

the PEOPLE OF TSLSC

1st edition



Our people are the difference...

Sure we've missed the beach, missed the club house and the waves, but what we've missed the most above all is our mates. And, without doubt, we will never take the small things for granted again. Like hanging out at the gear shed chatting to club mates, riding the waves with our boat crew mates, sitting with friends on the beach wall watching the million dollar beach view, a beer with comrades in the bar, the list goes on, and it all involves our mates. Our club is made up of a diverse group of people, and together we are something pretty special...

NATE *kearney*



We moved to Torquay in December 2018. It was a family decision, all 5 of us had our own vote and after a few trips to the beach on some warm days the decision was unanimous. The only 'non- negotiable' was joining the Surf Life Saving Club. My brother and sister in the Nippers program and me into the SRC because Mum and Dad wanted all of us to be capable and confident in and around the ocean.

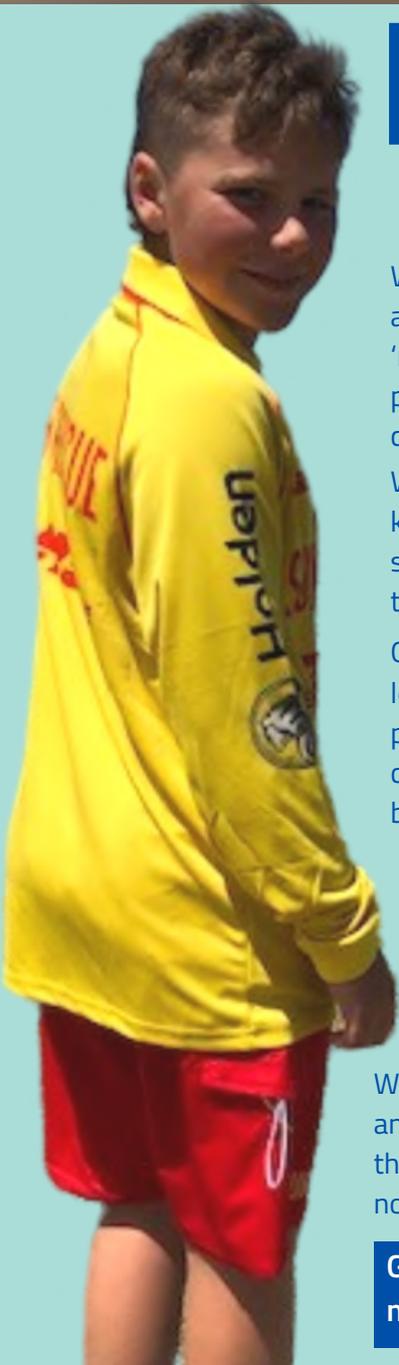
We chose the Torquay SLSC because another member of the SRC team, Will Martin was so kind to me from the moment I moved down to Torquay. I would be lying if I said I wasn't sooooo nervous, having been a pool swimmer and following a black line in perfect conditions twice a week for a few years.

Getting on the rescue board was an adventure. I would have looked like I was three years old learning to ride a bike again. Thankfully Cam Mercer was very patient and encouraging. Very patient. The guys and girls I met were awesome, so awesome that I put my hand up to compete alongside them in individual events where I was just stoked to finish in swimming, board and running events. If you haven't run on sand before, try it, its bloody tough.

I felt bad when I put my hand up to compete in the team events and relays because I was confident I wasn't exactly the secret weapon. But my team mates were the best, the boys and the girls just so happy and always cheering me on. Special mention to my friend and team mate, Ollie Maddelena who would scream my name so loud that sometimes it would scare my opponents and I would pass them.

When I received my Surf Rescue Certificate I was so proud of myself. Then I had to patrol, with another new friend Harry Glass. He's from Wodonga haha, it was the boy from the burbs and the boy from the bush here on the coast and ready to save lives. Lucky all the beach goers had no idea.

Got a story to share? Or know someone who we can feature? Let's get to know our club mates! Send your ideas, words and pics to marketing.tslsv@gmail.com



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Sally GLEN

My boat crew (The Allform Reserves / Masters Women) followed Hector (Neil Heathcote) back to his original club, so I'm pretty new at Torquay.

I've been in lifesaving since 1999 when I joined North Cott in WA and moved from river to surf rowing. Pretty happy to already be on the Aussies wall at the club!

My best memories of our club are being able to patrol with my daughters hanging around on the beach - my eldest said just recently she wants to try rowing, and will do her Bronze this summer.

