Committee had brought were more openly challenged. Club discipline had been lost to petty bickering and jealousies which even manifested themselves on the beach and in front of the public.

With the situation deteriorating rather than improving (courtesy of a number of local members who were determined to frustrate the Committee at every turn), Swift after consultation with W.B. Chequer and other members of the executive convened an extraordinary general meeting for Valentine's Day 1932. Upon opening the meeting Chequer informed the gathered membership that the Committee would be resigning 'in the interests of their Club'. The explanation of the change was that with the Club facing so many problems it was better the Committee was made up of Collaroy locals rather than weekenders who could not devote as much time to the problems facing the Club. This would ensure that the Committee could meet more frequently, especially during the week and Sundays would not be wasted on general administrative matters.

The new committee consisted of older local members. Bon Abbott was invited back to resume the position of Club Captain. He had stayed out of the in-fighting but appreciated that the Club needed a Captain with his credibility if the crisis was to be averted. He was joined by his trusted lieutenant Buster Quinn who assumed the position of Vice Captain replacing Brian Lilley. Harry Pfafflin was replaced as Boat Captain by Chic Proctor with Harry Mellor as his aide and Manus Sullivan became Secretary. Harry Meyn returned to the position of Treasurer – Syd Chequer had already resigned as Treasurer in December after sustained criticism of his

economy drives (though in the press it was claimed he had 'his eye on the matrimonial side of life')<sup>24</sup> and had been replaced by Sandy Britton's brother Harry. The general committee kept some of the new faces but they were local residents. The popular W.B. Chequer was re-elected President.

In accepting his resurrection to Club Captain, Abbott insisted that the Club had to begin the season afresh. The first job of the new Committee was a reorganisation of the patrol system which reverted to the old two and a half hour shifts, forcing a reduction in patrol size to three members. It was then decided that Syd Chequer's austerity measures were one cause for poor morale and such financial constraints would be removed and the Club 'brought right up to date'. While this Keynesian notion of spending one's way out of a trouble was quite radical, it belied what was in essence a lament for the good old days. The year before, Dick Swift had donated a complete set of March Past costumes, which included a new oval shaped club badge. The new Committee disliked them and so spent a not inconsiderable amount of money replacing them with the familiar black costume. The Club badge was also changed, reverting back to the old diamond shape.

The Club Annual Report for 1931/32 noted that 'The past year has again been a very trying one for the Club owing to the financial depression . . .'. The new/old team, however, was offered 'the Club's sincerest thanks for so ably leading the Club to better days'. Reflecting the schism in the Club, the revised patrol lists had divided individuals by place of residence. Interestingly and perhaps bred of diplomacy the patrol competition was shared. One patrol consisted of local residents (Harry Meyn, Nugget Spargo and Eddie Robinson) while the other consisted of non-residents (F.R.K. Staniland, H.B Staniland and Mick Reynolds). Given the frequency with which they now had to visit Collaroy, 'special mention' was made of Staniland's team, because of the distance they had to travel. It was considered: 'Truly, a great spirit'. 25

At the 1932 AGM which the Sydney Morning Herald claimed was held before an 'enthusiastic gathering', 26 Bon Abbott once again stepped down but the trend started after the 14 February meeting continued. While younger members assumed some Committee positions they were Collaroy residents. The key positions, however, remained dominated by older members. Meyn and Sullivan continued in their roles while Quinn became Captain. The problem, however, had never been Swift's committee as such and the new committee had just as many with which to contend. The brief ray of optimism which had emerged was short lived.

Despite hopes to the contrary the 1932/33 season was little different from the previous one. Although the Club was 'very fortunate in having the support of our old friends' the Annual Report lamented: 'The past year unfortunately did not come up to our expectations'. Finally Club members were coming to the realisation that the Club's woes were caused by events outside its control. The Committee was not scapegoated as it had been before: 'The bad times prevailing can well be blamed for our present state'. Attendances for the locally dominated committee remained no better than they had been for the old weekender dominated committee and financial concerns saw the return of constraints on spending. A number of social functions were held in an effort to raise much needed cash but these were poorly attended and all ran at a loss, further weakening the Club's position. Most disappointing of all, the Club was unable to regain Boxing Day for its carnival. In recording the Club's disappointment Manus Sullivan noted: 'Your Club feels that it is entitled to some consideration in the matter. In the past years Collaroy was a very strong Club, gaining many successes against all comers. We feel sure delegates from other Clubs will be generous towards us this coming season'.<sup>27</sup>

To further compound the Club's financial problems it was informed by Warringah Shire Council that due to a massive fall in rates revenue the Council could no longer pay its share of the bill for the employment of the permanent lifesaver thus threatening the safety of surfing patrons outside voluntary patrol hours. At the 1932 AGM it was resolved by the Club that it would take on the added financial burden of meeting Cas Forbes' full salary. At the meeting SLSA representative Mick Burke commended the Club for its action although fellow



Members of the Club in 1933. L to R, verandah: H. Mellor, V. Head, M. Wildman, H. Meyn, P. McSullea, J. Parsonage, J. Vennard, M. McQuoid, K. Maddox, R. Staniland, R. Smith, R. Paterson, N. Curlewis, P. Swift, G. King; left of stairs: C. Bristow, W. Grafton, W. Wilson, L. Wearne, L. Quinn (Captain), H.W. Abbott, A. Duckworth, L. Borig; stairs area: W. Bartlett (Vice-Captain), J. Balenzeula, E. Geary, J. Lewis, L. Wildman, W. Maizey, R. Swift, K. Morgan, W. Wildman, J. Stevens, J. Sheldon, R. Williams, G. Patterson, F. O'Neill, W. Freeman, right of stairs; W. B. Chequer (President), R.A. Swift, B. Blundell, E. Wareham, E. Mellor, A. Brown, E. Robinson, M. Sullivan (Secretary), A. Cameron, R. Chequer.

representative Don McIntyre noted that it was 'the duty of the Shire Council to pay for the services of a permanent lifesaver, as it tended to popularise the beach. The Council benefited in this way.'<sup>28</sup>

As the season progressed and the Club's financial position continued to deteriorate, the folly of the Club in accepting such a large financial responsibility was realised. Unable to meet the salary of the permanent lifesaver, crisis talks were held with the Progress Association and a Citizens Committee was formed to seek public contributions to raise the necessary money. The profits from the annual beach fair were also directed to the permanent lifesaver fund. Cas Forbes found that a new part of his job was door-knocking the local area seeking money from residents to pay his salary. It was several years before the Council resumed its funding of the permanent lifesaver to pre-1932 levels.

While Collaroy was struggling to come to grips with the problems which confronted it, other surf life saving clubs were in an even worse predicament. One of these was



Collaroy's first permanent lifesaver, Cas Forbes.

Collaroy's neighbour, South Narrabeen. South Narrabeen had always had a small membership finding it difficult to compete with the two big clubs on either side of it. At one stage during the 1920s lack of membership had forced its doors shut, until another band of enthusiastic locals resurrected its fortunes, including Collaroy member Max Evans who became Club Captain. By the early Depression years, however,the Club once again faced problems, compounded by a council inspection of their club house finding it structurally unsafe. Once again Collaroy members came to the rescue and Bert Chequer became the Club's Chief Instructor.<sup>29</sup> The value of Collaroy's assistance to South Narrabeen's small but dedicated band of members was realised some years later with South Narrabeen's extraordinary success in R&R competition.

In October 1933 Foundation Member, long time supporter and local Real Estate Agent, Arch Greenwood became Club President replacing W.B. Chequer in circumstances which caused some bitterness. Greenwood had been motivated to stand for office because of the Club's failure to regain the Boxing Day Carnival. Over the past two years the fact no carnival had taken place had not only harmed the Club but greatly reduced the takings of local businesses. Greenwood therefore saw it as his personal mission to regain Boxing Day for the Club. Members also remained convinced that if they could regain Boxing Day the malaise

which seemed to grip the Club would be ended.

Greenwood wasted no time or effort petitioning for support with local clubs and his efforts were soon rewarded. After a hiatus of three years the Club regained Boxing Day as the date for its Annual Carnival. The announcement brought a burst of enthusiasm back to the Club and no effort was spared in making preparations for the big day. To raise money for a new surf boat a Surf Boat Ball was organised in conjunction with Fostars Ltd and held in Mark Foy's Empress Rooms. Things appeared on the improve. With membership also having risen

to 80 many believed the Club was over the worst of it.

While the regaining of Boxing Day for the Carnival was a great fillip, the ability of the Club to organise and meet the expenses involved was questionable. Club funds were so low it was debated whether, having regained that date, the Club could actually put the carnival on. In its preparations it took the example of other cash-strapped clubs. At Manly and at Cronulla, clubs had joined forces to host 'Surf Galas', combining their efforts to conduct a carnival. Following the example of North Cronulla and Cronulla, and Queenscliff and North Steyne,

the Club approached South Narrabeen to be a co-host of the carnival.

In the Boxing Day Carnival was held the fortunes of the Club. A s

In the Boxing Day Carnival was held the fortunes of the Club. A successful day might be enough encouragement to continue the momentum which had started to be built. Failure could be both a crushing blow to club morale and finances. With a larger number of entries taken than expected there was reason for hope. Unfortunately the day was a disaster. With the Depression still biting only a small number of spectators were prepared to pay to enter the enclosure. Many people watched the carnival from 'Scotchmen's Hill' or other 'vantage points'. To make matters worse, water events were suspended half way through the program because of a shark sighting meaning that participating clubs had to be refunded their entry fees. The Club sunk ever deeper into the doldrums.

While the early years of the Depression had little impact on the Club's competitive success the period after Nugget Spargo's victory in the Australian titles was extremely barren. Club attendance at carnivals was reduced even further and the Club achieved no significant results at those carnivals it did attend. Indeed, from the 1931/32 Annual Report onwards the Club did so badly in the few carnivals it could afford to attend that there were no results considered to be worthy of mention.

While the Club endured the doldrums in life saving competition during the Depression years, its other sporting endeavours met with greater success. The Club had entered a team in the Manly Sub-District Rugby Union competition since 1929. In 1933 and 1934 the team (wearing its blue and white jumpers) finished runners up. The team was 'a credit to Collaroy and to the Surf Club in particular. The behaviour of the whole team was something to be proud of and earned glowing reports from all the officials and players of the above association'. The team folded at the end of 1935 after a disappointing season marred by injury. Collaroy members also continued to be strong supporters of the Collaroy Cricket Club which won the Manly District Premiership in 1934.

One of the reasons for the Club's competitive slump was that it lost the services of many of its best competitors such as Nugget Spargo and Ralph Chequer. By 1932 unemployment in Australia had hit 28%, a figure higher than that in the United States, Great Britain, Canada or Japan.<sup>31</sup> With little work in Collaroy or Sydney more generally, many members of the Surf

Club were forced to leave the metropolitan area in their search of work.

The SLSA soon became aware of the impact unemployment was having on the movement. It was against this backdrop that it struck upon a scheme designed to aid unemployed lifesavers and fledgling clubs outside Sydney. In the 1920s the Association had made concerted efforts to develop surf life saving clubs on the New South Wales North and South Coasts. To aid in such development it had introduced the Big Brother/Little Brother scheme in 1930 whereby the large and well-established metropolitan clubs adopted a 'country' club and provided training assistance and other related initiatives. In the case of Collaroy it had adopted long-time associate Corrimal. Unfortunately the Depression greatly curtailed the Big Brother scheme and with the cost of competition so high for the country clubs great fears were expressed that they may fold en masse.

With this dilemma and the unemployment issue confronting it, the Association struck



Ralph Chequer (right) outside Blackhead SLSC pictured with Wally Scott — Blackhead SLSC

upon another scheme. If the country clubs would accept the responsibility of providing employment the Association would organise for unemployed members of metropolitan clubs to join them. The country clubs would receive experienced lifesavers who could help with the club's development and the metropolitan club member would gain a job.

The first Collaroy member to take advantage of the scheme was Nugget Spargo who travelled north to Taree and joined the Blackhead Club. Once the system was seen to work the regional clubs became more selective. Rather than just wanting another lifesaver they would request a belt swimmer or a sweep or a sprinter, as they built the competitive side of their clubs. Of course those city lifesavers already there had a knowledge of the Sydney scene and would often make recommendations. Blackhead put out the call for a beltman and Spargo suggested Ralph Chequer. Chequer had not competed since the disqualification at the 1930 Championships and only carried out his patrol duties the following season before unemployment forced him from the district and the Club in search of work. The call from Blackhead in mid-1932 found Chequer panning for gold near Bathurst and living on track rations. He readily accepted the offer and was soon in Taree, swimming for the Club and using his trade as a carpenter in the employ of a local builder.

Nearly three years out of competition and months of living tough on the goldfields had left Chequer unfit for competitive swimming. He spent time and effort with the assistance of Spargo and another Sydney lifesaver Manly's Wally Scott (who would win the Australian Surf Race Championship for Blackhead in 1935), in getting back to prime fitness. By early 1933 Chequer felt himself physically prepared to have another crack at the national titles. The first step on the path to regaining the title he had held twice before was the State titles at Bondi. The Club, however, could not afford to send a line and reel or a belt team to Sydney. Chequer, therefore, competed with a Collaroy reel and with Collaroy members as his lines and reel men. He won his heat comfortably and looked to the final that afternoon. By the time of the final, a low tide awaited the competitors. Chequer had drawn the unlucky number six. Because of the bar the Bronte team, which had drawn one, had only to swim a few metres. Chequer, however, had to contend with a deep gutter before reaching the bar. The Bronte team were victors and Ralph Chequer's competitive days at Championship level were over.

Back at Blackhead, Chequer, Scott and Spargo were later joined by Roger Light, who had replaced the legendary Rastus Evans as the North Steyne sweep, and Bert Chequer who left his position of Chief Instructor at Collaroy to assume the same position at Blackhead. Bert's role also involved assisting with the establishment of new clubs and he trained the first Bronze squad for the Foster Tuncurry Club. While Spargo and Chequer later returned to Sydney, Ralph Chequer met and married a local woman and lived out his days on the North Coast.

The scheme on the whole was a great success for the clubs, but not always as successful for the lifesavers themselves. The employment they received was not always conducive to surf life saving competition. While for Wally Scott the change was relatively minor thanks to securing a job as a Station Agent, Spargo found himself employed mixing cement, building grain silos, six days a week. By the time Bert Chequer had arrived Spargo's frame had been transformed and his body's suppleness which had been part of his competitive edge had vanished, replaced by rock hard muscle far less conducive to surf competition.

For those who did have work in Sydney, the times were still tough. Upon returning from the war Bon Abbott had started a carrier business. It was his lorry which was used throughout the interwar period to convey the boat and Collaroy teams to carnivals. During the Depression, however, business plummeted and often those who did engage Abbott's services were unable to pay for them. With such misfortune Abbott accrued a sizeable debt with the Taxation Department which he was unable to meet if he were to continue to feed his large family. Eventually he received a summons to appear at Central Court. Upon hearing of Abbott's predicament his long-time friend and recently elected President of the SLSA Adrian Curlewis volunteered his services. In presenting Abbott's defence Curlewis asked the magistrate what was the monetary value of a human life. His worship responded about £1500. Curlewis retorted that if such were the case the Government owed Mr Abbott many thousands of pounds because of his service to the community and proceeded to give a brief history of Abbott's career in surf life saving. The magistrate instructed the parties in the matter to settle out of court. Impressed by Abbott's record, counsel for the Taxation Department proved agreeable to Curlewis' suggested plan of repayment.

Despite his unceremonious dumping in 1932 Dick Swift had remained a loyal and dedicated member of the Club. He maintained his position as a Club Patrol Captain and in

1933/34 won the Patrol Competition with a team consisting of brother Snowy, Geoff King, J. Blundell and S. Westhorp. Swift also became Collaroy's Honorary Auditor. His dedication to the Club was recognised in the Annual Report of that year which noted that 'No keener man

ever belonged to the Club'.

At the 1934 AGM Buster Quinn, who himself had given tremendous service, decided to stand down from the Club captaincy. Dick Swift was re-elected captain and T.G. 'Tom' Parsonage was elected President. Parsonage, a barrister, had become acquainted with Collaroy through a relative, Club Secretary Manus Sullivan. A former Sheffield Shield cricket player for New South Wales, Parsonage became an associate member of the Club playing a major role in its Rugby Union team and captaining the 1930 side. In 1931 he donated the Tom Parsonage Cup for the 'hardest trier at everything' in both club and open competition, and patrol work. The Annual Report which was presented to the 1934 AGM warned against a return to infighting and offered some optimism for the future when it noted 'with a better co-operation between all the members . . . we should place the old Club to the forefront once again'.

While the Club had relied on the 'assistance of a few of the old brigade' for a number of seasons, this group of 'valuable members' finally started to drift away from the Club in the mid 1930s as economic signs for the future started to improve. With an improvement in economic activity many of these older members were lost 'owing to their many business callings'. It was hoped, however, that the Club would soon see a return 'of all those men (such as Spargo and

the Chequer brothers) who have been away from us for such a long time'.

While the Club had some success in attracting new members with 16 securing their Bronze Medallions, the return of former members who left the Club during the Depression did not really eventuate. While a few such as Bert Chequer would later rejoin the Club, most did not. The improving position of the national economy was also reflected in Club finances which through renting of the club house to local community groups, and the Christmas/New Year fancy fair were the best 'for quite a few years'. Some of this money, however, had to be directed back into building repairs because during 'loaning outs' fixtures had been 'badly molested'. The Committee decided as a consequence that despite the revenue involved it

would have to take a 'firm stand' on who could use the premises.

For many seasons the Club had been putting aside any spare cash for the purchase of a boat to replace the seven year old KB. At the start of each season the Club surf boat would be sunk so that the boards, which had dried out and shrunk over the winter, would expand with moisture thus filling the gaps between them. In the earlier days of the club, boats had been lovingly taken to the Narrabeen Lakes and gently submerged. By the mid 1930s the KB was simply rowed out into the surf at high tide where the crew would throw their oars over the side before tipping it to one side and sinking it. Secured by a line to the shore, the crew would wait for low tide before pulling the boat to a position from which the remaining water could be emptied. Many members by the mid-1930s hoped that the boat would not survive such an ordeal any longer, thereby forcing the Council to contribute to the purchase of a new one.

By the 1934/35 season, however, the situation was untenable. The KB had to be replaced. With not enough money for a new boat the Club turned its attention to the second hand market. Soon after, word was received that the Bondi club had a surf boat for sale at a bargain price. It was quickly snapped up. On getting the boat back to Collaroy, however, it was soon realised that it was not such a great bargain and 'Quite a few pounds will have to be spent to make this boat anything like the bargain we anticipated'. The old and decrepit KB remained

Collaroy's first boat.

Another Club acquisition of the period, which had an even shorter life, was a piano which was donated by a member of the public. In years gone by the Club used to borrow a piano which would often be brought to the club house solely on the broad shoulders of Tiny Abbott, who would carry it all the way from a residence in Alexander Street. An evening to welcome the new piano was held and a most pleasant night of sing-alongs ensued. As the night wore on and the amber fluid flowed it was decided that the piano might also be thirsty after its marathon

performance. A glass of beer was poured over it. Soon other members of the Club were shouting the piano a beer. In the morning the piano was found still sitting in a pool of beer and irreparably damaged by the liquid warping the wood. The free piano now actually cost the club money to take it to the tip.

Overall the season was again one of 'many trials and disappointments' and ended in controversy surrounding Club finances. Unfortunately before the matter could be pursued very far a suspicious fire in the club house saw the Club's records from 1911 to 1935 destroyed. The following year the Bank of New South Wales opened its first branch in Collaroy, replacing the agency which had existed to that time. The bank's first Manager was Bill Lloyd and he assumed the position of the Club's Honorary Auditor — a position he held until the mid-1950s. Surprisingly Westpac Archives document that the Club opened its new account with a deposit of £2000. It is unknown from where this large amount of money came after so many years of financial hardship.

The 1935/36 season was not dissimilar to that which preceded it. While there had been much 'hard work' there had also been 'many disappointments'. In an effort to improve patrol attendances a half-day patrol scheme was tested but, like the day patrol scheme, was unpopular with local members and was dubbed a failure. On the subject of patrols it was noted: 'We extend a fair amount of latitude to some on account of the distances to be covered, and naturally expect a return of services for such leniency'. The membership gains of the previous season were lost with only two Bronze Medallions gained for the entire season. For reasons unknown the Club did not hold its Boxing Day carnival.

On Boxing Day, Collaroy had its first fatality on the beach since the drowning of George Greenwell. A young man swimming between the flags had some sort of seizure and immediately sunk beneath the waves and seaweed. His disappearance was noted by fellow swimmers and the alarm raised but club members had difficulty finding him through the weed.



Patrol members in the mid-1930s. L to R: Nick Harris, Don Graham, unknown, unknown.

A human chain consisting of lifesavers and members of the public was formed in an effort to locate the man. Many minutes later a club member had the misfortune of actually standing on him. Removing him from the weed and surf the man was brought to the shorewhere Dr Bruce, one of the Club's honorary medical officers, spent over an hour vainly attempting to revive him, before proclaiming 'life extinct'.

Some consternation was expressed by the family of the dead man over the circumstances of the death. In response the Club's delegate to the Association, Syd Chequer, enlarged on the report into the fatality submitted by the Club. Chequer noted that the 'weed bank' which had gathered in the surf that day was 'primarily responsible for the fatality' and the meeting agreed that the issue of the weed should be brought before the Coroner. Chequer was of the opinion that the weed could be removed from the beach and the meeting also agreed that Warringah Shire Council should be approached to instigate some plan to that effect. 33 While an inquiry by the Association found no fault on the part of the Club in the death, Collaroy's committee took exception that the Association's defence of the Club was not stronger. The Club's Annual Report for the year noted: 'It may be as well to thank our members for the part they played in the finding of the body and the work performed in an effort to revive the young man'. With regard to the issue of removing weed from Collaroy beach the Council did provide the Club with a tractor and driver with which the Club could attempt to remove the weed. The Club removed piles and piles of the weed, but as soon as it was removed more weed would float to the surface. By the end of the day the exercise was seen as a failure. The surf was still full of weed but the beach was now covered with piles of rotting seaweed.

By the mid-1930s the Club's previously good reputation in the community was starting to wane. Increasingly local parents were warning their sons away from the surf club because it was allegedly full of 'scallywags'. While community sponsorship of the Club had declined during the Depression it was not being resumed as business picked up. The Club reminded local business leaders that it had greatly assisted their businesses and the community more generally over the years and deserved their support when it was itself in difficulty. One Annual Report noted 'We often wonder why so few of the local people give us any support. It seems to be the same every season. Our members have to put up with a great amount of expense in keeping up the splendid record which had been built up during the last 21 years'. From the late 1920s Collaroy had a regular correspondent to the Manly Daily who reported on Club activities. This correspondent was usually the Club Secretary writing under a pseudonym such as 'Silverspear'. Often the pieces were simply updates of Club competition results or pieces of gossip cryptically disguised. For example: 'There is no need to worry any more about the "Count". He went "off" on Saturday night and arrived home in the early hours'. 35

In the mid-1930s, however, the Club's latest correspondent 'Dumper' decided to put his nickname into practice in a stinging criticism of local businesses. Noting that local shop keeper Stan Jarvis had donated a tie for club competition, Dumper noted; 'Our local tradesmen are handing in donations with great gusto as usual. Heaven help them all if the surf club has to shut down at any time through lack of financial support. We have a few decent supporters amongst the business people, but very few'. These and other comments by Club members concerned town leaders such as Arch Greenwood and Stan Twight who were intimately aware of the Club's close association with the prosperity of the community. At the 1935 AGM Stan Twight was elected for the first time to the position of Club President and took it as his task to resurrect support for the Club from the local business community. Unfortunately Twight became very ill soon thereafter and was unable to realise his plan. Except for those which had members in the Club, such as barber Bill Hardy, many businesses continued to neglect the Surf Club.

Another indication that the Club had lost its standing in the community was that the club house, for the first time in its history, became the site of vandalism. For some local boys the Club was no longer something to which to aspire. It was simply an institution of the society with which they had become frustrated and so they vented this frustration against the club house. Many of the older members, especially, were shocked that the club was being 'molested by a certain section of the community' and would-be vandals were warned that 'drastic steps will have to be taken to abate this nuisance'. Some of the culprits were members of the First Narrabeen Scout troop. After the removal of the Ladies Surf Club house in the mid-1930s the troop began to meet in the surf club. They then proceeded to strip the club of the lead flushing around the roof line to make sinkers for fishing. The Club roof began to leak as a consequence.<sup>37</sup>

The apparently low esteem with which the Club was now held by many members of the community only added further fuel to the Club's low morale. With so many disappointments and unfulfilled hopes, frustration saw members once again turn on each other, as they had in the wake of the Greenwell drowning. As noted, the Depression had greatly harmed membership. Most of those who had been forced to quit the Club, whether they were locals or weekenders, were working class men whose discretionary spending had been greatly reduced and therefore may not have had either the money or free time to continue their community service activities. Many middle and upper class families, however, had escaped much of the Depression's worst effects. Many of these families could still afford to visit Collaroy and their sons could still afford to devote time and money to the Surf Club. These middle class members were encouraged to invite their friends to also join, meaning even more middle class males were joining the Club.

While the Club had always held members from a wide variety of social backgrounds and had actively pursued a club ethos of egalitarianism — where service to the Club was the

measure of a man — the Depression years had brought resentments. As the percentage of middle class members in the club increased through the 1930s those working class local members felt more and more threatened and jealous. Of the 61 members who gained their Bronze Medallions between 1929/30 and 1935/36 more than half were private school educated — the vast majority at Shore. Of the 45 active, active reserve and junior members in the Club in 1935/36 at least 24 had been educated at one of Sydney's Greater Public Schools (GPS).

Perhaps not surprisingly for a club dominated by young men these rivalries usually manifested themselves in club competition and competition for the affection of the opposite sex. With the 'GPS boys' better educated, having greater discretionary spending and an 'air of sophistication', the local working class members felt they were unfairly disadvantaged by club members whose bona fides were questionable when they mostly lived outside the district.

The AGM of 1936 was seen by many members as yet another battle between the locals and the GPS boys. At the meeting



At the centre of the amateur/professional controvesy Club Vice-Captain, David Rogalsky. Note relocated Ladies Surf Club (background right).

R. Smith, who had replaced Dick Swift noted his intention that he would not be accepting a nomination to retain the position of Club Captain. Two candidates emerged at the meeting. One was Brian 'Icy' Batty, the younger brother of Wallace Batty, who lived locally with his sister and brother-in-law, the McGrigors, and worked in the family ice vending business. The other candidate was David Rogalsky. Rogalsky's family lived at Turramurra and used to rent a weekender over the summer in Clark Street, South Narrabeen, before later buying a block and building in Beach Road. Rogalsky was educated at Barker College and joined the Surf Club in 1934 gaining his Bronze Medallion in February 1935.

In the election Batty won and Rogalsky was elected Vice-Captain. To Rogalsky this seemed the best outcome. A local person would always be able to find more time to devote to the Club than a person who only visited on the weekend.<sup>38</sup> To some members on either side of the divide, however, it was another skirmish. Tension between the two groups continued to mount. Hitherto friendly rivalry was gaining a sharper edge. The Club's small gymnasium with boxing facilities became the sight of increasingly bitter spars between locals and GPS boys.<sup>39</sup> The Club championships increasingly became a competition between two sides of the one club. It was in the issue of prizes for club competition that the situation finally got out of hand.

A number of the GPS boys, including Club Vice-Captain Rogalsky were members of the New South Wales Amateur Athletics Association (NSWAAA) and accomplished track athletes. While the SLSA's rules on amateur versus professional competition were tight in some instances, as evidenced by the ban placed on Bert Chequer because of his board building business, it was seen to be more lenient than bodies such as the NSWAAA and Amateur Swimming Association (ASA). The major problem for the SLSA was the right of permanent lifesavers, and professional athletes who were members of Clubs, to compete in surf carnivals. A further dimension of the issue was the fact that since the early days of the movement surf carnivals and even club competitions had given out prizes including money orders.

In 1936 both the NSWAAA and the ASA decided to be more strict with surf life saving competition. At the 1936 Australian titles Rogalsky ran third in the beach sprint (the Club's best result in many years) but was brought before the AAA for not having sought permission to compete in a field which held professional athletes. The ASA decided that it would enforce the rules of the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA) which essentially banned amateurs from competing against paid life savers in surf life saving competition. While the SLSA sought a rewording of the relevant rule at the meeting of FINA in Berlin following the 1936 Olympics, the endeavour was unsuccessful.

On the eve of the 1937 Australian titles Rogalsky and a number of other top amateur athletes were refused permission by the NSWAAA to run at the Australian titles. In an article titled 'Shamateurism Lifts Its Head' the Sydney *Truth* noted that the 'primest slice off the cold mutton' was that whilst Rogalsky and the others were refused permission to run, several other members of the NSWAAA were permitted to compete. At the same time professional athletes had voluntarily excluded themselves from the beach sprint after a personal request by SLSA President Adrian Curlewis. A major reorganisation of surf life saving relationship with amateur swimming and athletics was called for and many amateur athletes feared they would be forced to make a choice.

Concerns about the issue even reached intra-club competition. In years gone by many athletes and swimmers had protected their amateur status by simply giving any prizes associated with a win to the competitor who came second. Unfortunately, at Collaroy some members were not aware of the reason for this gesture and saw it as a form of humiliating charity by the GPS boys. As the NSWAAA and ASA became even more restrictive on the issue of competition, Rogalsky and others suggested to the Club's committee that prizes be done away with in favour of trophies which in no way threatened one's amateur status. Many of the GPS boys who were not amateur athletes agreed with the move because they did not really need such prizes and came from a GPS sporting tradition where trophies were highly valued.



Patrol efficiency winners 1939/40 sporting the Association's new patrol caps. L to R: Frank Hall, Bob Maladay, Wal Eadle, Lyle Patterson.



Stan Twight.



Doug Graham, recipient of the club's second Honour Blazer.

For working class locals, however, this was seen as simply the latest insult. For local working class families still facing the effects of the Depression such prizes were welcome gains to family income. Arguments over the plan grew more and more heated and the accusations against both sides grew more outrageous. The issue came to a head when a rumour was circulated that Rogalsky had already affixed to his club blazer the embroidered Club Championship pocket for winning the beach sprint, before the event had even been held. Of course Rogalsky did not even have access to the pocket but the rumour sparked more acrimony. Tired of the squabbling which was only causing further detriment to the Club's already fragile reputation in the community, Batty threatened to resign if the infighting did not stop. Unfortunately the threat had little effect and the squabbling continued until the end of the season. Neither Batty nor Rogalsky stood for office at the AGM and Rogalsky soon after ended his association with the Club. Surprisingly, given the cicumstances, Batty was replaced by Dick Swift.

Wearied by the infighting many members did not renew their membership for the 1937/38 season. Several GPS boys such as Peter Playfair and the Staniland brothers transferred to the Palm Beach club, in part to avoid the acrimony, while many others simply left the movement altogether. Between 5 April 1936 and 24 April 1938 the Club only gained eight new Bronze Medallion holders. Only one of the eight was GPS educated. The Club seemed hellbent on a course of self-destruction.

In 1937 Stan Twight died, breaking one of Collaroy's strongest links to its origins. He had

been replaced as President due to his illness in 1936 when his brother in law and foundation member Doug Graham had accepted the position. That same year Archdale Parkhill also resigned as Club Patron. As noted Parkhill's participation in Club activities virtually evaporated upon his elevation to a Cabinet Minister in the government of Joseph Lyons although he remained a financial supporter and often supplied trophies for intra-club competitions.

At the 1937 General Election the United Australia Party faced internal dissension and a number of members ran in safe UAP seats as 'Independent UAP', candidates. In the seat of Warringah a young Percy Spender (a member of the Palm Beach SLSC) ran against Parkhill. Unlike Granville Ryrie, Parkhill had always had to work hard to maintain the seat, but in this election the Cabinet Minister was unable to stave off both the Labor candidate and the young independent UAP candidate. Spender won the seat.

Parkhill's loss raised an issue for the Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club. Since its inception the Patron had been the local Federal Member for Parliament. Should



The Club's third patron T.A.J. Playfair enjoys Collaroy Beach with son David, mid-1930s.

Spender now be offered the position of Patron when he was already closely affiliated with another surf club in his new electorate? Parkhill was very bitter in defeat and determined to ensure that Spender was denied as many community responsibilities and honours as possible. Believing that as Patron he had the right to suggest to the Club his successor, just as Ryrie had suggested him, Parkhill suggested that the Club should invite T.A.J. Playfair to become Patron.

Playfair had been born at Millers Point in 1890 into a family of meat exporters. After excelling in Rugby and Cricket at the Shore school he competed in the 1912 International Horse Show in London and became a member of Waverley Council in 1914. The Great War found Playfair as an artillery officer, and 25 April 1915 saw him on the shores of Gallipoli, where he was seriously wounded on 30 May. After serving in France (Tiny Abbott being a member of his unit) he returned to Australia after the war with his English wife Madge. Moving into the smallgoods business he maintained his political interests (joining the National Party) and in 1927 was elected into the Legislative Council where he was a vigorous opponent of J.T. Lang. <sup>43</sup> Influential in the formation of the United Australia Party, he was the New South Wales President from 1932 to 1939. The Australian Dictionary of Biography claims Playfair was 'Quite direct, yet humble and approachable'.

In 1928 Playfair and his family had moved from Double Bay to Elanora Heights where Playfair was instrumental in the creation of the Elanora Country Club. Having been a sportsman and a regular swimmer at the Domain Baths, Playfair was also frequent visitor to the surf. With three young sons he decided that North Narrabeen was too rough and so took them to the calmer waters of Collaroy. Playfair's eldest son Peter joined Collaroy in 1935 drawing him more actively into the affairs of the Club and the movement more generally. He soon after was nominated and accepted the position of Vice-Patron of the SLSA. Despite the Club's poor fortunes and the fact his son left the Club and joined Palm Beach in the wake of the infighting, Playfair accepted the position of Club Patron. By far the most active Patron to that date, Playfair took a major role in Club affairs. In later years his financial assistance and counsel was

considered of great importance in getting the Club out of its doldrums.

While the Club struggled on towards the end of the decade with a low level of membership, its responsibilities on the beach increased dramatically with the introduction of the 'surfoplane'. In late 1936 the Surfoplane Company sought to introduce its rubber air mattress to Sydney beaches. With most Sydneysiders still making their way to the beach by public transport, the surfoplanes were too bulky to transport. As a consequence the company decided that it would set up stalls on Sydney beaches and hire them to the public. In Warringah Shire the Council concluded that the surf clubs could decide whether they wanted surfoplanes to be on their beach. With the company offering to give the clubs a fee of around £20, cash strapped Collaroy agreed.

The surfoplanes were hired by colour on a time system. With four different colours the operator had an easy way to tell when someone's time had elapsed. He would then employ locals boys to swim out and retrieve the planes when the time had run out. Clubs were also invited to borrow surfoplanes for competition and a new category emerged in club competition. While this was originally a condition of the arrangement between the Club and the Company, the operator on the beach grew less supportive of the arrangement, especially when his surfoplanes were in high demand. In response the Club would simply move the flags away from where the planes were being hired, forcing the operator to relocate himself. Once he had gone to the trouble of relocating, the flags would be moved back to their original place. The operator soon got the message and the Club could hold its surfoplane race.

While the surfoplane brought a new level of fun to the surf for members of the public, they quickly became a nuisance to surf clubs. Because they could be hired by anyone,

inexperienced swimmers could soon find themselves out of their depth. Many rescues were performed where a poor swimmer had fallen from the surfoplane in deep water. Many other rescues were chases as swimmer and surfoplane were whipped out to sea by a strong current. In 1939 Club member Don West rescued eight surfoplane users when they were washed out 150 yards in a rip. Upon reaching the group in the belt, West proceeded to tie three of the floats together, and discard the rest. The eight people clung to the planes and were brought back to shore. As usual a newspaper report noted that 'Thick seaweed near the shore made the rescue difficult'. 45

In later years the dangers of surfing were increased when surf skis were also hired on the beach. Once again inexperienced users would often get into difficulty. The difference now was that not only was the operator a danger to themselves, but other swimmers were at risk from the heavy wooden skis if they washed into the flagged area after inexperienced riders had fallen from them.

The surf, however, was not the only place members of Collaroy were putting their surf life saving skills into practice. In 1932 Eddie



Eddie Robinson.

Robinson's family had returned to Scotland in the hope of avoiding the Depression. He arrived back in Australia and rejoined the Surf Club in 1935. In 1936 he was elected Chief Instructor. One chilly May evening in 1937, Robinson was returning to Circular Quay on the ferry steamer Kirawa after a night of frivolity at Luna Park. Also on the harbour that evening was a sixteen foot motor launch which had got into difficulties when a piece of hessian in the water fouled its propeller. Low to the waterline and its navigation lights inadequate, the Kirawa collided with the launch directly under the Harbour Bridge throwing its five occupants into the dark waters. The launch was severely damaged but did not sink, and four of its five occupants quickly scrambled back aboard. A fifth person, 25 year old Frederick Thompson of Putney, however, vanished into the night.

With the passengers of the Kirawa scouring the sea for Thompson he was eventually spotted, in difficulty and caught in the turbulence of the ferry's props. Just as suddenly as he appeared in the foam he vanished again. The next time he reappeared, however, he was unconscious with his face in the water. Immediately seeing the danger Robinson removed his shoes and valuables and leapt into the harbour. Another man, also a lifesaver, A.B. Stafford of the North Cronulla club followed Robinson into the darkness. The two men quickly rescued Thompson, brought him abroad the Kirawa and revived him, as the remaining passengers looked on in awe.<sup>47</sup>

Robinson later received a letter from Elizabeth Thompson the mother of the rescued man. It read:

Dear Sir,

I am hoping this will find you as I am sending it care of the Collaroy Surf Club, Mr Robinson I am the mother of Fred Thompson who was rescued by you and Mr Stafford please accept my deep and



Club members season 1938/39. L to R, back row: Tom Roberts, George Poole, Harold Sheldon, 'Tanglefoot' Cassidy, Bill Abbott, Ray Barker, Bill 'Curious' Hardy, Nick Harris, Jim Sheldon, Harold Brough, John Musgrave, Jack Roberts, Ernie 'Tarzan' Stevens; second row: Wally Starr, Ron Hall, Bert Manieri, Tony Tubbenhauer, Fred Fayse, Tom Dawson, Jack Coolahan, Arthur Calder, Don Graham, Johnny Walker; third back row: Wally Eadie, Frank 'Stumpy' Hall, Manus Sullivan, Len 'Toddy' Wildman, 'Pop' Wildman, Doug Graham, Bill Shepherd, Chic Proctor, Aussie Cameron, Archie Brabant, Bob Maladay; front: Bon Abbott, Gordon Greentree, Ian Proctor, George Patterson, John Abbott, Dick Swift.



Club members board Bon Abbott's truck for the 1938 Cronulla carnival. L to R, on truck: Bert Manieri (and Ponto the dog), George Poole, Max Collins, Noel Hall, George Patterson, 'Skinny' Waterson, Tom Dawson, Bill Abbott, Bob Maladay, Jim Sowerby, Ernie Bathgate; standing: Roy Morgan, Ray Barker, Bon Abbott.

great gratitude (sic) for saving my boy from being drowned last Saturday night - I know I am late in writing to thank you, but I really cannot find words to express my thanks to you and Mr Stafford, Fred was not married and he is all I have so you understand that when I say I am really grateful for what you did for my son (sic) thank you so much.

> Yours very sincerely Mrs Elizabeth Thompson 5 Francis Street Putney

With membership severely weakened by the fall out from the local/GPS altercation, the Club once again turned its attention to recruitment. It was decided to actively encourage 14 to 16 year olds to join. In the past the value of having such members was questioned when they still had to wait till their 16th birthday to gain their Surf Bronze Medallions but such concerns were forgotten by the need to bolster numbers. Around the same time an informal juniors' club was reorganised through Bert Chequer. Digging up the old reel, Chequer gathered up young 10 to 14 year olds and offered them some training. In early 1938 'Dumper' reported in the Manly Daily that the Club prospects were improving with the number of boys who were being attracted to the Club. The report concluded: 'We are very fortunate in having such promising youngsters in the Club . . . The Club must advance rapidly now so roll up and give a hand'. 48

While the influx of these young boys was a positive sign for the Club's future, its membership required new blood which was ready to meet the responsibility of beach patrols. One of the keys to the Club's success from 1911 had been the continuous source of membership which the camps had provided. The Depression years, however, had greatly limited the discretionary spending of young working class males. A regular weekly pilgrimage to Collaroy and its associated expenses could not be afforded and so the working class camps

had waned, and with them the Club's

fortunes.

Towards the end of the 1930s and with the worst effects of the Depression receding, numbers of young working class males from outside the District were enticed back to Collaroy. With their arrival Club numbers were boosted and new hopes were held for the future. It appeared that finally the Club's

run of outs would be put behind it.

In 1919 Peter Calder bought a block of land in Rose Street, Collaroy Plateau, from Real Estate Agent Arthur Rickard. In later years he built a fibro weekender and would often visit with his family from their home in Balmain. By the late 1930s Calder's son Arthur would visit the 'Alps' (as the plateau was known) and frequent the beach. Calder was an active member of the Balmain Rowing Club and became interested in the activities of the Surf Club especially the surf boats. Upon getting to know a number of Collaroy members he convinced his mate and fellow Balmain rower Harry Brough that they should join.

Upon joining Calder and Brough



became aware that the Club was struggling R & R team practice the Schaeffer Resuscitation method.

and that its greatest problem was lack of dedicated members. They took it upon themselves to promote the Club amongst some of the mates they knew through various sporting clubs in the Balmain area. Their recruitment drive snared for the Club the 'Balmain Boys', young men such as Bill Tillbrook, George Ericson, Doug Hillmrich, Albert Ware, Colin and John Campbell, Don 'Deakin' West and Les 'Sooty' Deveridge. Many of the Balmain boys had already had a camp at Freshwater and some, such as Deveridge, had already gained their Surf Bronze with the Freshwater Club. Eight of them, and Eddie Robinson, started to rent a cottage in The Avenue (called 'Byron') on weekends.

Like the camps that came before them the Balmain boys were very sociable. Those who only worked to Friday would come down on Saturday morning to mow the lawn and do some chores before the rest of the group arrived that afternoon. A five gallon keg would then be ordered and delivered by 'Jenkie'. During the evening other surf club members would arrive and contribute to the cost of the beer, which usually also then covered the rent of the cottage for the weekend (the owner would live in the cottage on weekdays, vacating on Saturday morning and returning on Sunday evening). If nothing was happening at Byron the Balmain boys would head for the Crows which by this time was a Collaroy institution. The Crows had acquired three big concrete balls in their front yard which were used to signify when they were at home and a keg was on. If the balls were stacked on top of each other the Crows were receiving guests, while if they were scattered on the ground they were not.

While the Balmain Boys were relatively few in number they augmented the local additions to Club membership. By the late 1930s some of the sons of foundation members were old enough to join the Club and the period saw the addition of Billy Abbott and Jim 'Sparrow' and Harold 'Little Sparrow' Sheldon to Club ranks. 49 More of Joe Cornwell's grandchildren joined the Club such as George Patterson and Frank and Ron Hall. The Pattersons still lived at Lidcombe and so were able to encourage friends from that area such as Wal 'Ferret' Eadie. When added to local boys such as Tom Dawson and Ray Barker (whose family had moved from Strathfield in 1939), all these new additions and their dedication to the Club raised morale to a level which had not been seen for many years.

With the Balmain rowers the Club began to rebuild its surf boat stocks. The Club now went all out to raise the £105 needed for a new boat and oars. A gauge showing the Club's progress towards the cost price was installed in Club Secretary Bill Hardy's barber shop. By early 1939 the money had been raised and a contract for a new boat was lodged with George Solomon of Newport, whose family was well known in Collaroy. One quarter of the money had come from the famous biscuit family the Arnott's after a child of the family was rescued on the beach. In December 1939 the Club received its first new surf boat since 1927. Christened on the beach by Bon Abbott the boat was named Miss Collaroy.

The Club also commenced rebuilding its strength in other aspects of competition. Tom Dawson and Bill Abbott decided to dedicate themselves to the creation of a successful R&R team — an area in which the Club had never been particularly successful. In this attempt they managed to lure Freshwater champion and future Labor Cabinet Minister Tom Uren to Collaroy.

In Club administration Collaroy also had a strong team with Bill Hardy as Secretary and Harry Shepherd as Treasurer. Doug Graham continued in the chair as President while on the beach Dick Swift was replaced by Len Wildman as Club Captain. In a sign to the future a young Bill Abbott found himself Boat Captain after Harry Pfafflin was suspended when members of the public complained about his use of profanities when out in the surf boat. The permanent lifesaver was club member Ernie 'Tarzan' Stevens — his nickname the product of his dark hair and the short white trunks he wore on the beach. Stevens had replaced Len Wildman who had replaced Sep Jorgenson, who had replaced the original permanent lifesaver Cas Forbes.



Some of the Balmain boys. L to R: Doug Helmrich, Bill Tilbrook, John Campbell, Bert Ware, Col Campbell, Don West. Sitting in front is club member and Collaroy resident Frank Hall.



Junior R & R Team 1938/39. L to R: Don West, Tom Dawson, Bert 'The Preacher' Ware, Bill Abbott, Ray 'Bull' Barker, George Patterson.



Bon Abbott christens the Miss Collaroy, December 1939. R to L: Bill Hardy, Dick Swift, Dick Twight, Doug Graham, Tom Roberts, Bon Abbott, Ken Morgan, Ed Robinson, Jim Sowerby, Bob Maladay, 'Toddy' Wildman, Lyle Patterson, Bert Ware.





Christening boat crew. L to R: Harold Sheldon, Bill Abbott, Ernie Bathgate, Ray Barker, Eric Johnson. The 'Ragtimers' entertain members and guests at the christening. Flagman is 'Toddy' Wildman.



Club members and friends on the eve of World War II.

To many club members it appeared that the bad times had finally passed. For nearly ten years the Club had struggled under the weight of an economic depression whose consequences were far reaching when combined with disappointments and the tragedy of George Greenwell's death. With the Club apparently on the verge of a renaissance, its future would once again be taken out of its hands by international events.

## War and Reformation

As the duration of the war lengthens, the strain on Membership is accentuated; however, this is alleviated somewhat by the influx of Probationary Junior members, and as still more members answer the call of their Country these younger lads readily fill the breach.

n 3 September 1939 Germany invaded Poland sparking a war in Europe that had been predicted for many years. Shortly after news of the invasion was communicated to the world, Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies announced that it was his 'melancholy duty' to follow Britain's declaration of war. Closely following this announcement, the war came to Collaroy in the form of instructions to the local police to intern local 'enemy aliens'. Upon hearing the declaration of war on the wireless, Charlie Adams drove to police headquarters in the City whereupon he was given a list of nine residents of the Warringah Shire who were of German origin. With a military escort he began to detain these individuals including an elderly gentleman living in The Avenue, Collaroy, and the parents of future club members Peter and Wal Beinssen. These 'enemy aliens' were then transported to Neutral Bay police station for processing. Surprisingly former Club Vice-President August Pfafflin, the father of former members Otto, Phil and Harry was not interned. Though he had come to Australia as a young boy many German-Australians with similar backgrounds were detained. While Adams recalls that Pfa: Hin was not on the list, rumour had it that Tom Huckins, who was now a Sergeant on the upper North Shore, had intervened to protect Pfafflin, pointing to his high standing in the community and strong connection with the Manchester Unity Lodge.

As had been the case during the Great War, the first year of the Second World War had little impact on the Club or community. To many locals the closing of the tramline was more significant than the military posturing on the other side of the world. By 1939 the tram made the trip from Manly to Collaroy in 31 minutes and made 54 trips on weekdays and 58 on Saturdays. On the morning of Sunday 1 October, at 1.23 am the last tram (Car 831) left the Narrabeen Terminus decorated as a funeral carriage. At Manly it was met by undertakers and pall bearers for a Burlesque funeral as it entered the depot. The tram service was replaced by

white buses, a development which was lamented by many locals.

The surfing season roughly corresponded to the 'Phoney War' period in Europe as both sides jockeyed for position before the European summer. Early in the season the Club was in dispute with Warringah Shire Council over improvements to the club house. With the Council unwilling to dedicate any money to such a project, the Club resolved to boycott the building. Club reels were moved into Bon Abbott's backyard and, rather than being machined at the Council workshop, Club members maintained the reels at Young's garage. This stand off lasted for several weeks before the two parties came to an agreement.

Further evidence that the Club was on the way back was shown at the 1940 Australian Championships when Billy Abbott won the Australian junior belt title — the first Australian title for the Club since Nugget Spargo's win in the Junior Surf Race in 1931. Great hopes, however, could not be held for Abbott's immediate competitive future because he had already



Members and friends on the beach, summer 1939/40. L to R: Bill Abbott, Tom Dawson, Wal Starr, (obscured) unknown, (partly obscured) Harry Brough, Betty Abbott, L. Solomon, Art. Calder, L. Solomon, Ron Hall.



Playing soldiers during the phoney war. L to R: Bill Abbott, Ray Barker, Bob Maladay, Eric Johnson. All later saw war service. Johnson was killed in action.



Board riding at Collaroy, January 1940. L to R: unknown, George Poole, Jim Sowerby, Bruce Smith.

enlisted in the Army and would shortly sail to destination unknown on the converted luxury liner the Queen Mary.

By the time of Abbott's win, the Club had already lost a few members to military service. Bill Wildman was the first member of the Club to enlist, doing so the morning following the declaration of war. With the news that he would soon be heading overseas with the First Battalion of the Second Australian Imperial Force (2AIF), the Club held a function to wish him bon voyage. Others were Club Secretary Harry Shepherd, who resigned from his position on 3 December 1939, and permanent lifesaver Ernie Stevens, who was replaced in the job by Paddy Maher. These small losses of qualified members, however, were more than compensated for by the gaining of 14 new Bronze Medallions over the season. The Club's financial position, however, was still poor. In July 1940 the Club sought financial assistance from the Association to meet its debts and was once again forced to hold its Boxing Day



Bill Abbott, Australian Junior Belt Champion, 1940.



The Miss Collaroy competing at the Bondi carnival, March 1940. Todd Wildman is sweep.

carnival in conjunction with South Narrabeen because it could not meet the costs of preparing the carnival itself.5

It was during the Australian winter that the Phoney War ended and by the beginning of the 1940/41 season the Netherlands, Belgium and France had fallen to the Third Reich while Britain looked perilously close to invasion as the Battle for Britain raged in the skies over England. Many Club members joined up over the winter. For Art Calder the decision to enlist followed news of the evacuation at Dunkirk. On seeking his approval his mother's only parents' instruction was that he not join up with Harry Brough because Mrs Brough would blame him if anything happened to her son.6 Although Don West and Berty Ware joined up together in June 1940, for most members it was a personal decision which was made and carried out in private. Regardless of the method, by the beginning of the 1940/41 season the Club's membership gains of recent years were lost, despite seeing 10 young members successfully complete their Bronze Bert Chequer and wife Jean in Melbourne 1940. Chequer Medallions.



underwent training at Ascotvale.

As in the Great War the question of sport was once again raised. The usefulness of sport as a way of relieving stress and maintaining fitness and morale were better appreciated than it had been during the Great War. Prime Minister Menzies informed sporting organisations that they had 'a mandate to help the war effort of Australia by maintaining a healthy and virile outdoor recreation, while providing entertainment for the easement of countless minds from the worries and doubts which are forced upon us by overseas conditions. While surf carnivals continued, the loss of competitors to the armed forces and general organisational difficulties saw a severely limited 1941 Australian Championship Carnival. In light of such problems it was decided that the national championships would be postponed until the cessation of hostilities.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and British outposts in South East Asia on 7 December 1941 transformed Australia's involvement in World War II and imperilled the nation's geographic integrity. On 15 February 1942 the strategic safeguard of Australia, Singapore, fell, entrapping the Eighth Division of the Second Australian Imperial Force along with a sizeable Allied force. Four days later Darwin was bombed leaving a casualty figure in the hundreds. Under a direct threat to the nation's sovereignty, the Labor Government of John Curtin set about mobilising the whole nation for the prosecution of the war.

For surf clubs such as Collaroy the 1941/42 season was transformed by the beginnings of the Pacific War. Although greatly depleted at the beginning of the season, the Club's active membership was sufficient to meet its responsibilities. With the entry of Japan, however, those remaining members who were eligible for war service enlisted. The beach also lost the services of its permanent lifesaver and former Club Captain Paddy Maher who commenced air crew training with the Royal Australian Airforce. Brian Batty was for a time released by the Army to act as permanent lifesaver, but on his return to active duty, the beach was no longer officially patrolled during non-voluntary hours. By the end of the season club membership had been



Keeping the Club alive. Members 1941. L to R: Joe Trotter, B. Leilere, Stan Twight, 'Bindy' Moane, Roy Morgan, H. Collins, B. Taite, Jim Sowerby, Rob Maladay, Ray Barker.

decimated. From 29 active seniors in the first year of the war continued enlistments reduced membership to 10, leaving grave doubts about the Club's ability to patrol the beach the following season. Only one member, Lyle 'Gunna' Patterson, gained his Bronze — after the end of the season. With Australia the apparent destination of the Japanese Imperial Army and Navy, however, many wondered if such concerns mattered.

During 1942 the township of Collaroy was transformed. 'Brown-out' regulations such as masking street lights and car lights and using black out curtains, became crucial for a beachside suburb facing the possibility of invasion. Even policeman Charlie Adams was chastised by Collaroy's ARP (Air Raid Precaution) wardens for allowing light to escape under his front door. So successful were local efforts to conceal lighting it was later held responsible for the running aground of the New Zealand vessel Altair, which came ashore near the Long Reef Golf

Club after mistaking Dee Why as the entrance to Sydney Harbour.

Given the long stretch of sand from Collaroy to North Narrabeen many locals considered it the perfect landing ground for a Japanese invasion of Sydney. The military must have held similar fears because soon the southern end of the beach, including the rock pool, was covered with barbed wire and anti tank traps (the holes where the barbed wire was set to metal stakes are still visible around the pool). The concrete steps from the sea wall to the sand were also blown up. The northern end of the beach around North Narrabeen was kept clear because it was within the fall of shot of the North Head artillery battery. Around the township barbed wire barricades were prepared to block streets and deny the Japanese access to the strategically significant plateau. A local Volunteer Defence Corps which had been raised earlier (and included the fathers of several surf club members) met in the garage of the Osborne family in Alexander Street as they blasted a hole in the side of the plateau to locate their 'secret' headquarters. An engineering company of the VDC made up of residents of Double Bay was located further north towards Narrabeen.

On 31 May 1942 it appeared the Japanese would soon be in Collaroy. The raid by a force of Japanese midget submarines on Sydney harbour that evening had many locals believing an invasion was imminent. As the Allied naval vessels in the harbour played their game of cat and mouse with the Japanese submarines, the sound of shells and machine gun fire put most local residents on their guard. A young Dot Montgomery recalls running with her sister towards an air raid shelter in Manly, picking up the coins falling from the pockets of panic stricken locals. Several truck loads of South Australian soldiers arrived and encamped in the Arlington Hall waiting for the expected landing barges, while the local VDC prepared itself in the Tram Waiting Shed. Charlie Adams drove from Collaroy to Palm Beach ensuring black out conditions were strictly observed. Though locals reported a positive identification of the Japanese float plane which flew two reconnaissance missions over Sydney, and at the heart of the submarine raid shell bursts were reported to the north of Long Reef, the expected invasion did not materialise. In the ensuing days, however, a Japanese landing raft was found one morning in front of the Arlington bringing a large military presence back to the town and fears about the landing of enemy agents. Innocently heading to work the next morning after the discovery, Alexander Street resident Wal Osbourne and Collaroy Street resident and Club member Harold Sheldon had to identify each other at the point of soldiers' bayonets.11

For some local families the scare of the midget submarine raid was enough to move them from the district. A number, especially those with young children packed up and moved to the safety of the Blue Mountains or even further inland. The owners of the many holiday homes in the town also decided against vacationing in a potential combat zone. For those who did wish to visit, the ban in August 1942 on using petrol for pleasure motoring also reduced possibilities. In the dark days of 1942 Collaroy's population was greatly reduced.

At the beginning of the 1942/43 season those senior members who still remained in the Club debated its ability to meet its responsibilities for the new season. Neighbouring clubs such as Warriewood had been forced to close while South Narrabeen was holding on through the tremendous efforts of a small group of dedicated members. The decision was made to

persevere in the first instance. The Club, however, had to look to its junior members who were not yet eligible for war service and the leadership of those few senior members in reserved occupations.

With the changing war situation the Government's position on the usefulness of sport also changed. In 1942 the Government banned all mid-week sport and suspended all interstate competition. Other sports such a boxing, golf, cycling, motor racing and lawn bowls were severely curtailed. For life saving the continuation of carnivals was severely limited. Many beaches could no longer hold carnivals thanks to barbed wire entanglements and tanks traps. More importantly, with carnivals stretched along the coastline, the logistical difficulties of transporting competitors and equipment with petrol rationing greatly limited the distances a club could go to compete. Intra-club competition regained an importance it had lost during the 1930s.

While the simple problem of sufficient membership to maintain patrols was difficult enough in itself, the administrative dimension of the Club's operations were also a cause for concern. With the resignation of members of the Club executive, the Club's juniors and young seniors who had not normally been troubled by such matters were asked to step into the breach. This transition had preceded the Pacific War. When Harry Shepherd resigned as Treasurer in 1939 George Patterson, who was 18 and a clerk with the Australian Brewing Company accepted the position. With Paddy Maher's enlistment during the 1940/41 season, Patterson also became Club Captain until he too enlisted. With the onslaught of the Pacific War the sight of young men holding senior club positions became the norm.

Upon Patterson's appointment as Club Captain he was replaced as Treasurer by 17 year old Jim Sowerby. Sowerby was the son of Collaroy's first dentist and a keen surfboard rider. He was selected by those remaining senior members of the Club because he had secured an 'A' in book keeping in his intermediate examination. Sowerby himself joined the Navy in early 1942 and was replaced by Club veteran and former Honorary Secretary Manus Sullivan, who returned to the Club to offer his support in its hour of need.



Club members in the early war years.

In 1942 Bill Hardy resigned as Secretary, having assisted the Club through the low points of the late 1930s. Many documents pertaining to the period were placed in Hardy's garage for safe keeping, but unfortunately were never returned to the Club. Hardy's successor was a 16 year old probationary member John Eyre. Eyre did not gain his Surf Bronze Medallion until December of that year. The Eyre family had come to Collaroy in the 1920s when Frank 'Happy' Eyre was appointed as the Professional at the Long Reef Golf Club. The Golf Club had emerged after a public meeting at the Twight's Tea Rooms in May 1921 with the President of the Shire and Surf Club Vice-President A.G. Parr in the Chair. Amongst his sporting successes Frank Eyre won the Australian Open in 1930. Also a keen surfer, Eyre encouragedhis sons, John and Alan, to join the Surf Club and his daughter Pam later married club stalwart Ron Hall.

At the AGM of 1943 Manus Sullivan stood down as Club Treasurer. Before the meeting, however, a new candidate had already been approached and agreed to accept the responsibility – 17 year old university student Bill Goodman. Goodman's family had moved to Collaroy in late 1928 shortly after their return from England. When he was four his mother died, placing added burdens upon his father Jim, the local postmaster (replacing Messers Heskey and Odgen who had run the Post Office store through the 1920s) who was also involved in the local grocery store near Collaroy Street with his brother and sister. In the late 1930s a young Goodman spent some time in the country with an aunt before returning to Collaroy in 1940. Being a prominent member of the local business community, Goodman's father was well acquainted with local barber and Club Secretary Bill Hardy. The two men decided that Goodman would benefit from joining the local surf club and so was encouraged to do so. He became universally known in the Club as 'Crispies'. While many believe the origins of the nickname related to the grocery shop, Jim Sowerby claims he first used the nickname seeing Goodman wearing a shirt that reminded him of a cereal box. 15

By the AGM of 1943, Goodman was an engineering student (a reserved faculty) at the

University of Sydney. It was agreed amongst those remaining senior members of the Club, that Goodman had sufficient skill with maths to meet the responsibilities of Treasurer. The local Bank Manager, Bill Lloyd informed Goodman that if he took on the job he would teach the young student all he needed to know

about book keeping.

From the AGM of 1943, therefore, the Club's executive was dominated by juniors. As well as Eyre and Goodman, Bob 'Sluggo' Moore found himself Assistant Secretary and Laurie Walsh Registrar. Lyle Paterson was Publicity Officer. On the beach those seniors in reserved occupations maintained positions of authority. Col and John Campbell, who were both inreserved occupations at Garden Island, were boat captain and vice captain while Frank Hall (a battery maker) who had replaced George Patterson on his enlistment remained Club Captain with Wal Eadie vice captain. These seniors, however, were still young men in their twenties.

As expected, patrols were dominated by juniors and probationers, many of whom were not old enough or had not yet completed their



John Eyre (right) with Bob Moore, 1941.



Patrols during the war years were dominated by young men. Gordon Greentree's son Keith awaits his 'call-up' to the reel.



Bill and Val Goodman.

Surf Bronze Medallions. Due to war contingencies, examinations were only held once a year. For some such as Bill Goodman, who underwent his Bronze training but at the time of examination was too young by a number of days, this meant having to wait another twelve months for the next examination. At Association level there was a motion forwarded that 'for the duration of the war' the age for Surf Bronze Medallion examination be reduced to 15. The motion, however, was defeated when the Board of Examiners voted against its adoption. There is little doubt that in many clubs young men underage did complete their Surf Bronze. In an attempt to combat this practice Examiners could ask candidates to sign a statutory declaration or produce a birth certificate to prove their age if they held any doubts.

Regardless of whether a person held an award or not they were still seen as essential members of a patrol. Thanks in part to Bert Chequer's efforts to resurrect the Junior Surf Club, many of these new members 'knew enough to be useful'.16 The ages of



Australian Prisoners of War at Stalag 13C, Hammelburg, Germany, August 1941. Bill Wildman is fourth from left, middle row — AWM P1363/01.

probationers varied. Edmund Playfair was involved in patrols at the age of 14. Wal McGrigor, the nephew of former Club Captain Brian Batty, performed his first belt rescue at the age of 12. Les Redwood recalls performing patrol duties in the later war years at the tender age of 10. With many of these probationers and juniors still at school and the beach having no fulltime lifesaver, impromptu patrols were put on during the summer vacation. By 1943/44 efforts to offer probationers some formalised training while they waited to turn sixteen saw newly qualified Instructor Bill Goodman assist five probationers in attaining the 'Qualifying Certificate' which was, supposedly, the minimum qualification for patrol duties.

As in the first war, Collaroy members found themselves flung to the four corners of the earth. Bill Wildman saw service in the Middle East and Greece before he was captured at the fall of Crete in 1941. He and fellow Allied Prisoners of War were returned to the Greek mainland and then marched through Greece, Yugoslavia and Austria to the Stalag 13 Prisoner of War Camp in Germany. Bill Abbott saw service in the Middle East before returning to the Pacific. Don West and Berty Ware were sent to Thursday Island where they established a heavy artillery battery before returning to Australia. Ware then joined the Navy and West the Eighth Division of the 2nd AIF which had been stationed in Malaya since mid 1941. Less than three months after his arrival in Malaya, West found himself a prisoner of the Japanese and spent the next three years in prisoner of war labour camps. Tom Uren saw service in Timor before he too became a prisoner of the Japanese.

Sooty Deveridge originally joined the Army but later secured a transfer to aircrew training and was sent to Canada as part of the Empire Training Scheme. After training in North

America he was stationed as a bomber navigator in England where he gained the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery during raids over Germany. Snow Swift also joined the airforce after a bout in the militia and, geographically at least, had a very interesting war. From flight training in Rhodesia, he went to South Africa, thence to England via the Bahamas and Canada. Seeing combat in England, he also served on Gibraltar and Malta before ending up in the Western Desert. He then took a squadron of Beaufighters to India and Burma, before returning to Australia via Ceylon. His companion for much of this time was a dachsund given to him by a lady admirer and 'Messerschmitt'. aptly named Messerschmitt survived the war it did not survive the rigours of crossing Pittwater Road and was later run over and killed. The Club had a number of sailors, including Jim Sowerby, Bob 'Crutchy' Maladay and Ray 'Bull' Barker. Maladay and Barker found themselves on corvettes (the Arunta and the Kapunda) and experienced the war in the



'Snow' Swift with the faithful 'Smitty'.



Bill Abbott (on right) of 2 Platoon, 2/4th Field Company, pauses for a rest in the shade — Finistere Ranges, New Guinea, March 1944 — AWM 071074.



Bill Tilbrook (third from left) and members of the 2/6th Supply Depot at Walingai Beach, New Guinea, February 1944

— AWM 063269.

Pacific. Former Park Street Mob member Gordon Olsen found himself Captain of an Australian destroyer.

Most members of the Surf Club who enlisted for war service found they fitted into military life relatively easily. Having experienced some degree of regimentation and maintaining a level of fitness, the challenges of such a structured life were not as confronting as they were to many other men. To Edmund Playfair the regimentation of the Army differed little to that demanded from his former Patrol Captain Wal Eadie. Many lifesavers quickly gained non-commissioned officer rank with their skills being appreciated by the military. Several Collaroy members found that their Instructor's Certificates helped them assume training roles. Those GPS members of the Club found it even easier having undergone cadet training at school. Many of these young men found themselves commissioned officers.

In writing the introduction to Surfing in Illawarra in 1963, President of the SLSA, Judge Adrian Curlewis noted 'Twenty years ago during World War II, over a hundred members of Surf Life Saving Clubs gathered together in Changi Prison Camp near Singapore. They were Prisoners of War from the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force. Discussions — even arguments — took place about surf rescues, surf carnivals and origins of clubs . . . And so it was in every theatre of war where lifesavers met together'. <sup>23</sup>

Surf life saving, however, was not just talked about by Australian servicemen. In the Middle East, for example, Australian life saving was transplanted. Bill Abbott found himself seconded to patrol the beach at Neuserat in Palestine, near where an Australian training battalion was stationed. The beach had no flags but it did have a reel. Lance Try suffered a bout of malaria while in the Middle East and was sent to a Convalescent Camp with its own patrolled beach, which he assisted in patrolling later in his recovery. A surf patrol was established at Gaza in Palestine with a reel supplied by the SLSA. Here several members of the



Australian soldiers pay out line during the belt race at the AIF surf carnival at Tel Aviv, October 1941. Note the large crowd of spectators in attendance — AWM 020928.



Crowd control by local police at the Tel Aviv carnival - AWM 020924.



Australian soldiers take time out for a pillow fight, Swan Beach, New Britain, July 1945 - AWM 078289.



A surf carnival against the backdrop of burning oil fields, Seria, Borneo, July 1945. Note the handmade reels — AWM 111532.



Les Deveridge (fifth from right) with members of the crew of Lancaster bomber 'R' for Robert, 460 Squardon RAAF, stationed in England in September 1943. The pigeon is 'Squadron Leader Snow White' which was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross after accompanying the crew on about 100 operations — AWM UK00539.



Pittwater Road, Collaroy, during the war years - Local Studies Collection, Warringah Library.

AIF gained their Surf Bronze Medallions. A unit stationed nearby had a large number of members from the Manly Club and so organised a surf carnival where participants represented their old clubs. Collaroy was represented through member and former permanent lifesaver Ernie Stevens who created a Collaroy March Past pennant with his nickname of 'Tarzan' attached. The pennant survived the war and remains on display in the surf club. Other Carnivals were held at Neuserat and Tel Aviv drawing huge crowds of Australian service personnel and interested locals. At the Tel Aviv carnival former Collaroy member Dave Rogalsky ran in the Beach Sprint while Bill Abbott swam fourth in the open surf race with Freddy Hooke of Lismore taking first place. Abbott saw quite a few mates he had tussled with on beaches in Sydney and recalls that the standard of competition was very high. The Australians also brought surf life saving competition to Southeast Asia and the Pacific with the the commencement of the Pacific War. A surf club was formed in Malaya before the fall of Singapore and later in the war, a Club was formed in the Solomon Islands.

Occasionally the war permitted the paths of surf club members to cross. For example Lance Try met Bill Abbott in a depot in Palestine. Don West met Tom Uren in Changi. In the Islands Bill Hardy caught up with Bob Kay, Bill Moran and Ray Barker. On such occasions 'Old 'Roy' would be remembered before good wishes were exchanged and they would move on hoping to one day see each other back on the beach. On one occasion the outcome of such an encounter was slightly different. On his return from the Middle East Bill Abbott was posted to New Guinea. Abbott's unit eventually arrived at the bloody battlefield of Buna via Milne Bay. At Buna, Abbott met up with Tom Dawson who was in an Independent (Commando) Company which had fought its way over the Owen Stanley Ranges on the Kokoda Trail. Dawson pleaded with Abbott: 'Get me out of this bloody mob. A bloke could get killed'. Abbott saw his Commanding Officer and told him he had a 'cousin' who wished to join the unit.

Sapper Dawson joined Abbott's unit shortly thereafter.

After New Guinea, Abbott and Dawson saw service in Borneo. Even in the middle of a war, Abbott was looking after his Club's interests. At Balikpapan, he was placed in charge of the local swimming pool and assisted by Australian 100m stillwater champion Rodney Button and an American, Jack Hirst. Hirst had escaped China where he had been born and his father had been interned by the Japanese, and joined the Australian army. Both were invited back to Collaroy and although Button only stayed with the Club for a short while, 'Hank the Yank'

remained with the Club for a number of years.

Back at Collaroy the juniors were meeting their added responsibilities admirably. John Eyre noted that the fact that no lives were lost during the 1942/3 season spoke 'volumes for the efficiency of the patrols as the brunt of this work falls upon Juniors, all lads under the age of eighteen. This is aggravated by the fact that as the Pacific War was ever so close to our shores, the leave of some of our Seniors was curtailed severely'. <sup>26</sup>

In meeting the challenge of reduced numbers, 16 medallions were presented to the likes of Laurie Walsh, Bob 'Sluggo' Moore, Dick 'Tanglefoot' Twight, Jim 'Jungle Jim' Dawson, Bill Goodman and Jim and Pat Armstrong. The problem of losing qualified instructors at a rapid pace was overcome by Peter Turner who sat for his Bronze and his Instructor's Certificates in the same year to ensure the Club had an instructor to assist Wal Eadie in bringing new squads through. Upon attaining the age of 18 many members quickly completed instructor's courses to keep this crucial dimension of the Club's activities going. Even with such efforts numbers were still deficient. With no other choice the Club was forced to reduce patrol hours so its patrols would not be spread so thinly. The 6.30 am patrol start was ended, replaced by a 8.30am start and the 6pm close was brought forward to 5pm.

While the high number of Bronze awards was excellent for the Club, the problem was one of maintaining such levels. The Club might only get two seasons from a junior member at a maximum before they enlisted. Of the 16 who gained their Bronze in 1942/43 nine were later lost to the Club for a period of time due to war service.

During the 1940s the readers of the Manly Daily were kept up to date on Club gossip through correspondents such as 'Brainwave' and 'Elusive'. As usual the reports were often cryptic. While they continued to convey club competition results, training times, seek new members ('join up and be in the fun — contact Stumpy') and even paraphrase letters written from members on war service (who could not wait to get home and 'crack a boomer in the corner'), most space was devoted to club member's activities with the opposite sex. Some of the cryptic messages of these years included:

'Cunningham has taken a leaf out of the older members book, and fallen for a blonde' . . .

'Jim and Col were on the prowl in Manly, but they know their way about' . . .

'Can 'Tubby' explain what it was like riding a bicycle around D.Y. in a strange attire in the early hours of the morning' . . .

'Laurie Walsh is thinking of joining North Bondi Club on account of the beautiful girls that come from there - so watch your step Laurie' . . .

'Red Abbott's forming an Alpine Club to visit the beauty who lives on the tops of the local Alps' . . .

'It's about time the local 'crabs' [younger members of the Club] stopped cramping 'Bitsy' Twight's style, as he was doing great guns till they turned up on the spot' . . .

'Who were the good looking girls that 'Crispies' [sic] had on the beach and then took them home' 27

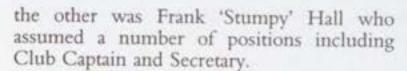
Many members of the period recall the wild parties at Wal Eadie's place in Alexander Street and the dances at the Luana Dance Hall in Dee Why or at the Masonic Lodge. Many Club members would visit South Narrabeen on a Saturday afternoon where a chocolate wheel was run to raise club funds. While beer was virtually impossible to obtain, the wheel was usually well stocked with liquors such as creme de menthe and cherry brandy. Club members would play the chocolate wheel until they had secured enough alcohol before heading out for the evening. Upon reaching a favoured dance hall, alcohol was often placed in a chaff bag and buried in the nearby sand for retrieval later in the evening.

The Club did not forget those of its members who were on war service. Each annual report contained a list of those who had 'joined the forces in the defence of our country and Empire'. Promotions to commissioned rank and the awarding of medals for bravery (such as Flying Officer Les Deveridge's Distinguished Flying Cross) were also recorded. By the AGM of 1943 the Club was sorrowed to have to report that four members had been killed in action and that two others were posted as missing. In words directed to the families of those missing, the Club expressed the wish 'that they will come through this ordeal safe and well. May their relatives find comfort in the fact we share their worry and confidence'. For most of the time, however, the Club lost track of its members, only really being kept up to date on those occasions when one of them would visit the Club on leave. For those on leave, however, such visits were often difficult. With few mates and the Club dominated by youngsters there was little to do. Leo Brodigan decided on one leave visit to teach some juniors how to get over a barbed wire entanglement. The attempt was not a great success and resulted in bloodied hands. In the success of the success and resulted in bloodied hands.

While the Club could not have survived the war years without the willingness of the probationers and juniors to fill patrol rosters and administrative positions, two men stood out as the Club's guiding lights during this period. The first was Club President Doug Graham and



Members in uniform 1944. L to R: Bob Maladay, Ron Hall, Jim Maloney.



As a young man and brother-in-law of Stan Twight, Doug Graham had been present at the inaugural meeting in Twight's Tea Rooms which had formed the Club in 1911. It appears that Graham did not play an active role in the Club during his younger years, perhaps such involvement being difficult due to his occupation as a commercial traveller he was later made a Life Member of the Commercial Travellers Association. He once again began to play a direct role in Club affairs in the mid-1930s, gaining appointment as a Vice-President in 1935. The following season he was elected President replacing Stan Twight who was seriously ill. He held the position until 1939 when he was voted out of office and replaced by E.C. Roy. Graham was greatly hurt by his dumping but returned to the presidency a year later. Members of the period, especially those who were Juniors at the time, recall Graham's unswerving dedication to the Club and that he was never



Dick Twight and Vince Brodigan on leave.



Pop and Edith Hall outside their Collaroy fruit shop.

without his much beloved Club blazer and walking cane. His good naturedness also resulted in some practical jokes at his expense, but many members recall his fatherly way and see him as a positive influence.<sup>32</sup> Often known as 'Uncle Doug', he marvelled at the skills of many Club members and an often heard phrase of his was 'I don't know how they can stand up to it!'<sup>33</sup> Whenever the Club was heading for a Carnival they would see Graham wishing them good luck from his window as they passed the Mar Gordon flats on the corner of Pittwater Road and Hay Street.<sup>34</sup> In 1944 Graham was made a life member of the Club.

On the beach and in the day to day running of the Surf Club Frank 'Stumpy' Hall played a decisive role. For many juniors, Hall's captaincy of the Club shaped their early lives. As noted the Hall family's association with Collaroy dated back to one of the area's early patriarchs — Joe Cornwell Snr. Hall's mother Edith was Cornwell's eldest daughter and had been a regular visitor to their holiday home before her marriage. The Hall family originally lived in Kogarah and owned a fruit shop near Allawah train station. In the mid-1920s the family moved to Collaroy and opened another fruit shop. The family had five boys and a girl. Eric and Frank were both members of the Junior Surf Club although Frank was the only one to join the senior club. Later Frank was joined by his younger brothers Ron and Noel. Their endeavours were strongly supported by their father, Herbert 'Pop' Hall. At the beginning of the war Frank Hall found himself in a reserved occupation while his brothers joined the army. Hall put all his spare time into the Club and especially into assisting the junior members.

There were a number of other stalwarts who ensured that the Club successfully navigated its way through the war years. Brigadier Playfair, though himself in charge of an Artillery Brigade, assumed a position of intimacy with the Club not seen by a Patron in the past. Praise was directed towards him for his 'support and advice on certain affairs' and his 'very generous' donations. Other stalwarts were Fred Dundan, who ran the casualty room and donated the first aid kit himself, and Dick Cullen did much work in repairing and maintaining the Miss Collaroy.

In the area of social activities and fund raising the Club received the invaluable service of long time local resident George Redwood. In tough times Redwood raised much needed funds for the Club through activities such as selling hot water and raffling bags of sugar. In 1944 Redwood was elected a foundation member of the Club's first Management Committee and was later awarded life membership for his years of valuable service. Redwood was ably assisted by a number of local women, including Edith Hall and Jessie Sheldon. The wives of Club members, including those on active duty, were also helpful, especially when the Club hosted a carnival. The wives of the Club hosted a carnival.

In terms of financial hardship the war years differed little from the Depression years which had preceded them. Being an organisation which relied on the voluntary donations of the community the Club found it difficult to compete with war orientated volunteer organisations who sought money to assist the war effort. In some circles the Club's attempts to draw financial support away from the war effort were viewed unfavourably. If Collaroy SLSC was to continue, however, it had no choice. Its other source of income, subscriptions, was also greatly reduced through lack of membership and the fact the majority of those members still active were paying the junior and not the senior rate.

Socials during the war years were an important way for the Club to gain funds, but even here the Club's opportunities were limited. Community halls such as the Masonic Hall were congested with other social events organised by patriotic organisations. The Club had to wait its turn and bide its time until a vacancy was available. Of course with such a reduced membership the club also had difficulty attracting patrons to these events. One recourse was to organise such socials jointly in cooperation with the Ladies Swimming Club. Though few in number such functions proved popular and often became impromptu reunions when Club members returned 'from battle stations' on leave. In searching for other forms of fund raising the most successful proved to be a regular 'Euchre Party' which was held at the club house.

With these sources of income and Doug Graham's ready willingness to always donate sufficient funds to the Club so that it remained in the black, Collaroy was able to get by. Little money was spent on new equipment, though in many cases rationing rather than a shortage of funds was the reason for a lack of new purchases. A boat, for example, was out of the question due to rationing of the materials which would be required in its construction and the engagement of boat builders on war related duties. The introduction of clothing rationing in June 1942 also meant that March Past costumes and banners could not be replaced. One purchase during the war years was a radio and amplifier which 'helped a great deal in controlling surfers as well as providing entertainment to Club members and the general public'.

In an effort to investigate possible revenue sources for the Club a Management Committee consisting of Messers Sullivan, Redwood, McLean, Gibbon and (Jim) Dawson was formed in 1944 to assist the Committee in the management of Club affairs.



A young Dick Twight receives a club trophy during the late war years.

Although no senior club championships were held between 1941/42 and 1943/44, junior competition was fierce and operated under a handicap system. A number of special trophies for junior competition emerged during these years. Alan Eyre won a trophy for 'Most Improved All Round', Alan Leathley for 'General Proficiency' and Laurie Walsh annexed a trophy known only as 'The Plugger', a phrase which became synonymous with him. Two new trophies were introduced for season 1943/44 as memorials to former Club Secretary Arch Duckworth and Eric Johnson, who had both been killed in action. These trophies covered the Junior Point Score and Most Improved All-Rounder.

Surprisingly, perhaps, given the problems which faced the club during the war years, the Club in competition reached heights not seen since the late 1920s. In early 1943 the SLSA decided that the war situation had sufficiently eased to hold what became known as a 'Metropolitan' Championship for the Sydney Clubs. The Sydney Branch was broken up into zones and it was through success at a zone carnival that entry to the Metropolitan was secured. Collaroy had the benefit of a very strong zone competition against South and North Narrabeen.

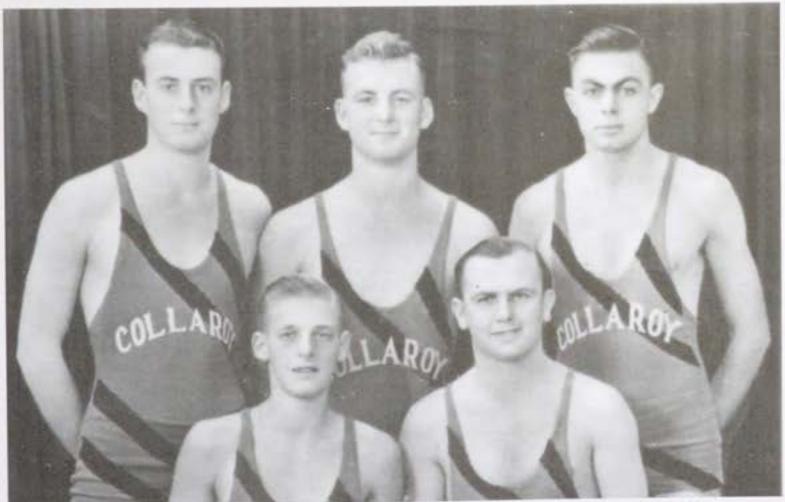
The Metropolitan was held at Manly and was understandably dominated by junior competition, which in terms of standard surpassed that of the seniors. It was at these Championships that a golden age for the Club in surf boat competition dawned. The Junior Boat crew of Jim and Pat Armstrong, Graham Bruce, John Eyre, Jim Dawson and George Patterson (sweep) was victorious and the senior boat crew, largely made up of juniors, gained second place. The Club's success continued, spreading to other forms of competition, and was



Collaroy Junior R&R team, Metropolitan Championships 1943/44. Left to right: Pat Armstrong, Jim Dawson, John Eyre, Dick Twight, Bruce Smith, Bill Tubbenhaur.

highlighted at the Second Metropolitan Carnival at Freshwater in 1944 and the NSW Championships at Bondi - the first since 1941. The Club qualified for the Junior Belt, Junior Surf, Junior R&R, Junior Boat, Junior Surf teams and the Senior Beach Sprint. At the Metropolitan the Junior Boat crew and the Junior R&R gained second places while Bob Moore (then still a junior) ran third in the Senior Beach Sprint. At the State Championships the Club scored a first in the junior boat (Pat Armstrong, Jim Dawson, John Eyre, Dick Twight and George Patterson, sweep) and a third in the Junior R&R.

The 1943/44 season also saw the emergence of a very strong senior boat crew consisting of Stan Twight, Frank Hall, Col and John Campbell, and George Patterson as sweep. The team made the finals of the 1944 New South Wales Championships at Bondi. The day of the titles had seen a huge surf at Bondi which forced the cancellation of a number of events including the Junior Surf Boat race. The Senior Surf Boat race, however, was not cancelled and these crews



NSW Junior Boat Champions, 1943. L to R: Pat Armstrong, Jim Dawson, John Eyre, Dick Twight, George Patterson (sweep).

had to contend with not only the shore break but large waves which were also breaking between the swimming and boat buoys. Stan Twight prayed that the seniors would also be cancelled. Unfortunately this was not to be and it was only through the gentle coaxing of brother Dick that Stan got into the boat. With Patterson's good judgement Collaroy got off to a flying start and upon rounding the buoys no other boat was to be seen. Collaroy simply had to get back to the beach to win its first senior New South Wales title. While the crew were waiting for a suitable wave, another wave chose them and carried them some distance before the boat fell off the back of it. Amongst the breakers they had no choice but to attempt to catch the next wave. Completely at the mercy of the wave the boat was swamped and came ashore a great distance from the finishing area.

With the end of the 1943/44 season, the Campbell brothers decided to call it a day and George Patterson made it clear that he wished to give up his sweeping duties. While the Campbell brothers were relatively easy to replace with two strong former junior rowers, Pat Armstrong and Jim Dawson, the question of a replacement sweep was more problematic. While the Club had some good rowers no one other than Patterson had sufficient sweeping experience. The replacement of Patterson was the number one problem facing Frank Hall when he assumed the Boat Captaincy at the 1944 AGM. With Patterson still in the Army his availability was greatly limited. Keeping a watchful eye on the band of young rowers under him, he became increasingly impressed by Dick Twight, the son of shopkeeper and former member Norm and grandson of the late Collaroy patriarch Stan.

Norm and Catherine Twight had taken over the Twight's Tea Rooms from Stan and Florence Twight in 1923 and had a number of businesses along the waterfront during the late 1920s and the Depression years. On a number of occasions they were forced to move as beach front land was resumed. By the late 1930s the Twights and their four sons were living in Narrabeen as they built two apartment blocks in Alexander Street behind the new cinema which opened on Pittwater Road in 1938 with a screening of 'The Prisoner of Zenda'. The



Born and bred in Collaroy, Dick (left) and Stan (right) Twight outside the original tea rooms.



March Past team 1945/46. L to R: Frank Hall, Bob Moore, Ed Playfair, Dick Twight, Jim Cherry, Don Midgelly, Jack Hurst, Pat Armstrong, Dave Playfair, Alan Leathley, 'Sandy' Couston, Jim Dawson, Dave Moss, John Allen, Graeme Bruce, Laurie Walsh, Stan Twight.

building was Collaroy's only example of art-deco architecture. Despite his own membership of the Club, Norm Twight did not encourage his sons to join. Indeed, reflecting the views of many local business people of the period, he had a low regard for the surf club. Young Dick, however, became increasingly interested in the activities of the Club and, at the encouragement of Bill Abbott, joined in November 1939 at the age of 13 — his subscription fee being paid by Abbott. His elder brother Stan joined one week later. Upon attaining his Surf Bronze medallion in December 1942 Twight gained some rowing experience but achieved better results in the surf, snaring the Club Junior Surf Championship. At the 1943 AGM he became Vice Boat Captain to Col Campbell and secured a seat in the junior boat crew which won the 1944 State title.

Towards the end of the 1943/44 season Hall decided that Twight was ready to try his hand at sweeping. Willing to give it a go, Twight's first attempt in his new role was something of a disaster with the boat capsizing and breaking two oars. He persisted, however, and soon showed improvement under Hall's tutelage. As the 1944/45 season approached Hall conspired with Patterson to see if Twight was ready to assume the position of the Club's premier sweep.

The first carnival of the 1944/45 season was at Garie. It was the first opportunity to see if Twight's confidence in himself had grown and for Patterson to be convinced Twight had the requisite skill to do the job. At Garie, Twight had been entered to sweep the juniors and Patterson the seniors. With the junior heats completed attention now turned to the seniors. Patterson, however, had not gone to Garie in the truck stating he would make his own way there. By the time of the heats for the seniors he had not arrived. With no option Twight was asked by Hall to sweep the seniors. Both crews made the finals and Twight swept both crews to victory. After the final Patterson suddenly appeared on the beach.

At the next Carnival at North Steyne, Patterson was again listed to sweep the seniors and again failed to show forcing Twight to once again sweep the seniors to victory. Once again Patterson was on the beach for the return of the winning crew. In fact Patterson had been in

hiding at both carnivals observing the skill of his possible successor. With the senior victory at North Steyne, Patterson informed Hall that 'Twighty's ready' and relinquished his position as the Club's number one sweep to the young 19 year old.40 The crew went on to win 10 out of the 14 races they entered that season. With every chance of success at the New South Wales Championships, their hopes were dashed when stroke Pat Armstrong could not secure leave from the Royal Australian Air Force. In the 1944/45 Annual Report Hall made the prediction: 'Special praise must be given to R. Twight for the manner in which he swept the Boat Crews during the season, and the experience he gained should help him into the best sweep on the Coast'.

In 1944/45 a new form of competition, the ACME Cup, sponsored by the Collaroy Cinema through the efforts of its manager and club member Max Evans was held for Clubs between Dee Why and Palm Beach. The Club lost to North Narrabeen by one point but won the junior R&R, junior boat, junior beach sprint and junior surf teams.



Presentation of the Acme Cup to winners, North Narrabeen, 1946 — Hood Collection, State Library of NSW.

With zone competition restricted to participants over the age of 16, a special competition was held at zone level for probationers (or 'Cadets' as they were referred to in one Annual Report during the war years) who had played such an important role in keeping not only Collaroy but many other clubs afloat. Collaroy was the inaugural winner of the Collins Cup which had been donated by South Narrabeen member Max Collins. Members of the winning team included Norm Twight, Ian Proctor, Peter Clarke, Roger Boyle, Norrie Morgan and Tom Ashby. Although the Collins Cup and intra-club competition catered for probationers who could not compete in open carnivals, many probationary members still managed to compete at other carnivals through the registration of 'Stan Heap'. Heap was something of a chameleon who represented the Club on a number of occasions in a wide variety of events. Somehow Heap gained his Surf Bronze Medallion on 13 December 1942.

