

AUTUMN 2022

SPONSORS:

Many thanks to these great STAS supporters: Woolworths, Hyundai, Tasmanian Government, Red Herring Surf Statewide, Goodstone Group, Beach Beat Surf Shop Ulverstone, FAZE Surfboards- Seven Mile Beach, Bay Surf- St Helens, Scamander Beach Surf Shop - Smitten Merino Clothing-Hobart, East Coast Surf at St Helens, Seymour Waves Bicheno, The Surfside Hotel Scamander.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. Woolworths State Junior Titles-final round Scamander May7/8.
2. Tasmanian Schools Surfing Trials – Clifton Beach May 14th.
3. STAS Annual Presentations – Clifton Beach SLSC July TBA

NEWS:

International Womens Day, STAS Award 2022 – Mrs Cecilie Thwaites



Surfing Tasmania is very pleased to announce MRS CECILIE THWAITES- Dara Penfold Award Winner for 2022, Posthumously.

Cecilie Cripps was from the prominent Hobart bakery family and married Jack Thwaites in 1935, producing a daughter Anne and son Bill. As head of the forerunner of Parks and Wildlife, Jack was responsible for the preservation of much of Tasmania's southwest wilderness. A member of the Royal Geographic Society, he was also the recipient of the Order of Australia for his contribution to conservation. Along with Leo Luckman, he founded the Hobart Walking Club and trekked much of the state's wilderness, including Thwaites Plateau in the Arthur Ranges. Mrs Thwaites constantly by his side. Unlike Bill, who surfed with the grace and style of a cat, Mrs Thwaites was far from being a natural athlete. No doubt enhanced by the fact she smoked like a steam train. The only time she wasn't lighting up was when she was in the surf. It was tough to watch her stagger to her feet and assume a clumsy survival stance. Tough to watch her wipe out and struggle ashore while her son was out the back ripping. We all felt for her in our own way, but few of us fully understood the powerful elements she brought with her to the beach. Her lack of ability was lost on her. She was focussed on having fun. Not only was she a visionary but, with the benefit of hindsight, perhaps the most inspirational figure in Tasmanian female surfing.

In the 1960's surfing was beginning to take off, but it was a young man's world. Surfboards were around 10' long and weighed 35lbs. Not only were they cumbersome and difficult to carry, but devoid of the

benefit of a leg rope, they were also lethal unguided missiles. Ever conscious of preserving their turf, the boys decided that the boards and the surf zone itself, were far from female friendly. Much like many of the social attitudes that existed at that time.

A time when it was politically correct to call any non Anglo-Saxon a wog; when bullying was rampant and expected; when corporal punishment was normal; when females were relegated to the towel, where they were expected to douse themselves in baby oil, get tanned and admire every wave their boyfriend caught. Fair to say that in the early-60's, boys ruled the waves while the sand was the realm of the surf widow. Between sessions we would while away the time with idle chat and when, between firing up, Mrs Thwaites spoke of inclusion and participation, her words were usually drowned in silence. This was a topic lost on us males, since we all knew that women didn't want to surf anyway. They were more than happy sitting on the beach soaking up rays.

Weren't they?

The thing about Mrs Thwaites was her amazing resilience. She refused to be put off by the boys club attitude and went about spreading her gospel by stealth. When Bill and his mum established Tasmania's first surf retail outlet, Seaworld, she understood the power of the female dollar and not only introduced her female customers to kaftans and bikinis, but boards and wetties as well. During her sales pitch she cajoled them with her conviction that men didn't have a mortgage on fun. And, she was convincing, because slowly but surely they began tossing in the towel and paddling into the lineup.

Ironically, the most accomplished female surfer of that time was Jenny Leeson. Ironic because she lived on the Phantom north-west coast, the coast of mythical waves. She came from a surf lifesaving background which had long embraced female participation and she felt totally at ease in the ocean, taking it up to the boys at any opportunity.

