

BLACK HEAD



S.L.S.C.

1925-1985

On behalf of the executive and members of the Blackhead Surf Life Saving Club, I would like to welcome all our sponsors, guests and especially all the past and present members of the club, to our 60th Anniversary Re-Union.

A number of people have put many hours of work into locating all the past members of the club and also in organising this dinner and other social activities for the weekend. I am sure it will be a great success with your help.

The committee and the Club have undertaken two major projects for this year - one is this re-union, the other is the extension to the Club House. The extension will incorporate room for our I.R.B.'s and motors on the ground floor and a rescue centre on the second level. It is hoped that we can man this rescue centre with help from the visually impaired and physically handicapped associations.

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very sincere thank you to all here tonight, and I am looking forward to meeting you all again at the 70th re-union, if not sooner.

BRUCE MCWHIRTER
PRESIDENT.

On behalf of all Surf Life Savers in New South Wales. I am pleased to have this opportunity of congratulating Black Head Surf Life Saving Club on successfully completing sixty years of service to our Community. The Club has established itself as one dedicated to the protection of the surfing public and has therefore upheld the principles and best traditions of our Association.

From its formation the Black Head SLSC had grown with the Branch, lending its support in all facets of Surf Life Saving.

Black Head SLSC has a fine record of achievement to its credit and I am sure all of its members, both past and present will proud of what has been achieved in its sixty years. To all officers and members, past and present, my congratulations for your efforts.

The New South Wales State Centre is proud to have Black Head SLSC as one of its Members Clubs.

MICHAEL BYRNES
PRESIDENT.
N.S.W. STATE CENTRE
SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA.

LIFE MEMBERS.

F. C. POSTLE
R. PLUMMER
T. LYNCH
F. PLUMMER
W. SCOTT
J. MAITLAND
A. WHITE-BUTLER
V. GODWIN
J. EDSTEIN
H. BENNETT
A. SKINNER
J. RITCHIE

<u>SEASON</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>	<u>CAPTAIN</u>
1924/25				
25/26	DR. S A RAILTON	F C POSTLE		
26/27				
27/28	F C POSTLE			
28/29	"	J DOYLE		R PLUMMER
29/30	"	H T GRAY		" "
30/31	R.S. BUTTERWORTH	F PLUMMER	F PLUMMER	" "
31/32	F.C. POSTLE	F PLUMMER	MR CRAIG	" "
32/33	R S BUTTERWORTH	K HARRIS	H K SMITH	"
33/34	R S BUTTERWORTH	R PLUMMER	H K SMITH	R PLUMMER
34/35				
35/36	A J WILSON	S W MORGAN	R B LANE	R CHEQUER
36/37	"	R SANDERSON	D WRIGHT	C W SCOTT
37/38	S SHEPPARD	"	"	R PLUMMER
38/39	C H WOOLCOTT	R PLUMMER/ G HAMILTON		
39/40	"	G HAMILTON	W M WRIGHT	T LYNCH
40/41	"	O SUTHERLAND	"	A L WHITEBUTLER
41/42	R PLUMMER	W WARREN	D WRIGHT	"
42/43	C H WOOLCOTT	"	W WARREN	"
43/44	"	"	"	"
44/45	"	R LIGHT	T LLOYD-OWEN	"
45/46	"	C MARTIN	"	"
46/47	"	D MION	S M WRIGHT	A DOWELL
47/48	R L WEST	"	A M PHILLIPS	J MACHIN
48/49	"	C FORD	L COHEN	W WARREN
49/50	"	"	A BOWN	J MACHIN
50/51	"	M WATERS	"	"
51/52	"	"	G BAKER	"
52/53	"	J MACHIN	R FOWLER	J BLENKIN
53/54	V GODWIN	F GODWIN	"	A WHITE-BUTLER
54/55	"	M WILSON	"	A B CHAPMAN
55/56	"	J MANLEY	J WALL	R PLUMMER

