



ELWOOD LIFE SAVING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Issue 61, February 2026

A note from the President

Without doubt there is always something new to learn in lifesaving.

Be it gaining an award as a patrol volunteer, official or Nippers age group co-ordinator in the first place, or testing your skills as part of proficiency requirements, each of us is constantly learning.

As we reach the midway mark of the season now is a great time to reflect on your skills and how they can be extended or enhanced.

New courses, both at Elwood LSC and clubs elsewhere, are regularly offered which give our volunteers the chance to gain new skills or make sure they are proficient and current in existing awards.

From becoming an IRB crew or driver to gaining qualifications in advanced resuscitation and first aid or getting the new Silver Medallion Patrol Captain Award, each helps improve your confidence as a volunteer and contributes to the club.

Many of the skills we learn in lifesaving are transferrable outside of the club and in paid work or study. This includes the ability to work through a high-pressure situation calmly and logically.

For this reason, many employers and education institutions look favourably on candidates with lifesaving experience because it shows you have commitment, tenacity and importantly, want to make a difference in the community.

I encourage all members to look at how they can build their skills and take advantage of all lifesaving offers, on and off the beach.

David Rylance

WHAT'S ON

Club training

Mondays and Wednesdays, 6.30pm,
Elwood LSC
RSVP on TeamApp

Nippers

Junior Club Champs, March 1, 9am

Patrol

Weekends and public holidays until 19
April

Water safety

2XU Race 5, February 22, Elwood
Melbourne Teams Tri, March 15, St Kilda
2XU Race 6, March 22, St Kilda

Competition

Junior State Championships, 6-8 March,
Warrnambool
Victorian Youth Senior Championships,
20-22 February, Lorne
IRB Round 1, 11-12 April Sandringham



Nippers program to culminate with junior champs



There is just one session left for this season's Nippers program following weeks of learning and fun.

The season will culminate in our junior club championships on Sunday 1 March, kicking off at 9am sharp. The championships are a chance for your child to show all the skills and growth they've achieved over what has been another fantastic, rewarding season.

We strongly encourage parents and carers to make sure they are signing up for volunteer duties in these final weeks, be it through helping with set up, pack up, barbecue, the coffee cart or helping the age managers.

Each child who successfully completes the program requirements will receive a certificate celebrating their accomplishment, while ribbons and medals will be awarded for the placegetters in the junior club championships.



While the weather has been a little up and down early in the program, it's been great to see the commitment of our families who have turned up week in week out. Your involvement makes the program the success it is and we look forward to enjoying the last few sessions of the program together.

Special thanks to all those volunteers who are doing their bit to make the program run so smoothly. Your assistance is sincerely appreciated.

A huge thanks also to sponsors Jellis Craig Elwood which contributed \$5000 towards free Nippers T-shirts and Yo-Chi which is providing \$12 vouchers for participants going above and beyond each week.



Elwood in International Women's Day nominations

Two Elwood members — Rachael Rylance and Erin Webster—have been nominated for Life Saving Victoria's International Women's Day Awards, which celebrate the outstanding contributions and leadership of women who've made a lasting difference to lifesaving. Winners are announced 4 March.



Jellyfish and heat keep patrols busy



Swarms of Lion's Mane jellyfish, which turned up in their hundreds across Port Phillip Bay have kept our patrollers busy as the summer heat also kicked in over recent weeks.

Patrollers have so far watched over more than 90,000 beachgoers this season, performed eight

minor first aids, one major first aid and performed close to 500 actions that prevented a more serious incident.

Dozens of people have sought our assistance after being stung by Lion's Mane jellyfish. The best treatment is washing the tentacles off in sea water before applying an ice pack for around 15 minutes. Thankfully, the sting is not severe and causes only a minor skin irritation in most cases.

Patrollers have also been making sure jet skis, boats and wind surfers adhere to the no boating zone in front of the club. This has been especially important on hot days when large numbers of people are in the water. We continue to do our best to advise vessel operators of the rules and do not hesitate in contacting water police when our advice is not heeded and swimmers put in danger.



Patrollers— a reminder to please ensure you check the club roster for patrol dates and organise a swap if you are unable to attend your scheduled patrol. The commitment and communication from patrollers has been great so far and we hope this will continue in coming weeks and months.

Australia Day honour

Elwood LSC life member the late Norman Abraham Faifer has been posthumously appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

The appointment recognises his significant service to the building and construction industry and the community. Mr Faifer served in a number of roles with the Australian Institute of Building and as president of its Victorian chapter.



He was an Elwood LSC member from 1969-1985, his life membership awarded in 1977. His roles included honorary secretary (1975-1979), treasurer (1973-

1974), club vice captain (1972) and patrol volunteer. Mr Faifer had a number of positions at Royal Life Saving including as Elwood LSC's Delegate for the Victoria Branch Council from 1974-1982.

Mr Faifer was instrumental in construction of Elwood LSC's famed Alcoa Tower, which stood 18m above sea level and opened in 1975. The club acknowledges this significant and deserved recognition.

Junior champ day

Congratulations Hugh Fletcher and Isla Clouting who will represent the club at the Champion Junior Lifesaver Development Day on 28 February.



Show your club colours with our new-look Elwood hoodie



We've recently taken delivery of new summer hoodies for teens and adults. The hoodies are produced by sportswear company SUB4 and feature the Elwood LSC logo on the front and striking club branding on the back.

They are made of comfy yet lightweight material and feature a fleecy interior and kangaroo pocket. This is a one-off style. Sizing is unisex and ranges from XS to 3XL. Cost is just \$50. Purchase on the website or at the club.



Thanks to our Sponsors

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



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