



The Mine

Newsletter of Point Leo SLSC



Point Leo SLSC
PO BOX 472, Point Leo VIC 3916

March 2025 Edition
Email: admin@pointleoslsc.com.au

This month in The MINE:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	1
LSV INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AWARDS 2025	4
SURF BOAT NEWS	5
SURF SPORTS NEWS	6
POOL LIFESAVING NEWS.....	6
NIPPER NEWS.....	7
JUNIOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND JUNIOR CARNIVALS	8

From the Editor:

If you would like to contribute to future editions of the MINE, please email: communications@pointleoslsc.com.au

Enjoy!

Congratulations to Milla Clark on her selection to represent Australia in the Australian Lifesaving Team at the upcoming Commonwealth Pool Lifesaving Championships in Wales - July 2025.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A warm hello to all club members!

Training

Our skills maintenance day, SRC course, and Bronze Medallion courses ran smoothly—a massive thank you to Britt and all the trainers who helped deliver these programs. It's incredible to see our new SRC members buzzing with enthusiasm as they join patrols and provide water safety. What an inspiring group of members!

The young Bronzies also deserve a special mention. Their dedication and team spirit have been outstanding. Many participants camped with parental supervision, and this arrangement is working exceptionally well.

Thank you, Andrew Gibson and Jane Starr, for leading the well-attended Adult Bronze Course—a fantastic addition to our training offerings.

Patrols

What a season it's been so far! We've seen impressive attendance on patrols, and we're grateful to all our members who consistently show up. A huge shoutout to Liam Whitehouse (Club Captain), Nat Clarke (Vice Club Captain), and Bridget Barnes (VP Lifesaving Operations) for their tireless efforts in managing patrols.

Our Patrol Captains, Vice-Captains, and teams have done an exceptional job in creating a safe and welcoming beach environment. Keeping Point Leo beach safe is our top priority, and you're all delivering beautifully. Thank you for your incredible work.

Pink Patrol

On Saturday, January 5th, we hosted our Pink Patrol, celebrating the contributions of women and girls in lifesaving. This year's event included a



PINK PATROL
CELEBRATING WOMEN IN LIFESAVING

fabulous morning high tea, where Simone Munro (former Club Captain, Hall of Fame member, and Life Member) and I had the honour of speaking. Thank you, Nat, Britt, and Zali for organising and supporting this inspiring day. Thanks also to Kaitlin for helping on the day. Special thanks to Murphy Clark and her patrol group—you made it extra special!

Swim Classic

The Boxing Day Point Leo Swim Classic faced a unique challenge this year with high fire-risk conditions. Thanks to Chris Oldham and his team, a swift decision was made to reschedule to an earlier time slot—a huge effort over Christmas Eve and Day.

The event ran smoothly, and we're grateful to everyone who made it happen, including all club member volunteers and sponsors like the Community Bank - Balnarring and District Bendigo Bank and Vantage Fuel and Bowser Bean. Special thanks to Haydn Tierney for organizing the t-shirts and donating volunteer shirts. What a team effort!

The earlier scheduling of the Swim Classic proved

popular amongst both volunteers and participants. Many appreciated the more stable conditions, which enhanced the overall experience and ensured a smoother event flow. This adjustment showcases the club's adaptability and commitment to providing the best possible experience for everyone involved.

Juniors

The Junior Surf Lifesaving Program kicked off on Saturday, December 28th, with perfect weather and fantastic participation: 265 Cubs, 242 Lions, and 5 (later to increase to 9) Starfish Nippers. Watching the sea of orange hats descend on the beach is always a highlight. We must capture this with drone footage next year!

A massive thank you to Junior Coordinator Tarena Murray and the Junior Sub-committee for orchestrating such a well-run program. Special thanks to Andrew Welsh and Chris Oldham for their tireless efforts with setup and pack-up. Mark "Hoppo" Hopkinson, the Sausage King as called by the Nippers, also deserves applause for coordinating the Nipper BBQ and securing ongoing support from club members for sponsoring the BBQ.

The Starfish Nippers program continues to shine as a model of inclusion. Thank you, Jane and Mike Starr, for your dedication to this initiative and to all club members who have supported it. It's heartening to see so many members finding their niche within the club.

The Junior Sunday Sessions and Surf Sports Program offer further opportunities for skill development and camaraderie. To all parents and volunteers, thank you for your time, energy, and passion—you're the backbone of these programs.

