



## ASRL Newsletter NO: 55 April 2015

### **ASRL Open, 2016:**

The 2016 event is currently under discussion with a host club so as soon as we have that question answered it will be announced on the website.

We have held discussion with a representative of Surf Sport in SLSNSW and the date everyone is pitching for will be the 19 to 21 Feb 2016. This is now with SLSNSW to ratify for us and again as soon as we have confirmation it will go onto the Website

### **The Aussie Venue:**

The ASRL committee have been working very closely with the SLSA people charged with allocating areas etc for the Aussies. Thanks to Don Cotterill who has been involved in several meetings on the Gold Coast and followed up by a committee meeting in Sydney last week we can now confirm that the Priority positioning for Boats at this year's Aussies will be Tugun Beach as planned. This decision was under a lot of pressure at the end of last week to move back to Nth Kirra off the back of a loss of sand at Tugun and the timeline need to start building the infrastructure. With open discussion and support from the decision makers at SLSA we have now had confirmed that we will be at Tugun barring a disaster

### **Equipment to run major events:**

After our extensive debrief that took place following the ASRL Open we have had good discussions around the need to modernise our mode of business. One of the key items under discussion is the introduction of the IT Trailer that can be trailered to different locations and towed onto the beach. This trailer would be capable of housing and acting as the communications hub that would house our computers and printers for draws, video finish equipment with an electronic noticeboard fitted to allow for quick communication of any changes from the Event Process plus round draws all supported by an inbuilt generator. The trailer could also house a secondary PA system so in the event of a location shift we could be self-sufficient. Done properly this will link into the ASRL Phone App so at least at the major events competitors will have the latest up to date round draws and race finish places plus overall updated racing positions all on their phone in the tent. No need to walk the beach looking for information. This is a grand plan but hopefully within our reach for next season

### **SBC Discussions with SLSA:**

#### **Additional Aussie Medals:**

We have advanced our discussion around the need to introduce more medal opportunities for surfboats at the National level. We have more work to do on this one but the door is now open for us to put forward our submission on the benefits for SLSA to consider. The submissions will focus on:

- a. National Short Course Championship
- b. National Endurance Championship

#### **Future Direction of Surf Sport:**

Most members will have seen our written approach to initiate discussion around the future of the sport. We led off with our first letter a couple of years ago and followed up with a second more detailed and urgent submission late last year. As we all know nothing

in SLS moves at any great speed but on both occasions we did achieve some traction. The first letter was discussed at the top level but importantly it also hit a nerve out in the suburbs which had the effect of starting a wider body of club members talking. The second ASRL letter was followed up with personal representation to some of the SLSA Board plus of course the Office staff. This time it has kicked a goal and some real action is now in the planning stage:

- a. The ASRL/SBC Letter was one of the key catalysts for a report from the SLSA CEO to be tabled at the last SLSA Board meeting
- b. It has been acknowledged that the strong representations made to SLSA by the ASRL/SBC committee with supporting argument plus some other outside input was too compelling not to be listened to
- c. The Board has locked onto the need to look at all the processes and change that that will make the product better
- d. It has been realised that we haven't really changed our delivery program for many years other than to tinker at the edges and it is now well overdue that as an organisation we take a strong hard look
- e. A decision by the Board was made to commence the process of organising a major National Summit to undertake the far reaching discussion required to look at the current Sports model as it fits in with the Lifesaving model
- f. The work to set this committee up will start after the Aussies with a summit hopefully help at the very early start to next season
- g. Importantly the invitees won't simply be a body of past or current office holders. Rather it will rely heavily on the voice and input from our younger members in the 25 to 40 bracket rightfully across all surf sport disciplines
- h. Watch this space but this is great news for all involved in Surf Sports not just those of us rowing boats

### **Coaching L1 & Sweep Accreditation:**

As we know following past representation from the ASRL/SBC to SLSA work has commenced on a new simpler system to achieve both the old L1 and Sweep Accreditation for any new sweep. No longer will new sweeps be held up waiting for State run courses before they can commence. Gone is the two day love in to undertake the theory component. The new system for which we must again thank the National staff at SLSA for embracing the change will be a slick system under which to operate. Final details are currently being completed with input from an ASRL sub-committee working closely with SLSA for release on the 1 July but the changes you will notice include:

- I. No more classroom theory sessions
- II. All theory can now be completed on line and will possible take between 4 to 6 hours depending on prior knowledge but it is all open book learning
- III. The practical component may either be delivered via a basic sweep school or by a National or Club Mentor which will cover off the basic safety aspects of using the surfboat
- IV. The new sweep after agreeing to be mentored either from a national panel or club based sweep mentor may commence training in flat water under the guidance of the mentor before completing the theory aspect of the course but not be allowed into competition at this stage
- V. The final staged names are still to be confirmed but at this level for now the new sweep will be aiming at the Foundation level.
- VI. Under the guidance of a mentor the new sweep can step into training in the surf and after completing the Theory section and gaining the approval of a mentor of body of mentors start in competition up to a certain level on the SHR system
- VII. The more the new sweep practices in the surf and learns the skills the quicker they will be passed up into the next level where they can sweep in competition without restriction

Some if this may change slightly but the bones will be as described. It is designed to fast track the learning process being assisted along the way by designated mentors. It is designed to be specific to surf boats and your mentor is your new best friend in helping you learn the surf skills as quickly as possible. Remember this is only for new sweeps starting tomorrow and will not be retrospect to existing qualified sweeps.

**ASRL AGM:**

Early notification that the AGM is being planned for Saturday 18 July to be held on the Gold Coast. We run the AGM around the east coast so 4 years ago it was Sydney then VIC, SA and Syd last year so this time we are taking it to Qld. Details as required to follow

A great time of year has arrived with Aussies just a couple of weeks away. All the best to all crews, travel safe and enjoy your racing.

Committee ASRL