



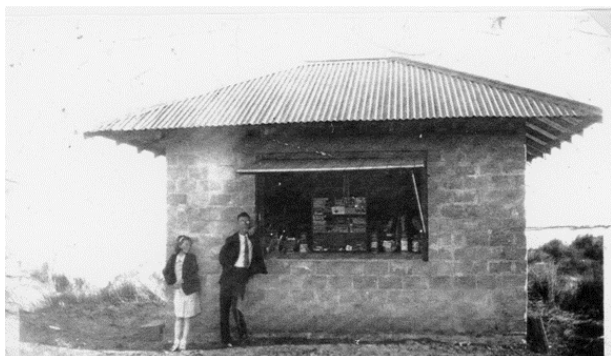
Article #10 – The Clubhouse

1948

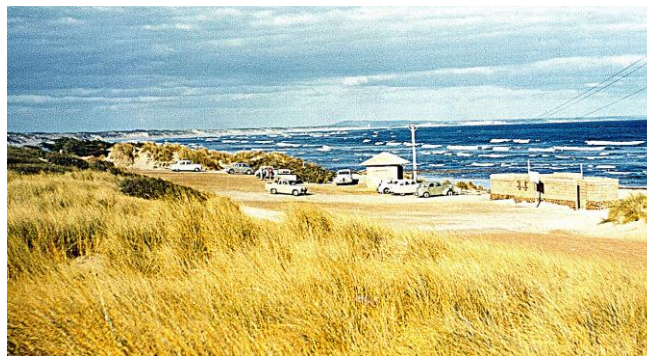
In November 1948, the newly formed club ordered its first piece of equipment; a new reel, line and belt. From that moment on, the club faced the problem of where to store its equipment. Ideally at the beach and easily accessible.

On the beach there was only an amenities block, a kiosk and a small carpark. These were accessed by a track having an entrance at the Ocean Grove/Barwon Heads Road and another in from Orton Street.

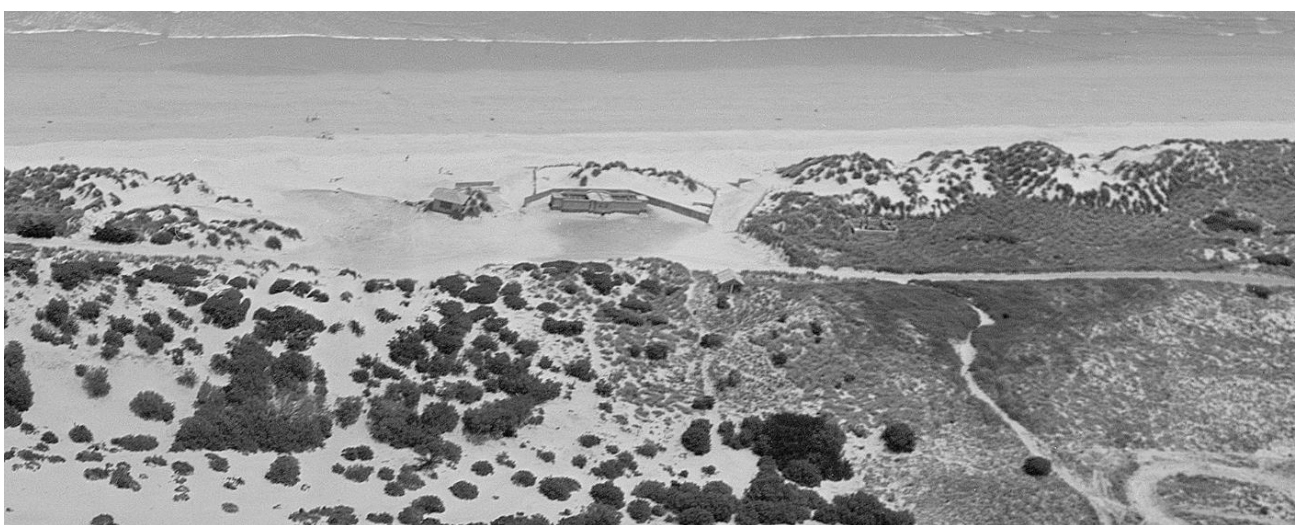
Allan Ray, who ran the beach kiosk, offered his kiosk to the club as storage with the club's gear now including an Eve Rocker resuscitation stretcher and a trestle.



Allan Ray's Kiosk



The main beach c.1949



Ocean Grove main beach c.1949. Ray's kiosk left of centre and the change rooms to the right.

1953

When the club was reformed in 1953, after a hiatus of three years, one of its top priorities was a clubhouse and the committee wasted no time in getting the ball rolling. At this time, it was estimated that a building worth in the vicinity of £2000 should be erected on the foreshore and with this in view the club opened a building appeal.



During September 1953, club member Alan McKeown took up the chase on a block of land for the club site and it was to be through his untiring effort that the club finally obtained a clubhouse site.

Left: In November 1953, members met on the beach to select the best site for a clubhouse.

Right: the club's first shower. Luxury!



