

# ***Point Lookout SLSC Junior Activities***

## The Introduction of the Junior Association into Surf Life Saving

Whilst Junior Activities or “Nippers” in Queensland have only been officially recognised since 1968, they did emerge briefly back in 1920. A few families, residents of Coolangatta and Tweed Heads, banded together and arranged an activity on Kirra Beach for children aged 9 – 14 years.

These juniors received encouragement and support from the Kirra Club and, in 1921, they received their first “Junior” size reel - made of 2” x 1” pipe with an old paint drum for a barrel with a stone placed inside the tin. For a line they used lengths of discarded rope knotted together and attached to an old cork belt. The Juniors eventually raised enough funds, by catching prawns in Coolangatta Creek and selling them to their parents, to purchase a brand new reel.

From these early beginnings emerged the “Cadets” as we know them today. These young lads played an important role on the beaches during World War II while their older counterparts were away on active duty. Records show that “Nippers” were active in the Surfers Paradise and Burleigh Heads Clubs until the early 60s when NSW Surf Life Saving Officers recognised their potential and moved to form Nipper Clubs with boys 8 years and over.

Queensland increased the interest, and in 1965/66 the Maroochydore Cygnets were formed. A group of South Coast Branch Officials, Kev Thompson, Garth Andrews, John Ogilvie, John Young and Peter Fitzpatrick, under the leadership of Ron Tallon canvassed local schools for members. They introduced proper administrative controls and standardisation of competition conditions and procedures.

By 1968 the Queensland Surf Nipper Association was officially formed and a Constitution adopted. Affiliation of Branches and Clubs who had been conducting activities for the 7 to 14 year olds took place. The first State Championships were held at Burleigh Heads on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1969. A Branch rotational system to host these Championships was formulated allowing every area of the State the opportunity to show and promote their attractions to visitors as well as giving a variety of different kinds of surf and weather conditions.

Although the Association’s aims and objectives were to encourage these youngsters to continue their interest and become surf lifesavers, not very much lifesaving training was included. This continued until the 1979 – 80 season when the Resuscitation Certificate became a requirement for eligibility to compete in carnivals.

## Junior Activities “Nippers” at Point Lookout

Point Lookout SLSC has been involved in the evolution of the Junior Activities movement for more than 46 years. It has developed traditions which remain strong over many decades. From the early beginnings with a handful of local lads to now providing a solid source of future patrolling surf lifesavers at Point Lookout, our history is something that all who have participated should be proud of - be it as a bona fide “nipper”; or as someone who contributed to the successful running of the program over the past 46 years.

Assembled below is a collection that provides the opportunity to reflect on what is a very special part of the history of the Point Lookout Surf Life Saving Club.

### In The Beginning

In early 1967 Bram Thompson (Hon Secretary) provided a brief to the Club expressing his interest in forming a Nipper Club for boys aged 8 – 13 years. At the time, Surf Life Saving Australia was keen to foster the formation of Nipper Clubs at all beach resorts in Australia with the intent to divert the energy of these youngsters into worthwhile activities. The Clubs in the main were organised by the parents of young children who resided in the local area or who regularly attended the beach. Modelled on what was happening in New South Wales, the Clubs would meet on a Saturday or Sunday wearing distinctive T-Shirts with the Club name on the back. A variety of events would be run including sprints, relay, musical flags, chariot race, pillow fight, wading races, swim races, resuscitation and R&R. However these depended on the local organising committee and the availability of parents or old members to give instructions.

After seeing the interest of seven local boys, Bram was confident that a strong Nipper Club could be formed at Point Lookout. Bram had also indicated that it might even be possible to have a Dunwich Nipper Club and Amity Point Nipper Club formed, however this never eventuated. The objectives of the Nipper Clubs included channelling the activities of youngsters into organised and supervised contests, giving them an interest, letting them feel important as part of the Club and, as a last aim, providing a training ground for possible future lifesavers who have instilled into them at an early age the sense of right and wrong, along with principles of sportsmanship and correct social behaviour.

Bram extended an invitation to the residents of Stradbroke Island and advised that, if any locals were interested in forming the Nipper Club, Bram and the members of the Executive would be prepared to discuss fully its formation and how the Club could best help in the formation and running of the Club.

The Stradbroke Island Nippers Association (Stradbroke Sharks) began in October 1967 and was active in 1967-68 with the meetings held in Titanium and Zirconium Industries (TAZI) office, Dunwich, with C. Mills as President. At that time, only boys were eligible to join, and only people from Stradbroke Island were in the Club as it was formed primarily to provide island boys with some form of organised healthy activity.

