



Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated

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POINT LONSDALE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB NOMINATED FOR TOP STATE LIFESAVING AWARD

Mr. Matthew Ponsford, Secretary of the Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club was delighted to publicly announce that the Club has been nominated for the prestigious 'Club of the Year' award for the Season 2004 / 2005 Life Saving Victoria Awards of Excellence.

Media Release

"The Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club has been nominated due it's broad range of activities that have assisted to ensure a safer beach and aquatic environment for the community", said Mr. Ponsford.

"The areas highlighted include Lifesaving, Aquatic Sport, Youth and Leadership Development, Administration and Community Service achievements".

"The presentation of awards will be at the Life Saving Victoria Awards of Excellence Evening, to be held on the 18th June in Melbourne. We hope that our members will be rewarded for their wonderful achievements during the 2004 / 2005 Season at Point Lonsdale."

"The members at Point Lonsdale should feel proud of their achievements and the wonderful community service that they provide to the Victorian community. The Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club was the first Club formed on the Bellarine Peninsula and has provided 58 years of continuous service to the community since."

Please find following a copy of the Club's nomination.

For further information please contact Matthew Ponsford on 0419 52 52 58.

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Serving the community since 1947

*1 515 lives saved by volunteer surf lifesavers and professional lifeguards
Always swim between the red and yellow flags – no lives lost 'between the flags'*



Life Saving Victoria – Awards of Excellence Nomination

Category:

Club of the Year

Introduction:

The Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club has continually achieved excellence across a wide variety of areas and in a wide variety of activities during the 2004 / 2005 Season, in the Club's 58th year of operation.

Members of the Club have contributed at a Local, State and National level in Surf Life Saving to ensure a safer beach and aquatic environment for the community.

The Club would be worthy winners of the Life Saving Victoria Club of the Year for the 2004 / 2005 Season due to the highlights listed below:

Lifesaving Highlights:

1. The Club has embraced new lifesaving technology – becoming a pioneer in the use of the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in Victoria. The Club was one of the first in Victoria to have an AED and was part of the initial group of Clubs to attend the inaugural AED training seminar. There are now two trained facilitators at the Club and the training of members has already begun, with four club members now holding the AED Certificate and more currently being trained.
 2. The successful introduction of a brand new piece of lifesaving equipment to the Club – an All Terrain Vehicle. It was a major innovation to introduce such equipment that the Club had never operated before. The successful introduction has included the establishment of a Club policy and operation booklet (based on LSV and SLSA policies), together with a successful training program. The ATV has assisted to make the local beaches and aquatic environment safer. It has been used in several search and rescue operations, it has assisted with the movement of two seriously injured patients and has been directly requested to assist in these incidents by the Victoria Police and Rural Ambulance Victoria. The Club has also assisted with providing advise to several Clubs looking at purchasing ATVs and has been a pioneer in equipping an ATV never used before in Surf Life Saving in Australia.
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3. The Club has demonstrated excellent performance in the LSV Patrol Competition and best practice in lifesaving patrols. During the three inspections only 200 points has been lost, compared to 490 points being lost last Season.
4. The Club has continually aimed at providing a safe patrolled beach at the Point Lonsdale Back Beach. The beach has an ABSAMP rating of 8, which makes it one of the four most dangerous patrolled beaches in the State. Having said this, volunteer surf lifesavers have continued in their outstanding aim of ensuring that there are no drownings on patrolled sections of Victorian beaches. 672 Preventative actions were issued, requiring only 13 rescues to be performed.
5. The Club has taken an active role in the process of the auditing of local beaches, together with LSV. During this process, the Club provided a large amount of information in terms of local knowledge to the LSV Auditor and has commenced lobbying the local Council to have beach signage installed to make the local beach and aquatic environment safer for the community. Discussions thus far with the Borough of Queenscliffe indicate that signage should proceed this year.
6. The Club has encouraged more active members to undertake training and assessment in Lifesaving courses. This Season, a total of 87 awards were gained (not including 128 Resuscitation Certificates awarded to Junior Members), compared to 81 last Season. There was an increase of awards in the following categories - Bronze Medallions 6, Senior First Aid Certificate 4, IRB Driver 1, Defibrillator Certificate 2 and Defibrillator Facilitator Certificate 2.