1953 - Clubhouse Planning Starts

In the club's application for a land grant, they were told that the building would be the property of the "Foreshore Trust", that no entertainment was allowed and that members should "act as vigilantes for the Foreshore Committee by protecting the beach as much as possible from vandals".



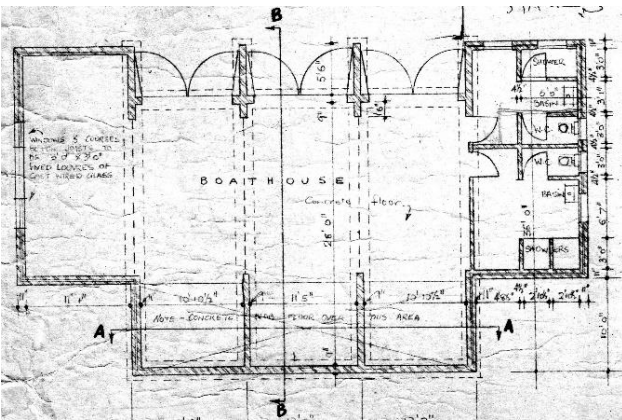
Left: In March 1954 a temporary storage solution is needed urgently. Work begins on making a specially constructed cage under Alan McKeown's nearby house to store club equipment.

Right: Looking to the east. The main beach from the clubhouse construction site.



1955 - Clubhouse Construction Starts

In December 1955, construction of the ground floor of the clubhouse commenced with the largest area dedicated to three "boat bays". In February 1956 the club receives notice to cease construction work until they have approval from the Public Works department. Oops! Construction recommenced in June 1956.



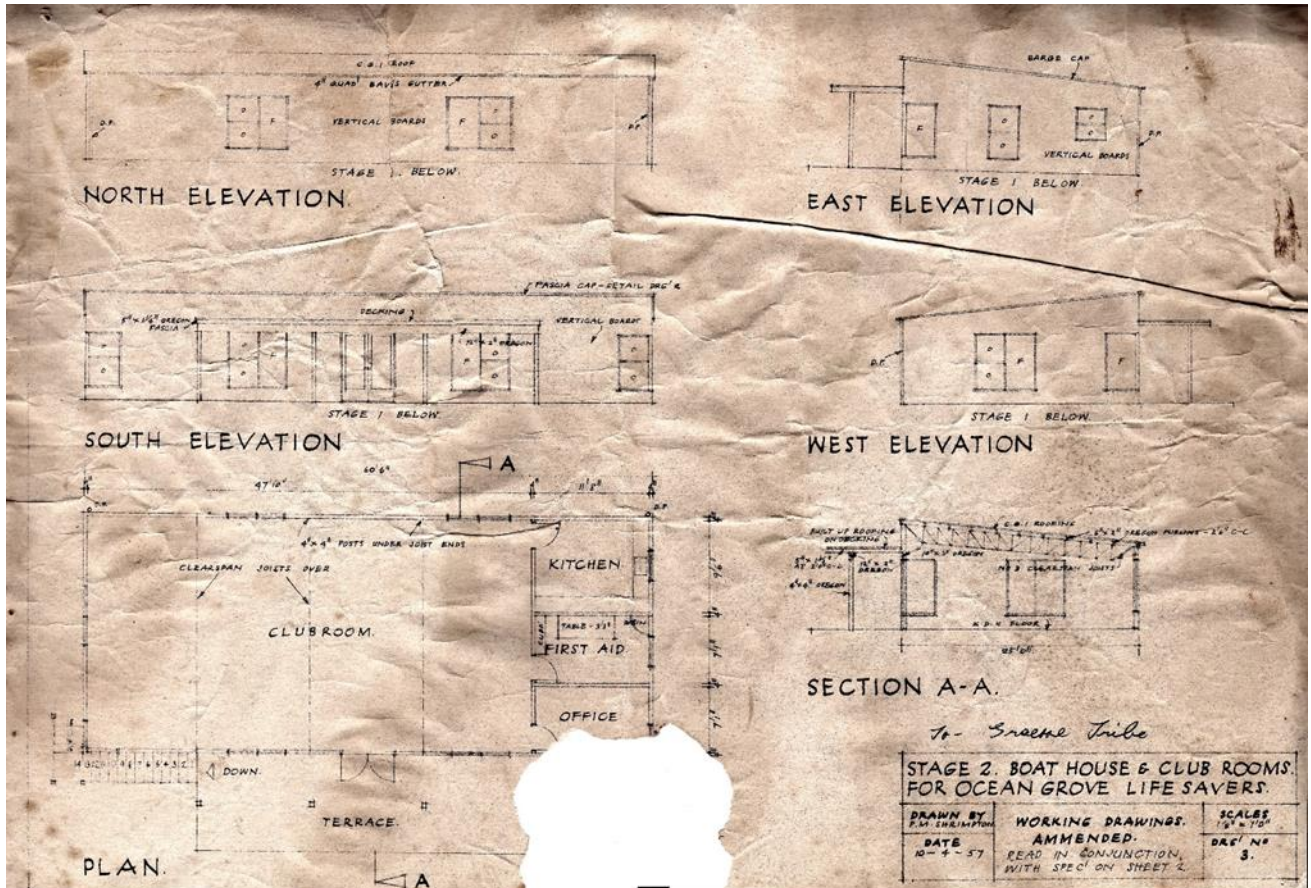
Below: Approximately 1956/57



This photo (left) shows the clubhouse under construction around 1956/57.

