

TAYLORS MISTAKE

'OVER THE HILL' FOR 100 YEARS



Images from via slender

A HISTORY OF TAYLORS MISTAKE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

(1916 - 2016)

By Kevin Tutty & Paul Carpenter

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"Vigilance, Service, Endurance"

Entwined in the beginning
Inseparable since
Still proudly supportive 100 years later

Te Onepoto
Historic Baches
&
TMSLSC

WA Sutton, untitled (Taylors Mistake) Oil on canvas,
Collection of Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu
William A Sutton bequest 2000

Patron's message

It's my privilege on behalf of all those fine and wonderful people who over the last 100 years have contributed to our club's ongoing wellbeing and outstanding public service, to welcome you to celebrate our centenary.

Many of those fine people, stalwarts indeed, are now gone of course but they still nevertheless remain equally deserving of our continued recognition and thanks.

And to those of you reading this but haven't been able to attend, I trust by doing so you too can in your own way reflect on your own contribution and then bask in the club's achievements.

In the past 25 years there have been many changes. Not least of all is the change bought about by the opening up of the economy in the late 1980's and really starting to be felt in 1991.

More about this later in this history but in summary, with Saturdays and Sundays becoming working/trading days and the introduction of student loans, the result was, and is, less availability of members time for patrolling. Consequently, fundraising and administration led to less social activity, mixing on weekends and holidays at Taylor's. If you didn't experience the old times it would be difficult to measure this huge difference.

The early 2000's saw the end of R&R (Rescue and Resuscitation) events at which over the years Taylor's Mistake had been amongst the most successful clubs in NZ. In many ways R&R was the glue that held the fabric of a tremendous club team spirit together for 80 years. Replicating that in even more rapidly changing times with its multitude of new competing and available activities is difficult.

Sadly 2010 saw the end of our provincial association, Surf Lifesaving Canterbury. It coincided with, but was not a consequence of, the earthquakes, and resulted in a number of very promising provincial initiatives lost. Taylor's was not a supporter of the change. All but the Auckland clubs are now centrally co-ordinated through Surf Lifesaving New Zealand in Wellington.

The immediate future holds the challenge of restoring our earthquake ravaged clubrooms but challenges aren't new and this one will be met and overcome and just like the beginning of our first 100, we start the second 100 with some fine people having already stepped up, and no doubt others will in their time when needed. The club can look to the future with confidence.

Thanks to the Centenary Committee and those others who are helping with the celebrations, I've no doubt of the success and the enjoyment it will bring.

Jim Turpin

February 2016

Jim Turpin, Patron and a member since the 1950's who has been a successful competitor, a dedicated fund raiser and is a Trustee of the TMSLSC Trust.

He was President from 1983 to 1986 and was made a life member in 1990. Of greater significance is the contribution Jim has made to the finances of the club. His first stint as treasurer was from 1963 to 1976 and he was reappointed in 2001 and remains in the position to the present day – a staggering 27 years, "In it for life"!



Author's message

It was a year ago, just before Christmas, that I received a call from Paul Carpenter, explaining the Taylor's Mistake Surf Lifesaving Club was having its centenary in February 2016, and the club needed someone to write the club's centennial book.

The brief was to do the history of the last 25 years, and after meeting with Paul and obtaining an insight as to what was required, I agreed to tackle the task.

Because the first 75 years of the club's history had been written in 1991 by an old colleague, Ray Cairns, with help from the indefatigable Barry Turpin, who possessed an in depth knowledge of those early years a Taylor's Mistake, my job was made considerably easier.

Both Ray and Barry have since passed away at a relatively young age, but their legacy lives on in that first book and also in this new edition, which obviously, has to cover the first 75 years as well as the second 25.

The job has required a number of hours sifting through club records that are held by the public library. The records comprised old minute books, correspondence, and annual reports, which helped fill gaps in those last 25 years.

For the key events though there are enough members alive to fill any gaps in the records. In fact to have an eye witness account is preferable. It has helped to give a personal touch to many of the major events in that time, and there have been plenty.

Perhaps the highlight of those 25 years was Taylor's Mistake winning the six man rescue and resuscitation final at Midway, Gisborne in 2001. It was the last time the event was on the programme at the national championships and it was won by Taylor's Mistake, which the team dedicated to Barry Turpin.

The earthquakes in 2010 and 2011 have left the clubrooms buckled and broken but it has not deterred the club fighting for a just settlement from its insurer.

Finally I have to thank Paul Carpinter for his assistance with this book. He has organised the update of all the club records at the back of the book, and provided me with email addresses and telephone numbers that have enabled me to contact people of significance in the last 25 years.

Kevin Tutty
Co-author

Christchurch
December 2015

President's message

This publication records the 25 years since 1991 along with a reproduction of parts of the publication recording the first 75 years - "Guardians of the Mistake". "100 YEARS OVER THE HILL" will make an enjoyable read.

In 1991, Greg McClurg, President at the time, stated in his summary of the first 75 years of Taylor's Mistake that "*it is all about the people and how they have made being at the bay such an amazing experience.*"

As was quoted in the first 75 years:

"Taylor's has a fine record in almost every activity of surf lifesaving and community service, and can, with complete justification, claim a place among the great clubs of this country. The club has welcomed the opportunity of recording not only the history of the club itself, and the area which spawned it, but also acknowledging its debt of gratitude to the men and women who have made it the great club it is today. The stature and success of any organisation depend upon people, whether they be top-line or average competitors, patrollers, administrators or social members; and Taylor's Mistake has indeed been fortunate in the men and women who laid foundations on which its traditions have been built, the members who have carried on those traditions, and the many members who continue to take a keen interest in the club's well-being."

A very special thank you to Kevin Tutty who stepped in as editor and author of this book. I would also like to acknowledge the relentless work and effort Paul Carpinter has put into the research co-ordination and editing of this book to link the first 75 years with this publication. I am sure Paul has enjoyed the trip down memory lane.

Ken Jones, President

February 2016



From the author of “Guardians of the Mistake”

It was only a few months ago, in the middle of winter, that Barry Turpin rang and said he wanted a hand, if I could. Taylor's Mistake had its 75th anniversary coming up, you see, and he (Barry) had to get together a history. A few platitudes and some back-scratching later and he had me offering (coerced? led down the garden path?) to perform the task.

It became a fascination. Forget the hours spent in the library or museum researching old newspapers, books, genealogical records, obituaries; the interviews and the gentle extraction of anecdote and amusing tales, facts and fables; the labour of extracting scraps of useful (and sometimes useless, but interesting) information from annual reports, minute books, correspondence and clippings.

It became, as mentioned, a fascination. One of the most unique and distinctive little spots in New Zealand unfolded before me. I found along the way that the club's first president and patron was really named Osborn, not Osborne as so many club records would have us believe; that Frank Kesteven, of the famous Cup, was born Kestevan; that Jim Ballin's names were really Heineman Isaac. So this has also been the chance to set the record straight, and to gather together in one volume both the full history of the Taylor's Mistake Surf Lifesaving Club, which can truly be named a Lifeguard Service, and of the big bay and all the little bays that surround it.

Not every one of the last 75 years can be mentioned, but I hope those who deserve it receive their due. I will not mention one of those who supplied me with information for fear I omit one. But it will be clear from the text just who have proffered information.

Both Malcolm McClurg - with invaluable assistance from David Hill - and Neville Duckmanton have contributed specialist chapters and they are acknowledged in those respective places. I thank and acknowledge them again.

I nearly forgot. There was also this bloke Barry Turpin. He was the one who placed his trust in me, and applied the thumb-screws and the arm-twisting. He was the man who had to field my daily calls, as I sought another Christian

name, or another address or 'phone number, or a lift to Taylor's Mistake or to meet someone else. He sat in on many interviews, as enchanted and as intrigued as was I.

And most gratifyingly of all, he researched the appendices: the officers and the honoured, the champions and the triers, and most of all, the lifeguards who won the right to patrol the Taylor's Mistake beach. For these reasons, he deservedly joins my name on the cover page.

RAY CAIRNS
Author

Christchurch
February 1991

TAYLOR'S MISTAKE - WHO'S MISTAKE?

Reference is made in *Guardians of the Mistake* to the naming of Taylor's Mistake. Since publication, a slender little volume has been found which further tends to disprove the theory of Captain Taylor and his United States vessel, *Volga*. Simply entitled *Sumner* and written in 1941 for the Sumner Borough Council by its then Town Clerk, J. F. Menzies, it devotes nearly two pages to Taylor's Mistake. Menzies traces the history of Taylor and the *Volga*; notes that some prefer the other Captain Taylor and the *Chrysolite*; but cites the *Southern Provinces' Almanac* published in 1853 and its reference to *Vincent's Bay* or *Taylor's Mistake*.

Menzies goes on: *However, it may be of interest at this stage to note that the barque Gwalior arrived at Lyttelton in April 1853. Captain Davidson, Commander of the barque when it left England on its 200 days' journey to Auckland, threw himself overboard on the 16th April, and Mr Taylor, Chief Officer, took command, and brought the barque to Lyttelton. Possibly he may have been anchored off Taylor's Mistake.*

Discounting the Taylors of the *Volga* and the *Chrysolite*, Menzies goes on that: *the acting captain of the Gwalior is a more definite possibility, but whoever it was, his name has been given to the bay for nearly 90 years, and will probably go down to future generations; unless, in appreciation of the beauty and significance of Maori nomenclature, it is decided to perpetuate in this part of Maori land, the name of Te Onepoto given to the bay by its original inhabitants.*

So it can be said with some certainty that the precise background to the naming of Taylor's Mistake will probably elude any historian. The author agrees with Menzies that the old legend of the *Volga* can be laid to rest; so can the *Chrysolite*; and so too, for that matter, the other fanciful story told in *Guardians of the Mistake* of the wrecking of the *Catherine*. Menzies' book reveals that heavily overloaded schooner was lost at sea on November 8, 1864, not in the region of 1852.

A BOY AND A BOARD

Arthur Hunnibell woke contentedly on Boxing Day, 1915. Life was pleasant, indeed. The one-time Rangiora boy, a son of a family of shoe and boot repairers, had turned instead to school-teaching.

He had an appointment at East Eyehton, then moved into town, and into a fine big house at 115 Opawa Road. Arthur and his wife, Ida Grace produced a son on June 7, 1902, when Arthur was 32. They named him Henry Rex. A little more than three years later, when still at East Eyehton, along came a daughter and they name her Ida - for her mother - Eileen.

The roast lamb, kumara and imported potatoes, freshly picked peas, home-grown pumpkin, fresh mint sauce and a little wild pork brought to town by Arthur's brother, had settled well.

The post-Christmas dawned sunny and brightly, after a run of north-easterly winds had cooled off the same run of sunny days. The day also brought to awakening a bouncy, effervescent, cheerful Henry.

His present had been what some of his mates called a surf board. It was a little over a yard long, broad enough to lie on, with a slight hollow – a curve really, which the same “townie” mates reckoned would be beaut for lying down on, and riding in on waves.

As a country boy, Henry was fairly new to the business of surf bathing and playing, but since they'd moved to Opawa Road, the Hunnibell family had often spent, at Sumner, Arthur's Saturday afternoons and Sundays off from school-teaching. It was, for sure, one of the two really important family social gathering points on sunny summer days and the other, New Brighton, was too difficult to reach: a long hike through the swamps to the north of the Ferry Road and just below the Estuary, and almost half a day's travelling if one first travelled to the city centre, the square in the shadow of the mighty Church of England Cathedral, then having to catch the New Brighton tram.

So Sumner it was, but just occasionally countryman Arthur would take his young family hiking up from the Scarborough Beach, often staggering and clambering up the virtual precipice which acted as sentinel to the far east of the Sumner sweep; there to the little bay where had grown a haphazard collection of cave dwellings, rock, stone and native timber combined to form

shanty shacks, while the more forward-thinking and inventive were building cribs on the beach front. This pleasant little cove was generally called Taylor's mistake, and from common usage, the capital had been added and it was Taylor's Mistake, honouring - or ridiculing - the captain (named Taylor) of the ill-starred United States vessel, *Volga*, which in 1858 put into the bay, believing it to be Lyttelton, and got beached.

But Taylor and the *Volga* were relative newcomers to the bay the Maori called Te Onepoto, which in its shortest terms meant "short beach" but which could be expanded to include reference to white shells. While whalers often put into the bay for a night's rest, the first recorded visitor to the cove was a Yorkshireman, Captain James Cook, who claimed what is now New Zealand for the British in 1769. Cook sailed to the mouth of the little bay on one of his South Pacific forays, but decided that this was no place for a prudent sailor or a careful Yorkshireman and sailed away without attempting to weigh anchor.

Not so prudent was Captain John Vincent, in 1857. He sailed from the Kaiapoi Port in his small logging trading vessel, headed for the Estuary to ply his trade up the Heathcote River. But rough seas drove him into the bay to the south and east of Sumner, where his ketch was wrecked. Vincent not only got to shore, but also saved the life of the youth who was his crew. To the locals, the largely-inaccessible cove became Vincent's Bay.

But are both those stories accurate? Note well that Vincent's misadventures were in 1857, those of the *Volga*'s Taylor in 1858. And note to that these stories have generally been accepted as fact in the naming of Taylor's Mistake, Vincent's Bay, Te Onepoto (its gazetted name) or whatever.

A matter of days before this author was to complete this text, he chanced upon a Letter to the Editor of the Star, an old Christchurch tabloid newspaper which disappeared on merger with the Sun in the 1930s. The correspondent, J. L. W., was responding to a letter published a week earlier, on August 18, 1923, on the origins of the name.

The earlier letter came from a Wellington bloke, L. A. Ritchie whose interest had been roused by publication of a passenger list of the *Chrysolite*, which brought immigrants from Britain in the early settling days of Canterbury. Ritchie's grandparents and their five children (including Ritchie's mother) were on board.

Grandfather Taylor - for that was his name - saved some money working in Lyttelton, and purchased a ketch or schooner, the *Catherine* of Lyttelton, two years after his arrival. Says Ritchie: *She was wrecked in a storm lasting several days, and apparently when coming down from the North Island. She broke up during the night. My grandfather in the darkness apparently mistook the heads of the bay known as Taylor's Mistake for the Lyttelton Harbour heads. Two water barrels, an oar and a human leg were subsequently found. The leg was identified by my grandmother, who had knitted socks with two different colours of wool, and she also recognised the boot as that of my grandfather.* Amazing, isn't it, and a little unbelievable? And in case anyone's interested, the wife of a Mr David Douglas of Northcote Road in Papanui used the top of the oar as a potato masher.

Ritchie adds: *The Catherine was uninsured. The late Mr W. R. Taylor, one of the pioneers of the first four ships, used to remember the wreck well, and often discussed the incident with me. He was no relation to my grandfather.* Ritchie prefaces his remarks, attributing them to his mother.

That seemed to solve that. Or did it? Star correspondent J. L W. was quick to dip quill into ink-well.

He recites the *Volga* story, that its captain, Taylor, *was said to have put his ship towards the "Mistake" when trying to enter Lyttelton Harbour during a fog. He saw the danger in time, the Volga was brought up by her anchor, and Captain Taylor lived to tell the tale and to assist in suggestions to provide safe navigation for Lyttelton, and the avoidance of "mistakes".*

J. L. W. also quoted the reminiscences of one W. H. R. Dale, an old identity of south-eastern Christchurch, who blithely accepted the *Volga* Taylor story. J. L. W. goes on:-

But I find a letter written by myself to The Press (undated) in which I pointed out that after all, the Volga story could not be taken as gospel, for in the Sailing Directions for Lyttelton etc., Vincent's Bay or Taylor's Mistake was described in the Southern Provinces' Almanac for 1854.

He also scotches the other Taylor, grandfather Taylor, arriving earlier on the *Chrysolute*, which vessel, so far as I can trace, visited Lyttelton only in 1861 and 1862.

I am prepared to stand by the S. P. Almanac evidence, which goes to prove that Taylor's Mistake was known and published as such coincident with the arrival of the pilgrim ships in 1850. The first almanac now before me was . . . for 1853. At page 30, Coastal Shipping Directions for Lyttelton, Port Victoria or Port Cooper, dealing with the coast north of Lyttelton, it set forth:

SUMNER. The first bay north-west of Godley Head is Vincent's or Taylor's Mistake, so-called because (it is) sometimes mistaken for Sumner, which is the next bay to the west.

These coastal directions were compiled by Mr E. J. Wakefield, who knew the history of events thoroughly, and was assisted by the commander of H. M. S. Acheron, who had made a coastal survey which appears in an old Government Gazette. Now, asks J. L. W., who was Vincent? Does it matter, for his name has been dropped? Next, who was Taylor? Could he have been an immigrant by the Chrysolite, who had been here before H. M. S. Acheron and came out again? Taylor of the Volga is clean out of it.

A weighty pronouncement from the thorough J. L. W., who notes that subsequent issues of the Southern Provinces Almanac make no references to Taylor's Mistake (or Vincent's Bay, for that matter). This can be confirmed by the author, who has searched the S. P. Almanac of the 1860s; the rogue 1863 edition, unfortunately, has not survived for posterity in the Christchurch Public Library, but one must accept J. L. W.'s direct quote from page 30. As J. L. W. says, forget the *Volga*'s Taylor.

However, the inaccurate navigating of some Captain Taylor superseded the dramatics of Captain Vincent, and it was to "Taylor's Mistake" that Arthur Hunnibell suggested to young Henry they should proceed, to try out this sparkling new surf board. An adventure, indeed, and Henry happily agreed, though he knew they faced a brisk early-morning walk down Ensors Road to catch the Sumner tram, and after disembarkation at the Sumner terminal, that tramp of probably an hour over rugged and largely-unformed hilly walkways.

They weren't alone in heading for a picnic day. Many members of the Sumner branch of the Royal Life Saving Society often looked east for variety and their fellow-villagers were not slow to join them.

Some exciting surf awaited them, too, after those north-easterlies, which meant great prospects for rough and tumble in the waves. Henry was delighted at the prospect, and Arthur contentedly sat down to give him his head. The two Idas had stayed at home, the younger considered a little delicate to attempt the hard slog over the hill, and, anyway, more content to play with the long-haired doll which had been her Christmas present.

Into the surf bounded Henry, and as Arthur watched, the lad appeared to be getting into trouble.

The father, without divesting himself of any of his clothing, made a desperate effort to save his son, but was driven back by the force of the sea. In the meantime, three other swimmers hurried to the lad and they were soon hurled together by the force of the breakers, and were quickly in great distress.

A crowd gathered along the beach, and a Mr Campbell, organising a human line, hand to hand, succeeded in reaching the surfers, one of whom was in a very bad way, while the two others owed their lives to a very large mass of kelp to which they had clung.

By this time, young Hunnibell had swum ashore and dashed in again with a lifeline and a buoy, while Mr R. Mitchell, a Sumner resident and prominent member of the Royal Life Saving Society, was hurriedly summoned from the hill (he was just leaving) and arrived at the beach just as one lad was landed unconscious on the beach.

Mr Mitchell, with a full knowledge of methods of resuscitation, worked for about an hour on the patient and to the surprise of many present, restored the apparently drowned to life. But for his skill and energy, there is little doubt a death would have been recorded.

So related the *Lyttelton Times* on December 28, 1915, the near-fateful journey of Arthur and Henry Hunnibell to “Taylors Mistake” that Boxing Day. The name Hunnibell has gone completely from Canterbury annals, but in this perverse way should be remembered, for their dramatic outing was the catalyst for the formation of a life-saving group at this unique cove.

But the names of Hunnibell and Campbell should not be left just like that.

Arthur Hunnibell went on to become headmaster of East Christchurch School and lived into his 70s, still at 115 Opawa Road. Of young Henry Rex, who caused it all, there is no further record.

Note that Opawa Road address. Just round the road these days is Waltham Park, but when it was owned in the nineteenth century by John Brightling, it was a grand estate called *Wilding*. When, for whatever reason - and, it was suggested, to his shame - he allowed the stately home to be demolished. He gave much of the timber to his daughter, May, for firing. Instead, she and her husband from 1916, Alec Hazelton, used much of it to build a home at Taylor's Mistake, which they shared as a holiday residence with Marion Brightling and her husband (also from 1916), Walter Main Campbell (birth records show the correct spelling to be Mein).

The brothers-in-law floated the timber round to the bay, and Walter Campbell built a sledge which he carefully guided down the hills between Scarborough and Taylor's Mistake, with the crockery and other delicate articles aboard.

And the "*a Mr Campbell*" referred to in the *Lyttelton Times* story of the 1915 Boxing Day rescues was, in fact, the same Walter Main Campbell, and late-20th century residents and users of Taylor's Mistake will readily recognise the name of Margaret Campbell. A Rotten Row resident, she is the daughter of Walter and Marion Campbell and a direct link to that dramatic rescue.

She recalls family talk of the rescues. *The Hunnibells gave Dad a silver watch for saving their son, and in due course, Mum gave it to a grandson, but he threw it away because it stopped working. It was such a shame. And he also saved a boy Wyatt - who was killed soon afterwards in the war - and the Wyatts gave Dad a black and white Aynsley tea-set.*



The first lifeguard, Walter Campbell, both individually and with his family, Margaret at the rear, Kathleen in the front.

Walter Campbell, as will be seen, was an initial committee member and Alex Hazelton, a first vice-president of the club, but the Campbell's had an enforced break in their association. They shifted to farm at Greenpark in 1920, and did not return to town – and thus closer proximity to the bay – till 1930.

Back to that great rescue, however, and the *Lyttelton Times* headed its account:

Bathers In Trouble

Narrow Escape At Taylor's Mistake

It concluded that graphic account of the mass rescue with the observation that *the need for proper life-saving appliances at Taylor's Mistake is very great, and it is the intention of the Sumner branch to give every assistance possible.*

The next day, December 29, *The Press* caught up with the action.

In connection with bathers getting into difficulty at Taylor's Mistake on Sunday afternoon, and there being no life-saving reel there, the secretary of the Sumner Branch of the Royal Lifesaving Society states that an endeavour was made two years ago to place a reel there, but no-one would become responsible.

Several campers have now signified their intention of joining the Society and the members of the Sumner branch are taking a reel over next week.

Arrangements are being made to give demonstrations at Taylor's Mistake until a certain degree of efficiency is obtained.

And almost as an afterthought: *Owing to the splendid work put in by one of the members of the Sumner branch, there is no doubt that a life was saved.*

The Lyttelton Times, reported: *as result of the recent bathing accident at Taylor's Mistake, Mr W. Millar, the secretary of the Sumner branch of the Royal Life Saving Society, has made arrangements for a number of the Sumner members to take a lifesaving reel over to the scene of the mishap on Sunday morning next.*

Messrs (George) Bilson (sic) and Anderson of Christchurch will accompany the party, which will give a demonstration of methods of release, reel practice, and the most efficient method of resuscitation.

It is probable the reel will be left at Taylor's Mistake so that the residents may practice the drill and avail themselves of a splendid means of assistance on a beach that has already claimed a good number of victims.

The seeds had been planted.

IN THE BEGINNING . . .

Long after the near-visit of James Cook, and soon after the mishaps of the various Taylors and Vincent, Taylor's Mistake was settled. A Christchurch painter named Tom Archbold was the first to build a dwelling in one of the caves, in 1879. He had bunks, a fireplace with a chimney, and a rain tank water supply. He also took advantage of other natural water that supplied by the sea, and as was to become the custom with many, arranged rocks to build his own "bath" at the water's edge.

Archbold's cave, later to become the "property" of the better-known Frank Waters, was well south of Taylor's Mistake, past Harris Bay and just short of Boulder Bay. He was soon to get a neighbour, A. P. Osborn, a Christchurch engraver, who became known as *The Pilgrim*.

Alfred Patterson Osborn, born in Newtown, Sydney, in 1857, was the son of a cabinet-maker, also named Alfred, and Christina (nee Wilson). They moved to Christchurch when Alfred, the eldest child, was only two, and had (so far as records indicate) two daughters and another son. Emily Jane was born in November 1860; Louisa Jeanette in January 1866; and Robert Henry in July 1862.

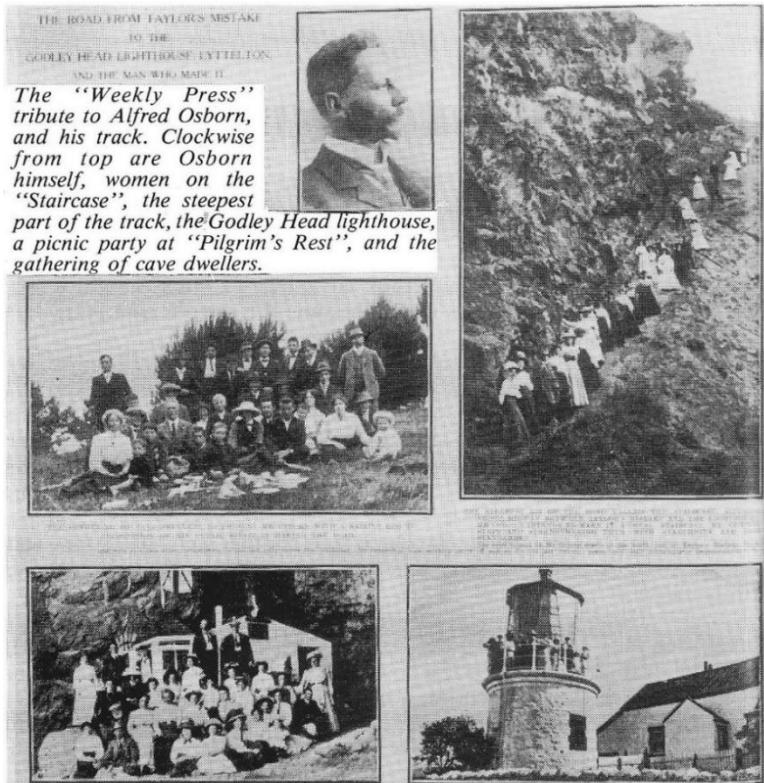
Alfred Patterson Osborn on December 10, 1885, married Emily Jane Turvey, and their only child, Daisy Frances Christina was born on April 22, 1888. She died on May 6, 1957, a spinster, and her next of kin is listed as a cousin, George William Wilson, a civil servant of 108 Chapter Street.

So no direct descendant remains of the man who might well be considered the father figure or founding figure of the Taylor's Mistake Surf Lifesaving Club.

The Osborn couple were durable folk, however. Emily, two years older than *The Pilgrim*, died at the age of 82 on August 18, 1937. Alfred, whose name by then was commonly spelt Osborne, died at the age of 85 in March 1942.

It was about the time of his marriage that Osborn "shifted" to the south-eastern suburbs of Taylor's Mistake, and he followed Archbold's example in developing a superbly-equipped cave mansion. Perhaps the most inventive of his fittings was a telephone link to Archbold, held by insulators made from lemonade bottles.

The Pilgrim and his *Pilgrim's Rest* had many visitors, but getting to the brink of Boulder Bay was a difficult business: a four kilometre hike over the hills and on the lip of dangerous cliffs. So for 20 years, with only a hand trowel, Osborn worked to improve the access way.



The climb from Taylor's Mistake to the lighthouse at Godley Head is a favourite walk for many people, but in the past it has not been altogether a safe route, as the track in some places led dangerously close to the edge of the cliffs.

So stated *The Press* on January 8, 1914. It went on to state Osborn set himself the task of improving the track, widening it to between 2ft 6in (76cm) and 4ft (1.22m), and away from the cliffs.

With the object of recognising the good work done by Mr Osborn, a number of the cave dwellers at Taylor's Mistake and of others who use the track,

assembled at the lighthouse the other day, when Mr S. J. Simpson presented Mr Osborn with a travelling run bearing his monogram, and a case of pipes as a mark of appreciation. The party were hospitably entertained by the light-keepers at afternoon tea.

The most famous of all caves, however, was *The Hermitage*, set in Harris Bay. A full account of the cave dwellings of Taylor's Mistake and its fellow-bays appears elsewhere in this history, but it's worth noting something of this grand if unlikely country retreat.

It went 19 metres into the caves - say, the length of a cricket pitch - was nine metres wide and five metres in height with a natural bare rock ceiling. The concrete floor supported some magnificent fittings: a three metre oak table with chairs, a settee, sideboards for crockery, bunks, an Edison cylinder phonogram (a record player, if you like), a crystal set radio and, best of all, an upright piano.

Many old-timers recall the piano, but no-one knows just how it got there. Taking it, and items like the oak table and sideboards would have been impossible before the rough road construction, and it seems certain those big items were floated round on rafts on rare calm days.

It was a sign of the times, too, that a small cave next to *The Hermitage* was used as a bedroom for the womenfolk.

The Hermitage was something of a great hostel, the visitors - many of them from overseas - entertaining themselves with fishing, tramping, and card playing and good old-fashioned sing-songs round the grand piano.

If Taylor's Mistake was famous for the *Pilgrims Rest* and *The Hermitage*, it became notorious in the 1880s for its part in *The Mystery of the Severed Hand*.

It all started on October 10, 1885, when one Arthur Rannage Howard headed by coach from Christchurch to Sumner. This talkative type left none of his fellow-passengers in any doubt he was going for a swim at Sumner, even though it was a boisterous day and not really suitable for swimming. Scarborough, even then, had a reputation for a vicious undertow and was reputed to be a haven for sharks. But Howard had a reputation as a strong swimmer and no-one took much notice of this overbearing fellow.

One who was perceptive was one W. W. Tanner, who walked along the beach with Howard and noted his clothing and a silver watch attached to a gold chain. William Tanner, later an M.P., also recalled being told by Howard he was to catch the 6 p.m. coach back to Christchurch.

Nothing more was seen of Howard until, the next morning, a boy found his clothing neatly folded on a wooden pier at the private swimming bath of "Lolly" Bell. The watch and chain were in a waistcoat pocket. It was then, naturally enough, assumed Howard had perished to one or other of the twin perils at Sumner, the undertow or the sharks.

A fitter at the Railway workshops, Howard was married with two children, earning nine shillings (90 cents) a day in wages. When it was revealed he had three insurance policies worth a total of £2400 (\$4800), payable to his wife Sarah, and all taken out within a year or 18 months of his "death", suspicion was aroused. The body, nor any part of it, was found, despite a reward of £50 being offered; and in the absence of proof of death, and the highly questionable feature of the hefty insurance policies, the insurance companies withheld payment.

The public interest was aroused two months later, on December 16, with two brothers named Godfrey, with their sons, drove in horse and trap to Sumner, then climbed the hill to Taylor's Mistake for a day's fishing. As they told it, they were approached by a man wearing a wig and blue goggles, who agitatedly told them: "My God! Come here: there's a man's hand on the beach."

The obviously-disguised character insisted to the brothers Godfrey that the hand lying among weeds on the beach belonged to Howard and was particularly insistent he didn't want anything to do with it. The Godfreys wrapped the hand in newspaper and when it was examined by police, they found a gold ring, in the shape of a strap and knuckle, on the third finger. The initials "A. H." were on the inside, and Mrs Howard identified the hand as that of her (late, sic) husband.

The insurance companies, coroner and police were not so sure, and had 10 doctors all told examine the hand. Their joint report into the inquest solemnly conducted on the severed hand testified the hand was of a woman. Sarah Howard faced a major problem collecting her £2400.

Worse, she and the Godfreys were charged with conspiracy to defraud the insurance companies, and as their remands continued into January, a man named Watt was arrested in Petone. He turned out to be Howard, and among his possessions was a little treasure trove of disguise equipment: gloves with false thumb (as he was missing his thumb on the right hand), and several wigs and false moustaches, a make-up box with brushes, dyes and pink paste, several pairs of goggles, and seven different coats.

The two Howards and the Godfreys eventually made a Supreme Court appearance, and the unusual aspect was that while the Godfreys, and later Sarah Howard (because she was not Howard's legal wife), got off conspiracy charges, but the jury found against Howard on the charge – until Mr Justice Johnstone pointed out he could hardly conspire against himself!

The eventual upshot was that Howard *was* found guilty of attempting to defraud and given the maximum two years term, without hard labour. The true "owner" of the severed hand was never found.

So the legend of Taylor's Mistake was started and cultivated, but it was 30 years on that the most vital development of Taylor's Mistake took place.

Eleven members of the Sumner branch of the Royal Life Saving Society, accompanied by Messer's Bilson and Anderson, made a special visit to Taylor's Mistake for the purpose of demonstrating the usefulness of modern life-saving methods. Keen interest was shown by dwellers in the bay and one of the largest crowds ever seen on the beach assembled to witness a very interesting and useful exhibition.

Mr Bilson (sic) addressed the gathering and dealt fully with the methods of rescue, and release, illustrating his points of instruction with a team of men.

Mr F. L. Anderson explained the Schaefer method of resuscitation which was followed by a demonstration of the details of this important work by the men.

As one of the life-saving reels had been previously brought over by Mr W. Miller, the secretary of the Sumner branch, Mr F. Kerr, the club captain, gave an actual exhibition of rescue work in a heavy and risky sea. As the "subject" was safely landed and properly treated for the purpose of restoring animation, the onlookers showed their appreciation of the work by hearty applause. A

local team was then carefully coached by Mr Bilson (sic) and assisted to make a rescue themselves.

After entertaining the visitors most hospitably, the residents formed a club and elected officers for the year.

With that bald final paragraph was recorded by the *Lyttelton Times* the birth of the Taylor's Mistake club: the club's own record has gone. The first page of the minutes of the inaugural meeting was removed from the minute book (still among the records), framed and placed on the club-house wall. It went in the great fire in the 1950s and dealt with later. But what is recorded is that George Bilson took the chair for the inaugural meeting, and that was appropriate. He could accurately be described as the father of life saving in New Zealand, the guiding light of the Royal Life Saving Society when it was founded, the first instructor at New Brighton, New Zealand's first surf lifesaving club, a moving force in the formation of the Sumner branch of the RLSS, which became the Sumner Surf Lifesaving Club, Canterbury's second and New Zealand's sixth club, as well as the prime mover in Taylor's Mistake's formation days.

The Pilgrim, A. P. Osborn, was elected president at the inaugural meeting, and the balance of the officers and committee were:-

Vice Presidents: Messrs A. Hazelton, Morgan, A. Barrett, F. D. Kesteven and H. I. Ballin

Club Captain: A. Barrett

Deputy Captain: W. Shaw

Secretary: J. Densem

Treasurer: G. N. Haxell

Committee: W. Campbell, R. Thompson, J. Withers, Stevenson,

Pierson, O. Ballin and A. Chichester.

Incidentally, a Mr Unwin had moved, and Jim Ballin seconded, "that those present form themselves into a Surf Lifesaving Club for duty on Taylor's Mistake beach". The first subscription was set at 2s 6d (25 cents).

The first meeting of the new committee was set for two weeks later, January 19, 1916 - Osborn unable to be present, incidentally - at the Tepid Baths.

This grand old watering hole later disappeared under the floor of the MED building on the corner of Armagh and Manchester streets.

Those father figures at the first meeting were Barrett, Shaw, Haxell, Campbell, Chichester and secretary Densem. They read the minutes of the beach meeting of two weeks earlier, but deferred confirmation of them until a general meeting of the club, and the first letter received by the club, source not recorded, was “re-affiliation”.

The energetic half-dozen wasted no time in setting their club on the right tracks. They agreed to have “advice cards” printed and receipt books procured, the “advice cards” no doubt to inform members of their duty when it came to manning the reel at the beach. The Sumner Borough Council was also to be requested for a donation towards construction of a reel house on the beach.

A dozen lifesaving books were to be purchased from the Canterbury centre of the RLSS; and some thought was given to club rules. However, this was also deferred to a full club meeting.

And the final word from that first committee meeting: the club’s finances already stood at £2 11s 6d (\$5.15).

Twenty-three members of the club attended the general meeting on February 16, and studied the rules of the New Brighton club. These, the meeting agreed, were “too far-reaching for a new club”, and Barrett and Shaw were assigned to delete those unnecessary for the Taylor’s Mistake Club.

Club colours was the next subject and the meeting decided if it could not get a costume with interwoven colours, then to settle for a simple black costume with green monograms. In what was to become a customary gesture, Osborn offered to supply the monograms.

The uniform decided, what about the patrolmen? No problem there: *The following members notified their willingness to form a (life-saving class): Messrs Barrit (sic), Shaw, O. Ballin, Campbell T. Hobson, Sheldon, Don, Evans, Thompson, Withers, Unwin, Priest, F. Hobson, Haxelton (sic).*

Those 16 stalwarts, were the first to offer themselves as trained lifeguards of the Taylor’s Mistake beach. The meeting turned to a home for the club. After first deciding a Mr Morton should be written to “re a donation to the proposed hall on the beach at Taylor’s Mistake” - a far cry from the original shed to

house the reel - the meeting went boldly into the business of building a pavilion. It carried unanimously a proposal by the secretary (Densem), seconded by Walter Campbell, "that the members present to form a committee and gather funds until the 1st September."

All were to be given a subscription list, but the first funds were already on the way: Osborn, typically and vice president Morgan promptly each gave a guinea (£1 1s, or \$2.10) towards the hall fund.

The Taylor's Mistake Surf Lifesaving Club was up and rolling.

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A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Continuing with the policy of general meetings, the 23 present at the meeting of March 22, 1916, enthusiastically endorsed the idea of competing in the Sumner club's gala. O. Ballin, Partridge, Sheldon, Shaw, Barrett (sic), Truscott and F. Hobson "signified their willingness to attend". Their names are recorded as they were the first club members to represent their club. But appearing outfitted as Taylor's Mistake representatives was a difficult matter. A proposal to get jerseys was deferred owing to the difficulty found at the present time to procure suitable woollen (sic) garments."

Money still had to be spent, though, and the accounts included £2 7s 0d) for a minute book and printing of advice cards, 9s (90 cents) for a dozen handbooks, and a centre affiliation fee of 10s 6d (\$1.05). Osborn, typically, paid the latter. Treasurer George Nelson Haxell - interestingly, George Haxell was often referred to as Nelson Haxell in old records – was also in a giving mood: he supplied a notice board to be placed at the Sumner terminus.

The club's first account was at the Post Office Savings Bank (today's Post Bank) and a special building account by June had a balance of £32 11s 0d. More was needed and Osborn was to wait on sometime Christchurch Mayor, Dr H. T. J. Thacker, in his capacity as Lyttelton Harbour Board chairman to seek a donation. Osborn also came to the party in recognising the first group from Taylor's Mistake to gain their surf awards - in those days. "Successful members in the lifesaving examinations" - by paying for their badges, that group, incidentally, had been trained by Charles Bryant, a founder of the New Brighton club and a very prominent and long-lived) instructor and competition judge.

The membership structure also came under early scrutiny. "Members Wives and lady friends" were made honorary members of the club, and all residents of Taylor's Mistake who had gone on active service were given the same honorary recognition.

While club members had obviously been very successful in securing donations towards the clubhouse, the authorities were less forthcoming. In September the club felt compelled to appoint a deputation (of Fred Barrett, Osborn, Otto Ballin, Haxell, Densem and Peryer) to wait on the Sumner Borough Council for permission to build the pavilion and to pursue the subject of a donation,

irrespective of the success or otherwise of this approach, the club boxed on with the job. It resolved to spend £80 (\$160) on building materials, with Bill Shaw (Barrett his assistant) to supervise the erection of the building. L. Harrison drew up the plans, and the building was to be oblong with a gable roof of polite tiles. Getting many of the materials to Taylor's Mistake was something of a problem, and in the time honoured style of the grander cave-dwellers, bigger timber was rafted round. Who says sub-committees are new? Taylor's Mistake even had a subcommittee to see to the transit of building materials, though Barrett appears to have been the major worker.

By the meeting of December 14, 1916 - amazingly less than a year from the first meeting - the club set about organising the grand opening of the pavilion. All clubs (i.e. New Brighton, which made a donation of £1 1s or \$2.10, and Sumner), citizens who had donated towards the structure, the Lyttelton Harbour Board, the Sumner Borough Council, the Tepid Bath staff, St John Ambulance and the Royal Humane Society were to be invited guests.

Perhaps most importantly, and the start of a great legend, was the appointment of a refreshment committee. Jim Ballin, who else, headed a committee which also included Charlie Lange. Fred Hobson, treasurer Haxell to keep an eye on the spending. A Dow and Woods (?). Otto Ballin donated a marquee and aerated waters, and Osborn gave £1 (\$2) towards refreshments. The Mayor of Sumner was to perform the opening ceremony, Osborn in his absence.

But before the opening, there was the equally important business of staging a first annual meeting. The annual report was read to that meeting and no copy now exists; the balance sheet was not available and had to be received by a special general meeting on February 2, 1917. At the annual meeting, Osborn was elevated to the patron's position, and the presidency devolved on Frank Kesteven.

The name lives on with the Kesteven Cup, but it tells very little of the famed donor. Born on May 6, 1859, at Akaroa, Francis David Kesteven (note the spelling) was the eldest child of Thomas and Louisa Kesteven. His father, at one stage station master at Worlingham out near Oxford, and at his death a sheep farmer of Fendaltown Road, was a late starter in the family business: he was 47 when first son Shepley Cother was born, 50 at the birth of Frank, and 55 when the second of his two daughters, Eva, was born. The other child, Edith, died at the age of 13. It also appears from inconclusive records that

there might have been two other daughters: Norah Grace and Blandina Ruth, both of whom were to marry one George Henry Saxton.

It occurred to the researcher that these nieces of Frank Kesteven (and henceforth the changed spelling will be maintained) might well be related to the family well represented, at time of writing, in the Taylor's Mistake club. Disappointingly, for those who like these things, it's not the case!

Frank Kesteven did not marry; he probably didn't have time, given all his other activities. He was first educated at a private school, Baker's School, then at Christ's College 1874-78. He joined the Union Rowing Club in 1876, and as well as being one of the finest scullers seen around these parts gave yeoman service as an administrator.

He was treasurer of the club for periods between 1881 and 1933 and club captain for 32 years, including an unbroken run from 1901 to 1925. He was also president of the Canterbury Rowing Association and (twice) of the New Zealand association. A trophy bearing his name is still contested.

Kesteven was also a founder member of the old East Christchurch Football (rugby) Club, represented Canterbury in 1883, and was both a delegate and treasurer to the Canterbury Rugby Union. Vice President of the East Christchurch club and later president of Linwood, he was secretary of the Lancaster Park Company (the equivalent of the Victory Park Board), Secretary of the New Zealand League of Wheelman (professional cycling) and into motor-boat racing, sailing and amateur athletics.

And surf lifesaving, of course, and Frank Kesteven was to be president of Taylor's Mistake till his death on September 13, 1939, days after the outbreak of World War 2. In business life, he was a money lender and the proprietor of the oldest business in Chancery Lane.

One of Kesteven's vice presidents was William Samuel Newburgh, whose name is on an ancient trophy still contested. Newburgh was an accountant, and speaking of money, a proposal to raise the subs from 2s 6d (25 cents) to 5s (50 cents) was defeated.

So to the club-house opening, as the *Lyttelton Times* saw it.

Taylor's Mistake, the little village of Seashore huts tucked cosily away in a heart of the coastline between Sumner and Lyttelton was in festive mood

yesterday. The occasion was the official opening of the surf club's new pavilion, and some hundreds of people took the long trail over the hill in order to assist in the festivities".

The Taylor's Mistake Surf Club is only a year old, and it says much for the enthusiasm of its members that in so short a period it should have become sufficiently well established to make such a handsome club house a necessity.

The new building is just what the club requires, and it only cost £100. This was for material only, all the labour being supplied by members during weekends. It is evident from the well-built nature of the structure that the club possesses members with a knowledge of the building trade.

Visitors commenced to arrive from over the hills at about noon, and members of the Sumner and New Brighton Life Saving Clubs were entertained at luncheon at the hut of the captain of the local club, Mr A. Barrett.

At 1p.m., the Sumner Brass Band opened proceedings by playing a lively air in front of the club house, and soon the crowd, which had been well read along the beach, mustered round the flagpole for the opening ceremony.

Mr F D Kesteven, the club president, made a brief speech, and handed the key to the club house to Mr A. P. Osborne (sic), the club's patron, who turned the lock and declared the building open. Then the Union Jack was run up while the band played the National Anthem.

From the club house observatory, in which is hung the alarm bell, Mr Osborn addressed the crowd below. He said that the membership of the club was 60; and half of that number had gone to the front. He wished to thank the public for the liberal support given to the club. Special thanks were due to the captain, Mr Barrett, who had trained a team of life-savers at very short notice to take part in the day's demonstration. But for Mr Barrett and the liberality of the Messrs Ballin Bros., the club would never have to quickly become an established institution. Mr Osborn also referred to the difficulties which had to be overcome in bringing the material for the club house over the hill and round by boat from Sumner.

Mr K. Bassett, chairman of the head centre of the Canterbury Royal Lifesaving Society, congratulated the club on its rapid progress, and referred to the fact that many of its members had taken special lessons in lifesaving at the

Christchurch Tepid Baths. He presented proficiency awards and medallions to the following members- C. A. G. Lang (sic, Lange), L. A. Davie, H. J. Ballin, S. Clarke, J. M. Heath, H. R. Priest and T. C. Hobson. Instructors' certificates were also presented to A. Barrett and Wm. Shaw, and to C. Bryant, captain of the New Brighton Life-saving Club, was handed and hon. Associate's badge and certificate. In connexion with the last-named presentation, Mr Bassett said it was a special award made by the Central Executive of the Society in London on the recommendation of the Head Centre, Mr Bryant had won the bronze medallion in 1912, the teacher's certificate in 1913, and the hon. instructors certificate the same year.

Mr J. Ballin presented Mr A Barrett, on behalf of the members, with a souvenir of the club's appreciation of his efforts.

As a fitting conclusion to the ceremony, the club's Roll of Honour was unveiled.

During the afternoon, exhibitions of Lifesaving were given by members of the Sumner, New Brighton and Taylor's Mistake Clubs, and the Christchurch Ladies' Swimming and Lifesaving Club. A touch of realism was given to the occasion by the fact that while the demonstrations were in progress a lady bather was seized with cramp, and got into difficulties. Fortunately she quickly recovered when brought ashore.

The following teams took part in the demonstration:-

Ladies' Swimming Club - the Misses Painter, Large, Brandon, Lloyd, Couzins, Vine and Mrs Salter.

Sumner - S. Hooper, W. Alexander, R. Mitchell, W. H. Benson, H. C. Bacon, H. Lane, W. Allender and C. Parnham.

New Brighton (two teams) - Jones, Cooper, Truscott, Smith, Millar, Coltons and Sutton; Suter, Feast, Coulter, Campbell, McHarg, Knox and Davidson. Taylor's Mistake – L Davie, S Clarke, J Ballin, R Woods F. (sic) Heath, C Large (sic), T Hobson and A Barrett (captain).

Note the name of Bob Wood snr. He owned a bach at Hobson Bay and second son Bob well remembers being piggy-backed over the hill by his father. Jack and Bob Wood jnr are probably the only men living at the time of the 'the club's 75th anniversary who were present at that auspicious opening day and indeed, they were probably toddlers on the beach when the very first meeting

was held.

We were always at the bach, recalls Bob Wood Jnr, and as their father was an inaugural member, the little boys would have been playing in the sand or paddling in the shallows. Both joined the club and competed late in the 1920's and well into the 1930s, but their younger brother Neil sadly died from pneumonia when he was only 15.

That was in the future, however. Back to the present, so to speak, and the men of Taylor's Mistake had a home away from home.



History-makers: the first team fielded by the club, on January 21, 1917. Standing: Frank Hobson (deputy captain), Bob Wood, Charlie Lange. Seated: Jim Ballin, Les Davie, Alf Barrett (club captain), Jim Heath, Stan Clarke. Reclining: Tommy Hobson.

DOWN TO TIN-TACKS

The home established, Taylor's Mistake turned to administrative detail, and the first steps were to elevate the ageing but ever-generous Osborn to patronage of the club, and to invite Frank Kesteven to the president's position. But it was a little slow off the ground in getting the paper-work done: there is no first annual report, for it was simply read to the annual meeting and the accounts were not ready for the meeting and had to be approved at a special meeting. They must have been all right, for a proposal to raise the subs from 2s 6d (25 cents) to 5s (50 cents) was roundly defeated.

But Taylor's Mistake had not only its own organisation to worry about. The New Brighton club suggested a conference to promote the interests of lifesaving clubs be called, for there were by then four clubs in Canterbury. Just as Taylor's Mistake was spawned from Sumner, so the northern branch members of New Brighton had produced North Beach.

Alf Barrett and Fred Hobson were the initial delegates who are part of the seven-man founding father team of the Canterbury Surf Lifesaving Association (generally called just a surf association in the early days), and as the records show elsewhere, Taylor's Mistake had continued to contribute handsomely to the affairs of Canterbury and at higher levels.

There was a general air of co-operation in those days. On January 23, 1916, the New Brighton club had had to flag a proposed picnic trip to Taylor's Mistake, where it was to help promote the new club, to instead hold a meeting at Thompson's Camp (now Thompson Park) which was to lead to the formation of North Beach.

Taylor's Mistake, for its part, happily agreed to sending a team to help its sister club at the New Brighton gala. Such interaction was common, and readily agreed; and it is easy to point in recent years to Taylor's Mistake men who have loaned their considerable expertise in the endangered art of rescue and resuscitation to other clubs.

Barry Turpin, Paul Carpenter and Geoff Le Cren are some who coached teams in other clubs, while Harley and Helen (Le Cren) Turnbull were two driving forces in the formation of the Waikuku Beach club.

All this was far in the future, however, and Taylor's Mistake in those early days busied itself with two major activities. One was to hold a breaststroke race - in the Tepid Baths split to include a junior section when warranted.

It might seem amusing now, but a three-man sub-committee would be appointed to undertake this onerous task.

Then there was the bequest of Frank Kesteven. As generous a benefactor as Osborn - and, after all, he had no family to worry about - Kesteven pops up all over the place in the Taylor's Mistake history: giving the timber to line the club-house; a hut for the patrollers; donating a Union Jack to flutter over the club-house; suggesting the advisability of an Opening Day each season.

And giving a cup. The Kesteven Cup, strangely for it is not a championship trophy, has become part of Canterbury surf lifesaving folk-lore; and originally it was an opening day event.

It was at a meeting in the Linwood Rugby Club rooms - for many club members had strong Linwood roots - that the club received a letter from its president, donating a cup for annual competition. It should be noted that it was a custom of the club for the presidency to be more a titular position, and the captain (or often treasurer Jim Ballin) to take the chair.

That meeting of March 5, 1918, agreed (on the motion of Messrs A. Dow and Hobson) the following:-

That the Surf Association be asked to take control of the competition for the cup under the following conditions-

- That the Cup be known as the "Taylor's Mistake Life and Surf Bathing Challenge (sic) Cup presented by Mr F. D. Kesteven for annual competition at Taylor's Mistake on opening day under the conditions as laid down for the Ray Blank Cup competition,"

- That the cup be returned to Taylor's Mistake seven days before opening day;
- That the Taylor's Mistake club are to be known as the owners.

A further motion set the date for competition this year (1918) as Sunday, March 17, *there being no other day available before it becomes too cold for bathing.*

So the Kesteven Cup came into being, so it spanned the meeting known universally as "K Day" - short for Kesteven Cup Day - and as the story unfolds, it will become apparent that Taylor's Mistake was not always content with the way the Canterbury association changed the rules.

But if the Kesteven Cup became a major positive force in the life and season of Taylor's Mistake, the same could not be said of dressing sheds and conveniences for the general public. Only 13 months into its active life, the Taylor's Mistake club asked the Sumner Borough Council to provide those facilities, and appointed a delegation to meet the council.

At the third annual meeting, 21 months later, it again agreed to write to the council about the "lack of conveniences", and again a deputation was appointed. A heavy one, too: Kesteven, Osborn and Barrett. Six months later, the matter was raised again; and again in 1922.

The records don't show quite when public facilities were eventually provided, but the annual report of 1925 recorded that *the pavilion has been considerably extended by the addition of a second club room for the lady members. The pavilion has now been brought up to date and possesses every convenience for members. What about the public? Well, during the next year a sun bathing enclosure and open air men's dressing room was added to the pavilion at a cost of £21 11s (\$43.10) This addition has proved one of the most appreciated and valued improvements undertaken at the club.*

But: just who should provide facilities for the public, and the apparent assumption by the Sumner council that the club would look after the creature comforts, remained a festering sore, as far distant as November 1939, Jim Ballin felt constrained to make an issue of public facilities and the shop which snuggled into the wall of the club-house.

That shop had been under the control of a Mrs Falconer for a decade, from 1925, when she also succeeded Bill Hooper as custodian of the club house.

When widowed, she retired, there was a less settled period of sovereignty over the shop, Len Ellis took it over and was custodian a year; then J. A. "Ginner" Whitcombe took the custodian's job for a couple of years, before Bryan Peters took over in 1938. But Ellis's operation doesn't appear to have been entirely satisfactory, perhaps as unsatisfactory as the council's attitude.

It is up to this meeting for the club to decide whether it should cater forth the public or not, Jim Ballin thundered to his 16 fellow-members present in his office at Ballin's Breweries.

No other club caters like Taylor's Mistake. We are not a public body, we receive no revenue from outsiders, and should not cater. I hear we might get some cooperation from the Sumner council - who knows?

He then suggested a schedule of duties for the store and George Haxell, with his tidy accountant's mind, *said the store should be put on a business basis, embracing the cash-with-order-system.*

With local resident Jim Meek then offering to put in a letter-box for orders to the shop operators, the club agreed the store should operate for a "season" running from November to April, open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays. Ballin, Ernie Velvin, and Matt Wilson were the sub-committee appointed to talk things over with shopkeeper Ellis, A tea rooms also existed; they were added to the pavilion in 1927.

The ladies' conveniences were another area of responsibility for that sub-committee, and Ballin insisted an understanding must be reached. Part of the problem might have been the club's and its failure to direct Ellis properly. He was storing club equipment in the ladies' room, so was told to leave it in the club's hands.

The bach-holders were also having problems with the council – another long continuing story - and George Nelson Haxell, president of the Bach Holders' Association, was pledged the club's support in its dealings "on its own with the council. *I realise, said Ballin, that any quarrel between the bach-holders and the council is outside the club's province, but at the same time, the club is prepared to give every assistance to the association.* The battle lines were being drawn.

ADMINISTRATIVE TURMOIL

Some famous names came into the club in 1917, men like George Sevicke Jones, W. H. "Jack" Benson and William Newburgh, who was to give a still-existent shield for intermediate competition. They were quickly joined by Olly Turpin ("Uncle Olly"), who is likewise commemorated by the trophy at stake for over-all competition on "K Day". Another new member was H. S. Feast: Bert Feast was later a Town Clerk of Christchurch, a New Brighton instructor, and in 1938, manager of the first New Zealand team.

Many members were not present in those days, off fighting for King and Country and Kitchener. The then 58 names were inscribed on a Roll of Honour. With the older men away, the club turned its attention to the youngsters.

I have a team of boys in training for the Benson Shield, and so far the work done by them has been very good indeed, reported Fred Hobson. But the question now arises as to what position the boys hold in the club.

A Dow: *Provided they take an active part in life saving and resuscitation, they should be made honorary members of the club. But I think it should be clear these boys shouldn't have turned 17 in August before the Benson Shield competition. And I also think the Captain, his deputy and the Instructor should have power to recommend such boys as they think from time to time. I 'm prepared to move along those lines, Mr Chairman.*

His thoughts inserted as a by-law of the club - subject to confirmation at the next annual meeting - the club welcomed to its fold J. Crooke, A. Green, F. Clisby, W. McLean, J. Barlow, Hugh Yardley, ?. Grenfell and H. L. Mooar.

That was a very positive move on the administrative front, the first recognition of juniors, but something much more negative was looming.

The committee of the day coyly didn't go into details, but meetings in September 1918 unquestionably reveal that secretary N.J. Sheldon was "tickling the till", so to speak.

The first of these meetings, on September 23, tersely elected Dow secretary pro tem, before it was agreed *the secretary (Sheldon) be written to, that the committee desire his attendance at a committee meeting to be held Monday, September 30; failing his attendance, his position to the club be put in the*

hands of the club solicitors.

Well, Sheldon didn't attend that meeting a week later, when Dow, incidentally, resigned as auditor. But he - in his acting secretary role - treasurer Jim Ballin and chairman Barrett were appointed a sub-committee, *with the assistance of the late secretary, to prepare (a) balance to present to the next committee meeting.*

Then something of what the late secretary had been up to is revealed. The sub-committee was also charged with the job to *get as close to the deficit as possible and secure a promise in writing from the late secretary to pay back to the treasurer the deficit at the folio wing rate: 10s (\$1) October 1, balance 30s (\$3) per month. Failing the acceptance of this agreement by the late secretary, the books be placed in the hands of the club's solicitor..., the above was agreed to by the late secretary.*

The final step in the saga came at the meeting of October 10. A motion from George Haxell, *that Mr Sheldon be expelled from the club*, was carried unanimously.

Sheldon disposed of, the club set about its real business, organising opening day, but having to postpone it because of the flu epidemic which swept New Zealand with such disastrous consequences.

There is no doubt that considerable importance and seriousness was attached to opening day, and participation was a privilege, not a right. Three doormen were appointed, "with discretion" on who should be admitted; but to ensure there was no disharmony, complimentary tickets were issued to officials of visiting club teams - catering was restricted to those teams' members - and the patron and president were invited by letter to speak at opening day. Probably a bit difficult to 'phone them.

Invitations were also issued to the Hinemoa, Lyttelton and Christchurch Ladies' swimming clubs, and various ad hoc and local bodies.

Chauvinism was still alive and well, despite the invitation to the Christchurch Ladies. Sixteen women were invited to attend the January 1919 committee meeting, obviously with the idea of getting them involved in the afternoon tea, but while the men present were all listed by name, the minutes append: *and five ladies of the entertainment committee.*

In these days of patrols of four or five or more people, including IRB operators and the like, it's interesting to note the patrol "rosters" around the end of the Great War. Eight committee men were rostered "on duty" for each Sunday, through to late April, with no suggestion they had formal assistance.

It was as well there was a patrol on March 16, 1919, for Geoff Parker noticed five girls swimming out of the patrol area, by Kahawai Point. He was in the patrolman's hut, that provided by Frank Kesteven, when he heard a call that someone was in difficulties, a good way out in the water. He and Barrett, who was also at the beach, fixed a line and an old belt, and Parker brought in Marjorie Eveline Evans, a Kingsley Street, Sydenham, girl a month away from her tenth birthday.

A Coroner's enquiry was later told the men - assisted by Bill Shaw, Arthur Ballinger and R. Dow, and a bystander, E. Burns (subsequently elected an honorary member), spent an hour and a half working on the unconscious girl to no avail. The Coroner also heard it is as not a recognised bathing point and very few swimmers used the area.

As a rider to his verdict of accidental drowning, the Coroner said Parker and Barrett were *to be commended for their rescue of the body, and for their attempts to restore animation*. He also drew public attention to the dangers of the area.

The club also agreed it should *apply for recognition for (those) who risked their lives at Taylor's Mistake*. These stout fellows obviously knew all about swimming at Taylor's Mistake, for in addition to the regular breaststroke races at the Tepid Baths, a swimming race "round the bay" was a feature of opening day.

A young member of the committee in those days, and subsequently a long serving and efficient club captain, was D. C. Davidson. Douglas Churchill Davidson, it seems, must have had a pool job, probably instructing or coaching, for after the "K Cup" competition of February 2, 1919, clubs which contested the cup were tersely told by Canterbury Amateur Swimming Centre Secretary Sammy Hollander to watch just whom they competed against.

He named 13 swimmers who *had endangered their amateur status by competing in a surf competition at Taylor's Mistake with and against D. Davidson of Taylor's Mistake team, who is a professional under the rules of*

the NZASA, under whose jurisdiction the affiliated swimmers come. Will you please note that in this case, the Centre, in view of the fact that a protest was made at the time, decided not to take action, but should any further breaches occur, those swimmers who are members of affiliated swimming clubs will be disqualified notwithstanding the fact that they swim under protest.

Hollander, later a test rugby referee and father of Alvin Hollander who became president of the New Zealand Chess Federation, was in fact one of the 13 swimmers named: he was a Taylor's Mistake member.

Hollander also told the affected clubs that he trusted *you will use your best endeavours to protect the amateur swimmer and so not endanger him of losing his status, for if disqualified, he would probably have to stand down up to 12 months*. He also quoted the swimming centre's new rule of professionalism: *Any swimmer who is a member of an affiliated swimming club and who knowingly competes with or against a professional in a surf lifesaving competition will be disqualified whether he swims under protest or not.*

Taylor's Mistake, it seems, gave the letter the cold shoulder it deserved, or maybe the surf lifesaving clubs so threatened let New Brighton's secretary, Ernie Summerfield, take up the cudgels on behalf of all.

He told the swimming centre my committee does not recognise your centre's right to jurisdiction over our club in connection with surf competitions, the objects of which are to encourage lifesaving in the surf; not competitive swimming. Further, we consider that the new rule submitted by your centre is not applicable to our club; also that your own Council rules provide for swimmers competing against professionals under protest; and your Centre seems to be overriding your Council rules.

The help of the Canterbury Surf Association was also sought, and it was a chastened Hollander who replied at the beginning of April that *owing to the ruling of the Chairman of the NZASA, the centre adopts same, and so has no control over surf work done by your club*. In those days, the swimming centre demanded (and received) a permit “and the usual fee” for staging of surf competition, and the same letter contritely noted that *any money received for permits will be returned*. Well done, Ernie Summerfield, on behalf of all the clubs, and there was no more such nonsense levelled at Davidson, who contributed much to Taylor's Mistake in the 1920s.

It's also worth noting that the second Kesteven Cup competition had been won by Taylor's Mistake, New Brighton winning the first competition (in 1918) with Bert Feast in its ranks. He had either changed clubs since joining Taylor's Mistake in 1917 or, more likely, held dual club affiliation.

As the decade of the Charleston was ushered in, there was further distinction for Taylor's Mistake. In 1915, a rather haphazard competition had been held at Napier, by the Royal Life Saving Society, a resuscitation contest. William Henry, managing director of Nelson Brothers Tomoana Freezing Works, near Hastings, gave a shield for such a contest. The original recipient was the Hawkes Bay centre of the RLSS, which passed it on to its governing body.

After Hawkes Bay had won what was very much a domestic competition run in conjunction with the New Zealand swimming championships, the Nelson Shield gathered dust.

But it was revived in 1920, Alf Barrett appointed coach to the Canterbury team, and its number also including Olly Turpin, Davidson and A. "Monty" Morrow. And Davidson, rich irony, was a delegate to the RLSS and the surf association. They apparently didn't enjoy the same sensitivity as the swimming centre.

THE GREAT SWIMMERS

The 1920s didn't start too happily for Taylor's Mistake, though there was considerable pride in a very noteworthy rescue (all rescues are noteworthy, some more distinctive) on January 11, 1920, by Turpin, Davidson, Stan Clark, Priest and Davies. But in February, 1920, at the Nelson Shield contest at Auckland, Davidson was involved in a mishap.

The records don't reveal what type of mishap, but clearly it was an accident of some sort, and he was hospitalised. The club promptly pledged its wholehearted support for any benefit fund which might be started for Davidson and his wife; and the injuries must have been serious enough, for 16 months later the Canterbury association had a fund going for Davidson, to which Taylor's Mistake gave £3 3s (\$6.30). By then Davidson had recovered, for he and Turpin were again Canterbury team members, Barrett the instructor in the side which won the Nelson Shield in Dunedin. A judge's result sheet (which in error gives the year as 1920) appears in this history.

In 1920, a kid just out of Ashburton High School came to Christchurch pursuing a jewellery/watchmaker apprenticeship, and he joined up with Taylor's Mistake, The 16-year-old's name was Alan Robilliard, and when still only 18 he was in the Canterbury Nelson Shield team. Still a teenager, he became assistant instructor (and his Dad a vice-president), but had to take a season off in 1924-25: the problem was, he was chosen for the All Blacks, the famous Invincibles, and Alan Robilliard remained a first-choice All Black until injury forced his retirement after the fourth test on the 1928 tour to South Africa. He returned to surf lifesaving, and spent eight years in the 1930s as a committee member.

Soon after Robilliard joined Taylor's Mistake, along came Len Moorhouse. He had been a New Brighton club member for a short while, but as an accountant working for Jim Ballin, it was inevitable he should cross over the hill. A backstroke specialist, Moorhouse was not an original selection for the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam, but as he was travelling to Europe on business, he was added to the swimming team of Dave Lindsay, Kathleen Miller and Ena Stockley. The New Zealand Amateur Swimming Association made Moorhouse a travelling grant, but the understanding was that he would essentially cover his own way.

Moorhouse swam third in his heat of the 100m backstroke in a time of 1 min 20.4 sec. but needed to finish first or second to qualify for the next round. If he had missed the boat, so to speak, in the pool, things got worse as he headed home. Going to the Talsharn Games in Ireland, where both he and Dave Lindsay won races, must have drained the Moorhouse resources. So he cabled the NZASA for some more money.

They cabled some out, and that appeared to have got Moorhouse to another port. Broke again, he cabled for more, and this went on the whole return trip. Many years later, the long-standing NZASA secretary, Doreen Brown, showed copies of the correspondence to John Brooks, then swimming reporter and later sports editor of The Press. Moorhouse also won selection for the inaugural Empire Games, at Hamilton, Canada, in 1930, but was unable to make the trip.

Dave Lindsay joined the club in 1925 and at the same annual meeting was appointed assistant instructor. (Moorhouse had similarly joined the committee within a year of joining. In due course, he became managing director of Ballin's Breweries.)

Lindsay was a middle and long-distance freestyler, justly regarded as one of New Zealand's finest. He won the treble, the 220yd, 440yd and 880yd freestyle titles in 1927 and 1928, and when he was defeated by Alec Stokes in the shorter race in 1929, graciously telegraphed old Frank Stokes: *Congratulations. Worthy chip of (sic) old block.* Lindsay was also to win the 440yd and 880yd titles in 1932, 33 and 34, by the last year a Manawatu representative living in Dannevirke.

At Amsterdam, Lindsay was third in his 400m heat in 5 min 38.6 sec, and fourth in his 1500m heat, with a time of 21 min 35.4 sec, in both cases failing to qualify. Of some minor consolation was that the winner of Lindsay's 400m heat was eventual winner Alberto Zorillo of Argentina.

Two other men to win national swimming titles in the 1920s, both with New Brighton affiliations as well as Taylor's Mistake during their careers, were Norm Batchelor and Clarrie Heard. The latter, originally spelled Herd, had done 3 min 2.2 sec for 220yd breaststroke and also won the New Zealand title in 1924. This won him a place in the Olympic Games team for Paris, and Heard was considered a strong gold medal prospect. He disappointed with 3

min 9 sec, but was twelfth fastest and thus just earned a semi-final position. For whatever reason, Heard didn't swim - maybe the heavy colds caught by him and fellow Cantabrian swimmer Gwitha Shand had caught up with Heard - and only five contested one semi-final. Heard, who died only in 1990, was to lose a leg in World War II.

Norm Batchelor won the national 880yd freestyle title in 1922, both the 220yd and 440yd the next year; and the 220yd in 1924. In backstroke, he won the 150yd title in 1921 and 1923, the potential hat-trick being spoiled by Carlyle Atkinson. The latter was the other great swimmer in the early days of Taylor's Mistake; to him must be accorded the accolade of being the best.

English-born, Atkinson set a world 220yd breaststroke record in 1910. Encouraged by that great feat, Atkinson returned to the England he'd left as a toddler and was chosen for Britain at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, finishing fifth in the 200 metres breaststroke, a race dominated by Germans.

He then returned to New Zealand, and while essentially a breaststroker, set about winning every New Zealand title available to him: the 220yd breaststroke in 1913-14-15-20 (four in a row) and 1922, by then 30, he won the 100yd and 220yd freestyle in 1915, and as late as 1924, was still good enough and durable enough to win the 440yd and 880yd.

When backstroke was introduced over 150yd he won that as well, and was still the New Zealand record-holder in that famous event, the long plunge, when he retired.

Carl Atkinson was also a very prominent water polo player, captaining Canterbury for several seasons and eventually became president of the NZASA. Perhaps more to the point in a Taylor's Mistake history, he became the club's first individual national champion in surf lifesaving, though club records for years have held that Harry Goldsmith has that distinction. Atkinson won the be1tman's title at 35 in 1927, held in conjunction with the four-man championship. He got it just in time: the next year, Atkinson was transferred to Napier.

The year Lindsay joined the club, 1925, Mrs Falconer became curator of the clubhouse by dint of taking over the store. She rented the northwest corner of the building, for £6 (\$12) a year.

The accommodation, so to speak, of the club also grew in the mid-1920s, Kesteven giving that patrol hut; and speaking of accommodation, it was interesting to note that old T. J. Archbold was a regular attender of annual meetings. Women's activity also became a minor issue, and to encourage them, Barrett gave a cup for competition between "the ladies of the north and south beaches" at Taylor's Mistake.



The great swimmers and seven-man teams of the 1920s and into the 1930s: the greatest of all, Carlyle Atkinson, Dave Lindsay, Norm Batchelor, Alan Robilliard, Len Moorhouse, Alec Thompson, A. Cookson and Tommy Armstrong.

At that time, there was a proposal for the local branch of the Royal Lifesaving Society to amalgamate with the Canterbury Lifesaving Association, a move that Taylor's Mistake initially supported before having a change of mind. Some of that might be to do with the RLLS poking its oar into the Kesteven Cup conditions, for the club *deplored that the change of drill and points allocated for surf competitions should come up for discussion so often.*

In the 1930s, Taylor's Mistake often pressed for the Kesteven Cup rules - which, as we've seen, were based on the Blank Cup rules - to revert to the old conditions, which allowed for set named positions for team members. Taylor's Mistake maintained this helped weaker swimmers contest six-man competition.

And even in 1940, Taylor's Mistake was waging minor war with the Canterbury association on both the Kesteven Cup and "K Day". Matt Wilson *decried the actions of the...association for using the front page advertisement on their programme in such a manner as may mislead the public into believing*

that Kesteven Cup Day was being run by the association, with our club as only second fiddle. In other words, he maintained, they are stealing our day.

There was hearty agreement with Wilson, and old Jim Ballin reminded members the club had sent a letter to the Canterbury association on the subject. *We conveyed to them the idea that Kesteven Cup Day, out of respect to our late president, should be preserved as the club's annual effort, and not that of the association. Not only have we not received satisfaction; we haven't even received a reply.* He and Ernie Velvin were told to wait on the association, and demand a satisfactory response!

Back in the 1920s, there were more than just competition rules and a purloining of "K Day" to worry about. The Taylor's Mistake dunes, and the club-house itself, were under threat.



The Benson Shield team of 1931 at South Brighton: instructor Norm Batchelor, George Low, Jack Monck, Noel East, Jack Wood, Laurie McKinley, Bob Wood and patient Neil Herrick from New Brighton. In those days, clubs drew by ballot a patient from another club. The group on the right includes (from third left) Vincent Sherman, Dave Lindsay, Monty Rattray in togs, Len Moorhouse, an unidentified chap and Jim Simpson.



**Warmest congratulations to the
Taylor's Mistake Surf Life Saving Club on your centenary
From the crew at O'Sheas**

EROSION: THE TIDES OF CHANGE

Taylor's Mistake has always been a volatile beach, from years before Vincent was wrecked on its rocks, through to the huge seas which all but snatched away the club-house and destroyed some baches in much more recent years.

