



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13



coogee minnows

COMMITTEE 2012-2013

Chairman	Sean Emery
Vice Captain	Tass Karozis, Steve O'Donnell, & John McDonald
Secretary	Geoff Nixon
Treasurer	Ian Davison
Registrar	Rod Wallace
Competition	John McDonald
Water Safety	Rob Illidge
Apparel	Helen Milne & Carmen Wallace
Sponsorship	Di Wallace & Bruce Fulton
Education & Lifesaving Coordinator	Geoff Leong
Gear Captain	Steve Hamer,
Gear Team	Mick King, Mark (The Phantom), Noel Allsopp Steve Henderson
Senior Club Delegate	Sean Emery
Branch Delegate	Sean Emery / Tass Karozis
Events Coordinator	Margot Hilton
Photography	James & Rebecca Rosenberg

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AGE MANAGERS 2012-2013

Under 14	Ben Griffiths
Under 13	Geoff Nixon
Under 12	Cameron McAlpine
Under 11	Marcia Brereton
Under 10	Nick Osler
Under 9	Steve O'Donnell
Under 8	Gary Trenaman
Under 7	Paul Haes & Ben Ashton
Under 6	Mango and Sean Wain

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SPONSORSHIP & SUPPORT 2012-2013

Minnows continues to enjoy the support and generosity of a large number of commercial organisations and businesses. Without this support our activities would be very different. The economic circumstances of the last few years have been very challenging for many businesses and this makes their continued support of Minnows even more remarkable and invaluable. We salute you all.

In particular can we highlight the following for thanks

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MLC Advice Randwick

Silver Sponsors
7 Eleven Stores Pty Ltd
Adina Apartments
Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBD & East)

During the season many organisations and individuals contribute in a variety of ways that also need to be acknowledged. Randwick Labour Club and South's Juniors provide access to their facilities for hosting registrations and presentation days. Food and drink for our regular BBQs and special events like Surf Camp comes from Coogee Village Butchery, Coogee Bakery and Royal Randwick Fruit and Veg. Kracka, Audi Centre Sydney, Adina Apartments and Ella Bache (Coogee) provided fabulous raffle prizes. Finally, Randwick City Council provide extraordinary support with planning and preparation, keeping the beach and surrounds safe (thank you Life Guards) and clean.

We look forward to continued and growing support from our local community partners

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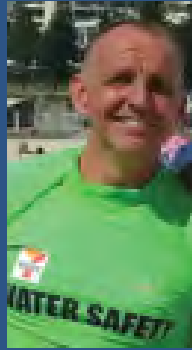
Adina

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CAPTAIN'S REPORT



Can I start by congratulating all our members for a fabulous season of junior life saving at Coogee Surf Life Saving Club. Much of this report does require me to thank individuals for their contributions. It is important for me to make sure that it is the Minnows to whom we owe the greatest thanks. It is your enthusiasm, your perseverance and your achievements that make the whole exercise worthwhile. As Minnows, you are the next generation of life savers, surf sport enthusiasts and perhaps even members of club committees. You are part of a truly iconic institution in Australia. There is rarely a week during the season where someone has failed to impress the club, their parents or perhaps themselves. You are a remarkable group of young people and we look forward to seeing you next season. Take care during the cooler months and see you in spring for season 2013/14.

In my first season as Captain can I thank the Minnows Executive, the Minnows Committee and our Age Managers, Water Safety, IRB crew and Age Assistants for your unwavering support and contributions through the season. The success of Coogee Minnows is clearly a consequence of the substantial number of people who contribute on a totally voluntary basis. We are highly regarded as a club throughout Surf Life Saving Australia. To those people whose tour is reaching an end (John McDonald, Geoff Nixon,

Rob Illidge, Bruce Fulton, Di Wallace, Margot Hilton) thank you indeed and very best wishes as you return to a normal life. To Ben Griffiths, congratulations on completing a 9-year commitment with the completion of this season's Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) group - all 72 of them. We look forward to seeing you around the beach enjoying your Sunday mornings with the family. I am eternally grateful that our season has concluded without any significant incidents. The investment we make in training, education and compliance is substantial. This year we have trained a further 60 Bronze Medallion awardees. We ran five sessions for Age Managers and Age Assistants. We developed a transition program for Bronzies to help up-skill our Water Safety personnel for the very different world at Minnows. With so many children the need for us to be vigilant and prepared at all times is simply too important.

On behalf of Minnows I thank the leadership and Management Committee of Coogee Surf Life Saving Club. Your support and encouragement to Minnows during the year has been invaluable and I look forward to ensuring the operations of Minnows are truly integrated within the club of which we are a proud component. A very clear example of this has been our involvement this season with the Inner Reef Club both in its execution and also in terms of being a recipient of funds that arise.

We began the season with a clear intention to increase participation in Surf sports. By the end of the season I am happy to report this outcome was achieved with over 100 Minnows attending both the Branch and State carnivals. We have extended the opportunities for training with support from Warwick Everingham, Dave Habler and Chris Gateley. With the support of a dedicated Competition Director (John McDonald) and competition coordinators in each age group we have started to redevelop surf sports in Minnows and this focus will continue under the leadership of Steve Callaghan in the coming seasons. Congratulations to Ethan Smith (U8 Sprint), Samantha Gately and Elisa Toomey (U12 R and R) for their bronze medals at this year's State Age Championships. Congratulations to Olivia Karras, Eliza Cotis and Alice Morgan (U14 age group) for their silver medal as three quarters of an U15 sprint relay squad in the State Open Championships.

Coogee Minnows has enjoyed support from a number of sponsors during the season. Our long term Platinum Sponsor, MINT360property supplemented by MLC Advice Randwick and Audi Centre Sydney have provided generous donations without which we could not provide the scale or quality of operation. We are very grateful. We are also grateful to Coogee Village Butchery, Coogee Bakery and Royal Randwick Fruit and Veg, and Kelloggs who generously support our barbecues and surf camp.



We introduced some new initiatives this year designed to improve the efficiency of registration for not only Minnows but also a number of events during the season. These initiatives have gone well and we will continue to refine these over future seasons – Rod Wallace is thanked for his leadership of these initiatives. Similarly, Rob Illidge is thanked for his important contributions to Minnows with written policies for Water Safety and Ben Ashton for leading a group that has developed policies for handling lost children.

Surf Camp was once again an outstanding success with over 150 Minnows spending two glorious days on the beach. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this all happen, providing help behind the scenes and on the beach.

It is important we understand the financial platform from which we operate. A careful assessment throughout the year has revealed that we are vulnerable to increasing costs that have not been corrected for over five years. Additionally, we must be cautious about our ability to continue with successful sponsorships. We will address a formal motion at the AGM to increase membership fees for the 2013/2014 season. By design

these changes should address the increasing costs we incur every year as well as provide us with some independence from using valuable sponsorship funds for general operations.

