



Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club Inc.

Surf Drive Venus Bay Telephone: (03)5663 7780

To all Nippers and parents,

With the 2009-2010 season upon us it is time to hit the beach and enjoy our summer. The Nippers season will kick off on the 27th December at 9.30 am at the club house. This will be a time for those whom are yet to fill out memberships and pay fees to do so.

To all new members WELCOME. I know you will enjoy being members of a fantastic organisation. This first session will include some time to meet your Age Managers, talk about the program, tour the club house and join in some fun activities.

The second session on the 28th December will be held at South Walkerville. Lifesaving Victoria (LSV) has made it mandatory for all participants from under 8's up to show an ability to swim a certain distance and float for a certain length of time. This is a time for me and all Age Managers to become familiar with each child's swimming capacity, and to ensure the appropriate supervision is available. If your child is unable to make the required swim, they are definitely still able to participate in the program, but will receive a 1 on 1 supervision when in the water. A list of pre-requisite swim distances is attached.

We will also be conducting the "S Badge" swims at the same time. Nippers wishing to participate in water events at carnivals must obtain their "S Badge". However the beach events are open to all nippers who wish to participate. The "S Badge" swims are totally optional and are not required to participate in the Nippers Program at Venus Bay.

It is highly recommended all Nippers attend this session. There will be board practise and rescue boat rides on the day, as well as beach activities.

The Nipper Program runs from the 27th December to the Australia day weekend. The following is a list of dates and times. All sessions at Venus Bay unless stated.

- 27th December '09 9.30 am to 11.30 am VB Club house
- 28th December '09 9.30 am to 11.30 am Sth. Walkerville
- 30th December '09 9.30 am to 11.30 am
- 31st December '09 9.30 am to 11.30 am
- Sat. 2nd January '10 10.30am to 12.30 pm
- Sun. 3rd January '10 9.30am to 11.30 am
- Wed. 6th January '10 9.00am to 11.00 am
- Sat. 9th January '10 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
- Sun. 10th January '10 Inverloch carnival (Inverloch, times tba)

- Wed. 13th January '10 9.30 am to 11.30 am
- Sat. 16th January '10 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
- Sun. 17th January '10 9.30 am to 11.30 am
- Wed. 20th January '10 9.30 am to 11.30 am
- Sat. 23rd. January '10 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
- Sun. 24th. January '10 9.30 am to 11.30 pm

The Inverloch carnival is a great chance for all our Nippers, regardless of ability to enjoy the experience of competition. This is a fun day and is all about having a go. A full list of events to choose from will be made available at the club from the 27th December.

There will also be other carnivals that we can participate in. A full list will be provided.

On the 6th January we will be starting Nippers at 9.00am as we will have Ky Hurst and Phil Clayton, two ironmen from the Gold Coast joining in the fun. They will be able to share some of their remarkable water skills with us. This is one day not to be missed.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING TO NIPPERS

Every Nippers session you will need to bring your nippers cap, sun hat, water bottle, sunscreen, rashie, and a parent or parents. It is a requirement of Surf Life Saving Australia that a Parent needs to be on the beach or in the Club House for all Nippers Sessions. Parents are responsible for their child/children during Nippers. We are not authorised to look after children without a parent being present. Parents will have to sign their children in and out of each Nippers session.

WHO RUNS NIPPERS?

Nippers is run by volunteer members of the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club. Most of the people involved are the parents of Nippers. Some are very experienced surf life savers others have no active patrolling history but are just keen to help out. This year David Cumming is the Nippers Co-coordinator. David has kids in Nippers and is an active patrolling member of VBSLS Club. This season VBSLS club will have Age Managers running each of the different age groups. All of them have completed the Age Managers Course run by LSV (Life Saving Victoria). Where necessary they will utilising the skills and experience of active members of our life saving club to teach our nippers the skills they need to be safe on the beach, compete in carnivals and prepare to become surf life savers. All of them have a Working With Children Check (WWCC). Some are very new to their role so please be supportive and help them out if you can.

THE AGE MANAGERS ARE:

Under 6/7 – Andrew Walker and Tania Dods-Cumming (0428831376)

Under 8 – Bernie Marshall and Lisa Arnaud

Under 9 – Marylouise Crusi (0402496895) and Karen McAlear

Under 10 – Ken Schell

Under 11 – Bernie Morris and Michael Robertson
Under 12 – Dylan Topp and Kristie Clappison
Under 13 /14 – Derek Price and Alyce McCorrison

If your child has any health issues such as asthma or a disability that we need to know about please inform the Age Manager of their group.

PLEASE HELP OUT ON THE BEACH

We need as many volunteers as we can get. The more people help the smoother Nippers will run. It is however a requirement of LSV that all members actively involved with Nippers have the WWCC. If you already have a WWCC please go to www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren site and download the WWCC Notification of Change of Personal Details Form and list VBSLS Club along with your other voluntary organisations and send it off to the address listed. If you don't have a WWCC please apply at any Post office and bring along your receipt.

PARENT INFO SESSIONS

We will be running a few Parent information Sessions with an emphasis on Rips, Surf Awareness and Safety throughout the season.

Look forward to seeing you on the beach

Regards

David Cumming
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