56/57	"	"	"	M MION
57/58	"	K JONES	A SKINNER	R DOIG
58/59	"	B H DAVIDSON	J RITCHIE	A SKINNER
59/60	"	J RITCHIE	G CARPENTER	J EDSTEIN
60/61	"	W H S McGLASHAN	I ALLEN	H BENNETT
61/62	W H S McGLASHAN	L LOVE	TED LOVE	A SKINNER
62/63	V GODWIN	"	R ALLAN	W WOODGATE
63/64	H ALCORN	W WOODGATE	G RIDDELL	G GILMORE
64/65	J OWEN	"	"	H BENNETT
65/66	H ALCORN	J OWEN	"	I ALLEN
66/67	J OWEN	D MOORE	"	I ALLEN
67/68	"	H MEADS	P ALLARS	J EDSTEIN
68/69	"	"	R LYNCH	B LYNCH
69/70	J OWEN	"	"	"
	R DOIG	"	"	P MANUSU
70/71	R DOIG	A SKINNER	"	S WELLER
71/72	"	"	"	S WELLER
72/73	S WELLER	"	"	"
73/74	J EDSTEIN	"	P MANUSU	P MANUSU
74/75	"	"	"	"
75/76	"	"	"	G DOIG
76/77	J RITCHIE	G DOIG	T O'NEILL	M HOWARD
77/78	"	"	"	G DOIG
78/79	"	E SHADDOCK	V SHADDOCK	J McFARLANE
79/80	"	"	"	A MAY
80/81	"	V SHADDOCK	"	P SHADDOCK
81/82	A DEACON	V SHADDOCK	E SHADDOCK	P SHADDOCK
82/83	"	N DEACON	"	"
83/84	A DEACON	N DEACON	N DELANEY	"
	W BAILEY	J CRISP	"	T SHADDOCK
84/85	W BAILEY	J CRISP	"	"
85/86	B McWHIRTER	G PHILIP	"	D HOPKINS
			"	"

The club was formed during the season 1924 - 25, and prime mover was the late Mr. F. C. Postle the then manager of the N.S.W Government Savings Bank in Taree. Mr. Postle was a bronze medallion holder from one of the Metropolitan Clubs, and a Club was formed and a squad partly trained during that season. At times the drilling on the beach was carried out under extreme difficulties, with little encouragement and much criticism from the on-lookers.

However, Mr. Postle perservered and in the season 1925 - 26, the following members faced the examiner for their bronze medallion examination: Messrs Jack McKeon, Clarrie Meskell, Fred Bowers, Charley Ashley, Andrew Davis, Reg Donald and Jack Affleck.

The examination was held under freezing conditions. Immediately the swimmer left the water he had to be towelled down, and don an overcoat, and was at times kept on his feet by a warm "toddy" prescribed by their first President, Dr. S. A. Railton.

The surf reel used was one made by Mr. J. W. Breckenridge, and deposited at Black Head Beach in 1915 : the belt used was fashioned and supplied by the late Mr. William Hoy, a name that will ever be allied with Black Head. On the formation of the Surf Life Saving Club, this was handed over to them and served a very useful purpose until new and modern equipment and finance was available.

The erection of the "shark tower" was a work of art. It comprised three long and substantial poles joined at the top, and when erected were as a tripod.

This work was carried out in a truly practical and efficient manner by another well-known identity and supporter of Black Head, Mr. Charlie Holden, supported by his team of bullocks, gear and tackle. Some of his orders directed at his team were rather bewildering, but their pedigrees and status were in terms well known to the members.

Charlie made his boat "Nil" available and with Jock Affleck skipper, and Jack Robinson the crew, and doing all the work provided protection for the members when training.

The original shed was built mostly by voluntary labour, some of the material donated and what could not be scrounged, was purchased on extended terms. The business people of the district were very co-operative.

The clubhouse remained on the sand dune until 1959 when the present clubhouse was officially opening by State Centre President, T. W. Meagher.

The new clubhouse, which took 12 months to build, and cost \$10,000, is a monument to the President at the time, Vic Godwin, and his many helpers who did so much voluntary work including digging out a solid rock cliff face for the building, foundations, plumbing, electrical work, and painting of the building.

Not only did they work hard on the new clubhouse but they ran food stalls at the Manning River Aquatic Festival to pay for the building.

Mr. T. W. Meagher wrote in the Bondi Surfer of his trip to Black Head :-

About 13 miles south of Taree one leaves the road leading to Tuncurry and Forster and after driving 4 miles arrives at Blackhead. Here they have a delightful setting, in fact it could truthfully be called a REAL "Surfers Paradise". With a beautiful beach, good surf and very beautiful surroundings the local club lacks nothing now that they have their magnificent new club building. Judge Curlew was scheduled to officially open this building on Sunday, 4th October. Owing to the illness of His Honour this important duty was transferred to me. The official opening ceremony was performed at 3 p.m. in the presence of a very large crowd. Included among the visitors were Cmr. J. Ruprecht, representing the President of the Manning Shire, Eric Martin, Mayor of Taree, Col. Haig, Branch President, Mrs. A. Trotter, the only lady Life Member of the Club, Mrs. Wisemantle, President of the Ladies' Committee Wally Scott, who, as a member of Blackhead Club, won the Australian Surf Championship in season 1934 - 35, three members of the first Bronze Squad which was prepared when the Club was founded in season 1925 - 26, Murray Hooke and a number of other distinguished guests from Taree and the surrounding district. The invited guests were entertained at a very fine dinner, arranged and served by the Ladies' Committee and very ably presided over by Club President, Vic Godwin and ably assisted by his energetic Hon. Secretary, John Ritchie. After the opening ceremony Mrs. A. Trotter unveiled a marble tablet commemorating the important occasion. A surf carnival was held in conjunction with the opening and everyone present was served with afternoon tea. A dance cabaret was held in the new building in the evening. The beautiful new building is valued at about \$10,000 and is situated on the headland in the southern corner of the beach. A great amount of the work was carried out by club members and the building will remain a monument to their enterprise, enthusiasm and jolly hard work.