Similarly, we have concluded after considerable discussion that our membership is in excess of what is safe and sustainable. Accordingly, we will begin a process of capping registrations to limit membership in 2013/14 to approximately 1000 Minnows.

Finally, season 2013/14 will be the 50th anniversary of Coogee Minnows. We have already started planning for a season of events, the centre-piece of which is a gala dinner at Paddington Town Hall on October 11th. We look forward to seeing you there to join us in celebrating this remarkable achievement.

We look forward to your continued participation and support. We will see you back on the beach in late September. Please have a safe, peaceful and enjoyable break. Keep up the swimming.

Sean Emery
Minnows Captain 2012-2013



The excitement and trepidation of a season of 'firsts' began a long time before the first day on the sand for the white cap kids, their parents and the two new age managers.

Registration day, (which has that feeling of organised chaos) showed the enthusiasm early on of many parents and kids, with a barrage of questions and queries about the when's, why's and where's of the season ahead. Those fresh and unknown faces in the delightful Juniors auditorium gradually became much more familiar as the season progressed and the Sunday morning summer rituals took hold.

The first Sunday down on the beach for the whites was a welcome relief when it finally came. There weren't too many tears, no injuries nor lost kids and it was great to see the cheers of happiness at the end of the session by the kids, parents and helpers alike. Certainly an improvement from the previous year when the beach was closed to find a missing child.

The first few weeks are always tough with less parent helpers available, as the obligatory training and forms haven't been completed – it can't be reinforced enough, Nippers is only a success for your children if parents help. Nippers really is a case of the more helpers the merrier - it helps the whole show run smoothly and results in kids who enjoy the morning rather than sitting around starting to throw sand as they wait for their turn. If you aren't pulling on an age assistant t-shirt on a Sunday morning, why not?

In synch with the weather getting warmer, the kids got into the groove of what goes on each week, and for many, the search for parking became more frustrating. To see the improvement of skills each week was remarkable, especially in the quintessential "flags". The bedlam of kids running in multiple directions for the first few weeks, was soon enough a smooth running affair, with nearly all kids giving it a go and perfecting their launch and dive styles!

Water though is the glamour event, and whilst many were apprehensive early on (I blame the cold water) one of the most memorable events of the season was Santa's arrival. Any fear of the water was quickly dispelled as it was noticed that Santa had swapped his sleigh for an water-borne IRB. Kids were going crazy on the waters edge clamoring for Santa, so much so that not many kids noticed a famous Coogee dumper building. Needless to say a lot of kids got very wet when it hit.

The 2013/2014 season ahead has us moving one spot up the beach, where we can all look across to the new batch of fresh faced kids and parents starting out at Nippers, remembering our first year together. I hope that your first year with the white caps was as enjoyable and gratifying as ours.

Mango and Sean Under 6's Age Managers



The U7 nippers enjoyed another great season back on Coogee Beach. Last years 160 'Blue Caps' were joined by further 30, making our group the largest age group to go through Coogee Nippers to date.

We were again blessed with some 25 fantastically enthusiastic age assistants who worked tirelessly every Sunday to ensure our kids maintained their smiles throughout the season. A very big thank you to you all for all your help, advice and good humour.

The season started well, with everything running like a well oiled machine. It was as if we hadn't had a 6 month break. The kids all participated with enthusiasm and we were able to introduce some new games with the Assault Course, British Bulldog and Poison Ball all making an appearance during the year. The numbers on the beach for the first half of the season remained around 130 – 150 and all the kids got to actively partake in a number of the activities offered.

This season saw a slightly more spirited approach taken towards the relay races and flag races. We were keen to engender a more 'competitive' spirit within our kids, which will hold them all in good stead for the 2013-2014 season. This season we held our first Champo Day, which was a huge success. The kids gave their all, participating with enthusiasm and passion with many of the competitors showing real potential. It was a delight to see the male and female flag winners having a run off, with the air of a true final. The spirit of the day was completed with all the finalist shaking hands, showing the 'Two Blue' value of sportsmanship. The annual visit from the Jolly Big Fella, bringing lollies, chips and drinks for all the kids, rounded off, what was a great first half of our season.

The second half of the season was a bit of a wash out, with the weather causing some disruption to our Sunday activities. Needless to say, we soldiered on and only had to formally cancel one Sunday, when huge surf closed the entire beach. Our numbers were somewhat reduced after the Christmas break, but we still managed a core of approximately 100 – 120 kids, who were still very keen to get wet, despite some pretty chilly winds blowing across the beach. We continued with our competitive theme, enjoying some very close races in the relays, sprints and flags. Every session was finished off with a tug of war and i can proudly announce that this year it was a draw, with the girls and boys both winning the same amount of contests.

We are very excited about season 2013 -14 with the formal introduction of swimming and board paddling (Boogie boards). At last our kids are going to enjoy the full range of Nipper activities with a mix of sand and water that will hopefully build on our kids' existing skills. Next season also sees the U8's competing for the first time at surf carnivals. We will be looking to put a team together for the Randwick Shield Carnival, South Maroubra Carnival and possibly the Sydney Branch Carnival. So as you can see we are going to be very busy this season with lost of new activities and the introduction of water activities.

We are looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday 6 October for the start of what is going to be an exciting season.

Ben and Paul
Under 7's Age Manager



Our Under 8 'Greenies' took to the water at South Juniors pre season and tackled the single lap of the pool and one minute survival float proficiency with enthusiasm and skill. It's wonderful to reflect that the U6 children we had in the 2010-11 season are now porpoising 40m, riding boogie boards with flair and competing in carnivals. Amazing progress from all the U8 Minnows.

This was a season of firsts for the Greenies. First year in the water, first year with a John Mudge day, first year on boards, first year at carnivals and first year not throwing sand at each other (much!). In addition we learnt about keeping safe at the beach, signals and environmental awareness. At carnivals, the Greenies did not disappoint, despite the steep learning curve for all involved.

Randwick Shield at Maroubra Beach: A huge team of Greenies represented Coogee. Everyone tried their best and the high level of effort, performance and behaviour was apparent to all involved. Coogee SLSC won the Randwick Shield by winning the All Age Relay. Thanks to Leo Astridge for capably representing the U8s. Ethan Smith won the U8 Boys Flags event for Coogee in a thrilling series of elimination events which culminated in three boys from different clubs competing for one flag.