Of course, catching waves along the coast with the crew is definitely a highlight. I also thought the last whole club working bee was fun, well organised and productive.

I'm missing The Village most in this iso-world! I'm out and about when I'm not working and I'm missing all the different people in my life who give me purpose, fun, love and memories. My family are still creating memories but I miss my village.

When life starts to return to some sort of normality I am looking forward to getting in the boat, returning to the beach and making a holiday plan.

Something my club mates might not know is that I'm an engineer, I am passionate about leadership & learning, and I also recently had an article published: [Managing While Virtual - Leadership, Being Human & Performance Management](#).

Read Sally's published article [HERE](#).



BEN smith

Born in Tassie I grew up with motor racing in my blood thanks to my Father and Grandfather.

I began riding motorbikes at 3 years old which soon turned in to years of racing a love I still have today. My family moved to the Gold Coast when I was 14, which was easily the best decision they ever made. This allowed me to grow up by the beach, with surfing as a subject at school it was pretty clear I was always going to love the ocean.

Leaving school in 2000 to begin my career in nightclubbing and partying, it was time to get a little serious, so I moved to Airlie Beach where I met my now wife Liz.

Liz being from Geelong it was clear we had to move back to Vic where we decided on Torquay as our home. We've been married almost 13 years with two boys which some of you know from the Nipper Program, Braxton & Mack.

Braxton has been doing Nippers for 2 years now and absolutely loves it, Mack will start this year but it is clear his passion is FMX.

I am director at Hayden Real estate and have been in the industry for 14 years, I am involved in several local community groups and I'm stoked for our office to be the major sponsor of the Nippers programme, and am looking forward to the coming season.



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the PURCELLS

They became involved with TSLSC back in November 2017 before they had even found a house to live in! Taj was quite determined in stating "well if we are moving to Torquay then I am definitely doing Torquay nippers!" They ended finding their home in Jan Juc, but at this point Taj was already enrolled and convinced he was a Torquay'n!

They are the owners/operators of CrossFit Bells Beach and proud sponsors of the club. They see the mutual benefits of both sports when they work together. Just ask Taj how much he improved on his flags start this season with doing so many burpees in the gym! The resilience often required for Iron was also proudly proven to them at States this year, when the only two U/11 Boys were from their CrossFit Kids/Teens program.

If they were movie stars they'd like to think they would be like the family from The Incredibles! Individually Shanon loves the Jason Bourne series and Lisa would love to play Angelina Jolie's character in Salt!

They are absolute food lovers, especially great quality produce, fresh from the farm. So they would have to say one of their favourite meals they often enjoy together, is a slow cooked leg lamb in rosemary from Tarna Valley Farm, with roasted sweet potatoes and big side of fresh green vegetables from either Peachs or the local markets.

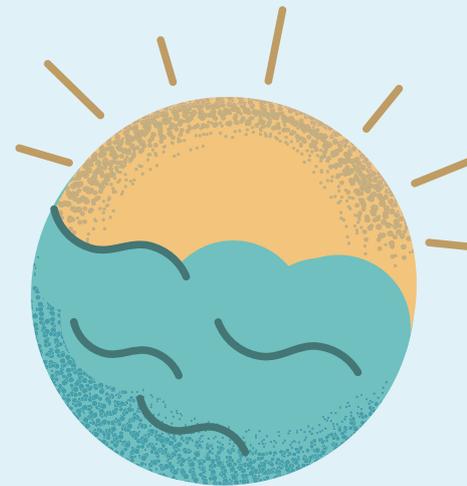
Their favourite thing to do in isolation has definitely been teaching classes via Zoom to their members and to the TSLSC community. This was definitely so when they held they annual Anzac Day Hero WOD and ceremony with over 70 people on Zoom!

Nothing makes their hearts burst more, than helping people in the community to keep moving and looking after their health in this period. On the flip side, they are definitely missing coaching you all in person, but hopefully not much longer until they can!

If they had to choose water or land, both Shanon & Taj answered with water (no surprise!) but Lisa feels safer on land (and with more variety of food too!)

Something you may not know about them is that one of Shanon's best mates is the legendary Olympian and Surf Lifesaver, Clint Robinson. Shanon often travelled around the countryside with Clint on the Uncle Toby's series (before it was Nutri-Grain!) and they have remained mates ever since.

They all had a bit of laugh when last season they bought Taj his first fibreglass board (second-hand) and the seller advertised it with "and signed by Clint Robinson!" Taj had a great season on that board and has now happily passed it on to another upcoming TSLSC Nipper!