Blackhead Club suffered some unfortunate years in the mid 1950's. It was then that Arthur (Bunny) Whyte-Butler, Morrie Mion and Ron Doig began a turn around in the Clubs fortunes in competition, Bunny Whyte-Butler organised Sunday Competitions, both on the beach and in the surf, with great ardour and enthusiasm. Morrie Mion who was later to follow "Bunny" as L.N.C. Branch Superintendent of Lifesaving, formed both Jnr and Snr R & R teams, and John Machin, long since retired, and David McKinley were brought out of retirement to help make the number in the Snr R & R. This team became Branch Premiers and went on to represent the L.N.C. at the State Championship. Harold Ritchie organised three Surf Boat Crews, A & B senior and a junior and the Club was off and running. Bill Woodgate joined the club and immediately dominated beach sprint events. He was followed by Mike Bourke, Kevin Lynch, Don Comeron, Jim Court, David Lowry, Peter Dries and Sid Wright. These beach men formed the basis of beach teams that were rarely ever beaten. Alan Skinners great stature formed the centre post of a Chariot Team that spread eagles all others from Forster to the Queensland border as did the Beach Relay Team.

Jeff Carpenter spear-headed a long list of Junior swimmers which included Geof Love, Trevor Owen, Phil Beattie, Robert Dawson, Chris Gregory, Roger Lynch and Ted Love that swam Blackhead Beach into a dominant position in Junior Surf Swimming, events Ted Love and Geof Carpenter moved into the Senior ranks to continue the winning ways.

Peter Manus and Harry Bennett both were Branch Surf Championships.

The Iron Man Race was introduced into the Branch Championships in 1965. It included a swim leg followed by a Board Paddle and was won by Trevor Owen. The full Iron Man Branch Championship of Swim, Board and Surf ski, was held in 1966 and was won by Harry Bennett with John Edstein second and several years later, Martin Howard was to win the Branch Iron Man Event, as Branch Surf Ski Champion John Edstein went on to totally dominate Ski Races in the 1960s and early 1970s.

The club became so strong it travelled to Newcastle to compete against 23 Sydney and Newcastle Clubs. Harold Ritchie swept both Senior and Junior Crews to victory and the beach men won the beach relay and the Chariot Race.

In 1973 six members paddled surf skis from Black Head to Taree to raise money to buy much needed gear for the club.

John Edstein, Harry Bennett, Graeme Doig, Martin Howard, Peter Manus and Phil Holl, trained all winter on the Manning River to ready themselves for the "Marathon Ski Paddle".

The members gained sponsorship and Taree Apex Club helped greatly by running competitions to help with the fund raising.

The big seas that had been running all week abated and when the paddlers left Black Head Beach at 6.00 a.m. the sea was nice and flat, the paddle was very successful with the paddlers reaching Taree at 10.15 a.m. and raising \$1200 for the Club.

1974 saw the Club enter a new era with the introduction of an I.R.B. (Inshore Rescue Boat) commonly known as a "Rubber Duckie". A day was held at Black Head Beach during the winter, when Solders Beach S.L.S.C. brought its I.R.B. up to show member of the Lower North Coast Branch how good these boats were, a number of service clubs had been invited to the demonstration. Taree Lions Club took up the challenge and worked with the Branch to purchase 3 Duckies (one for Black Head, Old Bar and Crowdy Head) our thanks must go to the Lions especially Alwyn Currie and Dick Clarke who were the driving force behind the Lions.

From the start Black Head members have been the best I.R.B. operators in the Branch, and have been competing at the State I.R.B. Carnival over the last few years.

In 1976 Graeme Doig was selected to represent the Branch in the "NSW State Centre Instructural Tour of Asia. The team travelled to The Philippines, Hong Kong and Bali. The team helped establish a Life Saving movement in The Philippines and introduced the latest methods of resuscitation to the Hong Kong and Bali Association.