Branch Carnival at Elouera: Fantastic effort and a great outcome from the U8s. The U8s were segregated from the older groups who competed at Wanda. Coogee was represented by Tamara Abagi, Chloe Cooke, Ava Munro, Layla Parker, Lucia Habib, Imogen Brown and Jemma Gillis in the U8 girls. Also, by Thomas Walker, Leo Astridge, Mattia Viglietta, Conor Andrews, Ethan Smith, Maximus McDonald, Daniel Kavanagh, Eddie Osler and Max Tanner in the U8 boys. All put in 110% effort for the whole day and slept well on Sunday night. Special thanks to Helen Talaat for co-ordinating the Coogee team and to all the parents who stepped in to help on the day – especially those who took over marshaling the U8 boys while Helen marshaled the girls. Highlights: Ethan Smith won gold in the Beach Sprint; U8 Boys Beach Relay won Silver (Ethan Smith, Mattia Viglietta, Leo Astridge, Max Tanner); U8 Boys Wade Relay won Bronze (Daniel Kavanagh, Thomas Walker, Ethan Smith, Max Tanner).

State Carnival at Umina: Congratulations to our U8 NSW State competitors: Chloe Cooke, Ava Munro, Layla Parker, Imogen Brown in the U8 girls and Mattia Viglietta, Ethan Smith, Maximus McDonald and Max Tanner in the U8 boys. Congratulations also to their parents who put in an

enormous effort and overcame monumentally poor weather conditions to ensure their children were in the right place to compete when the repeatedly delayed events were finally scheduled. Coogee sent it's largest ever team to State Carnival of over 100 competitors and were successful in getting into 21 Finals. Ethan Smith brought home a bronze in the Beach Sprint. As reported by Martin Smith "in an incredibly tense & competitive final judged only by the naked eye from some unlucky volunteers the first 4 went across the line together, after some time (which Ethan spent by shaking his competitors hands & showing good sportsmanship...) he was awarded Bronze !!!!"

Next Season: From October 2013 the U8 Greenies will become U9 Greenies. Do not underestimate the step up that this entails. U9 Minnows will routinely be ocean swimming and riding foam boards. It is very important that these children keep up their swimming lessons through the off-season and get down to the beach as much as possible to continue to improve their water confidence. Also consider coming down to the swimming and board confidence groups. Children routinely amaze their parents with their improved abilities after these groups.

Lastly, none of this would be possible without the amazing and dedicated support of the Age Assistants and Water Safety. Truly a magnificent lot whose efforts are greatly appreciated. Also, an enormous thank you to all the parents and kids who came down early or stayed late to help with the Beach Setup and Set Down and on the BBQ for which we received high praise.

Thanks for a great season. I really get a great vibe from the kids on the beach every week. It's clear that they're enjoying themselves and they're learning surf lifesaving skills without realising it!

Gary Trenaman
U8's Age Manager



The 'mighty red caps' had another wonderful season and really stepped up to the challenges that came with a much more challenging skills. This season we moved into much longer surf swims, board paddles as well as a much bigger focus on correct techniques and competition based performance on the sand. All members of this group continued to show great determination, tenacity and courage in pushing themselves to attain these skills. We also introduced more of the surf lifesaving components and how to become successful lifesavers in the future.

Obviously the weather and water temperature, at times, were part of the challenges faced. From very cold and rainy weather to some of the hottest days ever in Sydney, these young men and women always did their best. The improvements shown, particularly in the surf skills of the swim and paddle boards, were very impressive. We had many who were very reluctant at the start of the season and by the end of the season were confident and skilled. A lot of this comes down to the support from the age assistants and water safety who were simply outstanding in all that they did. A big thank you to all of these people for your wonderful help week in and week out. Often, these assistants face the condition extremes the most, and yet never complain. The difference that you make in the lives of these future lifesavers cannot be underestimated.

We had some great results in the various competitions that we entered, however, the large group we sent to the State titles were met with some of the toughest conditions ever faced. Winning medals is great, but more importantly is that all of our competitors at carnivals or just on Coogee beach every Sunday morning did themselves, their families and the surf club very proud. A big thank you to Jo Quinn as our competition co-ordinator, and to Craig Sewell for managing the water safety in the age group. I would also like to thank Sean and all of the committee for all of their support and also to Nick Osler in the U/10's for all of his wise words and advice.

I encourage all red caps to keep next season as a focus during winter, and to keep getting in the pool and swimming as the challenges for next year will go up again. I am confident that we will meet these challenges head on once again. Seeing the joy and sense of achievement every week on these little peoples smiling faces is what makes surf lifesaving so worth it. See you on the beach!

Steve O'Donnell
U9's Age Manager



".. where does the wind come from, who makes the waves? Is it the breath of God?"

The cult surf film Big Wednesday posed this theory, but obviously would have been faced with some major script re-writes if they had consulted the real experts in this area; Coogee Minnow yellow-caps. Surf education and in particular first aid was a major theme for our U10s, and they applied themselves magnificently as we spent a number of weeks going through DRSABCD including practice drills and spot tests. One test was even conducted by our resident Lifeguards. Its goes without saying – the pass rate was 100% and we may have even topped the State.

A big thank-you to my deputies Melanie Abbott, Kevin Roche, and competition manager Michael Parsons. Also thanks to Michael Kavanagh, Sara Wilson, James Twomey, Kate Cooper, Poido (ran a great game of touch one morning that only saw 14 soft tissue injuries) and the rest of the team that contributed so much on Sunday's and at carnival's where our yellow caps competed. The U10 brain's trust will miss Kevin Roche as he drops a few age groups in 2013/14 - thank you Kev for your support since U6s, in particular running the yellow caps during many of my absences, and taking my calls at 7am on a Sunday to discuss the running sheet, even when half asleep in another part of the world (Kev's ideas for

the running sheet that morning remain a mystery to all, including ASIO).

Safety is paramount and a core value at Coogee Minnows, and I thank all those involved in managing the yellow caps each Sunday; from Rob Illidge our Water Captain to each parent who contributed with water safety. Special mention to our record keeping maestro and king of count-in/count-out – Ian Nunn.

Competition is an important part of Minnows, from John Mudge Day right up to the NSW State Champs, and our yellow caps enjoyed a great season. Many claimed medals, made finals, achieved personal bests, and did the club proud. Excitement is building with some unfinished business at State for both our sand and water relay teams after many of these events were cancelled due to bad weather last season.

So its with great anticipation we look forward to next season when the yellow caps will be introduced to fibreglass boards, bigger swims and even more lifesaving including surf rescue techniques. So keep up the swimming over winter and see you all in spring!

Nick Osler
U10's Age Manager



This year was a stand out for me. It all came together, the kids, Age Assistants and parents. We worked at achieving the main goal, which is to provide our kids with a great learning base to which they can build on as young Surf Lifesavers.

I saw such personal development across the board with all kids making a huge effort to achieve their personal goals, whether it be swimming to the cans with their head down all the way..... or achieving the iron woman title.

