Windsurfing takes off at Inverloch

INVERLOCH Windsurfing Club (IWC) started one glorious summer afternoon when a group of six beginner windsurfers sat out on the sandbar at Anderson Inlet.

In between runs down the sandbar, someone suggested a club be formed to build a sense of community and to help others to improve.

Never thinking numbers would get beyond a small handful, the club now boasts a membership of more than 140 and has grown to be one of the largest windsurfing organisations in Australia.

Club president Doug "Old Salty" Hocken is clear about what the club is there for.

"The focus of the club is fun, learning and a great social atmosphere," Mr Hocken said.

"The club is free and we have a growing list of members from all over Melbourne, country Victoria and even from as far away as Queensland and Western Australia who enjoy the trip to Inverloch and the safe sailing on Anderson Inlet. It really is a special place."

The club has a strong commitment to helping newcomers experience the rush of windsurfing. Throughout the year, there are several come and try events, as well as family days and social activities.

Through the generous assistance of the local sailboard retailers, the club also boasts a number of beginner rigs and boards that are available for all to use, along with expert instruction from club members.

Anderson Inlet has large areas of sand banks that makes it beginner friendly, but when the tide drops, these banks also serve as potential speed runs at low tide.

The Southerly Busters GPS speed sailing team, which consists of a number of IWC members, can also be seen tearing it up at speeds up to 70 km/h on the inlet whenever the wind starts to blow. The Southerly Busters compete against teams from all around the world, chasing the fastest speeds and greatest distances recorded in a single day.

The club runs activities year round and has organised many successful events over the last few years, including the Allison Shreeve (Australian Champion) Weekend Teaching Clinics, the Longboard Challenge, the Inverloch Speed Invitational, various mentor days, come and try days, road trips and social nights. Most of these events are free.

Vice president Mick Green invited locals to be part of the fun.

Fast paced: members of the Inverloch Windsurfing Club appreciate the suitable waters of Anderson Inlet. Photo courtesy Drift Media.

"Many people still think of windsurfing as big boards and heavy sails, but modern designs have made it fun and accessible for anyone. All you need is a bit of breeze and a few basic skills and you are away," he said.

Club member Roy Worner drives from Caroline Springs every weekend.

"For us it's about a family friendly environment - both at Inverloch itself and IWC. Both create a safe environment for our kids along with a club focus on promoting our sport. Making a four hour round trip every weekend is well worth the effort," he said.

Fellow member Ernest Gal loves the safe environment.

"The generosity, friendship and camaraderie the club offers is what brings me back every time," he said.

For more information on the club, please visit http://inverlochwindsurf.org.au or facebook "Inverloch Windsurfing Club"

Nipper of the year

THE Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club held their presentations on January 12 at the Inverloch Tennis Club.

This year about 162 kids were involved in the Nippers program.

The Nippers program runs for three weeks, beginning on December 28.

For their efforts over the three weeks, Ollie Collett and Sarah Edney became the male and female Nippers of the Year for Under 12s, 13s and 14s.

This award was given not just for their athleticism but also for their ability to be an active member of the group, challenge themselves, push themselves forward and demonstrate sportsmanship.

The pair was given a bag with an mp3 player, a pen and a ruler.

Everyone who participated in the program received a certificate.

The night involved the award presentation, speeches and a round of tennis from 6 to 8pm.

Sarah has been involved with the club for three years. Her father, Tim Edney from Inverloch Marine, sponsors the club and wanted her to become involved. She has enjoyed the experience.

"I've always loved the water and I have friends in the club," she said.

Nipping away: Sarah Edney, Teagan Thom, director of Youth and Leadership Development and Ollie Colett.

Australia Day angling at Venus Bay

THE Venus Bay Angling Club held its 2012 Australia Day competition on January 27, 28 and 29.

The weather was kind, with summer finally putting in an appearance for the weekend, making it an ideal weekend for the anglers.

There were 17 seniors who entered the competition and four juniors.

Results

Seniors

1st Phil Nebel, trevally 1040g, 2nd Jake Nebel, flathead 1140g, 3rd Bill Gilliam, perch 700g.

Juniors

1st Thomas Grech, mullet 160g.

The club was open on Australia Day late in the afternoon and a good time was had by all who attended.

Our competition Saturday night barbecue was also well attended. Many people enjoyed the breeze blowing in off the water on what turned out to be quite a balmy evening.

Our next competition is scheduled for February 17, 18 and 19. This will be a two and a half day competition which will start at 12noon on Friday and final weigh in is 3pm on Sunday.

For more information about our club, please email mail@venusbayanglingclub.org.au, visit us on the web www.venusbayanglingclub.org.au or you can now find us on Facebook, search Venus Bay Angling Club.

Pleased fisherman: this Venus Bay Angling Club fisherman reeled in a couple of big catches.

MEENIYAN & DISTRICT BASKETBALL ASSOC.
BASKETBALL SKILLS DAY
For ages 7 - 12
Friday, February 10, 4pm to 6pm
at Meeniyan Stadium
Skills by Jodie Harlow
from Vic Country basketball
$5 per player | Everyone welcome.
MUST REGISTER
Call Kim before February 8.
Mob. 0427 346 048 | Ph 5663 6252
MEE9860007

LEONGATHA JUNIOR BASKETBALL
AUTUMN COMP BEGINS FEBRUARY 20, 2012
We need your registrations by February 6
Forms are at SPLASH
or download at
leongathabasketball.com.au
Please place in junior registration box inside stadium.
Under 10s through to Under 17s.
ENQUIRIES: Melissa Hume 5668 6273
ALL PLAYERS WELCOME
LEO4610041

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Starts 6pm Friday with a BBQ.
2-course meal & bar Saturday night
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L.D.N.A. TWILIGHT AUTUMN NETBALL COMPETITION
STARTS FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2012
TUESDAY NIGHTS
Ladies and Juniors
WEDNESDAY NIGHT
Mixed Sections
Entry forms at Kelvin Johns Retravision,
or email tpsmith@dcsi.net.au
or contact
Kerry Bentvelzen 0407 317 413
Phil Smith 5662 4261
Brenda Kelly 0438 230 385
Meeting at L.D.N.A. Pavilion
on Wednesday, February 1 @ 7.30pm
for team entries
TWI1920014