1958 – Work on the Second Storey Begins

Construction of the club's second storey is well under way. Upstairs is a large open hall with an office, first aid room and kitchen at the eastern end. Over the years the hall attracted used furniture donated by people relieved to get rid of it as well as old black and white TVs that occasionally worked. For many years the clubhouse was a "half-way house" between people's homes and the tip!

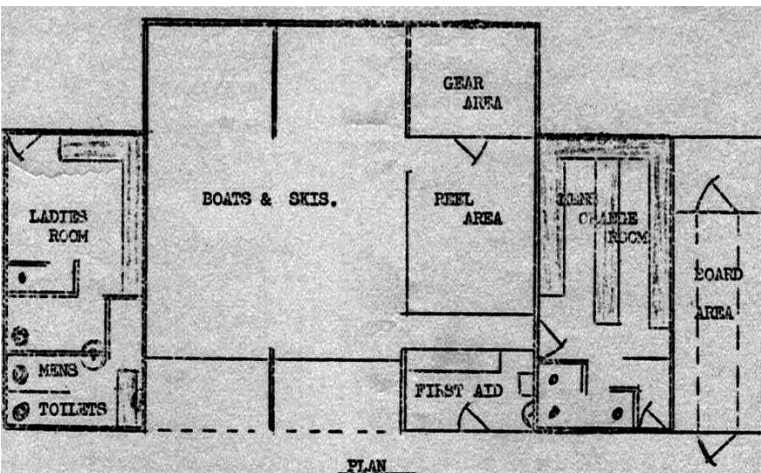


In the photo above left you can see the building fundraiser "thermometer".

Construction was by a mix of paid tradesmen, club tradesmen and members.

1960s

By now it's just 7 years since the club's reformation and the achievement by its members is remarkable.



Left: Modified ground floor plan around 1965. South is up.

One of the three original boat bays was converted into a first aid room and gear storage area and later the gear and reel storage became a bunkhouse with six triple bunks.

1970s





The relative isolation of the clubhouse from the main public areas gave members the opportunity to treat it as a bit of a holiday retreat. Especially with bunkhouse and kitchen facilities.

Left: Just chilling out by the campfire on the clubhouse lawn.

L to R: Dave Renton, Albert "Doddy" Dodman and Russell Middleton

1976/77 - Front Enclosed Balcony Upgrade

Almost as popular as the club's back balcony, was the front balcony of the clubhouse. It was originally an open balcony. In this season the front windows were upgraded to an aluminium frame (*below right*).

Below left; Jon Kalman and James Trickey in the original enclosed front balcony.



Below: Many club social functions included the front balcony which adjoined the club lounge/bar.



Heather and Jon Harris centre.



L to R: Vincent Tremain, Danny and Mary Moore



Left: The front balcony had an approx. 400mm concrete ledge in front of the windows. On a hot summer's day there could be up to a dozen club members sitting along the ledge in the shade and watching life go by on the beach.

Below, the much-loved north facing back balcony of the clubhouse before partial demolition. A popular gathering place especially during onshore winds. L to R; Russell Middleton, Adrian Moore, Daryl Barnett,?, Ian "Doc" McConnell, Steve Jellie, Ralf Harries, Trevor "Bull" Sheridan, Brian Bedford.



Left: the open white door was to the first aid room.

Below: the back balcony equally popular in the 1960s as shown by the members gathered after the 1966 Annual General Meeting.



The Campsites (1950s to the 1970s) and Bunkhouse (1970s to the 1990s)

When the club reformed in 1953 most of its members were from Geelong and Melbourne. With the lack of affordable local accommodation available for patrol members, there was a very real chance of the club once again collapsing due to lack of members. In 1956 this was overcome when the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee made available a camping area near the corner of Surf Beach and Ocean Grove/Barwon Heads Roads. Around 1964, club allocated camping was relocated to the ocean side public camping area just to the west of the clubhouse.



Club camping area 1957/58

But by the early 1970s, camping on the ocean side of the Ocean Grove Spit was removed altogether and the growing club saw the need for a bunkhouse. The first bunkhouse was constructed in one of the boat bays in 1972/73 with bunk allocation prioritised to those rostered on patrol. Further club growth necessitated the construction of a larger men's bunkhouse building adjacent to the west wall of the clubhouse with direct access from the men's changeroom. This contained five triple tier bunks and storage lockers.



Above: The men's bunkhouse at the time of clubhouse #1's demolition in 1994. If those walls could talk!

A rapidly growing active female membership soon presented the need for a women's bunkhouse which was constructed in one of the boat bays in 1986/87 comprising two triple tier bunks.