The season would not be possible without the help of a great team and I can say that this team of wonderful Age Assistants is outstanding not only does each Age Assistant give their all each week, they help me to achieve my best. A very special thank you to Grant Beer and Pete Sandona.

We had some wonderful results this year with medals at Maroubra carnival and some great results at branch. I urge you all to keep swimming and work on sand through the off- season. I promise you will see great results.

State this year was the toughest year yet but the Under 11's were not deterred after having to move to other beaches to do their disciplines and of course the disappointment of not doing sand relays we headed home better for the experience.

My aim this season (2012-2013) is that more kids have a go at competition! As I have always stated since I started with the Under 6's have a go you may surprise yourself, to compete at any carnival you need to really want to be there and be prepared to "hurry up and wait" I truly believe that some of you can really lift to this level, it is a step up but the smiles on the faces when it is all over is wonderful to see.

I thank you all very much for being with me on this journey of Surf Lifesaving,

Keep Swimming, have fun in the off Season and see back ready to go in October.

My Quote for the season is "You are only limited by your beliefs"

Marcia Brereton
Under 11's Age Manager



Another fun packed season of Nippers and only one more season before we embark on our SRC (Surf Rescue Certificate). All the kids were back keen as ever for a fun and challenging season.

The kids again showed great enthusiasm, effort and focus on learning lifesaving skills. They were always eager to get involved in resuscitation, signals, board and tube rescues. They really enjoy the tube rescues, carries and board rescues even though it is a bit manic at times they always give their best. The kids have a great time when we swim out to the point and back! It is getting increasingly hard to keep up with them all in the water! They are developing their skills extremely well and growing into great junior lifesavers.

It was a mixed season with weather with some Sundays being cancelled very unusual – that was how bad the weather had become. The competitions saw determined efforts by all who competed. Branch Carnival saw some wonderful efforts with some great improvement shown by the kids in the water and as usual strong results on the sand.

State was marred by the bad weather but it was good to see the kids with a positive attitude and as always showing fantastic sportsmanship and determination in their efforts.

Again this is not possible with out all the assistance from the magnificent team of age assistants both on the beach and in the water which ensured the under 12's had plenty of opportunities to practice their skills. Without their unfailing help and support the children would not have had such great experiences week in week out. Bring on the new season for 2013/2014 and see you all in October.

Cameron McAlpine
Under 12's Age Manager



Another season has passed and we have arrived at the final hurdle.....8 years down for many (9 for at least one I can think of) with just the SRC to go.....must say I can't wait to get stuck into the u14 year and see you all in the 'red and yellow' at its conclusion!!

This season saw a large contingent of the group from the previous year return, along with many new faces. All of you are to be congratulated for your enthusiasm and effort.

Whilst the weather and the ocean conspired against us on many occasions, I was really pleased to see consistently good attendance numbers right til' the very end.

Again our lifesaving and Surf Education sessions were well received. Our points days were always hotly contested, providing us with invaluable data to ensure that the correct kids were rewarded for effort when it came to selecting carnival teams.

Our efforts at carnivals were again a high point. Randwick shield and South Maroubra saw big numbers of purple caps showing up to have a go in a more competitive environment... all competed in a spirited manner and many received medals... too many to name here. The Branch carnival at Wanda was attended by a smaller group of kids who had been consistently placing on our competitive Sundays. All competed to the absolute best of their ability, with many achieving wonderful results, some even bringing home medals! After our State 'debut' the previous season, we decided to have another crack at the ultimate competition in NSW...this year being held on the Central coast at Umina. Despite having what we thought was a pretty good team, combined with high hopes of doing well in certain events, we arrived to be confronted with three of the worst weather days I can ever remember....wet, windy

and miserable....as a result, competition (I'm not even going to mention the camping!!!) was very limited, however some did manage to compete and did really well. All competitors represented themselves, their families and our club in a manner that they should be proud of....well done kids!

Consistent with last year, I am not going to focus too much on individual achievement in this report, however it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge and congratulate Nubia for her selection in the combined Sydney Branch team which competed in the Inter Branch championships on the Mid North coast. Nubia is the first Coogee Minnow ever to be selected for this team...well done!

As I do every year, I must offer a huge thank you to all of the age assistants and water safety who help me on a weekly basis. Particular mention must go to Phil, Michael and Ian for acting as leaders throughout the year.

As I have already mentioned, next season is our last and most important. We start the SRC from day one and the expectation is that all of you will show up ready to learn and participate in a way that both shows the ultimate level of respect to all Instructors and helpers, as well as ensuring you give yourselves the best chance of learning and acquiring your SRC. I want to stress that the season is not over at the conclusion of the course in December....I expect that you will all see the entire season out and look for ways to continue an association with club as you get older.

Bring on 2013/14!!!

Geoff Nixon

Under 13's Age Manager



It is with a sense of exuberance, imbued with a little sadness, that I write my final annual report for this terrific group of youngsters. The U14's have now completed their journey to senior club, having fulfilled a vigorous year of training, activity and competition.

Our Minnows set course for the Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) in October and following twice-weekly education sessions were exam ready by early December. Outstanding tuition and direction from leaders, Mark Andreatta and Geoff Leong, made for a thorough, no nonsense course, free of the logistical challenges that 73 children might normally present.

Our Minnows all passed their examination in what I have been advised was the largest SRC group ever to go through (Australia wide). The SRC readies our children for senior club and is the minimum qualification that allows them to become patrolling life savers. The U14's will each have completed 4-5 patrols by season end.

Problematic surf conditions meant that only one round of club championships could be held this year. Nevertheless, we were able to shortlist a team of competitors for the forthcoming branch and state surf lifesaving championships. I feel confident in saying that this years team was probably the strongest and most competitive one we have yet fielded, covering events ranging from R&R to board display.

All of our team members did Coogee proud, but I do need to make mention of some commendable performances. At branch, our boys (Harrison, Kofod, Ryan and France) won gold in the beach sprint relay, whilst the girl's beach sprint relay team (Cotis, Fagan, G.Morgan and Duchenne U13) secured bronze. Harriet Lowe took silver in the girl's flags whilst our R&R team (Murphy, Haes, Griffiths, Davis and Cuthbert) took bronze medals in both U14 and U15 age groups.

The nippers state carnival at Umina Beach was conducted under horrendous conditions and all competitors found the going tough. Will Harrison managed a spot in the beach sprint final and Harriet Lowe a 5th in the girl's flags. Creditable quarter and semi final positions were recorded by many of the team. Regrettably, medal-winning performances eluded us over the two day programme.

Undeterred, many of our competitors backed up the following weekend, to compete in the senior state carnival in the U15 age grouping, also held at Umina, only this time under optimal conditions.