In 1979 much needed renovations to the club house were completed these included completely changing the layout of the ground floor to include a smaller ladies change room, a much needed large gear area, bunk room, caretakers flat and a modern First Aid room, to acknowledge to large amount of work done by Evan Shaddock and his family the First Aid Room was called "The Shaddock Family First Aid Room".

The renovations were officially opened by Sir Adrian Curlewis, Life Governor of the Association. Sir Adrian was to have opened to original club house but was unable to because of illness.

A new era began in 1980 when women were allowed to become active members of Surf Life Saving Clubs, this was a much needed "shot in the arm" as membership had been declining during the 70s.

Black Head has had some very keen young girls join the club have done their patrols and competed for the club. A squad of wives of members has just been successful in obtaining their Bronze Medallion.

As President Bruce mentioned the club is again doing additions to the club house, this time to house separately it I.R.B. boats and gear, above will be a Radio room and Rescue Centre.

One of the greatest surfers in the history of carnivals along the length of the North Coast Was Black Head's C. W. "Wally" Scott.

Scott was a 23 year old clerk, working for Lester Plummer and Sons when he won the Australian open surf championship at Bondi in 1935. His cap had come off during the race, and few of the crowd of 10,000 knew who he was when he ran up the beach.

Scott's surfing ability stood by him in this event. Near the finish he cracked a wave which champions, Noel Ryan and Andrew Charlton, could not get.

The city press spread itself in chronicling Scott's feat. Headlines in "Truth" were: Country Man stars in greatest surf carnival in history. Scott from Taree vanquishes Charlton and Ryan.

The "Telegraph" said: Wally Scott has been known along the Coast as a very powerful surfer and his victory over internationals Ryan and Charlton won't be easily forgotten. He judged a "shoot" perfectly and was landed on the beach a winner.

