



CHELSEA NIPPER NEWS – 4th EDITION - DECEMBER 2010

The member registration days were extremely busy and it was great to see so many new nipper faces and their families joining the Club. There are exciting times ahead for the nippers and it is promising to be a very rewarding season.

The first nippers Saturday dawned on the 20th November and it was a beautiful summer day despite portents of doom by some who had insisted (tongue in cheek) that it was a well known nipper tradition that the season started with 20 knot southerlies and lashings of rain (that didn't happen until the second week LOL).

Our first week started in near perfect weather and we were all treated with a very special display of the Westpac helicopter in action 100 metres offshore as it was taking part in a Search and Rescue course being run at the Club by our Club Captain Paul Etccl.

Nippers 2010/2011 begins

The biggest age group growth has been in the under 5 nipper tots program where we have over 60 nipper tots. Tom has his hands full but has been doing a great job with the tots. It should be noted that this program is not a mandated LSV program but the Club runs this parent based activity program to engage our youngest members into the lifesaving fraternity. The 1:1 ratio in this group has also worked exceptionally well to strengthen nipper safety and from what we have seen over the past 2 weeks everyone is having a lot of fun.

The season is 2 weeks old and the older nippers are getting back into the groove of being covered in sand and shivering on the beach in our beautiful Melbourne weather! The Club has over 160 nippers on its books at the moment and when the season commences after the January break when the weather heats up we can look forward to having over 200 nippers on the beach.

The coloured age caps are excellent and they have really helped the nipper patrol and water safety teams identifying the different nipper groups on the beach and in the water.

The nipper packs have been a great success and have been well received by all nippers and parents, with a number of nippers now putting all of their gear in them for the Saturday sessions. The Club has been working hard to recognise members and the nipper packs have provided a good basis on which the Club will extend member recognition throughout the year.

Nipper Sign in procedures

Under 5 nippers will not have a designated sign in or out for the program because we already have a 1:1 ratio in the group and with over 60 nippers in this group by the time everybody signs in it would be time to leave!

I would like to highlight to parents that they must sign in for their children prior to the commencement of a nippers session. Any nippers that have not been signed in by a parent will be asked to remain in the Clubhouse until sign in occurs.

Nipper Competition

The first nipper competition of the season will be held at Ocean Grove on the weekend of 11 December. If there are any nippers that want to compete in competition can the parents contact me directly.

You may or may not be aware but the Club does not have a Coach or a Nipper Competition Manager. If there are any nipper parents who would like to consider taking on the role of Nipper Competition Manager can you please contact me to discuss.

I would also like to point out that every position at the Club, including patrol, is undertaken by volunteers. I am fortunate that in my role as Junior Chief Instructor I have a good team of people who have also volunteered to help, however there is only so much myself and the other volunteers are able to do for the nippers. In my role at the Club my primary focus is on the nippers that undertake the program on a Saturday at the Club, I do not have the capacity at the moment to stretch into the competition side of nippers and until the Club has a Competition Manager it will take a back seat. The Club needs parents of competing nippers to consider standing up and taking on the roles relevant to competition. I am always open to offers of advice and assistance so please don't be shy.

Parent Fitness and Training

I have spoken with our President Cate Winnell about starting a regular parent exercise training session every Saturday commencing at 12pm at the Club. We are looking at putting together a training program for parents to keep fit and active. So if you are interested in having a bit of fun bring your running shoes, bathers (wetsuit), goggles and a towel. If you would like further information please let me know.

Nipper Christmas Party

The Club will be holding its Christmas Party for nippers on Saturday 18 December commencing at 4pm (when nippers finishes). Santa will be making a guest appearance and there will be lots of fun for everyone. I will provide more details of the Party in the coming weeks.

Cheers

Dr John McSwiney

Junior Chief Instructor

johnmcswiney@optusnet.com.au

0425432448