*At first there was great enthusiasm and as Gwen Specht recalls "We tried to raise money through BBQ's and the local Stradbroke Hotel kindly donated a keg. All the food was donated and with the profits we were able to purchase swimming togs (\$4.84) and certificates for our members. We would arrive at the beach at about 9.00 a.m. and the parents would instruct the children in sprints, wades and flags and we would also hold swim races, but only the boys who were good swimmers were allowed to enter the water.*

*The Nippers were run by people like Noela Lawler Alisa Perry, George Nothling, Joan Greener, Ron Stark, Mary Surawski, Don Sellin, Janine Durbidge and myself in the early days. There was lots of support from the local business houses and this made fundraising a lot easier. Each Saturday 2 Senior members would be asked to come down to the beach and give us a hand.*

*We didn't have boards in these days and there were no awards for each age group but the kids learnt all we could teach them about the surf. The Juniors didn't use the Club facilities initially as were classed as two separate Clubs, but in the duration of time this changed. During the second season we started to participate in Carnivals".*

Transport to the mainland was an even greater problem then than it is now, and it was a major effort to get boys to carnivals. For example, on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1968, 14 boys travelled by barge to Redland Bay, then by car to Southport, where they watched the Southport Dolphins training before going to the carnival at Nobbys Beach, where eight Clubs were participating. The purpose of that carnival was to choose 28 boys for a team to compete against Port Macquarie (NSW) and Point Danger Branch on the Australia Day weekend at Tallebudgera the following Sunday.

Hand written historical carnival report states "We were quite astounded by our success considering we had only been going for a period of three weeks, and those other Clubs for two seasons, two of our lads were nominated to compete against NSW. Peter Greener was an outstanding success winning Musical Flags, Sprint Race, Wading, Senior and Junior Swimming Race. Shane Kennedy was the other boy nominated – he won the Sprint Race and the Wading Race and Russell Specht was another close runner-up". After many years absence from the Club, Russell successfully gained his Bronze Medallion in December 1987 at the age of 30.

In these days of major participation by women in Surf Lifesaving, it is interesting to note the comments recorded in our report after the Nobbys Carnival, *"In all, we came home much wiser as to the running of a Nipper Club and the drive which is needed behind such an organisation, the number of fathers taking an interest in this down the Coast is astounding, and some of the organisers were surprised to find women acting as delegates".*

This initial strong involvement of women in Point Lookout Nippers established a tradition that is still followed.

It is interesting to reflect back on the minutes of the Stradbroke Island Nipper Association Meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1968. The following business was discussed:

- Membership fees - a fee of 50 cents was to accompany the membership form
- Transport fee from Dunwich to the Point - 20 cents per child to cover the cost of Mrs Perry's Transport
- Affiliation fees
- Uniforms
- Approved that the boys do a small test before being handed their membership certificate
- Purchase of a mini reel when funds become available.
- The bank balance at this point in time was \$71.30.
- Practice – a notice to be placed in Mr George Nothling's window so all concerned would know arrangements. Boys to assemble at Mrs Perry's house by 9.30 a.m. each Saturday.
- Fundraising – the boys from Point Lookout had already raised \$7 by selling tickets door to door. BBQ's had also been arranged.

After this magnificent beginning, there was a gradual decline in the Nipper activities, particularly after the Greener and the Mills families left the island.

## A Fresh Start – 1974 to 1988

After considerable discussion with members of the local community; and with the support of then Senior Club President – Col Turner, Nippers recommenced during the 1974 / 1975 patrolling season. This began with the appointment of local identity Bobby Grey as President and Mrs Felicity Stanton as Secretary at a meeting held at Point Lookout Hotel on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 1974. The commitment from the Senior Club in the early years was vital in getting the Saturday morning programs under way and it is from there, a close liaison between the two groups evolved. The then 8 year old Darren Woodward vividly recalls being rescued by Gary Terrell that season when the Seniors took an active role in training Nippers. From that time and to this day, Nippers moved from strength to strength.

A bus was purchased to transport the children across the island on Saturday mornings. Reg Rix would drive the bus, picking up children in Dunwich, Amity Point and Point Lookout, and of course the road was dirt and very bumpy in those days!