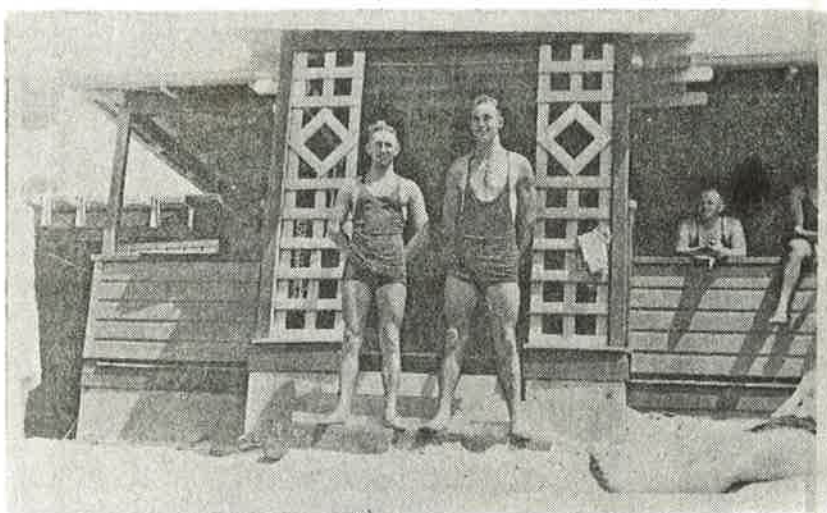


FIRST BRONZE

J. McKEON
C. MEKELL
F. BOWERS
C. ASHLEY

(R. DONNELL)
(R. TROTTER)
(D. CURRAN)