With the Club experiencing such competitive success great hopes were held for its future when 'more peaceful days' would see the return of Club members and the Club resuming its place as a 'powerful force'. 42 By 1945 all of the Club's senior positions, barring Doug Graham as President and Frank Hall as Secretary (replacing John Eyre who had joined the Navy) were young men who had supported Collaroy through the war years. Jim Dawson was elected Captain after Wal Eadie resigned to join the RAAF and Pat Armstrong was Vice Captain.

The Pacific War ended with the dawn of the atomic age in August 1945. On 29 September 1945 at 3pm, Brigadier Playfair unveiled a Roll of Honour in the club house to recognise those members who served during World War II. Out of a small Club which was in the early stages



Eric Johnson.



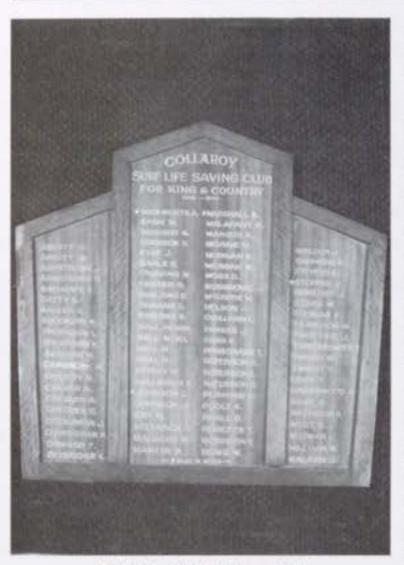
Alan Marshall.



Arch Duckworth.



Jack Stevens.



The Club's 1939/45 Honour Roll.

of rebuilding its membership in 1939, 96 of its members enlisted for war service. Of these 96, four paid the supreme sacrifice. Eric Johnson died when his parachute was fouled in the tail of the DC-3 from which he was jumping. Perhaps saddest of all was the death of Alan Marshall who was shot down two days after the Japanese Government had formally other two Collarov surrendered. The members never to return home were long time Crow and former Club Secretary Arch Duckworth and former Club Treasurer Jack Stevens. A number of former club members were also killed including T. Plummer, P. Pearce, W. Westhorp, M. Reynolds, and R. Appleton.

Great hopes were held that the 1945/46 season would see the Club continue to build on its competitive successes. With such strong showings in zone, metropolitan and state carnivals, the Club had every reason to expect big things when the first Australian Championships in five years were set down for Maroubra in April 1946. Most hope was held for the senior boat crew which had performed so admirably the season before. At the 1945 AGM Twight had been elected Boat

Captain but the position was little more than nominal. On regaining the Club captaincy, Hall insisted that Twight could only take the boat out with his permission.<sup>43</sup>

Twight was now the sweep of a senior boat crew which had a great deal of skill and experience. In the stroke seat was Pat Armstrong who had replaced Col Campbell at the beginning of the season. Armstrong's family lived in Miller's Point and had a weekender in Eastbank Ave. His cousin, John who was a Labor Senator in Federal Parliament, owned a weekender in Beach Road. Armstrong's father owned the *Palisade Hotel* in the Rocks. Spending most of his summers at Collaroy, Armstrong joined the club in 1940 and in the company of his brother Jim gained his Surf Bronze in January 1943. Initially interested in R&R, he was converted to rowing when Bill Abbott and Tom Dawson, who had recently returned form the Middle East, took a number of juniors including the Armstrong brothers on a row into Sydney Harbour to show them the visiting American warships. <sup>44</sup> In light of the trip a junior boat crew was formed and it was this crew which from 1943 did so well in zone, metropolitan and state carnivals.

Initially in the number two bow seat was Jim Dawson who had replaced John Campbell. The younger brother of Tommy Dawson, Jim was a Collaroy local who gained his Surf Bronze Medallion in January 1943 and rowed with the successful junior crew. As noted he replaced Wal Eadie as Club Captain on the latter's enlistment during the 1944/45 season. Unfortunately Dawson suffered a bout of pleurisy early in the season which saw him lose his seat in the boat. The position was scratch filled for a number of carnivals before it was decided that a row off would be held on the Narrabeen Lakes to permanently fill the position in preparation for the Australian titles. By this time Dawson had made a recovery but was still not completely fit. The remaining crew members and the selection committee overlooked him in favour of Graeme Bruce.

Dr Herbert Bruce had moved from Tenterfield in 1923 to open a general practice in Collaroy. His surgery and residence was on Pittwater Road and across a vacant lot from the Crows. In 1925 Bruce was approached and accepted the position of Honorary Medical Officer with the Surf Club, a position he held until the late 1930s. His son Graeme, therefore was Collaroy born and raised. In 1939 the family moved from Collaroy to Holbrook near Wagga. Upon finishing school Bruce returned to Sydney to complete an apprenticeship as a fitter and machinist at the Cockatoo Island Dockyards. Boarding at Kensington, he was a frequent visitor back to Collaroy and, despite the warnings of his parents that it was full of 'ruffians', he joined the surf club at the age of 18, completing his Surf Bronze Medallion in January 1945.45 Having rowed for Sydney Grammar while at school, Bruce was immediately in contention for a place in the senior boat crew, although he lost to the more experienced Dawson. At the row off, however, he managed to impress the remaining crew and selectors with his technique and stamina, thus securing his position in Club history.

By the beginning of the 1945/46 season the other two members of the crew had become known as the 'Stalwarts' because they were the sole survivors of the 1943/44 crew. In the bow seat was Club Captain Frank Hall. Although the eldest and smallest of the crew, Hall was extremely fit. He would ride from Collaroy to Taverner's Hill to get to work six days a week. While some Club members questioned whether Hall could 'swim to save his own life' he had a brilliant mind for boats. <sup>46</sup> In comparison to Hall's small frame, Stan 'Spook' or 'Zom' Twight was a giant. As noted Twight followed his younger brother into the Club though his age allowed him to complete his Surf Bronze before Dick, in December 1940. Soon after he joined the Army. While perhaps not as sophisticated in his rowing action as Bruce or Armstrong, Twight's great assets were his strength and his powers of endurance in the second bow seat.

As the season progressed the senior crew trained on weekends off Collaroy and on Tuesday and Thursday nights at the Spit. On these week nights Graeme Bruce would ride his



Dr Herbert Bruce (right) and family on the beach at Collaroy, late 1920s. His son and future Life Member, Graeme, sits beside him.

motorbike from his lodgings in Kensington. The team had no coach as such and although Frank Hall was in charge off the water, Dick Twight as sweep ran the show the moment the boat touched it.

While the new crew did extremely well in all the carnivals it entered, Dick Twight was engaged in a personal struggle against self doubt. Although he had enlisted in the RAAF in 1944 Twight was one of countless young Australians for whom the war ended before they had experienced it. For many young Australians the war was seen as a rite of passage to manhood. For the likes of Twight who were not able to complete the journey they were forced to contend with questions about themselves which they had not been able to put to the test. Those who had gone to the war had had some defining moment when, if only to themselves, they became aware of their personal qualities. While only 19, Twight felt he had not endured a trial which proved his courage. He believed that such a test would herald his passage to manhood.

Two weeks before the Australian titles the crew entered a round Wedding Cake Island marathon race at Coogee. In heavy conditions the Collaroy crew gave a good account of itself, especially when rounding the island. It was here that Twight displayed great courage and seamanship when another surf boat, caught by a wave, was bearing down on them. The rest of the crew were convinced if it had not been for Twight's skills and presence of mind the two boats would have collided with disastrous results. Twight thought that maybe this was that long awaited defining moment when he had displayed the qualities he believed distinguished a man from a boy.

The lead up to the Australian titles was not the best for the Collaroy boat. At a carnival the weekend before the Championships it had been damaged in a collision, hampering the crew's preparation as Dick Cullen hastily repaired it. On the Friday night before the titles the crew met at Hall's home to plan the course of attack. Early the next morning they gave the boat the once over before it was loaded onto one of the Abbotts' trucks for the trip across town. At the club house the crew noted the big swell pounding the beach and wondered what the surf held at Maroubra.

Upon reaching Maroubra in the back of the truck the crew were somewhat startled by the size of the swell. It reminded Stan Twight of the conditions at the New South Wales titles in 1944. Pat Armstrong acknowledged its size but saw it as challenging more than frightening. Dick Twight just stood by the water's edge, looking out into the swell, attempting to gauge its mood and character.

Twight was to sweep both the junior and senior crews that day. The junior races were held before the start of the senior heats and in this competition Collaroy made it to the semi finals. With the tide having just passed dead low, the swell was enormous as large dumping waves pounded the sand bar. There were some murmurs amongst race officials about cancelling the race but it was decided to continue. On the way to the buoys Twight found himself committed to punching through a large wave which had reared up over the bar. The boat went up the face but rather than punching through the top of the breaking wave it back flipped 180 degees finishing upturned with the bow facing back to the beach. Spectators and race officials began to count heads as the crew reached the surface. Only three heads emerged. Both Twight and Pat Armstrong's younger brother Neil found themselves trapped under the upturned boat. Laying in shallow water on the sand bar and at the mercy of the next dumping wave, a terrified Twight believed he was about to die. First one wave and then another struck the upturned boat. Finally Armstrong managed to escape and was quickly followed by Twight. Upon reaching the Shore, Twight vowed that he would never set foot in a surf boat again. If this had been fate testing his confidence and courage he had just failed - he was now convinced that he was 'not a courageous bloke'.47



Collaroy members at the Maroubra Australian Championships 1946. L to R: Tom Dawson, John Philpott, Don Midgelly, Leo Brodigan, Bill Abbott, Barry Hadlow, Jim Rand, unknown, Alan Eyre, 'Rusty', unknown, Noel Hall, Gordon Cunningham, Alan Leathley, 'Crow' Dunford, Frank Richardson, unknown.



1946 Junior Boat crew. L to R: Don Midgelly, Alan Eyre, Neil Armstrong, Keith Dunford, Dick Twight.

Nursing a couple of knocks from the accident Twight sat on the beach. Upon being approached by his brother, he informed him that he would not be sweeping the senior crew. For the next hour Club members tried to convince him to compete but he remained resolute. Mention was made of his courageous display at Coogee two weekends before, but Twight had already reconciled to himself that that display was an aberration. Against continued pleas for him to reconsider he pointed to Bill Abbott and Tom Dawson as accomplished sweeps who

could replace him. There was simply no way he was getting back in the boat.

Knowing his brother and his trait for stubbornness once he had made up his mind, Stan Twight called the rest of the crew aside and suggested that a personal approach, brother to brother, might do the trick. Taking his brother aside Stan reminded Dick of the 1944 State Championships when he had been petrified by the surf and was seriously considering pulling out. The only reason Stan had persevered was because Dick had cajoled him by noting that if he got the race over and done with he would be 'able to go and have a drink with the boys'. Stan turned the tables with the same argument and also pointed to the trust and faith the rest of the crew had in his ability. Why else would such a poor swimmer as Frank Hall be prepared to get in a boat in such atrocious conditions? Dick accepted that he was caught out by his own logic. Walking back to the crew he nervously smiled and agreed that he would sweep. A cheer followed by all round back slapping and encouragement followed. Twight turned his gaze back to the surf, determined not to be caught out a second time.

While Twight was sitting on the beach refusing to tempt fate twice, another drama was unfolding. Miss Collaroy had had its second bow oar's rowlock snapped off in the accident. With the crew insistent that they did not wish to borrow a boat, frantic efforts to repair the rowlock were made by former Army engineers, Bill Abbott and Tom Dawson. Using some stray fencing wire which was in the truck, the two men made a running repair to the rowlock. While

the rowlock was now frozen in position it would still hold the oar.

In the seniors the crew had to compete against 31 other entrants in a competition where only the winner of each heat advanced. In its heat Collaroy drew a strong field including Manly which was rowing a new boat and was hot off its win in the Wedding Cake Island race. How could the seven year old Collaroy boat compete? If Collaroy was not home first it was out of the event. In a copy book demonstration Collaroy trounced Manly to secure first place.

In the semi final of the seniors, Collaroy got off to another flying start and were first to the buoys. Twight simply had to pick a wave back to the beach and hold it and Collaroy were in the finals. Upon sighting a suitable wave, Twight yelled to his crew 'Down the Back!'. When the sweep called his crew down to the back of the boat to help hold it on the wave by moving as much weight from the bow as possible, standard practice of the day held that the bow oars would be trailed and the two stroke oars would be lifted out of the rowlocks and placed under the quarter bar. Frank Hall, however, had other ideas and relied on a method which had gone out of fashion in the 1930s. The oars were pulled across and left in the rowlocks. Despite continuous criticism from other crews that it served no purpose, Collaroy continued to leave its oars in the rowlocks. For the bow rowers this meant that they actually had to climb over the oars to get to the rear of the boat.

On this occasion Stan Twight tripped over one of the stroke oars on his way to the back. The oar dug into the water and spun the boat around on the face of the wave. Miraculously Twight was able to hold the boat and straighten it. Collaroy were through to the finals.

The three other boats who made it to the final in such heavy conditions were South Curl Curl, North Cronulla and Cronulla. It was obvious to everyone on the beach that the race would be a great test of the skills of the four sweeps. While the strength and endurance of the crew could often compensate for a lack of skill in the sweep, such would not be the case in this race.

Upon agreeing to sweep Twight had gone back to watching the surf. He noted that the tide was now on the way in and the swell was becoming fuller. He also noted that the waves which usually broke out to sea over the old wreck of the *Hereward* (which ran aground in 1898)

## COLLAROY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Peter Clarke,

9/3/46.

Dear Member,

On behalf of the Committee and Members of the above Club I wish to convey to you our sincere thanks and congratulations for your splendid efforts in assisting Mr. B. Abbott to rescue two women who were in difficulties in the surf.

Mr. Abbott cannot praise you enough for the way in which you dived into the surf and swam to the women without hesitation and without thinking of your own safety.

It is by these rescues that the S.L.S.A. has obtained the name of having the finest voluntary organisation in the world, and I can assure you that we, as Members of this organisation, are proud to have such a young Member of our Club performing such a rescue.

In conclusion I trust you will remain a Member of this Club for many years to come and thus assist us to carry on our work of protecting the beaches.

Yours faithfully,

F. Hall.

Hon. Sec.

Even with the war's conclusion young members of the Club continued to play an important role in protecting the beach.

Above: A letter from Frank Hall to 13 year old member Peter Clarke. Below: Peter Clarke.

now offered the possibility of a good ride to the shore from a long way out. With Collaroy having drawn the four alley the wreck may

just prove useful.

At 4pm the final of the senior boat race began. With the bang of the starting gun Twight had simply yelled 'Right . . . Go!' Collaroy and South Curl Curl quickly pulled away from the two Cronulla boats, making good use of the back wash. A tussle now ensued with each matching the other wave for wave. Suddenly in front of both boats a huge green wave loomed. In a split second the sweeps of both crews had to evaluate whether they had the time and speed to get to the wave before it started to roll. Unsure the South Curl Curl sweep propped and with it lost any chance of taking the wave on if he had so decided. Twight, however, did not prop but simply yelled to his crew 'Go, go, go!'. With the boat hurtling towards the wave as it started to rise and draw the water in front of it, many spectators on the beach closed their eyes. The Collaroy boat had gambled and lost, the wave was going to break and swamp them. If



Twight was starting to have doubts his crew did not see it in his face. And then they were climbing the wave. Up and up the face of the wave they went. So vertical did the boat become Stan Twight was convinced that they would do a back flip. Graeme Bruce was equally petrified that disaster awaited. With the wave starting to break the boat cut through the top of the wave and was airborne — they had made it!

With Curl Curl having baulked, Collaroy now had a lead of at least three lengths. After the boat had climbed the next wave Stan Twight saw the beach and the gathered crowd between the top of the wave and the bottom of the completely airborne South Curl Curl boat which was now in pursuit. The only negative aspect of Twight's decision to take on the wave was that the boat had taken a lot of water. Without foot pumps, the boat now had to carry this extra weight back to the beach. Although South Curl Curl had lost ground to Collaroy by not taking the wave, they did not have to contend with a boat full of water, and were quickly catching up lost ground. By the time Collaroy had made the buoys the Curl Curl boat had narrowed down the lead to a length.

Upon rounding the buoys Twight decided to head not straight for the beach but take a small detour over the old ship wreck where the waves were forming further out. Curl Curl headed straight for shore but had some rowing to do before they found a wave. With the wreck beneath them Twight put the Miss Collaroy on a 'mountain of a wave' which sent them rocketing towards the beach while Curl Curl were still waiting for a wave. With an unassailable lead the crew were celebrating even before they crossed the line. Stan Twight and Frank Hall nearly fell overboard as they embraced each other. Collaroy had won its first Australian boat championship.

Upon the boat hitting the sand delirious Collaroy members surged forward. In no time the boat was in the air and on the back of the truck. After a short exchange of pleasantries with the other crew (the sweep of the Curl Curl crew was crying at his decision not to go through



Collaroy Senior Boat Crew — Australian Champions 1946. L to R: Dick Twight (sweep), Graeme Bruce, Frank Hall, Stan Twight, Pat Armstrong.

the wave as Collaroy did), the Collaroy team were away, heading for the Rocks and the Armstrongs' Palisade Hotel. Unfortunately on arrival at the Palisade the team found a pub with no beer and so headed back to Collaroy to continue the celebrations. The following weekend as Miss Collaroy was being put in the water at Collaroy, Abbott's and Dawson's handiwork came undone, demonstrating the frailty of the repair at the time.

The win at the Australian titles was a fitting tribute to the Club's success in surf boats during the war years. The crew received their medals at a function held at the Masonic Hall. Within a few weeks, however, the Miss Collaroy would be the subject of more publicity. This time, the race in which it was engaged was a race not for glory but to save human life. Another milestone in the Club's history awaited.

In 1937 a number of Club members who had been playing Rugby League with the North Narrabeen A Grade side formed the Collaroy Surf Life Saving Rugby League Club. Like the rugby union team which had existed into the mid-1930s the team could not play in red and black because they were the colours of North Manly so the team played in all blue. With the onslaught of the war the team disbanded and young club members wishing to play league drifted back to the North Narrabeen team. By the season of 1945 a number of Collaroy members were back playing A Grade with North Narrabeen in the District Competition. With the end of the war and the return of a number of football playing ex-servicemen, it was decided that Collaroy would resurrect its football team. On the afternoon of Sunday 19 May 1946 the team faced Dee Why Diggers (which held many members of the Dee Why SLSC) at Griffith Park in a local derby. The weather conditions were atrocious with gale force southerlies and driving rain having cancelled most sport in Sydney. On the water an enormous swell was buffeting the coast. So rough were the seas the Sydney Harbour Master restricted the entry of shipping into the heads because it was too dangerous.

Six foolhardy men, however, ignored the boat warnings, determined not to cancel their fishing trip. In an 18-foot half cabin cruiser the six men left Rose Bay at 10.30am and proceeded to battle their way out of the Sydney heads bound for the relative calm of Broken Bay. It must have been shortly after exiting the harbour that the men realised the folly of their actions. The howling southerly gale and huge swell made conditions extremely unpleasant. The pitch of the boat soon had the men feeling ill and the icy spray from the sea chilled them to the bone. Despite such conditions they still resolved to make a dash up the coast rather than turning back into the teeth of the gale and attempting to re-enter the harbour.

At about midday, as they lay about two miles off Curl Curl, a catastrophe befell the occupants of the cruiser. The engine stopped and would not respond to their frantic efforts to restart it. Being a half cabin cruiser, the exposed cabin acted as a sail blowing the launch northward with the swell. With no way of alerting any one to their situation the men were helpless.

Fortunately a number of individuals on shore saw the launch and rightly assumed that any vessel of that size drifting with the swell must have been in difficulties. Manly police received a number of calls. With the pilot vessel Captain Cook and police launches unable to leave the harbour due to the dangerous conditions, the police were faced with a dilemma. How could the crew of the vessel be rescued? What type of craft could possibly weather the atrocious conditions and bring the crew safely back to shore?

One of the policemen involved in tracking the vessel's plight was North Steyne member and two-time Australian belt champion Alan Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald knew that a police launch would have difficulty reaching the stricken launch but believed that a surf boat may have less difficulty. It was still questionable, however, whether a surf boat would be able to clear the huge shore break which was pounding the Northern Beaches.

With the vessel now off Dee Why, the best beach to attempt to launch such a rescue was the sheltered corner at Collaroy, which of course was also home to the Australian surf boat champions. At the Proctor household a young Ian Proctor had been gazing out the window at the ferocious sea when he spotted the stricken vessel off Long Reef. He summoned his father who contacted Collaroy Police and headed for the Surf Club. 49 Like Fitzgerald, Chic Proctor believed a surf boat could get out at Collaroy and reach the vessel. With the help of some other club stalwarts Proctor carried Miss Collaroy onto the beach and prepared it for the journey.

At the football match on Griffith Park, the wind was playing havoc with the game. At the kick-off the ball had been carried out of the park and some distance down Beach Road towords Ocean Grove before it was retrieved by a young boy. At about 3.00pm a police vehicle drove onto the field. It was obvious to the players that there was some sort of trouble but which side of Long Reef was it on? Fitzgerald informed the two teams of the situation and his belief that the best location from which to launch a rescue attempt was the corner at Collaroy. With the boat now 800 metres off Long Reef, the match was abandoned (the cause of some controversy later with regard to points) and the players made their way to the club house.

The crew for the boat virtually picked itself. Out of the 1946 Championship crew Dick and Stan Twight were present. From the South Narrabeen club were Ron Carey (Ceerie) and Arthur Le Clerc (a member of South Narrabeen's R&R team which had won the 1946 Australian titles) who had both been playing for Collaroy in the League match. With his rowing skill and swimming ability, Bill Abbott was another natural selection. Interestingly Chic Proctor joined the crew. While now in his 40s, Proctor's contribution was his vast knowledge of the seas off Collaroy bred of many years of fishing the waters. Such knowledge would be crucial to the success or failure of the rescue.

With the footballers still in their 'togs', the boat was launched in front of the club house with Dick Twight as sweep and Proctor crouched below his legs in the back of the boat. The first struggle for the crew was simply to get beyond the breakers. After what seemed an eternity to those standing on the beach and probably even longer to those in the boat, Twight's skilful sweeping and his crew's strong rowing had seen them clear of the breakers. By this time the stricken vessel had passed them and it was drifting helplessly towards the bombora off Narrabeen. It was now a race against time to reach the stricken vessel and rescue the crew from certain death.

Once clear of the breakers Miss Collaroy made good speed down wind and reached the stricken launch with only minutes to spare before it entered the forming breakers. The surf boat pulled up to the launch and the surf club members hailed the crew. No response was forthcoming. While the crew of the Miss Collaroy had not given too much thought to a plan of attack, it had been assumed that the crew of the stricken launch would simply be transferred to the surf boat and brought to shore. With no response Bill Abbott volunteered to board the boat and so dived into the icy water dragging a line. Dick Twight took over Abbott's oar while Proctor assumed the sweeping duties.

Upon boarding the boat, Abbott found six men lying prone in the cabin. All were extremely sea sick and suffering from hypothermia. Abbott was unsure if they would live. There was certainly no chance of transferring them to the surf boat. One of them feebly motioned that he might be able to steer the vessel, and with that Abbott tied the rope to the vessel's bow and swum back to the surf boat. In the first instance the stricken vessel would have to be towed away from the bombora. Whether the surf boat could tow a water logged cabin cruiser into such a strong headwind in such a rough sea, however, was debatable. In reality the fight had only begun.

For what must have once again seemed like an eternity the crew of Miss Collaroy rowed with all their might to draw the vessel away from the breakers. To Stan Twight it appeared that for every three strokes forward they were pushed back two by the wind and swell. For half an hour he was certain that they had not moved at all and feared that with a rope attached to the cruiser, they as well as it would be sucked into the bombora. 50 Slowly, however, determination

triumphed as they edged southward, using the Pine trees on the beach as a guide to their progress. Having saved the boat and its crew from certain destruction the question was now how they were going to get the seriously ill men back to the beach. Bill Abbott asked Dick Twight how he was going to get back to the beach. Not really having given the issue much thought Twight responded that he supposed they would try to get back in at Collaroy, ferrying the men in in two trips with the surf boat with one rower staying behind. Abbott then noted that Proctor was of the opinion that Fishermen's Beach at the Basin might be a better option. In the lee of the Long Reef headland, Fishermen's Beach was more sheltered than the corner at Collarov and there was also a deep channel which ran close to the shore. Such a channel might give some respite from the breaking waves. Using this body of deeper water, Proctor was of the opinion that he could get not only the Miss Collaroy but the stricken vessel safely ashore. All on board agreed.

As the boat now headed towards the Basin, Club members on the beach moved there to gain a better vantage point. News of



Chic. Proctor.

the rescue spread and a number of spectators gathered, amongst them Keith McWilliam, the Managing Director of McWilliam's Wines, who had been enjoying a drink in the Long Reef Golf Club after battling the elements earlier in the day. McWilliam had had a continuing interest in the surf life saving movement and for a time during the 1930s his Company had sponsored a shark spotter plane. McWilliam himself had had the misfortune of being in the plane one weekend when it had crashed after a wing tip clipped a wave. Like all of those on the headland that day McWilliam was captivated by the struggle.

The journey to the Basin remained slow and arduous. With an extra man in the boat Proctor swept while a rotational system using Dick Twight allowed a brief respite for the rowers. All took the opportunity for a breather except Stan Twight, who rowed the entire journey — unquestionably a super-human effort. Hours after first stepping into the boat they had finally reached the Basin. By this time darkness was fast approaching, the day shortened by the black cloud cover. All of those who recollect the events of that day have not forgotten the skill with which Proctor mastered the surf. As if threading a needle he negotiated the two

With most of the journey over the surf boat was suddenly catapulted forward. The rope connecting the cruiser to the surf boat had snapped leaving the stricken vessel once more at the mercy of the waves. Upon reaching the shallows Miss Collaroy's crew abandoned 'her' en masse and began swimming to the launch still being buffeted in the surf. Fortunately it had survived the worst of the waves and was quickly guided to the beach, whereupon the gathered spectators lifted it out of the water and placed it on the beach. The now unconscious crew were removed and placed in waiting ambulances for the journey to Manly Hospital.

The crowd of over 60 now surged forward to the crew of Miss Collaroy congratulating them on a magnificent achievement. The six lay on the sand, cold, exhausted but exhilarated. They were led into the nearby Golf Club whereupon they enjoyed a hot shower before being

provided with some clothes and a few rums to warm the insides. Proctor, Abbott, Le Clerc, Carey and the Twight brothers had performed one of the most heroic rescues in the history of the Club, if not the surf life saving movement.

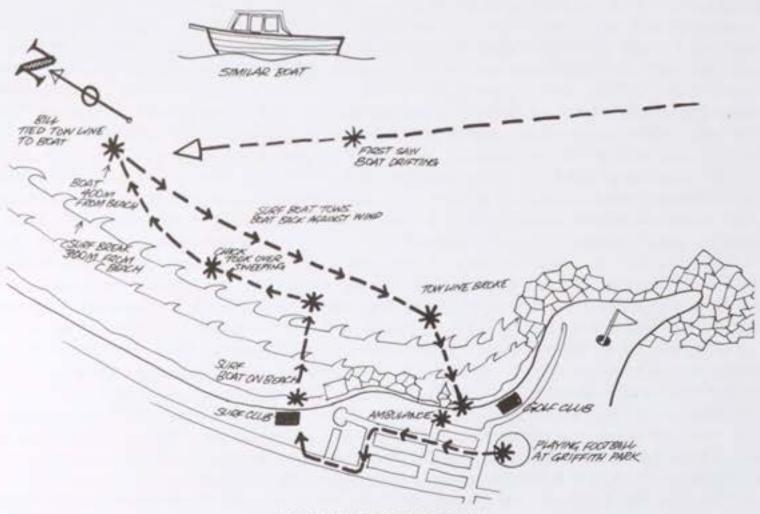
News of the heroic rescue greeted Sydneysiders as they read their Monday papers the next day. The crew of the Miss Collaroy were lauded as heroes. A letter to the Club from the Deputy

Commissioner of Police noted:

There is no doubt that the six members of the Club mentioned risked their lives in effecting the rescue, and were responsible for saving the lives of those aboard the launch. The purpose of this communication is to express the sincere appreciation of police authorities for the assistance and co-operation by the members of your Club and the prompt manner in which such assistance was forthcoming.<sup>51</sup>

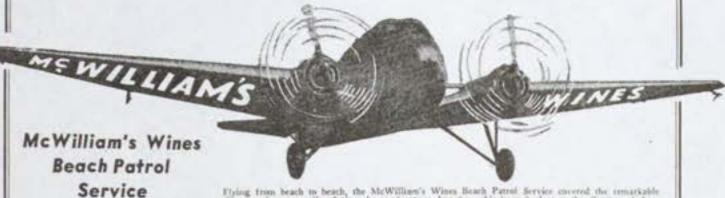
The Police recommended the six men for bravery awards and they duly received Certificates of Merit from the Royal Shipwreck, Relief, and Humane Society. Their Certificates read simply 'for meritorious rescue work off Collaroy Beach'. In reporting the incident in the 1945/46 Annual Report, Club Secretary Frank Hall made special mention of the 'evergreen Chic Proctor' for 'displaying great seamanship' in a 'terrific sea'. Surprisingly, given the fact members of the Club had saved their lives the Club did not even receive a thank you from those whom they had risked their lives to save. Two of the men were publicans and with beer still scarce an approach was made as to whether the Club might be able to buy a keg for an upcoming social. The request was refused. Save a save and save as the club might be able to buy a keg for an upcoming social. The request was refused.

In the aftermath of the rescue a committee was formed by local residents to raise funds to assist the Club with purchases. The ultimate aim was to purchase a new boat. Soon after the Club received a new March Past reel, caps and costumes. Because of continued clothing rationing the Club had to settle for shorts, rather than full March Past costumes and was the first Club of several clubs which competed in such attire until material became more freely available. While the Association disapproved of the shorts, it had no option but to accept them at the time. At the same time a brand new March Past standard was donated by Kinsella Silks. 55



A diagram showing the rescue.

## 45,540 MILES OF FLYING -- IN THE SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC



is maintained by McWilliam's Wines Led., at great expense, and includes the upkerp of two 'planes, two pilots, two observers, and two wireless operatura each week-end, together with necessary broadcasting equipment.

Flying from beach to beach, the McWilliam's Wines Beach Parrol Service covered the comarkable distance of \$5,540 miles during the 1935 season. Imagine—this is equivalent to the distance of three trips from Sydney to London!

Each week-end the planes fly the equivalent of a trip from Sydney to Perch.

Fined with wireless transmitting apparatus, the plane broadcases continuously from above the water, drops signials warning at the proximity of sharks, and acts as a bureau of the surfing conditions generally, along the metropolitan occas shores.

Full co-operation is given by the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia.

McWilliam's Wines Ltd. feel that their service is a valuable adjunct to the safety of hydrox's glorous surface beaches.

During the losers of the McWilliam's Sorf Parent Service this year there has not been a shark families.

In operation over Sydney braches duding every Summer week-end, the Beach Parest adds greatly to the confidence of surfers, thos residency a service as reliable as the quality of McWilliam's Wines a-acknowledged everywhere "as Australia's Choicest Vistages."

The Largest Wine Growers in N.S.W

McWILLIAM'S WINES LTD. 15 ALBERTA ST., SYDNEY

HEAD OFFICE :



Stan Twight's award for the rescue.



Never before and never since. Collaroy's March Past team in shorts at the Manly carnival, 3 December 1946. L to R: Ray Barker, Bill Abbott, Stan Twight, Nev Moane, Jack Hurst, Tom Dawson, Jim Dawson, Graeme Bruce, Pat Armstrong, Don Midgelly, Jim Sowerby, John Abbott, Laurie Walsh, Bob Maladay, Dick Twight, John Eyre, Eddie Playfair, Allan Eyre, Lyall Patterson, Frank Hall (completely obscured).

As part of its fund raising the Committee approached Keith McWilliam who had congratulated the crew at the Golf Club after the rescue and suggested he would be willing to assist the Club. Upon being approached McWilliam inquired what the committee hoped to achieve. When they noted that their ultimate aim was to purchase a replacement to the veteran Miss Collaroy, McWilliam decided that rather than making a donation to the purchase of a boat he would buy one for the Club outright. So began an association between Collaroy and McWilliam's Wines which continues to this day.

The 1945/46 season was seen to have put the Club 'foremost in the public's view' with the Australian Boat title and the very public praise received from what would historically become known as the 'McWilliam's rescue'. Other competition victories included the Acme Cup and the Collins Cup and club finances were seen to be the best since 'Depression days'. Plans were even being made for the erection of a new club house, and a Fancy Fair to raise funds for that specific purpose was held on the Reserve over Christmas 1945, raising £250. Looking to the approaching 1946/47 season Frank Hall noted 'With the return of our 'Service' members the Club can look forward to a bumper season'. <sup>56</sup>

## Reconstruction

. . . it must be the only sporting club of its kind in the world where men actually pay for the privilege of risking their lives right through the summer. 1

Of the 87 club members who joined the services during the course of World War II, only 34 returned to the Club by the end of the 1946/47 season. Because years of war service were taken off the qualifying period for active reserve status, six of these immediately qualified, leaving only 28 to return to active duty. The following season the number of ex-service members had fallen to 24 (augmented with the late return of two servicemen). By 1948/49 only 14 of the 87 club members who had been in the services as of 1945 were active members of the Club. Seven remained on the active reserve list.

The reasons for so many servicemen not returning to the Club were varied but not dissimilar to those given by Great War veterans 25 years before. Many, especially those who lived outside the district, simply did not return to the area. Some had the physical and mental



Val Davoran and Bob Maladay in Martin Place shortly after 'de-mobbing'.



In the early post war years ex army slouch hats were often seen on Austalian beaches. In front of the club house sit, L to R: Mick Hall, Pam Eyre, Ron Hall.



Two views of the clubhouse in the early post war years — Above: A rare photograph of the rear of the Surf Club viewed from the south-west — Local Studies Collection, Warringah Library. Below: A view from the north west — John Morcombe Collection.



scars which they did not find conducive to surf club membership. Many took considerable periods of time to recover from tropical ailments such as malaria. In a large number of cases marriage and young families became responsibilities which were seen to prevent surf club

membership.

Of the Balmain boys, Don West had gone to war weighing over 15 stone and returned from Changi a weak eight stone. Les Deveridge married during the war years and returned to a child he had never seen. Others amongst their number had psychological disorders which took several years to heal. While several of the Balmain boys, including both West and Art Calder continued their membership as active reserves for a few years, their camp in Collaroy was never resurrected. A few of them formed a new camp at the Basin on Pittwater. Of the remaining GPS boys, Mike Farrand, a Barker old boy who had joined with David Rogalsky and weathered the turbulence of the late 1930s, lost both legs.<sup>2</sup> Former Club Captain and permanent lifesaver Paddy Maher returned to find that the Warringah Shire Council was no

longer prepared to fund a permanent lifesaver on the beach.3

Another issue was the old-style regimentation of surf clubs. While some club members such as former club captains Len Wildman and George Patterson remained in the Army in peacetime, for many other war service members up to five years of military discipline was enough for one life-time — they had no desire to re-enter a surf club and be told what to do. This question of rejecting the discipline and regimentation of the surf lifesaving movement was experienced across the country.4 The issue was a manifestation of wider resettlement problems for many ex-servicemen. Much has been written about the resettlement problems of American and Australian Vietnam veterans after the conflict in Indochina. While very pronounced, such problems of resettlement back into civilian life had occurred after wars since the beginning of human conflict. In the twentieth century, the Great War had seen problems of resettlement for both the veterans of the victors and the vanquished. And so it was with the veterans of the Second World War. Many servicemen returned to communities of which they no longer felt fully a part. They had simply expected to slip back into their old lives but their communities had changed as much as they had. For members of Collaroy, the Club was not like it had been in 1939 or whenever they had left it. The Club had survived, even prospered in some ways, through the efforts of the young men who had kept it afloat. It had carried on without them, and the effectiveness with which it had done so was seen, irrationally, as something of an insult to them. They were dispensable. As a result they felt in some ways forgotten.

While most of the younger members greatly respected the sacrifice of those who had gone away, wishing in many cases that they had only been old enough, they did not see why the returned men were entitled to usurp those who had kept the Club going during the war years. They were now just as well, perhaps even better, qualified in the practical and administrative side of the Club as those who had left it to go to war. Although many members were oblivious

to the tension, it did exist and proved unsettling and unproductive.

These problems in the Club had started to emerge in the 1945/46 season but were ameliorated to some extent by the Club's great success in competition. If the Club had been able to continue to build on its successes such tensions may have evaporated in the euphoria but such was not the case. From a competitive point of view the 1946/47 season was disappointing in comparison to the triumphs of the season before. The momentum built up by

numerous successes in the period 1943-46 was lost.

Early in the season the Club received its first McWilliam's Wines boat — Braemar — named after the company's popular fortified wine of the same name. While it was described as the 'ideal type of surf boat' it was quickly found that the boat was uncompetitive. The senior crew won at only one carnival for the whole season while the junior crew had even less luck. The Club was unable to defend its senior boat title at the Australian championships. By the end of the season the boat lay neglected on the beach and exposed to the elements. The following season, with even less success, the boat was sold because 'The crews did not seem to manage the new boat Braemar as well as our old boat'. An order for a boat 'along the same lines as Miss

Collaroy' was lodged with Solomon Brothers, the builders of the Miss Collaroy. Not for the first time in its history, the Club was looking back to old formulas in the hope that past successes could be regained. McWilliam's Wines agreed to contribute £100 towards the new boat which was launched in the season of 1948/49 and christened by Miss Australia, Beryl James. Unfortunately success was still not forthcoming and the 1949 Annual Report noted that the new Braemar was 'difficult to handle'.

Another disappointing result was that accorded to the Club's senior R&R team. Initially great store was put in the chances of the team of Dave Playfair, Tom and Jim Dawson, Dick and Stan Twight, and Bill Abbott (Jack Hirst reserve) to win the Club's first 'Blue Ribbon'. Arguably the best the Club had ever produced, the team's most noticeable feature was its superb balance of skills which negated worries about position draws for the event. In the last five carnivals of the season the Club gained one first, two seconds and two thirds, qualifying to represent North of the Harbour at the NSW



Miss Australia, Beryl James, christens the first Braemar. Appearing with James are Alan Leathley, Peter Montgomery, 'Red' Abbott, 'Sandy' Couston, Bob Maladay.



The best R & R team never to win an Australian title. L to R: Stan Twight, Dick Twight, Jim Dawson, Tom Dawson, Bill Abbott, David Playfair.



Noel Hall with the double surf ski Beach-Belle.

Championships — the first occasion on which the Club had gained that honour. The team had been coached by Ray Barker but in preparation for the State titles, they received additional tuition from North Narrabeen stalwart Jack Cameron. At the conclusion of a day long training exercise at Bilgola, Cameron informed the team: You are the best team in Australia. You will never be beaten under any circumstances. As far as I'm concerned you're champions now'.

In the morning heats the team won by four points having drawn the number one, red/yellow buoy. In the draw for the final, however, they were not so lucky. By the afternoon the surf was flat and the tide was out. While the other teams had the bank in front of them the Collaroy team had to confront a deep gutter. Still believing they were the best, however, they rationalised that with Bill Abbott and Stan Twight drawing the swim the maximum number of points they could lose would be one. With the completion of the swim the team was still well placed and mechanical with precision. performed Unfortunately their performance was too precise, a Judge later claiming to a third party

that he had docked points because the team was 'too regimentally correct'. With this unforeseen penalty and the lost point from the belt swim the team finished fourth and failed to qualify for the Australian titles. Friend and foe alike would later claim the team was the best R&R team not

to win an Australian title.

Because the Club's expectations had been so elevated in boats and R&R with the success of preceding years, disappointment here diluted success elsewhere in the Club. This was despite a second at the state titles in the double ski for Noel and Ron Hall, a number of places for Rod Button in the Open Surf and Dick Twight's elevation from novice to open in the belt swim with a win at the North Bondi Carnival.

The frustration and anger of many servicemen, borne of their attempts to readjust to civilian life, were often taken out on those members of the Club who had not gone to the war. Frank Hall, who had held a reserved occupation which proved most fortunate for the Club, was especially and unfairly singled out by some of these individuals in Collaroy's case. They resented the fact that Hall had become so important to the Club, and used his reserved occupation status to chide him. In contrast many younger members had grown sick of the attitude of the ex-servicemen and sometimes openly expressed these views. On several occasions these disagreements escalated into bouts of pugilism, often conducted in front of the club house and the public. One such encounter between young member Jackie O'Dwyer and returned serviceman Bob Maladay was conducted on the promenade one Sunday and lasted over an hour with both parties refusing to yield and no one apparently prepared to intervene.

Feeling neglected, unwanted and in a minority (Club membership had topped 200), a number of ex-service members started to talk about forming their own surf club. At first such talk centred on the creation of a North Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club somewhere between Collaroy and South Narrabeen. Thoughts, however, turned southward as a number of these disgruntled members started to drink at the Dee Why RSL Club. At the RSL these men met members of the Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club who felt similarly neglected. Between the two surf clubs lay the unpatrolled Long Reef Beach. The two disgruntled groups joined forces and set their sights on forming the Long Reef Surf Life Saving Club.

Discussions continued over a beer at the Dee Why RSL until more formal meetings were arranged in the Collaroy cinema. A committee was formed to oversee the formation of the Club and make the necessary arrangements. Each potential member contributed a few pounds to meet the necessary expenses to get the club off the ground. It was decided that the club colours would be light blue, dark blue and red — the colours of the 1939-43 Australian War Service Medal. Dee Why member Arthur Beard had designs made for a club badge which had Long Reef headland as its backdrop. Members of both clubs who were not directly involved with the plan were approached to join the new club and a recruitment song, 'Come to Long Reef Boys', sung to the tune 'Zipper Dee Do Dah', was composed. A number of promising junior members of both clubs were also approached about joining the new club. Max Evans was lined up as the new club's first president while Ray Barker was approached to be delegate to the SLSA. Dick and Stan Twight were amongst the supporters of the new club and made their intentions known by resigning from the positions of Boat Captain and Boat Vice Captain.<sup>9</sup>

While the SLSA was approached and had no objections to the move to affiliate, the Warringah Shire Council was unsupportive. It had been envisaged that in the first instance the new club would acquire a war surplus Nissen hut as a club house until club funds permitted



Club members, 1947. Left to right: Laurie Walsh, Les Collis, Judy McAlpine, Bill Abbott, Alan Eyre, Pam Eyre, Neil Montgomery.

a more permanent structure. Permission to place such a hut on council property, however, was

refused as was permission to connect the site to the town water supply.

As the season of 1947/48 approached and Council obstructions appeared to threaten the chance of the new club forming, the 1947 AGM was held at Collaroy. Despite their plans the potential Long Reef members contested the election. With the Council proving difficult the chance to influence the future direction of the Club was taken. As Bill Abbott had held the club captaincy for 1946/47 he did not seek to stand again — leaving two candidates, Tom Dawson and Ray Barker, Dawson had been one of the main supporters of the Long Reef plan while Barker, despite having been in the Navy and been approached by instigators of the new club, was seen to represent the young members and what the club had become. For many then the vote was not necessarily one based on personalities but one based on where they believed the Club should go — on to the future or return to the past. Should the Club remain in the hands of the new guard who had so successfully steered it through troubled water or returned to the old guard who had lost the chance to leave their imprint on the Club? Ray Barker won the election by one vote. Many members believed a schism was now inevitable. Barker, however, strongly encouraged Dawson to run as his deputy, as a gesture of a united club. Dawson was nominated and accepted the position of Vice-Captain.

To many on both sides of the divide, Barker was seen as the individual who could get the club back on the track and remove many of the differences. His decision to stay at Collaroy, encouraged others to make the same commitment and with continued Council opposition the plan for the Long Reef Surf Life Saving Club faltered. Wanda, a club formed in not dissimilar circumstances, quickly adopted the club colours. With the failure of the new club a large number of the remaining ex-servicemen drifted away from Collaroy, but those who remained

buckled down to furthering the ends of the Club and the movement.

It was very much due to the efforts of Ray Barker that the internal dissension which had

characterised the Club in the early postwar years was buried. At the end of Barker's first season as Captain, Frank Hall noted:

Ray, on taking over the Captaincy, was faced with the members being formed into cliques and not mixing with each other, and of having many 'dead heads' who were only seen at social functions or using the Clubhouse to get undressed. Ray tackled the job in the right manner, and when there was any work to be done the usual call of 'Righto Fellas' brought the members to the spot, or else a severe talking to was given to any offending member. Ray proved himself outspoken at all meetings, especially when addressing members on various occasions during the season.<sup>10</sup>

While personal differences remained as they always had and always would, the common goal of furthering the Club was regained.



Ray Barker.

The internal squabbling during 1947 nearly overshadowed one of the Club's most notable achievements. This success, however,

was not a product of efforts by the men of Collaroy but by the women - specifically the 'Ladies, March Past Team'. During the war years, there had been renewed calls to increase the involvement of women in the surf life saving movement. In 1941 the Bondi Ladies Amateur Swimming Club examined the Constitution of the SLSA and found no clause expressly prohibiting women from gaining their Surf Bronze Medallions. With patrol numbers greatly weakened on Sydney's most patronised beach, the Club was of the opinion that its members could make a contribution to protecting the beach and that its members could gain their Surf Bronze Medallions under Rule 94 of the SLSA Constitution which stated that: 'In special circumstances candidates who are not members of an affiliated club may be able to stand for examination'.11 The issue was debated by the SLSA at some length but in conclusion it was decided that, despite the loss in numbers, the Association did not want female patrol members. The mention of the word 'boy' in another part of the constitution was seen as sufficient grounds for arguing that women could not complete the examination. Reference was also made to the endorsed views of past presidents of the Association.



Club members pushing the Twight brothers truck up Garie hill after a carnival in the late 1940s.

The Ladies' Swimming Club responded that if its members could not get their Bronze they should at least be recognised with some proficiency award but the issue was never resolved. 12

Despite such rulings a number of clubs sought to increase the involvement of women in surf life saving, just as women's involvement in the military and the paid workforce had increased during the national emergency. Along such lines the South Curl Curl Club sought permission to host a Ladies March Past Competition in late 1941. The plan was rejected by the SLSA and so the Club requested approval to host a Ladies March Past 'display'. The Executive Committee of the Association again refused permission for the display by 27 votes to 24. 13

With the onslaught of the Pacific War and further losses of members to the armed services, the question of female involvement continued and in a number of clubs women actively, though completely unofficially, assisted in the patrolling of beaches. While the question of female participation had usually centred on the issue of a woman's capacity to haul a belt through a heavy swell, this argument was increasingly challenged. The war years saw the deficiencies of many male candidates overlooked simply to bolster patrol numbers on beaches.

At Collaroy this situation was brought into graphic relief through the swimming and surfing ability of Bill Abbott's younger sister Betty. Betty Abbott was a State breast stroke champion and a superb surf swimmer. She was usually seen out behind the breakers, in water few surf club members dared to enter. There was little doubt she was a better surfer than many active members in the Club.

On one Saturday afternoon in 1943 Abbott and her friends (including Ray Barker's sister Audrey) were forced to demonstrate their skills. With the Club at a carnival, the beach was left unpatrolled. During this period a man was caught in a rip and was quickly carried out beyond the breakers. Seeing the incident, Abbott and her friends ran to the club house to find it locked.

With no recourse they then proceeded to break in and recover a reel. Abbott then donned the belt with her girlfriends operating the reel and line. In a strong swim Abbott reached her patient and both were safely returned to shore. The Rather than receive credit from the male surf club members, the women were castigated for having broken into the Club. Regardless, the rescue showed locals that sex was not the determinant of one's skill in the surf.

While many members have no such recollection, club treasurer during the war years, Bill Goodman, recalls that women played an active role in patrols at Collaroy, even to the extent of wearing patrol caps. He also claims that a number of female surf carnivals were organised in the late war years and specifically recalls such a carnival at Terrigal. Certainly in the early postwar years a Ladies' Surf Carnival was held at North Curl Curl, where Collaroy entered a team and performed quite well, especially in the beach events. 17

Upon the Club being notified in 1946 of the formation of a SLSA-endorsed ladies march past competition, Frank Hall believed



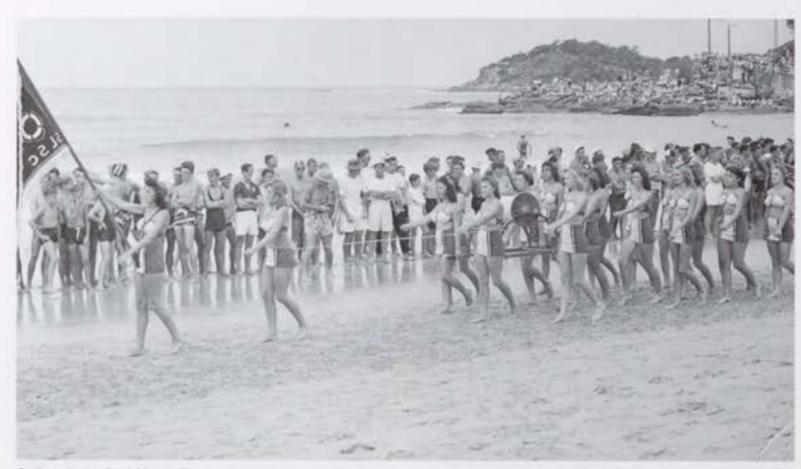
Betty Abbott in Land Army uniform.

that Collaroy should enter a team. He proceeded to approach the girlfriends, daughters and wives of Club members who were often on the beach. At first many of the women were reluctant to be involved. To them the '[Surf] Clubs were everything' and Collaroy was a 'surf club world' but they had no desire to mimic the men or appear 'mannish'. Hall countered that the women of Collaroy had to 'carry the colours'. Eventually gaining enough interest to form the team, Hall informed the women that the training would be tough because he 'only trained winners'. <sup>18</sup> At a time when the men's march past team met with little success and had even less training, the women's team trained on weekends and two nights a week. The average age of the participants was 18 or 19.

Initially the ladies' march past event became an exhibition at surf carnivals. <sup>19</sup> When the first competition was held at Manly, the crowd was double its normal size and there primarily to watch the ladies march past. Initially, and rather daringly for the times, the team competed in a two piece costume chosen by team member Glady Bathgate. As competition progressed they reverted to one piece costumes on the grounds that they were more flattering to the figure. Unlike the men's March Past team the women paid for their costumes themselves. <sup>20</sup>

As part of its efforts to raise funds to send New South Wales title holders to Queensland for the Australian titles, the SLSA organised a special night carnival at the Sydney Sports Ground in early 1947. Included in the program was the New South Wales Ladies' March Past Championship. In the lead up to the Championship the Collaroy team even made a number of appearances, including a public display at the Trocadero night club.

On the day of the Championship two trucks left the Surf Club with both male and female competitors. To the tune of 'Scotland the Brave', played by a Scottish Pipe Band in full regalia, Collaroy beat off a concerted challenge from neighbour North Narrabeen to secure the first New South Wales Ladies' March Past Championship. The 1946/47 Annual Report noted of the achievement: 'The manner in which the girls trained and marched was a great credit to the



Collaroy's Ladies' March Past team perform in their daring two piece costumes at the Manly carnival, January 1947. The full team consisted of Geraldine Kemp, Gladys Bathgate, Elaine MacFarlane, Audrey Barker, Val Deeney, Enid Poll, Ann Duckworth, Dot Davis, Betty Redwood, June Wright, Helen Gillas, Erica Cornwall, Marcia Sewell, Gwen Poll, Evelyn Davis, Barbara Thompson, Kath Sperring, Pam Eyre, Lorna Scudds, Betty Sheldon, Shirley Walsh, Judy McAlpine, Frank Hall (Trainer).

Club and the men of our Club should try to follow their example and train for their own events. The Club extends its congratulations to every member of the team and trust you will always be supporters of the Club'. Unfortunately public interest in and the women's enthusiasm for female march past waned and the competition was not resurrected and the state championships were never held again. As the Annual Report implied women were not wanted by surf clubs as members but as 'supporters'.

With the internal squabbling put behind it, the late 1940s marked one of the most enthusiastic and enjoyable periods for extracurricular club activities. Club socials proved very popular not only with members but the wider community. The success of such socials also proved financially lucrative to the Club at a time when considerations had turned to the construction of a new club house. While the club's social program contained events which had always existed, the 1940s saw the introduction of two new forms of entertainment — the club review and square dancing.

For a number of years the North Narrabeen Club had held a very popular yearly review where club members performed a variety of acts to large audiences drawn from the community. Early in the postwar period it was decided that Collaroy should also put on its own review. The main instigators of the plan were a homosexual couple who lived in Alexander St and were associate members of the Club. Given that surf lifesaving by this period was firmly entrenched in Australian iconography as a symbol of heterosexual Australian manhood, the fact openly homosexual members were permitted in the Club is interesting. The fact that in this case the two associate members remained active in the Club for a number of years and were not coerced from it is perhaps even more surprising given the great intolerance of homosexuality

by the wider community at this time (illustrated by the fact homosexuality was a criminal

offence punishable by imprisonment).

The two men decided that they wished to make a contribution to the Club and so approached the social committee with the idea of a review. Perhaps ironically they suggested that they would produce a ballet with surf club members dressed as ballerinas.<sup>21</sup> With the approval of the social committee the two impresarios had no difficulty casting their production and rehearsals commenced. The performance itself, however, was rather disappointing mainly because the cast had become so petrified in the hours leading up to show time that they turned to drink to build courage.<sup>22</sup>

Undeterred it was decided that the Club would have another attempt at a review-style production. This time it would stage an old army adaptation of the fairy tale 'Cinderella' with another performance by the dancers, this time dressed in flowering skirts and tights for a rendition of the Folies Bergeres complete with 'can-can'. While the two associate members continued to produce and direct, the choreographer for the dance piece was the then girl friend

of Dick Twight who was a ballet teacher.23

Performed in front of the club house, the second review attracted a crowd of over 400 who sat on the beach to watch the spectacle. New member Hector 'Scotty' McDonald found himself cast as Cinderella with junior member and Hay Street resident Robbie Urquart one of the ugly sisters; Dick Twight was the Prince, Graham Bruce and his 500cc Norton motorcycle the coach and Noel 'Speed' Hall the Fairy Godmother who was lowered over the roof of the club house with a block and tackle.<sup>24</sup> The Folies Bergeres had a number of members ranging in height from Alan 'Boomer' Hawkins to Stan Twight. The costumes for the performance were procured from J.C. Williamson's.<sup>25</sup> A production full of double entendres and sexual innuendoes, the play was a huge success, as was the Folies Bergeres.<sup>26</sup> The two shilling entry fee produced a sizeable profit.

Another very successful social activity during the 1940s was square dancing. Square dancing had grown in popularity during the war years with the influx of American service



Club members and their partners at the Club Ball at the Metro Theatre, Manly, 1947/48. L to R: Dulcie ?, Mick Hall, Pam Eyre, Ron Hall, Alan Eyre, Kath Sperring, Les 'Junior' Parker, Elaine Craig, Bob Moore.

personnel and the increasing Americanisation of Australian culture. The square dancing fad at Collaroy proved extremely popular and financially lucrative to the Club. Participants would dress in western costume and the dances would be held in the open air section of the club house on every Sunday evening from 5.30 to 9pm. A square dancing team was later formed and would compete in square dancing competitions at the Pasadena and the Paddington Town Hall, as well as entering the state championships. During competition the women would wear floral skirts and the men black trousers and red shirts to denote their origin. Dances used to help fund team tours and purchase new equipment.

Other social events of the period included boxing and wrestling nights, which included prominent boxers and wrestlers including Olympian and local, Eddie Scarfe.<sup>27</sup> All of these events greatly assisted club funds and mark one of the high points in the Club's social activities.

In the late 1940s the Club once again began to see an influx of members from outside the district. As in the past these new members came from a variety of sources. One of the first of these new groups hailed from the North Sydney area, just as the Crows had over 40 years before. The first of this new breed of North Sydney member was Peter Montgomery. Montgomery came to Collaroy during the war years, spending weekends with the Reid family in Jenkins St. In 1946 he was joined at Collaroy by his cousin Neil who had left his home of Casino in northern New South Wales to start an apprenticeship as a tool maker. In 1948 the Montgomery cousins started playing for the Brothers Club in the North Sydney District Rugby League competition and began enticing members of the team to join the Surf Club. In this endeavour they were quite successful, attracting the likes of Barry Heath, Dick Knowles,



The Senior Boat crew are assisted to the waters edge for their heat in the Australian Championships, Bondi, 1949. The crew consisted of 'Sandy' Couston, Jack O'Dwyer, Norrie Morgan, Peter Montgomery, Bob Maladay (sweep).

John Tennyson and Bobby Langbien. This group was soon renting a cottage in Alexander St known as 'The Shack'.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s the Club also re-tapped its connection with the Western Suburbs which had brought individuals such as Wal Eadie to the Club. In 1946 Eadie encouraged his nephew Les Collis to join and Collis brought with him his friend Frank Richardson. Les' younger brother Gordon joined in 1948 and attracted more 'Parramatta boys' such as Cliff Knight, Cliff Williams and Les Waters. As in North Sydney, most of these new members were district rugby league players.<sup>28</sup>

Another source of new recruits were migrants who had come to Australia as part of the country's postwar immigration scheme. In the 1940s and 50s the Collaroy/Narrabeen area saw a large influx of Dutch migrants. The first members of this new community to join the surf club were L.and A. Wohlman who joined as cadets in 1947. In February 1952 H.H. Amundsin and M.I. Verstegen were the first of these 'New Australians' to complete their Bronze Medallions with the Collaroy Club. Another Dutch member in the 1950s was T. Verkooste. Unfortunately the Dutch community's relationship with the Surf Club would deteriorate during the 1950s as a result of Surf Club members gate crashing Dutch-Australian Society functions which were held monthly in the club house.

Perhaps surprisingly, given the events of the late 1930s, the biggest single source of members to the Club in the late 1940s was once again the GPS schools, especially Shore. While most GPS old boys and students had left the Club in the late 1930s, a number who lived locally had joined during the war years. Paramount amongst these individuals were Eddie and David Playfair, the younger sons of the Club patron. While the Playfairs lived at Elanora, by the early postwar years a number of Shore boys actually lived in Collaroy on a full time basis such as Bruce Putnam (the son of the local chemist), J.A. 'Sandy' Couston and Robbie Urquart. As well as these individuals there were other Shore boys whose fathers had themselves been



John 'Hank the Yank' Hurst and Tim Bristow do battle at the Collarov carnival 1949.



Tim Bristow demonstrates the capabilities of a surf ski in the

members and who were following the family tradition. This group included the likes of Tim 'The Log' and Max Bristow (the sons of Charles) and Roy and Ken Palmer (the sons of Bill).

While the Playfair brothers and Urquart had not encouraged many Shore boys to join the Club during the war years, in the early postwar years individuals such as Putnam and Anzac Ave resident Mike Adare began to encourage their school mates to join. At the same time a number of families who had terminated visits to their weekenders during the war years, resumed the practice and their often GPS educated sons also sought to join the Surf Club. By 1949 the GPS boys were once again a significant proportion of the Club's membership and in the case of juniors and probationers they accounted for over half of the membership of 52 — names such as Barnes, Cody, Cowdrey, Grahame, Garner, Hudson, Castiff, Latimer, Lawrence, Kirby, Leader, Nelson, Neal, Sleeman and de Lepervanche.

While the rivalry between local and GPS boys had almost evaporated during the war years, tensions started to re-emerge in the late 1940s as the GPS boys' numbers increased. The Shore boys were accused of being 'cliquey' and 'a little bit apart'. They did not attend many social functions and support the Club outside patrol hours. They were seen to look down on other members of the Club whom they saw as 'riff- raff'. More basically, they talked with 'plums in their mouths'. The curse 'Bloody Shore' was an often heard one. As in the past, petty squabbling gave way to verbal and physical encounters. This was the climate at the end of the season of 1949/50. By the next season, however, the tension, along with the vast majority of

GPS boys had left the Club.

During the season of 1949/50 Robbie Urquart had increasingly turned his attention to Long Reef Beach. He became increasingly convinced that a club could be formed there. While Bill Goodman was involved with a drowning in the Dee Why Lagoon during the season, bringing attention to the beach, its patronage still did not warrant a surf club. Urquart simply

saw it as a challenge.



The Open R & R team at Garie Beach, November 1949. The team consisted of junior and senior members. L to R: Roger Boyle, Graham Bartlett (patient), Alan Leathley (obscured), Bill Abbott, Paul de Lepravanche, Norm Twight (reelman, out of picture).

Towards the end of the season, Urquart took fellow Club members David 'Spike' Chapman and John Sleeman for a walk to Long Reef. Both were only juniors at the time and had just completed their Bronze Medallions. On the beach Urquart explained his idea and asked if they would be a part if it. Before they answered he warned them that by leaving Collaroy they would lose many opportunities, especially in competition, but that by taking the plunge they would be doing something for themselves. A meeting at the Urquart's home in Hay St attended by Urquart, G. Lawrence and G. Neale, with Urquart's brother in the chair launched the Club. The eldest member was Urquart at 19.

While Urquart did not formally alert the Club to his intentions (something which he later regretted) he and his two confederates began to recruit new members from those GPS juniors in Collaroy. Approaches were made to both the SLSA and the Branch but neither was particularly helpful or receptive to the idea of a surf club at Long Reef. A letter was sent to Warringah Shire Council informing them of the proposal to form the

club but requesting no assistance.



Collaroy encounters North Steyne at the North Narrabeen carnival 1949. The sweep of the Collaroy boat is Robbie Urquart.

With a reel borrowed from the Dee Why Club (which was stored on the Urquart's verandah), a whistle, some bamboo poles, a shark bell, a first aid kit and some patrol caps the Long Reef Club was formed at the beginning of the 1950/51 season. Urquart was elected Captain and Adare Vice-Captain. Collaroy helped with advice and equipment, and trained early squads.<sup>33</sup> The new Club adopted the colours of the Shore school, but initially at least received little support from the school. Indeed Urquart initially courted hostility from the school's principal.<sup>34</sup>

While the Collaroy Club supported the efforts of Urquart and his colleagues, the formation of Long Reef drew members away from the Club. Whether due to defections to Long Reef or not, 33 junior and probationary members did not return for the 1950/51 season.

This new deficiency in the junior ranks was partly ameliorated by the recruitment efforts of Hector McDonald. Upon discharge from the Army, McDonald had sought to join a surf club. He had been an instructor in the Army and found R&R much to his liking. His first choice was North Narrabeen but on visiting the Club he was not made to feel welcome and so turned his sights to Collaroy where a mate named John Johnson was a member. Like many other members, McDonald received the kind hospitality of the Hall family during his weekends in Collaroy.

In 1950 McDonald commenced coaching a team from Naremburn in the North Sydney district rugby league competition. At the end of the season he suggested to his young team that they might wish to join the surf club as a summer sporting activity. Amongst those members of the team who took up McDonald's offer were Lionel Skewes, Malcolm 'Ticky' Ticehurst, Ken 'Bodgy' Hyde, Bob Cooley, Geoff Cranney and Doug Kennemore. While some like Hyde (who had been a cadet at North Bondi) had lifesaving experience most had no experience or interest in surf lifesaving until they joined the Club. Initially this group tended to stay in the boat shed loft, which gained a rather unsavoury reputation during the 1940s and 50s, or simply

travelled home at the end of patrol. From these North Sydney rugby league connections came other members such as Mick Beasley.

While McDonald's young charges were greatly welcomed they could not completely fill the void left by the GPS boys. Overall junior membership decreased from 33 to 21 and probationary membership from 28 to 13. Senior membership fell from 67 to 61. Overall, membership declined from 265 to 227.

By 1950 the Club had still failed to regain its former strength in surf boats. While the junior and senior boat crews, were 'plucky' they were continually downed by 'more highly trained crews'. The 1949/50 Annual Report made calls to develop the 'polish needed' as well as banking hopes on the trusted belief that a new boat may change the Club's fortunes. A new boat, *Bendix*, was bought from monies raised from the raffling of a 'Bendix' washing machine. With no McWilliam's Wines involvement in the purchase of this boat, many members must have considered the Club's relationship with the company to be over. The 1950s, however, would prove that this was not the case.

In R&R, the senior team was always well placed but continued to find it difficult to crack major events. Despite this fact the personal qualities of Dick Twight were recognised and he was selected for the New South Wales R&R team. In the company of Bill Abbott, he was also selected for an SLSA instructional team tour of Tasmania. The Club also continued to build on its success with surf skis. Bob Maladay scored a number of successful wins in the single ski race including a first in the 1949 Northern Metropolitan Championships. On the double ski Noel Hall, partnered by either brother Ron or John 'Red' Abbott had a number of successes and with Ron won the Northern Metropolitan Championship in the same year Maladay was successful.



Members of the NSW Instructional Team 1949. Dick Twight stands eighth from left and Bill Abbott, eleventh from right.



Bob Maladay (standing) beating the Mulcahy brothers from Maroubra, 1949.



The launching of the *Bendix* 1950. Beside the boat stand, *L to R:* Frank Hall, Sandy Couston, Peter Montgomery, Bendix Company representative, Doug Graham, Pat Armstrong, Bill Abbott.



Club Captain, Stan Twight, takes possession of the Acme Cup after the Club's win in 1949/50.

It was in the beach events, however, that the Club was showing most promise. Soon after joining the Club, Neil Montgomery's speed on the sand was noted by senior club members. Asked if he wished to compete in the Club Championship, Montgomery proved an easy winner over Bob Moore. At the time the beach sprint scene was dominated by the likes of North Narrabeen's John Bliss and South Narrabeen's Frank Collins. Montgomery's success at carnivals was soon catching the attention of other clubs who noted that because he was 'running one out' he might wish to join them and form a relay team.

Montgomery declined and in joining the Brothers team in North Sydney he found his running mates. Bob Langbien was a state champion sprinter while a school boy at North Sydney Boys High School. Although he was not aware of the Collaroy connection, his coach at North Sydney Boys had been none other than former Collaroy member and Australian beach sprint champion Jim McManamey. Barry Heath and John Tennyson were also accomplished track athletes. With other members such as Frank Richardson, Norm Twight and Gordon Williams (who had a beach sprint victory over Bliss to his name)<sup>35</sup> the Club's stocks on the beach looked good. Indeed at the Manly carnival in 1949 the Club filled the first six places in the beach sprint.<sup>36</sup>

In 1950 Montgomery made it to the finals of the Australian Championships and ran second, giving great hope for the Club's success at the 1951 titles to be held at Scarborough Beach in Western Australia. While individuals such as Langbien had received track coaching, the Club's beach sprinters were essentially self taught. While competitive they believed they needed some refinement for beach conditions. Thanks to Pop Hall's contacts in local district rugby league they were able to attract rugby league and beach sprint coach Judd Thompson to the Club. Judd knew the difference between track and beach sprinting and how to polish the raw material he had before him into Australian champions.

Thompson instilled in his charges the importance of stride to the beach sprinter. A

sprinter had to pass over the sand, not use it to push himself on. The less contact with the sand the better and therefore the longer the stride the better. The key to Johnny Bliss's success was his 10 foot stride claimed Thompson. Montgomery, while only a relatively short man, already possessed a very large stride and with Thompson's tuition he was able to increase it through months of practice. The other lesson instilled by Thompson was that too much running on the sand was not beneficial. A good beach sprinter must find his speed on the grass and save it for the sand.

With Montgomery the best of the Club's sprinters and his success in the 1950 championships behind him, the team made the decision that Langbien, Heath and Tennyson would not contest the beach sprint at the 1951 titles and save themselves for the relay. To allow the team the maximum opportunity to prepare for the event, the Club executive decided that while the rest of the club would travel to Perth by train the sprinters would fly. In this pursuit the Club started to raise money, ably assisted by the sprinters who were astounded by the generosity. The relay team during the 1950/51 season would be regular visitors at the Collaroy Cinema where they would dress in march past uniforms as they collected donations. The support of the Club convinced Bob Langbien for one to try and give something back. Langbien gained his Instructors Certificate and assisted the Club in many ways and the movement more generally as a member of the Board of Examiners. Neil Montgomery went even further, later becoming Branch Superintendent.

At the State titles before the trip to Perth the team was buoyed by its second place. The result was easily accounted for by a bad baton change and so there appeared every reason to be confident. The team arrived in Perth relaxed and prepared in comparison to the passengers on the SLSA train which had crossed the Nullarbor and amongst other incidents had been forced to stop to put out a fire in one of the carriages. The team was housed in the Claremont Showgrounds in the enclosure for caged birds.



Collaroy team members outside the 'Bird Enclosure' at the Claremont Showgrounds, Perth, WA, 1951.

Montgomery qualified for the finals of the beach sprint but just prior to the event he suffered a 'severe bilious attack' and it was feared he would have to withdraw. The persevered and did not withdraw but his team mates felt his chances greatly decreased as a consequence. Such beliefs, however, were misplaced and in a scintillating run Montgomery took the

Australian title, repeating the effort of Jim McManemey in 1920.

With Montgomery's win boosting morale the team now looked forward to the relay. The main contenders for the event were Collaroy, North Narrabeen, Maroubra and Cronulla. As usual, Bob Langbien started the race and got the team off to a good start. The first receiver of the baton was Barry Heath who preferred the position because it meant he was running against John Bliss. Heath was not a good catch-up runner and therefore needed to receive the baton first. On this occasion Langbien was first to the change, and Heath steamed off with the lead. Tennyson was the next recipient and kept Collaroy in the lead until he reached the final change and Montgomery. With the Australian champion as the runner home, Collaroy could only lose if he fell over. Such was not the case and Collaroy had its second Australian title of the championships and its second Beach Relay title since 1921.

After the victory John Tennyson, on the spur of the moment, suggested that he might go and enter the Musical Flags and so left the party. When he returned he had the Club's third Australian title of the Championships — Collaroy had not only won the beach sprint and sprint relay but had also picked up the flags. The team was quickly dubbed the 'Kings of the Beach'. 38

In the wake of the team's success the Club received a number of membership applications from sprinters. One of the them was a friend of Langbien's, Richard 'Dicky' Miles. Miles was a good sprinter but a pathetic swimmer. Forced to undergo Bronze training to allow him to compete, his colleagues had great concerns about his chances of passing. When it came to his belt swim during his examination on 18 November 1951, an unnamed member of the Club grabbed a snorkel and met the inexperienced swimmer on the way out to keep him afloat. At the same time his patient wrapped the line around his foot to help drag it. The Examiner noted that there was something going on with the beltman but was unable to discern what.

Miles passed his medallion but never made the relay team. 39

At the 1952 Australian Championships held in Wollongong the team was once again hot favourites to take a number of titles. In the sprint, however, Montgomery was unable to hold his title against a strong performance by the mercurial John Bliss, who had won his first national beach sprint title in 1941. Despite this setback the team was still confident that they could win the relay. In an even more convincing performance than the previous year Collaroy blitzed the field to cross the line first. Making their way to the winner's dais, however, they became aware of the continuing discussions amongst the race marshals. And then the bombshell hit. Collaroy had been disqualified for breaking. It was alleged that at the last baton change Montgomery had broken. The team was amazed and outraged. They had been so far in front that there was no reason for the team to be worried about the baton change. Once again they could have only lost the race if Montgomery had fallen over. The fact that the judge who disqualified them was from the club which ran second only added to their sense of injustice. To add to a day of disappointment John Tennyson lost his beach flags crown to J. Byrne of Garie.

In light of the disappointment over the disqualification, Montgomery, Tennyson and Langbien decided to turn their efforts and energies to professional running. While Tennyson won the Dubbo Gift, Langbien the Grafton Jacaranda Gift and the Gunnedah Sprint, it was Montgomery under the coaching of Clary Bowring who shined with numerous wins including the Maxwell and Broken Hill Gifts.

Montgomery's decision to run professionally, however, altered his competition status. He was now a professional, not an amateur and therefore his right to compete in SLSA events was questionable. Into the 1950s the debates which had raged 20 years earlier concerning amateur and professional status had not been satisfactorily resolved. While Montgomery was now liable to disqualification for having competed as a professional runner, John Bliss, a rugby league



Neil Montgomery about to win the Australian Beach Sprint title, Scarborough, WA, 1951.



The 'Kings of the Beach', Ken Watson (Secretary SLSA) presents winner's medals to the Collaroy Beach Relay Team.

L to R: Neil Montgomery, Bob Langbien, John Tenison, Barry Heath.

international, was still entitled to compete. In an attempt to clarify the issue the Sydney Branch of the SLSA decided to make a test case of Neil Montgomery. When Montgomery appeared for the Club at a surf carnival he was disqualified by referee and Branch Superintendent Jack Marsden. In disqualifying the 'well known . . . professional sprinter' Marsden noted 'I hate to disqualify a thorough gentlemen as Montgomery, who is one of the whitest in the sporting game'. <sup>40</sup> The disqualification led to much acrimony in the movement. On one occasion the Club's delegate Hector McDonald was removed from a meeting of the Association as he was attempting to try and make the executive understand Montgomery's and the Collaroy Club's point of view. <sup>41</sup> Eventually it was resolved that Montgomery as a professional could not enter the beach sprint event. However, because the relay baton was registered as a piece of lifesaving equipment he could compete in the relay in the same way a permanent lifesaver could not compete in the open surf race but could in the belt race.

With their status now resolved Langbien, Tennyson and Montgomery decided to reform a relay team to compete in the 1952/53 season. Barry Heath was replaced by Bill Lloyd who was a first grade Rugby League player with Manly-Warringah and later made the New South Wales team. The team's preparation for the 1953 State Championship at Swansea Caves, however, was very poor. Both Montgomery and Langbien had hamstring problems which were not helped by the soft sand in which the heats of the beach relay were run. The team was the last to qualify for the semi-final and just scraped into the finals. Reconciled to the fact they had no hope of gaining a place, the team stayed up for most of the night playing cards.

By the time of the final the following day the tide was out and the race was held not on the soft sand of the day before but on the extremely hard sand close to the water's edge. With the harder sand greatly reducing the effects of Montgomery and Langbein's injuries, the team blitzed the field to beat the then Australian title holders North Narrabeen. The team, however, was greatly inhibited by Lloyd's call up for National Service and so the strong win at the state



The Collaroy March Past team (second from right) parades before a huge crowd at the 1947 Australian Championships, Southport, Qld.

titles was not repeated at the nationals. The Club's renaissance in beach events had drawn to a close.

In 1947 the first Australian titles to be held outside New South Wales were conducted in Queensland. As noted the 1951 titles were held on the other side of the continent in Perth. While such developments were good for the movement as a whole, the introduction of national and state titles outside the Sydney metropolitan area placed a new financial burden on clubs such as Collaroy. A far greater proportion of the Club's fund raising efforts had to be devoted to helping competitors meet the expenses of going away. While the SLSA itself assisted with initiatives such as chartered trains, clubs were always on the look out for the most cost effective way to transport their teams and equipment to carnivals. It was within this context that in 1952 the Club embarked on a means of transporting a team to the state titles which almost ended in unmitigated disaster.

In the early 1950s the McQuillan family became closely associated with the Club through their contract to build the *Bendix*. Son Joe was also a member of the club. As well as surf boat building the McQuillans also reconditioned old vessels in their boat shed at Balmain. At the beginning of 1952 they were outfitting an old 110 ft air/sea rescue boat which had seen service in the Pacific during World War II. The American owner wished to use the boat for inter-island

trade through Polynesia. It had been renamed the Lester E.

With the boat ready for a trial run the McQuillans suggested to the Club that the boat might prove an inexpensive form of transport to the 1952 State Championships at Byron Bay.

With the vessel outfitted with 70 berths and plenty of room to store equipment such as surf boats, boards and skis, the Club jumped at the opportunity. 42 It was decided that to offset the costs even further the remaining berths on the boat would be offered to other clubs. Teams from South Narrabeen, Coogee, Bronte and Bondi accepted the offer.

On the evening of departure the various club teams met at the boat shed for an impromptu bon voyage party. Very soon many passengers were intoxicated and several were ill before they even stepped on board. Much discussion had been held on why the boat was leaving harbour at one o'clock in the morning and the answer was given to the passengers on arrival at the boat shed. The Lester E. did not have clearance to leave Sydney Harbour. It was going to leave the harbour illegally under cover of darkness, once the ferries stopped running.

Seventy three souls, four surf boats and numerous boards and skis boarded the Lester E. that evening. The Collaroy contingent numbered 30 and tour manager was Ian Proctor. John Allan, a Sydney Morning Herald



'Feeding the fish' aboard the 'hell ship'.

journalist, former club secretary and son of former member Jack Allan, assumed the role of cook, while Peter Montgomery was in the wheel house. A glass of wine celebrated the departure of the Lester E. on its eventful journey north.

The Lester E. left Balmain with no navigational or riding lights on and an instruction to the passengers to remain quiet. With the howling of the boat's new twin diesel engines, many could not see how the vessel would not be noticed. The overpowering smell of diesel petrol throughout the boat was also noticed. Before the boat had even cleared the wharf trouble struck. A number of passengers had started fishing from the rear of the boat as it started to back out of the wharf, seeing them lose their fishing gear to the props around which their lines were entangled. As the boat approached the Harbour Bridge another calamity befell the Lester E.

The boat's engineer had moved aft to examine the wash from the props. On reaching the stern he leaned over the handrail to take a closer look at the starboard prop. Satisfied he then moved to the port side to perform the same exercise. As he went to lean on the hand rail to examine the port prop he made an alarming discovery — there was no handrail. Fortunately one of the passengers saw the incident and was soon shouting 'man overboard'. The engineer was located in the murky waters amidst howls of laughter from a number of the passengers who had continued to imbibe once they finished the wine.

With the engineer saved, the boat continued to skulk down the harbour towards the heads, hoping not to arouse the attention of either the harbour master or water police. Unfortunately for the owner, the boat's escape from the harbour did not go unnoticed and was the subject of a court case many months later. Soon, however, the boat was outside the heads and heading north. It was not long after that the first passengers began to experience seasickness. With the boat designed to skim over coral reefs, it had no keel and so pitched and tossed quite dramatically once in the open sea. Inebriation and the overpowering smell of diesel fuel also did not help passengers gain their sea legs. Of the 73 passengers and crew, 69 were sea sick,



Passengers queue for breakfast on the second morning of the voyage.

including the American owner who barricaded himself in his cabin and was not seen for the entire journey. The cook, John Allen, served the passengers cocoa and biscuits upon exiting the heads, but he soon succumbed and was also not seen again, leaving those passengers who felt able to eat forced to prepare their own meals.

Below decks the smell of diesel fuel was now being challenged by the stench of vomit. Many passengers quickly became so ill that they could not leave their bunk. Improvising, a baby's bath on wheels was discovered and became a travelling vomit repository. Some passengers remained on deck. Noel Hall, for example, wedged himself between the wheel house and the railing to give himself easy access to the side of the boat and plenty of fresh air.

By the following evening the Lester E. was off Coffs Harbour and heading into a fierce electrical storm. The boat's navigator, 'Bluey', the only person on board who seemed to have any seamanship skills, born of competition in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race, spotted an island and mistook it for the coastline. Believing that the electrical storm must have damaged his magnetic compass, he changed course. Only with day break was it realised that the navigator had become disoriented and the compass had not been affected — the course he had set

overnight was a bearing due east. The Lester E. was over 100 miles out to sea.

That morning, as the navigator plotted a course which would take the boat back to the Australian coast line, Ian Proctor and fellow Collaroy member Jack Ruler decided to have a fish off the stern of the boat. Not long after Proctor felt a tremendous pull on his line and to his amazement a huge black marlin leapt into the air and started walking across the water. At the same instant he felt a sharp pain at his ankle — the line was caught around his leg and cutting into it under the strain of his huge catch. Without a knife to cut the line, Proctor could only grab the hand rail to stop himself being thrown into the water and certain death. And then as suddenly as it began it was over — the line fortuitously snapped saving not only the marlin but Proctor.

With the rediscovery of Australia the Lester E., which in many passengers minds was now nothing more than a 'floating vomitorium', resumed its course for Byron Bay. That afternoon the boat started to encounter heavy weather and a large swell which did little to arrest the seasickness of most. A meeting of the crew and club officials was held and it was agreed that the boat would have great difficulty entering Byron Bay where it was to berth at the whaling wharf. It was decided that there would be a better chance of getting in at Ballina.

Upon reaching Ballina, the passengers and crew of the Lester E. found that the Harbour Master had closed the port because of the 20 foot swell which made crossing the bar to enter the Richmond River too dangerous. Another meeting was held and it was put to the vote whether an attempt should be made to cross the bar. The vast majority of passengers simply wanted to get off and get to the carnival. The Harbour Master's signal would be ignored and

the boat would try and cross the bar.

The only way to cross the bar it was decided was to follow a large set of waves and hope that in their wake they left enough water over the bar so as not to strand the Lester E. While the boat's new engines were not as powerful as those they had replaced they were strong enough to follow a wave. The vessel took off after a set of waves with most of the passengers and luggage at the rear of the boat to ensure that if the boat was caught by a wave it hopefully would not nose dive into the bar. The Lester E. bumped over the bar and just missed the seawall but safely entered the harbour. The passengers and crew cheered and saw a large crowd gathered on the wharf. Unfortunately the vessel had been operating at maximum power and was unable to slow down in sufficient time to dock at the wharf and so proceeded up the river for nearly half a mile before returning. As the vessel moved alongside the wharf a number of passengers decided to leap for the safety of dry land. Amongst them was Collaroy member Jackie Ruler who leapt from the boat carrying all his gear. He disappeared into the town and was never seen at the Surf Club again.

Once on the wharf a passenger borrowed some lipstick from a well wisher and scrawled on the side of the boat Hell Ship. With the gear unloaded arrangements were made with the



Survivors of the 'hell ship'. L to R: Gordon 'Locko' Johnston, Doug Hart, Bill Lloyd, John Tenison, Wal McGrigor, Graeme Proctor.

assistance of local taxi drivers to transport the teams and equipment on to Byron Bay. Passengers then had a quick look around town. Peter Montgomery and Wal McGrigor procured a row boat and raided the oyster leases and, with fish and prawns, a sumptuous seafood dinner was had on board that night.

During the evening however, a storm struck Ballina and the passengers became aware of another of the *Hell Ship's* deficiencies, it leaked. While some billets were organised, once again through local taxi drivers, many passengers were forced to sleep under the wharf, in bus shelters and other makeshift locations.

Upon arriving in Byron Bay the teams had some trouble finding accommodation because it had been originally planned to live on board. Perhaps not surprisingly few of the passengers had much success at the championships. Neil Montgomery was still ill when he ran second in the beach sprint. With the end of the carnival, attention now turned to getting back to Sydney. Even if they had wanted to return on the *Hell Ship* they could not because maritime authorities had impounded the boat at Ballina. Most, however, had no interest in re-boarding and so Proctor made contact with the Club to gain funds to buy train tickets to get the team back home. Each member had to make an undertaking to reimburse the Club on their return. The *Hell Ship* was not allowed to leave Ballina for a number of weeks and on its return to Sydney the owner was charged with a number of offences. Peter Montgomery accompanied the boat back to Sydney.

A song to commemorate the journey was penned at Weiley's Hotel in Grafton by some passengers and performed by the 'Hell Ship Choir'. The title was 'The Hell Ship':

Sea of heat and sweaty socks Sin and spew and tons of pocks Decks of sorrow, decks of fame, 'Lester E.' is her name



Collaroy members outside the Tugan hotel after the first Australian Championships in Queensland, 1947.



Returning to Murwillumbah for the train journey south .

Collaroy, Coogee and Bronte Dogs
Stink of dirt and stinking cots,
Blasting heat and stinking feet,
Spewer's guts and rotten meat
Clouds of choking spray that blind,
Drive a bloke clean off his mind,
Fish's heaven, surfer's hell
F.k the hell ship, fare thee well. 43

The Hell Ship saga was just another in a long list of less than edifying incidents which had plagued the surf life saving movement since World War II. By the late 1940s the movement had gained a less than fulsome reputation in many beachside communities. While most members in most clubs had always enjoyed a drink, to many community leaders in the postwar period it appeared alcohol and its associated frivolities had supplanted the primary reason surf clubs existed — to protect the surf bathing public.

Much of the blame for a deterioration in community perceptions of surf life saving was levelled at the returned servicemen. It was claimed that many of these men were making up for the time they had lost in war service, and as noted, they bucked against the regimentation which had characterised the surf clubs in the prewar era. The conduct of New South Wales lifesavers on a specially organised train which took them to the first national titles outside New South Wales in 1947 gained widespread attention. With most of the passengers drunk before

the train had even left the Morgue Station at Central and well provisioned to maintain such a level of intoxication, the trip was the cause of some embarrassment to the SLSA. This embarrassment did not cease once the teams had left the train, and Collaroy team members played their part. Especially aggrieved was SLSA President Adrian Curlewis who actively sought to break the nexus between beer and surf life saving. Few members of the movement, however, were interested in such temperance.

The problems of discipline and alcohol were felt at Collaroy. In his first report as Club Captain in 1952, Dick Twight noted that not all members were putting in a '100% effort' and that 'a number of members showed very little devotion to duty and could well be done without'. Members were also showing little interest in competition and on one occasion the Club went to carnivals with insufficient competitors to lift the boat from the trailer.<sup>44</sup>

While Twight had been in Perth captaining and managing the Collaroy team to the 1951 national titles, he was made aware of



Warringah Shire Councillor, Jack McLean, presents his inaugural shield to the Captain of the winning patrol, Stan Twight, 1945/46.

how West Australian clubs had successfully addressed the problem of patrol attendance with the creation of the position of 'Patrol Officer'. The Patrol Officer was responsible for the conduct of all patrols and oversaw the club patrol competition. On the team's return to Sydney, Twight suggested that the position of Patrol Officer be created and the position was filled at the

1951 AGM by long time member Bert Chequer.

Chequer was able to reverse the poor patrol attendance problem with a patrol competition which captured the imagination of members. By the end of the season Chequer reported an average patrol attendance of 90.52% with the proficiency of patrols gauged at 97.7%. At the start of the season moves had been afoot to expel a number of troublesome members from the Club who were labelled the 'Derroes'. At this moment Stan Twight stepped in and suggested that the 'Derroes' be congregated into one patrol which he would captain. If he was unable to turn around their behaviour within a season then he agreed that he would not stand in the way of their expulsion.

To the amazement of most members the Derroes took the reprieve offered to them by Twight and a transformation took place. This transformation spurred on other patrols to also lift their game. On Sunday mornings opposing patrol captains would gather at the club to watch Chequer gauge the performance of a patrol. With points lost for late attendance it became a not uncommon sight to see a patrol member leaping from a bus and dodging traffic

on Pittwater Rd to ensure he got to his patrol on time.

By the end of the season two teams were neck and neck — the Derroes led by Twight and a team made up of Roger Boyle, Bob Cooley, P. Gibb, Geoff Cranney, D. Nelson, David Boyle and captained by Bob Langbien. Part of the responsibility of the patrol was to also keep the club house clean. With the teams deadlocked Club Captain Twight conducted an inspection of the male toilets and found a cigarette butt hidden away on top of the urinal cistern. With that he docked his brother's patrol half a point and the competition was won by Langbien's team, with Langbien also winning the individual trophy for patrol efficiency. In one season the Club's patrol problems had been turned around.

The introduction of the Patrol Officer and the return of an effective patrol system, however, did not curb the consumption of alcohol by club members outside patrol hours and the associated antics. By the early 1950s the alcohol problem in surf clubs was not solely confined to ex-service members but the younger members who had not necessarily been given good role models when it came to moderation. To many of these younger men patrol duty was

important but outside of patrol hours intoxication was mandatory.

Collaroy, which had worked hard to rebuild the reputation which had been tarnished in the 1930s, was once again losing the struggle because of alcohol. Evidence of public vandalism such as the mutilation of public phones or the depositing of the chemist's public scales off the pipe were blamed, quite correctly, on intoxicated surf club members. On the October long weekend which opened the 1952/53 season the behaviour of surf club members finally gained the attention of the law — the 'Big Six' was born.