All the Junior Programs exist only because of the amazing contribution of parents and club member volunteers. You all are incredible in your commitment to your roles. I urge those of you that are not currently involved to step forward next year and volunteer. It is hugely rewarding, and it is great for your Nippers to see you become part of their program. There are many ways to be involved so you do not require any specific skills, and everyone has something to offer. Or you could choose to challenge yourself and learn a new skill as our Nippers do on a regular basis!

Youth

The Under 15 Youth Program, the Lion's Den, wrapped up with an activity day. Thank you to Liz Clancy for leading this initiative and channelling the energy of this dynamic age group. Their contributions to water safety and patrols have been outstanding.

Surf Sports

The Point Leo Gold event was a fabulous day, which we will continue to build on in the future. It is a spectacular event. It was so awe-inspiring to watch the many Nippers, Seniors and Masters giving it their all. And doing it all together. Special thanks to Jon Ford, Nick Clark, and the Surf Sports Team for organising the inspiring Point Leo Gold event, showcasing the unity of our Nippers, Seniors, and Masters.

We enjoyed cheering on our Junior, Senior and Master teams. There were some great results at carnivals and at State Carnivals which you can read all about below. Congratulations to all competitors. And best of luck to those competitors that are heading to Aussies.

Boaties

Read all about the Boaties' incredible achievements below, but first, a big thank you to Ant Williams for his unwavering dedication to growing this section of the club. We now have an additional 4 crews join Point Leo SLSC. So, a massive and warm welcome to all new boat rowers to our beloved club.

This means we will have seven crews now competing at Aussies, we're looking forward to a strong showing and a sea of orange caps on the beach!

Events

On Friday, January 3rd, we celebrated the 2023 Gary Tierney Foundation Inductees. Congratulations to Zali Cargill, Kate Brooks and Nat Clarke on receiving this year's fellowships. Thank you to the Tierney Family for hosting this meaningful event and supporting our young leaders.

Our 70th-anniversary family fun night on Tuesday, January 7th, was extraordinary—an evening filled with food, music, and joy. Huge thanks to Sandra Williams, Kim Williams, and the organising team for making it unforgettable.

The Muso Night on January 11th was another highlight, featuring talented Nippers and parents. Thank you, Adam Kyriacou, for bringing this magical evening to life.

Uniform Shop

Our uniform shop continues to thrive with on point, high-demand merchandise. Kudos to Sandra Williams and Mel McPherson for their brilliant designs and seamless operations. And to Kim Williams for her support.

Sponsors

We're deeply grateful to all our sponsors, including Vantage Fuels, Bowser Bean Café, Mornington Prime Cuts, Gant, Millar-Merrigan, and Absolute Surveying. Please support these businesses as they support us.

A special thank you to the Community Bank - Balnarring and District. Their partnership is invaluable, and we encourage members to consider them for their banking needs.

We are delighted to welcome *Home and Acreage* and *Grill'd* as new sponsors of the Point Leo SLSC. Their support marks the beginning of an exciting, mutually beneficial partnership. We look forward to collaborating with them to continue strengthening our club's programs and community engagement. Together, we can achieve great things and ensure the ongoing success of our lifesaving initiatives. Thank you, *Home and Acreage* and *Grill'd*, for joining our journey!

Final Thanks

To our committee, your behind-the-scenes efforts don't go unnoticed—we're lucky to have such a committed team. And finally, to all our members, thank you for your passion and contributions. Here's to another fantastic season!

Reflections on a Fantastic Junior State Carnival at Point Leo



I'm incredibly pleased to reflect on the outstanding Junior State Carnival we hosted at Point Leo from February 21st to 23rd. This was a huge event for our club, and I couldn't be prouder of how we came together as a community to deliver an exceptional experience for competitors, officials, and spectators alike.

A massive thank you to Andrew Welsh for his leadership as Carnival Director – his dedication and expertise ensured the event ran smoothly from start to finish. Also, a huge shoutout to Chris Oldham for all his work, particularly in the Risk and Management space. So many others played vital roles, and

while I won't attempt to name everyone individually, please know that your efforts were truly appreciated – from those who prepared the clubhouse in the lead-up to the event, to those who worked tirelessly over the three days of competition.

The event itself was executed brilliantly. Parking was managed seamlessly, beach set-ups were outstanding, and the opening ceremony was a true highlight, with Sam Groth in attendance to mark the occasion. The relaxed function at the bar following the opening set a warm and welcoming tone for the weekend, with great food and hospitality.



