

COLLARROY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC.

The COLLARROY CRAB

July 2026 Edition 23

www.collaroysurfclub.com.au



ABN 66 023 772 886

Affiliated with
Surf Life Saving Australia



Address all correspondence to:
The Hon. Secretary
Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club Inc.
PO Box 18
Collaroy NSW 2097

COLLARROY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC

Founded 1911

115 years of Service to the Community

Notice is hereby given that the one hundred and fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the members of the Club will be held at the Collaroy Surf Lifesaving Club on Sunday, 2nd August 2026 at 11.00 am.

BUSINESS:

1. The adoption of the minutes of the one hundred and thirteenth AGM held on Sunday, 3rd August 2025
2. Presentation and adoption of the Financial Statements for the Season 2025 - 2026.
3. Presentation and adoption of the Annual Report for the Season 2025 - 2026.
4. Member Awards - Service Awards
5. Election of office bearers and general committee members for the Season 2026 – 2027.
6. General Business.
 - a. Motion to endorse Patron, Vice Patron, and Honorary Officers (Medical Officer, Solicitor, Photographer, Reverend)
 - b. Motion to affiliate with SLSA for 2026-27 season
 - c. Motion to appoint auditors for 2026-27 season

Andrew Sole
Honorary Secretary

: **COLLARROY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB** :
NOMINATION FOR OFFICE – 2026/2027

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ONLY ONE POSITION NOMINATION PER FORM

I NOMINATE FOR THE POSITION OF:
 (check one box only per nomination)

Executive Position	☐ President ☐ Secretary ☐ Vice President ☐ Club Captain ☐ Treasurer ☐ Nipper Chair
☐ General Committee	☐ Life Membership subCommittee

Nominee's Name:

Email Address:

Home Phone: OR Mobile:

PROPOSED BY:..... **SECONDED BY:**

I agree that this nomination has been put forward with my approval.

NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE:..... **DATE:**.....

There is to be only one nomination per position per form.

Please scan or take a photo of the completed form and reply by email to
secretary@collarroysurfclub.com.au by 6:00pm Saturday 25th July 2026

As communication is by email it is necessary for all Committee Members to have an email address.

OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE NOMINATION RECEIVED:	ACCEPTED BY:
CURRENT POSITION:	POSITION NOMINATED:



Patrol 5 – Collaroy's Patrol of the Year

CLUB BAR

Reminder that the **Club Bar is open every Sunday afternoon during winter**. Come down and support the Club whilst watching the football. Happy Hour every Sunday !! Children welcome !!

SWIMMING TRAINING

Note: Club sessions recommence in 2 weeks on Thursday 23rd July.

Time: 6.30 to 7.30 pm, every Thursday from 23 July

Cost: Free to financial members.

Requirements: Must be able to swim 25 m.

Equipment: Kickboard and flippers (Silicon flippers are the best), Pool buoy, and swim snorkel if you'd like.

Registration is required: Register on the link below link:

<https://b1101551.family-portal.com.au/public/enquiry>

NB: If it is your 1st time, please let the coaches know.

Tricia Hamilton

TRAINING WEEK SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

The annual start of season Training Week will start Saturday September 26 and the assessment will be on Friday October 2. Full details on the training week will be sent out in late August so please keep an eye out for the all-member email.

BEACH CLUB RAFFLES

Reminder that on the 4th Saturday of every month, our Surf Club members sell raffle tickets at the Beach Club. Prizes are seafood and Beach Club vouchers and all monies raised from these ticket sales goes directly to support the Surf Club. Come along and support our members and the raffle. Drawn at 5.30pm.

SYDNEY NORTHERN BEACHES BRANCH AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

At the recent SNB Awards of Excellence, Collaroy won the Branch Handicap Pointscore and was presented with a Bennett Board. Janine Fahey won the Administrator of the Year and will represent the Branch at the State Awards of Excellence in August

BUILDING WORKS

Work has already commenced to convert the existing office into the new club coolroom. As we have no paid staff, the office space was under utilised. The next project will be the extension of the Training and Education Development space. The Club received grants to enable these projects.

COLLAROY OCEAN SWIM - SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2026.

Early planning has commenced for this year's Ocean Swims event on November 8th. One aspect of the day we want to improve on is the small craft water safety numbers helping from 8am-11am with our 3 swims.

Bronzes and SRCs we need you!! At least 10 Boards, 10 Skis, 5 Tubes are all necessary, particularly for the 1.5k swim starting at 10am.

