

To Members of WSLSC,

As the COVID-19 pandemic wears on, we are all finding ourselves a little frustrated with the ongoing situation, and are facing new challenges, be it in our personal or professional lives. However, we are assured that everyone is working as hard as they can to meet the current rules, and working together to beat this pandemic and get back to doing what we all love. As we gear up towards summer, and the days begin to warm, it is timely to let all members know what your Committee has been up to during the winter closure.

Firstly, a big shout out to all the brave and dedicated emergency services hospital staff and essential workers who have pushed through the challenges of this pandemic and continue to work to keep the community safe. Your efforts and community spirit are what inspire us to work hard and be the best we can be in lifesaving. And we thank you.

Here are a few updates on the activities within the Club during the pandemic:

Floors refurbished

Early this year the Club Hall floors were sanded back and revarnished, and are looking fantastic, and ready for the season ahead.

New fridges

The Club Committee has purchased a new commercial size fridge and freezer to replace the older ones. This will ensure that we have sufficient room for storage of our sausages for Nippers, patrollers' supplies and frozen icy-poles for our members. The fridges were a necessary upgrade for the growing nature of our Club's activities and will be a valuable resource for years to come.

IRB Shed door replacement

The old and battered door to the IRB shed has now been replaced thanks to Hobsons Bay City Council, who in conjunction with WSLSC have replaced the old rusty door with a brand-new automatic unit.

LSV Awards of Excellence 2020

Williamstown SLSC was proud to be a finalist for Club of the Year, and for three individual nominations for awards at this year's AoE:

- Youth Lifesaver of the Year – Brydie Logan
- Coach of the Year – Sally Leung
- Trainer of the Year – Joel Farrow

The Club Committee is very proud of its members, and is delighted to see those who put in incredible time and effort are celebrated and recognised at the State level. This year we were very pleased that Joel Farrow was successful in being awarded Trainer of the Year, and will be also representing our Club and State at the SLSA National Awards of Excellence later this year.

Patrol Service & Efficiency Standards Program – LSV

The PSEP program run by LSV consists of an audit that happens twice a year on our volunteer patrols to test the training, knowledge, and efficacy of our patrollers. In the 2019/2020 season, Williamstown scored the highest overall score in the Port Phillip region. This is a fantastic result, and is a testament to the dedication and training that our patrollers show year in, year out.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SEASON AHEAD

Club Annual Report

The Club Committee members are currently preparing their reports from the 2019/2020 season, and our Secretary Rod Seeber is at work putting it together for our members to read about our great season of achievements and milestones; and to get you excited for the season ahead.

Annual General Meeting

The current situation with COVID-19 has prevented the Club from running the AGM in the traditional method at the Club Hall. However, the Club Committee is working towards facilitating this event online, in a fashion and order that is consistent with our Constitution, and meets all requirements for electing the new Club Committee for the 2020/2021 season. We are working towards holding the AGM this year, so please look out for an announcement soon.

Patrolling

The operation of volunteer patrols at Williamstown for the 2020/2021 season is unknown at this time. Life Saving Victoria are working hard in cooperation with the Victorian State Government to ensure the safety of our members as well as meet our obligations to the community

Volunteer Training and Requalification

Similar to patrolling, the Club Committee is preparing for awards training and requalification to take place, however when and how this will happen under COVID-19 we will wait for direction from Life Saving Victoria. We made some great advances in training this past season, with many new awards being achieved by new and existing members, as well as running the first Silver Medallion – Beach Management course at the Club since 2011. We hope to continue that work in the 2020/2021 season; however this will be dependent on LSV protocols and viability moving forward.

Nippers

Whilst the current COVID-19 issue may prevent us from running the Nippers Education Program in our traditional manner of before and after Christmas, we are hopeful that the status of the pandemic will be at such a level that we are able to run some type of program to still give our young members the vital water safety education that the program provides. The Club Committee is currently investigating options for this to occur (if viable, likely to be in 2021) to ensure the safety of our Nippers, Age Managers and volunteers who make the program so enjoyable. Advice from LSV will assist here.

Competition

We had a solid season across many of our competition categories over the summer, and saw some very positive growth in our competitors and teams throughout the season. The Junior Competition team were fortunate enough to have their State Championships go ahead, however Senior Competition was stopped due to the pandemic, and were regrettably not able to finish their season. Pool Competition and IRB Racing were also cancelled in Victoria in the interest of public and member safety. At this time we are waiting for direction from LSV as to training and competition requirements for the upcoming season.

Club Pool & Facilities

Club Directors are working on the reopening of our club. The club is undertaking a thorough professional cleaning and implementing the new regulations set to ensure the safety of each and every member. There will be new signage in place, social distancing guidelines put up along with daily hygiene cleaning protocols.

We know this period has been challenging for all of us, but we hope that the prospect of being involved in the Club, seeing old friends, making new ones, and enjoying everything our beautiful Williamstown Beach has to offer is giving you some hope and excitement for the time ahead. We look forward to seeing all of your happy, smiling faces at the beach when we can.