To welcome the start of the surfing season the Club organised a gambling night in the club house on Sunday evening. While the war had been over for seven years, beer still remained scarce and as a result was often used as prizes. On this particular occasion a number of the younger members of the Club conspired to win the bottles of beer on offer by monopolising the games or raffles in which they were the prize. By the end of the evening the group had acquired a huge quantity of beer and ventured onto the beach to consume their

winnings.

As the beer was consumed a chilly southerly blew up creating some discomfort for the revellers. It was decided that a fire should be built to warm their outsides as the alcohol performed its task on their insides. Unfortunately the group found little surplus fuel lying around the general vicinity and so took matters into their own hands. On Beach Road near the end of the headland, the Council was doing some kerb and guttering and had a number of warning signs as well as some formwork. These were removed and brought to the beach. The



A view of the beach from the south, early 1950s - John Morcombe Collection.

wooden handrail for the steps from the headland to the beach was also procured. Another member reportedly unlawfully entered a home in Beach Road in his search for fuel. Eventually a member of the group appeared with a number of wooden palings procured from the fence to the children's hospital. With the plans now elevated to the construction of a bonfire, more of the palings were removed and soon a huge blaze was burning on the beach.

The festivities lasted until near dawn, although several members of the group had already succumbed and were asleep. As the sky began to brighten it was decided to head back to the club house. All did so except Malcolm Ticehurst who could not be stirred from his slumber. Upon waking early that morning, Beach Road resident and Commonwealth Labor Senator, Roy Armstrong left his home for his morning constitutional and came across the trail of destruction reeked by the lifesavers. A call to police sergeant Charlie Adams, had one of his constables quickly on the beach surveying the damage. Unfortunately Ticehurst was a notorious late sleeper and was still asleep beside the now extinguished bonfire, surrounded by empty beer bottles.

Gently awoken by the policeman's size 10 boot, Ticehurst, whose feet had blistered because he had had them too close to the fire, decided to protect his mates by accepting sole responsibility. When asked who his accomplices were he claimed that he had acted alone. The policemen suggested if such were the case Ticehurst would be dead because no one could consume as much beer as had been contained in the empty bottles. Placed in the side car of the policeman's motorcycle, he was taken to Collaroy police station and charged. With Ticehurst still wearing his club blazer Dick Twight was contacted by Sergeant Adams and made aware of the situation.

Twight and members of the committee proceeded to the club house where Ticehurst's associates still were. They were ordered onto the beach while the committee met to discuss the issue. At first Ticehurst's accomplices claimed ignorance of the fire and the damage but Twight

reminded them of the trouble Ticehurst faced and the fact he was claiming sole responsibility. Amongst themselves they decided that the five eldest members of the group would own up but that the cadet and younger junior members who had also been involved would be protected. In the company of Twight, Gordon 'Heckle' Collis, Tony 'Horsey' Haworth, Ken 'Bodgy' Hyde (who was still a junior), Kevin 'Germ' Morris and Peter Montgomery went to the police station and were charged to appear in the Manly local court the following Tuesday.

On Tuesday morning the six men appeared before the magistrate at Manly charged with malicious damage. The six pleaded guilty leaving only Dick Twight to offer them a strong character reference before the magistrate passed sentence. In imposing a fine of £6.8.4 the magistrate chastised the six defendants for what was another example of poor behaviour by surf life savers. None of the six had told their parents of the charge and so pursued a game of cat and mouse as they secreted the fine from their bank accounts. Tony Howarth told his mother he was buying a surf ski. When she later asked where it was he claimed it was stored in the Surf Club.

The fine was not their only punishment, however. While the court had dealt with them, it was now time for the Surf Club. Fun and games had always been a part of the the Club and it was after all a Club function from which the young members had procured the alcohol. It was decided, however, that a firm message had to be sent to members that such behaviour whilst representing the Club (if only wearing a club blazer) was totally unacceptable. While Twight had defended them in court, back at the club house he was now their harshest critic and scathing in his attack on them for bringing the name of the Club into disrepute. Brought before the committee the six convicted members were suspended from the Club for six weeks. While this meant they could not even enter the club house, the even harsher penalty was that they could not wear their club blazers for the period of the suspension. Into the 1950s the club blazer remained a very important piece of attire for a surf club member. Blazers were not only worn at club functions but also to other socials and community events. A great deal of pride was attached to them.

In the wake of the event, Ticehurst, Morris, Montgomery, Hyde, Howarth and Collis were immortalised as the 'Big Six'. Those junior and cadet members who had been sheltered became known as the 'Little Six' or the 'apprentices'. With their own unpleasant experience before them, however, the Big Six sought to ensure that the Little Six's energies were directed into less destructive activities. While one member of the Club, who had missed out on the incident, decided to burn to the ground some temporary public toilets near the middle of Narrabeen beach in an attempt to gain the notoriety of the Big Six, the behaviour of club members improved.

In future years the Big Six would become stalwarts of the Club having in their number a future Club President, Boat Captain and two Club Captains. Malcolm Ticehurst also joined with 'Little Six' member Tom Whelan and fellow club members Mick Beasley and Ken 'Sava' Lloyd to form the very popular 'Four Brothers' singing group. The deeds of the 'Big Six', however, would not be forgotten and were immortalised in verse:

'That Fabulous Fore or the Saga of the Big Six'

We are little firebugs
The Big Six is our name
All through a dirty big copper
We won our fame

It all happened one Sunday night
When we got pretty high
We set out for some firewood
It was either — do or die

First came Hecle and the Germ
With Australia's biggest tree
It was all very well to get one' Ticky said
We could have done with three

Then we heard little Spewsey Away in the distant night 'Come and help a feller I think this is just right'

To help him went Horsie
The excitement growing tense
And as they came close the firelight
We saw it was a fence

Then went the chief stoker, Bodgie
To tear into that wood
And stripped to bare of its frame
For he knew it all burnt good

Later appeared No. 7
We can't reveal his name
For he would have to share the rap
Because his wood burned the same

But as the night fast wore on And we began to tire We suddenly saw the wood catch on

And the flames grew higher and higherThe Sun rose early and Ticky slept on
He couldn't have taken much more
But the boys woke him and said
'Com on, a copper 'ill get you for sure'
Really the one to blame is Ticky
for he crumbled in a heap
And the boys went back to the Surf Club leaving him fast asleep

Later on he was scared in fright For some one was shaking his side He woke to find a blue uniform say, 'O.K. you're comin' for a ride'

The rest of the tale I think you'd know
There's need to tell you no more
'Cause on Tuesday each man was bound to pay
A fine of £6.8.4

The finale came a few weeks hence The committee said we were suspended And from that day we all knew The Saga had begun — not ended

Still later on a rumour went round
To beware of Little Tricks
The cadets had formed a tough little crew
The Boys of the Little Six

I do hope these youngsters play it straight
And don't get like their elders
For if they do you'll plainly see
They'll become expert Welders.

N.B. Not Subject to alteration.

The general issue of alcohol in the Surf Club, however, did not end with the Big Six's brush with the law. With no hotels open on Sundays except to 'bona fide travellers' who met a distance requirement, the Club purchased its own beer and sold it to its members after patrol hours on Sunday evenings. The beer for these evenings was procured from wherever it could be found. Some came from as far as South Australia but most came from the Union Brewery at Brookvale or a resident of the Plateau named Wally Monk who supplied the Club a beverage known as 'Mudgee Mud'.

At the 1952 AGM Frank Hall replaced Doug Graham as Club President. Graham was bitterly hurt that the Club deemed his services no longer necessary after so many years of valuable service but any acrimony which might have ensued was averted with Graham's elevation to Club Patron on the retirement due to ill health of Brigadier T.A.J. Playfair. Graham was also awarded the Club's second 'Honour Blazer' at a Special General Meeting

held in March 1954.

Hall was a strong supporter of the Club's social activities and procured much of the beer which was sold on Sunday evenings. In the wake of the Big Six incident several members of the Club expressed concern about the issue of alcohol but Hall defended the status quo believing some youthful hi-jinx were simply being blown out of proportion and noting how lucrative the Sunday evening social was to club coffers.

On a Sunday evening late in the season SLSA President Adrian Curlewis was returning to

the city from Palm Beach when he saw a number of Club members drinking in the public car park behind the Club. Curlewis' relationship with the Collaroy Club had already deteriorated over a quite petty argument with some members concerning the configuration of seats in surf boats before the four seat arrangement had appeared. Curlewis reprimanded the drinkers and warned them that if he saw such a display again he would have the Club expelled from the Association. Most members, however, put his remarks simply down to the boat seat controversy and continued the practice unchanged.

At Collaroy Police Station, Sergeant Adams was also now hearing rumours that the beer at the club house was not just being sold to club members but to the general public. While the sale of beer to club members contravened licensing laws, it was a common practice in most clubs and overlooked by authorities. The sale of beer to the general public, however, was another matter. Senior club officials were tipped off that the Club had come under the attention of the licensing police and a raid was imminent. With allegations also emerging within the Club that



The 'Four Brothers' singing group were runners-up in the Australian Amateur Hour. It is claimed that the 'Brothers' inspired a group of Bronte lifesavers to form their own group. They called themselves the 'Deltones'. The 'Brothers' were as well known for their large entourage as they were for their singing ability. Pictured are, L to R: Mal 'Ticky' Ticehurst, Mick Beazley, Tommy 'Tuck' Whelan, Ken 'Sava'





Doug Graham.

Frank Hall (left) with brother Noel.

not all monies raised by the sale of beer were reaching club coffers, a number of senior club members called an extraordinary general meeting. The alcohol issue was now threatening not just individual members but the entire Club and something had to be done about it.

As a result, an extraordinary meeting was held on 22 June 1953. At the meeting a motion of no-confidence in President Frank Hall was passed on his handling of the alcohol issue. In an unprecedented move Hall resigned as President and was replaced by Chic Proctor. The sale and consumption of alcohol on Club premises, except with the express permission of the Committee for occasional socials was also banned. The result threw the Club into disarray in the lead up the the 1953 Annual General Meeting. Pro and anti-Hall factions soon emerged, defending and attacking the former President and crossing strong friendships. The period marked one of the lowest points in the Club's 42 year history to that date.<sup>45</sup>

On 6 September 1953 at 10am, the much awaited Annual General Meeting began. In a meeting the *Manly Daily* described as 'hectic in parts', Frank Hall stood for President once again. Although he had played a very important role in Dick Twight's formative years and kept the Club going during the war, Twight found himself in the camp opposing Hall. So seriously did Twight believe in the issue he was prepared to resign from the Club if Hall was re-elected. A majority of the meeting, however, believed Hall should not be held personally responsible and in the ensuing vote he was re-elected. Hall then took the floor to claim vindication, before immediately resigning. He announced that while he was dispensable the Club could not lose the services of Dick Twight. Chic Proctor was elected President in the re-vote and Twight was re-elected Club Captain. Soon after the AGM, Hall moved out of the district.

Hall's claim of the indispensability of Dick Twight was based on personal observation. Perhaps no one else in the Club had so closely followed Twight's progress from a young boy who lacked confidence in himself, to an Australian title holder with a swag of branch, state and association representative honours. By 1953 Twight was one of the leading lights in the surf life saving movement. To many members of the Club he was seen to epitomise the true spirit of surf life saving. Putting his competitive and representative successes to one side Twight was first and foremost a lifesaver, meeting his community responsibility to protect the public.

With the coronation tour of the newly crowned Queen Elizabeth II in early 1954, the SLSA organised a Royal Surf Carnival which was to include a competition between Australian and New Zealand national teams. With a place in the team in mind Twight started training in July 1953 in the hope of selection. In September he began calisthenics training with Olympian Frank O'Neil and by October he was swimming 12 miles a week with a mile swim before breakfast and another mile after work. The Sun newspaper titled a report on Twight's training

and aims: 'Collaroy Surfer Means Business'.47

Although Twight did not make the Australian team (he did captain the Sydney Branch team at the carnival), there was some conjecture in the press that he was in the running for the Australian team which planned to tour South Africa in July as part of the centenary celebrations for the city of Durban. The nominations for the Australian team came during the 1954 national titles which found Twight a member of the NSW R&R team. The selection trials were held at Burleigh Heads and it was made clear to the hopefuls that all-rounders were required.

At the end of the trials a very nervous Twight sat chewing his fingernails as he waited for the announcement of the team. Finally the senior SLSA officials entered the room. The team would be managed by Ken Watson and include R. Matheson, G. Winram, J. Bloomfield, D. Morrison, B. Hutchings, B. Lumsdaine and R. Twight of Collaroy. Twight and his Collaroy team mates were ecstatic but the good news was not over. While Twight was the only member of the team not to have previously represented his country, Ken Watson suggested to selectors that the Collaroy lifesaver was the best qualified to assume the position of team captain. Collaroy not only had its first Australian representative but its first Australian team captain. Hector McDonald still sees that announcement as one of the greatest moments in his life. 48

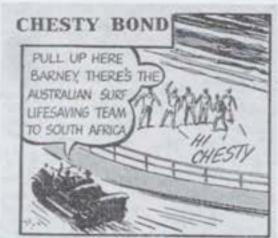
Upon achieving selection Twight had second thoughts. He could not afford to go to South Africa. With brother Stan having left their carrying business he could not have his business sitting idle. McDonald immediately put Twight's mind at rest. He would get leave from work and run Twight's business while he was in South Africa. The Club raised extra cash for Twight while a bon voyage social was held at the South Narrabeen Club to wish him good

luck on the tour.

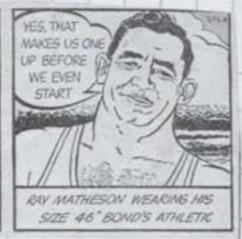
The team left Sydney by plane on 19 June 1954. Upon arrival in Perth they embarked on some training but the surf was very cold. After three days they left for Mauritius and an 18 hour stopover. The team nicknamed the island the 'Rabbit Burrow' because of its small size and large population. Twight found his first visit to a foreign country 'quite an experience'. 49

The team finally arrived in Durban on 22 June being met by a large number of representatives of the Surf Life Saving Association of South Africa (SLSA of SA). Twight and Team Manager Watson were immediately whisked away for an interview with the local shark meshing committee which they found to be well advised on 'our methods'. Twight cabled to wife Betty: 'Arrived safely . . . South Africa appears very strong . . . All my love to all . . . Dick'.

Soon after arrival, the team took delivery of its surf boat which had been sent by ship. The James Perryman had been donated to the team by North Cronulla SLSC and was so named after the former Captain of the Club who had drowned during a rescue attempt in 1950. To their disappointment they found the boat to be in poor shape. Having been out of the water for four months the planking had opened and the boat was now very badly sprung. A boat builder was contacted but by the time of the team's first demonstration on Durban's South Beach the 'very bad shape' of the boat had not been rectified. The 'much publicised' appearance of the surf boat was not completely successful due to its unseaworthiness. Regardless, the boat still cleared the







Members of the Australian team to South Africa were even captured in cartoon form. Here they help sell Bonds singlets.



Members of the Australian team prepare to depart for South Africa. Dick Twight (Team Captain) is third from left.

shore break three times to the cheers of a crowd of 1500. Praise was given to Twight's handling of the 'big steer oar'. 50

The team competed in the South African Championships which were also held at South Beach. In comparison, the Australians found the South African Championships a 'very boring spectacle', noting that the land drill for R&R took eight and a half hours to complete because only one team drilled at a time. Team Manager Watson caused something of a controversy when he expressed this point of view to the South African press. Claiming the Australian method was 'simple and natural' he stated: 'The exaggerated marching of the South African lifesavers is a waste of time and energy and to have an instructor bawling at the team as if they were a bunch of recruits is totally unnecessary. We had enough of the Army in Australia when the war was on without using such methods on the beach'. The South Africans responded by pointing to the 'seemingly casual approach of the Australians'.<sup>51</sup>

The highlight of the day was an R&R demonstration by the Australians and another exhibition of the surf boat in 'very heavy conditions'. The team found widespread support amongst the South African lifesavers for Australian methods and managed to coax some South Africans into the boat. Unfortunately when on a wave the South Africans refused to move to the rear of the boat resulting in an accident in which several members of the crew were injured and required medical assistance. The usefulness of the surf boat was still recognised and the South African National Council of Women approached Watson to purchase the boat for the SLSA of SA at a cost of £600.

The Australian team also competed as individuals in the South African titles and their strength in skis, boards and swimming was immediately apparent. Twight won the South African board title, receiving a huge trophy for his achievement. Diplomatically, however, he returned the trophy noting that the Australian boards were of a far superior design to their South African counterparts.

With the end of the Championships in Durban the team visited some of South Africa's other surf clubs. Giving demonstrations at Amanzimtotti, Warner Doone, and Winkle Spruit Surf Life Saving Clubs, the Australians were amazed at how small the surf life saving movement was in South Africa. Most Clubs they visited averaged no more than 10 members who patrolled the beach every weekend. While the Australian movement had over 8,000 active patrol members in 1954, the South Africans had only 250. Twight also noted of these small clubs that 'Several of their members bore the scars of recent shark attacks, which were common occurrence in South Africa'. 52

By 1954 the racial segregation policy of 'Apartheid' had been in force in South Africa for six years. All aspects of South African society were segregated between whites, blacks and coloureds, including the use of beaches. In Durban the local Indian ('Coloured') community had its own beach at which only Indians could swim. The Indian Beach Surf Life Saving Club made a number of requests to receive a visit from the touring Australian team and eventually these white Australians entered a beach which was off limits to black and white South Africans. Of the demonstration performed on Indian Beach, Twight noted: 'The demonstration was enthusiastically appreciated by the Indians, who themselves have been successful in saving a number of lives on their own beach'.

The team then moved on to the First Test between the two nations which was held before a 'very big crowd' on South Beach, Durban. Competing under SLSA of SA conditions, the South Africans won the test by four events to two. In the Second Test under SLSA of Australia conditions the Australians were victorious while in the final test, which was a compromise of Australian and South African methods, the Australians won it and the series three to two with the final event being a surfoplane relay.

In the final three days of the tour the Australians ventured south to Margate for another demonstration before heading back to Durban and Scottsburg beach for a final demonstration in a large rolling surf before 6,000 interested spectators. After a farewell ball, the team headed to Johnannesburg where they were entertained by the Australia Association. Part of the



Dick Twight oversees drill by the Australians in front of a large crowd on South Beach, Durban.

itinerary included a visit to the world's largest gold mine. Twight noted: 'We were taken to a spot where natives were working, and it was here that we viewed the gold reef. The natives receive 3/2 per day'. 53

The tour was a great success and team manager Ken Watson reported that it would 'help stimulate life saving in South Africa'. In a letter to Adrian Curlewis the President of the South African SLSA noted that the Australian team: '... exceeded in ability and charm of manner our most optimistic expectations and every single member of the team proved himself a magnificent ambassador for Australia in general and for surf life saving in particular. Dick Twight ... proved himself to be a Captain par excellence. He was always ready to pass on his knowledge to the local life savers and he led his team extremely well'. 54

Not long after his return home Twight received a letter from Mr B.B. Lingh, the President of the Durban Indian Surf Life Saving Club. Lingh remarked: 'Well Dick you have gone away, but you and your team have left behind a fine friendship with one and all of us which we shall treasure'. The Amanzimtotti SLSC also instigated a 'brother club' arrangement with Collaroy.

Dick Twight had played a role in spreading the message of Australian surf life saving to the world. Later in the decade another Collaroy member would play his role in spreading the ethos of 'vigilance and service' on another continent.

Ian Proctor left Australia in the mid 1950s to further his career in the United Kingdom. With him went a letter of introduction from SLSA National Secretary Ken Watson. Proctor hoped to meet up with members of the British Surf Life Saving Association, especially its



The beach where Ian Proctor began the revolution of French surf life saving.

Australian President Col Hendy. In London Proctor not only found expatriate Australians but expatriate surf club members. He also visited the Cornish coast where surf life saving in Great Britain had emerged and wrote to Watson that: 'Without exception the people, countryside and beaches of this delightful country are to the liking of a New South Welshman'.

Proctor, however, did not have an opportunity to become involved in the British movement before he got a job in Paris. Soon after he found himself on assignment in the south of France in the resort town of Biarritz. Describing the scene that greeted him when he visited a beach named the 'Cote des Basque', Proctor reported to Watson:

To my surprise I found there were also lifesavers patrolling this beach, who looked for all the world just like their Australian counterpart, these blokes being attired in a rigout, replicas of which can be seen around any Sydney Club, and each carrying a good suntan. That's as far as the resemblance goes however for their methods of lifesaving are crude and undeveloped being akin to methods that were perhaps contemplated or employed in the earliest day of the Australian lifesaving history.<sup>56</sup>

For a line the French lifesaver had a length of jute rope of about 100 yards in length and wrapped around a wooden spool. No belt was attached and in a rescue the beltman would tie the rope around his waist or grip it in his teeth. Around his neck he would wear a deflated Mae West life jacket which was inflated upon securing the patient. Owing to the fact the tidal currents were so strong many patients were out of reach of help before a beltman could get to them. In this case a call was made to the nearby fishing village for a boat to go and rescue the swimmer. Apparently this procedure took an hour and a half. The beach recorded over ten drownings a year.

In keeping swimmers between the two red flags which denoted the bathing area the lifesavers used whistles and curses, and were content to punch a swimmer who failed to obey their signal. Proctor noted: 'Such is France where the surfing public fears not the sea but his saver'.

On his next visit, the beach was being buffeted by a large swell breaking about 300 to 400 yards out to sea. He approached the lifesavers and suggested they join him for a body surf. The lifesavers, however, regarded Proctor as crazy and did not accept his invitation. Body surfing was not a form of swimming practised in France where most bathers simply waded close to shore.

Upon reaching the shore break Proctor shot a couple of waves. He soon noticed that a crowd of around 200 people had gathered on the promenade. He later learned that many of them believed that he was trying to commit suicide. In a letter to his father Proctor noted: 'So much for surfing in France — a wonderful beach, no sharks, a surf every day equal to Australia's best, but no surfers' 57

On his return to the beach an elderly gentleman approached the young Australian and asked if he were willing to be promoted and perform exhibition body surfing. Returning to Paris the next day Proctor declined the request but was convinced that there was much the French lifesavers could learn from their Australian counterparts. Proctor, in his letter to Watson, requested copies of Australian surf life saving handbooks so he could spread the message of surf life saving to France. Soon after Proctor's correspondence, Watson received a letter from the Secretary of the Federation Nationale De Sauvetege stating that Bordeaux was hosting the World Life Saving Championships in June 1957 and requesting the Australian surf life saving movement to send two instructors and materials.

The year before, during the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, the SLSA had formed the International Council of Surf Life Saving following the visit of surf lifesaving teams from South Africa, New Zealand, Ceylon, Hawaii, the USA and Great Britain. In preparing the Council the SLSA had approached the French Consul to Australia in Sydney who had responded that there was no surf life saving in France. Proctor's letter and the sudden approach by the French lifesaving body, however, showed that surf life saving was practised, if primitively, in France. Proctor was sent a complete set of handbooks and preparations were made for the visit of an instructional team headed by Ken Watson. The team arrived during the summer of 1958 and had intended to use the acquired local knowledge of Ian Proctor. Unfortunately by this time Proctor had returned to Australia, but his ground breaking work in introducing Australian surf life saving techniques to France had been important.

The 1950s were dominated by the construction of a new club house. By the mid-1940s the old club house was simply too small to house the Club's equipment and cater for its increasing membership. The brainchild of treasurer Bill Goodman, the 1945/46 Annual Report noted: 'The Committee have started negotiations for the erection of a new Clubhouse, which we hope to obtain in the future'. The Club resurrected the Fancy Fair on the reserve during the Christmas of 1945 and the £250 raised was set aside in a new building fund. <sup>58</sup>

In the early postwar years, however, building materials were still rationed as Australia endured a housing shortage. At the same time as attempting to house the families of returned servicemen the Australian Government had embarked on the biggest immigration program in Australian history, thus limiting the availability of building supplies even further. Through the late 1940s, therefore, the Club could do little but continue to raise funds for the project and draw up some plans. Some plans were drawn up by an architect who was a member of the Club but these were later disregarded by the Building Committee due to cost. While it was deemed important that the Club have a two storey premises it was decided to build over the existing club house (there had been some talk of relocating the club house on the grass reserve next to Birdwood Avenue) and new plans were drawn up by Bill Goodman.<sup>59</sup> By the time of the 1948/49 report little real progress had been made and the Building Committee could only



By the early 1950s the fourth club house had undergone a number of modifications, including the entombing of the original boatshed with the construction of the sea wall. Pictured in foreground L to R: Roger Boyle, Betty & Dick Twight.

report that it estimated that the cost of the new club house would be between £7500 and £8000 and that 'loan difficulties had been smoothed over'. <sup>60</sup> In the 1949/50 Annual Report, Goodman noted that: 'Shortages of building materials for houses has delayed this project although plans have been passed by the Council, and the finance arranged. It would be unfair, to say the least, to erect a luxury building of this nature while thousands of people, many of them ex-servicemen, are awaiting materials for their homes. The high cost of materials is also delaying the building'. <sup>61</sup> Hopes were held that construction would start in the 1951/52 season.

Some preliminary work involving the demolition and alteration of parts of the existing club was commenced during the 1952/53 season and revisions to the plan were approved by Council. Major work, however, did not commence until October 1953. By the end of February 1954 the lower floor of the new club house was virtually completed and the brickwork for the upper storey was well advanced.

Many members who were involved in the construction of the club recall the bricks especially. The Club had reused the bricks from parts of the old club house and much time and effort had to be devoted by club members to cleaning them for use. On a Sunday morning every contestant in the club championship had first to meet his quota of bricks before he could compete. Brick cleaning also became the latest form of club punishment.

By 1954 the Club had spent £3800 on the project of which £1000 had been donated by the Council with the promise that it would make a further donation of £2000 to the cost of the roof — it was altered on the plans to be flat because of fears a pitched roof would spoil the view of local residents. Further delays eventuated, however, due to a 'lack of ready finance'. With no electricity, committee meetings were held in private homes and the Club's equipment required constant attention because it was 'without adequate shelter'.

The building of the new club house put a huge burden on Bill Goodman, Chic Proctor and the club tradesmen who assisted them including Bert Chequer, George Redwood, Len



A rare shot of the rear of the surf club during the 42nd anniversary of the First Narrabeen Scout Troup, 1950.



Members of the new club planning committee discuss construction. L to R: Max Evans, Graham Bartlett, Chic Proctor, Laurie Walsh, Dick Twight, Bill Goodman, Noel Scully, Ray Barker.



Families of club members pose in front of the shell of the new club house.

Senior, Hector McDonald and Bob Maladay. The burden was also felt by ordinary club members who were asked to devote even more of their free time to the Surf Club. Local club members would devote several weekday evenings to the project while out of district members would often arrive on Friday evenings and work all day Saturday. In publicising the Club's efforts Pix magazine reported that the Club hoped to save £5000 in labour costs and concluded that 'Their effort is another magnificent example of the spirit of this voluntary organisation that makes Australia's beaches safe'. 62

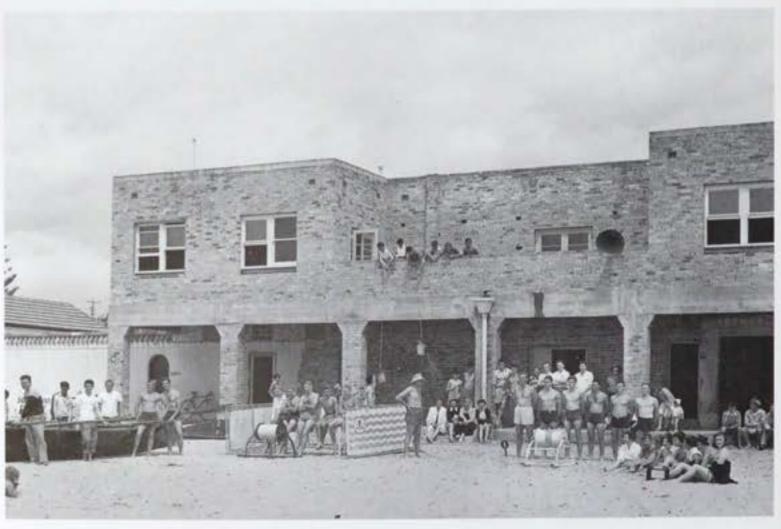
With the amount of time being dedicated by members to the construction of the new building it was deemed 'only natural' that the Club's competitive success would wane. The Club's poor record, apart from the runners and Dick Twight, was only further accentuated by the decision of the committee to deliberately neglect competition in favour of completing construction of the new club house. The Club competed in far fewer carnivals than normal and sent much smaller teams, often only comprising Dick Twight, some runners and the Senior A surf boat crew. The only exceptions where the Club continued to field full teams were the Acme Cup (in which it maintained its enviable record) and a new Triangular Carnival competition between Collaroy, South Narrabeen and North Narrabeen which was first held in 1954.

The Club's decision regarding competition did not please all members, especially those who had joined a surf club to patrol the beach and compete, not become labourers. A number of members left as a consequence.<sup>63</sup> By 1954, senior club membership had collapsed from 72 to 47 after a full season of construction work. Goodman noted that 'a small section of our membership showed an acute lack of concern towards the extensions'.<sup>64</sup>

In June 1955 the Club approached the New South Wales State Centre of the SLSA and was granted a £1500 loan to complete the upper storey. Another financial supporter of the Club was Bill Goodman himself, the man who the *Manly Daily* had dubbed 'unconquerable'. Goodman lent the Club £1750 from his own pocket on interest free terms.



Volunteer labour characterised the construction of the new club house. The window and wall directly below the landing form part of the rear wall of the old premises.



Normal club activities continued during construction.

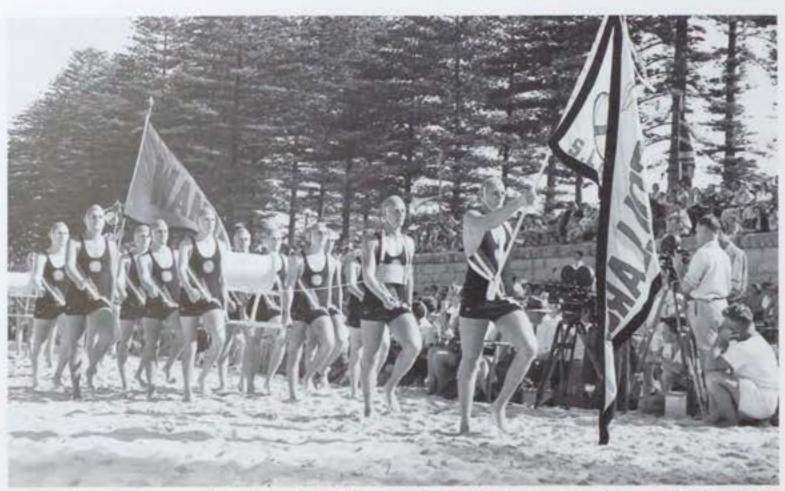
By the time of the 1956 Annual Meeting the Club was complete except for some cosmetic additions. As of 30 June 1956, the Club had spent £9617/17/6 on the project. The outside cement rendering and interior and exterior painting were postponed until the debt owing for construction of the building was repaid. When the outside rendering was eventually completed the Club house was painted cream in colour. That the new club house had come at more than a financial cost was noted by Club Captain Twight, one of those who had remained sceptical about the project, especially its deleterious effect on competition and membership. In the 1955/56 Annual Report he noted that: 'All members have shouldered their responsibilities from a lifesaving and competitive point of view, but are now beginning to feel the strain of the building programme which has been in operation for the past four seasons'. The building program had also produced something of a rift between the committee and rank and file members of the club. Alluding to this tension Club Secretary Ian Rylands noted in the same report that it was hoped that the coming season would see 'a closer relationship between members and the Committee with more consideration for members' views, and better basic amenities for all members'.

With the completion of the building its benefit to the Club quickly became apparent. By far the most modern facility on the Northern Beaches, the club house became a source of much pride and favourable comment from within the local community and the surf lifesaving movement. Even sceptics within the Club recanted and accepted that the new club house would bring many benefits. While it had forced some members away it had more tightly bound those who had remained — though arguments about the right and wrong way to approach certain tasks during construction simmered. The new club house became a symbol of the Club and, with its prominent position on Pittwater Road, actually became a useful recruitment tool — impressing potential members with its facilities and representing the Club's ethos more generally. Despite the huge financial commitment, the large hall in the new club house also meant that the building could actually start to make money through rentals to other community groups. While some concern was raised about the unwillingness of members to support social functions aimed at paying off the debt, in the first year of the new building the SLSA loan had been paid off and by the end of the second Goodman's loan had also been repaid.

Shortly after construction disaster nearly struck when an easterly gale swept the sea into the lower floor of the new building. Council responded by reinforcing the seawall in front of the club house.

While the drop in senior membership associated with the construction of the new club house was a cause for concern, Dick Twight was even more alarmed by the decline in junior membership — the club's future. This category of membership which had carried the club through the war years had never completely recovered from the loss of members to Long Reef. When compounded by the building program the Club's junior and cadet membership by 1954 was reduced to 24.

With regard to membership the club had never really held a recruitment plan as such. Most membership came through friendships with existing members. For example, Tom Whelan who joined as a cadet during this period was introduced to the Club through Norm Twight who worked with his father. Whelan attracted John Adams, who in turn attracted Tony Hickey and Ralph Wilson. Gordon Collis continued to be a great recruiter through his connections with the district rugby league competition in Parramatta and his membership of the East Parramatta club. Through the 1950s he continued to attract members such as Tony



Collaroy March Past team parade at the Australian Championships, North Steyne 1955. L to R: Bill Lloyd, Wal McGrigor, Bob Cooley, Tony Haworth, Bob Ferris, Graham Bartlett, Jack O'Neill, Ken Lloyd, Ian Rylands, unknown, Norm Twight, Dick Twight.



Collaroy Life Savers Junior Rugby League Football Club's 'C' Grade premiership team 1952. L to R, back: J. Spears (Treasurer), N. Montgomery (Coach), B. Cusack, B. Tierney, D. Douglas, D. Meaney, C. Warren, R. Twight (Vice-President), F. Forsyth (President), G. Redwood (Secretary & Life Member); middle: T. Smith, R. Greer, F. Lister (Vice-Captain), R. Martin, M. Pery, B. Bartlett, M. Douglas, H. Hall (Patron & Life Member); front: J. Shaw, B. Miller, L. Redwood, T. Brodigan, R. Daines, D. Barry (ball boy).

Haworth, Barry Cripps, Denis Woods, Rob Stokes, and Mick Chapman.<sup>67</sup> From this group would emerge three club captains, two distinguished service members and a life member.

While senior club officials pondered the question of active recruitment, they were given a lead by the Club's existing cadets. In early 1953 several cadets were approached by their counterparts at the North Narrabeen surf club to join a D Grade side in the district rugby league competition. The Collaroy cadets agreed to play on the proviso that at the end of the season the North Narrabeen players join Collaroy for the summer. The North Narrabeen cadets kept their word, much to the annoyance of their club, and at the beginning of the surfing season the club received new cadet members such as Mick Martin, Brian West, Neville Hynds and Eddie Diggins.<sup>68</sup>

As these cadets became juniors they employed new techniques to increase their number. In an effort to build up the Club's junior rowers, members of the junior boat crew such as Tom Whelan and Eddie Diggins attempted to coax junior rowers from other clubs to join Collaroy. Much of their recruiting efforts took place over the October long weekend when Manly, Queenscliff, Freshwater, Collaroy, South Narrabeen and North Narrabeen got together to celebrate the start of the season with a 24 hour barbecue on Fisherman's Beach. From such gatherings John Dolman was coaxed from Freshwater and Darryll Ford from Queenscliff.

The success of the cadets in attracting the North Narrabeen footballers and others sparked an idea amongst the Club's executive. Collaroy's own rugby league club had folded in 1952. In its place an incredibly successful basketball club, which fielded a number of teams in district and City of Sydney competitions throughout the 1950s, emerged as a winter activity for club members. Dick Twight and Bill Abbott became convinced that if the rugby league club was resurrected and fielded junior teams in the local competition it could be used as a tool to recruit new members into the club. By getting locals boys into a surf club rugby league team during the winter months, such contact would 'foster an interest' in surf lifesaving.

In recruiting football players, Twight and Abbott visited the Narrabeen Public School and spoke to male students in fifth and sixth class. While most of the boys were soccer players a number took the opportunity to try their luck at rugby league. By approaching the school Twight and Abbott also drew on boys who might otherwise have joined one of the other clubs on the beach. John Ison, for example, whose family had moved to Narrabeen from north western New South Wales in 1951 lived closer to the South Narrabeen Club but the rugby league team introduced him to Collaroy.

An F Grade team coached by Dick Twight, with uniforms supplied by the club, entered the district competition and proved 'fitting representatives of Collaroy'. The following season two teams, E and F grades, were formed attracting over 30 boys. It was noted that the Club still desired to concentrate on 'the younger lads'. The Club would meet with some success over the years and would produce a 'Kangaroo' in the form of John 'Pogo' Morgan, and a number of graded players for Manly-Warringah.



The Collaroy Basketball team won a remarkable 10 premierships in the 1950s and early 1960s. L to R, back: Don Douglass, Gordon 'Locko' Johnson, George Marshall, Laurie Walsh; front: Stan Raymond, Bruce Bartlett, Bill Goodman, Alan Leathley.



1956 'F' Grade Rugby League team. L to R, back: Roy Morgan (President), F. Slater (Selector), K. Feehley, G. McTaggart, H. Baker, J. Alagich, I White, J. Campbell (Treasurer); middle: R. Shepherd, T. Haylen, M. Edwards, R. Senior; front: K. Brodigan (Coach), B. McCurtayne, R. Hunt, J. Ison (Captain), E. McIver (Vice-Captain), P. Kemp, L. Senior (Patron), C. Senior (ball boy). Absent: J. Burns, M. Dunning, G. Beckett.

With the end of the first season, most of the players were too young to even be cadets but they were still shown around the Club and introduced to aspects of surf life saving, including R&R. By the time the likes of Rob Senior, Peter McCurtayne, John Ison, Eddie McIver, Rod Shepherd, Rob Whitlock and John Morgan could sit for their Surf Bronze Medallions they were well versed in surf life saving methods. The day after they (excluding McCurtayne) gained their medallions in November 1958, they were representing the Club in the Junior R&R. The experiment proved a great success and introduced to the Club future branch, metropolitan, state and national title holders, state representatives, senior club administrators and a life member. By the end of 1957 the club still had only 11 juniors but a healthy 22 cadets. The following year the ratio had changed to 23 juniors and 10 cadets, and by 1959 24 juniors and 11 cadets.

The late 1950s also saw a more general increase in membership. From a low point of 187 in 1955, membership increased to 233 by the end of the decade. In his 1956/57 Club Captain's report Dick Twight noted: 'It is now generally felt that for the next five to ten years the old 'Red caps' will make their presence felt'. The Club's investment in cadets in the mid-1950s would reap dividends.

The opening of one of the most modern clubs in the movement was seen as a shot in the arm for the Club and its efforts to achieve a position of significance and influence withinthe surf life saving movement. With such an excellent selling point, the Club now sought to host the major carnivals which it had only dreamed about in the past. This dream was realised quite quickly when the Club earned the right to host the 1956 Metropolitan Championships — its first major surf carnival.

Club members put a tremendous amount of time and effort into the preparations, overseen by Max Evans as Carnival Organiser and John Dolman as Carnival Secretary. The Long Reef Club did not forget past associations and also played an invaluable role. Keeping a close eye over proceedings was Hector McDonald who by 1956 had become Deputy Superintendent of Sydney Branch after having been a District Supervisor the season before.

On Sunday 19 February 1956, the weekend before the Carnival, Club members were at the Club House completing the last minute preparations for the following Saturday. Amongst these final preparations some tiered seating, which had been borrowed from a circus, had to be erected as well as the preparation of competitors'

equipment for the Collaroy team.

The day was wet and miserable with a strong easterly gale, the sort that had caused so much damage on various occasions in Collaroy's history. Before the Sunday morning patrol had arrived a number of Club



Collaroy members arrive in Perth, WA for the 1958 Australian Championships. L to R: Barry Woodley, Peter Lane, Alan Wright, Barry Robinson, Ian Wallis, Gordon McNaughton, Roger Twight, Lionel Skewes.

members including Boat Captain Ken Hyde, Ray Paton and John Adams had donned rubber flippers and had a swim in a surf that seemed to be increasing in intensity with every minute and from which they could not see the beach. 72 By the time the patrol, captained by Gordon 'Locho' Johnson, arrived on the beach shortly before 8.30am, Dick Twight had already assessed the situation and as Club Captain had closed the beach. Twight was certain that once the tide started to turn there would be a strong inshore drift coming from the direction of South Narrabeen. This 'side sweep' would then wash into the run out beside the baths which was heading in the direction of Long Reef and out to sea. In the history of surf bathing to that time,

the closure of a beach was strictly enforced. No one was permitted to enter the surf, including surf board riders. Around 9am a group of South Narrabeen SLSC members arrived at Collaroy. Having been at their own beach earlier in the morning they had found the surf too enormous to even consider entering. These men were amongst the best surf swimmers in Australia and had a swag of



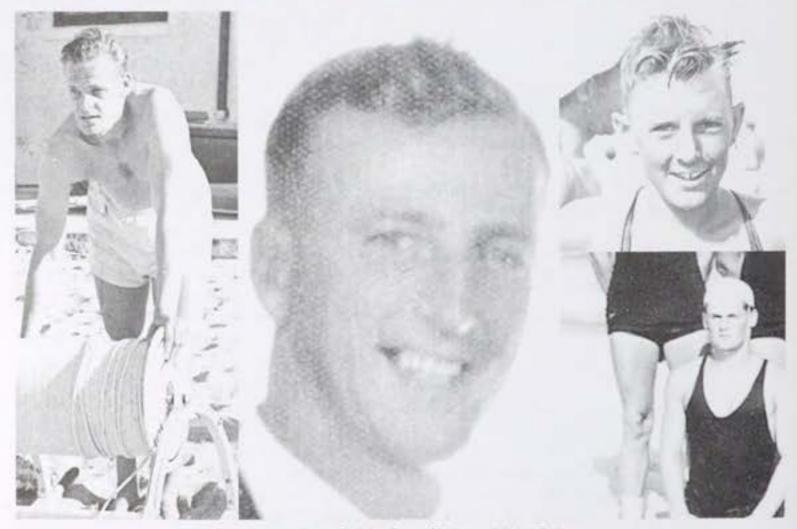
Carnival program for the 1956 Metropolitan Championships.

representative honours and championship medals between them. Seeing the conditions as a valuable training environment, as well as a challenge, they decided to head to Collaroy. Local lore held that when North Narrabeen and South Narrabeen were closed because of large seas, an experienced swimmer could get out in the relatively sheltered southern corner at Collaroy. Upon arriving at Collaroy the South Narrabeen lifesavers saw a discernible difference in the surf, confirming their beliefs.

On reaching Collaroy the South Narrabeen lifesavers came across Johnson's patrol, which was sitting on the beach. Both parties were known to the other being mostly old school mates and mixing in the same social circles in the district. Johnson informed the South Narrabeen lifesavers that the beach was closed. There followed some good natured teasing of the Collaroy lifesavers and their apparent fear of the conditions. Collaroy members had always lived with the jibes by their northern neighbours about 'Lake Collaroy' or 'Coward's Corner', and their inability to handle a big surf. Johnson reiterated his warning that the conditions were dangerous and that the party should not enter the water. His warnings were ignored.

Amongst the group of South Narrabeen lifesavers, however, was one young man who was not as confident as the rest that Lake Collaroy held no dangers. John McKillop was a 20 year old clerk from Dover Heights who had only recently gained his Bronze Medallion. While quite a good swimmer he did not have the surf awareness skills of his comrades. After the South Narrabeen lifesavers disregarded Johnson's warning and proceeded to the water's edge, McKillop expressed concern about his ability to handle the surf and suggested that he might not enter the water. The conditions were far more turbulent at that stage than earlier in the morning when the Collaroy members had ventured out. McKillop was called a 'piker' for not wanting to enter the surf and this coercion continued until he finally bowed to peer pressure and followed his club mates into the surf.

As Twight had predicted the changing tide greatly complicated the surf conditions on the beach and the inshore drift from South Narrabeen moved south towards Collaroy — slowly at



Dick Twight, Norm Twight, Peter Clarke and John Forbes.

first but building to a speed later estimated to be at least 15 knots. By this time the South Narrabeen swimmers were over 200 yards out to sea and in two groups. To the south of the club house were John McKillop and another member of the party Dunlop Ferguson. To the north and near the pipe in far heavier conditions were the rest of the South Narrabeen members. McKillop and Ferguson were caught by the inshore drift and were washed into the rip in the very southern corner of the beach. They found themselves quickly being drawn out to sea. At the same time the wave height began to increase dramatically with close sets of plunging waves consistently exceeding 15 feet and breaking quite some distance from the beach. While this was not necessarily a problem for experienced swimmers, McKillop was tiring and started to express concerns to Ferguson about his ability to return to shore. Soon after he signalled to shore that he required assistance.

With the easterly winds blowing the tops off breaking waves and shrouding the beach in a thick sea mist Johnson's patrol had found it difficult to keep track of the swimmers. They became aware, however, that one or more of the swimmers were in difficulty in the southern corner. Johnson believed he had no choice but to send out his beltman to investigate. Like most Collaroy members, however, the beltman had little experience in such atrocious conditions and did not get very far before he conceded his defeat by making the haul-in signal. No one else in the patrol believed they had a better chance of reaching the swimmers in difficulties.

It was at this moment that John 'Cod' Forbes, one of South Narrabeen's greatest club men and a champion belt swimmer, arrived at Collaroy after being informed that his mates had headed down the beach. Forbes heard what he considered to be unbridled panic in the voices of Johnson's patrol as they argued on the best course of action. 73 No one, it appears, considered returning to the Club house and informing Club Captain Twight of the situation. Upon being

briefed on the situation, Forbes donned the belt and proceeded to sea.

Diving into the run out Forbes made relatively good progress through the mountainous shore break. Upon getting beyond the breakers he had a slightly better idea of the situation. Ferguson was still with McKillop who was near exhaustion, having battled against some large waves and tired himself resisting the rip. Forbes secured McKillop and then instructed Ferguson to make his way to shore. The pickup point was near the baths and about 200 yards out to sea. At this stage McKillop was conscious, coherent and embarrassed about having to be

rescued. He informed Forbes 'I guess I'm not going to be a lifesaver'.74

Given the poor visibility, Johnson's patrol had difficulty registering Forbes' haul in signal but eventually it was spotted and the haul-in through the treacherous surf commenced. Given the conditions Forbes was aware that the haul-in would not be routine. Unfortunately the line from the beach had to skirt the rocks near the end of the pool. The line got caught underneath this outcrop and so started to pull Forbes and McKillop underwater. With Johnson's patrol rarely in visual contact and continuing to haul-in, Forbes was left with no choice but to pull the emergency pin on his Ross belt and get himself and his patient back to the surface. Upon regaining the surface the two men were now in the middle of the shore break being buffeted by waves which in their larger sets were now well over 15 feet in height. Once again the wave height itself was not necessarily a problem but the waves were tightly bunched together giving swimmer and patient little time to recover after each wave. Upon resurfacing the two men were forced to endure a set of three such waves.

Having been washed back out to sea, Forbes could do little except support his patient. He was aware, however, that McKillop's breathing and general condition were deteriorating. At this moment they were rejoined by Ferguson, who had tried but failed to reach shore. While still able to support himself, Ferguson was becoming increasingly hysterical, causing Forbes some concern that he may soon have to attempt to manage two exhausted swimmers. Forbes had no choice but to wait for another beltman to be sent out.

Back on the beach Johnson's patrol did not immediately realise that Forbes had slipped the belt. The dragging of the line through the rocks and the weight of seaweed on it gave the impression to the linesmen that they were still pulling in a beltman and patient. It was only after the belt managed to clear the rocks near the end of the baths that Johnson realised that Forbes had slipped the belt. Upon realising that Forbes was now also missing, Johnson finally ran to the club house and alerted Dick Twight to the situation. Twight, Ray Barker, Hector McDonald and a number of other members came onto the beach. As they ran towards the water's edge Twight saw the patrol reel remade and ready for action but could see no one in the water thanks to the mist and large waves. Certain that there was no one on the beach who was a sufficiently experienced surf swimmer to tackle the conditions, Twight decided to relinquish the captaincy and place Vice-Captain Barker in charge of the rescue. 'I'm your swimmer, you're in charge', he informed Barker.

Twight undressed and donned the belt. As he prepared to enter the water, however, he was stopped by Barker. Barker was still attempting to assess the situation and saw no merit in sending out another beltman when the situation was so confused. Barker also knew that there was probably no one else on the beach other than Twight who could haul out a belt in the conditions and so he may be needed when the situation became clearer. 'I'm not sure what's happening Dick. I'm not letting you out there' he told Twight. Twight then noticed his younger brother Norm on the beach. Norm Twight was the current Club belt champion and a permanent lifesaver on Manly Beach. Twight was sure his brother could handle the conditions. Upon being informed of Norm Twight's presence on the beach, Barker allowed Twight to enter the surf, without the belt, to gain a better appreciation of the situation.

Twight made good speed through the shore break and soon saw the three heads of Forbes, McKillop and Ferguson. Ferguson was now very distressed. Upon reaching them Forbes asked if Twight was wearing a belt, but Twight did not respond. Instead he gave a prearranged signal to the beach which saw Norm Twight don the belt and proceed to sea. By this stage the conditions had deteriorated further.

Twight decided to secure Ferguson and draw him away from McKillop and Forbes. He reasoned that Ferguson's distress was not helping Forbes calm his patient. Knowing that the tide was changing but that the only point he could possibly try to bring a patient ashore was near the storm water pipe, Twight headed north in a desperate race to beat the body of water surging southward from South Narrabeen. In an effort to increase their speed and stop Ferguson wasting energy screaming, Twight made Ferguson work. Ferguson, however, tired quickly and with the inshore drift's speed increasing, Twight had difficulty fighting it while at the same time keeping a 16 stone man afloat.

Both groups were also buffeted by more large sets of waves and McKillop's condition continued to deteriorate. With still no sign of a beltman, Forbes decided he had no choice but to take his patient out to sea and out of the shore break. With McKillop exhausted and himself tiring, Forbes got his patient to hold on to his legs so his arms were free to swim with.

Still attempting to reach shore, Dick Twight saw his brother Norm battling through the surf. Ferguson started to yell: 'Over here Normie' but was silenced by Twight and reminded that with McKillop and Forbes further out to sea Norm Twight's duties lay elsewhere. After some difficulty Norm Twight finally located McKillop and Forbes whereupon the transfer of the patient to the beltman was accomplished. Upon securing McKillop, Twight, like Forbes earlier, soon realised that the trip back to shore would be hazardous. While McKillop was still conscious and spoke to Twight he was exhausted and would be of little assistance. With Forbes to assist, however, there was still hope of successfully completing the rescue.

Somehow Twight's haul-in signal was seen and he, McKillop and Forbes began to return to shore. Without a clear line of vision the task of hauling Twight and his patient in was very difficult. Back on the beach Johnson and his patrol had little idea of when they should be pulling hard and when they should be slackening off to keep Twight and his patient above water. Out in the water Twight was being constantly pulled under water and the return of another set of large waves saw Twight lose McKillop on three occasions, before, with the help of Forbes, he was re-secured.

Suddenly a huge plunging wave in excess of 25 feet lurched up in front of them. Unable to respond the three men were hit by its full force. Twight was dragged to the bottom as McKillop was wrenched from his grasp. Twight now had his own battle for survival. His attempts to resurface were prevented by his line which kept him pinned to the bottom. With no recourse he moved to slip the belt by releasing the safety pin. The pin, however, would not budge. The soft metal which made up the pins on the early Ross belts had become bent and would not release. For what seemed an eternity Twight wrestled with the bent pin. Finally it gave, releasing the belt and allowing him to get back to the surface.

While Norm Twight had been fighting for his own life, Forbes had continued the struggle to save McKillop. Miraculously he once again located McKillop in the boiling foam but could only grab him by the costume before another large wave hit them both and sucked them under, the turbulence tearing McKillop once more from grasp. On Twight's resurfacing he saw

Forbes scouring the water, but no sign of McKillop.

Further to the north Dick Twight and Dunlop Ferguson had been struck by the same huge wave which had separated Norm Twight from McKillop. Dick Twight had managed to secure his patient before they were dashed against the bottom. Upon resurfacing Twight realised that he had been beaten by the tide and could not contend with the inshore drift which was far too strong. He and Ferguson began to be pulled south towards the baths.

With the safest method of returning his patient to shore now lost to him, Twight had few options. Ferguson asked him to land them on the rocks, but with the conditions as they were Twight refused stating that it was too dangerous. Hoping that his brother had secured McKillop and been returned to shore, Twight attempted to signal to shore that assistance was

required. The signal, however, was not seen.

Back on the beach it was now nearly half an hour since Dick Twight had entered the water and not much less since Norm Twight had followed him. No sighting of both men had been made for some time. With no information, Barker got another reel from the club house with the intention of sending out another beltman. He was still faced with the problem, however, that there was no one on the beach who could handle the conditions, let alone drag a belt through them. Soon after, three of the South Narrabeen swimmers finally made shore. Barker explained his dilemma and Peter Clark (a former Collaroy member) volunteered to don the belt and re-enter the surf.

Clark managed to find Twight and Ferguson but was emotionally distressed. Through tears he asked Twight to take the belt and secure the patient as he was not confident that he could get back to the beach with a patient in such conditions. Twight responded: 'I can't take him in Peter. I've got to get back on that beach. I'm Captain of the bloody club'. Eventually Clark agreed to take Ferguson back to shore in the belt and with that Twight headed for the rocks to the south of the baths. While severely lacerated by his encounter there, Twight made

it ashore and proceeded back towards the beach.

Now on the beach Twight saw Max Evans and asked what was happening. Evans replied that no one knew and that, other than Clark heading out, no one had been seen for an hour since Norm Twight entered the water. Informing Clark's reel and linesmen to haul in, Twight's main concern remained Forbes, McKillop and his brother. Though exhausted he decided that he had no recourse but to re-enter the water. Evans then suggested that Twight take out one of the 16 foot hollow boards. While the boards were not used for rescues because they were too long and difficult to hold onto, their buoyancy in the conditions and ability to get through a heavy surf would be useful. A board was grabbed from the club house minus the plug, the hole being filled with seaweed. Twight then paddled out in the rip.

On his way out he saw Clark and Ferguson being hauled in. He waved to them and they waved back, Twight's presence in the water seemingly calming them. Twight's main aim was to find Forbes, McKillop and his brother. Back on the beach Ray Barker was still no better informed about the situation and deeply concerned about the fate of Norm Twight and Forbes. Upon sighting Clark and Ferguson, he decided to get every one out of the water. With visibility

still poor, he took a pair of signal flags to the headland and gave the 'all clear, return to shore' signal.

Twight and Forbes were still searching for McKillop when they saw the flag signal. With both men having been in the water for over an hour, near exhaustion and with no sign of McKillop, they headed for shore. Dick Twight also saw Barker's signal but assumed that his brother had secured both Forbes and McKillop. He praised God and caught a large wave from which he lost the board but safely swam to shore. Upon reaching the shore he saw Clark and Ferguson safely on the beach and Norm Twight and Forbes walking from the water, heads bowed and completely dejected. It was only then that Dick Twight and the others on the beach

realised that John McKillop was still in the surf.

With Dick Twight back on the beach Barker relinquished control. To one side a violent argument had broken out between the South Narrabeen members when Forbes was told that McKillop had been coerced to enter the water. Twight had been fully dressed when first alerted to the danger and so was standing about in his underpants. A woman on the beach now complained about the attire of the Club Captain forcing him to return to the club house and secure some costumes. Twight then proceeded to ask his brother and South Narrabeen champion John Clark to take a board out. With little hope now held for McKillop they were told that their aim was body recovery. Norm Twight, exhausted after an hour in the surf and unaware of his brother's efforts, snapped 'Why doesn't he [Dick] take one out!' within earshot of a journalist who had somehow been made aware of the rescue. Fortunately there were individuals near Twight and the journalist who pointed out his brother's efforts.

As Norm Twight and Clark entered the water, Dick Twight was approached by Club President Chic Proctor. Proctor informed Twight that he had gathered together the Senior A boat crew and that he wanted to take a boat out. Twight responded: 'You're not taking the boat out Chic. As soon as you put your nose out there we will have to rescue you'. Proctor, however, stated that he felt he would have to defy Twight because he felt it was 'owed to the family of



A rare photo showing Collaroy members performing the Schaeffer resuscitation method on a female patient following an actual rescue.

the kid'. Now in his 50s Proctor brought the boat onto the beach and prepared to take it out through the rip in the southern corner.75 Just as they were passing the end of the baths the boat was swamped leaving Proctor and the Senior A crew in the water, and being taken out to sea. South Narrabeen swimmer Ian Turner donned the belt and headed out after the surf boat. Upon reaching it, the boat and crew were dragged back to the beach. Undeterred Proctor had the boat loaded on a trailer to take it around to the Basin from where it was hoped they might be able to navigate the shore break. Twight assigned John Adams and Eric Gill, two strong swimmers, to escort the crew in case of difficulties.76 The boat managed to get out in the heavy conditions but did not locate McKillop. Later that afternoon Twight also took the boat out to search but also had no success.

With no sight of McKillop by nightfall it was presumed that he had drowned and this scenario was confirmed several weeks later when Roger Boyle, while at the beach for boat training, found human skeletal remains



A photo of the rescue of a South Australian competitor during the surf teams race at the 1955 Interstate titles, North Steyne.

The rescue was performed by Dick Twight (far left) who had been competing for NSW at the time.

caught in rock crevices beside the pool. 77 Another life had been lost to the supposedly sedate 'Lake Collaroy'.

The Saturday following the tragedy the Metropolitan Championships went ahead with the 34 Clubs of the Sydney Branch represented. With the holding of the Metropolitans the Club seemed to regain the full support of the local business community which had wavered since the Depression years. Thirty three local businesses paid to advertise in the carnival program and a number used the advertisement to express their support for the Club. Arthur Tollant, proprietor of the 'Ocean View Milk Bar' noted that he was 'Right Behind the Surf Club' both geographically and morally. Keith Haynes, the proprietor of the 'Trade Winds Milk Bar' wished Collaroy 'every success'. The advertisements show that in the 1950s Collaroy remained very much a community catering to tourists as much as local residents. While much had changed, some things had remained the same, including Joe Cornwell's butchery. Cornwell also continued to know where a person could put a starting price bet on a race, though he increasingly faced stiff competition from a young member of the Surf Club.

Although competitively the Club had limited success (Eric Gill sixth in the Open Surf and Dick Twight third in the Belt) overall the Championships were a triumph. A letter from the Board of Examiners remarked: 'The organisation on the day was something to remember and reflects great credit on the Organiser and his helpers. May we also offer you our sincere thanks for the wonderful hospitality shown us on the day'. A senior representative of Qantas Empire Airways also spoke approvingly of the comments received by two visiting Americans who were 'impressed not only by the carnival spectacle but also the friendliness of the officials they met.

We are convinced a better occasion could not have been chosen to demonstrate to them our great national sport'. To add icing to the cake the Club made a profit of £275.

The organisational experience gained by staging the Metropolitans proved very useful later in the year when the Club was given the honour of hosting an international surf carnival as part of the celebrations surrounding the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. The First International Test Carnival was held at Maroubra on Saturday 8 December 1956, with the Second Test held at Collaroy the following day. The carnival consisted of competition by national teams as well as open events for local clubs. Teams from New Zealand, South Africa, Ceylon, Great Britain and Hawaii (before it gained statehood in 1959) were represented. Hector McDonald had the privilege of being Carnival Referee, the first Collaroy member to attain such an honour.

Upon the arrival of the national teams in Australia each was appointed a liaison officer to assist the team with their stay. In the case of South Africa Dick Twight was appointed and joined the South Africans in Melbourne for the first leg of their visit. The South Africans had an eight man team captained by R. Fagan and managed by G.P. Botha. In Melbourne Twight trained the South Africans in Australian techniques to prepare them for competition. The team found the cool water temperature of Victorian beaches most unpleasant. More pleasant was the visit to a day of the Olympic Games and a meeting with surfing legend Duke Kahanamoku. Soon the team was given a 'Kombibus' by the Association and had a relaxing drive from Melbourne to Sydney with a number of official engagements along the way.<sup>79</sup>

Once in Sydney the team was accommodated at the North Head army barracks and continued their preparations for the international tests. While the South Africans had no delusions about their ability to beat the Australians their aim was to beat their international rugby union opponents, the New Zealanders.

The South Africans had little success against the New Zealanders at Maroubra, but were determined to beat them in the R&R event at Collaroy. With one of their number injured, permission was sought and gained for Twight to compete for the team as a linesman.



National teams parade at the International Test carnival at Collaroy 1956. Note Dick Twight marching in the South African team.



Spectators seek every vantage point to watch events at the Test carnival.

Unfortunately for the South Africans, Twight seemed to have an uncanny ability to gauge a nearby danger even in the thick of competition. On a previous occasion he had been competing in a belt race, when he noticed a boat in the surf boat race go 'down the mine'. While still racing he counted that not all the members of the crew had surfaced and so proceeded to discontinue the race and recover the missing rowers. On this occasion, Twight spotted from the corner of his eye a small child who was perilously close to the water's edge and unsupervised. Certain she would soon be struck by a wave and in trouble Twight prepared himself to drop the line and retrieve the girl with the commensurate penalty to his team. Just as he was about to relinquish the line a bystander saw the girl and retrieved her. Unfortunately the R&R judge also noticed that Twight was not looking to his line and patient and so docked him accordingly. The penalty was enough to remove the South Africans from second place and place them behind the New Zealanders. In other results Tad Devine, son of the American comedian Andy Devine, won the belt race while Collaroy finished fifth in the March Past. The carnivals also saw the running of an 'Individual Medley Race' involving a swim, board and ski leg - the ironman event was starting to emerge. With 8,000 spectators the carnival once again proved financially lucrative to the club.

On the departure of the South Africans, Twight received several letters of thanks from members of the team. Manager Botha noted of Twight and wife Betty: 'We say goodbye to two people, who have become in six short weeks, very dear and close friends'. Botha also remarked: 'Your prestige Dick amongst your own lifesaving circle is high, among us it is "fabbo".'

While not represented as a national team at the International Carnival, a team of American professional lifeguards were also in Australia during 1956 and conducted a number of demonstrations. As well as bringing the new Malibu style surf board the Americans brought with them the cornerstone of their surf life saving equipment, an apparatus which had long since been discarded by Australian surf clubs, the torpedo buoy.

The original Australian torpedo buoys dated back to the early days of the Bronte club and were designed by surf boat pioneer Walter Biddel. Of metal construction, they died out when the line and reel became the standard piece of Australian lifesaving equipment. On the West Coast of the United States where a professional rather than voluntary surf lifesaving service had grown, a different version of the same principle had proved very useful. Because American life guards did not have sufficient colleagues to utilise a line and reel, a rubber torpedo tube was used. A lifesaver did not have to worry about trying to drag a line through a heavy surf and the buoy provided the patient with an immediate source of flotation. The American lifesaving technique also relied on the rescuer taking their patient to sea to be picked up by craft rather than attempting the often dangerous task of renegotiating the shore break.

At the conclusion of the Second International Test, Carnival Referee Hector McDonald was presented with a torpedo buoy by the Americans. From the few brief demonstrations he had seen, McDonald was convinced of their usefulness. He was certain that if there had been a torpedo buoy on Collaroy Beach on the day of the McKillop drowning, the young lifesaver would have been saved because he would have floated back to the surface courtesy of the torpedo buoy and his rescuers would have had less trouble getting out to sea as they did with

a belt.

He gave the torpedo buoy to the Gear Improvement Committee of Sydney Branch to conduct appraisal tests. Shortly after he was informed that the committee saw no practical use in the torpedo buoy. Surprised, he approached those members of the Committee who had supposedly tested the device, and found that none of them had even seen it, let alone tested it.81

Outraged, McDonald got the torpedo buoy back, determined to prove the usefulness of the device. On Tuesday 2 July 1957, McDonald had Bill Abbott and Dick Twight trial the device in a big surf at Bilgola Beach. In conditions which were described as 'strenuous' with waves over 12 feet, the two Collarov members conducted a number of tests. They found they had 'no trouble getting under the waves and out 200 yards' and in a race against a belt swimmer, the swimmer using the torpedo buoy got through the break and the 200 yards to the patient, two and a half minutes sooner than the beltman. They also found that if they were caught by a wave they came to the surface much more quickly. So strenuous were the two in their testing, a number of spectators gathered and an ambulance was called in the belief that a real rescue was in progress. In concluding their report Twight and Abbott noted: 'It is our opinion that this buoy has many uses for surf rescue work and feel that had this apparatus been available at the recent Collaroy drowning then possibly a tragedy may have been averted'.82

The report was submitted to Sydney Branch but was sat on for over a year, before McDonald finally succeeded in having the report distributed to members of the Branch Gear Improvement Committee. 83 Soon after Twight and Abbott's report finally reached the Gear Improvement Committee, Hector McDonald was elevated to Branch Superintendent, once again a first for a Collaroy member. With the power to now back his convictions, McDonald pushed for the adoption of the torpedo buoy. In this effort he was supported by the Avalon Lions Club which decided it would raise the necessary money to make the buoys and so raffled a car. With the money now available rubber manufacturer Dunlop was asked to make the first Australian made rubber torpedo buoy.84 In the interim the petroleum company 'Ampol'

secured a number of American torpedo buovs.

The reason why McDonald encountered so much opposition to the torpedo buoy is difficult to understand, given its overwhelming advantages. One view which was expressed to McDonald was the fear that Australian surf life saving would lose its position of international preeminence if it started to adopt American methods. American methods of course were in direct contradiction to Australian methods with their reliance on professional life guards. Interestingly 1956 saw the Warringah Council reintroduce not 'permanent lifesavers' but 'lifeguards' back to many of its beaches, including Collaroy. Many feared the thin edge of a professional wedge which would spell the end of the movement. Of course by the late 1950s the introduction of television had only furthered the Americanisation of Australian society which had begun during the Pacific War. By the late 1950s the Malibu boards which the Americans had brought to Australia in 1956 were everywhere and changing Australian beach culture with what would be seen as deleterious effects for the surf life saving movement as evidenced in the following chapter. It seems quite plausible, therefore, that the attempts to subvert the torpedo buoy were an attempt to protect the distinct nature of Australian surf life saving.

In the 1950s another development in surf life saving was the wholesale acceptance of the tuck sterned surf boat. The tuck stern first made its appearance against the reliable double enders in the early postwar years. The brainchild of a NSW Central Coast boat builder the tuck stern made its first appearance with the Swansea-Belmont Club in the late 1940s. As the 1950s progressed the design of the tuck sterns improved and many clubs saw the advantages of their extra length and lighter frames.

As their superiority became more and more evident, more and more clubs made the switch. Collaroy crews, still using the old double enders, would pray that they would not draw a tuck in their heat because it usually meant that they were out of the running. With the Club's rowers convinced of their advantages they began to petition the executive to purchase such a boat. So continuously did Tom Whelan sing the praises of the new style boats he gained the

nickname 'Tuck'

Needing every available pound to dedicate to the new club house it became obvious that the Club would have to once more rely on the generosity once more of a sponsor. The 1953/54

The Club's fifth Patron, Les Hill, pictured with his son, Sinclair, the future grazier and world renowned polo player.

Annual Report noted that the 'Committee's efforts to obtain a sponsor for a much-needed new surf boat have not been entirely unsuccessful to date, and we have great hopes that the new season will see a 'tuck' on Collaroy Beach'. At the ensuing AGM L.J. Hill, a prominent grazier and supporter of the Club, who had replaced Doug Graham as patron the year before, was himself replaced. Keith McWilliam became the Club's new patron and shortly afterwards it was announced that McWilliam's Wines would be buying Collaroy its first tuck stern.

Keith McWilliam was born in Junee in 1908 into a wine growing family. His father had left his family's vineyard in Corowa at the age of 13 and later established his own vinyard at Junee. In 1913 the family moved its operations to Griffith to take advantage of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme. Into the Great War the family business was a very small affair concentrating on fortified wines. A depot was purchased at Brookvale in the early 1920s as a distribution point for the Sydney market and in 1925, McWilliam, who had just finished his education at Sydney Grammar, was put in charge of the depot with the aim of



Keith McWilliam.

more aggressively marketing the company's product in Sydney. He purchased a home in Seaforth and married wife Ruby in 1930.

As noted the McWilliam's company were strong supporters of the surf life saving movement during the 1930s and possibly even earlier with regard to the 1923 Collaroy boat. McWilliam was not a member of a surf life saving club, though he was a member of the old Manly Surf Club which continued into the 1930s. By 1936 the cost of providing the shark spotter plane service was over £3000 a year. Present at the 1946 boat rescue, an association between the company and the Club began, though initially there was little indication on either side that such support would be enduring. With the arrival of the first Braemar McWilliam accepted the position of Club Vice Patron.

Collaroy's first tuck stern surf boat was christened McWilliam's Wines and appeared at the beginning of the 1954/55 season. The arrival of the new boat saw a phenomenal increase in interest in surf boats from club members and resulted in improved performances in inter-club carnivals by both senior and junior crews. The senior crew

swept by Dick Twight reached the final of the State Championships the following season and except for a collision with Caves Beach on the way home would have filled a place. Boat captain Ken Hyde noted in the 1955/56 Annual Report that he was hopeful that the current batch of rowers would be 'able to reach the standard of the men before them and bear the emblem of the Laurel Wreaths'. The *Bendix* double ender was retained by the Club as a training boat.

Not everyone, however, was convinced that the tuck stern boat was the way of the future and that it just might be a passing fad. Bill Abbott was sure the tucks would not last because they filled with water much more easily than the double enders and their lightness meant that on a wave they did not run as true as the heavy double enders. This fact was highlighted later on the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald* when *McWilliam's Wines* swept by Tom Whelan collided with another boat during a carnival. At the time Boat Captain Ken Hyde had some concerns that McWilliam's might not be interested in buying another boat but the Club received word from Keith McWilliam to the effect that the publicity had paid for the boat and would probably pay for more in the future. At the beginning of the 1957/58 season another tuck stern of the 'very latest and revolutionary type' was rowed from Bill Barnett's McMahons Point boatshed to Collaroy. The new moulded ply boat cost £485 and was christened by Olympian Lorraine Crapp. This christening marked the last occasion on which a bottle of champagne was broken over the bow of the boat after Miss Crapp's efforts to break the bottle left the boat dented. In future the Champagne would be poured over the bow.

Further evidence that the tuck stern could meet the standards set by the old double enders came in the 1958/59 season when the new boats were involved in two very serious rescues in treacherous conditions. Collaroy's proud record in surf boat rescues was continued.

The first rescue came very early in the season. By the late 1950s the consumption of alcohol in the club continued to be banned. While they could no longer buy beer from the Surf Club, members would still congregate on the stairs of the club house on Sunday evenings for



The 'tuck stern' heralded a new era for surf boats. Pictured at Queenscliff are, L to R: Peter 'Legs' Lane, Tom Whelan, Ian Rylands, Peter Montgomery, John 'Vengo' Adams.



A mishap brings some good publicity for the Club's sponsor. - Page 1, Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday, 4/1/55.



Lorraine Crapp christens the club's second 'tuck stem', McWilliam's Wines II, 1957.

a chat and a beer. The 'Plonk Drinkers Association' or the 'Stair Drinkers Club' or the 'Sunday Night Sippers' were a regular feature of the Club into the 1960s.

On one of the first Sunday afternoons of the season those club members who had finished their patrol were retiring to the stairs for sippers when the police arrived with a distraught woman. Her father and husband had gone fishing that morning but had not returned by their due time of midday. Moving to the verandah the members looked out into the heavy surf with binoculars. Just off the bombora they could make out a moored runabout. Given their close proximity to the bombora it was rationalised the boat was in difficulties and so a crew consisting of several members of the Club's A Crew took to the sea in McWilliam's Wines which was being used for the first time since extensive repairs and a soaking in the lake.

In the runabout the two men aboard firmly believed they were going to die. Earlier that day they had moored off Long Reef unaware they were close to a bombora. When it came time to move, however, the outboard motor would not respond and they had spent the afternoon trapped, hoping another vessel might pass them. With night fall coming and the bombora coming into action with the changing tide, they saw no possible avenue of escape. They said their goodbyes.

It was to these two men sitting quietly waiting death that the surf boat appeared. They were transferred into the surf boat and then questions turned to the disposition of the runabout. The two men claimed it was the lifesavers' if they wanted it. Not really believing the men to be seriously giving away the boat, the lifesavers, nonetheless decided that they would attempt to salvage it. The motor was removed and placed in the surf boat, a line connected, and the two boats headed for shore.

Sweep Tom Whelan had considered getting in at Fishermen's Beach but the conditions were in his opinion too dangerous. The only course of action was to get back in at Collaroy. Upon nearing the shore break it was decided that Ken Hyde would stay with the runabout and attempt to row it in. With Hyde alighted and the runabout adrift, Whelan put the surf boat on



Sunday night sippers. L to R: Darryl Ford, Gordon 'Locko' Johnson, Neville Hynds, John Dolman, John Stutsel, Bruce Bartlett, Tony Haworth, John Adam, Eddie Diggins, Gary O'Connell.

a huge wave he hoped would get them all the way to shore. As the boat shot down the face of the wave with two passengers and an outboard motor, one of the men who had been under Whelan's legs slid down the boat, knocking out a bung which sent a jet of water into Whelan's face, making an already difficult job that much more so. The surf boat made the beach and unloaded the men and the engine before proceeding back out to sea with Mick Beasley as a passenger. Beasley climbed aboard the runabout and the surf boat returned to shore.

It was decided that Whelan would return to the beach and talk the runabout in via the Club's public address system. Gauging the conditions Whelan decided that the best break was just off the pipe (which in the 1950s had become known as 'Bristow's pipe'). A notorious strip of surf usually, Hyde and Beasley were not sure if Whelan had gone mad and was trying to kill them. Following orders however they positioned the boat off the pipe and began to make for shore. Just over 50 yards from safety they were struck by a wave which swamped them. It was close enough to the beach, however, for the runabout to be retrieved.

Upon bringing it to shore the owners continued to insist that they never wanted to see the boat again and that the lifesavers could keep it. With that the two men once again thanked the crew and said they would return the following weekend. Having heard such promises before the commitment of the rescued men was taken lightly but the following Sunday they

reappeared at the club house and thanked the life savers with a nine gallon keg.87

The last major rescue of the decade, which also clearly demonstrated the suitability of the tuck stern in severe conditions, occurred on Sunday 12 April 1959. At about 9.30am that morning, Les Hegarty (51 and a resident of Potts Point) and Stanley Woods (53 and a resident of East Sydney) set off from Brooklyn in a 20ft half cabin cruiser bound for Sydney Harbour. Woods, a marine engineer, had been engaged by Hegarty to make some adjustments to the engine of the boat and escort it to the boat's new mooring at Double Bay. Upon exiting Broken Bay the cruiser made good progress down the coast, keeping about two miles out to sea. By about 3.30pm, however, the men realised that they were disoriented. With neither man

familiar with the coastline of the Northern Beaches and conditions rainy and overcast they were unsure of how far down the coast they had travelled. Woods saw the water tank on top of Collaroy Plateau and mistakenly identified it as a water tower at Dover Heights in the Eastern Suburbs. If such was the case they had missed the entrance to Sydney Harbour. The men decided to head closer to shore in an attempt to gain their bearings.

While the seas had been moderate the conditions were changing. More unfortunate for Woods and Hegarty was the fact their charted course to the coast was through the bombora off Long Reef which they were unaware of. On the Long Reef headland, David Reid a PMG technician from Stella St, Collaroy Plateau, had seen the boat turn towards shore and head

straight for the bombora. Surprised by the course of the boat he stayed to watch.

Miraculously the cruiser cleared the bombora but just as they appeared safe a 20 foot wave reared up behind the boat and broke into the back of it, ripping the half cabin from the hull and swamping the vessel. Woods was trapped in the sinking half cabin but managed to escape though he lost his trousers and false teeth. Hegarty, while badly splintered by snapping wood, was thrown clear and managed to gain a hold of some of the wreckage.

Back on shore Reid saw the two men in the water and ran to the Golf Club from where he contacted the Collaroy Police. Sergeant Wilson and Constable Gardner drove to Long Reef and met Reid. Police launch Nemesis was called as was the Volunteer Coastal Patrol but it was soon obvious that neither would reach the men in time to save them. The police then contacted

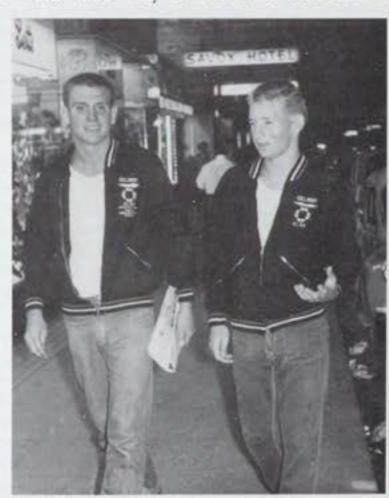
Dick Twight who made his way to the Surf Club.

Word of the accident, however, had already reached the Surf Club, where a group of members were engaged in a large game of cards. The only person present with any sweeping experience was 20 year old Darryll Ford. Ford had been given the opportunity from time to time to sweep the old *Bendix* double ender. He put together a scratch crew of relatively inexperienced rowers, consisting of John Statsel 23, Arthur Partridge 18, Barry Woodley 18 and Frank Molenar 18. They then proceeded to battle their way towards the bombora in

McWilliam's Wines II. Finding the boat already gone by the time he reached the club house, Twight loaded a reel and a surf board into the back of his ute and proceeded to Long Reef.

In the surf boat Ford was concerned by the size of the swell. His rowers started to see his concern in his face and heard his whispered expletives but Ford insisted that everything was 'OK' - at the same time insisting that they not turn around. Going up the face of one huge wave near the inner bombora took six strokes before they had passed through it. Upon entering 'The Kick' between the 'Little' and 'Big Bommie', Ford found a sea full of white water. Looking back to shore he also saw that the headland was full of interested spectators. This fact rather than the raging surf scared him more. He did not want to make a mistake in front of such a large audience.89

With the boat having completely broken up Ford could not see anyone. Placing his and his crews safety to one side, he decided to 'sneak over the bombora'. Within the bombora the surf boat was buffeted by some large waves but Ford was keeping the boat



Barry Woodley (left) and 'Frizz' McNaughton show the passing of the Club blazer in favour of more casual jackets, Perth 1958.



Club members parade in front of Bill Abbott's truck in Martin Place during the opening of Surf Week, 1959. L to R: Jim Hayter, Tony Regan, Pat Boyle, Peter Hayley, Joe Luprica, Ian Wallace, Ian Rylands, Ross Bray, Norm Headford, Peter Vaubell, Arthur Fletcher, Noel Debien, John Ison, Kel Strathmore, Dave Boyle, Mick Chapman, Mal Ticehurst, Mick Beasley.



A social gathering of club members, late 1950s.

upright. Soon after it was surrounded by debris and Ford spotted the two men surrounded by sausages and butter. Upon reaching them Partridge jumped into the water to help them aboard. Both men were exhausted and blue in colour after having spent over 90 minutes in the water. They had kept themselves going by talking and joking. Woods later noted to journalists: 'I was certainly glad to see the lifesavers. I could not have lasted much longer. I was tired out and the cushion was nearly waterlogged'. Once the men had been picked up Ford headed out to sea and circumnavigated the bombora to return to the beach.

On shore Twight and Bill Abbott, who had also been summoned, were alarmed that Ford had decided to enter the bombora. All it would take was one wave and there would be an extra five men in the water. Twight grabbed the surf board and decided to paddle out. By the time he intercepted the surf boat it was returning to the beach but the conditions were still treacherous with the surf having grown in size. He was not confident that the surf boat would be able to return to the beach at Collaroy and so, remembering a not dissimilar situation 13 years before, he directed Ford to head for the Basin and Fishermen's Beach. Upon nearing the shore break, Twight instructed Ford to relinquish the sweep and take the surfboard. With the surf still large, Twight managed to get the surf boat back to the beach and the two men were loaded into waiting ambulances for the trip to Manly Hospital. Another two lives had been saved from certain death.

The problem now was to get the boat back to Collaroy Beach. Bill Abbott joined the crew and the boat set off to round the baths. Unfortunately Twight was unable to hold the boat on a wave and it was swamped, forcing the occupants to push the half submerged surf boat back to shore.

Both Woods and Hegarty recovered from their ordeal. In his statement to the police Hegarty noted: 'I consider that it was only through the actions of the Collaroy Surf Club members who came to our rescue that saved the lives of both Woods and myself, and I cannot express my gratitude too much for the assistance they rendered'. <sup>93</sup> In his statement to Police Bill Abbott remarked: 'The members of the Boat-crew were not experienced in this type of work and their actions in taking the boat into rough seas, into which I would have hesitated before going, were worthy of the highest possible commendation'. <sup>94</sup> Constable Gardner in his report of the incident recommended: 'In view of the fact that these members unhesitantly risked their lives in a small surf boat, in a dangerous sea (which had already swamped a sea-worthy launch), perhaps this report might be forwarded to the Commissioner's Office for any recognition that might be considered appropriate'. <sup>95</sup>

The rescue was also retold by former Australian belt champion Tom Meagher in the Bondi Saver. Meagher, who had played an important role in the 1939 Black Sunday rescue at Bondi, concluded:

When one reflects on the facts of the foregoing story and fully takes into consideration all the unwritten details it must be evident to all that this was a truly mighty effort undertaken by lads who fully appreciated the risks they were taking and yet were prepared to 'give it a go' and to put to practical use all the knowledge, skill and cunning they have gathered in the hard school of practical experience. This is surely another case of a 'a call for assistance beyond the normal duties of a surf life saver'. Bondi Club and the whole surf lifesaving movement are very proud of you — you are all a credit to Collaroy Club. 96

The early postwar years marked a difficult period in the history of the Surf Club. Internal rivalry and problems involving the conduct of members had tarnished many of the Club's achievements during the period. Competitively the Club saw a renaissance in its runners and representative honours for Dick Twight but overall the Club had difficulty maintaining and then regaining the fine competitive record of the period from 1943-46. All of these factors had an impact on club membership which deteriorated. In the new club house, however, Collaroy had materially and metaphorically invested in its future. By the end of the 1950s the Club had been reconstructed and there was reason to hope that the future would be bright. The 1960s would prove the truth of such predictions though the passage to the 'golden summers' would still prove turbulent.

## Return of the Golden Summers

Well there's a brand new dance
that they do Down Under
They call this dance the Tumbarumba . . .
Well come on little surfie
do the stomp with me
They're doing it from Avalon
to Waikiki . . .
At Narrabeen and Dee Why, the stompin's great
And if you want to go to Collaroy
don't you be late . . .
Frank Devlin, 'Stomp the Tumbarumba'

In 1960 the 20 surf clubs from Manly to Palm Beach broke away from the Sydney Branch to form the Manly-Warringah Branch of the SLSA. After a number of failed attempts to form a new branch the North Steyne club convened a special meeting of Northern Beaches clubs in June 1959 to argue once again for the formation of a new branch of the SLSA north of the harbour. At a subsequent meeting a majority of the clubs represented voted in favour of the proposal, including Collaroy. A formal application was then sent to the Sydney Branch but was rejected at the council meeting in August. As well as its delegates to the Branch, Collaroy was also a party to the discussions through Branch Superintendent Hector McDonald and Branch Assistant Secretary Ian 'Ring-Ding' Rylands.

In the meantime, however, the mood at Collaroy had changed. Not everyone remained happy with the plan and so it became a subject of debate at the club's AGM held on 16 August. At the meeting there were calls for a motion withdrawing support for the proposal but it was decided to defer the matter to a general meeting of club members in September. At this meeting the motion was put to members and passed by a majority — Collaroy no longer

supported the plan for a north of the harbour branch.

At the AGM of the State Centre in late September the matter was again raised for discussion. Once again Collaroy's interests were represented by Hector McDonald who was a delegate to the State Centre. After 'vigorous debate' permission was granted for the Sydney Branch to be split by a vote of 15 to 12. Affiliation of the new branch was to take effect on

1 May 1960.

In January 1960 the members of the new branch met to elect office bearers. With his club now outside the area, McDonald relinquished his position as Superintendent of Sydney Branch. Despite the fact Collaroy had voted against the branch, McDonald still succeeded in being appointed Superintendent of the new branch and branch delegate to the State Centre. McDonald held these positions for 10 years and eight years respectively. He soon after played a key role in the transition from the Holger-Neilson method of resuscitation to what was then known as 'Expired Air Techniques' or mouth to mouth, mouth to nose resuscitation.

McDonald was also joined as one of two branch delegates to the State Centre by Dick Twight. Twight had held the Club captaincy until the end of the 1956/57 season when he



Group of Club members early 1960. L to R, back row: Laurie Kay, Pat Boyle, Bob Kennerson, Mick Beasley, Noel Debien, Barry Woodley, Ron Halstead, John Ison, Mick Chapman, Brian Jorgensen, Eddie McIver, John Breen, Terry Gibbons; second row: John Stutsell, Jim Hayter, Warwick Ellis; third row: Tom Whelan, Mal Ticehurst, Peter McCurtayne, Terry Haylen, Chris Henley, Ian Wallis, Arthur Partridge, Dave Boyle, Mick Tipping, Brian Stevens, Gordon Johnson; front row: Bill Abbott (nursing Peter Abbott), Bill Goodman, Barry Cripps, Glen Blair, Dick Twight (nursing Jamie Twight), Alan Wright, Paul Walford, Col Batchelor, Trevor Beer.



Members attend John Breen's 21st birthday party in the Club House, 1961. L to R, back row: Tom Pring, John Morgan, Barry Woodley, Rob Senior, John Ison, Peter McCurtayne, Gordon McNaughton, Peter Vaubell; middle: John Bagshaw, Stan Moore, Norm Headford, Ian Rylands, Terry Gibbons, Terry Haylen, John Dolman, Tom Whelan, Gordon Frost, Pat Boyle, John Abbey, Brian Stevens, Eddie McIver, unknown, Rod Shepherd; front: Clem Noble, John Breen.



Hector McDonald.

retired after five years in the job, and at the 1959 AGM he became Club President (replacing Max Evans who had in turn replaced Chic Proctor in 1956). With McDonald and Twight the two branch delegates to State Centre, the Collaroy club was the conduit for the Branch to the upper echelons of the movement, giving it a position of preeminence in the new branch it could have only dreamed of within the old regime. Not everyone was happy with the change, however, and Ian Rylands had to make it clear to all members that 'The Committee wishes that the support and loyalty which was previously engendered to Sydney Branch by Collaroy club be now likewise given to the now established Manly-Warringah Branch'.1

In welcoming the new branch arrangement Club Captain Malcolm Ticehurst (who had replaced Roger Twight in 1958) suggested to members: 'We are at the stage where by this club, you men, can establish this club, as the Premier Club of the Branch. The foundation is there . . . '2 While claiming 80% of the membership should awaken from their complacency, he pointed to the Club's juniors whom he believed were leaving senior members in their wake.

In the 1959/60 season the Club's investment in the future through the junior rugby league club initiative started to pay real dividends. A junior R&R team made up of young men who had entered the Club through the F Grade rugby league team began to string together a series of excellent results — breaking a '15 year hoodoo'. Coached by Hector McDonald, the team of Ross Bray, Rob Whitlock, John Ison, Brian Jorgenson, John Morgan, Peter McCurtayne, Robin Senior and Eddie McIver gained three firsts, a second and a third from five open carnivals. In three open carnivals where they competed as a senior team, they gained a second and two thirds. In 11 junior starts they had seven wins, two thirds and a fourth. Qualifying for the Metropolitan Championships at Bondi the team were convincing winners over Bondi and Dee Why.

With such strong performances there was every reason to hope the team would perform well at the state titles and qualify for the Australian Championships. On the day of the state titles at Kempsey-Crescent Head, the team was confronted by a huge surf. While the team had some strong swimmers including John Morgan who had also won the Metropolitan Junior Belt Championship that year, the draw for positions was not helpful. In the heats Rob Senior and Rob Whitlock battled the huge seas and a strong performance on the sand saw the team through to the finals. With a new draw for positions the team had every reason to be hopeful. Unfortunately Whitlock and Senior drew the swims a second time and with the final being conducted just over half an hour after finishing the heats, neither of them had fully recovered. The team finished third to Bondi and Evans Head, thereby failing to qualify for the Australian titles. Bondi, the defending Australian Junior R&R champions went on to once again win the Australian title. Such a result was heart breaking for the Collaroy team which had never been beaten by the Bondi team during the season — except at Kempsey-Crescent Head. With the



Metropolitan Champion Junior R & R Team, 1959/60. L to R: Ross Bray, Rob Whitlock, John Ison, Brian Jorgenson, Hec. McDonald (coach), John Morgan, Peter McCurtayne, Rob Senior, Eddie McIver.