The club was sufficiently concerned in October 1926 to appoint a watch-dog committee *to take action (if necessary) to devise protection measures against sea encroachment.*

The committee didn't wait for the worst to happen. It sought quotes for a protection wall, and at the meeting of July 17, 1927, had quotes from H. Stemmer, of Sumner, and J. C. Meek, of Taylor's Mistake. Jim Meek, who had lost a leg on the last day of the Great War, November 11, 1918, was a Taylor's Mistake committee man, but the club accepted the £125 (\$250) quote of Stemmer and Meek graciously offered to oversee the work for nothing. F. J. Cook, an old deputy captain, equally graciously, gave permission for stone from his property to be taken for a protective wall. The club also applied for funds from the Sumner Borough Council and the Public Works Department and old W. H. Nicholson, both club vice-patron and Sumner mayor, donated the cost of steps from the end of the wall.

Pavilion improvements and the wall ended up costing the club more than £500 (\$1,000).

Help also came from Lyttelton Harbour Board engineer Cyrus Williams, who *kindly gave his expert advice and devised ways and means to offset the danger of losing the shed.* The Christchurch City Council's Unemployment Fund Committee, the Sumner council and the Government – presumably in the form of the Public Works Department - made financial contributions, and the club itself put up £70 (\$140) towards costs expected, in 1927, to be about £240 (\$480). It spiralled to more than £500 (\$1000), counting coincidental improvements to the pavilion, but by the annual meeting of October 1923 only £43 7s (\$86.70) was still owing.

Erosion was not a subject ever to go away entirely, however. On July 21, 1978, the Christchurch Star wrote: *Seemingly impregnable rock buttresses were washed away like shingle as freak seas pounded Banks Peninsula yesterday in the wake of a storm. Members of the Taylor's Mistake Surf Lifesaving Club*

removed all their boats and equipment after huge breakers started eroding the 4 metre high rock and concrete foundations of the 62-year-old club house.

At high tide yesterday, about 4.40 pm., tonnes of concrete and a big concrete sundial collapsed into the raging surf in front of the club-house. That sun-dial had been given by Osborn as a memorial to those who perished in the Great War, and was mounted on “rustic” stone.

A little over a year later, Neville Duckmanton asked in the Rescue magazine:

Could this happen to your club?

Would your clubhouse withstand similar punishment?

Could your club raise the money to repair the damage?

Does your insurance policy cover damage by the sea?

What help would you get in such a situation?

“Ducko” went on to analyse the problems faced by Taylor’s Mistake, that article reproduced with his kind permission.

The storm seas combined with high spring tides over the period July 20-24, 1978, caused erosion of the beach which uncovered rocks and wooden piles which were previously buried under two metres of sand. The erosion undermined the rock and concrete terrace which protects the front of the Clubhouse, a corner of the clubhouse itself and a four-year-old boatshed exposing their foundations and threatening collapse. Canoes and skis in the boatshed were sucked out by the sea and deposited, wrecked, in the car park 250 metres inland. Sand hills alongside the clubhouse were nearly completely removed.

The beach was eroded below the normal winter base level by 3 metres and the beach face moved back 50 metres so that the clubhouse stood out by itself and was exposed to the full force of the sea.



Surveying the storm damage of 1978.

Taylor's Mistake is a small bay just 'over the hill' from Christchurch. The long beach of dark volcanic sand is surrounded by rocks and cliffs which force incoming waves to converge and concentrate their energy. The beach is renowned for its high energy surf environment which is great for body surfing, expensive for the boaties and dangerous for the inexperienced. Taylor's Mistake is used to heavy seas, but even older members could not remember erosion of the beach face near this magnitude.

The most obvious reason for the erosion was the combination of heavy seas and abnormal high spring tides. This combination resulted in damage to sand dunes and man-made structures all along the east coast over this period, yet there were other factors which contributed to the erosion at Taylor's Mistake.

Under natural conditions most sand beaches have a "profile of equilibrium". In other words erosion of the beach face by dominant storm waves during the winter is balanced by the constructive action of smaller summer waves which

transport this sand from the offshore area back onto the beach. The sand on the beach in the backshore area provides a buffer against encroachment by the sea inland. Sand dunes provide further protection in that they normally contain large quantities of sand which help dissipate the sea's energy during abnormal sea activity.

At Taylor's Mistake the sand dunes have practically disappeared so reducing the natural protection and upsetting the natural "profile of equilibrium". Old photographs of the bay show that up to 20 years ago the dunes extended out level with the front of the surf club building. Increased use by the public of the beach has led to the destruction of the former dense vegetation protecting these dunes. Paths through the dunes have been formed and widened by foot and vehicular traffic. No attempts were made to protect the dunes.

Not content with the damage he was inadvertently doing to the dunes man decided to finish them off properly. The Christchurch City Council, three to four years ago sent a bulldozer and trucks over to the beach and removed much of the remaining dune complex in an endeavour to increase the car-parking area behind the beach. This was obviously easier and cheaper than buying land behind the existing carpark from the local farmer. The wind and sea then combined with man to widen the paths and reduce the dune area markedly. Even before the July 1978 storm, large seas had for two or three years washed up through the dunes removing more of the sand each time.

The retreat of the dunes back 75 metres from the front of the clubhouse left the building exposed to the action of the sea. Previously the dunes and the clubhouse offered a broad front to the sea. The building was now out on its own. Man had upset the natural equilibrium of this closed beach environment.

The club could see even then that this progressive deterioration of the beach environment could result in problems. Two letters to the council brought little response. The club requested that the dunes be fenced off and planted and offered labour to carry this out. The council stated that they were watching the situation closely and indicated that they had initiated a study of the problems and requirements of the whole area and they did not wish to spend money before the "Taylor's Mistake Plan" had been presented. Three years later this has still not been presented.

When the damage to the clubhouse occurred the initial response of the club was to sandbag the front and sides of the building to prevent further undermining. This was reasonably successful and gave time for more permanent repairs to be made. A civil engineer was consulted and a three-stage plan drawn up. Stage one involved placing piles around the seaward side of the building and the erection of a wooden retaining wall by a contractor. This wall was washed away three weeks later leaving only the piles. Club members with the assistance of a contractor rebuilt the wall and placed huge boulders behind it. Stage two involved the underpinning of the boatshed and clubhouse. This was done by club members using mainly donated material. The building of a permanent reinforced concrete retaining wall, attached to the piles comprises stage three.

The total cost was \$14,515 - stage three alone costing an estimated \$10,000. Costs have been markedly reduced by the voluntary labour of club members, the voluntary efforts of a number of contractors and donations of timber and boulders. Money to cover the repairs has mainly come from donations and club fund-raising. Major donors were the Canterbury Savings Bank (\$1000), Christchurch Star (\$1500), North-West Kiwanis (\$1100),

Linwood-Woolston Rotary (\$500), Christchurch Kiwanis (\$1250) and several individuals who combined brought the total of \$4550. K. N. Beardsley Construction donated and supplied at a reduced rate heavy machinery and labour.

Considerable help has been provided by the Lottery Board of Control through the Surf Life Saving Association of NZ \$2600 has so far been received from this source and another \$1400 promised.

What lessons can be learnt from the Taylor's Mistake experience? For a start your club's insurance policies will not cover storm damage by the sea. To have this adequately covered would probably cost \$1500-\$2000 a year in premiums, that is, if you can get a company to take the risk. The Earthquake and War Damage Commission likewise do not cover damage done to buildings by the sea.

You must rely on other sources to finance repairs or rebuilding. A number of sources were used by Taylor's Mistake. Fund-raising through raffles a substantial amount and voluntary labour saved further funds. One problem is

that money you direct to repairs is money that cannot be used elsewhere in your club. Raising money also directs your manpower away from other important functions such as providing labour during the rebuilding and the normal running of your club. A large portion of the funds for rebuilding at Taylor's Mistake came from the community. Extensive publicity at the time of the damage, through television, radio and newspaper, brought excellent results.

Surf clubs run a community service and as such the community has a responsibility to look after the clubs in times of need. Extensive publicity is needed to explain your need. Lifesaving has a good name in the community. Take advantage of this - the money is there!

Local and national Government agencies provided a large amount of financial aid in the Taylor's Mistake case. Many councils support their local surf clubs financially and clubs in trouble should approach them, although in times of recession as at present, this source is limited. The Lottery Board of Control provided a large grant but this source would naturally be limited if a number of clubs needed emergency finance. The Lottery Board of Control grants are "dollar for dollar" subsidies. This qualification should perhaps be lifted in cases of emergency, especially where large sums of money have to be found by a club in a short time to protect their building.

The best solution (and the cheapest?) is to prevent erosion occurring.

Existing natural defences such as sand dunes should be preserved and improved where necessary. Steps such as fencing off fragile dune areas, creating narrow access ways for pedestrians only and the planting of protective vegetation such as marram grasses and ice plant are some of the options available. To do this pressure should be placed on the local authority responsible by personal contact, correspondence and through the media. Offer to provide labour to plant marram grasses along your beach if the local authority supplies the materials. Alternatively, labour can be supplied for such projects through the Department of Labour's unemployment schemes. Above all do not be afraid to speak out if you think you have a problem. Apply pressure, use the media, enlist public support and do something practical yourself!

Prevention then is the policy - repairs can be costly. The best solution? - don't build on sand.



Taylor's Mistake really did have sandhills in the old days; the tea-rooms is in the foreground.



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DIPPING THE TOE INTO NATIONAL WATERS

As Taylor's Mistake headed into the 1930s, and the world towards the Great Depression, Taylor's Mistake made another important gain and maintained the record of having fielded an All Black every year since 1924 and (eventually) till 1936.

A budding young Christchurch solicitor joined the club, and while his birth registration said his name was Anthony Ian Cottrell, this dashing young fellow was known to all as "Beau" Cottrell. An All Black first to Australia in 1929, Cottrell was also one of the two hookers in the series against the 1930 British side and in New Zealand's last two-fronted scrum in 1931. He finished his international career in 1932 as a prop.

While best known for his footballing feats, naturally so in a country like New Zealand, Cottrell was also a man of considerable distinction in surf lifesaving. He became Taylor's Mistake's captain in 1930, then a long-serving instructor, and his contributions extended to provincial level.

As well as being a Taylor's Mistake delegate in the period 1929-38, he was Canterbury association secretary 1930-34, then president for the next two years, the second Taylor's Mistake man (after Frank Kesteven 1917-20) to succeed to that post; and he was association solicitor 1957-72.

Cottrell was well used to competing at a national level in rugby, and as the 1930s dawned, Taylor's Mistake realised it was time to test itself in those arenas, as well. It resolved it should contest a national title as a club entity for the first time, instead of just striving for places in a Canterbury team, and for the William Henry Memorial Shield contests at Greymouth in 1930, it sent over "Mo" Bolam, Moorhouse, Batchelor and George Laurie.

That first effort also brought Taylor's Mistake its first placing: third place in a field of eight. But it turned down the chance to contest the Nelson Shield: that was to come later, and only when Taylor's Mistake felt it had a fair chance of winning.

Reference to Cottrell highlights the part rugby has played in Taylor's Mistake, and Cottrell was to be joined as a club member by three other Christchurch club men, George Scrimshaw, George Hart and Jack Manchester.

George Scrimshaw played for Canterbury between 1925 and 1930, but had just one season in the All Blacks. He was a surprise choice ahead of Cliff Porter for the 1928 side to South Africa, and played the first test as a wing forward.

Champion sprinter Hart was to be an All Black from 1930 to 1936, retiring after the latter series, though later playing for the 4th Brigade while serving in the Army in North Africa. The New Zealand 100yd champion in 1931, he died of wounds at Sora, in Italy, during the advance from Cassino to Avezzano.

Manchester, a second row forward, was a contemporary of Hart, becoming an All Black in 1932, and captaining the 1935-36 tourists in Britain. He also played for Christchurch; and another Christchurch man to join Taylor's Mistake, in 1947, was Alan Robilliard's nephew, Ross Smith. He too, was an All Black, in 1955, and became the first Canterbury player to score 100 first-class tries.

But the rugby connection was most strongly with Linwood, and it is perhaps no coincidence (i) that both clubs have green and black as their colours: and (ii) that Frank Kesteven was Linwood's president for 25 years. The first great Linwood man to play for the club was Olly (sometimes spelled Ollie) Turpin. He was in Linwood's champion senior team of 1917, when qualification was restricted by age to 20 so war malingerers could not bolster teams when they should have been doing their duty; and played 22 times for Canterbury between 1921 and 1925. Olly Turpin, in fact, had been away to war, like so many lying about his age to get into the action. But his mother, recently widowed, marched into the government offices, and had him recalled!

Olly Turpin first played senior rugby at 17 in 1915, but once his sporting interests extended to aquatic sports, he became highly proficient, not only in surf lifesaving, but also as a member of New Zealand champion Canterbury water polo teams of 1920 and 1921. His devotion to Linwood extended to preparing the club's 75th anniversary booklet.



The junior team of 1930: Laurie McKinley, Noel East and Jack Patterson at rear; Jack Wood, Bob Wood, George Low and Bill Walton.

Olly's brother, Jim, also played for Linwood in the 1920s, and his career finished at only 24 in horrific fashion. On June 2, 1928, playing against Merivale on Lancaster Park South, he tried to hurdle Charlie Oliver, and fell so badly as to break his neck.

He lay in Christchurch Hospital for nine months, completely paralysed, and his recovery was hailed a medical miracle and became worldwide medical news. Jim Turpin went on to become a very good billiards player, and won the Canterbury snooker title before turning to bowls. As a member of the Canterbury club four in 1936, he won the national title at Christchurch. Not content with that, Turpin and Dick Haworth also took out the pairs title; but he was not available to defend those titles the next year in Wellington.

By then Jim Turpin was busy developing a family, of whom sons Barry and Jim - Dick and Tiger - have become equally or even more noted as Taylor's Mistake champion blokes. And third generations have also become club members.

Mention has been made of Bill Shaw, a Taylor's Mistake stalwart, and stalwart is certainly the operative word for this man. He was no callow youth, Bill Shaw, when he joined Taylor's Mistake as one of the very first of its members. For when Shaw played his only two matches for Canterbury, both home and away against Wellington in 1918, he had already celebrated his 41st birthday.

He continued playing in the front row of Linwood senior teams well into the 1920s, by then nearing his 50th birthday, and his hooking tactics evoked much folk-lore. Another piece of the Bill Shaw folk-lore was based on his love for a swim. Often after training on a chilly mid-week night at Hagley Park, he would jog across to Victoria Lake, strip off and have a plunge! He would have done well in the "Brass Monkey" race of later years.

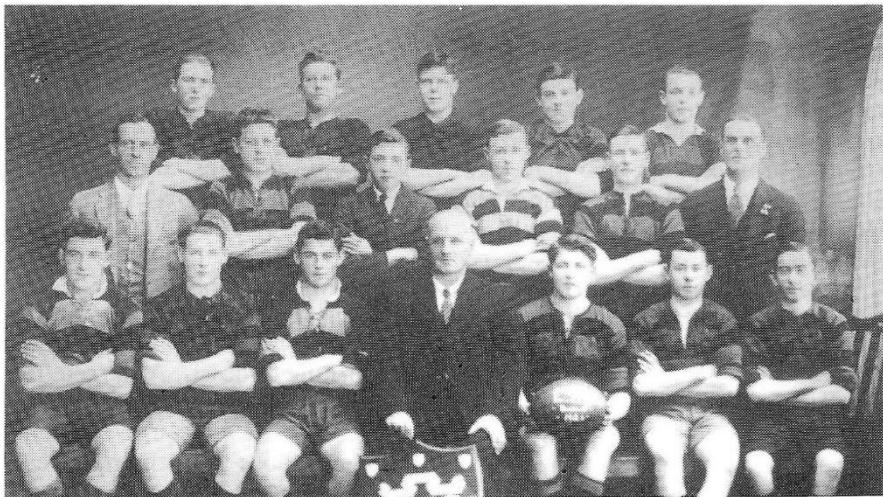
A master builder who was in constant demand when Linwood made one of its many moves, he followed the club and its junior teams well into his eighties.

Arthur Hobbs, Linwood's club captain from 1900 to 1909 and a Canterbury representative, was a Taylor's Mistake member in the early days, and so was his successor, Charles Hervey, who joined Taylor's Mistake in 1917, and became a vice-president soon after. Alf Barrett, Linwood's fourth club captain, 1923-27, was of course by then well established as one of the most vital figures at Taylor's Mistake; and Jim Ballin was a Linwood club vice-president for many years.

George Pearce was a very good forward for Linwood senior teams in its early days, and Geoff Parker was another senior footballer to perform stalwart surf duty. The Hobsons were other Linwood men, Alf ("Muff"), Fred and fisherman Tommy, plus their brothers Jack and Frank, being commemorated in the name of that part of the beach officially named for the Hobson family.

In later years, 1931, Charlie Quaid was one of the Linwood men who found surfing and swimming at Taylor's Mistake a useful footballing training aid; he was an Otago All Black in 1938.

But the most famous of the Linwood-Taylor's Mistake men, through sheer longevity and service, has to be Frank Kesteven, "Kes" to the Linwood folk - president of Linwood from 1914, of Taylor's Mistake from late 1917, and of both till his death late in 1939.



The strong connection with the Linwood Rugby Club, 12 of whose members are considered the founders of Taylor's Mistake SLSC. Flanking the middle row are Alf Barrett (left), the captain then of both clubs, and the Linwood fourth grade team's coach, Bill Shaw, who lived to see the Taylor's Mistake 50th anniversary. President-of-both Frank Kesteven sits next to the team's captain, Charlie Quaid, and next to him is Monty Rattray.

It is appropriate to return to the William Henry Memorial Shield (and Nelson Shield) contests on Greymouth's Blaketown beach in 1930.

The New Brighton team of that year included young Monty Rattray, who had started tripping over to Taylor's Mistake at the age of 10, in 1919, but who joined New Brighton when he "came of age" in surf sense, in 1923. He was also a Linwood rugby club player - with New Brighton's Alec Stokes as it happened - and recalls vividly the 1930 Nelson Shield contest.

We were the only team to make the buoy, so had a 48-point swimming lead on Maranui. But in those days, all the judges came from Maranui virtually, just a few from Lyall Bay, and we lost 48.5 points in drill, so only came second.

Such outright cheating - for it was nothing less than that - was quite flagrant in those days. In the 1931-32 season, Taylor's Mistake declined to enter a Nelson Shield Team until further information is received re the judges; Beau Cottrell led the charge to protest to the Royal Life Saving Society's national council about the rules and allocation of points used by them in the running of the Nelson Shield; and the club also offered Jack Benson and George Pearce

as judges and Jim Ballin as time-keeper for the Nelson Shield. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!

The Nelson Shield contest was then still somewhat in a state of flux, and while clubs like Maranui, New Brighton and Lyall Bay were regular entrants, and shared all the titles between 1921 and 1932 (there was no contest in 1933), there was also a trend towards representative or provincial teams. Thus, the Canterbury team of 1936 coached by Taylor's Mistake's Colin "Buster" Allen, included his club-mates Rattray, Moorhouse, Derek Symes and Jack Young; the others, for the record, were North Beach stalwart Alan Dalton, New Brighton's Miles Butterick and Geoff Cooper, of Sumner. The team failed by two-thirds of a point to qualify for the final.

But the Nelson Shield was destined to be a club trophy, and it had been moving that way since the Surf Lifesaving Association of New Zealand was formed in 1932. Canterbury president Beau Cottrell told Taylor's Mistake in October 1936 it was most unlikely a Canterbury team would be sent.

That suited Taylor's Mistake for while Norm Batchelor in the 1935-36 season had favoured a provincial team, Allen and Ballin, in particular, led the move towards a club side. They were not successful that year, but Taylor's Mistake was still represented in other events.

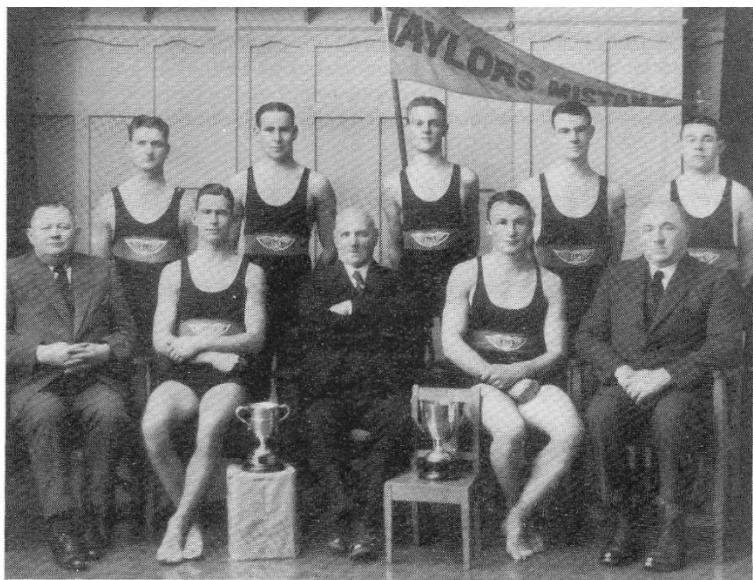
Briefly then recapping Taylor's Mistake's first appearances at a national level:

* It had its first members contesting a national event in 1920, when Barrett instructed the team also consisting of Turpin, Davidson and Morrow in the Nelson Shield at Auckland.

* It provided its first national champion in Carlyle Atkinson, winning the belt at Wanganui.

* It first contested a national title as a club entity in the William Henry Memorial Shield (four-man) championship of 1930 at Greymouth.

* It first had a team contesting various events at the national championships in 1936 at Dunedin's St Clair beach.



*Six-man resurgence in 1931 — the winners of the Ray Blank Cup and Kesteven Cup.
Back: Len Moorhouse, George Laurie, Jack Bailey, Alan Robilliard, Monty Rattray. Front: secretary Jim Wallace, captain Mo Bolam, president Frank Kesteven, instructor Beau Cottrell, treasurer Jim Ballin.*



The Newburgh Shield team of 1932: Tom Champion, Bob Wood, Alister Boulton and Stan Kingdon; and in front, Des Wardell, Ron Hunter and Jack Patterson.

THE BASHFUL BOYS

The new broom was starting to be swept at Taylor's Mistake around 1930. Mention has already been made of two of them.

Arthur Thomas Mowbray Bolam, Mo for short and sometimes "Atta boy" for his initials, became a great servant of the club, especially as club captain, and was a true pioneer. When the New Zealand Surf Association Award was introduced in 1932, only Bolam and George Low were successful in the test. Club captain Bolam recorded that it *was a matter of regret that more senior members did not participate in this award, which will, in time, become compulsory for senior competitions.*

Monty Rattray's beginnings in surf lifesaving have been mentioned, so he was an experienced campaigner when he reached Taylor's Mistake – not, he hastens to mention, because of any dissatisfaction at New Brighton, but more because of the state of surf at the time and his own love for the cove.

New Brighton then could field two teams in the Blank Cup, and Taylor's Mistake often struggled to field one. Perhaps more to the point, though, was that I thought Taylor's Mistake was an ideal place to stay. I was happy at New Brighton, but my cobbers were at Taylor's Mistake. George Low had joined by then, and Derek Symes was changing from North Beach. Len Moorhouse, who was working for Ballin's had - naturally, I suppose - gone over.

But more importantly, a group of us had bought old Alec Thompson's bach for £50 (\$100). There was Mo Bolam, Len, Jim Simpson, Jim McKechnie and myself and they used to call us the Bashful Boys. Old Alec Thompson was a Canterbury champion boxer and he also had the pie-carts in those days. He'd bring one over for K Cup Day, because Ballin's used to combine their picnic with K Day, and all the drunken bums in town used to come over for free beer.

I remember Clarrie Heard used to be the stoker for the hot water we used to give away for people's tea - most people and shops charged for it in those days.

The bach cost the "Bashful Boys" 30s (\$3) a year in licence fee, and Rattray recalled that in those days, no-one was allowed - or meant – to reside at Taylor's Mistake year round. The Sumner Borough Council, which administered the area, and the Lyttelton Harbour Board, which had much of

the jurisdiction, made sure of that (or tried to). But Rattray says many “permanents” got around the rules by going away for a fortnight.

Getting to and from Taylor’s Mistake was not an easy thing in those days.

It still involved a tram trip to Scarborough and a walk over the hill for most members. Not for all, though. Jim Ballin, for one, had a Nash, and that would trundle up and down the clay road. But if it rained, recalls the Rattray memory, those travelling with the liquor baron had to get out and push or it would be stuck there for a week. Alec Thompson really took a risk towing his pie-cart over.

A great friend of Ballin, also a car owner and also extensively into the liquor trade, was Jim Wallace, who succeeded Moss Ballin (Jim Ballin’s brother and to die in 1930) as secretary in 1923, and stayed in the post till 1941. Mine Host at the Grand Hotel, opposite what was then Beath’s store in Cashel Street, Jim Wallace, used to supply the beer for the Ballin’s picnic and K Day.

It so happened in 1936 that when the beer, bought from Ward’s, was trundled over the hill on the Saturday, it rained too heavily for competition and the cellarman was told to take it away and bring it back the next week.

He did so; same result; same instructions.

“But Mr Ballin,” protested the cellarman, name of Buchanan, *“you said you were going to hold K Cup Day even if it snowed.”*

“Maybe I did, you silly bugger, said Mr Ballin, *but it didn’t - it rained!*

The third week, it was delivered again; again it poured on the Saturday night; so the “Bashful Boys” did the only logical thing: they drank the lot.

Next day, says Monty Rattray, it was as clear as a bell. There’s no record of whether it was a dry “K Day”, or whether appropriate action was taken against the guzzlers!

It would have been a bit tough on Derek Symes, for he made three trips from Dunedin for “K Day”. Then in the final stages of his medical studies, Dr Symes had come to Taylor’s Mistake via North Beach; and during World War II variously served on the great cruisers, the Achilles and the Leander, taking part in the Japanese surrender arrangements. He was another top-line

swimmer of those days, winner of the national 440yd freestyle title in 1935, the 220yd in 1936.

Another of the top-line swimmers of the 1930s was a true all-rounder. George Low succeeded Moorhouse as New Zealand 150yd backstroke champion in 1933, and two years later was winning the national middle-weight boxing title.

That year, 1935, certainly proved productive for Taylor's Mistake, for it picked up Symes, Allen, and Harry Goldsmith - more on him later - and Jack and Bob Hatchwell. Jack Hatchwell was to serve with Symes, while Bob Hatchwell was an outstanding swimmer, winning the national sprint freestyle title in 1939, and again in 1946-47.

Back to the early 1930s, however, and after the promise of that first essay at the four-man title, Taylor's Mistake optimistically headed for Wanganui seeking something better in 1931. Bolam, Batchelor and Moorhouse were this time joined by Rattray, and a Sumner man, a Professor Bamford who lectured in engineering, and took an interest in their progress.

He didn't agree with the cotton line we were using, so brought out this heavy fibre line - it was like binder twine, recalls Rattray.

Well, we tried to compete with this without trying it out first, and it just sank. Poor old Mo Bolam was our belt swimmer, and of course the belt swim in the four-man also doubled as the New Zealand belt championship. No wonder we were nowhere.

Monty Rattray had many memories of his early days at Taylor's Mistake, Depression days they were, but the young men made the most of their chances to get away from the 5½ day working week in town.

We'd buy 3lb of sausages for a bob (10 cents), and we had a kerosene lamp, a primus stove, make do with rain water - and sometimes Mum would make a meat pie. One form of entertainment was watching Jim Ballin and Jim Wallace swimming - they were quite a sight, both of them between 19 and 20 stone, Jim Ballin like a gorilla, covered in red hair, but a gentleman, a great man.

He recalls, too, one day a big British band playing at the bay, from the famed Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. *After they'd entertained us, they went round the rocks, amazed at the mussels they could find, and knocking them off and eating them.*

Rattray became something of a belt swimmer. A short, stocky man who competed more than creditably against some of the great swimmers of the day, men like Dalton, Butterick and Sumner's Jim Sutherland, though he tends to think the best of the lot was New Brighton's Mac Eaglesome.

Belt swimming was none too easy in those days, either, especially in the great Black and White Cup contests, a four-man surf relay which remains one of the most exciting events of the lot. Then, the first swimmer had to wear a belt, a big kapok thing which got water-logged and was a dreadful drain on the swimmer.

Rattray maintains the buoys used to be placed out too far, especially for the taxing belt swim, and there was a dramatic illustration of this in 1934, the year Sumner won the Kesteven Cup for the first time.

Rattray turned in a superb belt swim, overcoming a deficit on the swim out to come home four yards ahead of Alan Dalton, and six yards clear of New Brighton's Russell McKenzie.

Bolam and Low maintained the lead over New Brighton's Eddie McConville - soon to become a Taylor's Mistake man - and Neil Herrick; and Moorhouse took to the water for the final 300yd swim with a lead of 30 yds over Alec Stokes. The *Lyttelton Times* tells *the balance of the story of February 11, 1934:-*

Stokes' subsequent effort was one of the finest exhibitions of grit seen for a long time. He was 14 seconds behind Moorhouse at the turn. Halfway home he had reduced the gap to 15 yards. Even at this stage, it appeared that Moorhouse would win, if only by a small margin. In the last 40 yards, both swimmers were being carried away from the finishing line by the set, Moorhouse to a greater extent than Stokes.

Both missed a "shoot" and excitement was then running high since, had either of them caught it, the race would have been decided. Both were on their feet in water waist deep, Moorhouse still a few yards in front. Then followed a gruelling struggle against a very strong current for about 15 yards. With every stride, Stokes appeared to decrease the lead. Moorhouse staggered and fell three yards from the line. He got up, tottered a moment and fell again three feet from his objective. With a final burst, Stokes lurched across the line. He collapsed and had to be carried up the beach, on to the dry land and partially

resuscitated. Moorhouse also had to be assisted; as he did not cross the line, Taylor's Mistake was disqualified. The race was the finest ever witnessed in the competition, but it was generally agreed that the distance was too great. The distressed condition of the competitors appeared to support the contention.

So even in defeat and disqualification, Taylor's Mistake played a full part in one of the greatest and most exciting surf races in Canterbury history.

"K Day" wasn't just a day when the Kesteven Cup and the Black and White Cup were contested, and the Ballin's picnic held. The public took advantage of the picnic situation, and the relatively sparse programme, to take to the water themselves. On one "K Day" of the 1930s, 27 had to be rescued: *People never seem to understand the dangers and problems at Taylor's Mistake, even then*, says Rattray. *We always used to walk up to the last bend on the road down to Taylor's to see where the rip was. But at the change of tide, that hole would change, and that's when people got into trouble. We didn't used to get very big crowds, but there were enough needing to be rescued.*

Taylor's Mistake was never really well off for patrollers, and it has been related how one member only would be assigned to be "on duty". As far back as January 27, 1925, in a special feature in the old Sun newspaper, Alf Barrett related that the dramatic but unsuccessful 1919 rescue from Kahawai Point of Marjorie Evans, was not the only "activity" that day.

Mr W. Machin, a well-known citizen, was rescued in an unconscious condition and he was given attention for three-quarters of an hour before he was brought to.

At Taylor's Mistake, a nor'wester often causes trouble. The seas and current are assisted towards Godley Head and then sweep back along the beach.

Barrett said that some of the gear and ropes now (1925) in use is the original material acquired when the club was formed in 1915 (sic), . . They constructed the building themselves. The whole of the pavilion was built by members. The club was in debt, a lean-to structure for women bathers added to its financial worries. It also had no first-aid outfit, blankets, stretchers, or special room for cases.

Our membership is not large, said Barrett. It is the same old band that carries on each season, but we manage to patrol the beach on Sundays and public holidays.

Those were the sorts of membership woes which attracted Rattray, Symes, Moorhouse, Bolam (from Sumner), Heard and others to Taylor's Mistake. But it was hard work. Rattray again: *The majority of firms closed down for 10 days at Christmas, and we patrolled the beach throughout this period and again at the weekends. But we couldn't always do the whole weekend, because we'd be swimming in carnivals - and they had senior, B grade, C grade and women - then off to Taylor's Mistake at 8 o'clock, and patrolling on the Sunday.*

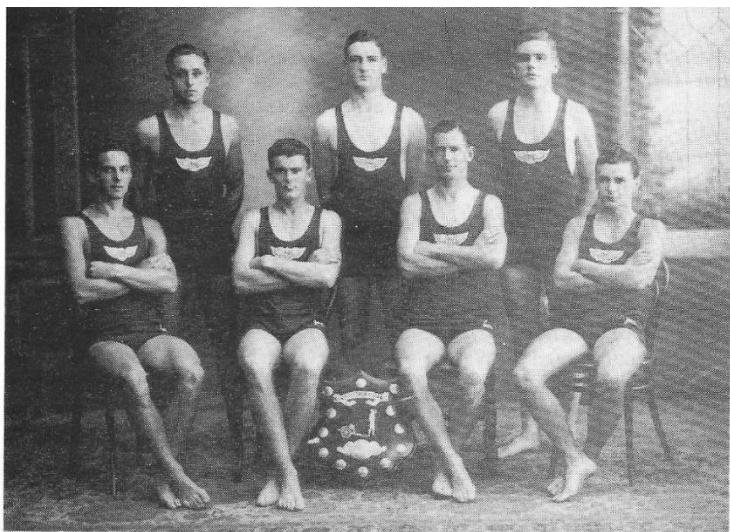
Competing in swimming Carnivals was important to us, because if you wanted to do water polo or four-man, you had to make the Canterbury swimming team, because they were usually held at the same time and the same place. But even just before the war, we only had 14 active members, senior and junior.

Barry Turpin's statistics and records tell the full story of Taylor's Mistake's successes through the years, but it's worth dwelling on them in the 1920s and 1930s.

Competition in the first years of Canterbury's surf lifesaving movement consisted basically of rescue and resuscitation events, and Taylor's Mistake started promisingly enough. It won the Ray Blank Cup for seven-man rescue and resuscitation in 1918, and the same year finished second in the Kesteven Cup contest. But it rarely contested the Sumner Cup (four-man) and often in the 1920s, as remarked by Monty Rattray, could not field teams in the seven-man contest, though it always made a special effort to have a team on its own beach for the Kesteven Cup.

So there are slim pickings, indeed, in the competitions in the 1920s, the only successes in the "K Cup" in 1920-24-27-29.

But late in 1927, along came the Black and White Cup. On November 3, *Beltman* in the *Star* said *this is a new trophy presented to the Canterbury Surf Lifesaving Association by H. J. Ballin Esq on behalf of J. Buchanan & Co, Glasgow, for the winners of an inter-surf lifesaving club flying squadrons' race which it is proposed to swim each season in the baths. A race of this kind will arouse great interest between the clubs as it is quite different from those in which they now compete.*



The young bloods of 1935, winners of the Newburgh Shield for intermediate rescue and release: Stan Kingdon (support swimmer), Alister Boulton (line) and Jack Young (belt) are standing; Bob Wood (line), Alan Palmer (reel), Mo Bolam (instructor) and Ivan Gundersen (line) are seated; absent is Des Wardell (patient).

Within three weeks, however, rules were drawn up which made the race a surf relay. Important conditions were that the four team members had to ballot for positions, the first swimmer having to wear the recognised lifesaving belt, and that swimmers had to swim freestyle! How would that sit with Graeme Pratley in his belt race title swim of 30 years later?

Beltman suggested in three separate snippets that with swimmers like Atkinson, Lindsay and Moorhouse - to which was eventually added Batchelor - Taylor's Mistake's chances would seem exceptionally good.

So it proved, though Batchelor's early lead to the buoys was cut back by Bolam, then swimming for Sumner. However, it mattered little, for Moorhouse stormed into the lead, followed by New Brighton's Alec Stokes. Small wonder these champion swimmers took control, for each swimmer faced a 600yd journey!

Lindsay maintained the Taylor's Mistake lead very easily; so did Atkinson, a 100yd ahead of Alan Dalton (North Beach) with New Brighton's 19-year-old Rattray rounding the buoys as Atkinson was finishing.

Thus, in the shape of Ballin, a Taylor's Mistake man was to be responsible for the second of the present great non-championship contests in Canterbury surf lifesaving and which, as interest in R and R has decreased, now commands greatest interest for the spectator on "K Day".

Taylor's Mistake was to retain the Black and White Cup in 1929, and in those days, it was a championship-counting event. It also had wins in 1932 and 1936, and again in 1939, of which more later.

The influx of new blood made Taylor's Mistake a more competitive force.

After a 13-year gap, it won the Ray Blank Cup again in 1931, then 1933, before embarking on a five year winning streak from 1936. It was then that Taylor's Mistake became a truly competitive club and not just at senior level. The intermediates won the Newburgh Shield for the first time in 1934 and retained it the next year, Monty Rattray instructing the six-man team the first year, Bolam the second.



Dual champions again in the Blank and Kesteven Cups, 1934. Back: George Laurie, instructor Beau Cottrell, Len Moorhouse, George Low, Mo Bolam. Seated: Jack Monck. In front: Monty Rattray, Jack Bailey.

Then, in 1936, Taylor's Mistake graced the St Clair beach with its presence for the first time at the national championship meeting which had sprung up since the formation of the national body in 1932.

The club was represented as follows:-

Beltman's championship: Derek Symes and Jack Young. Symes lost his heat to Peter Mathieson, but won his semi-final, and finished second to Alan Dalton in the final. Young won his heat but was beaten by Dalton in the semi-finals.

Four-man championship: Len Moorhouse (captain), Monty Rattray, Derek Symes, Jack Young "just failed to qualify for the final of this event."

Surf relay championship: Six teams contested this, and Taylor's Mistake (the same team as the four-man) "just failed to gain third place."

And as previously mentioned, "Buster" Allen (as instructor), Moorhouse, Rattray, Symes and Young were members of the Canterbury Nelson Shield team.



The Kesteven Cup B team of 1935. Stan Kingdon holds the flag and also at rear are Des Wardell, Jack Patterson, Norm Batchelor, Ron Hunter and Tom Champion. In front, Bob Wood and Alister Boulton.

Records club captain Ernie Velvin in his annual report: *The representatives of our club created a most favourable impression in all events they competed in, and one prominent official singled out Oreti (Southland) and Taylor's Mistake as the two most promising clubs at the meeting.*

But even better was around the corner, and there was a preview to it in that 1936 season. In Canterbury championships, Symes won the single-handed rescue, and joined with Rattray, Young and Low to take out the Black and White Cup. Young Harry Goldsmith (with Bob Hatchwell second) won the Taylor's Mistake Goodwill Bowl for the junior surf race.

The work done by instructor Norm Batchelor and by Rattray with the younger members, was about to bear fruit.



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Taylors Mistake Surf Life Saving Club

CHAMPIONSHIP AT LAST

As the Depression lifted, Taylor's Mistake looked to extending and improving its rescue facilities. In January 1933, a sub-committee of captain Cottrell, Bolam and builder Bill Shaw was charged with looking into the costs and availability of a surf boat. Coincidentally a street collection, which became a great feature of Canterbury surf lifesaving fund-raising, was also first mentioned at this time.

At the annual meeting nine months later, Cottrell, Bolam and one Grigor were further charged to purchase a surf boat, but within a month, Bolam told the club: *I've been unable to get a definite price for such a boat and from the information I've received, it would be seen to be expensive.*

So the club opted instead for a kataraman (sic), a speedy little craft which was great fun to play around in, as well as a handy craft to reach swimmers in difficulty. The boat itself cost £14 (\$28), cartage £1 (\$2), oars 10s (\$1), a rowlock 3s 6d (35 cents) and cartage of the outrigger canoe 12s 6d (\$1.25) - an all-up figure of £16 6s (\$32.60).

One group of members who did have a boat, though, was the Wood family, and Bob jnr well recalls one day in the mid-1930s he, his father Bob and brother Jack, and Vincent Sherman rowing the flat-bottomed boat round from Sumner. *A south-westerly came up, and we were wrecked off Moki Point. The boys at the club saw us and wheeled the reel round the track; then Derek Symes swam out in the belt where we were hanging on to the boat, and hitched it on to the line.*

Not necessarily because of this episode, but perhaps prompted by it, the Lyttelton Harbour Board was successfully approached at much the same time to place life buoys on rocks near Giant's Eye and also across the other side, near Black Point.

Christchurch United swimming club men made up much of the Taylor's Mistake membership in the 1930s, and a social lot they were. A group often consisting of the likes of George Low, Monty Rattray, Stan Kingdon, Bob Wood, Mo Bolam, Bob and Jack Hatchwell would often do a moonlight cruise from Lyttelton, round the Whistling Buoy and back to Diamond Harbour for a saveloy supper.

Then they'd head back to Lyttelton by Gemmell's launch, and walk back to their baches at Taylor's Mistake – a pretty long walk, "but a helluva good time" as Bob Wood recalls it. He also recalls, for the record, that six-man training was rarely at Taylor's Mistake, more often mid-week at the old Christchurch West High School (now Hagley High School) or in the yard at Ballin's Breweries.

The list of life members was also extended in 1935, Kesteven, Pearce and Bolam -- the latter on the verge of his transfer to Nelson - joining Ballin and Barrett, who had rather prematurely received that honour way back in 1917. It should be added hastily that those latter two deserved the honour several times over: less than two years into the club's life was a shade too soon! Jim Withers joined them in 1936, at the outset of a momentous season in the club's history.

Ernie Velvin recorded the competitive successes baldly:

It is gratifying to report that the past season's activities were most successful, the club finishing first equal with New Brighton in the Pennant award for the championship of the province, and second to Maranui of Wellington) in the national championship.

He went on to record the Canterbury championship results thus:

Kesteven Cup: G. Low, J.A. Young, S. Kingdon, D.H. Symes, R.K. Wood, J. Hatchwell, N.S. Batchelor (instructor), first.

Black and White Cup: Symes, Kingdon, Young and Low, second.

Ray Blank Cup: the same team as Kesteven Cup, first.

Tomkinson Cup (Still water): H. Goldsmith, Low, Symes and Wood, second.

Intermediate surf race: (Goodwill Bowl): Goldsmith first, J.B. Lenihan unplaced.

Newburgh Shield: Goldsmith, C. Roscoe, D. Webb, A. Partridge, R. McKinley, D. Morris, J.A. Young (instructor), first.

Benson Shield: Roscoe, A. McEwin, Webb, McKinley, S. Roper, Morris, Young (instructor), second.

Intermediate resuscitation: B. Ballin and D. Webb, unplaced.

Beltman's champion of Canterbury (held in conjunction with Sumner Cup): D.H. Symes first, S. Kingdon second.

But it was the bold showing at Lyall Bay in the national championships which stamped Taylor's Mistake as a club fast-growing in stature. The team of Symes, Low, Young, Moorhouse, Rattray, Jack Hatchwell and instructor Batchelor finished second to Maranui in the Nelson Shield contest; with Symes, Low, Rattray and captain Moorhouse also finishing runner-up to Maranui in the four-man alarm. A second team of Wood, Hatchwell, Laurie and Young (captain) was unplaced.

Symes again finished second in the belt to Dalton, Low and Young unplaced; while young Harry Goldsmith was also second, in his surf race, to S.W. Jarvis, of St Clair.

Then instructor Batchelor and club captain Velvin were rung in to join the two four-man teams to finish second in the march past.

That season of success also meant some losses. Taranaki man "Buster" Allen this time headed to Auckland on transfer, and Low to England, while brothers Bob and Jack Hatchwell moved to Wellington and Maranui. Moorhouse, Rattray and Jack Patterson also left -- but not the club, only the bachelor ranks!

If 1937 was a good year, 1938 was nearly as successful, more so in some respects. The club was a close second to New Brighton in the pennant championship, with victories going to Goldsmith (intermediate surf race), Symes (beltman and single-handed rescue), and the six-man Ray Blank Cup team of Symes, Young, Stan Kingdon, Goldsmith, Rattray and Alister Boulton.

The Kesteven Cup and Newburgh Shield teams were both second. There was also a first individual victory at the national championships since Carl Atkinson had won the belt when it was combined with the four-man. Harry Goldsmith won the junior surf race he had long threatened to annex, and with team-mates Colin Roscoe, Bernie Lenihan and Rex Marshall was second in the surf teams' race.

Another new junior event was the "rescue and release", the forerunner of today's six-man, and Lenihan, Marshall, Roscoe, Eric McEwin, D. Webb and Ron McKay, instructed by Jack Young, again finished second. They actually performed better than the seniors, Taylor's Mistake (Symes, Young,

Goldsmith, Rattray, Kingdon, Moorhouse and instructor Batchelor) finishing third, St Clair the winner.



Struggling for members in 1941 but still able to field a senior six-man team. Back Harry Goldsmith snr, Jack Young, Derek Symes, Stan Kingdon, George Laurie Front: Ivan Gundersen, Monty Rattray (soon to see service), Harry Goldsmith jnr

The greater news lay in the selection of the first New Zealand team to visit Australia. Jack Cameron's Australian team had toured the previous year, but because of an outbreak of infantile paralysis (polio) had not visited the South Island.

Bert Feast, a New Brighton man but a regular Taylor's Mistake coach in the 1920s, managed the New Zealand team, captained by his club-mate Stokes, and including Symes and Young. Stan Kingdon was another nominee, while the records also show Harry Goldsmith as sort-of a member of the team, and therein lies a tail.

Goldsmith came from Sydney, where he was born, to Auckland when he was 13. He had already had a taste of the surf at Bondi, where he was a nipper member. *I'd go past the breakers on a rubber fish and no fear; 'chute the waves; and in no time. I'd learned to body 'chute, Harry Goldsmith recalls. I could crack a wave with the best of them and this gave me a big advantage over the other fellows when I joined Waitemata in Auckland.*



*What the best-dressed Taylor's Mistake men,
like Jack Hatchwell and Bob Wood, wore
at the Lyall Bay nationals in February 1937.*

The other big advantage was Harry Goldsmith, snr. He had been involved administratively with the Sydney East swimming club and North Bondi surf club, and *never very good, but a terrific trier as a swimmer, got his surf award.*

Dad, all my life, wanted me to be prominent in swimming and surf lifesaving. He was my manager, spokesman and press agent, says Harry jnr.

Harry Goldsmith's first experience of national championships was at New Plymouth's Oakura beach, as a 1935 Waitemata junior. His team left Auckland in torrential rain, and after the bus had detoured, arrived in reasonable time. But it was to find the main New Plymouth thoroughfare, Devon Street, like a river. Some Lyall Bay lads were in the "river" so Waitemata quickly produced a water polo ball and had an impromptu game. It was all good practice because the New Zealand water polo championship was then contested on the Saturday night of the surf lifesaving titles!

There was a problem for young Goldsmith, however: his name was not listed amongst the Waitemata entries in the junior surf race. He swam, anyway, and faced that problem when coming in third behind a fellow Neville from New Plymouth Old Boys and Alan Pascoe. When asked for his name, Goldsmith quick as a flash said Doug Hardy, a team-mate not placed. That name is probably still in the records as the bronze medallist.

They were tempestuous championships: The beach was so bad at Oakura that when the bellman went out, they got tangled with debris - logs, trees and all that sort of rubbish. They had to go to an alternative beach, Ngamotu, in the harbour.

Jim Ballin was there, and he made a big impression on me, though I didn't know at that stage I was going to Christchurch. As it turned out, I worked for him for 10 years. In a sense I worked for him at the surf club, too, because he ran it. He wasn't just the treasurer; him and Jim Wallace, his great mate who was secretary, controlled things.

Late in 1935, the Goldsmiths shifted to Christchurch, and Harry snr enrolled his son in a swimming club as soon as he arrived; Harry jnr always had the ability to swim a reasonable 100yd. Father also made a few enquiries, formed a friendship with Jack Young; and on their very first weekend in Christchurch, young Harry was taken "over the hill".

"You're entered," he was told by Dad, and the son recalls there were very few juniors competing in what was then called the intermediate grade, and he won the Canterbury surf race title.

That's all we had then, no bell or teams' races.

He made that steady progress up the placings in the junior surf race at national level: second (under his own name) in both 1936 and 1937, then champion in 1938, and the national selectors faced with a problem.

They hummed and haaed on whether they should take a junior or another senior -- and I didn't get the nod. But my father didn't let it lie at that. He asked, with a few supporters backing him, could I go and compete. They agreed, so I went under my own steam -- rather, my parents paid. I managed to get a third in one of my two surf races, and had a belt swim, too.

Goldsmith actually finished fourth in a field of 30 at the Bondi Australian championships and third in the inter-dominion meeting at Manly a week later.

Goldsmith returned from Australia joining Young and Symes in the senior ranks, and the enforced promotion finally brought Taylor's Mistake the long-sought title of Canterbury's champion club. The Canterbury titles came in the Kesteven, Black and White and Ray Blank cup competitions; Goldsmith won the belt-surf race double; the younger lot won the Newburgh and Benson shields.

By winning both the Dewar Reel and the John Burns Cup -- both R and R events -- in the West Coast championships, Taylor's Mistake boldly laid claim to the title of champions of the South Island and justified that by boasting the only South Island placing in the Nelson Shield: third, behind Maranui and Lyall Bay.

Symes, Young, Kingdon and Goldsmith formed the surf team which was third in that race, and they were joined by Roscoe, McEwin and Lenihan in the Nelson Shield squad -- the instructor is not listed. Young also finished second in the resuscitation title and fourth in the surf race.

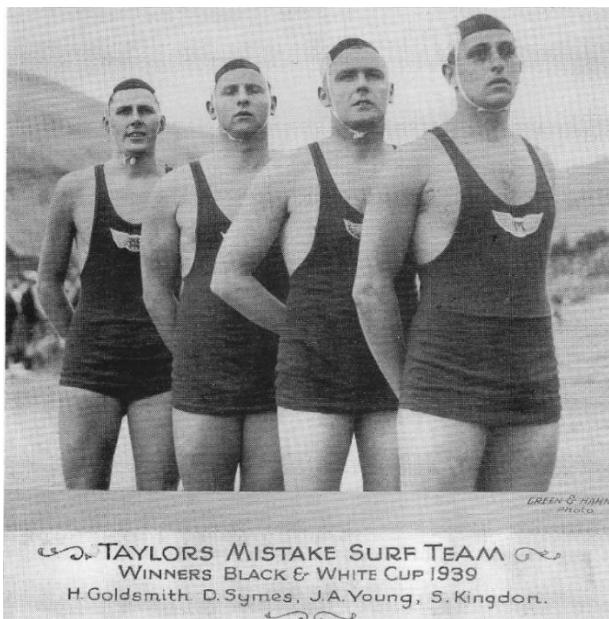
Success stimulated the need to maintain the momentum, and under Symes, winter training was started at the Christ's College gymnasium. Ten years earlier, then assistant secretary Keith Stodard-Brown had urged the club to get into schools for junior members, as many already had a knowledge of lifesaving methods.

In the euphoria of external competition successes, sight had not been lost of the need to maintain club spirit. The old bach battler against the iniquitous

demands of the Sumner council, J. T. Archbold, gave a cup bearing his name which, after a chequered start, became awarded for a series of handicap surf races, Archbold generously giving miniatures for winners. A year later, at the 1938 annual meeting, secretary Wallace gave a challenge cup for club surf races: "as many as possible," requested the good Dr Symes!

At the beginning of the 1930s, septic tank facilities came to Taylor's Mistake (though it was many years before the time-honoured method of burying the "night-soil" can at low-tide was abandoned) and as the 30's ended, there was the promise of an electric light becoming available at Taylor's Mistake.

If the lights were about to go on at Taylor's Mistake, the lights were going out over Europe; and the great contributory life of Frank Kesteven was also about to be snuffed out.



*The canoe crew in 1932, from aft to stern
Jack Monck, Vincent Sherman, Jack Wood
and Bob Wood. It was strictly a lifesaving
craft: competition canoes came later. And
at left is the Wood family's boat, wrecked
off Moki Point in the mid-1930s.*



THE CHARACTERS OF THE MISTAKE

When Frank Kesteven died, as earlier mentioned, a matter of days after the outbreak of World War 2, it was indeed the end of an extended era.

While Alfred Osborn was the patron, and was to be spared a few more years, Frank Kesteven really filled a very similar role. He left the chairing of normal club meetings to the club captain of the day, or treasurer Jim Ballin; and with Ballin and secretary Jim Wallace such great mates, the administrative path ran smoothly.

The war was to change all that. Kesteven died, and was remembered in the annual report in October 1939 thus:

To the memory of F. D. Kesteven, a truly great figure – president of the club for 23 years. A most highly respected and generous gentleman - a very grateful committee dedicates these few lines.

May he rest in peace.

The war changed and claimed millions of lives, and with the benefit of hindsight, it could be said to have changed the nature of Taylor's Mistake, and the characters who inhabited the place. It is appropriate to here recall some of the characters of the earlier days, not all of them necessarily members of the surf lifesaving club, but then, everyone and anyone who has a holding at Taylor's Mistake is virtually, by definition, a surf club "person", be they formal members or not.

As related earlier, Taylor's Mistake or its nearby bays were first settled in the 1890s, by the Kennedy brothers, William, John and Hans, and their brother-in-law, Alexander Bickerton, whose father established chemistry at what is now Canterbury University. Thomas Archbold, then Alfred Osborn were the first to build in caves, and among the many contributions made to the bay by Osborn - who had only one ear, thanks to a fall on his track and hitting his head on a spade - was an engraved sun dial at Harris Bay, now all but totally disappeared thanks to the activities of vandals.

The previously-mentioned Hermitage was constructed in part from souvenired materials from the 1906 Exhibition and the old Fuller's Theatre, and the fine piano that so many old timers still recall was taken to The Hermitage in a five metre flat bottomed row boat by Cecil Champ. Christchurch dentist Jesse Worgan was the original owner of The Hermitage and after about 15 years, in the early 1920s, sold it to Frederick Simpson.

When George Haxell started tripping to Taylor's Mistake in 1903, at the age of 15, it was a time of considerable building growth, and Gordon Ogilvie records that after one frenetic year, 1910, when a dozen "residences" went up, there were 30 Well-appointed buildings in the sweep between Boulder Bay in the south and Giant's Eye (now more familiarly Giant's Nose) in the north.

Stonend, the most southerly of all, was built by Hughie Yardley, the assistant lighthouse keeper at Godley Head. Yardley also carried a pick and shovel when he cycled round the track from Taylor's Mistake - so he could keep the track in good order.

The other of the great survivors was Rosy Morn, next door, built by Wally Caldwell and later the residence of Harry Reading. Ogilvie describes them as *squat, weatherproof design and solid boulder-and-cement construction giving their occupants every security against tide and tempest.*

There was only one cave dwelling at Taylor's Mistake itself when Haxell started tripping over, at Hobson's Bay, and that first constructed by Haxell and Ernest Jones was the last to be demolished. Ces Champ succeeded to that cave dwelling, and he is recalled as both a character and something of an eccentric. Margaret Campbell recalls one day thinking Ces had become very mod, as he was wearing purple sandshoes. The short answer was that he was doing some painting at his dwelling at the time, and decided his faded sandshoes could use a spruce-up as well!

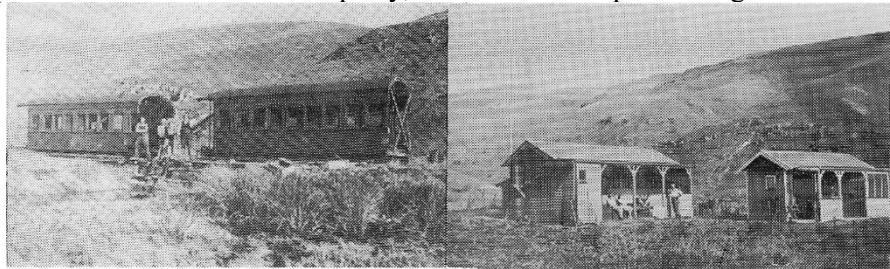
Ces Champ, it was said, tossed up when he was young as to whether he should get married or buy a motor-bike. The motor-bike won but later he graduated to a Daimler car - but not if it rained. The partly clay road over to Taylor's Mistake meant a few occupational hazards in getting to his beloved Te Ana, number 29 and a testament to the then 17-year-old Haxell (and Ernest Jones) that it should survive from 1905 to 1978.

The first bach in Rotten Row was mainly the work of Bill Stevens, who was an intermittent visitor to the bay to go rabbiting. For a start, he stayed in a tent until some spooked cattle charged straight through it. A blacksmith, Stevens didn't retain possession that long, but he and his wife still visited, Ogilvie relating how they would cycle from Spreydon to Scarborough, buggies attached to their bikes, then wheeled over the hill to Taylor's Mistake with their provisions on board.

Many bach or cave dwellers transported ferrets to the bay to hunt out rabbits, and one cave owner took to establishing his ferret cage on a sheet of corrugated iron. The slight problem was that in those days of no tap water supply - the first tap was at the surf clubhouse in 1929, serviced from a Scarborough reservoir - the iron was there to catch rain water draining into water tanks.

There was probably no more ingenious concept of a Taylor's dwelling than that developed by George Hodge on Rotten Row. A man who used to shower nine times a day - he didn't like bathing in his "own muck" - Hodge worked at the Addington Workshops and bought, for \$10, two old railway carriages, broad-gauged types from the United States. Hodge got them to the bottom of the hill at Taylor's Mistake, but the sometimes cranky A. E. Langdale-Hunt, who owned the farm which sloped down to the Mistake, would not let him take the carriages through his paddocks.

Hodge had promised to replace the fences, which would have needed temporary removal, but while Langdale-Hunt would play ball with the surf lifesaving club and open up his paddocks for parking - until a fire risk was pointed out - on Kesteven Cup day, he refused to help out Hodge.



George Hodge's famed railway carriages, and the baches they became at the west of Rotten Row.

So the enterprising George Hodge and his brother put rollers across the sand hills, and every weekend, they would bodily move them a few more feet towards what must have seemed a distant Rotten Row. When the brothers Hodge fell out, the baches were sold and their long-term tenants were Lionel Pratley - Graham's father - and Malcolm Gilpin, where grandson Brent now lives in No. 47.

Certainly one of the greatest characters of all at Taylor's Mistake was Jim Comer. It could be said he was another eccentric, for he lived much of the time with a female cousin, visiting his wife each Friday for her to do his washing, while Jim had a bath! When he was 17, in 1907, Jim joined the army as a young bugler, but had difficulty blowing the bugle: he had no teeth! He was still taken on as a territorial, and in his spare time and for the princely sum of \$30, bought a cave and built it into a bach.

By then a regular soldier, in the Ambulance Corps, Comer saw Great War service in Egypt and Gallipoli, then in the Sinai Desert as a stretcher bearer in charge of the camels which acted as transport. Invalided back to New Zealand, and after a year in the Sanatorium, Comer briefly tried poultry farming before returning to his trade as a lithographer. He set up a printing press in his cave in 1944, and on it produced 200 copper-plate visiting cards for the National Party leader and later Prime Minister Sidney Holland.

Jim Comer was to fight also in the Second World War, then in his 50s, and Barbara Carter says he volunteered for Korea as well. *They told him to send his grandchildren!*

Jim Comer of Bondi Cave loved the bottle, and they say the beach was never wide enough for Jim. He would fall over, much the worse for what he had already imbibed, and be unable to rise again, his pack so weighed down with more liquid provisions. Where he fell, he would spend the night. Once he blamed it on sheep which had been in and got caught on wire on the track, pulling some of it away: Jim got caught also and his heavily-laden pack swung into his ribs, cracking three of them.



Jim Comer when he was just a kid.

Margaret Campbell says Nan Jackson kept a close eye on Comer. *She pulled him out of the surf two or three times when he'd passed out, and always used to check he'd made it to his bach.* A strikingly-handsome young man, he kept his looks long enough, despite hard living, to drop his age by 10 years when Hitler's war broke out because *I wanted to go and have a look round and see the old places.* He survived to an advanced age at the Rannerdale War Veterans' Home.

Then there was "Uncle" Cooper. He was known by no other name; indeed, many Taylor's Mistake "residents" didn't even know the "Cooper" part. While two Boulder Bay identities, Fred Andrews, regarded the hermit of that bay, and a resident for 49 years till his death in 1976, and Dave Kingsland have longer periods in residence, "Uncle" was better known. His shack was

just over the rocks on the Hobson's Bay side of the bay, and was known as "Uncle's Halfway Tavern" as it was said to be about halfway between Sumner and the Godley Heads lighthouse.

"Uncle" arrived in New Zealand in 1913, some quoting him as claiming he jumped ship, from Boston, USA, and went straight to Taylor's Mistake. Again, one story has it that that was on the advice of a nephew who already lived there. Monty Rattray is one who recalls "Uncle" claiming he was a seaman, dived off his ship and swam ashore at Taylor's Mistake. It's a fanciful tale, for "Uncle" couldn't swim.

He lived frugally from his shack, where the bed was four stakes and a strip of canvas, and claimed he could live off four pence (about three cents) a week, though he got 75 cents a week from the Old Age Pension: he had to wander over to Sumner once a week to collect it.

Club members gave him leftover food, but he otherwise survived or prospered, whatever is the case, from selling hot water to picnickers for their pot of tea; making (usually children's) slippers and selling them for about a dollar; and kept his mind active with a fund of stories with which he would regale his listeners. Perhaps understandably given his sound economics, he would discourse on the New Zealand financial scene; and such was his versatility, he could switch to long dissertations on English castles, embellishing the lecture with clippings and photographs taken from old little holes in his cave shack.

He died during World War 2, ironically when New Zealand was under its greatest threat from the Japanese, for he always claimed "the Japs are the only ones who will shift me." He argued in 1933 that the Japanese posed New Zealand its greatest danger, not because of a build-up in military might, but because his own livelihood was threatened: the Japanese were producing slippers at a tenth of what he was selling them for!

"Uncle" was once asked why nobody at the bay knew his name: he responded that no-one had ever asked, but one suspects he wouldn't have answered the question, anyway. He certainly had a mind of his own, as well as liking a beer, for Norm Wallace recalls he would "go over the top".

One day at Sumner, he acquired somehow a three-gallon keg of beer, and after a few, decided he should lug it back to Hobson's Bay. After the clamber up the hillside of the paddocks, he concluded it would be easiest to roll the keg the rest of the way. He was lucky, or had someone on his side, for the keg missed all those rocks and landed in soft sand. He was spotted, however, and confronted with the drunk and disorderly suggestion, "growled like hell" in Norm Wallace's words, and claimed someone pushed him. There was no-one else on the hill.

But one must return to George Nelson Haxell. A man of many parts, Haxell, one of the first in the Canterbury district to have a wine maker's licence, quite religious but still very fond of a drop. Aged 99 when he died, Haxell survived his wife and one of their two sons - that one killed in a motor accident when very young - and lived with a family spelled Pachnatz and pronounced something like Pegnit.

Boyd Pachnatz, George's companion, frowned on drinking so George on a Sunday would sneak into see Margaret Campbell and Barbara Carter for a lunchtime sherry. A drink on the sly appears to have been a problem for a few of the veterans at the Mistake. While Jim Ballin was able to insist at the end of an annual meeting that "it's time to spill some beer," his wife wouldn't let him drink on Kesteven Cup day. So Jim would slip down to see shop-keeper Bryan Peters, to whom he'd had the great foresight to send a few kegs.

We all used to get into it a bit, says Margaret Campbell. I had my first whiskies there; so did Barbara; and we all used to drink out of the Kesteven Cup - no worries about AIDS in those days!

Haxell worked for years and years at the Addington Workshops, in a supervising position, and after he retired, started a booming scrap metal business. Much of the burning off of copper wire was done at Taylor's Mistake, and the veterans recalled he carried on this lucrative business till he was 90. Ten years earlier, one day at Taylor's Mistake, Haxell told his next door neighbours, Margaret and Barbara, he was considering buying a Daimler. They told him to go for it, and this elderly man would drive the stately car over to the annual meeting each year.



"Uncle" Cooper in 1915. Immediately next to him are Martha Wood, her husband Bob, a founder member, and in front, young Jack Wood, later a member.

But when, at the age of 99, he received (belatedly) his 50-year badge of the national association, he got a lift to the annual meeting and dinner of the Canterbury SLSA. There, fortified with a gin or two, he regaled his fascinated dinner companions. They had to listen, because he was pretty deaf by then, so had to do most of the talking.

Henceforth all prices shall be given in decimal terms, though such currency was still three decades away.



The War Memorial sun-dial constructed by Alfred Osborn.

STRUGGLING THROUGH A WAR

The Taylor's Mistake Surf Lifesaving Club started during a world war, and when Micky Savage rallied his countrymen and women with the cry that "Where Britain goes, we go", a precious few stalwarts faced the task of maintaining their club on a real shoestring of membership and without a home base.

First, though, there was the "phoney war" of 1939-40, no-one quite sure if there really was a war until the disaster and bungling of Dunkirk brought home the realisation that things were, indeed, serious. While old Jim Comer and many of the rest were heading away, there was still not a full mobilisation and in that season of 1939-40, far from the arena of war way down in New Zealand, surf lifesaving went on. One compelling reason was that 1940 was New Zealand's centennial year and surf lifesaving championships were accorded the title.

Taylor's Mistake was again worthily, if scantily, represented and brought home a small clutch of medals, but no titles. Symes, Young, Goldsmith and Kingdon were third in the surf teams' championship, and with Roscoe, McEwin and Lenihan, third also in the Nelson Shield. Goldsmith, not for the first time and not for the last, trailed only Maranui's great Joe Clark in the surf race; Symes second to Clark in the belt race.

Of a certainty, Taylor's Mistake would also have retained its pennant championship, but not surprisingly, that had been suspended in the interests of national service and pride. Taylor's Mistake teams won the Kesteven Cup, the Ray Blank Cup, the Black and White Cup, the Tomkinson Cup, and the Sumner Cup; Goldsmith was first and Kingdon second in the belt championship; Symes second in the surf race. And Taylor's Mistake was also second in this fairly new-fangled thing, the march past.

It had been instituted at national championships in 1934, but back in December 1928, Claude Cooper of New Brighton had asked of a Canterbury association meeting if *we want our surf swimmers to be a legion of German soldiers* when a "parade" of competitors was mooted. Ceremonial parades had been held at surf lifesaving carnivals, but there was a tendency among the

(perhaps embarrassed) lifeguards to goosestep their way down the beach, parodying the Kaiser's men of only a decade earlier.

But Jim Ballin gave the event some standing and orderliness by donating a cup, and it's appropriate Taylor's Mistake has subsequently furnished such a fine record in an event which does very little towards saving lives in the surf, but which assuredly develops - in the serious - team/club spirit and work.

Taylor's Mistake had, a little prematurely, marked its first quarter-century at its 24th annual meeting, on October 29, 1939, still not 24 years from that first meeting at the beach, and Ballin spoke feelingly of the great strides made by the club. The meeting also conferred life membership on William Horace "Jack" Benson and George Pearce, Benson perhaps in doubtful circumstances for the men who had bulldozed the formation of the New Zealand association (but who failed in his bid to site it in Christchurch) got around the clubs a bit, He was also sometimes a Sumner and a New Brighton member.

The club was certainly aware of the war, for it agreed the club's *hospitality (should) be extended to the troops at Godley Heads; and that subscriptions by waved (sic) for all members who had enlisted for war service*. But it also was fully cognisant of more mundane matters. The store, for example, was not giving the service desired! And to help travel funds to national championships, 25 cents was loaded on each subscription specifically for that purpose.

Back briefly to the Black and White Cup race of 1940, another of the classic encounters between Taylor's Mistake and New Brighton teams. The host club lined up Kingdon against Alan Cocks, Young swimming against Eddie Aynsley and Symes against Frank Stokes. Truly they were swimming against each other, too, for at the end of three legs, Taylor's Mistake held a lead of just 10 yards.

But Goldsmith was certainly a power in the land - and more so in the water - for he left Harry Horsfall struggling far in his wake. At the buoys, Horsfall - who was to die in the war ~ trailed by 40 yards, and Goldsmith trotted from the water 100 yards in front. Taylor's Mistake would also be well pleased Goldsmith swam the belt in the Kesteven Cup, with the regular line-up of Roscoe, Kingdon, Young, Symes and Lenihan his team-mates.

Perhaps realising his mistake a year earlier, Ballin at the 1940 annual meeting, again traced the club's first quarter-century. But the same meeting was mindful of more serious stuff going on, and old railway carriage coach developer George Hodge warned of the responsibility facing those still at home. *Our boys are away fighting, and I want to see the club in such a position that should they need it when they return, the club will be able to assist them. I will give five guineas (\$10.50) to the funds now if a like amount is forthcoming in the room today.*

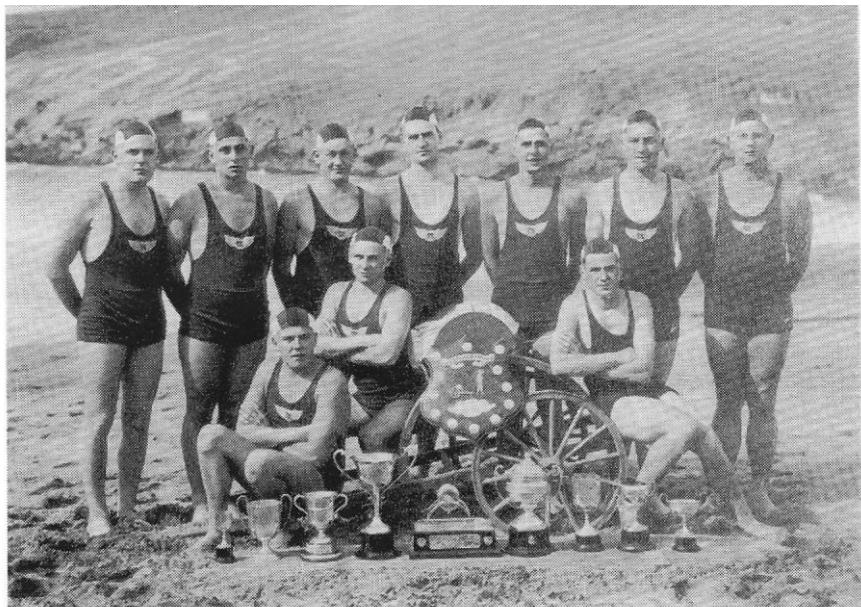
That was a challenge which had to be met, and it was, thanks to donations which averaged just under a dollar each, from Harry Goldsmith, Alfred Osborn, Laurie Hahn, Alby Wentworth, Harry McCreanor, J. McGregor, F. Booth, Jim Meek, Alec Thompson, Lou Archbold, Norm Bachelor and Olly Moody. And just to show the club was just as interested in members' departures as their returns, Harry Goldsmith suggested a dinner should be given to those going overseas. *The timing of final leave makes that impossible*, 'replied Ballin *but rest assured no-one has so far left without some sort of suitable function having been held.*

A sister club which suffered more than most from the war was Waimairi; indeed, war casualties drove the club into recess. So parlous was its position that the Canterbury association made a plea for Taylor's Mistake to help with a patrol, and Moorhouse, Bolam and Velvin duly did their duty. There was also input from without, for Alf Bacon, of New Brighton, was one who was particularly helpful in instructing junior teams.

Junior competition was important then, for these were the only Canterbury championships to be contested. A rookie team of Hale Hobson, Barney (Bernhard) Ballin, Gordon Hobson, John Rothenberg, Ralph Hemingson and Ken Wilson won the Benson shield in 1941; and to encourage them along, there was a regular trophy voucher of a guinea (\$2.10) given to the most improved junior, a trend started by George Hodge and first won by Hale Hobson.