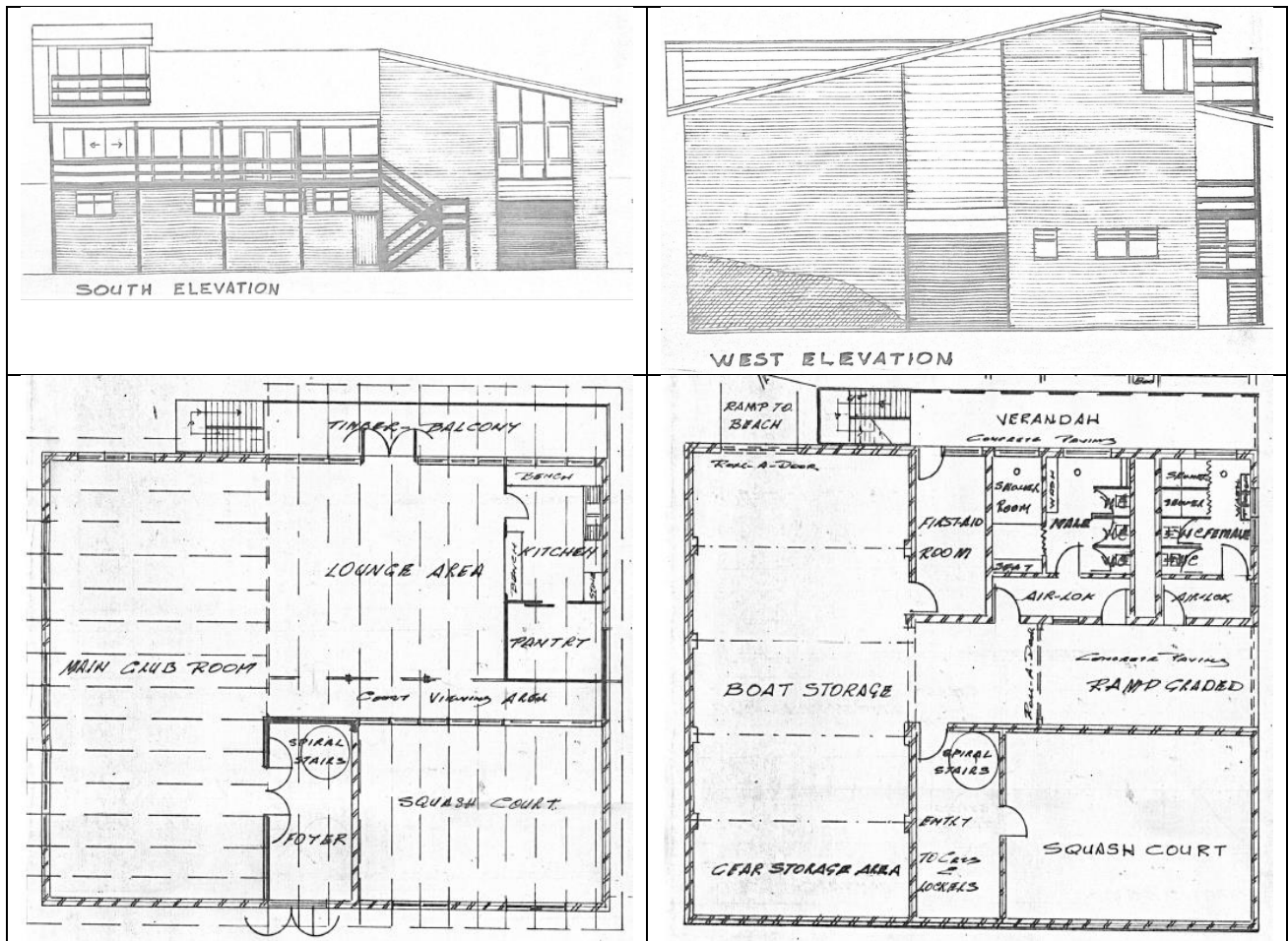
When clubhouse #2 was designed it included separate bunkhouses for men and women. However a growing local membership saw a decrease in the need for accommodation and eventually the two rooms were combined in 2001/02 to form a much needed training area but still with limited bunks.



Above: Washing hung out to dry by club members residing in the clubhouse over summer - 1977.

1976/77 – A New ClubhouseNOT!

In 1976/77 a new clubhouse is proposed with plans drawn up and submitted to the Shire of Bellarine requesting assistance. The building did not proceed due to a lack of funds and a decision was made to build extensions to the existing clubhouse. Note the inclusion of a squash court! A popular sport at the time but a bit of an ambitious clubhouse inclusion.



1978/79 - Gear Storage Extension

The club managed to build a major gear room extension to the clubhouse which significantly relieved pressure on the shortage of gear storage space.



Paddy Kinsey standing in the "ruins". Back balcony dramatically shortened.

