

Next meeting 4th February - Sue Xenos Principal Tomaree High Apologies/Extras To Ros Cribb by noon on Wednesday! Ph 0401 450 239

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Eddie Bergsma OAM. Was our speaker this evening. Eddie came to Nelson Bay as a child with his Dutch Parents who had escaped the German occupation of WW11. At age 18 he visited Merewether Beach and witnessed a surf boat crashing down the front of a wave and snapping in two and he knew that this was something he wanted to get involved in. In 1964 he and a few mates (including Lionel Fines who also joined us) got together to form the Fingal Bay Surf Club with about 30 members. Next year building of the surf club commenced and 50 years later Eddie is still actively involved. During the 50 years has trained innumerable people as Surf Life Savers. Eddie related several stories of memorable rescues that he had been personally involved in over the years.

The many recognitions he has received over the years include:

- Apex Citizen of the Year
- Port Stephens Citizen of the Year
- National Australian Sports Medal
- Australian Medal Award for service to Surf Lifesaving
- Life Membership Fingal Surf Life Saving Club
- Life Membership Surf Life Saving Hunter Branch
- Life Membership N S W Surf Life Saving
- OAM awarded just this week
- And of course "Local Hero" awarded by our Club tonight



In 1980 Eddie became Liaison Officer for the Hunter Branch of the SLSA and was instrumental in the introduction of women into Surf Life Saving including Michelle Stuhmcke (above at left) who was Fingal's first female member. Eddie's wife Carol is also a life Member of Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club.



Visitors: Lionel Fines, Michelle Stuhmcke, Chris Sommerville,

Welcome back Ian Brigden – Great to see you looking so well.



Chris Bartlett – announced Assistant Governor 2016/17

Our own "young" Bart Richardson OAM has been bestowed with yet another two awards. On Australia Day he was announced Port Stephens Senior Citizen of the Year and this follows being announced as a Freeman of Port Stephens.

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more from the meeting:

Visitors: Eddie Bergsma (speaker), Carol Bergsma, Lionel Fines, Michelle Stuhmcke, Cris Sommerville, and partners Yvonne Stuuhmcke and Fiona Whatham.

- Chris Bartlett to be Assistant Governor 2016/2017
- Golf Day postponed from March to (possibly) September due to difficulties following Golf Club fire.
- Commitment to stage 2 exercise trail confirmed. "Foundation" have urged us to apply for further grant.
- Fund raiser suggestions sought for April/May please contact any Board member.
- District 9670 Conference at Mudgee 4th 6th March.
- District 9675 (Sydney) are holding their conference here in Nelson Bay and we have agreed to put on a BBQ for them. Volunteers will be needed.

ADOPT-A-ROAD TEAM FOR SUNDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2016



Hugh Randall Kathy Rimmer Phill Smith John Sully

Richard Turner Mike Mobbs (Coordinator) Warwick Mathieson (Transport)



Bunnings BBQ Saturday 6th February Volunteers needed. Please contact Chris Bartlett

(our own) Australia Day Awards

Transport Award - John Stuhmcke – for this year getting equipment to event without losing tables in Church St.

Doubting Thomas Award – Bill "We'll never sell all these Chips" Michel for selling them all and more.

"Eggs cellence" Award – John Crump obviously brushed up his culinary skills on those long flights to LA.

Quick Quip/Tact Award – Greg Flux - commenting to Helen Ryan on new MC being so much better this year.

Frequent Driver Award – Doug Bairstow – on the go all day replenishing quickly disappearing stocks.

The Ice Man Cometh Award – Geoff Diemar kept his cool and everything else too with fresh ice all day.

Lets Get Started Award – Bob Mitchell – Got the early morning crew hopping with coffee. Commandant Award – Hilda Orr – nominated by the cooks under her whip.

You work it out Award – Ann (I'm sure they'll work out the cash register if I just sneak away for a minute) Evans.

Champions of the Day – All of the above and everyone who helped make the day the great success it was.

Although our involvement in the Australia Day Festivities is viewed more as a Community Service than a fund raiser it is anticipated that a net result of around \$6500 will result.

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