John Morgan, Metropolitan Junior Belt Champion, 1959/60.

members graduating to the senior ranks the following year, the team disbanded, some moving into the existing senior R&R team and others into surf boats.

While the following season saw good performances by new junior and senior R&R teams and some good individual performances in the Open Surf Race by Club Vice-Captain John Morgan and in the Junior Surf Race by Michael Stevens-Jones, the Club's competitive fortunes were extremely low. In several areas, including the once strong beach sprinting, the Club did not even have a competitor to enter at a carnival. The fact that the Club had not held a carnival on its beach since the International Test Carnival of 1956 was also indicative of this slump. The Club's results at the Manly-Warringah Branch Championship were very disappointing, leaving no hope at state and national level.

One of the most moribund areas of the Club at the beginning of the 1960/61 season was surf boat competition. Despite the Club's proud record in both competition and rescue work, by the end of the 1959/60 season the enthusiasm of the Club's rowers had waned considerably in the wake of poor



Collaroy Senior 'A' Crew, 1957/58. L to R: Ken Hyde, Peter Montgomery, Peter Lane, Roger Twight (sweep), Dick Twight.

performances and despite the fact McWilliam's Wines had promised to donate a third moulded ply tuck.

At the start of the 1960/61 season Club Secretary Ian Rylands decided that he would attempt to resurrect interest in rowing. Gathering a young team of rowers around him, including former Junior R&R members, he was determined to see the Club's boats at least competing at the major carnivals of the season. To inspire these young men to make the necessary commitment, Rylands struck upon a bold plan to enter crews at the 1961 Australian titles which were to be held at Moana, South Australia. To get the crews and the boat to South Australia, he sought to form a syndicate of interested members. As well as fund raising and gaining sponsorship for the trip, the team would buy a share in the syndicate which would cover the basic expenses. The budget was set at £430 and investors in the syndicate paid off a portion of their monies owing each week and were informed of progress through a newsletter. The syndicate was named the 'Boatman's Private Touring Team (Adelaide or Bust)'. The title would prove prophetic.

The syndicate's efforts to fund raise and seek sponsorship proved fruitful. On the eve of the trip they had raised enough money to buy a seven ton 1948 International truck from Bill Abbott and meet the ongoing expenses of the trip. In a boon for the team, Ampol agreed to sponsor the trip with the supply of fuel. With each member of the 12 member syndicate having secured three weeks off work and acquired the team touring costume — a pair of overalls — they were ready to begin their 900 mile odyssey.

The team left on the morning of Sunday 26 February, after a big send off from Central Station which attracted fellow club members, family and the media. Once on the road, the truck's two drivers, Barry Woodley and Terry Haylen realised the journey might take a little longer than expected. With the truck well stocked with equipment and 12 men, and drawing

a trailer with Avalon's surf boat, the maximum speed achieved was about 35 miles per hour. Doubts were raised about the team reaching its first night stop of Junee.

It was less than 50 miles from Sydney, near Picton, that the first of many calamities befell the boatmen. As they were passing through Picton the engine, which had been overhauled for the trip, blew up, leaving the team stranded by the side of the road. With no choice, team members were forced to spend two days searching local wrecking yards for another motor before three team members spent 18 hours, without rest, removing the useless engine and replacing it with the second hand one. The second hand engine cost £100 and although a 'Breakdown and Repair Reserve Fund' had been established, it and most of the team's spending money were exhausted by the purchase. Undeterred, the team left Picton early on Thursday morning, the day on which their original itinerary had them arriving in Adelaide.<sup>5</sup>

On the way to South Australia the truck broke down a further three times and got bogged when a freak rainstorm turned a road to mud. The trailer blew two tyres and needed to have its axle replaced, and one boatmen had a wallet lost in Wagga containing £35. All of these incidents greatly slowed the journey and a week after they had left Sydney they were still some distance from their destination despite the fact the drivers had 'driven without a break to make up lost time'.

The story of the Collaroy rowers leaving Sydney had already been reported in the Adelaide press which became increasingly interested in their progress. With few sightings of the team concerns started to be raised about where they actually were. While eventually they were sighted in Renmark, there were no further sightings, raising concerns that they may have become lost or broken down once again. Interviewed by the Adelaide press, the South Australian State Secretary of the SLSA claimed 'They seemed to have vanished — but a truck

trailing a boat can't just disappear'.

With concern mounting the team finally rolled into Adelaide and a newspaper headline the next day noted 'FOUND - 12 'Broke' Life-savers'. The team became celebrities as their



The Team leaving Central Station, Sydney for Moana, SA.

tale of woe was relayed across the country. While the team had made it to Adelaide, the repairs had left them broke. In one report Rylands was quoted as noting 'We've had a lot of bad luck alright', while in another report an unnamed member of the team remarked 'If we have the same luck on the way back we'll have to stop off and get a job'.

With the people of Adelaide being told the team could only afford to eat meat pies, the team's hotel and local papers were inundated with offers of assistance. Ampol agreed to provide petrol for the trip around Adelaide while a Semaphore man rang the Adelaide Advertiser and offered to give each boatmen a roast chicken. Unfortunately the boatmen's tale of woe did not end with a fairytale at the titles, a result which was hardly surprising when the team had been unsuccessful all season. In their heat the Collaroy boatmen came last as did the other four crews who borrowed the Avalon boat. The determination of the Collaroy boatmen in getting to South Australia, however, was very much appreciated. The Club's attendance at the Carnival would also, indirectly, bring the biggest event in surf life saving to Collaroy. It was during the trip to Moana that a chain of events would begin leading to the Club's largest undertaking in its history — the holding of the 1964 Australian Championships.

At the National Council Dinner at the conclusion of the Moana Championships, Ian Rylands entertained the possibility of Collaroy hosting the titles. In the course of the evening he shared these thoughts with National Secretary Ken Watson and Bruce Brewin, the Secretary of the New South Wales State Centre. Rylands was informed that it would be the turn of a New South Wales club to host the titles in 1964, following the strict state by state rotation rule which was then in force. Rylands' hopes, however, were dashed almost as soon as they were



Just outside Yass, NSW the team stops for a break. L to R: John Breen, Clem Noble, Peter Vaubell, Gordon McNaughton, Terry Haylen, Barry Woodley, John Abbey, Rod Shepherd, Terry Gibbons, Tom Pring, Ian Rylands, John Ison (photographer).

raised. He was told that a senior official in the State Centre from the Freshwater Club held a grudge against Collaroy – dating back to the success of Collaroy's senior R&R team in the mid-1940s – and would actively campaign amongst the New South Wales branches to stop

Collaroy having any chance of hosting the national titles.

Dwelling on the issue in the following months Rylands believed that the Club should still nominate and so he sought the endorsement of the committee. The committee, especially Dick Twight and Alan 'Cheesey' Leathley, were very supportive of the idea and so the Club nominated during the 1961/62 season to hold the 1964 Championships. At the Branch level, the Club was pitted against one of the Curl Curl clubs. True to expectation, much resistance to Collaroy's nomination came from Freshwater SLSC and appeared to be supported by a number of other clubs. With the Club's position not looking good, the merits of the Collaroy bid were expounded by the Branch President and North Steyne member Alan Fitzgerald. In a close result the Club received the nomination of the Branch.

Perhaps fortuitously the only other branch to send a nomination forward to State Centre was the North Coast Branch. The merits of both bids were disregarded as branch delegates argued on the grounds of distance to travel. More delegates preferred to travel to Sydney than the far north coast of New South Wales and so Collaroy received the nomination of State Centre. With the rotational system, the nomination of State Centre to National Council was virtually automatically approved. Collaroy would host the 1964 Australian Championships.<sup>7</sup>

In preparing to gain the titles the Club had made one oversight. It had made no mention of its decision to apply for the Championships to Warringah Shire Council. The Council's support would be crucial to the success of the event and the SLSA had simply assumed that council support had already been secured. That the Club assumed such support would be automatic was not without foundation. During the 1961/62 season, the Council, in recognising the Club's fiftieth anniversary celebrations (which included a small pamphlet history, a special week of celebrations and a special open carnival), informed the Club: 'On the Shire President's recommendation, this Council passed a resolution expressing its admiration and appreciation of your members efforts. This resolution by the Council is a true reflection of the admiration of the citizens of this Shire'. Unfortunately this admiration and appreciation did not extend to support for the 1964 titles. A deputation which was sent to the Council was told that the Council would not support the Club's holding of the Championships. Stunned and dumbfounded the Collaroy members left the Council chambers unsure of what to do—should they hand the titles back?

If Club members had examined the Club's most recent relations with the Council they may have gained an inkling as to its changed attitude towards them. Through the 1950s the annual Christmas/New Year fair on the reserve had been held. By the late 1950s the event was jointly sponsored by the surf club and the Collaroy Men's and Ladies' Amateur Swimming Clubs. While the 1959/60 fair was placed in the hands of a professional promoter, the Club's share of profits was still £86. Surprisingly, however, the Council rejected the application to hold the fair in 1960/61. In another case of Council pique, the Club secured the services of the North Shore Gas Company to lay a gas main across the reserve to facilitate the installation of a hot water shower service. Once again, on seeking permission of Council the request was refused. It was claimed the burying of gas pipes across the reserve would 'interfere with the

natural development of the area. 10

Fortuitously for the Club, not all the Shire councillors agreed with the Council's intransigence. Outside the meeting, the Collaroy delegation was approached by Councillor Graham Clark who told them not to worry and that he would soon change the minds of his fellow councillors. On the same evening a Rotary Club deputation was in the council chambers and also approached the Collaroy members and offered to assist by handling the catering for the event. Much planning and behind the scenes manoeuvring would be required before Club members felt comfortable about the responsibility they had assumed. Meanwhile the day to day problems continued.



Mrs Louise McWilliam christens McWilliam's Wines III, September, 1961.



Club members participate in Sunday morning events, early 1960s.



Collaroy's membership troubles were experienced by the whole movement. Here the Club's Junior R & R team graces the cover of the February, 1962 edition of *Sports* Magazine. L to R: Brian Jorgenson, Tony Hook, Ross Bray, Robert Kennerson, Michael Stevens-Jones.

The Club's poor competitive record in the late 1950s and early 1960s was in part a product of membership difficulties. While initiatives such as the Junior Rugby League Club had attracted young members, the Club was having far greater difficulty retaining members. The recruitment gains were being squandered by resignations. While the Club gained 78 new members between 1958/59 and 1960/61, it lost 69 existing members at the same time. During the season of 1960/61 membership fell by seven and only 69 members were available for full patrol duties. The 1959/60 Committee believed that the Club's response would have to be two pronged - find ways to continue to attract new members but also find ways to retain existing members. Reflecting the fact that the day of the weekend camp member was gone and that the rapidly developing hinterland of the Northern Beaches would be the main source of new recruits, calls were made for 'an intensive drive in our local suburban area' with the aim of attracting 'young men of good standing' who would stay with the Club. Equal importance was given to 'an improvement in the amenities and social activities provided for members'.11

One source of young members which was proving increasingly beneficial for the Club in the early 1960s was the Collaroy Men's Amateur Swimming Club. While it was formed in 1945 with the blessing and support of the Surf Club as a way for lifesavers to maintain their swimming skills, relations between the two clubs became increasingly frosty, especially during the early 1950s when concerns were held for the welfare of the Swimming Club's younger members who were being exposed to the excesses of the Surf Club.

Upon gaining the Club captaincy and later presidency, Dick Twight made rapprochement with the Swimming Club one of his main goals. One of the reasons for his strict enforcement of the alcohol ban was to ensure that Swimming Club officials could see the changes in the Surf Club. By the late 1950s Twight's efforts were rewarded when Lionel Bray, who was President of the Swimming Club and formerly a strong critic of the Surf Club, agreed to allow his son to join. With this vote of confidence other parents of Swimming Club members became less concerned about allowing their young sons to join. Members such as Lionel Bray Jnr and John Ellis joined the Club at this time through this path. At a time when the Nipper movement was still some years off, the Club had a nursery for future members.

One young Swimming Club member who joined the Collaroy Club during the season of 1961/62 was Mike Lynch. Lynch had been sought by both the Collaroy-and Dee Why clubs because of his potential. He chose Collaroy and early in the season gained places in the Cadet Surf Race at two carnivals. While Lynch had shown some promise in competition he was unable to compete at the Branch Championships because he had not completed his Qualifying Certificate. On the day of the Championships, however, Lynch appeared and expressed some interest in competing. Senior Club officials decided that he should be given the chance to represent the Club and so they gave their permission for him to enter the Cadet Surf Race,



Club members prepare for Branch gear inspection, early 1960s.

under the name of another Collaroy cadet Robert Black, who was not at the Championships but had been entered in the event.

In giving permission for Lynch to compete, it had been expected that he would simply enjoy the opportunity for some competition and would have little chance of success. Lynch won the race by a country mile. The Club now had the problem of a Branch Champion who was not who he claimed to be. The problem was very much complicated by the fact that the Branch Championships were being held at Dee Why, the other club which had sought Lynch's services. The Dee Why officials were very quickly aware of the substitution.

While some of the carnival officials were advised of the substitution no attempt was made to warn the Carnival Referee of the situation. The referee was none other than the Branch Superintendent and Collaroy member Hector McDonald. Whether these individuals were assuming McDonald was aware of the deception or not, a number of Branch officials decided to try and embarrass him. Rather than the deception being revealed, McDonald was asked to make the presentation to the winner of the Cadet Surf Race. If McDonald made the presentation he would be seen to be collaborating with his club in the deception.

As McDonald moved to the presentation area he was aware that something was afoot and that he was the centre of attention. Upon arrival he was introduced to the cadet swimmer named Black. McDonald did not know Lynch or Black, but fortuitously he knew Black's father, Alby, a mate of Bill Abbott. He realised that the young swimmer in front of him could not be Alby Black's son. He now realised what all the commotion was about. Postponing the presentation he drew Dick Twight and Club Captain Tony Haworth aside to find out what was going on. The two men explained who Lynch was. McDonald returned to the presentation area and disqualified Lynch.

At the monthly Branch meeting following the incident Collaroy SLSC was brought before the executive to answer the charge of substituting a swimmer. As Branch Superintendent,



Club members on the reserve, early 1960s. L to R: Terry Haylen, John Adams, John Abbey, Rod Shepherd, Terry Gibbons.

Note the BP garage on corner opposite and continuing sale of hot water in the Dairy Queen milkbar.

McDonald oversaw the punishment. The Collaroy Club would be suspended from competition for the first three months of the 1962/63 season. McDonald had just served out a severe penalty to his own club — it would be the first and last suspension he would impose in his 11 years as Branch Superintendent.

At Collaroy's 1962 AGM, McDonald was harshly criticised for his treatment of his own Club. He was, however, strongly supported by former Club Captain Ray Barker. Barker reminded the gathered members that it was the fault of the Club and not McDonald that it was caught cheating and was now in its invidious position. There seems little doubt that if McDonald had made the presentation wittingly or unwittingly it would have lost him the superintendentship.

The suspension could have seriously damaged a club which was already experiencing something of a low patch but instead it galvanised members, sparking a renaissance in fortunes. The three month suspension was looked upon as as an opportunity to rebuild and hone the skills of club members.

One area where the club had not performed particularly well since the early 1920s was the March Past. While the Club's competitive stocks were low, Dick Twight saw no reason why the Club could not attempt to resurrect its long forgotten fortunes in this most ceremonial of surf life saving events. While the Club might not have many members with natural talents in swimming or sprinting, it had members who were keen to represent their Club. Such members could be taught to march. The problem now was who would coach them. Who would be willing to take on a new team which for its first three months would be suspended from competition?

Fortuitously, Hector McDonald was having a drink at the Manly-Warringah Leagues Club when he bumped into Freshwater March Past member Graham Carlisle. Carlisle had joined Freshwater as a cadet in 1945 and became interested in March Past in the early 1950s. He was



The Club's March Past Team before the Carlisle revolution.

a member of the Freshwater team which won four Australian and six New South Wales titles during the 1950s. While Carlisle had been Assistant Coach he was apprenticed to the venerable Harry Knox who appeared to have no intention of relinquishing the reins. Over a beer with McDonald, Carlisle mentioned his desire to coach a March Past team. That evening McDonald telephoned Dick Twight and Twight telephoned Carlisle. Carlisle's offer to coach the new Collaroy March Past team had been accepted.<sup>13</sup>

While Twight had a coach, he now needed a team. Notices were pinned up in the club house alerting interested members. Initially, Twight's confidence in members thronging to the banner appeared misplaced. At the first meeting of the new team, only five members appeared, including Twight and his brother, Club Captain Norm. The five candidates proceeded to simply march around the hall. At the second meeting a similar number showed, causing Twight some embarrassment. Carlisle, however, was philosophical. If Collaroy members did not want to march, they did not want to march. He would give them another week. In the interim Twight began a recruitment drive to attract enough members. At the third meeting 14 members appeared and so Carlisle began coaching in earnest. 14

At the time March Past was an event dominated by older club members — usually Active Reserve members wishing to maintain a competitive association with their Club. The Collaroy team, however, was made up of predominantly young men. For example, one member was club junior, Col Newman, who had just joined the Club after completing his apprenticeship in the Swimming Club. Many such as Rob Senior, John Ison, Eddy McIver and Peter McCurtayne were not much older.

The team trained on Sunday afternoons from 1pm and twice a week for two hours. Carlisle informed his students that anyone could march — some simply found it more easy than others. Once the square gate or 'doe-doe' marchers were reformed, Carlisle set his sights on technique and moulding the team into an effective unit. In pursuing this goal Carlisle was

a hard task master and not everyone approved of his coaching style. Carlisle knew, however, exactly what was needed to succeed at state and national level. Judges were posted around the course to grade the team on specific technical issues. If the team ensured that the specific issue the judge in front of them was looking for was correct, they were well on their way to a good result. As the suspension continued the team improved.

Another area of competition which was resurrected during the period of suspension was beach sprinting. From the dizzy heights of the early 1950s the Club had fallen on hard times and as noted did not even compete in beach events during the 1960/61 season. In the course of the 1962 season Neil Montgomery started to see some promise in the performances of a young cadet, Chris Senior. With Senior's brother Robin winning the Club Senior Sprint Championship that year in fine style, Montgomery saw possibilities. With the imposing of the suspension he decided to make a concerted effort to resurrect the Club's success on the beach.

In this endeavour Montgomery looked not only at existing club members (such as the Senior brothers and Rod Shepherd) but also to other clubs. Col Newman's older brother Doug was a member of the Dee Why Club and a fine sprinter with successes on both the sand and the track. Somehow Montgomery managed to convince Newman to join a Club which was suspended for half the season and join a beach team which was rebuilding from scratch.<sup>15</sup>

By the end of the three month suspension both the March Past team and the sprinters had improved dramatically and could not wait to compete. The first carnival after the end of the suspension was at South Curl Curl. In their first outings the Beach Relay team came third, while Doug Newman also secured third in the Senior Beach Sprint. In their first outing the March Past team secured a creditable fourth place. At the following carnivals at Queenscliff and North Steyne the sprinters and March Past secured places, leaving them well positioned for the Branch titles at Palm Beach. In an excellent performance the Beach relay team secured a first and Doug Newman another first in the musical flags. The March Past continued to improve and secured second place behind Freshwater.

In the aftermath of the Branch Championships, the sprinters and March Past team entered two more carnivals and again placed strongly as the State Championships at Port Kembla loomed. Given the results in these six carnivals, both teams had great hopes for success. In the Senior Beach Sprint Doug Newman secured second place and Chris Senior fifth, while the beach relay team secured third. In the March Past the Club tied with Mereweather who had been national runners up for a number of years. The prize for first place — a new reel — was decided on the flip of the coin and was won by Collaroy.

With their first place at the State titles Collaroy were selected to represent New South Wales in the interstate competition at the Australian titles at Warrnambool in Victoria. From a position the year before where the Club sent no competitors to the Australian titles, 30 members set off by bus for the 1,600 miles round journey, to compete on the sand and in and on the water.

At the interstate carnival on Saturday, the March Past team's sudden elevation to the top echelon of competition finally caught up to them. With no placing in the interstate competition it appeared the fairy tale had finally ended. Carlisle, however, was not prepared to say die and had his charges on the beach at 6am the following morning ironing out the mistakes of the previous day.

In the interclub competition, the runners, Doug Newman, Rob Senior and Rodney Shepherd, qualified for the semi-finals. Newman made it through to the final with a win in his semi. Against the six fastest men on sand in Australia Newman ran fourth with North Narrabeen's Nick Yakich winning the event for the second year in a row. In the Beach Relay the team qualified for the semi-finals but drew the eventual winners North Narrabeen and third place getters Bundaberg. Doug Newman rounded out a solid performance for the runners with a second in the musical flags. With the sprinting events over Rob Senior and Doug Newman donned march past uniforms.



Club Touring Team, Warrnambool, 1963.



Rodney Shepherd (left) and Rob Senior (right) resurrecting the Club's beach sprinting fortunes.



Doug Newman.

At 2.30pm 44 teams commenced the March Past. All eyes were on the title-holders for the proceeding three years, Bundaberg. At the first turn catastrophe befell the Queenslanders and they lost nine points. From this position they could never recover and the Collaroy team returned to the marshalling area well pleased with their effort. Shortly after, the rumours started to spread amongst the teams that Collaroy had in fact secured the title. Some members started to celebrate in advance while others simply believed it a cruel hoax. For one hour and thirty minutes the team awaited its fate and then the announcement — Collaroy had annexed the title. The team (Peter McCurtayne, Clem Noble, John Vincent, Alan Wright, Col Newman, Doug Newman, Barry McConville, John Ison, Tony Hickey, Norm Twight, Dick Twight, Norm Headford, and Graham Carlisle) then marched proudly to the official dais to receive the trophy for first place. Collaroy had secured its first Australian title in 11 years. All agreed the Club was on the way back, only adding another dimension to the growing sense of excitement as the first Australian titles at Collaroy approached.

To begin preparations for the 1964 titles, the 1963 touring team to Warrnambool was accompanied by the Carnival Organiser for 1964, Club Captain Tony Haworth, and Bill Goodman. Haworth and Goodman spent their time observing the carnival, noting best practice and ways Collaroy could do things better. The trip proved very beneficial and when augmented by the support received by National Council, the trepidations of many members about the logistics of staging such an event were some what allayed.

One area of continuing concern which was finally resolved by the beginning of the 1963/64 season was the question of support from Warringah Shire Council. True to his word



Australian March Past Champions, 1962/63. L to R: back: Dick Twight, Col Newman, Rob Senior, Peter McCurtayne, Norm Twight; middle: John Vincent, Tony Hickey, Graham Carlisle (coach), Doug Newman, Barry McConville; front: Norm Headford, John Ison, Clem Noble, Alan Wright.

Councillor Clark had converted those fellow councillors who had originally opposed support. The Council's turn around was so dramatic that it left some Collaroy members dumbfounded. From a position of total opposition the Council was now bending over backwards to be of assistance. Projects such as the showers which the Club had attempted to install earlier in the decade were now not only approved but funded by Council which also paid for the fitting of new toilets. With regard to the Carnival proper, the Council gave its permission to close the beach, provided temporary toilets, allocated council employees to keep the beach and club house immaculate during the carnival, bulldozed the beach to make it flat and generally gave its assistance whenever it was asked. Club President Twight later paid a 'glowing tribute to the Warringah Shire Council' when interviewed by the media. 16

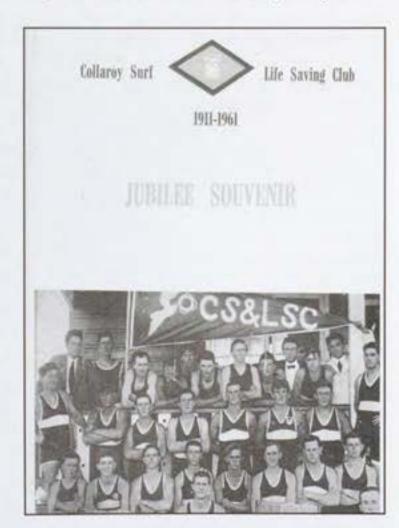
Part of the reason for Clark being able to convince the Council to make an about face was that the hosting of the Championship would be an economic boon not only for the immediate Collaroy area but the whole Shire. Thousands of competitors and spectators would be in Collaroy for the weekend. This fact was not lost on local businesses who also sought to assist. As in the past, local shopkeepers were supportive but a carnival of this size required far greater and varied support. Companies were approached while others offered their support to ensure the titles were a success. Neighbouring surf clubs, the police and army also proved supportive.

While all of this support was crucial to the success of the Championships the main efforts required still had to be met by members of the Surf Club. With the success of the Club's 50th anniversary still vivid, the Club sent out the call to former members to lend a hand. The Organising Committee was not disappointed. Former club members came back in droves offering their assistance. Despite this, the main burden continued to be borne by the Organising Committee (Dick Twight — Chair, Tony Haworth — Organiser, Malcolm Ticehurst — Secretary, Bill Goodman — Treasurer, Bill Abbott, Ray Barker, Alan Leathley, Bob Maladay, Hector McDonald and Ian Rylands), whose members were, by early 1964,

spending almost every minute of their leisure time at the club house in preparation. Relations with partners and employers became strained during this period. In the final weeks before the carnival individuals like Dick Twight and Tony Haworth took time off work to ensure everything was ready.

The build up to the Championships, however, was marred with Collaroy's first fatality since the drowning of John McKillip in 1956. At lunch time on Wednesday 11 February 1964, six weeks before the Championships, Collaroy Beach relatively deserted. At the club house were George Reid and Peter McCurtayne. McCurtayne had finished his job as the Beach Inspector at Collaroy with the end of the school holidays the week before. At the time there was no one in the surf other than Dick Twight who had come to the beach with his wife Betty. Twight had proceeded to grab his surfboard and had entered the surf to the north of the pipe to examine the area which had been set aside for the Championships. 17

Shortly after mid-day Eddie Diggins arrived. Diggins was managing a butchery in



Golden Jubilee History booklet.

Dee Why at the time and had decided to try and grab a swim during his lunch hour. Upon arrival at Collaroy he was disappointed to find the conditions treacherous and so decided against entering the surf. Shortly after Betty Twight and a friend, Glady Morgan, were heading towards the surf but were stopped by Diggins who warned them of the conditions.

The only other two people on the beach were a couple from Melbourne who were holidaying in Sydney. Robert Smith was the chief sub-editor of the Sun-News Pictorial. Shortly before 12.30pm Smith decided to enter the water under the watchful eye of his wife. Smith had only been in the water a matter of minutes when he lost his footing when washed from a sandbar. A poor swimmer he began to signal to the beach for assistance. Seeing his signal, his wife walked to the club house and calmly alerted Reid, McCurtayne and Diggins that her husband was in 'trouble'.

Grabbing a reel the three men proceeded to the water's edge, whereupon it was decided, perhaps oddly, that Diggins would have the best chance in the belt. Almost from the moment Diggins entered the water, however, events conspired against Smith. A strong current dragged Diggins away from his patient, leaving him much work to do. Added to these conditions, Diggins also had to contend with seaweed which quickly started to gather on his line and impede his progress. Soon the seaweed triggered another struggle for survival. So much weed had collected on Diggins line, it started to pull him under. He battled against the weed for a short time but realising the futility of such resistance he prepared to slip the belt. To his horror, however, the pin had become bent and would not move. Now underwater, Diggin's faced a dilemma from which several lifesavers had never escaped. Frantically trying to slip the belt, he finally managed to remove the neck strap and slide the belt down his body and over his feet. Gasping for air on his return to the surface and exhausted by the effort, Diggins could take no further part in the rescue. There was nothing more he could do but hold onto the belt and be hauled in.

With Smith still clearly visible form the beach, McCurtayne and Reid then proceeded to enter the surf. Reid had serious doubts about his ability to reach Smith in the conditions but put personal safety to one side and negotiated the surf. After many minutes of swimming, the two men were within 10 yards of the still conscious Smith when they were struck by a huge set of waves which separated them. By the time McCurtayne and Reid recovered, Smith had vanished. For 10 minutes the two lifesavers scoured the water in search of Smith. Finally he was seen face down and submerged in the face of an approaching wave.

McCurtayne reached the unconscious Smith to find his extremities were blue and his jaw had locked, making it impossible to open his mouth to perform mouth to mouth resuscitation. Upon Reid's arrival, McCurtayne supported Smith while Reid attempted mouth-to-nose resuscitation to overcome Smith's lockjaw. When the rescue had begun Betty Twight had ran along the beach to attract the attention of her husband. Twight arrived on the scene with his surfboard and Smith was placed on the board and resuscitation continued. Unfortunately another large set of waves forced the lifesavers to abandon the surfboard and return to shore with the still unconscious Smith. Back on the beach, waiting ambulance officers continued treatment with oxygen and transported Smith to Manly District Hospital. Unfortunately he never responded to treatment and was pronounced dead on arrival. An autopsy later found that Smith had not drowned but had in fact died of a heart attack. The four Collaroy members were awarded Certificates of Merit for their efforts in attempting to rescue Smith. The death brought a sombre tone to the Club in the final weeks of preparation for the Championships.

The final week before the beginning of the Championships was frantic. Chores such as the erection of the six foot hessian fence and the construction of tiered seating, which had been borrowed from the White City tennis centre, were completed as well as last minute fine tuning. While the Club had been making preparations for an estimated 1200 competitors, the SLSA and organising committee were shocked to find entries 40% higher than usual with 2000 entrants from 150 clubs. With the Club catering for at least 20, 000 spectators (the 600 reserved seats were sold out almost immediately for 10/- adults and 5/- children) it was soon realised that Collaroy was in fact about to stage the biggest Australian Championships in Surf Life Saving history.

The only negative for the Championships as Saturday 28 March quickly approached was the surf. On the eve of the titles Collaroy was living up to its reputation as a lake. Officials and competitors alike were disappointed that the surf was not going to offer a challenge. While they prayed for an improvement in the surf conditions, events were transpiring many thousands of miles away which would answer such prayers. Somewhere in the South Pacific an underground volcano erupted sending shock waves across the ocean. Collaroy members had gone to bed late on Friday night forlorn about the conditions. At 4am the following morning, however, when Tom Whelan arrived at the club house to take out a crew to place the race buoys he was startled to find the beach being buffeted by a huge surf. So heavy were the conditions the surf boat was launched at Fishermen's Beach. Club members offered their thanks to 'Huey' and braced themselves for the 48 hours which would follow.

For those who were there, Collaroy's hosting of the 1964 Australian Championships was a blur of images. Logistically the events ran like clock work with as many as three water events and one beach event being conducted at the same time. While the running of the Carnival was the responsibility of the SLSA, Club officials still had to perform a wide variety of tasks to ensure the titles ran smoothly. The Club had to supply boat crews to place buoys and also cater for the judge in boat. With conditions so dangerous a surf boat was not the safest of places to be viewing the Championships. By the end of the carnival one boat crew member had an arm



The completed V.I.P. and media areas at the Championships.



Preparations near completion in the catering area.

broken in four places while Judge in Boat Lindsay Paton broke his leg after his boat, swept by Roger Twight, fell off the back of wave to be hit by a 'sand sucker' following it. Governor General Lord De L'isle was 'amazed at the courage, skill and daring of the boat crews'. <sup>19</sup> While Long Reef assisted in providing crews for the Championships, Collaroy's boat crews had so much work to do they simply did not have time to compete themselves.

More generally, the amount of effort put into making the carnival a success detracted from the Club's competitive performances. In what was billed as the biggest March Past spectacular in the history of the movement, the defending champions could only dead heat with Mereweather for second behind the irrepressible Bundaberg. Amongst the runners the best result achieved was a third by Doug Newman in the beach sprint. While members were slightly disappointed with the Club's competitive performance on its own beach, the result would have been viewed extremely favourably if not for the heightened expectations raised by the performance at the national titles the year before.

As well as the competitions on the sand and in the surf, the Club organised a wide variety of entertainment for competitors and spectators. On Saturday evening 'a mammoth stomp dancing attraction featuring popular television stars' saw a flood of 'teenagers' into the district and proved very popular. By Sunday evening all agreed that the Collaroy carnival was one of the, if not the best, national championships ever held. One newspaper reported:

So much praise could be heaped on the heads of those who organised the Australian Surf Championships that they would be forgiven if they became egotistical horrors . . . For two days at Collaroy they ran one of the biggest carnivals ever with such clockwork precision that surf president Judge Curlewis proudly said that he had never seen a better organised championships.<sup>20</sup>

Another newspaper noted that for spectators the Carnival was great entertainment: 'All in all, it was a great weekend for everyone attached to surf, but the public experienced the most enjoyable feature. For five bob a day they had more than eight hours entertainment a day. You can't even get that in cricket over five days'. Courtesy of the ABC, Australians got to see large



The Governor General, Lord de L'isle, inspecting the competition arena accompanied by his daughter, SLSA President Judge Adrian Curlewis and Carnival Referee Bob Brydon.



A huge crowd enjoys the spectacle of the March Past.

excerpts of the carnival on television, the first occasion on which a television station had filmed the Championships. Newsreel cameras also filmed the event sending images of the 'World's Largest Surf Spectacle' around the globe.

In the wake of the carnival, the Club was inundated with letters of congratulation for the professionalism with which it had held the Championships. The Secretary of the Manly Club wrote: 'The carnival will be long remembered by those who witnessed them and will be recorded in our Association's records as one of the most successful championships staged'.<sup>22</sup>

Unfortunately club members did not have too much time to sit back and soak up the adulation. With the Championships over, the Club now spent two weeks dismantling the carnival and returning the beach and club house to normal. Only when this task was completed could members finally rest on their laurels. The Club's profit from the event was £340, an excellent injection to Club funds when expenditure for the year was £446.

For many members the demands placed upon them in assisting to organise the Carnival were above and beyond the call of duty. Having exerted so much for the Club a number of more senior members saw the end of the carnival as the time to end their active association. Some, such as Tony Haworth, had suffered financial problems and were at the point of divorce because of the amount of time and effort they had dedicated to the project. The Club now looked to its younger senior members to take on more responsibility in the day to day running of the Club.

While the Club's competitive success on the beach and in organising the 1964 Championships were positive signs of a Club reviving its fortunes, such events had occurred against a worrying backdrop. In the early 1960s the Club's junior and cadet membership collapsed, hailing the beginning of the 'Malibu Board' era.



Old members return to the Club to ensure the success of the Championships. Behind the scenes Bert Chequer (right) is pictured with a visiting West Australian official.

The Australian beach has always been a public space whose use has been regulated. Up until the early twentieth century the very right to visit the beach and surf bathe was a subject determined by legislation and regulation. As seen, in the early years of this century this regulatory control of the beach was invested in local councils. While the emergence of daylight surf bathing removed a prohibition, use of the beach and the surf was still heavily regulated.

With the formation of the surf lifesaving movement, councils increasingly exercised their authority by proxy. Surf clubs assumed more and more responsibility for the beach and to give them the regulatory power to do so, councils appointed surf club members as beach inspectors. The surf clubs proceeded to enforce not only those council regulations pertaining to use of the beach, and wider moral codes of conduct, but also those codes of behaviour and use of this public space which had been developed by the surf life saving movement itself, such as bathing

between the flags and hand signalling when in distress.

For the first fifty years of the surf life saving movement, therefore, the surf bathing public entered a social contract with lifesavers. They would be protected as long as they behaved in accordance with the code of behaviour held in this contract. With the lifesaver's ability to control the use of this public space, the bathing public enjoyed the sun, surf and sand only at his discretion. In the early 1960s, however, a challenge emerged to the hegemony of the surf clubs. Another section of the community wished to use this public space which had been dominated by the lifesavers for over 50 years. More importantly, they became increasingly reluctant to engage the social contract. They rejected the lifesavers exclusive control of the space. This battle for control was fought on beaches all over Australia. At Collarov this challenge first emerged from within the Surf Club itself.

Prior to the early 1960s, the surfboard had had a long and happy association with Collaroy. As noted Collaroy members such as Alf Lee had personally witnessed the arrival of the surfboard in Australia during the Great War. Collaroy was one of the first clubs, after

> Freshwater and Manly, to have boardriding as a club activity. The small club house of the period was forced to find more space to house the new surf craft. Because of their weight the boards could not be easily taken home and had to be stored in club houses - another

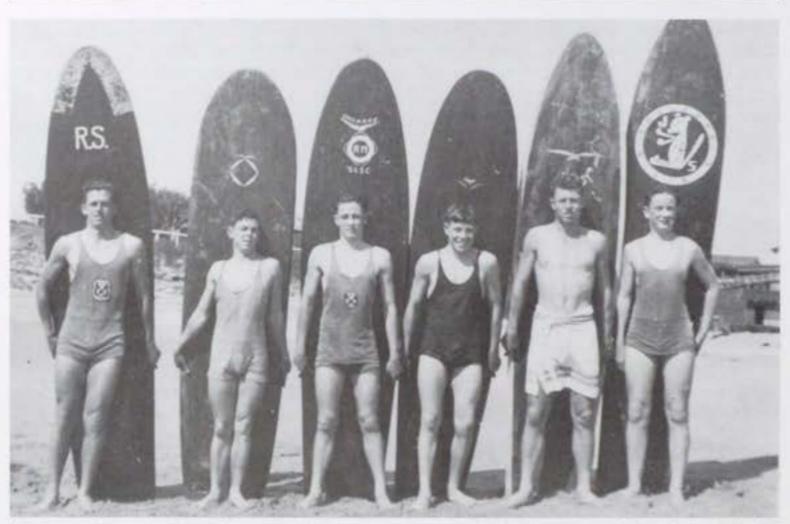
advantage of membership.

This association continued through the 1920s and into the Depression years. As seen, boardriding was a popular recreational past time for club members and boards were occasionally used for rescue purposes. On the eve of the World War II the club house was home to a number of surf boards and a number of surfboard enthusiasts. During the war years members could only use those boards which had been left in the club by members on war service or attempt to purchase a second hand board. Given restrictions on wood a new board was out of the question except perhaps for a hand board or a 'pig board' whose dimensions were closer to a present day boogey board.

In the early postwar years interest in surfboard riding was renewed. In the late 1930s a number of surfboard enthusiasts had started to once again experiment with the



A rare photo showing the buoyancy of the old solid boards.



Collaroy members with their solid boards, 1937. Note personal and club identifications. L to R: Ray Barker (with Dick Swift's board), Ron Hall (with Chic Proctor's board — now Life Members board), Bob Maladay, David Moss, Bill Abbott, Jim Sowerby.



A young Bob Maladay showing the evolution to the longboard, late 1930s.

possibilities of a hollow surfboard following designs in surf skis. In the postwar years these early experiments were further refined and at Collaroy, Burt Chequer tried his hand at hollow board construction. Much longer than the conventional solid boards, the hollow boards were initially about 13 feet. By the early 1950s they had become even longer — around 16 feet. Until the arrival of the 'short boards' changed their name to 'long boards' these boards were known as 'sixteens'.

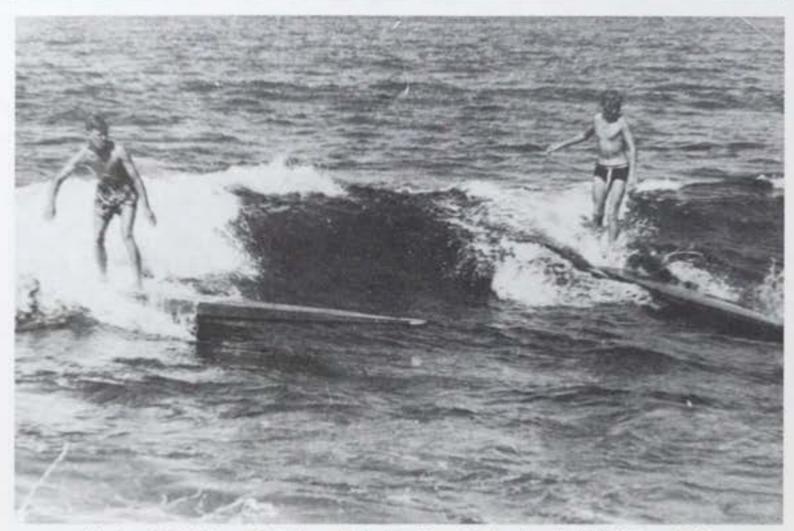
Reflecting the interest of members in surfboards, Graeme Bruce became the Club's first Surfboard Captain at the AGM of 1946. The first Board Captain's report in an Annual Report did not appear until 1954/55 (the first Club Captain's report had appeared in 1948). In this first report David Boyle (the eighth captain after Bruce, Alan Hawkins, Norm Twight, Ray Patterson, Wal McGrigor, Gordon Collis and Bruce Bartlett) noted that the number of boards on Collaroy beach had reached an all time high and that 'From the lifesaving angle the boards and skis played their part in a number of rescues, although none were actually effected by these craft'. The sixteens were not as well suited to rescue work as the old solid boards, being much narrower and designed mainly for paddle racing and recreation. With greater floatation than the old solid wood boards they held waves better and were much faster.

In his report to members on the 1955/56 season, new Board Captain Roger Twight noted that the Club's success in board competition had deteriorated, hampered as it was by David Boyle's call up for national service. Twight had attempted to conduct a number of board races during the season but 'lack of support by younger members who are just learning this wonderful sport made these races impossible'. He suggested that club juniors who wished to 'learn the art of riding' should consult 'an older hand at the game such as George Reid or Norm Twight'. Almost before the ink had dried on Twight's report, however, surfboard riding in Australia was being transformed.

As part of the Olympic Games celebrations a team of Californian life guards visited Australia bringing with them not only the torpedo buoy but a new style of surf board. The surf



John Eyre with one of the earliest hollow longboards.



Members L to R: Norm Twight, 'Boomer' Hawkins, Roger Boyle surfing 'the kick' Collaroy, 1946.

boards were shorter, lighter and wider than the sixteens but their most interesting feature could not be seen from the beach — these new boards had fins. The finless sixteens and old style solid boards offered no lateral movement to the rider once a course was set. The rider, if standing, had no control over the direction the board took once on the wave — the result being 'statue' riding. With a fin and deft transference of the rider's weight these new boards could actually go across the face of a wave.

The Americans competed at a carnival at Avalon but did not unveil their boards until the carnival was over and most participants and spectators were heading for home. Dick Twight and a number of other club members were walking to their cars when they looked back to see the six Americans all riding across the same wave. The Collaroy members were amazed — how could a board do such a thing? Word soon spread and when the Americans appeared at a carnival at Manly a number of Collaroy members were in attendance to see the surfing revolution for themselves.

In the first instance, club members grabbed their old boards and started to attach fins. While not producing the same level of performance as the 'Hawaiian' or 'short' boards as they were dubbed, the fins did offer greater control to the rider on a wave. Most boardriders however, turned their sights to procuring one of the new boards. Amongst those members who turned their sights to the new boards was George Reid. Reid had grown up in Collaroy, riding boards from the age of 13. Joining the club as a probationer in the 1947/48 season he completed his Bronze Medallion in 1952. He bought his first board, a 13 footer, second hand from fellow club member Barry McMurdo and paid £12. With the arrival of the sixteens he purchased one from Bondi board builder Gordon Woods for £16.

A Freshwater surfer managed to purchase one of the American boards. A number of surfboard builders including Woods, who had moved to Brookvale, and Scotty Dillon, examined the new board and started making replicas. In his first report since the arrival of the short boards, Roger Twight noted the new found interest by club members in surfboards. So



Members with their Malibus, 1961/62. L to R: Peter McCurtanye, unknown, Rodney Shepherd, John Morgan, Eddie McIver, Lionel Bray, Brian Jorgenson, Pat Boyle, Tony Hook.

much interest had been sparked that Twight had no difficulty resurrecting a board point score competition which was won by John Adams. Twight, himself secured the Board Championship. In the Annual Report he noted: 'This season saw a much greater interest taken in surf-board riding around the Club than in previous seasons . . . I think that as we have all nearly mastered the corner we will need the new Hawaiian Board to master the centre alley, this type of board being lighter, broader and shorter, and will hold a wave better than the sixteens, as it is not so cumbersome'. <sup>25</sup> In inviting prospective members he reiterated that 'new arrivals will certainly be welcomed to this great sport by Norm Twight, George Reid and Ray Patterson, who are always on hand to give expert advice'.

While the new board increased the manoeuvrable possibilities of a surfboard, thereby making it more challenging and enjoyable form of recreation, Twight also believed that the new board had lifesaving applications. He noted: 'this type of board would be a boon from the life-saving point of view, as it is easier to handle and would not roll with two aboard as our narrow sixteens do'. Senior officials within the surf life saving movement, however, were not so sure. Given the reception to the torpedo buoy it was perhaps not surprising that they were sceptical of the latest American intrusion. In part the problem was that the new boards offered so much fun — a belief emerging that something apparently so frivolous could not also have a serious lifesaving application.

The usefulness of the Malibu boards for surf life saving was demonstrated in a notable rescue during 1960. On 6 March that year, a boat with two men aboard was swamped near the bombora. One of the men swam for shore while the other stayed with the semi submerged vessel. The man finally reached Long Reef where he alerted a golfer who drove to the Surf Club to raise the alarm. A number of junior members then drove to the headland with their boards and proceeded to climb down the cliff and paddle the mile to the stricken vessel and rescue the second man. In sending a cheque, the first man, Mr E. Horigan, remarked: 'In appreciation of the magnificent work carried out by your club, particularly the rescue of

Mr Cull on 6th last, I am enclosing a cheque to assist you in the maintenance of your worthy

organisation'.

In his Board Captain's report for 1960 Lionel Bray noted the mounting interest in surf boards, especially amongst junior members. He noted that; 'with an expected increase in the number of junior boardriders, the competition next year may be run in two divisions, open and junior, with if possible, a competition for board riding ability being held'. Up till this date competition had simply involved board paddling. A number of members, however, had become increasingly proficient in riding boards standing up and so Bray intended to hold a competition to gauge such skills. Such a competition, however, had very little to do with improving surf life saving skills. To counter such concerns it was noted that musical flags likewise offered little but was a surf life saving institution. Why could not board riding attain the same position within the movement?

In a demonstration of the Club's continuing support for board riding, it hosted in July 1960 a film night at the Collaroy Odeon in conjunction with an organisation known as the South Pacific Board Club. The program included American surfing documentaries showing America's best boardriders with the new boards off California and Hawaii. The night was a huge success and raised over £23 for the club. Now aware of the demand for such films the cinema itself started to show them on a regular basis drawing huge crowds. More and more young teenagers were joining the Club so as to try their hand at surfboard riding which

continued to be seen as a surf club activity.

By 1961 the transition from the sixteens to the new boards was complete. Competition in 1961/62 was restricted entirely to what were now more commonly known as the 'Malibu class of board' — a reference to the Californian seaside town were the board had first emerged. The competition over three rounds was won by Robert Browne with Ian 'Wally' Wallis second and young cadet Robert Bell third. Bray noted the enthusiasm of the boardriders: 'The co-operation and keenness shown by some boardriders in helping to erect our new board racks and the manner in which our younger members keep the board room tidy and have rebuilt lockers is most gratifying and shows a keen club spirit'. He also noted: 'I feel that the boardriders should be able to have a number of successful board riding competitions between themselves and with other clubs if they extend their keeness to helping to run these competitions'. Surfboard riding remained a surf club dominated activity.

By the season of 1961/62 the Club had 11 juniors and 28 cadets — including a young local boy, Robert Young, who was given the nickname 'Gnat' (later 'Nat') by club members. Young, like most of the other junior and cadet members, had joined because of his interest in boardriding. While the boardriders had demonstrated keeness in activities specifically directed towards boards and board riding, other members of the Club grew concerned that they held little interest in other activities such as patrolling the beach. The patrol record of these young members was particularly poor, forcing Patrol Officer Eddie McIver to note in his report for 1961/62 that: 'Lack of cooperation by cadet and juniors seriously hampered the work of the Patrol Committee and this aspect requires considerable attention in the coming season'. <sup>26</sup>

The reasons why the young board riding enthusiasts were unable or unwilling to meet the traditional responsibilities of surf club membership are difficult to gauge. Certainly, in the postwar period a definable 'youth culture' emerged and the 'teenager' increasingly saw great difference between their world and their parents' world — the 'generation gap'. Despite the breakdown of surf club discipline in the immediate postwar years, surf clubs in the early 1960s were still seen as traditional institutions. These aspects of surf life saving, however, held little attraction to many of these boardriders. They had joined because of the opportunities provided by the clubs for learning board riding, not because they wished to protect the public.

Tensions started to grow between the boardriders and other, predominantly senior, members of the Club concerning their lax attitude. Board riding members were out on a wave when they should have been in the patrol area. The boat crew especially expressed its dissatisfaction with these young members and subjected them to some unpleasant treatment.

Young recalls: 'Sometimes when the boat crew had consumed a little too much alcohol on a Sunday afternoon and needed a little exercise they dug a big hole in the sand and tried to bury the new recruits alive.' The situation came to a head when a group of boardriders was doused with a bucket of slops while sitting on the steps at the rear of the Club. The incident led to mass resignations by the boardriders. After the slops incident seven of the 11 juniors left the Club while 23 of the 28 cadets did likewise. In the senior ranks a number of boardriders sided with the cadets and the likes of Ian Wallis, Trevor West and Bobby 'Kenno' Kennerson also left. George Reid, who had become Surfboard Captain at the 1962 AGM, remained, being an Active Reserve member in any case, but sided with the young boardriders. A few weeks after the slops incident a meeting of the boardriders at the Young family home formed the Collaroy Boardriders Association. Section 29

While many members were more than happy to see the last of Young and his friends such as 'Little Henry', the split greatly concerned the former South African National Board Champion, Dick Twight. By its inability to attempt to accommodate the young boardriders the surf life saving movement was perhaps signing its own death warrant. With concerns about the unattractiveness of surf clubs to young people already well known, Twight attempted to use Reid as an intermediary to draw the boardriders back.

By the time these juniors and cadets made their decision to leave the Club, however, the nexus between the surfboard and the surf club had already been broken. While still weighing between 25-30 pounds and around nine feet in length, the Malibus were still lighter and shorter than the old sixteens. They did not have to be stored in a surf club if one lived close to the beach. They could be kept at home and carried. More importantly the increase in car ownership in the postwar period meant that as these young enthusiasts grew older they could attach their boards to the roof of a car and take them to wherever the surf was good. The transportability of the Malibu board broke the link between club and board. Boardriders were

no longer confined to their own surf club and their own beach.<sup>31</sup> The transportability of surfboards increased through the 1960s as 'Nat' Young's experiments with even shorter boards heralded future design trends.

While the Collaroy juniors and cadets did not have the opportunity to go too far afield they were beginning to see other boardriders visiting their beach. From the early 1960s Collaroy was sometimes visited by a group of boardriders from Maroubra. Their visits showed Collaroy boardriders that you did not have to be a member of a surf club to 'surf'. Many club members also welcomed the defection and made sure the boardriders realised that they would not be welcomed back.

With the Boardriders out of the Club, the gloves were off. To boardriders, the 'clubbies' were making it as difficult as they could for them to enjoy their pasttime — always placing the flags in front of the best waves. Bobby



Council surfboard permit.

Kennerson, who became one of Australia's leading board shapers, remarked: 'Two things I dislike about summer are people and lifesavers. Lifesavers . . . sure they're doing a good job but they always seem to put the flags in the wrong position.' To the 'clubbies' the 'boardies' were deliberately flouting the surf club's control of the beach and threatening the safety of other beach users. A number of members of the public were injured by stray surf boards being washed into the patrolled area. Confrontations were frequent and on more than one occasion violence erupted, including a memorable encounter near the baths between boardriders led by Nat Young and surf club members led by Bob Cooley. Most animosity was saved for Young. While his national and international competitive success and his innovations in board design and riding technique have immortalised him in the annals of surfing, he is best remembered amongst Collaroy surf club members of the time as a 'hothead' and a 'young idiot' who had no respect for the safety of the bathing public.

With the surfboard problem being experienced all over the Shire's beaches, Warringah Council called a meeting of surf clubs in March 1963 to discuss the issue. The strongest critic of the boardriders was the Collaroy Club which called for the prohibition of boards from the Shire's beaches. While the Council did not accept this recommendation it did increase regulation. Surf clubs were given increased powers to impound surf boards which were seen to be endangering the safety of the bathing public. These boards would be held in the club house for various lengths of time depending on the circumstances of the seizure and the heat of the ensuing verbal challenge of the boardrider. Some boards would be impounded for a week and a Council truck would visit the Shire's beaches on Sunday afternoons and Monday mornings collecting impounded surfboards. The Council also introduced a registration system. If boardriders sought to use council beaches they had first to register their boards. Upon registration the boardrider was given a sticker which was then affixed to the surf board.

The registration of boards was of course yet another attempt to regulate beach use. A more positive form of regulation at Collaroy which helped to ease tensions considerably appeared under the captaincy of Barry Cripps in the mid-1960s. Cripps introduced a one hour roster system. If the best waves were near where it was safest to place the flags boardriders and bathers would share the space on a one hour rotational basis. If a boardrider proved unwilling to return

to the beach after their turn then their board would be impounded.

While tensions remained high, the usefulness of boardriders to the safe patrolling of the beach became more apparent. Boardriders assisted in numerous rescues in the 1960s, assisting swimmers before they got into serious trouble. While much animosity remained many members of the Club came to see the usefulness of boardriders for the safety of the beach, especially outside patrol hours. This support, however, was directed almost exclusively at local residents. The popularity of the board brought to Collaroy's beaches individuals from non-beach side suburbs who as well as having no board riding ability had no surf skills to call on when they fell off their boards. The rescuing of novice surf boardriders became a new feature of patrols. Dick Twight in a media interview denying the claim that the Club had 'banned surfboardriding' and that there was a 'war between lifesavers and boardriders', noted that: 'Generally speaking we have no trouble with our local surf boardriders. Collaroy is the first beach in the Warringah Shire boardriders from other suburbs visit. Riders from the outer suburbs cause the trouble'. <sup>36</sup>

With the increasing popularity of board riding emerged a new youth culture — the 'surfie'. Borrowing heavily on west coast American developments the surfie culture engaged a look and language all its own. Gradually this surfie culture became more generalised and embraced young surf club members as well. While in the early 1960s hair length was an easy way to distinguish between a boardrider and a club member, such boundaries became less distinguishable as the decade progressed. Clubbie and sharpie would both head to the North Narrabeen surf club or 'Surf City' in Kings Cross for the Saturday night 'Stomp'. The heritage of the boardriders was apparent through the use of old surf club terms such as 'down-the-mine' and the appropriation of other terms which became the exclusive domain of

the boardriders. Whereas 'surfing' and 'surfer' had been long held terms relating to surf

bathing, they were quickly the sole domain of the boardrider's lexicon.

The growth of the surfie culture also brought it into conflict with other youth sub-cultures. On Sunday afternoon 'Rockers' from Sydney's western suburbs would descend on Collaroy driving their 'hotted up' cars and wearing their black clothing. On more than one occasion altercations between Rockers and Surfies occurred on the reserve. On 4 March 1963 'punches were thrown' during a confrontation between the two groups. Police were called to deal with the 30 youths involved. In an interview with the Daily Telegraph, Dick Twight noted the bad publicity surf clubs were receiving from the 'Beach Brawls': 'People tend to associate this trouble with the surf club members but this is far from the truth. We wouldn't have most of these types in the club as a last resort, either 'Surfies' or 'Rockers'. On another occasion, later in the decade, with most of the Club away at a carnival a mini-riot between the Rockers and the Surfies occurred. With allegiances to neither side, the surf club members looked on in amusement until the police, who wear hopelessly outnumbered, called on the surf club members to assist in dispersing the combatants. On the surf club members to assist in dispersing the combatants.

At the 1963 AGM, George Reid resigned as Board Captain to dedicate more time to the boardriders club and Alan Wright filled the position for one year. At the AGM of 1964 the position of Board Captain was abolished as were board riding events in the Club Championship. Some members, however, continued to enjoy board riding and entered Malibu events at carnivals during the 1965/66 season. At the South Curl Curl Carnival on New Year's Day 1966, Ian Wallis, who had returned to the Club, won the board race and K.J. Atteridge the

'Malibu display'.

The influx of a new batch of young members in the mid-1960s brought a number of boardriders to the Club who sought to continue their recreation. During the season of 1966/67 the Club even raffled a Malibu board, raising over \$300. With no board in the Club at this time newly joined member and American, Reid Barton, made a 'generous gesture in making his Malibu board available to the Club for full-time use by the various patrols as a lifesaving medium'. In the season of 1967/68 three Club members, Rod Macqueen, John Bond and Geoff Moss entered the NSW Malibu Board Riding Championships on the Central Coast. Moss won the Junior Title. During the same season a Club Malibu Board Championship was re-introduced and won by Paul Booth.

Relations between the Club and boardriders remained frosty throughout the 1960s and rapprochement would only occur in the 1970s. Writing in the late 1960s about the boardriding ethos and how it was at odds with the surf life saving movement, Craig McGregor noted:

Board riding is an intensely individualistic sport, whereas club surfing is a team effort. The boardrider is flexible, untrammelled, moving form beach to beach in search of waves; the surf life saver joins a single club, gives allegiance to a single beach and stays there while on duty. The surf clubs are the last citadels of unrepentant Australian masculinity. The one is cool, modern, uncommitted, the other traditional, hidebound, loyalist. One is self-involved, even selfish, one is aimed at service,; one is free-wheeling, one is self-disciplined; one is with it, one is square.<sup>40</sup>

At the AGM of 1964, Doug Newman replaced Norm Twight as Club Captain. Part of the reasoning behind many members' support of Newman's candidacy was that the young and successful sprinter might be able to attract young people back into the Club — that teenagers would see that the movement was not dominated by old men. By the end of the season, however, the attempt had been unsuccessful. Junior membership continued to hover around eight, while cadet membership remained at six. With the retirement of many older members in the wake of the Australian Championships, membership decreased to 213, with only 95 members available for active patrolling duties.

With Newman's representative commitments hampering his efforts as Club Captain he did not stand at the 1965 AGM and was replaced by Barry Cripps. Cripps saw his primary concern to be junior membership and so with Club President Dick Twight set about devising ways to arrest the problem. With the Club only able to muster sufficient numbers to man eight patrols for Sunday and Public Holiday duties, active reserve members were called upon to assist in patrolling the beach on Saturdays.

Twight and Cripps turned their attention to local High Schools as a possible source of membership and in November of 1965, after arrangements with Narrabeen Boys High School, students were invited to sit for their Bronze examination. Meeting at the beach every weekday afternoon for a month and coached by Twight with the assistance of Alan Leathley, Eddie Diggins and Graham Carlisle, 53 students gained their medallions on a very cold, windy and rough Sunday morning late in November. Some 30 of the boys then agreed to become active members of the Club giving an immediate boost to the patrol roster — a 'wonderful turn of events in respect of the Club's future'. By the end of the season the Club had a very respectable 33 juniors and 25 cadets. Overall club membership increased 45 to 258.

While Twight and Cripps were looking to the Club's short term needs, a number of senior club members were looking further into the future. Registrar Alan 'Milky' Wright suggested that the Club hold events for the children of club members to get them interested in surf life saving. These races were held on Sundays after the formal surf club competition had been completed. While the experiment in a junior surf life saving club had ended in the early 1930s, the 1960s had seen the re-emergence of junior surf life saving clubs in the Illawara Branch of the SLSA. By the mid-1960s former Club Secretary Graham Bartlett was living in the Illawara and continued his involvement with the movement. Joining the Towradgi Club, Bartlett helped form a local nippers club which competed in the first unofficial Nipper State Championships at Bulli. Still in contact with Collaroy members, Bartlett alerted them to the happenings on the South Coast. A picnic day between the two clubs was organised and on the

day Collaroy members heard more stories about the advantages of having a nipper club. In light of this visit, Peter and Neil Montgomery, Mick Chapman, and Laurie Walsh set about formalising Wright's juvenile competition by re-establishing a nippers club on Collaroy beach — over thirty years since the last club had folded. 44

The new 'Juvenile section of the Club' was formed at the beginning of the 1965/66 season and placed under the guidance of a Committee of parents drawn from the surf club, the Collaroy Plateau Youth Club and Dee Why Lion's Club. In its first season the Club registered 185 members with between 80 to 100 competitors every Sunday. It attended four interclub carnivals and a Branch Championships in its first year. At the carnivals, Collaroy won the point score at the first three and was runner up at the fourth. A great season was capped with the winning of the point score at the Branch Championships. Great pride was held in 'our future Surf Club Members'.45

Collaroy members played an important role in the spread of the Nipper movement



Nippers, L to R: Mark Patterson, Peter-Mitchell (Mitch) Montgomery, Glen Montgomery, John Florimo.

through the Northern Beaches and the formation of a Branch Association. Neil Montgomery would become Treasurer of the Branch and later President of the state body. With both a Branch and State Association now overseeing the development of juvenile surf life-saving, the Nipper movement attained some standardisation. Boys from 5 to 13 were eligible and were encouraged to participate in swimming, running and even beach football. The main aim was to 'train the boys to become future lifesavers'. At the age of 12 Nippers became eligible to complete their Resuscitation Certificate and thus be 'placed on the bottom rung of the ladder that ultimately leads to the fulfilment of being fully trained and to adequately assist in guarding the public on our glorious beaches'. 46

The Collaroy Club hosted the first official State Championships — sponsored by Ovaltine — on Sunday 5 March 1967. The Carnival was a large undertaking for both the junior and senior club drawing 5,000 Nippers from across the state. Collaroy's reputation for carnival organisation was upheld with another successful day. By the end of the 1966/67 season the Club had 140 registered Nippers. Since commencement 14 had transferred to the senior club.

The Collaroy Nippers lasted into the late 1960s but by the end of the decade had waned considerably. Unfortunately many parents had seen the Nipper movement as a child minding service and contributed little to keeping the Club functioning. Attempts by the senior club to get fathers qualified in resuscitation procedures so they in turn could teach children failed. Mick Chapman's famous 'Prawn Nights' began to attract less and less patronage. This placed too much pressure on the small band of mostly senior surf club volunteers who had started the Club. Associated with this, the Club was actually not achieving its main aim. An inventory conducted in the late 1960s found that a very small number of nippers had joined the senior club. While there were some notable successes, such as future Club Captain Neil McGaw and champion competitors Ian 'Inky' Montgomery and Garry Montgomery, most kids were only in the movement at their parents insistence and so when old enough to leave they did so. <sup>48</sup>



Interclub competition at Collaroy, 1967. In the red caps, Chris Montgomery (left) and Gary Pearce (right).

Members of the senior club were also concerned that at Branch and State level the movement was dominated by parents who had no surf lifesaving experience. The Club's participation in carnivals was severely curtailed after an incident at North Narrabeen when the Carnival referee, who had no lifesaving experience, continued the carnival in conditions deemed dangerous by members of the Collaroy Club. 49 By the early 1970s the Collaroy Junior Surf Life Saving Club had ceased to exist.

While the resurrection of the beach sprinters and March Past team greatly improved morale and laid the foundation stone for the recovery of the Club's fortunes, some members such as Dick Twight still longed to actually win some events in the water. While Mike Lynch continued to compete after the suspension incident, and would eventually win a Novice Surf race, the Club's swimming stocks were probably at their lowest ebb ever. It had to look back to John Morgan's Metropolitan win in 1960 to see evidence that there was any capability in the surf. Not surprisingly such a situation greatly frustrated Twight and a number of other senior club members.

To turn around the competitive stakes in an area such as swimming was seen as an effort requiring many years of careful dedication by both the club and its potential competitors. Many members were surprised therefore when the Club's swimming stocks improved virtually overnight. At the start of the 1965/66 season such stocks were minimal. By the end of the season the Club had risen to be a force with which to be reckoned. With the rounding out of the Club's competitive skills, it rose to heights not seen since the early 1920s. The 'Golden Summers' had returned.

By the mid 1960s the Collaroy Amateur Swimming Club held within its ranks state and Australian champions who were competing and being coached by the likes of Don Talbot and Ron Casey. During this period Casey in fact moved his operations from the North Sydney pool

to Collaroy, bringing with him a number of promising young swimmers.

During the winter of 1965 the Surf Club was made aware that one very promising member of the Amateur Swimming Club, Brooke Worthington, was considering joining a surf life saving club to compete. Given the association between the surf club and the swimming club, it was believed Collaroy might stand a chance of attracting Worthington to the red cap. Worthington and his father Jack were feted by the Club and shown its facilities and plans for the future. Despite a number of other clubs having expressed interest, Worthington decided to join Collaroy. With his contacts in the stillwater swimming community Fred Worthington informed the Club that he would be happy to assist it to attract more good swimmers and so build stocks. For the likes of Dick Twight, Worthington's decision to join the Club was a dream come true.

Not all stillwater coaches, however, were happy with allowing their charges to join a surf club. Don Talbot, for example, was strongly opposed to the practice on the grounds that surf swimming was injurious to a swimmer's stillwater style. A number of Talbot's charges, however, including Worthington, decided to join Collaroy. Initially some of them did not tell Talbot of their decision and in one amusing case Collaroy member Ricky Cooper had his name changed after a win at Mona Vale so that when the results appeared in the paper coach Talbot would not become aware of the deception.

In contrast to Talbot the 'flamboyant and unpredictable' Ron Casey saw no danger to a stillwater swimmer in competitive surf racing. In one of his students Casey saw a potential surf champion. He informed Club Captain Cripps that one of his students was never going to win an Australian stillwater title but that with a 'heart as big as a football' he might fare better in the surf. <sup>50</sup> Chris Bradford joined the Club as a junior shortly afterwards and was followed by his

younger brother Mike the following season. With Bradford and Worthington on board the Club attracted a steady stream of excellent swimmers. Another of Casey's charges was Ian Montgomery who joined the senior club with his brother Peter. Two future Olympians were also attracted to the Club — Mark Anderson and 800 metre world record holder John Bennett. With these new additions, Dick Twight had a stable of excellent swimmers. Now all they needed was to acquire the requisite surf skills to make them Australian champions.

At Carnivals the Club's new surf team quickly strung up an impressive list of wins and places, complementing the continued success of the March Past and runners on the beach. Brook Worthington, along with Doug Newman secured selection in the State team while Chris Bradford represented the Branch — the beginnings of a long period of representation by Collaroy members in Branch, State and Australian surf teams. As the 1966 State Championships at North Wollongong approached, the Club for the first time in its history was actually entertaining the thought that it could win the general point score and the prize of a new surf boat supplied by Viscount Cigarettes. While the March Past secured a disappointing third place, the runners held their own with Doug Newman winning the senior beach sprint and the relay team finishing second. Such results were not fantastic, but the Club still had the chance of winning points in the water. In the Cadet Surf Race Mark Anderson finished first, with Brook Worthington finishing second in the Junior Surf and fourth in the Junior Belt. Even the Club's R&R stakes were resurrected with a third place in the junior R&R. The Club won the Championship Point Score and the Viscount Boat.

At the Australian Championships at Coolangatta the March Past were once again the bridesmaids, this time behind a triple dead heat for first. Brook Worthington came first and Chris Bradford second in the Junior Surf while Anderson finished second in the Cadet Surf. The day, however, was captured by the sprinters with Newman winning the Beach Sprint and the relay team (John King, Doug Newman, Chris Senior, Rob Senior, Rod Shepherd, Neil Montgomery — Coach) winning its final. For only the second time in its history, Collaroy left



Australian Open Beach Relay Champions, 1965/66. L to R, back: Doug Newman (also Australian Open Beach Sprint champion), John King, Chris Senior; front: Rob Senior, Neil Montgomery (coach), Rod Shepherd.



Australian Junior Surf Champion 1965/66, Brook Worthington.



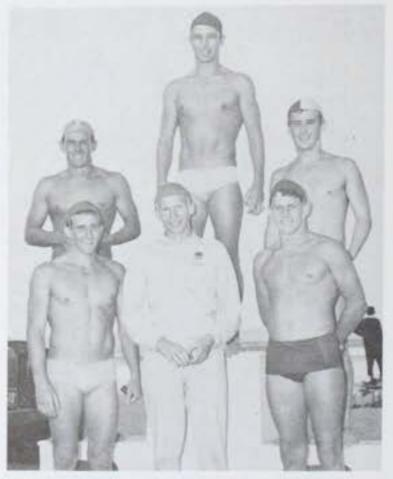
Australian Cadet Surf Champion, 1966/67 Mark Anderson with Club Captain Barry Cripps and President Dick Twight following the presentation.

the Championships with three gold medals. Only Clovelly finished better with regard to the number of Championships won. From relative obscurity, Collaroy, in the space of a season had risen to the upper echelon of competitive clubs within the movement.

The season of 1966/67 saw more representative honours (with Newman and Bradford selected for the Australian team to New Zealand) and more good results at carnivals and Branch and Metropolitan Championships. At the State titles the March Past won, as did Bradford in the junior surf, while amongst the runners Paul Booth came second in the junior beach sprint and Bob Langbien Inr third in the cadets. The Australian Championships saw yet another milestone for the Club when the March Past won with '0 points' deducted - a first in the history of lifesaving. According to the judges the team had marched faultlessly. To round out this success Bradford won the Junior Surf and an ill Mark Anderson the Cadet Surf Race. The runners made the finals before a serious injury to Robin Senior forced their



Robert Langbein Jnr, NSW Cadet Beach Sprint Champion, 1968. Langbein was undefeated for the season at a time Australian Senior Surf Team Champions, 1968. Back when the event was not listed in the Australian Championships.



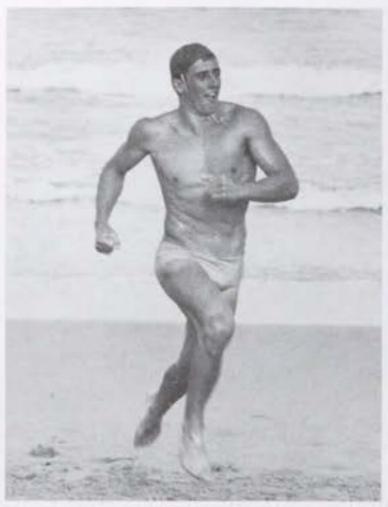
middle: Rick Cooper; front, L to R: Chris Bradford, Mark Anderson, Tim Hixson.



The Australian representative team to New Zealand, 1967. Doug Newman (first standing left) and Chris Bradford (first seated right).



Australian March Past Champions, 1966/67 achieved zero deductions. L to R: Dick Twight, Peter Montgomery, Barry Cripps, John Ison, John Cochrane, Tony Hickey, Col Newman, Barry McConville, Tony Duffy, John Ellis, Wal Edmonds, Brian De Maniel, Graham Carlisle (coach), Col Burns, Clem Noble.



Chris Bradford bursts from the surf to win the Australian Open Surf Championship, 1968.

withdrawal. Collaroy was the only club to win three Championships at the titles.

Into 1967/68 the Golden Summers rolled on. In the course of the season the club secured a phenomenal number placings, an added burden for the compiler of the Annual Report. At the State Championships at Kingscliff, the March Past secured yet another win, as did Robert Langbein Jnr in the Cadet Beach Sprint — being undefeated for the season. Demonstrating the Club's depth in swimming it also secured the Senior and Junior Surf Teams race. For a second time the club won the state point score and the Bank of New South Wales reel. This good form continued into the Australians at North Cronulla with Championship wins to the March Past, Senior Surf Team (Mark Anderson, Chris Bradford, Rick Cooper and Tim Hixson), Junior Surf Team (Mark Anderson, Hixson, Worthington and John Cottee) and Chris Bradford in the Open Surf. For the first time in its history Collarov had come away from a national titles with four Australian Championships.



Prime Minister John Gorton presents coach Graham Carlisle with the 'little gold man' following the March Past Team's win at the 1968 North Cronulla Championships.



The Australian representative team to South Africa, 1968/69. Chris Bradford kneels second from right.



Australian March Past Champions, 1969. The Collaroy team exits the surf at Clifton Beach.

The season of 1968/69 forced the Club to test the depth of its swimming stocks. During the course of the season Tim Hixson was lost to studies in America, Brook Worthington retired and Mark Anderson broke a leg. The likes of Mike Bradford, John Cottee, Mitch O'Neil and Ian Montgomery, however, quickly filled the breach. As the Junior Surf Team they secured third place at the Australian Championships, as did the Beach Relay team of Lindsay Drake, Chris Senior, Doug Newman and Paul Booth. While these results were disappointing when compared to the phenomenal success of proceeding years, from the 20 carnivals competed in by the Club over the course of the season, it secured 52 firsts, 43 seconds and 30 thirds. Included in these wins were Branch, State and Australian titles for the March Past team for the third year in succession. In addition John Bennett, Chris Bradford and Mark Anderson were selected for the State team and the Senior Surf Team of Bennett, Bradford, Cooper and Anderson won the NSW Championship.

The final season of the 1960s saw the Club still well on top with wins at the State titles in Junior Beach Flags (Garry



John Bennett, winner Australian Open Non-Championship Surf Race, 1970.

Montgomery) and the March Past. The Open Surf Teams (Simon Anderson, Mike Bradford, Bill Ebsary and Ian Montgomery) and the Junior Beach Relay (Langbien, Garry Montgomery, Mike Rathbourne and Andrew Thompson) secured second places. At the national titles the March Past came first in the Interstate Competition and second in the Inter-club, the Open Surf Teams (Ebsary replaced by Bennett and Simon Anderson by Mark Anderson) finished first and Bennett won the Open Non-Championship Surf Race. Amongst the runners, Garry Montgomery came second in the Junior Flags and the Junior Relay team secured third (Langbien, Montgomery, Rathbourne and Thompson).

The Collaroy team was now graced with some of the best athletes in Australia, but their transition to the surf had required much hard work and tuition. While all had benefited from the tuition of Dick Twight some, such as Ian Montgomery, would come to surpass the skills of their teacher. Their loyalty to Collaroy also came at a time when incentives and inducements were starting to play a role in the surf life saving movement, as rival clubs attempted to secure the services of talented competitors. At Collaroy no incentives or inducements were made, other than the facilities which were offered to all members. These national title holders still had to meet the obligations of other members of the Club and catch up on patrols when competing. That these members took this role seriously was highlighted at a carnival at Queensciffe in January 1970 when John Bennett and Chris Bradford donned the belt during a mass rescue.

Collaroy's success in point score competition at State carnivals and in Australian Championship tallies had brought the Club to the forefront of the surf life saving movement.



Gary Montgomery, 2nd Australian Junior Beach Flags championship, 1970, narrowly defeats clubmate and future State Beach Flag placegetter Paul Booth during a Branch carnival.

Not one championship general point score or Branch, State or National title however had come from the Club's boatmen. The 1960s continued to prove a very difficult period for Collaroy's rowers. While the runners, swimmers and March Past were all lifting Collaroy to new heights, the boat crews remained locked in the doldrums.

In 1963 Graeme Bruce became Boat Captain and was determined to resurrect the Club's fortunes in surf boat competition. As usual much hope was pinned on the change of fortune which a new boat might bring. At the beginning of the 1964/65 season, the Club took delivery of its newest boat McWilliam's Wines IV, but unfortunately it failed to lift the Club's performance — not one place gained for the entire season. The new boat, however, did renew some interest in rowing amongst members and the Club was represented at all carnivals, sometimes with as many as three crews. In his report of the season Bruce could only ask the experienced boatmen to 'Stick with it' and endeavour to encourage other members to line up against a wall and forget to duck the approaching bricks.

Over the winter of 1965, the Club embarked on yet another scheme to increase its junior membership. Since the 1950s, Collaroy had fielded a team in the Sydney beach football competition. Initially the competition had started south of the harbour and Collaroy members made the regular trip to play. Into the 1960s, however, efforts were made to organise a north of the harbour competition. Within this competition the Club enjoyed a great deal of success, thanks in part to its depth of rugby league players.

As the 1965 beach football season approached, active reserve member Bob Cooley turned his attention to a group of youths who were regular visitors to the beach. The group were mainly boardriders who seemed to have a healthy dislike of the Surf Club but did enjoy a game of touch football on the reserve and played rugby union at weekends. Cooley, a former North Sydney rugby league grade player, suggested to this group that they might like to form a junior beach football team which he would be willing to coach. The youths agreed and so the junior



Beach football had a combination of rules from both Rugby codes. Here, Collaroy members compete in the traditional Younguns v Olduns, early 1960s.

team was formed. Having gained an introduction to the Club, senior members then attempted to encourage them to join the Club proper. Having been introduced these young men discovered that the Surf Club was not as boring or 'square' as their surfing buddies claimed. The initiative saw the likes of future life members Paul Booth and Rod Macqueen join the Club. With junior rowing stakes in very poor shape these young men were told that if they were interested in rowing they could form a crew amongst themselves.

The season of 1965/66 was notable not for the few places Collaroy crews secured but the heightened level of enthusiasm. The season was viewed as 'one of the most successful for many years'. The Club had three junior crews in training creating a new problem — a shortage of experienced sweeps. The Club was also promised yet another boat from McWilliam's Wines. Bruce concluded: 'With our new boat, sweeps, and rowers with more experience, I feel sure that the coming season must once again bring the name of Collaroy to the fore as a club to be contended with in the boating world'.

As predicted the 1967/68 season did see a resurgence of boat rowing at Collaroy. Much of the reason for this resurgence lay with the arrival of North Bondi sweep John Brown to the Club. At North Bondi, Brown had benefited greatly from the experience of Keith Hirst who had swept a number of legendary North Bondi crews. In 1967 Brown moved to the Northern Beaches and decided to join Collaroy. He took the sweeping and coaching duties for the new Junior A crew (Rod Macqueen, Malcolm Dunwoodie, Peter Alford and Murray Dickson).

Having been with a competitive boat rowing club Brown was up to date on a number of developments in technique which had passed by the Collaroy rowers. With the application of these techniques and more rigorous training schedules, the Junior A crew quickly became competitive, to the delight of the Club. That Collaroy had been left behind with regard to recent developments in rowing was highlighted towards the end of the season during a row off between the Junior A and the Senior A crews. Returning from a run to Long Reef the two boats

began a race for home. With Graeme Bruce as sweep, and rowing the old regime of 35 strokes per minute, the Senior A crew shot away from their younger opponents. Brown, however, maintained the new regime of 26 to 27 strokes per minute, and gradually the juniors started to gain on their more experienced opponents. The junior crew passed the seniors and won in convincing fashion. For members of the senior crew it was a startling indication of just how much off the pace Collaroy had become.

Brown and his junior boat crew performed very creditably through a year which was marred by 'prangs', a disqualification at the State titles and Rod Macqueen's suspension for 'disturbing the sleep of the March Past team' during an incident at the State titles. With the team still hopeful of success at the national titles the suspended Macqueen dedicated his time to rugby union on Saturdays and rugby league on Sundays. Playing in a local C Grade rugby league team coached by Brown, himself a former North Sydney player, Macqueen broke his wrist the weekend before the Australian titles. Walking from the field with the bone protruding from a compound fracture, he informed Brown 'I think I can row'. The boatmen's best chance

in many years went begging.

At the 1968 AGM Darryl Ford replaced Bruce as Captain although business commitments forced his resignation and replacement by Len Gibbons. With Macqueen now a senior, Brown swept a newly constituted Senior A crew (Macqueen, Gibbons, Bill Campbell and Neil McLean). This new combination under Brown's tutelage quickly got results and in 15 carnivals, the crew made the semis or finals of ten and at the North Steyne Carnival deadheated for first — the Club's first win in a senior open surf carnival for some 18 years. Bad luck, however, continued to dog the rowers, seeing McLean dislocate his shoulder and poor quality wood resulting in three snapped oars including one at the State titles. The team was selected to represent the Club at the Inter-State Championships at Clifton Beach but were swamped in the final — the team report later claiming that on Saturday evening the crew drowned their sorrows by joining the 'flower people'. By the end of the decade the only ingredients missing



The scratch boat crew who saved the Wilde family in October, 1961. L to R: Peter Vaubell, Rodney Shepherd, Bob Maladay, Brian Stevens, Tom Coppin.

were more hard work and a bit of good luck. The 1970s would prove kinder to the Club's boatmen.

Collaroy's attempts to resurrect past glories with its boat crews, came at a time when the role of the surf boat within the movement was undergoing some significant changes. The emergence of the powered surf boat would see the decline of the traditional surf boat as a piece

of surf life saving equipment.

The use of the surf boat in off shore rescue work had continued into the 1960s. On the first day of the surfing season in October 1961, a scratch crew of Collaroy members (Tim Coppin, Rod Shepherd, Brian Stevens, Peter Vaubell with Bob Maladay sweep) were called upon to save the Wild family whose 33 foot cruiser 'Sail Fish' struck a submerged object off Long Reef and radioed for emergency assistance. The call was picked up by the Volunteer Coastal Patrol and relayed to the club house. The crew rowed for half an hour into a stiff southerly before finally reaching the sinking vessel which was over three miles off shore. Mr Howard Wild Jnr was the Managing Director of Coca Cola in Australia and later, after some prompting, donated a set of oars to the Club in appreciation.

Just as the emergence of the torpedo tube and mouth to mouth resuscitation began to transform the movement, developments in Queensland, were spelling the beginning of the end of the surf boat's role as a piece of surf rescue equipment. At the 1964 Australian Championships at Collaroy, Queensland boat builder Jack Evans demonstrated a powered surf boat which could easily out-perform a traditional surf boat in all conditions.<sup>51</sup> In the wake of

the championships, the Maroubra and Freshwater clubs turned their attention to the

possibilities of a motorised surf boat.

At Collaroy, Bob Maladay, who was a professional fishermen, took great interest in these developments and started to consider the possibilities for a powered surf boat in the Collaroy/Narrabeen area. In this endeavour he was strongly supported by Bill Abbott and Tom Whelan. Through public donation and limited financial assistance from local clubs, an old double ended fishing boat with a three litre petrol engine which drove a normal propeller was purchased and moored on Fishermen's Beach. Unfortunately the boat was soon seen to be too lightly powered for the tasks envisaged for it and considerations turned to other possibilities.

One absent member who returned to the Club in 1967 and came to play an active role in development of the power boats was Darryll Ford. Having given away his job as a newspaper photographer Ford had become a regular soldier. Stationed at Mosman, he was able to maintain his membership of the surf club through the 1960s. With the commitment of Australian combat troops to



Darryll Ford (left) on active service in Vietnam.

Vietnam, Ford found himself bound for Indo-China as an infantry sergeant in the Fifth 'Tiger' Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment. While Ford was the only Collaroy member to see service during the war a number of former members, including Bob Cochrane (1955/56 to 1962/63), John Vincent (1959/60 to 1963/64) and Trevor Beer (1958/59 to 1959/60) also saw service in Vietnam. All were regular soldiers rather than national servicemen.

Arriving in Vietnam in 1966, Ford was initially posted to the seaside staging depot of Vung Tau. As in World War II, Australian service personnel decided to take advantage of a nearby beach and so Ford was involved in the formation of the First Australian Logistics and Support Group 'Vung Tau' Surf Life Saving Club which patrolled the so-called 'Back Beach'. Living in tents in the neighbouring sand dunes, troops would be taken down for a swim each day in the warm and salty water under the escort of former lifesavers. Sharks were a problem so the beach often had an armed guard, sometimes



Entry point to Vung Tau Beach, Vietnam, late 1960s

— Archives, SLSA.



Club Patron, Kelth McWilliam, hands over McWilliam's Wines IV to Wing Commander Boorman of the Overseas Forces Fund for use on Vietnam beaches.



McWilliam's Wines IV on the beach at Vung Tau.

positioned in a helicopter. Rescues were performed in either a helicopter or an assualt craft before a reel finally arrived from Australia. The Club house was originally a tent and the mainstay membership was the support and logistics units which were stationed in the area. The Collaroy connection with the Club would continue after Ford's return to Australia when the surf boat McWilliam's Wines IV was donated to the Vung Tau Club.

During ambush and counter-ambush operations in the Nui Din Hills, Ford's platoon was involved in the preparation of an ambush which included the setting up of a number of claymore ball bearing mines around the killing zone. Unfortunately prior to contact, the opposing North Vietnamese unit managed to alter the direction of the mines back towards the Australians. In the ensuing firefight the mines were detonated in the direction of Ford's platoon. Three of Ford's men were killed and eight, including Ford, were injured. Ford was discharged from the Army and returned to the Club, where he continued his interest in surf boats but increasingly turned his attention to powerboats.

Back at Freshwater, experiments with speed boat hulls and jet engines continued. A jet engine could provide not only the necessary power to punch a boat through waves but would also be safer than exposed propellers and greatly increase the boat's potential in shallow water. Watching such developments keenly, Maladay and his colleagues secured the financial assistance of the Brookvale Lions Club to trial an experimental design incorporating a Hammond hull and single stage jet engine.

This prototype proved superior to the previous boat but still had some problems. One of these related to the hand control for the throttle which developed a problem. One Sunday morning during trials, with Bob Maladay at the wheel, the boat approached Collaroy from Long Reef. The beach and surf were full of bathers. As the boat approached the beach, Maladay attempted to reduce speed but found that the throttle had stuck. Desperately attempting to ease the throttle as the boat streaked towards the crowd and the beach, he turned to his crew and

asked 'How do you stop this f . . . thing?'. Miraculously the boat missed swimmers and shot

up the beach once again missing sunbakers. The throttle system was changed.

In 1968 the boat, which continued to be simply left on the beach, was vandalised, prompting calls for the provision by Council of some sort of accommodation. With the news of the vandalism, Brookvale Lions Club joined with the Forestville Lions Club to pay for the repairs. At the same time it agreed to help meet the cost of a new jet boat if Council did build a boatshed and club house for its operators. Without consulting the Manly-Warringah Branch of the SLSA, Maladay approached the Council concerning the provision of accommodation. Council agreed to build a boatshed and club house on Fishermen's Beach on the condition that a jet boat service be maintained.

In searching for a new design Maladay and his colleagues approached W.E. Smith, the importers of engines manufactured by the New Zealand company Hamilton Jet. Hamilton had designed a new boat which was supposedly unsinkable and had a 186 Holden two stage jet engine which gave considerably more thrust than the old one stage engine. As well as the support of the Lions Clubs the three clubs involved (Collaroy, North Narrabeen and South Narrabeen, later joined by Narrabeen Beach) started to hold roadside collections. Ford was now working at Channel Ten and secured the Channel's promotional bus to help with these

collections. Very quickly the \$6000 required had been secured

Before delivery of the new boat a young lifesaver from South Narrabeen, Paul Jackman, was drowned whilst trying to perform a rescue. When the new boat was ready for delivery it was decided to christen it the *Paul Jackman* and the new design became known as the 'Jackman Class'. Because of the need to be in contact with the shore the Association also conducted experiments with 2 way VHF radios and with their waterproofing. The boat maintained radio contact not only with its base but also the four clubs along the beach, allowing it to respond quickly to any emergency.

With the new club house and new boat, the Fishermen's Beach Power Boat Association was formed from the members of Collaroy and South and North Narrabeen surf clubs. The newly formed Narrabeen Beach SLSC would also later join the Association. Bob Maladay was elected the foundation Captain and Bill Abbott foundation Boat Captain in recognition of the time and money they had put into the enterprise. Soon after the Association joined with jet boat operations at Freshwater, Newport and Whale Beach to form a branch power boat committee.

While the new boat had its teething problems especially with fittings and damage to the impeller from sand, it proved a very good boat and performed a lot of valuable rescue work, both through patrolling the beaches between Collaroy and North Narrabeen and in off-shore rescue work. Members of the Association were frequently awakened in the middle of the night

by police to answer a distress flare and often coordinated with other rescue services.

With the death of Bob Maladay in the early 1970s, the driving force behind the powerboat association was gone. Shortly after, Bill Abbott moved from the district and Darryll Ford assumed much of the responsibility for the service's continuation. Eventually members of the North Narrabeen club took up much of the slack left by the Collaroy members, but through the 1970s there were increasing concerns about the viability of the service. By the early 1980s the boat was still at Long Reef but was used exclusively by the Shire's life guards. The continual increases in running costs and the development of the Inshore Rescue Boat (IRB) and the surf rescue helicopter service conspired against the continuation of a jet boat service. The old club house for the Powerboat Association is now the radio headquarters of Warringah Surf Rescue.