In the south, the Dorneys were well known in architectural circles and had a shack at Park Beach where the whole family surfed, including Leigh Dorney who won the women's title in 1968. In her case she learnt to surf with her male siblings and cousins who gave her very little. She was a tough competitor both in and out of the water and surfs to this day in Victoria. Despite their ability, women were not taken too seriously. The usual contest format was that females were treated as a standby novelty event. Something to fill in time until the tide turned, or held at the end of the day while the boys skulled frothies at the nearest pub.

Despite female numbers steadily increasing, the hardcore males of the lineup gave them small regard, fewer waves, and little if any encouragement. Most were convinced they'd soon tire of the whole thing, get pregnant, return to the towel and look after kids.

Fast forward some twenty years and a female pocket rocket by the name of Dara Penfold exploded on the scene, heralding what was to be, the boys' worst nightmare. She went on to become Tasmania's first world champion - World Junior Female Champion - and was the most successful competitive surfer the state has seen. And if there was ever any doubt, Dara went on to conquer the male domain of Shipstern Bluff, proving to all and sundry that not only were women here, they were here to stay.

Since then Brooke Mason drew a line in the sand, demanding equal prize money for female surfers and despite strong pushback from the male cohort, was adopted as policy by Surfing Tasmania twelve months later. The World Surf League has since gone on to become the first sport in the USA to adopt equal prize money for females. A point not lost on Red Bull, with Bruny Island local Liz Stokely receiving an invite for the Cape Fear event at Shippies.

Had she still been alive, Mrs Thwaites would have rightly been one very proud woman.

Since those early days surfing has undergone a paradigm shift in both demographics and attitude. No longer an exclusive male domain, today's surfers are often family groups, sometimes three generations, grandmothers through to grandkids. Almost half of those attending surf schools are young females and stalwarts like Jo Goldfinch are active as coaches, judges, and team managers and the beach vibe is much better for it.

Following the recent death of Bill Thwaites, Surfing Tasmania received a gift to help fund the future of state surfing. That money is being used to develop a network of progressive surf coaches at boardrider clubs around the state and is known as the Thwaites Fund. It's open to both males and females and is named in honour of Bill and his constant companion, Mrs Thwaites.

Anyone want a stack of discarded towels?

MICK LAWRENCE

Mick is a Tasmanian surf pioneer and is the current President of Surfing Tasmania.
pic. Bill and his mother Cecilie at Park Beach Xmas Day 1964.

RIP CURL WEST COAST CLASSIC - 2022

The 2022 47th RIPCURL West Coast Classic will be long remembered for delivering what good surfers hang out for, solid challenging surf with big opportunities and plenty of floggings in between, the winners grinning with the sponsors products, and the satisfaction that it could have gone either way in the challenging surf.

There were 8 hours and 40 minutes of Open Mens surfing the largest and deepest field for a long time, so many exceptional surfers did not crack that final,

big Right handers and three goofy footers in the final,

Six former RIPCURL West Coast Classic winners were competing in the Open Mens alone including Shipstern luminary and former west coast competitor Michael Brennon.

The Cape Sorell buoy was reading 3.3 and 6 metres on the Sunday while we competed at Lighthouse, 15 to 20 wave sets bombed West Point Lighthouse, with surfers duck diving for 10 minutes straight at times. The Open Women had solid 4 to 5 metre set bombs to start their first final, The Open Women stood up and surfed the conditions where many male surfers would not have even gone in the water Sunday, Dara Penfold the former World Junior Champion took out the high standard Open Womens in the wild conditions,

Jake Colreavy won the Open Mens with a first wave high score of 8.5 after smashing 5 major vertical lip slashes in critical sections on a cranking right hander. It was a standout wave and really put every surfer on notice of what this young guy can do,

Jake is a former Sunshine coast surfer who has previously won the Pa Bendall Classic which is the longest running amateur surfing event in the country and now he has won the second longest surfing event in the country.

Jake also took out the Macaroni's Resort prize for an outstanding effort,

Event Director: Glenn Salty.



WOOLWORTHS JUNIOR STATE TITLES Rd.3 MARRAWAH.



Nettley Bay near Marrawah on Tasmania's wild west coast delivered great waves for the 2022 Woolworths State Junior Rd 3 event.