A special thank you to Holly Cleven and the team who coordinated and delivered official lunches and refreshments throughout the carnival. Their efforts ensured that officials and volunteers were well looked after, and the feedback on the catering was overwhelmingly positive. Our BBQ was also a great success, thanks to the many teams from across the club who pitched in to keep everyone well-fed. And of course, a huge thanks to the pack-up crew on Sunday for restoring everything to order – an incredible effort.

The feedback from LSV, officials, and families attending has been fantastic. Point Leo SLSC truly shone as a host club, and it was wonderful to see members from all areas contributing to the success of the carnival. This event was a perfect reflection of our club values – respect, teamwork, and community spirit.

Once again, a heartfelt thank you to all who helped – your efforts didn't go unnoticed!

Julia O'Shaughnessy
PRESIDENT | president@pointleoslsc.com.au

LSV INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AWARDS 2025

Congratulations of the following Point Leo SLSC female members who were nominated by the club to receive LSV International Women's Day Awards this year. The LSV IWD Awards recognise the outstanding contributions of females to their club.

Dianne Summers (senior 30+)

Di Summers was nominated due to her incredible work in the last 12 months towards the development and implementation for the child/youth safety and wellbeing policies and procedures for the club. Thanks to her willingness to use her professional knowledge in this area, the club is now in a good position to safeguard our junior members.

Brittany Morgenthaler (emerging leader 16-30)

Brittany is an exceptional young leader who nurtures our junior members through their lifesaving journey from attaining valuable surf education skills at Nippers through to Bronze medallion and beyond.

She has continued to upskill and has kept the club abreast of the changing SLSA/LSV requirements for each Award to ensure that Point Leo is compliant with its lifesaving duties at all times. Along the way she has gone above and beyond her normal duties as Chief Instructor and has been instrumental in talent spotting our future leaders of the club and maintaining their engagement and enthusiasm for lifesaving and continued connection with the club.

She is an important face of Point Leo for many members and her warm and approachable disposition is a magnet for people of all ages to ask her for guidance and reassurance. She has been a constant for many families and juniors for many years holding the Chief Instructors role for nearly 10 years and thanks to her exceptional teaching, the club has many well trained and qualified people.

A true club person who is always thinking of others, she has also successfully mentored many juniors as they transition through from Nippers to Seniors and provided support in their own leadership journey, ensuring succession planning for the club and its continued vibrance.



Sarah-Jo Mason
VICE PRESIDENT MEMBER DEVELOPMENT | memberdevelopment@pointleoslsc.com.au

SURF BOAT NEWS

What a couple of months for the boat section!

February saw the **Victorian Masters** at Lorne. Gold for the Point Leo Platos Mens crew in the 220+ and Gold to the Lounge Lizards Mens crew in the 160+ to assist the Club again being declared the Champion club in Masters.

We then progressed through to the **ASRL Open** (Aust Surf Rowers League) held in Coffs Harbour. With some 9ft+ surf on the beaches the event was moved to the harbour. With some solid rows both the Plato's in the Masters and the Mimosa's crew in the Reserve Grade Ladies section had semi final finishes. The event highlighted some additional work crews need to compete on the National stage. Great work by Higgi and Crombie in the transport.

Next was the **Vic State Titles** at Warrnambool. The Masters Crew (Platos) represented the club in the Open Boat race (and competed admirably). There were great results by our two Senior crews – Gold to the Mimosas Ladies crew in the Reserve Grade and Silver to the Lounge Lizards Mens crew in Reserve Grade. The boys were a bit stiff in the final considering they won all the heats and semi final in the lead up. Along with the rowing, the Mimosa crew also won Gold in the Lifesaver relay (this includes both boats and surfsports). A first Gold for Point Leo in this event ever. A massive result that shows the depth of talent across all sections / ages and genders of our club. So a great 'vibe' around the section and a massive thanks to all our sponsors and supporters. GANT, Absolute Surveying, Community Bank – Balnarring and District, Shoreham Surf, Grill'd and Bowser Bean.

All the focus is now on the Aussie Titles (North Kirra). With some great admin work by Kim Williams the Point Leo SLSC and the boat section has been strengthened with some further inclusions of additional Victorian crews that would have otherwise missed the opportunity to compete. These crews are among some of the best in Australia and their inclusion in our team is a real bonus for both the Club and the section. We will now have the following competition crews competing.

