From the President

At this time of the year, it’s always hard to imagine the more benign warm days of summer as the Otway’s chill and greyness descend upon Wye River. Nevertheless, on most weekends a band of hardy surfers are usually seen cutting it up at Baldy. There is also still a fair amount of activity happening at the Club which is not usually so visible but important to acknowledge and keep all members in the loop.

This newsletter was intended to be ready a few weeks ago but yours truly has held things up trying to find time to put down a few words. This brings home to me how much effort goes unnoticed from so many other members of the club who also lead busy lives. Those (unlike me) are ready on time, travel or take time off work locally or drive from other towns and cities to fix up the bunkhouse (new heaters), furniture, motors, doors etc. There are also the endless rounds of administrative compliance, banking and bookkeeping, member queries, facility bookings, carnival preparations etc which tick over on a continual basis.

However, I first want to express the Club’s sadness at the loss, in early June, of one of our first and most dedicated members, Dot Boyd. It will be very hard to walk through the Foreshore Park next season and not be greeted by her cheery supportive inquiries and her presence at and support for all our social functions. She has been a great connection with the history of the club and we are sad to see her go. All our condolences go to the Shannon family at this time. We raised a glass at the WRSLC Ball to her memory and contribution.

The Wye Ball (AKA as Dinner Dance in previous years) was held at a different venue this year, Lyndon Grove. Although numbers were down (about 75) it was deemed to be a big success and a fitting way to acknowledge the outstanding performances by many club members. This year Sharyn Brigham won the Roy Gilbert Memorial Award, our major prize for 15 years of service to nippers and fostering club spirit across the generations within the club. Isobel Monie won the junior award ‘The JJ Morrisson’ for her quiet and consistent contribution to many areas of club activities especially during the busy summer season. Her contribution to the Nippers Program support of juniors, patrolling and non-patrolling duties was outstanding. The two recipients are fitting examples of the spirit of our club. Because we are smaller than most clubs, our members step up to perform in multiple capacities. This is gratefully recognised by all.

We have also been extremely successful in attracting grants and sponsorship this season for Nippers, lifesaving and other equipment, and building refurbishment. This week alone we have received a total of $41,000 through the Victorian Government for equipment and refurbishments. We are also very close to be able to commence the building renovations which we hope to start in the next two months.

At present we are ensuring that we are undertaking due diligence and have the best quotes and quality builders we can obtain. It is likely that the costs will be higher than first envisaged (nearly three years ago) and we are looking at our best funding options. Josh Crosbie, local Club member, architect/builder and father of Nippers has been retained as the project manager. The Club has also had some extraordinarily generous sponsorship and donations this year, which will help to offset some of our regular operating expenditure, freeing up funds for the building. We will

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A marathon effort …

Wye River SLSC and CFA were both asked to assist with the running of the Great Ocean Road Marathon on May 18. Both groups manned drinks stations at Separation Creek and Jamieson River respectively as well as controlling intersections at Wye River and Separation Creek. We had a great response to calls for assistance on Facebook, and as they say ‘many hands make light work’.

Our work started at 7am: setting up tables, mixing sports drinks, filling cups … that’s a lot of cups for what was about 1400 runners! There were also bananas and lollies - we had to keep these under wraps from the kids at the start.

We were so well organised it seemed like we had to wait ages for the first runners to arrive … and then it was on! Very hectic, lots of laughs and much gratitude from the runners. By 11am we were packed up and finished. Our last task was to divvy up the truck load of bananas left over - we were eating banana cake for weeks!

Thanks heaps to everyone who helped out; the whole Greene family (Aaron, Cheryl, Drew, Molly and Jake), Joel Craddock, Kate Delorenzo, Peter Kelly, Karyn Hogg, Juna and Pema Hack, and a couple of Juna’s school mates Jasper and Kai. We had a great weekend all up and received a substantial ‘grant/donation’ from the Apollo Bay & District Health Foundation for our efforts. We look forward to being part of the event next year (see pic on opposite page).

Andrew Hack

From the President

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continue to bring you regular updates.

Finally, I attended a ‘Coastal Modelling under Climate Change’ workshop earlier this year at Wye River. It is believed that by 2030 there will be some significant shifts in the frequency of tidal events and surges which will impact on the foreshore and future club planning may have to take this into account.

There are a number of other club activities reported in this newsletter and I urge you read them closely. Dates for Nippers and Bronze Camps, training and awards etc will regularly be updated especially through Facebook and the Web page. Our next newsletter will be in mid spring. (Bring it on!)

Debra Hocking

Captain’s report

Thank you to all who assisted in what was a great summer season with no major incidents recorded. However, there is still room for improvement. For next season, there are a few key points for active members to help the club improve its services to the community.

All patrolling members MUST contact their patrol captain if they are unable to attend a rostered patrol. This is to allow ample time for arrangements to be made if there is a need for a substitute.

Also, there is a large shortage of qualified trainers at the club; whilst we do not seem to have much trouble organising assistance with training it is imperative that we have a qualified trainer present for each award.

Next season there will be a large focus on training, and if you would like to take the next step into assessing, there is plenty of scope. Both trainers’ and assessors’ certificates require a one-day course followed by a functional assessment. Please contact me (0408 364 482) or our brand-new shiny chief instructor Ryan Towers (0448 676 186) if you would like more information.

Thanks to Maeve and Catherine for a wonderful Wye Ball. It was a wonderful location and I know I had fun!

Congratulations to Sharyn Brigham for all her contributions to the club, vindicated with the Gilbert Memorial award for best club person. More congratulations to Isobel Monie for being awarded the JJ Morrison (Best Junior member) and Mason Turner for the Colac College award. All very deserving winners.

One other reminder is that as of 1 October 2014 all members using the IRB (and surf boat) must wear lifejackets. This is a mandatory requirement implemented for your safety. Please be diligent with this new rule.

Calham Dower

Great Ocean Road closure

Club members may wish to note that the Great Ocean Road will be totally closed between Wye River and Kennett River for the period 24th to 28th of August.

On Sunday 3rd August, between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, anyone interested can drop in at the clubhouse where VicRoads officers will be in attendance to explain what is happening, and answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding the complete closure of the road.

For the what, where and why, see the Wye Progress Association web page: www.wyesep.org.au/gor
The 2014 inaugural Wye Ball

Nippers ... plan ahead

We are in the process of organising the upcoming season and thanks to Sharyn's hard work over the past 10 years, it will all come together nicely. Like previous years, we will plan to have registration day on the 27th December, followed by two weeks of fun on the beach. One of our goals this year is to get some teams competing in the local carnivals, so it is important to keep your swimming up during these colder months.

We will also be doing a call out for parents who are interested in doing their Bronze or other courses that will help out with the running of the program, so keep an eye out for an email or two over the next month.

Anna Lennon

Runners descend on Separation Creek during the Great Ocean Road Marathon on May 18 at which club members provided support. The club received $3000 from the Apollo Bay Health Foundation for our involvement in the marathon. Not a bad morning's work!
Would you like to sponsor Wye River Surf Life Saving Club?

The club is looking for more sponsors who can negotiate signage on clothing, surf craft or a sponsor’s board in the clubhouse. Please contact: Debra Hocking, President Wye River SLSC, phone 0417 690 291, or email: d.oconnor@nari.unimelb.edu.au