The club could report sound attendances at annual meetings through the war, and the administration was carried on efficiently by men such as Ballin, Wallace, Velvin, Laurie Hahn (of Green and Hahn the photography firm), Alan Robilliard back in harness, Young, Goldsmith, Bachelor, and others,

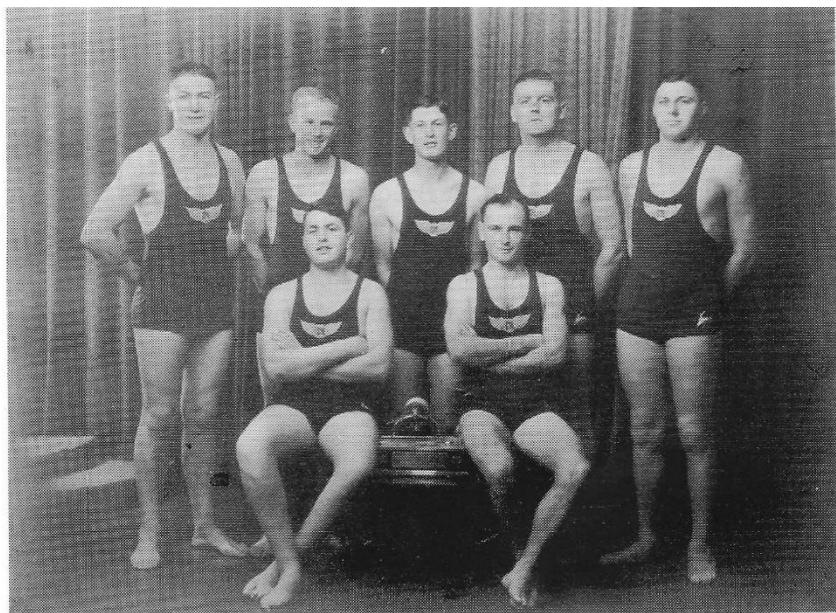
with non-active people like George Hodge, A. Wakelin and Bill Darby, the shop-keeper, also lending a valuable hand.



Winners of the Canterbury and West Coast championships in 1939 — and a host of other things if the trophies are to be believed — and a share of the Canterbury pennant championship. Back: Jack Young, Stan Kingdon, Colin Roscoe, Alister Boulton, Harry Goldsmith, Rex Marshall, Derek Symes. Front: Eric McEwin, Ivan Gundersen, Jack Gundersen.

But they soon didn't have a beach to administer, for the army requisitioned the entire bay and surf club building; barbed wire all over the place, and the area banned to civilians for national security reasons.

So much of the emphasis was on war matters and Wakelin, for one, was a constant contributor to the \$1 food parcels that Laurie Hahn's wife would organise to get sent overseas. Not just overseas, either, for Clarrie Heard, who had lost a leg in the war, spent a lengthy time in Christchurch Hospital on his return, and he too got packets of goodies.



Virtually the full complement of competitors in 1941, but good enough to win the Dewar Reel: Rex Marshall, Ralph Hemmingsen, John Rothenberg, Jack Young and Harry Goldsmith, and in front, Barney Ballin and Ivan Gundersen.

Haxell, Jack Flockhart and “Monty” Morrow received that honour. Very strangely, seven years later, Alf Barrett himself was again accorded life membership, a very odd decision!

Before the beach was lost, for a couple of years, to the army, it was still a popular bathing spot, and while the Brighton beach clubs had had paid patrols first dating from 1928, Taylor’s Mistake had eschewed such a dishonourable idea. But entrenched ideas had to change as senior members headed away, and early in 1941, Ballin - prompted and impressed by the work of men like “Kink” Bacon - suggested engaging a paid instructor-patrolman, to both coach juniors and patrol the beach each Sunday. He pursued the subject later in the year, but Velvin revealed a Christchurch City Council subsidy for patrol wages was earmarked for North Beach, New Brighton and Sumner. Again, the little bay over the hill hosted second-class citizens, and when the army moved in, the proposal lapsed.

The tide started to turn at Taylor's Mistake at much the same time as it did for the allies in Europe. The Canterbury association annual report, in October 1943, briefly acknowledged that *Taylor's Mistake is again functioning, and the club's annual report a month later reported somewhat thankfully that from November 1, we resumed possession of our club pavilion (officially).*

Life had clearly been a struggle, though, as Velvin related: *Practically all our active membership is in the fighting forces, and we who remain can only do our duty at home. We look forward in confidence and hope that before our next annual meeting, our boys will be back with us again.*

Finance is in a healthy condition; so long as we stick together, all is OK. The club's profit for the year, in fact, closely approximated the \$178.30 paid in rent for the club-house by the army; the major expense was the \$137.70 spent on soldiers' parcels.

There were disappointments, however. At 11 p.m. on December 14, 1943, two dwellings and a military building were destroyed by fire. The Taylor's Mistake Volunteer Brigade turned out, but the Sumner volunteers were not called: they could have done little, anyway, for the blaze was well established by the time the handful of firefighters available got there. It wasn't a nice Christmas for Jim Ballin and Mrs E. Cook, who lost their baches.

The old guard also slipped into honorary but still interested retirement early in 1943. The two Jims, Wallace and Ballin, retired from their respective secretarial and treasurership roles, Moody filling both positions. Ernie Velvin, a year later, was also challenged for the club captain's position by Harry Goldsmith; held on; but moved up to the presidency in 1945.

Heinemann Isaac Ballin - for that was the real name of the German-born Jew known to all as Jim Ballin - was an ailing man then. But he still had his hand in his pocket, underwriting the costs of a further batch of soldiers' food parcels.

Perhaps because he was such a dominant figure in the ruling of the club, Jim Ballin was perhaps not fully appreciated by all those who served him. Norman Wallace, Jim Wallace's son, for one thinks that Ballin was not eulogised to the extent he should have been, and had earned.

He never tried to make himself popular; he didn't seek friends," and he could sound gruff, but he was always there if he was wanted; and if someone sought a favour, or wanted help, he had only to ask Jim. And apart from the odd nasty type - and there were the odd Jew-haters around - I don't think anyone ever took offence at Jim. He was a really genuine man; if he gave his word, he kept it. And he was a forgiving man, too. He had a nephew, Bernie Wilks, working for him at Ballin's: he sacked him three times, and three times took him back on, and Wilks ended up chairman of the board.

Jew-bashing was at its height in those days, and as mentioned, there were one or two fanatics at the bay. Norm Wallace recalls on one occasion his father staying at Ballin's bach.

Jim had this beautiful wee dog, who was also very affectionate to Dad. Father woke to its barking, and suggested to Jim they should check things out, but Jim sleepily told him it would be nothing. Next morning, they found a four-gallon tin of petrol had been splashed around underneath. Soon afterwards the same thing happened, only that was the time the bach, and another one and that military building went up. Poor old Jim, all his Christmas stuff was in the bach, but he just accepted it and bore no recriminations,

Old Muff Hobson did, though, while he could be a hard man to make as a friend, he had strong principles. He knew - we all knew - who was responsible, right over there at the end of Rotten Row, and went over and quite openly planted gelignite and scattered petrol round that bach. He told that nasty piece of work if he dared try anything like that ever again, his place would go up.

Educated at Christchurch Boys' High School, Jim Ballin entered the famous brewing business started by his father Bernhard when he left school. The oldest son, but surviving by 17 years his brother Moss, and by three years Otto, Jim Ballin rose to become managing director. He also gave employment to men like Moorhouse, who similarly rose to high office, and Goldsmith.

He married, in 1919 at 39, Minnie Cohen of Wellington, and given his administrative work, it is hardly surprising he was for many years a member of the board of management of the Christchurch Jewish Congregation. His only son, Barney - he had three daughters, as well - inherited his father's

position of influence at Ballin's, but was to die in sad circumstances and too young.

It's hardly surprising Ballin's great mate was also in the grog trade. Three years older than Ballin, Jim Wallace was a hotelier all his life. He first owned the Racecourse Hotel, but had taken over the Grand Hotel in Cashel Street when a dramatic homicide took place.

Later in the 1920s, young Norm was sent out to the Racecourse to collect the lease cheque from Jack Fraser. Two days later, police arrived to tell Jim Wallace his leasee had been shot with both barrels from a shot-gun. Yet the police constable investigating - if that's the word - gave scant attention to what had to be a murder. Norm Wallace is in no doubt Fraser's wife was responsible. *She got him drugged with laced drink, and a friend of Jack as well. I mean, this other bloke passed out on the lawn, and he never got drunk. But this policeman never checked out the wife, and anyone pulling both barrels at once would have got a helluva recoil which would have shown in bruising. Then the policeman wound up in Sunnyside, so I ask you.*

Such was the tough life facing a hotelier, but Norm Wallace – quickly acknowledging his view could be coloured, as a son - insists his father was a man of great principle. *He didn't like liars, or dishonesty; he never did anyone a nasty trick, and I think that's what helped make him such a great surf club man. This attitude showed when we shouted to the Grand. It was then called the Cafe de Paris, and it's obvious now it was a brothel. These blokes would come in with their flossies, put a couple of quid (\$4) on the table and say they'd be back shortly.*

Dad was obviously suspicious, so told me to go upstairs and check-up. Well, from the noises I could hear, it was pretty obvious what was going on, but Father changed all that, and my mother changed the name. Mother was formerly Catherine Craddock, whose father Charles was Mine Host at the Black Horse Hotel.

Jim Wallace was a great and quietly unheralded contributor to society. *He used to teach kids at Riccarton School to swim, and during the Black Plague (the 1919 flu epidemic), different women would ring up distraught because their husbands wouldn't be too well. Dad would hop in his car and drop round*

a case of whisky, and refused any payment. Old Doctor Thomson said he was doing a great job, probably better than he could do.

Hale and sprightly at 79, Norm Wallace has been visiting and living at Taylor's Mistake probably as long or longer than anyone still alive, about as long as Monty Rattray. He never competed a great deal *but Jim Ballin would sometimes say he wanted bait, and I'd be sent swimming out for the reel and line team to bring in. Once I went out way past Black Rock and they ran out of line!*

But even this active man, living in a sunny spot on Taylor's Mistake Road with a beautiful view of the bay, was lucky to be spared for that great day in 1951 when he hooked a world record 361 pound striped marlin at Mercury Bay. At eight, Norm got the dreaded "plague" and was written off. *But my old grandmother got permission to try an experiment, seeing all was hopeless: she got a big tub of hot water, filled it with mustard and dunked me in and out. I came right!*

Just as Norm Wallace survived to live a rich and fulfilling life, even getting the opposing factions from Woolston and the Mount Pleasant residential hillsides to talk to each other when he owned the Ferrymead Tavern. Jim Wallace lived well into his 80s. And Norm Wallace, a quiet background type, was in his father's mould and in 1963, secretary Colin Smith, noted he'd given paint for the club-house for the third time.

Father Time caught up with the two Jims; the war caught up with some stalwart members, and as early as August 1941, the club was saddened by the first fatalities of the war: Gordon ("Griff") Bristed was the first casualty, followed soon afterwards by the great Dave Lindsay.

As the war neared its end, national championships resumed – welcome competition for lifeguards who could enjoy only the indomitable "K Day". It never missed a beat, but still faced one or two problems. One such was February 18, 1945, *in a full swell of surf the tide receding during the afternoon, leaving a heavy undertow. The buoys were washed up to the beach twice ... and this delayed the programme considerably. A mishap to Mr Alan Dalton, who injured his leg (a torn ligament) in the right leg was a regrettable incident in the senior beltman's event.*



A big man at the bay, Jim Wallace.

The indestructible Dalton was to recover in time for his heroic feats at the Wartime nationals in Dunedin, when he won the belt and his North Beach club the Nelson Shield for the only time. Harry Goldsmith was the Taylor's Mistake presence at those championships, the club agreeing to pay the 90 cents entrance fees and \$1.50 train fare for him to compete.

The club came out of the war with Alf Barrett still patron (his deputy still old William Nicholson), Ernie Velvin by then president and Goldsmith club captain, with a new young man, Ivan Gundersen, his deputy.

The most important development, though, was the succession of R. E. Russell to the dual roles of secretary and treasurer; and two months later, tucked away at the bottom of a list of 20 new members, was the name of G. Pratley. Both were to be of huge significance to the Taylor's Mistake club.

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RESUSCITATING, RESCUING A CLUB

One of the first duties of secretary-treasurer Bob Russell was to write to the city council and politely, but firmly, point out that *for two years now ... the ladies' and gents' WCs have been kept permanently open to the public and we have kept them in order as no other conveniences were available.*

Enclosing an account for *sanitary paper supplied in the last 12 months*, and noting the club having been at a standstill with *reduced membership and finances*, the good Mr Russell says his committee *feels sure the council will welcome the chance to settle an account incurred for a public utility*. As a final inducement, *never has so little given so much relief to so many* should compensate the council for the small expense involved.

A real old softener-up, was Bob Russell: *May we also take this opportunity to thank the city council for the prompt and efficient manner in which they erected the public conveniences just installed at the bay, the supply of electricity, and the good road down into the bay that we so enjoy today.*

As well as getting right the finances - and creature comforts - Bob Russell set about bolstering the membership. At that same meeting of February 24, 1946 which welcomed Gordon Graham Pratley as a member, Russell told the meeting that 27 bach and property owners in the bay were not members of the club, and each had been written to, and invited to join. Others had been asked personally and *in every case had willingly joined up, when asked*. Hardly surprisingly, his actions were approved. He also instigated use of the club-house, especially by the Taylor's Mistake Association (successor to the old Bach Owners' Association); and could report that in that brief period, "games evenings", a raffle and a small profit from a Christmas party between them produced a net profit of more than \$62, half of that going to the Taylor's Mistake Association.

Another development at much the same time was to pay more heed to registering the prime reason for which the club was formed. A "record book of rescues effected at the bay" was to be kept. No doubt Bob Russell or Harry Goldsmith attended to that, for just as Ballin and Wallace had been the men who kept the old club ticking over, so these two men were the key workers.

Many examples can be found in the records: a "smoko" as an official welcome home to members returning from the various services was *left in the hands of the captain and secretary*; on pavilion roof repairs - *secretary to arrange same*; it was the secretary who was asked to *contact the secondary schools in an endeavour to secure further junior swimmers for the club*, and the secretary was specifically thanked for *the practical work put in during the season in arranging junior quarters and other improvements..*

National championships were also more-or-less back to normal, and no-one relished the chance more than Harry Goldsmith. The war had cost him his best years, and a frustrated aquatic athlete, was Harry Goldsmith. He got a six-man team started from the Wigram air base and recalls *they turned out in athletics attire - shorts and singlets in a six-man. No, they didn't perform with distinction! But there were quite a few surf lifesaving people out there and it helped keep things going.*

Not competitively for Goldsmith, though, and he relished the first true post-war championships being at New Brighton. It's *always been a happy hunting ground for me; there's not so much of a drift, and while it was a bitterly cold day, I felt good and confident in the belt race final.* Goldsmith won that title, the first senior individual championship to go to Taylor's Mistake, the Carlyle Atkinson belt of 1928 apart; and he beat into second place Noel Chambers, on his own beach, Chambers to become one of the truly dominant figures of surf swimming in New Zealand.

Chambers and other New Brighton men dominated swimming events at the 1948 championships, but Goldsmith, then nearing 30, was still good enough to take a bronze medal. He had his coveted blazer by then: president Ernie Velvin surprised Goldsmith at the annual meeting after his belt win with a speech of congratulations - embellished by a "musical toast" from members present - and presented him with a voucher for a black blazer and the national badge officially approved for all belt champions. Caught unawares, Goldsmith had to think to his feet to suitably respond.

Goldsmith was one of those who got back into the no small matter of trying to bring Nelson Shield honours to Taylor's Mistake. Things certainly looked promising at Dunedin: the Taylor's Mistake team headed New Brighton in its heat, but the fellow-Canterbury club came back to win the final, Taylor's

Mistake only third. There were brave congratulations to New Brighton extended by their rivals, but it was a bitter pill to come so close and to falter again.

Two useful juniors were meant to be at those championships at Dunedin's St Clair beach, but the epidemic of polio - infantile paralysis, as it was known - brought a ban on juniors travelling round the country. So disappointment for young Graham Pratley and Bill Seymour, the only two juniors at Taylor's Mistake.

Taylor's Mistake was lucky to have Pratley, too. The Papanui Technical College boy was making quite a name for himself as a breaststroke swimmer as the war ended: he had won Papanui's first Canterbury secondary schools' title, when he took out the 110 yd breaststroke, beating the champion. *I was only 16 at the time, and this Christ's College chap Speight was about 18, and I don't think he fancied I'd be any danger, recalls Pratley. But I beat him by a yard.*

How close was Taylor's Mistake to missing out on Pratley, how close was he to going to New Brighton, and would those subsequent Nelson Shield triumphs have ever happened?

In those days, Lionel Pratley had a cake shop on Colombo Street, opposite the Oxford Hotel. Alec Stokes, a great New Brighton man, was then a traveller and often called in to yarn to Pratley snr. *The boy's quite a good swimmer, he told Lionel Pratley. Why don't you get him into surf lifesaving? Send him down to Brighton.*

Young Pratley was a little indifferent, and tended to think it would be more logical to head to Taylor's Mistake. The family had a bach, one of George Hodge's railway carriages, and he started going over when he was eight or nine - but only for a year, before the army moved in. So he yearned for it a little.

Dad had a yarn to Harry Goldsmith, but nothing really happened, and with Alec calling by all the time, I was set to go to New Brighton. It seemed Taylor's Mistake wasn't interested. Well, when Harry heard that, he was round in a flash, and there I was, at Taylor's Mistake. Not that there was a lot for me

and Bill Seymour to do - just surf races and belt races: we didn't have a team to go in.

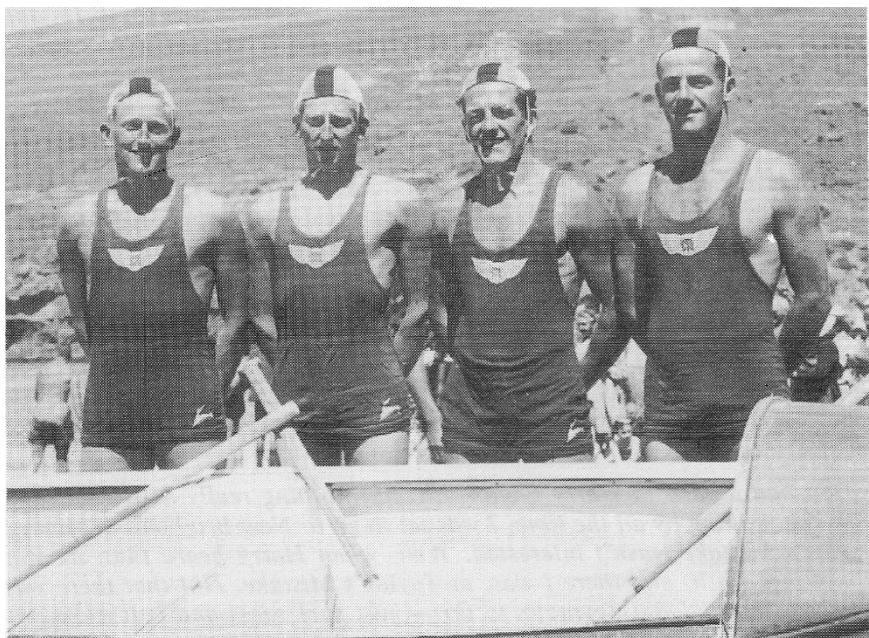
There were other developments at Taylor's Mistake at the time both of them focused on buildings. Firstly, the late 1940s brought the development of what was then called a surf boat, but which was in reality a surf canoe. E. C. Gough Ltd was the major producer of canoes, and with sound business acumen helped develop interest in the craft by giving a canoe to each club and a cup for competition. Taylor's Mistake, in 1948, was the first winner of the Gough Cup for its consistent performances over a series of three races.

Edgar Gough's "boat" had to be kept somewhere, though, so who better to turn to than good old George Haxell and good old George Hodge, and those two willing servants built the shed. The other building problem was actually part of a building. In the long and varied history of providing catering services at Taylor's Mistake, a new and slightly bitter twist was to be taken.

W.H. Darby was then a committee member, and Bill Darby's wife was the leasee of the shop. Mrs D. E. Darby, it seems clear, was a hard-nosed businesswoman and had an eye for making a bob. Indeed, Margaret Campbell recalls during the war years that prices at the Darby's shop at Taylor's Mistake were always loaded by a penny or so - not much, but significant enough, and noticed by the customers. They traded on the monopoly they enjoyed at the beach.

Old Darby - who was a probation officer - and his wife were very good, in that they brought extra things over to sell at the shop. Not many people had cars then, so it was helpful and convenient to be able to buy over at the bay. But it was a bit mean to add a bit on, so one day, all the boys decided to try and upset her. They all went in swimming in the nude, then each of them went up separately, in turn, to buy something small - all of them starkers, just to upset her. She didn't turn a hair!

By the first meeting of 1947, Bill Darby present as both a committeeman and custodian of the pavilion, it was clear the club had had a gutsful of the tight-fisted Dolly Darby. The club decided the tenancy agreement of the pavilion store, which had expired the previous October 1, should be terminated, and tenders called for.



The two-family combination which manned the canoe, perennial Canterbury champions from the late 1940s: Ray Green, Neville Green, Gordon Hobson, Hale Hobson.

Placing the proposal before the meeting, George Low was at pains to point out there was no ulterior motive, *but in fairness to the club, the tenancy should be put on a proper business basis, and the most made of our assets.*

Bob Russell had been made familiar with the move, and was able to tell a questioner that in the previous three years, the club had received \$36 in rent and spent \$57.35 on the store premises - a loss of more than \$21 on what should have shown a profit. At his instigation, a rider to the tendering was that a lease was for three years, with a right of withdrawal - by either party - at 30 days notice.

Russell was quick to write to Mrs Darby, the very next day, *to officially put on record and advise you of the true facts and only reason for the action.* He cited the loss over the three years, *or to put it another way, 42 members have paid their subscriptions just to cover the loss made on letting the store ... You*

cannot but agree the store should return more to the club funds than the \$12 (less than 23 cents a week) charged you since you took over the business. The committee would be failing in its duty ... if it did not realise its assets to the best advantage.

He then formally advised her of the lease termination, and in essence told her to be out within 30 days. Russell also invited Mrs Darby to submit a tender.

Tenders closed on February 27, 1947, and Herbie Dunlop - at \$40 a year rent - was the successful applicant. All seemed sweetness and light, when the committee unanimously (and tongue in check, on the part of some) recorded a vote of thanks to the Darbys for their services.

The minutes: *Mr Darby, in responding, generously offered his help to the incoming store tenant and offered on behalf of Mrs Darby a proposal that the club should purchase a piece of land from Mrs Darby immediately at the rear of the club pavilion. (He offered) on Mrs Darby's behalf ... to accept the price set by the Land Court and to include sufficient land to give room for a car or truck to drive right up to the pavilion store steps. It was agreed the club should proceed with the purchase, and the secretary and Mr F. Agar were appointed to interview Mrs Darby to reach finality.*

For the record, the Government valuation of the particular piece of land was \$100.

This cantankerous and money-grubbing woman was no easy customer to deal with. She told the club at the end of March 1947 that her offer, through her husband, to sell a section was withdrawn. An apparently henpecked Bill Darby - or maybe he was the go-between - tried to placate the club by explaining that *Mrs Darby regarded the matter should be dealt with at the annual general meeting and would renew her offer then for consideration.* Why? Jim Ballin would have dealt with her bluntly, being a no-nonsense type, if a trifle forgetful. (Norm Wallace says he would be asked a question any night, say; seem to ignore it; and reply to it the next morning!) But Jim Ballin was to die before the annual meeting and, a nice touch, Alf Barrett had stepped down from the patronage of the club at the 1946 annual meeting so Jim could have a turn.

Leading up to the annual meeting, the club paid an account from Mrs Darby of \$10.72 for shop fittings, simply so *all shelving, cupboards and counter* at the store became the club's property. But come the annual meeting, and it became clear that the Darby woman had no intention of honouring her intention of offering land to the club for purchase. Instead, *Mr Darby, in a short speech, took exception to what he considered to be the wrong method of handling the store tenancy arrangements, and also to the alleged statements which he claimed were being made about him.*

No doubt, a few of the blunter members of the club had taken to telling the Darbys just what they thought of them, but the olive branch was extended with a (again unanimous) resolution that the club *disassociate itself from any personal remarks or feeling and that the committee's actions be approved re the store tenancy arrangements.*

The matter died for a while. Herbie Dunlop gave satisfactory service, till he relinquished the lease in October 1948, Violet Southam picking it up immediately for the same sum. She only wanted the lease year by year, however, and the terms were changed accordingly. General conditions required the lessee to open for at least eight hours on weekends, public holidays and school holidays, and to provide a daily service of milk and bread for the Taylor's Mistake residents during the times set down for opening. They also insisted on a "suitable service" - but no goodwill was to be charged or paid.

Finally, on April 14, 1950, Dolly Darby charged back on attack: *As the lean-to at the back of your pavilion is encroaching on my property ... at least four feet, I must request that you have it removed at your earliest convenience, leaving at least five feet between my boundary and back of pavilion, which is the regulation distance.* The club's reply was considered of sufficient importance for it to be signed by president Jack Young and club captain Len Moorhouse: *... We of course recognise your legal rights in this matter and must abide by your decision. However ... it was thought that perhaps some other mutually satisfactory arrangement could be made between us and save the club from pulling down the only suitable place we have of storing club gear and lifesaving equipment not in immediate use.*

All of us pass on with the years, but the surf lifesaving movement goes on for

ever. Inevitably, perhaps not in our time, extensions to the present building will be necessary or desirable and the logical place is backwards.

For the sake of the future, our committee feels (we) should endeavour to purchase the section at the rear of the pavilion, if it is at all possible. In selling this section to a private buyer, a few only would benefit, but if sold to the club, it would be of practical help to Taylor's Mistake for all time, and leave room for the extension of a very necessary public service. Your approval would make this possible, not to benefit ourselves, but for the good of coming generations. Would you please give this your earnest and favourable consideration?

A cry from the heart, but would she what! No way. Two months later, the last of the great land developers said she's given careful consideration to the representations but *I am in somewhat difficult position, because already two substantial offers have been made for the section in question. But realising the club's position and what they would consequently be involved in should a private buyer purchase the section, I am prepared to give the club the opportunity of purchasing same. My price is therefore £650 (\$1300) cash which includes the septic tank, but not the garage.*

Remembering that three years earlier, the valuation on the one property was a mere \$100, the club facetiously asked if that astronomical figure referred to *the whole property of four sections, or to the one section, being approx. one quarter of the property ...* and offered to call a special meeting as soon as it had that clarification.

Within a day, the Darby's confirmed it was the asking price for one little section; the committee countered it had no option but to decline, and stalled by promising to attend to the back of the pavilion "as soon as possible". It had to stall, because the club was bringing out the heavy artillery. It wrote to the council, on July 28, 1950, seeking Lot 7, D.P. 6419 be secured for the general benefit of Taylor's Mistake.

Pointing out that the army erected an ablution room while in occupation, and later made a present of it to the club, the club also pointed out that the offending property was previously owned by Jim Ballin. *At his suggestion, a septic tank was installed by the club just inside the section boundary and two*

conveniences installed ... Mrs Darby now claims this septic tank and offers it for sale with the section. As no easement was registered, Mrs Darby is probably right, at least legally.

Bob Russell's letter outlined the sociology peculiar to Taylor's Mistake, and also hammered the theme of the suitability of the old army lean-to as an ideal women's public dressing shed. Further, *the natural right of way to the main portion of the bay is across this particular section and for more than 30 years, it has been used as such*. And to illustrate how Mrs Darby had few friends: *Shortly after purchasing the property, Mrs Darby had a fence erected but on the night the job was completed, someone unknown cut and removed the wires and netting. Most of the fencing has now been removed, leaving it free again as a right of way.*

And the crunch-line: *All of the above troubles can be solved if the surf club or the city owned the section referred to ... It is no secret Mrs Darby paid \$100 for this section five years ago and it included a good private garage, which is not included in the quote, although the septic tank, which we have already paid for, is included ... We consider it a gross case of profiteering ... against ... a free and very necessary public service.*

So why doesn't the city council, asked the club, *take this section over under the Public Works Act?* And to show its good faith, the club offered \$300 towards the purchase. Ever prepared to kowtow in the interests of an end result, Bob Russell added that *we have never found the City Fathers unfair or unreasonable!*

Certainly they were not. Town Clerk Bert Feast - a Taylor's Mistake and New Brighton member more than 30 years earlier - replied that negotiations were under way to purchase the property ... (and the council would be delighted to take the club's \$300).

But council moves to buy the land failed, and it had to resort to acquisition under the Public Works Act. Not surprisingly, Mrs Darby objected, on the grounds that she and her husband were *becoming old and wished to build on the property and live the rest of their lives there so no climbing from their house to the road is necessary*. The Darbys, unbelievably, also said they were going to build a shop on their new house and serve the residents, then threw

in a real red herring. They claimed the surf lifesaving club had intentions of building lavatories and dressing sheds and came up with a myriad of objections - the "rich" land thus wasted and more suitable land adjacent; the "inadequate" septic tank already there; and so-called inattention by the surf club to existing toilets.

Bob Russell's reply destroyed those arguments, particularly refuting the toilets and dressing room theory, and the Darby Store claim, especially on the basis that they wouldn't tender for what amounted to a peppercorn rental.

And to rub it all in, the club suggested the council should actually acquire all four titles held by the Darbys.

Whew! What a saga, and some might think undue attention has been paid to it, a victory for the surf lifesaving club at the end of the day. But a principle was at stake, so were public amenities and the maintenance of an honorary public service. Bill Darby died soon afterwards but his wife dug in. One old resident remembers her having a fire at her bach and - an unbound Joan of Arc - directing the experienced volunteer firefighters in their efforts.

Little more than a year after this bitter battle "won" by the surf lifesaving club, there was another fire. The club-house was razed by an unknown arsonist. Those around nearly 40 years ago had their own thoughts on who was responsible.

WOMEN, WATER POLO AND ALL

Let it not be thought the club was totally preoccupied with carrying on a war with the redoubtable Mrs Darby after the war. Other women than *la femme fatale* Darby featured in the club's story.

Women had been around Taylor's Mistake for years. While there were certainly a few bachelor hermits, Jim Corner living his semi-detached relationship with his wife, and those escaping from the matrimonial clutches for a weekend, the majority of "residents" were families. As it happened, very many of the women so attached to the club became honorary members or were seconded to the time-honoured job of preparing a feast. Some - like the female swimmers of 1917 - even played a part in the opening of the club house.

The children, as well as the marital partners, of club members became regular attenders at the beach and the surf lifesaving club had a tendency to sort-of adopt them. They become tacit members, so it was no surprise to find reference to Harry Goldsmith's two freestyle and one backstroke Canterbury swimming titles of 1941 dwarfed by mention of Ola Hobson's seven Canterbury titles, which included four records.

Ola Hobson (Roberts) became one of those pioneers of the Taylor's Mistake women's section which had hints of its birth in the same annual report: *It was heard that several ladies were keen on forming a team, just to show how things should be done. Go to it, ladies!* Ernie Velvin's endorsement took a little time, given the war and the rehabilitation process.

But the annual report of 1948 could record *that thanks to the efforts of (Jack) Young, a ladies' team is in the making and (there is) every prospect of having our ladies' team in the march past this coming season.* Increasing the strength of the club on any front was of utmost importance, and the women were obviously considered worth nurturing, and in 1949, Bob Russell gave a trophy, a silver rose bowl, for competition.



The first male "nippers", K Day 1949. Standing: Ken Eastwick, George Scrimshaw, Robert Kerr, Tony McCullough, Ian Hunter, Noel Eastwick. In front: Tony Young, Brian Rattray, Lindsay Hunter and John Gilpin.



They started the girls young at Taylor's Mistake, also K Day 1949. Standing: Gaye Smart, Judy Gilpin, Maree Hunter, Pam Dunlop, Mary Moorhouse, Bronwyn Bailey. In front: Lindsey Forward and Janice Forward.

Having women competitors meant catering for them, however. Early in 1951, the room used as a storeroom for the ship was converted to a "dressing room" for women, and charge of threepence (a little over 2 cents) was made for non-members.

And, of course, the women could not be trusted to be left to their own devices. In May 1950, the meeting agreed that *unless billets could be entering a ladies' team in championship carnivals held in other centres than Canterbury*.



The pioneering Taylor's Mistake women march past on their own beach: Standard-bearer is Ola Hobson, R. Godfrey is in the belt. Pat Noonan (seaward side) and Audrey Gow are marching, while on the reel are Dawn Pitcaithley (sea, rear), Betty Dickey (sea, front), Barbara Fabian (beach, rear) and B. Myers.

If Jack Young was the key figure in getting women competitors under way at Taylor's Mistake, there is no question Graham Pratley was the key to their swift successes. *I came down there one day, and Jack Young said you can take*

them, young Pratley. I stayed doing it for six or seven years, and after not having much competition for a start, we started to take on Wellington teams, then South Brighton came along.

In 1951, Taylor's Mistake broke through at national level, winning the four-place Rand R with a team consisting Noreen Everett (belt), Helen Le Cren (patient), Nancy Baughan (line) and Norma Gasson (reel). Other prominent pioneers in the women's arena were Dawn Pitcaithly, Audrey Munt, Elaine Arrow and, a little later, Pat Trevella, Maree Hunter and Isobel Milne.

The club scored a significant double at those championships, for the men's team (Jim Cameron, in the belt, Harry Goldsmith, Hale Hobson and Graham Pratley) won the Royal Humane Society Shield, awarded for the first time as a replacement for the William Henry Memorial Shield, which was passed on to the junior six-man trophy.

The women's trophy was a Rose safety belt, and the club's new president, Keith Stodard-Brown, met the costs of a silver plate engraved with a suitable inscription affixed to the belt as a permanent recognisable trophy.

The same men's trophy was to retain its title the next year; the women were unable to do so, because the national association cancelled the event on receipt of entries from only two clubs. Such a shame for the women - who were to win the title again in 1953 - for their growing importance in the club was reflected in the club decision to send 10 women, 10 juniors and only 6 seniors.

The senior membership was on the decline, a point made by club captain Pratley in the 1951 annual report, though the club still enjoyed a high profile. It was well represented at the Empire Games of 1950, both Jim Cameron and Bob Hatchwell in the water polo teams, and Len Moorhouse manager of the swimming team; further, Gordon Hobson was in the wrestling team and won a bronze medal in the lightweight division.

But the water polo team did not include another Taylor's Mistake man of the previous season, a Lieutenant Bill Dyson, then stationed at Addington army barracks. Originally from Dunedin, the now-retired Major Dyson was a former New Zealand breaststroke (1940) and belt race (1948, from Maranui) champion. He was also a six-man competitor, and a member of the Taylor's Mistake team to compete at Waihi.



The women's team which made history by winning the national four-place title for the first time, also in 1952: Nancy Baughan, Noreen Everett, Helen Le Cren and Norma Gasson.

He never arrived, and as Graham Pratley puts it: Poor old Hale (Hobson) was put in the team when I really think it should have been me - and he drew the belt. He finished five minutes behind in the big surf; and that is a legitimate point by Pratley, for he was at his best in a rough and tough sea.

Perhaps the best way to deal with what has gone into the Taylor's Mistake folklore is to detail the correspondence between Dyson and the club. Wrote Dyson on March 10, 1949:

I respectfully wish to extend a sincere apology for what I now believe to be a complete misunderstanding, which occurred while I was in Auckland attending the New Zealand swimming championships. In actual fact, my soul (sic) reason for being in that part of the country at that time was to attend and compete in the national surf lifesaving championships ... Immediately prior to the championships, I was on a tour of duty in Otago.

Having satisfied the residential qualifying conditions, I was selected to represent Otago in the New Zealand water polo championships. Unfortunately, those who guide the destinies of the noble art of natation saw fit to stage the surf champs and the swimming at the same period. I therefore agreed to play polo on the understanding that I should travel to Waihi on Friday, February 25, and so be in ample time to take my place in the surf events, commencing on Saturday at 11 a.m.

Having made this decision, I intimated to the club captain (Harry Goldsmith) on February 22 that I would be playing polo ... I outlined my plan for travelling from Auckland to Waihi, and possibly back if need be, to which he replied: You've certainly got things worked out or words to that effect.

Immediately I arrived in Auckland, I sought the advice of Mr Len Moorhouse on the means of travel to and from Waihi. He very kindly arranged for me to travel to Waihi, leaving Auckland at 8 a.m. on Friday. On Thursday morning, a bombshell was dropped in the form of a telephone message from the club captain to Mr Moorhouse . . . Mr Moorhouse accosted me and passed the message verbally: The club captain says if you're not in Waihi by mid-day Thursday, there is no alternative but to scrub you from the team .

. . . I was extremely upset and racked my brains in an effort to understand ... such a message. On Friday, at 7.30 a. m., I put a person to person phone call through to the club captain in an endeavour to clarify the position. By 8 a.m., the call still had not come through; I therefore cancelled it as I was then supposed to be leaving for Waihi ... (but when) I met Mr Moorhouse, he advised me that the car would not be leaving until 1 p.m. I immediately sent a telegram to the club captain, asking for verification of the position. I realised

by this time that if the club captain had carried out his threat, I would already be withdrawn from the list of competitors in favour of one of our many spares.

By 1 p.m., there was no reply to my telegram. I therefore went to the departing vehicle, where I contacted Mr Jim Cameron, who was just on the way himself to Waihi, and told him something of the ludicrous position which had arisen, and asked him to mention my position to the club captain on arrival at Waihi. I further requested Mr Cameron to explain that I was particularly keen to attend the surf champs and that I could still make it if the club captain would only say the word. However, I received no further word from Waihi.

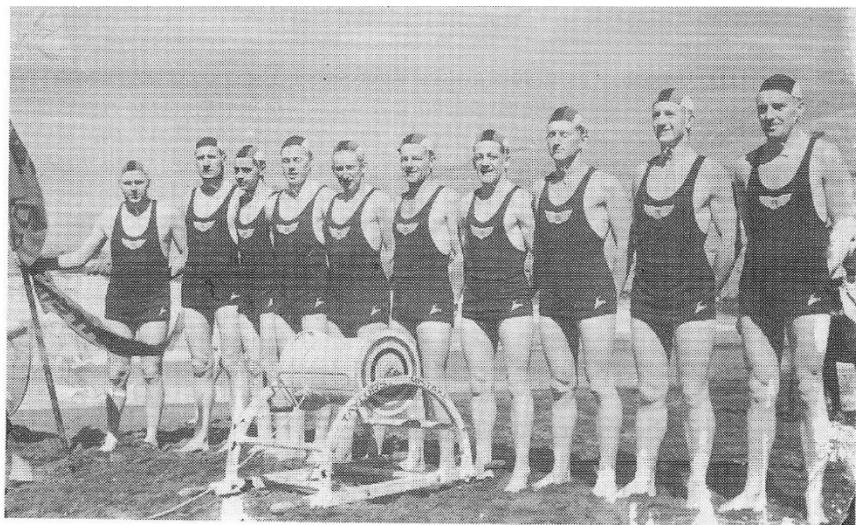
'Twas a very unhappy swimmer who returned to Christchurch. I had trained particularly hard on crawl, so that I should be able to worthily take my place in the team when the champs were staged. Team spirit comes first, therefore I decided against training in the stroke to which I am particularly attracted (breaststroke).

. . . I am extremely sorry this incident has occurred and hope that such a misunderstanding never occurs again, to mar the chances of the club of gaining the prized Nelson Shield.

Secretary Bob Russell had taken an extended holiday after the national championship meeting, and it was three weeks before he replied briefly to Dyson, promising to call a committee meeting *at the earliest possible moment*, and hoping that *between us all, we can reach an understanding*.

Five weeks later, Dyson got a letter and with the benefit of hindsight, it seems strange he was not invited to the meeting for secretary Russell wrote in the (registered) letter that the club had *given serious consideration to your behaviour whilst absent, with the club team at the recent New Zealand championships. They (the committee) are of the opinion that your behaviour mounts to misconduct under the club's rules and are considering suspending you as a member of the club.*

Before, however, confirming this decision, I am instructed to give you seven days' notice from receipt by you of this letter that if you wish to appear before the committee and make an explanation of your behaviour, you must notify me in writing . . . If we do not hear from you . . . the committee will consider themselves to take any action they consider proper.



The senior march past team, January 1949: Harry Goldsmith with the flag, Jim Cameron, Graham Pratley, Ross Smith, Neville Green, Hale Hobson, Gordon Hobson, Ray Green, Bill Dyson and John Hanafin.

One does think Bill Dyson had made a very full explanation in his original letter, and he reacted that Bob Russell's letter indicated both an alarming and incredible state of affairs. *Alarming, because I am threatened with suspension when I gave up much valuable time to participate in club activities and furthermore, I still desire to continue in an active role; and incredible because this case has been investigated and judged by the normal club committee who cannot possibly be unbiased because many of the committee are undoubtedly those who have given testimony against my actions. Surely this is not a democratic method of investigating a charge ... against a club member. Only in the circles of the Communists and the Nazis do the accused have to suffer the perils of being charged and convicted by those who stand as witnesses against them.*

He went on to ask for a "special investigating committee" of disinterested people; and again apologised fulsomely, *but in my heart, I took the only course left open to me ... Let right be done!*

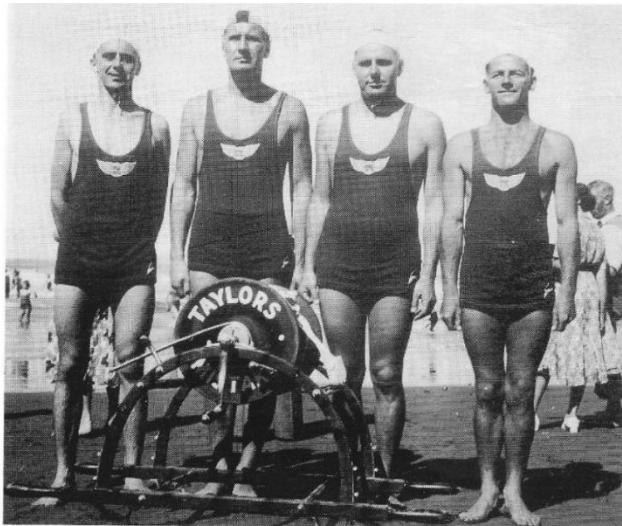
Before that reply has been received, the club was making clear it had suspension firmly in mind. It sought clarification from the Canterbury association on the effect of a club suspension on a competitor, in future surf

competitions, and also asked the Otago swimming centre for details of any travelling expenses paid by it to Bill Dyson. The brief reply was that he had a rail pass from Dunedin to Christchurch, and the centre met ferry and rail fares to Auckland.

On June 20, Dyson was given notice of a special meeting to finalise the matter, but three days later, he finalised it himself: It is with deep regret that I respectfully wish to ask you to accept my resignation from the above-mentioned club. The circumstances which force me to take this action are completely beyond my control. May I extend to all club members my best wishes and thanks for all they have done to make my short association with the club a very pleasant one.

Dyson was then nearing 30, but still considered New Zealand's foremost water polo player, and to remain so through the 1950s. He subsequently captained New Zealand, but was the shock omission from the 1950 team, and it is part of water polo folklore in New Zealand that that was a form of retribution for his "letting down" Taylor's Mistake at Waihi.

The "old" membership of the club, though the likes of Harry Goldsmith, was still competing in rescue and resuscitation and swimming events in the early 1950s. A new group was poised to come through, however, some of them among the most famous names in the club



The first winners of the Royal Humane Society Trophy for the national four-man title in 1952: Graham Pratley, Jim Cameron, Harry Goldsmith and Hale Hobson.

JUNIORS' INFLUX

Canterbury's centennial year, 1950, brought a new direction to Taylor's Mistake. The canoe crew - invariably Hale and Gordon Hobson, Neville and Ray Green - gave a new outlet for those lacking the swimming expertise for surf and belt races or six-man. The other was in the growth of membership.

Graham Pratley was club captain then and could often be found in the family's cake shop on Oxford Terrace and Colombo Street, in what is now the site of the Allan McLean Building. Jim Turpin's family lived in the old English-style tenement houses on the site of the present Christchurch Town Hall. Young Barry Turpin often wandered over to the Pratley shop, and he also swam at the nearby "Teps". So did Pratley, a breaststroke champion, who swam with distinction at the 1950 Centennial Games.



Third place-getters in the national junior march past championship 1952: Mike Cunningham, Ron Smith, Paul Garratt, Peter Stead, Bevan Ransley, Harley Turnbull, Tony Hobson and Ian Hunter; in front, Olly Pitcaithley and Barry Turpin.

I want you at Taylor's Mistake, was the gist of the Pratley message to Turpin (who didn't need much incentive, anyway, with his family background), and I want you to get some other boys over there.

The Taylor's Mistake membership appeared healthy. There had been 67 new members reported to the December 1948 meeting; another 123 four months later; 43 in May 1950. But so many of those were social members. The juniors came, and surf awards were gained by Turpin, Bevin Ransley - he lived round the road from the Turpin's and they went to Boys' Brigade together - Peter Stead, Mick Cunningham, Tony Hobson, and Ron Smith and, by chance, a youngster apparently headed for South Brighton, instead found himself at Taylor's Mistake. His name was Paul Garratt and he was a decidedly useful swimmer; in fact, the day he and Michael Cunningham passed their surf awards, they also made a rescue.

Harley Turnbull was not far behind them - and not far behind Helen Le Cren, either, whom he was to marry - along with Olly Pitcaithly, Barry Prebble, Peter Berry, Ross Carpenter, Ian Hunter. Pratley was their coach and motivator, and they were not only successful competitors, but a happy social group. They would travel to Porter's Pass, to Arthur's Pass, to Nelson, to Hanmer; sometimes in Pitcaithly's 1927 Chevrolet, sometimes in Turnbull's Plymouth, which was known to carry nine teenagers, bags and a sledge. But it went a shade better than the Pitcaithly Chev, which had to stop every 20 miles to fill the radiator, and which needed new brake linings every couple of years so it could get a Warrant of Fitness: generally it had no brakes. As time went on, they went even more upmarket, travelling in the famed Garratt 1952 green Mercedes.

The results started to come in. There were a host of third placings early in the 1950s; then victories and seconds in events like four-man, six-man, march past, canoe, surf teams, ski relay. The junior's wins and placings far outstripped those of the seniors.

There was more. The masterly Garratt became the new Goldsmith, only even more so. He was second in the belt, third in the surf race at the national championships of 1952; by 1955, he was winning the belt and finishing second in the surf race; and the following year, the senior double of surf and belt races.

Much of Garratt's greatest competition came from within. Certainly, he won the Canterbury championship double in 1952; but the following year, he trailed Harley Turnbull and Peter Stead in the belt, and just shaded Barry Turpin in the surf race for second; before bouncing back for the double again

in 1954 and 1955. He also, for the record, was the first winner of the mid-winter surf race for what was to have at stake the Brass Monkey Trophy.

For Pratley and his band of juniors, national titles proved elusive, save those won by Garratt alone. There was a third in the march past of 1952; thirds in the surf teams' race and six-man, fourths in the four-man and to Hale Hobson in the ski of 1953; thirds again in the surf teams' and march past of 1954; third again in the 1955 four-man.

We made most of the finals, and I thought we would win at St Clair in 1954, recalls Pratley. *But unless we got Paul in the swim, or Harley, we were struggling; we never had the range of top swimmers. But on reflection, it was not a major disappointment; it was just not meant to be.*

There were memories, though. Barry Turpin reflects that Graham Pratley was the man who started training at Latimer Square. And in the middle of winter, Pratley would have them training on the big lawn at the front of his parents' house in Urunga Avenue, off Normans Road in Bryndwr, Pratley arriving there on his little James motor-bike.

Pratley was also a full-on senior competitor at the time. There were some successes: two senior four-man titles at national level, and a couple of placings, but the Nelson Shield proved desperately elusive. *Coaching was one of the problems: we never had a judge as coach, someone who was right up with the rules and the rule changes. Ivan Gundersen did a bit and Hale Hobson, after a few years, was very good, but then we would stuff it up, as we did at Oreti and Lyall Bay in 1956-57.*

Lex Croad did it for a year, and was a very good coach, but he fizzled out. Otto Snoep, Charlie Barltrop, Peter Stead, and Maurice Duckmantion - they all tried their best, but we didn't have anyone with this long background. It was a learning process for Pratley, though, and the rewards were to come - but sometime in the future.

In the early 1950s, administration of the club changed direction. Goldsmith in 1949 had become a long-term treasurer of the Canterbury association, Moorhouse briefly then Pratley replacing him as club captain; and in 1950, Jack Young stepped down as president. He was later to enter the priesthood,

and a later generation would be bemused to see this aging man in a panama hat and white shorts "checking out" members of his old club at a national championship in Wellington.

As the club climbed out of the theatre of war, Young revealed his charitable spirit, though it wasn't strictly legal. Minutes of the time would cryptically refer to Mr Young's "competition" to raise funds. In 1948, such a "competition" had yielded the club about \$1300 - a massive total for the day, but one wonders when it is noted that two of Young's cohorts were George Bettle, the famed Christchurch chemist who sent out mail orders in plain wrapping, and Irving Crosby, whose address was given as the Grand Hotel, Jim Wallace's establishment!

It was too good to last. In November 1948, John Anthony Young was in the dock of the Christchurch Magistrate's Court, Detective Sergeant A. A. Herron telling Stipendiary Magistrate Rex Abernethy that the man before him had handed over \$1286.89 to Taylor's Mistake. He'd run a Calcutta Sweep on the Winter Cup at Riccarton. Nearly 2000 tickets were sold at \$2 each and about 900 of those "customers" were present at the Wentworth when the draw for horses was made. When they were auctioned, the "owner" got half the bidding price and the rest went into a pool.

With so many involved, it was inevitable the law would get wind of the illegal lottery, but Young was in Wellington when he was first sought for an interview. On his return, he went voluntarily to the detectives' office, along with a balance sheet for the operation, and accepting full responsibility. Young had the eloquent Irishman, J. K. "Pat" Moloney, as his counsel and the silver-tongued Moloney made much of how respectable a citizen was his client, running the sweep for a worthy cause (the surf club had only \$100 before his enterprise), and made much of the rescue work of the club in general and Young in particular. He'd single-handedly saved the lives of an unconscious girl and two men the previous summer. Mr Abernethy graciously accepted all he was told -- and fined Young \$100. There is no record of an order for the profits to be forfeited.

Another fund-raising venture, much more legal, was a stall at the Industries Fair: it yielded nearly \$400 in 1949. On a far less mercenary front, the club commissioned a memorial to those members who fell in World War II and

appropriately it was unveiled by Pearl Goldsmith, in her role as the wife of the club captain; but she was also sister to Stan Kingdon, one of those who was killed in action. He went down in the Mediterranean on the "Neptune". The family connection with Taylor's Mistake went one further, for the Kingdons were niece and nephew of old Charlie Lange, such a staunch member and at whose tobacconist's shop at 719 Colombo Street subscriptions could be paid. The other venues were at the surf club itself, or to 27 Manchester Street, the business address of Russell Motors Ltd. The indefatigable Bob Russell sold motor-bikes there which he also raced at Monica Park (opposite Woolston Park) when he wasn't busy on the surf club business.

The work of Bob and Nan Russell was prodigious. *They were wonderfully good-natured people who lived for the club; they did it all out of the goodness of their hearts*, says Harry Goldsmith. *He was just a stick of a man in build, but a giant in what he did. He was a regular Jack of all trades: he'd build a gear trailer at his workshop at the beach. He had this ability to turn his hand to anything.*

Nan was of a more solid build, but she mothered those juniors. They were really part-time parents to the young ones - but they still used to keep on at them to keep the bunk-house tidy. They'd have abused it, given half a chance.

The Russell's feeling for the club was shown in many ways, Bob's long administrative service testament enough. He was on the committee from 1934 to 1945, when he became secretary-treasurer; he remained secretary to 1957, treasurer till 1964 - a 30 year unbroken span.

There was more. In March 1951, Violet Southam gave notice of termination of her lease on the shop. She and her husband had rendered excellent service, which the club was quick to acknowledge. But there was no-one apparently interested in taking on the job, despite a notice displayed for several weeks. There was another problem pointed out by Russell: *The storekeeper occupies about a third of our pavilion premises, so any alterations to the building can't be made without finding suitable alternative accommodation for the tenant. This is impossible, short of building a separate new building on council ground - and that would require a special act of Parliament, so I propose we withdraw any offer of a new lease.*

The meeting concurred, then Russell made another gratuitous gesture. He and Nan Russell, he told the meeting, would maintain the shop on a small scale and for the sole benefit of the club. The club gratefully accepted the offer - which did not include the previous requirement for bread and milk to be available daily - and the Russell's had added the labels of shop-keepers to their myriad other work for the club.

Their stay in that shop was to be a brief one, however. Tragedy - or was it an act of providence? - was to strike at the club at 3.30 a.m. on Monday, March 10.



The "parents" of the club and its younger members, shop-keepers and lifetime servants and contributors: Bob and Nan Russell in 1954, 20 years before they died within months of each other.

FIRE AND THE PHOENIX

The events of Monday, March 10, 1952, can be told as graphically as possible by this report from that afternoon's lead story in the *Christchurch Star-Sun*. It was headed:

TAYLOR'S MISTAKE SURF CLUBHOUSE GUTTED BY FIRE

Lack of Water Prevents Firemen Fighting Blaze

A smouldering heap of charred wood and twisted iron was all that remained this morning of what, last night, was the Taylor's Mistake Surf Life-saving Club's pavilion and store. Fire broke out early this morning and gutted the wooden seven-roomed building built in 1916 by voluntary labour.

Units from the Sumner and Woolston Fire Brigades arrived at Taylor's Mistake shortly after 3.30 this morning, but apart from some salvage work, their presence at the fire served no useful purpose. It was found impossible to draw water from the sea, as the tide was too far out.

The only other source of water is at the top of Scarborough. As the club's secretary-treasurer (Mr R. E. Russell) said this morning, this supply was useless for fire-fighting as the water comes through a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch high-pressure pipe. Supplies of water on a bigger scale than this were required for any good to have been done.

The building was insured for \$1600, the maximum amount allowable, said Mr Russell. He estimated, however, that it would cost \$6000 to replace the structure. Not only was the building destroyed, but stock valued about \$400, a projector and some films worth about \$300, jars and other shop equipment, bathing costumes, caps and photographs were burned.

Mr Russell who lives a few hundred yards from the beach, said that there did not appear to be anything amiss with the pavilion when he was in it at 11.45 last night. It was his wife who first discovered the fire. She was awakened soon after three o'clock by the crackling noise, and opening the window of her bedroom, she saw flames shooting into the air.

Mr and Mrs Russell rushed down to the beach, but "it was impossible to get into the pavilion," they said. It was fortunate that most of the club's equipment was saved. There were two reels on the wooden ramp leading up to the pavilion and these were taken on to the beach, while nine surf skis and a surf boat that were housed in a wooden boatshed some 6ft to 8ft away from the pavilion itself, were also shifted on to the beach. One reel, valued at \$120, was destroyed, however.

It was thought that the fire might have spread to the boat shed, but an iron dividing wall probably saved it.

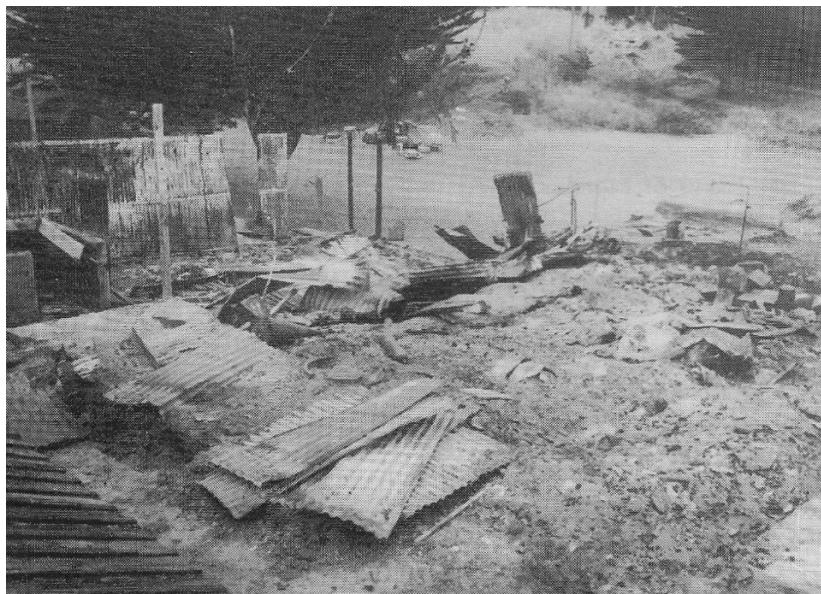
Also lost in the fire was a till containing \$34 in money. This morning, Mr Russell was retrieving some of the twisted copper and silver money.

The shop, which was owned and maintained by the surf club, opened at weekends and sold confectionery, ice cream, soft drinks, milk shakes, and tea. The shop itself occupied two rooms, while men's and women's dressing-rooms, and the junior quarters, took up the remainder of the space. Bedding used by the juniors was lost, as well as costumes and caps.

The look-out was first to disintegrate, and just after four o'clock, the whole structure fell to the ground in a spectacular fiery mass. The cause of the fire is not known. The surf club has a membership of 450, active swimmers comprising 30 of this number ... The loss of the pavilion means that members have no headquarters at present.

"We have no alternative but to rebuild as soon as possible," Mr Russell said this morning. "The beach is very popular and we have had no drownings here through surf bathing for more than 36 years, though there have been many rescues." It was the club's duty to patrol the beach, he said.

Margaret Campbell and Barbara Carter were at the beach that night. Barbara Carter recalled waking to the sound of what she thought was a big sea beating against the rocks, but when she got up to check, saw the flames. *We ran over to see what we could do, and while it mightn't seem very nice, we had to have a bit of a laugh at some of the old blokes who'd raced down in their pyjamas. Old Frank Andrews was trying to haul gear away with one hand and clinging to his pyjama pants with the other!*



The picture tells the story: the end result of the disastrous 1952 pavilion fire.

The booming sound they had heard was not the waves: it was tins in the shop exploding from the heat.

At a committee meeting the next Sunday, at Taylor's Mistake president Keith Stodard-Brown spoke of the blaze, adding the cause was unknown, *the only suspect being the ice cream refrigerator motor in the shop premises*. An immediate start to rebuilding *to the limit of our finances for the benefit of those to follow on*, was agreed.

Bob Russell then outlined the club's financial situation. For the period from September 1 to the day of the fire, it had a credit of \$137.58; \$1958.62 in the bank; a credit of \$320 with the Canterbury association from street day appeals; and had the contingent liability of \$300 with the city council for land acquisition.

The insurance policies were all in order and the \$1600 would soon be available. Uninsured resalable stock in the shop which had been destroyed amounted to \$470; a reel \$92; shop equipment and fittings \$60; club pennant

\$16; general pavilion equipment \$122. That made a total of \$760 in club property, with a further estimated \$600 worth of members' personal effects and property.

Bob Russell also reported he'd been assisted by Nan Jackson and her brother, Jim Cummings, in salvaging two wheeled reels, all the surf skis and the surf boat (canoe); and with the help of Laurie Hahn and Mr Southam, when they arrived at the beach, also saving the two midget reels and \$84 worth of shop stock in the rear of the pavilion.

The committee agreed to a further meeting on Easter Sunday to draw up recommendations to place before a general meeting a week later. On the suggestion of Len Moorhouse, it also agreed to a \$1 levy and donation list being opened for a year only.

Bob Russell had been busy, not just on the morning of the fire. He reported he had taken all necessary steps to claim insurance monies, and to secure a Government grant through the national association; he'd interviewed department heads at the city council on building permits, location of a new building, and financial assistance; arranged to meet local MP Harry Lake seeking a Government subsidy; opened a re-building donation account; and received the first two donations, from Len Woodhouse's wife, Peg, and John Doleman.

Before leaving that meeting, two other references to Bob Russell must be made. One was his urging the club should become incorporated *in view of future financial commitments*. The other was his report on the shop's operation, which he and Nan had run for three weeks short of a year. The net profit was \$567.14 (\$11.80 a week), though the loss of stock in the fire halved the profit to \$284.60 - a magnificent effort.

Messages of sympathy and donations flowed in. Sister clubs New Brighton - which also enclosed the first \$20 donation - North Beach, Island Bay, Worser Bay and Maranui expressed their regret; but more telling, the Canterbury association advised the national body had approved a grant of \$1000. Jack Hunter, present by invitation, offered to complete all the joinery of a new pavilion at materials cost only; an offer that was obviously gratefully accepted.

But the club - maybe gentle pressure? - felt obliged to tell the city council it could not include public conveniences in its rebuilding plans through lack of finance!

The general meeting was a lively affair. There was unanimity on some measures - rebuilding at a cost of about \$10,000 including shop space and appointing the entire committee a building committee, with power to add.

But the incorporation of the club, seen as essential with big sums of money involved, was vigorously opposed by solicitor Graeme Brockett for fear of a sports body becoming commercialised and rule-bound: his vote was the only recorded against the motion. The rules were also adopted.

A suggestion of a \$2 levy on senior members prompted more debate, and was amended to read that *a subscription list be opened and that all members be written to and asked to donate something to the rebuilding fund*. This was accepted unanimously, as was an understandable vote of thanks from Jack Bailey to the Russell's.

By May 15, donations had reached \$185.50; two months later they were \$286.80. Things were humming along, and so was the council involvement. Faced with reiteration from the club it could not provide public facilities, the council came back with an offer of \$1200 as its share in facilities incorporated in the new building, and various council departments were to be involved, free of charge, in building and planning stages. Perhaps Bert Feast being Town Clerk was a valuable element in this goodwill.

The Government took longer to consider its position, and Bob Russell was at pains to ensure negotiator Jack Young trod carefully. In a *note for J. A. Y. only - tear off* appendage to the club's written proposal, he adjured Young: *Do not stress public dressing facilities as this is the responsibility of the Christchurch City Council, and not eligible for a subsidy. Keep off the shop proposals as the Government will not subsidise a business. If the Minister (Internal Affairs Minister W.A. Bodkin) mentions furnishings, say that we are NOT spending any subsidy money on furniture but will organise a special campaign for that later. Mr Lake stresses . . . that a subsidy would be for rebuilding only for lifesaving purposes.*

A streamlined building sub-committee of Haxell, Hunter and Russell was charged with getting on with the job, with some guidelines. These included constructing in concrete block, with a malthoid or similar roof, by a building firm, and installing a new septic tank. No allocation from the rebuilding fund was to be made towards the operation of a shop, and Nan Russell duly offered \$52 annually for tenancy of the shop, an offer that was quickly accepted.

The new building did not go up with the speed of the old. The council offer to provide working drawings foundered through a lack of staff, and Norman Hodge, of the Ministry of Works, filled the gap. But Hodge took five months to do nothing, so back it went to the City Architect. Finally, in December 1953, the club was told the city council had accepted - on the club's behalf - the tender of \$8076 from D. G. Malcolm Ltd and work would start in January 1954. And the council faced - and accepted - a further financial commitment. Its ideas of public amenities outweighed its contribution of \$1200, which got bumped up to \$2800; and because of the need for a shop, the old surf canoe shed was made a temporary shop, with financial aid from the Taylor's Mistake Association.

For all that so many people were involved in a myriad of ways, the new pavilion became a tribute to Bob Russell, who single-handedly did so much of the work. At the annual meeting of 1951, before the fire, Len Moorhouse had attempted to have Russell elected a life member - a move ruled out simply because Moorhouse didn't follow the rules. But a year later, there was no such hiccup, and Bob Russell joined that exclusive list.

Another appropriate note was that of Keith Stodard-Brown stepping down from the presidency in 1953, opening the way for the election of George Haxell. So the old founding father was in the senior position when, on Sunday, November 14, 1954, Christchurch Mayor and future Speaker of the House of Representatives Bob Macfarlane opened the new pavilion. It cost \$8222, club funds accounting for \$4000.

The Government grant through the New Zealand association was \$1000; a council subsidy amounted to \$3222, and the club put in a further \$600 plus to finish and furnish the shell.

Club members and friends helped keep down costs, however. Donors recorded in 1954 included:-

All nails required - Venables Ltd;

All work in lights and power installation - Mr Monty Johnson; Hardboard and offcut timber - England's Ltd;

Glass and windows - R. M. Rattray

Quantity Kitchenware - O. G. Moody;

Searchlight - N. Wallace; Timber - L. Hahn

Subsequent meetings brought gifts of a console radio set from Ray Phillips, and a wall clock for the social hall from the Hunters. Then came a flagpole from president Haxell; a perspex sign for the front of the new hall from Leo Stead; and finally - from donations specifically for this project - a piano.

But Bob Russell was not about to see his dream home abused. At the meeting a week before Bob Macfarlane did the honours, he sought a definite ruling on *the question of the consumption of alcoholic liquor on club premises*. The one he received, on the motion of the fathers of two later six-man stalwarts (Jack Hunter and Keith Le Cren) was *that a rigid control of intoxicants be enforced by the club secretary*.



The twisted and buckled wreckage of the clubhouse

Awesome powers, indeed. So the club lost a pavilion, and from the ashes, Phoenix-like, a new one rose. No blame or fault was ever attached officially to anyone or thing for the fire, save that reference to the unlikely culprit, the ice cream fridge motor. The finger was pointed by some at disgruntled residents, by others to perhaps a club member aware that the club really did need a new building - just as New Brighton was to lose a building in very similar circumstances in 1955, to which rebuilding Taylor's Mistake gave \$21.

It is a question that will probably never be answered, and no matter. For all that historically significant architecture and records were lost, a better facility arose.

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CONSOLIDATION, TRAGEDY, DISQUALIFICATION

The club-house was built but far from complete, and, indeed, the original concept became far from the finished product. No sooner was the building "finished", than an upper floor was being added. There was also something of a problem with the city council. The club had made a total commitment of \$5200 to the council, and by February 1955, had kept the balance owing - some \$1551 - on hand. It came as something of a shock when the council billed an extra \$222.

The letter-writing skills of Bob Russell got to work. He reminded the council - or Town Clerk Bert Feast, the old surf man still in the job - that the club had asked, without receiving a reply, if the council was providing lighting in the public conveniences and dressing sheds *the job was carried out we assumed the CCC was providing this as a public service ... the \$82.50 was therefore unexpected and seems a very high price for approx. 100 yds of wire and four lamp connections to a board already installed.*

And Russell chided the council that *although we were vitally interested, we were never given exact figures. The original tender figure, \$8,078, would be lowered by the reduction of building block prices after tenders closed, and the credit of \$130 made on the roofing contract ...*

And after pointing out the club was to be handed over only an unfinished shell, every shilling that we could raise has gone into the materials used in the finishing work. Not one penny has been spent on labour there is still a lot to be spent on the interior, exterior and grounds as the money becomes available

...

And after detailing some of the pressing problems, Russell delivered his customary conciliatory line: *We do not propose to worry the council with anything that we can handle ourselves and we are grateful for all that has been done for us - and it has been a lot. We can repay in part in service to the public, but ... we cannot repay the full amount of the final payment as requested.* So saying, Russell paid the \$1551; seven weeks later, the club was told the council would pay the balance. Another Russell triumph.

The club obviously had a tight grip on who paid what on the pavilion; it also had a tight grip on New Zealand women's titles, for Taylor's Mistake came

back from Waihi with both the four-place and six-place titles, Paul Garratt with a junior belt championship, and second place in the surf race; and the seniors and juniors respectively second and third in their four-man events.

They did well to perform with such credit for accommodation arrangements were far from satisfactory. Manager Keith Le Cren tells the story in his report:

The team behaved themselves as usual. Unfortunately billeting arrangements were very poor, and both myself and the team were put to a lot of inconvenience. The junior team were to be billeted in an old mines hall with broken windows, very dirty conditions, and bales of straw to sleep on; and no catering provided. With the help of Jack Young and my wife, more suitable sleeping quarters were found at Waihi Beach, but the boys still had to virtual themselves.

Four girls were billeted with an elderly gentleman, again no catering. The caravan that Mrs Le Cren and I were to rent had been sold a couple of days before we arrived; fortunately, we were able to stay with the four girls and Mrs Le Cren and myself provided their meals. The senior team and the bus driver had good accommodation at the Cheese Factory.

And as a postscript, *Colin Jones (NZSLSA secretary) said it would be in order to charge the NZ Surf Assn with the meals that the team had to provide for themselves.* These came to five meals each for the four girls and seven juniors at 40 cents each, all up \$22.

As concerned as he was at living arrangements away from home for the lads and lasses, Keith Le Cren was equally concerned about their well-being on their own beach. So much so, in fact, that with the vigorous support of parent and committee man Jack Hunter, he successfully proposed there should be no beer at K Day. Jim Ballin must have turned in his grave at this heresy, but the teetotal rule remained for 1956 and while it was revoked in 1957 - 20 gallons purchased - and 1958, Taylor's Mistake was "dry" again in 1959. Well, theoretically anyway.

Not that Taylor's Mistake was a cheerless place in the mid-1950s. Ian Joy's social sub-committee was very active: he had enthusiastic lieutenants in Jack Hunter - there to keep an eye on the bar? - Laurie Hahn, Paul Garratt, Rene Le

Cren, Kate Rait and Bev "Giggles" Beward. They organised socials, dances and concerts in that 1954-55 season with such success they yielded \$120.



The phoenix that rose from the ashes of the old pavilion, and the members. Senior (rear): Graham Pratley (partly obscured), Barry Turpin, Peter Stead, Ron Smith, Tony Hobson, Otto Snoep, Maurice Duckmantion, Hale Hobson, Peter Berry, Bevan Ransley, Ian Joy. Women: Anne Gilmore, Bev Beward, Jeanette Garratt, Elaine Arrow, an unknown member-for-a-day, Mary Moorhouse, Maree Hunter, Judy Gilpin. Juniors: Brian Rattray, Barry Smith, Ian Hunter, Olly Pitcaithley, Harley Turnbull, Ian MacDonald, Ralph Sharman, Paul Garratt, Ross Carpenter, Brian Walters. The official party, from left, is president George Haxell, Lyttelton MP Harry Lake and Christchurch Mayor and MP Bob Macfarlane.

Thus the club which had \$11 in the bank after opening the pavilion could finish the season with \$225. Another major contributor was Graham Pratley, who did his "Gordon Graham Magic Show" at the Industries Fair or when a franchise wasn't available, at the A & P Show.

The mid 1950s also brought new developments in patrolling, which was

becoming something of a problem with the explosion in competitive events and the tug of competition v patrols to a generation which had grown to young man (and woman) hood in post-war years. A suggestion from Olly Pitcaithly that older club members could handle patrols on carnival days was shot down in flames by the old hands, Len Moorhouse and Bob Russell - that became the norm in later years. But there was no argument about mounting Saturday patrols for the first time, and general satisfaction when the Canterbury association was persuaded it should pay a patrol for the Christmas period. Only once in one season, just after the war, had Taylor's Mistake had a paid patrol, Jack Beward of North Beach; in 1956, a Taylor's Mistake man, Ralph "Count" Sharman, was the appointee.

Another significant choice that season was Paul Garratt for New Zealand to tour Australia and there was great elation when he won the international surf race. But K Day was an unhappy occasion on two fronts.

The visiting North Beach team had, as ever, an enthusiastic non-competitor in a management role, name of Norm Johnson a brother of a later prominent Canterbury official and (1988-91) president, Murray. An epileptic, Norm Johnson was never known to enter the water alone. After competition was finished for the day, the North Beach party made ready to set off home at about 6.30 p.m. and noticed him missing. His body was washed up at Hobson's Bay the following day.

