



# WS&LSC AQUANUT NEWSLETTER

FEB 2022

## What's going on around the Club!

Vale Tom Webster

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New MPO – Charlie Evans

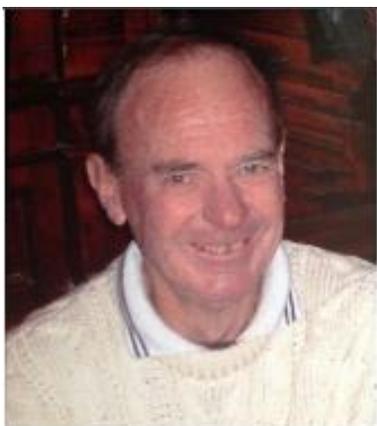
WS&LSC members take on the Rip Swim

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## Vale Tom Webster

**Thomas James Alfred Webster**  
**2nd August 1940- 18th January 2022**



Williamstown Swimming & Life Saving Club Life Member Tom Webster passed away recently aged 81.

Tom was born in Williamstown and lived in the area until he retired to Anglesea in the late 1990s. He attended Williamstown Grammar and Williamstown High School.

Tom was well known throughout Williamstown and was an active member in the community. He was a third generation newsagent, (all 3 generations named Thomas Webster), running the family business, Webster's Newsagency, in Ferguson St. The Webster family owned and ran the news agency from 1906 until it was sold in 1992.



He joined the Williamstown S&LSC as a young boy and obtained his Bronze Medallion. He was the creator and editor of the Club's monthly magazine "the Aquanut" during the 1960's. He was also an enthusiastic member of the Club's social committee. Tom was made a Life Member of the Williamstown S&LSC in 1964. Tom's family has donated old copies of the Aquanut magazine to the Club.

Tom's other interests included the Williamstown Football Club where he served as a board member for 7 years. He was also a member of the Williamstown Rotary Club. He obtained his pilot's license in 1972 and was a member of the Point Cook Flying Club.

Tom has 4 children, eldest daughter Sonia, twin girls Susan and Julie and a son Peter. He also has 3 grandchildren, Imogen, Alyssa and Cody

**The WS&LSC Newsletter will be known from now on as the Aquanut. This represents a link to our Club's history, as well as being a fitting way to honour Tom's contributions to our Club.**





## WOW Challenge Swim



Welcome to our New and Existing Members!! It's that time of the year we would love all our members young and old to get involved in our club's biggest fundraiser on Sunday 27 February 2022. This is a great way to meet new friends and members and as the saying goes, many hands make light work to continue to make our **WOW** the best open water swim event of the season!!

We welcome and encourage everyone to be a part of all the action and fun of the **WOW Challenge**, we have varied roles to suit all skills and time availability. With your help we will make this event a special day. You can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4FA4A829A4F94-volunteer2>

For **Water Safety Volunteers** we ask that you access the following link and give details about the role you are able/qualified to do: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOY9CV6aPHyi-X9-THKzxRJSp8Lgai1\\_meBCyIIvZUEpTAYw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOY9CV6aPHyi-X9-THKzxRJSp8Lgai1_meBCyIIvZUEpTAYw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**On Monday 21st & Thursday 24th February at 6.30pm** we will be hosting a Volunteer Briefing. In appreciation of our volunteers, we will be providing pizzas on the night. There will be volunteer t-shirts available for collection at either of the volunteer briefings where your Area Manager will be happy to brief you on any role you have signed up for!

Please note that all volunteers should have a Working With Children Check & be double vaccinated.

IF YOU ARE SWIMMING on the day enjoy, but please consider volunteering for one of the early, later or pre-event volunteer roles that don't clash with your event. We also welcome anyone who would like to volunteer for more than 1 role.

**Thank you and see you on the beach!**

The WOW Challenge Committee





## Warrick O'Donnell Letter

This letter was received by Williamstown S&LSC on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 after Warrick O'Donnell was able to use the 'Accessible Beaches' aquatic wheelchairs based at our Club to experience the ocean for the first time.