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Geoff Morgan

I grew up in Gippsland near the famous Ninety Mile Beach and in my last year in High School was a foundation member of the Woodside Beach Surf Lifesaving Club in 1968.

We were sponsored and trained by Seaspray Surf Lifesaving Club over a period of about 12 months and my surf bronze, No V3306, is dated January 1969.

Our first Surf boat was the 'Fredrick Craig' handed down from Seaspray in 1969 and I became the first sweep for the Junior Boat crew, rated by my brother, one of the crew, as the worst Sweep in Australia.

I stopped patrolling with Woodside Beach SLC in 1972 when I was posted to the Mildura region as a Primary Teacher. For about the next 30 years I worked throughout Victoria and Australia as a teacher, trainer and formed my own consultancy business, which lasted 26 years with clients in the wine industry, supermarket industry, caravan parks, and government agencies. My final contract was as the training manager, training staff preparing for the opening of the Eastlink Tollway.

I moved to Torquay/Jan Juc in 1997 and joined TSLSC in the early 2000's and since that time I have enjoyed surfing, body boarding, and swimming most days for the last 20 years.

Most of my involvement with TSLSC these days is volunteering for BBQ's, breakfasts at the bronze camps.

After Gary drowned, I inherited the role of publishing the temperatures each day on the blackboard in the change rooms and publishing them on our Facebook page.

I enjoy the comradeship of the surf club and the group I swim with each day and hope it goes on for many years to come.

And finally I look forward to the Club opening again to enjoy the warm showers; winter is on the way!



EMMA VINEY



What is your day job?

When there is no covid-19 I usually am working retail, or working on the ambulance in Anglesea. I am hoping to be a paramedic soon though!

If you were a movie star who would you be and why?

My friends say Jessica Beil and my boyfriend says Shrek but honestly I don't know!

Favourite food?

Not exactly a food but definitely ice cream!

Favourite thing to do in isolation?

Ride my bike and go for walks with my dog.

What are you missing most the moment other than TSLSC?

Going to the footy with my friends and family #carnthetiges

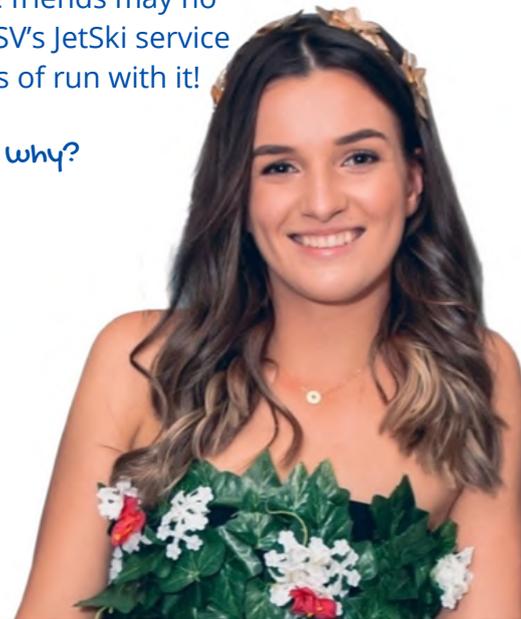
Something you TSLSC friends may know about you?

Some of my TSLSC friends may not know I've recently joined LSV's JetSki service and am having lots of fun with it!

Water or land and why?

Water!!

So many reasons why, it clears your head, you're away from technology, it's gentle on your body the list goes on!



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JASON LEE

I remember in my late teens, once a year, Dave, Swiv and others guys in the surf club would "do their Bronze". Not being involved in surf life saving, I asked, "Why? What are you doing that for? Aren't we going surfing?". I'd get cryptic answers about patrols and never really understood much about it other than it was some sort of swimming medal.

My father had completed the Bronze Medallion when he was young, so there was this curiosity I had about it and one of those things that maybe I should get around to doing one day.

We joined Torquay SLSC at the end of 2018, primarily for our kids to do the Nippers SHP. Once it started on Boxing Day, I learnt that there was a Bronze Medallion course for adults already underway. I asked around if the course would be run again, but it's only run at the end of the year. I remember thinking at the time, "Right. I'm doing it next year!".

The 2019/2020 season approached and I'd already been roped into U9 Assistant Age Manager. When the call for parents to sign up for the Bronze Medallion started, I thought, "Damn. I can't do it because it clashes with the Nipper SHP". Hendo, Daph and Bek encouraged me to do it and would cover the U9 sessions for me, which was great of them.