The Coroner found Norman Stanley Johnson, aged 26, drowned accidentally, and Taylor's Mistake filed that report, along with its own brief report. Bob Russell must have known a history of the club he would be prepared one day, for he noted *for record purposes, it is only fair to state that no blame is attachable to our club patrols, who were on duty throughout the day. There was a large crowd bathing throughout most of the day and a ... watch was maintained but no-one - in or out of the water - saw Mr Johnson in trouble, nor was he seen bathing after being spoken to on the beach at approx. 2 p.m., at which time he was fully dressed. Mr Johnson was an official of the North Beach Surf Club, travelled with the team, was accompanied by his brother and it appears his disability was well known to them all.*



The women who retained their national six-place title 1955: Bev Breward, Maree Hunter, Helen Le Cren, Jeanette Garratt, Anne Gilmour and Elaine Arrow.

Indeed, Cyril O'Neill, a North Beach identity, testified he had known Norm Johnson 15 years and never seen him enter the water alone. That was one matter to cast gloom over K Day; the other lay in the disqualification of all the Taylor's Mistake teams, a crowning indignity for such a prestigious day.

The disqualification came just before the final of the Kesteven Cup, and focused - pettily, one thinks - on the placement or otherwise of reels in the competition arena. The rules of the Canterbury association required that all gear for use in carnivals had to be placed in the arena at least 15 minutes before the start of the carnival so it could be inspected. Any club transgressing this rule would be "penalised" for the day.

This particular carnival started at 11 a.m., though the official programme stated 10.50 a.m. - the time is exact, because the club cited the announcer as

reminding teams it was "nine minutes to 11" - two of the three reels were removed to be re-wound. One would have thought having gear available 50 minutes before the first event would have complied with the association's rules stating "at least 15 minutes prior".

Worse, the club contested the march past and then, to its astonishment, heard at 2.30 p.m. the announcement that the club had been disqualified; no reason was given. A protest was lodged immediately, and a \$1 deposit taken; a subsequent verdict was simply that "the decision stands". Why wasn't the disqualification advised before the start of the carnival, not more than three hours later? Well the club could ask that question; inadequately did the Canterbury association respond.

The sub-committee appointed to investigate Taylor's Mistake's protest dealt with the "at least 15 minutes prior" regulation by suggesting that could be read to allow reels to be placed in the arena between 7 a.m. and 7.15 a.m. *Such an interpretation could be carried to ridiculous limits.*

It's the sub-committee which was being ridiculous; and it was even more stupid to hold that *15 minutes prior to the start of the carnival* on this particular day meant reels should be there specifically between 10.45 and 11 a.m. And the sub-committee, association members also flippantly tossed aside the grievance at the disqualification taking so long to announce and advise.

The disqualifications at the beach obviously caused some dismay and strong words, for the club disassociated itself *from any remarks made or incidents arising from the disqualification or to officials concerned*. And there was reference to *unbecoming conduct of some carnival officials and team members*. The club further took the opportunity to express its concern at its women's teams from competing and being judged in the last two carnivals. The club got what it considered a "very poor" explanation, it accepted it; similarly, it accepted - without really accepting - the explanation from the special sub-committee.

From the distance of time and with the benefit of hindsight, there doesn't seem much doubt that a certain arrogance and officiousness took place; and the Canterbury association on that occasion could be seen as a classic example of a body not acting in the best interests of its membership - the competitors.

That was the case also of the Taylor's Mistake women - short of competition from their peers in Canterbury, they wanted to compete against and on equal terms with juniors but had an awful struggle getting a strait-laced Canterbury administration bending on that issue. Undaunted, Tony Hobson's girls made sure they looked right and raised their own funds to buy new uniforms.

They looked the part in their drill, as well, and won the national championship six-place, second in the four-place, again placing the men in the shade: the best the senior six could do was third.

The year 1956 was the beginning of the end of Bob Russell's long selfless reign as secretary. Roy Thompson, his assistant, started taking the minutes. Nan Russell retired from running the shop in February 1957; less than eight months later, Bob Russell resigned as secretary, *not because I have lost interest, but as a much younger member has volunteered to accept office, I willingly hand over to him with the hope that members will give him the co-operation they have so readily given me. As club secretary, I have made a lot of friends and an odd enemy or two in the way of duty, but I have enjoyed my term of office, my work and my associations with all connected with the club.* Russell said his resignation came *voluntarily but with some regrets* which suggests a certain reluctance to go, but those who knew him say there is no way he would be pushed out.

As it happened, Thompson lasted only a year, because of a transfer to Wellington, and Judith Lee - coincidentally also Canterbury's first fully accredited female judge - filled the breach highly capably for a year.

Even as he was leaving the secretary's post, Russell had some cautionary words. He analysed the senior administrative posts of the club and pointed to six presidents during his term as secretary: Alf Barrett, Ernie Velvin, Stoddard-Brown and Le Cren all for two years, Young and Haxell both for three.

In a private note he delivered verbally, Russell stated: *There have been only three secretaries in the past 34 years - Wallace, Moody and Russell. Those past three secretaries have all been or became elderly men while in the position, not active swimmers but able to give the necessary continuity of service. A young secretary is liable to try and combine the job with home ties*

or other sports, or an employment transfer could mean - through circumstances beyond their control - a new secretary every year or two.

And with a president on the same basis, the club becomes a ship with all crew and no captain. It must have a guiding hand familiar with the general wishes and policy of the committee and able to give a decision - yes or no - on the spot.

In two years, a president is just reaching the stage of being familiar with club activities, its active members and what requires being done. At that point, club custom demands that he has been on the job long enough: let's try someone new and as soon as he learns his job, change him too. It's wrong, and I think should be changed to stabilise club control.

Russell suggested a series of options, including the committee "orchestrating" who it wanted as president and to influence that result; or even to elect the president at committee level.

Most importantly, he looked at the vice-presidency situation and the need to groom a future president, rather than simply honour those who had served in a myriad of ways. An analysis showed vice-presidents serving from 1924 and 1925, and again from the 1930s without a prospect of becoming president in many cases.

The point was taken and Keith Le Cren, indeed, served a term of more than four years, which would have been greater but for his untimely death.

The Russell influence was not about to leave the club, though. As well as remaining treasurer well into the 1960s, Bob Russell was a tough guardian of the club-house. It was he who instigated moves to ban any unaccompanied child under the age of 14 - later relaxed to 12 - in the club-house. He would do a clean-up of the pavilion on a Monday morning and any gear left behind would be impounded and subjected to a 10 cent fine before being returned. And just as tough outside the pavilion doors: any patrol member neglecting their duty was liable to a fine.

One wonders what the Human Rights Commission would say about such tough treatment of volunteers!

But in the club-house, attention turned to the juniors' bunk-house, so religiously supervised by the Russell's. Members had been encouraged to supply their own bunks, for the club had precious little spare money after completing the pavilion. Late in October 1957, it invited those who had supplied the beds to either donate them or sell them to the club, the former option clearly the better preference, so they could then be re-allocated to active team members. That mild hell-raiser of his younger days, Barry Turpin, was put in charge of this hostel-away-from-home, though the young club secretary was soon to head to Invercargill for a couple of years. The club marked its gratitude by giving him a pen and pencil set as a farewell gift.

He arrived back in time to find that Roy Thompson had had another essay at the secretary's job and lasted only one meeting. "Dick" Turpin again filled the gap, with the ever-present Bob Russell to give advice and assistance.

Not that Bob Russell was ever short of something to do. In 1955, the old surf canoe had been stolen (or had it?), *last seen at the mouth of the Styx River* members were told, and there was need for a replacement.

The initial approach was to be to "Duke" Gillies of Dunedin; then a Christchurch firm, Glassex Ltd, was to build it. In the end, Bob Russell and his son, also Bob, were deputed to build a canvas canoe and there were to be strict regulations governing its use. A minimum of two seniors had to accompany juniors at training; and a tramway was to be built to trolley the canoe from its shed to the beach.

That was one craft. Another, even bigger, was on the way.



The junior six-man of 1957: Mike Mason, Gerald Brittenden, Rhys Richards, Lindsay Hunter, Gary Doyle and Brian Rattray.



Women were SOMETIMES allowed to compete with men in 1959: Lois Mason and Maree Hunter paddled the canoe with Charles Barltrop and Lindsay Hunter in the Taylor's Mistake to Sumner race.



The “new” club-house of 1954.

The spread overleaf was the Weekly Press’s tribute to the opening of the pavilion on January 21, 1917. The photographs across the top, from left, show the lifesaving demonstration; Alfred Osborn in the “observatory” declaring the pavilion opened; the Christchurch Ladies’ club team of the Misses Painter, Lange, Brandon, Lloyd, Cousins and Mrs Salter; and below them “the officials”. The best research has been able to identify them is — Back row: unknown, possibly a Reid, unknown, Jim Ballin, Frank Kesteven, Lance Brice, Alfred Osborn, Otto Ballin, Alex Hazelton, Frank Hobson. Front: unknown, Charlie Lange, unknown, Jim Heath, Alf Barrett, Les Davie, Bob Wood snr.

THE WEEKLY TRAVELLER AND MAIL

Life-Saving Display and Official Opening of the Taylor's Mistake Surf C



Club's New Pavilion at Taylor's Mistake, Sumner, on Sunday, January 21st.



SURF BOATS, BELT WIN AND BRASS MONKEY

Surf boats had been dabbled with in New Zealand surf lifesaving first in 1940, when Piha won the event at the Centennial nationals at Lyall Bay. Strangely, it took many years for this big craft to gain both popularity and acceptance in New Zealand - strangely, because it was a forerunner of the surf boat, a fishing boat owned by the family Sly in Sydney, which made many surf rescues off Manly beach. To raise some money for these voluntary efforts, an exhibition of lifesaving was held on the beach on Boxing Day, 1903, and this led to the formation of Australia's and the world's first surf lifesaving club, at Bondi.

The pioneer of surf boat construction and racing in New Zealand was the New Brighton club. Its maiden craft, Jamaica Joe, made its debut at the stormy South Brighton nationals of 1958; it became the champion against Piha and Muriwai in 1959, and won four of the first five titles contested.

Taylor's Mistake sat up and took notice. At its meeting of July 1, 1959, it heard of an offer from Jack Ryan, that inventive man who had been a New Zealand belt champion and representative (and captain) then one of the pioneers of boat racing in New Zealand, and later a top-performed power boat racer and designer/builder. He offered a surf boat, had a sponsor in the wings and a "gents' evening" could be expected to raise a further \$100 towards the cost.

Hale Hobson and Peter Stead were enthusiastic about the proposal; Bob Russell more cautious. He agreed it should be accepted, but with strings: a cost of no more than \$40 "in the rough", and no reliance of someone else to raise the funds. Jack Hunter both offered to shape the oars and to seek a sponsor of timber for them.

The way things developed from there was for club members to pitch in with Jack Ryan to build the craft, and the New Brighton club helped out in the winter of 1960 by providing its club-house as a workshop. As is the way with voluntary jobs, the labour force dwindled, though Peter Stead could report in June 1960 that two of the three laminate skins had been applied, but interior finishing had to be completed before the final skin could be laid.

Housing the boat was another issue, as was a trailer, and the club agreed it

should build an extension of 40ft x 16ft. The fiscal mind of Bob Russell was soon at work, with the result that anyone wanting to store a surf ski or paddle board in the boat shed would be charged an annual rental of \$2 for the first such craft, \$1 for any other!

By the time of the annual meeting in 1960, the efforts of Stead, Hobson, Ray Green, Gordon Hobson and Mike Mason were starting to bear fruit, and so was the payment of it. The head man at New Zealand Breweries, a bloke by the name of Moorhouse, was prepared to put up \$100 towards the boat, to be called "Steinnie", after the company's new high-profile lager, Stein-encken. (Because of overseas trade pressure, that brand name was to change to Steinlager.) Len Moorhouse was still to contribute to the club with which he had been involved for nearly 40 years.

Thus, "Steinnie" was launched on January 8, 1961, in time for Canterbury championships - in which a rookie crew obviously had to bow to experienced New Brighton - and to contest the national championships, finishing third: New Brighton A and B were first and second and no-one else started those titles at Warrington, near Dunedin, but at least a start had been made. "Landlord" New Brighton was appropriately thanked for its help, both by letter and by way of a \$20 donation.

A senior crew was always fielded, and in those early days, it had Ray Green sweeping, and enthusiasts like Barry Turpin, Charlie Barltrop, Wayne McClurg and Murray McDonald who manned the oars.

But the strength of the club's boat racing lay with the juniors. John Stead, himself a junior - and that's unusual enough these days - was the sweep oar and effective coach and he had a right willing crew.

Most of the seniors were really part-timers, but the juniors were very good, a great bunch of guys. We weren't all from the same school, but we stuck together and worked hard on it. In those early days, there was Jock McNaught, Don McDonald, Ray Rountree, Gary Sneddon and Bill Maguire rowing. We trained a little bit on the Avon, but more often at New Brighton, the boat towed there behind my Ford Prefect, but only towed back as far as the foot of the hill. It was heavier than my car, so either another car had to tow it over the

hill or we rowed it round from Sumner.

"It was as heavy as hell, but then it was an early model. There were just a few boats around then. Heavy as it was, it had a hard time at Muriwai in 1964, the first time we took it north. There was a big sea running, and we climbed up and up and up this wave till finally we were sent crashing back. I was left with about two feet of sweep oar, but we still managed to get out and back - but nowhere. That was a year I reckoned we should have won; we got third. That crew was McNaught, McDonald, Rountree and John Powell; a reluctant Paul Carpinter - the next biggest junior, so I had to go in - replaced a too-old McNaught the next year.

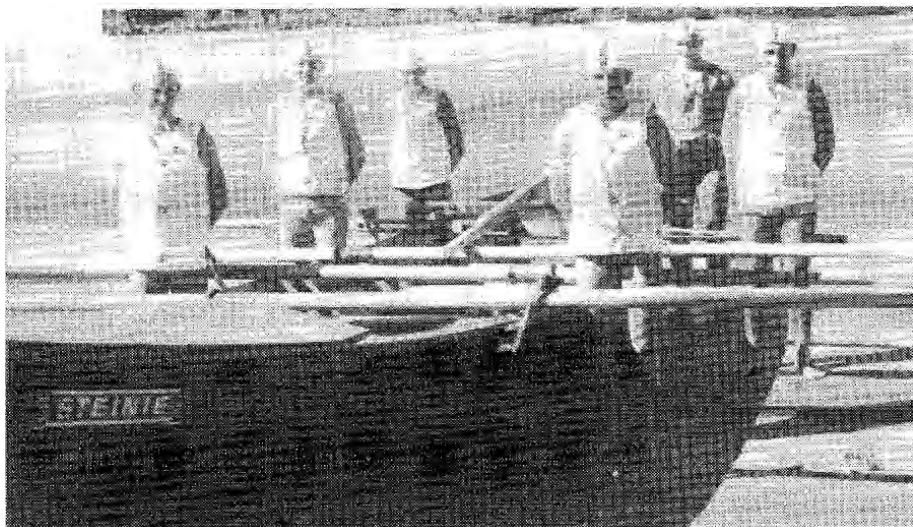
No-one could put their hand on their heart and say the boat attracted a huge commitment, especially from seniors. Bob Russell attracted no opposition when he proposed the boat not be sent to the 1962 national championships. But more interesting is the support given to surf boat racing late the same year when North Beach proposed surf boat points not count towards the Canterbury championship pennant. North Beach had recently enjoyed a rare Canterbury pennant success; and it's ironical- given the strength of its surf boat section as both clubs approached their 75th birthdays - that it should seek to downgrade that discipline. Taylor's Mistake made a "firm stand" against such a move.

It was strong on that stand, but how strong was the commitment? Club captain Barry Turpin was in no doubt later the same season. He told the club he had held off entering the senior boat crew in a carnival because the crew had not trained hard enough. They'd had every opportunity to do so, and he'd warned them of the consequences!

No branch of surf lifesaving has quite the same inter-club camaraderie as boat racing: it happens now and was so in the pioneering days. So it comes as no surprise that, in 1963 and "Steinie" not going to Napier, Taylor's Mistake boat was loaned to New Brighton while its own craft was in transit to the nationals championships. Barry Turpin placed a rider on the loan, that any damage had to be repaired by New Brighton!

The Stead family was certainly a driving influence in the boat area. Peter Stead, who never rowed it, made sure "Steinie" was built; John Stead made

sure it was steered; and he actually swept senior crews when still a junior. *They were mainly social crews, and while Murray McDonald tried to sweep it, it wasn't his forte, and I'd had a bit of experience by then. The seniors trained, but were mainly into canoes - and I suppose our beach was better suited to canoes.*



The junior boaties of 1963: Don McDonald, Ray Rountree, Jock McNaught, Gary Seddon, sweep John Stead and Tai Ward-Holmes.

Neville Duckmanton agrees with that assessment, with feeling: *The times we had to get on a line and haul the thing in! We often just couldn't take it out, and it found its place when it ended up as a Maori war canoe and we'd all take it out fishing!*

It did a dozen years' service at Taylor's Mistake, one way and another!, and the club is certainly not remembered as one of the big-time surf boat racing clubs in New Zealand. But there is that third placing at Warrington, behind only New Brighton crews - and ahead of none! "Steinie", you played an honourable part in a club's history; it would be less rich but for your efforts.



Runners-up in the 1964 Canterbury ski rescue championship, John Stead and his patient, Tai Ward-Holmes.

Before the birth indeed, before the conception of "Steinie" there had been another great day in the Taylor's Mistake history. At one of the stormiest of all national championships, the first on the South Brighton Beach, Graham Pratley in 1958 won the national belt title at last.

The Pratley competitive career was then starting to wind down. *I was 27 and a half by then, and because of the demands of my job, I was pretty unfit. Then Barry Turpin said he wasn't going to swim the belt at the nationals and I thought I might as well have one more go.*

So I got stuck in for the month before; I'd spent two or three nights a week at South Brighton; some time in the pool. I made the effort. I'd had seven go's at the belt and five times I'd been second in my heat. They said I'd beaten Peter Nevin at Waihi in 1955, but the boat judges said he was first in the heat and I agreed.

This time, 1958, I talked myself into winning. I beat Rab Blair, and I decided if I could beat Blair, I could beat Reg Harker. And the advantage that most helped was the biggest sea of all my surfing days, that and being at home.

I remember I had nine hours sleep the night before that belt final, and that day I went up on the sand hill and thought: I've waited years for this. And as I say, I talked myself into it - that and the sea, because my strength was breaststroking. I was always good in a moderate to heavy sea; it gave me an advantage because I could do three to four strokes under water. Yes, I had to rely on the sea a bit, but that's part of the game: it gives the average guy a chance, and I was able to beat some good ones in my career - Ryan, both Chambers, Neville Schou, then Blair and Harker.

That belt win was then Pratley's greatest performance in surf lifesaving; titles of greater satisfaction were still to come.

Pratley wasn't the only winner at those South Brighton championships: for the only time, Taylor's Mistake won the junior surf teams' race through Brian Rattray, Derek Eaton, Colin McFadden and Gerald Brittenden. The women also won the march past and Ian MacDonald - another breaststroker - was fourth in the senior belt.

Another junior contested national championships for the first time. Helen Le Cren's little brother Geoff had become a regular attender at the beach, hardly surprising given the commitment from his parents and elder sister.

Only 14 at the time of the South Brighton nationals, and having just passed his surf award, the boy who became a champion in six-man and belt events contested only a couple of beach events. And the ski rescue!

He was a patient for Norm Webb, then a teacher of Le Cren's at Christchurch Boys' High School. *The sea was that big the paddlers had to go past their patients at the buoys, wait for a lull, then whip back and get the patient. We made it all right, one of only three teams to get back OK, but then the event was called off because of the big sea.*



Two faces of Graham Pratley. Left, as 1958 national belt race champion; and right, Gordon Graham Magician at work on Charlie Barltrop.



Champion belt swimmer Graham Pratley is chaired away in triumph by Barry Turpin and Ian Hunter.

But Le Cren was not to stay someone's patient for too long. The next year, at Oakura, he became perhaps the youngest to win the national junior belt title, only 15. In 1960, he added the surf race. So 1961 loomed large in Le Cren's mind; he'd won both junior swimming titles, here was the chance to take the double, to continue the great Canterbury line started by Harry

Goldsmith, continued by New Brighton's Warren Hart, Noel and Colin Chambers and Brian Robertson, and maintained by Taylor's Mistake's own Paul Garratt.

But fate ruled against "Louie" Le Cren. First, he dislocated a thumb at the national swimming championships, trying to prevent some other competitors' hell bent on souveniring a trophy. That cost some training time, but at least the plaster was due to come off a week before the nationals. So it did, but riding his motor-bike to school, Le Cren swerved to avoid some fellow-pupils, skidded in loose shingle and when he crashed, not only dislocated the thumb again, but also broke a cheek.

Not only was Le Cren's junior career over; he was also finished as a surf race swimmer. His father, Keith, had died a matter of weeks earlier, and young Le Cren started Training College. *Money was short, and to help out, I started working for Pic Parkhouse at Wharenui Pool.* Working in a swimming coaching role immediately debarred Le Cren from competitive swimming, at which he was pretty useful - second and third placings in national junior championships, and holder for a long period of the Canterbury 55yd freestyle record at 27.2sec.

That ludicrous rule of those days extended to surf lifesaving, so close were the links and restrictions then between the various natatorial disciplines. The surf movement did relax enough to allow so-called "professionals" to compete in events involving lifesaving apparatus, but he was debarred from two of his best events, surf races and beach sprints.

He was in no position to stop the valuable wage-earner, moving on to Woolston Park, then Rangiora - a family connection the latter, for his sister Helen (Turnbull) was by then living in the town and heavily involved in the swimming club; her daughter Tracy, Geoff's niece, was also to make an impact in surf lifesaving for Waikuku Beach, winning the club's first (women's belt) title.

Shut out of surf races, Le Cren had to settle for a concentration on belt races, also occasionally tube rescue when that became an established event, swimming the belt regularly also in four-man, and as a first-choice for Taylor's

Mistake six-man teams. He was destined to never win a national belt title as a senior, but he swum a host of finals; twice won the South Island championship, in 1965 doing the Canterbury/South Island double. When surf lifesaving rules grew up, and Le Cren returned to surf races - his best years taken from him - he won the national over-30 title in 1980.



Geoff Le Cren as New Zealand's youngest winner of the national junior belt title.

Few approached a belt race as professionally or as clinically as Le Cren, given that he probably swum more in a season than most as he filled the belt role in four-man competition as well.

The sea is a great leveller, and in the belt you have to use your head as much as expending physical effort - too many who are very good swimmers rely too much on that ability. Before a belt race, I will spend as much as half an hour

preparing, studying rips and holes and the buoys. I have spent years practising a wading technique alone. One area in which Le Cren could not prepare overly was in sighting the buoy: his mediocre eyesight could make him the butt of a gentle joke or two, perhaps foremost: *Watch out for Louie in the belt: he was last seen heading for the Chathams!*



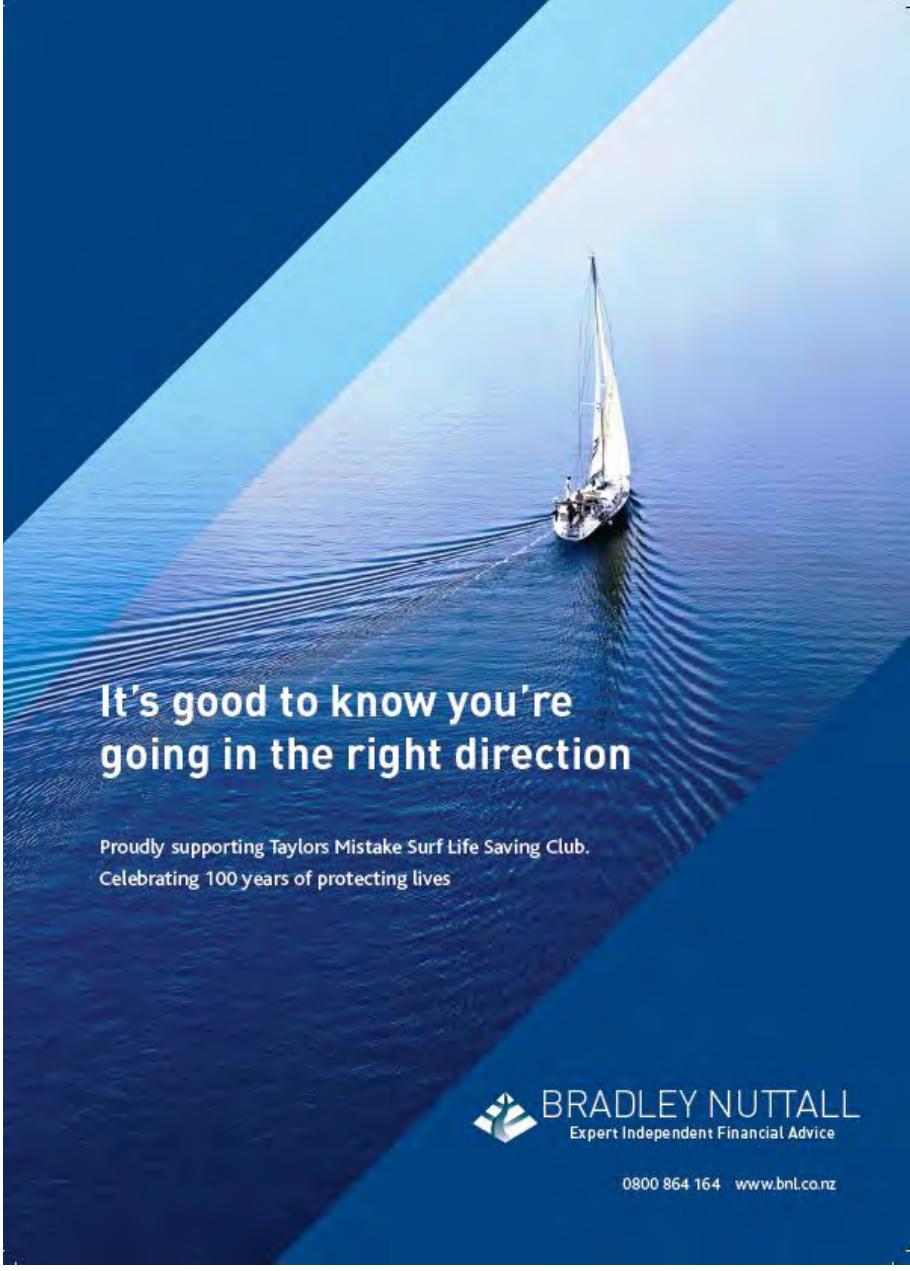
A motley crew, mid-1950s, at Prebble's and Snoep's bach at Black Rock.

He won many honours, did Geoff Le Cren, more of them later, and served both club and province worthily as an administrator: secretary of the Canterbury association and to produce a splendid small magazine to promote the movement among its own. Also, in 1963, he was Taylor's Mistake's sole representative in the Canterbury team chosen to compete in the prestigious Royal Carnival.

It was around this time that Le Cren was moving into the senior six-man teams that Graham Pratley coached, but Pratley, as ever, was involved in many areas of club service. Of most material reward was the Christmas entertainment he largely organised at the bay: movie shows, housie and his own inimitable shows.



New Zealand march past champions again in 1958. Rear: Maree Hunter, Helen Cook, Lois Mason, Bev Beward, Judy Gilpin and Helen Le Cren. Front: Margaret MacDonald, Sally Luke, Jill Davies, Judy Phillips.



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SURGING TOWARDS SUCCESS - AND ALONG CAME "SAUSAGE"

There is little question that women lifeguards most enabled Taylor's Mistake to hold high its competitive head in the 1950s, but these things change. A very regular group of women started slipping away to motherhood and family life, so much so that in 1963, Margaret Hessey of Sumner had to move across the hill to complete the six-place team.

Barry Turpin moved up (or down or sideways?) from coaching the women to instructing juniors, in succession to Olly Pitcaithly. Graham Pratley took over the seniors and a new era was opening up for Taylor's Mistake.

First, though, there was some housekeeping to be done. Service awards were being introduced to provincial and national level, and Taylor's Mistake drew up a list of deserving people to be nominated for the Canterbury Service Award. A right imposing list it was, too: George Haxell, Beau Cottrell, Mo Bolam, Matt Wilson, Hale Hobson, Malcolm Gilpin and Rene Le Cren. Just as imposing, maybe even more so, was the list of those who declined: Keith Le Cren, Bob Russell, Harry Goldsmith, Monty Rattray and Graham Pratley. Keith Le Cren undoubtedly declined so his wife could earn the distinction, and it was both tragic and sudden he should die within five months without that sort of material recognition.

Harry Goldsmith, as the senior vice-president, acted in the foremost role, the club deciding not to elect a new president - who turned out to be Goldsmith anyway - until the next annual meeting. Secretary Barry Turpin recorded in the next annual report on the loss of *our most capable and energetic president, that with a lifetime of experience, and with a wife and family exceptionally interested in swimming and lifesaving, one just cannot compute the time and effort that Keith put in for others. Our team members will remember with gratitude the way Keith handled all the troubles associated with travelling and accommodation on the tours away from Christchurch.*

Taylor's Mistake suffered administratively that year, for Peter Stead was transferred out of Christchurch; and it had ongoing hassles with the Canterbury association over gate charges for K Day. Not that these were

anything new, for Claude Cooper, a famed figure in New Brighton and Canterbury annals, had had a protracted argument with K Day gate-keepers back in 1955, which drew a chiding letter - and a refund of the 10 cents - from the Taylor's Mistake club!

But back to this worry about who should receive the proceeds from the "gate" for K Day. It all started when the Canterbury association decided, before K Day in 1961, that it would take over arrangements for parking that day. It also ruled that the club would hand over to the association treasurer all receipts from the day and the association would make a donation to Taylor's Mistake *after making the usual disbursements for the day.*

The club didn't agree at all, pointing to the parking land belonging to a club vice-president and being donated for the day. It decided it would be charitable and donate \$10.50 annually to the association from K Day profits. When the association tried to get heavy on K Day, a quick emergency meeting confirmed this view.

The association dug in its collective toes: so did the club - though depositing the funds in the association's solicitor's trust account. In the end, and after some arm-twisting, the association sought - and received - a \$20 "donation" from the gate receipts, as well as a further \$11 for some reason.

Coincidental with these gate charge problems was a continued drop-off of the women members, and a depleted squad did well to retain the surf teams' title as well as placings in the six-place (second) four-place and surf race (Maree Hunter), both third. Brian Rattray finished third in the ski championship, as did the canoe crew, but perhaps the most significant other result (for Geoff Le Cren was the junior surf race champion in 1960) was the win by the junior march past team.

Club captain Peter Stead commented that 16 of the 23 new surf awards were to juniors, and that marked the start of the re-building of the club's competitive strength. The next year, the Taylor's Mistake juniors retained that march past title - or at least shared it with Eastern United - and finished second in the six-man. The seniors also won the four-man title, Gary Doyle pulling the belt, Ian MacDonald swimming patient and Barry Turpin and Barry Prebble on the land. A significant result, that, for it was nine years since Taylor's Mistake had

last won the four-man, and it was to be a further 18 years before the title returned. Doyle was joined by Le Cren, Pat Harrow and Peter Hatchwell as a Canterbury representative that year.

Also of significance was the emergence of Janice Monk in swimming events. It was her first season in the surf and she led the women's team to retention of the national title and herself took a third placing in the individual race.

The women generally showed they weren't a spent force by taking runner-up placings in the four-place, six-place and march past. Indeed, the women remained competitive enough, for all that their numbers were shrinking, to win the first Canterbury over-all championship pennant presented, in 1963.

Part of the reason was the emergence of Lynne Harrow, winning the surf race in 1962 and leading her team to a national title again: Harrow individually and Taylor's Mistake for the fifth successive year, were to repeat those victories the following season. Taylor's Mistake was to also win the four-place in 1963, thanks to Bev Bewerd, Jan Campbell, Margaret Hart and Roberta ("Bobbie") Anderson; they were joined by Janice Monk and Christine Wales in finishing second in the six-place.

The juniors finally won the six-man, the team consisting John Stead, Paul Goldsmith, Gary Seddon, Bill Maguire, Jock McNaught and Wayne Gilchrist. Most of them had been around a year or two, but Goldsmith - son of the stalwart - had passed his surf award on November 10, 1962. Ten youngsters passed their awards that morning; events moved quickly for a pair of them, as Barry Turpin recalls:

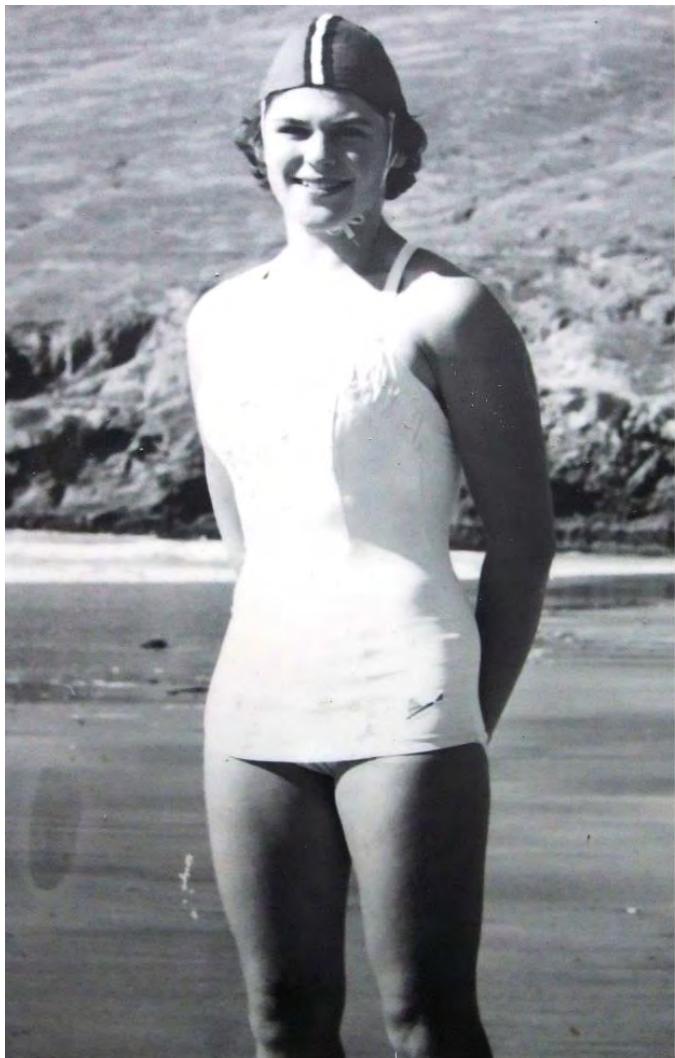
Got your eye on those two?

Sure have.

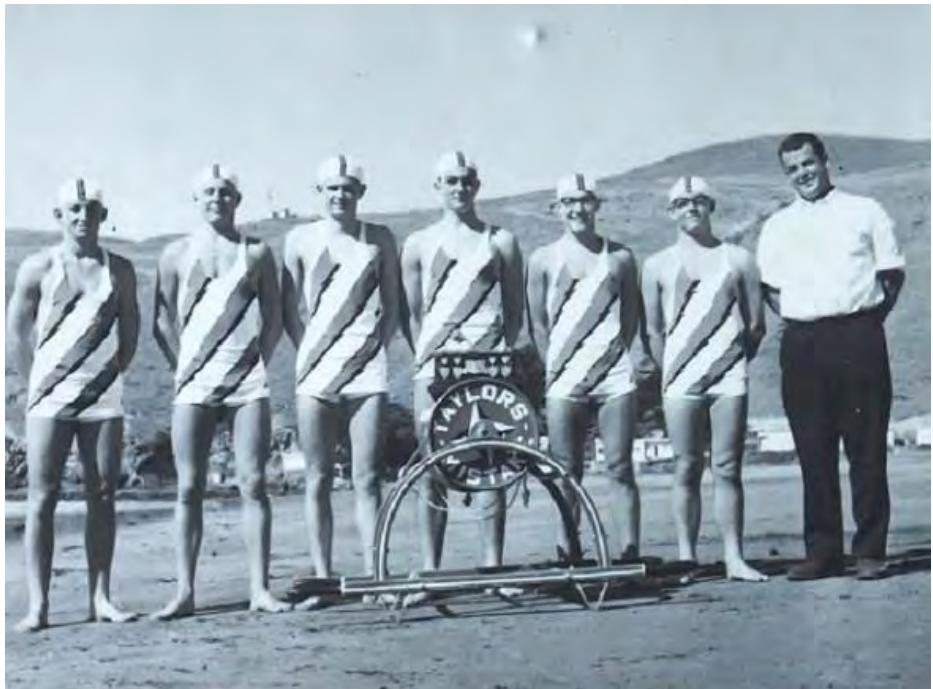
Who are they?

A couple of grubs who got their surf awards this morning. Someone will have to go out soon; the others have been in for hours.

End of discussion, but eventually someone did have to go in and make Donald McDonald and Daryl Neate come in, failures to reach the buoys in their first surf races. Later that day, they were shown how to handle conditions, and at second attempt reached the buoy that was their destination to complete the club surf race.



Champion swimmer Lynne Harrow



The William Henry Memorial Trophy, for the junior six-man, finally won in 1963 by Gary Seddon, Paul Goldsmith, Wayne Gilchrest, John Stead, Jock McNaught, Bill Maguire and coach Barry Turpin.

It was an auspicious day for Taylor's Mistake, that Saturday, November 10, when North Beach stalwarts Cyril O'Neill and "Harley" Davidson, under the chairmanship of Doug Tarrant, conducted surf awards at New Brighton for those Taylor's Mistake kids. Goldsmith and McDonald, Don Stuart and Brian Erikson, Ross Hunter, Tony Harrow, Wes Newton and Ray Rountree and Wayne Mason were all successful and became distinguished competitors.

But none reached the heights of Daryl Neate. He had won 32 New Zealand titles before the club entered its 75th anniversary season; at least a century of Canterbury titles. They ranged from time-honoured "stomping" to the draining iron man events; and interspersed are the sundry ski and board events, drilling and swimming, running and canoe paddling.

There is no discipline of surf lifesaving - and that includes boat, for he's been seen to pull an oar - in which "Sausage" Neate has not scaled significant heights. He is the supreme natural all-rounder, an athlete of instinctive touch, who could play first grade hockey for more than a decade. And as it turned out, no-one took hold of the Nelson Shield more often than Daryl Neate.

It was a natural step for Neate to join the surf club. His parents owned a bach - *Shangrila* - and older brother Carlos was a member. *It just came to pass. I was always swimming and surfing at the beach and it seemed a natural step to join the surf club, and I guess it just grew from there. Dad always reckoned I had sea water on the brain!*

Given that these days Daryl Neate is considered perhaps the supreme six-man competitor, it seems even comical that he was not exactly outstanding at the beginning. He had those swimming problems which Barry Turpin sorted out on the very first day: *I came in quite distressed and Barry told me I had to conquer this thing. I was still petrified of that particular sea, but he told me to go deep under the waves, to grab the bottom. Well, I got it conquered and that gave me the confidence I needed.*



The club selectors couldn't decide who of Daryl Neate and Donald McDonald to leave out of the junior B six-man team in 1963, so they included both. L – R: Ray Rountree, Wes Newton, Tai Ward-Holmes, McDonald, Brian Erikson and Neate.

But no rushing into the top teams for young Daryl Neate. *Me and Don McDonald were vying for the sixth position in the B six-man team - that is, we were the twelfth and thirteenth best juniors in the club! We were both trying to go to the nationals and they couldn't separate us, so we both went.*

I've competed against guys a lot better but I have an ability to read and handle the surf and that's a definite plus: the bigger the surf, the better I was - am?

Required to swim, Neate turned more to craft. Given his interest in surfing, it was hardly surprising he got into board paddling. *There was one grade, no junior-only events, and that made it pretty tough, but I did all right. In fact, not having juniors helped competition-wise; I would have had better results in junior races, but it didn't deter me. I just went out and did my best.*

As a senior, Neate turned to iron man and that meant the surf ski as well. That brought not so much a conflict of events as a rash of them: *I was doing ski and board, iron man, beach relays, swimming generally and surf races. There was always something to do and it seemed to be a whole day iron man.*

But I'd always been wholehearted about sport. In my early days, it was more important to be doing sport than actually working, though I did work, I had a full-time job. I enjoy sport and I've enjoyed all aspects of sport, not just hockey but tennis, ski-ing, surfing, golf - now even a bit of bowls. That's taken me into coaching and administration. I've enjoyed it all as long as the people I worked with put their heart and soul into it. I have no patience with people who won't make a constructive effort, but if they interact and respond, and I can see a result at the end, I'm happy with what I've done.

It's perhaps appropriate for the sort of bloke that "Sausage" (from Cockney rhyming slang, Sausage Meat) Neate is that he confesses to totally enjoying Taplin relay and iron man events. *They seemed to suit what I was doing, and six-man was always a nerve-racking event.*

And he speaks feelingly of two very different iron man contests. Aside from that dramatic first day - *I thought this is not me* - Neate says he's been scared in the surf only on one other occasion. It was in South Africa during the world championships of 1972, *and the waves were ginormous. It really scared the shit out of me when I went for a swim in the morning, and I had to do iron*

man that day. When it came to the competition, I just put my head down and took my chances; I finished second. That apart, I'm fairly fearless in the sea. The other iron man of major significance was that at Gisborne in 1977.



The flag says it all, 1963: John Stead, Wayne Gilchrist, Ray Roundtree, Paul Goldsmith, Gary Seddon, Jock McNaught, Brian Erikson and Bill Maguire; in front Tai Ward-Holmes and Daryl Neate.

In those days the iron man was a very restricted event, initially only one representative from each district, later two, so qualifying from a district - especially a district as strong as Canterbury - was the first hurdle. But Neate the supreme all-rounder won a place five years in a row; he won five medals, but never a title. *I'd tried too hard, and so long, and at the age of 28, I thought I'd had my lot. So that had to be my greatest individual performance.*

But otherwise Neate tends to dwell on team events. *The double-ski is one of the greatest events, it's such a fast one - absolutely flat tack from gun to finish: a bloody hard event.*

Paddling double ski also took Neate into a new arena that of canoe racing - the kayak sort, not the surf canoe (in which he often paddled, anyway). *I wasn't really interested in kayaks early on - I was both a later-in-life ski paddler, and it was just something unheard of in the South Island. It was only when Fergy (old iron man protagonist Ian Fergusson) went to canoeing that I thought: Hey this guy's usually on a ski.*

Ever ready for a challenge, Neate set his sights on this 1980 Moscow Olympics, jollied along by Geoff Walker, who had made a big impact on his debut at national championships the previous season. *My individual performances were not going to be good enough to get me there, so the best chance was in the K2 with Geoff. We got first in the 500m and third in the 1,000m and that helped get Geoff away, which was a plus, but I had to get in the individual placings to get there and I just wasn't good enough.* Their training together for the K2 events meant double-ski racing by Walker and Neate was a logical development. So for a year, and a dramatic year it was, Taylor's Mistake had Canterbury's other greatest all-rounder as a member, more of which later.

Neate also recalls fondly and not so fondly some Taplin relay contests. *There have been some very very exciting ones, real nail-biters, and one that was very disappointing. We got disqualified at New Plymouth in 1973, after we'd won by about 100 metres. My fault - I had my hand across the line in a change from ski to board. It wasn't necessarily a disappointment for me so much as for the team. One guy - Malcolm McClurg - had never won a gold medal; it would have been his first, but fortunately he went on to get a few. Another one I didn't win that wasn't so much a disappointment, but pissed me off, was in the first board final, in 1972. I got out in front by a wee bit, but on this flat sea - where? Waihi, I think - along came a wee wave and it meant three of us all on it, and John Sim from Sumner just edged me out. I always look back and say if I'd taken that one ... and I never ever won the board, but then a lot of waves have gone by in the last 28 years.*

Neate continues to compete: *As time's gone by, age group things have come*

in, and that provides incentives. And he is still a six-man competitor, those stories told in their appropriate place. But he has moved further ahead in the coaching arena and, logically, has become the Canterbury coach. In that work, though, *I don't feel I want to be too far out of touch; get too far out of the competition field and you can't relate.* So that keeps me competing; *I wouldn't do the Canterbury coaching job if I wasn't competing. It's too specialised an area, too professional, too technical, for a coach to be too much out of touch.*

Daryl Neate, the ultimate contestant and competitor, no matter what he does, has targets and ambitions far ahead of him still.



Daryl Neate, the greatest all-rounder in the history of the club.

THE PENNANT RETURNS

Daryl Neate was the club's "most improved junior" of 1963; the club itself was the big improver of 1964. The national championships have been mentioned, but perhaps of even more significance was the winning of the Canterbury pennant championship.

Far and away the most dominant club in Canterbury had been New Brighton. In the far more restricted programmes of those days, it won the pennant from 1932 to 1958, the only exceptions being a shared title with Taylor's Mistake in 1937 and a loss in 1939; runner-up from 1947 to 1949; no contests were held between 1941 and 1945. As the 1950s ran into the 1960s, no club held sway: Sumner and North Beach both had unique wins.

But 1964 was Taylor's Mistake's year. It won both the men's and women's Canterbury pennant championships for its second outright title and the first since 1939 (though the old *Star Sports* headlined the win as the first since 1937.) A useful factor was the arrival of Lex Croad from Invercargill and he gave Graham Pratley some much-needed assistance in senior coaching and managing the team at the national championships.

But it was club stalwarts who were still critical to the successes. Jim Turpin had taken over the women's coaching, club captain and older brother Barry the juniors and the indomitable Pratley was still in charge at senior level.

Barry Turpin looked to his own growing up in the surf club to motivate his juniors. *When I started, at the beginning of the 1950s, Graham Pratley coached us in six-man and four-man and we did the other things that were available -- mainly surfaces and belt races. People just developed into other things, and I think of the likes of Peter Stead and Bevan Ransley on skis, but there wasn't the gear then that there is now. We did canoe because it was there, but a lot of that was just going out for rides.*

But we realised from about this time that you didn't have to be a champion swimmer to win things. Only Paul Garratt and Harley Turnbull swum up and down a pool, and while the rest of us hadn't played water polo, we took that up, because it gave us more swimming and was fun. It was also a team game, and I think that typified us. When we were 19 and 20, people used to say we

were cliquey, but we weren't really: we were a complete unit, just a lot of young people enjoying life. Then Helen Le Cren used to bring her girl-friends to the beach and that made it even more fun!

Barry Turpin has been enveloped by administration so long now that his insistence he was bulldozed into such work hardly seems credible. The first job I had was in charge of the juniors and it just grew like Topsy from there; I never really wanted it. And as for becoming club captain -- well, I chucked in the bank job I'd been transferred to at Invercargill and came home because people were asking me to take the position.

So Turpin had the distinction of being the "winning" club captain when Taylor's Mistake finally got material rewards for the years of steadily building up the male strength to match that of the women. But in retrospect, he didn't see the pennant successes as being due to powerful individuals.

We were just a good club; the whole club got going and was doing things. There were some good pool swimmers, there were good lifesavers, and they had enthusiasm. We just had to keep them doing things, and I was lucky to have their support, support I don't think Peter Stead really had when he was club captain.

We didn't set out to win the pennant; I just wanted us to win as many events as possible -- that is, every event we went in!

The record shows how much the juniors were vital to that success. While the seniors had wins and placings in four-man, march past, beach relay, belt, beach sprint and surf teams' race; and the women similarly performed well in four and six-place, march past, surf race (both individual and teams) and belt, the juniors dominated. Just look at the range: successes in all the drill events (including the resuscitation championship), both boat and canoe, in all the swimming events, in ski race and rescue, and a champion beach relay team. The Harrow family had a great season, Lynne winner of the inaugural national belt title as well as second in both the individual and teams' surf races, the double in the swimming events at Canterbury level; Tony first in the Canterbury surf race, second in the teams' event and third in the belt. But they were far from alone, and Geoff Le Cren was a particularly doughty performer.

One of his best performances came outside the championship arena, in the highly prestigious Black and White Cup surf relay. Canterbury champion Graham Dann gave New Brighton a very handsome lead after three legs, and while Bruce McNeilage was then 38, the old campaigner was warmly favoured to be unchallenged. But Le Cren steadily overhauled him with 70m to swim; they both caught a 'chute, but Le Cren stayed on it longer and waded to a great win.

But if that success started an era, another was soon to finish. Bob Russell gave notice, at a meeting in his own home at 407 Papanui Road on April 13, 1964, *that at the commencement of the new season he would be happily handing over the office of treasurer to Mr Jim Turpin, whom he knew was capable of doing a good job.*

So an astonishing record of selfless service was to near its close, and Barry Turpin, for one, is in no doubt that Bob Russell had a greater impact on him at Taylor's Mistake than any other person -- more so than any coach, any competitor, and any administrator.

I got interested in the place because Dad and Uncle Olly used to talk about the bach and we'd stay there. It was just different -- away from home and the middle of town, just good fun. We used to bunk school -- tell Mum we'd be going straight over after school on a Friday, but actually heading out in the morning! And it was Graham Pratley and Bob Russell who went out of their way to make us happy. They pushed in different directions: Graham was the coach, but it was Bob who looked after the sociability side. He was like a father to us, and Nan was like a mother. He'd wake up and find a gang of us asleep in his great big workshop, or in his summer house -- we'd all get breakfast in bed.

And in those days, there were no skis, just those owned privately. Peter Stead used to ride Hale Hobson's ski, but there was no club gear like today. Bob pushed for it for all us kids. And after one New Year's Eve, following round Bob blowing his horn and maybe Jack Hunter on the bagpipes, we'd never want to go anywhere else.

Bob was also a factor in the 'no grog' rule we had for years at the clubhouse. Taylor's Mistake had a bit of an unfortunate reputation for beer, and I must confess, I've had one or two over there! I can remember we used to sit up the

hill behind the clubhouse, in among the trees off the road and have a few.



Touring the North Island, in style. Well, some sort of style. Clockwise from top left: A blow-out in the hills before Taihape; this time the motor blew up, between Rotorua and Te Puke; what are we going to do about it?; probably (in the case of "Bones". Tony Newton) have a heer.

But a few parents of prospective members were worried about the Taylor's Mistake name, and some wouldn't let their boys go over. Ron Smith's father, for example, was a Detective Sergeant, and he checked it out carefully before he'd let the boys go over. If only he knew!

Another worry around this time was sharks, and there was an over-reaction when two lives were lost in a St Clair beach tragedy. In what might now be described as a knee-jerk reaction, but which was understandable at the time, Taylor's Mistake resolved to have club captain Turpin organise special shark patrols, influenced in part by reported shark sightings on Canterbury beaches.

If sharks were a worry - or were they? - retaining the pennant was not, really.

The breakthrough accomplished, Taylor's Mistake started forging a reputation for success. In 1965, the juniors scored a healthy 64 points, the seniors 18, and that combined total placed Taylor's Mistake six points clear. Sure, despite the best efforts of the women --Lynne Harrow again the national belt champion -- the female performance was slipping away, but there was much to give encouragement for the future: the juniors winning the four-man title, and second in the belt and the canoe, fourth in the surf teams, 11 different Canterbury placings all told; the seniors second in the national canoe race, third in the beach relay, fifth in the four-man.

The next year, 1966, Taylor's Mistake won its third successive Canterbury pennant, and to boot, was third equal in the national club championship, for the Alan Gardner Trophy. Not marvellous placings: both the junior and senior four-man teams second, the junior march past team first, the seniors third in ski rescue and canoe respectively.

South Brighton took the pennant from Taylor's Mistake in 1967, by which time such likely lads as Daryl Neate, Chris Read and Paul Goldsmith were all seniors, but the Canterbury pennant title returned in 1968 and stayed. In 1970, Taylor's Mistake won the first of the really true over-all club titles, when women's events were considered with those of the men, senior or junior.

New Zealand titles kept jogging in at an acceptable pace. The juniors had freakish first equal placings in both the canoe and march past in 1967, and the seniors also steered and paddled *Johnny Walker* to a second in the senior canoe, as well as running well enough to take silver medals in both beach sprint (John Stead) and beach relay. Sue Hatchwell carried faltering women's performances with a third in the belt.

The next year, 1968, promised even more. The club, overall, was second in the Alan Gardner Trophy competition, the junior canoe crew winning, as did the senior surf team of Dave Gerrard, Paul Goldsmith, Chris Read and Paul Carpenter in the Bone of Goodwill for the only time. Most significantly, most frustratingly, was the performance of the senior six-man team, described as magnificent, but finishing second to Waikanae in the Nelson Shield contest.

Taylor's Mistake, however, was becoming a club of rich all-round talents. Consider Dave Gerrard's third placing in the senior surf race, and while

acknowledging the butterfly champion was a ship passing in the night, it was many a year - since the days of Garratt and before him Goldsmith - since Taylor's Mistake had a man capable of challenging for such a title. John McDermott had a bronze medal in the malibu board, but most significantly, Taylor's Mistake was the inaugural Canterbury representative in the Taplin relay and celebrated that exalted position by winning the first inter-district title.

The team should be recorded, not that the names glow as brightly as some of later teams. But those six men were Daryl Neate, Ian Johnston (board), Wes Newton, Tony Lewton (ski), Chris Read and Paul Goldsmith (swim).

There were curiously similar results by seniors and juniors at the 1969 nationals: both senior and junior teams won the march past, both six-man teams were third, and the senior canoe crew also took bronze medals. The next year, 1970, the Taplin title again fell to Canterbury representatives Taylor's Mistake, the senior six was second, as was the beach relay team, the march past team first but disqualified.

But before the club could look to even greater competition successes, it had plenty more on its plate.

NEW BOAT, NEW BUNK-HOUSE

First there was another boat. Early in 1964, Mike Saunders told a meeting that Billy Williamson -- he of W. Williamson Construction Co Ltd -- was prepared to pay the total cost of a new boat. The club took up the idea enthusiastically; Jack Ryan -- by then calling himself Ryancraft -- promised to have the boat ready by November, and most generously, offered to train the crew so the craft would be used correctly and damage be avoided. As it happened, getting national association specifications proved to be a slow business and the boat took a year from conception to fruition.

Hale Hobson volunteered his services as overseer of the building project and was lavish in his praise of Ryan for the care and attention he gave the task. The boat-builder at the end even varnished the boat -- an extra -- for labour-only costs, to make sure the job was done properly. Businessman R.H. Stewart, later Sir Robertson Stewart of PDL fame, gave \$220 towards a new boat trailer and in February 1965, *Pania* was launched by president Harry Goldsmith.

Initially there was a decision to keep old *Steinie* for training purposes, sound decision, but in the end it was offered for sale. Only \$70 was asked for the old craft, but surprisingly, interest was slow; and in the end it went to a club syndicate headed by Brian Erikson and including an enthusiastic Dave Bradley for \$40. The trailer fetched the same price from South Brighton! So *Steinie* ended its days at Taylor's Mistake as a form of pleasure and leisure craft.

At the same time as *Pania* was conceived, Jim Turpin floated the idea of a club dinner, and this was snapped up by the club -- especially as Turpin was prepared to do the organisational work. His accountant's mind was pretty well spot on: after a handful of late returns of tickets, he was able to report a loss of about \$5; by the time the accounts were cleared up, there was a modest profit of 80 cents. Sound book-keeping, indeed. The dinners continued as an annual highlight, generally paying for themselves, producing a small profit one year, a minuscule loss the next.

Taylor's Mistake men were not tunnel-visioned about surf lifesaving affairs, though. They had not been high-profile contributors to the Canterbury

association's affairs in the past, though there were notable exceptions, such as a long term by Harry Goldsmith as treasurer. Full details appear in an appendix.

But in 1964, Graham Pratley assumed the presidency, an important time to take up the chief administrative role for he was to be president at Canterbury's 50th anniversary celebrations. And the Taylor's Mistake influence was furthered by Barry Turpin stepping into the vacant secretary's role.

But if Canterbury was to celebrate soon its first 50 years, Taylor's Mistake had similar celebrations even sooner. So back into harness came Bob Russell, as convenor of the special committee organising those celebrations: one winging at the Russley Hotel, another at the Sandridge and wrapping up with an anniversary carnival and closing day at the beach, all between March 18 and 20, 1966.

Sadly, three who missed those celebrations were Ernie Velvin, "Monty" Morrow and Rene Le Cren, all of whom died within a year of each other in the mid-1960s; old Bill Shaw survived, just, to play a full part. He had been a founder of the club and left only George Haxell as a direct link with those old days. One other who all but went back that far, and indeed a member of the first Taylor's Mistake team fielded, was Les Davie, who was to survive until 1970. Another great loss to the club soon after the celebrations was Hale Hobson, a tragically early death for a wholehearted contributor to the club and yet another member of the family to give both a name and far-reaching service to the area and the club.

Russell, as mentioned, ran the jubilee celebrations and produced a handy little booklet outlining the club's first 50 years. And it was certainly hard to keep a good man down, for although Bob Russell had officially retired from club administration, his home was the venue for committee meetings, and what more natural than he should sit in on the meetings as a life member, prompting discussion, moving motions, sometimes chairing a meeting, taking up the cudgels for some task that needed performing.

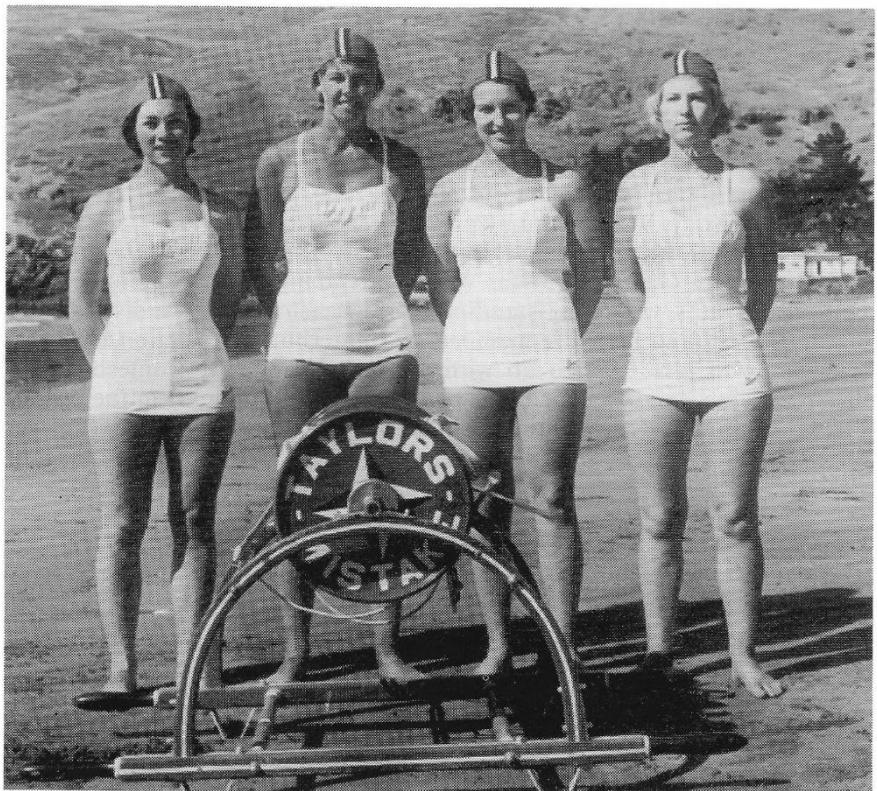
So it's hardly surprising that when the decision was taken to add a new bunk-house, over the boat shed, it was Bob Russell who became the prime mover and watch-dog of progress. No matter he'd already been given a framed

testimonial (which encompassed the work of wife Nan, as well), an appreciation from a grateful club: there was another important job to be done. S.A.E. England Ltd got the job again; the clout of Lyttelton MP Norman Kirk eventually helped squeeze some funds from the Golden Kiwi grants committee; the full cost was \$4484, and that still left the club financially sound with \$610 in the bank.

But the thick end of \$5000 was a tidy sum to have spent -- even in the 1990s, let alone the mid-60s -- and men like Russell, the brothers Turpin and John Stead insisted the new facility should be jealously guarded. So strict rules were formulated for the mainly (but only active) juniors who had use of the home away from home. And who else but Bob Russell could come up with 14 beds and mattresses for only \$70 -- the result of some arm-twisting and diplomacy at the old North Canterbury Hospital Board.

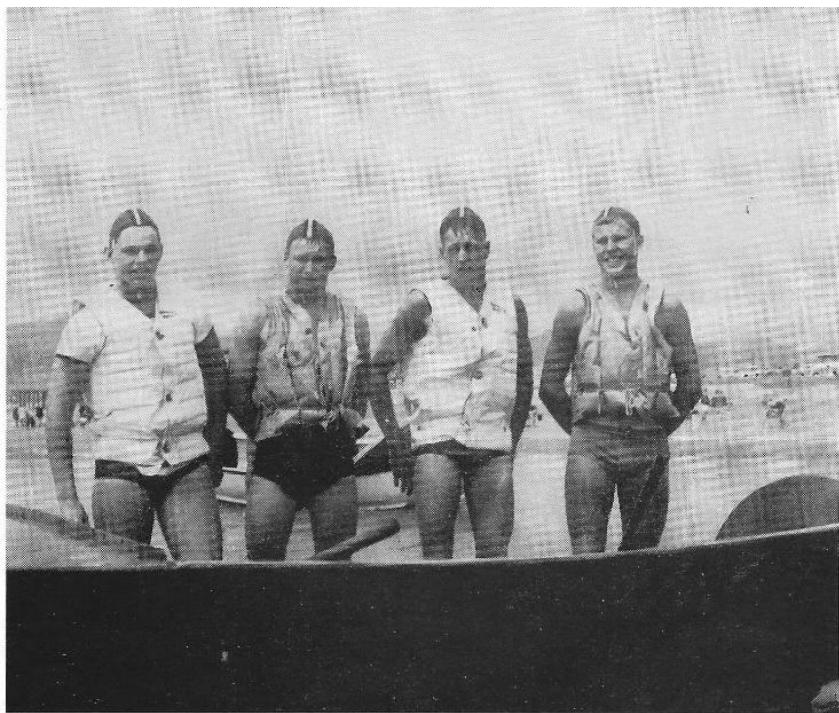


Canterbury championship carnivals are often fun -- and they're sometimes chilly, as at New Brighton 1964.



The women's four of '64: Roberta ("Bobbie") Anderson, Bev Reward, Margaret Hart and Jan Campbell.

The new facility was opened by president Goldsmith on October 24, 1965, nearly 11 years after the new club-house had been opened; and a grateful club made sure George Griffiths was in attendance. The city council's architect, Griffiths was a long-standing North Beach member; a distinguished administrator (and later life member) at Canterbury association level; and the man who had most to do with the design of many Canterbury surf lifesaving club buildings. Griffiths had played a leading part in the original "new" building; he drew up the plans for the addition.



The junior canoe crew, 1965: John Powell, Alf Williams, Wes Newton and Paul Goldsmith.

Busy days, they were, in the mid-1960s; unlucky ones for Tony Harrow who went very close to selection in the New Zealand team late in 1964. Rex Dalton of North Beach and New Brighton's Graham Dann were the Canterbury choices. Busy for the lifeguards, too, for the 1964-65 season bought 51 rescues, then officially recorded as a New Zealand record for one beach. So it was with some concern that John Stead highlighted, in November 1966, the apathy of club members towards opening day and to Sunday club surf races.

There followed a general warning to members to pull up their socks. The women were told they'd be withdrawn from the national championships at Warrington unless they lifted their work-rate and patrollers generally were told in no uncertain terms that their efficiency was below par and \$1 fines could be imposed for sloppy work. Behaviour of club members raised its head again the following season. As though it did not have problems enough with

board riders endangering (other's) life and limb by intruding on flagged bathing areas, the club's own craft were often careering through the patrolled zone. Offenders were warned of a list of penalties, starting with a verbal warning at the first offence through the full range to suspension for persistent offenders.

But not all was negative. The club set about honouring, or attempting to honour, some of its old servants. As well as the framed testimonial to Bob and Nan Russell, there was a framed address for old George Haxell; life memberships for Monty Rattray and Harry Goldsmith.

There was a different sort of award for Bill Maguire -- "Brunner Bill" because he'd swum Lake Brunner, a mighty feat -- in 1964: he was reimbursed \$15 for new spectacles to replace those lost while on patrol. An unusual loss, but not fit to compare with Ian MacDonald losing a denture to a sand-crab while on an Aranui High School trip to Tahiti a few months before the 75th celebrations!

Another award which surfaced in 1968 was the Christchurch East Rotary Club's award for the outstanding junior, won initially by Errol Hunter -- by then settled down from the youngster with the mind of his own who had something of a running battle with the Steads in his early days!

And as the 1960s drew to a close, there was another distinction for the club. Paul Carpinter was the only South Islander chosen for the New Zealand delegation which visited the United States; he was also given the honour of being deputy leader. Sponsored on the trip by the *Christchurch Star*, Carpinter returned with a new and interesting rescue aid: a neoprene tube.

Its value was recognised at Taylor's Mistake and quickly further afield and in no time, the rescue tube became the most common aid to single-handed rescue in New Zealand surf lifesaving.

But another form of rescue, and resuscitation for that matter, still mattered more to Taylor's Mistake. The tide was about to turn.

Taylor's Mistake Surf Life-saving Club (Inc.)

SENIOR SIX-MAN RESCUE & RESUSCITATION TEAM, 1970-71

WINNERS N.Z. CHAMPIONSHIP (Nelson Shield), INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP (As Canterbury Team),
SOUTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, CANTERBURY CHAMPIONSHIP (Roy Blank Cup), KESTEVEN CUP



Green & Hahn Photography

Christchurch, N.Z.

P. S. GOLDSMITH G. G. PRATLEY C. J. READ
(Contd)
D. T. NEATE P. J. CARPENTER G. L. LE CREN W. B. MAGUIRE

THE NELSON SHIELD

In 1971, the Taylor's Mistake Surf Lifesaving Club carried, for the first time, a photograph in its annual report. From left, those photographed were Daryl Neate (mid line), Paul Carpenter (shallow line), Paul Goldsmith (belt), Graham Pratley, Chris Read (reel), Geoff Le Cren (patient), and Bill Maguire (deep line). Pratley was the coach, the others were a six-man team.

Not just any old six-man team, though: these were the pioneers, the historic team which finally broke through after a half-century of Taylor's Mistake men had been seeking the Nelson Shield.

It had been a long hard row, never easy, sometimes the difficulties were self-inflicted. In the mid 1950s, Graham Pratley felt the Nelson Shield was well within our reach but the attitude of members concerned him. The team didn't win in 1957, he said, because of a few silly mistakes ... more co-operation and team-work is definitely needed if the team is to come home in first place. And of the juniors, if practices were taken more seriously and attention paid to the instructors, the various teams would do much better.

Club captain Peter Stead took up the cudgels in 1958: The senior team, which by now should be at the top of its form, failed badly at the national championships through making mistake after mistake and so not even gaining a place in the heats. This team failed mainly because they started training too late and took training too lightly.

The message must have got through, despite results not improving markedly in 1959: The senior team was at its best for the Canterbury championships, winning both the major senior titles, but at the national championships could not maintain their earlier high standard; this was due to the fact that they did *not have a regular instructor to instruct them on the finer points of drill. This was a big disappointment for the team as they were really keen to train.*

To the older and non-competing members, I would like to say have a try at instructing. It takes up a fair amount of time but gives a great deal of satisfaction, not only to the instructor, but also to a team when it knows it has an instructor with the club's interest at heart.

In 1961, Monty Rattray was expressing concern at the lack of interest by seniors. *What can be done to raise some enthusiasm among them* he asked, and club captain Mike Mason promised to try to do something about it. This *laissez faire* attitude reflected also on patrols.

By the mid-1960s, then club captain Dave Bradley was to note that experienced full-time coaches is what this club lacks and he appealed for former competitors to help out. But by then Graham Pratley had moved up to coach the seniors; and at much the same time those young men who became the champion six (with the exception of the slightly older Le Cren) became seniors. Also a little ahead of them was Jock McNaught, who had time out of Christchurch before returning to belatedly win six-man honours as well.

Those young lifeguards grew up together at Taylor's Mistake. Paul Carpinter: *It wasn't a suburban beach like the rest in Canterbury, and it really was an incredible mix: there was such a variety of things to do.*

The *things to do* included the juniors, as they were, being first in the bunks, and the late-arriving seniors tossing them out for a comfortable place to sleep. Transport there was shared: McNaught remembers 13 in the Stead family's car.

The group recalled Peter Yock one day seeing a Ministry of Transport car crest the hill, and fully aware the MOT chappies wanted to talk meaningfully to him about a batch of speeding tickets. He promptly got the junior boat crew – one of them McNaught -- to row him far out to sea and out of the clutches of the government department which, ironically, also has responsibility for the marine!

But they were also extremely serious competitors who focused hard on success. Carpinter again: *Until 1960 we made a number of efforts to get national titles, but they eluded us. But from the mid-1960s, Taylor's Mistake was always going to be a dominant club. New Brighton had dominated for so long; suddenly there was another club doing it, and now there have been two dynasties -- maybe South Brighton will be the third.*



They were overshadowed by the Nelson Shield in 1971, but the women's four-place team was good enough to win again: Carol Duckmantion, Louise Walton, coach Errol Hunter, Sharon Anderson and Laurie Hunter.

Daryl Neate: *We first thought we'd won at Gisborne in 1969, that we'd beat Waikanae and stop them winning their fourth on the trot. We won the swim, we had Goldy (Paul Goldsmith) on the belt; I was on the line, and it felt really good, great. You know, you sense when it's all fallen into place. We thought we'd won, and damn the days, Waikanae won again. So by 1971, we'd almost given up hope of winning it. We'd had five or six seconds and thirds; and unless you've got that little bird on your shoulder, you're not going to win.*

Then there comes that time and you don't think you're going to win and all of a sudden it happens. It's a great moment.

Not that Taylor's Mistake was flush with top seniors.

Recalls Carpenter: *We had only a few seniors and at least 24 juniors -- we must have had that many because we fielded four six-man teams and had to borrow some old cotton togs for the D team. Oh, it must have been more than 24 -- we used to line up 30 in a surf race.*



NZ Champions March Past Team 1971

L – R (Standing) : Brian Erikson, Paul Carpenter, John Stead, Paul Goldsmith, Chris Read, Geoff le Cren, Daryl Neate, David Bradley

L – R (Front): Ross Maguire, Bill Maguire

One interesting factor in 1971 was the presence of the entire Taylor's Mistake six-man team in the Canterbury squad of 10. The team members' versatility helped in events like drill, beach, canoe and swimming and Neate by then was a highly-rated small craft paddler. He was also creative enough to put his ski rescue patient on the back of his racing ski, and that brought a protest and disqualification in that inter-districts event. *For years after that, we took our own rule books*, says Neville Duckmanton with feeling.

It was perhaps unfortunate for the Magnificent Seven that the elder member of their party -- instructor Pratley -- was also the club president at the time. Consequently, his annual report ignored his own contribution to *at last winning the Blue Riband event, the Nelson Shield. This is the first time the*

club has been successful in this premier event and to the six men who dedicated many hours of training, may I extend my congratulations on behalf of the club.



Where are they now? Who are they now? Ask Brian Erikson, whose photo this is from the late 1960s.