*My brother Warrick O'Donnell, born 4 November 1975, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy after birth. His condition is permanent and significant and he is completely dependent on full time care. Warrick understands everything in his own environment but has very little outgoing communication. Unfortunately people like Warrick don't have a voice in the community and so are often forgotten, making daily tasks and activities that able bodied people don't need to think twice about very difficult and often impossible.*

*A VERY special event occurred today with thanks to so many dedicated people and community groups including Williamstown SLSC, Life Saving Victoria and Hobsons Bay City Council.*

*Today Warrick went to the beach for a swim for the first time in 40 years thanks to the accessibility track and mobiChair that was made available at Williamstown Beach.*

*We watched in awe as Warrick experienced the senses of the beach for the first time again. His courage and trust in all of us to take him into the water was inspirational.*

*Going to the beach is something we all love to do. Accessibility for all is what we need to make it happen for Warrick and others with high need disabilities. While there were gaps in facilities that Warrick required today the team around us were very receptive to us shining a light on people with high need disabilities and the facilities they require.*

*With upgrades to facilities in the pipeline we welcome the opportunity to work with the community groups and council in the hope that one day soon Warrick can spend another day at the beach where he can enjoy a shower and change into dry clothes to travel home.*

*Warrick and his family are thankful to Paul Sullivan, and the team from Life Saving Victoria who helped make today as comfortable, safe and inclusive as possible today.*

*Today was a huge step forward and a dream come true.*

*With thanks,  
The O'Donnell Family.*





## Nippers Education Program

Our Nippers Education Program is the crowning jewel for our Club in developing the future of the our Club and lifesaving in our community. Much like everything else over the past two years, COVID has affected how we have run our program over the last few seasons, with the many obstacles that come with providing a community service during a pandemic.

However, our amazing Nippers Sub-Committee have put in a lot of work throughout the last 6 months to deliver an amazing program for our Nippers in 2022! Our army of Age Managers and Water Safety have volunteered their time to deliver a fun and educational program for over 300 Nippers, showcasing the importance of water safety education and the opportunities that lifesaving can provide for all members of the community.

The past four weeks have been filled with skill development, water safety awareness, games and activities that are aimed at both educating young members of the community and providing a fun, healthy and active outlet. The 2022 Nippers Program will be capped off this weekend with our annual Emergency Services Day, where organisations such as Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria and Fire Rescue Victoria engage with our Nippers to talk about what they do and how they also help the community.

A massive thank you must go out to all the volunteers who give up their time to help run our fantastic program, from Age Manager and water safety to our BBQ and cordial people and everyone in between, our Club thrives on volunteers and everyone in the Nipper Program exemplifies the qualities that define volunteerism.





## Patrols – Update

It has been a great season for patrols so far in the 2021/22 season, with some great weather and plenty of beach-goers keeping our patrollers on their toes throughout patrols. Even though we are about half way through the season, there is still plenty more for our patrolling members over the next few months:

**Pink Patrol** – This Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, we are celebrating our dedicated women in lifesaving with WS&LSC’s first Pink Patrol! Come on down and participate in this patrol to celebrate the amazing women who represent our Club at the highest levels, with some special activities to happen on the day. Males are also welcome to come on down and be ‘Male Champions’ on the patrol as well.

**WOW Challenge Swim** – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. This day is biggest fundraiser for the Club every year and we need as many of you as possible to put up your hands and help make this day one to remember for our Club and our community. Help can be given in a variety of roles both on the beach and in the water, to sign up for water safety please click this link [here](#). If you are able to help out in a land role, please see the link [here](#).

**Silver Patrol** – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Our volunteer lifesavers represent a broad range of ages, backgrounds and skills levels, with some of our members showing amazing dedication in continuing to patrol after many years. To celebrate these members and their ongoing commitment, the Club is holding a Silver Patrol for all patrollers over the age of 50+ years. Come on down, patrol, reminisce and enjoy the beach with some of our most experienced patrollers!

Patrol Roster can be viewed [here](#). Patrol availability for the remainder of the 2021/22 season can be submitted [here](#).





## Training & Development - Update

It has been a very busy season for our Training team over the past few months, with a number of courses being run throughout the season.

### SRC & Bronze Medallion

We have had ( ) SRCs and ( ) Bronze Medallions go through courses over October and December 2021. These members come from a variety of backgrounds and skill levels, but it is a pleasure to see community members standing up to serve their community and volunteering their time to learn the skills and knowledge that make volunteer lifesavers capable of protecting the community and saving lives. Thank you to all the Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators who have assisted on these courses throughout the season so far!