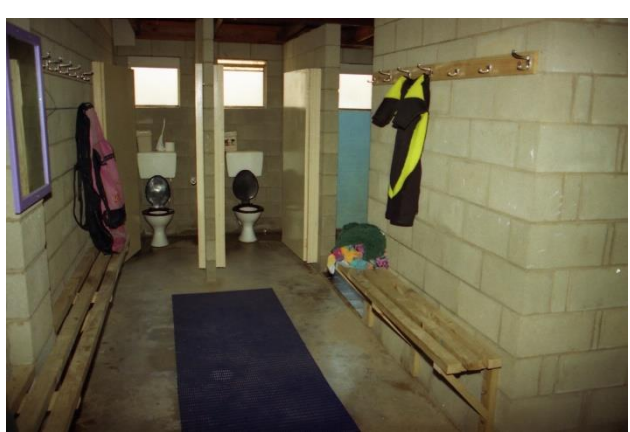
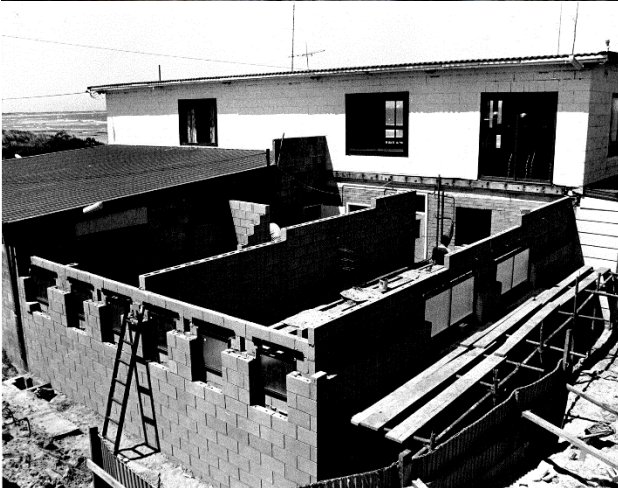


Original club driveway demolished to make way.

1982/83 - Amenities Block Extension.

A desperately needed amenities block was constructed to service the ever-growing club membership, especially the increase in female active members.

Below: Members demolished what was left of the back balcony in preparation for the new amenities block.



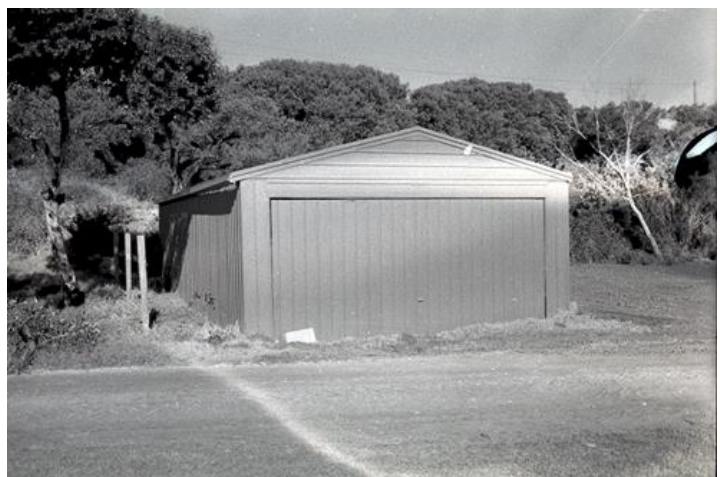
New women's changeroom, showers and toilets.

1989/90 - Gear Storage Annex

In season 1989/90, storage space for non-essential club gear and property was becoming a significant problem. The club gained permission from the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee to place a Colourbond 6 x 12 metre garage at the Riverview Caravan Park.

It served its purpose well and even provided a convenient store for boards and skis used by members for training on the adjacent river.

During season 1998/99, government authorities discovered the shed and deemed it to have been illegally placed getting the Foreshore Committee into some considerable trouble. Because clubhouse #2 was by then complete, the shed was sold to the Foreshore Committee and relocated to another part of the caravan park for their use.



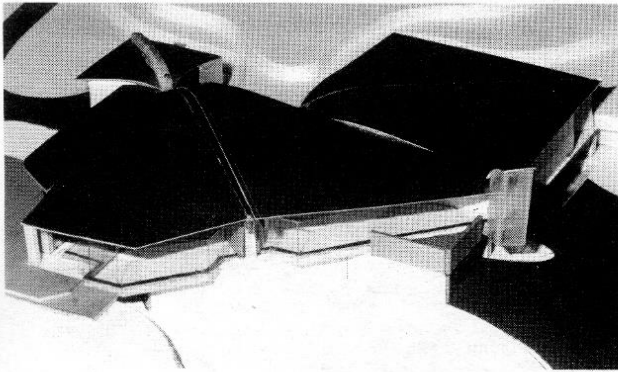
1994/95 – A New Clubhouse

In 1991, the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee approached the club offering a joint project Surf Beach Complex incorporating the surf club, public toilets and a café. With the clubhouse now in such a state of disrepair and inadequate room for a growing club, the offer was accepted.

OCEAN GROVE FORESHORE COMMITTEE
OFFICE: SWEETMAN PARADE, OCEAN GROVE, 3226.