Team member Paul Carpenter was also then club captain: *I feel I should start this report as no other club captain in the history of the club has been able to -- the Nelson Shield has been won! The support given to the senior six by other members, both active and social, has been demonstrated in many ways. To everyone, on behalf of the team, many thanks: without you it would be very much more difficult.*

The Nelson Shield success was no flash in the pan. The same team also won the Kesteven Cup, the Ray Blank Cup for the Canterbury championship, the

South Island championship, and as the Canterbury team, the national interdistricts title as well. It truly was invincible.

And so it continued. There became an aura of invincibility about Taylor's Mistake six-man teams, even though one of the first champions, Chris Read, left the club and the Canterbury rugby fame he was starting to achieve straight after the titles at Waimairi, and headed for Auckland. His replacement at Ohope beach near Whakatane the next year was Errol Hunter.

That team won again. And it won in 1973 at New Plymouth, Peter Hay replacing Bill Maguire, and Goldsmith making the trip from Auckland to join the team and to complete - with Neate, Carpenter and Le Cren - a personal hat-trick. In the freezing conditions of Warrington beach in 1974, a fourth straight title, with again one change: Tim Dean in for Goldsmith.

So the great Waikanae record of five straight wins beckoned Taylor's Mistake to remote Waimarama beach, south of Hastings, in 1975. Stormy conditions lashed the beach (and nearly caused a transfer to Westshore), and there were some storm clouds at home. Graham Pratley, the only instructor to have won the Ted Hughes Trophy as champion instructor for four successive years, was winding down his 27 straight years of instructing Taylor's Mistake teams. He was not at Waimarama, and he says candidly in later years, he was not happy with the team. *I couldn't get the boys together, and I wasn't satisfied with their attitude. I got Paul Carpenter to take them a few times, but I still felt their attitude wasn't right, and I've always been a dominating personality: I just wouldn't accept it.*

He'd had his disappointments, too, after devoting so much time to instruction. In 1956, at Oreti beach, Invercargill, for example, he was convinced his junior four-man team had won, but it bowed to Eastern United and South Brighton. Pratley will still speak darkly of the judging - *which only got fairer when Blue Farey took charge.*

Those great rewards started coming in 1971, and Pratley recalls well Monty Rattray sidling up to him a little later at Daryl Neate's wedding: Well, you've done something we couldn't do. But by 1975, he was becoming disenchanted after nearly 27 consecutive years coaching club teams. Maybe the time had

come for a break and maybe, too, that 1975 team might acknowledge it was perhaps too complacent and expected success to again fall into its collective lap. Instead, how the mighty fell, and New Plymouth Old Boys - not a winner since 1934 - was the new champion; South Brighton won in 1976.

Pratley had retired and, still candid, he still says he's disappointed with not receiving a small acknowledgement. *All I expected was a little letter, and I told Michael Mason that when I told him I'd finished. Twenty-seven years was a long time, and while I really appreciated getting a life membership, not getting a letter was the only thing that hurt me.*

As has been mentioned, three of the original team really went the distance in Taylor's Mistake six-man teams; work transfers took Read and Goldsmith away. Bill Maguire was the one who quietly slid out of competition after a decade in which, these days, would earn him one of these "clubman of the year" titles. He was one of these practical blokes and a dedicated performer of whom Pratley is moved to comment would never let him down.

Maguire didn't let down Pratley the magician either. His old team-mates comment that no-one succumbed easier to Gordon Graham's Magic Show - the hypnotism area - than the bespectacled Maguire. *I was his best subject, I suppose: I just seemed to go under that easily. I went to a couple of shows with him and was his 'volunteer', but it was no jack-up - he really could send me out to it.*

But there were no tricks about his coaching. He had the ability and the gift of getting round people, a real perfectionist. At practice - and these were generally on Waimairi or North Beach, or New Brighton or South Brighton, on some bloody cold nights - we would do six runs through, in each position and he wanted it spot on in each of them. We'd do Saturdays and Sundays and two nights a week -- and outside that, everyone was expected to do their own thing in the pool.

But the six of us stuck together for, I suppose, six years, before we cracked it, and we were really a very close unit. We trained together, we competed together, and we played up together. And I still follow their results - no, I won't say they're not as good as we were. I went to watch them at the last nationals

at Christchurch, especially to watch the six, and I thought they looked pretty good to me.

Bill Maguire occupies a special one-sixth part of Taylor's Mistake's six-man history, because of that historic first win. But a cursory glance of the records of his period, throughout the 1960s and comfortably into the 1970s underlines his value as a "doer" round the club, a tradesman and a worker first attracted there because his days outside Papanui High School were spent training at rugby or at the Papanui pool and being enticed by pool trainer Brian Rattray to look across the far-distant hill.



Six-man action in 1975, when Taylor's Mistake did NOT equal Waikanae's five-in-a-row record: Daryl Neate (4), Paul Carpenter (6), and Tim Dean (5), support patient Errol Hunter. The belt swimmer is Peter Hay and out of the picture, on the reel, is Geoff Le Cren.

Pratley, as it happened, was an old boy of the same school, and also in the area were Dave Bradley and Charlie Barltrop. Wayne Mason, another Papanui boy, was another to join at much the same time as Maguire.

And Bill was the bloke who filled in wherever and whenever he was asked. While his strengths were as a dogged and dedicated swimmer, he paddled a canoe and rowed a boat simply to do a job for his club. There have been many more glamourous six-man competitors, but his old contemporaries remember W.B. Maguire with affection and respect.

While it means moving ahead of older history, it is appropriate here to continue the great chapter of Nelson Shield successes. The Shield returned at Gisborne in 1977, and the team personnel there, and in subsequent years, illustrates the compelling reasons for Taylor's Mistake successes. New coach Barry Turpin still had the old hands, Neate, Carpenter, Le Cren and Hunter; to them he added young Tim Bodger and Malcolm McClurg.



Part of the 1981 six-man team at home, but not totally the team which won at New Plymouth: dozing Geoff Le Cren; Malcolm McClurg (he's the shortish one); what-can-Mike-Regal-and-me-get-up-to-next Tim Bodger, bearded Daryl Neate and serious Simon Davis.

The winning team at New Plymouth really blew away its opposition in the heats. As Carpenter recalls: *Jock was on the reel, us other three old guys were on the line, and young Timmy (Bodger) and Simon Davis - the boys of the team - were in the water. We did under four points in the heat and really had it won, psychologically perhaps, from that point.*

McNaught opted out in 1982 and turned his attention to coaching, but the gradual replacement policy did not quite continue. Instead back in town came old hand Errol Hunter but in 1984, after years of honing his skills, Carl Immers moved into the top team for another win, at Westshore, Carpenter opting out and Ken Jones also joining Le Cren, Neate, Davis and Dene Waru, a recent transferee from South Brighton.

New Zealand team hopefuls (and eventual selections) Lars Humer and Rick Laing joined Taylor's Mistake from St Kilda for the 1984-85 season, and were drafted into the six-man team at New Brighton. With them were the everlasting Neate and Le Cren, plus Waru and Immers for Taylor's Mistake's tenth win.

But it was a strange-looking Taylor's Mistake team which next won in 1987. No Neate, no Le Cren, and no Carpenter -- all of them stepping down to the B team with Malcolm McClurg, Dougal Holmes and Dave Bodger. But the new-look team which still had Humer, Immers, Davis and Waru, but now also had Ian MacDonald jnr and Geoff Barry (on brief transfer from South Brighton) was still good enough to win.

That effrontery sparked the old hands back into action, and to one of New Zealand surf lifesaving's most amazing performances. On the tranquil Orewa beach in 1988, the championships having been transferred from stormy Muriwai, Taylor's Mistake moved one behind Maranui's record 13 titles. *The miraculous thing about that, says coach Jock McNaught, was that we drew our fifth best swimmer (Daryl Neate) in the belt, and he didn't even leave the beach first.*

Carpinter hotly contends that his old team-mate was the fifth-best swimmer -- he reckons he was, and says by way of evidence that when there was a belt swim to decide the last two places in the team, *Neate wouldn't go in it, and I had to beat Ian MacDonald by myself!*

Maybe "Sausage" was saving himself for his one big belt swim of the year, and what a swim it was. Without a wave to help him, Neate beat the lot to the buoys to give Taylor's Mistake a flying start. It was more than helpful, too, that Immers (tube swimmer) and Waru (patient) were both in the water, which left Carpenter (reel), Humer and Davis to perform the drilling duties.



Their record will never be broken: the 1988 six-man team which scored 0.00 deductions in the Nelson Shield: Carl Immers, Lars Humer, Simon Davis, Paul Carpenter, Daryl Neate, coach Jock McNaught and Dene Waru.

When the roar went up to proclaim Taylor's Mistake had set unbeatable history by scoring 0.00 points, Carpenter turned to Neate (or was it Neate turned to Carpenter?) and stated: *Well, we finally got it right.*

We blew it, says Carpenter of the 1989 championships at Mount Maunganui, but there was no blowing it back on New Brighton beach in 1990. The club for the thirteenth time, Neate for the twelfth time, Carpenter for the tenth time won the Nelson Shield again. But then, Immers and Waru were becoming old hands -- they'd then won five titles each - Ian MacDonald won his second, and young Dave Hill his first.

Thirteen Nelson Shield wins in two decades is a phenomenal performance: what more appropriate than the club should mark its diamond jubilee with a record-breaking fourteenth win?

The full list of six-man winners reads thus: Daryl Neate 12 (1971-90), Geoff Le Cren 10 (1971-85), Paul Carpenter 10 (1971-90), Errol Hunter 7 (1972-82), Carl Immers 5 (1984-90), Simon Davis 5 (1981-88), Dene Waru 5 (1984-90), Paul Goldsmith 3 (1971-73), Peter Hay 3 (1973-79), Tim Bodger 3 (1977-82), Lars Humer 3 (1985-88), Bill Maguire 2 (1971-72), Jock McNaught 2 (1979-81), Ian MacDonald jnr 2 (1987-90), Chris Read 1971, Tim Dean 1974, Malcolm McClurg 1977, Ken Jones 1984, Rick Laing 1985, Geoff Barry 1987, Dave Hill 1990.

Note, too, the instructors falling into a neat package: Pratley four times, from 1971 to 1974; Turpin in 1977-79-81-82; and McNaught in the victories since then -- five all told. Additionally McNaught is perhaps unique in that he had won both junior and senior six-man titles, and instructed the winning senior team. Turpin has instructed both winning junior and senior teams.

The final word from Neate, starting his third decade in the senior team, as the club celebrates 75 years, on why he should keep on keeping on. *More than anything, it's the comradeship. The guys I've been in with have been good guys, they've been mates. We egg each other on, and while it might start wearing thin, the season ends, and we say: we'll see you next year.*

It's been part of my life for the last 30 years, a much bigger part than I thought it would be. I simply can't give myself a reason to stop.



New Zealand junior iron man champion 1974, David Conder; six years later he added the senior title. Not many do that.

THE NEW BREED

The 1970s were times of social change: James K. Baxter was becoming an interesting cult figure up the Wanganui River, long hair was becoming the fashion, and South Africa was a hot potato. Not a firm favourite as a protest figure for New Zealanders -- because they hadn't then been through the ructions of 1981 and the Springboks tour -- so it wasn't perhaps surprising that when the visit of the 1971 South African surf lifesaving team met with generally warm approval from lifeguards. Taylor's Mistake certainly endorsed the tour, though Bob Hopkins stood up to be counted and had his dissent recorded.

So in these days of social turmoil, it's perhaps interesting to reflect on Paul Carpenter and Alex Bodger successfully proposing that six-man Rand R should be the club's policy for surf bronze candidates -- in other words, that those prospective members should be left in no doubt that they were expected to participate in that area. Tony Lewton didn't agree, but the seniors delivered their own compelling argument with that Nelson Shield victory.

There was also what might have been a conscious move away from surf boat racing at much the same time, given the argument of the aesthetes that it wasn't suited to Taylor's Mistake. *Pania* was sold to Oreti for \$120, complete with oars, rowlocks and warrant of fitness which must have pleased one-time rower Carpenter who brought additional honour to the club in this glorious year by becoming the inaugural winner of the Jim Sutherland Trophy as Canterbury's "surf lifesaver of the year".

There has probably been no finer technical expert in the far-reaching areas of the sport and movement, its psychology and physiology, the physical training and the mental training than university specialist Carpenter. But he didn't spare his club-mates for the poor attitude he perceived in the wake of the Nelson Shield win.

Noting acerbically that *when the occasion demanded, several club members gave of their very best to club duties, "PC" went on to note that the vast majority of them took the opportunity to place a hat on their heads and just lie on the sand. Little attention was paid to those bathing. No outward signs of responsibility regarding bathing were displayed. Once again the basic*

reason for our existence appears to have been forgotten if, indeed, it has ever been considered by some club members.

The club captain went on to outline abysmal responses to club fundraising ventures and suggested that *for the club which is the strongest in Canterbury and the third strongest in New Zealand, it's a poor show. If this is the way YOU want it, well, OK, but don't come complaining when you find subscriptions suddenly increase and there is no subsidy on travel to the nationals. When are we going to get the support of all our book members, because if it is not forthcoming, we might as well pack up?*

That was a major negative factor which Carpenter was wise to highlight. But there were some major positive aspects as the club strode into the 1970s. One was Steve Syme winning a B.A.L.M. scholarship; another -was some subtle changes in administration and the emergence of a truly champion lifeguard.

Graham Pratley retired as president, and while his coaching career was to continue another couple of years or so, his astonishing record of a quarter-century of full-on service to the club was drawing to a close. He did things wholeheartedly, did Pratley, much of which has been documented; but as a president, he believed in a full contributory effort and introduced a bit of a scoff-up as his own effort towards closing day.

One of Carpenter's most regular team-mates, Daryl Neate, succeeded him as club captain, but perhaps the most significance lay in a lad from Burnside High School, with no real link with the bay, except for living round the road from the McClurg boys, climbing great heights.

His name was David Conder, a lean lad without the imposing physique that marks many, not the champion swimmer, or the craft paddler that blitzed the opposition with great regularity. But Conder became one of the finest *surfers* in Taylor's Mistake's history, a young man with a finely-honed instinct for a wave and a drift and at his peak, the fitness to provide him with a choice of New Zealand titles.

There was an early taste of the Conder potential at the Whakatane beach of Ohope in 1972. He was third in the junior surf ski race; with Malcolm McClurg second in the ski rescue. McClurg repeated that result the next year,

while the pair combined for the junior double-ski championship.

But this kid Conder was building up to champion results, considering he was only just old enough to get his surf award when he picked up that third placing in the ski. That potential was turned into startling results on the bleak Warrington Beach of 1974, when driftwood was turned into bonfires to keep body and soul together.

Conder was part of the six-man R and R and march past teams which both finished third: note well that six-man performance, for he was later to forsake it in a strong show of personal choice. He was third in the ski rescue; second in the malibu board. Conder and Lindsay Jago combined to win the double-ski title, and to underline that impressive show of all-round ability, Conder won the junior iron man title, the first such winner. The senior six-man team was placed well in the shade by this shattering series of performances, and the writer well remembers this handy young water polo player being at pains to explain he couldn't really be available for a Canterbury team because he had this other stuff to worry about.

No flash in the pan, was David Conder, for in his first year as a senior, he finished third in the national long board race, and won the South Island iron man, long board and malibu board titles, and was third in the ski rescue. He kept up a record of South Island wins and national placings, principally in board and iron man, but with only one other victory, the malibu board at South Brighton in 1979. Then came Mount Manganui in 1980, of which more soon.

For Conder was not the only new boy of the early 1970s. Malcolm McClurg has been mentioned, and the early 1970s in fact brought the McClurg family into club administration. It started with Maurie, a bach-owner; then Wayne the oldest, followed by Greg and Malcolm in 1972, Nigel soon afterwards; and in due course Dianne was to marry Trevor Graham and start off another side of a Taylor's Mistake family.

Maurie spent a few years in the 1970s on the committee and he and his wife Merle became familiar figures on the time-keepers' bench. Present president Greg spent much of his administrative service out of the province, at Canterbury Association level (secretary, financial controller, team manager and vice-president), and had lengthy terms on the national body as public

relations officer, then funding officer. Nigel was also active, especially with juniors and small craft.



Craft man, club man Malcolm McClurg

But it is Malcolm McClurg who has made a major impact on Taylor's Mistake. He fashioned an extremely respectable competitive record, initially on surf skis as noted, then on malibu board and as a champion patient in ski rescue -- that paddling ability a valuable aid -- and entered Nelson Shield annals with a place in the champion 1977 team.

As with so many of Taylor's Mistake's members over the year, the McClurgs joined because of a bach. Maurie and Merle were renting one at Taylor's Mistake before their younger sons were born, then bought one. But it was sibling rivalry which dictated the first strengths of the two younger boys. *Nigel and I were quite competitive towards each other, very much so*, recalls the older Malcolm. *When I joined, right from 14, Ross Erikson taught me to paddle a ski properly and besides, there were really no malibu boards then; people usually paddled a surf board.*

But boards were starting to come along when Nigel came along, so he went

on to the board and I specialised in ski; through that, he became my ski rescue patient. I only went more into boards because there was less opposition.



The 1979 caption reckon they're the four original old men of the sea: Neville Duckmanton, Bob Hopkins, Nigel Cross and John McDonald.

Nor was it surprising Malcolm McClurg - like all the others, but he mostly, so far as Taylor's Mistake is concerned - should move into administration. *It's probably endemic to the family; we're all organisers to one degree or other. Mum was heavily involved in repertory, Dad in the Christchurch Movie Society, Wayne in his soccer club, Dianne in a variety of groups, Greg in all sorts. We'd seen our parents do it, and it just followed on.*

For all the variety of instructional and coaching positions Malcolm McClurg has filled, which culminated in club captaincy only relinquished late in the 1980s, he is firm in his insistence that youth was his greatest area of interest. *I had had such good times at Taylor's Mistake as a junior, I wanted to see later juniors enjoy it just as much. So while I've always enjoyed and liked seeing things being done, I most enjoyed looking after juniors -- organising them weekends away, or weekends at the bay, making sure the club had the gear for them, getting them to carnivals, getting them into events.* Hardly surprising, then, that in the season before the 75th anniversary, McClurg was busy in the pre-junior area, the nippers and cadets.

But he also has a sense of history and maintenance. *In my time, and with my involvement, we cleared out the back of the club-house, and put in the patrol room, the first aid room and the kitchen. And when Ducko (Neville Duckmanton) salvaged the old photos from the silverfish, I had the facilities for getting them restored -- and we got the people to pay for the new display and presentation of the photos.* He also quotes Duckmanton on another subject: *He said the only way you can keep your sanity in surf club administration is to treat it as a hobby, and that's what's kept me going. Perhaps that's why, too, I still want to be surfing when I'm 50!* The accompanying caricature is how a mate sees Malcolm McClurg at 50.

The name McClurg also features in the list of winners of the Christchurch East Rotary Club award. This was initiated with Errol Hunter the recipient in 1968, and he was succeeded by Stuart Kemp. Subsequent winners were Brent Maguire, Peter Garde, John Hulme, Lindsay Jago, Nigel McClurg, Ken Jones, Carl Immers and, in 1977, the first woman winner, Michelle Couzins.

The first half of the 1970s finished with Taylor's Mistake fourth-best club in the country, by dint of that placing in the Alan Gardner Trophy at the Waimarama nationals -- but no titles. The six-man team lost its crown, though still second; Daryl Neate, yet again, was second in the iron man and the ski final to boot. The march past team was runner-up; so were Malcolm and Nigel McClurg in ski rescue; and third placings went to the Taplin relay team and David Conder on the malibu board.

The tide started turning as new and efficient men moved into senior administrative posts. Neville Duckmanton became club captain, then Barry Turpin succeeded two two-term presidents, Maurice Duckmanton and Mike Mason, in the senior post. At the same time Daryl Neate's father-in-law took charge of the finances.

Raelene Jones' marriage to Neate was to have an important impact on the club. It sparked an interest in Taylor's Mistake and surf lifesaving in his young brother-in-law, a self-confessed mediocre swimmer in Ken Jones; and what more natural than that his father, Ray, should also develop an interest. Ray Jones became treasurer of the club in 1976, and was to hold the fiscal reins until his retirement in 1981. Five years might seem a brief reign compared to Jim Ballin, Bob Russell and Jim Turpin (who spent 12 years in the post), but

they were harrowing years, and financially demanding.

There was the decision in 1976 to build flats in Kuaka Crescent, Wainoni, as a money-earner -- Dave Bradley's project that one, but collecting rents wasn't always easy. And to make matters worse, along came the 1978 storm and the life-or-death matter of repairing and upgrading the club's defences against that often-wild and inconsiderate sea. Ray Jones' energy and enterprise, his drive and enthusiasm carried the club through what could have been disastrous times and he surpassed any other single person in the fund-raising area in those critical days.

The contribution of Gary Suckling should never be overlooked. He started a term of secretaryship in 1977, after some uncertainty in the post: four people served over a period of two years until Geoff Le Cren gave some continuity with a two and a half year term. Secretary Suckling spent four years in the job, covering that vital period in the rebuilding of the club's defences - but he is often remembered more in an off-beat way, and none of it his fault! In May 1978, his car was broken into, and the next meeting was told the minutes couldn't be read. For God knows what reason, the minute book had been among the items stolen: that book, covering club records and decisions in the period 1973-78 has never been recovered, a sad broken link in the club's history and doubly disturbing to a harassed researcher!

More stormy days were on the horizon, however.



Malcolm McClurg and a young team on helping-out duty at the 1990 nationals: Aaron Regan, Hamish Buchanan, Tarquin Smith, Guy Saxton and Dougal Holmes.



The late Barry Turpin, who by 1992 had filled every post of consequence in the club since joining in 1951. The above is a one-off six-man appearance in 1982, at K-Day when, with fellow six-man competitors Jim Turpin (belt), Jock McNaught (patient), Dave Bradley, Lin McIntosh and Ian MacDonald, Taylor's Mistake fielded a team whose combined ages totalled 256 years!

STORM IN A PIE-CART

On February 16, 1977, the South Island championships finished on Warrington beach and car-loads of lifeguards and their followers headed back to Christchurch. Most of them had the foresight to stock up with a beer or two. Not many had food laid in, however, so it was a natural move to stop for a feed at the pie-cart in Oamaru.

The boys (and girls) were ready for a feed; the woman working at the pie- cart was not ready to feed such a horde. So she telephoned the boss to come to her rescue.

While he was heading there from his home, the boys (and girls) were in good voice and in good humour. They had a drink or two while they were waiting for their feeds and the Taylor's Mistake president of the day, Barry Turpin, recalls the information he subsequently sought (for he wasn't there) gave him to understand the woman in the pie cart didn't appear to mind the high spirits.

It's clear it was all fairly harmless and good natured, if rather high- spirited. But the mood changed when the boss arrived. Maybe he was upset at having to come out on a Sunday night; I don't know. But he got pretty shirty: he wouldn't serve some of the boys, ordered some out, went crook about them having a beer.

Well, it appears two or three of those sent out unhitched the lights to his tractor-and that was it, no more.

But the owner wasn't about to leave the matter there. He got on to the news media, and the Oamaru Pie Cart pranks became headline news. Highly emotive language and claims were made, various clubs' names were mentioned and undoubtedly involved. But in the end, Taylor's Mistake carried the can totally.

We paid all the bills, and some of them were pretty exorbitant: I reckon the pie cart would have been done up for the rest of its life. Turpin recalls many years on. But we didn't question any of them; there were no hassles; and the bills were paid. The guys paid them, too -I made sure of that.

Three members were also suspended by the club- no names, no pack drill -and the beleaguered president found another hot potato in his lap. One of them arrived at the national championships in Gisborne.

I was in a real flap. I had a talk to him as soon as I saw him, but he wasn't in much condition to take in what I was saying. So I went to the New Zealand association and laid it out for them, that this bloke was suspended, he had arrived of his own volition, but had nothing to do with the club and we didn't want anything rebounding on us. Fortunately, I was able to talk sense to him the next morning and he quietly headed home.

A little over a year later, on July 20, 1978, Taylor's Mistake faced another storm. The effects of such a storm have been told earlier by Neville Duckmanton, and there is no question this was a shattering blow to the club - and to Malcolm McClurg, for one, for he had painstakingly restored a cave dwelling and that was wrecked beyond repair.

The wrecked frontage to the club-house was the lead item in the newspaper, occupying a quarter of the front page of *The Press*, with a photograph of president Barry Turpin thoughtfully examining these huge cracks along the concrete apron that was the only bulwark to the sea. It was strictly a matter of hoping and waiting for the raging sea to subside, and when the tide dropped to hastily get in some boulders as bulwarks.

The club was indeed fortunate that Frank Campbell gave the boulders and within a day, Keith Beardsley - a surf lifesaving man with New Brighton, then South Brighton connections - provided the trucks to cart the boulders.

It was a near-tragedy that tested the mettle of the club, and which was not found wanting, and in short order the effects of the disastrous storm had appropriate donations rolling in. They helped immeasurably, that and the drive of Ray Jones.

And another factor, and a catalyst in the recovery from the twin storms lay in a saturnine Australian.

Graeme Romei had toured New Zealand in the 1976-77 summer with a Liverpool Zone (Sydney) junior water polo team as coach; Taylor's club captain Neville Duckmanton had a gut feeling he could be the man to lift

Taylor's Mistake as a competitive surf lifesaving force. We needed an inspiration, a top swimmer to go with our good craft people, someone to set a standard, to light a flame if you like. He was certainly a major motivational force, not because he sought or demanded those results, but because his own performances insisted he deserved support. I, for one, consider, his double-swim in the South Island championship Taplin relay perhaps the greatest swimming performance I've ever seen in the surf.

Let *The Press* take up the story of that championship meeting on the weekend of February 4-5 1978-

While the rules state he should not be allowed to do so, there was no detracting from the great swimming quality of Graeme Romei in the Hanes South Island ... championships at South Brighton ... The bending of the rules, in innocence, by Romei and Taylor's Mistake came in the open Taplin relay ... Taylor's Mistake asked, and was nodded approval, to use the outstanding Romei in both swimming legs, and how well he served his new club in this demanding assignment ... Taylor's Mistake's Dave Conder and Ken Jones shaded (Waimairi's) Kevin Baker and Kent Pearson on the boards before Romei took over. Starting with a slight lead on Brian Honeybone, Romei finished a minute clear.

That done, he rounded the flags and set off into the surf again, increasing his lead over Steve Johnston by another half-minute ... After that, it was a simple matter for Daryl Symonds and Daryl Neate to stay in front on the skis ...

Romei, no question, was the inspiration for Taylor's Mistake to bounce back from the pie-cart, the storm, to regain its Canterbury pennant championship. His sheer presence inspired a team of old hands Neate and Le Cren and all-rounder Conder to win the Black and White Cup; and at the national championships, he himself won the surf race - though only second in the 24 to 30 race - and other runner-up placings also went to Conder, in both the iron man and board, and Romei in the belt.



The superb Graeme Romei in the belt, a New Zealand title he desperately sought but never won.

Before those championships, the Canterbury team went on a tour to Victoria. It was one of these Canterbury teams which was much like many others. With a difference. Far and away the youngest of the seniors was the flaxen-haired first year Taylor's Mistake senior, just 18½, Ken Jones.

An account at the time revealed a club-mate trying to describe him: *He's ... oh, you know ... um, oh, like the invisible man.* That description came about because Ken Jones indeed had a visual resemblance to David McCallum, the actor who played *The Invisible Man*. But to many at the time, he was also the invisible man, the anonymous character who slipped into the provincial team in an unfamiliar role.

For that selection, Ken Jones would be one of the first to acknowledge he owed a debt to club-mate David Conder, who was intent on pursuing, that season, his own personal and understandable aims in individual events. He was not interested in being considered for six-man. Like the keen lad he was, Jones was ready for anything, and while he doesn't rank as the greatest of Taylor's Mistake's six-man exponents, he was prepared to give it a crack.

So he won a place-but it was on all-round ability, not by default. For take on board that he had furnished a fine record as a junior in small craft, though resigned to always chasing home Simon Davis, could cut a fair dash in beach events and in a canoe, and was prepared to practice R and R.



Anxious glances from long-haired Ken Jones and longer-haired Simon Davis before they set out after the 1977 double-ski junior national title.

It must have been a delicious moment in 1985 when a then transferred Ken Jones returned to home beaches, at New Brighton, and won a national six-man title with the United club.

He was, overall, a fine club-man, in the mould of contemporaries like Tim Bodger, Davis and Mike Regal and it was with affection, not rancour, that it was said of father Ray Jones as treasurer that he set about improving the range of club gear *especially boards for Ken!*

Ken Jones made that dramatic entry to a Canterbury team, but he would acknowledge that a greater impact has been made on the club's performance by his old junior partner, Simon Davis. It's neither over-complimentary nor derogatory to either to suggest that Davis has been the classical athlete, the clinical performer, who has led the way, while Jones has been the dogged battler who has forced his way into results and recognition while always suggesting he had to return 110 per cent to do so. Davis, in a way, was the new Neate, but he perhaps came along a decade too late to hope to match the old master; the business pressures were different and more intensive, the events were more wide-ranging; there was less time and opportunity to master them.

So Davis had to cut his cloth, often contesting the six-man but sometimes not as he sought titles well within his grasp in iron man, for a start, but more often in ski and maybe board.

Back in six-man competition in the jubilee year, Davis admits it's not an event he particularly enjoys - *but you tend to enjoy winning and because it's a team effort. If you tell the truth, I think most people didn't want to do six-man when they started out, but were dragged into it at Taylor's Mistake. It's sort of a compulsory exercise.*

Almost inevitably, it was a bach at Taylor's Mistake which got Davis into the club, but not his own family's. He was a mate of Ken Jones at primary school, and would stay with the Joneses when they hired a bach at the bay. *I was more into competitive tennis then, but I got to like the place.*

And the younger McClurg brothers were an influence on me. They were a couple of years older than me, but Nigel was still a junior and I was his ski rescue patient for a while. At that time, too, they'd just imported a red and white Hannah ski, the first fibre-glass ski here, and they let me ride it. When they saw I could handle it OK, they let me compete on it, a real privilege.

So Davis became a highly-accomplished ski paddler, yet to win a national title in the straight ski race, but a fearsome competitor in ski rescue, as the record shows. But it's not an individual (or two-man) title he most fondly remembers. He instead points to the Taplin relay success in 1985, at New Brighton, when

Davis and Richard Boyle paddled ski, Lars Humer and Ken Jones the malibu board, and Rick Laing and Carl Immers did the swimming legs.

That's the best I've won, in front of a home crowd, and with what was a fairly young team.

Humer and Laing were most recently from Dunedin's St Kilda club, and after some time trying for Nelson Shield success, they only scored it when shifting to Taylor's Mistake. But Immers was a home-grown product, first coerced into the club by his physed teacher at Cashmere High School, Brian Rattray. *He got a group of us there, but Amanda Kay's the only other one who really stayed around long.*

Inmers quickly made an impact in swimming events, though he stopped regular training when he started high school, and he found he could get away with no training as a junior. Put into a 'six-man team as a junior, I didn't really like it, but it's another gold medal!

It also meant compulsory training, and as a senior, the results started coming with more regularity. Immers became a tube rescue specialist, with eventual national success, but he was also a more than competitive swimmer in belt races and surf races, and won the Brass Monkey race from 1979 to 1983, missing only in 1981. Just qualifying in 1990, he was second in the over-30 surf race at the national championships-*something else that keeps me going.*

The year 1978 brought to an end the first reign of Neville Duckmanton as club captain, a period when with president Turpin and treasurer Jones he had to ride those storms, both of Oamaru and of Taylor's Mistake, the unexpected loss of the Canterbury championship pennant in 1977, its triumphant retrieval, and the successful snaring of Romei.

We needed a lift, we needed a top-rate import to provide that lift, and he was the perfect guy to do that, says Duckmanton in retrospect.

Duckmanton got his surf award the day before he turned 14, *and I can still remember starting at the surf club, the old man getting ear-bashed by Barry Turpin at the top of the steps to the club-house.*



Westpac

Back-to-back winners of the national tube rescue title, Carl Immers and Ian MacDonald; and, at right, top junior board paddler of the early 1980s, Laurie McKeown, sprints from the sea.

Confessing to being not very good at competition, though a keen canoe paddler, Duckmanton followed his father into administration. *I've always been keen on the rescue side of things, and that developed when they sent me to the Todd Park Training School. I really enjoyed that -- a lot of good people came out of it from all round New Zealand, and the educational trip to California really topped it off. I started doing paid patrols, educational work, and surf awards and so on. I was always into restructuring committees and changing things-poking my nose into other people's business!*

Duckmanton can't yet find the time to consider the club presidency, which seems the only job left for him to tackle. He denies that: *I'm way behind Barry Turpin: I haven't been treasurer yet*, but he also has a very solid record at Canterbury association level.

He spent four years as secretary and long terms as patrols convener, and as the organiser of paid patrols in the Christmas period. Fittingly, he saw Taylor's Mistake win the Patrol Efficiency Award in 1977, but confesses now to some subterfuge.

We were leading, and come the last weekend of the season, we knew we had to have a visit. Paul Carpinter was one of the patrol team, so was Daryl Neate, but when we saw Scoop (Graham Elmsly) and Killer (Ivan Kilroy) coming down the hill, we knew we had to score well. We had the binoculars on the hill to check who we had!

Next thing, Scoop in his red shorts and carrying flippers got into the sea: he was going to stage a rescue necessity. So we sent Daryl out on a board to shadow him. There was Scoop swimming out of the flagged area; there was Sausage trying to herd him back between the flags. And when Scoop put up his hand, Daryl grabbed him just about straight away, and brought him in, with me and Carps on the beach to do the resus. We couldn't lose after that!

It's not often rescues have to be stage-managed at Taylor's Mistake - that scorching day in February 1973, when Canterbury temperatures reached a record 41 degrees, there were 15 pulled out in an hour and a half, Dave Bradley and Paul Carpinter earning a "rescue of the year" citation for one effort. Successful as Duckmanton was, his successor could not be seen as a lame duck. Far from, for Jock McNaught went on the offensive in his first report, deeply concerned at the quality of patrols, and two years later, in 1981, he felt constrained to require the club to reaffirm that *the main purpose of this club is to effectively patrol Taylor's Mistake beach and he undertook to reinforce the patrolling aspects of the club, if necessary at the expense of other activities*. For a club which was priding itself, and promoting itself on the quality of its athletic achievement, tough words indeed.

Work transfers had kept McNaught away from Taylor's Mistake for 10 years. He had been a successful junior under the tutelage of Barry Turpin, "doing everything" and enjoying first and second placings in national six- man competition, second in the canoe with Dave Bradley, Ian MacDonald and Brian Lane, third in the boat.

But only two years a senior, he was off to Wellington, and involved in a Christchurch Old Boys section at Titahi Bay. *Barry Turpin was there then, and with the likes of Blair Campbell and Alistair Hunter from Sumner, Kerry McDonald, Bas Stanton from Sumner, we formed a six-man team, the first Titahi had had. Barry was our coach and we even made a couple of finals. Then when Alex Bodger arrived in town, too, we went down to Lyall Bay and got third at Waimarama in 1975 - but behind Taylor's Mistake.*

Back home and back at Taylor's Mistake in 1979, McNaught returned successfully to its six-man teams; and when Turpin retired as coach, stepped smoothly into that role. As already recorded, he has now passed Pratley and Turpin as the coach of winning six-man teams, but he dismisses the facts and figures.

I was just lucky; I came in at the end, when the outline was built. Graham passed it on to Barry and he consolidated those results. You've got to face facts: Barry coached me as a junior, and just look at the group that went through from when he took the juniors. He had Daryl Neate, Paul Carpenter, Geoff Le Cren - all those guys, and that really captures my imagination. I still think he's one of the best coaches New Zealand has, and I look in some awe at what he did with that New Brighton team in no time at all.

And one slightly off-key point from McNaught. He contends that since Taylor's Mistake started winning the Nelson Shield, only teams with a Taylor's Mistake influence have beaten the club's teams.

We gave Goldy to New Plymouth Old Boys, Ken Jones to United, Rick Laing to Waikanae - even Geoff Barry had to come over for a season to learn all about it. We showed those clubs, through the guys we generously gave to them, how to win the Nelson Shield!



Nick Elsmore, 1985 New Zealand junior belt champion, and Carolyn Pearce, third in the inaugural national women's board championship, 1964, and for so long carrying the Taylor's Mistake flag in a variety of events.

BEST CLUB IN NEW ZEALAND

As the 1980s dawned, the club which was founded on the need to have a reel and line permanently located on its beach found a brash challenger.

These bright orange boats which had been bouncing spectacularly round Australian beaches had crossed the Tasman and were muscling in on the New Zealand scene. They were called Inshore Rescue Boats - the less-enlightened think the IRB initials stand for Inflatable Rescue Boats - and were quickly dubbed Rubber Duckies, or the "Duck" for short.

They had a champion at Taylor's Mistake in Steve Syme, and perhaps because he could be regarded as at the short end of a competitive career, the craft was tended to be dismissed as not credible. They weren't for a *true* lifeguard, the people who were young and fit and did pool training or on a craft.

No question, they were just an extravagant toy, which were never going to play a major role in lifesaving, says Syme. They were just a menace on the high seas. But we chipped away and got one, with Sumner the first club in Canterbury, the first in the South Island, to have one.

Barney Ballin paid for that first one, ***Miss Green Bottle***, and in the first two seasons it proved itself and was accepted as a full and major contributor to patrolling and lifesaving. The crew training was strict, the criteria had hard and fast rules relating to training.

Syme became unequivocally associated with the "Duck" but he had some stalwart offsiders, men like Bob Hopkins, Neville Duckmantion, Daryl Symonds, John McDonald, Gerry Huston, and Greg McClurg and, after transferring from Pegasus, Mike Pope. After five years, ***Miss Green Bottle*** was becoming a tad tired and needed replacing - as is the way in these things, Syme bought her - and service clubs helped out with new motors. And the IRB craft not only became major lifesavers at Taylor's Mistake - Neville Duckmantion's graphs illustrate that well enough - but they also helped phase out the faithful old jet rescue boat which had done a useful job on Canterbury waters.

But the IRB was so much more versatile, and at the outset of the 1990s, this

was shown when it combined with a Defence Department Iriquois helicopter to effect a rescue from the foot of the cliff after a person had fallen from the old *Pilgrim's* track. *That really underlined the use of these types of craft*, says Syme, *and I also look to one Christmas when we were flat out pulling them, a range of work beyond the capability of swimmers. The motor meant we could handle that much more.*

Mind you - with a sly grin - I wouldn't suggest that's the reason the R and R guys have never been involved in the IRB!

It's also a competitive unit, but it was only in the early days that Taylor's Mistake really tackled national championships, in those days held outside the competitive season. Steve Syme and Mike Regal took silver medals in the A division of the mass rescue in 1983 at Oakura, and B crew Nigel Cross and Daryl Symonds finished fifth.

Bob Hopkins - Hoppy - chimes in with just two candid comments in the period between Taylor's Mistake's 50th and 70th years. He suggested, at the outset of the 80s, that the club should scrap the shop. It had been there for 60 years, but with barely a whimper of opposition, the shop slipped away: thank refrigerators and microwaves, electric power and preservatives.

But if that was an historic suggestion, there was an even more historic event on the competitive level. On the picturesque Mount Maunganui beach, in conditions which ranged from the ripplelessness of a pool to a cut from the classic movie, *The Cruel Sea*, Taylor's Mistake became the champion club of all New Zealand.

This was a memorable championship meeting. Those who were there still remember taking to the hot pools nearby for warmth; of hiding in the Mount Maunganui Hotel and playing cards, and talking to Arthur Alan Thomas as he sought signatures for his petition seeking a pardon; of occasionally venturing forth to the edge of that storm-flecked sea to watch many gallants battling horrendous conditions, some of them in the sanctuary of the Tauranga Harbour.

The Hawaii of Thursday and Friday became Horrific of Saturday and Sunday and on this rather restricted beach - not a helluva lot bigger than Taylor's

Mistake, which in 1951 had unsuccessfully sought the championships and will probably never get them - there were many champions. But was any greater than David Conder as he demonstrated surf skills and sense that no other could match in winning the senior iron man title and becoming the first man to add that crown to the junior title.

The successes of Taylor's Mistake at Mount Maunganui are told graphically in picture and in print in this story, but to these must be told the brief tale of the march past finishing in car headlights. The one-year influx of Geoff Walker was a major contributor to those successes, but the might of Conder ranked even more significantly.

Another point worth considering was that Taylor's Mistake achieved those results without a significant input from the juniors. They were essentially a young group, but the subsequent value of young men like Dave Hill, Laurie McKeown, Dougal Holmes and others will become apparent.

Hill in 1981 was sent to North Cronulla on a junior exchange scheme, and he had been earmarked for administrative duty from an early age. Like Le Cren 21 years earlier, his first nationals in 1979 were as a ski rescue patient, and he regularly performed that function for Holmes, the two fast friends and both to become club captain. On the way, Hill was gear steward, publicity officer, women's coach and, with Dave Bodger, coaching a junior team to runner-up position at the nationals.

The younger brigade, and women competitors, occupied much attention through the 1980s. Jan Lane got nippers into high gear, her own son, Jacob, a highly-successful competitor from an early age; and after a lapse for a year or two, the work's been carried on by Malcom McClurg, then Gary Still.

The women's side of the club had gone into a quite alarming decline and it was only in 1985 that an older group - Jan Lane, Liz Stone and others - got Taylor's Mistake represented again on the beach. The last significant success had been in the women's four-place at the South Brighton nationals six years earlier, and that was not a truly Taylor's Mistake team: Louise Duckmanton and Sharon MacDonald (Anderson) were joined by Carol Symonds (Brown, ex-South Brighton) and Kate Carpinter (Harris, ex-New Brighton).

The arrival in 1983 of Megan Haynes also brought small craft expertise to complement that of Carolyn Pearce, and the latter made history in 1988 when she became the first woman to compete in the Nelson Shield final, as a member of the Taylor's Mistake B Team. A rule change late in 1985 declared all senior events to be open events, originally propounded to accommodate juniors but also, inadvertently, opening the door to women. The Haynes arrival also meant Dene Waru - soon to be her husband - joined the club, and poised to become a regular and successful six-man team member.

At much the same period, Ian MacDonald jnr and Dave Bodger joined the club; John Dimick transferred from New Brighton for six-man competition (and thus improving his prospects of Canterbury team selection); and John Monck became secretary.

A member of a well-known family in the district, "Monze" has given faithful service, not just as secretary (a secretary once, long ago, chided for the brevity of his minutes!), but also in organising an "oldie" team of lifeguards to patrol Taylor's Mistake when the younger blokes were away at carnivals and competition. In his retiring message as club captain, Malcolm McClurg fully praised Monck for his all-round contribution.

Taylor's Mistake lost the Canterbury pennant to South Brighton in 1985, but greater national honours fell on the club. Lars Humer won a place in the "world" team to compete against Australia and Rick Laing was selected for New Zealand in his only year at the club.

And while it might not have been provincial champion, Taylor's Mistake was third best in New Zealand at the nationals on New Brighton beach, winning the six-man, march past, Taplin relay and Nick Elsmore the junior belt race. Runner-up placings also went to the open four-man team and Simon Davis and Malcolm McClurg in the ski rescue. Davis improved that placing by one the next season, then with iron man champion Humer as his patient, and Humer was again a New Zealand rep.

Other national honours went to Barry Turpin, becoming a New Zealand selector, and Greg McClurg, who had served three years as national public relations officer, moved into the new position of funding officer. He also moved on to the club's committee for the first time in 1986 and, on becoming

an announcer at national championships, was succeeded in the club's managerial role by his highly-efficient brother-in-law, Trevor Graham.

Indeed, much of the success of Taylor's Mistake through the 1980s, particularly the latter part, could be laid at the feet of relatively unheralded people like "Freddy" Graham and Mike Regan, who has followed a hard act played by Ray Jones as treasurer, and been a major success.

There were both bouquets and brickbats in 1987. Dave Hill, Jacob Lane, Wayne Eastwick and Ian McKeown were praised for rescues performed outside patrol hours in what was a busy season: 67 rescues were recorded. But while the work in the water was outstanding, there was apparently not much work inside the club-house. John Monck's minutes of November 9, 1987, tersely record that the club-house is *an absolute disgrace to us, the public and visitors in general. We are not a very house-proud club, and it is not good enough.*

But Malcolm McClurg was into his club-house enhancement programme by then, with much of the help coming from Robert Flood ("Puddles"), Daryl Symonds, Ken Jones and Don Stewart; and he had an unexpected bonus for this work. In 1988, George Nelson Haxell died at the venerable age of 99, and left \$21,000 to the club which had been a major part of his life for 72 years.

The money was devoted to the building programme, and on January 22, 1989, the George Haxell Lounge was declared open. Just in time, too, for only six days later, the club had the biggest competitive event of its history, staging the biennial test between New Zealand and Australia. Men like Jim Turpin and Trevor Graham worked hard and long on this major and high-profile day in the life of Taylor's Mistake and there was not a beat missed in the televised competition which was also screened in Australia.

In addition to becoming something of a property owner, grateful bach-holders in October 1989 gifting a section to the club, Taylor's Mistake could also point to considerable reserves. Careful fiscal management by Mike Regan revealed profits for the two years between March 1987 and 89 of \$30,616, and late in 1989, it could offer incentive schemes. Robert Anderson, Kate Stokes, Andrew Bell, Sarah Harrow, Candice Lane and Richard Boyle were the successful applicants; Samuel Saxton got board coaching fees.



Modern technology: South Brighton beach relay runner Aaron Davis had a fearful collision on K Day 1989 and it was not thought wise to move him by the rough and ready Taylor's Mistake Road. He was transported to hospital -- and no serious damage -- by this spectacular air-lift.

Gaming machines installed at the Lyttelton Hotel brought in much of the funds and as success appears to begat success, there were some high points on the competitive front. As well as winning the open and junior march past titles in 1989, Taylor's Mistake had won the male surf race championships, thanks to Mike Bouwmeester (open) and Andrew Bell.

Administratively came further honours: Barry Turpin became a life member of the Canterbury association, Malcolm McClurg the first Taylor's Mistake winner in many years of the Canterbury 'surf lifesaver of the year' award.

And it was time, too, to honour at club level two old hands. Past presidents Jim Turpin and Dave Bradley became life members.

Bradley lived in Papanui as a boy, and when he was 16, his family had a holiday at Taylor's Mistake *totally against my will. I wanted to continue to swim in the river; it was too far to go to the beach. And then I just got interested in the place, and found I could body-surf. Someone said why didn't I join, and a shrug of the shoulders, I thought I might as well. Next thing I met reprobates like Turpin and Hatchwell, Gerard O'Callaghan and Gary Doyle.*

Bradley became a pretty capable all-rounder - beach events, canoe, malibu board, six-man - *but never rowed the boat. I told them they could stick that. Those big oars floating around didn't impress me at all!*

National titles forever eluded Bradley, though. *We won the march past. Huh, fat use - no medals for that! I made about half a dozen beach sprint finals and the best I could do was fourth. Usually with Bob Beer, Geoff Le Cren, Peter Hatchwell, we won numerous Canterbury beach relay titles - but, two or three times, only seconds at the nationals. I got four canoe silver medals, and made board finals a few times.*

Ah, Dave Bradley on boards. *We used to ride them with chairs a few times, those early boards Tony Johnson made for us. Oh yes, we killed a few people at Taylor's Mistake on our boards.*

Bradley also made newspaper headlines in March 1966. A matter of days after the club had celebrated its first 50 years, Bradley was back at the Russley Hotel downing a yard of beer in 14.8 seconds. It was then a world record:

*Some German joker held the record, but I never claimed it, though it was authentic; no going in the **Guinness Book of Records**.*



The men who did most to win the Alan Gardner Trophy for the first time in 1980, the taplin relay team: ski paddlers Simon Davis and Daryl Neate, swimmers Geoff Walker (also second in malibu board and long board, and third in the iron man) and Carl Immers (third in the tube rescue with Lindsay Jago), and board paddlers Dave Conder (iron man and long board champion) and Malcolm McClurg. Neate and Walker also won the double ski, Conder and McClurg third; and Walker and Conder won the ski rescue. We nearly forgot, the two in front are president Barry Turpin with the Alan Gardner Trophy and club captain Jock McNaught with the Hanes Trophy for the taplin relay.

Quick at slaking a thirst, Dave Bradley was equally sharp when it came to getting round officialese and bureaucracy. Denied a permit to pull down the old house on Taylor's Mistake Road, but allowed to renovate and improve, Bradley did just that: he left only one wall of the bathroom standing, and renovated round it!



A big day and a big crowd at Taylor's Mistake on January 28, 1988, for the biennial test between New Zealand and Australia.

Jim Turpin joined in 1955, three years ahead of Bradley, and was a distinctly useful surf swimmer, though like Bradley, titles eluded him. But he won a place in the South Island Ross Trophy team in 1959, for the junior inter-island surf relay; was also in the Canterbury team that year, and again as a senior in 1964. He'd also been seventh in the national surf race in 1961.

But "Tiger" Turpin's great value to the club lay in administration and instruction. Duty club captain in 1957-58, he coached club teams between 1959 and 64, juniors and women, and had a 12-year term as treasurer. That coincided with filling similar roles with both the New Zealand Amateur Swimming Association and the New Zealand Water Polo Board. A vice-president of the club from 1972, he had a three-year term as president.

And the service of "Jock" McNaught since his return from Wellington must be stressed. He returned to Taylor's Mistake competition at an age when many would consider retirement; turned to instruction immediately on retirement; took over the club captaincy, then succeeded to the presidency. His imminent return to Wellington is a sad blow.

Taylor's Mistake headed into the 1990s and towards its 75th year as a club

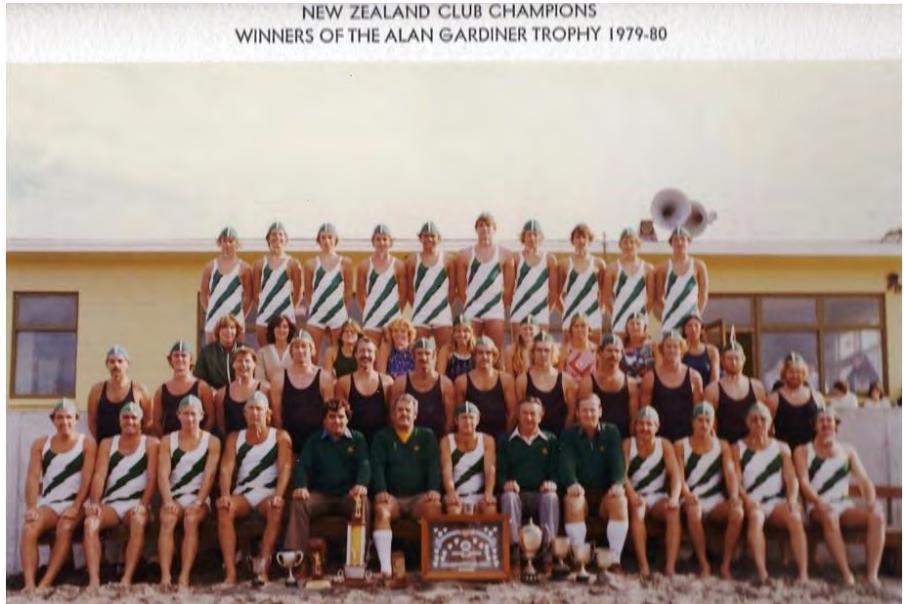
buoyant in spirit, in finance and in membership. A great influx of hot swimmers, especially women, brought it rich national honours - first and second in the women's team race - and it could point to strength in all divisions, from the veteran seniors to the youngest nippers.

It's a far cry from young Henry Rex Hunnibell's misadventures of Boxing Day 1915; the rescue organised by Waiter Main Campbell; *The Pilgrim* and his "rest"; the two Jims who were said to be the two screws which drove the good ship Taylor's Mistake; Frank Kesteven (Kestevan?) and his cup; the champion swimmers of the 1920s and 30s; the handful who kept the club afloat in the war years; the eventually-rewarded coaching efforts of Pratley, and of his successors, Barry Turpin and Jock McNaught; the all-round might of Daryl Neate ...

Researching and reliving it has been a fascinating and pleasurable chore. I hope the reader has found it similarly fascinating.

The full "team" which won the Alan Gardner Trophy in 1980. The men in civvies flanking club captain Jock McNaught are manager Greg McClurg, president Barry Turpin, treasurer Ray Jones and women's instructor Ray Rountree.

NEW ZEALAND CLUB CHAMPIONS
WINNERS OF THE ALAN GARDINER TROPHY 1979-80





Preparing to take Taylor's Mistake through its next 75 years: Youth Training Officer Malcolm McClurg is flanked at rear by Heath McCormick, Sebastian Enberg, Kim Saxton, Matthew Claridge and Jesse Newman. Just in front of them are Abby-Kate McCormick, Michael Holland, Tim Claridge, Jana Newman and Kerry Cook; while the front five are Peter Holland, Thomas Holland, Frances Lunt, Cleo Still and Rupert Enberg.



New Zealand surf race winners all as the club headed for its jubilee: cheerful Andrew Bell (junior), happy Joanne Third (women) and pensive Mike Bouwmeester (open).



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CHANGING ECONOMIES

Sports clubs nationally are challenged to recruit members, retain members and raise finance. Taylor's Mistake is no different. As a service and sports club the demand to remain solvent is considerable. Equipment for competitors and the rescue service is expensive and the club is reliant upon donations and fund raising.

In the last 25 years the financial landscape has changed dramatically for sports clubs and Taylor's Mistake has not been exempt from the changes. Member's subscriptions contribute only a small percentage of the overall income for the club, leaving the balance to be found elsewhere.

A good part of that additional income in recent years has come from sponsorship, and the Taylor's Mistake office holders in the last 25 years have been adept at earning their share of the sponsorship pot. Jim Turpin, a former president, who is still deeply involved as the club treasurer, said the landscape for sports clubs began to change in the late 1980's as the club approached its seventy-fifth anniversary.

A combination of events led to the changes. First there was the effect of the Government opening the national economy. It was more commonly known as Rogernomics after the Finance Minister of the time, Roger Douglas. The introduction of weekend trading and student loans for tertiary study both impacted on club membership. It was suddenly more difficult to attract young members, and when they did recruit those members, retaining them for beach patrols was difficult. Involving them in whatever fundraising the club wanted to undertake was more difficult.

One of the major benefits of Rogernomics was a more liberal attitude to gambling, and in the late 1980's the introduction of Lotto and poker machine charities opened a new source of funding for sports clubs and numerous charitable organisations.

A consequence of the new liberal attitude helped bring about the sale of Trustbank Canterbury, one of the biggest banks in the province when it was sold. Proceeds from the sale led to the foundation of the Canterbury Community Trust which earns millions of dollars from its substantial nest egg

which have been invested in projects throughout the province. Turpin said weekend trading and the need for students to repay loans brought about a dramatic change to the number of young members at the beach whether training, on patrol, or socially.

“They had to work weekends. If you didn’t experience the old times, it would be difficult to measure the big difference the liberalisation of the economy has made.

“The trend for the club prior to its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1991 was to provide equipment to individuals. That trend has continued. The demand to match the equipment of other clubs has increased and so has the cost, not only in the initial purchase but also in the maintenance”, said Turpin.

Added together, the cost of equipment and the ongoing cost of maintaining the clubhouse swallows 47% of the club’s annual income. The balance is used for running costs and the provision of life-saving services to the community.

“The club’s annual requirement for new funds is relatively substantial, and over the last 25 years the club’s income was nearly \$2million ” said Turpin. “The club’s total excess of income over expenditure for the 25-year period was \$58,141.”

Turpin said because of many changing circumstances there were no meaningful financial comparisons for the first 75 years, but the club is indebted to external providers, and various poker machine charities and commercial sponsors, who have supported the club.

Increasing competition from a number of other activities has cut the spare time for volunteers available to the Taylor’s club said Turpin. In the last two years the club has experimented with part-time paid administration and is looking to fund part-time coaching in the future. “That’s a huge step from the *modus operandi* of our first 100 years,” said Turpin.

And then there was the Trust

Early 2002, about a year after Barry Turpin passing away, Paul Carpinter who was Club Captain at the time was chatting with Jim Turpin who had taken

over Treasurer of the club from Barry, and asked what the chance was of raising some money for the club to make it easier to keep the club running in trying times.

Barry had been working on something similar for Paul during his time and already had accumulated about \$8k in an account he had labelled “PC’s Fund”. This wasn’t a capital amount though and was being used to fund current activities as required.

Jim said he supposed so and then chatted with his contemporary Dave Bradley about ideas to do something about it. After considering and rejecting a few possible projects, Dave came up with the idea of finding at least 100 past and current members or supporters who each would lend the club \$5,000 interest free for 5 years.

If successful this would result in \$500,000 on deposit earning interest at the then current rate of 6% or \$30,000 per annum for club use (as a charity the club doesn’t have to pay tax). If anyone required repayment either at the end of the five years or earlier, it would be the clubs challenge to find replacement contributors to at least maintain the interest amount available for the clubs annual use.

Seemed achievable so Dave agreed to be the Chair of committee of two and Jim agreed to be the Executive. Formalising the arrangement into a Trust to ensure the loans were secure from club use and from any possible future claims against the club for whatever reasons however unlikely, and to ensure no financial legislation regarding “borrowing” were contravened, took some time and the first deposit was not made until 6/1/2003 and it was \$8123 from Barry Turpin’s PC’s Fund.

A brochure outlining the proposal and the significant benefits to the club and the Community was prepared and Dave and Jim then set out to contact people whom they thought might warm to the scheme. Quite a number of these were mailed out with a note saying they would be contacted shortly to arrange a visit to discuss. \$84,000 was quickly gathered but further accumulation stalled when quite co-incidentally both Dave and Jim got tied up on different things at the same time.

So the follow ups didn't happen as quickly as anticipated but they weren't forgotten and when Jim finally got around to phoning one of the clubs older members about a year later he was greeted with a "I wondered where you got to" and after apologies from Jim a "I think I'd like to match you dollar for dollar, you get loans of \$500k and I'll lend you \$500k".

A meeting of Dave, Jim and the member was arranged for a few days later and the greeting this time was something like "I've changed my mind, you two have to get your \$500k as gifts not loans, and then I'll match you dollar for dollar as a gift in a complementary Trust. The club needs something permanent rather than something that contributors can withdraw from".

Astonished and grateful as we were, quite right he was too, permanent is better, but this needed a complete rehash of the existing Trust, called the TMSLSC Trust, which can only invest in Bank or SOE Term Deposits and the creation of the Complimentary Trust, called the Taylor's Mistake Rescue Trust, which has wider powers to invest in equities and the like. This too took some time but was accomplished in 2005.

Each Trust has a provision that the base "Capital" must be maintained at a level to reflect inflation otherwise there can be no distributions to the club.

The plan for the TMSLSC trust this time was to find at least 200 supporters who would pledge to \$1,500 (\$1,000 after tax rebates) over 5 years to yield total gifts of \$300,000, find at least 75 business supporters to gift a tax deductible \$2,000 each to yield \$150,000 and add these to \$50,000 already raised in the meantime. The target \$500k was reached in 2010. At 31 March 2015 the TMSLSC Trust has \$649k in the Capital Fund, with \$215k in a Special Projects Fund along with \$71k of our original \$84k loaned in 2003 still on deposit. Inflation proof target of \$555k is well met.

This was helped in no small way with a bequest of \$276k from a long time stalwart member Bev Breward and \$25k from equally long time and stalwart Jock McNaught.

Up until the beginning of 2015 our benefactor of the Taylor's Mistake Rescue Trust chose to remain anonymous and it's only after much arm twisting so this Centenary Book will record his involvement that we can reveal him now as

John Powell. John gained his surf bronze/award in 1963, was a more than competent swimmer, canoe and boat paddler and competed in 6 man R&R events. His developing career and subsequent business interests saw his active club involvement limited to 3 seasons but he did come back briefly in July 1978 when a huge storm undermined the club and threatened its collapse. After a tremendous effort by clubbies to hold the line with sand bags and the like he arranged for a construction company to drop everything to come over to strengthen and rebuild the concrete apron/sea wall at next to nothing. And now the TM Rescue Trust, thank you John for your magnificent and lasting gesture.

The benefit to the club by way of significant annual grants from both Trusts is shown each year in the Clubs Annual Report.

**Taylor's Mistake SLSC acknowledges 25 years of assistance and support
from:**

NZ Lotteries Board

Canterbury Community Trust

Christchurch City Council

Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust

and numerous "Poker Machine Trusts"

CONTINUED SUCCESS

The Taplin relay has long been a favoured event for Taylor's Mistake members. Winning the event has special memories and the success is special for the team and the club.

Tops at Taplin

When the Taplin relay was introduced to the New Zealand championships in the late 60's it quickly became one of the most popular events on the programme. It was the last event to be held at each carnival and consequently drew huge crowds. Taylor's Mistake, with its wide array of competitors with all round skills found itself a good fit for the event.

The Taplin relay was introduced to surf lifesaving in Southern California in 1936. It was the brainchild of Bud Stevenson, a former chief lifeguard, and the first assistant-director of the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches. The event helped showcase surf life-saving in Southern California. The make-up of the event is slightly different in the United States. The medley relay is contested by four swimmers, four paddlers and four two-man dory teams. Stevenson felt the event needed a name to help promote it. He approached Judge Irvin Taplin, a Los Angeles County Municipal Court judge, and a former LA City lifeguard, who allowed his name to be associated with the event.

The Australians brought the event to the South Pacific and adapted it to the present format – two swimmers, two board paddlers and two ski paddlers. The event is the ultimate display of a club's all round strength says Fraser Bickley, a regular in Taylor's teams for many years.

Taylor's has a long history of success in the race, achieved often with team members who had not achieved a medal, or who in some cases, reached a final in their chosen discipline at the nationals.

Fraser Bickley recalls how Taylor's Taplin teams have shown superb and indifferent form through the years at the national championships, and also in world club championships which they have entered.

1995 – Warrington Beach, Otago, gold medal

Sam Saxton, Carl Gordon, Simon Davis, Wayne Parker, Marcus Saxton and Dave Conder formed the first Taylor's Mistake team at the New Zealand championships. The club's inaugural race was neck and neck throughout with Taylor's, Midway from Gisborne, and South Brighton battling for the gold. Taylor's and Midway managed to drop South Brighton on the penultimate leg, the first swim leg. The title came down to a duel between Sam Saxton (Taylor's) and the legendary Cory Hutchings (Midway) on the final leg. Hutchings, who won the New Zealand iron man championship 10 times during his long career, was stroke for stroke with Saxton over the final leg. Hutchings emerged from the water in front and crossed the line first. But there was one small problem for Hutchings. He finished the race without his club cap, and in those days that meant instant disqualification of the Midway team. Sam Saxton emerged in second place with a tell-tale bulge in his swimming trunks and a smile on his face. Hutchings never wanted that hat back.

1996 - Oakura Beach, Taranaki, gold medal

On the last day of what had been very flat surf conditions for the nationals, veteran Dave Conder, then 40 but still acting his leap year age of 10, was persuaded to call Hughie, the great surf god, on his personal telephone line. With respect to Dave, Hughie obliged and the sets started pumping in.

The team was Simon Davis, Wayne Parker, Carl Gordon, Fraser Bickley, Gareth McClurg and Conder. With over a 100 years' experience in the team, we analysed the conditions and chose the best route out and home, in what was starting to become a race of survival in the ever increasing surf conditions. The six ski paddlers started and the experience of Davis and Parker created a huge lead as they made it through the surf while their opponents were still being smashed.

It was up to the rest of us not to lose that lead says Bickley. The swim leg was straight forward with no risk of Taylor's being knocked out of the lead. The final leg was up to the board paddlers, Conder and McClurg, who was better known for his ski paddling.

Taylor's still had a lead when Conder, arguably New Zealand's best ever paddle board rider, negotiated his way out of trouble. He turned at the final buoy and was swallowed by the biggest wave of the day. There was a moment of silence on the beach as he disappeared in the wall of white water. On a board with no back handles, Conder held onto the back of the board in a bear grip until he popped out, holding the wave to the beach.

Conder was later blessed with the nickname, "Dial a Wave, Dave." It was then McClurg's turn to hold onto a lengthy lead as he started passing the first board paddlers struggling to get out through the surf. Only a large wave and losing the board would cost Taylor's the race. As the sets kept pumping in we stood on the beach and watched McClurg's yellow Kracka board climb and pop over each mountainous wave. It seemed every wave was bigger than the one before.

There was a cheer when he finally passed through the back of the surf and completed the race in relative comfort. After the race we started loading the gear trailer and after what seemed like half an hour we heard over the loudspeaker "and in second place Red Beach cross the line."

2000 – Oakura Beach, gold medal.

After four years off the top of the podium Gareth McClurg, Paul Howe, Tim McClurg, Lee Howe, Fraser Bickley and Carl Gordon were back at New Plymouth's Oakura Beach hoping to prove lightening can strike twice at the same Taplin relay venue. Other than Carl Gordon the team had not produced great results at those national championships said Bickley.

The ski paddlers made a good start in the Taplin, staying with a pack of eight clubs. Tim McClurg and Lee Howe on boards, held onto the back of the pack. I tagged myself into the swim at around eighth and a fair distance behind the leading teams. The pressure was off as the race looked out of reach. With a tidy swim on the feet of Red Beach's Tim Fitzgibbons, I tagged our fish, Carl Gordon.

I looked at the field and thought maybe Carl could squeeze up to a surprise bronze with a good swim. With no real emotion or expectation we gathered calmly near the finish, joking about whether a podium was even possible. To

our surprise we saw a set of waves form as the swimmers rounded the last buoy. Looking into the setting sun we could not make out caps as we counted four swimmers pull down a large wave. As the wave got closer to the beach we made out the colour of caps and there was the un-Taylor's Mistakeable green, black and white.

The excitement instantly boiled over, including a one-legged Malcolm McClurg leaping over the sand dunes on crutches to get a glimpse of the finish. Four swimmers on the wave became three as one dropped off. That's at least a bronze. Another dropped off. That's silver. It was down to two. Carl and his opponent were milking the wave for all it had, to get to shore.

Thinking that Carl is not the fastest land crab despite his nickname, "Flash" Gordon, I still doubted the gold. With the two on the wave at knee depth, "Flash" leapt from the water, and like Christ, appeared to walk on water as he exploded to the finish helped by the rest of a screaming Taylor's team who had gathered at the finish arena to watch Carl cross a metre ahead of his opponent.

In addition to these outstanding wins Taylor's has had the following placings: 1994, 1998, 1999 – 2nd; 1992, 2002, 2014 3rd.

Coaches and competitors

The legacy left by great Taylor's competitors and coaches has been continued during the past 25 years. There has been outstanding individual performances – Saxton (Canterbury Surf Life Saver of the Year 1993), Gordon, Bickley, Peter Rattray, O'Loughlin, Feathery, Phillips, Mouldey.....plus a significant contribution from coaches – Restall, Humer, Sneddon and Fraser Bickley. New Zealand representatives have included Liam O'Loughlin and Carl Gordon (3 times a NZ representative 1999 – 2001).



2014 Canterbury/Tasman Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence.

Sportsperson of the Year: Ben Phillips

Competitor and coach - LARS HUMER

It was probably inevitable that Lars Humer would lean towards full-time coaching when his competitive career in surf life-saving was drawing to a close. Humer was raised in Dunedin and as a long-distance pool swimmer came under the wing of one of New Zealand's greatest aquatic coaches, Duncan Laing, the man who steered Danyon Loader to two gold medals at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Humer started coaching, in a small way, at 16 under Laing's tutelage. When he moved to Christchurch in 1984 he joined the Aquagym club as a coach and from that time his path in swimming and surf life-saving has developed into a coaching career.

But in his late teens and early 20's the coaching was put on hold as he focused all his attention on surf live-saving in a bid to try and match the top Australians of the day. Humer says that during that time he had several training and racing experiences with many of the world's elite surf athletes. "Those experiences and the knowledge gained in that time heightened my desire to coach in surf life-saving. I just felt I was in a good coaching position and I knew the sport in New Zealand required a stronger coaching culture if we were going to take on Australia on the international stage."

Surf Life-saving New Zealand and Canterbury Surf Life-saving had already taken steps to improve training methods and place a greater emphasis on skill development. "In my mind it required a full-time commitment in order to put the whole thing together. Not just rock up on the beach for a one hour board session, but put a whole training structure in place - co-ordinate squads so athletes got the benefit of training together. Educating that generation of surf life-savers, that to be successful in surf life-saving, like most other sports, it was an annual commitment of frequent training rather than a hobby for a few summer months. "Training meant training in all aspects of the sport, and specific racing, not just catching waves.

"Above all else I loved my time competing in surf life-saving and only wished I had started earlier in my athletic career. In 1984 when I moved from Dunedin to Christchurch and joined Taylor's it opened a whole new world of friends and sporting possibilities," said Humer. "Coaching afforded me a way to keep

enjoying that lifestyle after my competing days and – hey! – It's better than a real job.”

Asked what the challenges were coaching at Taylor's, Humer said from Limerick in Ireland, where he is now based and coaching, that there were no major obstacles or challenges because there was an appetite for coaching in the club. “Youngsters like Jacob Lane, and Gareth and Tim McClurg, were keen to be the best they could be and committed to a tougher training regime. Dean Waru was hanging in there and provided them with a senior role model. “It was also the time that the number of women were growing in the sport, and in the club, so all in all it was pretty exciting.”

Humer said numbers were the biggest problem. Sport and surf life-saving were no exceptions. It is a numbers game and the ultimate strength of the club relied on a larger number of nippers and a good feeder system from strong swim programmes. “This is no different to any other club but perhaps more challenging at Taylor's due to the beach being a little remote,” said Humer.

“One of the benefits of being a TM member is you spend time on one of New Zealand's and the world's nicest beaches, but if you don't live there (or in Sumner) it's not always practical to train there. “Sometimes the biggest challenge was deciding on alternative training venues when everyone's heart wanted to be at Taylor's,” said Humer.

He said he was grateful to many people who helped him during his years at Taylor's. Among them was the late Geoff Walker, who was generous with his time when Humer was first developing his iron man skills. Although a member of the Waimairi Club he allowed Humer to train with him, lending him equipment and openly sharing his knowledge. “He became a good friend and training partner and in 1988 we trained together every day in January, February and March to prepare for the national championships at Orewa. It paid off for both of us.

Humer said he was never quite sure what Taylor's stalwart Paul Carpenter meant in 1986 when he mentioned more than once the phrase “on any given day.” “We had chatted early in the season about what I wished to achieve. My goal was to win the iron man and PC questioned the leap from what I had achieved previously, but I wouldn't budge from my goal. “We were in his

office at Canterbury University and the meeting finished with him saying “on any given day.”

Humer’s goal almost came unstuck at the Gisborne nationals that year after an average heat and he looked to have missed the final, only to scrape in on another athletes disqualification. “I won the final and PC was there at the finish with a hand shake and the words “on any given day.” That win was the first of three iron man titles.

“I guess you have to believe in yourself and you need the support of the people around you, and on any given day it can happen. PC was that no bullshit, independent consultant who made you take responsibility. Humer explained that he was a pool swimmer transitioning to surf life-saving and relied heavily on fitness.

“I was training at Taylor’s on a Sunday afternoon and unbeknown to me Daryl Neate had been watching from his batch. He came down and told me ‘to spend some time in the water playing and floating and feeling what the waves were doing.’ “He told me to dive under a wave and float and feel what the current was doing and to adjust my skills to the water, become part of the water. My ability to read surf and feel the surf improved massively from that day forward. We still do ‘at one with the water’ segments in our pool training today,” says Humer.