- Masters Mens 220+ (Platos)
- Masters Womens 180+ (To be Wild) - with club Life Member Tamara Brawn back competing for Team Leo
- Reserve Grade Mens (Lounge Lizards)
- Reserve Grade Womens (Mimosa's)
- Open Men (Chops) – with Geoff Matthews back competing for Team Leo
- U23 Mens (Windies) – with Riley Williams back competing for Team Leo and Geoff's son Angus in the same crew (3rd generation boaties)
- Open Womens (Edge)

So with (7) boat crews competing for Team Leo it's going to be an exciting time to be a boatie and great to have some Leo people 'back home'. We will keep all our supporters updated on results, a massive thank-you to all for your support and assistance.



Ant Williams

BOAT CAPTAIN | surfboats@pointleoslsc.com.au

SURF SPORTS NEWS

The 2024/2025 Surf Sports season has been a highly successful and rewarding one for Point Leo SLSC. Our athletes continued to build on past progress, showing dedication, resilience, and team spirit throughout the season. The Life Saving Victoria Senior State Titles were an amazing event for the club, and the results speak volumes about the depth of talent and hard work within our club. Point Leo achieved multiple top-six finishes across water, beach, and team events, with standout performances in:

- Open Ironman – 1st Harry Atkins
- Open Lifesaver Relay – 1st Meredith Baker, Monique Bange, Megan Dwyer, Elizabeth Gilbert, Higgie (sweep), Matt Graves (ski), Harry Atkins (swim), Max Alekna (run), Oscar Skehan (board)
- Oscar Laity – 1st U14 Flags

A special mention goes to our U14/15/17 competitors who held their own against some of the strongest clubs in the state. Our senior athletes also led by example, both in competition and as mentors to younger members.

Of course we must mention our Masters team who for the 4th time running took out the Victorian Masters State Titles. These Masters are amazing role models to the younger athletes in the club.

The boat and nipper sections also had incredible seasons and will be reported on by Ant and Tarena.

Our coaching team is proud of the Surf Sports culture being developed – one that values consistency, camaraderie, and excellence. These results are a testament to the dedication of our athletes, coaching staff, and volunteers who make this possible.

We now turn our attention to the 2025 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships, with a team of 17 athletes attending including Youth, Open and Masters. With a solid base of results at states, we're well positioned to make an impact on the national stage.

We're already planning for next season and will only be taking a few weeks off training. We're looking at sending a team up to the Coolangatta Gold as well as a weekly ski/kayak beginner program for all ages. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the above programs contact Jon on 0422 244 183.

Jon Ford

SURF SPORTS HEAD COACH | surfsports@pointleoslsc.com.au

POOL LIFESAVING NEWS

The Pool Lifesaving season continued over January with the Australian Pool Lifesaving Championships held in Sydney. Point Leo was represented by Amy Jones and Milla Clark. Milla was a member of the State team. Both athletes had an outstanding meet, medalling in multiple events. Amy Jones was runner-up in the Women's Over 30 Overall Championship. Milla Clark was awarded the U16 Female Athlete of the Meet, and named in the Team of the Meet.

As a result of her outstanding efforts, Milla Clark has recently been selected to represent Australia as part of the Australian Lifesaving Team at the upcoming Commonwealth Pool Lifesaving Championships in Wales (UK) - July 2025. An international tour such as this is self-funded, and Milla needs all the help she can get so that she can represent Australia at this meet. If you would like to support Milla to help cover the cost of this tour you can donate via the club website payment link or bank transfer to the club.



We wish Milla the best of luck and congratulate her on this amazing achievement. Representing your country as an athlete is a great honour. We are sure she will do Point Leo proud!



Upcoming Pool Lifesaving events:

The season is about to begin, with the first Junior Carnival to be held at Mentone Grammar on 4 May.

You do not need to be a superstar swimmer to give pool lifesaving a go - just enthusiastic! It's a great winter sport, and keeps you rescue ready for the summer season.

If you are a Junior / Youth member wanting to have a go - please email communications@pointleoslsc.com.au. Milla Clark would be delighted to run an information session.

Let's see some more Point Leo caps in the pool!