OCEAN GROVE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB
P.O. BOX 486, OCEAN GROVE, 3226

NEW SURF BEACH COMPLEX



Architect Godfrey Abeynaike indicates his design philosophy

Design Philosophy

In dealing with ecologically and visually sensitive environments the architecture or more accurately, environmental architecture should be considered as an extension of the natural environment. The “advertising” for any development in such sites should be achieved by being in harmony with the surrounding landscape demonstrated through the forms of the built environment. Ideally, these forms should be a complex evolved by combining the forms derived from function, energy conservation, etc. with the forms inspired by the surrounding landscape.

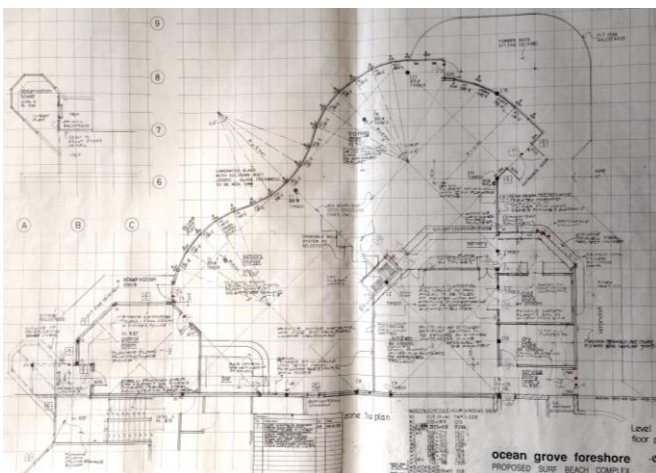
The design of the building seemed more of a self-gratification challenge for the architect than a practical functioning building for the surf club. The club formally protested the extravagant design, the complexity of the roof and the number of curved walls. We were also hamstrung by government regulations regarding what facilities could be built on the foreshore resulting in the careful naming of some areas in order to bypass those regulations e.g., a member’s recreation area was named Patrol Room.

The floor space for the lounge was limited and a proposed gym was disallowed but in 2002/03 it was built in one of the gear bays on the ground floor.

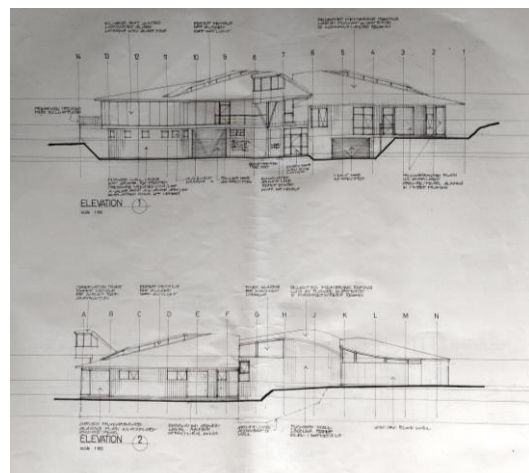
The building set a precedent for shared facilities on a foreshore and at the opening, Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett mentioned how impressed he was with the project which subsequently paved the way for more scope in design for subsequent similar projects in the State.

The cost of the project was originally estimated to be \$700,000 with the club providing \$100,000 over a ten-year period as well as a minimum of \$10,000 in kind (donations of material, etc). The Foreshore Committee injected \$200,000 cash and took out a loan for the balance. The club did extraordinarily well in raising the required funds and secured many donations and discounts in materials for the building.

The cost of the project was originally



Level 3 Patrol Room, Lounge, and café



South and East Elevations

Big new surf club for Ocean Grove

Ocean Grove Surf Lifesaving Club has joined the local foreshore committee to develop a new \$750,000 clubhouse.

The timber, concrete and synthetic roofed structure will replace a deteriorating 37-year-old clubhouse, kiosk, dressing room and toilets above the surf beach.

Department of Conservation and Environment architects have designed the complex to "sink" into sand dunes on the existing clubhouse site. Its roof has a sea-shell shape, allowing the whole structure to blend in with the coastal environment.

Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee manager, Mr Warren Chapman, estimated yesterday construction would begin next Easter with major works completed by December, 1993.

The building will feature a ground-level store room, bank rooms, training area, members' lounge, dining room, change rooms, toilets, kitchen, kiosk and narrows.

Its entire frontage will be glazed, providing spectacular views along the coast.

Mr Chapman said the project was the result of several years' foreshore planning improvements.

"It is very much a community project," he said.

Mr Chapman said his committee would contribute about \$300,000 to the project with long-term loans meeting remaining costs.

Extra funds would be raised by using part of the new facility as a 50-60 seat tearoom, offering sit-down meals as well as basic take-aways.

This would allow residents and visitors to enjoy the seascape behind panoramic windows, regardless of the weather, Mr Chapman said.

He said the new facility would provide a significant tourism boost to the town and peninsula and be well appreciated by thousands of people who use the beach on fine, summer days.

