



club news

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TREASURE IN THE SANDS OF BALMORAL FROM THE STORMS OF 1974

During May 1974 the NSW coast was battered by storm force winds and heavy seas. The ports of Sydney and Newcastle were closed and Newcastle reported swells of more than 17m at the entrance.

Most older members will have some wonderful memories of Paul Eastaway, a longtime BBC member. This is just one of the many memories Paul's son's Clayton and Simon wanted to share with members of the Beach Club.

Paul had taken Simon and Clayton down to the beach to witness the waves and rough seas that had developed during the storm. The storm was so severe it destroyed the Manly Pier and Pool. Clayton and his brother were encouraged by Paul to rush out to the net in front of Bathers Pavilion as the waves receded and in the sand they found a collection of coins that had been exposed by the rough seas. Each time they rushed out they collected a few more coins. Paul kept the coins in an old cigar box. One of the coins in the collection is a 1922 Penny.

To view some footage of the storm visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6N6316p7RBQ>

Clayton Eastaway



STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND SWIM FOR MELANOMA RESEARCH

The club is going to utilise the swim formally known as the 2/4/6km race to raise funds for the Melanoma Research. The race will follow the usual course Bay, Island, Baths and return and is open to members and their friends. A \$50 or other donation will be gratefully accepted. All donations received on the day will go directly to the Institute and will be tax deductible. It will take place on Sat. 26th November commencing at 8am with registration at 7.30. For more information visit the website.

Margaret Carney

BRIDGE AT BALMORAL

Bridge at the BBC continues to thrive with duplicate on two Wednesday evenings a month and intermediate lessons on another

Wednesday evening each month. Tuesday afternoon bridge is also played every week. Lessons and supervised Bridge are led by Derrick Browne from Trumps Bridge Centre.

In between these sessions there is social play with no limits on numbers. Sunday bridge lunches on the first Sunday of each quarter have also proved to be very popular, with the club offering a superb location for lunch and a few hours of duplicate bridge. The Wednesday group competed for an inaugural winter trophy between June and August and this was won by Tony Smuts. Tony played with a number of different

partners over the winter so it was a particularly commendable effort. The summer trophy will be competed for on 9 November, to be eligible players must be club members who have played on at least 6 Wednesday evenings this year. An exciting development has been the acquisition of a completely computerised bridge scoring system which means the director's function is less demanding and results are available immediately the duplicate session concludes. After a tentative start everyone now has a good understanding of how to operate the system and things are running very smoothly. *If are interested in playing bridge at the club should contact the bridge group at bridge@balmoralbeachclub.com.au*

John Mather and Jenny Bray

club news and views

DAMON PAL REFLECTS ON THE DIFFERENCES AND THE SIMILARITIES OF BALMORAL BEACH CLUB AND THE OLYMPIC CLUB SAN FRANCISCO

I am a native of the San Francisco Bay Area. I was a competitive swimmer and water polo player and competed for the University of California, Berkeley. As such, upon graduation, I was asked to join the San Francisco Olympic Club to compete for their water polo and swimming teams and I have been a member of the Club ever since.

In March of 2010, my Australian wife, Elissa, and I decided to move to her native Sydney with our two boys, George 7 and Felix 5.

Having taken advantage of the Olympic Club's reciprocal agreements around the world, I was aware of the Balmoral Beach Club, however, I had not visited it until my arrival in Mosman. Antony Green suggested I come down and swim a few races and see if I like the Club. Suffice to say, I very much enjoyed competing with the members on the weekend races, however, what I liked more was meeting the members individually.

I became a member in July of 2010. As a dual member of the BBC and the Olympic Club I was asked me to reflect upon the membership of the clubs and I am happy to oblige.

The Olympic Club was established in 1860 and dedicated to the pursuit of amateur athletic excellence. The Olympic Club enjoys the distinction of being America's oldest athletic club. It is comprised of more than 5,000 active members. There are both men's and woman's golf, tennis, basketball, cycling, handball, lacrosse, rugby, running, shooting, soccer, softball, squash, triathlon, swimming, rough water swimming and water polo teams. So as you can imagine the biggest difference is the size and breadth of the facilities and sports.



