



ELWOOD LIFE SAVING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Issue 63, August 2026

A note from the President

It was fantastic to see a strong turnout for our recent annual general meeting and to celebrate the extraordinary contributions our members make to Elwood LSC.

This was headlined by Rachael Rylance receiving the National Medal in recognition of her continued commitment to lifesaving over many years.

We are lucky enough to have several members who have now received this honour and it is testament to the dedication and professionalism of our club to have so many National Medal recipients on the patrol roster.

I would also like to call out the efforts of patrollers Isla Clouting, Issy Jonson and Hugh Fletcher who performed 214.7, 158 and 132 patrol and water safety hours respectively across the season. This puts them not just at the top of the club but in the top patrollers across the entire state.

While each performed an enormous number of hours, they also approached patrol and water safety with enthusiasm and positivity. I know I speak for all patrol captains when I say we are grateful for their help across countless weekends. There wouldn't be a team Isla, Issy and Hugh haven't helped so well done to all three of you.

As the new season approaches we will be running working bees on September 5 and 27 to prepare the clubhouse. I encourage members to help out with a few hours where you can as many hands make light work. This will be a great assistance as we make sure everything is neat and tidy for season 2026/27.

David Rylance

WHAT'S ON

Club training

Swim Monday, 6.15pm-7.45pm, Harold Holt Pool
Fitness Wednesday, 6.30pm, Elwood LSC
RSVP on TeamApp

Club working bees

September 5, 10am-3pm
September 27, 10am-3pm

Nippers

Now open for returning families
Opens to new families September 1
Uniform days October 10-11, 12pm-5pm
Prelim swims October 25, 10am-12pm
Age manage practical, October 10 and October 24, 9am-10.30am.



Honouring Elwood members at club annual meeting



The many contributions of club members were celebrated at our recent annual general meeting.

Erin Webster was named Most Efficient Member in recognition of her leadership as club captain and on the committee, assistance with training and work introducing a range of initiatives to boost patroller engagement and retention including a photo competition, club open day and end of season function. She was also an LSV awards finalist.

Isla Clouting received the Female Dedication to Duty award having performed an extraordinary 214.7 hours of patrol and water safety while Hugh Fletcher took out the Male Dedication to Duty award having completed 132 hours. Both also assisted with Nippers.



Most Enthusiastic First-Year Member was Hanna Custance who completed 88 patrol hours after getting her SRC in November while first-year Nippers co-ordinator Joana Goncalves received the Francis Family Service Award for ensuring the smooth running of the program each week.



Will Hellier took out the Ashton Family Most Improved Award having gained his IRB drivers award, officials accreditation and completing the training officer course. Jarrod Page was named Nipper Volunteer of the Year in



recognition of his efforts taking on the role of the program's water safety co-ordinator for the first time.

President awards were presented to Mark Clouting, Issy Jonson and Claire Webster for contributions to patrol and water safety while Junior champions Huxley Reed and Zoe Joffe were also recognised.



Registrations now open for Nippers



Returning Nippers families can now register for the upcoming season ahead of registrations opening for new families on September 1. We encourage families to act quickly as spaces are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

As an added incentive to get in quick, the Nippers program fee is \$60 but rises to \$70 after September 30.

We will be hosting two uniform collection days for families to purchase their child's pink vest and collect their age group cap. These will be on the weekend of October 10-11, 12pm-5pm. Please make sure you make time to do this as it is not feasible to issue caps on the first day of the program.

Preliminary swims will be held at Harold Holt Pool on Sunday October 25, 10am-12pm. Please keep a lookout for further information closer to this date as we will have dedicated slots based on surname to help families get in and out more swiftly.

Joana Goncalves is kindly returning as Nippers age-coordinator. We thank her for taking on this important role. A reminder volunteers are essential for the smooth running of the program. We are especially keen to grow our pool of age managers and will be running practical training courses on October 10 and October 24, 9am-10.30am. You must have completed the online theory and RSVP via TeamApp.

For any queries, questions or feedback about the Nippers program please email nippers@elwoodlsc.com.au.



Prestigious medal

Rachael Rylance has received the prestigious National Medal in recognition of her sustained contribution to lifesaving.



The medal, established in 1975 as an original element of the Australian system of honours and awards, acknowledges individuals who have demonstrated sustained and diligent service protecting the community.

It is awarded to Surf Life Saving volunteers who perform at least 30 patrol hours a season over 15 years.

Rachael, presented her medal at the club AGM, was among 137 surf lifesavers nationwide recognised in the latest award round.

Annual report live

The latest club annual report is now live on the website for members who couldn't make it to the AGM. It's a great wrap-up of our achievements.



Elwood scores two gold medals and more in the pool



Elwood LSC achieved fourth place overall at the Victorian Senior Pool Championships on June 14. Carla Drury took out gold in the under-19 women's 12.5m line throw, 50m manikin carry and 100m manikin carry with fins. She scored silver in the under-19 women's 100m manikin tow and women's 200m obstacles.

Erin Webster also scored a gold medal in the open

women's 12.5m line throw while Victoria Bracken got silver in the under-12 girls 50m manikin tow and 100m obstacles. Freja Bohme took home silver in the under-12 girls 10m line throw, 50m manikin carry and 100m manikin carry with fins as did Rachael Rylance in the masters women's 12.5m line throw. Freja and Victoria won another silver in the under-12/13 mixed 4 x 25m manikin relay. The team also came away with numerous bronze medals and top five finishes.

The club congratulates all competitors as well as the volunteers and supporters without whose help we could not compete. To find out more about competition email coach Rachael Rylance via competition@elwoodlsc.com.au.



IRB competition culminates in Aussies after states success



Elwood IRB competitors capped off the season at the Australian National Championships in South West Rocks. This was a great opportunity to showcase the team's skills under head coach and manager Rachael Rylance. David Rylance was assistant coach to the Victorian team which won bronze.

Aussies followed IRB State Championships at Port Fairy where Elwood was fifth in the under-23 pointscore and fourth in the masters. Rachael Rylance, Aurelie Belanger, William Neufeld and Willa Hyde scored silver in the masters women's mass rescue while Rachael, Aurelie and Noah Walsh were second in

the masters women's rescue. In the men's David, Phillip Cameron, Massimo Wong and Agrata Sharma won silver in the mass rescue. Elwood took bronze in the under-23 women's mass rescue with Erin Webster, Claire Webster, Noah and Willa as well as in the masters women's tube rescue comprising Rachael, Aurelie and Erin. In the masters men's rescue David, Phillip and Agrata took out fourth place.



It's time to get ready for the upcoming patrol season



Life Saving Victoria has announced skills maintenance for the coming season is live for all club members. This means patrollers can now complete their online theory ahead of practical sessions closer to the start of the season.

Elwood LSC is reminding members to renew their membership by August 31. This can be done through the SLSA membership hub. Fees are \$60 for patrollers aged 13-17 and \$65 for those aged 18+. The membership fee for families is \$150.

For queries about patrol and the roster email clubcaptain@elwoodlsc.com.au.

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