Aquatic Sport Highlights:

1. The Club has had representatives at all Carnival levels – Junior, Senior, State and National Carnivals.
 2. The Club's Surf Boat area underwent considerable growth and development during the Season.
The Area developed from 2 crews last year to 9 this Season. These crews included Juniors, Women's, Seniors and Masters spanning all age groups of the Club giving all members the opportunity to compete.
The Women's crew finished 2nd in the State Titles and the Reserve crew made the final of National Championships. The Reserve event attracted a field of 180 crews. The Point Lonsdale Reserve crew was the only boat crew outside of NSW and QLD to make a final at this years National Championships.
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3. The Club has had members assist with officiating at various Carnival levels, including Junior, Senior State, National and International Carnivals.

Youth and Leadership Development:

1. The Club provided a Youth and Leadership Development program to 315 members during the Season. This program, provided for such a large group of junior surf lifesavers was based at the Club's Santa Casa Beach Base Queenscliff, which was partly built to ensure that junior members had an appropriate facility close by a suitable training location.
2. A total of 128 junior members were successfully instructed and assessed for the Resuscitation Certificate.
3. Junior Club members participated actively in the Telstra State Junior Championships at Point Leo, winning 10 medals (4 of which were Gold) and was placed 14th out of 57 Clubs.

Administration Highlights:

1. An increase in total membership from 628 last Season, to 671 this Season, representing an increase of 43 new members.
 2. The Club has willingly embraced the new SLSA Surfguard Membership Database. The Club formed part of the initial test group, providing regular feedback on the operation of the program to LSV and SLSA in the testing process and has now ensured that all Club data is accurate.
 3. The Club has commenced reviewing and rewriting its Constitution and Articles of Association, to ensure that changes made to the State Lifesaving structure are reflected in the Club's Constitution and that the Club's administration reflects developments at a State level.
 4. Position Descriptions for all Office Bearers were written during the 2004 / 2005 Season.
 5. The Club's website was extensively remodeled and updated. The new website not only provides a broad range of information to members of the public eg. Patrol locations and times, but is also a valuable information resource for Club members. An example of this is that all Committee Meeting Agendas and Minutes are able to be accessed by members at a time convenient to them.
 6. The Club has embraced the SLSA National Service Certificates and Long Service Awards, undertaking considerable research this Season to ensure that eligible Club members fulfilling the criteria were presented with the appropriate awards.
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7. Clubs members have actively embraced the new LSV structure and are assisting to ensure a safer beach and aquatic environment for the State. A Club Member now sits on the Aquatic Sports Council - Executive, as the Special Events Coordinator and a Club Member now sits on the State Committee of Lifesaving Services as the South West Regional Officer.

Community Service Highlights:

1. The Club assisted the Red Cross to conduct a Tsunami appeal on the day of the Rip View Swim Classic, to raise nearly \$ 10 000 in a morning, for this worthy appeal.
 2. The Club provided volunteer members and provided equipment for the annual Queenscliff Seafood Feast, which raised over \$ 80 000 for the Good Friday Royal Children's Hospital Appeal.
 3. The Clubrooms is available to community and not-for profit groups to hire at minimal cost. There are several regular groups who utilise the Clubrooms for their activities.
 4. A close relationship has developed with the Point Lonsdale Boardriders Club this Season. The Boardriders Club uses the Clubrooms for Presentations and Awards Nights and the Surf Rescue Base at the Back Beach as a base for surfing contents.
 5. The Queenscliffe Sea Scouts visited the Clubrooms and Surf Rescue Base at the Point Lonsdale Back Beach to discuss water safety and to look at the role of surf lifesavers and equipment used.
 6. The Club took part in the official opening of the 2004 / 2005 Patrol Season, by conducting a 'Play it safe by the Water' Open Day.
 7. The Club conducted its 18th Rip View Swim Classic. This is the single biggest event in Point Lonsdale each year. The event attracts in excess of 1 300 swimmers and an estimated 5 000 spectators. The event is now one of the 'big three' Victorian Open Water Swims and the attention given to detail such as safety ensures that swimmers have confidence that Surf Lifesavers are ensuring their safety, which encourages participation in open water swims and assists with vital fundraising for Clubs.
 8. The Club conducted a display on the Club and Surf Life Saving at the Point Lonsdale Primary School Market, held during the Labour Day Long Weekend, with lifesaving equipment on display and various water safety and other information brochures made available to the 5 000 market visitors.
 9. Club members provided first aid services to the Borough of Queenscliffe's annual Australia Day Celebrations.
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Life Saving Victoria – Awards of Excellence Nomination cont.

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10. The Club actively supports a regular weekly radio program on Life Saving, with a Club member involved with the promotion of Life Saving from the Local to International level.
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