Our girl's beach sprint relay team, running up an age group, took silver in a thrilling final. A masterful performance was

put in by Olivia Karras, Eliza Cotis, Alice Morgan and Jessica Thornton from the U15's. Our redoubtable R&R team secured 4th place in the U14 and 8th in the U15.

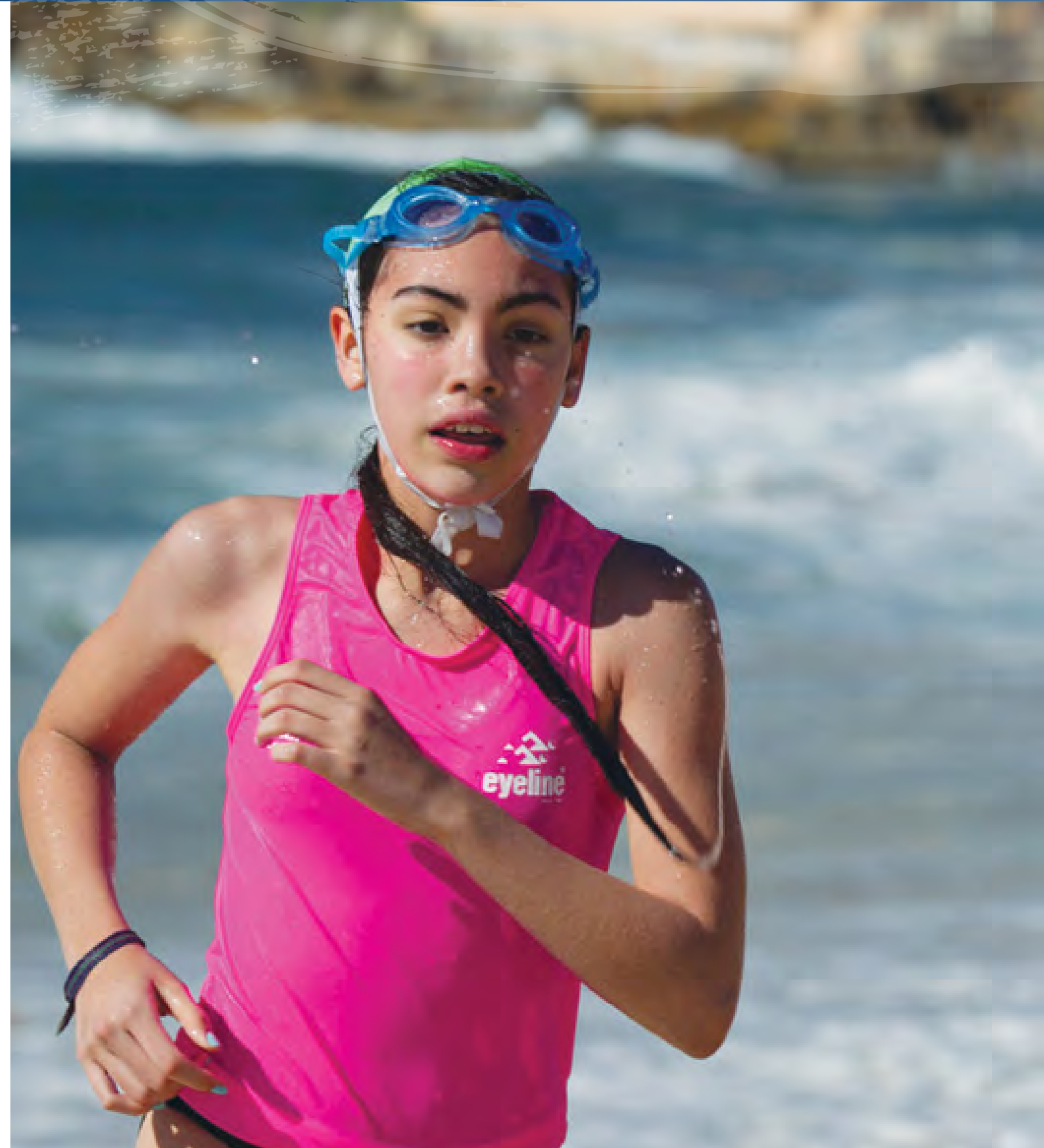
One of the season highlights was the announcement that two of our Minnows and club captains, Harrison Smith and Ruby Neagle, had qualified as finalists in Surf Life Saving Sydney's, Junior Life Saver of the Year Award. Whilst both did not win the coveted title, Harrison and Ruby were given highly commended awards.

To have one of our Minnows in the finals would have been an outstanding achievement, but to have two progress this far is testimony to the calibre of young life savers being produced at Coogee today.

In closing, I would like pay tribute to our U14 Minnows, a group I have gotten to know well since many of them arrived fresh-faced to the U6's. They have matured into confident and capable young adults with an infectious enthusiasm for life. May this continue. They say it takes a village to raise a child. Without the 'village' of age assistants on hand each weekend, none of what we have been able to achieve with the U14's would be possible.

I would like to pay special thanks to my deputy, Andrew Neagle for his help and wise counsel over the years, Gareth Jones for his weekly surf skills work and the army of dedicated parents who have helped ensure our weekly programme makes it to the shoreline.

Ben Griffiths
Under 14's Age Manager





Ruby Neagle
Junior Female Captain

I have mixed feelings about writing this final report as it brings an end to my years as a Coogee Minnows Nipper.

It only seems like yesterday when we all joined the Under 6's – we were excited, nervous some of us even terrified about wading in the surf that only came up to our waists ... As a group we have come such a long way!

What was it that brought us back to Coogee week after week ... yes we learnt great surf skills, surf awareness, first aid, respecting aspects of our environment, and each week we pushed ourselves a little bit further to improve, or to achieve a personal best - but what is it about Coogee Minnows ! It was the relationships we have forged over the years, the honesty, competitive spirit, and more importantly the fun we had each week - this is what brings us back. Coogee Minnows was a wonderful learning experience I will remember for the rest of my life.

None of our achievements would be possible without the combined contribution and dedication of our Age Manager: Ben Griffiths, and all the Age Assistants who have been with us every week as our skills developed as we progressed & matured over the eight years we have all been involved. Ben has been with our age group since the early days. His enthusiasm every Sunday morning made it so much easier to get out of bed, and he was always on call to provide encouragement & advice offering his guidance on the many aspects of junior lifesaving . On behalf on the under 14's I'd like to thank him for his leadership over the years in which he never let our group down. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful Age Assistants that gave up their time

and help create a supportive environment for us every week during our Minnows journey.