The elevation of Collaroy to the forefront of the surf life saving movement placed considerable pressure on the administration of the Club. Competitive success came at a



The Jetboat off Collaroy in the mid-1970s.



The establishment of the Helicopter Rescue Service followed an examination by the SLSA of a similar service in New Zealand.

financial cost. With more competitors the Club expended greater sums in entry fees and transported larger teams to State and National titles. At the same time the late 1960s saw sharp rises in the cost of equipment and associated maintenance. In the season of 1963/64 total Club expenditure was £446. By the season of 1967-68 this had jumped to \$2500.

For the first fifty years of the Club, subscriptions, carnival and social event proceeds, and unsolicited personal donations had helped the Club meet its running costs. In the season of 1959/60 for example the Club's expenditure totalled £365. Of the £385 in receipts for the season, £260 came from subscriptions, personal donations and social event proceeds (the Club not running an Open carnival that year). The gap between Club expenditure and these traditional sources of income would increase throughout the 1960s and by the season of 1968/69 expenditure totalled \$2518 while only \$600 was taken by the Club through traditional sources.

As this income shortfall started to worsen during the mid-1960s, the Club was forced to find ways to raise additional income. Fortunately, it still had another source of income through its premises account which held the proceeds from letting the hall to other community groups. While the Premises Account could keep the General Club Account out of deficit, Club Treasurer Bill Goodman (whose unbroken run in the position was now over 20 years and had already seen him rewarded with Life Membership and the Club's Honour Blazer) continually warned that such a solution was not satisfactory. The Club needed other sources of income.

In searching for fundraising solutions the Club looked to the old and the new. Art Unions, which had been used to raise money for the third club house in the 1920s were organised, with the support of local Rotary Clubs, to finance team trips. Mick Chapman launched his own personal fundraising efforts with his 100, 50 and 200 Clubs which raised much needed funds. Decimalisation in February 1966 was seen as an opportunity to raise subscription rates which were 'among the lowest on the coast'.



During the 1960s Warringah Mall shopping centre sponsored an annual 'Surf Girl Quest' with the support of local surf clubs and the assistance of their March Past teams. Collaroy's entrant for the 1964 Quest was Carol Abbott (6th left), daughter of Life Member Bill.

In the past women associated with the Club had played an important role in fundraising through their organisation of social events, usually under the banner of the 'Ladies Auxiliary'. During the 1960/61 season the latest version, the 'Women's Committee' of Roslyn Mead, Maureen Thierle, Kathy Caulfield and Helen Weatherburn emerged and played an important role in the Club's successful social calender for the season. The following season these girlfriends of Club members were joined by the wives of older members and became the 'Ladies Auxiliary', organising a wide variety of events ranging from cabarets to a 'Mannequin Parade' with models arranged by Norm Twight who compered the program. With the male Social Committee 'nonexistent' the women raised over £160 for the Club. The following season the Auxiliary failed to regather, forcing the Club Secretary, in lieu of a social committee, to organise activities.

While a social committee was elected at each AGM, it was not until the season of 1966/67, with the election of Reid Barton to the position of Social Secretary, that a social program aimed at entertaining as well as raising money for the Club re-appeared. In his efforts Barton was assisted by a number of Club members and 'ladies, or the girls as they would prefer to be called'. Winter Dinner Dances and Christmas Dinner Dances at Windsor Gardens and Presentation Balls at Porta Villa, lifted the Club' social activities to a new level of sophistication and popularity — making them far more accessible to the partners of members — however, the moneys raised from such events were not large, leaving the Club still requiring other sources of income.

By the end of the 1966/67 season Goodman gave the Club a stark warning. With expenditure rising over \$600 a year it was imperative that the issue be fully addressed rather than continuing to be dealt with in an ad hoc way. As a result it was decided to form a new committee from 'senior members of the Club with considerable business experience'. It would be the responsibility of this new committee to use its collective business acumen to 'consider



The foundation Ways and Means Committee. L to R, back: Mick Chapman, Reid Barton, Graham Carlisle, Barry Cripps; front: Dick Wright, Wal Bradford, Ray Barker, Bill Goodman.

ways and means of raising finance for the conduct of the Club's affairs'. The Committee would be known as the 'Ways and Means Committee' and the first committee consisted of Ray Barker, Wal Bradford, Graham Carlisle, Mick Chapman, Barry Cripps, Bill Goodman and local 'business man', Dick Wright.

In its first year the Committee proved a phenomenal success raising over \$1900 through a variety of initiatives. In the 1967/68 Annual Report Goodman noted that for the first time the Club had been able to meet its commitments as they fell due. The great expectations held for the Ways and Means Committee, however, were unrealised when it failed to continue its good work into the 1968/69 season. In comparison to the previous season, the Committee raised only \$732 through a roadside collection and a door knock appeal.

With the Club not having any cash to pay for trophies or the publication of the annual report, an approach was made to the publican of the recently opened *Time and Tide Hotel* in Dee Why. The Hotel was a favoured haunt of Collaroy members and the Club sought permission to start a raffle on Saturday afternoons. Permission was given and so began yet another Club tradition. Within a season the *Time and Tide* raffle was the Club's major source of income but the revenue gained was insufficient to realise Goodman's goal of financial security for the Club. While costs had increased in the 1960s, they would skyrocket in the 1970s forcing new approaches to a longstanding problem.

Other attempts to 'streamline the Club's administration' during the 1960s was the formation at the 1967 AGM of a Life Saving Committee consisting of the Club Captain, Vice Captain, Chief Instructor, Patrol Officer, Boat Captain, Registrar and Gear Steward. With the Club holding so many competitors, with membership by 1967/68 at a record 272, the Lifesaving Committee was formed to coordinate the lifesaving and competitive activities of the Club.



Group of Club members - Memorial Day, Summer, 1969.

Despite the many challenges which appeared during the 1960s Collaroy finished the decade on a high. Much of the credit for the return of the golden summers was directed to Club Captain Barry Cripps and Club President Dick Twight. With the task completed both stepped down from office. Twight was replaced as President at the AGM of 1970 by Doug Graham while those who had feared the Americanisation of surf life saving through initiatives such as the torpedo buoy and the threat of the Malibu probably would not have welcomed Reid Barton's election to the Club captaincy at the 1968 AGM. The American was the first overseas born member to have captained the Club.

The 1960s marked one of the most eventful periods in the history of the Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club. From the low point of the 1963 suspension the Club rebuilt and by the end of the decade had achieved a position of prominence within the movement which it had not held for over 40 years. On the competitive side, the period saw many firsts, including the holding of the 1964 Australian Championships. The 1960s also saw a number of changes within the movement and Australian society more generally, which challenged the traditional way in which the Club was run. From changes in rescue technique and equipment to the loss of junior members to boardriding and the increasing cost of surf lifesaving, the Club had been forced to change its attitude and approach. Into the 1970s and 80s the Collaroy Club would face even greater challenges.

## 7

## A Surf Club Lost - A Surf Club Found

There is too much looking back in the Surf Lifesaving movement. We live in a constantly changing world. How can lifesaving remain static in such dynamic surroundings? With some notable exceptions the approach to lifesaving and the attitude of many of the movement's officials is a relic of the 1930s. Unless these attitudes change the movement will die before 1985.

By the beginning of the 1970s Collaroy's transformation to a residential suburb was complete. While remaining an attractive destination for weekend visits, its days as Sydney's 'premier surf resort' were well and truly passed. The late 1960s, however, had seen moves by the Council and developers to transform the Collaroy/Narrabeen beach front. In the mid-1960s, developer E.T. Lennon, built a seven storey apartment block called 'Shipmates' for £250 000. By the 1960s many blocks on the Collaroy/Narrabeen beachfront had been resumed as public space, either after the houses were lost during the storms of the early 1920s and mid-1940s or through the activities of local Progress Associations. With the construction of 'Shipmates', the Council was petitioned to rezone all the remaining private land on the beach front to allow for more high rise residential development. In arguing the developers' case Lennon suggested 'We have a rare chance to create a Miami, a Honolulu'. Council agreed and rezoned.

Lennon's second high rise residential complex was 'Flight Deck', a 14 storey development which began construction in the late 1960s. On the drawing boards were plans for two other 'skyscrapers', nominally known as 'Diamond Head' and the 'Collaroy Surfside Lodge'.

On 22 November 1967 an easterly gale wreaked havoc on the Collaroy/Narrabeen beach front as it had on several occasions during the course of the century. In front of the club house the retaining sea wall collapsed under the pressure of the swell.<sup>2</sup> Grave fears were held for the ability of the beachside tower blocks to endure such conditions and memories returned to the

The big seas also proved a catalyst for a debate about the architectural future of the area. Did local residents desire a high rise beach front reminiscent of popular American resorts? Many did not and so began to agitate against the further construction of high rise buildings. A delegation approached Warringah Council with a petition from local residents calling for a stop to high rise construction. In December of 1967 a meeting of 300 residents at the surf club formed the Collaroy-Narrabeen Beachfront Progress Association which continued to make representation to the Council. In defending the position of the Association, local journalist and author George Blaikie noted 'We are here to defend our way of life, to preserve our lovely area and to go on enjoying surf, sand and sun . . We stress that Collaroy is a place for children. You don't have children on the top of a 14-storey building. When flats move in, children move out. Concrete giants kill that sort of life'. With the continuing threat of storm damage and community opposition, Council decided to stop the issuing of permits for high rise construction on the Collaroy beach front. Not, however, before the construction of the 'Marquesas' complex at South Narrabeen.



The changing face of the Collaroy beachfront. Brian & Paul Booth, Gary Montgomery compete with 'Flightdeck' in the background.



The construction of the sea wall in front of the club house following storm damage in the late 1960s.

At Collaroy SLSC, the early 1970s saw a continuation of the Club's competitive success. At the 1971 Australian Championships the Open Surf Team of Mark Anderson, Mike Bradford, Peter Hewlett, Ian Montgomery and William 'Buddy' Portier (yet another strong stillwater swimmer attracted to the Club) were again successful after having already secured the Branch, Metropolitan and State Championships. On the sand the Cadet Beach Relay Team of Brian Booth, David Booth, Andrew Brown, Peter Donkin and Stephen Temple gained second place at both the State and Australian Championships. The March Past team had to settle for second place behind old rivals Bundaberg at the Australian titles. Even the senior R&R team which included a number of the Club's top competitors had a successful season with one open carnival win and several places. The Club was also represented in Branch and State teams by Ian Montgomery, Mark Anderson, Garry Montgomery, and Mike Bradford. Neil Montgomery assumed the role of Manager to the Branch team, while also holding the position of Branch Deputy Superintendent.

The following season saw the Open Surf Team (with Chris Piper replacing Mark Anderson) win their event for the third year in succession — a record only rivalled by the Manly Club in the period 1920 to 1922. On the sand the cadet runners performed well and the March Past Team secured its fifth Australian Championship, heralding the end of an era with the announcement, in the wake of the win, of Graham Carlisle's retirement from coaching.

With the resurrection of competitive fortunes in the mid-1960s senior officials held the view that strong performances in competition would also benefit the Club's first priority, the safeguarding of the public on Collaroy Beach. At a time when surf club membership continued to be viewed unfavourably in comparison to boardriding, Collaroy's competitive successes alleviated some of these negatives. Brimfull of Australian champions, many youths aspired to join the Club. While they may have joined for competition they were still forced to accept patrol responsibilities. The rationale was that good competition helped maintain membership



Collaroy's premiership winning beach football team, 1970. L to R, standing: John Breen, Gary Montgomery, Bill Abbott, Mick Chapman, Ross Black, Paul Drake, Doug Newman, Bob Bell, Paul Booth, Rod Macqueen, David Black; kneeling: Neil Montgomery, Peter Burke, Terry Gibbons, Steve Ellis, Col Burns, Peter McCurtayne.



Australian Open Surf Team Champions 1972. L to R: William 'Buddy' Portier, Mike Bradford, Ian Montgomery, Chris Piper.



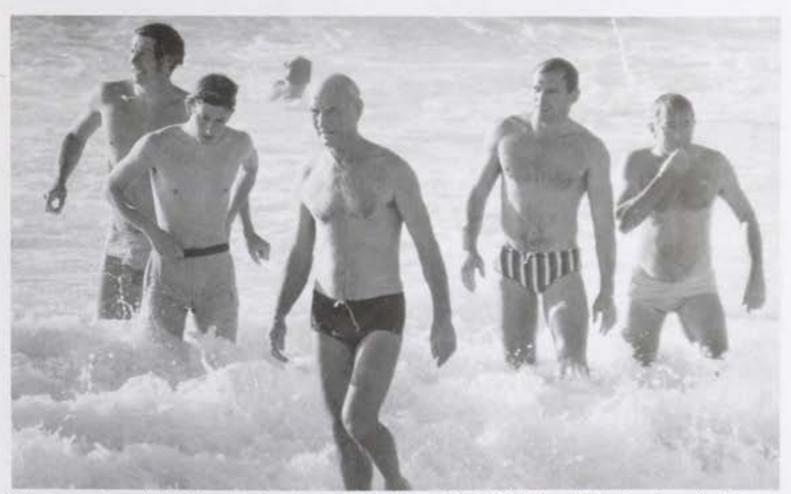
Australian March Past Champions 1972. Peter Montgomery is congratulated by SLSA Life Governor, Sir Adrian Curlewis. L to R: John Ward, Peter Montgomery, Reid Barton, Jon Farrell, John Stanley, Sir Adrian Curlewis (President SLSA), John Ison, Mick Chapman, Graham Carlisle.

and, therefore, numbers patrolling the beach. The standard of patrols could also be maintained by utilising the threat of no competition as a penalty for poor patrol efficiency or attendance.<sup>4</sup>

By the early 1970s, however, it appeared that this home truth was less and less the case. In part the problem was born of complacency — having enjoyed such a long period of competitive success a majority of active members had never experienced any other sort of club life and also had no idea of how the Club had gained such a position in the first place. To many members it simply appeared that individual dedication to competition was the key to the Club's success. Few of the younger members expressed any desire to actually offer their time to the important administrative dimension of club life.

In his final report as Captain, Reid Barton noted the alarming trend — too much of the day to day running of the Club was being left to the 'old reliables'. He warned: 'If this trend continues these good members will leave because of the lack of support from the other members'. In the same season the Club recorded its second consecutive drop in membership since the high point of 1967/68. By the end of the 1969/70 season membership had dropped from that high of 272 to 244 with only 109 members available for patrol duty. Reflecting Barton's concerns, the largest losses were recorded in Senior and Active Reserve membership. Such trends marked the beginning of a malaise in administration. Into the season of 1970/71 the summary of attendances by officials at General Committee meetings was noted by new Captain Mick Chapman as the 'worst on record', making it 'very hard to run a Club of our size'.

The loss of direction in the senior echelons of the Club had its greatest impact in the area of patrols. Into the 1970s the patrol efficiency was seen to be very low with high levels of absenteeism and low levels of enthusiasm. Upon gaining the captaincy Chapman and his Patrol Officer, Col Newman, set about addressing patrol problems. While they were able to reverse the trend with regard to absenteeism, patrol standards remained poor and the balance between



Collaroy member and State Superintendant, Hector McDonald, escorting H.R.H. Prince Charles from the surf at Coogee, April 1970. L to R: Dennis Heussner, Prince Charles, Con Asmussen (President State Centre), Nelson Chad, Hector McDonald.

competition and community service remained lost on many younger members who continued to see patrols as a chore which threatened their continued membership.

The season of 1971/72 saw a relapse in patrol absenteeism and even less enthusiasm for patrol responsibilities by a majority of active members. The situation was not helped by a particularly wet summer which greatly reduced public attendances on the beach and left patrols huddled and cold in the enclosure, protecting a beach which was not being patronised. Another problem was the very heavy carnival program for the season. With competition being the main reason for joining the Club, 85 per cent of those members eligible for patrol duties also competed. Organising substitutes for patrols was nearly impossible, especially when the stop gap measure of Active Reserve participation could not be heavily relied upon due to recent losses amongst these senior members.

The difficulty of maintaining patrols on the beach was a phenomena sweeping the Manly-Warringah Branch. Fearing that such slackness could end in tragedy Branch officials decided to look at the issue of patrol efficiency in far greater detail. On 16 January 1972 a 'Surf Spectacular' was held at Queenscliff in atrocious conditions. Back at Collaroy the afternoon patrol had weathered the strong winds and heavy rains to protect an empty beach. With the beach deserted and the hour late, John Ison, who had replaced Chapman as Club Captain gave permission for the patrol to be dismissed. The empty beach was seen and reported by a Branch official. Two months later, during the State Championships at South Curl Curl, which were also held in atrocious conditions, Collaroy was contacted and informed that with conditions too dangerous at South Curl Curl, swimming events would be transferred there. With a short time to lay the buoys and prepare for the arrival of the officials and competitors, the on-duty patrol, captained by Rod Macqueen, set about ensuring that the races would run without incident. By 4pm the events had been successfully concluded and the beach had returned to its deserted state with Macqueen's patrol huddled in the enclosure. Well pleased with the patrol's



Club members Peter and Neil Montgomery with members of an Army training team at Collaroy, 1974/75.

efforts Ison dismissed them early after congratulating them. Ison's actions were witnessed by a senior Branch official who reported the incident.

At the end of the season the 'patrol irregularities' of many clubs within the Branch were collated and it was decided that nine of them — Freshwater, Warriewood, South Curl Curl, Bilgola, Manly, South Narrabeen, North Narrabeen, Bungan Beach and Collaroy — were 'not giving the public adequate protection on beaches under their care'. The nine clubs were then informed that they would be suspended from competition for some of the following season. The lengths of suspension varied with Collaroy and North Narrabeen receiving the harshest penalties — banned from competition until February 1973. The implementation of the suspensions was overseen by new Branch Superintendent Neil Montgomery. Montgomery held the position until 1977/78.

The suspension, and Collaroy's failure to successfully appeal its severity, sent shockwaves through the Club. While Branch officials claimed such a suspension would do clubs 'a lot of good', many Collaroy members were not so convinced. Many members had only tolerated patrols because they wanted to compete. How would they respond to patrol duties when they

could not compete?

Club Captain Ison attempted to follow the Branch line that the suspension could be beneficial. He reminded members that competitive success in the late 1960s and early 1970s had been the product of a similar suspension in the early 1960s. He pleaded with members to 'Please heed my request to get behind your elected Committee of next season, particularly your captain, for the season is going to be a long and strenuous one without open competition until late in the season'.<sup>8</sup>



Group of club members, Memorial Day, March 1972. L to R, back: Mark Garland, Jamie Twight, John Ison, Robert Smith, Bill Booth, Michael Felscher, John Brodie, Neville Smith, Bill Goodman, Heather Goodman, John Brown, Wal Edmonds, Lionel Skewes, Mick Chapman, Reg Stacey, Geoff Booth, Bob Maladay, Jon Farrell, Bill Symm, Chris Lowe, Peter Donkin, John Levett, Ian Wells, Chris Montgomery, Mitchell Chapman, Mal Storey, Rob Senior, Len Gibbons, Dennis Anderson, Anderson, Vern Gardiner, Michael Bradford; front: Ken Lambkin, Ben Truscott, Brian Booth, Geoff Hutchinson, Tim Brown, David Booth, Don Graham, John Ward, Bill Abbott, Darryll Ford, Peter Murphy, Paul Drake.

Ison had expected to stand down at the 1972 AGM, but no one was prepared to take on the difficult job of captain, forcing him to retain the position for another season. Mick Chapman came to the AGM with a plan to improve patrol attendance and was duly elected Patrol Officer. Ison and the new Committee firstly turned their attention to 'laxity in administration' which was seen to be responsible for the general malaise within the Club. With regard to patrols, Chapman introduced a weekend patrol system which also saw a member from the General Committee responsible for each patrol. Within the new patrol system efforts were also exerted to re-affirm in members the importance of protecting the public. The new patrol system did arrest the decline in patrol attendance and helped foster an improvement in efficiency. The question remaining was what damage had the suspension caused to the Club's competitive stocks.

The Club attended its first carnival for the 1972/73 season in early February at Umina on the Central Coast. The results of the day seemed to indicate that competitive stocks had not been troubled by the long suspension. In a point score winning performance the Club secured seven firsts, seven seconds and three thirds. Such strong results continued into the Branch Championships at North Narrabeen where Ian Montgomery, Cadet Chris Montgomery and the March Past team secured five titles for the Club. The Branch titles, however, had been against a number of clubs similarly affected by suspension. When the Club competed at the Metropolitan titles it was unable to secure one title, raising great fears for the approaching State and Australian Championships. While Ian Montgomery and the March Past team secured State titles, the Australian titles did not see one championship returned to Collaroy. In defence of the result it was argued that the suspension had made it difficult for coaches to bring their teams to peak performance in time for the titles. Some members feared, however, that the Club's days of competitive glory had ended.

The Club's suspension from competition exacerbated a trend in membership — the loss of cadet and junior members. In the late 1960s the 'apprenticeship' of the Swimming Club and/or the Nippers had seen strong growth in the cadet membership. By the season of 1969/70 cadet membership had increased to its largest in Club history — 35. Reflecting this new constituency within, the 1969/70 Annual Report included a 'Cadet Report'. In the report John Ison noted: 'We as Senior Reserve Members, can feel tremendously hopeful for the future of lifesaving on Collaroy Beach for the ensuring decade as the standard and decorum of the present crop [of cadets] shows great parent reflection . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . The decision of the SLSA to broaden the opportunities for cadet competition including new events at the national titles saw the Club decide to reward the cadets for their interest and support by sending a large contingent to the 1971 Australian Championships in Perth. The General Committee of the Club took on the responsibility of raising the required funds for the cadets to tour.

The cadets were placed under the wing of Secretary Peter Murphy and proved not only successful in competition but were seen as good members of the Club. Speaking on the season of 1970/71 Murphy noted: 'The way the boys have, matured was quite evident by the enthusiasm showed and [sic] carried out their responsibilities in relation to patrols. If a cadet was starting in a carnival they had a substitute on the beach or gave up the carnival'. 10

Unfortunately not all the cadets' motivations were so noble and having gained a free trip to Perth a number of them left the Club at the end of the season. At the beginning of the 1971/72 season the cadet membership had fallen to 22. The suspension from competition at the end of this season resulted in a further six cadets leaving along with eight out of 21 juniors. Many younger members had resisted negative peer pressure about surf clubs by pointing to the competitive dimension. With this dimension removed they had nothing but their patrol responsibilities and the yellow and red patrol cap which so many younger members had come to despise. The period also saw a flare up in the old surfie/clubbie antagonisms which again placed many of these younger members on the less than flattering side from a peer point of view. When compounded by the commitment of a weekend patrol, many cadets and juniors



Members of the 1971 touring team in Perth. L to R, standing: John Levett, Graham Carlisle, Peter Montgomery, Dick Twight, Ian Brodie, Steve Ellis, Hugh Pinnington, Steve Temple, John Brodie, Bill Symm, Peter Donkin, Gary Montgomery, John Farrell, Neil McGaw, Wal Edmonds, Jamie Twight, Andrew Browne, Mick Chapman; sitting: 'Buddy' Portier, Betty Twight, John Ison, John Bradford, Doug Newman, Neil Montgomery, Chris Senior, Reid Barton, Peter Murphy, Rick Rathborne, Col Newman, Mitch Montgomery, David Booth, Ross Black, Mike Bradford, Rob Senior, Michael Felscher, Brian Booth, Mark Garland.

left the Club during the course of the season. By the end of the 1972/73 season 10 out of 24 juniors and six out of 20 cadets had departed. While overall cadet and junior membership remained relatively steady with new recruits the trend still raised grave concerns about the future. The Club had tightened patrols but at the cost of younger members who had been its investment in the future. The issue of cadet and junior membership was seen as the 'most serious problem' facing the Club.<sup>11</sup>

After steering the Club through two of its more difficult seasons John Ison did not seek re-election at the 1973 AGM. Having made his intentions clear senior members began to canvas for his replacement as the AGM approached. With the problem of cadet and junior membership and the need to continue the positive work with regard to patrols it was agreed that the ensuing season



Club members departing for the 1973 Championships at Burleigh Heads. L to R, stairs top to bottom: John Dawson, Brian Booth, unknown, Greg Biddolph, unknown, Mitchell Montgomery, Mitchell Chapman, Jeff Wilson, Peter Goodman, Neil McGaw, John Dunne, David Booth; standing: Scott Hickey, Tony Hickey, Paul Booth, Vern Gardiner, Alan Leathley, Jon Farrell, Hugh Pinnington, unknown, John Ward

would be 'a vital one' and require a Club Captain with strong interpersonal and administrative

skills and great dedication.

To many members the problem of junior and cadet membership was tied up with the illusive phenomena known as the 'generation gap'. The Club needed a Captain who could bridge the gap and remove the negative images which many young people associated with lifesaving. In looking for such qualities it appeared that the only member with the requisite

skills and qualifications was a relative newcomer to the Club, John Bradford.

Bradford was the son of Ways and Means Committee Foundation member Wal Bradford and elder brother of Club Champions Chris and Mike. Like many of his generation, he had taken an interest in boardriding in the early 1960s and held the traditional 'surfie' disdain for 'clubbies'. On more than one occasion while surfing at Collaroy he had paddled to Fishermen's Beach to avoid having his surfboard impounded. A tour of duty in Vietnam in 1969/70, however, saw Bradford introduced to surf lifesaving as a member of the Vung Tau Beach surf club. Becoming Club Captain he had a strong link back to his family with the Club's boat, McWilliam's Wines IV. After returning from Vietnam, Bradford settled in Collaroy and in 1971 joined the Club and completed his Bronze Medallion. The following year he travelled to the United States and was listed as an absentee member. On his return, however, he made two resolutions — to embark on a political career and pursue his new found interest in surf lifesaving.

In his short time in the Collaroy community, Bradford quickly demonstrated his interest in youth affairs. As well as his involvement with the junior and cadet members of the Club he was also involved in the local Anglican Church Youth Fellowship and the Collaroy Plateau Junior Rugby Union Club. He also continued to enjoy board riding and was well known within the local boardriding fraternity. With these qualifications and a declared willingness to

help the Club, John Bradford was 'drafted' into the Club captaincy. 12

Upon becoming Captain, Bradford found a lot of disenchantment amongst cadet and junior members directed at the senior echelons of the Club and the wider movement. These youths felt that their contribution to the Club was not recognised and that they were neglected by the senior members. To correct this impression Bradford embarked on a number of initiatives to make younger members of the Club feel more at home. In administration he moved to encourage younger members to assume committee positions and other assisting roles. Such efforts saw juniors such as Neil McGaw, David Booth and Greg Biddoplh represent the interests of the Club's younger members with stints on the General Committee. Noel Biddoplh became Assistant Honorary Secretary, Peter Goodman Assistant Race Secretary as well as joining with Ian McGaw and Greg MacMahon to be Assistant Gear Stewards. The initiative culminated in Neil McGaw's election to Vice-Captain during his first season as a senior. More generally, Bradford tried to make juniors and cadets feel included by regularly talking to these younger members. Such efforts quickly gained him the label 'King of the Kids' but more importantly younger members started to feel more a part of the Club.

Part of the problem with junior and cadet membership was the resurgence of animosity between board riders and surf club members. While boardriding competition and display within the movement had continued to develop (Neil McGaw securing second place in the State Malibu Championships in 1971-72), younger members continued to suffer peer pressure because of their association with the Club. With his own credibility as a boardrider before him, Bradford set about mending bridges between the Club and local boardriders. At this endeavour he was quite successful, establishing a 'very good relationship' with the Collaroy Boardriders Club which had also reformed that year. At Bradford's instigation the two groups made a pact to 'co-operate with each other in order to make Collaroy Beach safer for everyone'. <sup>13</sup> With this development and the introduction of leg ropes, many of the old rivalries between clubbies and surfies began to dissipate. Junior and cadet members who sought to join the Club faced less negative peer pressure than they had in the past. More generally, Bradford's new broom started

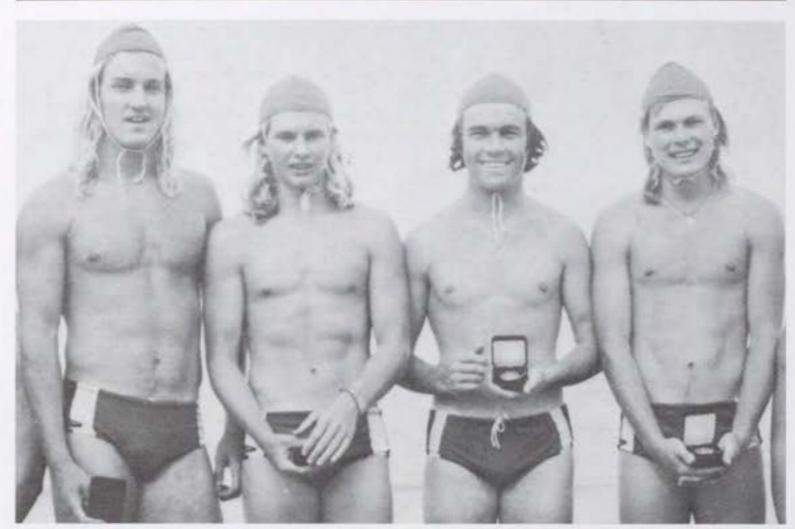


Grahame Windeatt, Australian Open Surf & Belt Champion, 1974.

With regard to competition Bradford was able to attract to the Club yet another champion stillwater swimmer in Graham Windeatt. At the time Bradford was a junior executive with Nock and Kirby's and worked with Windeatt's father Bill. Windeatt joined the Club in Bradford's first season as Captain and after quickly acquiring the 'art of surfing' (including performing his first rescue while still undergoing his Bronze training)14 he secured both the Australian Open Surf Championship and the Australian Open Belt Championship (a prize the Club has not secured since Ralph Chequer in 1929). Having also taken an interest in R&R, Branch Windeatt gained and State representative Unfortunately selection. Windeatt's preparations for the 1976 Montreal Olympics (where he captained the swim team and was joined by fellow Collarov member Peter Montgomery in Water Polo) greatly reduced his opportunities to compete for the Club in 1974/75 but he did manage to secure the State open belt title. In other results Chris Montgomery won the State Junior Beach



Members of the 1974 touring team to Glenelg. L to R, standing: John Ison, Mitch Montgomery, Alan White, David Booth, Betty Stacey, Geoff Booth, Jeff Wilson, Reg Stacey, Mitchell Chapman, John Dawson, Jon Farrell, Lawrie McGaw, Brett Montgomery, John Bradford, Ian Wells, Brian Booth, Peter Donkin, Greg Biddolph, Michael Maladay, Ian McGaw, Neil McGaw, Phillip Dawson, Alan Clarke, Barbara Maladay, unknown, Glenys Newman, Peter Goodman, Betty Twight, Dick Twight, Col Newman; kneeling: Peter Murphy, Kay Garland, Gary Montgomery, Dot Montgomery, unknown.



Australian Junior Beach Relay Champions, 1975. L to R: John Dunne, Chris Montgomery, Alan Clarke, David Booth.



On another day in 1975 Governor General, Sir John Kerr, congratulates March Past coach Wal Edmonds after the team's win at the Australian Titles.

Sprint title and teamed up with John Dunne, Alan Clarke and David Booth to win the Australian Junior Beach Relay title. During his first year as coach, after replacing Dick Twight, Wal Edmonds steered the March Past team to secure the 'Grand Slam' in winning the Branch, Metropolitan, State and National titles. Into the season of 1975/76 the Club had its largest representation in a Branch Team ever with seven of the 15 places and overall finished the season with one Australian title (March Past) and two State titles (Open Surf Teams and March Past).

In his desire to make the Club a more modern institution, Bradford commenced a modernisation program aimed at updating the club house and equipment, especially in regard to craft, which had remained a long neglected area of activity. He was also interested in making the club house a focal point for extracurricular social activities for members. Financial resources, however, were not conducive to such a program. For much of the early 1970s the Club's finances would spend most of the season in the red before miraculously finding their way back into surplus at season's end. Such surpluses, however, were usually small - the 1970/71 balance for the General Account, for example, was \$8.22. With the early 1970s seeing Australian titles as far a field as Perth, fund raising initiatives which might have otherwise benefited the General Account were used to send teams away. Efforts at organising socials proved disastrous with over \$700 lost during one season on failed functions. Through consecutive financial reports to members Bill Goodman insisted that the only thing keeping the Club financially solvent were lettings from the hall (the profits from which were supposed to remain within the Premises Account to meet repairs, renovations etc) and the Time and Tide raffles. While local Federal Member of Parliament and Club Vice-President Bill Wentworth offered some hope during the season of 1972/73, claiming that the Government was moving to increase the subsidies to the SLSA to allow clubs to concentrate on patrols and not fund raising, nothing was forthcoming and it was only through a transfer of funds from the Premises



Members, April 1974. L to R, back: Brian Booth, Craig Biddolph, Mick Chapman, Neil McGaw, Kim Williams, John Bradford, Michael Chapman, Ian Montgomery, Michael Maladay, Jon Farrell, Jeff Wilson, Peter Goodman; middle: Chris Montgomery, John Wells, Greg Simons, John Bradford, Gary Montgomery, Reg Stacey, Geoff Booth, Ross Dawson, Dick Twight, Peter Montgomery; front: Peter Donkin, unknown, David Booth, Mitchell O'Neil, Craig Biddolph, John Ison, Ian McGaw, Tony McDonald, Lawrie McGaw, Neil Montgomery.

Account to the General Account that the Club finished the season in the black. Fortunately the operating cost of running a surf club had remained steady at around \$2800 per season.

Bradford's plan pushed the Club into debt. Goodman categorised the 1973/74 season as the 'most difficult financially for many years'. Despite assistance from the Premises Account, the Club's General Account was still \$1000 in debt. With over \$3000 spent on equipment, nearly \$1000 on maintenance of the club house, and a record \$552 spent on carnival entries, expenditure was great. While the Club had seven new skis, three new boards, three new reels, a new boat cover, a new set of March Past costumes, a table tennis table, a billiard table and a television, Goodman warned: 'Although the Club is now well equipped . . . it has been at the price of a heavy debt which will require considerable effort to eliminate'. <sup>15</sup>

Unfortunately for the Club the mid-1970s in Australia saw a period of high inflation which, although beneficial for meeting any outstanding debt, greatly increased expenditure. For the 1974/75 season expenditure for the day to day running of the Club jumped to \$4800, rising to \$7512 the following season. The cost of sending teams away also increased dramatically with the budget for the trip to the Australian titles in Tasmania over \$7000.

As seen previously the share of the Club's expenditure being met by personal donations and subscriptions had decreased during the 1960s forcing further initiatives such as the *Time and Tide* raffle. By the mid-1970s donations only added up to \$989 and subscriptions \$295 — meeting only about 20 per cent of expenditure. The *Time and Tide* raffle, while still crucial, was also accounting for less of the Club's income, raising only \$1093.

Since 1946 the Club had been saved many thousands of dollars through the generous support of McWilliam's Wines. Into the 1970s the Company continued to make its regular donation of a new boat when required. As well as gaining a boat from Council which was christened Keith McWilliam in honour of the longstanding Club Patron and sponsor, McWilliam's Wines donated, McWilliam's Wines VI in 1971, McWilliam's Wines VII in 1974 and



In the season of 1970 McWilliam's Wines was recognised for its generous support of the surf life saving movement. Here, Sir Adrian Curlewis presents a plaque in recognition to Don McWilliam.

McWilliam's Wines VIII in 1976. There had been little thought, however, about seeking other 'sponsors' to help the Club meet its commitments.

Early in his captaincy Bradford and Graham Windeatt's father Bill, approached their employer Nock and Kirby's (the Nock family being relations) to support the Club and its activities. The company as well as 'donating' equipment 'sponsored' the Club's first open carnival since 1961 and the first inter-club competition on the Beach since Collaroy hosted the Branch Championships in 1966. The event was repeated the following season and the sponsorship of Nock and Kirby's allowed the Club to show a profit, Slowly becoming aware of the value of such support, the 1975/76 Annual Report spoke of the Club being 'very fortunate' in having the support of 'six donor organisations' which were helping overcome its 'financial burden'. Such donors included Speedo Knitting Mills who offered prize money in March Past competition and the Collaroy Services Beach Club which contained a number of old surf club members and started to make valuable donations of gear and equipment.

The season of 1975/76 was John Bradford's last as Captain. His efforts to get endorsed as the local Liberal candidate for Warringah Council was taking up more and more of his time and he quickly realised he could no longer make the necessary commitment of time. Uncharitably some members argued that Bradford had simply been using the surf club to forward his political career from the very beginning.<sup>16</sup>

Bradford had seen his three years as Captain as a concerted effort to bring the Collaroy Club into the 1970s. More generally he believed the wholesale failure of the movement to modernise and reinvent itself for a new generation was its passage of doom. Pleased with his achievements but seeing that much more had to be done, Bradford used his last Captain's report to launch a stinging critique of the movement as a whole and his own club indirectly. In introducing the report he noted that some of his comments 'may not be taken kindly' but that he desired a 'provocative' report which he hoped would be 'read and debated in a constructive way'.<sup>17</sup>

Bradford wrote that the movement was only continuing to survive in the 1970s because of the remnants in surf clubs of older generations who had given 'strong support to surf lifesaving in more conservative times'. Such times had passed, however, and the 'generation gap' between these older members and young members meant that these newer members had no incentive or desire to remain within the movement. One of the key issues in explaining the dropout rate among young members was that few were prepared 'to be guided by or accept the standards of their parents or even elder brothers'.

For seventy years the movement's primary role had been to protect the bathing public. To ensure their safety outside voluntary patrol hours the clubs themselves had sought to hire 'permanent lifesavers' to protect the beach. By the 1970s, however, the permanent lifesaver had become the Council lifeguard and while most lifeguards still maintained links with the surf clubs the old nexus had been broken. With the increasing professionalism of Warringah Council lifeguards during the 1960s and 70s, Bradford was now of the opinion that the role of the surf club had subtly changed. Rather than holding the main responsibility for protecting the bathing public, they were now there to protect the Beach when the professional lifeguard was not on duty — without doubt a lowering of the status of the movement. A party to Council happenings Bradford claimed that to a degree surf clubs now existed at the whim of the Councils because a re-allocation of funds and a re-scheduling of hours on beaches such as Collaroy could quite easily see a full time professional service in operation. Given this changed status Bradford's conclusion was that if the clubs were to remain viable the volunteer's role would need to become more 'realistic and meaningful'.

With regard to methods and training, he insisted that the 'standards and attitudes' of the general community should be reflected in surf clubs. In this regard he insisted that the



Collaroy's March Past team competing at the Club's Open Carnival sponsored by Nock & Kirby's, 1975. L to R: Dennis Cleary, Peter McCurtayne, John Ward, Lawrie McGaw, John Ison, Reg Stacey, Jon Farrell, John Ellis, Mick Chapman, Col Newman, Alan Wright, Wal Edmonds.



The beach in 1976.

'emphasis on drill and the associated discipline is entirely anachronistic': 'R&R may look pretty
. . . but it seems to have outlived its usefulness'. With the availability of modern rescue
equipment the real emphasis should be on first aid, which was also more meaningful for
members in their wider community roles.

In further reflecting community standards, Bradford turned his attention to the question of female membership. He noted that: 'The role of women in society has changed dramatically in recent years. Women are accepted in virtually any role in society. Surf Clubs — the bastion of male chauvinism — need women as members. They should be welcomed and the sooner the better!'. Referring to traditional arguments against women as active members, he noted: 'To suggest they cannot be accepted because of the rigours of R&R is to acknowledge the uselessness of the activity'.

With regard to craft, Bradford claimed the implications for lifesaving of the surfboard had still not been 'fully grasped'. Noting that it was 'as natural now for young people to own surfboards as it used to be to own a pushbike' he concluded that the implications of the surfboard were 'fantastic'. If the movement was to survive it had to appeal to boardriders. In attempting to explain how such could happen he noted:

We should recognise that surfing is a sport which allows maximum self expression. It allows freedom and beyond a few unwritten rules there is little discipline. All of this tends to be quite the opposite of what the surf club has stood for in the past. Obviously there has to be a compromise. The bronze medallion with its associated drill and discipline is no compromise. It only acts to exclude from surf club membership a lot of young people who would be useful and dedicated members. Sure — there has to be a standard but it must be a relevant and acceptable standard. There are many young people who, I believe, genuinely want to make a small contribution to their community but they will not go to extremes. Surf lifesaving is fast becoming a non-event.

With regard to the Collaroy/Narrabeen beach front Bradford believed that there were too many Clubs, with too few members requiring too much money. Rather than the four clubs in existence he called for amalgamations to form two clubs. Patrols would be able to range further with the use of modern communications such as the 'walkie talkie'. Calling for an amalgamation of Collaroy and South Narrabeen clubs he claimed the only impediment was 'petty jealousy'.<sup>18</sup>

As expected, the comments caused something of a controversy. While Bradford decided that he would not stand for Club Captain he made known his intention to stand for the position of President after Neil Montgomery (who had replaced Barry Cripps) decided he would not seek reappointment to the position. Some senior members of the Club, however, did not wish to see Bradford as President and with Senior Vice-President Peter Montgomery also wanting to make a greater contribution to the Club after over 30 years of service, two opposing camps emerged. The divide between the two camps rested mainly on age and questions concerning the future direction of the Club. Bradford represented the younger members of the Club who generally agreed with his vision for the future while Montgomery represented the older members who disapproved of such radical programs, which Bradford could impose if elected President. It appeared that Bradford's efforts in bridging the generation gap had not been as successful as had been hoped.

Both groups caucused amongst members in the lead up to the AGM to ensure that their supporters would be at the meeting to caste their vote. Bradford encouraged young members who had never bothered to attend AGMs (including organising transport for a number holidaying on the Central Coast) while Montgomery attracted old active reserve and long service members who also rarely attended. At the AGM, youth triumphed over age and Bradford was elected President. After this rare confrontation members quickly moved to calm the situation and Montgomery was elected a member of the General Committee.



Club members, 1976. L to R, standing: Matthew Wright, Susan Wright, Jon Farrell, Col Newman, Ross Dawson, Ken Nicol, John Bradford, Don Gannoway, Ray Isaacs, Alan Wright, Tony Hickey, Neil Montgomery, Harry Biddolph, Sarah Hickey; middle: Michael Maladay, Kent Sheldon, Jeff Wilson, Mitchell Montgomery, Craig Biddolph, Mitchell Chapman, Brian Booth, Marty Nicol, unknown, Peter Goodman, Gary Montgomery, unknown, Dick Twight; front: Jack O'Neill, Lawrie McGaw, unknown, Ian McGaw, Greg Falk, Chic Proctor, Gary Montgomery, unknown, Greg MacMahon, unknown, Brett Montgomery, Phillip Dawson, Peter Montgomery, unknown, Ben Truscott, unknown.

While the election of President at the 1976 AGM had been contentious, the election of the Club Captain was not. Rod Macqueen was an appointment agreeable to all sides. He was the first 'Boatie' to be elected Captain since the early 1960s. Unfortunately the first half of the 1970s had been as unkind to the Club's rowers as had the 1960s. In January 1970 John Brown was replaced as sweep of the Senior A crew by Fred Hurley. Hurley's 'sense of purpose and skills' was seen to inject 'a new stimulus' but he was unable to break the Collaroy 'hoodoo'. At the Australian titles the Senior A crew was knocked out of contention when the sweep oar was broken. To cap off a 'disappointing weekend' Hurley lost the '3 man lift' to Mick Chapman.<sup>20</sup>

The following season the Club had two senior crews and a reformed junior crew swept and coached by Jack 'Father' Fitzgerald. Once again bad luck or lack of good luck was the order of the day. Having made some strong showings the Senior B crew swept by Macqueen did not compete at the state titles after stroke Peter Rathbourne broke his ankle. As it had in the past, the decision of Fred Hurley and John Brown not to compete the following season highlighted the Club's dearth of experienced sweeps. Boat Captain Len Gibbons commenced yet another search for sweeps.

Into the season of 1971/72 the boaties lack of 'Lady Luck' was held responsible for a lack of notable successes (other than a win in a 19-mile marathon which saw the first surf boat on the Murrumbidgee River), and the suspension during the 1972/73 season did not help in crew preparation. With only an open senior boat crew (Macqueen, Paul Booth, Chris Lowe, Len Gibbons and John Brown returning as sweep), the boat competed in four carnivals with some success but late in the 1972/73 season withdrew from competition on the eve of the Branch titles due to what was variously described as 'business commitments' or 'unfortunate circumstances'. 21



A surf boat many miles from the sea, Murrumbidgee River 1972. L to R: Len Gibbons, Chris Lowe, Paul Booth, Rod Macqueen, Jack Fitzgerald (sweep).



Launching of McWilliam's Wines VII, 1974.

The 1973/74 season began very poorly 'in respect of boat gear, crews and training'. No senior crew was formed with the likes of Rod Macqueen and Paul Booth heading to South Narrabeen to try their luck. In early January a junior crew (Greg 'Meat Pies' Biddolph, Peter-Mitchell 'Coordination' Montgomery, David 'Larynx' Booth and Ian Wells) was formed after Life Member of the Trigg Island SLSC, Alan White, joined the Club and took on the sweeping role. The crew performed well, securing two thirds at the Inter-cities Championship at Newcastle and the State titles at Tathra. The success of this junior crew led to the formation of a second junior crew later in the season, and once more the talk amongst the Boaties was of a revival in fortunes. In his report to the 1974 AGM Alan White, who had replaced Len Gibbons as Boat Captain, noted the paradox. For the first time in many years the Club had the dedicated members to set goals in surf boat competition but were now being let down by equipment which 'leaves a lot to be desired' and the perennial problem of a lack of competent sweeps. White made a call for a training boat which would allow members of the Club to try their hand at sweeping without fear of damaging expensive equipment. White also instituted a new annual trophy, the 'Keenest Boatmen', which was won by David Booth who had taken on the role of Boat Vice-Captain late in the season.

The season of 1974/75 saw the small gains made in the previous seasons once again lost. Only the successful junior crew (Wells replaced by Noel 'Sticks' Biddolph) of the season before competed for the Club — their best result being a fourth at the Branch titles. With only a junior crew the Club had to rely on the assistance of former Collaroy and then South Narrabeen member Peter Clarke to help get the boat to training and carnivals and take on some sweeping duties. In closing his report for the year, Rod Macqueen, who had replaced White as Boat Captain, noted: 'Before Collaroy can become a force in the boats we will need more sweeps, at least two more crews, and complete dedication to boat rowing only'.<sup>22</sup>

Through the winter Macqueen and Paul Booth turned their sights to building a new A crew from scratch. The question was who would fill the two remaining seats and sweep the



Junior Boat crew, 1973/74. L to R: David Booth, Greg Biddolph, Alan White (sweep), Mitch Montgomery, Ian Wells.

boat. Discussing their plans over a drink at the *Time and Tide Hotel* their thoughts turned to South Narrabeen rower Peter Bott who they knew quite well. Bott had rowed for South Narrabeen for many years and although older than Booth and Macqueen was extremely fit and very capable. Deciding there was no time like the present Macqueen went to the hotel's phone and rang Bott. Despite the complications of leaving South Narrabeen he said yes

immediately.23

In considering the fourth person to join the crew, Macqueen's thoughts turned to the Rugby field. Through the 1970s a close association had developed between the surf club and the Warringah Rugby Club. Many members of the surf club were players for Warringah including both Macqueen and Booth who had played their part in getting Warringah into first grade. Macqueen's thoughts turned to an opponent playing for the Eastwood Club, Barry Cox. Cox also rowed for Bilgola SLSC. While Macqueen's first encounter with Cox on the Rugby field ended in a fist fight, the two got to know each other better as the seasons passed and both gained representative honours. Cox was approached and also readily agreed. The only things asked of both Cox and Bott was that they remain dedicated 'to boat rowing only' and that they stay for at least two seasons. The team started training in September, which at the time was considered quite early in the season.

While a junior crew failed to materialise, the Senior A crew was partnered by a 'B crew'. This crew was formed after two Avalon stalwarts Rick Millar and John Griffin joined with Len Gibbons, Kent Sheldon and John Brown. With Brown committed to the B crew, the A crew's biggest problem was the lack of a permanent sweep. The position was scratch filled for the early part of the season with the likes of Jack Fitzgerald, Dick Twight, Bill Abbott and John Brown but early in the new year the Club acquired the services of Keith Hodgson. Hodgson had been a member of the Point Lonsdale Club and swept the Club to an Australian Championship in 1965, before later coming to Sydney and joining the Palm Beach SLSC. Since then he had moved to Canberra where he worked for the Navy. Hodgson agreed to take his long service

leave so that he could train and compete with the Senior A crew.

Hodgson's impact was dramatic. He instilled in the newly formed crew the importance of discipline and the ingredients necessary to win at Championship level. Perhaps Barry Cox, who lived with Hodgson, suffered the worst of all with the strict diet he was forced to endure. Hodgson's short tenure with the Club introduced many of the traditions, both good (such as rigorous training) and bad (such as the exclusion of wives and girlfriends) which would come

to mark Collaroy boat crews.

In terms of competition the newly formed Senior A crew performed remarkably well for the season making 14 finals from 19 starts, gaining a number of places and selection for the Branch team. At the 1976 State titles at Crescent Head, the boat events were moved due to the large swell. In their heat the Collaroy crew were struck by a large wave and the boat filled with water. With this occurrence the crew heard a cheer from the beach. Emptying the water they tried again and once again were filled with water to the cheers of spectators. While not getting past the heats, the cheers were interpreted by the crew to mean two things. Firstly, that the Collaroy crew was not very well liked and secondly, they were not well liked because they were now starting to be seen as contenders. With the Senior A making the quarters and the Senior B making the semi-finals at the Australian titles, it appeared a turnaround in the Club's boat fortunes had finally been secured.

The success of the A crew during 1975/76 re-sparked interest by members in rowing and the following season four crews (A, B, C and Juniors) were rowing for the Club. The A crew continued their success of the previous year with John Brown returning to sweep them after the departure of Keith Hodgson. Despite the incident at the State titles the year before the crew still believed they had failed to gain the respect they felt they deserved from other clubs. Frustrated by this treatment they connived to at least make the other clubs think about Collaroy. After retiring to the Newport Arms Hotel after an Open Carnival at Newport, the Senior A crew members gathered together the crews from other clubs. They then proceeded to

take the thongs from these gathered boaties and bite a chunk out of each of them before returning them. While respect would come later they settled for notoriety in the meantime.

Performing consistently throughout the year the A crew was selected in the Branch Team for the Inter-Branch Championships, hosted by Collaroy and sponsored by Nock and Kirby's. In a strong performance they gained first place in the Open Boat Race. From there they won the State Championships at Corrimal — the Club's first State boat title since the Junior crew of 1943/44. With this result the crew was chosen to represent the State at the Interstate Teams

Championship at Bancoora Beach, Victoria.

Upon joining the State team the Collaroy rowers soon made a name for themselves. Although outfitted by the team sponsors in expensive uniforms the Collaroy rowers decided that the cold weather in Victoria warranted more protection, whereupon they proceeded to a St Vincent de Paul shop and bought some old overcoats. Very quickly the entire New South Wales team was outfitted in second hand coats and quickly learning the art of thong eating. The Collaroy crew placed second in the Open Boat and overall the State team secured first place. In further contributions to the victory, all five Collaroy members competed in the Interstate March Past team which secured second place, while Paul Booth also competed with the victorious R&R team and the Beach Relay team which was placed third. Much of the reason for the victory was placed upon the team's strong camaraderie which was no doubt greatly assisted by the antics of the Collaroy rowers.

While Collaroy had had some good crews from time to time, consistency had always been a problem. The Senior A crew, however, was determined to defend their State title and did so the following season. They were also once again selected for the State team which retained the Interstate title. To cap off another strong season the crew won the Club's first

Manly-Warringah Branch Boat Championship beating arch rivals Warriewood.

At the beginning of the next season the A crew was struck a blow with John Brown's decision to once again retire due to 'business commitments'. Brown however, secured for the



NSW Open Boat Champions 1977 & 1978. L to R: John Brown (sweep), Rod Macqueen, Barry Cox, Peter Bott, Paul Booth.

## Browny's Gorillas" by Liz Macqueen

There was movement at the surf club, for the word had passed around, That a group of local hoods had gathered near, They thought they'd join the boaties, rule and terrorise the club, And the members banded together racked with fear.

There was Browny, strong and virile, who chose to take the helm, He came to fame with Hirsty down the coast, There was n'er a better oarsman who had ever graced a boat, Though successful, he was never one to boast.

Then one arrived, a stripling, in a beat up old V Dub, He was small and thin and wiry with one eye, You could tell he was a winner by the growth upon his face, And the way he spat at every passerby.

And Coxy came from Eastwood with his oar in No 3, He never liked to train or run or sweat, But whenever there was action or the need to give your best He was with you in your corner you could bet.

And there of course was Boothy, but which one would we get, The quiet one — or the raving lunatic, The mild athletic sportsman who was frightened of a mouse, Or Houdini who was up to every trick.

And then there was another, young and innocent was he, His mother warned him not to join the fray, "Those lads are far too rough" she said, "You better stay with me", But young Rodney chose to join the crew that day.

They faced each weekly carnival with a fervour yet unseen, And conquered every challenge with a fight, They added to their repertoire an evil, cunning play And devoured every rower's thong in sight.

Hats were just another of their new acquired tastes, No-one was safe as their hunger grew. Caps and belts and shorts and shirts were added to their list, They terrorised each and every crew.

Then Bazza had a bucks turn in the year he was to wed, They decided that they'd call it a convention, Boaties came from near and far, it was a boozy night, And now each year this has become tradition.

Browny's Gorillas were a legend over years that came to pass, Showing talents, flair and skills as yet unmatched. They are infamous in pubs along the northern beaches line And not a boatie has survived the crew untouched.

And as rowers they were winners — many titles to their name, In fact there's only one that's missed their grasp.

Now retired, old and weary, only stories left to tell,

N'er a better crew or mateship will go past.



Collaroy's Junior Boat crew competing in the State final 1978. L to R: Michael Maladay, Rick Hermes, Brett Montgomery Matthew Nixon, John Brown (sweep).



The NSW team in Victoria 1977. Note the inscription on the back of far right member's overcoat reading 'I love Collaroy Boat crew'.

crew a replacement sweep in the form of North Bondi's Craig Cunningham who had, like Brown, tasted the fruits of victory at a national titles.

While the only win before the Australian titles was the Open Boat race at the Newport Carnival the team was still happy with their build up. Not representing the State they could concentrate on the inter-club Australian Championships at Trigg Island Beach, W.A. In a strong performance they nearly secured the title which so many Collaroy boaties had longed for since 1946. Unfortunately on this occasion it would be the turn of old rivals Warriewood.

While the 1970s saw Collaroy's boaties secure a reputation for training and competing hard they also gained a reputation for partying hard. It was the senior A crew which introduced the Club tradition of the 'Boaties Christmas Party'. At the time they would train on weeknights at Little Manly before retiring to Deeton's Hotel for a drink. Deeton's was one of the less savoury pubs in Sydney and so the Collaroy rowers decided that it was the perfect location to have a Christmas party. One evening they appeared with party hats, whistles, a Christmas tree and fairy bread to wish the staff and patrons of the hotel a Merry Christmas. They then proceeded to sing Christmas carols, conscripting the entire public bar to join them.

In another incident, after the second place at the Australian titles in 1979, the crew decided to organise a Buck's Party for Barry Cox who was being married on his return to Sydney. With the assistance of comrades from Bronte, Cox's Buck's Party was dubbed a 'Boatmen's Convention' and competing clubs were informed of the time and location of this gathering. At 10 am the next morning a large number of crews, many with note pads and clipboards turned up for what they assumed was a seminar examining recent developments in craft and technique. They quickly learnt otherwise and so was born an Australian Championships tradition. Unfortunately these affairs soon deteriorated from the organised but enjoyable initial convention which heralded Cox's passage to wedded bliss.<sup>26</sup>

By their efforts and successes, Collaroy's thong eating boaties gained the respect of other boat clubs - a goal which they had long desired. Their single-focussed determination,



Paul Booth, Peter Bott, Rod Macqueen, Craig Cunningham (sweep) and Barry Cox look on as Warriewood are awarded their gold medals at Trigg Island, 1979.

however, helped contribute to a more general malaise in Club administration which would threaten its very continuation.

As the rowers were rebuilding, the Club's March Past team continued to build on its enviable record of success. With the third win in a row at the 1976 Australian titles, six members of the team resigned believing that after a 14 year run of success in the event the Club's luck had probably run out. With a need to build a new team the Club was able to coax Graham Carlisle out of retirement. While second places at the metropolitans and state were excellent results for a new team, to some it appeared the end of an era was at hand. Carlisle, however, would not accept such defeatist talk and continued to drill his team with the expectation of another national title. At Bancoora on 10 April 1977, the team marched onto the beach and secured yet another Australian title, equalling the record held by Bundaberg of four consecutive national titles. While 'arch rivals' Bundaberg would deny them the chance of securing five wins and a new record at the 1978 titles, Collaroy's marchers would bounce back at the 1979 and 1980 titles. With the win in 1980 the team secured its 11th Australian title, a record only surpassed by Bundaberg. The 1980 team held within it a number of members who had been members of the original 1963 team.

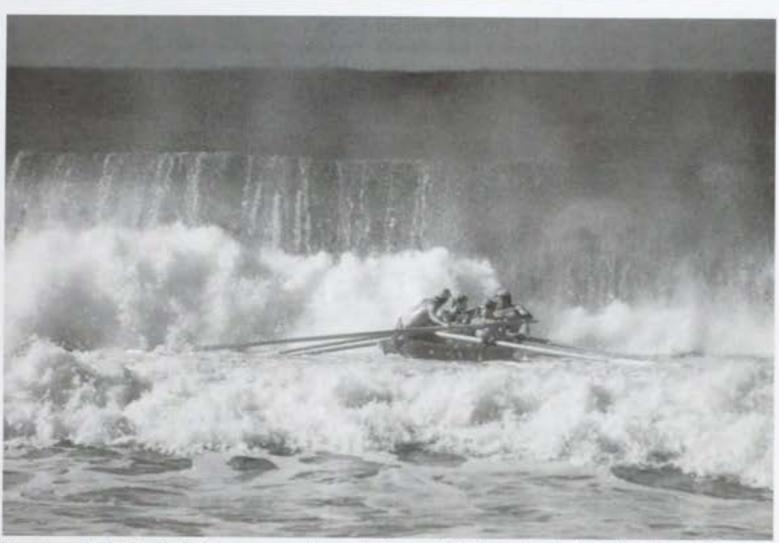
Rod Macqueen held the Club captaincy for two years. In his first season he attempted to put the contentions of the previous season behind by motivating 'more spirit within the Club'. One by-product of this effort was the decision to form a lounge in the northern end of the clubhouse based on plans drawn up by Macqueen himself. Another successfully completed

enterprise was, as noted, the Club's staging of the NSW Inter-Branch Championship. In day to day activities much time was directed at the perennial issue of patrol efficiency. While some improvement on the beach was secured in Macqueen's first season the Club was not able to take advantage of the financial incentives on offer from the Branch for such efficiency because it was not sufficiently represented at a fund raising dog meeting at Harold Park. While Macqueen noted how 'ridiculous' it was that a Club following the ideals of 'Vigilance and Service' should be 'penalised because they failed to attend a dog meeting' the administrative lapse by the Club deprived it of an easy source of funds. In his President's report to the 1977 AGM, John Bradford warned of the alarming level of complacency creeping into the Club and how such attitudes could 'destroy a surf club in a very short time'.27

A few weeks after the 1977 AGM such concerns were temporarily put on hold with the passing of the Club's longest serving patron, Keith McWilliam. Over the years McWilliam had made his association with the



Laurie Borig at a club function in the late 1970s.



'How do you feel?' The Senior 'A' crew encounter a wall of water at Warriewood beach during the filming of a Tooheys commercial in 1980.



Australian March Past Champions, 1979. L to R: Andrew Gracie, Graeme Barrel, Brian Booth, John Levett, Lawrie McGaw, Greg Falk, Mick Chapman, Gary Milsted, John Ison, Peter Montgomery, Graham Carlisle, Col Newman.

Club a family affair. At boat christenings members of his immediate family had always been on hand including the family of his second eldest son Donald. Don McWilliam joined the Board of McWilliam's Wines in 1957 — at a time when increased European immigration was fostering a revolution in the wine industry with the increasing popularity of table wines over traditional fortified varieties. McWilliam eventually became General Manager of the Company and continued to support the Collaroy Club. With his father's passing the Club decided to invite Don McWilliam to accept the position of patron and continue the long association between the Club, the Company and the family. With the Collaroy sponsorship always having been seen as the Company's contribution to the community, Don McWilliam accepted the position of Patron.<sup>28</sup>

While Don McWilliam's re-affirmation of his company's commitment to the Club was excellent news, the 1977/78 season saw a deterioration rather than an improvement in the Club's fortunes. With regard to patrols Macqueen reported 'no general improvement in the individual attitude' of patrol members, partly laying the blame on the fact the season saw so many 'quiet weekends'. The seemingly boring nature of patrol work was seeing members leave Collaroy and was reflected in active membership figures. While total Club membership increased from 259 in 1975/76 to 308 the following season, active patrol strength had only increased by three to 106. In 1977/78 active patrol numbers decreased to 97.

On the administrative side of Club affairs both Macqueen and Bradford were extremely disappointed with the efforts of those members in administrative positions. Bradford noted that most of the work was performed by the 'usual few', thereby leaving much 'undone' simply due to lack of time. He noted that some Committee members were 'a great disappointment' and that Macqueen and Club Vice Captain Brian Booth had not always been given the support they required. Macqueen, however, accepted some of the blame for the situation noting that: 'I must say that I could not carry out my job in a way in which I would have liked. Perhaps it is a



1976 Vintage & Veterans Reunion Dinner.



Members after the launching of McWilliam's Wines Centenary 1877-1977. L to R, background: Barry Cox, Neil Montgomery, Dick Twight; foreground: Don McWilliam, John Bradford.



Club Patron, Don McWilliam.

lesson for future years, but training almost seven days a week for a competitive sport and having such an important position in the Club is a very difficult combination'. <sup>29</sup> Macqueen announced that he would not stand again for Captain and concentrate his energies on boat competition.

Macqueen's replacement as Club Captain was Neil McGaw, who, while still in his twenties had over ten years of service dating back to the Nippers. McGaw directed his efforts towards improving patrol efficiency and his efforts were seemingly rewarded when the Club attained fifth position in the Branch Patrol Efficiency competition. Such a result, however, belied a 'difficult season'. The Club had been supremely fortunate to be judged for the patrol efficiency competition on days when its best patrols were on the beach. President Bradford also claimed that the Club was judged very lightly. In fact active membership had plummeted to 69, leaving patrols under strength most of the time. While the Club's decision to adopt one of John Bradford's ideas of patrolling the beach to the north of the pipe with walkie talkies broke the monotony of the patrol enclosure, McGaw reported that the 'active side of the club was generally unenthused and disjointed'. 30

With regard to the administrative dimension of patrols, it was reported that the Lifesaving Committee who shared responsibility for the beach with the Club Captain was virtually nonexistent and that tensions born of inaction had led to in-fighting between senior members of the Club and the Committee. Bradford warned members: 'Dissension should be expressed through the Committee. Any one who wants to make a contribution is entitled to stand for office in the Club'.<sup>31</sup>

McGaw's second season as Captain saw yet a further deterioration in the Club's general position. In an attempt to improve patrol efficiency the Club followed the suggestion of Mick Chapman to adopt a full day patrol system — whole weekend patrols having proved so successful in the early 1970s. In part the decision had been born of the introduction by the Branch of Saturday morning patrols. With active membership down to 67 (the lowest since the



Club members visit McWilliam's Wines Robinvale Winery whilst in transit to the 1979 Australian Championships at Trigg Island. L to R: John Levett, Neil McGaw, Max McWilliam, Brian Booth, unknown.

war years) the Club found it virtually impossible to meet its commitment on the beach. Many members still worked Saturday mornings making the all-day roster system for Saturday most difficult to fill. Although the Club provided patrol members with lunch, the full day patrols were 'not well accepted' and increased rather than decreased absenteeism.

With regard to competition — one of the Club's strengths in the past and a useful rallying point for recruitment — the only successes lay with the March Past and rowers. The former strong areas of the Club — beach sprinting and swimming — were 'disappointing with very few competitors'. 32

Neil McGaw did not stand for re-election at the 1980 AGM and was replaced by another dedicated member in John Levett. At the AGM, membership had been identified as the number one problem. While patrol deficiencies were alarming, they were of little concern if the Club did not have enough members to actually form a patrol. Looking to the future the Club concentrated its recruitment efforts on cadet and junior membership, although efforts to attract older men who would immediately become seniors was also pursued.

To facilitate cadet membership, the Club introduced an induction program and a luncheon aimed at making new members feel at home. In this endeavour the Club was extremely successful, increasing cadet numbers from 14 to 48 — the highest in history. While the enormity of the success in cadet membership was hailed as a great triumph and a signal of a reversal of fortune, the Club's membership problems were far from resolved. Senior membership decreased from 30 to 26, while junior membership increased by one to 24. Only half of those members eligible for patrol duties were Bronze qualified and this in a season when a number of difficult rescues were performed including a mass rescue led by Michael Maladay over the weekend of the Club's 70th anniversary celebrations. Interestingly the report of this rescue and another by Michael Anderson were the first reports of rescues by Club



McWilliam's Wines Centenary enjoyed only a short career with the Club following its unfortunate demise.



Collaroy members, Hector McDonald, John Levett, Graham Carlisle and Peter Montgomery represent the Club as members of a Branch Instructional tour of the Phillipines, December 1978/January 1979.



First Collaroy R & R team to ever compete in the finals at an Australian Championships. The team finished fourth. L to R: Jason Nicol, Greg Simons, Pat Armstrong, Michael Anderson, John Kassel, Peter Clare. Absent: Dick Twight (coach), Matthew Bousfield (reserve).

members in the Annual Report for many years. Rescue figures had been discarded from Annual Reports in the early 1960s.

The season of 1980/81 marked a significant milestone in the history of the movement and the Club. Seven of the Club's new active members were women. In the course of the season Michelle Ridgeway (Milsted), Jane Riches, Helen Temperely, Sandra Maguire, Michelle Falk and Jane Kraushaar gained their Bronze Medallions while Debbie Simons gained her Qualifying Certificate.

The 1970s had once again seen the involvement of women in the administrative side of the Club. During the captaincy of John Bradford a Women's Auxiliary, made up predominantly of young women, had been formed but did not last for long. John Bradford's pronoucements during the mid-1970s concerning active female membership had been in part borne of his association with these young women and their frustration at not being allowed to take a more active role in club affairs.

Within the Club and the wider movement, however, such views continued to be frowned upon based on the old chestnuts concerning a woman's ability to pull a belt and the lack of facilities for women in club houses. While clubs were asked about the question of female membership on a number of occasions during the 1970s — and on these occasions Collaroy supported active female membership — the majority remained opposed. Acknowledging that women did play a role in the Club, John Ison broke a 65 year tradition in the 1976/77 Annual Report when he addressed the membership not as 'Gentlemen' but as 'Fellow Collaroy Members'.

In September 1978, three mothers of junior members once again resurrected the Ladies Auxiliary and attracted other mothers and wives of members to join. The nine active members of the Auxiliary (Helen Falk, Glenys Newman, Margaret Booth, Belinda Clare, Kath McGaw, Kim Boxhall, Barbara Nicol — President, Maureen Bousfield — Secretary and Sue Dawson — Treasurer), sought to take responsibility for organising socials and fund raising efforts, particularly those in connection with sending away teams to Australian championships. Unlike past incantations, the new Auxiliary and its desires were not appreciated by all members. In her first report Nicol noted: 'At the beginning of the season we had our wrists slapped a few times, as not all the male Club members were on our side, and we knew we had to prove ourselves. If in the beginning we gave the impression of trying to "take over" that was certainly not our intention'.<sup>34</sup>

While the General Committee of the Club had been struggling to run a social event at a profit for many years, the Ladies Auxiliary raised over \$3000 in its first season and every function held (from a Hawaiian Luaau to Fashion Parades to a Christmas Party to a Sausage Sizzle to a Cracker Night) made a profit. Other initiatives included an Art Union, Beach Raffles and the establishment of aluminium can recycling. Despite such efforts the Auxiliary was still not considered an integral part of the Club, reflected by the fact they had to hold their Sunday morning meetings 'in front of the Club House'.

The AGM of 1979 saw yet another milestone for women's involvement in the Club when Maureen Bousfield was elected Club Honorary Secretary — the first woman to hold an executive position within the Club. Members were now addressed as 'Ladies and Gentlemen'



Ladies Auxiliary 1978/79. L to R, back: Helen Falk, Glenys Newman, Margaret Booth, Belinda Clare, Kath McGaw, Kim Boxhall; front: Maureen Bousfield (Treasurer), Barbara Nicol (President), Sue Dawson (Secretary).



Marty Nicol and Greg Simons entertain during a Hawaiian night at the Club, 1982.

Gentlemen' in the Annual Report. Bousfield's appointment caused an outrage amongst some older members who had never imagined such involvement by women. In her new position Bousefield pushed the importance of cultivating sponsorship, a factor of which the Women's Auxiliary appeared to have a better understanding than the General Committee. Speaking on her 'favourite matter' of raising funds she noted:

Members must pull together, get out together and try and raise money. I am not asking you to do something that I have not tried myself . . . We need volunteers, any size or sex, we must work harder together next season. Don't leave it to the 'old faithfuls', their enthusiasm is wearing to, they need support.

At the 1980 AGM John Ison returned to the position of Secretary and the independence of the Ladies' Auxiliary was severely curtailed with the appointment of Wal MacGrigor as Social Organiser. Maureen Bousfield's fund raising ability saw her elected Convener of the Ways and Means Committee. While some members saw these events as a backlash against female involvement, the SLSA's decision to accept women for active membership left John Bradford claiming the 'real challenge for the coming season lies in the recruiting and training of female members. There is enormous potential here and I believe that the Clubs which are successful in that will be the pacesetter of the 80s'. 35

The first seven women to join the Club as active members were the sisters and girlfriends of members who managed to encourage one or two of their friends to join. The first female squad was instructed by Brett Montgomery and all six passed their examination in very trying conditions. While many members remained sceptical about the introduction of female active membership and lamented that some sort of vote by clubs rather than a directive from National Council had not been entertained, the Club's first women members encountered little anatagonism from male members. The problems these pioneering women encountered were of a more practical nature. While the Club accepted the SLSA directive that women should be admitted as active members its first female members had no suitable accommodation. The first



A Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 1981.



Collaroy's first female Association award recipiants receive their Bronze Medallions or Qualifying Certificate from Branch President Paul Day. L to R: Jane Riches, Michelle Ridgeway (Milsted), Debbie Simons, Helen Temperley, Jane Kraushaar, Michell Falk, Sandra Maguire.

active female members were forced to change in the public change room, while the Club sought to find a suitable location for a female dressing area. An area was found but it had no internal access and female members had to enter from outside the rear of the Club. Eventually a connecting door allowing internal access was installed. In these early days it remained not uncommon to see female members using the male showers.<sup>37</sup>

While individuals such as John Bradford had seen female membership as a means to address the more general decline of membership in the movement, the early years of active female membership only saw a small number of women seeking to gain their awards and become active members. With the full rights of membership, women were eligible to stand for any position within the Club. While Michelle Milsted replaced her husband Gary as Publicity Officer in 1981/82 and associate member Pat Brown became the Club's second female secretary during the same season, the role of women in the administrative side of Club life remained hotly debated. Although a full member of the Club, Michelle Milsted found herself President of the Ladies Auxiliary for two seasons.

The season of 1982/83 saw another female associate, Faye Allen, assume the position of Honorary Secretary and the introduction of Women's Club Championships. The daughters of two longstanding members Kathy Diggins and Meredith Maladay were among the inaugural winners. In another first Michelle Milsted became a member of the March Past team, attracting predictions from other clubs that Collaroy would never win a major title again because of female members in the squad. As the 1980s progressed women's involvement would increase in numbers and importance.



Michelle Milsted (second from left) competing in an early female beach sprint event.

The season of 1981/82 saw the Club increase its active membership to 103 with a number of initiatives including the training of two squads from Killarney Heights High School. Other initiatives aimed at attracting retaining members included installation of a gymnasium in the downstairs section of the Club and new purchases in the craft section. The problem, however, remained in the senior active ranks where membership was unmoved at 26. This lack of experienced seniors was highlighted at the beginning of the season when injury and illness befell three of the Club's most experienced patrol captains. Such losses left a leadership void on the Beach forcing Patrol Officer Phillip Dawson to report that the attitude to patrols was 'fairly slack' with many members seeing them as 'a bit of a joke'.39

By the beginning of the following season the Club's membership problems had reached crisis point with senior active membership down to 18 and cadet membership falling from 47 to 16. Total active membership plummeted to 64. Dawson reported that the



A dapper Mick Chapman at the christening of McWilliam's Wines X.



Members, June 1981.



Michael Anderson, second NSW Open Board Display Championship, 1981.

'general slackness and apathy' of the previous season had continued. The Club was placed near the bottom of the patrol efficiency competition and patrols were only met through the support of active reserve members. Lost for words to express his disappointment Levett borrowed from the opening paragraphs of Neil McGaw's stinging critique of the Club in the 1978/79 Annual Report.

The season of 1983/84 marked one of the lowest points in the Club's history. In December the Club was suspended. While the suspension was triggered by the non-wearing of patrol caps, it was put down to a combination of 'poor administration, a poor attitude by patrolling members and lack of senior experienced patrol captains'. The Club was put on notice that a marked improvement was necessary or more severe action would be taken. The incident provoked an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club on Christmas Eve where a number of members sought to bring a motion of no-confidence in Club Captain Levett. Like John Bradford, Levett was more popular with younger members of the Club and the vote of no-confidence in his captaincy was defeated by one vote — it was later claimed that a cadet member who had voted was not so entitled. In further responses to the situation the Committee decided that it would finally allocate funds to purchase an Inshore Rescue Boat (IRB or Rubber Ducky) in the hope that it might rekindle some interest in patrols. With regard to membership, plans were laid to start a recruitment drive outside the Club's immediate hinterland, preparations also being made for the construction of bunks in the club house to cater for such members.

Unfortunately such efforts were again found wanting with regard to patrols and administration later in the season and in another crisis meeting between the Club's executive and Branch officials Paul Day and Rick Wright, the Club was threatened with closure and the appointment of an administrator. The Club's position was not helped by its finances, which were described by Bill Goodman as the worst in its history. While over \$3000 was transferred



The launching of the Club's first IRB, 1984/85. L to R: unknown, Greg Fawkner, Kim Sciffleet, unknown, Mick Chapman, Graham Carlisle (Deputy President), Alan Lance (IRB Captain), Mrs Burleigh, unknown, Miss Burleigh, Michael Brown (Vice Captain), Peter Burleigh (Managing Director KK&S).

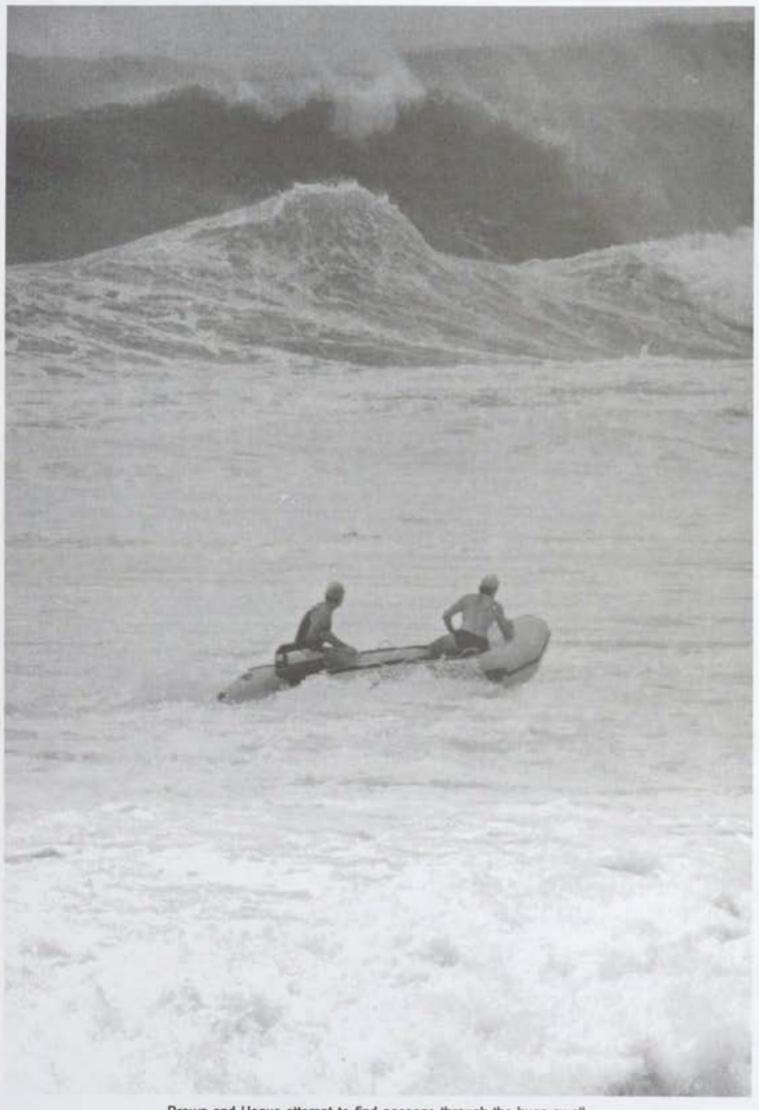
from the Premises Account to the General Account it was still insufficient to meet the Club's commitments and Goodman was forced to resort to practices such as delaying payment of utility bills to keep the Club afloat. Through some hard talking the Club was able to convince the Branch that it could remove itself from its current predicament but as John Ison warned members at the 1984 AGM the season had 'very nearly' seen the 'downfall' of Collaroy SLSC.

At the 1984 AGM John Levett was not re-elected Club Captain and was replaced by Brian Booth. In a parting gesture Levett called on those 'who had stood in the wings and offered advice or were "gunnas" to come forward and work hard to get the Club out of the slump it is now in'. Unfairly, given the longstanding nature of the problems facing it, much of the blame for the Club's predicament was levelled solely at Levett and many saw his departure as the first step on the trip back from the brink. The season of 1984/85 saw the Club receive its first IRB (sponsored by K.K. & S. Instruments), its first female instructor (Soraya Holiday), first female 'Best Patrol member' (Kathy Diggins), over 100 Association awards gained and 40 new active members, most notably in the senior ranks where membership increased from 16 to 41. A number of these new members were older men in their 30s and 40s who had answered the call of the Club.

On New Years Eve 1984 the Club performed one of the most dramatic rescues in its history — demonstrating the usefulness of the IRB as a rescue craft. Visitors to Collaroy that day were greeted by a tremendous swell which saw the closure of the beach. A number of the Club's rowers, however saw the heavy conditions as an opportunity to test their skills. A group of junior rowers swept by Michael Brown tried their luck. While their luck held, the surf boat's did not and during one trip 'down the mine' it was broken in half — much to the dismay of all involved.

Into the early afternoon two boardriders decided to test their skills and so entered the water to the north of the pipe. One of the riders was badly dumped when he wiped out on a large wave. Such was the force of the swell, his leg rope snapped leaving him without his board and at the mercy of a very large set of waves. His companion raised the alarm and members of the South Narrabeen SLSC responded by sending out their IRB. Unfortunately the conditions were so heavy the IRB was unable to reach the patient. Collaroy SLSC was then summoned to see if its new IRB would be able to get out at the southern end of the beach. With Craig Stephens as driver an attempt was made but the IRB flipped while attempting to negotiate a large wave. Having no alternative, Warringah Surf Rescue was radioed for assistance but responded that the Jet Boat would be unable to leave its base in the conditions. The Helicopter Rescue Service was then contacted but the helicopter was involved in another rescue.

With concerns mounting for the ability of the patient to endure the conditions Michael Brown volunteered to make another attempt using the IRB. He decided to make the attempt in the South Narrabeen boat which had a more powerful 30hp engine. With Jason Hague as crewman, Brown guided the IRB through the rip in the southern corner of the beach. To get behind the breaking waves and make his approach run he had to travel about one kilometre out to sea before turning north to head for South Narrabeen. Unaware of the exact location of the patient he was directed by flags. Once in position he waited for a smaller set of waves before making his run for the patient. Given the conditions it was likely that there could only be one attempt on this occasion. With the arrival of a smaller set of waves Brown gunned the IRB towards shore at full throttle. Still unable to see the patient, he continued to rely on the flag signals from shore. Spotting the patient just as they were shooting past him, Brown put the IRB into a 360 degree turn, with Hague grabbing the patient in the same action. With patient aboard, the IRB continued its race to shore. Unfortunately the boat was not able to outrun a huge wave which reared up behind it and ran it down. From the shore spectators held their breath in dismay as the IRB was engulfed in a wall of white water. It now appeared that there would be three men in the water and at the mercy of the huge swell. Suddenly the IRB reappeared, still upright and with its passenger and crew still aboard. As the wave had engulfed them Brown had called Hague and the patient aft and proceeded to use the outboard motor as



Brown and Hague attempt to find passage through the huge swell.



Above: The patient struggles in the heavy conditions. Below: Crew and patient safely returned to shore.



if it was a sweep oar. With this unorthodox approach he was able to keep the boat straight and on the wave. While the IRB had superseded the surf boat as a rescue craft it had been Brown's skill as a surf boat sweep which had saved him, his crewman and the patient.

With positive signs of a recovery in progress with the deterioration in patrol efficiency and attendance apparently arrested, much of this good work was undone over the weekend of the 1985 Australian titles. Fortuitously, however, the incidents of this weekend finally awakened the rowers to the predicament faced by the Club.

At the beginning of the 1980s the Club rowers were poised to build on the success of the Senior A crew's second place at the 1979 Australian Championships. While the season of 1979/80 saw Barry Cox forced from competition due to a recurring back problem, his replacement Kim Marsh was more than capable. With yet another new McWilliams' Boat (McWilliam's Wines IX) the crew qualified for 20 finals from 26 starts, resulting in seven wins and State selection. At the Australian Championships at Maroochydore the crew won the interstate race but were once again forced to settle for second place, in controversial circumstances, behind Warriewood in the inter-club championships.

The Senior A's successes once again rekindled interest in boats within the Club and saw both a Senior B and Junior crew competing the following season. The return of John Brown to sweeping duties for the B crew was cut short with a serious knee injury at the State titles, but with Craig Cunningham deputising, the B crew (Steve Nance, Steve Scott, Brendan Mockford and Ron Pomering) ran a credible fourth at the Australian titles.

The junior crew (John Kassell, Micheal Brown, Stewart MacAdam and Mark Reece) also started the season with John Brown but his injury saw his replacement by Steve Scott. Scott had



The controversial finish of the Open Boat race at Maroochydore, 1980. While the win was awarded to Warriewood, subsequently released ABC footage appeared to show Collaroy (right) as the victors.

started his lifesaving career with the Dee Why Club where he had rowed and swept during the early 1970s. While he later swept the Bungan crew for two seasons during the late 1970s his aim was to return to rowing and so he accepted an offer to join Collaroy.

Scott was a Physical Education teacher who had completed postgraduate studies in Human Movement with a thesis on rowing technique. The Junior crew were the first Collaroy members to gain tuition in Scott's rowing philosophy when he stopped them in the middle of the Branch final to explain what he wanted from each rower. The crew still managed third place and followed it up with a third at the Metropolitan and a semi-final's appearance at the Australian Championships.

While the Senior A crew won eight races for the season, including the Branch title, they decided to call it a day after eight years of competitive success. With the Club seeking to form a new A crew for the first time in over six years Scott, prepared to put his theoretical knowledge into practice, formed a new crew with himself as Coach/Sweep.<sup>42</sup> The only



Champion Warriewood and later Collaroy sweep, Ross Jorgensen, imparts his knowledge to a future champion, Michael Brown.



The Senior 'A' crew on Sunset Beach, Hawaii during the 1983 World Inter Club Life Saving Championships. L to R: Craig Cunningham (sweep), Rod Macqueen, Brendon Mockford, Scott Reid, Angus Reid.

member from the old crew was the irrepressible Peter Bott. Bott and Scott were joined by Steve Nance, Jeff Russel and Brendan Mockford. Micheal Brown, the son of John, assumed the

Coach/Sweep role for the junior crew.

Early in January 1982 Rod Macqueen and Craig Cunningham decided retirement was not for them and formed a new crew with Angus and Scott Reid and Mark Holmes. As it quickly became apparent that both of the Club's senior crews were of a high standard approaches were made to the Branch, State Centre and National Council to allow both crews to enter the Open Boat division at Championship carnivals — at the time only one crew from each Club could do so. While this request was initially approved and Cunningham's crew gained a first in the Open Boat at the Metropolitan Championships, the decision was overturned by National Council, forcing the Club to stage a row-off to decide the Senior A and Senior

'Reserve' crews for the Australian Championships.

At a time when the Club more generally was attempting to stave off in-fighting, the row-off led to much acrimony and a split amongst the 'boaties' which divided members by their support for either crew. Neither crew would speak or have anything to do with the other. While the row off saw some excellent racing between two very good crews, Scott's crew had a distinct advantage in technique which saw them eventual winners. As had been the case in the late 1960s and mid-1970s (when Queenscliff's crew had become the innovators) rowers using traditional techniques were forced to acknowledge that once again times had changed. Despite such an acknowledgement, Cunningham's crew still secured a bronze in the Reserve Boat race at the Australian titles. Scott's crew had to settle for a quarter-final appearance.

With the revelations of the previous season before them, the 1982/83 season was dedicated to improving technique. This was achieved through specialist coaching from members of the Mosman Rowing Club whose associations with the Club dated back to its foundation. A Senior crew swept by Cunningham (Macqueen, the Reid brothers and Mockford) made the Australian finals and later gained a bronze medal at the World Championships in Hawaii. A Senior B crew appeared early in the season but injury forced changes and saw the return of Paul Booth and Steve Scott to unite with Morgan Chubb, Mark Reece and Michael Brown to qualify for the

quarter finals at the Australian Championships.

The season of 1983/84 saw even better results for the Club's rowers with all crews performing well. As well as firsts and places in Branch and Metropolitan Championships the Senior A crew (Macqueen, 'Mockfordstein', the Reid Brothers and Scott — sweep) won the State final, thereby qualifying to represent the State once again and securing Collaroy's third State A gold medal. In the aftermath Rod Macqueen was elected Captain of a NSW team to tour Europe and America. In the interclub competition the next day, the A crew showed the form which many on the beach believed would secure them an Australian Championship. In the third round, however, disaster struck when the crew broke an oar on the first stroke. Glory, however, came to the B crew (Richard Greenwood, Reece, Bott, Booth and Brown — sweep) which snared the Club's second Australian boat title with their win in the Reserve Boat race.

Into the season of 1984/85 the Boaties continued to build on their success. In another strong performance the Club's five crews (A, B, C, Junior A and B) all had good seasons. Such success had come at great personal dedication built up over a number of years. In the blink of an eye, however, it was almost lost at the 1985 Australian Championships at Point Leo, Victoria. As the B crew of Reece, Greenwood, Bott, Booth and Brown (sweep) were preparing for the semi-finals, a message crackled over the loud speaker calling on the team officials of the Collaroy Club to report to the Carnival Referee. Upon their arrival the Collaroy representatives were told that the B crew would be eliminated from the semi-finals because it had been reported to Championship officials that the Club did not have a patrol on the beach back at Collaroy. There followed a flurry of activity within the Collaroy camp as hurried phone calls were made to Sydney in an attempt to firstly verify the truth of the allegation and then remedy it. After some well crafted words by the Collaroy camp the B crew were allowed to



Launching of the Ruby McWilliam. L to R: Steve Scott (sweep), Steve Nance, Brendon Mockford, Ruby McWilliam, Geoff Russell, Peter Bott.



Collaroy members of the State team 1983/84. L to R: Angus Reid, Scott Reid, Rod Macqueen, Brendon Mockford, Steve Scott.



McWilliams Wines X on Barry Island, Wales 1984. NSW Team Captain, Rod Macqueen, is pictured with the boat second from right.

contest the semi-final. With mental preparation no doubt disturbed by the commotion going on around them the crew performed remarkably to win their semi and gain a place in the final. In the final the Collaroy boat got off to a poor start but in a display of superior strength and endurance they managed to 'row down' the leaders and secure the Club's second reserve boat title in as many years, and the Club's third boat title at an Australian Championships.