The foreshore committee estimates that at least 150,000 sunbathers flock to Ocean Grove beach every January. These include about 3000 people who camp in nearby caravan parks.

Ocean Grove Surf Lifesaving Club president, Mr Vincent Tremaine, announced a major fund-raising drive to pay the club's share of the cost.

"This alliance with the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee will result in greater benefits to the community than could have been achieved by the individual means of each organisation," Mr Tremaine says in an Ocean Grove newsletter.

He described the existing clubhouse as ugly, in a serene state of disrepair and totally inadequate to cope with rising membership.

"We now have a total of 418 members, 218 of whom are under 15," he said. "We simply cannot house and train the future of our community service organisation within the current facilities."

Donations can be made to Box 486, Ocean Grove, 3226.

In a further bid to improve the Ocean Grove beachfront, the foreshore committee and local Apes Club are about to develop a coastal botanic garden near the foreshore.

The garden, which will feature native vegetation peculiar to sections of coast in the region, will be built on a former carnival site between Sweetman Parade and Barwon Heads Road.

Mr Chapman said the project would be overseen by Mr Bill Gunn, research officer for the Society for Growing Australian Plants and Mr Graeme Tribe, president of Geelong Field Naturalists Club.

The committee hopes to achieve safe access to the site by constructing a pedestrian tunnel from River View Caravan Park under busy Barwon Heads Road.

Mr Chapman believes regional residents will welcome the gardens with open arms.

"There is a heightening of people's awareness and appreciation of the environment and many want to know more about it," he said.

The area has already been cleared of weeds and a walking track will be laid in the next two weeks to build paths and put in the first plants.

Surf club pushes new HQ plan

By Lisa Walker

A \$250,000 facility for the Ocean Grove Surf Lifesaving Club is an urgent need, according to club president, Mr Vincent Tremaine.

The present 37-year-old clubhouse was "cracking at the seams", he told a recent Bellarine Rural City Council committee meeting.

"If in a disastrous state of disrepair, it will literally fall down," he said.

A proposal to replace the venue would incorporate the clubhouse into a \$750,000 facility including a kiosk and toilet facilities.

The club has embarked on a fund-raising campaign to meet its share of the cost.

Most of the cost will be borne by the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee.

Mr Tremaine said the present clubhouse was too small to cope with an expanding membership.

Some members had to keep equipment in their own homes and the club secretary had developed a room at his home to store papers.

Mr Tremaine called on the council to contribute \$16,000 to the project and to carry out works on the driveway.

The council committee did not agree to the proposal.

"We protect people's lives, we are not a sporting club," he said.

During the 3412 man-hours patrolled last year, members attended six life-threatening situations.

Mr Tremaine said four of these would almost certainly have been fatal if the lifesaving service had not been present.



Mr Vincent Tremaine with plans for the new surf club.

"We do a good job without financial assistance and this is a special request," he said.

Mr Tremaine said the project had tremendous community support and the result would be a facility that the whole of Bellarine could be proud of.

Other community groups would be able to use the venue, Mr Tremaine said.

The complex would provide an excellent place for tourist buses to stop.

"It is somewhere for the tourists to come and stop and enjoy the view," she said. "It will be a big advantage for us."

The proposed design of the facility would see the complex "sink" into the sand dunes on the existing clubhouse site. Its roof would be the shape of a sea-shell, allowing the whole structure to blend in with the coastal environment.

Its entire frontage would be glazed, providing spectacular views along the coast.

Plans include beginning construction next Easter with major works completed by December, 1993.

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YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE

THE ECHO

No. 886 Wednesday, May 4, 1994 44 Pages

191-193 Rym St, Geelong, Phone 274000, Classifieds 274444

WHEELS What's new and old on the road
PAGES 12-23

Town by Town
PAGES 10-17

ALL THE DISTRICT FOOTY
SPORT

Winter Warmth. A special feature.

Going, going, gone... foreshore committee president Dane James and Member for Bellarine Garry Spry pull up a seat for the soon to be demolished Ocean Grove Surf Club.

Grove boost

\$850,000 beach project nod

A \$850,000 beach redevelopment project will be one of four major initiatives for the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee in the next few months.

The development project is part of a major initiative to revitalize the beachfront and to enhance the coastal environment.

The project will include the construction of a new clubhouse, a kiosk, a tearoom, and a toilet facility.

The project is being funded by a combination of local government grants, private donations, and a loan from the State Government.

The project is expected to be completed by December 1993.

FREE OCEAN GROVE OBSERVER

No. 77 CIRCULATION 4,500 SEPTEMBER, 1992

Editor: Dane James, Phone: 232566 (Office Hours) P.O. Box 77, Ocean Grove, 3226.

OBSERVER SCOOP!

NEW FORESHORE BUILDING TO BOOST SAFETY AND VISUAL AMENITY

A new look surf life saving clubhouse planned by the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee and Surf Life Saving Club not only promises enhanced safety and better facilities for the thousands who use our main beach every summer, but will also help beautify our beach front for resident enjoyment all year round.