NOT IN PHOTO

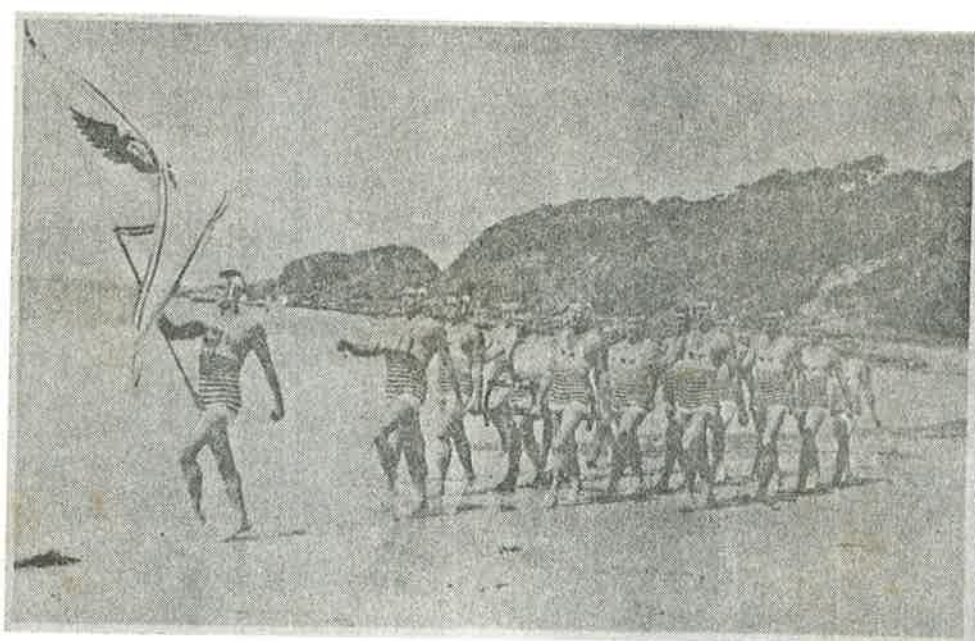
W. SCOTT R. CHEJER



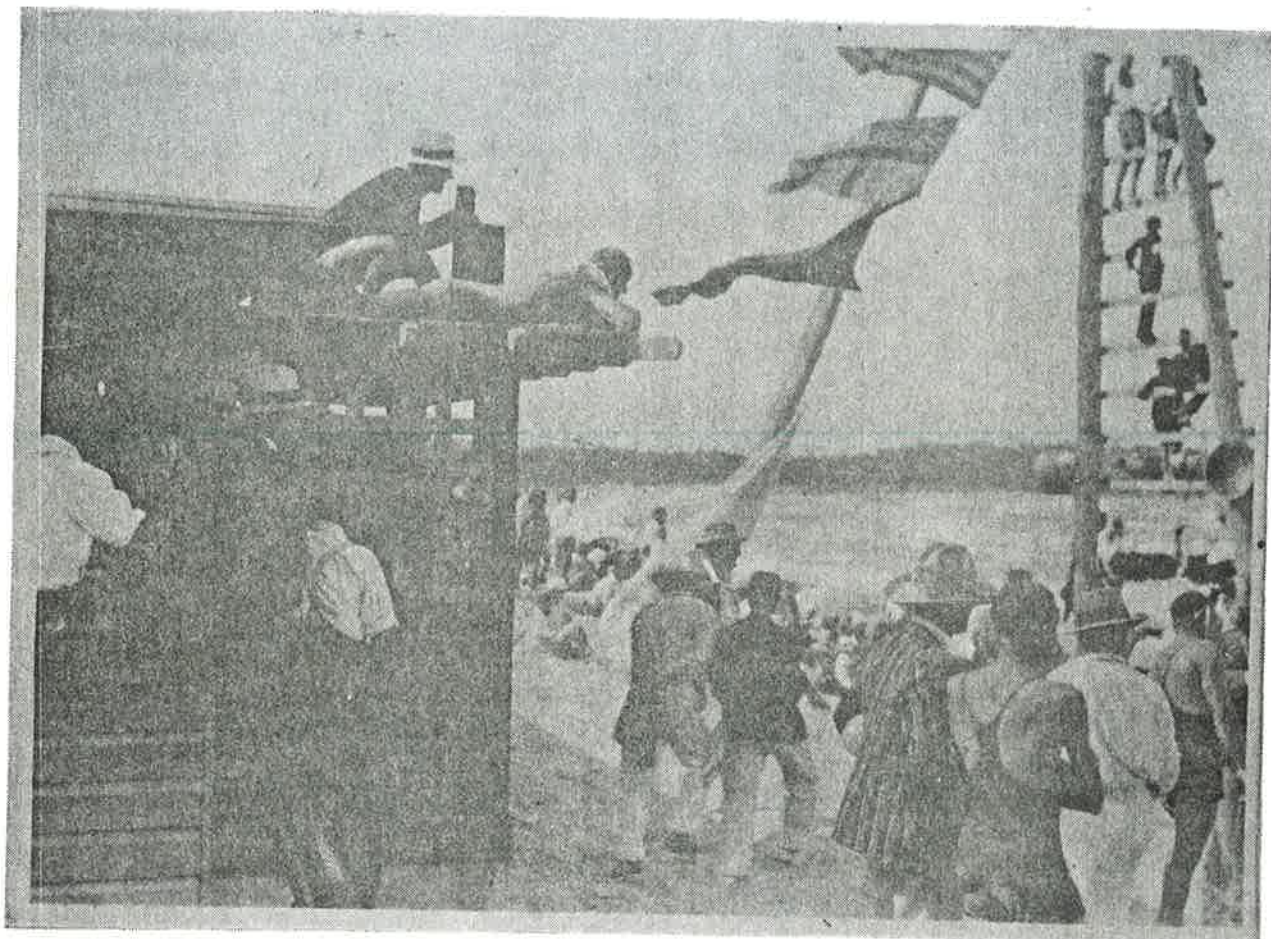
OLD CLUBHOUSE



FIRST BOAT 1926