The events at Point Leo had a dramatic effect on the Club's senior rowers. Winning boat races was hard enough with the chance of poor alley draws, unfavourable conditions and equipment failure, without the possibility of being ruled out of contention because of the inadequacies in the administration and patrol efficiency of the Club. As noted, the rowers were as much to blame as any other members for the parlous state of Club affairs. The 'tunnel vision' of the A crew had seen little encouragement to junior crews other than leading by example. The Senior A had been a clique within a clique and had cared little about the administrative side of the Club as they strived for their competitive goals. That they held little concern for this aspect of club life was reflected during the late 1970s when for one season no one filled the position of Boat Captain or Boat Vice Captain. In later years the administrative dimension of rowing was left to young men such as Craig Pitt and Michael Brown. Brown assumed the position while still a junior. With the incident at Point Leo, however, the scales fell from the eyes of the rowers. Whether they had been unaware or unconcerned about the state of affairs of the rest of the Club they were suddenly forced to concede that the years of effort that had been put into the Club's competitive boat stocks could be lost overnight due to events which were apparently out of their hands. With the Branch again threatening to close the Club if a major turn around was not secured, and quickly, it was resolved over the Winter months that the senior rowers would step into Club affairs to ensure the Point Leo incident would never happen again. General Club affairs would become their very real concern.



Australian Reserve Boat Champions, 1984 and 1985, L to R: Mark Reece, Peter Bott, Richard Greenwood, Paul Booth, Michael Brown (sweep).

Having witnessed developments within rowing which had seen the cost of the sport increase dramatically in the wake of improvements in craft and oar design, the rowers were aware that the actual cost of running a surf club had increased dramatically over recent years. With Club expenditure now well over \$13 000 a year and quickly rising they realised that the running of a surf club required the administrative skills of a business professional not a bunch of dedicated amateurs. They concluded that the administrative side of the Club's affairs should be placed into the hands of competent business people, leaving them free to concentrate their efforts on specific lifesaving issues such as patrol efficiency and attendance.

In turning their attention to headhunting the necessary individuals to run the administrative side of the Club, the rowers approached Alan Lance. Lance was a local businessman and member of the Collaroy Services Beach Club. He joined the Surf Club as an Associate Member in 1978 after being approached by Mick Chapman. In 1983 his service was recognised when, at the suggestion of President Peter Montgomery, the Club introduced Distinguished Service Membership. Lance and John Brown were the first recipients of this

prestigious award.

In the early 1980s Lance was joined by a number of other members of the Services Beach Club including Bernie Carr, Norm Chaffer, Dave Williams and Bill Whitnall. These men were recruited to the Club by former member and Australian Beach Relay Champion Barry Heath who, like Lance, was a member of the Services Beach Club and had rejoined as an Associate in 1980. Heath informed these men that the Club needed their subscription fee and that it was a good place to 'get on the p.s'. <sup>44</sup> As the problems with the Club became more pronounced some of these associate members started to express their opinions. Standing outside the club house one Sunday morning Whitnall claimed that unless a member had their Bronze they did not have the right to say too much. Within earshot was Club Chief Instructor Neil Montgomery who stated he would put Whitnall through his Bronze if he could find another

five people to form a squad. With the Club experiencing a crisis in senior active membership, Whitnal agreed and convinced Lance, Chaffer and Williams to join. The other two members of the squad were former lifesavers — Vince Holdt and Ritchie Lytham. Holdt had been a lifesaver with the Kempsey-Crescent Head Club in his younger days and had encouraged his son to join Collaroy during the season of 1983/84, whereupon he became an Associate Member. Lytham had gained his Bronze with the North Bondi Club and was a former member of North Palm Beach. Caught at the Beach Services Club by Whitnall he joined the Club to make up the sixth member of the Bronze squad. In the course of the season a number of these new Bronze holders also gained Advanced Resuscitation Certificates and IRB awards. At 48 Whitnall was the eldest while the rest of the squad were in their late 30s.

Now qualified and prepared to lend their assistance to help get the Club back on the rails, Lance became IRB Captain and a member of the General Committee at the 1984 AGM. Bill Whitnall became the Convener of the Ways and Means Committee while Barry Heath joined

the Premises Committee and Bernie Carr became Honorary Registrar.

With his business skills and lifesaving experience, the rowers deemed Lance the most suitable person to start getting the Club back on track. On a cold Friday evening during the Winter of 1985, the rowers approached Lance and told him of their plans and their projected role for him. If he were prepared to stand for President they were prepared to back him to the hilt. He was also asked to gather around him those members whom he felt could help him complete the task. Lance was convinced he could only do the job with the assistance of Vince Holdt. The next morning Lance met Holdt outside BBC Hardware in Narrabeen and asked him if he wished to be Club Captain. 45

With Lance and Holdt agreeing to stand, the rowers proceeded to go about caucusing support for the new ticket and their supporters. Most members found it difficult to disagree with the logic of the move though some still had difficulty in coming to grips with the fact a modern surf club's administration required business acumen, not many dedicated years of service. At the 1985 AGM a new broom was swept through the Surf Club. Lance became

President, Holdt Club Captain, and Steve Scott Deputy President.

The task of saving the Club was very much complicated at the first Committee meeting by the revelations that during the previous season a number of junior boaties had held an unofficial roadside collection in the Liverpool area. While it was later claimed that the money was being raised to fund the trip to Point Leo, the money was not deposited with the Club. While it was decided to deal with the issue in-house and at Branch level rather than involving the police, the controversy was debilitating and made for some heated early Committee meetings.

Whether or not they were influenced by the unofficial roadside collection controversy, the realisation of the 'major problems' facing the Club saw the senior rowers agree to forgo competition to concentrate on improving patrol efficiency and attendance. With this goal in mind the structure of Club management was changed with the introduction of four vice-captains (Brian Booth, Brendan Mockford, Rod Macqueen and Steve Scott) to help

oversee the changes on the beach.

With regard to membership the changing of the guard firstly reduced further resignations from the Club. One such group which changed its mind was the Junior R&R team. This side of competition had been virtually nonexistent for many years and had seen interested members such as Peter MacMahon forced to leave the Club to join an R&R team. In the early 1980s a Junior R&R team had been formed and coached by Michael Anderson. By the time of the season of 1984/85 the team had evolved into an Open 4 Man R&R team coached by Dick Twight and started to string together some strong performances — despite a lack of assistance from the Club. At the 1985 State titles Twight was unable to accompany the team. Poor organisation saw the team left to its own devices and without even a reel to start the event. Tired of the lack of support the team, which included Paul de Kort and Mathew Diggins, decided that they would accept an offer to join Warriewood SLSC. During the course of

negotiations Peter McDermott from the Warriewood Club visited Collaroy to finalise arrangements which it was hoped would include Dick Twight's coaching of the new Warriewood team. Aware of the annoyance of his team Twight asked them to give the Club another try with the prospects offered by the new management team. So convincing was Twight's argument, not only did the team stay but McDermott left Warriewood and joined Collaroy. 46

With regard to recruiting new members, Brendan Mockford and Steve Scott targeted a number of schools including Chatswood High School, Holy Cross College Ryde and Benedict Senior School Auburn. Into the 1980s remnants of the old anti-lifesaving tradition amongst young people persisted in beach side suburbs but the students from these non-beach side areas had little idea of such barriers to involvement. Chief Instructor Neil Montgomery and his assistant Bill Whitnall saw the Club gain 69 Bronze Medallions, 14 IRB awards, 22 Lifesaving Certificates and 5 Instructors Certificates. Active patrol membership increased to a very healthy 169 removing the perennial worry of finding sufficient members to make up patrols.

Patrols were characterised by a new level of enthusiasm, which was no doubt spawned by the commitment with which senior members attended to patrol issues. The all day patrol system, which had caused such annoyance, was removed and the Club returned to a half day roster system. In the Branch Patrol Efficiency Competition the Club finished in second place in a much more searching competition format. Competing in a Patrol Competition Championships at Branch and State level Collaroy's team finished fourth and third respectively. In gear inspection the Club received a 100% score (a figure rarely seen) and was

only denied first place on a count back.

With regard to the financial side of the Club the new team made an all out commitment to increase sponsorship. In this endeavour a business acquaintance of Lance's, John McGennan, was introduced to the Club during a gambling night where it was suggested that he might be able to contribute his time and skills. McGennan was an Associate Member of Burning Palms SLSC but held no active interest in lifesaving other than once being rescued at Cronulla. While he suggested that his residence in the Sutherland Shire might inhibit his ability to commit time to the Club, McGennan fell victim to the contagious enthusiasm which the Club was now generating. In his first he season was appointed Liaison Officer with responsibility for maintaining and supplementing the Club's sponsorship agreements. At the same time he gained his Bronze Medallion — aged 39. McGennan achieved quick results with Club sponsorship reaching 'an all time high'. More generally expenditure for the season more than doubled to near \$34,000. Unlike previous years however, the Club was now well placed to meet its commitments.

Funds were also supplemented by a re-invigoration of the Club's social activities. On the social side Ricthie Lytham became the new Social Organiser and social events and the club bar secured a profit for the season of over \$5000. Very quickly the bar with its 'Friday Night Sippers' was becoming a focal point of the Club which helped to build camaraderie. Lytham was assisted by yet another incantation of the 'Ladies Committee' which was reformed in October 1985 as a result of 'efforts made to encourage, enthuse and motivate ladies associated with the Club'. Activities included an Art Exhibition, mini-fete, barbecues and preparation of meals for the Club's 75th Anniversary Dinner. The Committee also pursued the sale of Club clothing and associated paraphernalia.

In his President's Report in the 1985/86 Annual Report, which also celebrated the milestone of 75 years of service by the Club (events included a dinner which saw 175 past and present members come together), Lance noted that 'No voluntary organisation can go through 75 years without making many mistakes. At Collaroy we are certainly guilty of mistakes, however, we have, I feel learnt lessons from these errors and in 1986 I believe we have a Club of which our past and present members can be proud'. Alluding to the changes which had been required he noted: 'In the changing 80's, with more sophisticated equipment and far higher financial commitments, we have to make sure that our management is sound and our money



Collaroy's Patrol Competition team which gained third place in the State Titles 1986. L to R: Steve Heptonstall (Captain), Grant Anderson, Darren Hoschke, Mark Otsyula, John Tasker, Steve Scott, Chris Diggins, Michael Heptonstall.



Norm Chaffer and Ritchie Lytham behind the bar.

not wasted'. Lance concluded by putting the Club's success down to 'team work' and noting that his relative newness was compensated by the inclusion of four life members on Committee. This combination was seen to produce a 'sound management team'. Reflecting the Club's increasing awareness of the importance of sponsorship he concluded by thanking sponsors 'because without you, Collaroy Surf Club would not exist'.<sup>47</sup>

While Lance received much of the praise for the turn around in Club fortunes, he saw his efforts as very much a partnership with Vince Holdt. While they held nominal titles of President and Captain they approached administration and re-organisation of the beach as a team. Holdt was on duty for every patrol of the season, including holidays, ensuring that patrols maintained the high standards now demanded of them. In recognition of his efforts Holdt would later be awarded Distinguished Service membership.

The rapidity of the Club's turnaround also amazed Warringah Branch officials. In a

letter of congratulations to Alan Lance, Branch Superintendent Rick Wright noted: 'I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, the Committee and members of Collaroy SLSC on some fine achievements . . . The Club demonstrated a determined resoluteness to prove that every cylinder was firing . . . Again all the best for achieving a great season of consolidation and a continuance to expand your club's endeavours'. 48

By the mid 1980s the Collaroy SLSC had been to the edge of the precipice and returned — ending one of the more troubled periods in the Club's history. While individuals were often blamed for the state the Club found itself in, their crime, if any, was that they had not been able to respond effectively to the pace of change not only within the surf life saving movement but society more generally. The old ways of running a surf club which relied on the good willed determination of long serving amateurs had been unable to meet the challenges as they were presented and as a result the Club experienced a decline which consecutive committees inherited but were unable to arrest. Without question the season 1985/86 was one of the most important in the history of the Club since foundation in 1911. No single season had seen the Club's fortunes so imperiled and their salvation so forthright. The re-invigoration of the Club during this fateful season established a sound basis for success. The seasons which have followed are a testament to this fact.



Alan Lance addresses guests at the 75th Anniversary Dinner.

## 8

## Building on Success

The future for this Club is in our hands and in the young generation who are coming along. We must guide them in the right direction and educate them in their needs. We must work together to achieve this. Loyalty to our Club is very important.

Since the momentous events of the mid-1980s, the last decade marks one of the longest periods of continuous success in the history of Collaroy SLSC. While not always translating into tangible results such as Australian titles, the spirit in the Club during the consecutive presidencies of Alan Lance, John McGennan and Richard Lytham has become its biggest and most important asset. Because of its proximity to the present it is somewhat difficult to do more than simply survey the Club's achievements in the last ten years.

Since the mid-1980s the Club has held the two major surf life saving events in Australia — the New South Wales and the Australian Championships. Not content to simply concentrate



The Club was intrumental in having Sydney Ferries latest vessel named Collaroy. At the launching L to R: Ken Coulston, Steve Rodriguez, Peter MacMahon, Robyn Brown, Tina Lance, Bernie Carr, Margaret Booth, Ritchie Lytham, Bill Whitnall, Geoff Booth, Ray Isaacs, June Coulston, John Dunn, Michelle Ison, Jeannette Isaacs, Mich Chapman, Alan Lance, John Booth MLA, Bruce Baird (Minister for Transport), John Ison, Katherine Greiner (wife of NSW Premier).

on internal issues during the 1985/86 season, Lance and his colleagues decided to go further and nominate for the 1987 state titles — the biggest carnival on the Beach since 1964. Anointed by State Centre, over 200 past and present members dedicated themselves to ensuring that the three day event was a success. As with the 1964 national titles, poor weather married the build up to the event but on the first day of competition the beach was bathed in sunshine.

With the experience and success of the 1987 state titles behind them the Club began to consider the possibility of hosting the Australian Championships. Confident that they had the skills and resources to meet the challenge, plans were laid for nomination. Unlike the 1964 bid, the State by State rotation system had been abandoned meaning the Club could nominate for the next available titles — 1992. Also unlike the last bid the first port of call in organisation was Warringah Shire Council. Over August and September 1989 the Council considered its involvement. A report which followed noted: 'The Club [Collaroy] has demonstrated and has available the ability and man-power required for the running of a successful carnival in Warringah Shire. Further, the event will undoubtedly be a boost for surf life saving in this area as well as bringing favourable publicity to the Shire generally'. The Council concluded that it would support the bid and that its investment in the titles would be in excess of \$20,000.<sup>2</sup> By the end of the Championships this support had increased to \$50,000.

In October 1989 Club President John McGennan (who had replaced Lance at the 1988 AGM) wrote to the National Council of the SLSA on behalf of the Club to nominate for the 1992 titles. The application process was exhaustive with the Club being forced to give attention to a plethora of logistical requirements from tidal information, to availability of medical services, to dining arrangements for VIPs. Much was made of the fact the beach was 'pollution free'.<sup>3</sup>

By May 1990 word reached the Club that the nominations for the titles had been whittled down to two — Collaroy and the Kurrawa Club on the Gold Coast. To ensure the SLSA was aware of the local community support for the bid McGennan approached the Manly Daily to publicise Collaroy's efforts. In an interview he harped on the total support of the Warringah Council and the advantages not only for surf life saving but the community more generally. The Club calculated that the Championships would bring at least four million dollars into the local economy. The publicity had the desired effect of increasing the amount of local support and interest in Collaroy's bid.

In late July the SLSA finally made its decision. Collaroy would host the 1992 Australian titles — the largest annual sporting event in the Southern Hemisphere. The Club's well argued bid had also been helped by the fact the Manly-Warringah Branch had not hosted the Australian titles since Dee Why, 1975.

With the announcement the Club had a little over 18 months to prepare itself. Immediate past-President Alan Lance assumed the chairmanship of the Local Organising Committee as well as the position of Carnival Organiser. As in the past current and old members offered their assistance in ensuring the four days of competition with over 5000 competitors went off without incident. In its efforts the Club was assisted not only by its sponsors, local community groups, the SLSA and the Council but emergency services and the defence forces.

By February 1992 the logistical and administrative dimensions of the titles were almost complete and were trialed in early March when the Club held the All-Branch Master's Championships. The condition of Collaroy Beach, however, was becoming of increasing concern. During early 1992 the east coast of Australia was buffeted by three Pacific cyclones. The impact of these cyclones at Collaroy was severe erosion of the beach. By mid-March Collaroy had the Australian titles but did not have a beach to hold them on. While Long Reef had been nominated in the original bid as the reserve beach it was impractical to transfer the entire carnival there. On 14 March, with only two weeks before the titles, it was decided to relocate the Carnival one kilometre to the north, past the South Narrabeen SLSC and close to Narrabeen Beach SLSC. With this decision the beach area where the competition would be



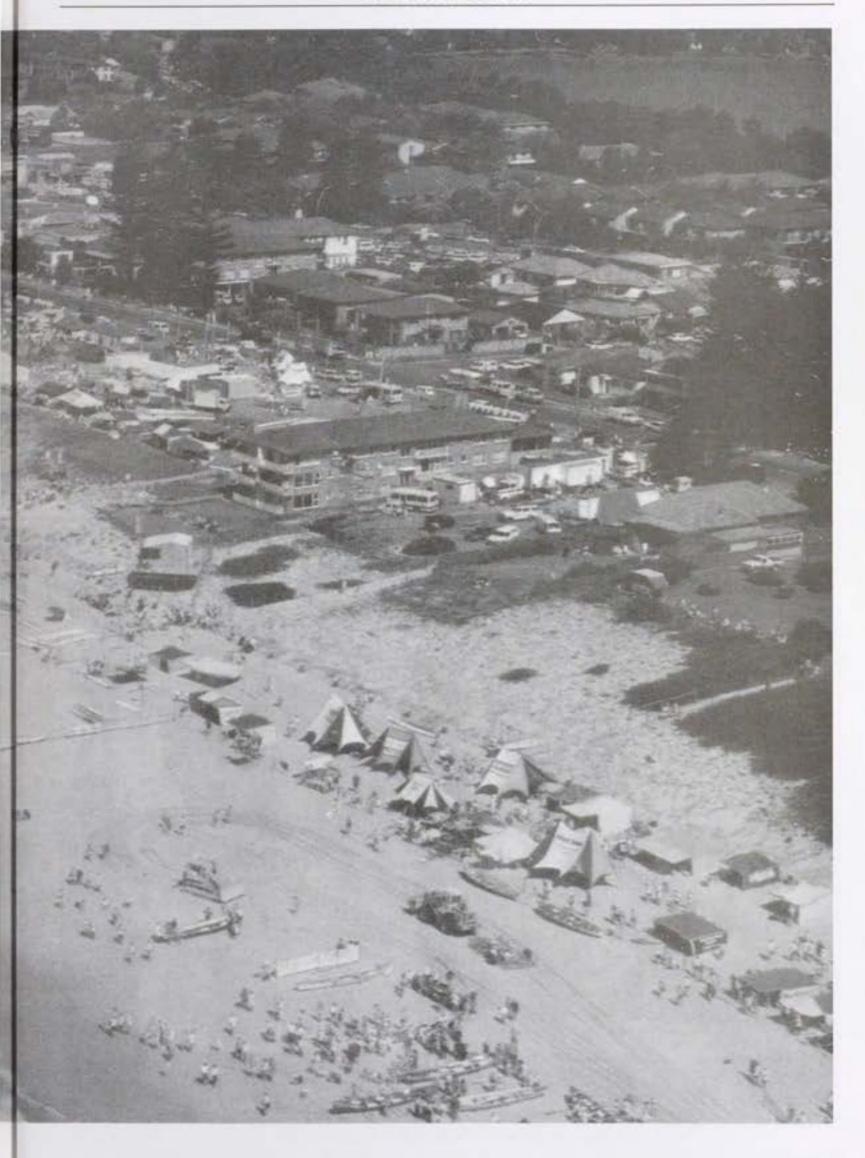
Beachside activities during the 1987 State Championships.



Colour party at the 1987 titles.



'Where the Sea is Blue in 92'. An aerial view of the 1992 Australian Championships.



held was renamed 'North Collaroy' — a title many visitors took to be real. The decision to move created many hiccups and headaches but was completed by the week of the

Championships.

The carnival commenced on Wednesday 1 April when, for the first time, masters events were held as part of the Championships. At midday on Thursday the Championships proper started and officials and competitors were greeted with the wettest day in the area in 93 years with over six inches falling in an hour and a half. Into Friday the rain stopped and by Saturday and Sunday conditions were fine. The Championships' motto was 'Where the sea is blue in '92' but the cyclonic disturbances thousands of miles away saw the colour of the sea forgotten in favour of descriptions such as 'nasty' and 'ugly'.

The 40 000 spectators who witnessed the Championships saw some excellent surf life saving competition as well as entertainment from other sources including the Royal Australian Airforce's 'Roulettes'. The Australian National Anthem was sung at the Championships by popular entertainer Doug Parkinson accompanied by a military band. Parkinson had been a cadet member of the Club in the early 1960s and was one of the members who left after the

malibu board rift of 1962.

In financial terms the titles were an absolute bonanza for the Club. By the end of the competition a net profit of \$90 000 had been secured. This money was then invested by the Club for the long term with the proceeds of such investment to be used to meet everyday running costs. In the wake of the 1992 titles the Club has maintained its skills in carnival organisation with its annual hosting of the East Coast Masters (the old All-Branch Masters).



The Local Organising Committee for the 1992 Championships with the Shire President and SLSA officials. L to R: Paul Smith SLSA, John McGennan (Club President), John Ison, Alan Lance (Carnival Organisor), John Summergreen (Warringah Shire Council), Gary Thompson, Vince Holdt, Ken Coulston, Brian Green (Shire President), Barry Ling, Rick Dilger, Alan Whelpton (President SLSA), Bernie Carr, Jack Letts, Inspector Neville Kehoe (NSW Police). Absent: Ritchie Lytham.

In terms of membership the Club has continued to grow. Since the season of 1985/86 membership has increased from 356 to 795. While this figure increased dramatically in the season of 1988/89 when the Club's Junior Activities Board was included in overall membership, the most important figure remains active patrol membership. Through the late 1980s this figure fluctuated from season to season reaching as low as 109 in 1985/86 but bouncing back the following season to 152. The trend continued into the 1990s though since 1992/93 the Club has recorded a continual decline in active membership to the current level of 127. This gradual decline in active membership (especially in the Under 15 category), however, may not be a cause for long term concern. While the Club has continued to recruit members from high schools in and outside of the local district, the biggest sources of future members may lie within the Club itself. One of the most notable success stories in the last ten years has been the re-emergence of the Junior Activities Board (JAB) — the Nippers.

The Nipper movement experienced a hiatus on the Northern Beaches during the late 1970s (Collaroy's club having faded in the early 1970s) but initiatives by a number of clubs in the early 1980s saw its re-emergence. With the improvement in the Club's general position after the season of 1985/86, Neil Montgomery, who had been one of the founders of the 1960s Nippers, turned his attention to their resurrection as an activity for his grand-children. He raised the possibility with Bill Whitnall who had replaced Vince Holdt as Captain at the 1986 AGM and a proposal was brought before the General Committee.

The biggest concern amongst those who turned their attention to re-forming the Nippers was the fear that it would once again deteriorate into a baby sitting service run by the senior club. Most of the first 30 children who joined, however, mainly in response to advertisements in local schools, did so of their own volition rather than being encouraged by parents — many of whom were ex-surfers with traditional dislikes of surf clubs. While the meeting to form the JAB committee was poorly attended by parents, raising concerns about the viability of the



Nippers' first presentation day, 1987. Making the presentations are L to R: Paul Couvret (Shire Coucillor), Bill Whitnall (Club Captain) and Terry Mullane (JAB Chairman).

exercise, an enthusiastic band of parents headed by Terry Mullane (who had played a crucial role in the reformation), John Dawson and Rick and Robyn Dilger set about organising the Club's newest section.

By the second season membership had increased and the senior club was seeing rewards from its investments with the first Nippers joining it as cadets. With the support of parents and increasing popularity amongst local children the JAB has gone from strength to strength. While competitive success was slow to mature, by 1991/92, with JAB membership nearly 250, the Club returned from the Branch Championships with 30 medals and had three State Champions in Jordan Purdey, David Giblin and Kelly Bourke. This success was exclusively on the sand but the following season saw work on surf skills. Such efforts were rewarded at the 1993 Branch titles when the Club won the overall point score and medals were shared between the sand and the surf. By the 1993/94 season Collaroy's JAB was placed amongst the top four Nippers clubs in the State. During the 1994/95 season the Club won the point score at every carnival it competed in, including the Branch Carnival at Collaroy. The sheer number of Collaroy competitors played an important role in such victories. At the State titles the Club placed sixth in the overall point score with gold medals to Jacqueline Gray, Kristen Montgomery, Peter De Gail, Kimberley Gittoes, Ashliegh Bond and Aaron Bridges. The Club had 11 representatives out of a total of 32 in the Branch JAB team.

In 1992/93 Carolyn Dilger reached another milestone for the Club when she became the first Nipper to have gone through all the JAB age groups before joining the senior club. With the flow of Nippers to the senior club, John Lewis was appointed as Liaison Officer to assist in ensuring the transition was a comfortable one. The fears of the Nippers once again becoming a child minding service have also proved unfounded with strong support from parents. Part of the explanation for this support lies in the fact that regulations concerning the activities of JABs have become more strict. As noted in Chapter Six, one of the problems with the early Nipper



Club champions in the making. The JAB March Past team compete at the Mollymook State Titles 1991. Following their entry to the senior club, Toni Lewis (standard bearer) and Brooke White (beltman) became members of the first Collaroy R&R team to win a State Championship title.

movement was the actions of parents who had no surf skills or surf life saving qualifications. To ensure the safety of children, regulations were created to ensure that water events especially were overseen by surf bronze qualified parents. While some parents such as Jon Farrel, Chris Montgomery and Jack Springall had previous life saving experience, many other parents did not, introducing them to a world many had previously seen as anathema.

While the JAB has become more independent over the years with its own sponsors, such independence has not come at the cost of good relations with the senior club. Financial control is still held within the senior club and the both the JAB and senior club take pride in the success with which the two areas of club activity have been integrated. Through the JAB the Club has gained many good members.

Another feature of Collaroy's membership in the last decade has been the increase in the number and importance of female members. While the Women's Auxiliary which had been resurrected by Shirley Mullane in 1986 made a valuable contribution for several seasons the old problem of the work being borne by just a few women saw its collapse into the season of 1988/89. Despite this collapse active female members began to play an ever more important role in Club affairs. Into the mid-1990s active female members outnumber active male members — a situation no doubt considered impossible by most members of the Club ten years ago. In 1994/95 female members have played an important role in the management of the beach with Helene MacMahon (Senior Vice-Captain), Trish Hamilton (Vice Captain), Amanda Clingelleffer (Chief Instructor) and Margaret Small (First Aid Officer). On the administrative side Gail Swain (with husband Gary) has continued to play an important role as social organiser and members such as Belinda Kelleard have been introduced to the administrative side of club life with their election onto the General Committee. In the past active female membership of the Club was characterised by its brevity — many women seeing



The Ladies Auxiliary prepare the 75th Anniversary Dinner. L to R: Judy Murphy, Gail Swain, Gay Holdt, Robyn Brown, Colleen Montgomery, Chris Chaffer, Shirley Mullane, Charmaine Diggins, Dot Montgomery, Tina Lance, unknown, Pam Meyers, Margaret Booth, Joyce Stephens, Barbara Chaffer.

marriage and motherhood as not conducive to continued involvement. In recent times this trend has been broken — not least of all because of the large number of marriages between surf club members, making their involvement a family affair. With many female members dedicating their lives to the Surf Club as men have done since its inception it cannot be too far away before the Club sees its first female distinguished service members and life members.

Into the 1990s the surf life saving motto of 'vigilance and service' has been increasingly tested by events far from the beach. The results of these issues continue to threaten the community service dimension of surf life saving. In the 1980s an incident occurred at Bondi Beach involving Waverly Council life guards which resulted in the Council being sued for negligence. The incident caused grave concern within the SLSA and upon receiving legal advice it was recommended to clubs that they become incorporated to protect individual members from personal liability. Collaroy was one of the first clubs to respond to the recommendation and was incorporated on 17 November 1988 in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act of 1984. Incorporation forced a redrafting of the Club constitution and consideration of issues such as the disposal of assets in the event of the Club being wound up or losing its incorporation. Such concerns about liability have also been addressed by Warringah Shire Council. Believing that it could be caught in any liable action directed at one of its clubs it has proceeded to increase the patrol duties of its permanent life guards to seven days during the season. As John Bradford had predicted in 1976, this implies a major transition in the



Peter MacMahon explains IRB rescue techniques to the Supreme Royal Marine Commander of the Hong Kong Police during an SLSA Instructional Tour to Hong Kong, 1994/95.

relationship of surf life saving clubs to the protection of the beach. How long patrolling Collaroy Beach remains the core activity of the Club is questionable.

With regard to patrolling Collaroy Beach the Club has maintained a fine record in the last ten years with no lives lost. In the late 1980s further pressures were placed on clubs with new rules insisting that at least five bronze medallion holders were in a patrol and the extension of the season from late September to late April. While such requirements brought criticisms of 'over kill', strong active membership has allowed the Club to meet these new requirements. Through the late 1980s the strength of Collaroy patrols was shown with strong performances in the Branch Patrol Efficiency Competition which saw the Club always placed within the top ten clubs. Paralleling this achievement the Club performed particularly well in Gear Inspections, winning the 'Lindsay Paton' Shield three years in a row. Reflecting this high standard Peter MacMahon was nominated NSW BP Lifesaver of the Year in 1989/90 and in 1993/94 was appointed the SLSA's Director of Life Saving.

Into the 1990s such good performances have continued and saw the Club placed second in the Branch Patrol Efficiency Competition for the Hec McDonald Shield in 1991/92. One blight on this solid record of achievement was the 1993/94 Branch Patrol Efficiency Competition where the Club placed 18th but a strong third place in the 1994/95 competition demonstrates that that performance was an aberration.

One of the most significant developments in the Club's patrol activities in the last ten years has been its efforts in the area of first aid. The Club's first First Aid Officer, was Cec Hall who assumed the position during the 1944/45 season. Hall held the position until 1947/48 though he had been joined by Jim Dawson. Dawson held the position in association with other members until 1948/49. At the end of this season the position remained but it was no longer a Committee position, being held as it was by Associate member, J. Roberts. Roberts later became an active member of the Club and resigned from the position in December 1950, being replaced by probationer Graham Proctor. While the position was resurrected to Committee status, Proctor's resignation in June 1953 saw the position not filled at the 1953 AGM. Receipts from the Casualty Box show that first aid remained an important aspect of Club life but to most members the Casualty Room was little more than a secluded location for a lovers' tryst.

At the beginning of the 1954/55 season the Club secured the services of members of the Warringah Division of the St John's Ambulance Brigade — Frank Weatherby and A.E. 'Paddy' Wheeler. Weatherby and Wheeler took control of the Casualty Room during patrol hours and with the assistance of several cadets treated over 1,780 persons for injuries during their first season. As a result the Club at the end of each season divided the donations of the Casualty Box between it and the Ambulance Brigade.

While he was joined from time to time by other colleagues Paddy Wheeler became a Collaroy institution. In the 1960/61 Annual Report he was listed as 'Ambulance Officer' — a position he held until 1974. In the wake of Wheeler's departure his position was not re-filled by the St John's Ambulance Brigade or by the Club itself. The position remained vacant until 1976 when Lawrie McGaw resurrected the position while also meeting his obligations as Registrar. He held the position for two years before John Bradford took over. As noted in Chapter Seven, Bradford had a strong conviction that the application of First Aid knowledge and technique was an important part of modern lifesaving. Bradford was replaced by John Wells the following season but the general lack of support and enthusiasm for it saw the position unfilled during the 1981/82 season. The following two seasons saw the position filled by junior members Jane Kraushaar and Andrew Easson. During the 1983/84 season the 'First Aid Box' was 'completely outfitted' but interest in First Aid remained nonexistent. Easson was replaced at the 1984 AGM by Mrs C. Williams.

The importance of First Aid was resurected by an Associate member of the Club, Steve Rodriguez. Rodriguez had been born in Chile and migrated to Australia in the late 1960s. In the early 1980s he decided he wanted to join a community organisation and became an Associate member of Collaroy in 1984. At the momentous 1985 AGM he accepted the position of First Aid Officer and decided to complete his Bronze Medallion. With Scott Graham and Darren Hoschke, he represented the Club in First Aid Competition during this season, gaining a fourth at the Branch titles. During the 1986/87 season he encouraged a number of members to complete St John's First Aid certificates as well as SLSA Advanced Resuscitation certificates. Rodriguez held the First Aid Officer's position until 1987. By his efforts he had raised the profile of First Aid within the Club, thereby increasing the safety of the bathing public. Rodriguez later became Collaroy's first non-Anglo-Celtic Club Captain.

The last ten years have marked a rather quiet period with regard to patrols, however, figures indicate that the number of rescues performed rival those recorded in earlier times in the Club's history. In 1924/25, for example, Club figures recorded 27 rescues while in 1989/90, 25 rescues were made. While most rescues in the last ten years have been of a minor nature the



Darren Hoschke and Steve Rodriguez in First Aid competition.

1988/89 season saw seven of the 39 rescues undertaken requiring the administering of resuscitation methods on the patient.

The advent of new technologies and preventative patrolling policies through the 1980s have ensured that surf bathing is without question the safest it has ever been, but unfortunately the Club's patrol members have still faced tragedy. One such incident occurred on Christmas Day, 1989. At most clubs Christmas Day patrols are voluntary. While such duty usually sees a handful of the most dedicated members on the Beach, this Christmas Day saw 12 Collaroy members put family obligations on hold to ensure the safety of the large crowds which often gathered on the beach.

At Dee Why Beach the story was the same with a large number of families bringing picnic baskets to the beach to celebrate and enjoy the sunny conditions. Near the southern corner of the beach the Camilleri family had enjoyed a picnic lunch and were now heading to the water's edge. Around two o'clock a member of the family, 22 year old John, saw a small boy in difficulty in the surf. Despite being a weak swimmer Camilleri headed for the child but his progress was marred by thick seaweed. While Camilleri's efforts alerted other beach goers to the danger and the child was saved, Camilleri became caught in a strong rip which when combined with the amount of seaweed left him in great trouble. Within minutes he had disappeared from the sight of beach goers. The Dee Why SLSC patrol was alerted to the situation and at 2.15pm instigated an emergency search format. With no sight of Camilleri by 2.45pm, Warringah Surf Rescue contacted Collaroy SLSC requesting assistance.

At Collaroy, Club Captain Peter MacMahon and another member took the IRB and headed towards Dee Why while five other members drove to the scene, leaving the four remaining members at Collaroy with Senior Vice-Captain Steve Rodriguez. Upon the car arriving at the scene three Collaroy members entered the surf to assist with the search. With no success the Polair helicopter was summoned and just after 3.15pm spotted Camilleri lying face

down about 1.5 metres under the surface. The helicopter directed Collaroy member Lara Fawkner towards Camilleri's location but she had great difficult negotiating the weed and the current to recover the man. On a couple of occasions she actually trod on Camilleri in her efforts to bring him to the surface but the surf and mass of weed knocked her back. With fellow Collaroy member Stuart Sharp arriving on the scene the two battled through the weed and located Camilleri, bringing him to the surface at about 3.20pm. He was then placed on a rescue board and taken to the beach. With a check of vital signs showing no pulse or breathing MacMahon commenced mouth to mouth resuscitation while Fawkner commenced cardiac massage. Camilleri regurgitated several times but resuscitation continued. After the arrival of ambulance paramedics, however, he was pronounced dead on arrival at Mona Vale Hospital. In very difficult circumstances Collaroy members had remained calm and applied their training. The other members who travelled to Dee Why that day were Darren Jones, Stephanie Hamilton, Michael Gibbs and John Hall-Watson.

While perhaps not as startling in its sheer volume as the success of the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Club has maintained a strong competitive profile in the last ten years. The first area of competition to bounce back in the eighties was, surprisingly, the beach sprinters. The Club's sprinting stocks had been low since the mid-1970s but Barry Heath brought together a team of junior runners to attempt to resurrect past fortunes. A relay team consisting of Jason Brown, Craig Chilvers, Nicholas Park and Mathew Vella had an excellent season including victory at the state titles at Collaroy.

The following season competition was given even greater importance in club life and sixty members competed helping the Club secure the Branch handicap Pointscore. The runners continued their good form with the Under 18 relay team winning at the Metropolitan and State titles (Stephen Knights and Sandy Park replacing Vella and Brown) and Nicholas Park winning the State and Metropolitan Beach Sprint and Metropolitan Flags. In a surprise the Club's fortunes in R&R also dramatically improved with Metropolitan wins for the Under 18 and Open 5 man R&R. The Club's rowers also began to see the results of a planned rebuilding of their stocks with a Metropolitan win for the Open Boat Crew of Martin Fletcher, John Bruce, Daryl Biddle, Dave Nugent and Mark Reece.

A welcome addition to the Club's competitors was 1984 Australian Junior Iron Man Champion, Sean Kenny. Kenny had been a member of the Warriewood SLSC but left the Club and had a break from competition during the 1986/87 season. On returning from overseas he visited Collaroy where he had a number of friends, especially



NSW Under 18 Beach Relay Champions, 1987. L to R: Nick Park, Jason Brown, Craig Chilvers, Matt Vella.



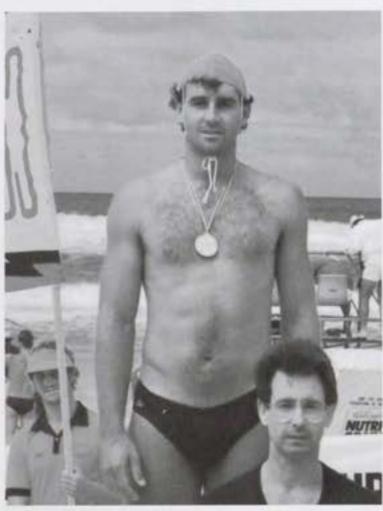
Old boaties never die. A unique photo of 11 former Boat Captains at the launching of McWilliam's Wines XIV, January 1990. L to R: Sandy Couston, Ken Hyde, Dick Twight, John Brown, Graeme Bruce, Ian Proctor, Frank Hall, Wal Beinssen, Tom Whelan, Len Gibbons, Craig Pitt.

Peter McDermott and Paul de Kort. With Kenny now recharged and ready to resume his competitive career, McDermott and de Kort tried to convince him to join Collaroy. Over a beer at the Club, Kenny decided that the facilities and support offered at Collaroy were very attractive and so became a member. As had always been the case with the Club's champion athletes, Kenny still had to meet his patrol responsibilities, but such a commitment had no impact on his competitive success with his win at the State Open Surf Championship in 1988. He also pursued his interest in Iron Man events and was on hand for the dawn of the professional iron man circuit, competing in Coolangatta Gold and later in the inaugural Nutri Grain Iron Man series. Kenny, along with Nicholas Park, was selected for the 1987/88 Branch team, the first Collaroy members since 1981.

The 1988/89 season saw more strong performances from Sean Kenny in taking the branch Iron Man and Steve Johnson's under 18 flags wins at the Metropolitan and State



Sean Kenny, NSW Open Surf Champion, 1988.



Dave Nugent, World (and still reigning) Inter Club Pillow Fight Champion, 1988.

titles. The boat crew continued to impress with its win in the Mayne Nicklaus Champion of Champions Open Boat series (Ross Jorgenson — sweep, Rod Macqueen, Howard Christie, Kim Marsh and Paul Booth). The same crew won the Over 35 State (Peter Bott replacing Macqueen) and Australian Masters titles.

Into the 1990s the sprinters continued the charge with Michael Goldman becoming the Club's first individual Australian champion since Graeme Windeatt with his win in the Under 18 Beach Sprint. Steve Johnstone continued his good form with a win in the State flags while he joined with Goldman, Shane Bullock and Rob Gaunt to win the State Under 18 Beach relay. On the water the Over 35 crew (Colin Scully, Macqueen, Bott, Booth and Scott — sweep) retained the State and Australian titles while a Reserve Crew (Dave Senior, Mark Reece, David Rees and Grant Blake, Martin Fletcher - sweep) won the Metropolitan and State titles. Sean Kenny continued his great form with a win in the newly constituted Uncle



NSW Under 18 Beach Relay Champions, 1990. L to R: Steve Johnston (NSW Under 18 Flags Champion), Shane Bullock, Michael Goldman (Australian Under 18 Beach Sprint Champion), Robert Gaunt.



A camouflaged Collaroy boat and crew compete in the Brewarrina to Bourke Outback Safari, October 1990.

Toby's Iron Man Series (which ran outside the SLSA) plus three branch titles. These performances saw him the first Collaroy member selected to a New South Wales team in many years and the Club's first full-time professional Iron Man athlete.

By 1990/91 the Club's rowers had five crews in the water. In another memorable season the Reserve 'White' Crew (Steve Scott — sweep, Brent Coulston, Paul Daniels, Leon Pendergast and Brendon Dunkin) and the Under 18 crew (Dave Hopper, Justin Wolfe, Daniel Paavola, Josh Lisle, Steve Scott — sweep) won Australian titles. Boat Captain Martin Fletcher noted a 'return of pride' in the Club's rowers. While the season was yet another milestone for the rowers it marked the end of a highly successful era for the sprinters. Since that time the only Championship winner has been Bob Langbein who won the Masters over 60 beach sprint in 1993/94.

As it had been at the 1964 titles Collaroy found it impossible to secure an Australian title on its own beach during 1991/92. The closest the Club came was when the March Past team tied for first place with four other clubs but lost to Corrimal SLSC on a countback. At state level the Club saw wins for the State A Colts crew, J Reserve Crew, Sean Kenny and the March Past team.

While the 1991/92 season was captivated by the Australian titles at Collaroy, the season also saw the beginning of the 'Kiwi invasion' when the Club secured the services of Geoff Small and Ben Hutchings. Between them Small and Hutchings have made Collaroy a base for expatriate New Zealand lifesavers, including Hutching's son Cory who has captained the New Zealand national surf team and gained much praise for his performance in the Iron Man event at the 1995 Australian titles. Small became Club Secretary at the 1992 AGM while Hutchings has dedicated much time to the Club's paddlers.

Up until the arrival of Hutchings the Club's ski section had been a very poor cousin to other areas of club competition since the late 1940s. There had been periodic attempts to revive



Australian Reserve and Under 18 Boat Champions, 1991. L to R: Brendon Duncan, Brent Coulston, Daniel Paavola, Paul Daniels, Justin Wolfe, Steve Scott (sweep), Leon Pendergast, Josh Lisle, David Hopper.



Cory Hutchings.

interest in ski competition but all such attempts had failed. In 1992/93 Hutchings and Ches Suska achieved a bronze in double ski Masters but the work they were doing in developing younger members and attracting experienced stillwater kayakers to the surf was more important. The fruits of his endeavours were shown in 1993/94 with a second place in the double ski to Luke Bermingham and Ben Burgess and a second in the open single ski to Bermingham at the Australian titles. Also at the Australian the open ski relay team of Ross Chaffer, Luke Bermingham and Shane Suska finished third.

In 1994/95 Leigh Barker and Brian Morton won the double ski at the State Championships while Bermingham, Morton and Ross Chaffer won the state ski relay and finished third at the Australians. Capping off this strong performance Chez Suska gained second place in the 45-49 open ski. With Hutching's continued involvement in training and his ability to attract to the Club Australian kayak representatives such as Yanda Nossiter and Paul Lynch, ski

stocks are presently at their highest point in the Club's history.

Another area of competition to be experiencing some success has been R&R. In 1994-95 the Under 18 A team in the '5-man' R&R event at the State titles created Club history when they secured the Club's first 'Blue Ribbon' for the event. The team consisted of Brooke White, Toni Lewis, Justine Cowell, Heath Zylmans and Luisa Howard, and was coached by Peter McDermott. In 1994/95 an all women's team started out competing in Open R&R competition but, because of a State Centre ruling, competed in women's events only, winning the Branch title. The Club's other senior team also won the Open Branch Championship. With the JAB section of the Club having embarked on R&R with some success, this area of competition is probably also at its highest point in Club history.



Collaroy IRB team, third Branch Championships, 1989. L to R, back: Ray Isaacs, Neil Bowman, Peter Rumble, Kevin Monnock (Manager), Leon Pendergast, Bruce Davis, Craig Stephens; front: Renee Randall, Chris Bartlett, John Vizzard (winner Most Outstanding Driver), Rob Woods, Andrew Coleman, Peter MacMahon.

It would be remiss not to comment on the fortunes of the Club's March Past team in the 1980s and 1990s. While the Club has not secured another Australian title in this event since 1980, the team placed in 1981, 1983, 1984, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992 and 1994. In State and Branch competition the team has maintained the success of the 1960s and 1970s with a swag of wins and places. Perhaps as important, members of Collaroy have not hesitated in offering their acquired expertise in this event to other clubs. On more than one occasion, especially at Branch Competition a number of clubs have competed with Collaroy members as coaches. Sometimes such assistance has seen Collaroy beaten but more generally the improved standard of March Past competition at the branch level has helped to keep the Collaroy team competitive at state and national level.

As well as reflecting on the dedication and skill of individual members, the Club's competitive stocks clearly demonstrate the importance of strong club administration in tour management. Competitive success and



# N.S.W. STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SURF LIFE SAVING

NSW Under 18 Five Man R&R Champions, 1994. L to R: Justine Cowell, Toni Lewis, Louisa Howard, Peter McDermott (coach), Brooke White, Heath Zylmans.



NSW March Past Champions, 1981. L to R: Phillip Dawson, Dick Twight, Andrew Gracie, Reg Stacey, John Levett, Peter Clare, Alan Wright, John Ison, Alan Clarke, Greg Falk, Col Newman (coach), Gary Milsted.



NSW March Past Champions, 1984. Team: Phil Dawson, Peter Clare, Reg Stacey, John Levett, Andrew Gracie, Barry Heath, Greg Falk, Peter Murphy, John Ison, Alan Clarke, Brian Booth, Col Newman, Gary Milsted, Peter Montgomery, Lisa Martilla, Soraya Holliday, Graham Carlisle (coach).



NSW March Past Champions, 1992. L to R: Craig Chilvers, Peter MacMahon, Matt Diggins, Ray Isaacs, Peter Rumble, Gary Milsted, Greg MacMahon, Alan Clarke, Col Newman, Paul de Kort, Peter McDermott, Phil Dawson.



Club members at the World Inter Club Championships, Southport 1988. L to R: Sandy Park, Craig Stephens, Martin Fletcher, John McGennan, Richard Timbs, unknown, Paul de Kort, Mark Reece, Chris Montgomery, John Bruce, Matthew Sharp, Sean Kenny.

# BINVALE WINERY

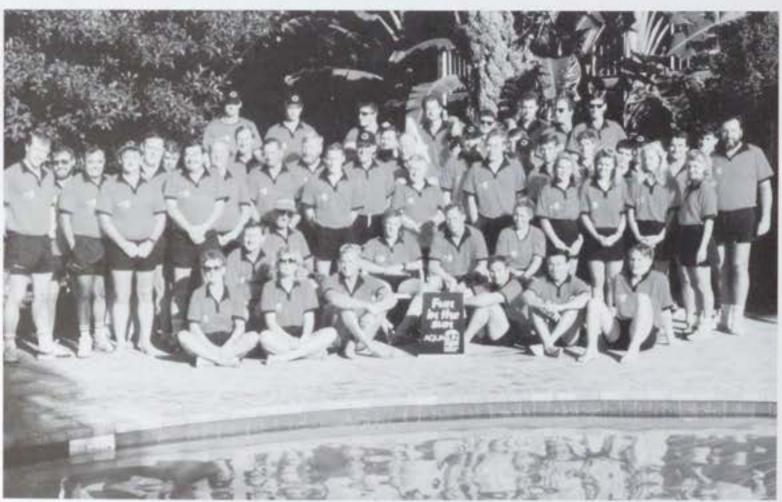


Club touring team to Moana, South Australia, 1986 pictured at McWilliam's Wines Robinvale Winery. L to R: McWilliam's Wine employee, Matt Diggins, Alan Clarke, McWilliam's employee, Paul de Kort, Andrew Gracie, Brian Booth, Craig Chilvers, Richard Timbs, Max McWilliam, Peter McDermott, John McGennan, Norm Chaffer, Geoff Booth, John Ison, Vince Holdt, Bill Whitnall, Reg Stevens, Bernie Carr, Julian Thompson, Alan Lance and Paul Booth.

more comical events such as the trials and tribulations of the young R&R team in a certain caravan park at Moana in 1986 ('You're getting warmer!') or John McGennan's bracing renditions of 'Two Little Boys' on the same trip have often overshadowed the efforts of touring managers such as Geoff Booth. A major development which owed much to the efforts of Alan Lance and Reg Stevens was the breakdown of the barriers which had previously existed between the various competitive sections of the Club when on tour.

The biggest threat to the Club's continued success in the 1990s is not patrols, competition, or administration but simply its ability to raise sufficient funds each year to keep operating. In 1985/86 the Club's expenditure for the year jumped from previous years to be over \$50 000. In 1994/95 expenditure topped \$176 000. In words not too different to what he has written many times during his 52 years as Club Treasurer, Bill Goodman warned that reduced expenditure was essential if the Club were to remain debt free. Without transferring funds from other accounts the General Account for season 1994/95 showed an operating loss of \$15 000.

To meet this continual increase in expenses the Club has continued to rely on the sponsorship dollar. Subscriptions for example only accounted for \$16, 320 of Club income in 1994/95. In comparison to many other clubs, Collaroy has managed this crucial side of club life



Touring team to Scarborough, 1991. L to R, back row standing: Steve Scott, Dave Hopper, Dave Rees, Mark Reece, Marty Fletcher, Guy Morgan, Ryan Rubagotti, Grant Blake; standing: Peter MacMahon, Rick Dilger, Steve Rodriguez, Ken Coulston, Dave Donnelly, unknown, Bernie Carr, Vince Holdt, Ross Jorgensen, Phil Rees, Ritchie Lytham, Nick Park, Ben Hutchings, Paul Booth, Alan Lance, Lawrie and Kath McGaw, Leon Pendergast, Paul Daniels, Greg MacMahon, Brendon Duncan, Craig Chilvers, Stephanie Howard, Josh Lisle, Celina Chaffer, Matthew Brown, Daniel Paavola, Sarah Geeves, Brent Coulston, Wayne Springall, Gillian Austen, Justin Wolfe, John McGennan; kneeling: Norm Chaffer, Peter Bott, Steven Fox, Shane Bullock, Stephanie Hamilton; front: Leonie Felan, June Coulston, Dean Powell, Gary Montgomery, Alan Clarke, Trevor McDougall.



Sponsor and Donors day, 1989.

with considerable skill, although the 1993/94 season was a clear warning of the dangers if sponsorship was not actively pursued. With such large annual investments in the continued operation of surf life saving clubs, the competition for sponsorship and donations has grown even more intense. In commenting on the 1994/95 season Sponsorship Officer Maurie MacMahon noted the difficulties of attracting sponsorship when Australians were rightly preoccupied with assisting the victims of natural disasters such as bush fires and drought. The importance of the Club demonstrating support for its sponsors has been highlighted by the success of 'Sponsor and Donor Day'. With the Club entering its 50th year of sponsorship from McWilliam's Wines — perhaps the longest sponsor relationship between a company and a community organisation in Australian history — the Club has some reason to be optimistic about its continued ability to meet its financial commitments.

In the 84 years since the foundation meeting, the Collaroy SLSC has been vigilant and victorious. In its community role it has protected the surf bathing public on Collaroy Beach, upholding the SLSA's motto of 'Vigilance and Service'. In the case of George Greenwell the cost of providing such protection was his life. In competition there have been numerous successes over the years but this only partly explains why a label such as 'victorious' is appropriate when characterising the history of what is Collaroy's oldest and, arguably, most important community organisation. In 84 years the Club has been faced with many challenges. It has been forced to deal with the impact of World Wars, national economic downturns, changing community standards and internal squabbling at various times during its long history. Remarkably the institution, through the strength of its membership, has endured such pressures and changes. Surely this is the Collaroy SLSC's greatest victory.



Collaroy Nippers — The Club's future.

### Notes

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- 11 James and Alexander Brown, Steam Tug Proprietors, to Newcastle Steamship Company, 25 Jan. 1881, held in the archives of the Manly-Warringah, Pittwater Historical Society.
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- 13 Sydney Morning Herald, 21 July 1881.
- 14 Prince Albert Victor, Prince George of Wales, The Cruise of Her Majesty's Ship Bacchante, 1879-1882, MacMillan, London, 1886, p 600. They also noted the Jenkins' homestead.
- 15 'Redgum', 'Old Collaroy's Luck'; J.G.L. 'How Collaroy Got Its Name'.
- 16 'Redgum', 'Old Collaroy's Luck'.
- 17 The Plateau, Mount Ramsay, Narrabeen Lakes: early recollections, Campbell, Mitchell and Co, Real Estate Agents, Sydney, 1885, p 10, held in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.
- 18 Muir, Jenkins' Road.
- 19 Cited in Kent Pearson, Surfing Subcultures of Australia and New Zealand, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, 1979, p 35.
- 20 Mark Doepel, 'The Emergence of Surf Bathing and Surf Life Saving at the Holiday Resort of Manly, 1850-1920', BA Thesis, School of History, University of New South Wales, 1985, p 16. For an in-depth examination of these and associated issues see Douglas Booth, "Swimming, Surfing and Surf Lifesaving", in Wray Vamplew et al, The Oxford Companion to Australian Sport, OUP, Melbourne, 1992, pp 235-7.
- 21 Booth, 'Surf Lifesaving', p 341.
- 22 David Ferguson, 'Play for a purpose: Sport and Sydney Society, 1900–1914', BA Hons, School of History, University of NSW, 1979, p 20.
- 23 Doepel, 'The Emergence of Surf Bathing', p 32.
- 24 Daily Telegraph, 19 Apr. 1905.
- 25 Sydney Mail, 23 Oct. 1907.
- 26 Prentis, Warringah History, p 98.
- 27 Evidence presented to the Surf Bathing Commission, 13 Oct. 1911, p 247.
- 28 Cited in Nan Bosler, Narrabeen: Memories of Narrabeen and its Public School, Narrabeen Local History Resource Unit, North Narrabeen, 1989.
- 29 Evidence presented to the Surf Bathing Commission, 13 Oct. 1911, p 247.
- 30 In 1907 the Daily Telegraph claimed land prices would rise in Manly by 30% due to the popularity of surfing, Telegraph 17 Oct. 1907. Frank Margan and Ben Finney estimate that surf bathing supported a 300% rise in Manly property prices between 1908 and 1913, A pictorial history of Surfing, Paul Hamlyn, Sydney, 1970, p 149.
- 31 The Narrabeen Progress Association had established the first lifeline on the northern end of the beach in January 1907. The first recorded use of the line was on 17 January 1907. Sydney Morning Herald, 18 Jan. 1907.
- 32 Walter Forbes, The History of Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club, 1908-1958, Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club, 1958, p.7.
- 33 Evidence of Mr Pritchard of the Narrabeen Life Saving Club to Surf Bathing Commission, 4 Sept. 1911, p 119.

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- 35 Narrabeen Local History Resource Unit, Manly Warringah: People, Places and Pastimes, the Unit, 1986, p 15.
- 36 Pacific Times, 25 Nov. 1971.
- 37 'Greg Dellit', Surf In Australia, 1 Dec. 1936, p 27.
- 38 R. Harris, The History of Manly Life Saving Club: 50 Years of Vigilance and Service, Manly Life Saving Club, 1961, p.7.
- 39 Evidence of E.W. Quirk to the Surf Bathing Commission, 23 Aug. 1911, p 68.
- 40 Nan Bosler, Narrabeen: Memories of Narrabeen and Its Public School, Narrabeen Local History Resource Unit, 1989, p 23.
- 41 Promotional flyer, 'Collaroy Park, Narrabeen'.
- 42 Annual General Meeting of the Surf Bathers Association, New South Wales, 19 Oct. 1914, Minutes of the Surf Bathing Association held in the Archives of Surf Life Saving Australia. (SLSA Archives).
- 43 SBA Minutes, 7 Dec. 1914.
- 44 SBA Minutes, 2 Nov. 1914.
- 45 Program, Collaroy Surf Carnival, 13 Feb. 1915.
- 46 The Narrabeen Surf and Lifesaving Club was affiliated with the SBA on 2 Nov. 1914. Its Club colours were listed as Royal Blue and Gold.
- 47 SBA Minutes, 7 Apr. 1915.
- 48 William T. Field, 'Sport, War and Society: A Study of St George District Rugby League Football Club, 1939-45', Honours Thesis, School of History, University of New South Wales, 1981, pp 7-9.
- 49 SLSA of NSW, New South Wales Surf Life Saving Handbook, Sydney, 1921, pp 4-5.
- 53 Annual Report of the SBA, 1914/15, SLSA Archives.
- 51 'Sir Granville Ryrie', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Melbourne, 1988, pp 502-04.
- 52 SLSA of NSW, New South Wales Surf Life Saving Handbook, Sydney, 1921, pp 4-5.
- 53 Annual Report of the SBA, 1917/18.
- 54 The story is told in Ernie Thomas, The Drowning Don't Die: 50 Years of the Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club, Dee Why SLSC, 1964.
- 55 Jamie Brown, 'The Evolution of Surf Boats', Australian Surf Lifesaver, No 4, Apr 1994, pp 10-11.
- 56 Forbes, Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club, p 15; Barry Galston, Gladiators of the Surf. The Australian Surf Life Saving Championships: A History, Reed, Frenchs Forest, 1984, p 28.
- 57 Galston, Gladiators of the Surf. p 28.

#### 2 - HALCYON DAYS

- 1 An old Collaroy Victory Song. Interview with Dave Spear, 11 Sept. 1994.
- 2 Pacific Times, 25 Nov. 1971.
- 3 Telephone conversation with Peta Baggaely, 16 Feb. 1995.
- 4 Interview with Betty Sheldon, 5 Aug. 1994.
- 5 Interview with Wal Eadie, 22 July 1994.
- 6 Program, Grand Carnival Collaroy Beach, Boxing Day, 1921.
- 7 Interview with Wal Osborne, 9 Sept. 1994.
- 8 Interview with Dorothy Leonard, nee Walters, 10 Dec. 1994.
- 9 Interview with Wilfred Perry, 28 Aug. 1994.
- 10 SBA Minutes, 19 Apr. 1920, SLSA Archives.
- 11 SBA Minutes 1 Jan. 1919.
- 12 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1924/25.
- 13 Interview with Dave Spear.
- 14 Interview with Max Lyne, 22 Mar. 1995.
- 15 Lloyd Evans, McWilliam's Wines to John McGennan, 21 Nov. 1994; Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1922/23.
- 16 Annual Report, SLSA of NSW, 1920/21, SLSA Archives. The problem was seen to lay in the Club's uncompetitiveness in the water.
- 17 Report of the No 2 Selected Team, Northern Rivers Tour. Abbott's role included addressing a number of open air meetings. Minutes of the SLSA of NSW, 1 Nov. 1921.
- 18 Souvenir Program, Surf Carnival, North Steyne Surf Bathers Life Saving Club, 10 Dec. 1921.
- 19 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1922/23. Harris unfortunately was unable to attend the tour due to 'a sudden sad bereavement on the eve of their departure', obviously a reference to his father's death.
- 20 Minutes, SLSA of NSW, 19 Sept. 1921.
- 21 Minutes, Annual General Meeting, SLSA of NSW, Oct 1921,
- 22 Minutes, SLSA of NSW, 1 Nov. 1921.
- 23 This description of the rescue is contained on the plaque which holds Taylor's Silver Medal Certificate; Collaroy SLSC.
- 24 Annual Report, Palm Beach SLSC, 1922/23.

- 27 Ibid.
- 28 Undated clipping, Scrapbook of Bert Chequer, Collaroy SLSC.
- 29 Ben Cropp, Shark Hunters, Rigby, Adelaide, 1964, p 156.
- 30 Interview with Tim Bristow, 10 Dec. 1994.
- 31 Interview with Dave Spear.
- 32 Pictorial, 16 Mar 1925.
- 33 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1924/25.
- 34 Interview with Dave Spear.
- 35 Alan Sharpe, Nostalgia Australia, Your memory Album of the 1920's and 1930's, Dominion Publishing, Newport, undated, p 87. Interestingly no mention of the attack is made in the Club Annual Report.
- 36 Ken G. Hall, Directed by Ken G. Hall: Autobiography of an Australian Film Maker, Melbourne, 1975, p 29.
- 37 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1928/29.
- 38 Interview with Bert Chequer, 14 Aug. 1994
- 39 Program, Grand Carnival, Collaroy Beach, 26 Dec. 1921.
- 40 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1922/23.
- 41 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1926/27.
- 42 Daily Telegraph, 21 Nov. 1927.
- 43 Sun, 20 Nov. 1927.
- 44 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1928/29.
- 45 Sun, 22 Nov. 1927.
- 46 Muswellbrook Chronicle, 1914. Clipping held in Private Papers of Robert Archdale Parkhill, National Library of Australia, MS 4742, Folio 1.
- 47 Melbourne Punch, 7 Apr. 1921.
- 48 Daily Mail, 6 Sept. 1922.
- 49 See North Shore Times, 13 May 1922; Sun, 31 Aug. 1922; Daily Mail, 6 Sept. 1922.
- 50 Guardian, 3 Nov. 1927.
- 51 Sun, 20 Nov. 1927.
- 52 'Robert Archdale Parkhill', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 11, Melbourne, 1988, p 142.
- 53 Sydney Mail, 6 Feb. 1927.
- 54 Sun, 22 Nov. 1927,
- 55 West Australian, 27 Dec. 1927.
- 56 Uncited Melbourne paper, Chequer Scrapbook.
- 57 Daily Telegraph Pictorial, 6 Jan. 1928.
- 58 Interview with Dave Spear.
- 59 Undated newspaper clipping, Chequer Scrapbook.
- 60 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1926/27.
- 61 Undated Truth clipping, Chequer Scrapbook.
- 62 Ron Middleton and Allen S. Figtree, Surf Life Saving in the Illawara, 1900-1962, Illawara Branch, SLSA, 1962, p 44.
- 63 Interview with Dave Spear.
- 64 Interview with Sheila Lynn, nee Goddard, 22 Mar. 1995.
- 65 Manly Daily, 29 Sept. 1966.
- 66 Chequer Scrapbook.
- 67 Uncited newspaper in the manuscript prepared for the 50th anniversary of the Club by Ian Rylands, held by Collaroy SLSC.
- 68 Uncited clipping, Chequer Scrapbook.
- 69 Interview with Wal Osborne.
- 70 Bosler, Narrabeen, p 39.
- 71 Ibid.
- 72 Bob Kay, Collaroy Junior Surf Club to North Narrabeen, Dee Why and Newport Juniors Surf Clubs, 26 Mar. 1928; Collaroy Junior Surf Club to Curl Curl Life Saving Club, 30 Mar. 1928, Private Papers of Chic Proctor, privately held.
- 73 Kay to the Editor Daily Telegraph, 27 March 1928, Proctor Papers.
- 74 Kay to J. Allan, Sec, Collaroy Surf Life-Saving Club, 29 Mar. 1928, Proctor Papers.
- 75 Undated Daily Telegraph Sunday Pictorial, Oct. 1927, Chequer Scrapbook.
- 76 Carnival Program, Collaroy SLSC, 26 Dec. 1927.
- 77 Promotional Booklet, Collaroy Heights Estate, 1929. Held by the North Narrabeen Local History Resource Unit.
- 78 Prentice, Warringah, p 36.
- 79 Interview with Max Lynn, 23 Mar. 1995.
- 80 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1926/27.
- 81 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1928/29.

#### 3 - DEPRESSION AND WANING FORTUNES

- 1 Cited in Rylands Manuscript, Collaroy SLSC.
- 2 C.B.Schedvin, Australia and the Great Depression: A Study of Economic Development and Policy in the 1920s and 1930s, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1973, p 128.
- 3 Interview with Charlie Adams, 12 Aug. 1994.
- 4 Keith Amos, The New Guard Movement 1931-1935, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1976, pp 118.
- 5 New Guard, 15 March 1932.
- 6 Amos, The New Guard, p 117.
- The New Guard was in part a response to an even longer established conservative paramilitary organisation called the Old Guard. The Old Guard had been formed by ex-servicemen in the 1920s but was far more secretive than the outspoken New Guard and its brash leader Campbell. The Collaroy area was connected to the Old Guard also with one of its more prominent members W.S. Friend owning a weekender in the Basin. Members of the Friend family were members and donors to both the Life Saving Club and the Ladies Surf Club and one 'R. Friend' gained his surf bronze medallion in 1920 and was listed as Vice President of the Club in 1924/25. W.S. Friend paid host to the famous English novelist D.H. Lawrence (the author of such classics as Lady Chatterley's Lover and Sons and Lovers) when he arrived in Australia in 1923. The day after their arrival in Sydney, Lawrence and his wife proceeded to Collaroy were they intended to investigate the possibility of renting a cottage in the area. It is undoubtable that in this search Lawrence met Surf Club stalwart Arch Greenwood in his attempts to locate suitable accommodation. In the newspaper classifieds offering such cottages for rent that day, those managed by Greenwood were the only ones which did not require a letter to the owners. Lawrence found the cost of living in Collaroy too expensive and so at Friend's suggestion travelled to Thirroul where he and his wife spent several months and he wrote his Australian novel Kangarov which contained a story line based on the Old Guard and a character based on W.S. Friend. If Lawrence had stayed in Collaroy then the town may have been immortalised in the novel as Thirroul has been.
- 8 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1929/30.
- 9 Interview with R.A. Swift, 27 Dec. 1994.
- 10 Warringah Pictorial, 10 Oct. 1930.
- 11 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1930/31.
- 12 SLSA Minutes, 2 Mar. 1931.
- 13 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1930/31. A report to the SLSA by C.D. Paterson also concluded that the evening was 'most successful'. SLSA Minutes, 27 Apr. 1931.
- 14 Interview with Bert Chequer, 14 Aug. 1994.
- 15 Interview with E.H. 'Tim' Loneregan, 12 Feb. 1995.
- 16 Daily Telegraph, 9 Mar. 1931. The boat was swept by Harry Mellor and the board rescues involved Bert Chequer and J. Lewis.
- 17 Meritorious Awards Committee, SLSA, 'Report on Tragedy at Collaroy 26th Apr. 1931', 10 June 1931, SLSA Archives.
- 18 SLSA Minutes, 27 Apr. 1931.
- 19 Harris, History of Manly Life Saving Club, p 82.
- 20 See Annual Report, Palm Beach SLSC, 1923/24.
- 21 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1934/35.
- 22 Sydney Morning Herald, 21 Sept. 1931.
- 23 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1930/31.
- 24 Manly Daily, Dec. 1931; clipping in the Scrapbook of Eddie Robinson, privately held.
- 25 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1931/32.
- 26 Sydney Morning Herald, 8 Oct. 1932.
- 27 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1932/33.
- 28 Manly Daily, 8 Dec. 1932.
- 29 Chequer resigned from the position on 15 Jan. 1932. S.W. Taylor, South Narrabeen SLSC to Bert Chequer, 19 Jan. 1932; Chequer's Scrapbook. Chequer remained coach of the Club's R&R team.
- 30 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1933/34.
- 31 Schedyin, Australia and the Great Depression, p 46.
- 32 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1935/36.
- 33 SLSA Minutes, 7 Jan. 1936.
- 34 Interview with Ray Barker, 28 Aug. 1994.
- 35 Manly Daily, Jan. 1933; clipping in Robinson Scrapbook.
- 36 Manly Daily, undated, Robinson Scrapbook.
- 37 Interview with Wal Osborne, 9 Sept. 1994.
- 38 Interview with David Rogalsky, 10 Nov. 1994.
- 39 Interview with R.A. 'Snow' Swift, 27 Dec. 1994.
- 40 'The Ban on Professionals', Surf in Australia, 1 Sept. 1936.
- 41 Truth, 21 Mar. 1937.

- 40 'The Ban on Professionals', Surf in Australia, 1 Sept. 1936.
- 41 Truth, 21 Mar. 1937.
- 42 Interview with Brian Batty, 24 July 1994.
- 43 It has been alleged that Playfair was closely associated to, if not an active member of the New Guard through his close friendship with Eric Campbell.
- 44 Australian Dictionary of Biography, pp 244-5.
- 45 Uncited newspaper clipping, Private Papers of Don West, privately held.
- 46 Daily Telegraph, 19 Dec. 1932.
- 47 Sydney Morning Herald, 2 May 1937.
- 48 Undated Manly Daily clipping; Robinson's Scrapbook.
- 49 Perhaps surprisingly, therefore, given that wealth of acquired experience, Bill Abbott actually failed his bronze medallion examination on his first attempt. In the oral section of the examination Abbott was asked by North Steyne examiner Rod Mulumby 'How would you resuscitate a pregnant woman?', Abbott answered 'She's got no right being in the water'. Mulumby replied 'She's got more right than you have and duly failed the young 16 year old. He finally gained his bronze with his mate Tom Dawson on 12 December 1938. Interview with Bill Abbott, 11 Sept. 1994.

#### 4 - WAR AND REFORMATION

- 1 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1943/44.
- 2 Interview with Charlie Adams, 12 Aug. 1994; Interview with Phil Pfafflin, 24 July 1994.
- 3 P.W. Gledhill, 'Manly Tramway 1903-1939', Bulletin, No 63, 26 Dec. 1939.
- 4 Abbott had qualified for the Championships after edging out Tom Dawson and George Patterson in the Club Championship. Manly Daily, 12 Feb. 1940.
- 5 SLSA Minutes, 2 July 1940; 15 Oct. 1940.
- 6 Interview with Arthur Calder, 29 July 1994.
- 7 William T. Field, Sport, War and Society: A Study of St George District Rugby League Football Club, 1939-45, Honours Thesis, School of History, University of New South Wales, 1981, p. 12.
- 8 Cited in the St George Call, 6 Oct. 1939, cited in Field, 'War and Society', p 15.
- 9 Interview with Charlie Adams.
- 10 Interview with Wal Osborne, 9 Sept. 1994; Interview with Bob Moore, 27 Dec. 1994.
- 11 Interview with Wal Osborne.
- 12 Interview with Charlie Adams.
- 13 Ross Lanes, Long Reef Golf Club: The First Sixty-Five Years, The Club, Sydney, 1989, p 5.
- 14 Ibid, p 17.
- 15 Interview with Jim Sowerby, 5 Aug. 1994.
- 16 Interview with Edmund Playfair, 12 Aug. 1994.
- 17 Interview with Wal McGrigor, 9 Oct. 1994.
- 18 Interview with Les Redwood, 10 Dec. 1994.
- 19 Interview with Edmund Playfair.
- 20 Interview Bill Abbott, 11 Sept. 1994.
- 21 Interview with Edmund Playfair.
- 22 Interview with Brian Batty, 24 July 1994.
- 23 Illawarra Branch, SLSA, Surfing in Illawarra, 1909-1962, The Branch, 1962, foreword.
- 24 Interview with Lance Try, 2 Sept. 1994.
- 25 Interview with Bill Abbott.
- 26 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1942/43.
- 27 Uncited newspaper clippings; Scrapbook of Dick Twight, privately held.
- 28 Interview with Wal Eadie, 22 July 1994.
- 29 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1942/43.
- 30 Ibid.
- 31 Interview with Edmund Playfair.
- 32 Interview with Bill Goodman, 23 Sept. 1994.
- 33 Interview with Ray Barker, 28 Aug. 1994.
- 34 Interview with Edmund Playfair.
- 35 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1943/44.
- 36 Interview with George Redwood, 10 Dec. 1994.
- 37 Interview with Dick Twight, 10 July 1994.
- 38 Interview with Bill Goodman.
- 39 In his first swim with the Club, in Nov. 1939, Twight won the Handicap Surf Race. Manly Daily, 8 Nov. 1939.
- 40 Interview with Dick Twight, 7 Oct. 1994.
- 41 Interview with Edmund Playfair.

- 44 Interview with Pat Armstrong, 2 Sept. 1994.
- 45 Interview with Graeme Bruce, 9 Sept. 1994.
- 46 Interview with Dick Twight.
- 47 Ibid.
- 48 Interview with Stan Twight, 11 Sept. 1994.
- 49 Interview with Ian Proctor, 9 Sept. 1994.
- 50 Interview with Stan Twight.
- 51 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1945/46.
- 52 Annual Report, Royal Shipwreck, Relief and Humane Society, 1946/47.
- 53 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1945/46.
- 54 Interview Bill Abbott; Interview with Stan Twight.
- 55 Interview with George Redwood, 10 Dec. 1994.
- 56 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1945/46.

#### 5 - RECONSTRUCTION

- 1 David Walker, We Went to Australia, Chapman and Hall, London, 1949.
- 2 Interview with David Rogalsky, 10 Nov. 1994.
- 3 Interview with Wal McGrigor, 9 Oct. 1994.
- 4 Kent Pearson, Surfing Subcultures of Australia and New Zealand, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, 1979, p 57.
- 5 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1947/48.
- 6 Interview with Dick Twight, 10 July 1994.
- 7 Interview with Wal McGrigor.
- 8 Interview with Neil Montgomery, 9 Oct. 1994; Interview with Graham Bartlett, 3 Apr. 1995.
- 9 Interview with Dick Twight.
- 10 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1947/48
- 11 Minutes, National Council, SLSA, 2 Sept. 1941, SLSA Archives.
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 Minutes, National Council, SLSA, 2 Dec. 1941
- 14 Interview with Bill Goodman, 23 Sept. 1994.
- 15 Interview with Judy Murphy, 9 Oct. 1994.
- 16 Interview with Bill Goodman.
- 17 Interview with Pam Hall, nee Erye, 29 July 1994.
- 18 Interview Betty Sheldon and Val Davoren, 5 Aug. 1994.
- 19 Interview Dot Montgomery, 9 Oct. 1994.
- 20 Interview Betty Sheldon and Val Davoren.
- 21 Interview Hector McDonald, 9 Oct. 1994; Interview with Graham Bartlett.
- 22 Interview with Rob Urquart, 18 Feb. 1995; Interview with Graham Bartlett.
- 23 Interview with Rob Urquart.
- 24 Interview with Wal McGrigor.
- 25 Interview with Hector McDonald.
- 26 Interview with Peter Montgomery, 7 Oct. 1994.
- 27 Ibid.
- 28 Interview with Wal McGrigor.
- 29 Interview with Bob Moore, 27 Dec. 1994.
- 30 Interview with Neil Montgomery.
- 31 Interview with Wal Eadie, 22 July 1994.
- 32 Interview with Bob Langbien, 14 Oct. 1995
- 33 Interview with Bill Goodman.
- 34 Interview with Rob Urquart.
- 35 Interview with Rob Urquart Williams joined Long Reef and soon after gave away beach sprinting.
- 36 Interview with Bob Langbien.
- 37 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1950/51.
- 38 Interview with Bob Langbien.
- 39 Ibid.
- 40 Uncited newspaper clipping in the Scrapbook of Dick Twight, privately held.
- 41 Interview with Hector McDonald.
- 42 Interview with Bill Goodman.
- 43 Cliff Knight, Graham Lloyd, Noel Hall. Wal McGrigor, Norm Twight, Roger Boyle, 'The Hell Ship'; a copy which is held by Collaroy SLSC.
- 44 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1952/53.
- 45 Interview with Graham Bartlett; Interview with Hector McDonald.

- 46 Manly Daily, 1 Oct. 1953.
- 47 Sun, 8 Dec. 1953.
- 48 Interview with Hector McDonald.
- 49 R. Twight, 'Highlights of the South African Tour', Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1953/54.
- 50 Uncited South African newspaper clippings in the Twight Scrapbook.
- 51 Ibid.
- 52 Twight, 'Highlights of the South African Tour'.
- 53 Ibid.
- 54 N.C. Gracie to Adrian Curlewis, 19 July 1954, SLSA Archives.
- 55 BB Lingh, Durban Indian Surf Life Saving Club, to Twight, 10 Aug. 1954, Twight Scrapbook.
- 56 Ian Proctor to Ken Watson, 25 Mar. 1957, SLSA Archives.
- 57 Ian Proctor to Chic Proctor, 8 July 1956, Private Papers of Ian Proctor, privately held.
- 58 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1945/46.
- 59 Interview with Hector McDonald.
- 60 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1948/49.
- 61 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1949/50.
- 62 Pix, Nov. 1955.
- 63 Interview with Wal McGrigor.
- 64 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1954/55.
- 65 Manly Daily, 19 Nov. 1953.
- 66 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1955/56.
- 67 Interview with Tony Haworth, 15 Oct. 1994.
- 68 Interview with Eddie Diggins, 15 Oct. 1994.
- 69 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1955/56.
- 70 Ibid.
- 71 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1956/57.
- 72 Interview with Ken Hyde, 15 Oct. 1994.
- 73 Interview with John Forbes by Hector McDonald, 4 Jan. 1995.
- 74 Interview with Ken Hyde; Interview with Tom Whelan, 15 Oct. 1994.
- 75 Interview with Pat Armstrong, 2 Sept. 1994.
- 76 Interview with John Adams, 15 Oct. 1994.
- 77 Interviews with Ken Hyde, Tom Whelan, Eddie Diggins, John Adams and John Dolman, 15 Oct. 1994.
- 78 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1955/56.
- 79 Twight, 'South African report', in Twight Scrapbook.
- 80 Twight Scrapbook.
- 81 Interview with Hector McDonald.
- 82 Bill Abbott and Dick Twight, 'Report on Torpedo Buoy', 2 July 1958, Twight Scrapbook.
- 83 Gus Staunton to Members, Branch Gear Improvement Committee, 22 July 1958, Twight Scrapbook.
- 84 Interview with Hector McDonald.
- 85 Interview with Ken Hyde; Interview with Tom Whelan.
- 86 Interview with Don McWilliam, 18 Feb. 1995.
- 87 Interview with Ken Hyde; Interview with Tom Whelan.
- 88 Les Hegarty's Report to the Collaroy Police, 15 May 1959, Twight Scrapbook.
- 89 Interview with Daryll Ford, 4 Feb. 1995.
- 90 Daily Telegraph, 13 Apr. 1959.
- 91 Daily Mirror, 13 Apr. 1959.
- 92 Interview with Dick Twight.
- 93 Hegarty's Report.
- 94 Bill Abbott's Report to the Collaroy Police, 15 May 1959, Twight Scrapbook.
- 95 Constable Gardner's Report, 15 May 1959, Twight Scrapbook.
- 96 A copy of Meagher's story is held in the Twight Scrapbook.

#### 6 - RETURN OF THE GOLDEN SUMMERS

- Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1959/60.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Interview with Rob Senior, Peter McCurtayne and Eddie McIver, 4 Feb. 1995.
- 4 Interview with John Ison, 14 Oct. 1994.
- 5 Manly Daily, 23 Feb. 1961.
- 6 Interview with Tom Pring, 16 Oct. 1994.
- 7 Ian Rylands to John Ison, undated, Dec. 1994.
- 8 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1961/62.

- 9 Interview with Dick Twight, 7 Oct. 1994.
- 10 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1960/61.
- 11 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1959/60,
- 12 Interview with Lionel Bray, 15 Oct. 1994.
- 13 Interview with Hector McDonald, 9 Oct. 1994.
- 14 Interview with Graham Carlisle, 16 Oct. 1994.
- 15 Interview with Robin Senior.
- 16 Uncited newspaper clipping, Scrapbook of Dick Twight.
- 17 Interview with Dick Twight.
- 18 Interview with Peter McCurtayne; Interview with Eddie Diggins, 15 Oct. 1994.
- 19 Uncited newspaper clipping, Twight Scrapbook.
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 Ibid.
- 22 C.J. Gray, Secretary Manly Life Saving Club, to Wal Judge, 29 April 1964.
- 23 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1954/55.
- 24 Interview with Lionel Bray.
- 25 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1956/57.
- 26 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1961/62.
- 27 Nat Young, The History of Surfing, Palm Beach Press, Angourie, 1994, p 68.
- 28 Interview with George Reid, 4 Feb. 1995.
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 Douglas Booth has argued that this perception of the period regarding participation rates in surf life saving is incorrect and has shown that membership of the movement actually increased during the period. See Douglas Booth, 'Surfing 60s: a case study in the history of pleasure and discipline', Historical Studies, No 103, Oct. 1994, p 265.
- 31 This practised had occurred on a very limited scale in the 1950s with individuals such as former Club member Tim Bristow. Douglas Booth has questioned this assertion, especially in the early days of the Malibu era. See Booth, 'Surfing 60's', p 266.
- 32 Bob Evans, 'Kenno!', Surfing World, Vol 9, No 6, 1967, p 28. Evans claims that Kennerson was the 'unofficial organiser of numerous white-haired, very vocal Collaroy kids'.
- 33 The danger of surfboards to other beach users, however, was nothing new. In January 1956 the Sydney Morning Herald reported that Wal McGrigor, while acting as Beach Inspector 'grounded' all surfboards after a seven year old was knocked unconscious by an incoming board. Sydney Morning Herald, 4 Jan. 1956.
- 34 Interview with John Ison.
- 35 Booth, 'Surfing '60s', p 271.
- 36 Uncited newspaper clipping in the Twight Scrapbook.
- 37 For a time Collaroy had its own dance on Saturday night but continuing troubles with youths outside the club house forced their cessation.
- 38 Daily Telegraph, 5 Mar. 1963.
- 39 Interview with Barry Cripps, 10 Dec. 1994.
- 40 Craig McGregor Profile of Australia, London, 1967, p 298.
- 41 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1965/66,
- 42 Interview with Mick Chapman, 12 Nov. 1994.
- 43 Interview with Graham Bartlett, 3 April 1995.
- 44 Interview with Peter Montgomery, 7 Oct. 1994.
- 45 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC. 1965/66.
- 46 Program, Juvenile State Titles, Collaroy Beach, 1967, Club Archives.
- 47 Interview Neil Montgomery, 9 Oct. 1994.
- 48 Ibid.
- 49 Interview Peter Montgomery.
- 50 Interview with Barry Cripps.
- 51 Interview with Hector McDonald.

#### 7 — A SURF CLUB LOST — A SURF CLUB FOUND

- John Bradford, 'Captain's Report', Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1975/76.
- 2 Pacific Times, 23 Nov. 1967.
- 3 Uncited newspaper clippings in the Scrapbook of Dick Twight
- 4 Interview with John Ison, 14 Oct. 1994.
- 5 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1969/70.
- 6 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1970/71.
- 7 Uncited newspaper clipping, Private Papers of John Ison, privately held.
- 8 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1971/72.

- 9 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1969/70.
- 10 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1970/71.
- 11 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1972/73.
- 12 Interview with John Bradford, 10 Nov. 1994.
- 13 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1973/74.
- 14 Interview with Peter Montgomery, 7 Oct. 1994.
- 15 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1973/74.
- 16 Interview with John Bradford.
- 17 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1975/76.
- 18 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1975/76.
- 19 Letter to the Author from Peter Montgomery, 11 Aug. 1995; Interview with John Bradford.
- 20 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1969/70.
- 21 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1972/73.
- 22 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1974/75.
- 23 Interview with Rod Macqueen, 15 Dec. 1994.
- 24 Ibid.
- 25 Interview with Paul Booth, 16 Oct. 1994.
- 26 Interview with Rod Macqueen.
- 27 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1976/77.
- 28 Interview with Don McWilliam, 18 Feb. 1995.
- 29 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1977/78.
- 30 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1978/79; Interview with Neil McGaw, 16 Oct. 1994.
- 31 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1978/79.
- 32 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1979/80.
- 33 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1980/81.
- 34 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1978/79.
- 35 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1979/80.
- 36 Interview with Ray Isaacs, 15 Oct. 1994; Interview with Michelle Milsted, 15 Oct. 1994.
- 37 Interview with Michelle Milsted; Interview with Greg Falk, 15 Oct. 1994.
- 38 Interview with John Ward, 15 Oct. 1994.
- 39 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1981/82.
- 40 Interview with Bill Whitnall, 16 Oct. 1994.
- 41 Interview with Mark Reece, 16 Oct. 1994.
- 42 Interview with Steve Scott, 18 Feb. 1995.
- 43 Ibid.
- 44 Interview with Bill Whitnall.
- 45 Interview with Alan Lance, 6 Nov. 1994.
- 46 Interview with Peter McDermott.
- 47 Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1985/86.
- 48 Rick Wright, Superindent, Manly-Warringah Branch, SLSA of A, to Alan Lance, President, Collabory SLSC, 21 April 1986, Club Archives.

#### 8 - BUILDING ON SUCCESS

- 1 Stephen Rodriguez, Captain's Report, Annual Report, Collaroy SLSC, 1990/91.
- 2 Warringah Shire Council to Collaroy SLSC, 28 Sept. 1989, Private Papers of John McGennan.
- 3 McGennan to SLSA, 5 Oct. 1989, McGennan Papers.
- 4 Manly Daily, 5 June 1990.
- 5 Surf Rescue, April/May 1992.
- 6 Interview with Sean Kenny, 16 Oct. 1994.