I am also honoured to share that during our final U14's Minnows year Harrison Smith and I were delighted to be selected as finalists, and later announced as recipients of the Highly Commended Award in the Junior Life Saver of the Year. These Awards were testament to not only Ben Griffiths, but also the entire Coogee Minnows program which so many people contribute to make Sunday mornings on the beach such a popular and professional event.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Sean, Tass and Doug who were all Minnows Captains during my time at Minnows. All of them contributed so much to me personally, and the entire Minnows Community to make it the success that it is.

To all the wonderful families that come down each week, and to all the new families that will join in participating the future Minnows program - enjoy this time with your children, it is so family orientated and you learn lots of cool stuff along the way.

As an U6 Nipper I was one of a couple of us that was so scared and often freaked out about tackling the waves on Sunday morning, however nowadays I cannot wait to hit the surf.

Good luck and enjoy season 2012-2013.

All the best and thank you Coogee Minnows for being such a big part of my life



Harrison Smith
Junior Male Captain

Coogee Minnows...where would my life would be without it?

Would I have all the friends I have now?

Would I be down at the beach every weekend?

Would I be a lifesaver?

The answer to all of this, is a definiteNO.

Coogee Surf Club isn't just a part of my life, it IS my life.

Coogee beach is my second home and that would not be the case without Nippers!

Coogee Minnows has shaped my life more than you could imagine.

It's taught me how to make new friends.

It's taught me many different skills.

From pulling on a rope, battling it out against our age assistants, in a game of tug of war, way back in the under 6's, to saving lives in the under 14's. But more importantly, it has taught me some of life's most valuable lessons. Lessons, that I will carry with me forever. I am so honoured to have been the Captain of the biggest and best Minnows organisation in the world! It's weird how all of us started in the under 6's, looking up at all of the age assistants and now we finish in the under 14's and most of us are now looking down on them (literally).

To Ben, Tass, Sean, Age Managers and Assistants, Water Safety, Gear Stewards, BBQ men and women, Board Washers, Ding Fixers, and anyone else who has helped out in making my nippers journey a great experience..... Thank you.

Not only have you introduced me to some great friends you have also set me up for a lifetime of Coogee Surf club Membership. Being named as runner up in the branch as the Male Life Saver of the Year is an achievement I am so proud of and will remember for the rest of my life.

The u14's, being our last year, was something that we all hoped to make the most of. And we certainly did that! Coogee saw a record breaking number of kids go through a long 8 weeks of training every Wednesday and Sunday, all determined to pass the final SRC exam. Unbelievably, every member of the under 14's passed their SCR and are now Coogee Surf Club Life Savers.

One of my highlights as a nipper was being part of a group of eager kids, Coogee took up the coast to Umina for the NSW State Titles earlier this year. We not only battled the other competitors, but also an angry ocean and dreadful weather! The first day was miserable in and out of the water, causing the organisers of the event to postpone the first day. But, battling the cold, wet nights, we hung on and we came away with some great results. There wasn't even much whinging. At least from the kids, anyway. Those left on the last day, when the water events were moved to Terrigal, all dug deep and competed as best they could. We all toughed it out that weekend, doing Coogee proud. Times like this, prove why Coogee Minnows is the biggest and best nipper's organisation in the branch, state, country and the WORLD! This is why every year so many parents rush to Souths Juniors on rego day to give their child the great experience that I, and all past minnows, have had. Although on some cold, rainy days, I dreaded going down to Coogee, I always enjoyed the fun activities and events that Ben had planned for us every weekend. That sums up my life as a minnow and the 2012-2013 minnows season. I could not have got through without my age group, the mighty green caps, Ben, Tass, Sean, age assistants and everyone.

A final message to my fellow under 14's..... "Don't forget it, because it has happened,

Remember it, because it did happen".

Thank You

The 2012 / 2013 season was one of the most successful ever for the Coogee Minnows. The season commences in a frenzy every year getting training programs into place, lining up coaches and schedules early so that all aspiring competitors can be at their peak by carnival time.

This year we ran training programs for beach and board disciplines. Despite our plans to run surf sessions at South Maroubra with our Seniors, we were not able to muster the support from our troops and these sessions did not eventuate. We look will to establish these on the calendar again next season with a little more success.

Our coaches are very generous with their time and we owe you a big round of thanks. Without you we would not be achieving the great results of recent years. When you next see them please ensure you express your gratitude to:

- Boards - Dave "Gunner" Habler, Mick Cantarella, Tass Karozis, Dave Smith, Nino D'Agostino, Andrew Tooher and Geoff "Nicko" Nixon
- Beach – Warwick Everingham, Luke Starr, Michael Parsons, James Moran, Beau Docking, Joey Todd, Paul Kofod, Michael Fagan and Mark Harrison
- R&R – Chris Gately, Jess Gately & Todd Mison

To the Mangers, Mums and Dads who helped out thank you very much as Minnows simply don't get themselves to Wanda, Umina, Kirra or anywhere else. I am sure there are others and humbly apologise if I have left anyone out. To others thinking of getting involved, it's time to step up as we are a club of contributors and welcome all comers.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Randwick Shield

Coogee retained the Randwick Shield in November at Maroubra Beach by winning the blue ribbon All Age Relay for the 2nd year in a row. In other events Coogee's strength within the Randwick District was demonstrated by many clean sweeps in the surf and on the sand.

South Maroubra

Coogee sent a healthy team to the South Maroubra Carnival in early December to get some much needed competition exposure. This was a great stepping stone for many competitors to kick-start their season with clubs from Bate Bay and Waverley Districts being involved. The beach relay teams performed well and there were a few individual medals won as well.

Branch

The Sydney Branch championships were held on Sunday 17th February 2013 at Wanda and Eloura. We sent a big team and they performed admirably, securing 12 gold medals, 7 silver and 12 bronze. In addition to the medals we won, there were 41 finalists from Coogee. The swell challenged everyone that day. The Branch was also the first time that the Under 8's and plenty of 9's had competed outside of Coogee so it was an exciting day for most of these kids. On a day when Coogee was hauling in medals, 4 beach relay teams were disqualified in medal winning positions.

Gold medals were won by Ethan Smith (8'S), Nick Quinn (9's), Adam Beer, Hugh Melville, Liam Andrews and Asher Wilson (10's beach relay), Alexia Osler (10's), Asher Wilson (10's), Samantha Gately & Eliza Twoomey (11's), Jack Griffiths, Sam Kofod, Will Fagan & Anthony Kourambanas (12's beach relay), Will Fagan (12's), Nubia Mendes (13's) and Jack Kofod, Hugh France, Will Harrison and Billy Ryan (14's beach relay).

