

Primary entry #12: St Michael's Primary School



St Michael's SCOOP



PHOENIX: The brand new surf club.
Picture: Charly Gertz

Surf club has risen from its old ashes

By TYLAH HARRISON, CHARLY GERTZ, JARROD DIXON, LOGAN BALZER and HEIDI MOELLER

FROM the burnt remnants of a devastating fire to a brand new surf club with gym, member's bar and restaurant – the new Fingal Beach Surf Lifesaving Club has reopened for business.

Having operated out of shipping containers since the fire in 2009, members of the new facility love their new building.

"Members are embracing the new club," director of administration, patrol captain and long-time member Debbie Black said.

"It's great to have so much space for storage, education, training and to have somewhere for the members to socialise."

"The gym is fantastic and gives members the opportunity to keep up their fitness throughout the whole year. The Ocean View Bar and Grill has been very popular and we will hold our end of season senior presentation night there."

From the balcony on a clear day you can see the full view from Fingal Spit and Fingal Island all the way to the popular "Kiddies' Corner".

There is always something happening at the Fingal Beach SLSC, whether members' training, surf carnivals or Nipper days.

Fingal Beach is an amazing place and is now even more so with the brand new clubhouse.

By TARA HELLY and BELLA TOWNSING

NEW legislation has put all owners of backyard pools in the state on notice.

Backyard swimming pools remain the most common location for both drowning deaths and injury in NSW children under five years of age.

As of April 2013, pool owners are required by law to register their backyard swimming pools on an online register provided by the NSW state government. Penalties apply to all owners who fail to register their swimming pool by October 29, 2013.

The "Be Pool Safe" campaign, a joint initiative between Royal Life Saving NSW and the NSW government, asks pool owners to tackle child drownings head-on.

Royal Life Saving NSW chief executive David Macallister has called on all backyard pool owners to be pool safe and sign up to the register.

"The statistics speak for themselves. In the past 10 years, 67 children aged zero to four have drowned in NSW swimming pools.

"There are over 300,000 pools across NSW. Royal Life Saving NSW believes that in a number of areas, as many as one in every two pools simply doesn't meet safety standards."



PLAY IT SAFE: Campbell and Brady Stewart give the thumbs-up for their pool being registered online.

Picture: Logan Stewart

A survey conducted at St Michael's Primary School identified that 52 per cent of families own a pool, meaning that potentially 50 pools could be unsafe.

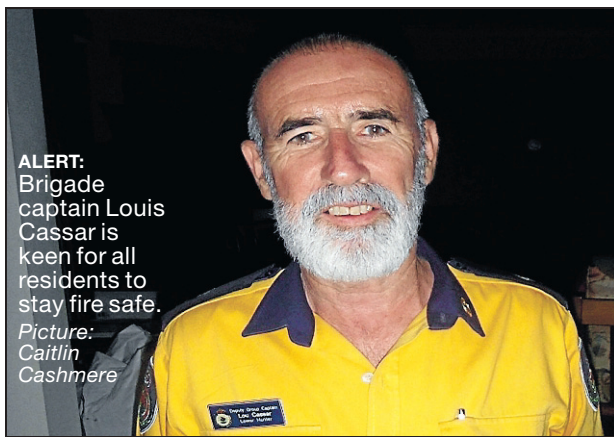
The key safety elements of the register include a well-maintained fence with a minimum height of 1.2 metres, a self-closing gate and a clearly displayed CPR chart.

Come November, local councils will have an important role to play issuing ongoing compliance certificates and inspecting pools.

Mr Ken Solman, building assessment manager at Port Stephens Council, outlined that pool compliance certificates will be issued to homeowners and landlords for a three-year period.

"A key initiative to come from this register will be prior to selling a property owners, by law, will need to produce a certificate of compliance proving that their pool meets all recommended safety standards," Mr Solman said.

Pool owners can register online at swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au.



ALERT: Brigade captain Louis Cassar is keen for all residents to stay fire safe.

Picture: Caitlin Cashmere

Prepare and act to survive a fire

By CAITLIN CASHMERE

THE NSW Rural Fire Service is an organisation with numerous volunteers who help the community in many ways, so much so, their slogan is "For the community".

Each town and area has its own brigade committed to engaging with the community so they are prepared for any kind of fire.

Brigades visit community

groups such as schools, and clubs such as Lions and Probos to talk about bushfire danger and protection for people and property.

Brigades run a smoke alarm battery changing program at the end of daylight saving and annually so people can learn about what fire fighters do.

Group officer and brigade captain for Port Stephens, Louis Cassar, has been an

active member of the Rural Fire Service for 40 years.

He explains the latest bushfire tactic: "This plan spreads the main message of 'Prepare. Act. Survive'. It assists homes and families not to make rushed and dangerous decisions when there is an emergency."

Captain Cassar urges people to stay "aware of their situation and what's happening in the community".

Fair go banking since 1903

For over 110 years we've been developing smarter ways to grow your wealth, easier ways to do your banking and more affordable ways to own your own home... and keeping the banks honest along the way.

13 19 87 newcastlepermanent.com.au

Here for good.