Ski paddling was one of the key components of the iron man and Humer says he learned from one of the best in the business and another Taylor’s man, Simon Davis. “He was probably the best I ever trained and competed with. He had a real job and worked very hard and long hours so I never got to train with Simon as much as I would have liked. Because his time was limited our sessions were always purposeful and focused and you always came away from the workout knowing you had made progress.”

Humer was also a member of the Taylor’s six-man rescue and resuscitation team and he says the training sessions for that specialised event were about attention to detail and the coach, Jock McNaught had the art of getting the necessary point across. “He ensured we could execute them but still made training enjoyable. It was a diverse group of athletes and Jock made the team gel.”

Humer said living and working in different countries has given him a unique experience in life, and the biggest impact on him was meeting genuine and honest people. “Taylor’s Mistake had that in Carl Immers. Carl was a very strong surf swimmer whose performances were way beyond his raw speed in the pool. More importantly he was a man of steel in the race. He was hard to beat in and out of the water, but always a gentleman.”

Humer said when he was a developing athlete he always wanted or needed to find reassurance that he was doing things right. “It can be a lonely place being a developing athlete. But Geoff Le Cren had that reassuring manner and his CV gave him the credibility. It only needed to be a few quiet words at the right time from Geoff.”

Humer said another club member, John McDermott, took an interest in what people were doing and was always keen to help, be it fixing dings in equipment or giving surfing tips out the back. “There are many great individuals in Taylor’s but its biggest strength is its sense of community. A training session at Taylor’s always felt 10 per cent better than anywhere else. Putting on the green hat on race day gave you an edge on other clubs and they could feel it.

“My biggest challenge in coaching today isn’t the swimming, it’s creating successful communities where people co-operate for the benefit of the club and themselves,” concluded Humer.

CARL GORDON – a ‘Flash’ swimmer!

With a background in long-distance swimming it was short odds that Carl Gordon would become a valuable member of the Taylor’s Mistake club when he joined as a 16-year-old in 1989. Gordon was a long-distance freestyle pool swimmer when he joined Taylor’s, and was also beginning to dabble in long-distance open water swimming, which was going to be added to the world championships and eventually the Olympic Games programmes.

Gordon, “Flash” to his mates, did not take long to gather national medals for Taylor’s. His first came in 1990 when he was second in the junior surf race.

Until then he had won every surf race he entered which included the Canterbury and southern regional junior titles. It was an old foe that Gordon had to bow to at the nationals, Trent Bray, a former New Zealand Olympian. A year later Gordon was picked in the Canterbury team to travel to Victoria for a trans-Tasman contest. It was his first year as a senior life-saver.

Gordon was talked into joining Taylor's by swimming team-mates. "Taylor's did a push for membership at the swimming club so I decided to go along and see what the sport was about. "We were lucky that a whole lot of us signed up together making a good social and competitive bunch," said Gordon.

"Being a swimmer I obviously gravitated to the surf swim events such as surf race, belt race, tube rescue, board rescue, surf teams race and Taplin relay."

The Taplin is one of the most gruelling events on the surf lifesaving programme but Gordon adapted to it immediately. "I seemed to compete in open Taplin's regularly," not surprising given his swimming ability.

Gordon quickly found though that swimming in the ocean was quite different to swimming in the confines of a pool. "It was challenging getting used to reading the conditions in the surf and coping with the different scenarios when you rock up to different beaches." Surf lifesaving, said Gordon, is a sport where there are a range of ages - unlike swimming - and the older surf club members were all keen to share their knowledge. Simon Davis taught us the rules in and around the Taplin; Dave Conder taught us how to read surf conditions; and Carl Immers gave us tube rescue tips," said a grateful Gordon. The early years were a challenging time for both Gordon and his mates because they were devoting so much time to swim training that they had little time to practise in the surf. "What time we did spend on the beach had to be used wisely."

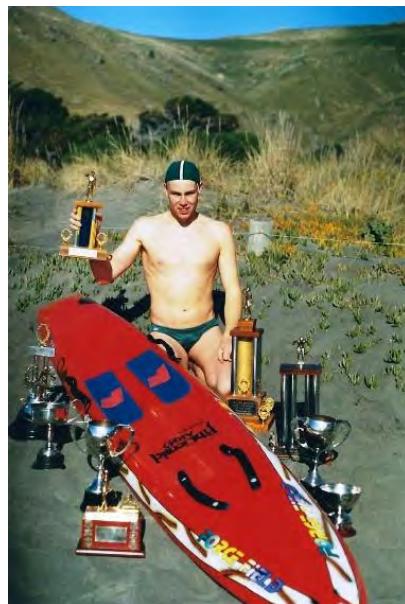
But surf lifesaving had to compete with long-distance open water swimming for Gordon's attention. It was gaining popularity after being added to the list of Olympic events. The sport kept him busy for seven years but he could not achieve the big prize, selection for the Olympics. He swam at four world championships and two Pan Pacific and two Oceania championships. He considers his best effort a bronze at the world championships in Victoria in 1999.

After saying goodbye to open water swimming Gordon returned to surf and eventually retired with a handful of New Zealand titles. His most memorable win was in the Taplin relay at Oakura Beach in Taranaki in 2000. He came from behind at the first buoy to overtake the field and win by a metre. Other memories included captaining New Zealand at the Goodwill Games in Australia and surviving the late Barry Turpin's rescue and resuscitation training on Taylor's beach.

"I was in a B team and a bit sceptical about R and R, but Barry was intent on making sure we were doing the right things and he kept us in line with a big stick. We would get a tap if we weren't in the right place. It was all good fun though."

Gordon has not strayed far from the water since leaving Taylor's in 2003. He is a swimming coach and is at present employed at St Peter's College in Cambridge, which has some of the best facilities in New Zealand at its disposal and is a nursery for budding young New Zealand sportspeople.

SAM SAXTON an outstanding run!



Achievements by Sam included:

NZ Championships 1992 – 2nd Jnr Tube Rescue (with Sean McBreen), 3rd Jnr Iron Man.

Canterbury Championships 1992 – 1st Jnr Surf race, 2nd Jnr Ski Rescue (with Sean McBreen), 1st Jnr Belt Race.

NZ Championships 1993 - 1st Jnr Belt Race, 1st Jnr Iron Man, 1st Jnr Board Rescue (with Tim McClurg), 1st Jnr Ski Relay (with Sean McBreen and Tim McClurg), 2nd Jnr Double Ski (with Sean McBreen), 3rd Jnr Surf Race.

Canterbury Championships 1993 – 1st Jnr Board Race, 2nd Jnr Double Ski (with Sean McBreen), 2nd Jnr Ski Relay, 1st Jnr Board Rescue (with Tim McClurg), 1st Jnr Surf Race, 1st Jnr Belt Race, 1st Tube Rescue (with Fraser Bickley), 1st Iron Man.

NZ Championships 1994 – 1st Snr Belt Race, 1st Surf Teams Race (with Carl Gordon, Andrew Bell & Guy Callaghan), 2nd Surf Race.

Canterbury Championships 1994 – 1st Snr Belt Race, 3rd Snr Surf Race, 3rd Snr Board Recue (with Marcus Saxton), 1st Iron Man.

NZ Championships 1995 – 3rd Surf teams Race (with Carl Gordon, Carl Immers & Richard Smith).

Canterbury Championships 1995 – 3rd Surf Teams Race.

Canterbury Championships 1997– Snr Belt Race 1st, Snr Tube Rescue 1st (with Fraser Bickley), Snr Surf Race 1st, Snr Board Rescue 3rd (with Marcus Saxton).

Canterbury Surf Life Saver of the Year, 1993

LIAM O'LOUGHLIN – New Zealand representative

When Liam O'Loughlin switched from the North Beach to the Taylor's Mistake club in 2003, little did he know there were a wealth of titles – Canterbury, South Island and New Zealand - that would come his way in the next eight years.

O'Loughlin was a talented young surf lifesaver when he switched from North Beach as a 20-year-old to take up an offer to paddle in the double surf ski for Taylor's Mistake. His grounding in surf life-saving started as a six-year-old nipper. He stayed with North Beach until he was 18. He left school and travelled overseas on a gap year to Ireland. After he returned to Christchurch

he was keen to continue with surf lifesaving and was told by friends the opportunity to paddle a double ski for Taylor's Mistake was open.

"I knew a few people at Taylor's Mistake and there was an opportunity to be part of team events such as the ski relay, the board relay and there was the opportunity to put together an open men's Taplin relay team," said O'Loughlin. There was no difficult transition for O'Loughlin moving from North Beach to Taylor's. "I knew several club members already through competing in surf lifesaving and swimming over the years, so it was just about getting to know the other club members," said O'Loughlin.

He had always regarded Taylor's as one of the best surf beaches in Christchurch which had a rich history and a tight community. "It was good to be part of that," said O'Loughlin. The transition to Taylor's had been easy and O'Loughlin said he had enjoyed being part of the team with the older Taylor's Mistake members.

It took a couple of years for the national titles to start to accumulate. O'Loughlin's first medal was a bronze in the open men's board race in 2006. Two years later came the first gold in the men's open board relay with teammates James Feathery and Pete Rattray. The following year, 2009 the same trio finished second in the ski relay and O'Loughlin and Rattray won the silver in the men's double ski.

The golden year was 2010 when O'Loughlin won the double ski with Fred Teear, and O'Loughlin doubled up with gold in the men's long course surf canoe final. The ski relay title eluded the club again with O'Loughlin, Rattray and Teear finishing third.

In 2011 at Mt Maunganui O'Loughlin teamed up with Teear to win the double ski final and O'Loughlin won the bronze in the open men's single ski final. The pair were starting to make a name for themselves in another sport. They were selected in the New Zealand sprint canoe team from 2009 to 2012, and competed at two world championships and eight World Cup events in Europe. Inspite of the commitment required to canoeing the pair continued to compete internationally for four years - from 2009 to 2012 – and still had time to start at the national surf life-saving championships.

O'Loughlin continued to collect medals – a gold in the board rescue with Ben Phillips in 2012, silver in the open double ski with Teear and silver with Phillips in the board rescue in 2013, silver again in 2014 with Teear in the double ski and bronze in the open Taplin relay.



Liam O'Loughlin

Open Double ski winner at the National Championships with Fred Teear

One of the highlights of O'Loughlin's career was being selected for the New Zealand surf life-saving team to compete in the International Surf Team Rescue Challenge at Onjuku Beach, Chiba, in Japan in 2013. It made him a dual New Zealand representative and the New Zealand team finished second to Australia.

The best New Zealand surf athlete in each discipline was chosen for the team – iron man, ski paddler, board paddler, surf race swimmer and beach eventer. O'Loughlin was selected as the ski paddler and competed in the ski race, the four man tube rescue, the beach relay, Taplin relay and joined Lisa Harrington, now world and Olympic canoe champion, in the mixed ski relay.

O'Loughlin says competing for Taylor's has given him the opportunity to race with other top athletes, and he has formed a sporting bond and friendship with Fred Teear as both were leading athletes in their chosen sports - canoeing and

surf life-saving. They are still hunting the elusive third national double ski title which has kept them training hard.

There is a tight bond between Taylor's competitors whether training with teammates, competing against them, or racing together in team events, says O'Loughlin. "We keep fit and train together over the winter and look forward to the summer back down at the beach. "One of the things I love about Taylor's is that it doesn't matter how old you are, or how good you are at surf, everyone is friendly and helpful and willing to help each other."

World championship participation

Taylor's teams have competed in four surf life-saving club championships since 1998. The pickings have been slim though. At the first championships in Auckland in 1998, and a team of 12, the best finish was fourth in the Taplin relay in a massive surf at Muriwai. Soon after the event finished the organisers cancelled the competition due to the conditions and no result was recorded.

Two years later in Sydney with a smaller team of eight, Paul Howe finished eighth in the surf ski final and Leigh Sneddon reached the final of the women's board race and Viv Homer and Jonelle Foster reached the surf race final. The key event for the men was the Taplin relay which they entered as New Zealand champions. Inattention meant they missed their heat and the chance to compete against the best in the world was gone.

There were more hiccups in 2002 when the championships were at Daytona Beach in Florida. A passport glitch prevented the team manager, Greg McClurg, entering the United States. As the national champions, the tube rescue was one of the target events for the team. But it was denied the chance to compete when the event was cancelled due to a strong long-shore current. The Taplin relay went ahead but the course was reversed because of the current which was breaking parallel to the beach. Taylor's finished out of the top placings. In the unofficial run-swim-run for women Viv Homer finished third but did not receive a medal.

At the 2006 championships at Lorne, near Melbourne, Liam O'Loughlin was the best performer in a team of four. He reached the semi-finals in both the ski and board race.



Fraser Bickley. A Taplin stalwart and dedicated ‘clubbie’ for the past 25 years. A NZ Champion plus winner of numerous Canterbury titles. A patroller and coach. A NZ water polo representative, NZ water polo coach and NZU water polo representative.

Recipient of 2014 Canterbury Tasman Surf Lifesaving Coach of the Year in 2014.

The IRB cracks it!

Of significance in 1997 was the effort of the IRB team in winning the senior tube rescue at the nationals. They also came second in the mass rescue and were first equal out of the South Island clubs competing. The team was Nick Metzger, Barry Crates, Craig Henderson, Craig Savage and ‘patient’ Pauline Williamson.

“We weren’t really expecting it. We travelled there by train, ferry and mini-bus and turned up with one boat and a motor” said Craig Henderson. At New Plymouth there was great weather for the event, however the surf wasn’t really big enough to make the competition exciting.

“There was no real surf so the boats with good motors had an advantage over the rest of us. The bigger the surf, the more it relies on the team’s skill, “said Nick Metzger.

Given the travel challenges, minimal equipment and funding the results achieved by this team were outstanding.

The support of IRB crews to the safety of the public at Taylor's is crucial. Unlike some clubs, funding for gear, the number of crews committed to racing etc. has always been a challenge at Taylor's. Regardless the support provided by IRB crews in the past 25 years has been central to the patrol service. The work of Rob Anderson, Nathan Parsons, Craig Henderson, Craig Savage, David Stanley-Boden, Anthony Nunnick, James Craib and many others is acknowledged.

A further success was achieved in 2010 when Taylor's was the top IRB club in Canterbury.



The winning Taylors Mistake Surf Lifesaving Club team (from left) Barry Crates, Nick Metzger, Craig Savage and Craig Henderson.



NZ Champions Open Board Rescue 2015: L – R: Ben Phillips, Tom Mouldey



**Firth Industries is proud to recognise 100 years of service by the
lifeguards of Taylors Mistake**

THE WOMEN CONTINUE TO LEAD

Taylor's Mistake women have succeeded to an exceptional level in national competitions. In the 1950's and 1960's national titles (at least 20) were the norm and included Six-Place R & R success some 15 years before the men won this event for the first time. Leading competitors included Bev Beward, Lynne Harrow, Maree Hunter, Gil Gormack, Jan Monck, Jan Campbell, Margaret Hart, June Harrow, Helen Le Cren,

Sharon Anderson, Carolyn Pearce, Tammy Restall (Canterbury Surf Lifesaver of the Year 1996 with Grant Restall), Helen Mahon and the Errol Hunter coached four place teams had successes in the 70's and 80's and the swimmers of the late 80's and early 90's dominated in a similar manner to the women of the 50's and 60's.

The 90's saw women take a leading role in the club. Anna Marshall was the first female club captain. Other female club captains followed - Megan Cleverley (Canterbury Surf Lifesaver of the Year 2005), Viv Bickley and Tisha Bradley the 2015 Canterbury Tasman Surf Life-Saving Volunteer of the Year). All have stepped up to the task with dedication and commitment.

Of note at Rescue 2002 – Daytona Beach, Florida, USA was the performance of Viv Homer (Bickley) in an unofficial run-swim-run for women. Viv won the bronze medal. This is the only world championship medal won by a Taylor's member, albeit in an unofficial event! The event was a debacle said Fraser Bickley. “The USA has as much ability at running a surf life-saving competition as Pamela Anderson had of actually saving someone on Bay Watch.”

Viv also had success at the national level winning a gold medal in the tube rescue with Laurie Williams in 1999, a result matched by Lydia Stoddard and Megan Brooker in 2005. Viv was placed 2nd in this same event 11 years later with Megan Lockie! Viv has also won numerous Canterbury titles in a variety of events: run-swim-run, belt race, board rescue, surf race.



In addition she was an integral part of the Taylor's Mistake team that won the Canterbury Patrol Championship for several years in a row and on one occasion the team were placed 2nd in the national competition.

Viv has been a club captain, was named Canterbury Patroller of the Year in 2008 and in 2009 was a finalist for the NZ Surf Lifesaver of the Year Award.

Elizabeth (Biff) McDermott was awarded life membership in 2009, the first female life member. Biff joined the Club in 1964 and competed in R & R events over a number of years and was one of a Taylor's team that won a National title in the March Past. A continuing supporter of the Club over the years while making home and raising her daughter Amy, Biff assumed the role of club secretary in 1996 and continued in that position for 12 years until 2008. From 1997 to 2005, she also organised and ran Junior Surf, that most important and demanding part of our activities.



Possibly the most outstanding competition result of the past few years has been achieved by women. Taylor's Mistake women won the long course and the short course canoe gold at the national championships in successive years – 2013 and 2014. These outstanding results were achieved by Megan Lockie, Bianca Teague, Brie Thomas, Lydia Lipscombe and Sarah Cook.

ANNA MARSHALL, the first female club captain

Like so many surf life-savers, Anna Marshall, joined the sport from a swimming background. She followed swimming buddies into surf but she had to tread carefully getting over the hill from Sumner to Taylor's Mistake. Marshall lived in Sumner and says her father was a rabid Sumner clubbie. "He would have preferred me to land at Sumner."



Surprisingly she didn't know anyone there and Marshall said she was attracted across the hill by the beach as much as her friends. "Taylor's was just so much nicer. I had to end up there." Marshall doesn't think she told her father she was joining the mob over the hill. "So he never had a say," she said.

Her recruitment was a bonus for the club. Not only was Marshall a highly competent competitor - she was a Canterbury swimming representative – she proved later that she was also a worthy administrator.

Marshall joined Taylor's in 1986 and says she never found it challenging being a new clubbie. She says she could not have found a more inviting group. "Want to try the board, ski or canoe? Go for it and we will show you how", was the attitude."

But Marshall says she stuck with her most comfortable sport, the surf swim for quite a while. In time she added the belt race and the four-man rescue and resuscitation to her repertoire.

Marshall said it was always impressive to watch the like of Dave Condor on his board, Simon Davis on the surf ski, and Carl Immers weaving his swim magic.

The Saxton's, Sam and Marcus were showing other young competitors how surf life-saving was done. They advanced through the junior ranks blowing away the competition. Carl Gordon was the long distance swim star who added an extra element to Taylor's teams. "If there was a longer distance swim race he would have blown everyone away," said Marshall.

She says success was hard to come by for herself. "I was able to reach finals but I never shone at nationals. My strongest event was the belt race and I was always there or thereabouts in the finals I made. The surf race, surf teams' races and the belt race were my happy places."

Marshall says she took up "playing on the ski and board" and ended up doing those two events at the world club championships in Muriwai, one of the most notorious beaches in the country for big surf. Marshall said a helpful

teammate approached here before the race and said “you don’t have to do this.”

“I’m pretty sure it wasn’t me he was worried about. It was definitely the ski. “That was understandable. Although I made it out the back (of the surf) many of the ladies in my heat didn’t. Unfortunately getting back to the beach with the ski was a challenge too far – although I did get back OK with the paddle. On a day like that swimming was always going to be easier for me. “The ski was fine too just in case you were concerned.

“The board race went slightly better,” said Marshall, “with me and the board making it back to the beach OK – but I was very pleased not to make the final.”

Marshall says here administration stint started early and she joined the club committee because she found the same few people struggled to get everything done. “It wasn’t common for newbees to decide to join in the decision making process. I was women’s captain first up and learned a lot through that time. It was a strong committee dedicated to doing the best possible with the available resources for both patrol and competition. “Ah, the struggles between patrol and competition. At times it seemed like war, then when a truce was called we could all get on with the challenges at hand. In the best possible way those discussions led to the best outcomes.

“By the time the club captain post was vacant and requiring a volunteer, I felt it was time to step up. I’d learned a great deal from other more qualified committee members like Biff McDermott, Paul Carpinter, Dave Hill, Malcolm McClurg and others.

“Most importantly I learned this was a commitment not to be taken lightly. During my time as club captain I think the biggest challenges we were facing were the changes in volunteering in this country as a whole. Suddenly weekends were more about work than the beach, and availability of members to fill patrols was becoming a real issue. The hard work of the core patrols at this time was so important, but not so well recognised.”

Marshall said on the competition side, the club was working hard to find the funds to continue acquisitions of new gear and assistance for travel to national

championships. “But committee members who month in and month out found ways to apply to various funding agencies for support were very successful in that role.”

Marshall said she was unsure the average club member knew what work went into providing the gear and subsidies. At the same time there were club members keeping the club’s gear in working condition. “Without DC (Dave Conder) to fix those boards time after time, the cupboards would have been very bare. “Whatever happened to the old lilac Bennett anyway?” asked Marshall. “It was the first board I took a liking to and 15 years later it was still in the shed, although a whole lot worse for wear.

“What I took away from the club captain’s role was an understanding that I did have the ability to contribute to a worthwhile cause, and with the committee around me I always had backup.

“Taylor’s provided me with a chance of being something special - a random and diverse group of people brought together by a common love of the water, spending time in it and near it, and a willingness to give up time for others to ensure the safety of the public at the beach. The public who, although they like the idea of being there, are either blissfully unaware or don’t care about the dangers they face in the water. “It’s never been about patrols. This bunch as a whole are also some of the most competitive people I’ve ever met. When it comes to competition, especially team events, a TM crew is always going to be tough to beat.

“No matter how much we appeared to be underdogs, watching the senior men’s Taplin final at nationals, I always knew we would do well. The surf skills of our members and the team culture was a strong combination. “That must have been built from what I saw as a new club member, the dedication of the 6-man teams’ training.”

Marshall said the success, year after year, of that group was inspirational and certainly encouraged the rest of the club to take training and competition seriously. “I think this worked well with my nature – competitive at heart, but needing a like-minded team to bring it out.”

Outside Taylor's Marshall says she spent a lot of time in chlorinated water playing water-polo. She enjoyed success in the sport at school, senior club and international level. "It's still difficult to drive past what used to be QEII pool given how much of my life was spent there. I took part in two World Cups (1991 Los Angeles and 1995 Sydney) and one world championships (Rome 1994). "Water-polo and surf worked well together. Charlotte Wormald and I were able to look after each other in surf races and make sure no-one got the better of us. "Soon after I moved to Wellington I decided triathlon might be a good fit – it was until the part where I had to get out of the water. I'm just not as well suited to land based activities.

"I decided to take part in ocean swims around the country and I've been quite successful at that. In 2008 I was convinced by my swim coach to swim the length of Lake Taupo – 40.2km. I'm still not sure why I agreed to the idea, but I think it was to get out of having to train for another iron man triathlon. "Whatever it was it turned out fine. I completed the lake swim in 11hrs 26min 58sec."

Earlier this year Marshall was asked to take part in the Strait Across Cook Strait relay swim and raised money for Surf Life-Saving New Zealand with two old Taylor's clubmates, Richard Smith and Derek Eaton. On a glorious day they completed the crossing in 7hrs 24min.

Marshall still maintains contact with the aquatic sports. In Wellington she assists former triathlete Jen Rose with her open water coaching sessions. "With Dan Abel's Real Swim Adventures I am getting a chance to take swimmers to beautiful New Zealand lakes for the types of adventures I wouldn't have dreamed of when I was younger."

Marshall says she will never join another surf club. "I'll be hanging around TM even if for a few days each summer, for the rest of my life. I keep thinking I'll be back to have another go at the masters competition. "I still have my beanie, my Taylor's togs, my TM jacket, fleece and various t-shirts from through the years. "Although my board is very dry and stored in Mum and Dad's garage, don't be surprised if it makes an appearance again," warns Marshall.

JANE NELLIGAN

Taylor's Mistakes' gain was Waimairi's loss when Jane Nelligan decided to move her developing surf life-saving skills. Nelligan had been a 400m track athlete for many years and was introduced to the surf life-saving by Pip Bell, a member of the Waimairi club at the time. She and some friends from the track were doing off-season track work on the beach when they struck up a friendship with Bell and other Waimairi members.



Nelligan wasn't press ganged into joining Taylor's. Her reasons for joining Taylor's were much more basic. She caught a lift to the South Island surf life-saving championships in the early 90's with a member of the Taylor's club and shared the same accommodation. The clincher in Nelligan's mind for her to join Taylor's was the after champs party on the last night. "I made some new friends that night. Coming to Taylor's Mistake after that was a no brainer – even if green isn't my colour."

Nelligan recalls the leading competitors in the club in those days and there were many of them – the Saxton's, the Bells, Tony Munnerley, Rob Anderson, the McClurgs, Carl 'Flash' Gordon, Fraser Bickley, Amy McDermott, Paul Carpenter and Anna Marshall. They were only a few of a number of "great people" at the club.

Because of her running background Nelligan was guided towards the beach sprint. It was something of a lonely existence for her. She was the only woman beach competitor in the club and rarely got the opportunity to compete in relays.

There was one bright side to her lack of competition said Nelligan. As the only female beach competitor for Taylor's it meant I always made the team for the Kellogg's Nutri Grain team event. I also spent a lot of time in the tent waiting for my events to start, eating, and being dripped on by my fellow team members after their events. It also meant I was always the IRB patient – or was that crash test dummy. Training consisted of treading water solo out in

the bay at dusk while Gareth McClurg and Ron Anderson took the IRB back, disassembled it and reassembled it.

The result was always much hilarity while we worked on getting it right. There were multiple bruises, both me and our poor IRB crew member, Gareth being thrown out of the IRB, even run over by it – the latter on national television. “But it was great being part of such a strong team. In Rob we had the rare advantage of having a driver who could run to the water’s edge with the boat under one arm and the motor under the other.

It was all much better than my brief appearance as a canoe rescue patient. The one saving grace was that I typically entered the boat facing backwards and was therefore able to see the big wave coming down on us and make a quick exit. “Life lesson – never climb aboard a boat/canoe or IRB crewed exclusively by swimmers.”

In amongst all the levity said Nelligan were successes. She won a gold and two bronze medals at the New Zealand championships, all in the beach sprint, and selection in the New Zealand elite squad; a New Zealand universities blue; and some Canterbury and South Island titles and said Nelligan: “several unmentionably poor boat race performances – one for the Lyall Bay team”.

Although a rookie when she started with Taylor’s that tag was soon dismissed. “I was very lucky. I received plenty of support and help from the club to do this which was great for a poor student. “Being surrounded by great swimmers had its benefits. I never went in the water at Taylor’s without my own flotilla of concerned lifeguards. They gave me no credit for my swimming ability,’ laughed Nelligan.

“I have a lot of great memories from my time at Taylor’s Mistake. I made some lifetime friends - you know who you are. I got to try some new events. Ski paddling isn’t my thing but at least I tried. If I were still in Christchurch I would definitely still be involved with the club, but not as a veteran ski paddle competitor.”

LEIGH PARKER

Leigh Parker holds a special place in the history of the Taylor's Mistake club.

Parker was the first member to win the women's iron man at the New Zealand championships, and 15 years later she remains the only member of the club to have won that title.

Parker (nee Sneddon) puts her success down to a move from her previous club, South Brighton across the hill to Taylor's. It only took a year in Taylor's colours to advance from also ran in previous national championships, to champion. Sneddon was overseas in the late 1990's when she met a member of the Taylor's club, Fraser Bickley, who was also on his OE. He convinced her that when she returned to Christchurch in 1999 she should join Taylor's.

Explaining the shift Parker said her new club had a significantly more supportive and friendly atmosphere. "Taylor's clubbies made me feel welcome and valued as a team member. "Fraser convinced me that I would have a much more enjoyable at Taylor's. He was right.

"I have so many great memories. The far more challenging beach patrolling; IRB rides out to go cliff jumping; trips to competitions filled with fun antics; and the time spent relaxing on the beach with wonderful friends." Parker says that being lucky to win the iron man at Oakura, Taranaki, in 2000 was a highlight of her sports career. "I say lucky because it was one of those competitions where the sea conditions were just perfect for me – a big wave competitor. It was an afternoon I will never forget, I even used the experience to write an essay during my post grad studies." Parker says the black sand beach at Oakura was crowded for the women's iron man



event. “People, conversation, emotion and the environment swirled around. It was hard to focus. I blocked it all out and faced the ocean,” said Parker.

“I watched the sea, searching for wave sequences and rip locations, piecing together my race plan. Massive swells towered up, bounded over the sand banks and surged furiously towards the shore as huge walls of white water. “Then came the garbled announcement: ‘Open – oman Iron --- compet ---to-- marshalling arena please.

“It was time. I hoisted my surf ski with paddles under one arm, and my surf board under the other and wandered down to the arena. My coach (Grant Restall) caught my attention. I smiled. It was OK to talk to me.

He came over for the pep talk.”

Restall: “It’s your conditions you know … done your warm up?”

Parker: “Yip.” “I knew full well this was my chance.

“Grant kept talking. He gave his interpretation of the sea conditions, the other competitors, and how the race would go. I wasn’t listening or understanding. I continued to watch the ocean.

“The defining moment of the race was one I remember vividly. I was in the drop zone, the wrong place. I had paddled in from the buoys during a lull. I looked behind and saw the chasing swell. It caught up to me. “I was dragged under the water cliff and at that moment should have been thrown, smashed, and my race finished. “Instead it became one of those moments in life when everything slows down, becomes clear and falls into place. I moved to the back of the board, grabbed the handles, and slid down the swell. “The wave crashed down behind me and propelled me into the shore. I breathed heavily to recover and tried to enjoy the ride. “I crossed the line first. It was an amazing feeling – success after many years of training and visualising. What was intriguing however, was how winning almost instantly became secondary in that moment. “The thing I most vividly remember after crossing the line was seeing three faces – three of the juniors from my squad that I had coached during that summer. They stood further up the beach, keeping their distance and smiling from ear to ear. “I saw sparkles in their eyes. Inspiration of what is possible. “I hope so.

“It was a true honour to wear the green, black and white cap for this race.” Parker said the other vivid memory she has, and which she is sure other club members have, is driving over to Taylor’s. “There is just something about the hill, about leaving Sumner behind, and seeing the vistas over the sea, the Alps and beyond. That feeling of escaping and being part of something special is something I experience every time I visit. “I loved the time I spent as a member of Taylor’s Mistake and often wish we lived back in Christchurch so I could spend more time there.”

MEGAN CLEVERLEY

Megan Cleverley knew she had a challenge on her hands when she took over as club captain at Taylor’s Mistake in 2005.

The club had just three senior women in its membership and she knew for one, that number had to be improved.

Her shift into the club captain’s role happened just before the national championships and she took the opportunity at the nationals to speak to team members and then developed a plan that she hoped would boost the number of senior women and men. Cleverley said she noticed the club was “a little fragmented” from cadets (12-13) to 14+, and then from 17+ years to seniors. “I didn’t really do anything out of the normal except develop a culture where there was a sense of belonging to the club by those aged from 14 upwards.”

The retention of members in those junior age-groups was crucial said Cleverley, so it was more about how they could make the club more attractive to members so they would stay with the club.

“There was a disjointed aspect between the seniors that were 18 and over, and the young 14-year-olds. You know how 14-years-olds come through, they think they are bullet proof and the best at everything, we had to get them to



Megan Cleverley – Club Captain, Patrol Coordinator, Manager, Coach, Canterbury Surf Life Saver of the Year 2005.

start respecting the seniors and for the seniors to understand where the 14 and 15-year-olds were coming from.

There was a lot of work around that and it's where we came up with the idea of sitting down with the seniors and saying 'If you can help mentor these guys, you can help influence their behaviour as well. Then the younger girls and guys started to respect the seniors a bit more.'

"It was a big culture change – I'm not saying things that were done before were wrong, they weren't, they were just done a bit differently. "That mutual respect helped heaps. When we wanted to put teams together, or when we were short for patrols, these guys started putting their hands up."

"So it was a big shift from what we had before," said Cleverley.

Soon after she took over the club captain's role she had to pick a team for a patrol competition that had been introduced by Canterbury Surf Life Saving.

"That was my first panic really. The composition of the team required some under-16 club members. I thought, wow, how to put someone in this team if they don't get along. But that team was the evidence that what we were doing was right because they gelled."

"The under-16's fitted in perfectly with the team and the seniors respected them and they won their competitions so that was great." We used a whole lot of younger members for our training, so when we wanted to do a fake scenario with patients we had a whole lot of kids saying 'Put blood on me, I'll help out'. Being patients they learnt about how the whole thing worked.

Later in her term as club captain, Cleverley was attending a Surf Life Saving New Zealand workshop when they brought up a good example of a bad patrol. "The example was the Taylor's Mistake black couch that sat on the concrete in front of the clubrooms. The life-guards used to sit on the couch. The junior girls coming through had seen the senior girls sitting on the couch. Their expectation was that they should do that so we had to change that.

"That was the perception we were trying to change. That's not a good patrol. It's not a good look."

The couch was still there when Cleverley left the club in 2006. “But it’s used by the patrollers when they are off patrol and not on it.”

The three senior women in the club when Cleverley became club captain - Megan Brooker, Viv Bickley and Lydia Stoddart - became mentors for the younger girls in the club, running training sessions and offering advice.

She also broadened the experience of the youngsters by introducing Laurie McKeown, and others as mentors. McKeown had the quiet nature to work with the younger lifeguards who lacked confidence. He also passed on his knowledge as a board paddler for those interested in the board events.

Fraser Bickley, Peter Rattray and Liam O’Loughlin also ran coaching sessions and Anna Marshall also helped from time to time.

Cleverley left the club in much better shape than when she took over as club captain. “But none of it would have been possible without the support of the club committee. They made it easy. They just said go for it.”



Open Women Long and Short Canoe NZ Champions 2013

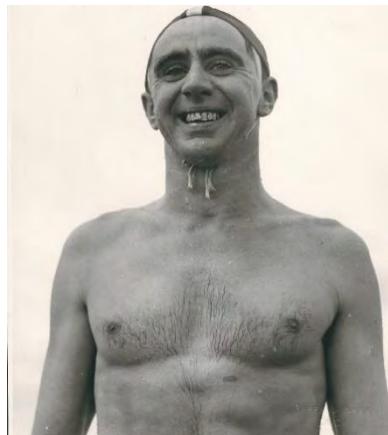
END OF AN ERAS AND ‘IN IT FOR LIFE’

Taylor’s Mistake has been privileged to be served by unique and dedicated personalities. When they pass there is often a huge gap left and recognizing their contribution is a daunting task. The challenge to respectfully and accurately record the contributions of Harry Goldsmith, Graham Pratley and Barry Turpin and others to Taylor’s Mistake could be the basis of a single publication, such was their involvement and commitment to the club.

GRAHAM PRATLEY

Graham Pratley was a highly competent pool swimmer and surf life-saver competing against, and beating, some of the best in both sports during the 1950’s. Perhaps his greatest achievement was in 1958 when he beat the man who was regarded as the iron man of surf life-saving at the time, Reg Harker, from the Red Beach club in Auckland.

After five near misses in the individual belt race, Pratley finally beat his nemesis in stormy conditions at South Brighton.



There were other successes against the notable surf men of the time - Noel and Colin Chambers, Jack Ryan, Neville Schou and Rab Blair, as well as Harker.

Graham died in 1997 aged 66.

In the pool he was a Canterbury secondary schools breaststroke champion, won several Canterbury titles in breaststroke, and was selected for the 1959 Centennial Games. But it was in team situations that Graham excelled. In 1951 and 1952 he was a member of the Taylor’s four place rescue and resuscitation team that won the New Zealand championship.

After he finished competing he moved seamlessly into instructing and coaching, and immediately the fortunes of the Taylor's R&R teams began to improve.

Graham was appointed club captain of Taylor's at the tender age of 19. Seven years later when he finished in the role, the club was growing its competitive stature. Seniors, juniors and women were all starting to make their presence felt at Canterbury and national level.

National titles for Taylor's athletes were scarce prior to 1949 but after Graham's appointment as club captain, the title tally began to grow. As a coach he was regarded as a perfectionist, illustrated by the fact he won the Ted Hughes Trophy as the champion instructor at the club, for four consecutive years.

He continued as a coach for the club for 27 years, and for seven of those years he was also chief instructor for the Canterbury Surf Life-saving Association.

The prize that Graham and the club had been chasing was finally captured in 1971. It was the crowning glory of his career as a coach. The Nelson Shield, awarded to the winner of the six-man rescue and resuscitation team at the New Zealand championships, was finally in the Taylor's Mistake trophy cabinet. Graham and the six life-savers were dubbed the "magnificent seven".

The team did not stop there. Using the Pratley formula the team kept its hands on the trophy for the next three years. Graham was not coaching the team in 1988 when it set a record that will stand forever, now that the Nelson Shield has been struck from the New Zealand championships programme.

The team had a perfect score – zero points deduction – the first and only time the score was achieved in the New Zealand championships. Jock McNaught coached that team, but the influence of Graham was in the background.

When the six-man R&R was dropped from the New Zealand championships after the final event in 2001 Taylor's Mistake had won the coveted Nelson Shield seventeen times and Graham had coached four of those.

Graham's skills were not limited to coaching. He was also a tireless administrator who served five years as president at Taylor's, and he was also the president of Canterbury SLS, as well as chief instructor, selector and coach of provincial teams. He was made a life member of Canterbury SLS in 1972. At Taylor's he was frequently at the clubrooms doing maintenance tasks.

He had a long association with the bay. His father had a bach on Rotten Row, which enabled Graham to spend a lot of time in the surf as a teenager. He obtained his surf bronze medallion at 17.

Away from the surf Graham was involved in scouting, but is best remembered at the club for his performances as a hypnotist and magician under the name "Gordon Graham", his Christian names reversed.

HG GOLDSMITH

When Harry Goldsmith passed away in December 2013 he was arguably the longest serving member of the Taylor's Mistake Surf Life-Saving Club. Harry, who was 94 when he passed away, was a club member for 77 years and served as a competitor, coach and administrator for varying portions of those years. He was a regular at the club, and at the family bach at the bay. Harry joined the club soon after arriving in Christchurch with his parents in 1936. He was a strapping 17-year-old then, and he soon made his presence felt on the Christchurch swimming scene.

Even in those days the tentacles of the Taylor's Mistake club were quick to grab any new talent appearing on the local aquatic scene. No doubt the club's bloodhounds had learned that Harry was born in Australia, which was renowned even in those early days, for producing excellent swimmers. He had been a member of the North Bondi club where his father, Harry (snr), was a vice-president.



Harry holding up the Kesteven Cup aloft 28 January 2009!

As a teenager in Sydney young Harry quickly earned a reputation as a talented surf-lifesaver and swimmer, frequently winning events in his age-group. His family moved to Auckland in 1933 after Harry (snr's) thriving sports business was wiped out in the Great Depression. Harry (jnr) attended Auckland Grammar School for two years before the family moved to Christchurch. Harry immediately joined the Christchurch United Swimming Club and Taylor's surf-lifesaving club, no doubt prodded in that direction by the Ballin Bros, Otto and Jim, of the brewing and soft drink family. Both were members at Taylor's.

Little did Harry know when he joined Taylor's that it would be a lifelong association for himself and his family. His sons Paul and Peter both followed in their father's footsteps. Craig, a son of Peter, was also a club member, and now Zach, a son of Craig, gives the family a Taylor's Mistake association spanning five generations, starting with Harry (snr).

The Ballins' gave Harry a job as a bookkeeping clerk at their business, where he remained until enlisting in the Air Force in 1942. Around this time Harry had surgery to improve his flat feet, which had been troubling him. Surgery was only partly successful. It gave him full mobility but from then he was never able to walk or stand for long periods.

Harry's condition prevented him serving overseas and he spent the war years at Wigram and Harewood. But the troubles with his feet never affected Harry's swimming. In the pool he was a frequent setter of Canterbury records and it is believed that one of those records still stands today. It was set in a 25-yard pool, but there are few 25-yard pools around now since metrics were introduced to New Zealand and no competitions in 25 yard pools. The distance is still used regularly in the United States for the NCAA (university) competitions.

Surf life-saving though was where Goldsmith truly made his mark. He immediately forced club mates and opposition to take notice of his ability in his first year at Taylor's Mistake in 1936. In 1938 he was the New Zealand surf race champion after being runner-up the previous year.

But like many good sportsmen of that era Harry's best competitive years were curtailed by World War II. There was no competition from 1939-45 and with national championship venues spread around the country it was often prohibitive financially to attend.

Harry next stood on the rostrum at the nationals in 1946 when he won the senior beltman's title. This involved swimming out to a patient dragging behind a heavy rescue line.

A good deal of a surf club's existence in those days was saving lives in the sea, and for 20 years Harry trained in the rescue and resuscitation techniques of the time. He assisted with many beach patrols and was part of patrol teams that rescued numerous bathers from difficult situations at Taylor's over a long period.

When still an active member of the club Harry transferred his attention to administration. He was the club captain from 1945-1948, club president from 1960-1967 and was elected a life member in 1966. He also spread his administrative prowess to provincial level and was Canterbury Surf Life-Saving's treasurer from 1945-1958. During his time as the Taylor's president he was also the club's delegate to the provincial body and was honoured with life membership. He was also recognised for his contribution to the sport at national level being awarded a Distinguished Award by Surf Life Saving New Zealand.

After the war Harry joined the tobacconist business of Charlie Lange under the United Service Hotel on the edge of Cathedral Square. Harry was well known to Lange. He was courting Pearl Kingdon, Lange's niece. Lange was nearing retirement and wanted some young blood in the firm. Harry served with the firm until his own retirement in 1984.

When Harry joined the business it sold mainly cigarettes, tobacco, pipes and lottery tickets. But he diversified it into one of the leading souvenir businesses in the city. The shop was converted from a dingy wood-panelled area to a modern, brightly lit store. Over the years the shop expanded twice, moving into neighbouring businesses that were vacated.

Over a 20-year period Harry and Pearl, who became his wife, acquired the shares of the other co-owners in the business. In his retirement Harry continued to be a regular visitor to the bach at Taylor's until a series of health problems in 1984 began to slow him down. He lost his hearing, survived a cancer, and a stroke but battled bravely for another 19 years.

He lost his wife Pearl in 1999 and his drivers licence when he was 87, curtailing his freedom further. Harry spent the last two years of his life in a retirement home where his greatest delight was receiving visits from his family, especially his grandchildren.

BARRY TURPIN

Every sports club has its reliable people.

They are the dedicated volunteers who, through their lifetime, hold virtually every office in the club, and whose contributions are missed when they are no longer around. Barry Turpin was one of those people.

He was a larger than life character, and when he passed away in January 2001 aged 65 he had been involved with Taylor's Mistake for more than 50 years. He had been a championship winning athlete, but his greatest contributions came after his competitive days. He filled a fistful of positions at Taylor's through the years including president, treasurer, secretary, club captain, and coach. He was elected a life member in 1982 and was elected co-patron in 2000.

"To adequately convey to you the magnitude of his contribution is practically impossible," said Paul Carpinter, who delivered a eulogy for the Taylor's Mistake club at Barry's funeral.

Barry's association began with the club when he was still at school. When he left secondary school on a Friday during the summer he would head to Taylor's for the weekend. He was fortunate at that time to fall under the influence of Graham Pratley, and Bob and Nan Russell, other stalwarts of the club, who were able to teach young Turpin about surf life-saving. They had a

young man who soaked up every bit of information about the sport that they were able throw at him.

He involved himself in everything – coaching, working bees and socially. And he was rewarded with breakfast in bed by Nan Russell. What followed was a tireless contribution to the club, interrupted briefly by a stint working away from Christchurch. It is likely Barry's record of service to the club will not be repeated.

The special meeting to elect him as a co-patron in 2000 was told that he had held every office on the committee except one - women's club captain. It would not have surprised anyone in the club if he accepted the position if it was offered, said Paul Carpenter. "He would have undertaken the position with the enthusiasm and commitment that underpinned his contribution to all the other offices he held. He never said no when asked to help Taylor's."

Barry held the co-patron's position with Harry Goldsmith, another long-serving club member. Barry was an outstanding club captain and coach of many teams, and in particular his grubbies, better known as juniors. The junior club members received the benefit of his considerable knowledge through the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's. Then in later years he coached many of those juniors as men who brought the club numerous competitive successes.

Among the many teams Barry coached was a women's six-place R&R team which included his three daughters - Louise, Sarah and Kate.

Barry contributed unselfishly to several other clubs throughout New Zealand, but his loyalty to Taylor's was never in doubt. He was available to support Taylor's Mistake in all its endeavours. "His efforts have been Taylor's Mistake's finest gold medal performance," said Paul Carpinter.

Barry' service to the sport did not stop at Taylor's Mistake. Both the Canterbury and New Zealand surf life-saving associations benefitted from his knowledge and enthusiasm. At Canterbury level he was a club delegate, assistant secretary, secretary, a trustee, chief instructor, and a competition official for 37 years. He was also a president of the Canterbury association and a coach of representative teams.

At national level he was a competition official for 28 years, a referee in the swim arena, a New Zealand selector and coach, and a national president. He was also made a life member of the Canterbury and national associations and received a Queen's Service Medal in recognition of his contribution to surf life-saving.

Barry received the most prestigious trophy at Taylor's Mistake in 1999 after 50 years of hard work. The Graham Pratley Trophy was for the club's Surf Life Saver of the Year. That he received the trophy 50 years after he joined the club was testament to his diligence, dedication, vigilance and endurance.

In the conclusion to his eulogy Paul Carpinter said club members had been privileged to have worked, socialised, competed with, and been coached by Barry. "As the co-author of the Guardians of the Mistake with Barry, Ray Cairns says he was coerced, or led down the garden path, to work with Barry to produce a fine history of our club to commemorate 75 years. We have all encountered this coercing aspect of his persuasive personality at some stage. Our respect and love of Barry's commitment to Taylor's has meant that it was impossible not to agree with him or commit to a task."



Barry Turpin, forever coaching!

The Mistake was never far from Barry's thoughts until the end. Four days before he passed away he visited the club and beach for the last time.

He phoned brother Jim "Tiger" Turpin, and said: "I want to go for one more swim, Tig. Today' the day. If I don't go now, I'll never go again. "I want to feel the water in my hair and the salt in my mouth." Jim Turpin and Barry's daughter, Louise, took him to the beach and helped him to the surf where he sat with the waves washing over him.

Back on the beach he met another stalwart of the club, Bev Reward. They sunbathed together for half an hour before he left the black sand for the final time.

Barry was part of an extended family that has a long association with Taylor's Mistake. Barry's two brothers also joined Taylors. Rex, who was active for several years and Jim, who has been a stalwart member for decades. Jim married June Harrow, another stalwart of the club who won several national titles in rescue and resuscitation and surf race events in the 1950's.

June was not the only family member who has made a significant contribution to the club. Her sister Lynne, won two national surf races and two brothers, Anthony and Pat were also club members. Sarah and Ben, children of Anthony, have also been members of the club.

BEV REWARD

One of the special things about arriving at Taylor's Mistake, especially in the summer is that there is usually always someone 'on the sand' that you know well and it is always easy to sit and talk as if it were 'yesterday'. 'Over the hill' has always been a place where you can 'pick up' where you left off and one person who was more than comfortable in ensuring that you were always comfortable 'on the sand' was Bev Reward.

Bev was an integral part of the Taylor's Mistake. Her loyalty, humour and friendship that made her such a cornerstone of the club for over 50 years. Bev gained her Surf Award in 1954. She was a strong and nationally ranked swimmer and quickly turned her athleticism to winning many NZ Championship medals. She was the banner girl in the March Past Team! From the mid1950's and into the early 1960's Bev was a member of teams that won 15 golds at National Championships and at least as many at Canterbury Championships, with of course many other 2nd and 3rd placings as well. These achievements were in the Surf Teams Race, the 4 place and 6 Place Rescue and Resuscitation Events and the March Past. Her ability to catch and hold a wave was outstanding. Her friendly and supportive team spirit encouraged many fledgling new members to become long term clubbies.



She was a responsible patroller for many years and was undoubtedly amongst the Club's all-time best competitors.

A dedicated trainer, Bev spent many hours at Latimer Square or at the beach, often in a cold easterly. It was during these occasions and the many trips to nationals where she established enduring friendships within the club. A pool swimmer and coach of some note and a Primary School Teacher for most of her working life, many children benefited from the free tuition and remedial swimming lessons she held every lunch hour in the summer at her school.

Competing at a time when women's competitions were restricted in some events, Bev was never-the-less one of the first girls in NZ to take to the newish phenomenon of board riding and she will be remembered by those of the time as the driver of the Fiat Bambina car with a large wooden surf board hanging over front and back that followed the waves around the local, and some not so local, beaches. Over the years she made many trips to ride the big waves in Australia and at Hawaii's Oahu. In many instances she surfed and trained with boy lifesavers who went on to win NZ titles in a sport she was denied entry. She was always happy to lend her board to anyone and encourage them to have a go. A beautiful rose amongst the thorns was our Bev.

Bev sadly left us on Christmas Day 2008. Bev suffered illnesses from a very early age but with her always optimistic and positive outlook she was always smiling and while always short of breath, she overcame these major setbacks in a way that could be a lesson to all. She never complained. One can only imagine what her competitive record would have been like if she had ever been fully fit!

Bev has shown her love for the Club and respect for the community service it provides by making a substantial bequest to the Taylor's Mistake Surf Life Saving Club's Trust Fund. Her passion for the club was unquestionable and she was just as generous with her passing, as she was with her time, leaving the club a substantial bequest.

A belated Surf Life Saving Canterbury Service award was made to Bev in 2004. At about the same time the Club presented her with a framed Appreciation Certificate for her long time contribution to and support of the Club. Identities and genuinely good people like Bev are rare and her passing has left a big hole for her friends. The Club will remain thankful and indebted to her.

Taylor's has also lost other members of the 'family'. The passing of personalities is demanding on friends and family and it is difficult to note the passing of all previous members due to the loss of contact. Among those who have contributed to Taylor's Mistake and who we remember well are:

Jock McNaught, a life member, a New Zealand Champion in R&R at both the junior and senior level, an outstanding coach, dedicated administrator and generous benefactor.

Laurie McKewon, a fantastic team member, New Zealand Champion, a masters competitor and a tireless and generous worker for the club, who spent most of his life around Taylor's Mistake.

Monty Rattray, a life member who had an association with Taylor's Mistake since 1910. Much of Monty's contribution and involvement is recorded elsewhere in this book and he was one of the typical loyal members that made our Club what it is today. Needless to say, a huge piece of club history passed with Monty.

Mike Mason, a loyal and dedicated club administrator whose interest in the Club never faded. He had maintained a strong association with the Club, despite living away from Christchurch for a number of years.

John McDermott, a bach owner and resident plus an exceptional surfer. John was national champion as a board rider and surf life saver, a unique double.

Bill Rowe, a lifelong supporter of the Club and the Bay. He was always committed to fundraising and working bees.

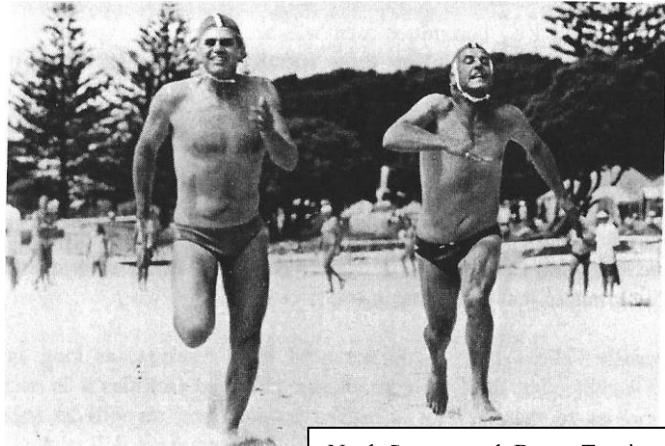
Bob Hopkins, a distinctive personality, former resident and competitor who had a love of Taylor's Mistake that was often displayed in an incomparable manner.

Harley Turnbull, a member of the Taylor's Mistake family. Harley married Helen Le Cren, Geoff's sister and was an active competitor in the 50's. He helped establish Waikuku Beach SLSC and was an active administrator at the Canterbury level and was made a life member of SLS Canterbury in 1997.

Paul Lane, a member of a family that has a long association with Taylor's. His younger brothers Bryan, a resident, Ross and Warren were active members and Paul married Jan Campbell, one of the top women competitors from the 50's and 60's. Their children, Candy and Jacob were also very successful competitors at Taylor's. Paul was a resident of Taylor's for much of his adult life. Warren, one of Paul's younger brothers died in 2015.



The commitment of numerous members of the Taylor's community to our club is unwavering. Whether it is as a fund raiser, administrator or competitor several have continued their association for decades – "In it for life"



Noel Saxton and Barry Turpin battling in the beach sprint at the New Zealand masters, 1993

Gone are the days when competing ceased once families, work and other commitments interfered. Numerous members have continued to work tirelessly for Taylor's.

The opportunity for ongoing competitive involvement presents. Masters competitions at the regional, national and international level has attracted a commitment from many – Malcolm McClurg, Noel Saxton, Brian Rattray, Laurie McKeown, Geoff Le Cren, Paul Garrett, Carl Immers, Daryl Neate, Anna Marshall and numerous others.



Noel Saxton – gold medal, Tube Rescue, Oakura, 1992. The patient is Noel's brother Mark.

Success has been achieved.

At the 1994 2nd World masters held at Mt Maunganui Taylor's had numerous successes. In the 30-34 age group Taylors was placed first in the Taplin Relay, Ski Relay, Board Relay and 4 man R&R.

Noel Saxton is perhaps our most success full masters competitor. In 2000 at the International Lifesaving Rescue 2000, Sydney he achieved 5 silver medals in the 60 - 64 age group: 50m Saving a Dummy with fins, 100m Saving a Dummy with fins, 100m, Freestyle with Obstacles, Beach Sprint and 1 km Beach Run.

Members committing to such competitions always enjoy the experience. Being on the beach, competing with old foes and spending time with team mates from the past is a rewarding time, to say nothing of the story telling of times past.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END AND A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Open 6 Place Rescue and Resuscitation at Taylor's Mistake 1991-2002

The last hurrah – Taylor’s Mistake – winners again on the last occasion when the Open 6 Place Rescue and Resuscitation (Nelson Shield) was held at Midway in 2001.



L-R: Daryl Neate, Geoff Le Cren, Simon Davis, Gareth McClurg, David Hill, Richard Smith, Paul Carpenter (Coach). Daryl, Geoff and Paul were all members of the first team from Taylor’s to win the Nelson Shield some 31 years earlier!

In the 1970s the basic qualification to become a surf lifesaver was changed. The impact of this on the Open 6 Place Rescue and Resuscitation event (R&R) at Taylor’s was noticeable during the final years of R&R as an event. Few new faces were added to the senior team in the 1990’s and the old troopers of

the 1980s Carl Immers, Dene Waru and Simon Davis formed the nucleus of the team which represented Taylor's Mistake during the 1990s. These stalwarts were joined by David Hill, Richard Smith and Gareth McClurg. There were appearances from the veterans (evergreens?) Neate and Le Cren and solitary appearances by Dougal Holmes and John O'Connell. In an 11 year period Taylor's Mistake were represented by 10 'athletes' in the Open 6 Place Rescue and Resuscitation 'A' team.

Appearances in the 6 place team in this period (1991-2001) were as follows: Hill, Davis and McClurg 11 (years); Immers, Smith and Waru 9; Neate 2; Le Cren, O'Connell and Holmes 1. The coaching was shared by Paul Carpenter 9 (years) and Jock McNaught and Geoff Le Cren each with 1 year.

Of the above Neate, Carpenter and Le Cren were part of the first Nelson Shield success in 1971. All 3 competed for Taylor's in Nelson Shield finals during the 1960's. Their involvement in this event spanned more than 35 years!

It was relatively easy for the team to commit during the 1990s and prepare for the Nationals. The hard work of learning the drill, marching properly, not looking around and maintaining a steely focus was engrained thanks mainly to Barry Turpin and Graham Pratley. Seldom was there much activity prior to Christmas. Most of the participants had other commitments – study, work and families. The days of being able to spend endless hours at Taylor's had gone. After most nationals there was no commitment regarding involvement for a further year. In the early part of the season there was usually a one more year commitment which was often achieved with compromises regarding the nature of training. Limited sessions prior to Christmas were negotiated and then a 6-8 week commitment from mid-January. No cold weather was to be endured, minimal effort in the pool was negotiated and avoidance of 'wet runs' expected.

Some were not prepared to let the experience of another Nelson Shield go! The camaraderie and friendship that prevailed was a significant factor in ensuring commitment from the participants. There was always a joke to share and fun to be had. However, there was a steely determination to compete and complete the practice sessions with effort and effectiveness. Over the years there was an increasing appreciation of the time required to achieve a winning performance. When the practice commenced it was all on.

Had the core of the team not made themselves available the long tradition of success that Taylor's Mistake achieved in this event would have ceased. Young juniors qualified as lifeguards by completing activity significantly dissimilar to 6 place which was the basic qualification for most of the team of this era. Hence there was little interest in the event by the younger generation of lifeguards.

During this period there were 4 first place results at the Nationals (Nelson Shield); 2 second places, 3 third places and 1 fourth place. No placings were achieved on 2 occasions. On one occasion there were back to back wins.



Second place in 1993. Not a position of choice. The body language of Gareth and Carl says it all!

There were traditional stuff ups which mean there was no result. Marching on to the wrong beach position meant a no placing on one occasion. However no placings were few and far between.

Between 1991 and 2002 the 'A' team was placed outside of the first 3 on only 3 occasions which was a testimony to the skill and ability of the teams who represented Taylor's during this period. The success of the club in this event was also mirrored in numerous Canterbury Championship wins and Kesteven Cup wins. Four place R&R event success at local competitions also continued.



Winners of Nelson Shield
(New Zealand Championship)
1994 & 1995; Canterbury
Championship and Kesteven
Cup Winners - 1993, 1994,
1995 and 1996.

L-R: Dene Waru, David Hill,
Richard Smith, Carl Immers,
Simon Davis, Gareth McClurg,
Paul Carpenter (Coach)

Taylor's also enjoyed continued success in the four place R&R event during this period: 1992 3rd, 1995 and 1996 1st; 1998 and 1999 2nd; 2000 3rd; 2001 2nd and 3rd; 2002 3rd. The most successful team during this period was the team of 1995 and 1996.



1995 & 1996. Winners of NZ 4
Place Championship (Royal
Humane Shield).

Canterbury Champions 1994,
1995, 1996.

L-R: David Hill, Dene Waru,
Simon Davis, Carl Immers

Four place was never the highest priority for Taylor's. However the event remained attractive to the veterans as they could avoid the dreaded swim that the 6 place may require. Fortunately there was always a capable belt swimmer. During this period (1991-2002) for teams that won medals at the nationals Taylor's used only 3 belt men – Immers, Smith and Fraser Bickley.

Success in 4 place was enjoyed by David Hill with the following placings - 2 firsts, 3 seconds, and 2 thirds, Simon Davis 2, 3 and 2; Carl Immers 2, 2 and 1; Dene Waru 2, 2 and 1; Richard Smith -, 2 and 1; Gareth McClurg -, 2 and -; Tim McClurg -, 1 and 1; Geoff Le Cren -, 1 and 1; and Fraser Bickley, Daryl Neate and Paul Carpinter each with one third placing.

There were a couple of occasions when 'B' teams entered the Open 6 Place Rescue and Resuscitation. On one occasion the enthusiasm of Barry Turpin ensured that a group of youngsters participated at Lyall Bay in 1994. Barry was conscious that the 'A' team was on borrowed time and wanted to ensure that there was some succession. Youngsters Sam Saxton, Marcus Saxton, Carl Gordon, Michael Bouwmeester, and Andrew Bell were subjected to the Turpin training. The 6th position was filled by a reluctant Paul Carpinter. For some reason the team did not commit to a further season. Perhaps it was the thought on competing in cold conditions at Warrington in 1995.



Taylor's Mistake 'B'
competing in the Open 6
Place Rescue and
Resuscitation Final (Nelson
Shield) Lyall Bay 1995. L-R:
Paul Carpinter, Sam Saxton,
Marcus Saxton, Carl Gordon,
Michael Bouwmeester, and
Andrew Bell.

Coach Barry Turpin would not have been impressed with the angle of the reel, a couple of the team looking at the sand and 2 distinct timings (1, 2 and 3 seem to have finished their last step whilst 4, 5 and 6 catch up!

'A blast from the past'

The other occasion when a 'B' team entered was at New Brighton in 1999. It was clear that the Open 6 Place Rescue and Resuscitation was dying and the opportunity to compete for one more year would soon disappear. The 'B' Team was a blast from the past. Daryl Neate, Geoff Le Cren and Paul Goldsmith were members of the team which won in 1971 and they had not been in the same team together since 1973. The veterans were joined by a youngish Ken Jones (a Nelson Shield winner in 1984) and 2 other veterans Errol Hunter (first Nelson Shield success in 1972) and Jock McNaught (a Nelson Shield winner in 1979). The experience and skill of this group prevailed. A third place in the final!



A blast from the past and not missing a beat! New Brighton 1999. NZ championships, 'B' team – 3rd place.

Left to right: Paul Goldsmith, Daryl Neate, Jock McNaught, Geoff Le Cren, Errol Hunter and Ken Jones.



New Brighton 1999. NZ championships, 'B' team – 3rd place. L-R: Ken Jones, Errol Hunter, Paul Goldsmith, Geoff Le Cren, Daryl Neate. Absent: Jock McNaught.

In this picture there are 4 of the team who won the Nelson Shield for the first time for Taylor's some 24 years earlier at Waimairi in 1971: Goldsmith, Le Cren, Neate, Carpenter (Coach of the A team – winners on this occasion).



New Brighton 1999. Winners of Nelson Shield (New Zealand Championship).

L-R: Carl Immers, Simon Davis, Richard Smith, Gareth McClurg, David Hill, Paul Carpenter (Coach). Absent: Dene Waru.

During the 1990's there were fewer and fewer teams entering R&R competitions. It was clear that the event was about to die. Young surf lifesavers showed little if any interest. The average age of competitors in the Open 6 Place Rescue and Resuscitation was well over 30 and some would say closer to 50! The decision by Surf Life Saving New Zealand to can the event came as no surprise. Those who were competing enjoyed the event mainly because of the camaraderie and friendship. The event as a competition had been replaced by more dynamic and athletic individual events. Further the skills honed via R&R played no part in the core activity of Taylor's –

patrolling. Rescue tubes, the foundation equipment of today's patrols, were introduced in the 1969-1970 summer. It is ironic that one of the New Zealand delegation that travelled to the United States for lifeguard training and returned to New Zealand to introduce the rescue tube was Paul Carpenter. He probably didn't expect the outcome that the introduction of the rescue tube would have on R&R. The fact that R&R lasted 30 plus years after the introduction of the rescue tube was probably a reflection of the passion and enthusiasm that the participants had for R&R rather than its usefulness as a patrol resource.

The final curtain

The death of Barry Turpin in 2001 ensured that Taylor's was represented in the final holding of the event at Midway in 2001. Club members who had been coached and mentored by Barry wanted to honour his memory – not an easy task! To compete in the last Open 6 Place Rescue and Resuscitation to be held soon after his passing was a moving occasion.

Taylor's won the event for the 17th time – the most by any New Zealand club. A reporter from the Bay-Harbour News penned the following in 18 April 2001. The headline read "**Win dedicated to Barry Turpin**".

Spurred on by the death of friend and fellow club mate Barry Turpin seven of Taylor's Mistake's more mature club members decided to form a six - man R&R (rescue and resuscitation) team to compete at this year's national surf life-saving competition as a tribute to their mate.

With a combined average age somewhere near 40 the six men and their coach showed the young up and coming surf life-savers a. thing or two coming home with the coveted Nelson Challenge shield for Taylor's Mistake Surf Club - the 17th time a team from Taylor's Mistake has done so.

Four of the team members - David Hill, Richard Smith, Simon Davis and Gareth McClurg, had worked together as four-man team before, deciding to put a six-man team together at Barry Turpin's funeral. They called in' Geoff Le Cren, who came out of surf life-saving retirement along with Daryl Neate, for this year's competition. Geoff, a stalwart of the club, first won gold with the Taylor's Mistake surf club back in 1959. Now a resident in Auckland, he

was more than willing to put his body back on the line as a tribute to Barry Turpin.

Making their win even more poignant is the fact that this was the final time a six-man R&R competition will be held, with a new revised five- man format being held in future.

Bay Harbour News

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Taylors Mistake does it again

The successful six-man team that won the Nelson ChallengeShield at this year's nationals. It is the 17th time Taylors Mistake surf club has brought home this piece of silverware. Pictured left to right are: David Hill, Daryl Neate, Richard Smith, Geoff LeCren, Simon Davis and coach Paul Caryinter. Absent is Gareth McClurg. See our story on page two.

Whilst most of Taylors' success in R&R was achieved by a small group of senior male members who enjoyed the event with passion and commitment there were others who had success in the period 1991-2002 in R&R events. There were 2 wins in the Open March Past (1991 and 1992) and 3 second places. Whilst the march past, which is also an event of the past, is not strictly an R&R event the success that Taylor's has had in this event is largely dependent upon R&R skills.

There were also pockets of other notable performances. A women's 6 place team gained 3rd place at the 1995 Nationals at Lyall Bay and a Junior 6 place

team was placed 3rd at the Nationals at Warrington in 1995. An under 16 4 place team was placed 3rd at the Nationals (Mt Maunganui 2002).

Writing a summary of R&R at Taylor's Mistake is not an easy task. Taylor's is arguably the most successful R&R club in the history of R&R in New Zealand, especially the Open 6 Place Rescue and Resuscitation. The foundations were established by Graham Pratley and Barry Turpin. They enjoyed the success the event brought. Those who have been successful representatives of Taylor's will forever be indebted to these 2 gentlemen. Their efforts established great teams, strong friendships and lasting memories of an event which was challenging, required discipline and above all ensured teamwork beyond that experienced in most other sports.

And the winners were!

Daryl Neate 13 (1971-2001), Geoff Le Cren 11 (1971-2001), Paul Carpenter 10 (1971-1994), Simon Davis 9 (1981-2001), Carl Immers 8 (1984-1999), Dene Waru 8 (1984-2000), Errol Hunter 7 (1971-1999), David Hill 5 (1990-2001), Richard Smith 4 (1995-2001), Gareth McClurg 4 (1991-2001), Tim Bodger 4 (1977-1982), Paul Goldsmith 3 (1971-1999), Peter Hay 3 (1973-1979), Lars Humer 3 (1985-1988), Bill Maguire 2 (1971-1972), Jock McNaught 2 (1979-1999), Ian MacDonald Jnr 2 (1987-1990), Chris Read 1971, Tim Dean 1974, Malcolm McClurg 1977, Ken Jones 1984, Rick Laing 1985.

Coaches who were successful: Graham Pratley 4 (1971 to 1974), Barry Turpin 4 (1977, 1979, 1981 and 1982), Jock McNaught 5 (1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1990) and Paul Carpenter 4 (1994, 1995, 1999, and 2001).



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PLEASED TO RECOGNISE 100 YEARS OF SURF LIFE SAVING AT
TAYLORS MISTAKE

THE DELIVERY OF SERVICE

The reels and belts have gone from the beach.

The old, unflattering swimming costumes worn by patrollers of the past have been replaced by bright new swim and beach wear, but the patrollers job remains virtually the same.

They are there to save members of the public if they get into difficulties in the tricky water. Access to bathers in strife is more efficient these days thanks to the IRB which can be with the patient in seconds, although some rescues are still done with a patroller and a rescue tube.

Mike Smith who organises the patrols at Taylor's Mistake, says while clubs are coping and getting patrols onto the beaches at weekends and some public holidays, it is a struggle to attract new people to take on a lifeguard role.

“We are competing against so many other sports, and the other thing that has changed through the years is the need for our young adults to earn money to put themselves through university. But there is still a need to have them on the beach as lifeguards.

“The requirement for these young people to work does affect membership, and therefore the number of people available to do patrols.’

Thanks to long-standing financial assistance from the Christchurch City Council and the Waimakariri District Council the clubs are able to run paid regional patrols from Monday to Friday during the long summer holidays.



“Club volunteers still pick up the weekends and some public holidays,” says Smith.

Taylor’s fills the gap when the regional guards are not on the beach and it is has six patrol groups each of which consists of 10-12 people. Each group has a mix of people who range from advanced lifeguards to those freshly qualified.

A recent innovation is the inclusion of rookies in patrols. They are usually aged 14 to 17 and have come through the club’s nippers programme. They are preparing for their lifeguard award which they must have before they can compete in surf life-saving.

On the majority of days there are no rescues, but then there are days which test a club’s resources to the limit. Two years ago Taylor’s faced one of those days. It started as a normal day, but in the afternoon, quickly turned to a nightmare explains Smith.

“At Taylor’s, because of the nature of the bay we have what’s called a “flash rip”. If there is a gentle rip running it doesn’t cause a concern but if it’s a hot day with a heavy surf running it can become a problem. There can be 2000 to 2500 people on the beach.”

“This day we got part way through the tide run and suddenly there was a large volume of water coming off the flats which set a hard, fast rip. In the space of 1hr 15min we rescued 28 people. In the worst of it we had eight or nine rescues running at once.



Patrol competition scenarios.

“Of that number two people were hospitalised, two were sent to an after hours medical centre and then there were four or five who we rescued to the beach and they were able to look after themselves,” said Smith.

“The two hospitalisations were at risk of secondary drowning. They ingested water and as a precaution we put them on oxygen.”

In contrast to that dreadful day in 2013, Taylor’s last year had to perform just five rescues but also performed 600 preventative actions. The club performed 53 rescues in 2013 - 28 on the one day -and 1900 preventative actions which consist of shepherding people back to the flags, or asking them to observe the rip signs.

Smith says if the patrols are doing things perfectly on the beach the preventative action numbers will be very high and our rescues exceedingly low because they are stopping people getting into a situation where they need rescuing.

The lifeguard programme can always do with more funding says Smith. “We have to go cap in hand to local authorities for money and to external funders including gaming charities. The pool of money from pokies is being drawn on more and more. There was a situation in Raglan recently where they couldn’t afford to put regional guards on beaches. They’ve had to cut their regional guard programme in half.

“As a result of that someone has gone to the beach in the evening, got into trouble and has drowned. Now the question is being asked ‘Why weren’t the lifeguards there?’”

“We are lucky the city council and the Waimakariri council still fund services on our beaches,” said Smith.

Taylor’s has been though some rough times in the last five years because of the earthquakes. “We had on average 70 lifeguards before the earthquakes but after we dropped back to the low 50s. We lost those 20 active lifeguards for a range of reasons. Some of it was our young people figuring there was not much happening in Christchurch. “They were thinking of doing their OE or

something else so they took the opportunity and went overseas. Others chose to go to Otago or Victoria university," said Smith.

"In the last few years we have had a push to try and rebuild our lifeguard stocks so we are back almost to pre-earthquake levels at the moment. In the 2014-15 season the club provided 1600 hours of volunteer lifeguard duty and had 26 new lifeguards. In the 2013-14 season we had 11 new lifeguards and in the 2010-11 season there were no new lifeguards.