Jean Walton would sometimes be the only other adult present, and Jean recalls that it was rather hectic at training sessions on the beach. The big blue bus became synonymous with the team from Point Lookout – the “Stradbroke Sharks” – and provided a focal point for fostering the strong sense of Club spirit and individuality that characterises Point Lookout. In those days, the team would catch an early morning barge to drive straight to carnivals. Officials would wait until the bus arrived before commencing the carnival – truly a reflection of the high esteem in which Point Lookout was held.

Nobbys Beach Club was a great help in getting Point Lookout started in the early years – specifically thanks to the coordination of Barry and Dawn Gotje who moved to Point Lookout from the Gold Coast in the early ‘70s. Point Lookout hosted Nobbys Club in a “Two-Way” Carnival which provided the opportunity for the island boys to test their abilities against one of the more powerful Clubs on the coast at the time. A small team of competitors was selected from this carnival to participate in the 1976 Branch Titles.

Due to the success of our team with Terry Gotje (now competing for his adopted Point Lookout) bringing home a gold medal in the 10 years Beach Sprint, and silver medal in the 10 years Beach Flags, 4 island boys were selected to compete at the Queensland State Championships that year. They were to be held at Kings Beach Caloundra but were later moved to Mooloolaba due to inclement weather. Peter Bertossi, Terry Gotje, Darren Woodward and Christopher Clarey all reached the finals of the events they were selected to compete in.

Following years saw teams of varying sizes qualify for State Titles at Emu Park (providing the opportunity for a first ever plane flight for some!, Gold and Sunshine Coasts and even as far away as Etty Bay (Cairns). This provided a novelty for those who attended by having to wear panty hose as the standard means for marine stinger protection in those days! Point Lookout’s participation in carnivals up and down the coast from that point in time became an institution. The “red with two white and one blue stripe” cap was highly prominent in all age groups and, due to the Club’s small size, whenever a team member achieved a notable result, it was not uncommon for the entire group inside the old green and white canvas tent to go crazy with excitement much to the amusement of the more experienced and prominent Clubs whose tents were pitched beside ours.

It was moments such as these that promoted a sense of unity across such a young team which you could almost sense was the envy of the “Coastie” Clubs. Such was the benefit of participating in Nippers at Point Lookout.

Although we experienced notable individual success over the years, the name Point Lookout became synonymous with the March Past event in the late '70s and into the '80s. Whilst the current era of Surf Lifesaving has seen this event decline in its prominence in recent years when compared to more high profile events such as Ironman, the March Past was somewhat of an “Opening Ceremony” for every carnival thus providing the chance for Clubs to make their mark early in the carnival program. While not obvious due to the controlled nature of the event, competition was exciting with Point Lookout coming up against the seasoned performers in Bundaberg and Alexandra Headlands amongst others. It was with Alex in particular that we not only developed a fierce rivalry on the beach but also a mutual admiration and respect that carried over into the senior ranks for some of us.

Days can be recalled where at the end of the carnival, George Hill Senior and Alex's Coach, Reg Perrin would be over in a corner of the refreshment tent giving each other a debrief of where each thought the other could improve the next time around.

The highlight came in 1978. With the State Titles moved to Kirra Beach from Northcliffe due to dangerous conditions, the young men from Point Lookout marched out for what was only their second State Championship having finished a credible 5<sup>th</sup> at Emu Park in their first season. In those days once the event was completed, teams retired to their tents and prepared for the remainder of the carnival. Once results were tallied, renowned announcer at Nipper Championship events – Percy Berigan – would deliver the results from third place to first. Everyone would freeze with anticipation! “In 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a score of 17 points – BUNDABERG; In 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a score of 15.5 points – ALEXANDRA HEADLAND and in 1<sup>st</sup> place with a score of 12.5 points (at that time a State Championship record till the following year) – POINT LOOKOUT!” Whilst winning that first State Championship for the Club was amazing, equally as encouraging was the response from fellow South Coast Branch Clubs who had seen our small team evolve from a handful of boys who had to be billeted out over night at carnivals to a team that was now the State Champions in the blue ribbon event of the day – we had arrived!

In keeping with the theme “it is harder to maintain than it is to obtain”, we arrived at Etty Bay the following year as red hot favourites. The friendly but fierce rivalry between the 3 powerhouses of Bundaberg, Alexandra Headlands and the Point had continued again throughout the season. Etty Bay in the month of March is very wet. However on this particular day, as the Point suited up for the March Past, the clouds parted and the sun shone through and at the completion of the event as the Club were marching off the main arena, as quickly as the clouds parted, they closed in and the rain returned. History shows that the Point marched into a 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive State Championship with a total deduction of 10.5 points.

