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## 1. Davina Strauss – World Champion

It's not every day that we can claim a Coledale world champion but we can today; October saw Davina Strauss off to Alexandria, Egypt to take part in **Rescue 2010** the World-Championships of surf sports. Davina – the 2009-10 Illawarra Masters Athlete of the Year -won gold in both beach flags and sprint events in the 30-34 category and went on with the remarkable feat of bringing home a Bronze in the Open Flags event. Davina became a specialist flags and beach sprint athlete after retiring as a nation level long-jumper. Already a world title holder from surf life saving championships over a decade ago, in more recent years while competing for Coledale, Davina has won branch, state & national titles in her favoured beach flags event.



**Davina back to winning form in 2010**

Davina with the able assistance of another Coledale former World Champion, Michael Schnabel are forming a squad at Coledale to coach anyone interested in competing in beach events.

## 2. The Eric Bruton hits the surf

It's considered a great honour to have a competition surf boat named after you, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October saw the launching of our new Slipstream Mako surf boat, named to honour a great servant to Surf Life Saving and in particular to Coledale SLSC. Eric Bruton has been a patrolling member for over 50 years and more remarkably, is still contributing in surf rescue and is our director of education. Early in 2010 after a strenuous surfing session Eric felt chest pains, later diagnosed as a major heart condition. Eric underwent an operation to replace 5 arteries in his heart and thankfully, is 90% there for a full recovery.

This new surf boat will be in action up and down the coast this season, culminating in the Australian Championships at Kurrawa Beach Qld in March. We currently have 4 crews (U19, U23, Womens and Masters) in training and are one member short of making a second masters crew for the coming season. Anyone interested in filling the vacant seat and getting fit while having a great time, contact Daren, Rob, Anthony or any of our rowers or coaches.

**Rowing is a great sport and is open to all members.**

## 3. Our Bobcat – the best mover on sand

Due to the forced withdrawal of Quad bikes from surf rescue duties, we have taken the plunge and invested in Bob the Bobcat, a utility beach vehicle. This immensely capable machine amply fills our needs for a durable and stable patrol vehicle. Absence of state grants (only \$14,000 spread between 17 clubs this year!) meant that we had to fully fund this purchase from a camping reserve donation. The upcoming sale of our Yamaha quad will offset this expense; interested parties should speak to Daren.

## 4. Patrols – all in order

A record number of patrolling members are on the roster for the 2010-11 season, which is great news and goes against the trend of decreasing volunteers. With a solid training structure and great equipment Coledale is well placed to maintain the excellence of surf rescue and patrolling set in previous seasons. Well done to Director of Life Saving, Daren Weidner and our Trainer/Assessors Eric Bruton and Dave Fittock. Spot inspection and patrol assessments from Illawarra Branch Surf Life Saving Officials and Wollongong Council beach services manager have given our patrols top marks. **But some points need to be made:**

- **Pay your membership fees! If you're not paid up you aren't covered on insurance if you get injured.**
- **Contact your patrol captain if you can't make your patrol – no exceptions.**
- **Turn up at least 15 minutes before your sign on time – the beach gear doesn't put itself out.**
- **When signed on you must be actively patrolling – not hanging around the club-house.**

#### **5. Rescue – family saved**

Experience, vigilance, training and teamwork all came together on the first day of the patrolling season to avert a potential tragedy. Patrol 5, led by Anthony O'Donoghue were put to the test when soft sand, shore break and a vicious gutter, swept a father and 2 small children from the waters edge and into a dangerous, deep, gutter rip. Anthony sensed a problem and was headed to the family who were at the southern end of the beach – well away from the flagged area – to warn them of conditions, when the father & 2 children were washed away in seconds. Anthony went straight into the dangerous surf and was only just able to grab the young girls by the hair as she was pulled under in deep water. After returning the child to her distraught mother, Anthony rushed back in to assist his patrol in the rescue of the father and son in difficult and dangerous positions, all being pulled out by fast currents and strong surf.

**Well done to all of Patrol 5 for a great rescue.**

#### **6. Local vandal - Trees Poisoned**

No matter how well everything else goes, there always seems to someone who though anti-social behavior can drag us down. We spend over \$5000 a year and hundreds of hours of unpaid labour to keep our beach reserve area in good condition. This year we will spend a further \$8000 on a native plant regeneration project to make our beach surrounds even better but again we are the victim of a selfish lout who has been damaging and poisoning our native trees. Club caretaker Danny Yew has lost count of the number of trees killed and ruined so someone can have a marginally better view. This has been reported to Council and local press and lets hope that someone gets the message.

#### **7. Website**

Karen Wright and Northern Illawarra Online have carried out a major revamp of our website. Log on and register to get automatic email updates and keep up with your club's news and events. Great job!

[www.coledalebeach.com.au](http://www.coledalebeach.com.au)

#### **Nelson Bay Surf Rescue Event 2011**

1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, if you are aged 13 –18 put that date into your diary. Again we will be taking a group of cadet and rookie life savers to Nelson Bay for an action packed 4 days of training, rescues and assessments - with a little bit of R & R thrown in. Minimum pre-requisite will be attendance on patrols; Speak with Anthony or Rob

The cadet group now has extra specialist resources with Craig Walker & Dave Fittock involved in training & coaching.

#### **Surf Club Rescue**

The surf club function room recently came to the rescue when dedicated club members, Tara Johnson and Phil Macey 'tied the knot'. The actual marriage ceremony was planned for an outdoor venue at Glastonbury Gardens, Austinmer but the weather gods got involved and sent some rain down, forcing a rethink of plans. It was really quite apt that these two dedicated club members should have the shelter of the very club that they've done so much for in recent years. Our congratulations and best wishes to you both!