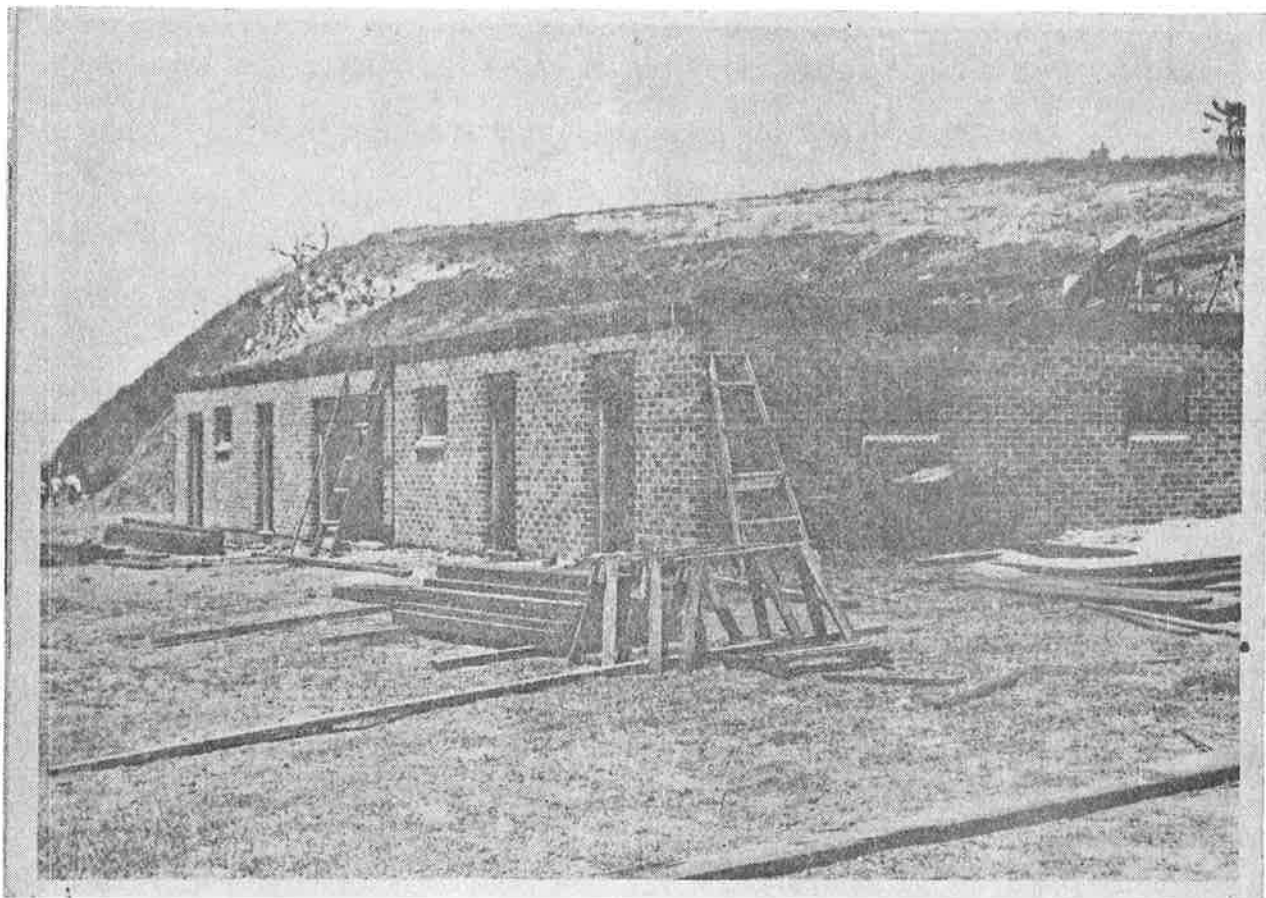
MARCH PAST 1930's



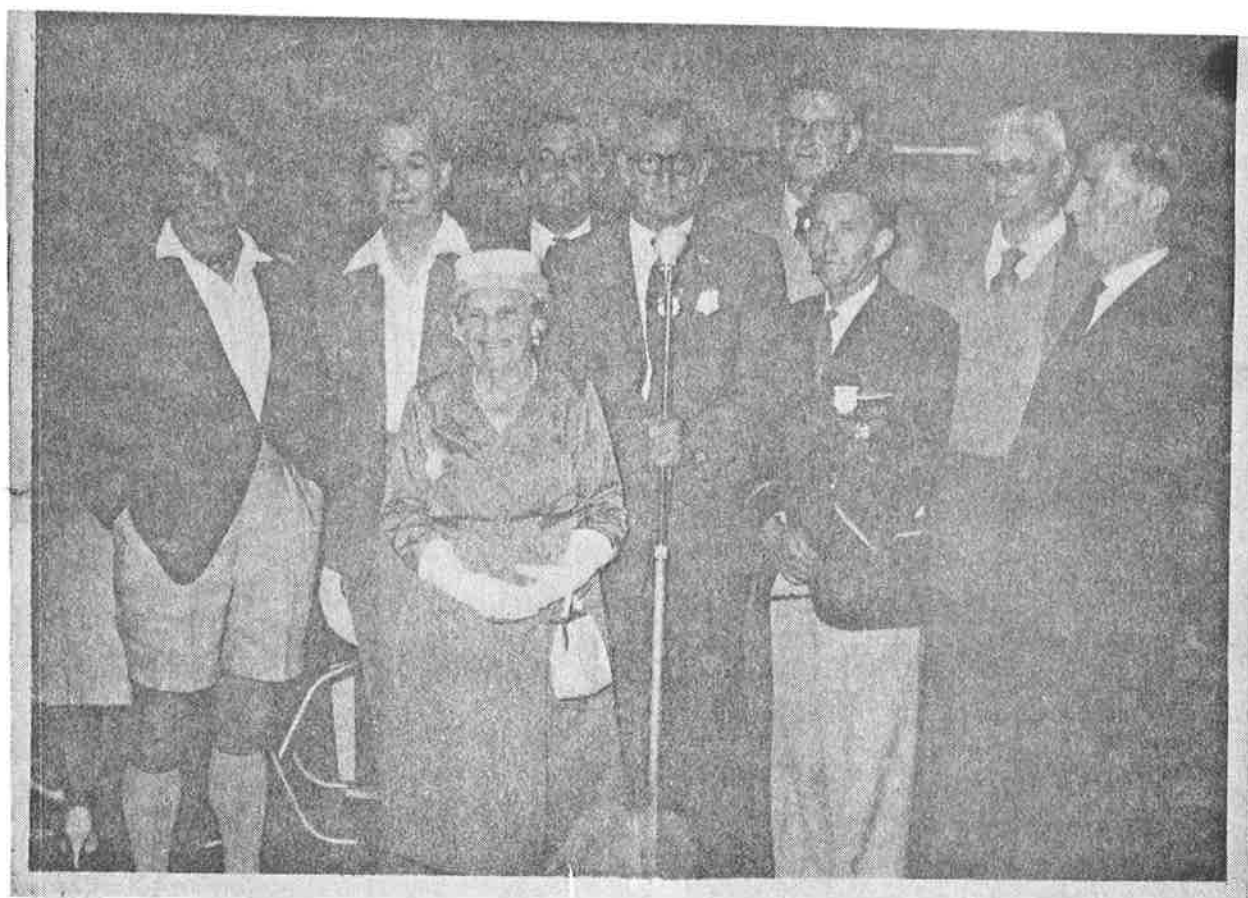
OLD CLUBHOUSE AND SHARK TOWER.