Presented by Red Herring Surf state-wide, this round of the State Junior Titles is always the highlight of the season for Tassie juniors where they are often challenged by more powerful deep ocean swells than those at their local breaks.

With heavier swells forecast for later in the long weekend, Day 1 of the West Coast Classic was allocated for the Woolworths State Junior event due to the ideal 1-2 metre conditions at popular Nettley Bay. The U14/16/18s girls and boys enjoyed the sunny, warm waves with the large crowd on the headland enjoying their performances.

Toby Lawrence delivered a well-crafted performance to dominate the U18 Boys. Cowan Duncan showed his quality skills to take the U16 Boys and Marvin Freeman, fresh from the National Gromsearch final at Urbnsurf, cleaned up the U14 Boys. Poppy Woodberry and Sienna Lawrence took out the U14 and U16 Girls respectively and Ava Frey dominated the U18 Girls displaying her maturing skills and confidence.

The final round of the Woolworths State Juniors is scheduled for May 6/7 at Scamander.

URBNSURF DEVELOPMENT SQUAD TRIP.



Finally after months of postponements etc due to covid19 and flight issues ! The STAS MD Development Squad of 16 with coaches, parents and former national coach Martin Dunn arrived at Urbnsurf for a solid day's training on the warm sunny lefts and rights using a range of waves for our sessions. Our surf coaches worked with the squad in the water and Martin Dunn filmed heaps of material which has now been distributed to squad members. The group will get together at Clifton Beach SLSC shortly to review the footage together. A memorable day.

To cap things off the Brazilian superstars Felipe Tolido and others arrived for a pre Bells training session. Our squad had the opportunity to watch them shred the waves virtually at arms length for over an hour. Their team set up next door to us in their marquee so our groms were over the moon getting selfies etc. The Brazilians were very amenable and keen to have some team pics taken with our groms. Wow !! What a way to finish the day.

STAS will be organising another day trip before the end of the year.

SOUTHERN CHALLENGE – PJM



2022 Southern Challenge in Memory of Paul Johannesen presented by Red Herring Surf was run and won on Saturday at RSL's in fun 2-3 foot surf.

Eventual winners were Dara Penfold taking out her sixth Southern Challenge in Memory of Paul Johannesen. Dara set the line up alight dropping a perfect 10 in her second heat backing it up with a 8.26, Dara showing why she is a World Junior Champion and also while watching the World Surf League Margaret River Masters this week remember she also won this event as a WQS and has her name etched into those stairs. Dara won ahead of Ava Frey and Leandra Lopez.

Matt Kennedy was the standout and winner of the Open Men's posting a 7.96 and a 6.83 in his first heat to hold on for the day and take out his first 2022 Southern Challenge in Memory of Paul Johannesen finish ahead of Henry Hutchins, Benn Richardson and Mikey Brennan.

This event was an awesome show of Surfing Tasmania 's Community with age's ranging from 11 years of age with Marvin Freeman to John Gregory aged 64. We look forward to presenting an even bigger event next year for our 18th annual Southern Challenge in Memory of Paul Johannesen.

On a personal note I would like to take the chance to thank Head Judge Michael Schmidt with fellow judges Richie Hassett and Dustin Hollick also Shayne Clark and the Surfing Tasmania board for backing this event once again.

Also our support sponsors : Red Herring Surf, Faze Surfboards, We Are Feel Good Inc. Luna Collections, Red Bull, Ventura Cafe & Surf, SIN eyewear, Stuart Gibson Photography, Wendy Kennedy Surfing Australia, Surfing Tasmania.

STEP UP SURF SISTERS – CLIFTON BEACH.



WHAT WAS IT? A day for women to improve your surf skills in a friendly, encouraging environment with other women? Then step up and connect with other like-minded women at this grass roots event. Organisers enlisted several highly skilled female coaches to help participants all progress individual particular skill levels. This allowed them to connect and learn from each other over a homemade lunch whilst hearing from various representatives about how to stay connected to each other and Tassie's growing female surf community. A great day!

An ongoing coaching program has been established to encourage and support the women.

Shayne Clark

Executive Officer

STAS.

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