Increasingly younger lifeguards are qualifying for patrols and their ability to handle the public amazes Smith.

"There are not many situations where we empower 14, 15, 16 and 17-year-olds to go out and actively look after adults. It's pretty amazing when you think about what we are doing to empower the youngsters to take that responsibility and be bold enough to go and tell an adult: 'Sorry sir, can you please go between the flags. It's not safe here.'

Mike Smith – always the photographer, but more importantly a dedicated worker. Canterbury-Tasman Patroller of the Year 2009, club captain, patrol manager, coach, team manager, ...



“It’s hard for an adult to be told by a teenager what he or she should be doing. At Taylor’s when the young guys are not making much headway we get the senior guard to go down and give the young guy moral support.”

Smith has been the patrol manager at Taylor’s for more years than he cares to remember.

“I’m lucky I’ve had some young guys come through who want to take on a bit more responsibility so they’ve picked up the reins of the more day to day stuff. We now try and encourage the early teens to get involved. Some do, some don’t. It’s trying to get them working with their peers.”

Smith says it is important these days that the lifeguards project a good image on the beach. “Sponsors need a return for their money so we need to make sure we provide what the public and sponsors expect.”

The legacy of the earthquakes is still with Taylor’s members. “What upsets us at the moment is the uncertainty around the clubrooms,” says Smith. “There are going to be clubs with new clubrooms and we are still unresolved. But we are asking our guys to continue patrolling from a beat up building.

“They have access to the clubrooms but there are doors that don’t close, leaks in the building and recently doors on the changing rooms weren’t opening, and it’s a struggle to get gear in and out around bracing. The building does look run down,” said Smith.

From a patrollers perspective we need to make it as comfortable as possible so they are still happy to come over to the club. As soon as they feel it’s a burden and it’s too much, that’s when it’s going to start biting us,” said Smith.

To participate in our sport you have to volunteer as a lifeguard. It is a prerequisite now that you are an active lifeguard before you can compete in the sport.

You have to have the surf lifeguard award and then we have everything up to advanced lifeguard. We also have different modules along the way such as board rescue where we put people on the board’s to see how they perform.

“We also have a senior lifeguard award for the IRB driver, and crewman. On a warm day, that is with the temperatures in the high 20’s or greater, there can be 2000-3000 people on the beach.

“That in itself isn’t a problem. It becomes a problem when it’s a hot day and we have a heavy surf running.

Opportunities for those committed to patrols have changed in the past 25 years. Patrol Competitions are the norm. Taylor’s success in such competitions has been very incredible. In 2006 the team of Viv Bickley, Nick Smith, Peter Rattray, Antony Morgan, David Stanley-Boden and Megan Lockie who won the Canterbury Patrol Championship and completed the competition (a theory exam, first aid treatment scenarios, a lifesaving scenario, run-swim-run, a tube rescue and IRB rescue) with a score of 119.5 out of 120.



Canterbury Patrol Champions 2004. This team won this competition several years in a row and on one occasion were placed 2nd in the national competition.

Bk: L -R: Nick Smith, Peter Rattray, Viv Bickley. Front: L - R: Antony Morgan, David Stanley-Boden, Megan Lockie

Other Taylor's members have also been acknowledged for the contribution to patrolling. David Stanley Boden was Canterbury Patroller of the Year in 2005 and Dan Bromley – Lifeguard of the Year 2012 and 2014.



2014 Canterbury/Tasman Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence.

Lifeguard of the Year: Dan Bromley

A committed lifeguard

Commitments to patrols has been massive. To identify all those who have ‘gone the extra mile’ is difficult. However, in recent years one who has ‘delivered’ is

Anthony Nunnick:
patroller, IRB
coordinator, surfer,...



Anthony joined Taylor’s in the 1990’s.

He said, “I surf, why wouldn’t I want to be a clubbie? Yes I had friends that were in the surf club. But, ha ha they were clubbies. Join us they said. I knocked around with them anyway, I see them in the water too. It is just that I sat on the hill and they go in their clubhouse.”

Eventually he joined and “so began a journey of what is now my 18th season as an active member of the surf club that guards the best surf beach in Christchurch.” He was informed that “you have to be able to swim 400m in 8 minutes and we’ll teach you how to rescue people and show you first aid, CPR and stuff”, then you will be a lifeguard. *Well it was a little more involved than that but in a nutshell that was how it went.*

“When I started patrols they differed considerably to todays. Back in the mid to late 90’s patrols had an element of organisation to them, but not in the same defined requirements of today. Yes you had a patrol captain and possibly someone who held a current IRB Drivers Licence. But the rest of the patrol was generally made up of qualified lifeguards with years of beach experience but not too many advanced qualifications amongst them. Even the patrol captain could be someone who just had a lifeguard qualification and could organise people. There was no patrol captain course. Other than the ability to advance from the remedial first aid you were taught the next advanced thing to do for patrols was your IRB drivers licence.”

Today's patrolling embraces significant advancement from your basic award. That is another difference from 20 odd years ago. There are tracks to follow. Health and safety legislation plays a part in how lifeguard qualifications are structured.

"But it is a move for the better. Once it was a straight road to the qualification of a driver. Now you need to get your crewmans qualification which makes you have more experience in the boat before being unleashed to drive it" said Nunnick.

And then the little twist of having to have your radio operators ticket before you can sit your drivers exam.

Basic first aid was about it for most people on patrol in the 1990's and "seemed to do and got you by." However as the methods of patrolling got smarter and more professional so were the expectations of what was required in an emergency. Services are not only "in the water" "but reach to people in the wider Taylor's environment. Lifeguards have become first responders and display multiple skills – CPR, cliff rescues....

Lifeguarding has changed for the better over the years. Today there is a heavy emphasis on actually doing your allotted time on patrol. Even to the point of going beyond your minimum requirements of hours patrolling. Your commitment to patrolling decides your eligibility ability to compete at national level events" said Nunnick.

"This has led to patrols of reliable and well qualified lifeguards. For many years this scenario was dreamed about by patrol captains. Quite often there were no shows and no organising of replacements. With many times you could start a patrol with 2 lifeguards and have not many more turn up over the course of the day". There is a robust service at Taylor's. Gone are the days of the XYZ patrol!

Lifeguard – a preferred activity!

Another dedicated lifeguard in recent years has been Harrison Reid. In 2011 Harrison couldn't believe his luck when his parents suggested he give the Bondi Lifeguard Academy a go during the school holidays. The following is extracted from the Australian Lifeguard Magazine and reflects how club members who join Taylor's are more than happy to be totally focussed on patrolling rather than competing!



Harrison, has been involved in surf lifesaving since he was 6 years old, has always loved the water, helping people out and working in teams. He became a lifeguard because it was something he dreamed of, and to be spending his summer school holidays lifeguarding at Taylor's. Harrison says he is passionate about lifeguarding. I like "being the first person at the beach and the last to go home and always being someone that people can rely on and trust," he says.

In 2011 Harrison spent a week at the Bondi Lifeguard Academy and says it was 'unreal' to do things he had never done before, in fact he says it was the best time of his life. "We did so many things and a lot of spinals, spinals, spinals!!! Jet skis, water skills and team work were all good," says Harrison. "I reckon I'm a better lifeguard now: at doing rescues, getting on better with new people, first aids, spinals, working as a team and also yoga!" Harrison says he'd 'drop school and head right back over there' if he ever got the chance. But for now he's concentrating on developing his lifeguard skills at home this summer. "I'm also a lifeguard (volunteer) instructor for my surf club so I'm passing the skills I learnt onto members of my club." He says he'd highly recommend the Academy to any other keen young lifeguards in New Zealand and Australia wanting to learn more about professional lifeguarding, or anyone wanting to become a lifeguard. "I'd recommend it to anyone that wants to improve their lifeguarding, and have an unreal time!"

Support for the patrol activity at Taylors is considerable and the patrol co-ordinators position is not an enviable one. The contributions of Dougal

Holmes, David Stanley-Boden, Megan Lockie, Peter Rattray, Tony Munnerley, Mike Smith amongst others is recognised with appreciation.

Innovation

Past patrollers are still active. David Hill, a past president, club captain, R&R competitor, newsletter editor, Annual Report editor... was mentioned in 2011 by the *The Press* newspaper.

A Christchurch architect has won an award for designing a lifeguard tower for a beach he patrolled as a teenager..

Wilson & Hill Architects were co-winners in the small project category for The Chair, a new lifeguard tower at Woodend Beach.

Dougal Holmes, southern region programmes and services manager with Surf Life Saving New Zealand, said the chair was designed by David Hill, who had patrolled the beach as a surf lifesaver in the 1980s.



The Chair had replaced the "very tragic" lifeguard tower which was more than 30 years old, he said

The Chair, funded by a grant of about \$30,000 from the Waimakariri District Council, was constructed last year. "It's an amazing piece of architecture," Holmes said. "All the locals I've spoken to think it's great." Awards jury convener Stephen Crooks said the project was a "simple but brilliant concept, superbly executed".

SIGNIFICANT RESCUES

Whilst there have been numerous rescues in the past 100 years, some ‘stand out’. Identifying ‘the most significant’ is a difficult task. Three examples of outstanding service follow.

The citation that follows is from the Surf Life Saving New Zealand web site.

Saturday 5 January 2013 at 4.00pm Taylors Mistake Nick Smith, Harrison Reid, Mike Smith (PC), Rob Lambie, Ian Rae, John Thompson, Bianca Teague, Craig Jamieson and Emily Jones

Extensive, proactive patrolling was responsible for the survival of multiple swimmers on January 5 as Taylors Mistake was experiencing one of its largest head counts for many years. Conditions were very hot with large seas, and an assessment of the beach indicated extensive rips and holes. Three Lifeguards proactively warned swimmers who were outside of the flagged area and large warning signs were also installed along the beach. At 2pm Lifeguards responded to a mass rescue involving 12 people. Two of these were displaying signs of distress and were placed on oxygen. Three Lifeguards commenced active in-water patrolling of the area in an attempt to maintain the public within the flags. The beach head count at 3pm was around 2000, with a further 400 in the water. At around 4pm, while Lifeguards were still proactively patrolling, a group of people moved into an identified hole and got caught in the rip. First responder Nick Smith signalled for assistance and Patrol Captain Mike Smith along with Harrison Reid, Ian Rae and John Thompson responded. Nick identified two male patients that were in severe distress and took hold of the weaker patient who had his head above water but was ingesting large amounts of water. The second patient was struggling to maintain his head above water and was starting to slip below the waves. Nick grasped both patients and called for assistance from a nearby surfer. The first patient was placed on the surfboard and the second patient was held against the surfboard to maintain stability. Mike and Harrison joined Nick to bring the two patients back to the beach. Ian, Craig Jamieson and Rob Lambie maintained rescues to the remaining patients. The remaining Lifeguards identified the need for additional assistance and engaged off-duty Lifeguards that were present on the beach. A total of 10 patients were rescued in the second event. Upon reaching the shallow water both patients collapsed and

struggled to breathe. Emily Jones had identified the need for oxygen during their return and she had the oxygen ready as the patients were brought to the beach. Both patients were displaying extreme distress. The first expressed shortness of breath and difficulty breathing while the second was placed on oxygen and was monitored by Emily. Emily and Nick identified that assistance was required and called for the ambulance. The second patient collapsed while being moved up the beach, but was responsive. He was placed in the recovery position and administered oxygen. His condition deteriorated with him becoming unresponsive. An ICU nurse, who identified herself to Lifeguards, provided assistance. The man slipped into unconsciousness and started convulsing. Nick, Emily and Harrison identified a high risk and commenced precautionary action and placed him on the AED for the purpose of monitoring and early intervention, if required. This was supported by the ICU nurse. Both patients were extensively monitored until the ambulance and advanced paramedic arrived who advised that urgent hospital treatment was required. During the event it was identified that it wasn't possible to maintain an effective patrol for the public given the large crowd numbers and the number of Lifeguards available so the decision was made to close the beach. That day there was a total of 28 rescues including two outside of patrol hours.

The skill and commitment of lifeguards on Monday 10 November 2014 is meritorious. The lifeguards concerned were the recipients of SLSNZ Southern Region, 2014 – 15 Rescue of the Year.

Once again the citation that follows is from the Surf Life Saving New Zealand web site.

Date/time: Monday 10 November 2014 at 6pm Location: Taylors Mistake Lifeguards involved: Patrice de Beer, Ian Rea, Tisha Bradley-Jamieson and Mike Smith

Just before 6pm on November 10 at Taylor's Mistake, as Surf Lifeguard Award and IRB training was getting underway, lifeguards were alerted to a situation unfolding on the cliff face to the east of the beach. A member of the public advised that a young male was trapped and couldn't move safely from his position. His friend, who had also climbed the cliff face, traversed down to sit with him until help arrived. The ledge that they were sitting on was

approximately 10-15 metres down a near-vertical face, with a drop of approximately five metres to the rocks below. Lifeguard Tisha Bradley-Jamieson obtained information from the informant and requested an IRB team. Patrice de Beer and Ian Rea responded and undertook an assessment of the patient from the water's edge. It was determined that a specialist cliff rescue team was needed from the Fire Service. Lifeguard Mike Smith arrived and immediately took a radio to position himself above the location of the patient, allowing direct communication from the site. Following the initial assessment, Tisha remained on communications at the club house, with the IRB team holding in an area under the cliff. Mike gave reassurance to the two people and kept them advised on progress of the response. He assessed the situation and identified unstable rocks and a large fallen tree immediately above the patients. The ledge that they were sitting on was narrow and consisted of loose material that had fallen from the cliff face above. The Fire Service arrived and undertook an assessment, armed with the initial site assessment from lifeguards. A joint control position was established with Mike and the SFO on site. This allowed direct communication between the two teams and allowed discussion on the safest method of extraction. The cliff rescue team created a double tie back to anchor the ropes required for the extraction. Following further assessment of the patients, it was decided that the male would be placed into a harness and lowered down to the water's edge for extraction by the IRB. The young female was happy to be placed into a harness and extracted up the cliff face to the top track. During the event, the media arrived and set up a camera on the beach to video the event. This caused considerable agitation to the male patient and caused him to move around unrestrained on the cliff face; concerning the rescue team on scene with him. Mike relayed communication back to Tisha in the patrol room, and to the IRB, to help return the patient to a location away from the media. The Fire Service undertook a textbook recovery of the patients, demonstrating their skills in the procedure. The patient was lowered down to the IRB and returned to shore, away from the media. Mike then escorted the woman back to the clubhouse where her friend's condition was being assessed. The rapid response of the lifeguards training on the beach allowed an early identification of the issues and need to call in a specialist team, therefore minimising any risk to the patient. The rescue was a great example of an interagency response.

Recently, whilst training another “Rescue of the Month” occurred at Taylor’s.

Once again the citation that follows is from the Surf Life Saving New Zealand web site.

SLSNZ reported:

Date: 11 October 2015 Location: Taylors Mistake Lifeguards involved: Mike Smith plus 21 lifeguards on the Patrol Captain's course.

A training scenario quickly became a real life situation during a Senior Lifeguard Patrol Captain's course at Taylor's Mistake on 11 October 2015.

A member of the public alerted them that a fisherman had fallen about 5-10m from a track to the rocks below. He was suffering from numbness in his legs, dizzy spells and radiating pain. He was in need of immediate help.

Many of the lifeguards taking part in the training weren't familiar with the club or beach, but they quickly readied two IRBs and assisted St John, Police, the fire service and rescue helicopter in stabilising and transporting the patient.

The patient was in a dangerous, and almost inaccessible, location so the IRB crews transported members of the fire crew, along with their first aid gear, to the site. They helped secure the patient in a stretcher and moved him into position for evacuation by the rescue helicopter.

All lifeguards demonstrated their training and experience during the rescue and the course facilitator took leadership; facilitating the course candidates according to their skills. Patient retrieval would have been far more complicated and dangerous for the other rescue services if it wasn't for the lifeguards on site that day.

More characters - ongoing commitment!



Malcolm McClurg (L): Life member, president, Canterbury Surf Life Saver of the Year – 1990, competitor, surfer, buildings coordinator, patrol coordinator, nippers coach, club captain, ...worker - “In it for life”

Dougal Holmes –Committed patroller, club captain, competitor, Canterbury Surf Life Saver of the Year -1997, examiner, surfer,... worker -“In it for life”

The commitment of members like Malcom and Dougal is vital for the success of the club. Their efforts are huge.

OCEAN ATHLETES AKA Nippers



For any sports club to survive it must have a steady influx of youngsters joining each year.

One day, hopefully, those youngsters will slip into administrative roles presently filled by senior members of the club.

In the case of Taylor's Mistake they, like most surf clubs in the country, run a Nippers programme, from which they hope the next New Zealand champions will emerge to follow in the footsteps of the many accomplished champions who have gone before.

The first Taylor's nippers group appeared on the scene 66 years ago and have been welcomed as members since. The club has been fortunate to have a

number of members who have been enthusiastic and dedicated instructors for the newcomers.

Co-ordinators have been Gary Still, Ollie Enberg, Elizabeth Ross, Amy McDermott and Biff McDermott (from 1998 to 2005!). All have spent several years building the numbers of budding young lifeguards and competitors.

Parent helpers have been vital and numerous parents have ‘gone on’ to gain their surf award – including Mike Smith, Richard Harcourt, Chris Rossiter, Patrice De Beer, Mike Hartwell, Craig Jamieson. The support and effort of others over the years has been invaluable and without such support the programme would struggle. Helpers have included Adrian Mouldey and Helen Mitchell, Yvonne Smetts, Graham and Kay Marshall, Mike Smith, Ian and Gabby Brown, Alex Stewart.....and many others!

For the last 10 years the children, boys and girls, have been in the hands of another dedicated duo, Tisha Jamieson and former Canterbury netball representative, Helen Mahon-Stroud. Jamieson says she was drawn to the nippers section as a parent helper when her children joined the group.

“I was a nipper myself many years ago and went through and did lifeguarding, patrolling and competition and then walked away and came back with my children,” said Jamieson. “This is my 10th season managing the nippers.

“When Helen and I started we were thrown in at the deep end, and it was a bit like the blind leading the blind.



William Jamieson U11 Male Diamond (Swim and Board) Bronze Medal, Ocean Athletes 2015

We just did the coaching but as time has gone on we noticed there was a gap, and I started doing admin for junior surf and then got more parents involved to do coaching.

“Helen and I would run coaching programmes in the mornings for parents who were interested in being involved. It has grown from there.”



Numbers were growing nicely, but then Mother Nature stepped in. The 2011 earthquakes brought a halt to all surf-lifesaving in the Christchurch region and it has been a struggle to build numbers to where they were pre-earthquakes.

“After the earthquakes we lost a significant number of children. Of course no one was allowed in the water for the rest of that summer, so everything came to a grinding halt. The next year quite a few people didn’t come back, because the roads were so bad they didn’t want to drive out to Taylor’s. But numbers have grown since then,” said Jamieson.

This year the club has 95 juniors on its books. Last year it had 120, but a number of those have crossed the hill to join at Sumner which has sparkling new clubrooms. Taylor’s Mistake hopes it will have a new building sometime in the future but in the meantime it is battling its insurer to make sure it gets a fair deal for its club members.

The youngsters on Taylor’s books range from seven to 14. A sound recovery after dropping to 60 members after the earthquakes. Jamieson says the club also runs an under seven group. They are usually siblings of older children and parent helpers give them a basic grounding in the sport.

“We get them used to the sea and teach them to be confident near the water. By doing that we encourage them to come back for the junior surf programme. We have them thinking about the environment without them realising they are doing it.

“We take them over to the rock pools and show them where they shouldn’t swim, and they know where they can be safe on the beach. We encourage them to stay between the flags so we are putting those skills in place at that initial stage.”

The only competition they get at that age is running races on the beach. As the children get older their priorities change and the under 13 and under 14 athletes find it hard to make the commitment to the sport.

“The numbers diminish because kids go off to high school at that age and they have to start choosing what they want to be involved with.”

Jamieson said over the last four years the club has implemented a rookie programme which was originally a Surf Life-saving New Zealand programme that lapsed.

“It was an under 14 programme which was phased out and we picked it up. At the end of it the athletes are familiar with the process that will happen when they have to do their lifeguard award,” says Jamieson.

“They do a workbook, first aid, CPR and they learn how to use the radios. We also put them in a patrol group, but they wear a different coloured uniform – blue pants and a white long sleeved polo shirt.



“They can’t do rescues but they can do everything else on the beach. They put the flags out, and learn about where the rips are on the beach so they are being integrated into the lifeguard programme. When they have to sit their lifeguard award when they are 14 they have had a season being immersed in the lifeguard programme which makes it a

lot easier for them,” says Jamieson.

There are 14 rookies doing the programme this year who will go on next year and do their lifeguard award. Jamieson said a lot of the rookies don’t want to be involved in competition, but they want to become lifeguards.

“Of the 14 rookies we have at the moment only half of them want to do competition as well.”

The juniors are kept busy through the summer with training three nights a week and further sessions on Saturday and Sunday. They also have a boot camp in the weeks leading up to the start of the season to improve their fitness for the summer ahead.

Success has been achieved. Rory Jago and Georgia Giesen were members of the first Canterbury U14 representative team. Numerous ‘nippers’ have participated in and performed well in the Ocean Athletes Championships (U14). Noteworthy performances have been delivered by Connor Farrell, Shanae Anderson, Sam Blackman, Max Marshall, Tom Moulai, Liam Brown, Luke Wisbey, Mitch McClurg, Flynn Marshall, Tarris Harker, Ben Chittock, Lockie Murray, Amy Hartwell and Sinead Hartwell amongst others.

The first Ocean Athletes National title for the club was won by Zach Goldsmith, a 5th generation member with a 1st in beach flags in 2014. A further win was achieved in 2015 with a gold by Will Jamieson in the U11 board.



Zach Goldsmith



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Volunteer of the Year Tisha Bradley**



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THE CLUBHOUSE CHALLENGE

When the Taylor's Mistake clubhouse escaped from the devastating September 2010 and February 2011 earthquakes with apparent minimal damage, club members thought that miraculously they had been spared serious disruption to their activities.

There were cracks in blockwork, and other superficial damage that the club officials thought would be repaired with few hassles. But like so many other building owners in Canterbury, what appeared minimal at first has become a far greater issue. The club has been battling its insurance company for four years to get what it believes is a fair deal, to get the clubhouse functional for surf lifesaving.

But as another season – 2015-16 - draws to a close it has been another year battling on with only part of the club facility operating to the standards required. Club officials were beginning to think that they had dodged a bullet in the first two major quakes – September 2010 and February 2011 - but they had not foreseen the two quakes that followed in quick succession on the same day in June 2011.

Those two quakes opened up bigger cracks in the blockwork, created in the earlier quakes, and there was a feeling among members that the building's integrity was compromised and might have to be demolished. But the club was not going to relinquish its headquarters without a fight. The committee acted quickly to try and salvage at least part of the clubrooms. It wanted to keep them open and available through the 2011-12 summer, not only for regular club patrols as the public slowly began to return to Taylor's Mistake, but also for the competitors to enable them to continue training.

After the February earthquake all Christchurch beaches were ruled unsafe by Environment Canterbury for what remained of the 2010-11 season, so with no-one at the beach the clubhouse was not a high priority. As soon as the beaches were closed by Environment Canterbury it meant surf clubs no longer had to provide patrols. That was a blessing because few would have found the manpower to operate patrols.

“People were too involved with their own problems at home or work to pay too much attention to the clubhouse,” said Taylor’s president, Ken Jones, who lives in Sumner. “In those early days after the February quakes it was taking me four hours to get to work (in St Albans). No-one had the time to think “I wonder how the surf club has come through the earthquake.”

The club, like others in the province had to keep operating the best they could. The New Zealand championships were scheduled for South Brighton in March 2011. It was obvious though that the nationals could not be held in Canterbury with all the beaches closed because of contaminants being flushed into the ocean by broken sewers and liquefaction, and the lack of suitable accommodation in the city.

Surf Lifesaving New Zealand transferred the National championships to Mt Maunganui from South Brighton. Taylor’s still sent a team which performed creditably considering the disruption to training in the final weeks before the championships. It also meant the club committee had to quickly try and raise funds for the team which it was expecting to compete only a few kilometres away.

The lifesavers were some of the first sports people in Canterbury to show that they were still training and able to compete in spite of the devastation to the city. The athletes showed plenty of resilience in their efforts to compete at the nationals. There was a steady stream from all Christchurch clubs who travelled to Lake Hood near Ashburton to train. Taylor’s members won the surf canoe and double ski at Mt Maunganui that year and the IRB team finished in the top five.

When the June earthquakes struck and then the resulting damage was viewed, making the clubhouse safe for the next season became a priority. The quakes were centred in the middle of the Taylor’s Mistake Bay and created more damage in the Richmond Hill area, and Sumner and Godley Head.

“From then on with each aftershock we noticed the cracks in the blockwork getting wider. Up until those quakes we weren’t worried about the safety of the clubhouse, but after the June swarm we decided that we had to take action to work on the clubrooms ourselves to make it usable by the start of the new season in November 2011,” said Ken Jones

Rock falls around the bay and a 30cm split at the bottom of the hill behind the clubhouse indicated the ground had been pushed towards the sea, said Malcolm McClurg, a long-serving club member and an engineer.

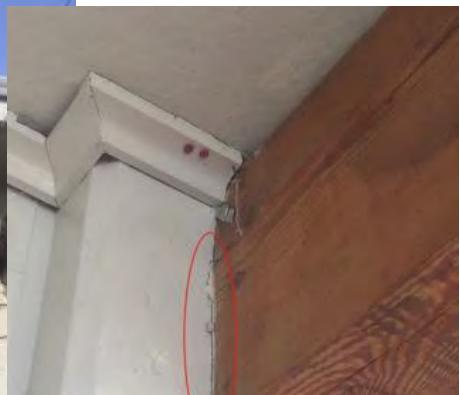
Because the clubhouse is considered a public building – the public have access to the toilets – the club had to have a DEE report done. That showed that the building was under the required strength to meet council standards, and required additional work to make it safe for occupancy.

The first step was to close a first-floor flat in the clubrooms and then the members set about repairing the clubhouse to the acceptable code. “The sections that were below strength were propped up,” said Jones. “We framed and braced all the walls to strengthen them. They were done in a matter of weeks, all by voluntary labour by club members and in the end we had a building that was going to ensure the club operated through the 2011-12 summer. The remedial work was anticipated to only be in for a short duration, while we resolved things with our insurers.”

Jones who manages a PlaceMakers store in Christchurch, donated plywood for the work and a grant from the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust helped to meet other costs. Jones said the work to get the clubrooms operable was “a bonding process”. “It turned a huge negative into a positive and the club was left with a much more serviceable headquarters than from other options it considered.

“We looked at putting three containers on the beach and having the clubhouse cordoned off. We bought one container in but then decided to spend our money on the clubrooms. “We thought if we had to use containers as our headquarters for maybe five years we would lose a lot of members. We had to do what was best for the club. With power, gas, water and sewer all available we couldn’t walk away from the clubrooms.

“Also the cost of containers was prohibitive for the club. But with galvanised steel and plywood and a lot of volunteer labour it has provided a band-aid that has enabled us to occupy the clubrooms,” said Jones. The club thought that due to the extent of the damage it would get the clubrooms rebuilt, but even now, in 2015 it is still negotiating with its insurer over what the final outcome will be.



“We have designs for a re-build of the clubrooms which would give us what we want and it would not cost a lot.” The argument with the insurer is not about whether the clubrooms are a repair or a rebuild. “The insurer is talking about a ‘reinstatement strategy.’”

Jones says the club’s policy says that the clubrooms should be rebuilt or repaired to a new condition, but the insurer says the building should be ‘reinstated to new’ and the club management are unsure exactly what that means. “Reinstating could hinder our ability to patrol the beach. We need to have a clear view of the beach at all times, and what was originally proposed did not deliver that,” said Jones.

The club has commissioned a geotech assessment and report, along with an engineering report, all at its own cost - \$8000 for the geotech report, and \$30,000 for the comprehensive engineering report. At the moment, four and a half years after the June quakes, the club is still in a war of words with the insurer as letters fly back and forth.

In June 2015 a letter from the club pointed out to the insurer that the Christchurch City Council will no longer issue building consent exemptions for buildings that are earthquake prone, and that the geotech report submitted by the insurer was a desktop study only, and insufficient to accurately complete a detailed repair design. The club also pointed out that the repair method to be used on the building (pointing the mortar cracking in unreinforced block walls) was not acceptable and did not meet the requirements as a suitable treatment. In June (2015) the club advised the insurers that it no longer had confidence “in the advice that you or your advisors are providing”.

“To ensure a robust decision is able to be made we need the insurance company to stop hiding behind ambiguous words and clearly and simply outline to us in writing the extent of our entitlement under the terms of our policy,” the letter said.

The insurers are looking at a lightweight construction for the new clubhouse but Jones says that is impractical. “If you are going to Taylor’s for a volunteer patrol, members need a building that satisfies the club’s needs,” the letter said.

The club hopes that eventually it will get the OK to demolish the clubrooms and it is ready to start on the rebuild immediately. They have had an existing rights certificate from the council since July 2015 which will enable work to start quickly after the insurance settlement.

In the meantime the insurer continues to battle the club, a battle they might find time consuming against a club that is well organised and well advised.

A rebuild will reward those who have strived to maintain the club house over the years – Malcolm, Graham, Errol,





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THE BEST SURF CLUB IN THE WHOLE DAMN LAND..

Events of the past 25 years have been documented – continued competition, success, the unique leadership of Taylor’s Mistake women, the passing of ‘legends’, changes associated with challenges to sport clubs in New Zealand, and the delivery of the patrol services, the growth of Ocean Athletes (Nippers) and the catastrophic effect of the 2011 Christchurch Earthquake.

The club continues to thrive. All who have had a relationship with the club retain a love and passion for the beach ‘OVER THE HILL’ which is unceasing.

All members of the Taylor’s family can recall close friends and recite numerous stories that reflect their time at “the best surf club in the whole damn land”. Memories are precious and much of the following from Greg McClurg reflecting on some of the events of the past 50 or so years can be identified with. We all have similar recollections!

Greg spent 10 years as the Taylor’s Mistake teams’ manager in the 1970’s and 80’s. It was one of the most productive eras in the club’s history with a bundle of national titles won by club athletes, making Taylor’s one of the most competitive clubs in the country.

Greg relates the memories he has both from his role as manager, and later for many years as an announcer at the New Zealand championships. He had a rugged introduction to his position as manager which he relates here.

“Returning from the South Island championships in Dunedin in February 1977, a group of Taylor’s club members stopped at the Oamaru pie cart where their visit became national news.”

The national championships that year were held at Gisborne a few weeks after the South Island championships. McClurg had barely arrived at the Midway club’s beach, the venue for the inter-district championships held before the national championships, when he was summoned to the championship office via the public address system. Ken Mitchell, the competition controller, instructed McClurg to have every Taylor’s Mistake member to meet in the

downstairs changing rooms immediately after the final event of the first day of the championships.

McClurg, Barry Turpin and the other Taylor's members were herded into the dressing rooms to receive a verbal broadside from the New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Association president, George Perry, and the NZSLSA chairman Ken Farey, and Mitchell. The group was told that if anyone from the club put one foot wrong during the championships, the club would be disqualified from competing at the next two national championships. The heavy handed tactics were a damper on a highly successful championships for Taylor's Mistake.

Team management decided they would hire a bus to take the team to a country pub to celebrate the team's successes. The successes included the senior men winning the six-man rescue and resuscitation final and the prestigious Nelson Shield which came with the title. Taylor's also won the march past, and Daryl Neate made light of a big two metre surf to win the open iron man title. The junior double ski pair of Simon Davis and current club president, Ken Jones, also won gold. The pair got off the beach quickly and were just ahead of the field, including future Olympic canoe gold medallists, Alan Thompson and Grant Bramwell from the local Waikanae club when a huge wave came through. The Taylor's pair just edged over the wave and got clear of the rest of the field who were tossed back up the beach.

As Davis and Jones rounded the buoys Jones was already celebrating by waving his paddle.

The 1978 nationals at Waipu Cove was an average competition for the Taylor's team. The disappointment was the six-man Nelson Shield team failing to reach the final and defend its title.

There were successes. Flying Australian swimmer, Graeme Romei, won the senior belt race and Dave Conder was a close second to Geoff Walker in the senior iron man. It was still a cheery group on the bus back to Auckland Airport from Waipu Cove. They stopped for lunch at Warkworth. The bus was underway again when someone noticed the absence of a team member.

"Where's Carl," was the cry. Carl Immers, a first year junior, was not on the bus. No-one knew what had happened to him. "We were running short of time

to catch our flight back to Christchurch," remembers Greg McClurg. They had to continue without the rookie. When the bus reached Auckland Airport an embarrassed McClurg had to call Mrs Immers and tell her what had happened. Immers, though showed plenty of his resourcefulness by hitching a ride to Auckland, and returned to Christchurch on the next flight.

From that day he has had to live with a new nick name: Wes (Where's) Immers.

The 1980 championships in Mount Manganui were extremely successful Taylor's Mistake. Good results in heats on the Friday, the first day of competition, meant the club was well represented in finals over the weekend. Arriving at the beach on Saturday morning athletes were greeted with a wild three metre surf, courtesy of a cyclone passing nearby overnight. Several events were postponed or moved to an inner harbour beach at Pilot Bay. Dave Conder was the most successful athlete. His impressive list of medals included gold in the senior iron man, golds in the senior long board and malibu board, and golds in the Taplin relay and surf ski rescue with Geoff Walker and third in the double ski with Malcolm McClurg.

Walker also had a successful championships winning the double ski with Daryl Neate and finishing second in the iron man, long board and Malibu board. Geoff Le Cren grabbed a huge wave on the return to the beach in the over 30 surf race, riding it all the way to the beach to collect another gold.

The senior men's six R&R team won silver and the four-person team finished third adding valuable points in the battle for the Alan Gardner Trophy, awarded to the top club at the championships.

The decisive event was the senior tube rescue. "Wes" Immers and Lindsay Jago gained a point for finishing third, giving Taylor's Mistake the Gardner Trophy by a solitary point.

The following year, by comparison, was a disappointment for the Taylor's team at Oakura, New Plymouth. The senior Taplin relay was disqualified for a minor infringement on the handover on the start/finish line after the team had won by a full swim leg.

But the club's remaining members rallied and completed a clean sweep of the rescue and resuscitation finals - the senior six, senior four and march past. Daryl Neate and Simon Davis demolished a star field to win the gold in the senior double ski. The women's team chimed in too. They were second in the women's four-person final and third in the six-person final. Overall the team finished second.

Greg's last year as manager was in 1984 when the nationals were held at Westshore, Napier, and it produced a memorable result for McClurg and the club. Taylor's had three entrants in the final of the senior surf ski rescue and they swept the podium placings. Simon Davis and Laurie McKeown won the gold, Richard Boyle and Ken Jones the silver, and Neate and Hamish Buchanan the bronze.

Most impressive though was the fact the three Taylor's crews left national canoe representatives Ian Ferguson, Paul Macdonald, Alan Thompson and Grant Bramwell in their wakes.

For 30 years McClurg was a beach announcer at the championships. 'Many a time I lost my voice calling the black, green and white cap with immense pride.' He said there were many highlights in those years to, and recounts some of them:

- 1988 at Orewa, Auckland. I had the privilege to call the six-man team when they produced the perfect score, 0.0 deduction. The team was Geoff Le Cren, Daryl Neate, Paul Carpenter, Carl Immers, Dean Waru and Lars Humer, coached by Jock McNaught. And in 1980 at New Brighton. First and third in the senior six-person rescue and resuscitation, and gold for the Taylor's women in the four-person. rescue and resuscitation
- 1993, Mt Maunganui. These were Sam Saxton's championships. This strapping young junior won the iron man, surf race, and with Tim McClurg won the junior board rescue and the junior ski relay with Tim and Sean McBreen. Saxton was also second in the junior belt race.

- 1994, Lyall Bay, Wellington, remembered by McClurg as the year Sam Saxton should have been selected in the New Zealand team for the world lifesaving championships in the United Kingdom. Saxton had outstanding trials and results at the nationals winning the open belt race, the open men's surf teams' race, second in the open men's surf race and first in the open tube rescue. Saxton was later disqualified in the latter event, reinstated after a protest and again disqualified on a technicality. The open men's six-place team won the Nelson Shield again and McClurg said watching the team being presented with the Shield by then Governor General, Dame Cath Tizard was a thrill. Simon Davis and Wayne Parker completed the medal haul for Taylor's by winning the open men's double ski final.
- During the 1990's Taylor's Mistake was the most prominent Taplin relay team winning three titles in six years -1995, 1996 and 2000. All three titles were won at Oakura Beach, New Plymouth and all in huge seas that the Taylor's teams appreciated. The 1995 team of Carl Gordon and Fraser Bickley (swim legs), Simon Davis and Wayne Parker (ski legs) and Dave Conder and Gareth McClurg (board legs), were fantastic. They won by one ski leg ahead of another great Taplin team, Mairangi Bay. Conder had come out of retirement to help the team to the gold. At the same championships McClurg had the pleasure of calling gold medals for Carl Gordon who won the open surf race, and Jane Nelligan, who won the women's open beach sprint, the first women's beach title for Taylor's.
- The first championships of the new millennium at Oakura were looking like they would produce a low-haul year – until the Sunday afternoon. No-one had bargained on the Taplin relay team. Paul Howe and Wayne Parker (ski leg), Gareth and Tim McClurg (board leg), and Fraser Bickley and Carl Gordon (swim) gave the crowd plenty to cheer about. At the turn at the last buoy, Gordon was on the feet of the fourth swimmer. All five teams then caught the same wave and all five ended on the beach together. Gordon had the better position on the turning flag to the finish, and ran his legs off to win the second gold in the last six events. Leigh Sneddon won the open women's iron man race and that effort was rated by McClurg as one of the gutsiest by anyone wearing the green, black and white cap.

Other highlights for McClurg from more recent New Zealand championships - 2009 – Liam O’Loughlin, Peter Rattray and James Feathery, gold in the open men’s ski relay, 2010 at Whakatane – O’Loughlin and Fred Teear, gold open men’s double ski; open men’s long course canoe team, gold; open men’s short course canoe team, silver (in a photo finish) and 2013 and 2014 at Mt Maunganui and Whakatane – open women’s long course and short course canoe finals, back-to-back golds. This was followed in 2015 when at Midway, Gisborne – Ben Philips and Tom Mouldey won gold in open men’s board rescue.

McClurg said the most memorable and also the saddest commentary in 30 years was the final six-person rescue and resuscitation for the Nelson Shield at Midway in 2001. The commentary included references to Barry Turpin looking down through the only patch of blue sky to be seen at the start of the event.

The Taylor’s Mistake team of Geoff Le Cren, Daryl Neate, David Hill, Richard Smith, Simon Davis and Gareth McClurg, and coached by Paul Carpenter, had the perfect draw for the swim. Then came the result confirming the Taylor’s team had made history by winning the final Nelson Shield, first presented in 1916, the year Taylor’s Mistake was formed. Paul Carpenter won the Ted Hughes coach’s trophy.

Not surprisingly celebrations continued long into the night. David Hill fell asleep in an unusual room and let himself out in the early hours of the morning, and Richard Smith locked himself in a similarly unusual room for the night.

Le Cren, Neate and Gareth McClurg still had events on the Sunday and were more measured in their celebrations.

“It has been a privilege and pleasure to manage and commentate for all the members who have competed under the green, black and white cap,” said McClurg.



TAVERN

15 Opawa Road

Greg McClurg

CHRISTCHURCH

OWNER

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FUNCTIONS

TAB

18 POKIES

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TAYLORS MISTAKE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

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CLUB MEMBERS TO REPRESENT NEW ZEALAND

COMPETITION:

1937	Jack Young
1937	Derek Symes
1954-56	Paul Garratt
1973	Daryl Neate
1979-80	Dave Conder
1979	Geoff Walker
1990	Joanne Third
1993	Greg McClurg (Manager)
1999	Carl Gordon
2000	Carl Gordon
2001	Carl Gordon
2013	Liam O'Loughlin

EDUCATIONAL:

Paul Carpinter to USA 1969

Gary Still to Australia 1976

Neville Duckmanton to World Life Saving USA 1978

Greg McClurg Air New Zealand Study Award 1979

Geoff Le Cren Air New Zealand Study Award 1980

CANTERBURY SURF LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR

1972	Paul Carpinter
1974	Daryl Neale
1981	Geoff Le Cren
1990	Malcolm McClurg
1993	Sam Saxton
1996	Grant and Tammy Restall
1997	Dougal Holmes
2005	Megan Cleverley
2015	Tisha Jamieson

CANTERBURY REPRESENTATIVES

1920 Olly Turpin, Alf Barrett (Coach), Doug Davidson, "Monty" Morrow	Graham Pratley (Manager)	1976 Dave Conder, Daryl Neate, Errol Hunter, Carl Immers
1921 Alf Barrett (Coach), Olly Turpin, Doug Davidson	1968 Geoff Le Cren, Dave Gerrard, Paul Carpenter, Paul Goldsmith	1977 Daryl Neale, Dave Conder, Paul Carpenter, Greg McClurg
1922 Alan Robilliard, Doug Davidson, Alf Barrett (Coach)	1969 Paul Carpenter, Paul Goldsmith, Daryl Neate, Chris Read Tony Harrow, Graham Pratley (Manager)	(Manager), Barry Turpin (Coach)
1927 Carl Atkinson, Mo Bolam, Norm Batchelor	1970 Paul Carpenter, Chris Read, Paul Goldsmith, Geoff Le Cren, Daryl Neate, John Stead	1978 Errol Hunter, Dave Conder, Graeme Romei, Ken Jones, Daryl Neate, Geoff Le Cren, Greg McClurg (Manager), Barry Turpin (Coach)
1928 Carl Atkinson, Alf Barrett (Coach)	1971 Lynne McBreen, Sharon Anderson, Paul Carpenter, Paul Goldsmith, Bill Maguire, Chris Read, Geoff Le Cren, Daryl Neate	1979 Geoff Le Cren, Daryl Neate, Dave Conder, Paul Carpenter, Greg McClurg (Manager), Barry Turpin (Coach)
1936 Len Moorhouse, Monty Rattray, Derek Symes, Jack Young, Colin Allen (Coach)	1972 Paul Goldsmith, Geoff Le Cren, Bill Maguire, Daryl Neate, Paul Carpenter, Sharon Anderson	1980 Geoff Le Cren, Daryl Neate, Dave Conder, Geoff Walker, Simon Davis, Greg McClurg (Manager), Barry Turpin (Coach)
1958 Brian Rattray	1973 Daryl Neate, Geoff Le Cren, Paul Carpenter, Sharon Anderson, Peter Hay	1981 Ken Jones, Geoff Le Cren, Paul Carpenter, Daryl Neate, Simon Davis, Greg McClurg (Manager), Barry Turpin (Coach)
1959 Jim Turpin	1974 Paul Carpenter, Peter Hay, Daryl Neate	1982 Daryl Neate, Ken Jones, Simon Davis, Greg McClurg (Manager), Barry Turpin (Coach), Dene Waru
1960 Gary Doyle, Geoff Le Cren	1975 Geoff Le Cren, Daryl Neate, Dave Conder, Tim Dean, Paul Carpenter, Mike Mason (Manager)	
1961 Anthony Harrow, Peter Hatchwell, Geoff Le Cren, Gary Doyle		
1962 Peter Hatchwell, Geoff Le Cren		
1963 Bev Bewerd, Geoff Le Cren		
1964 Jim Turpin, Donald McDonald		
1965 Peter Hatchwell, Geoff Le Cren, Graham Pratley (Manager)		
1966 Paul Carpenter, Geoff Le Cren, Chris Read, Graham Pratley (Manager)		
1967 Geoff Le Cren, Wes Newton, Paul Carpenter, Tony Harrow,		

1983 Simon Davis, Daryl Neate, Carl Immers, Teresa Stanley, Greg McClurg (Manager), Barry Turpin (Coach)	1988 Daryl Neate (Coach), Carl Immers, Lars Humer, Simon Davis, Guy Saxton, Helen Mahon, Ian MacDonald, Aaron Regan, Tarquin Smith, Lindsay MacDonald, Paul Carpenter (Coach), Richard Boyle, Michael Bouwmeester	1992 Greg McClurg (Manager), Gareth McClurg (Coach), Simon Davis, Carl Immers, Richard Smith, Andrew Bell, Tony Munnerley, Paula McBreen, Tammy Restall, Sam Saxton
1984 Daryl Neate, Simon Davis, Dene Waru, Carl Immers, Paul Carpenter (Coach), Tisha Bradley, Carolyn Pearce, Cameron Graham, Bruce Lomax, Dave Bodger, Laurie McKeown, Ian MacDonald	1989 Dene Waru, Michael Bouwmeester, Carl Immers, Aaron Regan, Jacob Lane, Lindsay MacDonald, Andrew Bell, Gareth McClurg, Tammy Restall, Daryl Neate (Coach), Geoff Le Cren (Coach), Paul Carpenter (Coach).	1993 Sam Saxton, Simon Davis, Richard Smith, Jane Nelligan, Maytinee Coe
1985 Rick Laing, Paul Carpenter (Coach), Carl Immers, Dene Waru, Lars Humer, Helen Mahon	1990 Dene Waru, Carl Immers, Michael Bouwmeester, Simon Davis, Carl Gordon, Tammy Restall, Daryl Neate (Coach), Geoff Le Cren (Manager), Paul Carpenter (Coach)	1994 No records
1986 Paul Carpenter (Coach), Lars Humer, Simon Davis, Carl Immers, Dene Waru, Richard Boyle, Nick Elsmore, Jacob Lane, Tarquin Smith, Helen Mahon, Carolyn Pearce, Laurie McKeown	1991 Andrew Bell, Gareth McClurg, Sam Saxton, Richard Smith, Simon Davis, Tony Munnerley, Candy Lane, Paula McBreen, Jo Third, Sarah Harrow	1995 Erina Metcalf, Sam Saxton, Carl Gordon, Lars Humer (Assistant Coach/Manager)
1987 Paul Carpenter (Coach), Ian MacDonald, Geoff Barry, Carl Immers, Dene Waru, Lars Humer, Simon Davis, Richard Boyle, Helen Mahon, Tarquin Smith,		1995 v Victoria Erin Metcalf, Carl Immers, Fraser Bickley, Carl Gordon, Marcus Saxton, Simon Davis (Captain), David Hill (Manager). Lars Humer (Assistant Coach)
		1997 Gareth McClurg, Simon Davis (Manager), Lars Humer (Coach)
		1998 Gareth McClurg, Carl Gordon, Fraser Bickley (Assistant Manager and Team Reserve), Lars Humer (Coach), Simon Davis (Manager), Grant Restall (U19 Manager)

1999 Carl Gordon, Chris Henderson, Simon Davis (Manager), Lars Humer (Coach), Lyndsay MacDonald, Jacob Lane, Michael Bouwmeester	U14: Isaac Giesen, James Friend, Mike Smith (Coach).
2000 Carl Gordon, Grant Restall (Coach)	2007 Peter Rattray, Liam O'Loughlin
2001 Carl Gordon, Simon Davis (Manager), Gareth McClurg (U19 Coach)	2008 Peter Rattray, Liam O'Loughlin, Ben Phillips (U19), Nick Smith (U19)
2002 Carl Gordon, James Featherley (U19), Simon Davis (Manager), Grant Restall (U19 Coach), Tammy Restall (U19 Manager)	2009 Peter Rattray, Liam O'Loughlin, Tom Mouldey (U19), Rory Taylor (U19), George Thomas (U19), Fraser Bickley (Coach)
2003 Carl Gordon (Coach), Grant Restall (U19 Manager), Georgia Giesen (U14), Rory Jago (U14)	2010 Viv Bickley, Peter Rattray, Ben Phillips, George Thomas (U19), Finn Brown (U19), Kip Mouldey (U16), Ricci Harker (U16) 2011 Peter
2004 Carl Gordon (Coach), Georgia Giesen (U14), Kylie Anderton (U14)	Rattray, Ben Phillips, George Thomas (U19), Finn Brown (U19), Tarris Harker (U16), Ricci Harker (U16)
2005 Georgia Giesen (U16), Brad Hamilton (U16), Nick Smith (U16), Ben Phillips (U16), Megan Cleverley (U16 Manager).	2012 Megan Lockie, Ben Phillips, Luke Wiseby (U14), Tamsin Harker (U14), Jacob Davies (Manager, U14)
2006 Liam O'Loughlin, U19: Rory Jago, Gareth McClurg (Coach). U16: Georgia Giesen, Kelsey Hamilton, Kylie Anderton, Megan Cleverley (Manager)	

TAYLOR'S MISTAKE SLSC OFFICERS

Patrons	Life Members	Treasurers:
1917-43 A P Osborn	1917 Alf Barrett	1916-19 G N Haxell
1943-46 A Barrett	1917 Jim Ballin	1919-41 H I Ballin
1946-47 H I Ballin	1935 Frank Kesteven	1941-45 O G Moody
1947-56 A Barrett	1935 George Pearce	1945-63 R E Russell
1956-88 G N Haxell	1935 Mo Bolam	1963-76 J O Turpin
1989-2000 H G Goldsmith	1936 Jim Withers	1976-81 F R Jones
2000-01 H G Goldsmith/B	1939 Jack Benson	1981-90 M F Regan
C J Turpin	1941 George Haxell	1990-01 B C J Turpin
2001-13 H G Goldsmith	1941 Olly Turpin	2001- Jim Turpin
2014 - J O Turpin	1941 Jim Flockhart	
	1941 Monty Morrow	
Presidents		
1916-17 A P Osborn	1948 Jim Wallace	
1917-38 F D Kesteven	1952 Bob Russell	
1938-45 A Langdale-Hunt	1954 Jack Young	
1945-48 E S Velvin	1965 Monty Rattray	
1948-49 J A Young	1966 Harry Goldsmith	
1949-52 K Stodard-Brown	1972 Graham Pratley	
1952-55 G N Haxell	1982 Barry Turpin	
1955-60 K Le Cren	1990 Jim Turpin	
1960-67 H G Goldsmith	1990 Dave Bradley	
1967-72 G G Pratley	1996 Mike Regan	
1972-74 M R Duckmantion	2001 Paul Carpenter	
1974-76 M B Mason	2001 Geoff Le Cren	
1976-80 B C J Turpin	2003 Greg McClurg	
1980-83 D O Bradley	2005 Jock McNaught	
1983-86 J O Turpin	2005 Malcolm McClurg	
1986-89 G McNaught	2009 Elizabeth	
1989-1990 G J McClurg	McDermott	
1991-1994 M Regan	2009 Brian Rattray	
1995-1999 P J Carpenter		
2000-03 M McClurg		
2004 S Davis		
2005-07 D Hill		
2008- K Jones		

Club Captains

1916-17 Alf Barrett
1917-18 F C Hobson
1918-19 G B Pearce
1919-21 D C Davidson
1921-23 G B Pearce
1923-27 Carl Atkinson
1927-29 Norm S Batchelor
1929-34 A T M Bolam
1934-45 E S Velvin
1945-48 Harry Goldsmith
1948-49 L J Moorhouse
1949-56 Graham J Pratley
1956-60 Peter Stead
1960-61 Mike B Mason
1961-64 Barry C J Turpin
1964-65 Dave O Bradley / John Stead
1965-66 Geoff L Le Cren
1966-69 John Stead
1969-71 Paul J Carpenter
1971-74 Daryl T Neate
1974-78 Neville Duckmanton
1978-80 G (Jock) McNaught
1980-81 Geoff Holland
1981-84 Neville Duckmanton
1984-87 Malcolm McClurg
1987-88 Malcolm McClurg/Dougal Holmes
1988-90 Dougal Holmes

Club Captains cont.

1990-92 David Hill
1993-96 Richard Smith
1997-98 Gareth McClurg
1999 Anna Marshall
2001 Vacant
2002 Paul J Carpenter
2003 Anna Marshall
2004 Carl Gordon
2005-07 Megan Cleverley
2008-10 Mike Smith
2011-12 Vivienne Bickley
2013 - Tisha Bradley-Jamison

Secretaries

1916 J Densem
1917-17 H I Ballin/C Lange
1917-18 N J Sheldon
1918-19 L A Dow
1919-23 M Ballin
1923-41 J C Wallace
1941-45 O G Moody
1945-57 R E Russell
1957-58 R Thomson
1958-59 Judith Lee
1958-60 R Thomson/B C J Turpin
1960-62 B C J Turpin
1962-65 C C Smith
1964-66 R Frizzell

Secretaries cont.

1966-67 R Frizzell/M B Mason
1967-70 M B Mason
1970-72 Anne McKay
1972-73 Anne McKay/P J Carpenter
1973-74 J Hulme/G L Le Cren
1974-77 G L Le Cren
1977-82 G Suckling
1982-83 S Nichols
1983-1991 J C P Monck
1992-93 H Buchanan
1994-95 Val Saxton
1996-07 Elizabeth McDermott
2008 Dee McCarthy / Graeme Marshall
2009 Graeme Marshall
2010-13 Julie Smith
2014 Vacant

NEW ZEALAND TITLES

SENIOR BELTMAN	JUNIOR SURF RACE		JUNIOR BELTMAN	
1st	1st		1st	
1928 Carl Atkinson (as Canterbury rep)	1938 Harry Goldsmith		1955 Paul Garratt	
1946 Harry Goldsmith	1960 Geoff Le Cren		1959 Geoff Le Cren	
1956 Paul Garratt	1989 Andrew Bell		1985 Nick Elsmore	
1958 Graham Pratley	2nd		1993 Sam Saxton	
1994 Sam Saxton	1937 Harry Goldsmith		1996 Fraser Bickley	
1996 Carl Gordon	1955 Paul Garratt		2nd	
2nd	1988 Mike Bouwmeester		1952 Paul Garratt	
1936 Derek Symes	1990 Carl Gordon		3rd	
1937 Derek Symes	3rd		1962 Geoff Le Cren	
1945 Harry Goldsmith	1952 Paul Garratt		JUNIOR IRON MAN	
1950 Harry Goldsmith	1993 Sam Saxton		1st	
1978 Graeme Romei	1996 Fraser Bickley		1974 Dave Conder	
1995 Carl Gordon			1993 Sam Saxton	
1998 Chris Henderson	SURF RACE U16		3rd	
1999 Fraser Bickley	3rd		1989 Jacob Lane	
3rd	1991 Sam Saxton		1992 Sam Saxton	
1979 Graeme Romei	2005 Ben Phillips		WOMEN'S IRON MAN	
1990 Phil Seal			1st	
1993 Andrew Bell	WOMEN'S BELT RACE		2000 Leigh Sneddon	
1999 Carl Gordon	U18			
	2nd		WOMEN'S SURF RACE	
WOMEN'S SURF TEAMS U19	1995 Katie Bell		U18	
2nd 1998			2nd	
WOMEN'S SURF TEAMS	ALAN GARDNER TROPHY		1993 Maytinee Coe	
1st 1959-63, 1990	1st 1980			
2nd 1964, 1989, 1992, 2001	2nd 1968, 1974		OVER 40 SURF RACE	
3rd 1990, 1993, 2000	3rd 1966, 1971-73, 1984, 1987		3rd	
OVER 30 SURF RACE	OVER 50 SURF RACE		1989 Daryl Neate	
1st	3rd			
1980 Geoff Le Cren	1990 Noel Saxton		OPEN BEACH FLAGS	
2nd	1991 Noel Saxton		3rd	
1990 Carl Immers	24-30 SURF RACE		1990 Grant Moore	
3rd	1st			
1991 Carl Immers	1974 Dave Gerrard		JUNIOR SURF TEAMS	
	2nd		1st 1958	
	1978 Graeme Romei		2nd 1938, 1956	
			3rd 1953, 1954, 1961	

SENIOR SURF RACE		SENIOR IRON MAN		WOMEN'S SURF RACE	
1st		1st	Daryl Neate	1st	Lynne Harrow
1956	Paul Garratt	1977	Daryl Neate	1962	Lynne Harrow
1978	Graeme Romei	1980	Dave Conder	1963	Lynne Harrow
1989	Mike Bouwmeester	1986	Lars Humer	1990	Joanne Third
1995	Carl Gordon	1987	Lars Humer	2nd	
2nd		1988	Lars Humer	1964	Lynne Harrow
1987	Lars Humer	2nd		1990	Linda Robinson
1992	Andrew Bell	1972	Daryl Neate	3rd	
1994	Sam Saxton	1975	Daryl Neate	1959	Maree Hunter
1996	Carl Gordon	1978	Dave Conder	1960	Maree Hunter
1998	Carl Gordon	3rd		1961	Jan Monck
2001	Carl Gordon	1970	Daryl Neate	1971	Sharon Anderson
3rd		1980	Geoff Walker		
SENIOR SURF TEAMS		WOMEN'S BELT RACE		WOMEN'S TUBE RESCUE	
1st	1968, 1994	1964	Lynne Harrow	1st	
2nd	1992	1965	Lynne Harrow	1999	Viv Homer/Laurie Williams
3rd	1939, 1940, 1991, 1993, 1995	3rd		2005	Lydia Stoddard/Megan Brooker
		1967	Sue Hatchwell	2nd	
		1989	Kate Stokes	2005	Lydia Stoddard/Megan Brooker
		1994	Maytinee Coe	2010	Viv Bickley/Megan Brooker
		2000	Jonelle Foster		
JUNIOR MARCH PAST		WOMEN'S BELT RACE U19		WOMEN'S TUBE RESCUE U19	
1st	1960, 1961, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1972, 1989	1st	Jonelle Foster	3rd	
2nd	1964, 1971, 1988	2nd	Laurie Williams	1998	Emma Pascoe/Jonelle Foster
3rd	1952, 1954, 1974, 1982, 1985	3rd			
		1998	Emma Pascoe		
SENIOR FOUR MAN		WOMEN'S FOUR PLACE		WOMEN'S MARCH PAST	
1st	1951, 1952, 1961, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1995, 1996	1st	1951, 1953, 1955, 1959, 1963, 1964, 1971, 1979	1st	1958, 1959, 1962, 1964
2nd	1937, 1954, 1955, 1966, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002	2nd	1954, 1956, 1961, 1981	2nd	1961, 1972
3rd	1937, 1967, 1972, 1973, 1980, 1989, 1991, 1992, 2001	3rd	1959, 1960, 1962	3rd	1978=, 1994
WOMEN'S SIX PLACE		JUNIOR TUBE RESCUE		BEACH RELAY MEN U16	
1st	1954-56, 1959	2nd	Sam Saxton/Sean McBreen	2nd	
2nd	1951, 1960, 1961, 1963	3rd			
3rd	1964, 1972, 1981, 1994	2nd	2002		

BEACH RELAY	FOUR MAN U16	JUNIOR FOUR MAN
WOMEN U16	3rd 2002	1st 1965
3rd 2009		2nd 1957, 1966, 1984
SENIOR MARCH PAST	JUNIOR SIX MAN	3rd 1959, 1985
1st 1969, 1973, 1976, 1977, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1992	1st 1963 2nd 1935, 1938, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1969, 1988 3rd 1930, 1931, 1938, 1953, 1967, 1968, 1974, 1983, 1984, 1995	CAMBRIAN SHIELD (RESUSCITATION)
2nd 1937, 1963, 1964, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1979, 1986, 1990, 1995, 1996, 1998		2nd 1939 Jack Young
3rd 1972, 1983, 1988	OPEN BEACH RELAY	1963 Miss Johnstone (=)
SENIOR SIX MAN	SENIOR TUBE RESCUE	SENIOR BOARD RELAY
1st 1971-74, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1994, 1995, 1999, 2001	1st 1989 Carl Immers/Ian MacDonald 1990 Carl Immers/Ian MacDonald 2001 Carl Gordon/Fraser Bickley 2nd 1983 Carl Immers/John Dimick 1986 Carl Immers/Simon Davis	3rd 1998, 1999
2nd 1937, 1968, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1993, 1998, 2000	1992 Carl Immers/Richard Smith 2003 Carl Gordon/Fraser Bickley 2012 Daniel Bromley/Ben Phillips	JUNIOR TAPLIN RELAY
3rd 1938-40, 1956, 1969, 1986, 1987, 1991, 1999	3rd 1980 Carl 1982 Carl Immers/Lindsay Jago	3rd 1977, 1987
SENIOR LONG BOARD	1982 Carl Immers/John Dimick 1995 Carl Immers/Stephen Boyd 2005 Peter Rattray/Arjun Haszard 2006 Peter Rattray/Arjun Haszard	WOMEN'S MALIBU BOARD
1st 1980 Dave Conder 2nd 1972 Daryl Neate 1980 Geoff Walker 3rd 1970 John McDermott 1972 John McDermott 1975 Dave Conder 1982 Dave Conder		3rd 1984 Carolyn Pearce 1989 Tammy Restall 2000 Leigh Sneddon
WOMEN'S BOARD RESCUE		JUNIOR SKI RELAY
3rd 2000 Leigh Sneddon/Jonelle Foster		1st 1993
		SENIOR SKI RELAY
		1st 1988, 1999, 2009 2nd 2008 3rd 1994, 2010
		OPEN WOMEN BOARD RELAY
		3rd 1992, 2000
		SENIOR TAPLIN RELAY
		1st 1970, 1980, 1985, 1995, 1996, 2000 2nd 1994, 1998, 1999 3rd 1969, 1975, 1982, 1986, 1988, 1991, 1992, 2002, 2014

SENIOR DOUBLE SKI	JUNIOR DOUBLE SKI	SENIOR SURF SKI RESCUE
1st 1980 Daryl Neate/Geoff Walker	1st 1973 Malcolm McClurg/Dave Conder	1st 1980 Geoff Walker/Dave Conder
1981 Daryl Neate/Simon Davis	1974 Dave Conder/Lindsay Jago	1984 Simon Davis/Laurie McKeown
1994 Simon Davis/Wayne Parker	1977 Simon Davis/Ken Jones	1986 Simon Davis/Lars Humer
2010 Liam O'Loughlin/Fred Teear	2nd 1976 Simon Davis/Ken Jones	1987 Simon Davis/Malcolm McClurg
2011 Liam O'Loughlin/Fred Teear	1993 Sam Saxton/Sean McBreen	2nd 1975 Malcolm McClurg/Nigel McClurg
2nd 1992 Simon Davis/Wayne Parker		1977 Daryl Neate/Nigel McClurg
1995 Simon Davis/Wayne Parker		1984 Richard Boyle/Ken Jones
2009 Liam O'Loughlin/Peter Rattray	SENIOR SHORT COURSE CANOE 2nd 2013	1985 Simon Davis/Malcolm McClurg
2013 Liam O'Loughlin/Fred Teear	JUNIOR SURF SKI 2nd 1993 Sean McBreen	1987 Richard Boyle/Gareth McClurg
2014 Liam O'Loughlin/Fred Teear	3rd 1972 Dave Conder	1989 Richard Boyle/Gareth McClurg
3rd 1980 Malcolm McClurg/Dave Conder	1992 Tim McClurg	3rd 1966 John Stead/Daryl Neate
1996 Simon Davis/Wayne Parker		1984 Daryl Neate/Dougal Holmes
SENIOR SURF SKI	SENIOR BEACH SPRINT 2nd	SENIOR LONG COURSE CANOE 1st 2010, 2011
2nd 1960 Peter Stead	1967 John Stead	2nd 2013
1975 Daryl Neate	3rd 1958 Ralph Sharman	
1996 Wayne Parker		
1999 Paul Howe	2KM BEACH RUN U19 3rd 2013 Kip Mouldey	
3rd 1979 Daryl Neate		
1991 Simon Davis	WOMEN'S BEACH SPRINT 1st 1995 Jane Nelligan	
2011 Liam O'Loughlin	3rd 1986 Helen Mahon	JUNIOR SURF BOAT 3rd 1965
JUNIOR CANOE 1st 1967 (= Sumner), 1968	1994 Jane Nelligan	SENIOR SURF BOAT 3rd 1961
2nd 1965	1996 Jane Nelligan	
3rd 1960, 1966		

2KM BEACH RUN	SENIOR MALIBU	SENIOR BOARD
OPEN MEN	BOARD	RESCUE
2nd	1st	1st
2014 Ben Phillips	1980 Dave Conder	2012 Liam
JUNIOR SKI RESCUE	2nd	O'Loughlin/Ben Phillips
2nd	1972 Daryl Neate	2015 Ben Phillips/Tom
1972 Malcolm	1978 Dave Conder	Moulday
McClurg/Nigel McClurg	1980 Geoff Walker	2nd
1973 Malcolm	1988 Lars Humer	2013 Liam
McClurg/Nigel McClurg	3rd	O'Loughlin/Ben Phillips
3rd	1967 Ian Johnstone	3rd
1974 Dave	1968 John McDermott	1999 Tim McClurg/Carl
Conder/Nigel McClurg	1977 Dave Conder	Gordon
1977 Simon	1979 Ken Jones	2009 Peter Rattray/Ben
Davis/Alister Davis	1982 Dave Conder	Phillips
WOMEN'S SKI RACE	1986 Lars Humer	WOMENS BOARD U18
3rd	1987 Lars Humer	3rd
Carolyn Pearce	2006 Liam O'Loughlin	1991 Candy Lane
	WOMEN'S SHORT	TAPLIN RELAY U19
	COURSE CANOE	
	1st 2013, 2014	3rd 2008
	WOMEN'S LONG	
	COURSE CANOE	
	1st 2013, 2014	

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIPS – IRB

MASSED RESCUE

2nd

1983 Steve Syme/Mike Regal

ASSEMBLY RESCUE

2nd

1994 B Grade Rob Anderson/Tony

Munnerley

3rd

1995 B Grade Assembly (Nathan Parsons/Craig Henderson/Maytinee Coe)
2012 (James Craib, Rob Lambie, Lucy Harris)

SENIOR TUBE RESCUE

1st 1997 (Craig Henderson, Craig Savage, Barry Crates)

SENIOR MASSED RESCUE

2nd 1997 (Craig Henderson, Craig Savage, Barry Crates, Nik Metzger, Pauline Williamson)

U21 WOMEN'S MASS RESCUE

3rd 2012 (Emily Jones, Zoe Merrick, Bryony Vickers, Lucy Harris)

U21 MEN'S MASSED RESCUE

3rd 2012 (Liam Brown, Will Fisher, Bryony Vickers, Lucy Harris, Molly Bell)

WOMEN'S TUBE RESCUE

2nd 2013 (Molly Bell, Meg Fisher, Zoe Merrick)

WOMEN'S MASS RESCUE

2nd 2013 (Molly Bell, Meg Fisher, Zoe Merrick, Annie Hygate, Ria Pollock)

CANTERBURY RESULTS MEN

SIX-MAN (Ray Blank Cup)

1st 1918, 1931, 1933, 1935-40, 1955-59, 1967, 1968, 1970-75, 1977-80, 1982, 1984, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001
 2nd 1921, 1928, 1934, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1976, 1985-87, 1989, 1993, 1999
 3rd 1917, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1969, 1972, 1974 – 76, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992

KESTEVEN CUP

1st 1919, 1920, 1922, 1924. 1927, 1929, 1932, 1933, 1935-37, 1939-41, 1968-75, 1977-80, 1932, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1990, 2001
 2nd 1918, 1938, 1957, 1953, 1964-67, 1984, 1986
 3rd 1936, 1948, 1952, 1958, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1983, 1986, 1987, 1988

SURF BOAT

2nd 1962
 3rd 1963, 1964, 1966, 1970

SHORT COURSE

CANOE
 1st 2001
 2nd 2000

INDIVIDUAL SURF RACE

1st
 1939 Harry Goldsmith
 1941 Harry Goldsmith
 1956 Paul Garratt
 1957 Paul Garratt
 1978 Graeme Romei
 1980 Geoff Walker
 1988 Lars Humer
 1990 Michael Bouwmeester
 1991 Andrew Bell
 1992 Andrew Bell
 1993 Andrew Bell
 1996 Carl Gordon
 1998 Chris Henderson
 1999 Chris Henderson
 2000 Carl Gordon
 2001 Carl Gordon
 2006 Brad Hamilton
 2008 Peter Rattray
 2009 Ben Phillips
 2nd
 1940 Derek Syme
 1967 Chris Read
 1970 Paul Goldsmith
 1982 John Dimick
 1991 Richard Smith
 1992 Richard Smith
 1993 Carl Gordon
 1995 Marcus Saxton
 2002 Carl Gordon
 2006 Fraser Bickley
 2010 Ben Phillips
 3rd
 1948 Harry Goldsmith
 1963 Geoff Le Cren
 1966 Geoff Le Cren
 1967 Paul Goldsmith
 1968 Paul Goldsmith
 1971 Chris Read

INDIVIDUAL SURF RACE cont.

1985 Carl Immers
 1992 Carl Gordon
 1994 Sam Saxton
 1995 Sam Saxton
 1997 Sam Saxton
 1999 Tim McClurg
 2001 Fraser Bickley
 2002 Tom Davis
 2003 Carl Gordon
 2006 Peter Rattray
 2008 Fraser Bickley
 2009 Peter Rattray

SURF TEAMS' RACE

1st 1929, 1959, 1967-69, 1973, 1974, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2006, 2008, 2009
 2nd 1960, 1971, 1972, 1976, 1986, 1989, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2002
 3rd 1956-58, 1954, 1974, 1976, 1982, 1987, 1991, 1997, 1999, 2010

BEACH RELAY

1st 1962-73, 1976, 1980, 1990
 2nd 1967, 1989, 1991, 1993, 2005
 3rd 1952, 1958, 1959, 1969, 1972, 1976, 1982, 2006

IRON MAN RELAY

1st 1993
 2nd 1993

SKI RESCUE

1st
1976 Malcolm and Nigel
McClurg
1977 Daryl Neate
1980 Simon Davis
1982 Daryl Neate
1984 Daryl Neate/Malcolm
McClurg
1985 Simon Davis/Laurie
McKeown
1986 Simon Davis/Malcolm
McClurg
1987 Simon Davis/Malcolm
McClurg
1988 Richard Boyle/Gareth
McClurg
1989 Simon Davis/Malcolm
McClurg
2nd
1952 Hale Hobson
1965 John Stead
1974 Daryl Neate/Malcolm
McClurg
1977 Malcolm and Nigel
McClurg
1979 Malcolm and Nigel
McClurg
1980 Daryl Neate
1982 Daryl
Symonds/Lindsay Jago
1984 Richard Boyle/Ken
Jones
1985 Richard Boyle/Ken
Jones
1986 Richard Boyle/Jacob
Lane
1987 Richard Boyle/Jacob
Lane
1988 Simon Davis/Malcolm
McClurg

SKI RESCUE cont.