Please indicate your availability and preference by responding to events@collaroyurfclub.com.au. Our coordinators will be in touch before the event with more information etc. Thanks in advance for your support.

It's a fabulous day to be a part of. Please contact me with any queries.

Barry Muncke.
Ph 0414 549 107
Muncke@bigpond.com



CLUB DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 August 2026	Club AGM 11am
7 August 2026	Grape and Grain Long Lunch
26 September 202+	Bronze and SRC Training Week commences
8 November 2026	Collaroy Ocean Swim

2026/2027 SURF SPORTS CALENDAR

<https://www.surflifesaving.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2026-2027-Surf-Sports-Calendar-Planner.pdf>

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2026/27 SEASON

Renewals are now open for Senior Membership. Due to rising costs paid to Branch and State on behalf of our members we have had to increase our membership fees this season. As carnival entry fees per person are \$28 for a Branch Carnival, \$88 for the State Championships and \$220 for the Aussies, we have also increased the competition levy.

Category	Fee Payable
SENIOR FEES	
Life Members (LM)	No fee
Patrolling only members - Non competing members on the full roster who have completed > 25 hours patrols last season	\$0
Distinguished Service Members (renew and pay before 31 October)	\$75
Long Service (renew and pay before 31 October)	\$75
Active Reserve (renew and pay before 31 October)	\$75
Active and Award Members (renew and pay before 31 October)	\$75
Associates (renew and pay before 31 October)	\$75
Any category over 60 years (except patrolling only and Life Members) – (renew and pay before 31 October) - see Note 1	\$50
Competition Levy Seniors – all senior members competing	\$75
Gym Levy – additional levy for non-competing members entitled to use the gym who do not meet the criteria for exemption – Note 2	Additional \$75
NIPPER FEES – See note 3 (minimum membership)	
Nipper	\$110
Nipper Parent (General Members)	\$50
Competition Levy Nippers – U9 - 14 Nippers	\$50

Note 1 – Members (any category) who attain the age of 60 years before 1 October will be eligible to pay the reduced fee.

Note 2 - Gym Levy applies to all members who are **entitled** to use the gym and are not competing or do not meet the criteria for exemption. Patrolling members must have completed 70% of their rostered patrols last season. Only members who are competing, patrolling or contributing to the Club are entitled to use the gym.

Note 3 – Minimum membership for Nippers is 1 Nipper plus 1 parent/guardian. **New Nippers** must provide proof of age prior to membership being accepted.

Note 4 - On 31 October, SLISA will automatically archive every member who has not renewed. **Senior Members who renew after that date will be required to pay an additional \$50 administration fee.** This does not apply to Nipper categories or new members.

The Club accepts Active Kids Vouchers. These will need to be applied manually.

Janine Fahey – Registrar

registrar@collaroyclub.com.au



You are warmly invited to join us for an exclusive Collaroy SLSC *Grape & Grain Long Lunch* — a premium afternoon celebrating exceptional food, outstanding beer and wine, and the remarkable history that continues to shape our club.

This year's event pays tribute to one of the most extraordinary moments in Collaroy's story: the heroic 1946 rescue off Long Reef, where the crew of *Miss Collaroy* battled towering seas to save six stranded fishermen. Their courage not only captured Sydney's attention but sparked a partnership with McWilliam's Wines that still endures today.

It's a legacy of bravery, community spirit, and camaraderie — the very qualities we honour at this long lunch.

Event Details

Date: 7 August 2026

Time: 12:30 – 4:00pm

Cost: \$120 per person

Payment: Collaroy SLSC

BSB 032192

ACC 260208

Three courses of food paired with:

- Four aged Coopers beers
- Four premium McWilliam's wines

RSVP: venue@collaroysurfclub.com.au - (Limited seats available)

COLLAROY SURF CLUB TRAINING EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT SPACE (GYM) - Standard Operating Procedure

General Rules

Opening hours:

1. The TEDS is open from 5am-8pm 7 days a week.
2. Music must be kept at a low volume before 6am.

Access:

