

Club Honorary Secretary Report

The administration of the club has been very active and ongoing since my return to the club as secretary last year. One of the first activities was to establish administrative control of club member records. Over many years member records had been kept on paper and as time passed records had been lost, destroyed or not properly kept.

The NSW Surf Life Saving three years ago established a computer HR management program that this club had not activated. I set about setting up the program in late August, 2003 and by December 2003 had entered membership records for over 211 club members, junior, senior and associate.

This has enabled this club to be ready for the transfer of data to the new web based membership program commencing in late September 2004. At this time Annette O'Brien and myself will be the club membership administrators for the new online system.

During the course of the last season, the club was fortunate enough to have Mr. Liam Guilfoyle of Culburra and a practising Psychologist in Nowra donate to our club a new computer system and printers. This has further enhanced our record keeping and is available on the club premises for administration, publicity and official use.

The club has a need to upgrade operational life saving equipment; many items are ageing and becoming uneconomical to maintain particularly motors. Items of equipment for which funding has been made available and to be purchased if not already are:

1. New Spinal Board – Telstra \$ for \$ grant \$400.
2. New Base UHF commercial radio. State SLSA \$ for \$ Grant \$795.
3. Federal Gvt' Small Equipment grant \$4,600. For new IRB motor & Rescue board.
4. CDSE Grant \$3,000. From Culburra Bowling & Recreation Club for new hand held radios, first aid kit, and surf rescue boogie board.
5. At this time the club is awaiting a response from an application for a \$10,000. Grant from the NRMA for lifesaving clubs. Our application is for the development of a Club web site and member login area. Further in the application is a request for an enclosed patrol trailer for beach protection of patrols and transport of equipment.

Unfortunately during the course of the year the club continued to maintain an ageing building. This last year has seen \$12,143.00 spent by the club from its funds on this building.

Late last year I was shown two lease agreements between the club and Shoalhaven City Council. Lease 1 is the Culburra Beach Crown Reserve Trust Lease and the 2nd Shoalhaven City Council Lease. Council has adopted

a policy of commercial lease back of facilities to user groups throughout the Shoalhaven. In our case regardless of the fact the club has over the last 40 years repaid the building costs of the premises, council insists that we enter a commercial lease and pay a rent at this time nominal but will be in a couple of years based on commercial standard rates.

In looking over the lease agreements, I became concerned and went to the Club Honorary Solicitor Craig Lockart and we found that into the lease council had in built a clause that requires the club to repay the amount of approx. \$127,000. After council had carried out required maintenance and repairs that were found in a Building Audit of January 2001. Further there was a clause stating that the club was to be responsible for the structural integrity and external maintenance of the whole of the building and it was expected this was to be paid for from our fundraising and hall rent.

A number of discussions & meetings took place. But not before club officials were denied access to building reports. As a result a Freedom of Information application was lodged and fees paid and the club was then given access to engineering reports about the building.

As a result a public & media campaign commenced and council has now seen fit to spend nearly \$200,000. To make our building safe. (SAFE)!! Further we have been advised that the remaining life expectancy of the building is about 10 years after these repairs. We have corresponded with council about a replacement, but council do not wish to discuss with us this matter at the present time, only to advise our building will be included in a proposed capital works program over ten years being drawn up for council consideration. (We then need to lobby councillors to ensure this gets through.)

Council are at present undertaking works and have to date removed some 2,500 bricks from the upper level (that were in danger of falling off) and are to replace the front hall glazed section and roof supports. And rebuild a concrete plinth to support a new structure; (this was in danger of collapse). Our building is also riddled with concrete sporing (cancer). This will continue to proliferate.

The works will also include painting the whole of the building. We can thank council for seeing fit to expend these funds, but we must also remember that it has been over 23 years since council carried out any substantive or general preventative maintenance on the building.

This is not because we have not requested or brought to council attention previously our request for works, we have done so on many occasions over the years. It is because Shoalhaven City Council does not have in place a community wide asset preventative maintenance program. This was evident when given access under the FOI to council records. Many council building assets require large sums to be spent on them, mainly because they don't have a program in place for preventative maintenance.

With respect to the lease council has now agreed to re-negotiate a new lease and to take into consideration our concerns of the requirement to pay back

monies and other building issues not being attended to at this time, including the sad state of the kitchen, this is the original kitchen. It is hoped to have finalised the lease issues by years end.

I would also take this opportunity to thank our young club members who organised the clubs Easter raffles they were a success and a Job Well Done particularly to Carmel Couch who organised the prizes and took the initiative. To Col Pakes good job on the board raffle. These two activities and the fundraising in the caravan parks at Xmas helped us greatly.

I take this opportunity to remind members of the ongoing need for fund raising, as secretary I make many applications and seek any opportunity for sponsorships where I have sought to do so or have been provided information by other members. However, we all have a stake in fund raising for our club it is ongoing and needs member support to achieve the funds required for junior activities, lifesaving patrols, equipment purchases, building and administration costs.

One other matter that I must raise is that there are positions on our management committee for members from the junior activities and senior members to fill, by filling these positions and attending to management committee meetings which are held once per month throughout the year member input is assured particularly when moving about the club and speaking with members and identify issues and concerns that the committee needs to know about, discuss and make a decision on. So I can only but encourage those who are interested to join the club committee and participate in making our club a better place for members.

Finally, our club celebrates "50 years of Surf Life Saving" this year and on the 4th December 2004 we are holding a celebration dinner dance at Worrigee House, Worrigee. Costs are being finalised but it is intended to be a great evening for present and past club members, I hope you all can attend.

Thank you,

Steve Jones