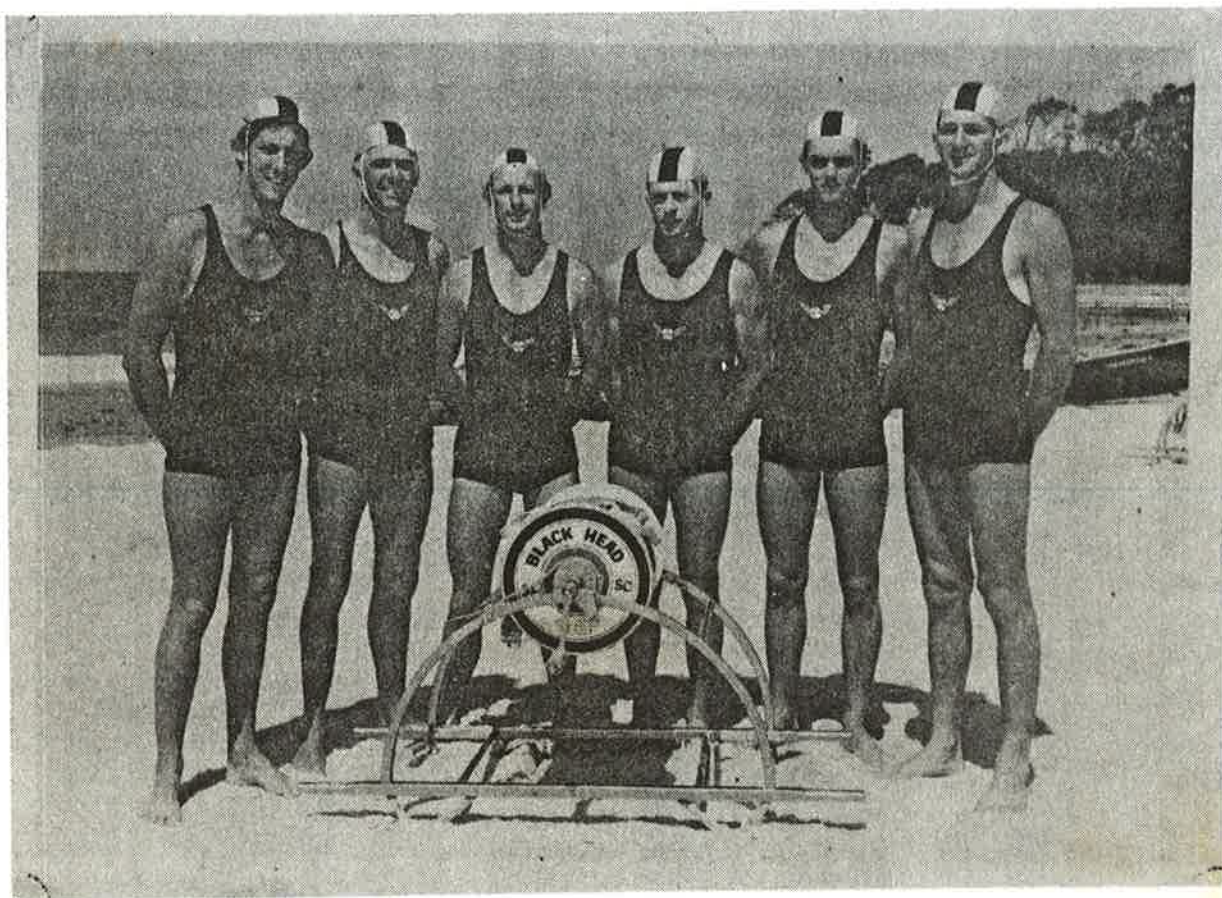
NEW CLUB HOUSE.



CLUB HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.



OFFICIAL OPENING BY T. W. MEAGHER.



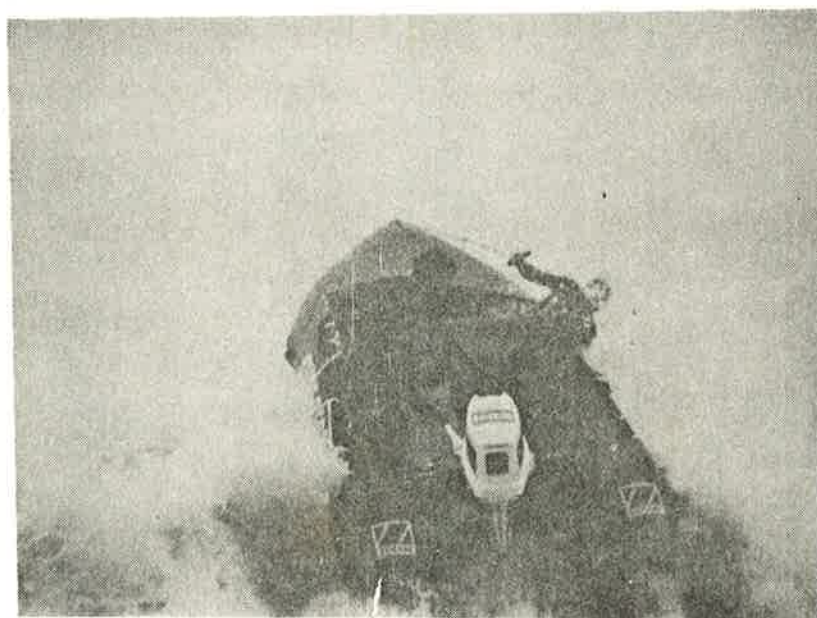
R. & R. TEAM 1968.





SECOND GIRLS BRONZE SQUAD 1980

(1ST SQUAD - TRACEY CORNALL, PATRICIA HAYES, ANNE HOAD,
FREEDA HOAD, ROBYN AYLWARD, JENNY GODFREY.)



CLUB I.R.B.

