

26 September 2025

RE: NIPPERS & SURF RESCUE CERTIFICATE SEASON 25-26

We are pleased to provide enrolment information for Nippers and Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) for this coming summer. Our program numbers are limited, please pay careful attention to the important dates and enrolment instructions to ensure you don't miss out.

Nippers Program

Wye River SLSC Nippers Program is an exciting recreational and educational program for all kids with an interest in being active and safe around water. The program is designed for 6-13 year olds (age as at 30 September) and is structured to provide a continued development of surf awareness specific to the ages and abilities throughout the lifesaving education program.

Starfish Nippers

Starfish Nippers is a modified and tailored program designed for young people who have special needs. It is run alongside our regular Nippers program.

The program is designed for young people aged 6 years and above with a disability, including physical and intellectual disabilities and learning difficulties, and can be modified to suit an individual participant's needs so everyone can be included.

Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC)

During the last year of the Nippers program, the under 14 Nippers obtain their SRC. The SRC provides participants with the skills and knowledge of basic patrolling and surf awareness in order to be able to participate in lifesaving operations. The program contains a combination of theory and practical elements each day. Prior to the commencement of the SRC course, candidates are expected to complete all online learning modules and at the conclusion of the SRC program, successful candidates are allocated to one of our surf patrols and are expected to meet volunteer patrol obligations.

Program Dates - Nippers

The Nippers program will run from Saturday 27 December 2025 to Tuesday 6th January 2026.

The following draft program is subject to change

Date	Nipper Program	Social Functions
27 December 2025	Uniform Collection & Group Allocation	
28 December 2025	Nippers Session 1	Summer Fling
29 December 2025	Nippers Session 2	
30 December 2025	Nippers Session 3	Nippers Movie Night
31 December 2025	Nippers Session 4	
1 January 2026	Rest Day	
2 January 2026	Nippers Session 5	
3 January 2026	CFA Fete (Rest Morning)/ Rip Awareness Session	
4 January 2026	Nippers Session 6	Nippers Ipod Shuffle
5 January 2026	March out, Group Photos, Junior Club Championships, Presentations & BBQ	
6 January 2026	Back up day	

We are currently in discussions with other nearby surfclubs for a “Friendly Carnival”, outside of the Nippers program. Dates and details are yet to be confirmed but this would be an optional extra Nippers session for those wanting to get involved. This is not an official carnival so only Nippers swim sign off is required not the additional competition sign off.

Program Dates - SRC

The SRC program runs each day from 2nd January to 6th January inclusive, with the final day consisting of assessments and a presentation.

Important Dates

1 October 2025	2025/26 Membership Renewals Due
7 October 2025	Priority Enrolments Open (9am) for existing members/prior year Nippers Waitlist opens for New Members
10 October 2025	Priority Enrolments Close (9am) New members admitted
31 October 2025	All Enrolments Close (or before this date if full)
5 December 2025	Preliminary Skills Forms Email Submission Deadline

Program Cost

Family membership Fee 2025/26	\$250
First nipper per family	included in family membership fee
Second and subsequent Nippers	\$75 per nipper
Surf Rescue Certificate Fee	\$125 per candidate

LSV Preliminary Skills Requirements/Swimming Ability

Being able to swim competently is an integral part of making children safe at the beach as well as allowing them to actively participate and enjoy lifesaving activities. We do recognize that swimming in the ocean is a new experience for many children and even competent pool swimmers can find this challenging at first.

Preliminary swim evaluations are a risk management procedure that is in place to ensure Nippers and SRC candidates are fit and able to meet the minimum requirements for safety of the nipper program. The evaluations consist of three components, floating, submersion and propulsion. All children must be assessed on all three components by a qualified swimming teacher/coach.

The preliminary swim assessment has strict minimum requirements that each child must be able to complete prior to commencing Nippers/SRC. Should you not get this form completed by a qualified swimming teach prior to the commencement of Nippers or should your child not meet the minimum requirements, then they must wear a wrist band and one-on-one water safety will be provided (if there is a sufficient number of water safety available), otherwise your child can participate in land based activities only.

Please note Nippers is not a learn to swim program and we strongly advise that all children are enrolled in swimming lessons all year.

The preliminary assessment form can be found [here](#) and needs to be completed by a qualified swimming teacher or lifeguard. It is a requirement for all Nippers to attend their local swimming pool to have the assessment signed off prior to commencing Nippers. **We are unable to conduct assessments at Wye River during the program.**

Please ensure that the form is completed correctly and for the correct age group.

Please scan or send a clear photograph of your completed form and email it to [Nikki](#) by **5 December 2025**.

Nippers Competition Team

Life Saving Victoria run a number of Junior Carnivals throughout the season, at different Victorian surf clubs. A variety of individual and team events are offered at carnivals, and they are a fun way for the nippers to put their skills and training into practice. It is possible for Nippers to participate in Junior Carnivals representing Wye River. Participating in Junior Carnivals is optional and requires a higher minimum skill set than Nippers sessions. Participants will need their Competition Skills sign off which must be assessed in open water. Before a nipper can be registered for a carnival, they must have their competition skills uploaded into our system, and registrations are due at least a week prior to the competition. In the past we have run additional training sessions for competing Nippers but our ability to do this will depend on conditions and availability of water safety/trainers.

Participation in Junior Carnivals will also be dependent on sufficient volunteers and parent participation so if you are interested in your child participating and are willing to assist please contact Sally Agnew.

