



## ELWOOD LIFE SAVING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Issue 55, December 2024

### A note from the President

As we enter the Christmas and New Year period, it's important to recognise the many hours our patrolling volunteers will be giving up to ensure others enjoy Elwood beach safely.

Patrols began in early November and will continue each weekend and public holiday, excluding Christmas Day, until April next year.

If you need proof of the impact of this dedication, look no further than recent Life Saving Victoria figures which show during season 2023/24 there was a significant increase in incidents statewide. Across Victoria lifesavers and lifeguards successfully conducted a recorded 849 rescues, an unprecedented 40 per cent increase compared with the five-year average. It's estimated that the rescues undertaken by lifesavers prevented 42 drowning fatalities.

In addition to patrol, our successful Nippers program is off to a flying start with around 350 youngers taking to the beach each Sunday. It's great to see so many new faces around the club and to welcome those families returning for another year.

Our club will be on show on December 14 as we host a beach carnival for the under-12 and above age groups. This event is a great opportunity to showcase the skills and capability of our club and I encourage our Nippers families to show their support by volunteering with the range of helpers needed.

Amid the mayhem of the season, I hope you are able to spend some valuable time with friends and family over the Christmas period and thank you for your continued commitment and involvement in making our club such a success.

**David Rylance**



### WHAT'S ON

#### Club training

Swim, board and beach, Monday and Wednesday 6.30pm, Elwood LSC  
RSVP on TeamApp

#### Patrol

Weekends and public holidays (excluding Christmas Day) until April 21 2025

#### Nippers

Session 5, Sunday December 15, 9am  
Session 6, Sunday December 22, 9am  
Session 7, Sunday January 12, 9am

#### Competition

Elwood Beach Carnival, 14 December  
Junior Lifesaving Carnival, Cosy Corner, January 3

#### Water safety

2XU Triathlon Series, Race 3 St Kilda, January 12  
2XU Triathlon Series, Race 4 Sandringham, February 9

# Hundreds of Nippers take to the beach as season begins



Four sessions are already complete as our hugely popular Nippers program kicks off for another season.

Around 350 children are taking part in the program with a waitlist now established due to the extraordinary demand. This is testament to the reputation of our club.

We encourage all parents and carers to get involved in the running of the program by signing up to the volunteer roles needed each week. This includes set up and pack up, barbecue duties, working on the coffee cart and assisting with water safety.

Roles are detailed in Stack TeamApp where you can

assign your name to the upcoming session and the relevant duty.

If you have any questions about Nippers please contact Nippers co-ordinator Georgia Park-Beard via [nippers@elwoodlsc.com.au](mailto:nippers@elwoodlsc.com.au).



## Chisholm & Gamon supporting our lifesavers of the future



It was a pleasure to host Chisholm & Gamon managing director Torsten Kasper at our most recent Nippers session to present T-shirts provided through a generous sponsorship.

The T-shirts are being given to the program's more than 300 participants as well as age managers and key volunteers.

It's the third successive year Chisholm & Gamon has supported Elwood Life Saving Club in this way.

The club thanks Torsten and his team for their continued support of Elwood's work providing water safety education and keeping our beach safe. We ask you support Chisholm & Gamon as they support continue to support us and the wider community.





## Elwood to host beach carnival

We are excited to be hosting an LSV Beach Carnival at Elwood on Saturday December 14.

This event is for the under-12 and above age groups and includes flags, beach sprints, beach run, beach relays and the belt and reel.

We'd love to see lots of Elwood competitors so please RSVP in the Competition Calendar if you'd like to have a go. The carnival runs from 8.30am-1pm.



We are looking for volunteers to assist with the following:  
3 x general workforce helpers to assist with moving equipment etc. We will need at least one of person to have their SSV award to be able to drive our ATV. We'll need this team to be able to start at 6.30am and be on duty until the end of the carnival (this can be done in shifts).