1991 Michael Mead/Tim
McClurg
3rd
1952 Gordon Hobson
1966 John Stead
1972 Daryl Neate
1973 Daryl Neate
1975 Daryl Neate
1978 Daryl Neate/Nigel
McClurg
1979 Ken Jones
1980 Daryl Symonds/John
McDermott
1985 Daryl Neate/Lars
Humer
1986 Daryl Neate/Lars
Humer
1989 Dene Waru/Lindsay
MacDonald
1990 Simon
Davis/Malcolm McClurg
1991 Simon
Davis/Malcolm McClurg
1992 Michael Mead/Tim
McClurg

TAPLIN RELAY

1st 1970, 1971, 1975,
1980-87, 1989, 1994,
1995, 1996, 1999, 2001,
2007, 2009
2nd 1970, 1973, 1974,
1976, 1977, 1979, 1988,
1991, 1992, 1997, 2000,
2002, 2003, 2004, 2005,
2006, 2008, 2010
3rd 1972, 1974, 1978,
1985-87, 1989, 1990,
1992, 1999

CANOE LONG

COURSE
2nd 1999
3rd 2000

RUN-SWIM-RUN

1st
1987 Ian MacDonald
1988 Lars Humer
2009 Peter Rattray

FOUR-MAN

1st 1928, 1938, 1940, 1948,
1955, 1956, 1964, 1969,
1972, 1973, 1975, 1984-87,
1990, 1992, 1993, 1996,
1998, 1999, 2002
2nd 1929, 1936, 1939, 1951,
1953, 1957, 1962, 1963,
1966-68, 1970, 1971, 1976,
1977, 1979, 1982, 1986,
1987, 1989, 1991, 1993,
1994, 1997, 1998, 1999,
2001, 2002

3rd 1960, 1968, 1970, 1971,
1976, 1978, 1980, 1988-90,
1994, 1999, 2001

BLACK & WHITE CUP**SURF RELAY**

NON CHAMPIONSHIP
1st 1928, 1929, 1932, 1936,
1939, 1940, 1960, 1964,
1968, 1978, 1980, 1987,
1989, 1991, 2001
2nd 1933, 1937, 1938, 1948,
1957, 1962, 1968, 1984,
1985 1988, 1989
3rd 1952, 1959, 1969, 1972-
1974, 1977

TUBE RESCUE

1st
1971 Geoff Le Cren/Peter
Hay
1979 Carl Immers/Lindsay
Iago
1980 Carl Immers/Lindsay
Iago
1982 Carl Immers/John
Dimick
1986 Carl Immers/Simon
Davis
1987 Carl Immers/Simon
Davis
1991 Carl Immers/Richard
Smith
1993 Carl Immers/Richard
Smith
1995 Carl Immers/Richard
Smith
1996 Carl Gordon/Fraser
Bickley
1997 Sam Saxton/Fraser
Bickley
1998 Carl Gordon/Fraser
Bickley
1999 Chris
Henderson/Fraser Bickley
2000 Carl Gordon/Fraser
Bickley
2001 Carl Gordon/Fraser
Bickley
2002 Carl Gordon/Tom
Davis
2003 Carl Gordon/Fraser
Bickley
2010 Ben Phillips/Peter
Rattray
2nd
1972 Paul Carpinter/Dave
Conder

CANOE RESCUE

1st 1993
2nd 1991
3rd 1997, 2001

TUBE RESCUE cont.

1987 Ian MacDonald/Dave
Bodger
1990 Carl Immers/Ian
MacDonald
1992 Carl Immers/Richard
Smith
1994 Carl Immers/Simon
Davis
1996 Carl Immers/Richard
Smith
1979 Paul Carpinter/Peter
Hay
1984 Carl Immers/John
Dimick
2008 Fraser Bickley/Peter
Rattray
3rd
1972 Geoff Le Cren/Peter
Hay
1973 Paul Carpinter/Peter
Hay
1974 Geoff Le Cren/Peter
Hay
1985 Carl Immers/Simon
Davis
1986 Ian MacDonald/Dave
Bodger
1991 Carl Gordon/Marcus
Saxton
1997 Carl Immers/Richard
Smith
1998 Carl Immers/Richard
Smith
2005 Ben Phillips/Peter
Rattray
2007 Ben Phillips/Peter
Rattray

CANOE RACE

1st 1948, 1949, 1951, 1954,
1971, 1979, 1980-82, 1993
2nd 1953, 1959-61, 1972,
1974-76, 1978, 1980, 1985,
1986, 1992, 1997
3rd 1958, 1962, 1963, 1965,
1966=, 1967, 1970, 1973,
1977, 1979, 1980, 1988,
1991, 1995

MARCH PAST

1st 1938, 1964, 1965=,
1966-73, 1975, 1976, 1978
=, 1979-82, 1987, 1990,
1995, 1996, 1997=
2nd 1938, 1940, 1974, 1977,
1984-86, 1988, 1989, 1991,
1992, 1993, 1999
3rd 1943, 1952

RESUSCITATION

1st
1933 Len Moorhouse
1957 Graham Pratley
2nd
1953 Hale Hobson
1956 Tony Hobson
3rd
1951 Hale Hobson

OVER 30 SURF RACE

1st
1984 Daryl Neate
1992 Carl Immers
2nd
1986 Daryl Neate
3rd
1984 Geoff Le Cren
1987 Daryl Neate
1992 Dave Conder
2nd
1987 Carl Immers
1988 Carl Immers
2002 Carl Gordon
2010 Ben Phillips

DOUBLE SKI

1st
1974 Daryl Neate/Daryl Symonds
1975 Daryl Neate/Daryl Symonds
1976 Daryl Neate/Daryl Symonds
1984 Simon Davis/Richard Boyle
1986-89 Simon Davis/Richard Boyle
1990 Simon Davis/Grant Restall
1992 Simon Davis/Wayne Parker
1993 Michael Mead/S McBreen
2007 Liam O'Loughlin/Peter Rattray
2009 Liam O'Loughlin/Peter Rattray
2nd
1978 Daryl Neate/Daryl Symonds
1984 Dene Waru/Daryl Neate
1990 Mike Mead/Peter Cox
1991 Simon Davis/Grant Restall
1993 Simon Davis/Gareth McClurg
1995 Simon Davis/Gareth McClurg
2004 James Featherley/Tim McClurg
2006 Liam O'Loughlin/Gareth McClurg
2010 James Featherley/Ben Phillips

DOUBLE SKI cont.

3rd
1986 Daryl Neate/Dene Waru
1989 Dene Waru/Grant Restall
1996 Simon Davis/Gareth McClurg
2002 James Featherley/Tim McClurg
2005 James Featherley/Liam O'Loughlin
BOARD RELAY
1st 1985-87, 1997, 2001, 2010
2nd 1978, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
3rd 1984, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1999, 2005

SKI RELAY

1st 1992, 1999, 2006
2nd 1991, 1993, 2004, 2008, 2009
3rd 1996, 1997, 2007

BEACH FLAGS

1st
1991 Tony Munnerley
1992 Tony Munnerley
1993 Tony Munnerley
1994 Tony Munnerley
2nd
1994 Grant Moore
2003 Liam O'Loughlin
2009 Rory Taylor
3rd
1991 Gareth McClurg =
1993 Grant Moore
1994 Steve Gibling
2006 Liam O'Loughlin
2009 Peter Rattray

BEACH SPRINT

1st
1967 John Stead
1971 John Stead
2nd
1962 Peter Hatchwell
1964 Geoff Le Cren
1967 Ian Maskell
1972 John Stead
3rd
1958 Otto Snoep
1965 Peter Hatchwell
1966 Ian Maskell
1967 Paul Jones
1970 John Stead
1971 Paul Carpenter
1973 Gary Still
1980 Ken Jones
1989 Grant Moore
1993 Grant Moore

BELTMAN

1st
1938 Derek Symes
1939 Harry Goldsmith
1940 Harry Goldsmith
1971 Chris Read
1975 Geoff Le Cren
1978 Graeme Romei
1985 Carl Immers
1998 Carl Immers
1991 Andrew Bell
1992 Andrew Bell
1993 Carl Gordon
1994 Sam Saxton
1995 Carl Immers
1996 Carl Gordon
1997 Sam Saxton
1998 Chris Henderson
1999 Fraser Bickley
2000 Fraser Bickley
2001 Carl Gordon
2nd
1937 Stan Kingdon
1940 Stan Kingdon
1956 Otto Snoep
1957 Paul Garratt
1960 Ian MacDonald
1964 Geoff Le Cren
1967 Tony Harrow
1968 Ian Johnstone
1969 Paul Goldsmith
1970 Daryl Neate
1972 Geoff Le Cren
1986 Carl Immers
1987 Carl Immers
1990 Carl Immers
1991 Andrew Bell
1992 Carl Immers
1993 Richard Smith
1996 Carl Immers

BELTMAN cont.

3rd
1947 Harry Goldsmith
1948 Harry Goldsmith
1955 Barry Turpin
1956 Paul Garratt
1959 Graham Pratley
1961 Jim Turpin
1962 Peter Hatchwell
1964 Jim Turpin
1968 Tony Harrow
1969 Peter Yock
1970 Paul Carpenter
1971 Paul Carpenter
1978 Geoff Le Cren
1989 Carl Immers
1990 Richard Smith
1991 Carl Immers
2001 Fraser Bickley

BOARD RESCUE cont.

2nd
1994 Dave Conder/Carl
Iimmers
1996 Tim McClurg/Carl
Gordon
1998 Warren Bickley/Chris
Henderson
2002 Tim McClurg/Carl
Gordon
2003 Liam O'Loughlin/Peter
Rattray
2004 Liam
O'Loughlin/Calum
Worsfold
3rd
1991 Laurie
McKeown/Andrew Bell
1993 Dave Conder/Richard
Smith
1994 Sam Saxton/Marcus
Saxton
1995 Gareth
McClurg/Hayden Woolley
1997 Sam Saxton/Marcus
Saxton
1999 Lee Howe/Fraser
Bickley
2000 Fraser Bickley/Warren
Bickley
2002 Fraser Bickley/Tom
Davis
2005 Liam
O'Loughlin/Peter Rattray
2007 Liam
O'Loughlin/Peter Rattray
2008 Fraser Bickley/Peter
Rattray
2010 Ben Phillips/Peter
Rattray

MALIBU BOARD

1st
1968 Daryl Neate
1971 Paul Goldsmith
1972 - 74 Daryl Neate
1975 Dave Conder
1976 Dave Conder
1979 Dave Conder
1980 Daryl Neate
1982 Dave Conder
1987 Dave Conder
1992 Dave Conder
1994 Dave Conder
1998 Tim McClurg
2005 Liam O'Loughlin
2006 Liam O'Loughlin
2007 Liam O'Loughlin
2009 Ben Phillips
2nd
1968-70 Paul Goldsmith
1971 Daryl Neate
1975 Daryl Neate
1977 Nigel McClurg
1973 Dave Conder
1980 Simon Davis
1982 Ken Jones
1985 Simon Davis
1986 Laurie McKeown
1987 Laurie McKeown
1995 Marcus Saxton
1996 Dave Conder
1998 Lee Howe
1999 Tim McClurg
2007 Peter Rattray
2008 Fraser Bickley
2010 Ben Phillips
3rd
1969 Malcolm McClurg
1970 John McDermott
1972-74 John McDermott
1978 Nigel McClurg
1980 Malcolm McClurg
1984 Simon Davis
1985 Laurie McKeown

MALIBU BOARD cont.

1986 Simon Davis
1987 Lars Humer
1990 Dave Conder
1991 Peter Cox
1993 Dave Conder
1996 Gareth McClurg
1999 Lee Howe
2009 Liam O'Loughlin

LONG BOARD
1st
1968 John McDermott
1969 Daryl Neate
1972 Daryl Neate
1977 Dave Conder
1980 Simon Davis
1982 Simon Davis
2nd
1969 John McDermott
1971 Paul Goldsmith
1972 John McDermott
1973 John McDermott
1975 Daryl Neate
1977 Daryl Neate
1979 Dave Conder
1980 Ken Jones
3rd
1970 Paul Goldsmith
1974 John McDermott
1975 Malcolm McClurg
1976 Daryl Neate
1978 Dave Conder
1979 Ken Jones
1980 Malcolm McClurg
1982 Dave Conder

IRON MAN

1st
1970-72 Daryl Neate
1976 Dave Conder
1979 Dave Conder
1980 Dave Conder
1982 Dave Conder
1986 Lars Humer
1988 Lars Humer
1993 Sam Saxton
1994 Sam Saxton
2006 Peter Rattray
2007 Liam O'Loughlin
2008 Peter Rattray
2009 Liam O'Loughlin
2010 Ben Phillips
2nd
1973 Daryl Neate
1975 Daryl Neate
1977 Daryl Neate
1978 Dave Conder
1980 Daryl Neate
1984 Simon Davis
1987 Dene Waru
1996 Tim McClurg
2008 Ben Phillips
2009 Peter Rattray
2010 Peter Rattray
3rd
1974 Daryl Neate
1978 Daryl Neate
1980 Geoff Walker
1985 Dene Waru
1986 Dene Waru
1987 Geoff Barry
2006 Liam O'Loughlin
2009 Fraser Bickley

SKI RACE	SKI RACE cont.	SKI RACE cont.
1st	2nd	3rd
1951 Hale Hobson	1975 Dave Conder	1954 Ray Green
1952 Gordon Hobson	1977 Daryl Neate	1955 Hale Hobson
1955 Gordon Hobson	1979 Daryl Neale	1967 Tony Lewton
1966 Tony Lewton	1980 Simon Davis	1978 Daryl Neate
1974 Daryl Neate	1984 Simon Davis	1981 Daryl Neate
1980 Geoff Walker	1988 Dene Waru	1985 Richard Boyle
1985 Simon Davis	1990 Simon Davis	1986 Lars Humer
1986 Simon Davis	1991 Simon Davis	1988 Richard Boyle
1987 Richard Boyle	1993 Michael Mead	1992 Simon Davis
1991 Simon Davis	1994 Simon Davis	1993 Gareth McClurg
2000 Paul Howe	2006 Gareth McClurg	2007 Liam O'Loughlin
2008 Peter Rattray		
2009 Liam O'Loughlin		
2010 Liam O'Loughlin		

CANTERBURY RESULTS WOMEN

SIX-PLACE

1st 1955, 1959, 1968, 1971,
1983, 1993, 1994, 1995
2nd 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964
3rd 1967, 1972, 1974, 1975,
1986, 1988-90, 1991, 1992

TUBE RESCUE

1st
2000 Laurie Williams/Viv
Homer
2007 Viv Homer/ Megan
Brooker
2nd
1983 Teresa Stanley/Carolyn
Pearce
1991 Joanne Third/Linda
Jones
1992 Charlotte Wormald/P
McBreen
1996 Anna Marshall
1999 Laurie Williams/Viv
Homer
2002 Viv Homer/Jonelle
Foster
2004 Megan McKernan-
Brooker/Lydia Stoddard
3rd
1982 Teresa Stanley/Carolyn
Pearce
1991 Liz Ross/Phillippa Bell
1992 Liz Ross/Phillippa Bell
1994 M Coe/K Saxton
1999 A Marshall/K
Hopkinson
2001 Viv Homer/Laurie
Williams
2004 Viv Homer/Hazel
Rolston
2005 Megan Brooker/Lydia
Stoddard

MARCH PAST

1st 1962, 1964, 1991, 1993
2nd 1963, 1979, 1981,
1985, 1986, 1992, 1995
3rd 1967, 1970-72, 1975,
1987, 1989, 1990, 1994

FOUR-PLACE

1st 1958, 1959, 1962,
1979, 1991, 1995, 2004
2nd 1964, 1993, 2005
3rd 1958-60, 1963, 1967,
1968, 1971, 1979, 1996,
1997, 1999, 2001

BELT RACE

1st
1964 Lynne Harrow
1971 – 1973 Sharon
Anderson
1991 Tammy Restall
1993 C Wormald
1994 Maytinee Coe
1996 Anna Marshall
1997 Anna Marshall
2001 Viv Homer
2nd
1990 Kate Stokes
1993 C Wormald
1998 Viv Homer
1999 Anna Marshall
3rd
1965 Lynne Harrow
1989 Jane Collins
1993 E Ross
2000 V Homer
2001 Jonelle Foster

BELT RACE U18

1st
1991 Maytinee Coe

SURF TEAMS U16

1st 1998

BELT RACE U19

1st
1997 Natalie Smith
2nd
1997 Jonelle Foster
2001 Megan McKernan-
Brooker

TUBE RESCUE U16

2nd
2010 Emma Hodgson

BEACH FLAGS U16

2nd
2006 Georgia Giesen

TUBE RESCUE U19

1st
2002 Megan McKernan-
Brooker/Kristal Duff
2003 Megan McKernan-
Brooker/Lydia Stoddard
2nd
1998 E Pascoe/D Pascoe
2004 Gabby Galletly/Hazel
Rolston
3rd
1999 Taylor's Mistake
2001 Megan McKernan-
Brooker/Kristal Duff
2002 Melanie
Carpinter/Emma Tout
2007 Brie Thomas/Connagh
Farrell

TUBE RESCUE U18

1st
1991 Maytinee Coe/Julia
Currie

SKI RESCUE

2nd
1989 Megan Waru/Candice
Lane

MALIBU BOARD

1st
1980 Pip Wales
1985 Carolyn Pearce
1986 Carolyn Pearce
1988 Megan Waru
1989 Tammy Restall
1990 Tammy Restall
2002 Leigh Sneddon
2008 Megan Brooker
2010 Viv Homer
2nd
1986 Helen Mahon
1989 Candice Lane
1991 Paula McBreen
3rd
1980 Rhonda Cleeve
1984 Megan Haynes
1986 Megan Waru
1987 Helen Mahon
1991 Tammy Restall
1995 Erina Metcalf
2001 Leigh Sneddon
2004 Megan Brooker
2006 Megan Brooker
2007 Megan Brooker
2009 Megan Brooker
2010 Brie Thomas

SURF RACE U19

3rd
2003 Lydia Stoddard

SURF TEAMS U19

2nd 1998

SURF RACE U18

1st
1991 Maytinee Coe
1993 Maytinee Coe
2nd
1993 Kate Bell

BEACH SPRINT

1st
1986 Helen Mahon
1994 Jane Nelligan
2nd
1984 Tisha Bradley
1985 Helen Mahon
1987 Helen Mahon
1988 Helen Mahon
3rd
1975 Tracy Chang
1984 Julie Quinn

RUN-SWIM-RUN

1st
2008 Megan Brooker
2nd
1989 Tammy Restall
1990 Sarah Harrow
3rd
1988 Sarah Harrow
2002 Viv Homer
2003 Viv Homer
2007 Megan Brooker

SURF TEAMS

1st 1961, 1962, 1963
2nd 1964, 1970, 1971,
1972, 1990, 1991, 1992,
1993, 1994, 1996, 1998,
2000, 2001, 2002, 2007
3rd 1963, 1967, 1978,
1986, 1988, 1995, 1997,
1999, 2005

BOARD RACE U16

1st
1991 Candy Lane
2011 Ricci Harker
3rd
1999 J McNabb
2001 Nicole Anderson
2002 Emma Tout

BEACH SPRINT U19

1st
2006 Georgia Giesen
2nd
1996 Andrea Chisholm
2007 Georgia Giesen
3rd
2007 Georgia McGillivray
2008 Grace Jones

BEACH SPRINT U16

1st
2006 Georgia Giesen
3rd
2008 Shane Anderson

SKI RACE U18

1st
1991 Candy Lane

BOARD RACE U19

3rd
2003 Megan McKernan-
Brooker

CANOE RACE

2nd 1998

CANOE SHORT

COURSE U19
2nd 2011

BEACH RELAY

1st 1986
2nd 1990, 2004, 2006
3rd 1966, 1972, 1975, 1982,
1998, 2008

BEACH RELAY U19

1st 2006
2nd 2007
3rd 1998, 2008

TAPLIN (3 person)

2nd 1992
3rd 1991, 1992, 1993

BOARD RESCUE U16

1st
2008 Shanae Anderson/Connagh Farrell
2nd
2010 Tilly Hampton/Ricci Harker

DIAMOND LADY U19

3rd
2003 Megan McKernan-Brooker

TAPLIN RELAY

1st 1994, 2007, 2010
2nd 2001, 2002
3rd 1995

BEACH RELAY U16

1st 2008, 2009

SURF RELAY

1st 1991

BEACH FLAGS U19

2nd
2006 Georgia Giesen

BOARD RESCUE U19

1st
2007 Brie Thomas/Connagh Farrell
2008 Brie Thomas/Connagh Farrell
3rd
2001 Megan McKernan-Brooker/Kristal Duff
2002 Megan McKernan-Brooker/Kristal Duff
2003 Megan McKernan-Brooker/Lydia Stoddard
2002 Emma Tout/Melanie Carpenter
2008 G McClurg/S Anderson

IRON MAN

1st
2009 Megan Brooker
2nd
1991 Tammy Restall
2002 Leigh Sneddon
2007 Megan Brooker
3rd

BOARD RELAY U19

3rd 1998

BEACH FLAGS

1st
1984 Julie Quinn
2nd
1983 Tisha Bradley
1990 Helen Mahon
1999 K Hopkinson
2006 Georgia Giesen
3rd
1975 Tracy Chang
1982 Colleen Bennington
1984 Tisha Bradley
1989 Toni Bradley
1998 K Hopkinson

SURF RACE U16

1st
2002 Melanie Carpenter
2nd
2001 Melanie Carpenter
2009 Connagh Farrell
3rd
2001 Emma Tout
2010 Ricci Harker
2011 Ricci Harker

RUN-SWIM-RUN U19

2nd
2003 Megan McKernan-Brooker
3rd
2003 Lydia Stoddard
2004 Viv Homer

INDIVIDUAL SURF RACE

1st
1962 - 65 Lynne Harrow
1971 Sharon Anderson
1983 Teresa Stanley
2008 Megan Brooker
2nd
1959 June Harrow
1961 Jan Monk
1963 Bev Beward
1972-73 Sharon Anderson
1988 Jane Collins

1989 Kate Stokes
1991 Jo Third
1992 C Wormald
1996 Anna Marshall
2002 Jonelle Foster
2004 Viv Homer
2005 Lydia Stoddard
2006 Viv Homer
2010 Viv Homer
3rd
1959 Bev Beward
1961 Lynne Harrow
1967 Sue Hatchwell
1970 Lynne McBreen
1990 Tammy Restall
1991 Sarah Harrow
1995 Erina Metclaf
2000 L Williams
2004 Lydia Stoddard
2007 Megan Brooker

CANOE LONG COURSE

3rd 2005

DIAMOND LADY U16

3rd
1998 M Allan
2001 Melanie Carpenter
2002 Emma Tout
2003 Kate Johns

BOARD RESCUE

1st
2005 Lydia Stoddard/P Kane
(Fitzroy)
2007 Viv Homer/ Megan
Brooker
2010 Viv Homer/ Megan
Brooker
2nd
2002 L Sneddon/V Homer
2003 Viv Homer/ Megan
McKernan-Brooker
2004 Viv Homer/ Megan
Brooker
3rd
1991 Candy lane/Phillippa
Bell
2000 L Sneddon/V Homer
2001 Leigh Sneddon/Jonelle
Foster
2002 L Williams/J Foster

DOUBLE SKI

2nd
1991 Megan Waru/Candy
Lane
1994 Megan
Waru/Mayne Coe
3rd
1995 Megan
Waru/Mayne Coe
2002 Leigh
Sneddon/Jonelle Foster
2009 Megan Brooker/Brie
Thomas

CANTERBURY RESULTS JUNIORS

SIX-MAN (BENSON SHIELD)	SURF TEAM RELAY	BEACH SPRINT
1st 1918, 1939, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1965, 1968-74, 1983-85, 1988	1st 1959, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1973, 1984, 1987	1st 1961 Peter Hatchwell
2nd 1937, 1941, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1975-80, 1986-88, 1987, 1988	2nd 1958 1964, 1968, 1972, 1975, 1983	1963 John Stead
3rd 1952, 1960, 1974, 1975, 1982, 1991, 1993	3rd 1960, 1969, 1971, 1977	1973 Wayne Robins
SURF TEAMS' RACE	BOARD RELAY	1976 Marcus Quince
1st 1934, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1953-55, 1960, 1961 1965, 1966, 1974, 1988, 19912005, 2006	1st 1983, 1984, 1987	2nd 1963 Paul Jones
2nd 1938, 1957, 1958, 1964, 1971, 1974, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 2007	2nd 2005, 2008, 2009	1967 Steve Wilkes
3rd 1933, 1952, 1953, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1982, 1995	3rd 1987, 2004, 2010	1968 Errol Hunter
FOUR-MAN	BOAT	1970 Errol Hunter
1st 1953, 1954, 1965, 1971, 1976, 1983, 1984	1st 1962 =, 1963, 1964	1973 Graham Cairns
2nd 1954-56, 1960, 1961, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1972, 1974, 1977-80, 1985, 1987, 1991, 1992	2nd 1965, 1967	1984 Jeremy Young
3rd 1952, 1953, 1955, 1973, 1974, 1977, 1994, 1997	3rd 1966	3rd 1953 Ian Hunter
IRON MAN U16	MARCH PAST	1962 Geoff Le Cren
1st 2000 James Featherley	1st 1953, 1954, 1964 - 1967, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1983.	1990 Richard Collins
2nd 2003 Antony Morgan	1984, 1987, 1988, 1991, 1993	2004 James Craib
3rd 1999 Michael Williams	2nd 1961, 1963, 1968, 1969, 1975, 1978, 1982	2005 James Craib
2007 Isaac Giesen	3rd 1952, 1971, 1979, 1981, 1986, 1989	SURF RACE U16
2010 Kip Mouldey	BELT U16	1st
	1st 1991 Sam Saxton	1991 Sam Saxton
	CANOE RESCUE	2006 Michael Phillips
	1st 1974, 1976. 1977, 1979	2nd
	3rd 1975, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1983	2003 Cameron Lowther
	BEACH SPRINT U16	2008 Isaac Giesen
	1st 1991 Sam Saxton	3rd
	BEACH FLAGS U16	2004 Brad Hamilton
	1st 1998 Michael Williams	BEACH SPRINT U16
	3rd 2008 Harry Jones	1st
	BEACH FLAGS U16	2009 Harry Jones
	1st 1998 Michael Williams	3rd
	3rd 1999 Michael Williams	1998 Michael Williams
	2009 Kip Mouldey	1999 Michael Williams

RESUSCITATION	BOARD U16	IRON MAN
1st 1939 Eric McEwin	1st 1991 Tim McClurg	1st 1976 Simon Davis
1953 Harley Turnbull	1999 Michael Williams	1977 Peter Johnston
1954 Ian Hunter	2nd 2008 Harry Jones	1984 Trent Johnson
2nd 1952 Tony Hobson	3rd 1993 Richard Claridge	1987 Jacob Lane
1956 Judy Gilpin	1999 James Featherley	1991 Sam Saxton
1959 Mike Mason	2003 Antony Morgan	1993 Sam Saxton
3rd 1956 Ralph Sharman	2004 Nick Smith	2nd 1972 Malcolm McClurg
RUN-SWIM-RUN	LONG BOARD	1973 Dave Conder
1st 1989 Andrew Bell	1st 1972 Dave Conder	1974 Dave Conder
2008 Ben Phillips	1973 Dave Conder	1980 Jamie Clark
2nd 1987 Michael Bouwmeester	1977 Simon Davis	1985 Ian MacDonald
1989 Lindsay MacDonald	1978 Peter Johnston	1986 Jacob Lane
1990 Carl Gordon	1979 Hamish Purse	1988 Tarquin Smith
2004 Peter Rattrays	1980 Laurie McKeown	1991 Sean McBreen
3rd 1990 Peter Hanson	1983 Bruce Lomax	1993 Tim McClurg
BEACH RELAY	1984 Bruce Lomax	2006 Nick Smith
1st 1957, 1964, 1978, 1982	2nd 1972 Malcolm McClurg	2009 Tom Moulday
2nd 1961, 1963, 1970, 1977,	1973 Nigel McClurg	3rd 1973 Malcolm McClurg
1984	1974 Dave Conder	1974 Nigel McClurg
3rd 1952, 1954, 1959, 1962,	1975 Simon Davis	1976 Ken Jones
1965, 1966, 1972, 1983,	1977 Peter Johnston	1977 Simon Davis
1989, 2004, 2008	1979 Dougal Holmes	1978 Dougal Holmes
BEACH RELAY U16	1980 Jamie Clark	1979 Dougal Holmes
2nd 2008	1984 Cameron Graham	1984 Ian MacDonald
TUBE RESCUE U16	3rd 1970 Errol Hunter	1987 Tarquin Smith
1st 1991 Ben Harrow/Sean	1973 Gary Still	2002 James Featherley
McBreen	1974 Nigel McClurg	2006 Antony Morgan
TAPLIN RELAY U16	1975 Ken Jones	2009 Isaac Giesen
2nd 2003, 2004	1976 Ken Jones	CANOE
	1980 Laurie McKeown	1st 1954, 1961, 1973, 1975,
	1981 Chris Ramage	1978
		2nd 1953, 1964, 1965,
		1967, 1976, 1977, 1981,
		1983 =, 1991
		3rd 1959, 1960, 1962,
		1963, 1968, 1974=, 1978,
		1979
IRON MAN RELAY		
		3rd 1993

DOUBLE SKI

1st
1976 Simon Davis/Ken Jones
1977 Ken Jones/Simon Davis
1979 Hamish Purse/Dougal Holmes
2nd
1977 H Purse/Marcus Quince
1978 Peter Johnston/H Purse
1980 Jamie Clark/Chris Ramage
1982 Dave Hill/Bruce Lomax
1987 Jacob Lane/Tarquin Smith
1993 Sam Saxton/Sean McBreen
2009 Tom Mouldey/Isaac Giesen
3rd
1976 Tom Egnot/Marcus Quince
1984 Trent Johnson/Bruce Lomax
1988 Aaron Regan/Brendon Rahu Rahu
1992 S Saxton/Sean McBreen
1999 Taylor's Mistake
2006 Antony Morgan/Nick Smith
2007 Ben Phillips/Nick Smith
2008 B Phillips/Nick Smith

SKI RELAY

1st 1953, 1963, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1991, 2008
2nd 1966, 1968, 1979, 1980, 1993, 2007
3rd 1952, 1957, 1975, 1977, 1978, 2005

MALIBU BOARD

1st
1966 Daryl Neate
1970 Errol Hunter
1971 Malcolm McClurg
1972 Dave Conder
1973 Nigel McClurg
1974 Dave Conder
1976 Ken Jones
1977 Simon Davis
1978 Peter Johnston
1979 Dougal Holmes
1980 Jamie Clark
1984 Trent Johnson
1989 Jacob Lane
1991 Sam Saxton
1993 Sam Saxton
1988 Guy Saxton
1989 Aaron Regan
2006 Brad Hamilton
2nd
1969 Errol Hunter
1972 Malcolm McClurg
1973 Dave Conder
1974 Malcolm McClurg
1977 Ken Jones
1980 Laurie McKeown
1983 Bruce Lomax
1984 Nigel Snoep
1987 Jacob Lane
1989 Mark Collins
2006 Nick Smith
2007 Ben Phillips
2009 Tom Mouldey
3rd
1966 Paul Goldsmith
1968 Rob Campbell
1971 Tim Dean
1972 Nigel McClurg
1984 Bruce Lomax

LONG COURSE CANOE

2nd 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005
3rd 2002, 2009

BEACH FLAGS

1st
1973 Malcolm McClurg
1977 John Boswell
2nd
1974 Dave Conder
1975 Ed Manco
1977 Ross Liddicoat
1993 S Henderson
1995 Stephen Boyd
3rd
1973 Nigel McClurg
1974 Nigel McClurg
1978 Chris Hickford
1979 Dougal Holmes
2006 Chris Howell
2010 Harry Jones

BOARD RESCUE U16

1st
2003 Antony Morgan/Cameron Lowther
2007 Isaac Giesen/Tom Mouldey
2nd
2004 Brad Hamilton/Rory Jago
3rd
2003 Daniel Cleverley/Brett Simm
2005 Chris Howell/Antony Morgan

TAPLIN RELAY

1st 1976, 1978, 1980, 1984, 1987, 1988, 2006, 2008
2nd 1977, 1983, 1986, 1991, =, 1992, 2007
3rd 1985, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1995, 2005, 2009

TUBE RESCUE	SHORT COURSE	BELTMAN
1st	CANOE	1st
1976 Carl Immers	1st 2001, 2002	1952 Paul Garratt
1978 Carl Immers	2nd 2003, 2005, 2006	1953 Harley Turnbull
1984 Ian MacDonald/Dave Bodger	3rd 2001, 2009	1954 Paul Garratt
1985 Ian MacDonald/Dave Bodger	SURF RACE	1955 Paul Garratt
1989 Andrew Bell/Mark Collins	1st	1960 Geoff Le Cren
1993 Sam Saxton/Fraser Bickley	1937 Harry Goldsmith	1962 Geoff Le Cren
2004 Brad Hamilton/Peter Rattray	1952 Paul Garratt	1965 Tony Harrow
2005 Ben Phillips/Brad Hamilton	1954 Paul Garratt	1968 Alex Bodger
2007 Ben Phillips/Adam Van Opzeeland	1956 Paul Garratt	1985 Ian MacDonald
2008 Ben Phillips/Nick Smith	1959 Colin McFadden	1987 Mike Bouwmeester
2nd	1962 Geoff Le Cren	1989 Andrew Bell
1988 Guy Saxton/Marcus Saxton	1964 Tony Harrow	1993 Sam Saxton
1990 Rob Anderson/Carl Gordon	1965 Wes Newton	1994 Alistair Ross
2002 Hamish Cain/Anthony Morgan	1988 Michael Bouwmeester	1995 Fraser Bickley
2003 Peter Rattray/Anthony Morgan	1990 Carl Gordon	1996 Fraser Bickley
3rd	1992 Sam Saxton	2nd
1986 Nick Elsmore/Mike Bouwmeester	1993 Sam Saxton	1953 Peter Stead
1987 Brendon Rahu Rahu/Gareth McClurg	1996 Fraser Bickley	1954 Barry Turpin
1994 Alistair Ross/Daniel Neate	2006 Brad Hamilton	1966 Paul Goldsmith
	2008 Ben Phillips	1978 Carl Immers
	2nd	1983 Ian MacDonald
	1953 Paul Garratt	1984 Ian MacDonald
	1961 Geoff Le Cren	1988 Guy Saxton
	1965 Tony Harrow	1989 Mark Collins
	1984 Ian MacDonald	1991 Sam Saxton
	1987 Michael Bouwmeester	1997 Chris Henderson
	1989 Andrew Bell	3rd
	1991 Carl Gordon	1947 Graham Pratley
	3rd	1948 Graham Pratley
	1953 Barry Turpin	1953 Paul Garratt
	1954 Harley Turnbull	1954 Harley Turnbull
	1955 Ian Hunter	1955 Graeme McFadden
	1959 Jim Turpin	1956 Graeme McFadden
	1983 Ian MacDonald	1957 Gerard Brittenden
	1989 Lindsay MacDonald	1964 Tony Harrow
		1966 Chris Read
		1972 Tony Dacombe
		1978 Peter Johnston
		1991 Peter Hansen
		2006 Rory Jago
		2008 Nick Smith

SKI RACE

1st
1953 Peter Stead
1954 Peter Stead
1958 Brian Rattray
1966 Donald McDonald
1967 Bob Hopkins
1973 Dave Conder
1976 Simon Davis
1977 Simon Davis
1980 Jamie Clark
1983 David Hill
1984 Trent Johnson
1987 Jacob Lane
1991 Sam Saxton
2nd
1964 John Stead
1972 Malcolm McClurg
1974 Nigel McClurg
1983 Bruce Lomax
1986 Jacob Lane
1988 Tarquin Smith
1989 Aaron Regan
1993 Sean McBreen
2002 James Featherley
2007 Nick Smith
3rd
1953 Bevan Ransley
1956 Brian Rattray
1957 Brian Rattray
1966 Bob Hopkins
1968 Rob McKenzie
1975 Ken Jones
1977 Hamish Purse
1979 Dougal Holmes
1985 Bruce Lomax
1988 Brendon Rahu Rahu
2008 Ben Phillips
2010 Tom Mouldey

SKI RESCUE

1st
1953 Peter Stead/Ross
Carpinter
1958 Brian Rattray/Jim
Turpin
1971 Malcolm/Nigel
McClurg
1972 M/ N McClurg
1973 Nigel McClurg
1976 Simon Davis/Alister
Davis
1977 Simon Davis/Ken
Jones
1978 Dougal
Holmes/Hamish Purse
1987 Jacob Lane/Gareth
McClurg
1989 Aaron Regan/Gareth
McClurg
2nd
1953 Bevan Ransley
1964 John Stead/Daryl
Neate
1965 Wes Newton
1966 Bob Hopkins
1972 Dave Conder/Lindsay
Jago
1974 Dave Conder/L Jago
1992 Sean McBreen/Tim
McClurg
1980 Laurie
McKeown/Chris Ramage
1986 Matthew East/Aaron
Regan
1988 Aaron Regan/Gareth
McClurg
3rd
1967 Bob Hopkins
1971 Dave Conder
1974 Nigel McClurg
1976 Ken Jones
1984 Bruce Lomax/Tim Le
Cren
1988 Tarquin
Smith/Lindsay MacDonald

BOARD RESCUE

1st
1993 Tim McClurg/Sam
Saxton
2007 Nick Smith/Ben
Phillips
2008 Tom Mouldey/Ben
Phillips
2nd
2007 Tom
Whitehead/Adam Van
Opzeeland
3rd
2010 Daniel Bromley/Tom
Mouldey

SKI RACE U16

1st
1991 Sean McBreen
2000 James Featherley
2003 Antony Morgan
2nd
1994 Richard Claridge
2007 Tom Mouldey
3rd
2004 Rory Jago
2010 Kip Mouldey

SURF AWARDS GAINED

Prior to 1934 members of surf lifesaving clubs were obliged to sit an examination conducted by the Royal Life Saving Society. From 1934-38 Association only names were recorded, not individual surf clubs.

ROSCOEC		20/03/1938	STEAD Peter	20/02/1951
BOULTON A		20/03/1938	TURNBULL Harley	20/02/1951
CHAMPIONT		20/03/1938	TURPIN Barry	20/02/1951
GOLDSMITH H		20/03/1938	MILNER Isobel	20/01/1952
LENIHAN J B		20/03/1938	SMITH Barry R	16/01/1954
MARSHALL R		20/03/1938	BREWARD Beverley M	30/01/1954
MCEWEN E		20/03/1938	GARRATT Jeannette	30/01/1954
MCKAY R		20/03/1938	GILMOUR Ann	30/01/1954
WARDELL D		20/03/1938	HUNTER Maree	30/01/1954
WEBB D		20/03/1938	MCFADDEN Graham	30/01/1954
GRAHAM	W	21/03/1947	RATTRAY Brian	12/12/1954
GREEN R	21/03/1947		SHARMAN Ralph	12/12/1954
HOBSON	G	21/03/1947	SNOEP Otto	12/12/1954
HOBSON	H	21/03/1947	BREWARD Pamela	17/04/1955
GREEN F W	21/12/1947		COOK Helen	17/04/1955
HANAJIN	J	21/12/1947	DOYLE Gary	17/04/1955
PRATLEY	Graham	21/12/1947	FULFORD Warren	17/04/1955
SEYMOURW	21/12/1947		GILPIN Judith	17/04/1955
SMITH Ross	21/12/1947		LANGDALE-HUNT M J	4/12/1955
THOMPSON Roy	21/12/1947		MASON Michael B	4/12/1955
EVERETT N	5/02/1949		HUNTER Lindsay	17/04/1955
BAUFORD V	14/01/1950		MACDONALD Margaret	17/04/1955
BROCKETT G A	14/01/1950		MCFADDEN Colin	17/04/1955
GASSON	Norma	14/01/1950	RICHARDS Rhys M	17/04/1955
PITCAITHLY D	14/01/1950		ROGERS Janet	17/04/1955
MUNT A	19/01/1950		PREBBLE Barry	15/01/1956
ARROW E	2/12/1950		PHILLIPS Judith	15/01/1956
LE CREN	Helen	2/12/1950	SNOEP John	15/01/1956
TREVELLA Pat	2/12/1950		BRITTENDEN Gerald	8/04/1956
CARPINTER Rex	23/01/1951		FRASER Anthony	8/04/1956
BERRY P	20/02/1951		PATE Michael	8/04/1956
CUNNINGHAM M		20/02/1951	TURPIN James O	8/04/1956
GARRETT Paul	20/02/1951		BARLTROP Charles A	28/01/1957
HOBSON T	20/02/1951		DAVIES Jill	28/01/1957
HUNTER	Ian	20/02/1951	EATON Derek	5/05/1957
PITCAITHLY Olly	20/02/1951		JOHNSTON Michael	5/05/1957
RANSLEY Bevan	20/02/1951		LUKE Sally	5/05/1957
SMITH Ron	20/02/1951		MASON Lois	5/05/1957
MCNEILL	John	5/05/1957	MACDONALD Robert J	8/04/1961
REED	Nicholas	5/05/1957	MAGUIRE Kevin P	8/04/1961

LE CREN	Geoff L	9/02/1958	REGAN Michael F	8/04/1961
NEATE Carlos V	9/02/1958		SAUNDERS Mike	8/04/1961
O'CALLAGHAN A G	9/02/1958		YOUNG John A	8/04/1961
GORMACK Gill N	13/04/1958		MCDONALD Donald E	10/11/1962
HART M A	13/04/1958		NEATE Daryl T	10/11/1962
HATCHWELL Peter	13/04/1958		NEWTON Wesley E	10/11/1962
LANGDALE-HUNT P A	13/04/1958		ROUNTREE Raymond I	10/11/1962
MCCLURG Wayne	13/04/1958		STUART Donald M	10/11/1962
PHILLIPS P	13/04/1958		JOHNSTON Sarah	8/12/1962
PRATLEY	Robert	13/04/1958	LOW Shirley I	8/12/1962
SCHMIDT P	13/04/1958		MCDONALD Murray J	8/12/1962
TURPIN Rex	13/04/1958		SANDEMAN Michael P	8/12/1962
WALES C	13/04/1958		TONG Gretchen A	8/12/1962
DOYLE Patricia	10/01/1959		WALLACE James D	8/12/1962
HARROW June	10/01/1959		ERICKSON Brian J	10/11/1962
BRADLEY David	5/04/1959		GOLDSMITH Paul S	10/11/1962
CLARK John	5/04/1959		HARROW Anthony	10/11/1962
DONALDSON Alan	5/04/1959		HUNTER Ross I	10/11/1962
HARROW Patrick	5/04/1959		MASON Wayne K	10/11/1962
ANDERSON Robert E	6/02/1960		CARPINTER Paul J	30/03/1963
BROWN Judith M	6/02/1960		JOHNSTON Ian D	30/03/1963
CAMPBELL Jan C	6/02/1960		MCCLURG Greg J	30/03/1963
HALL Jill M	6/02/1960		POWELL John W	30/03/1963
LUKE Averill	M6/02/1960		SILBY Carl	30/03/1963
CLARK Ian N	2/04/1960		MCARTHUR Margaret	14/12/1963
GIDDALL Patrick A	2/04/1960		PALMER Ann Marie	14/12/1963
GOLDSMITH Peter A	2/04/1960		PALMER Christine M	14/12/1963
GRAHAM Euan	2/04/1960		LANE Brian M	25/01/1964
ROWE Mervyn C	2/04/1960		LAVENDER Alan G	25/01/1964
BOWIE David	20/04/1960		MAGUIRE Ross P	25/01/1964
COPON Laurie	20/04/1960		HAY John R	4/04/1964
MAGUIRE William	20/04/1960		BRODIE Roderick J	4/04/1964
MCNAUGHT Graham	20/04/1960		FINDLAY James V	4/04/1964
PLIMMER Maurice	20/04/1960		NEWTON Garth R	4/04/1964
SAYERS Lynn	20/04/1960		PEARCE Wayne P	4/04/1964
STEAD John Phillip	20/04/1960		SYMONDS Daryl G	4/04/1964
GILCHIRST Wayne	30/04/1960		DUCKMANTON Neville Maurice	
HARROW Lynne G	30/04/1960		14/12/1964	
INWOOD Robert	30/04/1960		HICKS Grant	14/12/1964
JONES Paul	30/04/1960		HOPKINS Robert D	14/12/1964
MONK Janice	30/04/1960		READ Christopher John	14/12/1964
SEDDON Gary	30/04/1960		SYMES Toby M	14/12/1964
BEER Robert G	8/04/1961		HOLLAND Elizabeth	6/02/1965
WHITEHOUSE George C	14/12/1964		HOPPER Christine	6/02/1965
MAGUIRE Graham J	8/04/1961		HUTCHWELL Susan	6/02/1965
MAYERS David W	8/04/1961		BODGER Alec W	11/12/1965

CLYNE David G	11/12/1965	JACK Barry	1/12/1969
DICKEY Catherine	11/12/1965	MCKAY Anne	1/12/1969
ERICKSON Ross G	11/12/1965	TINGA Nicki	1/12/1969
GIBSON David S	11/12/1965	WALTON Louise	1/12/1969
HOLLAND Geoffrey	11/12/1965	DUCKMANTON Paul	14/02/1970
HUNTER Errol	11/12/1965	GARDE Peter	14/02/1970
MACKENZIE Russell R	11/12/1965	GILLESPIE Peter J	14/02/1970
MASON Penelope	11/12/1965	GUNTHORPE Ross	14/02/1970
MITCHELL Ali	11/12/1965	HUSTON Gerry	14/02/1970
ROBINSON Alison	11/12/1965	MCCLURG Malcolm Keith	14/02/1970
ROWLING Jill	11/12/1965	MCKAY Paul J	14/02/1970
TEEHANCHristine	11/12/1965	NEALE Gary R	14/02/1970
WILLIAMS Alfred E	11/12/1965	PYE Raymond John	14/02/1970
ARBUCKLE John	26/11/1966	TINGA Tony	14/02/1970
BLAKE Andrew	26/11/1966	ANDERSON Sharon	14/02/1970
CAMPBELL Robert	26/11/1966	CAMERON Bruce	14/02/1970
MAGUIRE Brent	26/11/1966	CAMERON Joanne	14/02/1970
MARKS William	26/11/1966	DACOMBE Anthony G	14/02/1970
PETRIE Owen	26/11/1966	DAVIES Murray G	14/02/1970
WILKES Steven	26/11/1966	MCCLURG Nigel Maurice	12/12/1970
BODGER Julie	11/02/1967	MCINTYRE Neil Conrad	12/12/1970
CORRICH Sally	11/02/1967	MCKENZIE Rex James	12/12/1970
JONES Therese	11/02/1967	CHAPPELL Maurice	12/12/1970
LANE Warren	11/02/1967	CONDER David Anthony	12/12/1970
MANDERSON Daphne	11/02/1967	COOKSON John Kenneth	12/12/1970
MASON Stephen	11/02/1967	DEAN Timothy Hugo	12/12/1970
MCDERMOTT John P	11/02/1967	HULME John Herbert	12/12/1970
BRYANT Jim	22/04/1967	JAGO Lindsay Bruce	12/12/1970
BUCK Peter	22/04/1967	LEE Michael Charles	12/12/1970
PALMER John	22/04/1967	THOMPSON Michael R	12/12/1970
SYME Stephen Roy	22/04/1967	CAIRNS Graham Russell	11/12/1971
DAVIS John K	2/03/1968	DANKS Brent Philip	11/12/1971
SUCKLING Gary C	2/03/1968	KERR Paul Francis	11/12/1971
BODGER Penelope G	14/12/1968	ROBBINS Wayne Patrick	11/12/1971
DUCKMANTON Carol A	14/12/1968	HOBSON Janet Shirley	23/01/1972
EIVISON Penelope J	14/12/1968	MOORE Colleen Jennifer	23/01/1972
HUNTER Laurie A	14/12/1968	GREEN Lynne Marie	16/12/1972
LAWSON Anne C	14/12/1968	MARTIN Ross David	16/12/1972
NEALE Sandra J	14/12/1968	STILL Gary Michael	16/12/1972
PHILLIPS Hazel	14/12/1968	DUCKMANTON Wayne	27/01/1973
CURRIE Graham N	21/12/1968	MOORE Brian Ronald	27/01/1973
HAY Peter G C	21/12/1968	MUNT Richard Martin	27/01/1973
KEMP Stuart D	21/12/1968	ROWE Sandra	27/01/1973
KIRWAN David R	21/12/1968	Murray William	27/01/1973
NEWTON David A O	21/12/1968	HAY Jocelyn Barbara	8/12/1973
SEWELL Charles	J21/12/1968	HAYES William Malcolm	8/12/1973

JONES Kenneth David	8/12/1973	NEATE Craig	4/12/1976
LEWINGTON Robert James	8/12/1973	SCOTT Karen	4/12/1976
NICOL Ross Stuart	8/12/1973	TIBBE Nicki	4/12/1976
TROTTER Carl Frederick	8/12/1973	ANDERSON Kevin	11/12/1976
VOICE Peter Reginald	8/12/1973	CRAWFORD John	11/12/1976
WALTON Mark Robert	8/12/1973	HICKFORD Christopher	11/12/1976
DAVIES Francis Simon	8/12/1973	LINDSAY Graham	11/12/1976
NELSON Gail	19/01/1974	ORANGE David	11/12/1976
WERIE Rachel	19/01/1974	ROBERTS Dugald	11/12/1976
PURSE Hamish Duncan	16/03/1974	BRYNE Robert	19/02/1977
PURSE Miranda Helen	16/03/1974	CLEENE Lance	19/02/1977
CAMPBELL Ian Leslie	30/11/1974	EASTWICK Wayne	19/02/1977
CHANG Tracy Elizabeth	30/11/1974	HAZLETT Suanne	19/02/1977
EGNOT Tom	30/11/1974	MCGILL Laurie	19/02/1977
FLOOD Robert Daniel	30/11/1974	MOORE Gael	19/02/1977
HENESSY Jan Elizabeth	30/11/1974	BRINE Michelle	17/12/1977
LIDDICOAT Ross Arthur	30/11/1974	BRINE Carina	17/12/1977
MANCO Edward Edison	30/11/1974	CLEAVE Rhonda	17/12/1977
MANCO Alan David	30/11/1974	HOLMES Dougal Carlisle	17/12/1977
THOMSEN Tim Clayton	30/11/1974	MCKEOWN Laurie	17/12/1977
BODGER Timothy Edward	18/01/1975	PULLMAN David	17/12/1977
BOSWELL Stephen Hugh J	22/02/1975	STUART Nicola	17/12/1977
FEELEY Sue Ellen	22/02/1975	BEER Gregg	16/12/1978
HIDES Nicholas John	22/02/1975	GRAHAM Cameron	16/12/1978
MOUAT Rosemary Edith	22/02/1975	HILL David Norman	16/12/1978
QUINCE Marcus	22/02/1975	NICHOLLS Shane M	16/12/1978
ORANGE Gregory Ian	13/12/1975	PRATLEY Michael	16/12/1978
SEWELL David Brett	13/12/1975	DOREEN Michael T	20/01/1979
TAYLOR Duncan Ian	22/02/1975	DOREEN Gerard Phillip	20/01/1979
WILSON David Fenwick	22/02/1975	HEWITSON Leticia E	20/01/1979
BULL Grant Russell	13/12/1975	MCDONALD John S	20/01/1979
CHANAY Ian Stuart	13/12/1975	RAMSAY Allison June	20/01/1979
FLOOD Anne Elizabeth	13/12/1975	TYRELL Jane Elizabeth	20/01/1979
IMMERS Carl Andre	13/12/1975	RAMAGE Chris	27/01/1979
KAY Amanda Jane	13/12/1975	DAVIS Penelope Jane	24/11/1979
LINDSAY Bruce Andrew	13/12/1975	PEARCE Carolyn	24/11/1979
MORTON Murray John	13/12/1975	PICKLES John Morrison	24/11/1979
CROSS Nigel James	14/02/1976	SEAWARD Michael John	24/11/1979
HALL Christopher	14/02/1976	HAY Simon Joseph	8/12/1979
COZENS Michelle Louise	4/12/1976	HAY Ewart Aubrey	8/12/1979
DAVIS Allister	4/12/1976	KERR Wendy Sheryl	8/12/1979
HASTIE Lex	14/02/1976	STUART Melanie Jewel	8/12/1979
HUNT Ian	14/02/1976	BOSWELL John R	19/01/1980
FINNERTY Lloyd	4/12/1976	HALL Bede	19/01/1980
HALL Catherine	4/12/1976	ROBERTSON Karen J	19/01/1980
JOHNSTON James	4/12/1976	MA Dean	6/12/1980

PLUMMER	Trudy Anne	6/12/1980	SHACKLETON	Jane Alexandra
SNOEP	Nigel	6/12/1980		17/12/1983
WALKER	Nigel Tony	6/12/1980	SMITH	Tarquin James
FINCH	Andrew Jeffery	20/12/1980	TURPIN	Louise Anne
LOMAX	Bruce Allen	20/12/1980	BRAGGINS	Margaret Helen
BODGER	David Anthony Hugh	13/02/1981	EAST	Mathew John
MCLEAN	Ian William	13/02/1981	ELSMORE	Nicholas Sean
ROBERTONS	David Arnold	13/02/1981	GOODE	Stephen Lawrence
RODEN	Kevin	13/02/1981	GRANT	Nicholas Grant
WESTERMAN	David William	13/02/1981	HEYWARD	Jane Louise
AICKIN	Trudi	14/02/1981	NELSON	Leslie Karen
GREENWOOD	Eric Harold	14/02/1981	REGAN	Aaron Michael
HILL	Bruce Francis	14/02/1981	SMITH	David Joseph
MAHON	Thomas Patrick	14/02/1981	ABENDANON	David
BRADLEY	Tisha Jane	5/12/1981	KAMO	Andre Dean
LENIHAN	James Joseph	5/12/1981	SHACKLETON	Catherine Jane
MALCOLMSON	Lisa Margaret	5/12/1981		9/03/1985
BARROW	Ian	19/12/1981	TIPPING	Anna Mary
BRADLEY	Timothy John	19/12/1981	LANE	Jacob Paul
BROKENSHERE	Simon Paul	19/12/1981	BOUWMEESTER	Michael John
FISHER	Mason James	19/12/1981		1/12/1985
LENIHAN	Robert Justin	19/12/1981	BROWN	Veronica
MACDONALD	Ian Allan	19/12/1981	HONEYBONE	Anthony Cameron
STEPHENS	Mark Gregory	19/12/1981		1/12/1985
STEWART	Donald Edward	19/12/1981	MACDONALD	Lindsay te-at-a-o-tu
MOORE	Peter	4/12/1982		1/12/1985
ROGERS	Nicholas Andrew	4/12/1982	RATTRAY	Cameron
STUART	Trudy Lee	4/12/1982	SMITH	Dwayne
MEAD	Craig Leslie	12/02/1983	SPIERS	Tracy Ann
STALKER	Gary Robert	12/02/1983	TURPIN	Sarah Jane
YOUNG	Jeremy John	12/02/1983	BRADY	Paul Anthony
BRADY	Antoinette Gabrielle	17/12/1983	HIBBERT	Craig
BRINKMAN	Joanna	17/12/1983	PACKARD	Miles Johnathon W
COLLIE	Carmen Jane	17/12/1983		14/12/1985
COLLIE	Jo-Anne Maree	17/12/1983	RAHU	Brendon Hemi
DELHANTY	Erin Mary Elizabeth	17/12/1983	ROLLS	Charles David
FLIGHT	MACK David Jonathan	17/12/1983	WISELEY	Robin Scott
GRAY	Murray Stephen	17/12/1983	SILVESTER	Catherine Anne
LE CREN	Timothy Keith	17/12/1983	MUNNERLEY	Anthony William
MAHON	Helen Louise	17/12/1983		29/11/1986
SMITH	Kim	17/12/1983	BROOKES	Anthony David
			KEELING	Anna Louise
			MCCLURG	Gareth Ryan
			PRITCHETT	Tanya Mary
			SAXTON	Guy

VAN HASSEL Paula Francis		GREER Nicola Jean	15/04/1989
13/12/1986		MCBREEN Sean Patrick	15/04/1989
WILLIAMS Elizabeth	25/01/1986	SAXTON Samuel Brock	15/04/1989
BRADLEY Antonia Louise	13/04/1986	SHANKS Jamie	15/04/1989
BRADLEY Mathew David	13/04/1986	SMITH Richard John	15/04/1989
COLLINS Jane	13/04/1986	CLEMENT Jeremy Duncan	2/12/1989
HARROW Sarah	13/04/1986	HAMILTON Gregory John	2/12/1989
HOGARTH Philippa	19/12/1987	HANSON Peter	2/12/1989
HOGARTH Nicola	19/12/1987	HARROW Benjamin John	2/12/1989
JONES Wynne	19/12/1987	JONES Elizabeth Ann	2/12/1989
LANE Candy	19/12/1987	ROBINSON Linda Anne	2/12/1989
MARSHALL Anna	19/12/1987	ROSS Michaela Louise	2/12/1989
PILGRAM Sarah	19/12/1987	THIRD Joanne Mary	2/12/1989
SAXTON Marcus Samuel	19/12/1987	COOK Sarah Jane	28/12/1989
STEWART Fraser	19/12/1987	EGGELTON Thomas	28/12/1989
TYRIE Jonathan	19/12/1987	MCCLURG Timothy Miles	28/12/1989
APPEL Mathew	19/12/1987	HENDERSON Peter Anthony	
APPEL Mathew	19/12/1987	9/12/1990	
COLLINS Mark	19/12/1987	THIRD Simon David	9/12/1990
DICKEY Therese	19/12/1987	BEIRNE Nicholas Alexander	31/03/1990
GRAVLEY Darren	19/12/1987	DUNLOP Samuel Thomas	31/03/1990
BELL Andrew	10/04/1988	PAINCHAUD Grant Paul	31/03/1990
COLLINS Richard	10/04/1988	PEARSE James Richard	31/03/1990
FAHEY Suzanne	10/04/1988	RIVERS Matthew James Scott	
FAHEY Nicholas	10/04/1988	31/03/1990	
MCBREEN Paula	10/04/1988	STEWART Ruben Peter	31/03/1990
STOKES Kate	10/04/1988	GORDON Adam Lee	9/12/1990
BELL Philippa	10/04/1988	BICKLEY Fraser Grant	1/12/1991
ANDERSON Robert John	7/01/1989	BUTLER Michael David	1/12/1991
CLARIDGE Trevor Michael	7/01/1989	COE Maytinee Jane	1/12/1991
CLARIDGE Douglas Alan	7/01/1989	COE Panida	1/12/1991
HARRIS Anthony Jonathon	7/01/1989	CURRIE Julia Sue	1/12/1991
STEPHENS Nigel Ian	7/01/1989	HENDERSON Craig Phillip	1/12/1991
ANDERSON Deena Susan	15/04/1989	PARTINGTON Nicola	1/12/1991
BLACKBURN Quintin Lindsay		ROSS Alastair Benjamin	1/12/1991
15/04/1989		SIMMONDS Emma Justine	1/12/1991
BREHAUT Paulette Jane	15/04/1989	CLARIDGE Matthew James	29/01/1992
BRODIE Jayne McKenzie	15/04/1989	METCALF Erina Joanne	29/01/1992
BROWN Francesca Nicola	15/04/1989	BAKER Ross Keith	9/02/1992
BROWN Danielle	15/04/1989	BAYLER Leanne	9/02/1992
BRUCE Annette	15/04/1989	CRATES Barry Lee	9/02/1992
CLUCAS Janine Elizabeth	15/04/1989	CRATES Pauline Marie	9/02/1992
COLLINS Helen Mary	15/04/1989	GUNN Natasha	9/02/1992
CRATES Ian Phillip	15/04/1989	MORRISON Scott Allister	9/02/1992
GORDON Carl Marcus	15/04/1989	SCOTT Andrea Jane	9/02/1992

ERSON Scott David	9/02/1992	CARROLL Graeme Edward John
ANSLEY Mathew	31/10/1992	26/03/1995
BUSCH Rebecca	31/10/1992	MAJENDIE Kate Susan
ANSTEY Mathew Philip	5/12/1992	26/03/1995
CLARIDGE Richard John	5/12/1992	TOPERWIEN Nathaniel James
CREIGHTON Trevor Johnathan	5/12/1992	26/03/1995
MASSIE Andrew John	5/12/1992	WILLIAMSON Andrew David
WALKER Joanne Rochelle	5/12/1992	26/03/1995
WILDER Scott Denton	5/12/1992	CARRICK LESLIE Clayton
WARU Tui Susan Patricia	9/02/1992	3/04/1996
HEAZLEWOOD Julie Anne	20/02/1993	CUNLIFFE Lee Richard
TILLING Fiona Louise	20/02/1993	3/04/1996
CLUCASSonja Maree	30/10/1993	CUNLIFFE Mark Edward
COE Sirinton Linda	30/10/1993	3/04/1996
DEO Shanel	30/10/1993	HENDERSON Chris Mathew
FOREMAN Dale Anthony	30/10/1993	3/04/1996
HANSON Andrew Fraser	30/10/1993	KNIGHT Andrew Rhys
MCKENZIE Greer	30/10/1993	3/04/1996
NEATE Daniel Tennyson	30/10/1993	DAVIS Thomas
SPIGEL Elisabeth Janet	30/10/1993	24/04/1996
TOWNSEND Kelly Robyn	30/10/1993	DAVIS John Henry
HICKSON Namiko Teresa	19/03/1994	29/04/1996
TRANTER Katiche Monica	19/03/1994	CAMERON Ren
FRANSSEN Corina	4/12/1994	7/12/1996
HARRIS Shanhan Stewart	4/12/1994	DOUGHERTY Christopher
HAXELLShanhan	4/12/1994	7/12/1996
HOLLAND Michael	4/12/1994	HANDISIDES Shaun
SAVAGE Craig	4/12/1994	7/12/1996
WILLIAMSON Pauline	4/12/1994	THOMAS Russell
WILLIAMSON Steven Craig	4/12/1994	HOPKINSON Karen
CHISHOLM Andrea Joan	12/02/1994	PFLUG Gerald
BOYD Steven Terrance	19/03/1994	SCHOFIELD Jo
CURRIE Megan Jane	19/03/1994	22/12/1996
DEO Sandia	19/03/1994	DACOMBE Tom
MORRISON Brett Kenneth	4/02/1995	17/01/1997
ALLEN Lana Kristina	26/03/1995	DAHL Angela
COOPERCherie Lyn	26/03/1995	17/01/1997
HERON Michael John	26/03/1995	FOSTER Jonelle
HERRON Daniel Astley	26/03/1995	17/01/1997
MARSHALL Jess Louise	26/03/1995	HOLLAND Peter
PILGRIM Simon	26/03/1995	17/01/1997
TOPERWIEN Rebecca Sarah Jane	26/03/1995	LANE Elizabeth
TRANTER Saskia Maree	26/03/1995	MOULDEY Adrian
HARPER Katherine Gail	26/03/1995	17/01/1997
		SMYTH Sylvia
		17/01/1997
		SULLIVAN Alana
		17/01/1997
		TURNER Clarissa
		17/01/1997
		AIDEN Cassidy
		14/02/1998
		COOK Kerry
		14/02/1998
		FEATHERLEY James
		14/02/1998
		HEWLETT Tony
		14/02/1998
		HOLLAND Thomas
		14/02/1998
		HOMER Viv
		14/02/1998
		LE CREN Kristi
		14/02/1998
		MCGOWAN Nick
		14/02/1998
		NAISMITH Mark
		14/02/1998
		NUNNICK Anthony
		14/02/1998
		PASCOE Emma
		14/02/1998
		SOMMERFIELD Miles
		14/02/1998
		TOONEY Sam
		14/02/1998
		BAKER Stephen
		7/12/1998
		CARPINTER James Mathew
		7/12/1998
		CARR Daniel
		7/12/1998
		EVANS Timothy Peter
		7/12/1998

HAMILTON	Kate Elizabeth	7/12/1998	STIRLING	George	27/11/2004
MEINDL	Julian Sebastian	7/12/1998	CRAIB	James	21/01/2004
MITCHELL	Helen	7/12/1998	LAMBIE	Robert	21/01/2004
WALKER	Michael	7/12/1998	ANDERTON	Kylie	27/11/2004
HUNTER	Alexander James	24/05/1999	THOMAS	Brie Anne	27/11/2004
THOMAS	William Glasson	24/05/1999	SMITH	Nicholas	26/11/2005
AGNEW	Jordan	24/05/1999	SMITH	Mike	26/11/2005
CLARKE	Chris	24/05/1999	THOMAS	George	27/11/2004
COLLINS	George	24/05/1999	BINNERLSEY	Kiri	26/11/2005
CUNLIFFE	Ashley	24/05/1999	BRIDEN	Ryan	26/11/2005
MCFARLANE	Jonathan	8/01/2000	CLEVERLEY	Ashleigh	26/11/2005
CHAPMAN	Kate	12/02/2000	GREENWOOD	James	26/11/2005
BOOTS	Denwa	9/12/2000	HAMILTON	Kelsey	26/11/2005
BRIDGMEN-SMITH	Hannah	9/12/2000	HORSBOURGH	Rachel	26/11/2005
CARPINTER	Melanie	9/12/2000	MOULDEY	Tom	26/11/2005
CLAUSEN	Leanne	9/12/2000	PHILLIPS	Benjamin	26/11/2005
CORBETT	Anna	9/12/2000	SHARPLES	Hannah	26/11/2005
CUNLIFFE	Adam	9/12/2000	BORTHWICK	Alice	8/10/2006
DAWSON	Nicholas	9/12/2000	EVANS	James	8/10/2006
DUFF	Kristal	9/12/2000	FARRELL	Connagh	8/10/2006
GRAHAM	Amanda	9/12/2000	GIESEN	Isaac	8/10/2006
JEREMEY	Schrader	9/12/2000	HAYWARD	Amy	8/10/2006
JOYCE	Julia	9/12/2000	HAYWARD	Barry	8/10/2006
LEWIS	Oliver	9/12/2000	RUSSELL	Fiona	8/10/2006
MACFARLAND	Jonathan	9/12/2000	TURNBULL	Mahoney	8/10/2006
MINNEAR	Lorna	9/12/2000	WORNER	Thomas	8/10/2006
STANLEY-BODEN	David	9/12/2000	ZARIFEH	Jared	8/10/2006
TOUT	Emma	9/12/2000	ZARIFEH	Sam	8/10/2006
TRIST	William	9/12/2000	MCGEADY	Travis	15/10/2006
ANDERSON	Nicole	13/01/2001	POLLOCK	Ria	25/11/2006
DUFF	Larissa	13/01/2001	BURROWS	James	23/12/2006
MORGAN	Antony	13/01/2001	BROWN	Finn	1/10/2007
STEWART	Andrew	13/01/2001	ANDERSON	Shanae	7/10/2007
HUNTER	Matthew	6/06/2001	FITZGERALD	Max	7/10/2007
KERSTENS	Elliot	6/06/2001	JONES	Emily	7/10/2007
LOWTHER	Cameron	6/06/2001	JONES	Harry	7/10/2007
MCKERNAN-BROOKER	Megan	6/06/2001	MCCLURG	Georgina	7/10/2007
MONGAN	Riley	6/06/2001	BROWN	Liam	6/12/2008
RATTRAY	Peter	15/12/2001	FISHER	Meg	6/12/2008
JAGO	Rory	12/10/2002	FISHER	Will	6/12/2008
HAMPTON	Olly	12/12/2002	KENT	Claudia	6/12/2008
STODDARD	Lydia	12/02/2002	MILNE	Jeannie	6/12/2008
CLEVERLEY	Megan	27/11/2004	OLIVER	Lizzy	6/12/2008
COOK	Diana	27/11/2004	PARSONS	Emma	6/12/2008
GIESEN	Georgia	27/11/2004	RAY	Ian	6/12/2008
			SLADE	Daisy	6/12/2008

STELLING Aaron	6/12/2008	O'LOUGHLIN Lydia	19/11/2011
THOMAS Will	6/12/2008	MARSHALL Maxmillian	6/12/2011
JONES Grace	19/01/2008	O'BRIEN Richard	6/12/2011
HAMPTON Tilly	19/10/2008	AITKEN Charlotte	21/12/2011
MERRICK Louise	19/10/2008	AITKEN George	21/12/2011
MOULDEY Kip	19/10/2008	BELL Molly	21/12/2011
REID Harrison	19/10/2008	DE BEER	Patrice 21/12/2011
VAN OPZEELAND Adam	19/10/2008	THOMPSON John	22/02/2012
BLACKMAN Sam	6/12/2008	VICKERS Bryony	22/02/2012
MAY Elizabeth	13/01/2009	JAMIESON Craig	8/12/2012
HARCOURT Richard	10/03/2009	WISBEY Luke	8/12/2012
RAE Ian	10/03/2009	HYGATE Annie	14/02/2013
ALEXIA Mair	18/10/2009	STROUD Benjamin	16/02/2013
BUSTIN Carly-Marie	18/10/2009	MCCLURG Mitchell	10/11/2013
HARKER Ricci	18/10/2009	HARCOURT Alice	7/12/2013
HARWOOD Lars	18/10/2009	HARCOURT Thomas	7/12/2013
HODGSON Emma	18/10/2009	HARTWELL Amy	7/12/2013
MCCLURG Matthew	18/10/2009	HONE Ed	7/12/2013
PHILLIPS Maddy	18/10/2009	MARSHALL Flynn	7/12/2013
POLSON Lewis	18/10/2009	ROSSITER Chris	7/12/2013
WALKER Robin Scott	18/10/2009	ROSSITER Katie	7/12/2013
WISBEY Callum	18/10/2009	BENSEMAN Denver	18/01/2014
AITKIN John	9/12/2009	GRAHAM Ben	18/01/2014
DAVIDSON Victoria	9/12/2009	HALL Munro	18/01/2014
HARRIS Lucy	9/12/2009	VAN DOORN David	1/02/2014
HOLMES Max	9/12/2009	COOK Taylor-Paiariki	9/11/2014
LAMOND Josh	9/12/2009	BALLARD Jemma	30/11/2014
ORR Whitney	9/12/2009	DE BEER Marit	30/11/2014
SPENCER-BOWER Olivia	9/12/2009	FISHER Macky	30/11/2014
TEAGUE Bianca	9/12/2009	GARD Neil	30/11/2014
WADDLETON Bruce	9/12/2009	HARRIS Tim	30/11/2014
BROMLEY Daniel	12/12/2009	HENDERSON Donna	30/11/2014
STODDARD Lydia	12/12/2009	JAMIESON Kate	30/11/2014
BRADY Bonnie	23/01/2010	MCLOUGHLIN Isabella	30/11/2014
GODFREY Louis	21/02/2010	OSTEEN Lawson	30/11/2014
MERRICK Zoe	17/10/2010	SCHEFER Danny	30/11/2014
DAWE Madeline	20/11/2010	SCOTT George	30/11/2014
HARKER Taris	12/02/2011	SULLIVAN Gabrielle	30/11/2014
HUNT Sam	12/02/2011	VERKASALO Rosa	30/11/2014
SULLIVAN Holly	12/02/2011	BALLARD Jack	6/12/2014
WADDLETON Lee	12/02/2011	HOPKINS George	6/12/2014
IRWIN Aaron	30/05/2011	VAN STOLK Rom	6/12/2014
ROBERTS Andrew	11/07/2011	COERS Whitney	17/01/2015
TEEAR Frederick	11/07/2011	HOPKINS Daisy	17/01/2015
BANKS Jessie	19/11/2011	STROUD Georgia	17/01/2015
HOULDER Andy	19/11/2011		

TAYLOR'S MISTAKE SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

INAUGURAL COMMITTEE, JANUARY 1916

PRESIDENT: Alfred P. Osborn

VICE PRESIDENTS: Alex Hazelton, Alf Barrett, Frank Kesteven, "Jim" Ballin and ? Morgan

CLUB CAPTAIN: Alf Barrett

DEPUTY CAPTAIN: Bill Shaw

SECRETARY: J. Densem

TREASURER: George Haxell

COMMITTEE: Waiter Campbell, Otto Ballin, R. Thompson, Jim Withers, A. Chichester, ? Stevenson and ? Pierson.