To be a part of back to back Championships in such a precision event where you cannot be affected by the uncertainty of the surf was rare. Looking back now, Club coach George Hill Senior was elevated to the ranks of a Nipper March Past coaching legend by his peers (Reggie Perren and Co) at the Etty Bay event. To turn a wild bunch of “Straddie” boys into State Champions 2 years in a row (with further success to come) was an amazing feat in such a short period of time.

To be held in that regard by his peers meant more to George than actually winning the gold. For the lucky boys who participated in the event in those early years, it was an experience that will never be forgotten.

Success breeds success. Usually, the event directly after the March Past was the All Age Relay which was typically a show piece of Clubs' strength in beach events.

More often than not, if Point Lookout fared well in March Past they would almost certainly do well in the All Age Relay. Whilst the Point didn't crack a State Championship in this event, they did take out Branch and Gold Coast City Championships against more fancied teams that more often than not had a couple of members of the State Team lining up for them.

Whilst not taking anything away from some of the amazing individual results we have gained over the years, history shows that Point Lookout has had its best results in team events. Maybe that is why the Club shares a team spirit that remains the envy of other Surf Life Saving Clubs.

In the early years, Southport very kindly made their Nipper Clubhouse available so the team could stay overnight on Saturday and not be late for carnivals. Many Nippers and parents fondly recall those sleepless nights on the Clubhouse floor with excitement at fever pitch in anticipation of the carnival. This became more of a challenge when Nipperettes were also included in the sleepovers! George Hill (Senior) was legendary with his playing of the guitar and telling jokes till all hours. Travelling together on the bus enabled the war cry to be practised (loudly of course) and it must have been enough to strike fear into the hearts of other Clubs when the bus pulled up with everyone in full voice singing. Due to the increase in numbers in the Club, two buses were needed for transport across the Island, so the old bus was sold – the end of an era many recall nostalgically.

To provide a comparable activity for girls, a Nipperette Association was formed in 1978 and there were 46 girls registered in 1978/79. Separate carnivals for boys and girls were usually held. Point Lookout Nipperettes were highly successful at Carnivals and were noted for beating the boys March Past Team when combined carnivals were held. Boys and girls were amalgamated in 1981/82 and in the 1984/1985 season, Nipper and Senior Clubs were formally amalgamated in a move which would ultimately benefit the Club as a whole in the years to come.

#### From Strength to Strength – The Next 20 years

The Junior Activities program has evolved to become the largest source of patrolling members at Point Lookout. This is a clear indication of the value of the program and also vindicates the decision to combine both Associations into a single entity. As such, a detailed report is included in the Clubs Annual Report every year highlighting the achievements of Junior Activities each season. The second 20 years has seen the Junior Activities progress rapidly to where it is today.

From 1980 a strong focus was placed on the Junior Activities members gaining an age award covering areas such as Resuscitation, Surf Awareness, Surf Safety and First Aid. These were known as the Junior Achievement Awards. Resources produced by Surf Life Saving Australia supported the Age Managers who were responsible for teaching these awards.

Many Nippers from this era would remember the cloth badges and stickers gained and the famous “S” Badge swim that had to be completed and the badge worn on club togs prior to taking part in water related competition. The “S” Badge and certificate sticker system were later superseded with a new Program called the Surf Education Program.

A bonus to the implementation of the Junior Awards Program was that many parents were encouraged to become both proficient in resuscitation and more aware of water safety. The requirement in the modern era for all Water Safety Officers to have a minimum qualification of the Surf Rescue Certificate saw many parents in Point Lookout gain the Bronze Medallion and higher levels of qualifications.

On the competition front, the Point Lookout “Nippers” have continued to grow from strength to strength. As was achieved in the first 20 years of Nippers in Point Lookout, our competitors continued to show dominance in the March Past event along with many beach events seeing several members gain medals at State Championships.

The knowledge, expertise, commitment and dedication of George Hill Senior’s coaching prowess was passed down the line to many other significant long term coaches in the Club including Ian Jarvis, Sharon Wright (Brennan) and Tracey Store. Other years saw some young and enthusiastic coaches take on the role including Hailey Eaborn, Anne-Marie Westby and Kelvina Campbell.