4 x first aid helpers who have either bronze medallion, first aid certificate or advanced resus. We'll need this team to be able to start around 7.30am and be on duty until the end of the carnival. (this can be done in shifts). A catering coordinator is



needed to ensure lunches are delivered to the officials. We will be outsourcing the making of all lunches so there will be no food prep required. 6 x people are also required to run a BBQ for the duration of the event. This will be similar to what we run for Nippers. We'll need this team from 7am until the end of the event (this can be done in shifts).

All duties are set up in TeamApp under the Competition Calendar so if you can assist please add your name to the duty roster. If you have any questions regarding the event or helping out please contact Rachael Rylance via phone on 0410 131 558 or [competition@elwoodlsc.com.au](mailto:competition@elwoodlsc.com.au)

## New blinds installed

The club is looking a whole lot cooler with the installation of new blinds both upstairs and downstairs.



The new blinds are UV rated and will keep the sun out over the summer months. Our old blinds had fallen down and were in bad condition.

Importantly, the new blinds have a special density that makes them easy to look through while watching over the beach. This includes blinds which have been installed in the upstairs radio room.



## LSV comms roles

Life Saving Victoria is recruiting for volunteer communication operators until April 2025. You must be aged 18+ and have a Working with Children Check. Email [lsvcomms@lsv.com.au](mailto:lsvcomms@lsv.com.au).



## Patrol gets underway for another busy season



Lifesaving patrols kicked off on the second weekend of November, with Elwood's volunteers hitting the beaches in force.

Our volunteers have already been met with days of extremely hot weather, with high beach attendance meaning the foreshore was extremely busy. We were also put on standby for a major event on November 17 when a large group of young sailors was rescued from Port Phillip Bay after being hit with strong wind during a dramatic change in weather.

It's been great to see many new patrollers on duty this season to bolster the ranks of our long-serving volunteers. If you have recently completed your bronze medallion or surf rescue certificate course and are yet to be allocated to a patrol please contact the club captain.

Patrollers are reminded to advise their patrol captain whether they can make it to patrol and arrange a suitable replacement if they're unable to make it. Minimum numbers are required for Elwood LSC to meet its commitment with Life Saving Victoria and ensure we have adequate numbers of volunteers on hand to maintain community safety.

A reminder for those patrollers yet to complete their annual skills maintenance that sessions are being regularly scheduled to complete this important requirement. Please ensure you have completed the online component of training first before booking in for the practical session. Those with additional qualifications like IRB drivers and crew also need to complete skills maintenance for these awards too.



Should you have any queries about patrol or be interested in learning more about what is involved do not hesitate to contact club captain Erin Webster via [clubcaptain@elwoodlsc.com.au](mailto:clubcaptain@elwoodlsc.com.au).



## New printed hooded towels now available

Show your club colours with our new quick-dry club hooded towel. It features the Elwood LSC logo on the front and our club name across the back. There's also a kangaroo pouch pocket to keep your hands warm. Available in small, medium and large for \$65 each.





## Water safety teams rises to challenge in tough conditions



The water safety team is hard at work, performing duties at two 2XU Triathlon Series events so far. Conditions were challenging during the most recent race at Brighton where more than 50 competitors were plucked from the water. Strong wind made for an extremely choppy bay, making it hard for swimmers to stay on course while our IRB crews and paddlers showed their skills under pressure.

We thank Hampton Life Saving Club which continues to help with our water safety events due to a lack of support from Elwood members. This assistance is sincerely appreciated.

The next event is Race 3 of the 2XU Triathlon Series at St Kilda on 12 January. We encourage Elwood members to get behind this important fundraising stream and hone your rescue skills. To assist RSVP on TeamApp or email water safety co-ordinator David Rylance via [president@elwoodlsc.com.au](mailto:president@elwoodlsc.com.au).

### Thanks to our Sponsors

Thanks to our valued partners and supporters - Bendigo Community Bank Elwood, Chisholm & Gamon, Engine, Tri-Alliance and Yo-Chi. Your support helps us provide benefits to our members and the wider community.



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Elwood

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