### First Aid & Advanced Resuscitation Techniques

Recent changes to the First Aid and ART awards have affected how we can ensure that these awards are present on patrols. However, as always, a number of our members have stepped up and participated in an update course with members of Altona LSC to get accredited with these vital awards. As we continue to get our TAFs accredited to deliver this training, we hope to be offering more courses to not only our patrolling members but our Club members as well. These awards are nationally recognised First Aid certifications, and are accepted across many industries. Keep an eye out for future courses on TeamApp.



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## Training Officer Certificate

Congratulations to Stacey Cockram and Rebecca Cameron, who recently completed their TOC awards and are excited to assist with awards training across the variety of areas available in lifesaving. Our team has steadily grown over the past few years and we are proud of our TAFs who give up their time to deliver these courses for our members.

## Upcoming Courses

Our Training team is looking at a number of courses to be delivered throughout the end of the season and over the upcoming winter period leading into next year, including IRB Crew and Driver courses, Silver Medallion Beach Management, First aid and ART courses, as well as more Bronze Medallion and SRC courses for those wishing to get more involved with our patrol operations next season. Any courses will be posted on our Club TeamApp page, so keep an eye open for those announcements. If you would like to register your interest for these awards, please email our Director of Training at [training@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:training@williamstownslsc.org.au)





## Competition – Update

### Junior

We had Four athletes compete in the Victorian Endurance Champs with some great results.

U13 Miller Szalay – 1<sup>st</sup> in 2km run

U12 Madigan Carroll – 1<sup>st</sup> in 2km run & 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1km swim

U12 Mahli McCarroll – 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2km board & 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2km swim

U12 Layla Pretorius – 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2km board

Our first full carnival of the season was at Mt Martha on 21 November. In our team of 25, 17 of those were competing for the first time representing WSLSC, including our youngest team members in the U8s – Ivy Raff, Airlie & Zara Pretorius. We had some great results, and everyone had a lot of fun.

Altona Carnival was on the 28 November, and it was great to see all the kids having fun and even getting to cheer on our Senior athletes who they usually don't get a chance to see.



Our last carnival for 2021 was at Ocean Grove on 5 December. Conditions were challenging but the kids all pushed themselves and had some good results and a lot of fun. There were some spectacular rescues as boards went flying, and our water safety had their work cut out for them.

Our U13 girls, all who are new to the sport, were fantastic in the way they gave everything a go.

2022 started off slowly with the annual Cosy Corner carnival cancelled, however our team represented WS&LSC well at the Mordialloc and Point Leo carnivals in January and February, which showcased our young athletes skill and hard work throughout the season in the lead up to the Junior Victorian Lifesaving Championships, which are to be held at Lorne over the week of the 25-27<sup>th</sup> February. **Good luck to all of our Junior Team at States next weekend!**





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## Seniors & Masters

Jan Juc and Ocean Grove carnivals were rounds so no results  
Altona – Open Men’s beach relay team competed at Altona. This was the first in several years.

Results included a 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Open Men’s relay and 1<sup>st</sup> in 2km Masters beach run by Stacy Szalay.

The R&R team competed at Mount Martha and Ocean Grove Carnivals. Ocean Grove saw some trying conditions especially for the swimmers of the R&R teams. Our team faired well and are looking forward to being competitive in the season ahead. You will find the crew training regularly at Williamstown beach.



The Ocean Grove boat carnival was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December. True to Melbourne weather we saw four seasons in one day with a hail storm to finish during pack up. Both Reserve men’s and women’s boat crews faced up to the challenge of getting in the water in the freezing cold and came away with excellent results.

January has seen our crews flourish and compete with the best in the business in Victoria, with some great results at both VSRL and LSV carnivals! A big congratulations to our Williamstown ‘Whitecaps’ Reserve Women crew who took home Bronze at the VSRL championship at Anglesea!

February had the VSRL Carnival at Lorne which provided some challenging conditions for our crews, however some great experience as they eye off the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships (the Aussies) in early April. The Aussies is the premier competition for lifesaving in Australia, and with 4 Williamstown crews heading up to the competition at Broadbeach, North Kirra and Kurrawa on the Gold Coast in only a few weeks, we wish them the best of luck!