As in the first 20 years, the success in the March Past event has continued in time seeing the Point Lookout Juniors medal in the top 3 on many occasions. The victorious March Past teams have shown the results of all their hard work which often included mid-week training and training during free time on Nipper days. Two significant gold medal occasions in the March Past event included the 1986/87 win at the State Championships in Ettu Bay under Ian Jarvis as coach and the 1991/92 season at the State Championships held at Tugun under Sharon Wright as the coach. This occasion saw a record loss of only 8 points which was 4 points clear of arch rivals Burleigh Heads Mowbray Park which was then coached by George Hill Senior.

There were other significant performances by our junior members in team and individual events at the Junior State Championships. These were predominantly in the beach events, however in the later years, successful results began to emerge in the water events also. 1987 was the last State Championships to include the 7, 8 and 9 years olds. From this season on, this level of competition focussed on 10 – 13 years olds in an attempt to reduce the pressures of competition for the youngsters.

Point Lookout Junior Activities are proud to boast that several members have earned selection into the Queensland State Teams. Members including Denis McDonald, Steve Gray, Gavin Black, Chris Saffigna and Meghan Flanigan to name a few have proudly represented Queensland.

Since the inception of the Junior Association, the rules and conditions of competition have been monitored and tailored to the growing needs of the Juniors. Club Junior Officials may remember the early days when Queensland worked from a half a dozen pages of rules governing the junior competition and the little “red book” otherwise known as the Nipper Official’s bible. Over time there have been several versions of the National Competition Manual until 1992 when the SLSA Competition Manual was reprinted to include Junior and Senior events.

Other competition related dates of interest include:

- 1972 – Polystyrene boards were introduced
- 1977 – Graduation to fibreglass boards for the 10 – 13 year olds
- 1994 – Introduction of the Junior 2 and 5 person R&R events

Membership in the Junior Activities since the 1980s has grown substantially. The logistics of transporting the junior members from the Mainland to the Point every Saturday has always been a challenge; however this situation has never deterred the Club. The Junior members would walk onto the barge en masse and be transported from Dunwich to Point Lookout for the day's activities. The early 90s saw a move to hire 3 Bayside Buses which ventured to the Island every Saturday full of children and their parents eager for a great day at the beach. Whilst this approach came at a cost, the Juniors worked hard to fundraise each year to assist in covering the costs. One of the outstanding performances in the fundraising area has been the efforts of Judy Lobley who has been a quiet achiever going about her fundraising each week for over 25 years.

Another member who was a tremendous support to the Point Lookout Junior Activities is Ian "Macca" McKenzie who drove the Nipper buses for many years.

Junior membership around the mid-80s saw more Mainland members travelling each week, far exceeding the island residents. However there was another strong resurgence of island Nippers in the late 90s / early 2000. The early 90s saw Nipper total figures around 156 and numbers have continued to grow with our Junior Activities membership numbers over 200 in 2007/08. The past 20 seasons has seen the Club take on Under 7s or what is known as the "Green Caps" during various seasons and with the inclusion of Under 6s and Under 7s again in more recent years, the Club has again embraced the younger age groups.

Over time, the Junior Activities members have received some great support from the Senior Club with many Senior members supporting the training and skill development of the Nippers. This recognition and praise to the Senior members has been recorded in several Annual Reports over the years.

There has been some good flow on effects from the Junior Activities seeing many members recognised on the Long Service Shield for completing all years in Nippers through to first year Cadets. Nippers graduating into the Senior ranks have received due recognition and through the introduction of a Cadet Officer, this transition in the later years has been very successful.

A typical Saturday Program would see a wave of Nippers and parents land at the Point and take over Main Beach. If beach conditions were too rough, the option to operate from Cylinder Beach was always available and this was a bonus. Prior to the buses arriving, the gear trailers would be prepared on the beaches and tents erected in readiness for the day. Age groups leaders and coaches would methodically go about their business and make it all happen. Supported by a sea of Water Safety Officers in their bright orange wet shirts and caps, the children were always in safe hands. Over the years, many of the Junior Activities Reports expressed their appreciation of the band of workers who continue to rally together to form the Junior Activities Committee and work tirelessly throughout the Season to make sure the kids are well cared for and receive every opportunity to advance their skills as future surf lifesavers of our Club.

From preparing lunches to selling raffle tickets and merchandise, there is always a job to be done and the team efforts over the years are to be acknowledged.

Since the 1990s, the Club has played host to various carnivals including the Selection Carnival, U11 – U14 Carnival and U8 – U10s Carnival. The opportunity to host these events has enabled the Club to showcase its ability to manage successful events on the Island despite its isolation.