1. The Gym area of the TEDS space is a privilege for surf club members but not a right.
2. To have access to the gym you must meet 1 of the following criteria:
 - a. Be a financial member with a Bronze Medallion on Active or Long Service Patrol. Currently Proficient, with a patrol attendance rate of 70% or higher to maintain gym access.
 - b. A financial competitor who holds a Bronze Medallion, is currently proficient and have a minimum patrol attendance rate of 70% or higher.
 - c. A Financial Distinguished Service Member.
 - d. A Life Member.
 - e. A Financial Active Social Member (above the age of 16) who contributes significantly to the Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club.
 - f. Financial members who hold a SRC may use the gym when accompanied by an adult that meets the criteria mentioned in a, b, c.
 - g. Probationary Member (over 16)
 - h. Probationary Members (under 16) may use the gym when accompanied by an adult that meets the criteria mentioned in a, b, c.
 - i. A Club Sponsor who is also a financial member.
3. To receive a FOB to access the gym you must pay an initial \$20.00 to the Club.
4. Replacement Fob's for any that are lost will cost \$30.00.
5. Replacement Fob's due to technical failure will be at no cost to members.
6. All users must swipe their Fob on the reader at the time of access and egress of the gym.

Gym Levy

Gym users are required to pay the annual Gym levy as outlined below unless a member meets the requirements for an exemption:

Membership Category	Annual Gym Levy
a. A financial member with a Bronze Medallion on Active or Long Service Patrol with a patrol attendance rate of 70% or higher to maintain gym access.	Exempt
b. A Financial competitor	Exempt under the Competition Levy
c. A Financial Distinguished Service Member	\$75
d. A Life Member	\$75
e. A Financial Active Social Member	\$75
f. Financial members who hold an SRC	\$75
g. Probationary Member (over 16)	Exempt for a 6-month period
h. Probationary Member (under 16)	Exempt for a 6-month period
i. A Club Sponsor who is also a financial member	\$75

VALE JASON FARRELL

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Jason Farrell on Monday 13th July, 2026 surrounded by close family. Jason had been fighting MND and its symptoms for 7 years - only 61 Throughout his life he loved, cared and poured so much into so many individuals lives.

Jase rowed with Mona Vale, Collaroy and joined Manly LSC where he was a champion surf boat rower with the Open A crew between in the late 1980's and early 1990's and became an apprentice boat builder under Bill and Matt Clymer.

To honour his life and celebrate the incredible person he was, his family invite all of his friends to join them for his memorial on Thursday, 23 July, at Long Reef Golf Club and Fishermans Beach, Collaroy.

Jason had a deep love for the ocean, and we will be remembering him with a memorial service for family and close friends followed by an open-invite paddle and row out. Whether you rowed a boat, paddled a ski, surfed, prayed or knew Jase through any means, we would love for you to join us to celebrate his life. Those who prefer to stay on shore or golf club are just as welcome and encouraged to watch either from the beach or via livestream.

Memorial service and paddle and row out

 Long Reef Golf Club and Fishermans Beach foreshore

 Thursday, 23 July

 Arrival at 1:00pm for a 1:30 start of service

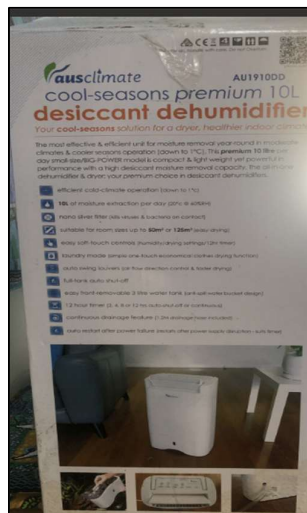
 Paddle out at 3:00pm

For those that would like to join Liam and Tasman for the paddle or row out we encourage you to come down and get in the water to celebrate the waterman that he was. Following the paddle and row out and ashes scattering out everyone is welcome to stay, share stories, in the Long Reef Golf Club and the foreshore of Fishermans beach. If Jason made a difference in your life, we'd love for you to be there as we give him the farewell he truly deserves.

FOR SALE – DESSICANT DEHUMIDIFIER

No longer required. Great condition only used sparingly.

New price \$429 Sale Price \$150.



Contact Greg Broome 0416 204 000

FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS.....

The Story of the Infamous 'Hell Ship' - Reprinted from "*Vigilant and Victorious*"

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 surfboat 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. 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.

73 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* 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, 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.



Passengers queue for breakfast on the second morning of the voyage.

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 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, 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 ... the hell ship, fare thee well.*



Survivors of the 'Hell Ship': L to R: Gordon Johnston, Doug Hart, Bill Lloyd, John Tenison, Wal McGrigor, Graeme Proctor

TEAM COLLAROY



stack team app



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Team Collaroy

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