Our talented crews came away with some jewellery, with the Witches (160 Women) taking out the Silver medal and the Whitecaps (180 Women) nabbing the





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February also saw the annual Masters Victorian Lifesaving Championships run alongside a LSV Seniors carnival in sunny Lorne in the same wild conditions, with some great results:

## Masters

Sally Leung and Valerie Scholes – Silver, Board Rescue (50-54)

Sally Leung – Silver, Surf Swim (50-54)

Gillian Schalkwijk – Silver, Surf Swim (60-65)

Valerie Scholes, Sally Leung, Gillian Schalkwijk – Gold, Surf Swim Teams (170+)

## Seniors

R&R Team – Bronze

Claire Hodgart – Gold, 2km Beach Run

Well done to all of our new and returning athletes for your hard work, training and dedication towards representing our Club in this great sport!





## SRC's First Patrol

Some of our new SRC's were recently in the local Star Weekly newspaper! These young members have seized the opportunity to patrol and have already established themselves as fantastic patrolling members of Williamstown S&LSC. You can find the article here:

<https://maribyrnonghobsonsbay.starweekly.com.au/news/refugee-kids-take-part-in-their-first-lifesaving-patrol-at-williamstown/>

A group of determined teenagers who have immigrated to Australia or have parents who were born overseas are taking to the beach today for their first patrol as volunteer lifesavers at Williamstown Swimming and Lifesaving Club, after learning to swim and completing their Surf Rescue Certificates.

The group, aged between 13 and 16 from Thailand and Malaysia, and have spent the past few years participating in Life Saving Victoria's 'Learn to Swim' program, with the goal of developing their skills to seek training and employment opportunities.

After successfully completing the Learn to Swim program, they have now also finished their Surf Rescue Certificates and are ready to spring into action at Williamstown beach.

Life Saving Victoria's manager for diversity and inclusion program delivery Michael Masseni said its fantastic to see the development of the group over the past few years.

"These kids really have been determined to complete their courses so that they can get out and undertake patrols. Developing these skills and achieving this qualification also provides them with the opportunity to take on employment as swim teachers or pool lifeguards in the years to come," Mr Masseni said.



"The Surf Rescue Certificate program saw them learning vital water safety skills, undertake rescue techniques, learn CPR, the essentials of conducting a club patrol and how best to supervise the beach. They will be able to conduct rescues and we have no doubt that their enthusiasm will filter through to the wider community both at the club and beyond.

"Many recent Australians were not able to learn aquatic safety skills in their country of birth due to them growing up in landlocked countries or areas involved in economic or political uncertainty. Greater CALD



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community participation in aquatic activities in Victoria is essential, as water safety knowledge and learning how to swim are lifelong skills that can prevent drowning, especially for people who might have less water literacy.”

With people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds almost twice as likely to drown than other Victorians, Mr Masseni says the impact of new generations embracing programs like this is immense.

“We know that in some situations, messages like “swim between the red and yellow flags” are not understood or mean different things in different countries. Facilitating programs that establish CALD aquatic role models, working alongside established lifesavers and lifeguards, has a flow on effect to the water literacy within the wider community.

“As we’ve seen with Sheli, who joined the program after her mum saw the value of water safety in LSV’s Learn to Swim program herself, becoming a swim teacher almost ten years prior, the generational impact cannot be underestimated.

“LSV works with a wide variety of groups including newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and international students, with the vision that all Victorians are equipped crucial aquatic knowledge so they can safely enjoy our waterways. We also work with a vast network of more than 450 community groups, schools and agencies to try and improve these outcomes.”

Williamstown Swimming and Lifesaving Club President Paul Sullivan said that the club was excited to provide a space for community connection and inclusion.

“Everyone should be able to attend beaches and waterways to enjoy such a fundamental part of life, without it turning into a tragedy. These kids are such important role models for everyone in their communities,” Paul Sullivan said.

“By simply getting involved they’re helping to spread water safety to vulnerable communities. By participating with such highly developed skills, they’re going even further to create connections, develop new friendships and remove barriers to participation that may be perceived to exist.”





## New Member Protection Officer – Charlie Evans

Williamstown S&LSC would like to welcome Charlie Evans as the Club's new Member Protection Officer!

Charlie has been an active member of WSLSC community since 2014 and enjoys the friendship and collective good-will held within the club.

WSLSC offers so many benefits to the individual including access to a caring and motivated local community, physically and mentally healthy lifestyle opportunities along with training and personal development whilst volunteering and supporting local families and visitors to this iconic Melbourne location.