State Age

The planning and executing of the logistics for State included ordering of state team gear, accommodation plus breakfast and dinner for 120+ competitors and parents, transportation of craft, age group and team selections as well as 600+ competition entries. From the smaller teams of 30-40 in previous years this team was a monster and extremely challenging to plan for with so many moving

pieces not falling into place until the week leading in. A big thank you to the Exec, Competition Co-ordinators and Age Managers, Apparel Team for their support. However a special mention to our beloved Registrar Rod Wallace, who by far has the biggest headache with the 600+ carnival entries.....Thank you.

Easily Coogee's largest nipper team ever travelled to the State Titles at Umina Beach on the first weekend in March. In total, 114 competitors were entered and a large contingent were camping at nearby Patonga Beach. Little were we all to know what impact the weather would have on our chances that weekend! Due to the unfavourable weather conditions the 1st day's events were all postponed and the carnival then had to be compressed into 2 days and back-up venues set up to enable water events to proceed.

The out of control swell at Umina meant that various age groups had their water events transferred to Ocean beach and Terrigal. The beach relays were cancelled late on Saturday afternoon and only the All Age relay was held. Coogee made the final and unfortunately a dropped baton cost us a medal. Of the 24 competitors that made finals Coogee captured 2 Bronze medals.

Congratulations go to Ethan Smith for his 3rd place in the under 8's beach sprint, and Samantha Gately & Eliza Twoomey for their 3rd place in the 12's 2 person R & R. Many thanks to all the kids and their parents who endured the wet weekend at Umina, including those who travelled each day from Sydney. We'll all be better for the experience! I look forward to both improved performances and weather conditions at the 2014 State Titles.

Aussies

It is not well known that a 13 of our under 14 competitors also travelled up to Queensland to compete in the 2013 Australian Surf Titles at North Kirra. The competitors were:

- R&R – Georgia Murphy, Ruby Cuthbert, Jessica Griffiths, Tia Hayes and Estelle Davis
- Beach Sprint – Gaby Fagan, Olivia Karrass, Alice Morgan, Eliza Cotis, Jack Kofod, Will Harrison, Will Todd, Hugh Francis and Billy Ryan

All our competitors performed admirably in their individual events considering they were competing up an age group in the under 15s. However it is the team results in particularly that were very encouraging and augur well for next year's titles in WA.

The team results were:

1. Bronze medal – U15 Female Beach Sprint - Olivia Karrass, Alice Morgan, Eliza Cotis teaming with Jess Thornton;
2. Semifinalists – U15 Male Beach Sprint – the boys narrowly missing a finals berth by one place after drawing what was clearly the most competitive semi-final
3. 8th place – U15 R&R

Despite disappointing weather conditions upsetting our State campaign, our competitors and teams turned in extremely strong performances again in 2013. Coogee continues to strengthen its reputation as a leading Club in the sand and R&R events.

We will continue to develop our craft and water competitors with the focus on developing teams in these areas. Whilst the Minnows are able to draw upon the coaching resources and experience within the senior club we desperately need more parents within the craft and water areas to step forward and provide co-ordination, logistics and management of the competitors at club carnivals and training. Training is an area where the parents support is essential as we need to travel beyond Coogee to obtain the surf experience required.

Finally a big thank you to our Club President Matt Scanlon, Minnows Captain Sean Emery, Club Captain Dave Winkle and their respective management teams, without whose support our Minnows could not compete.

All in all a very good year for the Minnows on the competition front and we look forward to bigger, better and brighter results in 2013/2014.

John McDonald and Steve Callaghan

**Competition Director
Chef de Mission (Branch & State Titles)**

CATEGORY	PLACE	NAME
Junior Captains		Ruby Neagle Harrison Smith
Best Club Person		Mark Andreatta 'Daylight'
Best Team In Competition	1	2 Person R&R – 3rd Place (NSW State Championships) Samantha Gately & Eliza Twomey
Perpetual Trophy 2013		Ethan Smith Best Individual in Competition
Outstanding Achievement by a Minnow		
U15s Beach Relay	2	Alice Morgan
NSW State Championships		Eliza Cotis Olivia Karras
Awarded Life Member of Coogee Minnows		Rob Illidge
NSW State Championships		
All Age Beach Relay	4	Ethan Smith, Tom Brcic, Asher Wilson, Ashley Preston, Will Fagan, Dan Andrews, Will Harrison
U8 Boys Sprint	3	Ethan Smith
U8 Boys Flags	6	Ethan Smith
U9 Girls Flags	10	Ruby Thomasyu
U10 Boys Sprint	4	Asher Wilson
U10 Boys Flags	5	Asher Wilson
U10 Girls Sprint	4	Alexia Osler
U10 Girls Swim	5	Laura Wilson
U12 Boys Sprint	5	Will Fagan
U13 Girls Sprint	4	Nubia Mendes
U13 Girls Sprint	5	Heidi Cummings
U13 Girls Flags	6	Nubia Mendes
U13 Girls Flags	8	Heidi Cummings
U14 Boys Sprint	8	Will Harrison
U14 Girls Flags	5	Harriett Lowe
Branch Carnival		
All Age Boys Relay	2	Ethan Smith, Tom Brcic, Asher Wilson, Ashley Preston, WillFagan, DanAndrews, BillyRyan

CATEGORY	PLACE	NAME
Branch Carnival (Continued)		
U8 Boys Beach Relay	2	Ethan Smith, Mattia Viglietta, Leo Astridge, Max Tanner
U8 Boys Wade Relay	3	Daniel Kavanagh, Thomas Walker, Ethan Smith, Max Tanner
U8 Boys Sprint	1	Ethan Smith
U8 Boys Flags	8	Thomas Walker
U8 Boys Flags	9	Ethan Smith
U8 Boys Wade	F	Thomas Walker, Ethan Smith
U9 Boys Flags	1	Nick Quinn
U9 Boys Sprint	3	Thomas Brcic
U9 Boys Swim	F	Baxter Senior
U9 Boys Board	F	Finn Pell, Charlie Moore
U9 Boys Flags	F	Jonathan Ryan, Thomas Brcic
U9 Girls Flags	3	Ruby Thomasyu
U9 Girls Sprint	5	Ruby Thomasyu
U9 Girls Flags	F	Ruby Goto, Alex Davison,
		Meira Jackson
U9 Girls Swim	12	Alice Maurant
U10 Boys Beach Relay	1	Adam Beer, Hugh Melville, Liam Andrews, Asher Wilson
U10 Boys Swim Relay	4	Jake Andrews, Alfie Ashton, Ethan Illidge, Guillian D'ettore
U10 Boys Sprint	1	Asher Wilson
U10 Boys Sprint	5	Adam Beer
U10 Boys Sprint	6	Hugh Melville
U10 Boys Sprint	7	Aidan Rogers
U10 Boys Flags	6	Asher Wilson
U10 Boys Flags	8	Adam Beer
U10 Boys Flags	10	Hugh Melville
U10 Boys Swim	7	Jake Andrews
U10 Boys Swim	15	Alfie Ashton
U10 Girls Swim Relay	5	Laura Wilson, Heidi Astrdige, Sophia Cotis, Tegwen Philmara
U10 Girls Sprint	1	Alexia Osler
U10 Girls Sprint	3	Sophie Woodhouse
U10 Girls Flags	1	Alexia Osler
U10 Girls Flags	10	Kasey Llewellyn
U10 Girls Swim	2	Laura Wilson
U10 Girls Swim	13	Heidi Astridge
U10 Girls Board	SF	Heidi Astridge, Tegwen Philmara
U11 Girls 2 person R&R (Competing in U12's)	1	Samantha Gately, Eliza Twoomey
U11 Boys Sprint	5	Angus Beer
U11 Boys Sprint	SF	Vasco Santos-Dwyer
U11 Girls Sprint	4	Ashley Preston
U11 Girls Flags	6	Grace Smith
U11 Girls Flags	7	Kelly Callaghan