As with all clubs, there are similarities and differences. The biggest differences are the weather and size - the weather being a HUGE difference. San Francisco is a cold city with summer being the worst months (the rest of the San Francisco Bay Area will be clear and 30 degrees while SF will be foggy and 16 degrees) so the experience is much different. The City Clubhouse of the Olympic Club is located downtown San Francisco in a seven story building with all its amenities contained in the building (rooms, bars, dining halls, meeting rooms and offices). Because of the aforementioned weather and location, the Olympic Club tends to be an indoor experience with state of the art gyms with all the high tech gadgetry, aerobics studios, spin classes, yoga and Pilates and more exercise and weight equipment than you can shake a stick at. It has two regulation sized basketball courts, handball courts, racket ball courts and two swimming pools – all in the same building in downtown San Francisco. There is also the entirely separate Olympic Club Lakeside Country Club located on the shores of Ocean Beach about 10 km

away that house more dining rooms, a tennis facility and three golf courses – one of which, The Lakes Course, has hosted the 1955, 1966, 1987, 1998 and upcoming 2012 United States Open Golf Championships.

The other major difference is the ocean swimming. The temperature in the San Francisco bay averages about 13 degrees. The high temperature is about 17 degrees and the low is about 8.5 degrees.

While the Olympic Club has that size and breath, the BBC has one major advantage, the location! You cannot beat standing in front of Edwards Beach and surveying the swimming course, the conditions, the placement of the buoys, tide and 'discussing' your handicap.

Additionally, one cannot beat bringing your family down to the Club for a BBQ, to enjoy the facilities with friends and other members on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The friendliness and community atmosphere is priceless. With all these differences, there are similarities: both clubs enjoy friendly, courteous, professional and competitive environments. And that is one of the reason I enjoy both entities so much. However, the biggest and most enjoyable difference for me, personally, is the closeness of the BBC. As a member of the Olympic Club you become one of a 5,000 members, however, at the BBC you become part of an intimate community that is familiar, friendly and very welcoming. I am extremely happy to have become a part of this family. As an expatriate, without many close friends in Australia, the membership at the BBC has been incredibly friendly, welcoming and accepting. I count many of you as friends and look forward to making new friends along the way. I could not have been luckier to become a member of this group and I look forward to be one for many years to come.

Damon Pal

club news and views

SWIMMING AROUND SANTORINI

Late last year, Jon started to share his idea with prospective participants, and in so doing, lit a fire of excitement. This fire soon raged and was never in any danger of being put out by the many problems that arose during the planning stages.

Santorini is a stunningly beautiful Greek island with a vivid history.

It is the peak of a very high under sea volcano, and has erupted dramatically in the past, obliterating large parts of the original island.

What remains today is a beautiful semi circle, very steep on the inside and sloping more gently on the outside to red, black and white beaches. Architecture is impressive and locals very friendly.

Excitement build as we all converged on Santorini. There is a certain thrill at the start of such an event. Not only from what lies ahead, but also meeting friends in faraway, unusual places. This was heightened by the arrival of Geraldine Hunt, stationed in California, and her significant half George.

We had 2 boats – one large catamaran to hold all the swimmers and another Zodiac for safety and to stay close to the swimmers at all times. Although we agreed the course with the crew at the start, each morning started with a tense and lively discussion between Kieran and the Greek captain over where we wanted to go and what he was prepared to allow.

We swam as a relay in 6 teams, in twenty minute legs. The catamaran was responsible for picking up the

team that had completed their swim, so could not be with the swimmers at all times. The swim took 3 days, and at the end of each day we marked our position so that we knew where to start the next day. In all we swam 61k, with each swimmer swimming about 10k.

We had great weather conditions, a very good boat crew and beautiful water. The lack of wind meant that there was no sea sickness, and our medical officer (David Cay) was almost unemployed. The only health issues were head injuries

(everyone bumped their heads on a buttress above the bar in the cabin several times a day) and male health problems. The latter was caused by a Greek Goddess in a skimpy bikini in the Zodiac. Some men acquired neck injuries from changing their swimming style to breathe on the right to get a better view, but Jimmy had the best solution by back stroking at least half his distance. He claimed it was to get an even tan but this was nonsense.

Afterwards we held a grand cocktail party to celebrate. This was generously sponsored by Peter MacCormick and Phil de Baun. The swim was a triumph of tenacious and meticulous planning, good discipline and tight control. We were blessed with a wonderful venue, very hospitable crew and hotel staff, and great company. Full marks to the organisers!

Swimmers were Jon Attwater (Supremo), Kieran Kelly (2IC), Rob Johnson (RSM), Chris Beard, Denise Elder, Gail Kennedy, George Hutchison, Geraldine Hunt, Guy Irwin, Jackie



Bourn, Jan Davies, Jenny Hole, Jimmy Arnold, John Newcomb, Tony Bostock and Tony Smuts, accompanied by David Cay (Medical Officer) and Rhonda Johnson and Annie Whitney (shopping and glamour).

Tony Smuts

BALMORAL SWIM FOR CANCER

The Balmoral swim is less than 6 months away and planning is already well underway for the 25 March event. This year we have a Corporate Fundraising Challenge as well as a Schools Charity cup. Which company, which school will raise the most funds and win the Trophy?