## Office Bearers, Honour Boards

#### **COLLAROY SLSC OFFICE BEARERS**

#### Patrons

1911-1927 Sir Granville De L Ryrie, KCM, CB, VD, DSO
1928-1936 Archdale Parkhill
1937-1952 Brig The Hon T A J Playfair, DSO, OBE, VD, MLC
1952-1953 D B Graham
1953-1954 L Hill
1955-1977 K S McWilliam
1977- D R McWilliam

	President	Captain	Secretary	Treasurer
1911-12	J H T Evans	W D Mitchell	A C Greenwood	F Donohoe
1912-13	J Lee	W D Mitchell	A C Greenwood	F Donohoe
1913-14	J Lee	W D Mitchell	A C Greenwood	F Donohoe
1914-15	E W Quirk	W D Mitchell	A C Greenwood	F Donohoe
1915-16	J Lee	W D Mitchell	A C Greenwood	F Donohoe
1916-17	J Lee	W D Mitchell	A C Greenwood	F Donohoe
1917-18	J Lee	W D Mitchell	A C Greenwood	F Donohoe
1918-19	J Lee	W D Mitchell	A C Greenwood	F Donohoe
1919-20	J Lee	W Forbes	A Sheldon	F Donohoe
1920-21	J Lee	W Forbes	A Sheldon	F Donohoe
1921-22	A Lee	W Forbes	A Lee	A Sheldon
1922-23	J Lee	H W Abbott	A Lee	F G Evans
1923-24	J H T Evans	H W Abbott	A Lee	J Evans
1924-25	J Lee	H W Abbott	J H Reibelt	A Jackson
1925-26	H N Head	H W Abbott	J H Reibelt	A Jackson
1926-27	W B Chequer	H W Abbott	H N Head	H Meyn
1927-28	W B Chequer	H W Abbott	J S Allan	H Meyn
1928-29	W B Chequer	R Chequer	J S Allan,	H Meyn
	The second second	A STATE OF S	B M Chequer	TANK DESCRIPTION
1929-30	W B Chequer	H W Abbott	A S Duckworth	S D Chequer
1930-31	W B Chequer	R Swift	A T Britton	S D Chequer
1931-32	W B Chequer	R Swift,	A T Britton,	S D Chequer,
		H W Abbott	M Sullivan	H Britton,
				H Meyn
1932-33	W B Chequer	L Quinn	M Sullivan	H Meyn
1933-34	A C Greenwood	L Quinn	M Sullivan	J Stevens
1934-35	T C Parsonage	R Swift	M Sullivan	R Smith
1935-36	S C Twight	R Smith	M Sullivan	S D Chequer
1936-37	D B Graham	B Batty	O Glanfield	S D Chequer
1937-38	D B Graham	R Swift	W Hardy	H Meyn
1938-39	D B Graham	L Wildman	W Hardy	H Shepherd
1939-40	E C Roy	P Maher	W Hardy	H Shepherd,
	Residence in the second	(2)19.0/2	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	G Patterson
1940-41	D B Graham	P Maher,	W Hardy	M Sullivan,
		G Patterson		G Patterson,
				J Sowerby

	President	Captain	Secretary	Treasurer
941-42	D B Graham	G Patterson,	E J Eyre	M Sullivan
		F Hall		The second second
942-43	D B Graham	F Hall	E J Eyre	M Sullivan
943-44	D B Graham	F Hall	E J Eyre	W J Goodman
944-45	D B Graham	W Eadie,	F Hall	W J Goodman
A 14 . A 1		J Dawson		
1945-46	D B Graham	J Dawson	F Hall	W J Goodman
1946-47	D B Graham	W N Abbott	F Hall	W J Goodman
1947-48	D B Graham	R K Barker	F Hall	W J Goodman
1948-49	D B Graham	R K Barker	J S Allan	W J Goodman
1949-50	D B Graham	R K Barker,	J S Allan	W J Goodman
		S Twight,		
		W N Abbott		
1950-51	D B Graham	R K Barker	F Hall	W J Goodman
1951-52	D B Graham	R N Twight	F Hall	W J Goodman
1952-53	F Hall	R N Twight	G W Bartlett	W J Goodman
	F Hall,	R N Twight	G W Bartlett	W J Goodman
1953-54		Directorigina	O II Danieli	TO THE OWNER OF THE OWNER.
1051.55	C Proctor	D N Turisht	G W Bartlett	W J Goodman
1954-55	C Proctor	R N Twight		W J Goodman
1955-56	C Proctor	R N Twight	G W Bartlett,	YY U GOOdillall
123-3-2	10000		I C Rylands	W. I. Condense
1956-57	A M Evans	R N Twight	I C Rylands	W J Goodman
1957-58	A M Evans	R B Twight	I C Rylands	W J Goodman
1958-59	A M Evans	M Ticehurst	I C Rylands	W J Goodman
1959-60	R N Twight	M Ticehurst	I C Rylands	W J Goodman
1960-61	R N Twight	A Haworth	I C Rylands	W J Goodman
1961-62	R N Twight	A Haworth	I C Rylands	W J Goodman
1962-63	R N Twight	N Twight	D J Read	W J Goodman
1963-64	R N Twight	N Twight	W G Judge	W J Goodman
1964-65	R N Twight	D G Newman	W G Judge	W J Goodman
	R N Twight	B C Cripps	W G Judge	W J Goodman
1965-66	The state of the s		W G Judge	W J Goodman
1966-67	R N Twight	B C Cripps	A STATE OF THE STA	W J Goodman
1967-68	R N Twight	B C Cripps	W G Judge	
1968-69	R N Twight	A R Barton	W G Judge,	W J Goodman
	Control Control (Control		J A Ison	111 1 0
1969-70	R N Twight	A R Barton	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1970-71	D P Graham	A B Chapman	I J Farrell	W J Goodman
1971-72	D P Graham	J A Ison	P Murphy	W J Goodman
1972-73	D P Graham	J A Ison	P Murphy	W J Goodman
1973-74	B C Cripps	J W Bradford	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1974-75	N Montgomery	J W Bradford	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1975-76	N Montgomery	J W Bradford	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1976-77	J W Bradford	R I Macqueen	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1977-78	J W Bradford	R I Macqueen	J A Ison	W J Goodman
	J W Bradford	N L McGaw	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1978-79			M A Bousfield (Mrs)	W J Goodman
1979-80	J W Bradford	N L McGaw	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1980-81	P C Montgomery	J C Levett		W J Goodman
1981-82	P C Montgomery	J C Levett	P E Brown (Mrs)	
1982-83	P C Montgomery	J C Levett	F Allan (Mrs)	W J Goodman
1983-84	P C Montgomery	J C Levett	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1984-85	P C Montgomery	B R Booth	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1985-86	A H Lance	V S Holdt	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1986-87	A H Lance	W J Whitnall	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1987-88	A H Lance	J C McGennan	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1988-89	J C McGennan	P J MacMahon	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1989-90	J C McGennan	P J MacMahon	J A Ison	W J Goodman
1990-91	J C McGennan	S E Rodriguez	B J Carr	W J Goodman
1991-92	J C McGennan	S E Rodriguez	B J Carr	W J Goodman
1992-93	R J Lytham	R R N Isaacs	G W Small	W J Goodman
1992-93		G J MacMahon	G W Small	W J Goodman
	R J Lytham R J Lytham	G J MacMahon	G W Small	W J Goodman
1004 00	PE ALL MINGH	G J MacManon	O W SHIBII	TI U GOOGIII III
1994-95	I O LYDIGHT			

	Deputy President	Vice Captain	Registrar	Chief Instructor
921-22	N.A.	R Harris	N.A.	A Dellit
922-23	N.A.	R Harris	N.A.	G Dellit
923-24	N.A.	M Walters	N.A.	G Dellit
924-25	J Evans	M Walters	K Parr	H Abbott
925-26	N.A.	M Walters	K Parr	H Abbott
				H Abbott
926-27	N.A.	A Greville	H Smith	
927-28	N.A.	A Greville	S Macdonald	A Greville
928-29	N.A.	A M Evans	B Pearce	A Greville
929-30	N.A.	R Swift	S Britton	B Chequer
930-31	N.A.	H Ratcliffe	E Robinson	B Chequer
931-32	N.A.	B Lilley,	E Robinson	B Chequer
00.00		L Quinn	-,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
932-33	N.A.	W Bartlett	J Vennard	M Reynolds
933-34	W Chequer	W Bartlett	J Vennard	M Reynolds
934-35	A Greenwood	W Hardy	J Vennard	R Smith
935-36	E Vennard	S Chequer	D Rogalsky	W Hardy
936-37	Unknown	D Rogalsky	Unknown	Unknown
937-38	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
938-39	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		250000000000000000000000000000000000000	Unknown	Unknown
939-40	Unknown	Unknown		
940-41	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
941-42	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
942-43	N.A.	W Eadie	N Hall,	W Eadie
537 57			P Turner	
943-44	N.A.	P Turner	L Walsh	P Turner
944-45	N.A.	P Armstrong	L Walsh	W Goodman
		The state of the s	L Walsh	S Dawson
945-46	N.A.	S Twight		
946-47	A M Evans	W Eadie	R Hall	R Barker
947-48	W Thomas	T Dawson	A Eyre	W Abbott
948-49	G Redwood	S Twight	W Eadie	S Dawson,
		2000		A Leathley
949-50	G Redwood	S Twight,	W Eadie	A Leathley
		N Twight		
950-51	C Podused		H Mcdonald	A Leathless
330-51	G Redwood	W Abbott,	ri Wcdonald	A Leathley
	B 01	R Twight	1144144	7 T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T
951-52	B Chequer	A Leathley	N Hall	H McDonald
952-53	B Chequer	A Leathley	R Moore	A Leathley
953-54	A M Evans	A Leathley	L Redwood	W Scott
954-55	A M Evans	A Leathley	G Johnson	W Scott
955-56	A M Evans	R Barker	L Walsh	A Leathley
956-57	R Barker	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O		
	The state of the s	B Crocker	G Bartlett	J Dolman
957-58	R Barker	B Crocker,	R Halstead	B Smyth
		M Ticehurst		
958-59	R Twight	R Thomson	B Cripps	B Smyth
959-60	W Abbott	A Haworth	B Cripps	B Smyth
960-61	W Abbott	J Morgan	P Vaubell	M Ticehurst
961-62	W Abbott	P Mackie	N Headford	L Bray
		The reserve to the second seco		
962-63	W Abbott	E McIver,	A Wright	A Leathley
		J Vincent		
963-64	D Graham	R Senior	A Wright	R Senior
964-65	D Graham	E Diggins	A Wright	C Newman
965-66	D Graham	R Doherty,	C Newman	B Eastoe
SEES (E.C.)	STATE OF THE STATE	E McIver	24432005212	1,000,000,000
966-67	D Graham	L Walsh	J Ellis	A Leathley
967-68	D Graham		C Newman	
		J Ellis	Control of the State of State	A Leathley
968-69	D Graham	I J Farrell	L McGaw	A Leathley
969-70	D Graham	I J Farrell	L McGaw	G Montgomery
1970-71	A R Barton	L Gibbons	L McGaw	J Levett
1971-72	N Montgomery	G Montgomery	L McGaw	N Montgomery
1972-73	N Montgomery	M Storey	G Booth	G Montgomery
1973-74	N Montgomery	H Pinnington	L McGaw	P Montgomery
			THE R. P. LEWIS CO. 10.	
1974-75	P Montgomery	N McGaw	L McGaw	P Montgomery
1975-76	P Montgomery	C Newman	L McGaw	P Montgomery
1976-77	P Montgomery	N McGaw	L McGaw	J Wells

	Deputy President	Vice Captain	Registrar	Chief Instructor
977-78	J A Ison	B Booth	L McGaw	A Chapman
978-79	J A Ison	B Booth	L McGaw	J O'Neill
979-80	J A Ison	B Booth	J A Ison	J Levett
980-81	G Carlisle	C Pitt	C Newman	J Wells
981-82	G Carlisle	M Anderson	C Newman	D Cochrane
982-83	G Carlisle	M Anderson	B J Carr, W J Whitnall	D Cochrane
983-84	G Carlisle	M Anderson	B J Carr	M Gleeson
984-85	G Carlisle	M Brown	B J Carr	N Montgomery
985-86	S Scott	N.A.	B J Carr	N Montgomery
		JAB Chairman		
986-87	V Holdt	T Mullane	B J Carr	P de Kort
987-88	V Holdt	R Dilger	B J Carr	S Rodriguez
988-89	K Coulston	J Dawson	B J Carr	S Rodriguez
989-90	K Coulston	J Dawson	B J Carr	S Rodriguez
990-91	J A Ison	R Dilger	R Brown	R Isaacs
991-92	G MacMahon	R Dilger	K Monk	R Gibby
992-93	K Coulston	R Dilger	K Monk	E Eadie
993-94	K Coulston	R Dilger	J Bell	E Eadie
994-95	K Coulston	W Springall	J de Kort	A Clingeleffer
995-96	R Dilger	W Springall	J de Kort	T Cohagen

### LIFE MEMBERS

1	1914-1918		
Abbott HW Abbott RN Bull A Basser N Blakeman PE Blagden N Borig H Borig L Brissenden EM Brown G Casey N Connell T Davidson A Dellit GS Donaldson K Dougherty A Ellis W Gilles K Goldsborough JJ	*Hirons J *Hirsch P *Hunter HR *Hunter W *King JJ *Lee A *Lee L *Lee W *Ludowici H *MacKinnon J *Quinn L *Ryrie Sir G De L *Sheldon LA *Shepherd W *Smith T *Solomons E *Tindale F *Wilson W	Abbott WN 1958 Bruce G 1968 Chequer WB Chequer B 1951 Chequer R 1932 Cameron A 1938 Dellit A Donohue F Evans A 1956 Evans J Forbes W Greenwood AC Goodman W 1950 Graham DB 1944 Hall F 1949 Hardy W 1939 Lee J Leathley A 1962	*Mitchell W Montgomery N 1971 *Meyn H 1933 *Proctor C 1935 *Rankin J Redwood G 1950 *Sheldon A *Sullivan M 1935 *Twight S 1927 Twight RN 1954 Walsh L 1968 Chapman AB 1976 Ison JA 1976 Montgomery PC 1978 Carlisle GA 1980 McGrigor WN 1983 Booth PR 1990 Macqueen RI 1990

#### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEMBERS

R K Barker	A H Lance	R J Lytham	R Isaacs
R Barton	H McDonald	G N Montgomery	J W Bradford
R Booth	R Macqueen	G P Booth	L C McGaw
M Brown	I Montgomery	B J Carr	R Dilger
3 C Cripps	C M Newman	J C McGennan	C Montgomery
P Graham	R M Ticehurst	S Scott	K Coulston
A R Haworth	V S Holdt	P Bott	P de Kort

# THE COLLAROY SURF & LIFE SAVING CLUB FOR KING & COUNTRY

		FOR KING & COUNTRY	Y	
		1914 - 1918		
Colonel G Ryrie *P E Blakeman H W Abbott *A Lee W Lee W Wilson *A Ball *T Connell	J J Goldsborough G S Dellit L A Sheldon N Blaydon *H Borig W Ellis E Solomons N Basser	J J King A Dougherty R Abbott F Tindale T Smith L Borig W Shepherd	J Hirons L Quinn A Davidson J MacKinnon N Casey H R Hunter L Lee	E M Brissenden P Hirsch W Hunter K Donaldson G Brown H Ludowici *K Gillies
		1939 – 1945		
Abbott H Abbott W Armstrong J Armstrong P Bathgate E Batty B Barker R Brodigan K Brodigan L Brodigan V Brough H Cameron A Cassidy R Calder A Chequer A Chequer S Coolahan J Cunningham N	Dawson T Deveridge L Duckworth A Eadie W Erickson G Erickson K Eyre J Eagle R Farrano M Frazer B Garland B Graham D Gibbons R Hall Norm Hall Noel Hall M Hall R	Hardy W Hellmrich D Johnson E Johnson J Kay R Kelynack J Maladay R Martin P Marshall B Malafant W Manieri A Moane N Morgan K Morgan W Moss D Musgrove J McCredie M	Nelson J O'Sullivan L Parker J Parr K Parsonage T Patterson G Patterson L Patterson R Playfair E Poole G Rhall D Roberts T Robinson E Rome W Sheldon J Shepherd H Stevens E	Stevens J Sowerby J Starr W Thomas F Tilbrook W Trotter J Tubbenhauer T Twight R Twight S Uren T Underwood J Ware A Waterson H West D Wildman L Wildman W Walker J
		- * Killed in Action -	-	

### BOAT CAPTAINS

1921-22	R Abbott	1941-42	G Patterson	1960-61	T Whelan	1977-78	J Brown
1922-23	R Abbott	1942-43	C Campbell	1961-62	R Shepherd	1978-79	not filled
1923-24	W Forbes	1943-44	C Campbell	1962-63	T Whelan	1979-80	C Pitt
1924-25	W Forbes	1944-45	F Hall	1963-64	G Bruce	1980-81	M Brown
1925-26	C Proctor	1945-46	R N Twight	1964-65	G Bruce	1981-82	M Brown
1926-27	C Proctor	1946-47	R N Twight,	1965-66	G Bruce	1982-83	M Brown
1927-28	R D Chequer		R Maladay	1966-67	G Bruce	1983-84	S Scott
1928-29	H Mellor	1947-48	R N Twight	1967-68	G Bruce	1984-85	S Scott
1929-30	H Mellor	1948-49	R Maladay	1968-69	D Ford,	1985-86	S Scott
1930-31	H Mellor	1949-50	R N Twight		L Gibbons	1986-87	S Scott
1931-32	C Proctor	1950-51	J Couston	1969-70	L Gibbons	1987-88	M Fletcher
1932-33	R Smith	1951-52	1 Proctor	1970-71	L Gibbons,	1988-89	P Booth
1933-34	S D Chequer	1952-53	R Boyle		W Campbell	1989-90	P Booth
1934-35	H Pfafflin	1953-54	G Lloyd	1971-72	L Gibbons	1990-91	M Fletcher
1935-36	H Pfafflin	1954-55	G Lloyd	1972-73	L Gibbons	1991-92	M Fletcher
1936-37	H Pfafflin	1955-56	K Hyde	1973-74	L Gibbons,	1992-93	Mat. Brown
1937-38	H Pfafflin	1956-57	K Hyde		A White	1993-94	A Gibbons
1938-39	D Graham	1957-58	P Lane	1974-75	R Macqueen	1994-95	B Coulston
1939-40	G Patterson	1958-59	M Beazley	1975-76	R Macqueen	1995-96	J Tobin
1940-41	G Patterson	1959-60	W Beinssen	1976-77	J Brown		

#### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

1983	Hawaii, USA, Craig Cunningham (sweep), Rod Macqueen, Brendon Mockford, Scott Reid, Angus Reid — 3rd One Mile Surfboat Race	
1988	Southport, Qld, David Nugent — 1st Pillow Fight	ı

### ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP PLACEGETTERS (AUSTRALIA)

1010.00	Out Out Build
1919-20	3rd Open Boat
	3rd Junior Boat
	2nd Beach Relay
	1st Beach Sprint: J McManamey
	2nd Beach Sprint: A Sheldon
1920-21	2nd March Past
	1st Beach Relay: W Forbes, L McLelland, John McManamey, Jim McManamey, L Quinn, A Sheldo
	2nd Beach Sprint: A Sheldon
	3rd Beach Sprint: J McManamey
1921-22	1st Senior Belt: R Harris
a and a reason	2nd March Past
1926-27	1st Senior Belt: R Chequer
	2nd Beach Sprint: H Mellor
1928-29	1st Senior Belt: R Chequer
	2nd Junior Boat
	3rd Junior Boat
1930-31	1st Junior Surf: N Spargo
1935-36	3rd Beach Sprint: G Rogalsky
1939-40	1st Junior Belt: W Abbott
1940-41	2nd Senior Belt: T Dawson
1945-46	1st Senior Boat: R Twight, P Armstrong, G Bruce, S Twight, F Hall
1949-50	2nd Beach Sprint: N Montgomery
1950-51	1st Beach Sprint: N Montgomery
	1st Beach Relay: N Montgomery, B Heath, R Langbein, N Twight, J Tenison, J Thompson (coach)
	1st Musical Flags: J Tenison
1951-52	2nd Beach Sprint: N Montgomery
1962-63	1st March Past: G Carlisle (c), N Headford, A Hickey, J Ison, B McConville, P McCurtayne, E McIve C Newman, D Newman, C Noble, R Senior, N Twight, R N Twight, J Vincent, A Wright
	2nd Musical Flags: D Newman
1963-64	2nd March Past
	3rd Open Beach Sprint: D Newman
1964-65	2nd Open Beach Relay: D Newman, C Senior, R Senior, R Shepherd, N Montgomery (coach)
	2nd March Past
1965-66	1st Open Beach Relay: J King, D Newman, C Senior, R Senior, N Montgomery (coach)
	1st Open Beach Sprint: D Newman
	1st Junior Surf; B Worthington
	2nd Junior Surf: C Bradford
	2nd Cadet Surf: M Anderson
1000000	2nd March Past
1966-67	1st March Past: G Carlisle (c), C Burns, J Cochrane, B Cripps, B De Manuel, A Duffy, J Ellis
	W Edmonds, A Hickey, J Ison, P Montgomery, B McConville, C Newman, C Noble, R N Twight
	1st Junior Surf: C Bradford
	1st Cadet Surf: M Anderson
1967-68	1st Open Surf: C Bradford
	1st Open Surf Teams: C Bradford, M Anderson, R Cooper, T Hixson
	1st Junior Surf Teams: M Anderson, J Cottee, T Hixson, B Worthington
	1st March Past: G Carlisle (c), A Chapman, J Cochrane, B Cripps, M Dickson, B Eastoe, W Edmonds J Ellis, S Ellis, J Farrell, J Ison, P Montgomery, P Morgan, C Newman, C Noble, R N Twight
1000.00	3rd Junior Surf: T Hixson
1968-69	1st March Past: G Carlisle (c), A Chapman, J Cochrane, B Cripps, J Ellis, S Ellis, W Edmonds, J Isor J Levett, A McFarlane, P Montgomery, C Newman, R N Twight
	3rd Open Beach Relay: P Booth, L Drake, D Newman, C Senior, R Senior
	3rd Junior Surf Teams: M Bradford, J Cottee, M O'Neill, I Montgomery
1969-70	1st Open Surf Teams: M Anderson, J Bennett, M Bradford, I Montgomery
	2nd March Past

	2nd Junior Beach Flags: G Montgomery 3rd Junior Beach Relay: R Langbein, M Rathborne, G Montgomery, A Thompson
1970-71	1st Open Surf Teams: M Anderson, M Bradford, I Montgomery, W Portier 2nd Cadet Beach Relay: D Booth, A Browne, P Donkin, S Temple, B Booth, R Senior (coach)
	2nd March Past
1971-72	3rd Open Surf: M Anderson 1st Open Surf Teams: M Bradford, I Montgomery, C Piper, W Portier
13/1-/2	1st March Past: G Carlisle (c), A Chapman, R Barton, J Ellis, W Edmonds, J Farrell, D Graham, J Ison J Levett, P Montgomery, C Newman, R Stacey, J Stanley, J Ward, A Wright 2nd Cadet Beach Relay: D Booth, T Browne, J Dunne, C Montgomery I Wells
1972-73	2nd March Past
	2nd Cadet Beach Relay: G Biddolph, J Dunne, C Montgomery, I Wells 2nd Cadet Beach Sprint: C Montgomery
1973-74	1st Open Surf: G Windeatt
	1st Open Belt: G Windeatt 1st March Past: R Twight (c), A Chapman, D Cleary, W Edmonds, B Cripps, J Farrell, J Ison, J Levett L McGaw, C Newman, R Stacey, J Ward, A White, G Wilson
1974-75	1st March Past: W Edmonds (c), A Chapman, D Cleary, J Ellis, J Farrell, J Ison, L McGaw, C Newman P NcCurtayne, R Stacey, J Ward, A Wright, G Carlisle
	1st Junior Beach Relay: D Booth, A Clarke, J Dunne, C Montgomery
1975-76	1st March Past: W Edmonds (c), J Farrell, A Hickey, J Ison, L McGaw, R Stacey, J Ward, J Wilson A Wright, A Chapman, D Cleary, J Ellis, P McCurtayne, C Newman, M Payne 2nd Open Surf: G Windeatt
	3rd Junior Beach Sprint: C Montgomery
1976-77	1st March Past: G Carlisle (c), A Chapman, J Ellis, J Ison, L McGaw, G Milsted, C Newman, M Payne R Stacey, J Levett, J Wells, A Wright
1977-78	2nd Open Surf Teams: M Anderson, S Duchen, I Montgomery, G Windeatt
1978-79	1st March Past: G Carlisle (c), C Newman, P Montgomery, J Ison, L McGaw, A Chapman, J Levett G Barrell, G Milsted, G Falk, B Booth, A Gracie, G MacMahon, G MacAdam, A Clarke 2nd Open Boat: C Cunningham (s), R Macqueen, B Cox, P Bott, P Booth
1979-80:	1st March Past: G Carlisle (c), C Newman, R Stacey, J Ison, A Chapman, J Levett, G Barrell G Milsted, G Falk, A Gracie, G MacAdam, P Dawson, M Nicol, A Clarke
	2nd Open Boat: C Cunningham (s), R Macqueen, K Marsh, P Bott, P Booth
1980-81	3rd March Past
1981-82 1983-84	3rd Reserve Boat: C Cunningham (s), R Macqueen, M Holmes, A Reid, S Reid 1st Reserve Boat: M Brown (s), R Greenwood, P Bott, M Reece, P Booth 3rd March Past
1984-85	1st Reserve Boat: M Brown (s), R Greenwood, P Bott, M Reece, P Booth
1986-87	2nd Junior Beach Relay: J Brown, C Chilvers, N Park, M Vella, B Heath (coach)
1987-88	3rd March Past
1988-89	1st Over 35 yrs Masters Boat: R Jorgensen (s), R Macqueen, H Christie, K Marsh, P Booth 3rd March Past
1989-90	1st Junior Beach Sprint: M Goldman
	1st Over 35 yrs Masters Boat: S Scott (s), R Macqueen, C Scully, P Bott, P Booth 2nd March Past 3rd Junior Beach Flags: S Johnstone
1990-91	1st Reserve Boat: S Scott (s), B Coulston, P Daniel, B Dunkin, L Pendergast
1990-91	1st U/18 yrs Boat: S Scott (s), J Lisle, D Hopper, D Paavola, J Wolfe 3rd Over 35 yrs Masters Boat: R Jorgensen (s), R Macqueen, J Taylor, P Bott, P Booth
1001 00	3rd Over 40 yrs Masters Iron Man: B Hutchings
1991-92	2nd March Past 2nd Under 21 yrs Boat: S Scott (s), B Coulston, J Lisle, D Paavola, L Pendergast 2nd Over 35 yrs Masters Beach Flags: G Montgomery
	3rd Over 24 yrs Surf: S Kenny
1992-93	3rd Under 18 yrs Boat: R Macqueen (s), S Macqueen, T Bell, J Tobin, D Pashley 3rd Over 45 years Masters Double Ski: B Hutchings, C Suska
1993-94	1st Over 60 yrs Masters Beach Sprint: R Langbein 2nd Open Ski Relay: L Bermingham, R Chaffer, S Suska 3rd Taplin Relay: S Kenny, M Sharp, C Hutchings, D Hyland, L Bermingham, S Suska
	3rd March Past
	3rd Over 35 yrs Masters Beach Flags: W Springall
1994-95	3rd Over 60 yrs Masters Beach Flags: R Langbein 2nd Open Board: C Hutchings
1004-00	3rd Open Ironman: C Hutchings
	3rd Open Ski Relay: B Morton, L Bermingham, R Chaffer
	2nd 45-49 yrs Mens Master Ski: C Suska

### ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP PLACEGETTERS (NEW SOUTH WALES)

930-31	1st Junior Surf: B Lilly
943-44	1st Junior Boat: G Paterson, R Twight, P Armstrong, J Dawson, J Eyre
040 47	3rd Junior R&R P Armstrong, J Dawson, J Eyre, B Smith, R Twight, W Tubbenhauer 2nd Double Ski: R & N Hall
946-47 950-51	2nd Beach Relay: N Montgomery, B Heath, R Langbein, J Tenison
951-52	2nd Beach Relay: R Langbein, R Miles, W Murphy, N Montgomery
952-53	1st Open Beach Relay: R Langbein, W Lloyd, N Montgomery, J Tenison
302.00	3rd Beach Sprint: R Miles
959-60	3rd Junior R&R: R Bray, J Ison, B Jorgenson, E McIver, P McCurtayne, J Morgan, R Senior
7777.77	R Whitlock, H McDonald (coach)
	3rd Junior Belt: J Morgan
962-63	1st March Past
	2nd Open Beach Sprint: D Newman
	3rd Open Beach Relay: D Newman, C Senior, R Senior, R Shepherd
963-64	1st Open Beach Relay: D Newman, C Senior, R Senior, R Shepherd
	1st Open Beach Sprint: D Newman
	2nd March Past
964-65	2nd Open Beach Relay: D Newman, C Senior, R Senior, R Shepherd
965-66	1st Open Beach Sprint: D Newman
	1st Cadet Surf: M Anderson
	2nd Junior Surf: B Worthingson 2nd Open Beach Relay: D Newman, C Senior, R Senior, R Shepherd
	3rd March Past
	3rd Junior R&R: C Bradford, G Davis, L Drake, S Ellis, P Montgomery, Shaw, B Worthington, R Twigh
	(coach)
	1st Open Pointscore for Viscount boat
966-67	1st March Past
	1st Junior Surf: C Bradford
	2nd Junior Beach Sprint: P Booth
	3rd Cadet Beach Sprint: R Langbein
967-68	1st March Past — 3 points
	1st Open Surf Teams: M Anderson, C Bradford, R Cooper, T Hixson
	1st Junior Surf Teams: M Anderson, J Cottee, T Hixson, B Worthington
	1st Junior Surf: M Anderson
	1st Cadet Beach Sprint; R Langbein
	1st Junior Board Display: G Moss
	3rd Junior Surf: T Hixson
000.00	3rd Open Beach Relay: T Cottee, D Newman, C Senior, R Senior
968-69	1st Open Surf Teams: M Anderson, J Bennett, C Bradford, R Cooper
	1st March Past — 4.5 points 1st Junior Surf: M Anderson
	2nd Junior Surf Teams: M Anderson, M Bradford, J Cottee, I Montgomery
	3rd Open Surf: C Bradford
969-70	1st March Past
009-10	1st Junior Beach Flags: G Montgomery
	2nd Open Surf Teams: S Anderson, M Bradford, W Ebsary, I Montgomery
	2nd Junior Beach Relay: R Langbein, G Montgomery, M Rathborne, A Thompson, R Langbein st
	(coach)
970-71	1st Open Surf Teams, M Anderson, M Bradford, I Montgomery, W Portier
	2nd March Past — 17 points
	2nd Open Surf: W Portier
	2nd Open Beach Flags: G Montgomery
	2nd Cadet Beach Relay: B Booth, D Booth, A Browne, P Donkin, S Temple, R Senior (coach)
	3rd Open Surf: M Anderson
	2nd March Past — 10.2 points
971-72	
971-72	2nd Junior Malibu: N McGaw
971-72	2nd Open Surf Teams: M Bradford, I Montgomery, C Piper, W Portier
971-72	2nd Open Surf Teams: M Bradford, I Montgomery, C Piper, W Portier 2nd Cadet Beach Sprint: D Booth
971-72	2nd Open Surf Teams: M Bradford, I Montgomery, C Piper, W Portier 2nd Cadet Beach Sprint: D Booth 2nd Cadet Beach Flags: C Montgomery
971-72	2nd Open Surf Teams: M Bradford, I Montgomery, C Piper, W Portier 2nd Cadet Beach Sprint: D Booth 2nd Cadet Beach Flags: C Montgomery 3rd Open Beach Flags: P Booth
971-72	2nd Open Surf Teams: M Bradford, I Montgomery, C Piper, W Portier 2nd Cadet Beach Sprint: D Booth 2nd Cadet Beach Flags: C Montgomery 3rd Open Beach Flags: P Booth 3rd Restricted Surf: J Bennett
	2nd Open Surf Teams: M Bradford, I Montgomery, C Piper, W Portier 2nd Cadet Beach Sprint: D Booth 2nd Cadet Beach Flags: C Montgomery 3rd Open Beach Flags: P Booth 3rd Restricted Surf: J Bennett 3rd Cadet Beach Relay: T Browne, D Booth, J Dunne, C Montgomery, I Wells, M Storey (coach)
971-72	2nd Open Surf Teams: M Bradford, I Montgomery, C Piper, W Portier 2nd Cadet Beach Sprint: D Booth 2nd Cadet Beach Flags: C Montgomery 3rd Open Beach Flags: P Booth 3rd Restricted Surf: J Bennett

	2nd Cadet Beach Relay: G Biddolph, J Dunne, C Montgomery, I Wells 3rd Open Surf Teams: M Anderson, M Bradford, I Montgomery, C Piper 3rd Open Beach Relay: P Booth, B Eaton, D Newman, M Storey 3rd Cadet Beach Sprint: C Montgomery
1973-74	2nd March Past — 15 points
	2nd Open Surf: G Windeatt 2nd Open Surf Teams: M Anderson, J Atteridge, I Montgomery, G Windeatt
	3rd Junior Beach Relay: A Clarke, P Donkin, J Dawson, C Montgomery
	3rd Junior Beach Sprint: C Montgomery
1974-75	1st Open Surf Teams: M Anderson, I Morgan, I Montgomery, G Windeatt
	1st March Past — 8 points
	1st Open Surf: G Windeatt 1st Junior Beach Sprint: C Montgomery
	2nd Junior Beach Relay: D Booth, A Clarke, J Dunne, C Montgomery, R Senior (coach)
1975-76	1st Open Surf Teams: M Anderson, I Montgomery, M Morgan, G Windeatt
	1st March Past — 11 points
	2nd Open Surf: G Windeatt 2nd Junior Surf: M Morgan
	2nd Open Beach Flags: G Montgomery
	2nd Junior Beach Sprint: C Montgomery
1976-77	1st Open Boat: J Brown (s), P Booth, P Bott, B Cox, R Macqueen
	1st Restricted Surf: I Montgomery
	2nd Cadet Malibu Display: M Anderson 2nd March Past
1977-78	1st Open Boat: J Brown (s), P Booth, P Bott, B Cox, R Macqueen
A STATE OF THE STA	1st March Past
	2nd Open Surf Teams: M Anderson, S Duchen, I Montgomery, G Windeatt
	2nd Junior R&R: M Anderson jnr; P Armstrong jnr, P Dawson, G Falk, A Gracie, J Nicoll, M Nicoll,
	R Twight (coach) 2nd Open Beach Flags, G Montgomery
	3rd Restricted Surf (Over 24 years): I Montgomery
1978-79	1st March Past
1979-80	2nd March Past
1980-81	1st March Past 2nd Open Board Display: M Anderson inr
1981-82	2nd March Past
	2nd Restricted Surf (Over 24 years): I Montgomery
1982-83	3rd March Past
1983-84	1st Open Boat: S Scott (s), R Macqueen, B Mockford, S Reid, A Reid
1005 00	1st March Past
1985-86	3rd Patrol Championship: S Hepstonstall (c), G Anderson, C Diggins, M Heptonstall, D Hoschke, M Otsyula, S Scott, J Tasker
1986-87	1st Junior Beach Relay: J Brown, C Chilvers, N Park, M Vella, B Heath (coach)
	3rd March Past
1987-88	1st Open Surf: S Kenny
	1st Junior Beach Sprint: N Park
	1st Junior Beach Relay: C Chilvers, S Knights, N Park, S Park, B Heath (coach)
	2nd March Past — 2.5 points 2nd Junior 5-person R&R: P Cerneaz, C Chilvers, C Mater, S Mater, G Scott, C Laws (coach)
	3rd Reserve Boat: M Brown (s), M Harding, J Hague, R Rubagotti, D Senior
	3rd Junior Beach Flags: N Park
	3rd Cadet Beach Flags: S Johnstone
1988-89	1st Over 35 yrs Masters Boat: R Jorgensen (s); H Christie, P Bott, K Marsh, P Booth
	2nd March Past — 6.5 points
	2nd Junior Beach Flags: S Johnstone 2nd Junior First Aid: N Drake, T Jones
1989-90	1st Reseve Boat: M Fletcher (s), D Senior, M Reece, G Blake, D Rees
	1st Junior First Aid: A Denovan, N Drake
	1st Junior Beach Relay: S Bullock, R Gaunt, M Goldman, S Johnstone, C Montgomery (coach)
	1st Junior Beach Flags; S Johnstone
	1st Over 35 yrs Masters Boat: S Scott (s), R Macqueen, G Scully, P Bott, P Booth
	2nd Over 50 yrs Masters Surf: J Ward 3rd Colts Boat: S Scott (s), B Coulston, P Daniel, B Dunkin, L Pendergast
	3rd Junior Beach Sprint: M Goldman
	3rd March Past

1990-91	1st Open Boat: M Fletcher (s), D Rees, M Reece, G Blake, G Morgan 1st Reserve Boat: S Scott (s), B Coulston, P Daniel, B Dunkin, L Pendergast 2nd Under 18 yrs Boat: S Scott (s), J Lisle, D Hopper, D Paavola, J Wolfe 3rd March Past
	2nd Over 35 yrs Masters Boat: R Jorgensen (s), R Macqueen, J Taylor, P Bott, P Booth 2nd Over 40 yrs Masters Boat: R Jorgensen (s), R Macqueen, J Taylor, P Bott, P Booth
1991-92	1st March Past
	1st Reserve Boat: M Fletcher (s), R Rubagotti, G Blake, M Harding, M Ferguson 1st Under 21 yrs Boat: S Scott (s), B Coulston, J Lisle, D Paavola, L Pendergast
	1st Over 24 yrs Surf: S Kenny 1st Over 35 yrs Masters Beach Flags: G Montgomery
	2nd Open Surf: S Kenny
	2nd Over 45 yrs Masters Board: B Hutchings
	2nd Over 45 yrs Masters Ski: B Hutchings
	2nd Over 40 yrs Masters Beach Flags: P Booth
	3rd Over 45 yrs Masters Surf: B Hutchings
	3rd Open Beach Relay: C Chilvers, S Knights, N Park, R Gaunt
1992-93	3rd Over 50 yrs Masters Surf: J Ward 1st March Past — 0 points
1992-90	3rd Open Boat: M Fletcher (s), M Harding, G Morgan, M Ferguson, R Rubagotti
	3rd Reserve Boat: P Booth (s), B Coulston, P Daniels, D Senior, D Paavola
	3rd Open Board Rescue: C Hutchings, S Kenny
	1st Over 50 yrs Masters Surf: J Ward
	2nd Over 50 yrs Masters Rescue Tube: J Ward
	3rd Over 50 yrs Masters Beach Flags: R Langbein
1993-94	1st Open Double Ski: L Bermingham, B Burgess
	1st Open Boat: S Scott (s), B Coulston, P Daniel, L Pendergast, J Lisle 1st Under 18 yrs 5-man R&R: J Cowell, L Howard, T Lewis, B White, H Zylmans, P McDermott (coach)
	2nd Open Ski: L Bermingham
	2nd Over 35 yrs Masters Womens Surf Race: M (Trish) Hamilton
	3rd March Past
	3rd Under 18 yrs Mens Beach Sprint: A Hopper
1994-95	1st Under 21 Boat: S Scott (s), J Tobin, S Macqueen, T Bell, D Pashley
	1st Open Ski Relay: L Bermingham, B Morton, R Chaffer
	1st Open Double Ski: L Barker, B Morton
	3rd March Past 3rd 45-49 yrs Mens Masters Surf: D White

#### **BRANCH CHAMPIONS**

1962-63	Open Beach Flags: D Newman Open Beach Relay	1968-69	Open Beach Sprint: P Booth Open Iron Man: I Montgomery
1963-64			Open Surf: J Bennett
	Open Beach Relay		Open Belt: J Bennett
	March Past 2 points		Open Surf Teams March Past 12 points
1964-65	(1) (1) [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1]	1969-70	Open Surf: M Bradford
1965-66		1303 10	Open Belt: I Montgomery
	Open Beach Sprint: D Newman Cadet Surf: M Anderson		Open Iron Man: I Montgomery
1966-67			March Past
1300-07	Cadet Surf: I Montgomery		Junior Beach Flags: G Montgomery
	Junior Surf Teams	1970-71	Open Surf: M Anderson
	Cadet Beach Relay		Open Belt: W Portier
	March Past		Open Surf Teams Cadet Surf: I Brodie
1967-68	Open Surf: C Bradford		March Past
	Open Surf Teams	1971-72	Open Beach Flags: G Montgomery
	Junior Surf Teams	1077	Cadet Beach Flags: C Montgomery
	Junior Surf: T Hixson		Open Surf: I Montgomery
	Junior Belt: J Findlay		Open Surf Teams
	Cadet Beach Sprint		Cadet Surf: M Hirst
	March Past 5.7 points		March Past 4 points

1972-73	Open Surf: I Montgomery Open Belt: I Montgomery	1988-89	Open Iron Man: S Kenny Reserve Boat
	Cadet Beach Sprint: C Montgomery Cadet Beach Flags: C Montgomery		Junior First Aid: N Drake, T Jones IRB A Grade Rescue: P MacMahon,
	March Past		N Bowman, R Randall
1973-74	Open Surf: I Montgomery		IRB C Grade Rescue: L Pendergast,
	Open Belt: I Montgomery		B Davis, A Coleman
	Open Beach Flags: G Montgomery		IRB B Grade Teams Rescue
	Junior Beach Flags: C Montgomery		IRB C Grade Teams Rescue
	Junior Beach Sprint: J Dawson		IRB C Grade Assembly
	Open Surf Teams	1989-90	Open Iron Man: S Kenny
	Cadet Surf Teams		Open Run-Swim-Run: S Kenny
	Cadet Malibu Board: M Maladay		Open Board Rescue: S Kenny, M Sharp
	March Past 9 points		Colts Boat
1974-75	Junior R&R		Junior Beach Relay
13/4-10	Junior Beach Relay		Junior Beach Sprint: M Goldman
	March Past		
1975-76			Junior Beach Flags: S Johnstone
1975-70	Junior Beach Flags: C Montgomery	1000.01	Junior First Aid: A Denovan, N Drake
	Cadet Single Ski: G MacMahon	1990-91	Open Board: M Sharp
	Open Surf Teams		Open Board Rescue: S Kenny, M Sharp
	Junior R&R		Reserve Boat
	March Past 9.6 points		Under 18 yrs 5-man R&R
1976-77	Open Surf: M Morgan		Under 18 yrs Beach Relay
	Over 24 yrs Surf: I Montgomery		Under 15 yrs Female Beach Flags: T Lewis
	Open Surf Teams	1991-92	March Past
	Cadet Surf Teams		Open Surf: S Kenny
	Cadet Beach Relay		Open Beach Relay
	March Past 7 points		Over 24 years Surf: S Kenny
1977-78	Open Belt: G Windeatt		Open Double Ski: D Boyd-Skinner,
	Open Surf: I Montgomery		
	Open Surf Teams		S Kenny
	Open Boat		Reserve Boat
	March Past		Under 18 yrs R&R
	Junior R&R		Under 15 yrs Beach Sprint: A Hopper
1978-79	Junior R&R		Under 15 Womens Beach Flags: T Lewis
	March Past 11 points	1992-93	Open 6-person R&R
	Open Belt: G Windeatt	// de total (1/4)	Open Female R&R
	Over 24 yrs Surf: I Montgomery		Under 18 yrs 5-person R&R
1980-81	Open Boat		Under 16 Female Beach Flags: K Lewis
1000 01	Cadet Malibu Board: M Holliday	1993-94	Under 18 yrs 5-person R&R
1981-82	Open Beach Flags: G Montgomery	1000.04	Open Surf: J Jackson
1301-02	Junior Beach Flags: R Johnstone		Open Ski: S Suska
1982-83	Cadet Board Display: S Riches		Under 18 yrs Beach Flags: A Hopper
	Reserve Boat		
			Under 18 yrs Beach Sprint: A Hopper
1984-85	Open Boat	1001.05	Under 16 yrs Beach Relay
	Cadet Beach Sprint: N Park	1994-95	Open 5-Person R&R
	Cadet Beach Flags: N Park		Open Women's 5-Person R&R
	Cadet Beach Relay		Over 24 Surf Race: S Kenny
1985-86	Open 4-person R&R		Open Ironman: C Hutchings
	Female Beach Relay		Open Ski Relay
	Junior Female Beach Sprint: J Laycock		Open Double Ski: B Burgess,
1986-87	Open 6-person R&R		L Bermingham
1987-88	Open 5-person R&R		Open Men's Board: C Hutchings
	Open Boat		Open Women's Board: J Hopper
	Junior 5-person R&R		
	Junior Beach Relay		
	Junior Beach Sprint: N Park		
	Junior Beach Flags: N Park		
	Cadet Beach Flags: S Johnstone		

### **CLUB CHAMPIONS**

	Senior Surf	Senior Belt	Junior Surf	Junior Belt
1931-32	N V Spargo	N V Spargo	B Batty	B Batty
932-33	B Lilley	B Lilley	B Batty	B Batty
933-34	R Swift	R Swift	R A Swift	R A Swift
934-35	R A Swift	R Swift	D Dey	J Cooper
935-36	B Batty	S Jorgenson	Not held	Not held
936-37	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
937-38	W N Abbott	L Wildman	Unknown	Unknown
938-39	W N Abbott	T Dawson	W N Abbott	T Dawson
1939-40	W N Abbott	W N Abbott	G Patterson	W N Abbott
1940-41	R Maladay	T Dawson	R Maladay	R Menari
	T AGE CASE TO LIGHT OF THE CONTRACT OF THE CON	Not held	ALTERNATION ALTERNATION STATES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROPERTY AND ADMINISTRATION O	S Twight
1941-42	Not held		S Twight	
1942-43	Not held	Not held	R N Twight	P Armstrong
1943-44	Not held	Not held	R N Twight	J Dawson
944-45	Not held	Not held	C Armstrong	C Armstrong
1945-46	R N Twight	R N Twight	I Proctor	K Dunford
1946-47	S Twight	W Dawson	N C Twight	I Proctor
1947-48	R N Twight	T Dawson	N C Twight	N C Twight
1948-49	W N Abbott	W N Abbott	N C Twight	N C Twight
1949-50	R N Twight	R N Twight	R Boyle	R Boyle
1950-51	R N Twight	R N Twight	G Reid	G Reid
1951-52	R N Twight	W N Abbott	G Reid	B Gallagher
1952-53	R N Twight	R N Twight	G Reid	G Reid
1953-54	B N Twight	B N Twight	R Halstead	B Bartlett
1954-55	LLZ POUR Z HELLER DE PROCESS	R N Twight	R B Twight	R B Twight
	R N Twight		LOSS RALLUS ELLANDON POR PA	ACT ACT AND AC
1955-56	R N Twight,	N C Twight	R B Twight	R B Twight
	E Gill	- 11-11	2.22	0.111
1956-57	R N Twight	R N Twight	I Wallis	B Woodley
1957-58	R N Twight	R N Twight	R Thomson	B Woodley
1958-59	R Marrott	W N Abbott	J Morgan	J Morgan
1959-60	J Morgan	I Wallis	J Morgan	J Morgan
1960-61	J Morgan	J Morgan	M Stevens-Jones	M Stevens-Jones
1961-62	J Morgan	M Stevens-Jones	M Stevens-Jones	M Stevens-Jones
1962-63	J Morgan,	M Stevens-Jones	J Cochrane	J Cochrane
	C Crawford			
1963-64	B Eastoe	B Eastoe	M Lynch	P Drake
1964-65	C Crawford	R N Twight	P Montgomery	Diako
1965-66			G Davis	P Montgomery
	J Atteridge	J Atteridge		
1966-67	G Davis	B Hill,	P Montgomery	P Montgomery
		P Montgomery		
967-68	I Montgomery	P Drake	I Montgomery,	J Finlay
			M Bradford	
968-69	J Bennett	J Bennett	I Montgomery	I Montgomery
1969-70	J Bennett	J Bennett	I Montgomery	I Montgomery
1970-71	M Bradford,	W Portier	W Symm	W Portier
	I Montgomery	2011-010007	(1000) #100000	
1971-72	I Montgomery	I Montgomery	J Brodie	J Brodie
1972-73	I Montgomery	I Montgomery	G Wilson	G Wilson
1973-74	Montgomery	I Montgomery	M Hurst,	P M Montgomery
1313-14	i Monigoniery	Morngomery	M Patterson	r in montgomery
074.75	1 Martinesson	111		D M Montgomos
1974-75	I Montgomery	I Montgomery	M Patterson	P M Montgomery
1975-76	I Montgomery	I Montgomery	M Morgan	R Dill-Macky
976-77	M Morgan	M Morgan	G Milsted	P Dawson
1977-78	J Ward	J Ward	P Dawson	P Dawson
1978-79	J Ward	B Montgomery	P Armstrong	P Dawson
979-80	P Dawson	J Ward	J Kassel	G Simons
1980-81	P Dawson	P Dawson	J Kassel	J Kassel
1981-82	P Dawson	P Dawson	C Stephens	C Stephens
1982-83	P Dawson	P Dawson	P de Kort	P de Kort
1983-84	C Stephens	C Stephens	P de Kort	R Timbs
1984-85		and the state of t	R Timbs	R Timbs
304-05	J Ward,	J Ward,	H TIMBS	ri illius
	C Stephens	C Stephens		N. C.
1985-86	P de Kort	P de Kort	N Park	N Park
1986-87	J Bruce	J Bruce	P Cerneaz	S Mater

	Senior Surf	Senior Belt	Junior Surf	Junior Belt
987-88	C Stephens	J Bruce	P Cerneaz	P Cerneaz
1988-89	C Stephens	R Timbs	D Jones	Not held
1989-90	S Thomson	D Hyland	D Jones	D Jones
1990-91	M Brown	Not held	D Jones	Not held
1911-92	D Hyland	D Senior	M Baulderstone	M Baulderstone
1992-93	S Williams	J Farrell	Not held	Not held
1993-94	R Chaffer	H Zylmans	H Zylmans	H Zylmans
994-95	Not held	Not held	Not held	Not held
	Senior Beach Sprint	Junior Beach	Sprint	Cadet Beach Sprint
931-32	E Robinson			
1932-33	R Swift			
933-34	W Travers			
934-35	D Rogalsky			
935-36	D Rogalsky			
936-37	D Rogalsky			
937-38	Unknown			
1938-39	Unknown			
1939-40	L Deveridge			
1940-41	L Deveridge			
941-42	Not held			
942-43	Not held	R Moore		
943-44	Not held	R Moore		
944-45	Not held	E Playfair		
945-46	R Moore	R Moore		
946-47	R Moore	N Montgomen	/	
947-48	N Montgomery	N Morgan		
948-49	N Montgomery	G Williams		
949-50	N Montgomery	B Putnam		
950-51	N Montgomery	J Morgan		
951-52	B Heath	W Lloyd		
952-53	J Tenison	M Pery		
953-54	W Lloyd	D Boyle		
954-55	W Lloyd	R Paton		
955-56	N Montgomery	N Hynds		
956-57	N Hynds	N Hynds		
957-58	N Hynds	A Wright		
958-59	N Hynds	R Thomson		
959-60				
960-61	N Hynds	R Shepherd		
961-62	J Morgan R Senior	B Jorgensen C Senior		
1962-63				
962-63	D Newman D Newman	J Cochrane		D Davies
964-65	D Newman	C Senior		R Bryant
		C Senior		Not held
965-66	J King	R Chidgey		G Montgomery
966-67	D Newman	P Booth		R Langbein
967-68	D Newman	G Moss	80	R Langbein
968-69	D Newman	G Montgomer		Not held
969-70	D Newman	G Montgomer	y	W Sym
970-71	P Booth	B Truscott		P Donkin
971-72	P Booth	B Truscott		D Booth
972-73	P Booth	J Dawson		C Montgomery
973-74	M Storey	J Dawson		M Chapman
974-75	P Booth	C Montgomer	/	B Montgomery
1975-76	P Booth	M Chapman		G Simons
976-77	P Booth	C Tysoe		J Nicol
1977-78	P Booth	S Oastler		G Simons
1978-79	B Booth	G Simons		L Denning
1979-80	P Booth	G Simons		C Payne
1980-81	C Pitt	M Brown		R Johnstone
1981-82	P Booth	P Heath		S Staniforth
1982-83	G Milsted	P Heath		S Staniforth
305-00	- 111110 CO G	7 - 7 7 92 44 4 7		

	Senior Beach Sprint	Junior Beach Sprint	Cadet Beach Sprint
984-85	P Booth	M Diggins	G Scott
1985-86	P Booth	N Park	P Cerneaz
1986-87	C Montgomery	N Park	S Johnstone
1987-88	C Montgomery	N Park	S Johnstone
1988-89	N Park	S Knights	T Andrew
1989-90	N Park	M Goldman	Not held
1990-91	C Montgomery	S Bullock	Not held
1991-92	N Park	A Hopper	Not held
1992-93	D Hopper	Not held	D Farrell
1993-94	A Denovan	H Zylmans	S Griffin
1994-95	Not held	Not held	Not held

#### Bruce Bartlett Memorial Point Score

1961-62	E McIver	1978-79	J Bradford
1962-63	R Graham	1979-80	M Anderson jnr
1963-64	B Eastoe	1980-81	W Gale
1964-65	A Chapman	1981-82	M Maladay
1965-66	C Newman	1982-83	M Gleeson
1966-67	N Armstrong	1983-84	G Payne,
1967-68	J Bond		C Stephens
1968-69	G Montgomery	1984-85	G Scott
1969-70	A Chapman	1985-86	N McGaw
1970-71	W Symm	1986-87	G Scott
1971-72	R Senior	1987-88	P McDermott
1972-73	P Booth	1988-89	N Bowman
1973-74	B Booth	1989-90	C Bowra
1974-75	B Montgomery	1990-91	S Mater
1975-76	P Goodman	1991-92	G Montgomery
1976-77	P Armstrong	1992-93	D Senior
1977-78	P Booth,	1993-94	M Colville
	1 McGaw	1994-95	C Montgomery

#### President's Shield

1988	B J Carr	1992	V Holdt
1989	B J Carr	1993	J Lewis
1990	C Montgomery	1994	G Small
1991	R Lytham	1995	G and G Swain

#### Advantage Line Pty Ltd

Pursuit of Excellence 1994-95 C Hutchings

	Veteran	Surf Cha	mpion
1971	R Twight	1984	J Ward
1972	J Ward	1985	J Ward
1973	J Ward	1986	J Ward
1974	J Ward	1987	J Ward
1975	J Ward	1988	J Ward
1976	P Drake	1989	J Ward
1977	J Ward	1990	J Ward
1978	J Ward	1991	J Farrell
1979	J Ward	1992	G Montgomery
1980	J Ward	1993	J Ward
1981	J Ward	1994	M (Trish) Hamilton
1982	J Bradford	1995	Not held
1983	Not held		

#### J.H.F. Goodman Memorial Shield General Point Score Winners

1929-30	N Spargo	1963-64	P Van De Venn
1930-31	N Spargo	1964-65	M Chapman
1931-32	N. Spargo	1965-66	J Ellis
1932-33	R Freeman	1966-67	G Montgomery
1933-34	B Travers	1967-68	M Bradford
1934-35		1968-69	P Booth
1935-36		1969-70	P Booth
1936-37		1970-71	G Montgomery,
1937-38			I Montgomery
1938-39		1971-72	G Montgomery
1939-40		1972-73	J Ward
1940-41		1973-74	J Bradford
1941-42		1974-75	1 Montgomery
1942-43		1975-76	B Booth
1943-44	W Goodman	1976-77	l Wells
1944-45	F Hall	1977-78	G Milsted
1945-46	F Hall	1978-79	G Milsted
1946-47	L Collis	1979-80	C Pitt
1947-48	L Collis	1980-81	M Harding
1948-49	N Twight	1981-82	G Payne
1949-50	B Bartlett	1982-83	M Brown
1950-51	M McDonald	1983-84	J Thomson
1951-52	W Lloyd	1984-85	N Park
1952-53	B Bartlett	1985-86	P Cerneaz,
1953-54	Not awarded		K Skifleet
1954-55	W Goodman	1986-87	C Stephens
1955-56	B Bartlett,	1987-88	P MacMahon
	B Smythe	1988-89	P MacMahon
1956-57	E McIver	1989-90	M Sharpe
1957-58	P Boyle	1990-91	M Brown
1958-59	P Boyle	1991-92	N Park
1959-60	P Boyle	1992-93	M Brown
1960-61	E McIver	1993-94	D Hyland
1961-62	W Goodman	1994-95	D Farrell
1962-63	N Montgomery		

#### Honour Blazer Recipients

Ralph Chequer 1932 Doug Graham Bill Goodman 1954 1958 1969 Dick Twight

### Max Evans Memorial Trophy Cadet Surf Champions

1942-43	D Playfair	1968-69	G Browne
1943-44	J Abbott	1969-70	
1944-45	I Proctor	1970-71	
10.11.30	N Twight	1971-72	
1945-46	I Proctor	1972-73	
1946-47	P Clarke	1973-74	
1947-48	P Clarke	1974-75	
1948-49	REAC COST TO COST COST	1975-76	
1949-50	G Reid	1976-77	
1950-51	G Reid	1977-78	G Simons
1951-52	K Warren	1978-79	
1952-53		1979-80	
1953-54	R B Twight	1980-81	R Timbs
1954-55	N Hynds	1981-82	
1955-56	I Wallis	1982-83	D O'Donnell
1956-57	R Thompson	1983-84	W Francis
1957-58	J Morgan	1984-85	N Park
1958-59	T Szagmeister	1985-86	P Cerneaz
1959-60	R Browne	1986-87	D Jones
1960-61	T West	1987-88	D Hyland
1961-62	C Senior	1988-89	T Andrew
1962-63	P Bullivant	1989-90	L Repak
1963-64	R Bryant	1990-91	M Byrne
1964-65	P Montgomery	1991-92	Not held
1965-66	I Montgomery	1992-93	D Farrell
1966-67	I Montgomery,	1993-94	B White
	D Pierce	1994-95	Not held
1967-68	M O'Neill		

### Inflatable Rescue Boats

1984-85	KK&S Instruments
1985-86	Humes Concrete
1987-88	Container Haulage-Givaudan
1988-89	
1989-90	Arancia
1992-93	Joico II
1992-93	Douglas
1994-95	Douglas II

### Tom Dawson Memorial trophy Senior Belt Championship

1962-3	M Steven-Jones	1979	B Montgomery
1963-4	B Eastoe	1980	J Ward
1964-5	R Twight	1981	P Dawspm
1965-6	J Atteridge	1982	P Dawson
1966-7	B Hill,	1983	P Dawson
	P Montgomery	1984	C Stephens
1967-8	P Drake	1985	C Stephens,
1968-9	J Bennett		J Ward
1969	J Bennett	1986	P de Kort
1970	W Portier	1987	J Bruce
1971	I Montgomery	1988	J Bruce
1972	I Montgomery	1989	R Timbs
1973	1 Montgomery	1990	D Hyland
1974	1 Montgomery	1991	Not held
1975	I Montgomery	1992	D Senior
1976	I Montgomery	1993	J Farrell
1977	M Morgan	1994	H Zylmans
1978	J Ward	1995	Not held

### Ralph Chequer Memorial Junior Belt Championship

1967-68	J Finlay	1981-82	C Stephens	
1968-69	I Montgomery	1982-83	P de Kort	
	I Montgomery	1983-84	R Timbs	
1970-71	W Portier	1984-85	R Timbs	
1971-72	J Brodie	1985-86	N Park	
1972-73	G Wilson	1986-87	S Mater	
1973-74	P Montgomery	1987-88	P Cerneaz	
1974-75		1988-89	Not held	
1975-76	R Dill-Macky	1989-90	D Jones	
1976-77	P Dawson	1990-91	Not held	
1977-78	P Dawson	1991-92	M Baulderstone	
1978-79	P Dawson	1992-93	Not held	
1979-80	G Simons	1993-94	H Zylmans	
1980-81	J Kassel	1994-95	Not held	

### Brett Montgomery Memorial Shield Iron Man Championship

1967-68	1 Montgomery	1983-84	G Payne
1969-71	Not held	1984-85	G Payne,
1971-72	I Montgomery		C Stephens
1972-73	I Montgomery	1985-86	C Stephens
1973-74		1986-87	G Payne
1974-75	I Montgomery	1987-88	C Stephens
1975-76	I Montgomery	1988-89	C Stephens
1976-77	1 Montgomery	1989-90	N Park
1977-78	P Booth	1990-91	M Brown
1978-79	N McGaw	1991-92	D Powell
1979-80	B Montgomery	1992-93	D Hyland
1980-81	P Armstrong	1993-94	D Hyland
1981-82	M Maladay	1994-95	Not held
1982-83	M Maladay		
	1969-71 1971-72 1972-73 1973-74 1974-75 1975-76 1976-77 1977-78 1978-79 1979-80 1980-81 1981-82	1969-71 Not held 1971-72 I Montgomery 1972-73 I Montgomery 1973-74 I Montgomery 1974-75 I Montgomery 1975-76 I Montgomery 1976-77 I Montgomery 1977-78 P Booth 1978-79 N McGaw 1979-80 B Montgomery 1980-81 P Armstrong 1981-82 M Maladay	1969-71 Not held 1984-85 1971-72 I Montgomery 1972-73 I Montgomery 1985-86 1973-74 I Montgomery 1986-87 1974-75 I Montgomery 1987-88 1975-76 I Montgomery 1988-89 1976-77 I Montgomery 1989-90 1977-78 P Booth 1990-91 1978-79 N McGaw 1991-92 1979-80 B Montgomery 1992-93 1980-81 P Armstrong 1993-94 1981-82 M Maladay 1994-95

### Bill Hardy Memorial Trophy Most Outstanding Member

1943-44	A Leathley	1975-76	R Macqueen
1944-45	EAST-COLUMN TO THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF T	1976-77	R Graham
1945-46	L Walsh	1977-78	P Booth
1946-47	W Goodman	1978-79	L McGaw
1947-48	A Leathley	1979-80	J Wells
1948-49	R Urguhart,	1980-81	
	A Leathley	1981-82	
1949-50	J O'Dwyer,	1982-83	
	L Collis	1983-84	C Stephens
1950-51	J Allan	1984-85	
1951-52	R Boyle	1985-86	V Holdt
1952-53	A Leathley	1986-87	J McGennan
1954-67	Not awarded	1987-88	S Rodriguez
1967-68	G Montgomery	1988-89	R Isaacs
1968-69	J Levett	1989-90	S Scott
1969-70	P Booth	1990-91	S Scott
1970-71	J Ison	1991-92	A Lance
1971-72	1 Montgomery	1992-93	R Dilger
1972-73		1993-94	P de Kort
1973-74	J Bradford	1994-95	P Phillips
1974-75	N McGaw		William Breed

			Bob M		y Memorial Shield Champions			
1945-46	(B)	S Twight	1959-60	(B)	P Boyle	1983-84	(8/s)	G Payne
1946-47	(B)	G Bruce	1960-61	(B)	R Browne	1984-85	(9/s)	G Payne
1947-48	(B)	N Twight,	1961-67		Not held	1985-86	(8/s)	G Payne
	(S)	R Maladay	1967-68	(B)	P Booth	1986-87	(8/s)	G Payne
1948-49	(B)	R Patterson,	1968-69	(S)	R Madden	1987-88	(B)	G Payne
	1011	N Twight	1969-70	(B)	P Booth		(S)	R Timbs
	(S)	J Armstrong,	1970-71		Not held	1988-89	(B)	M Sharp
	2.0	R Maladay	1971-72	(B)	J Bradford		(S)	G Payne
1949-50	(B)	R Boyle,	1972-73	(B)	P Booth	1989-90	(B)	M Sharp
	A-DEV	R Patterson	1973-74	(8/s)	I Montgomery		(S)	G Payne
1950-51	(B)	W McGrigor	1974-75	(B)	I Montgomery	1990-91	(B)	M Brown
	(S)	G Collis		(S)	P Booth		(S)	M Brown,
1951-52	(B)	R Boyle,	1975-76	(B)	J Bradford		16000	P Swan
	(S)	G Collis		(S)	R Macqueen	1991-92	(B)	J Bruce
1952-53	(B)	G Reid	1976-77	(B)	B Booth		(S)	C Stephens
1953-54	(B)	N Twight		(S)	P Booth	1992-93	(B)	D Hyland
1954-55	(B)	N Twight	1977-78	(8/8)	P Booth		(S)	G Payne
1955-56	(B)	R B Twight	1978-79	(%s)	P Booth	1993-94	(B)	R Chaffer
1956-57	(B)	R B Twight	1979-80	(S)	M Maladay		(S)	A Denovan
	(S)	R Maladay	1980-81	(8/s)	M Maladay	1994-95	18. 10	Not held
1957-58	(B)	L Bray	1981-82	(B)	M Maladay			
200000	(S)	R Maladay		(S)	M Reece			
1958-59	(B)	J Morgan	1982-83	(B)	M Reece			
	(S)	R Marrott	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	(S)	M Maladay			

	John Tenison I Beach Flag		
1969-70	G Montgomery	1983-84	M Gleeson
1970-71	G Montgomery	1984-85	P Booth
1971-72	G Montgomery	1985-86	C Montgomery
1972-73	M Storey	1986-87	C Montgomery
1973-74	G Montgomery	1987-88	C Montgomery
1974-75	P Booth	1988-89	C Montgomery
1975-76	G Montgomery		R Johnstone
1976-77	G Montgomery	1989-90	C Montgomery
1977-78	P Booth	1990-91	G Montgomery
1978-79	M Maladay	1991-92	G Montgomen
1979-80	P Booth	1992-93	M Diggins
1980-81	G Montgomery	1993-94	C Montgomery
1981-82	G Montgomery	1994-95	Not held
1982-83	G Milsted		1000000000000

	Barry Woodle	y Memor Football N	
1964-5	Young-uns	1980	Old-uns
965-6	Young-uns	1981	Old-uns
966-7	Old-uns	1982	Drawn
967-8	Drawn	1983	Old-uns
1968-9	Young-uns	1984	Not held
1970	Old-uns	1985	Old-uns
1971	Old-uns	1988	Old-uns
1972	Old-uns	1989	Old-uns
1973	Old-uns	1990	Old-uns
1974	Drawn	1991	Old-uns
1975	Not held	1992	Old-uns
1976	Drawn	1993	Old-uns
1977	Not held	1994	Young-uns
1978	Old-uns	1995	
1979	Old-uns		

		alk Trophy Champions	
	Surf	Beach Sprint	Beach Flags
1982-83	K Diggins	M Milsted	M Maladay
1983-84	K Diggins	M Lindsay	K Diggins
1984-85	K Diggins	K Skifleet	W Birtles
1985-86	K Diggins	K Skifleet	K Diggins
1986-87	K Diggins	K Diggins	K Diggins
1987-88	S Hamilton	S Geeves	S Geeves
1988-89	C Newman	S Geeves	S Geeves
1989-90	C Chaffer	C Newman	S Geeves
1990-91	C Chaffer	G Austen	G Austen
1991-92	M Allison	S Park	S Park
1992-93	T Hamilton	V Allan	V Allan
1993-94	R Chin	T Spindler	R Chin
1994-95	Not held	Not held	Not held

		_
Au	stralian Representatives	
1949	W Abbott (Instructor),	
	R Twight (Instructor	
1954	R Twight (Captain)	
1967	D Newman,	
	C Bradford	
1969	C Bradford	
1970	H McDonald (Coach)	
1980	G Windeatt	
	R Jorgensen (Warriewood)	
1982	R Jorgensen (Warriewood)	
1985	S Kenny (Warriewood)	
1986	R Jorgensen (Bungan)	
1995	P MacMahon	
1000	T. Hilliam Co. C.	

### Doug Graham Memorial Trophy Most Improved Member

1962-63	J Vincent	1979-80	P Clare
1963-64	C Newman	1980-81	S MacAdam
1964-65	R Doherty	1981-82	M Maladay
1965-66	D Lambert	1982-83	D Sharp
1966-67	J King	1983-84	S Riches
1967-68	J Farrell	1984-85	V Holdt
1968-69	J Cochrane	1985-86	R Lytham
1969-70	P Alford	1986-87	S Rodriguez
1970-71	R Black	1987-88	R Isaacs
1971-72	C Lowe	1988-89	R Rubagotti
1972-73	T Hutchinson	1989-90	P Rumble
1973-74	M Middlemiss	1990-91	B Ling
1974-75	B Montgomery	1991-92	H Coulston
1975-76	G MacMahon	1992-93	S Stanfield
1976-77	C Pitt	1993-94	P Phillips
1977-78	M Bousfield	1994-95	P Ludeke
1978-79	M Reece		

### Hypro Pumps Shield

Most Outstanding Patrol Captain

		-	
1979	G Hutchinson	1988	R Isaacs
1980	J Wells	1989	R Park
1981	P Dawson	1990	D Hoschke
1982	G Milsted	1991	H Coulston
1983	K Lambkin	1992	M Delahunty
1984	Michael Brown	1993	P Gillis
1985	G Falk	1994	S Stanfield
1986	S Heptonstall	1995	K Gittoes
1987	G Swain		

### Reid Barton Shield

Most Outstanding Patrol Member

	111000 0 010100	100	
1980	G Falk	1989	G Clifton
1981	Michael Anderson	1990	D Barbour
1982	R Timbs	1991	N Chaffer
1983	P Gamham	1992	N Chaffer
1984	P Kraushaar	1993	B Kelleard,
1985	Kathy Diggins		M Bastin
1986	D Hoschke	1994	G Clifton
1987	J Bruce	1995	J Clayton
1988	J Vizzard		

Ray Barker R&R Trophy

	Free P April 1850		i whith
1968	M Munro	1982	Not awarded
1969	B Hill	1983	Not awarded
1970	J Bennett	1984	Not awarded
1971	M Bradford	1985	M Diggins
1972	J Brodie		P de Kort
1973	I Montgomery	1987	S Mater
1974	J Miles	1988	R Timbs
1975	M Patterson	1989	Not awarded
1976	G Dawson	1990	Not awarded
1977	M Nicol	1991	Not awarded
1978	M Anderson jnr	1992	G Austen
1979	G Simons	1993	B White
1980	G Simons	1994	H Zylmans
1981	Not awarded	1995	S Howard
	1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980	1968 M Munro 1969 B Hill 1970 J Bennett 1971 M Bradford 1972 J Brodie 1973 I Montgomery 1974 J Miles 1975 M Patterson 1976 G Dawson 1977 M Nicol 1978 M Anderson jnr 1979 G Simons 1980 G Simons	1969       B Hill       1983         1970       J Bennett       1984         1971       M Bradford       1985         1972       J Brodie       1986         1973       I Montgomery       1987         1974       J Miles       1988         1975       M Patterson       1989         1976       G Dawson       1990         1977       M Nicol       1991         1978       M Anderson jnr       1992         1979       G Simons       1993         1980       G Simons       1994

### Manly Warringah Beach Football Competition

1963	Premiers	1974	Runners up
1964	Runners up	1975	_
1965	Premiers	1976	
1966	Runners up	1977	_
1967	Premiers	1978	-
1968	Runners up	1979	Premiers
1969	Runners up	1980	_
1970	Premiers	1981	_
1971		1982	Premiers
1972	Premiers	1983	Premiers
1973	Runners up	1984	Premiers
	Competi	tion cea	sed

### A B (Mick) Chapman Shield Most Outstanding Cadet

1966	L Martin	1982	S McCarthy
	G Montgomery		Mathew Brown
	R Langbein	1984	J Thompson
	G Browne		N Park
	J Twight	1986	P Cerneaz
	P Donkin	1987	D Jones
1972	D Booth	1988	D Jones
1000	011	1000	T A - down

 1973
 C Montgomery
 1989
 T Andrew

 1974
 M Chapman
 1990
 M Rae

 1975
 M Maladay
 1991
 M Rae

 1976
 I McGaw
 1992
 A Hopper

 1977
 P Armstrong
 1993
 J Hopper

 1978
 Michael Brown
 1994
 S Griffin

1980 C Stephens 1981 M Halliday,

R Johnstone

1979 C Stephens

### SLSA 25 Year Service Awards

1995 Blake White

1976-77 Boyle R, Knight C, Leathley A, McDonald H, Montgomery N, Montgomery P, Murray P, Ticehurst M

1978-79 McGrigor W

1980-81 Breen J, Bruce G, Chapman A, Cripps B, Crawford C, Diggins E, Hickey A, Ison J, McCurtayne P, McIver E, Newman D, Senior R, Shepherd R, Stevens B, Skewes L, Twight R, Whelan T, Wright A,

Ward J, Walsh L -90 Barton A, Booth P, Gibbor

1989-90 Barton A, Booth P, Gibbons L, Macqueen R, Montgomery G, Newman C, O'Neill J

1990-91 Farrell I, McGaw L

### SLSA 50 Year Service Awards

1981-82 Graham D, Osborne F

1983-84 Hall R

1989-90 Abbott W, Chequer B, Hall F, Proctor C

1990-91 Goodman W, Twight R, Walsh L

1993-94 McGrigor W, Montgomery P

		New South Wal	es Representative	s
M Anderson J Bennett P Booth P Bott C Bradford J Brown	1968 1969 1971 1969 1970 1977 1978 1980 1977 1978 1980 1967 1968 1960 1977 1978		I Montgomery N Montgomery D Newman A Reid S Reid S Scott	1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 (Manager) 1964 1965 1966 1984 1984
B Cox C Cunningham H McDonald R Macqueen		) (Captain) 1984	R Twight G Windeatt B Worthington S Kenny	1950 1951 1954 1955 1974 1976 1978 1966 1990
K Marsh B Mockford G Montgomery	1980 1984 1972		A M Evans R Chequer	1925 (Instructor) 1925 (Instructor) 1927

	Manly Warringah Br		
M Anderson	1972 1974	N Park	1985 (u/18) 1988 (u/18)
J Bennett	1969 1970 1972	G Scott	1985 (u/18)
P Booth	1970 1976 1977 1981	G Windeatt	1974 1975 1977 1978
P Bott	1976 1977 1981	B Worthington	1966 (vs S Africa) 1967
C Bradford	1967 1968 1969	C Cunningham	1981 (Capt)
M Bradford	1970 1971 1972 1973	M Goldman	1990 (u/18)
J Brown	1977	S Johnstone	
G Carlisle	1976 (Mgr) 1977 (Mgr)	Sarah Geeves	1990
	1985 (Coach)	T McDougall	1991 (u/18)
B Cox	1976 1977 1981	S Kenny	1993 (S Africa (Capt))
J Dawson	1974	C Hutchings	1993 (S Africa)
J Findlay	1968	D Hyland	1993 (S Africa)
K Hodgkins	1976	J Jackson	1993 (S Africa)
S Kenny	1988 1989 (Captain) 1990 1993	H Zylmans	1994 (u/18)
R Macqueen	1976 1977 1981	G Carlisle*	1979
C Montgomery	1973 1974 1976	J Levett*	1979 1981
G Montgomery	1971 1972 1973 1974	P Montgomery*	
Montgomery		H McDonald*	1979 (Mgr)
N Montgomery		13.100-00.000	
D Newman	1965 (S Africa) 1966 1967 1969		
		al —Philippines	

Keith McWilliam Memorial Shield  McWilliam's Wines Boats					
Launched	Name	Donated			
1946	Braemar I	Moana SLSC			
1949	Braemar II	South Africa SLSA 1954			
1954	McWilliams Wines I	Tasmania SLSA 1957			
1957	McWilliams Wines II	New Zealand SLSA 1961			
1962	McWilliams Wines III	Great Britain SLSA 1970			
1965	McWilliams Wines IV	Australian Forces Vietnam 1968			
1968	McWilliams Wines V	North Palm Beach SLSC 1970			
1971	McWilliams Wines VI	Ocean Beach SLSC 1974			
1974	McWilliams Wines VII	McWilliams Hanwood Winery 1979			
1976	McWilliams Wines VIII	Sawtell SLSC 1980			
1977	McWilliams Wines Centenary 1877-1977	Wrecked Collaroy 1981			
1980	McWilliams Wines IX	Portreath SLSC (GB) 1984			
1982	McWilliams Wines X	Darling Harbour Sydney 1991			
1983	McWilliams Wines XI	Yanco Agricultural College 1995			
1985	McWilliams Wines XII	Time & Tide Hotel 1993			
1988	McWilliams Wines XIII				
1990	McWilliams Wines XIV				
	Ruby McWilliam	Ocean Grove SLSC (Vic) 1989			
1991	McWilliams Wines XV				
1994	McWilliams Wines XVI				

	Collaroy SLSC — As	sociation P	ositions
1922-23	A Lee, A Sheldon	1960-61	H McDonald
	SLSA Delegates		Branch Superintendent
1924-25	H Evans, J Reibelt	1961-62	H McDonald
	SLSA Delegates		Branch Superintendent
1925-26			Branch Delegate to State
	SLSA Honourary Treasurer	1962-63	H McDonald
1926-27	A J Greville, A McDonald		Branch Superintendent
	SLSA Delegates		Branch Delegate to State
1928-29	J S Allen, S L MacDonald	1963-64	H McDonald
	SLSA Delegates		Branch Superintendent
	G Dellit		Branch Delegate to State
	Life Member — SLSA	1964-65	H McDonald
1929-30	J S Allen, A S Duckworth		Branch Superintendent
	SLSA Delegates		Branch Delegate to State
	S L MacDonald	1965-66	H McDonald
	SLSA Honourary Treasurer		Branch Superintendent
	J S Allen	1966-67	
	SLSA Executive Committee		Branch Superintendent
1930-31			Life Member — Branch
	SLSA Delegates	1967-68	
1931-32			Branch Superintendent
	SLSA Delegates		Life Member — NSW State Centre
1932-33	R Appleton, H Meyn	1968-69	H McDonald
	SLSA Delegates		State Superintendent
	G Dellit	1969-70	H McDonald
	SLSA Deputy Superintendent		State Superintendent
1933-34	S Chequer, H Meyn	1970-71	H McDonald
	SLSA Delegates		State Superintendent
1934-35	S Chequer, R Smith	1971-72	H McDonald
	SLSA Delegates		State Superintendent
1935-36	S Chequer, R Smith		Life Member — SLSA
	SLSA Delegates	1972-73	H McDonald
1942-43	W Eadie, A Evans, D Graham, H Meyn		State Superintendent
	SLSA Delegates		N Montgomery
1943-44	J Eyre, H Meyn		Branch Superintendent
CHENT AND THE	SLSA Delegates	1973-74	N Montgomery
1944-45	W Gibbons, H Meyn		Branch Superintendent
	SLSA Delegates		Branch Delegate to State
1945-46	J Allen, H Meyn	1974-75	
	SLSA Delegates		Branch Superintendent
1946-47		1975-76	N Montgomery
STATUTE OF THE	SLSA Delegates		Branch Superintendent
1947-48	J Allen, H Meyn	1976-77	N Montgomery
20/21/200	SLSA Delegates		Branch Superintendent
1948-49	H Meyn, G Redwood	1977-78	N Montgomery
	SLSA Delegates		Branch Superintendent
1949-50	J Armstrong, H McDonald	1978-79	J Levett
	SLSA Delegates and subsequently		Honourary Secretary — State
	Delegates to Sydney Branch on		N Montgomery
****	formation		Life Member — Branch
1955-56	10 (10 (10 (10 (10 (10 (10 (10 (10 (10 (	1988-89	W Goodman
	Branch Delegate to State		Branch Treasurer
1956-57	A M Evans		H McDonald
	Branch Delegate to State		Branch President
1957-58	R Barker		G Carlisle, W Goodman
	Branch Delegate to State		Life Members — Branch
1959-60	H McDonald	1989-90	H McDonald
	Branch Superintendent		Branch President
	R Twight		W Goodman
	Branch Delegate to State		Branch Administrator
	on formation of Manly Warringah Branch		Branch Treasurer

1990-91	Branch President	1992-93	N Montgomery Life Member — NSW State Centre
1991-92	W Goodman Branch Administrator Branch Finance Director P MacMahon SLSA — National Director — Lifesaving	1993-94	P MacMahon SLSA — National Director— Lifesaving W Goodman Branch Finance Director
1992-93	H McDonald Branch President W Goodman Branch Administrator Branch Finance Director	1994-95	P MacMahon SLSA — National Director — Lifesaving W Goodman Branch Finance Director
	P MacMahon SLSA — National Director — Lifesaving W Goodman Branch Finance Director	1995-96	R Lytham Branch Deputy President W Goodman Branch Finance Director

	Collaroy SLSC — Carnivals	I received at the second
1914 Unofficial	January 1950 Acme	13 December 1975
13 February 1915	December 1950	12 February 1977
26 December 1921	January 1952 — Acme	1 December 1979
26 December 1924	January 1954 — Triangular	February 1982 — Branch Championships
27 December 1926	November 1955 — Commonwealth Press Union	February 1985 — Metropolitar Championships
27 December 1927	February 1956 — Metropolitan Championships	March 1987 — NSW Championships
1 January 1929	December 1956 — International Test	July 1989 Branch IRB Championships
23 February 1929	January 1957 — Triangular	March 1990 — Branch Championships
26 December 1929	17 December 1960	February 1991 — Branch JAB Championships
26 December 1993	26 December 1961 — Jubilee	March 1992 — East Coast Masters
Late 1943	February 1962	April 1992 — Australian Championships
January 1944 — Zone	February 1963 — Triangular	November 1992 —JAB
January 1946 — Acme	March 1964 — Australian Championships	February 1993 — East Coast Masters
26 December 1947	February 1966 — Branch Championships	February 1994 — East Coast Masters
27 December 1948	February 1967 — NSW JAB Championships	February 1995 — East Coast Masters
26 December 1949	19 February 1972 — Branch Championships	February 1996 — East Coast Masters

### Junior Activities

### NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CHAMPIONS

2nd Beach Sprint Boys 7 yrs: M Ludeke 3rd Beach Relay Boys 7 yrs: D Giblin, M Halgren, M Ludeke, S Manson 1991-92 1st Beach Sprint Girls 7 yrs: K Bourke 3rd Beach Sprint Girls 7 yrs: K Montgomery 1st Beach Sprint Boys 7 yrs: J Purdey 3rd Beach Sprint Boys 8 yrs: M Ludeke 1st Flags Boys 8 yrs: D Giblin 2nd Flags Boys 9 yrs: R Langbein 2nd Beach Relay 7 yrs: D Harland, J Purdey, K Montgomery, L Van Wensveen 3rd Beach Relay 8 yrs: M Halgren, D Giblin, M Ludeke, S Manson 1992-93 2nd Beach Sprint Girls 10 yrs: K Tucker 2nd Beach Sprint Girls 8 yrs: K Montgomery 2nd Beach Sprint Boys 10 yrs: R Langbein 1st Beach Flags Boys 9 yrs: D Giblin 3rd Surf Race Boys 10 yrs: S MacIntosh 2nd Beach Relay 9 yrs: D Giblin, M Halgren, M Ludeke, S Manson 1993-94 2nd Beach Sprint Boys U/8: T Farrell 1st Beach Sprint Boys U/11: M Ludeke 3rd Beach Sprint Girls U/11: J Gray 2nd Beach Sprint Girls U/12: K Tucker 2nd Flags Boys U/11: D Giblin 3rd Flags Boys U/11: M Ludeke 1st Beach Relay U/10: J Cavanagh, J Burrows, L Van Wensveen, B Whittaker 1st Beach Relay U/11: M Ludeke, D Giblin, M Halgren, J Gray 2nd Beach Relay U/12: M Bourke, R Langbein, K Tucker, G Dickerson 1st Board Relay U/12: J Thomas, Z Foxton, M Gittoes 2nd Surf Teams U/12: S MacIntosh, M Gittoes, E Perry, J Thomas 1994-95 3rd Beach Sprint Boys U/9: T Farrell 1st Beach Sprint Girls U/11: K Montgomery 1st Beach Sprint Girls U/12; J Gray 2nd Beach Sprint Boys U/12: M Ludeke 2nd Flags Boys U/11: B Whittaker 1st Flags Girls U/12: J Gray 3rd Flags Girls U/13: K Tucker 2nd Beach Relay U/11: B Carlson, K Montgomery, J Cavanagh, B Whittaker 3rd All Age Relay: R Carlson, P Dilger, S Ludeke, B Whittaker, T Farrell, M Ludeke, K Tucker 1st Surf Teams U/11: A Bond, A Bridges, P De Gail, K Gittoes 3rd 5-Person R&R: C Fowler, L McKie, A Jones, A Holliday, R Springall

### **BRANCH CHAMPIONS**

1989-90 1st Flags Girls 12 yrs: T Lewis
1st Beach Sprint Boys 8 yrs: R Langbein
1st Flags Boys 7 yrs: D Giblin
1st Flags Girls 9 yrs: B Montgomery
1st Flags Girls 13 yrs: T Lewis
1st Beach Relay Boys 7 yrs: D Giblin, M Halgren, M Ludeke, S Manson
1st Wade Relay Boys 7 yrs: D Giblin, M Halgren, M Ludeke, S Manson
1st Beach Sprint Boys 7 yrs: L Van Wensveen
1st Beach Sprint Girls 7 yrs: K Montgomery
1st Flags Boys 8 yrs: D Giblin

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1st Flags Boys 9 yrs: R Langbein
          1st Flags Girls 12 yrs: K Lewis
          1st Wade Girls 7 yrs: K Montgomery
          1st Beach Relay 8 yrs: M Ludeke, M Halgren, D Giblin, M Timosevski
          1st Beach Relay 7 yrs: K Bourke, K Montgomery, D Harland, L Van Wensveen
          1st All Age Relay: J Purdey, M Ludeke, R Langbein, P Dilger, M Mooney, D Farrell, K Lewis
1992-93 1st Beach Sprint Boys 10 yrs: R Langbein
          1st Beach Sprint Boys 9 yrs: M Ludeke
          1st Beach Sprint Boys 8 yrs: L Van Wensveen
          1st Beach Sprint Girls 10 yrs: K Tucker
          1st Beach Sprint Girls 8 yrs: K Montgomery
          1st Beach Flags Boys 8 yrs: D Giblin
          1st Beach Flags Girls 10 yrs: K Tucker
          1st Beach Flags 8 yrs: K Montgomery
          1st Surf Race Girls 8 yrs: K Gittoes
          1st Diamond Lady Girls 10 yrs: E Perry
          1st Beach Relay 9 yrs: M Ludeke, K Mitchell, D Gilbin, M Halgren
          1st Beach Relay 8 yrs: K Bourke, K Mitchell, N Farrell, J Purdey
          1st Surf Teams 10 yrs: S MacIntosh, E Perry, M Gittoes, J Thomas
          1st Board Relay 10 yrs: J Thomas, M Gittoes, Z Foxton
          1st Board Rescue Junior: S MacIntosh, J Thomas
1993-94 1st Beach Sprint Boys U/8: T Farrell
          1st Beach Sprint Boys U/10: B Whittaker
          1st Beach Sprint Boys U/12: M Bourke
          1st Beach Sprint Girls U/12: K Tucker
          1st Flags Girls U/11: J Gray
          1st Flags Girls U/12: K Tucker
          1st Flags Boys U/12: B Whittaker
          1st Beach Relay U/11: D Giblin, M Halgren, J Gray, M Ludeke
          1st Beach Relay U/12: K Tucker, G Dickerson, R Langbein, M Bourke
          1st Surf Race Girls U/9: S Rossi
          1st Surf Race Girls U/10: A Bond
          1st Board Race Girls U/9: S Rossi
          1st Board Race Girls U/12: E Perry
          1st Board Race Boys U/10: D McKie
          1st Board Race Boys U/9: J Thomas
          1st Surf Teams U/9: S Rossi, K Perry, S Springall, C Baker
          1st Board Relay U/12: J Thomas, Z Foxton, M Gittoes
          1st Cameron Relay Jnr: L McKie, J Thomas, S MacIntosh, A Holliday
          1st Board Rescue Jnr. M Gittoes, Z Foxton
1994-95 1st Beach Sprint Boys U/9: T Farrell
          1st Beach Sprint Boys U/11: B Whittaker
          1st Beach Sprint Girls U/11: K Montgomery
          1st Beach Sprint Girls U/12: J Gray
          1st Beach Sprint Girls U/13: K Tucker
          1st Flags Boys U/13: R Langbein
          1st Flags Girls U/11: R Hastie
          1st Flags Girls U/12: J Gray
          1st Beach Relay U/11: B Carlson, J Cavanagh, K Montgomery, B Whittaker
          1st Beach Relay U/12: M Halgren, E Stephen, J Gray, M Ludeke
          1st Beach Relay U/13: M Bourke, K Tucker, D Fox, R Langbein
          1st All Age Relay: R Carlson, T Farrell, S Ludeke, B Whittaker, M Ludeke, K Tucker, P Dilger
          1st Surf Race Girls U/10: K Perry
          1st Surf Race Girls U/11: A Bond
          1st Surf Race Boys U/9: G Hastie
          1st Surf Race Boys U/11: P De Gail
          1st Surf Race Boys U/13: S MacIntosh
          1st Board Race Boys U/9: G Hastie
          1st Board Race Boys U/13: J Thomas
          1st Board Race Boys U/14: J Holliday
          1st Diamond Lady Girls U/11: A Bond
          1st Iron Man Boys U/13: S MacIntosh
          1st Surf Teams U/11: A Bond, A Bridges, P De Gail, K Gittoes
          1st Surf Teams U/13: S MacIntosh, E Perry, M Gittoes, J Thomas
          1st Board Relay U/10: G Hastie, R McDowell, S Springall
          1st Board Relay U/13: J Thomas, Z Foxton, M Gittoes
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### **CLUB CHAMPIONS**

	Senior Girl Champions		Junior Girl Champions
1988-89	A Smith	1989-90	K Tucker
1989-90	T Lewis	1990-91	K Tucker
1990-91	T Lewis	1991-92	K Montgomery
1991-92	K Lewis	1992-93	K Montgomery
1992-93	K Tucker	1993-94	S Rossi
1993-94	J Gray	1994-95	K Perry and R McDowell
1994-95	J Gray		175
Collare	by Services Beach Club Perpetual Trophy		
	Senior Boy Champion		Junior Boy Champions
1988-89	D Tucker	1989-90	R Langbein
1989-90	N Tucker	1990-91	M Ludeke and S Manson
1990-91	M Byrnes	1991-92	R Langbein
1991-92	D Farrell	1992-93	D Giblin
1992-93	R Langbein and S MacIntosh	1993-94	T Farrell
1993-94	M Ludeke	1994-95	G Hastie
1994-95	B Whittaker		

1992	JAB Interbranch Josh Holliday	1994	Ross Langbein
1992	Kylie Tucker	1994	Jacqueline Gray
	Scott MacIntosh		Matthew Ludeke
	Matthew Gittoes		Michael Halgren
	Ross Langbein		Kristen
	11000 Cariguent		Montgomery
1993	Josh Holliday		Ben Whittaker
	Scott MacIntosh		James Cavanagh
	Matthew Gittoes		Josh Holliday
	Matthew Ludeke		Scott MacIntosh
	Michael Halgren		Matthew Gitoes
	Jacqueline Gray		Ashleigh Bond

Frank Hall Memorial Trophy JAB Chairman's Award 1993 B White 1994 E Perry 1995 A Holliday

### Bronze Medallions

Since formation in 1911, 1,264 Collaroy members have received the cornerstone of Surf Life Saving — the Bronze Medallion. Below is listed those members who completed their training at Collaroy.

Throughout the Club's history a number of individuals have joined, already having completed this award at other clubs. Unfortunately the Club does not have access to records

documenting their awards.