CATEGORY	PLACE	NAME
Branch Carnival (Continued)		
U12 Boys Beach Relay	1	Jack Griffiths, Sam Kofod, Will Fagan, Anthony Kourambanas
U12 Boys Sprint	1	Will Fagan
U12 Boys Sprint	2	Sam Kofod
U12 Boys Sprint	4	Anthony Kourambanas
U12 Boys Flags	6	Jack Griffiths
U12 Boys Flags	8	OliverJackson
U12 Boys Swim	8	Finn Emery
U12 Boys Swim	11	Liam Jackson
U12 Girls Beach Relay	2	Catherine Brown, Greta Baldwin, Phoebe Ashton, Mina Brcic
U12 Girls Sprint	2	Catherine Brown
U12 Girls Flags	10	Phoebe Ashton
U13 Girls Beach Relay	3	Heidi Cummings, Nubia Mendes, Jessica McBride, Daisy King
U13 Girls Sprint	1	Nubia Mendes
U13 Girls Sprint	3	Heidi Cummings
U13 Girls Sprint	F	Olivia Duchenne
U13 Girls Flags	1	Nubia Mendes
U13 Girls Flags	4	Heidi Cummings
U13 Boys Swim Relay	F	Jimmy Gordon, Arthur Maurant, Toby Dunn, Louie Cosgrove, Luke Posumah
U13 Boys Sprint	F	Julian Horniblow
U13 Boys Board	F	Louie Cosgrove
U14 Junior Lifesaver of the Year	HC	Harrison Smith & Ruby Neagle
U14 Boys Beach Relay	1	Kofod, France, Harrison, Ryan
U14 Boys Swim Team	3	Wilson, Trupke, Golan, Smith
U14 Boys Cameron Relay	5	Trupke, Cantarella, Foley, Karozis
U14 Boys Board Relay	6	Trupke, Cantarella, Foley
U14 Boys Sprint	3	Will Harrison
U14 Boys Flags	3	Hugh France
U14 Girls Beach Relay	3	Georgia Morgan, Eliza Cotis, Gabriella Fagan, Olivia Duchenne
U14 Girls 5 person R&R	3	Jess Griffiths, Georgia Murphy, Tia Haes, Estelle Davies, Ruby Cuthbert
U14 Girls Flags	2	Harriett Lowe
U14 Girls Flags	7	Eliza Cotis
U15 Girls 5 Person R&R (U14 girls competing up)	3	Jess Griffiths, Georgia Murphy, Tia Haes, Estelle Davies, Ruby Cuthbert

CATEGORY	PLACE	NAME
Ironman		
U14 – Male		Harrison Smith
U13 – Male		Jimmy Gordon
U11 – Male		Vasco Santos-Dwyer
U10 – Male		Jake Andrews
Diamond Lady		
U14 – Female		Isabella Hardwick
U13 – Female		Isabel Nixon
U11 – Female		Arabella Hammond
U10 – Female		Heidi Astridge
John Mudge Trophy		
U11 – U12 Male		Finn Emery & Will Fagan
U11 – U12 Female		Phoebe Ashton
U9 – U10 Male		Alfie Ashton, Adam Beer & Jake Andrews
U9 – U10 Female		Alexia Osler
Age Championship		
U14 Male	1	Tom Foley
	2	Will Harrison
	3	Harrison Smith
U14 Female	1	Georgia Morgan
	2	Ruby Neagle
	3	Olivia Karras
U13 Male	1	Luke Posumah
	2	Jimmy Gordon
	3	Louie Cosgrove
	3	Charlton Smith
U13 Female	1	Isabel Nixon
	2	Heidi Cummings
	3	Jessica McBride
U12 Male	1	Will Fagan
	2	Edison Tooher
	3	Sam Kofod
	3	Finn Emery
U12 Female	1	Phoebe Ashton
	2	Isabella Slattery
	3	Senna Gulden
	3	Tayla Vincent
U11 Male	1	Angus Beer
	2	Vasco Santos-Dwyer
	3	Ethan Brouw
U11 Female	1	Kelly Callaghan
	2	Arabella Hammond
	3	Emilia Savian

Table with 3 columns: CATEGORY, PLACE, NAME. Rows include Age Championship (Continued) for U10 Male and Female, and U9 Male and Female.

Table with 3 columns: CATEGORY, FEMALE, MALE. Rows include Under 8 Awards, Most Outstanding Effort in Water, Most Outstanding Effort in Sprint, Most Outstanding Effort in Flags, and Age Managers Award.

Table with 3 columns: CATEGORY, FEMALE, MALE. Rows include Most Outstanding Effort in Flags for U9 through U14.

Table with 3 columns: CATEGORY, FEMALE, MALE. Rows include Most Outstanding Effort in Beach Sprint for U9 through U14.

Table with 3 columns: CATEGORY, FEMALE, MALE. Rows include Most Outstanding Effort in Surf Swim for U9 through U14.

Table with 3 columns: CATEGORY, FEMALE, MALE. Rows include Most Outstanding Effort on Board for U9 through U14.

Table with 3 columns: CATEGORY, FEMALE, MALE. Rows include Age Managers Award for U9 through U14.

Table with 3 columns: CATEGORY, FEMALE, MALE. Rows include Most Outstanding Lifesaver in Age Group for U9 through U14.







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Season: October - March **Time:** 8:30am - 11:00am Sunday **Location:** Coogee Beach **Ages:** 5 Years - 13 Years

Minnows Activities: Life Saving Training, Swim, Board, Sprint, Flags, Surf Education, Bronze Medal Training, and Surf Life Saving Awards for Parents. For further information on Coogee Minnows please visit our website www.coogeeminnows.com.au or email info@coogeeminnows.com.au