



Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated

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FINAL COUNT DOWN AS THOUSANDS OF SWIMMERS PREPARE TO SWIM "THE RIP"

An estimated 1 500 swimmers will take part in the first of the 'three big open water swims' when the Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club prepares to hold the **Penfold Holden Rip View Swim Classic 2003**, tomorrow, Sunday 28th December.

Point Lonsdale's **Penfold Holden Rip View Swim Classic 2003** (in its 16th year) is now widely regarded as a compulsory warm up for many swimmers who take part in the Pier to Pub Swim at Lorne two weeks after the Point Lonsdale event, including the majority of the elite open water swimmers.

Swimmers are divided into a total of 22 categories from Juniors (12 – 16 years) to the Grandmasters (70 + years). The first group of swimmers commence at **10:30 am** and the elite Open group being the last at **12:25 pm**.

Event Director Mr. David Ponsford reports that, "Last year we had a record number of entries – 1 253 and I'm confident that this number will be exceeded this year". "Pre-entries closed at midnight last night and we have almost 750 swimmers pre-entered. This is more than 150 more than the record year last year". "We are expecting a bumper crowd to watch on, with over 5 000 expected to line the picturesque coastline of Point Lonsdale and take part in the carnival like atmosphere on what is predicted to be a fantastic summer's day."

Mr. Ponsford states that, "The swim is a major event for the Club and people should feel happy that their entry fee is helping the Club provide a voluntary service to the community, through Surf Rescue patrols at Point Lonsdale and at Queenscliff. This event is a major fundraiser for the Club and without these types of events, the Club could not continue to operate." "Fundraising is especially important to Surf Life Saving Clubs in times where public liability issues have placed considerable financial pressures on our organisations".

Although there are places still available, entries are open between 8:00am and 10:00am and swimmers are encouraged to arrive early.

For further information about the swim or for the full results after the swim, visit the Club's website - www.pointlonsdaleslsc.asn.au

For further information please contact the Event Director – David Ponsford on 0438 580 257.

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Serving the community since 1947

*Over 1 450 lives saved by volunteer surf lifesavers and professional lifeguards
Always swim between the red and yellow flags – no lives lost 'between the flags'*