The Point Lookout Junior Activities has continued to maintain its status as a “family” Club. The Club has hosted two way carnivals and fun weekends with other Clubs including Kurrawa, Northcliffe and Palm Beach to name a few.

Junior Development Camps for 13 years olds were introduced in 1991 and since these programs have been initiated, several members have attended both Branch and State Programs. Such programs enabled the attendees to gain further lifesaving skills and knowledge whilst also meeting other members from all over Queensland. The camaraderie and friendships gained from these programs will last a life time.

Two big highlights came in the 2000/01 season when Matthew Potent won the Pelerman Queensland Nipper of the Year and Ashley Stone won the Queensland Andy Frizzell OAM, OBE Award for Service to Junior Activities. Matt was selected as one of 6 finalists and after a lengthy interview process was named the overall winner at the State Championships. Top Effort.

Junior Activities continues to be an integral part of the Point Lookout Surf Life Saving Club and despite the logistical challenges presented to the Junior Activities Committees each year, the juniors are still healthy and growing steadily. The past 46 years has seen many dedicated Nippers and their parents come and go and many of the Nippers have progressed into the senior ranks to take on key Club positions. Who knows what the future of the Junior Activities at Point Lookout will look like in another 20 years? Regardless, it is hoped that the future will bring as much happiness and fulfilment to future Nippers and parents as it has done so for the past 46 years. From its humble beginnings as Point Lookout Nippers to its current strength, Point Lookout Junior Activities program stands as testament to the foresight of Bram Thompson and to his tireless dedication to achieving his aim back in the 1960s.

### The March Past Team

Here come the Stradbroke's,  
We're known as the Sharks,  
We are the march past,  
That don't lose many marks.

There goes our captain  
Carrying our flag;  
There goes our beltman,  
The line without a sag.

Just look at our reelman,  
The reel is nice and true  
How about three cheers  
For the red, white and blue.

Our axleman are covering  
Like they've done before;  
But look at our back line,  
They're our mighty four.

They've won the Branch Titles,  
Three times, it's true;  
So how about three cheers  
For the red, white and blue.

We're flying to North Queensland  
Up to Etty Bay;  
We'll meet over 30 Clubs  
From beaches far away.

Now if we win the Queensland  
And we hope we do,  
It'll be us lads from Stradbroke Isle  
In the red, white and blue.

**By George Hill Senior**

### Georgie's Team by Bill Glasson

You'll perhaps recall the story that we told to you last year,  
How our "Nippers" went competing up to "Rocky" with their gear.  
Though they didn't win a medal – "Bundy" had it signed and sealed  
They went well and learnt a lot and finished right up with the field.

So another winter came and went and George Hill said "Now men,  
I'll march you up and down the beach, and up and down again,  
We'll try until we get it right, we'll practise 'til we're beat,  
So lift your knees and swing your arms, be tidy clean and neat.

The "Bundy" boys have had their turn, this time it's up to you,  
We'll march in all the carnivals we can, and win a few.  
And when the big one comes along, in our red, blue and white,  
We'll show the other "Nippers" how the Stradbroke Sharks can bite.

Well that's the way it happened, Georgie worked them all like steam,  
Till they marched like clockwork soldiers and became the leading team,  
And their record was unblemished like a Stanthorpe export peach, When they  
lined up for the Qld Titles down on Greenmount Beach.

Mums and dads were all excited, Georgie said a silent prayer,  
As the teams lined up from Burleigh, Nobbys, Bundaberg and Ayr,  
"Nips" from Alexandra Headlands, Emu Park and Etty Bay,  
Bribie, Mermaid Beach and Northcliffe, and a team from Noosa Way.

There were lots and lots of others, but our "Nippers" showed no fear,  
Fit and solid for the big one, they would do their best this year  
They stepped out like little Anzacs on the "march up beach and halt"  
While the judges eyed them closely and could hardly find a fault.

Everyone had palpitation who was going to win the prize,  
Georgie said he couldn't swallow, there were lots of watery eyes,  
But applause rang out like thunder, mums and dads began to smile,  
When they heard "the champs this year are the boys from Stradbroke Isle".

Well the seasons nearly finished so they'll pack away their gear,  
But they'll keep it clean and polished and be back again next year.  
For a lot of them will be there in the "Nipper" age group still,  
Half the team or more and that includes their coach and pal George Hill.