NIPPER NEWS

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our Nipper program this summer. I hope you and your family enjoyed the Junior Surf Lifesaving Program (JSLP) as much as we enjoyed hosting it. We couldn't have asked for better weather, and I hope your child has come away with fantastic memories and stories from the past three weeks.

Some highlights included:

- Marine Mammal Foundation visit
- Club Carnival Day
- Club Championships
- Family Night with the LSV helicopter landing
- Muso Night
- Final Fun Day – Parents Vs Kids!!

JSLP is all about equipping young people with the skills, confidence, and knowledge to enjoy and stay safe in aquatic environments.

If you're interested in obtaining your Bronze Medallion for the 2025/26 season, we'd love to hear from you! Please register your expression of interest with Andrew Gibson at pointleo.andrew@gmail.com or Tarena at nippers@pointleoslsc.com.au.

We're also in need of Officials to support our competition team. More information about this can be found in the Team App documents or email juniorteammanager@pointleoslsc.com.au

Thank you for your ongoing support and kind messages. I would also like to thank the 100 parents who completed the Parent survey this year. This data provides us with valuable information we will use in the planning of next year's season – which will be bigger and better again!!

It has been a privilege to serve as the Point Leo Nipper Coordinator this year, and I look forward to seeing you all back on the beach soon.

Junior Leadership Camp

Congratulations to Evie Renato, George Ackland, Thomas Fehring, Jasper Langford and Freddie Merrison who were all selected to attend the U13 LSV Leadership Camp next month. We look forward to seeing your leadership journey at Point Leo SLSC.



Tarena Murray

NIPPERS CO-ORDINATOR | nippers@pointleoslsc.com.au

JUNIOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND JUNIOR CARNIVALS

The 2024/2025 season was a successful season for the club, with our junior athletes competing at four junior carnivals prior to competing on our home beach for the Junior State Lifesaving Championships.

Junior carnivals were held at different locations (Ocean Grove, Cosy Corner Torquay, Mt Martha and Anglesea) during the season and our numbers varied, it would be great to see an increase in numbers across all carnivals in our next season.

With 95 athletes from Point Leo entered into the Junior State Lifesaving Championships, we were able to come in 7th overall but I would like to highlight the U13 girls and boys who turned up and gave it everything in their last Junior Carnival. I hope to see many of them continue to compete in the Youth/Senior carnivals in the future but look forward to seeing them all at the JLSP program next summer.



Another highlight from the State Championships were the following athletes marching in time to bring home a Gold Medal in the March Past for the club:

Evie Renato
Anha Spokevicious
Sylvie Nienaber
Tess Enever

Maddie McPherson
Fred Merrison
Sampson Miall
Tom Fehring

Charlotte Oldham
Kitty Johnson
Ruby Devine
Tabitha Cleven

But you cannot mention the athletes without mentioning the dedication and hard work from Diane Silver who trained our team to this fantastic result.



Overall, there were many fantastic results and personal achievements from the athletes. It was great to see everyone putting in their very best efforts and supporting their teammates.

I would like to thank everyone who helped throughout the season including the Coaches, Trailer Drivers, IRB crew, Officials, Water Safety, Comp AGM's, Setup and Pack crews.

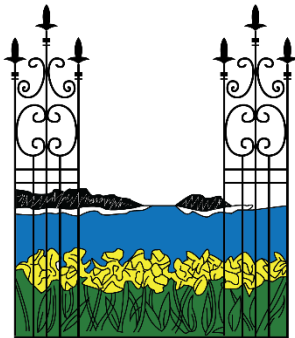
The link below is to some amazing photos from the State Championships kindly provided by Liz Clancy @elizabethclancyphotography

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/effwxvgoxy6zjaopy5qd/AEbqN_FYwqUtVoFdZPb-G9A?rlkey=gw3naynv33th901cj0jg1bf5u&st=zaegdk1z&dl=0

Renee Watt

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER | juniorteammanager@pointleoslsc.com.au

Many thanks to our JSLP BBQ sponsors



GAINSBOROUGH PARK
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POINT LEO SLSC
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Tickets are still available. Book via the club website before 5pm Friday 28 March

As always, many thanks to our wonderful sponsors

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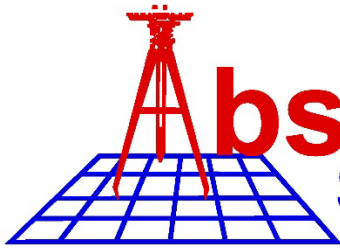
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