By their efforts in completing this award these members have maintained the Club's proud record of 'Vigilance and Service'.

1914/15
R ABBOTT
WJBLAKEMAN
H BORIG
LBORIG
N CASEY
D COTTER
A D DELLIT
B J DELLIT
G S DELLIT
W G FORBES
R HUNTER
JLETTE
H LUDOWICI
W MITCHELL
W O'SULLIVAN
JJRANKIN
PERANKIN
A SHELDON
L SHELDON
WSHEPHERD

1919/20
ALF LEE
ALICK LEE
A GREVILLE
V LETTE
D GODDARD
R HARRIS
K PARR
C BRISTOW
G VAUGHAN
J SHEHAN
M WALTERS

1920/21	
LIWEARNE	
R FRIEND	
M MESSENGER	
A MACDONALI	)

1 Service .
A M EVANS
A J BROWN
R SHOLLY
E DAVIDSON
WIPALMER
G OLSEN
G NICHOLAS
SHRAE
H W ABBOTT
R POLL
CERICHARDSON
J H REIBELT
E R RUDD
H CURTIS
A KEARY
NTWIGHT
L QUINN
F WEARNE
JHOPMAN
C PROCTOR
W BARRY
JACK EVANS
A YELDHAM
JOHN EVANS
JAMES McMANAME
JOHN McMANAME
R MOSTYN
FHARRIS
A PLANTS AND ADDRESS OF

1921/22
FNEATON
J PERRY
WPERRY
L PHILLIPS
A SWANE
K HAMILTON

A FORSYTH E LONERAGAN S D CHEQUER J YELDHAM W SHEHAN

L McMURRAY
G PARKINSON
R RICHARDS
A BARNES
J COADY
E HOGAN
S MANSTEAD
F EVANS
F CALLOW
A PFAFFLIN
F CROSS
C HOCKER
1922/23

1924/23
D SPEAR
R CHEQUER
H MELLOR
J GLOAVES
A A MACDONALD
W BATTY
K HALL
FRO HARRIS

A S DUCKWORTH	I
H C TAYLOR	
R KAY	
A C JACKSON	
W H HINES	
E H BENTLEY	

1923/24

1924/25
J CAVANAGH
B BREMNER
R HANSFORD
J HALLIDAY
SBREMNER
B CHEQUER

19	25/	26
15	AL	LEN
H	HE	AD
H	ME	YN

1006 /00

1926/27
G W O'FARRELL
S MACDONALD
C G BARLOW
WAL MARTIN
V HEAD
N BURTON
L TOMKINS
A MATTHEWS
M GLASSER
J GREEN
G ROBERTS
THANGEN
WJLYNE
R BAVIN
B PHILLIPS
M LYNE
FPOWER
D L HODGINS
D BOWMAN
R COMMINS
A BRITTON
G TODD
R ARMSTRONG
HBRITTON

J W SPRING
J T RUE
H GENGE
L CONNOLLY
W OXBY
R OGILVEY
E CREUGH
A CAMERON
H F BROWN
W HOUSE
R SWIFT

B BROWN
R KELLY
A BROWN
E MELLOR
G R BAILLIE
R J CAMPBELL
V E HANNAM
S TAYLOR
C BRIGGS
J BOWDEN
W SPARGO
L TRY
C FREEMAN

R A DICKSON J GALWAY A FOX N CURLEWIS K PRESHAW

R GREENWELL
E GEARY
J LEWIS
P SWIFT
R STANILAND
R SMITH
E ROBINSON
R APPLETON
A SKINNER

J VENNARD
P VENNARD
M REYNOLDS
B BATTY
O GLANDFIELD
W WILDMAN
M WILDMAN
W MORGAN
J STEVENS
W BARTLETT

1932/33 J B BLUNDELL K MADDOX R PATTERSON L SOLOMON L WILDMAN W MAIZEY E REYNOLDS R A SWIFT K MORGAN J BATEMAN W HARDY A GARRISON

1933/34 S DOBSON R WILLIAMS I G KING S WEATHORP B STANILAND F SEIFFERT W EVANS F McGRATH H DREDGE G GALVIN G McKINNON W H JONES D PERT J SEVIER W TRAVERS D DEY

R S COOPER C B CROSS D M ROGALSKY P MAHER B FARRAND J H COOPER R N DEY

1935/36 N HARRIS W EASTMAN

1936/37 H SHEPHERD R H WALLMAN A KELYNACK J WALKER

1937/38 G PATTERSON W EADIE

W ABBOTT A CALDER T DAWSON F HALL J MUSGROVE W STARR R N HALL J COOLAHAN R MALADAY A BRABANT

J SHELDON
H SHELDON
A TUBBENHAUER
H WATERSON
R BARKER
M BEED
T ROBERTS
R CASSIDY
D WEST
C CAMPBELL
A WARE
J CAMPBELL
W TILBROOK
D HELLMRICH

G POOLE
N MOANE
J SOWERBY
E BATHGATE
A MANIERI
M COLLIN
S TWIGHT
R TATE
J TROTTER
N HALL

1941/42 L PATTERSON

1942/43 L WALSH JEYRE S HEAP R MOORE PTURNER JUNDERWOOD RNTWIGHT JARMSTRONG P ARMSTRONG DR HALL JJOHNSON J CHERRY M HALL 1 DAWSON W GOODMAN M McCREDIE

N BUDDLE B SMITH N ARMSTRONG W TUBBENHAUER G CUNNINGHAM R GIBBONS L COLLIS V BRODIGAN D MIDGLEY

D H PLAYFAIR
E PLAYFAIR
J R NELSON
G BRUCE
P L GIBSON
K P WILKIE
A G HAWKINS
A BALDWIN
A HARMOUR
R J ROBINSON
K C DUNFORD
R M LARKIN

1945/46

K D BRODIGAN
A LEATHLEY
J N ABBOTT
A F EYRE
J M SPEARS
J ALLEN

1946/47 J C HURST W N McGRIGOR J A COUSTON I A PROCTOR N MONTGOMERY NCTWIGHT K B BRODIGAN P C MONTGOMERY B V DAVIS NTMORGAN F E RICHARDSON RULER L McNABB NFHERFORT R G URQUHART

1947/48
C E ETHERTON
H McDONALD
J W THOMAS
L T PATTERSON
R THORNCRAFT

1948/49
C A HARTCHER
J M McMURDO
B F BRODIGAN
G COLLIS
R T O'CONNOR
A E THOMAS
J O'DWYER
R E BOYLE

R J LANE
RG LANGBEIN
M K ADARE
A B PUTNAM
K J PALMER
J ALLAN
R D PALMER
G W BARTLETT
W J GRAHAM
R D CHAPMAN
R G WILLIAMS
J H MORGAN

### 1949/50

R S PATTERSON
J M SLEEMAN
G J NEALE
N L HICKS
P A DE LEPERVANCHE
P S MURRAY
J D PHILPOT
G R JOHNSON
K MORRIS

### 1950/51

C A PARRETT W W LLOYD **B** COUSTON LJREDWOOD A E McCARTHEY J McBRYDE BJHEATH 1 F EATON WJMURPHY I BELLEW J A TENISON N ROBIN GELLOYD J A DAVIDSON DAHORNE R C COOLEY P G GIBB R M TICEHURST **G L CRANNEY** LSKEWES B L BOWTELL D A KENNEMORE

### 1951/52

B E GALLAHER
H J BLINKHORN
W M SCOTT
K N HYDE
B H DAVIDSON
B A BARTLETT
B WILES
A G FRAZER
R J WIGMORE
C B FLYNN
A J HOOK

E R HANSON R MILES DHART I SEGAL C J WILLIAMS I W BRUNNER G C PROCTOR J S WALKLET H H AMUNDSIN MIVERSTEGEN K F WARREN G REID I C KNIGHT L G WATERS B E McMURDO HEKING B D THOMAS

### 1952/53

WHMAIR A F BEGGS JJREYNOLDS G H SCOTT M G PERY R M DOUGLAS DIROUGHLEY M L RUTHERFORD BJFRATER A M ADAMSON R EYLES I D BOYLE T FARRER J B LAGG I RYLANDS I O'NEILL HESSING M A RENFELD B GOBEL A BLACK R HALSTEAD R JONES A STOKES J TATTERY H HEMSWORTH D C WOODS P DUFEL E R ROBBINS JR HOWLAND C E MILLER

### 1953/54

G W DUMBLEDON K R LLOYD W E BEINSSEN R A POWER A B CHAPMAN A R HAWORTH B R SMYTH G W DIGGINS R PATON
R B TWIGHT
P BOYLE
T P WHELAN
B J BRODIGAN
T E BEER
J L WOODLEY
P G CORMACK
J ADAM

### 1955/56

T BROWN
K STRATHMORE
R BURNS
N J HYNDS
J GRAHAME
I WALLIS
M B MARTIN
K DREDGE

### 1956/57

N R HEADFORD
J BREEN
A L HICKEY
R PEARSON
R WILSON
J BOWER
W JACKSON
B ROBINSON
B C CRIPPS
T BALDWIN
B P WOODLEY
R C COCHRANE
A PARTRIDGE

### 1957/58

G McNAUGHTON B WEST R THOMSON L BRAY R BANKS B STEVENS P J VAUBELL D POWER P J McCURTAYNE

### 1958/59

J A ISON
E T McIVER
J R MORGAN
R D SENIOR
R L SHEPHERD
R WHITLOCK
D R BRAY
P BLACKMAN
I JACKSON
J B JORGENSEN
T PRING
A HOOK

E T HUTCHINSON D BRAY C BATCHELOR M HICKEY LKAY P WALFORD R MILLER N | DEBIEN I HAYTER G BLAIR S FERRIER B REEDY G WAITE J R STUTSEL W ELLIS T HAYLEN T GIBBONS

### 1959/60

R BURGE M ALEXANDER R E KENNERSON

### 1960/61

W McCURTAYNE
H VAN DRUTEN
M JENKINS
M TIPPING
R BREMER
D READ
P STANLEY
J SILVESTER
J COCHRANE
S MOORE
C NOBLE
J VINCENT

### 1961/62

R BROWNE A McCLURE

### 1962/63

P DRAKE
B EASTOE
R GRAHAM
G LITTLE
B RITSON
C SENIOR
G STEVENS-JONES
P VAN DE VENN
C WILLIAMS

### 1963/64

D ARGLES
P BENNETT
R BLACK
R DOHERTY
A DUFFY
L GIBBONS
N GRAHAM

P HICKEY A HILL G HINDE J HOLTERMAN J McNAMARA

### 1964/65

G A THORNTON B D THORNTON A MACFARLANE C MOANE R CHIDGEY G BARNES

### 1965/66

J BISHTON
K BARNES
R HARRINGTON
C BRADFORD
S ELLIS
R SMITH
J CARRYER
G BARTON
R STAPLETON
D DUNCAN
L VAN BIENE
R RANKIN
B WORTHINGTON

### 1966/67

G DEAN M-MUNRO IBOND R SEAGROVE R STIMPSON I FARRELL M BENSON R MACQUEEN PBOOTH G MOSS P GOLDEN R COOPER ISTARK B HILL N FITZGERALD L WATSON A DONALDSON I HENDERSON R McINTOSH CLOWE R WILLIAMS

### 1967/68

L McGAW
M ANDERSON
I MONTGOMERY
G DALEY
G MONTGOMERY
G RILEY
G JACOBY

R BARTON THIXON M BRADFORD I FINLAY C TIPNEY M COGAN J HOLLIDAY M DIXON M O'NEILL PLORANT M HOWARD S BROWN MITCHELL P NORDISH LEVETT COTTEE N ARMSTRONG R GALE W ELIAS I BENNETT

### 1968/69

R LANGBEIN T HILL H PINNINGTON W CLARKSON N LONG G HONEY

### 1969/70

S T ANDERSON M T RATHBORNE P W RATHBORNE P M RYAN G L SMELCHER W M SYM N R TIPPING P TOKARSKI A J THOMPSON D A WALSH S C WITTE

### 1970/71

W PORTIER
I BRODIE
S WILLIAMS
E PAYNE
A McNAUGHTON
B TRUSCOTT
T HUTCHINSON
M WILLOUGHBY
A TURTON
J STANLEY
J ANDREWS
P NASS
R RATHBORNE

### 1971/72 B BOOTH J BRADFORD

J BRODIE A BROWN K BYWATER R CLEMENTSON P DONKIN M FELTSCHER M GARLAND I GLYNN **G HUTCHINSON** K LAMBKIN LOWDER N McGAW C MASON P MURPHY PNASS C PIPER J SUE SEE S TEMPLE **ITWIGHT** G WILSON P WOODROW

## D L BOOTH J N DAWSON S DONKIN D W GANNAWAY R H SMITH J F WELLS P N ABBOTT

W A CORNWELL

### 1973/74 G BIDDOLPH N BIDDOLPH A CLARK A CLARKE M CHAPMAN G DAWSON

M CHAPMAN R DOYLE P GOODMAN M HIRST R ISAACS M MIDDLEMISS T McDONALD **C MONTGOMERY** M MONTGOMERY T MORRIS P NOBLE S PAILLAS M PATTERSON M PAYNE L WELLS G WILLIAMS G WOOD K WILLIAMS G WINDEATT

### 1974/75 J DUNNE

V GARDINER V LOWRY G McFADZEN L MORGAN A PYLE I SEISLAND T SOUTH

### 1975/76 C BIDDOLPH A DRAPER G FALK A GRACIE R GRAHAM GHALL R DIL-MACKY M MALADAY P MAYNE G MILSTED B MONTGOMERY M MORGAN L MOYLE M NIXON CPITT

## 1976/77 R BLACK C CRAIG P CRAIG A DALZELL P DAWSON I McGAW G MACMAHON M NICOL W POOLE C TYSOE

G PITT

**G ROBINSON** 

# M ANDERSON P ARMSTRONG G BLAKEY G BRUCE M FLEMMING R HERMES P HURLEY G JANSON J NICOL S OASTLER P RUTGERS G SIMONS S TURNBULL B WEBB

### M BROWN M BOUSFIELD P CLARE B ISAACS

R O'NEILL M REECE

### 1979/80

G CARMONT
J KASSEL
P MACMAHON
G ZOFREA
P FRANCIS
S MACADAM
J GRADY
P KLOOTS
D COCHRANE
P CUSACK
A BROOKER

### 1980/81

M FALK
R GAMMELL
M HARDING
R KASSEL
J KRAUSHAAR
S MAGUIRE
C McGRATH
C PAYNE
G PAYNE
M RIDGEWAY
(MILSTED)
J RICHES
C STEPHENS
H TEMPERLEY

### 1981/82

G BRANKS
P HEATH
M DIGGINS
R TIMBS
G BLAKE
R JOHNSTONE
M HOLLIDAY
S O'DONNELL
W GALE
E HAAK
B BAKER
D SIMONS

### 1982/83

A ROBINSON
D SENIOR
L MARTTILA
P DE KORT
P KRAUSHAAR
D SHARP
S WATSON
P GARNHAM
B GROOM
M GLEESON
D RUSSELL

### 1983/84

J HAGUE
G COLLIS
S RICHES
R RUBAGOTTI
S HOLLIDAY
D O'DONNELL
D ENGLISH
M HARDY
B WHITNALL
A LANCE
V HOLDT
D WILLIAMS
R LYTHAM

### 1984/85

N CHAFFER

C BROWN M BROWN I COOPER C DALZELL K DIGGINS K DOCHERTY MATTHEW DWYER MAX DWYER C ELMAS PHARMER P HEPTONSTALL P ISGROVE R JONES P KENNY G KUSTANDA S LA PUMA A LORD G ONSLEY TRASSO P RUMBLE K SCIFLEET M SHARP B SMITH G SWAIN J THOMSON IVIZZARD P WHYMARK

### 1985/86

B WYBREW

G YABSLEY

G ANDERSON
S BUCKINGHAM
B DUNKIN
C CHILVERS
J DELAHUNTY
A GLEESON
G FAULKNER
W FREEMAN
S FABISN
R GUANZON
M BRUCE-BELL
S GRAHAM

N BYRNE R GALL J HALL-WATSON M HAMILL P HESLIN D HOSCHKE A LOVE J KEYTE LJONES T JOHNMAN S HEPTONSTALL SING W KENSEY M HEPTONSTALL C LAYCOCK K LEO M HOURIGAN M ISON L McGAW M OTSYULA SOTTERY

K MURRAY V PATES **I MANSON** NPARK S ROBINSON S PALMER D NEILL **I MORRIS** P PHILLIPS A McNAMARA T MONTGOMERY I McGENNAN S RODRIGUEZ PRAYNER G PERZAMANOS **TASKER** ISWIFT P T HURLOE P.SWINSBURG

M THOMAS M VELLA N WRIGHT C SPENCE R VESLIGAJ A SMOLONGOV H STURDY

B TAYLOR

M TAYLOR

G SCOTT

M WHITTEN

D TURNER

S SHELLARD

### 1986/87

SSHARPE

L BANKS J BELL C BRADBERY J BROWN C BUTTERISS

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### 1987/88

D SWAIN

D SWARTS

J TUCKER

N VALENTINE

B WESTGARTH

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M ANDREWS
M AUDET
D BAKER
R BARAC
J BILLINGSLEY
M BOHN
P BOUVANG
M BRITTLE
P BROPHY
A BUDAI
G CARDILINI
D CARROLL

M CHAMBERS B COMMINS H COULSTON R CUSSANS M DRAKE D EDWARDS S FOULCHER A FRAZER I GARDEN D GREEN M HOCKLEY H HOWARD N IMHOFF SJOHNSTONE D JONES T JONES S KNIGHTS K KRINKS A McLACHLAN C MATER

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DIONES M LING D HYLAND S BULLOCK R IONES T MILLS S HASSALL S HUSAREK **G CLIFTON** M OLIVER R WOODS N BOWMAN A HAYER M BOHM W LAMBERT N DRAKE V SCONA M McBURNIE THAMILL S STANIFORTH C SPINETTI D HANSON M EVES SIENKINS B CONWAY K STEPHEN R REYES M ALBRECHT N COOK W DIAZ D MURRAY C HANCOCK WHILEY C BARTLETT M BAKER A KEECH J KELMAN L FAWKNER D HENNEBERRY M DELAHUNTY L KALAIZIS M THOMAS S STANIFORTH C SHELSHEN K HOLZNER A ROWLAND M VOETTEAL D HOPPER A DENOVAN M GLEESON B LING B WILSON C CHAFFER

### 1989/90

B DAVIS

D AITKENHEAD TANDREW M ANDREWS G AUSTEN D BARBOUR S BAULDERSTONE E BOTT M BOTT R BOTT C BROWNE R CAHILL C CHAFFER M CHAFFER D CHILDS B CHIN P DANIEL SDENT T DORAN R GAUNT S GEEVES R GIBBY D GRAY SHAMILTON

L HOOPER A HORNSBY S HOWARD C HUME-PURDIE S HUME-PURDIE G KNIGHTS LEWIS C MENZIES D MOSS G MOUNTJOY **C NEWMAN** CNUTTER D PAAVOLA D PASHLEY 1 PAYITT S ROBBINS WSPRINGALL SSTOTEN PSWAN P TIMOSEVSKI J WOLFE

### T BELL S COX

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### 1991/92

G WILKINSON

C WILLOUGHBY

S ABBOTT
M ALLISON
M BASTIN
M BAULDERSTONE
K BAYLLIS
J BELL
A BULTON
M BURKE
S CARPENTER
R CHIN
M COLVILLE
M COPPING

I COWELL A DUNCAN F EWINS N FARQUAR P GILLIS **J HOPPER** L HOWARD **E JIMENEZ** K JOHNSTON T LEWIS P LUDEKE A McCANN I McDOUGALL K McKIE K McKIE D MAJOR SPARK T PORTER B PURDEY N SUMMERVILLE P THOMAS D WEBB L WEST B WHITE

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N BELL J BRODHURST C BROGAN E CARROLL M COZZOLINO T CLIMO **JESGATE** D GILLIS K GITTOES M GITTOES S GRIFFIN PHAMILTON M HENDRICKS DHIRST G HOLLIDAY L HYLAND HACKSON D KELLEARD P McLEAN IMIDDLETON P NICKLIN Y NOSSITER R RUMBLE K SANDER K SCOTT D SMITH T SPINDLER D TAYLOR M VAN WENSWEEN T WARD

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L COURTNEY
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G ELDRIDGE
D FARRELL
T FITZSIMMONS
1 GAIR
K GAIR
P GREEN
BHYLAND

A HOPPER

S KENDAL

R LANE

K LUND
J NORRIS
K ORR
S PRITCHARD
B RIXON
S ROSSI
G SMALL
M SMALL
N SMYTH
P VAN WENSVEEN
M WEBBER

D WILLIAMS

K WILLIAMS

G WOOD

B WHITE
M WAITE
W AOVAD
T WALSH
C DILGER
A BADGERY
N TUCKER
E ENGLAND
S McKEOWN
C EDGAR
D BENBOW
K DILGER
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M HUTTON
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D WILLIAMS
S MOORE
T PRIEST
M BAKER
A WALSH
K STRICKLAND
A NEWMAN
G MORAN
S WALFORD
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### Subject Index

Aborigines (Cannalgal Clan) — 1, 2;

Advertising — 46, 65-67, 71; Amateur Swimming Association — 109; Arlington Building — 18, 40; Basin — 155; Collaroy Park Estate 20; Beach football — 265-266; Boardriding - see Surfing Bondi — 11; Bondi Ladies Amateur Swimming Club — 166; Bronte — 10; Cecil Healy Memorial Surf Shield Competition — 46, 48; Collaroy (property central western NSW) 2, 4; Collaroy, SS — 2-6; attempts to salvage 5, 6; as tourist attraction 5, 6; sinking of 6; Collaroy Beach — 12, 15; European settlement 1-2; Mount Ramsay Estate 1-2, 6, 12; residential development 6, 8, 20, 40, 81, 277; public dressing accommodation 12, 13, 15, 18; as tourist destination 12, 15, 44, 80-81; tram service 18, 20; storm damage 23; Yowal Estate 28; local businesses 28, 40-42, 128, 139, 142-143; in 1920s 40-42; Collarov Beach Estate 40; Churches 42; first Policeman 42; local hospitals 61; and Great Depression 85-86, 104; and New Guard 86; and World War II; see Basin; Collaroy Cricket Club - 81, 103; Collaroy Heights Estate — 81; Collaroy Juvenile Surf Life Saving Club — 78-80; Collaroy Ladies Surf Club — 74-78; Collaroy Ladies Swimming Club — 75; Collaroy Men's Amateur Swimming Club — 234; Collaroy Plateau (Mt Ramsay) — 6, 20, 115; Collaroy Progress Association — 81, 101; Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club — 5, 20, 23; emergence of 13, 15-16; foundation 16, 18; patrons 16, 67-69, 111-112, 217-218, 302-304; emblem 18; clubhouse 18, 23, 65-67, 198-203, 289; and surf carnivals 26, 28-29, 46, 65, 67, 71, 89-90, 206-207, 213-4, 291; club colours 26; and World War I 30, 32, 35-36; first surfboard 34; underage bronze holders 48-52; permanent life saver 54-55, 100-101, 116; and female support 78; 'Black Sunday' bushfire 73; and Great Depression 87-88, 100, 108; and drowning of George Greenwell 90-95; internal troubles 97-100, 106, 191-192; and Boxing Day Carnival 98, 100, 102; rugby union team 103, 105; and Big Brother/Little Brother scheme 103; standing in community 107-108; and local press 107; and class differences 108-111, 115, 161, 171-173; boycott of clubhouse 121, and World War II 121-158; rugby league team 153, 205-206; post-war difficulties 162-165; Ladies March Past Team 166-168; and migrants 171; and members behaviour 187-191; and alcohol 187-192, 218, 220; and drowning of John McKillip 207-213; and International Test Carnival (1956) 214-215, Australian Championships (1964) 231-232, 240-246; suspension (1962/63) 234-236; (1972/73) 281-284; difficulties with boardriders 253-254; administration 275, 289-290, 304-306, 315-316, 323-328, 347, 350; suspension (1983/84) 315; New South Wales Championships (1987) 329-330; Australian Championships (1992) 330-324; East Coast Masters 334; and incorporation 338; sponsorship 316, 350-351, see surfing; competition, membership, women, rescues, surfboats. Competition — 26, 28-29, 47-48, 69-71, 87, 140-142, 143-144, 146-153, 162-163, 174-181, 201, 227-229, 234-240, 258-268, 279-281, 284, 287-289, 294-302, 319-323, 325-326, 341-347; see also Collaroy SLSC (and surf carnivals) Coogee - 10; Costume — Canadian neck-to-knee 10, 11; regulation of 11-12; Cricket - 29: Daily Telegraph - 11; Dee Why — 5, 32, 81, 340; European settlement 2; Dee Why Junior Surf Life Saving Club - 79; Dee Why RSL Club — 164; Elanora Country Club — 112: Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA) — 109; Federation Nationale de Sauvetege — 198; Fisherman's Beach Power Boat Association — 271:

Fundraising and social activities — 65, 83, 87, 100, 105, 137, 139-140, 156, 158, 168-170, 186-187, 232, 273-75, 289-290, 301, 325, 326, 338-339, 350-351;

Great Depression — 85-86, 100, 103, 108, 113, 115;

Griffith Park - 20;

Harbord - 13;

Hell Ship - 181-186;

Homosexuality - 168-169;

Inshore Rescue Boat (IRB) - 271, 315, 315-319;

International Council of Surf Life Saving - 198;

Jet Boats - 268-271;

Johnny Walker Surf Life Boat Competition — 46;

Long Reef - 4, 5, 20;

European settlement 2;

Golf Club 128, 155-156;

Manly (New Brighton) — 4, 8, 9, 10, 12 13, 18, 20, 29; European settlement 2;

Manly and North Shore Times - 9;

Manly Daily - 65, 137, 201;

Manly Sand Bag Brigade - 40;

Manly Surf Club - 10-11, 46;

Manly Warringah Rugby League Club - 180, 205, 236;

Manly-Warringah Branch (SLSA) — formation of 225, 227, 235-236, 282-281, 315, 327-328;

Masonic Hall - 42;

McWilliam's Wines - 46, 155, 158, 161, 174, 217-220, 304, 351;

Membership — 23; 1920s, 36, 43-44, 81-8; 1930s, 88, 90, 98, 105, 108, 115-116; 1940s, 128-130, 159-161, 170-172; 1950s, 173-174; 203-206; life members 48; 1960s, 234, 255-256; difficulties 1970s, 281-284; 1970s, 284-286, 306-307; 1980s, 313-315, 325-326 335; 1990s, 335-336; 'Big Six' 187-191, 'Four Brothers', 189;

Merriwa (NSW) - 2;

Migrants - 171;

Mona Vale — European settlement 2;

Mona Vale Surf Life Saving Club - 69;

Narrabeen (First) Scout Troop - 78, 108;

Narrabeen - 6; European settlement 1; Narrabeen Public School 6;

Narrabeen Lakes Brigade - 15;

Narrabeen Public School - 205;

New Guard — 86;

New South Wales — Depression of 1890s 6; Police 9-10, 42, 59, 81, 85, 121, 153-154, 156, 188, 222;

New Zealand Surf Life Saving Association - and women 74;

Newport Junior Surf Life Saving Club - 79;

Newport Ladies Surf Club - rescue and resuscitation 29;

Nippers — 78-80, 115, 256-257, 335-337; see also junior surf life saving clubs

North Narrabeen Junior Surf Life Saving Club - 78;

North Sydney Boys High School - 176;

North Sydney Rugby League Club — 43;

Northern Beaches (Sydney) - European exploration 1; European settlement 1-2

NSW Amateur Athletics Association — 109;

Parkhill Cup - 67;

Patrols — 83, 87, 89, 106, 128-129, 186-187, 281-284, 306-307, 339-340;

Port Jackson and Manly Steamship Company — 10, 28;

Rescue and resuscitation — 26; see Surf Life Saving:

Rescues — 52-53, 61, 106-107, 113-115, 153-158, 166-167, 207-213, 220-224, 241-242, 251-252, 307-309, 316-319, 339-341; drowning of George Greenwell 90-95; drowning of John McKillip 207-213;

Rivoli Hall — 42;

Romance - 60-62;

Royal Humane and Shipwreck Society — 52, 156;

Royal Life Saving Society — 10-11, 18;

Royal Victorian Life Saving Society - 71;

Rugby League - 30;

Rugby Union - 29;

Salvation Army - 6, 8, 20;

Seaweed - 91-92, 106-107;

Sharks - 54, 55, 87; and danger to development 55-60; shark attacks 55-60;

Social activities - see fundraising; Sport 9; and World War 1 29-30;

St Kilda Life Saving Club - 71;

Surf Bathing Association of NSW (SBA) — 26, 28, 29, 32, 47; formation of 12; award system 18; and World War I 30; Board of Examiners 46, 52; change of name 47; Instructional Tour 48, 69-71; underage bronze holders 48-52; introduction qualifying certificate 52; awards to women 74;

Surf Bathing Commission - 16, 18, 23;

Surf bathing — 10-12, 12-13; first recorded death 8; prohibition 8-9; English precedents 8; therapeutic benefits of 8; and Manly Council 9-10, 11; bodysurfing 15; bodysurfing (surf shooting) and Polynesian influence 9; and challenge to prohibition 9-10; and business and property development 10, 13, 20, 26; deregulation of 10; as youth activity 15; sex-segregation 10; see costume.

Surf Bronze Medallion - 23, 44, 129;

Surf carnivals — 23, 26, 46, 48, 57, 69, 102, 125, 143-144; and business and property development 26, 28; Australian Championships 29, 47, 48, 69-71, 73-74, 89, 102, 121, 146, 148-153, 176, 177-178, 181; Metropolitan Championships 140-141; ACME Cup 144, 201; Collins Cup 144; Royal Surf Carnival 1954 193; see also Collaroy SLSC (surf carnivals & Australian Championships & NSW Championships & East Coast Masters)

Surf Life Saving Association of Australia (SLSA) — 47, 67, 89-90, 98, 100-101, 107, 196, 201, 203, 330; meritorious awards 52-53, and drowning of George Greenwell 93-94; South Coast Branch 56; gear improvement committee 94; meritorious awards committee 94; and women 74-78, 166-168; Board of Examiners 94-95; and Great Depression 103, 104; Big Brother/Little Brother scheme 103; and amateur competition 109-111, 178-180; and early post-war discipline problems 186; team tour of South Africa 193-196; International Test Carnivals, 214-215; see Nippers

Surf Life Saving Association of Great Britain — 196-197;

Surf Life Saving Association of NSW - 47;

Surf Life Saving Association of South Africa - 193-196, team tour of Australia (1956) 214-215;

Surf life saving — emergence of 10-11; rescue techniques 10-11, 13, 15, 28, 44, 291-293; American model 11; organisation 12; and residential development 13, 15; and World War I 32; rescues 52-60; Life Saver as icon 60-61; in Western Australia 71; in Victoria 71; belt improvements 94, 95; developments in France 197-198; see Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club; resuscitation techniques 225; see Rescue and resuscitation; American influences 216-217; and regulation of bathing 247; and stillwater swimming 258-259; see surf carnivals, surf boats, Surf Life Saving Clubs Bilgola 297; Blackhead 103-104; Bondi 181; Bondi Saver 224; Bronte 104, 181; Clovelly 46; Coogee 181; Cooks Hill 69; Corrimal 56-57, 103; Cronulla 102; Curl Curl 79; Dee Why 32, 34, 48, 52, 153, 164, 340; Foster-Tuncurry 104; Freshwater 13, 23, 26, 32, 48, 270; Kempsey/Crescent Head 325; Kurrawa 330; Long Reef 164-165, 172-173, 244; Manly 16, 32, 46, 48, 71; Mona Vale 69; Narrabeen 15, 30; Narrabeen Beach 271; Newcastle 48; Newport 23; North Bondi 48; North Cottesloe 71; North Cronulla 102, 113, 193; North Narrabeen 15, 48, 69, 153, 163, 167, 168, 176, 201, 271; North Palm Beach 325; North Steyne 28, 48, 71, 102; North Wollongong 74; Palm Beach 53-54, 90, 111, 112; Point Lonsdale 297; Queenscliffe 102; South Curl Curl 166; South Narrabeen 101-102, 154, 176, 181, 201, 271, 296, 297; Tamarama 16; Trigg Island 296; Wanda 165;

Surfboats — 32, 46, 48, 71; first surf boat 32; KB surf boat 71-73, 105; Miss Collaroy surfboat 116, 150-152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 158; Braemar surfboat 161-162, 218; Bendix surfboat 175, 181, 218; emergence tuck sterns 217, 218; McWilliam's Wines surf boat 218, 220; McWilliam's Wines II surf boat 222; 'Boatman's Private Touring Team' (1961) 229-231; McWilliam's Wines IV surf boat 265, 270; Keith McWilliam surf boat; McWilliam's Wines VI 290, McWilliam's Wines VII 290; McWilliam's Wines VII 291; 'Boatmen's Convention', 301; see also jet boats, inshore

rescue boats; Surfing — emergence in Australia 29, 32, 34; board design and construction 48, 95-96; and boards as life saving equipment 95, 96-97;

Malibu — boards 215, 217, 249-252; boardriding at Collaroy 247-249; impact on Collaroy SLSC 252-253, 286; and youth culture 254-255 see also Collaroy SLSC;

Surfoplane — 112-113;

Sydney - 8;

Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore) - 90, 93, 108, 112, 171-172;

Sydney Evening News — 30;

Time and Tide Hotel (Dee Why) - 290;

Torpedo buoy — 215-217;

Town Planning Association of NSW - 81;

Twight's Tea Rooms — 13, 18, 20, 142;

University of Sydney - 128;

Vietnam War - 268-269, and surf lifesaving 269-70;

Warriewood - European settlement 2;

Warringah Rugby Club — 297;

Warringah Shire — Council 12, 13, 15-16, 18, 23, 28, 32, 35-36, 44, 47, 94, 101-102, 107, 112, 172, 232, 271, 290; transport within 12, 13, 15, 18, 20, 81, 121; and World War I 30; and 'permanent life savers' (life guards) 53-54, 100-101; Council and boardriding 254;

- Women and surf bathing 26; and surf carnival participation 26; and Surf life saving 74-78, 274; Ladies March Past team 166-168 and active membership 293, 309-312; and Collaroy SLSC 78, 337-338; see also Newport Ladies Surf Club and Collaroy Ladies Surf Club;
- World War I 29, 35, 42, 46, 74, 112; and sport 29-30; Collaroy members experiences 30; and resettlement 35-36, 42; World War II 95, 121-158; and internment enemy aliens 121; enlistment Collaroy members 123-124; and sport 125, 127; impact on surf life saving 125, 132-136, 140; war service Collaroy members 130-136, 144; Collaroy members killed on active service 146; see also Collaroy SLSC.

### Name Index

Abbey, John 226, 231
Abbott, Betty 122, 166, 167
Abbott, Carol 273
Abbott, HW ('Bon') 23, 26, 29, 30,
35, 36, 39, 44, 45, 48, 49, 53, 56, 62,
63, 64, 65, 66, 69, 87, 96, 97, 99,
100, 101, 121, 104, 114, 116, 118,
148
Abbott, Jim 35
Abbott, John ('Red') 114, 158, 162
Abbott, Lil 56, 75
Abbott, Peter 226
Abbott, RN ('Tiny') 23, 26, 27, 29,
35, 38, 39, 45, 49, 105, 112
Abbott, W ('Bill') 56, 80, 82, 96, 97,
114, 116, 117, 118, 121, 122, 123,
130, 131, 132, 136, 143, 146, 149,
150, 153, 154, 155, 156, 158, 162,
163, 164, 165, 166, 172, 174, 175,
205, 216, 218, 223, 224, 226, 229,
235, 241, 248, 268, 271, 273, 279,
283, 297
Adams, Charlie 81, 85, 121, 126, 188,
191
Adams, John ('Vengo') 203, 207, 212,
219, 221, 236, 251
Adare, Mike 172, 173
Alagich, J 206
Alford, Peter 266
Allan, Jack 182
Allan, John 63, 66, 71, 72, 82, 181, 183
Allen, Faye 312
Allen, J 89, 90, 143
Amundsin, HH 171
Anderson, Dennis 283
Anderson, Grant 327
Anderson, Mark 259, 260, 262, 264, 279
Anderson, Michael 307, 314, 325
Anderson, Simon 264
Appleton, R. 146
Armstrong, A 78
Armstrong, Cleat 43
Armstrong, Harry 20, 43, 54, 55
Armstrong, Jim 136, 140, 146
Armstrong, Maude 78
Armstrong, Neil 148, 149
Armstrong, Pat 136, 140, 141, 142,
143, 144, 146, 147, 148, 152, 158,
175
Armstrong, Roy 188

Arthur, Dr 16 Arthur, R. 12 Ashby, Tom 144 Asmussen, Con 281 Atkins, Norm 80 Atkins, Roy 80 Atteridge, KJ 255 Austen, Gillian 350 Bagshaw, John 226 Baird, Bruce 329 Baker, H 206 Balenzeula, J 101 Ball, A 35 Barker, Audrey 166, 168 Barker, Leigh 346 Barker, Ray ('Bull') 114, 116, 117, 118, 122, 125, 131, 136, 158, 163, 164, 165, 166, 200, 210, 211, 212, 236, 241, 248, 274, 275 Barlow, G 66 Barnett, Bill 218 Barrel, Graeme 303 Barry, D 204 Bartlett, B 204, 205, 221 Bartlett, Bruce 249 Bartlett, Chris 346 Bartlett, Graham 172, 200, 204, 256 Bartlett, W 101 Barton, Reid 255, 274, 276, 280, 281, 285 Batchelor, Col 226 Bateman, PE 35 Bathgate, Ernie 114, 118 Bathgate, Gladys 167, 168 Batty, Brian ('Icy') 80, 109, 111, 125, 130 Batty, Phyllis 75 Batty, Wallace 51, 52, 69, 73, 80, 109 Bean, CEW 30 Beard, Arthur 164 Beasley, Mick 174, 189, 191, 221, 223, 226 Beaurepaire, Frank 48 Beckett, G 206 Beer, Trevor 226, 269 Beinssen, Peter 121 Beinssen, Wal 121, 342 Bell, Robert 252, 279 Bennett, John 259, 264 Bermingham, Luke 346

Biddle, Darryl 341 Biddolph, Craig 289, 294 Biddolph, Greg ('Meat Pies') 285, 286, 287, 296 Biddolph, Harry 294 Biddolph, Noel ('Sticks') 286, 296 Bird, Nancy 64 Bird, William 64 Black, Alby 235 Black, David 279 Black, Robert 235 Black, Ross 279, 285 Blaikie, George 277 Blair, Glen 226 Blake, Grant ('Snake') 343, 350 Blakeman, Bill 25, 27, 29, 90 Bliss, John 176, 177, 178 Bloomfield, J 193 Blundell, B 101 Blundell, John 99, 105 Boast, Tommy 74 Bond, Ashleigh 336 Bond, John 255 Boorman, Wing Commander 269 Booth, Bill 283 Booth, Brian 278, 279, 283, 285, 287, 289, 294, 303, 304, 306, 316, 325, 348, 349 Booth, David ('Larynx') 279, 283, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 296 Booth, Douglas 10 Booth, Geoff ('The Duck') 283, 287, 289, 329, 349, 350 Booth, John 329 Booth, Margaret 309, 310, 329, 337 Booth, Paul 255, 264, 265, 266, 278, 279, 285, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 301, 321, 324, 343, 349, 350 Borig, Hilton 25, 26, 27, 29, 35 Borig, Laurie 25, 26, 27, 29, 35, 36, 38, 39, 45, 49, 56, 57, 88, 101, 302 Botha, GP 214, 215 Bott, Peter 297, 298, 301, 321, 322, 324, 343, 350 Bottle, C 80 Bourke, Kelly 336 Bousfield, Maureen 309, 310, 311 Bowman, Neil 346 Bowring, Clary 178 Boxhall, Kim 309, 310 Boyle, David 187, 223, 226, 249

Biddel, Walter 32, 216

Boyle, Pat 223, 226, 251 Boyle, Roger 144, 172, 187, 199, 212, 250 Brabant, Archie 114 Bradford, Chris 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 286 Bradford, John 285, 286, 287, 289, 291, 293, 294, 302, 303, 305, 306, 309, 311, 312, 315, 338, 339 Bradford, Mike 259, 264, 279, 280, 283, 285, 286 Bradford, Wal 274, 275, 286 Bray, Lionel 234, 251, 252 Bray, Lionel snr 234, 252 Bray, Ross 223, 227, 228, 234 Breen, John 226, 231, 279 Bremner, Seaton 57, 63, 90 Brewin, Bruce 231 Bridges, Aaron 336 Briggs, Colin 78, 87 Brissenden, EM 31, 44 Bristow, Charles 52, 55, 56, 62, 63, 90, 101, 172 Bristow, Josie 62 Bristow, Max 172 Bristow, Tim ('The Log') 171, 172, Britton, AT ('Sandy') 66, 87, 88, 100 Britton, Harry 66, 100 Brodie, Ian 285 Brodie, John 283, 285 Brodigan, K 206 Brodigan, Leo 137, 149 Brodigan, T 204 Brodigan, Vince 138 Brough, Harry 114, 115, 122, 124 Brown, A 101 Brown, Jason 341 Brown, John 266, 267, 283, 294, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 319, 321, 324, 342 Brown, Madge 77 Brown, Matthew 350 Brown, Michael 315, 316, 317, 319, 320, 321, 323, 324 Brown, Pat 312 Brown, Robyn 329, 337 Brown, Tim 283 Browne, Andrew 279, 285 Browne, Robert 252 Bruce, Graeme 140, 143, 146, 147, 152, 158, 169, 249, 265, 266, 267,

Bruce, Herbert 107, 147

Bullock, Shane 343, 350

Bruce, John 341, 349

Bruce, Stanley 67

Brydon, Bob 245

Burdekin, LW 73

Burgess, Ben 346

Bryant, F 91, 92, 93

Burke, Mick 100 Burke, Peter 279 Burleigh, Miss 315 Burleigh, Mrs 315 Burleigh, Peter 315 Burns, Col 261, 279 Burns, J 206 Burton, Kathleen 75 Button, Rodney 136, 163 Byrne, J 178 Calder, Arthur 114, 115, 122, 124, 161 Calder, Peter 115 Cameron, Aus 82, 88, 89, 101, 114 Cameron, Jack 163 Camilleri, John 340, 341 Campbell, Bill 267 Campbell, Col 116, 117, 128, 141, 142, 143, 146 Campbell, Eric 86 Campbell, J 206 Campbell, John 116, 117, 128, 141, 142, 146 Carey, Ron 154, 156 Carlisle, Graham 236, 237, 238, 240, 256, 261, 262, 274, 275, 279, 280, 285, 302, 303, 308, 315, 348 Carr, Bernie 324, 325, 329, 334, 349, 350 Casey, Norm 26, 29, 35 Casey, Ron 258, 259 Cassel, John 319 Cassidy, ('Tanglefoot') 114 Caulfield, Kathy 274 Chad, Nelson 281 Chaffer, Barbara 337 Chaffer, Celina 350 Chaffer, Chris 337 Chaffer, Norm 324, 325, 327, 349, 350 Chaffer, Ross 346 Chapell, Keith 88 Chapman, David ('Spike') 172 Chapman, Mick 205, 223, 226, 256, 257, 273, 274, 275, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 289, 292, 294, 303, 306, 313, 315, 324, 329 Chapman, Mitchell 283, 285, 287, 294 Charles, HRH Prince 281 Chequer, Bert 57, 63, 64, 67, 77, 78, 82, 83, 87, 91, 95, 96, 97, 98, 102, 104, 105, 109, 115, 124, 129, 187, 199, 246, 249 Chequer, Cora 64

Chequer, WB 63, 64, 65, 66, 71, 87, 99, 100, 101, 102 Cherry, Jim 143 Chilvers, Craig 341, 348, 349, 350 Chinchen, Len 25, 26, 27, 29 Christie, Howard 343 Chubb, Morgan 321 Clare, Belinda 309, 310 Clare, Peter 347, 348 Clark, Graham 232 Clarke, Alan ('Dugong') 287, 288, 289, 347, 348, 349, 350 Clarke, Peter 144, 151, 208, 211, 212, 296 Cleary, Dennis 292 Clements, V ('The Bait') 27 Clingelleffer, Amanda 337 Clive, George 4 Clive, Robert 4 Cochrane, Bob 269 Cochrane, John 261 Coleman, Andrew 346 Collins, Frank 176 Collins, H 125 Collins, Max 114, 144 Collis, Gordon 171, 189, 203, 249 Collis, Les 164, 171 Connel, T 35 Connolly, Len 81, 82 Cook, James 1 Coolahan, Jack 114 Cooley, Bob 173, 187, 204, 254, 265 Cooper, Ricky 258, 260, 262, 264 Coppin, T 267, 268 Cornwall, Erica 168 Cornwell, Joe 40, 42, 116, 213 Cornwell, Joe snr 42, 139 Cossar, William 1, 2 Cottee, John 262, 264 Coulston, Brent 344, 345, 350 Coulston, June 329, 350 Coulston, Ken 329, 334, 350 Couston, JA ('Sandy') 143, 162, 170, 171, 175, 342 Couvret, Paul 335 Cowell, Justine 346, 347 Cox, Barry 297, 298, 299, 301, 305, 319 Craig, Elaine 169 Cranney, Geoff 173, 187 Crapp, Lorraine 218, 220 Craven, Bill 23 Craven, HV 74 Crew, Paddy 15 Cripps, Barry 205, 226, 256, 254, 258, 260, 261, 274, 275, 276, 293 Cropp, Ben 55 Cull, Mr 252 Cullen, Dick 139, 148 Cunningham, Craig 301, 319, 320,

Chequer, Syd 64, 87, 88, 99, 100, 107

Chequer, Ralph 56, 57, 63, 64, 66, 67,

101, 103, 104, 105, 287

68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 87, 89, 90,

Chequer, Jean 124

Chequer, Roy 64

Cunningham, Gordon 149 Curlewis, Adrian 54, 70, 90, 93, 95, 104, 132, 186, 191, 196, 244, 245, 280, 290 Curlewis, Nigel ('Laddy') 90, 101 Curran, Pat 56 Curtin, John 125 Cusack, B 204 Daines, R 204 Dalziel, Horace 5 Daniels, Paul 344, 345, 350 Davidson, Eric 36, 56 Davidson, Walter S 2, 4 Davis, Bruce 346 Davis, Dot 168 Davis, Evelyn 168 Davoran, Val 159 Dawson, Jim 136, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 146, 147, 158, 162, 339 Dawson, John 285, 287, 336 Dawson, Phillip 287, 294, 313, 347, Dawson, Ross 289, 294 Dawson, Sue 309, 310 Dawson, Tom 114, 116, 117, 122, 136, 146, 149, 150, 153, 158, 162, 165 Day, Paul 312, 315 de Gail, Peter 336 de Groot, Francis 86 de Kort, Paul 325, 342, 348, 349 De L'isle, Lord 244, 245 de Lepravanche, Paul 172 De Maniel, Brian 261 Debien, Noel 223, 226 Deeney, Val 168 Dellit, Austin 15, 16, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 44, 45, 49, 52, 53, 54, 55, 83 Dellit, Bernie 15, 16, 18, 26, 27, 29, 30, 83 Dellit, Greg 15, 16, 25, 26, 27, 29, 44. 46, 47, 52, 83, 86, 94, 95 Dempster, George 51, 52 Deveridge, Les ('Sooty') 116, 130, 135, 137, 161 Devine, Andy 215 Devine, Tad 215 Devlin, Frank 225 Dickson, Murray 266 Diggins, Charmaine 337 Diggins, Chris 327 Diggins, Eddie 205, 221, 241, 242, Diggins, Kathy 312, 316 Diggins, Mathew 325, 348, 349 Dilger, Carolyn 336 Dilger, Rick 334, 336, 350 Dilger, Robyn 336

Dillon, Scotty 250

Dixon, Robert ('Wazza') 69

Dolman, John 205, 207, 221, 226

Donkin, Peter 279, 283, 285, 287, 289

NAME INDEX Donnelly, Dave 350 Donohue, Frank 16, 27 Douglas, D 204, 205 Douglas, M 204 Dowling, Steve 94 Downs, Alyma 75 Doyle, Roy D 23, 28, 71, 74 Drake, Lindsay 264 Drake, Paul 279, 283 Duckworth, Ann 168 Duckworth, Arch 52, 88, 101, 140, 145, 146 Duckworth, H 32 Duffy, Tony 261 Dundan, Fred 139 Dunford, Keith ('Crow') 149 Dunkin, Brendon 344, 345, 350 Dunn, John 329 Dunne, John 285, 288, 289 Dunning, M 206 Dunwoodie, Malcolm 266 Eadie, Wal ('Ferret') 110, 114, 116, 128, 132, 136, 137, 144, 146, 171 Easson, Andrew 339 Ebsary, Bill 264 Edmonds, Wal 261, 283, 285, 288, 289, 292 Edwards, M 206 Ellis, John 234, 261, 292 Ellis, Steve 279, 285 Ellis, Warwick 226 English, Bill 36, 49 Ericson, George 116 Evans, H 48, 71 Evans, Jack 16, 23, 27, 28, 44, 48, 57, 62, 65, 66 Evans, Jack 268 Evans, John 44, 51 Evans, Max 44, 45, 53, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 66, 69, 70, 78, 82, 102, 104, 144, 164, 200, 207, 211, 227 Evans, Mrs 28 Eyre, Alan 128, 140, 149, 158, 164, Eyre, Frank ('Happy') 128 Eyre, John 128, 136, 140, 141, 144, 158, 249 Fagan, R 214 Falk, Greg 294, 303, 347, 348 Falk, Helen 309, 310 Falk, Michelle 309, 312 Farrand, Mike 161 Farrell, Jon 280, 283, 285, 287, 289, 292, 294, 337 Fawkner, Greg 315 Fawkner, Lara 341 Fayse, Fred 114

Ferris, Bob 204 Fitzgerald, Alan 153, 154, 232 Fitzgerald, Jack ('Father') 294, 295, 297 Fletcher, Arthur 223 Fletcher, Martin ('Marty') 341, 343, 344, 349, 350 Florimo, John 256 Forbes, Bill ('Cas') 26, 27, 38, 39, 45, 48, 49, 55, 56, 64, 66, 77, 100, 101, 116 Forbes, John ('Cod') 208, 209, 210, 211, 212Ford, Darryll 205, 221, 222, 224, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 283 Forsyth, F 204 Fox, Steven 350 Francis, Ned 5 Freeman, C 78, 80 Freeman, Neville 79 Freeman, Ron 79, 80 Freeman, W 80, 101 Friend, Hazel 75 Frost, Gordon 226 Gannoway, Don 294 Gardiner, Vern 283, 285 Garland, Kay 287 Garland, Mark 283, 285 Gaunt, Robert 343 Geary, E 101 Geary, W 80 Gee, Bob 43 Geeves, Sarah 350 Gibb, P 187 Gibbons, Len 267, 283, 294, 295, 296, 297, 342 Gibbons, Terry 226, 231, 236, 279 Gibbs, Michael 341 Giblin, David 336 Gill, Eric 212 Gillas, Helen 168 Gillies, K 35 Gittoes, Kimberley 336 Glazer, Maurie 83 Glendfield, OC ('Roy') 90 Gocher, William 9, 10 Goldman, Michael 343 Goodman, Bill ('Crispies') 128, 129, 130, 136, 167, 172, 198, 199, 200, 201, 203, 205, 226, 240, 241, 273, 274, 275, 283, 289, 290, 315, 316, 350. Goodman, Heather 283 Goodman, Jim 128 Goodman, Peter 285, 286, 287, 289, 294 Goodman, Val 129 Gordon, Mar 139 Gorton, John 262 Gracie, Andrew 302, 303, 347, 348,

Ferguson, Dunlop 209, 210, 211, 212

349

Feehley, K 206

Felan, Leonie 350

Felscher, Michael 283, 285

Grafton, W 101 Graham, Don 106, 114, 283 Graham, Doug 16, 18, 110, 111, 114, 116, 118, 137, 138, 139, 140, 144, 175, 191, 192, 217, 276 Graham, Scott 339 Gray, Jacqueline 336 Green, Brian 334 Green, J 66 Green, Jessie 20 Greentree, Gordon 114, 129 Greentree, Keith 129 Greenwell, Carlyle 94 Greenwell, George S ('Jordie') 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 97, 98, 108, 119, 351 Greenwell, George snr 90 Greenwell, Richard 90, 91, 92, 95 Greenwood, AC (Arch) 15, 16, 17, 20, 25, 26, 28, 40, 59, 60, 66, 102, 107 Greenwood, Mrs 75 Greenwood, Richard 321, 324 Greer, R 204 Greiner, Katherine 329 Greville, Alex 48, 63, 64, 66, 83, 90 Griffin, John 297 Hadlow, Barry 149 Hague, Jason 316, 316 Hall (nee Eyre), Pam 128, 159, 164, 168, 169 Hall, Cec 339 Hall, Edith 138, 139 Hall, Eric 78, 80, 139 Hall, Frank 78, 79, 80, 110, 114, 116, 117, 128, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 146, 147, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 163, 165, 167, 168, 175, 191, 192, 193, 342 Hall, Herbert ('Pop') 138, 139, 176, 204 Hall, Ken G 30, 32, 44, 61 Hall, Mick 159, 169 Hall, Noel 114, 139, 149, 163, 169, 174, 183, 192 Hall, Ron 80, 97, 114, 116, 122, 138, 139, 159, 163, 169, 174, 248 Hall-Watson, John 341 Halstead, Ron 226 Hamilton, Edward 4 Hamilton, Keith 43, 44 Hamilton, Stephanie 341, 350 Hamilton, Trish 337 Hannon, Vic 81 Harcourt, Jessica 71, 72 Hardy, Bill 107, 114, 116, 118, 128, 136 Harris, Frank 44, 52 Harris, Nick 106, 114 Harris, Ron 44, 46, 48, 51, 52, 64, 69, 73, 95

Hart, Doug 184

Hawkins, Alan 169, 249, 250

Haworth, Tony ('Horsey') 189, 205, 204, 221, 235, 240, 241, 246 Hayes, Ernest 58, 60 Haylen, Terry 206, 226, 229, 231, 236 Hayley, Peter 223 Haynes, Keith 213 Hayter, Jim 223, 226 Head, Bonnie 75 Head, Eilene 75 Head, HN ('Pop') 42, 63, 65, 66, 83 Head, Vince 57, 63, 66, 69, 87, 101 Headford, Norm 223, 226, 240 Healy, Cecil 46 Heap, Stan 144 Heath, Barry 170, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 324, 325, 341, 348 Hegarty, Les 221, 222, 224 Hellmrich, Doug 116, 117 Hendy, Col 197 Henley, Chris 226 Heptonstall, Michael 327 Heptonstall, Steve 327 Hermes, Rick 300 Heussner, Dennis 281 Hewlett, Peter 279 Hickey, Sarah 294 Hickey, Scott 285 Hickey, Tony 203, 240, 261, 285, 294 Hill, LJ 217 Hill, Sinclair 217 Hirst, Jack 136, 143, 158, 162 Hirst, Keith 266, 299 Hixson, Tim 260, 262, 264 Hodgson, Keith 297 Holdt, Gay 337 Holdt, Vince 325, 327, 334, 335, 349, Holliday, Soraya 316, 348 Holmes, Arthur ('Skipper') 71 Holmes, Mark 321 Holmes, WL 32 Hook, Freddy 136 Hook, Tony 234, 251 Hopman, Harry 44 Hopman, Jack 44 Hopper, David 344, 345, 350 Horigan, E 251 Hoschke, Darren 327, 339, 340 Howard, Louisa 346, 347 Howard, Stephanie 350 Huckins, Tom 42, 59, 60, 81, 85, 121 Hughes, Billy 67 Hunt, R 206 Hunter, John 29 Hunter, Ron 27 Hurley, Fred 294 Hurst, John 171 Hutchings, B 193 Hutchings, Ben 344, 346, 350 Hutchings, Cory 344, 345

Hyde, Ken ('Bodgy') 173, 189, 207, 218, 220, 221, 229, 342 Hynds, Neville 205, 221 Hynes, W ('Pud') 77 Isaacs, Jeannette 329 Isaacs, Ray 294, 329, 346, 348 Ison, John 205, 206, 223, 226, 227, 228, 231, 237, 240, 261, 280, 282, 283, 284, 285, 287, 289, 292, 303, 309, 311, 329, 334, 347, 348, 349 Ison, Michelle 329 Jackman, Paul 271 Jackson, A 44, 63, 66, 88 James, Beryl 162 Jamieson, RG 28 Jenkins, Elizabeth 2, 5, 6 Jenkins, James 1, 2 Jenkins, John 2 Jenkins, Martha 2, 5 Johnson, Eric 118, 122, 140, 145, 146 Johnson, John 173 Johnston, Gordon ('Locko') 184, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 221, 226 Johnstone, Steve 342, 343 Jones, Darren 341 Jorgensen, Brian 226, 227, 228, 234, Jorgensen, Ross 320, 343, 350 Jorgenson, Sep 116 Judd, RH 40, 54 Kahanamoku, Duke 29, 32, 34, 214 Kay, Bob 57, 58, 59, 66, 78, 79, 80, 136 Kay, Laurie 226 Keary, Adrian 43, 57 Kehoe, J 48 Kehoe, Neville 334 Kelleard, Belinda 337 Kemp, Geraldine 168 Kemp, P 206 Kennemore, Doug 173 Kennerson, Bob ('Kenno') 226, 234, 253, 254 Kenny, Sean 341, 342, 343, 344, 349 Kerr, Sir John 288 King, Geoff 99, 101, 105 King, James 57, 94 King, John 259 Knight, Cliff 171 Knights, Stephen 341 Knowles, Dick 170 Knox, Harry 237 Kraushaar, Jane 309, 312, 339 Lambkin, Ken 283 Lance, Alan 315, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 334, 349, 350 Lance, Tina 329, 337 Lane, Peter ('Legs') 207, 219, 229 Lang, JT 86, 112 Langbein, Bob 171, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 187, 344 Langbein, Robert jnr 260, 262, 264

Hutchinson, Geoff 283

Larkin, Bob 42 Lawrence, G 172 Le Clerc, Arthur 154, 156 Leahy, Thomas 9 Leathley, Alan ('Cheesey') 140, 143, 149, 162, 172, 205, 232, 241, 256, 285 Lee, Albert 35 Lee, Alex 56 Lee, Alf ('Weary') 20, 23, 32, 33, 34, 49, 95, 247 Lee, Bill 20, 23, 35 Lee, James (Jack) 20, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 32, 47, 56, 62, 65 Lee, Les ('Snowy') 20, 23, 26, 32, 35 Lee, Rose 20, 23 Leilere, B 125 Lennon, ET 277 Leslie, Patrick 2 Lette, E 27 Lette, Jack 27, 28, 29, 49 Lette, Mrs 28 Lette, Vince 28, 49 Letts, Jack 334 Levett, John 283, 285, 303, 306, 307, 308, 309, 315, 316, 347, 348 Lewis, John 336 Lewis, Tony 336, 346, 347 Light, Roger 104 Lilley, Brian 80, 87, 99 Ling, Barry 334 Lingh, BB 196 Lisle, Josh 344, 345, 350 Lister, F 204 Lloyd, Bill 106, 128, 180, 184, 204 Lloyd, Ken ('Sava') 189, 191, 204 Lockley, Jack 43, 80 Lockley, W 80 Loneregan, EH ('Tim') 44, 54, 55, 93 Long, William 13 Love, Clifford 78 Lowe, Chris 283, 294, 295 Ludowici, Charles 18, 28, 40 Ludowici, Harry 18, 25, 27, 29, 86, 90 Lumsdaine, B 193 Luprica, Joe 223 Lynch, Hall 346 Lynch, Mike 234, 235, 258 Lyne, Mansel 81, 90 Lyne, Max 46, 66, 81, 82, 90 Lyne, Terry 81 Lyne, W 66, 81 Lyons, Joseph 67, 68, 111 Lytham, Ritchie 325, 326, 327, 329, 334, 350 MacAdam, Stewart 319 MacDonald, Alexander 2 MacFarland, Elaine 168 MacMahon, Greg 286, 294, 348, 350 MacMahon, Helene 337

MacMahon, Maurie, 351

MacMahon, Peter 325, 329, 338, 340, 341, 346, 348, 350 Macqueen, Liz 299 Macqueen, Rod 255, 266, 267, 279, 282, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 301, 302, 303, 306, 320, 321, 322, 323, 325, 343 Maddox, Keith 99, 101 Maguire, Sandra 309, 312 Maher, ('Paddy') 123, 125, 127, 161 Maizey, W 101 Makim, WA 73, 78 Maladay, Barbara 287 Maladay, Bob 97, 110, 114, 118, 122, 125, 131, 138, 158, 159, 162, 163, 170, 174, 175, 201, 241, 248, 267, 268, 270, 271, 283 Maladay, Meredith 312 Maladay, Michael 287, 289, 294, 300 Maloney, Jim 138 Manieri, Bert 114 Marcroft, A 80 Marsden, Jack 180 Marsh, Kim 343 Marshall, Alan 145, 146 Marshall, George 205 Martilla, Lisa 348 Martin, Mick 205 Martin, R 204 Martin, T 66 Martin, W 82 Matheson, R 193 Mathieson, Don 71 Matthews, A 66 May, Tim 16 McAlpine, Judy 164, 168 McConville, Barry 240, 261 McCurtayne, B 206 McCurtayne, Peter 226, 227, 228, 237, 240, 241, 242, 251, 279, 292 McDermott, Peter 326, 342, 346, 347, 348, 349 McDonald, A 66 McDonald, Hector ('Scotty') 169, 173, 174, 180, 193, 201, 207, 210, 214, 216, 225, 227, 228, 235, 236, 237, 241, 281, 308, 339 McDonald, Paddy 57, 71, 72 McDonald, Sandy 36, 38, 45, 49, 56, 66, 82 McDonald, Tony 289 McDougall, Trevor 350 McGaw, Ian 286, 287, 289, 294 McGaw, Kath 309, 310, 350 McGaw, Lawrie 287, 289, 292, 294, 303, 339, 350 McGaw, Neil 257, 285, 286, 287, 289, 306, 307, 309, 315 McGennan, John ('Macca') 326, 329, 330, 334, 349, 350 McGowan, Mrs 18

McGregor, Craig 255 McGrigor, Wal 130, 184, 204, 249, McInnes, Dr 91, 93 McIntyre, Don 28, 101 McIver, Eddie 206, 226, 227, 228, 237, 251, 252 McKillop, John 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 216, 241 McLean, Jack 186 McLean, Neil 267 McLellan, Leo 36 McManamey, James ('Jas') 47, 48, 49, 176, 178 McManamey, John ('Jack') 47, 48, 49 McMurdo, Barry 250 McNaughton, ('Frizz') 222 McNaughton, Gordon 207, 226, 231 McQuillan, Joe 181 McQuoid, M 101 McSullea, P 78, 80, 101 McTaggart, G 206 McVeigh, L 42 McWilliam, Don 290, 303, 305 McWilliam, Keith 155, 158, 217, 218, 269, 290, 302 McWilliam, Louise 233 McWilliam, Max 306, 349 McWilliam, Ruby 218, 322 Mead, Roslyn 274 Meagher, Tom 69, 74, 224 Meaney, D 204 Mellor, E 101 Mellor, Harry 56, 57, 66, 69, 71, 72, 82, 87, 99, 101 Menzies, Robert 121, 125 Meyn, Harry 63, 66, 82, 99, 100, 101 Midgelly, Don 143, 149, 158 Miles, Richard ('Dickie') 178 Millar, Rick 297 Miller, B 204 Milsted (nee Ridgeway), Michelle 309, 312, 313 Milsted, Gary 303, 347, 348 Mitchell, WD (Bill) 15, 16, 17, 18, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 35, 64 Moane, ('Bindy') 125 Moane, Nev 158 Mockford, Brendan 319, 320, 321, 322, 325, 326 Molenar, Frank 222 Monk, Wally 191 Monnock, Kevin 346 Montgomery, Brett 287, 294, 300, 311 Montgomery, Chris 257, 283, 284, 288, 289, 337, 349 Montgomery, Colleen 337 Montgomery, Dot 126, 287, 337 Montgomery, Gary 257, 264, 265, 278, 279, 285, 287, 289, 294, 350

Montgomery, Glen 256 Montgomery, Ian ('Inky') 257, 259, 264, 279, 280, 284, 285, 289 Montgomery, Kristen 336 Montgomery, Neil 164, 170, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 184, 204, 238, 256, 257, 259, 279, 282, 283, 289, 293, 294, 305, 324, 326, 335 Montgomery, Peter ('Haircut') 229, 256, 259, 261, 280, 282, 285, 289, 293, 294, 303, 308, 309, 324, 348 Montgomery, Peter 162, 170, 175, 182, 184, 189, 219 Montgomery, Peter 287 Montgomery, Peter-Mitchell ('Mitch') 256, 285, 287, 294, 296 Moore, Bob 128, 136, 141, 143, 169, Moore, Stan 226 Moran, Bill 136 Morgan, Glady 242 Morgan, Guy 350 Morgan, John 205, 206, 226, 227, 228, 229, 251, 258 Morgan, Ken 101, 118 Morgan, Norrie 144, 170 Morgan, Roy 114, 125, 206 Morris, Kevin ('Germ') 189 Morrison, D 193 Morton, Brian 346 Moss, David 143, 248 Moss, Geoff 255 Moules, George 52 Mulcahy bros, 175 Mullane, Shirley 337 Mullane, Terry 335, 336 Murphy, Judy 337 Murphy, Peter 283, 284, 285, 287, 348 Musgrave, John 114 Myers, Pam 337 Nance, Steve 319, 321, 322 Nash, Edna, 75 Neale, G 172 Nelson, D 187 Newman, Col 237, 238, 240, 261, 281, 285, 287, 292, 294, 303, 347, 348 Newman, Doug 238, 239, 240, 244, 255, 256, 259, 260, 261, 264, 279, Newman, Glenys 287, 309, 310 Nicol, Barbara 309, 310 Nicol, Ken 294 Nicol, Marty 294, 310 Nixon, Matthew 300 Nobel, Clem 226, 231, 240, 261 Noble, Lili 74 Nossiter, Yanda 346

Notting, Fred 32

Nye, Vera 75

Nugent, Dave 341, 343

O'Connell, Gary 221 O'Dwyer, Jack 163, 170 O'Farrell, ('Bluey') 63, 66, 82 O'Neil, Frank 193 O'Neil, Mitch 264, 289 O'Neill, F 80, 101 O'Neill, J 80 O'Neill, Jack 204, 294 O'Sullivan, Bill 28 Olsen, Gordon ('Dollar') 43, 48, 132 Osbourne, Wal 22, 126 Otsyula, Mark 327 Paavola, Daniel 344, 345, 350 Palmer, Bill 43, 48, 57, 172 Palmer, Ken 172 Palmer, Roy 172 Park, Nick 341, 342, 350 Park, Sandy 341, 349 Parker, Les ('Junior') 169 Parkhill, RA 67, 68, 69, 111, 112 Parkinson, Doug 334 Part, AG 28, 44, 47, 128 Parr, Keith 42, 44, 49, 55, 57, 66 Parsonage, J 101 Parsonage, TG ('Tom') 83, 105 Partridge, Arthur 222, 224, 226 Paterson, Charles 16, 28, 67, 74 Paton, Lindsay 244, 338 Paton, Ray 207 Patterson, George 80, 101, 114, 116, 117, 127, 128, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 161 Patterson, Lyle ('Gunna') 80, 110, 118, 126, 128, 158 Patterson, Mark 256 Patterson, Ray 249, 251 Patterson, Royce 79, 80, 101 Pearce, Bill 81, 82 Pearce, Brad 81 Pearce, Gary 257 Pearce, H 82 Pearce, P 146 Pendergast, Leon 344, 345, 346, 350 Perry, John 44 Perry, M 204 Perry, Wilfred 43, 44, 45 Petersen, Faith 93 Pfafflin, August 121 Pfafflin, Harry 66, 99, 116, 121 Pfafflin, Otto 121 Pfafflin, Phil 121 Phillip, Arthur 1 Phillips, Les 43, 44 Philpott, John 149 Pinnington, Hugh 285 Piper, Chris 279, 280 Pitt, Craig 323, 342 Pitt, William 1 Playfair, David 111, 143, 162, 171, 172 Playfair, Edmund 130, 132, 143, 158,

Playfair, Madge 112 Playfair, Peter 111, 112 Playfair, TAJ 111, 112, 139, 144, 191 Plummer, T 146 Poll, Enid 168 Poll, Gwen 168 Pomering, Ron 319 Poole, George 114, 123, 140 Portier, William ('Buddy') 279, 280, 285 Powell, Dean 350 Pring, Tom 226, 231 Proctor, Charles ('Chic') 43, 48, 56, 66, 71, 72, 95, 99, 114, 154, 155, 156, 192, 199, 200, 212, 227, 248, 294 Proctor, Graeme 184, 339 Proctor, Ian 114, 144, 154, 181, 183, 196, 197, 198, 342 Proudfoot, Charlie 78 Proudfoot, George 58, 59, 69, 73 Purdey, Jordan 336 Putnam, Bruce 171 Quinn, Les ('Buster') 23, 35, 36, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 56, 88, 95, 99, 100, 101, 105 Quirk, EW 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 23, 28, 62 Radcliffe, Horrie 82 Ramsay, John 1, 2, 8 Rand, Alex 43, 44 Rand, Jim 149 Randall, Renee 346 Rankin, Johnny 15, 16, 26, 27, 29, 49, Rankin, Ted/Eddy 15, 16, 25, 26, 27, 45, 49 Rankin, Tom 15, 16 Rathborne, Rick 285 Rathbourne, H 74 Rathbourne, Mike 264 Rathbourne, Peter 294 Raymond, Stan 205 Read, R 80 Redwood, Betty 168 Redwood, George 82, 139, 199, 204 Redwood, Les 130, 204 Reece, Mark 319, 321, 324, 341, 343, 349, 350 Rees, David 343, 350 Rees, Phil 350 Regan, Tony 223 Reibelt, Johnny ('Snowy') 43, 66 Reid, Angus 320, 321, 322 Reid, David 222 Reid, George 241, 242, 249, 250, 251, 253, 255 Reid, Scott 320, 321, 322 Reynolds, Mick 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 100, 146 Richardson, Ces 43 Richardson, Frank 149, 171, 176

Richardson, George 13 Riches, Jane 309, 312 Rickard, Arthur 115 Ridgway, Myrle 75, 77 Roberts, G 63, 66 Roberts, J 339 Roberts, Jack 114 Roberts, Tom 114, 118 Robinson, Barry 207 Robinson, Eddie 89, 91, 100, 101, 113, 116, 118 Rodd, Doreen 78 Rodd, S 66 Rodriguez, Steve 329, 339, 340, 350 Rogalsky, David 108, 109, 111, 136, Roy, EC 138 Rubagotti, Ryan 350 Ruler, Jack 183 Rumble, Peter 346, 348 Russel, G ('Whiffle') 77 Russel, Geoff 321, 322 Russell, C 63 Ryan, Noel 89 Rylands, Ian 203, 204, 219, 223, 225, 226, 227, 229, 231, 232, 241 Ryrie, Granville DL 16, 17, 30, 31, 67, 111, 112 Sargood, George 61 Scarfe, Eddie 170 Sciffleet, Kim 315 Scott, Steve 319, 320, 321, 322, 325, 326, 327, 343, 344, 345, 350 Scott, Wally 103, 104 Scudds, Lorna 168 Scullin, James 97 Scully, Colin 343 Scully, Noel 200 Senior, Chris 206, 238, 259, 264, 285 Senior, Dave 343 Senior, Len 201, 206 Senior, Rob 206, 226, 227, 228, 237, 238, 239, 240, 259, 260, 283, 285 Sewell, Marcia 168 Sharp, Stuart 341 Sharpe, Matthew 349 Sharpe, Ramsay 56 Shaw, J 204 Sheldon, Athol ('Athy') 26, 27, 28, 30, 47, 48, 49, 52, 83 Sheldon, Betty 168 Sheldon, Harold ('Little Sparrow') 116, 114, 118, 126 Sheldon, J 80 Sheldon, Jessie 36, 37, 139 Sheldon, Jim ('Sparrow') 101, 114, Sheldon, Kent 294, 297 Sheldon, Lionel 25, 26, 27, 29, 32, 35,

NAME INDEX Shepherd, Bill ('Beno') 23, 27, 29, 30, 32, 36, 45, 60, 114 Shepherd, Harry 116, 123, 127 Shepherd, R 206 Shepherd, Rod 226, 231, 236, 238, 239, 251, 259, 267, 268 Shields, Edward 58 Sholly, Roy 23 Simons, Debbie 309, 312 Simons, Greg 289, 310 Skewes, Lionel 173, 207, 283 Slater, F 206 Sleeman, John 172 Small, Geoff 344 Small, Margaret 337 Smith, ('Monty') 35, 63, 66 Smith, Bob 88 Smith, Bruce 123, 141 Smith, Charles K 11 Smith, Henry G 2 Smith, Hilton 63, 66, 82 Smith, Neville 283 Smith, Paul 334 Smith, R 101, 109 Smith, Robert 242, 283 Smith, T 204 Smith, WE 271 Solomon, George 116 Solomon, L 122 Sowerby, Jim 114, 118, 123, 125, 127, 128, 131, 158, 248 Spargo, Bill 89 Spargo, Noel ('Nugget') 87, 89, 100, 102, 103, 104, 105, 121 Spear, Dave 46, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 71, 72 Spears, J 204 Spender, Percy 111, 112 Sperring, Kath 168, 169 Springall, Wayne ('Jack') 337, 350 Stacey, Betty 287 Stacey, Reg 283, 287, 289, 292, 347, 348 Stafford, AB 113, 115 Staniland, FRK 90, 100, 111 Staniland, HB 100, 111 Staniland, R. 101 Stanley, John 280 Starr, Wally 114, 122 Steele, Tom 43, 44 Stephens, Craig 316, 346, 349 Stephens, Joyce 337 Stevens, Brian 226, 267, 268 Stevens, Ernie ('Tarzan') 114, 116, 123, 136 Stevens, Jack 88, 101, 145, 146 Stevens, Reg 349, 350 Stevens-Jones, Michael 229, 234 Stevenson, L 66

Strathmore, Kel 223 Stutsell, John 221, 222, 226 Sullivan, Bill 27 Sullivan, Manus 83, 88, 99, 100, 101, 105, 114, 127, 128, 140 Summergreen, John 334 Suska, Ches 346 Suska, Shane 346 Swain, Gail 337 Swain, Gary 337 Swift, Peter 87, 90, 91, 101 Swift, Richard ('Dick') 87, 90, 95, 98, 99, 100, 101, 104, 105, 109, 111, 114, 116, 118, 248 Swift, Robert ('Snow') 87, 90, 93, 101, 105, 131 Symm, Bill 283, 285 Taite, B 125 Talbot, Don 258 Tanna, Tommy 9, 28 Tasker, John 327 Taylor, Harold 51, 52, 53 Taylor, Jack 32 Taylor, Ron 55 Temperley, Helen 309, 312 Temple, Stephen 279, 285 Tenison, John 171, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 184 Thierle, Maureen 274 Thompson, Andrew 264 Thompson, Barbara 168 Thompson, Elizabeth 113, 115 Thompson, Frederick 113, 115 Thompson, Gary 334 Thompson, Judd 176, 177 Thompson, Julian 349 Thompson, Martin 4, 5 Ticehurst, Malcolm ('Ticky') 173, 188, 189, 191, 223, 226, 227, 241 Tierney, B 204 Tillbrook, Bill 116, 117, 132 Timbs, Richard 349 Tindale, Frank 29 Tipping, Mick 226 Tollant, Arthur 213 Travers, BH ('Jigger') 96 Trotter, Joe 125 Truscott, Ben 283, 294 Try, Lance 132, 136 Tubbenhaur, Bill 141 Tubenhauer, Tony 114 Turner, lan 212 Turner, Peter 136 Twight (nee Penny), Florence M 6, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 36, 142 Twight, Betty 199, 215, 241, 242, 285, 287 Twight, Catherine 142 Twight, Charles 8, 13, 42

Storey, Mal 283

Stokes, Rob 205

Stonehaven, Lord 67

Ward, Clary 69

Twight, Dick 118, 136, 138, 140, 141,
142, 143, 144, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 154, 155, 156, 158,
162, 163, 164, 166, 169, 174, 186,
188, 189, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196,
199, 200, 201, 204, 205, 206, 207,
208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214,
215, 216, 218, 222, 224, 225, 226,
227, 229, 232, 234, 235, 236, 237,
240, 241, 250, 253, 254, 255, 256,
258, 259, 260, 261, 264, 276, 285,
287, 289, 294, 297, 305, 325, 326,
342, 347
Twight, Jamie 226, 283, 285
Twight, Norm 144, 172, 176, 203,
204, 208, 210, 211, 212, 237, 240,
249, 250, 251, 255, 274
Twight, Norman snr 8, 13, 42, 44, 55,
142, 143
Twight, Roger 207, 227, 229, 244,
249, 250, 251
Twight, Stan 125, 138, 141, 142, 143,
147, 148, 150, 152, 154, 155, 156,
157, 158, 162, 163, 164, 166, 169,
176, 186, 187, 193
Twight, Stanley C snr 6, 12, 13, 16, 18,
19, 20, 36, 40, 42, 44, 54, 55, 81,
107, 110, 111, 138, 142
Uren, Tom 116, 130, 136
Urquart, Robbie 169, 171, 172, 173
Vaubell, Peter 223, 226, 231, 267, 268
Vella, Matt 341
Vennard, J 101
Vennard, Mollie 75, 78
Verkooste, T 171
Verstegen, MI 171
Vincent, John 240, 269
Vizzard, John 346
Walford, Paul 226
Walker, Johnny 114
Wallace, Ian 223
Wallis, Ian 207, 226, 252, 253, 255
Walsh, Laurie 128, 136, 137, 140, 143,
158, 164, 200, 205, 256
Walsh, Shirley 168
Walters, Morrie 43, 48, 57, 62, 63, 64
waiters, Mottre 43, 46, 57, 62, 63, 64

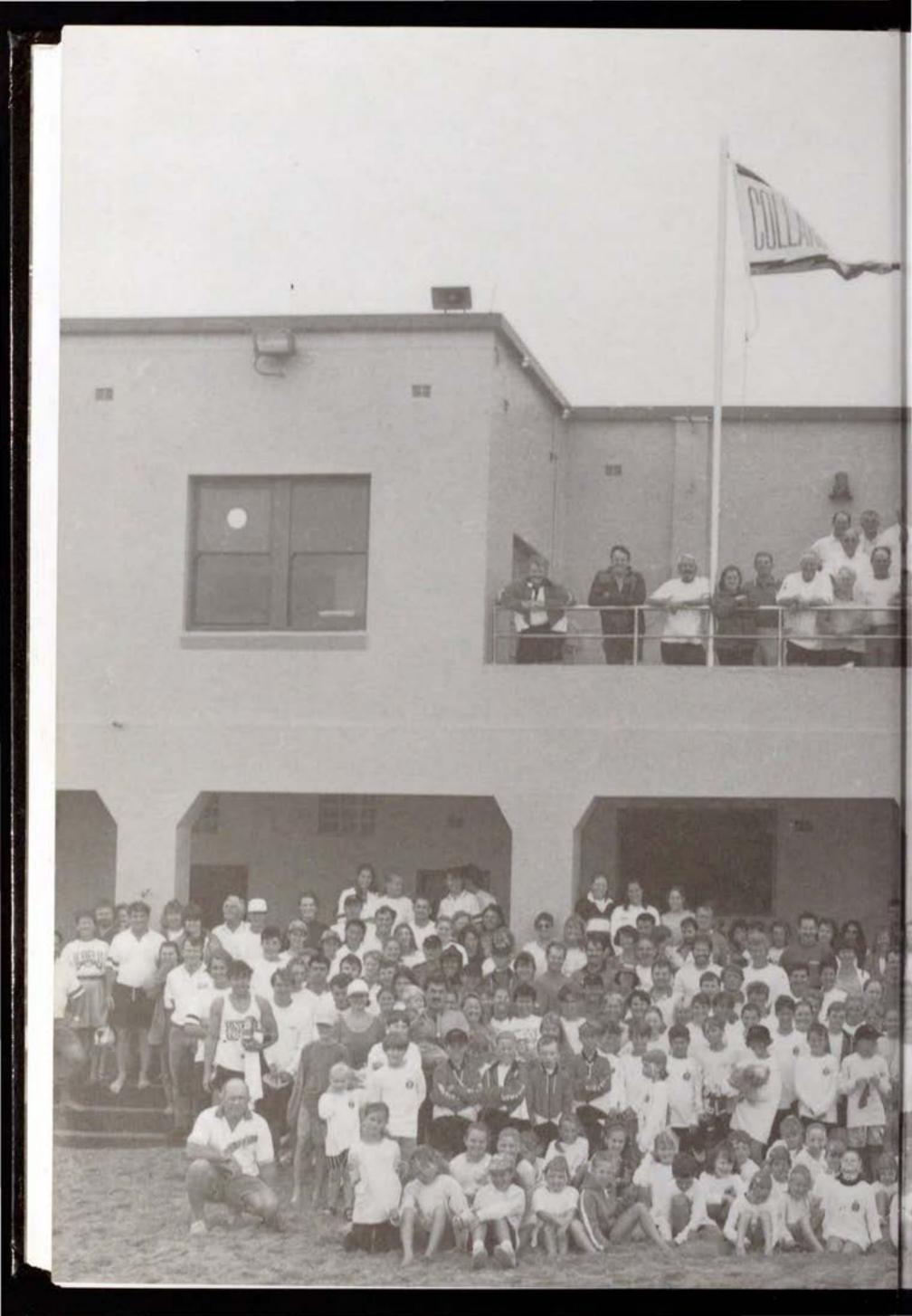
ward, Clary 65
Ward, John 280, 283, 285, 292
Ware, Albert ('The Preacher') 116,
117, 118, 124, 130
Wareham, E 66, 101
Warren, C 204
Waters, Les 171
Waterson, ('Skinny') 114
Watson, Ken 179, 193, 195, 196, 197,
198, 231
Wearne, Frank 36
Wearne, Leo 36, 49, 56, 66, 101
Weatherburn, Helen 274
Weatherby, Frank 339
Wells, Ian 283, 287, 296
Wells, John 289, 339
Wentworth, Bill 289
Wentworth, D'arcy 2
West, Brian 205
West, Claude 32, 95
West, Don ('Deakin') 113, 116, 117,
124, 130, 136, 161
West, Obed 6
West, Trevor 253
Westhorp, S 105
THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O
Westhorp, W 146
Wheeler, AE ('Paddy') 339
Whelan, Tom ('Tuck') 189, 191, 203,
205, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 226,
243, 268, 342
Whelpton, Alan 334
White, Alan 287, 296
White, Brooke 336, 346, 347
White, I 206
White, Ronald ('Bonnar'/'The
King') 36, 38, 39, 42, 56, 88
White, Vera 75, 78
Whitlock, Rob 206, 227, 228
Whitnall, Bill 324, 325, 326, 329, 335,
349
Wild, Howard jnr 268
Wildman, ('Pop') 114
Wildman, Bill 123, 130
Wildman, Len ('Toddy') 79, 80, 101,
114, 116, 118, 124, 161
***************************************

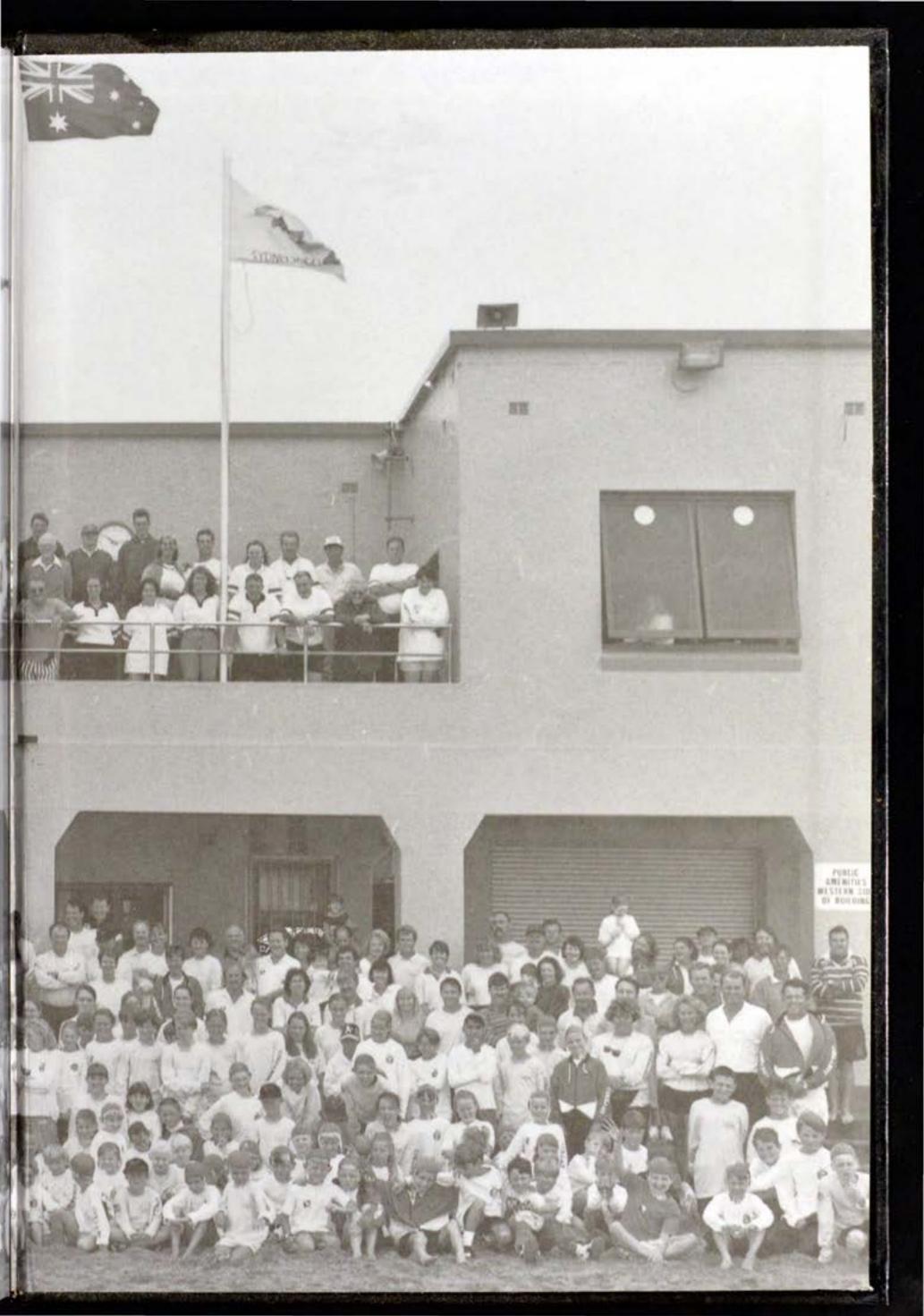
Wildman, M 101 Wildman, Roy 79, 80 Wildman, W 101 Williams, C 339 Williams, Cedric 46 Williams, Cliff 171 Williams, Dave 324, 325 Williams, FC ('Freddy') 28, 29, 45 Williams, Gordon 176 Williams, Kim 289 Williams, R 101 Williamson, CA 78 Willoughby, Arthur 52, 53 Wilson, Jeff 285, 287, 289, 294 Wilson, Ralph 203 Wilson, W 82, 83, 101 Windeatt, Bill 287, 291 Windeatt, Graeme 287, 291, 343 Winram, G 193 Wohlman, A 171 Wohlman, L 171 Wolfe, Justin 344, 345, 350 Woodley, Barry 207, 222, 226, 229, 231 Woods, Denis 205 Woods, Gordon 250 Woods, Rob 346 Woods, Stanley 221, 222, 224 Worthington, Brook 258, 259, 262, Worthington, Fred 258 Worthington, Jack 258 Wright, Alan 207, 226, 240, 255, 256, 292, 294, 347 Wright, Dick 274, 275 Wright, June 168 Wright, Matthew 294 Wright, Rick 315, 328 Wright, Susan 294 Yakich, Nick 238 Yeldham, Arthur 44, 51 Yeldham, Jack 44 Young, Robert ('Nat') 252, 253, 254 Zeitz, Mrs 75 Zylmans, Heath 346, 347













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