He is a long-time participant within the open water swim community and works directly with SwimWell Australia to better engage adults in Open water swimming and water safety. Charlie is an ASCTA qualified swim coach, teacher of all swim levels and Ultra-marathon swimmer, regularly testing himself in events beyond 20km distance.

Charlie is married with two grown up daughters both of whom currently live overseas. He is a landscape designer with 30 years' experience and teacher of Horticulture within the TAFE system and keen amateur photographer.



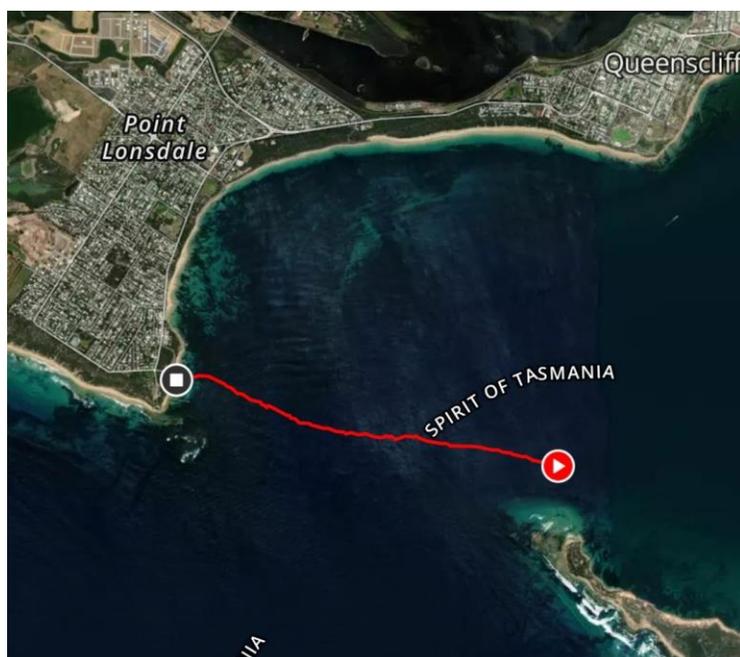


## WS&LSC Members take on the Rip Swim

On Saturday February 5, the “Willy Rippers” swam across the Rip from Point Nepean to Point Lonsdale. Seven of the eight team members making the crossing are WSLSC Members; Ruth Patterson, Jeff Challis, Marco Giudici, James Black, Paul Turner, Staeven Vallak and Life Member Merrin McTaggart. Our eighth team member is a ring in from over the bridge, Dick Williams.



For the week leading up to the swim, we were all nervously watching the weather forecast. Conditions leading up to the weekend were marginal with seas 1 – 1.5 metre and wind strength around 15 knots. 15 knots is OK for us in the water, but not for our paddling guides in Kayaks. As the day dawned there was a predicted lull around the middle of the day with a drop in the wind to 10 knots and the swell of around a metre. Much better, including a fresh easterly to push us across the heads. We actually swam in an unexpectedly straight line and covered the 3.2km+ distance in well under an hour. And that included stops for photo opportunities courtesy of our official team photographer Paul Turner. The odds were in our favour.





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Including our experienced guide in the green Kayak Eugene, we had Jane Jensen and Ron Grimble piloting their boat in escort and of course the catamaran “Amour de la Mer” with skipper Ivan who ferried us from Queenscliff to Point Nepean and kept a watchful eye us during our return journey. Ivan has assisted the Rip Swim for many crossings and if quizzed, will provide tips on Rum selection, which Paul dutifully followed ;)



As well as our friends and partners, greeting us on the beach at our Point Lonsdale Landing were more club life members; Liz Goga, Sam Cockfield, Kaye Tomkins and daughter Kathryn with their “You Bloody Rippers” welcome. Thanks to Kaye for the Dolphins for our swim bags and Sam for the celebratory toast.



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Grant Siedle runs a top-notch professional outfit [Rip Swim - Open Water & Ocean Swimming Events](#). Coordinating 50 swimmers, escort boats, safety craft, team paddlers, monitoring shipping, tides, wind and weather, is not something you can take lightly. We all thank Grant for looking after all of us. Also looking after us we had Marcus Stacey on water safety.

Thanks to all the team members. While I know we see each other around the club and spend a fair bit of time in the water together, it was an absolute privilege to swim the Rip with such good friends.

Time to start planning a Winter Crossing!

Staeven Vallak





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