The carnival dates and venues for the 25/26 are as follows:

Saturday 6 December	Ocean Grove
Thursday 8 January	Fisherman's Beach (Torquay)
Sunday 18 January	Mount Martha
Saturday 31 January	Anglesea
Sunday 15 February	TBC
Friday 6- Sunday 8 March (State Championships)	Warrnambool

Contact Details

For any queries, please contact the relevant person via the following emails:

Nippers/SRC Enrolment:	Melissa McIntosh
Membership queries:	Melissa McIntosh
Preliminary Swim Forms:	Nikki Carroll
Nippers Program:	Joel Pearlman
Starfish Nippers Program:	Nikki Carroll
Competition Team:	Sally Agnew

Enrolment Process

For your child to participate in Nippers, or SRC you must complete **ALL** of the following items by the due date.

STEP 1 – Apply For/Update your Working with Children Check (WWCC) details

All members over the age of 18 are required to have a WWCC. Many people already hold a WWCC with other organisations. If this is the case you must update your WWCC to add Wye River SLSC to your list of organisations.

If you do not hold a WWCC you must apply for one. You can do this online at <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children>. A Volunteer WWCC is free to apply for.

If you do not currently have a WWCC, please proceed to step 2 once you have made your application, do not wait for the WWCC to arrive. You can provide these details later once they are available.

STEP 2 – Renew/Apply for Membership of Wye River SLSC

Please ensure that you have renewed/applied for membership for EACH family member who wants to be involved. When renewing a family group you need to tick the check box next to EACH name.

All junior members under the age of 15 must be part of a family group and at least one parent/guardian must also be members of the club. The family membership fee is payable and this includes membership of both parents and any dependent children from the same household.

Membership Renewal is arranged online at hub.sls.com.au.

STEP 3 – Online Enrolment

Complete the relevant online enrolment form for each child based on the correct age group. The online enrolment forms will not be accessible until **9am** on the registration open date above. If you can't access the online enrolment for the desired age group, it may be because the age group is full. Please complete the waitlist enrolment instead.

Links for the online enrolment forms will be sent to renewed members prior to the enrolment date, or once we receive your membership renewal

STEP 4 – Nipper/SRC Fee/Merchandise Payments

Payment of any applicable nipper/SRC fees and any merchandise ordered as part of the enrolment process is due on lodgment of the enrolment form. These payments can be made by logging into your account [here](#).

STEP 5 – Preliminary Skills Form **ESSENTIAL**

Please see page 3 for information regarding this. *Please note that Preliminary Skills forms are not due until **5 December 2025***. You can download the preliminary skills form [here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Age Groups?

Wye River's Nippers program commences at "under 7s" through to "under 13s". Children need to be born between 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2019 to participate

Age Group	Date of Birth Range	Certificate
Starfish	1 Oct 2018 – (no upper limit)	Starfish
Under 7	1 Oct 2018 – 30 Sept 2019	Surf Play 2
Under 8	1 Oct 2017 – 30 Sept 2018	Surf Aware 1
Under 9	1 Oct 2016 – 30 Sept 2017	Surf Aware 2
Under 10	1 Oct 2015 – 30 Sept 2016	Surf Safe 1
Under 11	1 Oct 2014 – 30 Sept 2015	Surf Safe 2
Under 12	1 Oct 2013 – 30 Sept 2014	Surf Smart 1
Under 13	1 Oct 2012 – 30 Sept 2013	Surf Smart 2
SRC (Under 14)	Attain the age of 13 on or before 6 January 2026	SRC

What should my child wear to Nippers

Nippers should arrive each morning in their bathers, full uniform and sunscreen.

There are three items of compulsory uniform that nippers must wear to each session: Competition Cap, Nippers Rash Vest and Broad Brimmed Hat. Club bathers are optional.

All nippers must wear a competition cap along with the fluoro nippers rash vest so they are easily identifiable to age managers and water safety. This is a Surf Life Saving Australia Requirement for all participants. Additionally, Wye River SLSC is a sunsmart club and all nippers are required to wear a broad brimmed hat and sunscreen.

Wetsuits are optional but recommended to keep children warm.

First time nippers are provided with the broad brimmed hat and nippers rash vest free of charge, the competition cap must be purchased. Returning nippers should use the uniform they were previously given; replacements can be purchased from our merchandise shop if they have been outgrown/lost (*this year they are being provided to everyone as we have a new uniform*). You can order replacement uniform items and optional bathers on your nipper's enrolment form or from our merchandise shop.

We have a range of other merchandise available to buy from our merchandise shop including bathers, hoodies and hoodie towels.

What should my child wear to SRC

SRC runs for longer days than nippers and combines both theory with practical activities (land based and water based). Candidates should wear comfortable clothes over their bathers. They need to bring a wetsuit, goggles and a towel to all sessions. They will be provided with a high-vis training singlet to wear over their wetsuits during the water sessions.

Parent Duties

All of our programs are run by a large team of volunteers and we are always on the lookout for new parents/older siblings to join in. Please consider volunteering to assist and indicate your interest on the registration forms. Some of the volunteer positions require qualifications (First Aid, Water Safety), but most do not. Training is provided prior to the program where required.

It is also important that you are on the beach and available at all times for your child during nippers.

What are the Junior Club Championships

The Club Championships are a fun end-of-season event where nippers have the opportunity to take part in friendly competition with others in their age group. They'll have a chance to show what they've learned through races and activities. It's a great way to celebrate the season and recognise everyone's progress.