Having Bill and Tiff deliver the first aid course was great. Bill's vast experience and pragmatic approach to first aid is fantastic. I really enjoyed learning about the various human body systems, some of which I didn't know anything about.

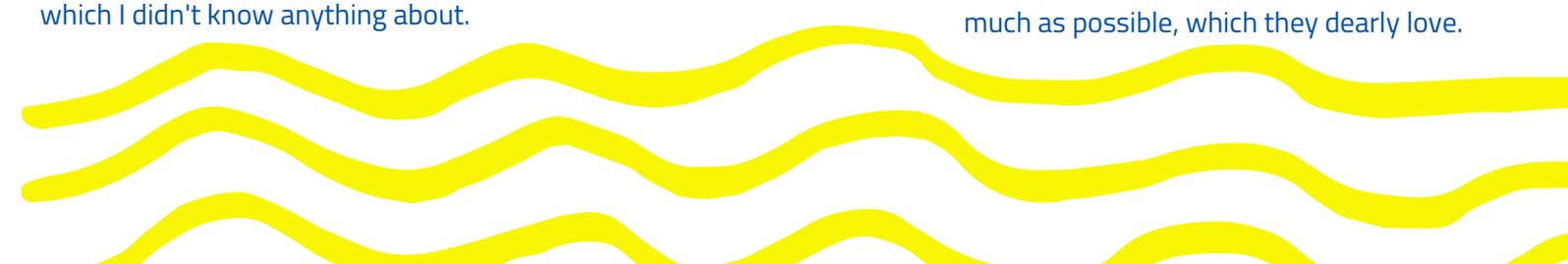
I felt comfortable asking all those silly questions I didn't know the answer to. Learning how to use the defibrillator was great too. You see them at work, in shopping centres, everywhere, but as I'd never used one I always had this thought "Hope I never have to use one. I'll probably make a mistake". You also learn about beach and surf safety, how to handle injured people and perform rescues with a board and tube. I'd highly recommend the Bronze Medallion course to any parent.

You not only learn a wealth of information about first aid and beach safety, but it boosts your confidence to deal with situations should they arise. It's also a good opportunity to challenge yourself and get involved with the club.

I've found everyone involved to be welcoming and helpful. I enjoyed the challenge of the 400m swim and although it's not a race, it was a race for pride between Dave and I.

Firstly, you develop the skills to help others in need. I think it also sets a good example for the kids. Something for them to look up to.

Being an Age Manager, it helps solidify the skills you are teaching the Nippers, but you don't have to be an age manager to benefit from the training. Learning these skills helps you to not just look out for your own kids, but for others in the club and the community. By holding a Bronze, the club also benefits by sharing the water safety resourcing during Nipper sessions. This enables the Age Managers to have the kids in the water as much as possible, which they dearly love.



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Christopher (Kit) North, under 6 Nipper talks to his Pa, Eugene (Titch) Cullity...

Have you ever seen a shark?

Yes, several as we were paddling from Jan Juc to Torquay Point on longboards. The small shark came underneath the boards and we stood up to look at it. But as quickly as it came it disappeared. I also saw a shark at Manly.

Have you ever rescued anyone?

Yes. We regularly picked up people off the Torquay Point when paddling on skis and took them into shallow water. In those days rescues were performed by reel and line. You would swim from the shore out into the water and once you secured the person, the people on the beach would pull them in. One rescue I oversaw directly involved Peter Wallace who swam to rescue the person in a very big swell, he had to go so far and in such swirling conditions, that we had to connect a line from a second reel to the one he was towing.

What was the biggest wave you caught and what beach was it at?

March 9th, Torquay Back Beach.

What events did you complete in?

Beach sprints, beach relay, surfboard races, surf ski races, and surf rescue. In the early days we had pillow fights on an elevated pole.

Were you a champion?

No far from it. *(He was a member of the Victorian beach relay team!)*

Who was the best surfer you saw?

Brian Beck on a surf ski and Sprint Walker as a body surfer. Many surfboard riders and wonderful surf swimmers including Ainslie Walker formerly of Manly SLSC and the first captain of Torquay SLSC. The best surf life savers I think I did see were Jeff Emerson and Michael O'Donnell, both members of Torquay.

Where did you stay in Torquay in the olden days?

We called our camping spot "Stars Haven"

What is your favourite beach in Australia?

Torquay Back Beach