The fundraising committee would like to hear from members who can help with regard to the Corporate or Schools challenge. Would your company be interested? Would your son's or daughter's school be interested? Contact Tony Arena if you can help in any way.

Tony Arena

SUMMER OF FUN 2011/12

Another exciting Summer of Fun is upon us.

Entry is \$20.00 for the whole series. All fully paid entrants will be put into a team to challenge the hardened professional teams such as the Stunned Mullets, Electric Eels and The Pink Pussies. For those who wish to pretend they have a life outside the Beach Club, daily entry is \$3.00. A special "Water polo" event has been added with more details closer to the time. See the website for the full schedule of events.

Terry Carroll



PRESIDENT'S update

WELCOME TO EVERYONE AS WE MOVE INTO SUMMER 11/12.

This is my first opportunity to grab some space in the newsletter, so I didn't want to miss the opportunity.

Starting with our recent AGM, the standout was the presentation to Terry Carroll as Club Member of the Year. This award was put in place to acknowledge extraordinary contributions to the BBC at large, and Terry certainly does that, through his role as Saturday swim convenor. The bonus to all of us has been Terry's fantastic "Summer of Fun", held over the Xmas break. Make a note on the calendar, and keep your eye out for more info.

At the AGM a new Board was put in place for another year, with the addition of Mark Dawson to the group, to replace Peter Ellis, who has decided to step down. Thank you Peter, for 8 years of hard graft, and a warm welcome to Mark. We have set the priorities for the group to focus on over the next 3 years, apart from the day to day running of the club;

- Improving the safety of our event programme, and reducing the safety risks for the Club and its members.
- Investigating the feasibility, and developing a plan for refurbishing the BBC premises
- Planning for the 2014 Centenary
- Continuing to maintain our strong financial health
- Keep the BBC thriving with our event programme
- A review of the constitution.

As is usual at the BBC, a fine group of volunteers has been assembled to take up the formal, and the not so formal positions to organize us for the coming season. There is never any shortage of volunteers to do what is required. Given the ever increasing scale and breadth of

the things we do, we also need all the help we can get. Volunteers are a fundamental building block of the BBC. We have a great new crop of members who have just joined us at our recent induction. The key for getting value from your new membership is participation, and cut through any reservations you might have, and go for it! Weekend (and weekday) swims are a great way to get involved, no matter what your swimming ability or fitness, all are welcome. There are a number of people who have joined for bridge, which continues to grow. Many are just enjoying the ambience of Balmoral Beach at their leisure, or organizing or participating in functions. Any way you like, just come down and soak it up.

One of the key areas of focus for the Committee this year, is making sure we are running a safe organisation. One of our principles has always been, and continues to be, that we participate at our own risk. Some of you may have seen reports of a Coronial Enquiry into the death of a participant in the 2010 Kurawa Surf Life Saving Championships. The findings have implications for us at the BBC, and for everyone running events like we do. In 2011, we have no choice but to take a professional approach to safety issues, to protect our members safety and interests. Board member Nathan McCullum has been appointed Safety Officer for the BBC, and Nathan is working with Club Captain Margaret Carney on the safety plan for the BBC. These will be published on the website as soon as they are finalised.

I hope you will understand any changes that are made to our approach to improve safety in anything we do. We need your backing to improve safety at the BBC. Another area of focus for us is contemplating club refurbishment. A committee chaired by Martin McRobert is working

on the feasibility of refurbishing the club, to meet our needs now and into the future as we grow, and become more diverse in our needs. More on this as the early concept work proceeds.

The BBC will celebrate our centenary in 2014. We are planning a series of events over a 3 month period in early 2014. It is early days in developing the plan, however we will put our ideas out there when they are clearer. We will be looking for "convenors" to organise these events, so please put your hand up when the call is raised.

The BBC is in a strong financial position due to the continuing diligence of the Board over the last 10 years or so, and through your contributions in kind, and financially. Volunteer work is also a part of the strong position we are in. Our aim is to continue our conservative philosophy of saving for the future through our refurbishment fund, to keep membership fee increases close to CPI, and to manage member services and associated costs very closely. This philosophy has served us well through the lead up to the GFC, and through the GFC itself. Our website has the list of swimming and athletic events clearly posted, so together with the regular newsletter and newsletter updates regularly emailed out, there are many opportunities to get involved. Yoga, bridge, breakfasts, lunches, dinners are all part of what the BBC is now all about. Please come down and get involved. It's all part of the thriving BBC.

Rob Johnson
President

Enclosed you will find a blue slip with the new code. Never give the number to a non member. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Electronic Security tags now available from Dianne at the Club on Tuesdays. Cost \$30.