The proposed \$750,000 structure will replace the rapidly deteriorating 37-year-old clubhouse, as well as the other visual blights of the kiosk, dressing rooms and public toilets to the west.

An impressive and environmentally-sensitive design will 'sink' the building into the dunes on the present clubhouse site will use visually sympathetic building materials, and will feature a lower scale roofline that emulates sea shells to enable the entire structure to blend with the coastal environment.

A proposed kiosk and tearoom will enable residents and holidaymakers to better enjoy and appreciate the seascape behind panoramic windows, regardless of the weather.

The refreshment facilities will not only provide a significant tourism boost to the town and peninsula, but the income generated from the 50-60 seat tea room will help meet the costs associated with the care and protection of the foreshore, which includes litter removal and maintenance of the car park and public amenities.

Continued overleaf and see middle page supplement.

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Radical surf club revamp

Ocean Grove is set to receive a new surf lifesaving clubhouse at an estimated cost of \$750,000.

Scheduled for completion by December 1993, the building project is a joint venture being undertaken by the local surf lifesaving club and foreshore committee.

The radical plan is for a glass fronted, scallop shell shaped building featuring a public tea room and which will blend in with the natural environment.

Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee manager Warren Chapman said the existing 37-year-old clubhouse, kiosk, dressing room and toilet block were "recognised as having a harsh visual impact on the surfbeach".

"We've been looking at improving the landscape features of the area and the only way to do that is to get more vegetation into the carpark area and replace the old buildings," he said.

"The committee approached the surfclub about a joint building venture. They agreed and we had plans for a building that is sympathetic to the landscape drawn up."

"In this new building the surfclub's facilities will enable elderly and disabled visitors to enjoy the beach experience."

"The glass front will afford spectacular views from Barwon Heads Bluff to Port Phillip Heads."

"We have some of the necessary planning approvals and hope to start building after Easter next year and have it open for the 1993 summer."

"Our two organisations have about \$200,000 towards the pro-

ject. The rest we will have to borrow, and service the loan with money raised from campers along the foreshore and donations raised by the surfclub," he said.

Ocean Grove Surf Lifesaving Club president Vincent Tremaine said the club would raise money in a number of ways, including appeals for corporate and public donations.

"Clearly we're not a sporting club but a community service organisation and we hope the public will help us to get this off the ground," he said.

"If they don't do it for any other reason, perhaps they should do it for the 218 kids under 13 in the club."

Donations can be sent to Box 486, Ocean Grove, 3226.

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Bellarine Rural City Council

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

BELLARINE RURAL CITY COUNCIL

GEELONG REGIONAL PLANNING SCHEME

PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMIT

Details about application:
Address of the land: The Esplanade, Ocean Grove.
What use or development is proposed in the application? Redevelop Surf Life Saving Club.

You may look at the application and any documents that support the application at the office of the Responsible Authority: Bellarine Rural City Council Municipal Offices, Collins Street, Drysdale.

This can be done during office hours and is free of charge.

The application reference number is: 255/92.

You may object if you are affected by the granting of the permit. Your objection must:
Be in writing; include the reasons for your objection; be sent to the Responsible Authority. The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application until at least 14 days have elapsed from the date of the notice.
If you object, the Responsible Authority will tell you of its decision.

Name of applicant: Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club and Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee.

OCEAN GROVE FORESHORE COMMITTEE INC.

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST BY BUILDERS

THE SURF BEACH COMPLEX

The Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee Inc. invites suitably qualified and experienced persons and firms to register their interest in undertaking the construction of the Surf Beach Complex, a building of approximately 1100 m² on four levels principally of timber, to be constructed on the main beach at Ocean Grove, due for commencement April 1994 and completion November 1994.

Individuals or firms must have a demonstrable history of providing a cost effective and high quality service. Expressions of interest must include details of recent projects, details of your business viability, and referees.

The Surf Beach Complex is a co-operative project between the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee and the Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club.

Further details can be obtained by contacting Warren Chapman, Manager, Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee on Telephone (052) 561600 or Fax (052) 562162. Expressions of interest should be lodged at the Foreshore Office, Sweetman Pde, or posted to P O Box 109, Ocean Grove, 3226, by 4 pm Friday, February 18, 1994.

OCEAN GROVE FORESHORE COMMITTEE INC.

OCEAN GROVE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC.

NEW SURF BEACH COMPLEX

Plans for a new building complex at the Ocean Grove Main Beach have been prepared.

The new building will be sited on the current site of the Surf Club premises. The new structure will incorporate the Surf Club, kiosk operation, which will extend to a tea room function, and a public toilet amenity.

Plans are on display at the Ocean Grove Post Office until 7th October, then will be available at the Foreshore Office, Sweetman Pde., Ocean Grove, during normal business hours.

Public comment on the proposal is welcome. Written comments should be addressed to:

Secretary, Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee, P.O. Box 109, Ocean Grove, 3226.

W. D. Chapman, Reserve Manager.

1994 – Clubhouse #1 Down

The existing building was demolished in June 1994. It was first stripped of reusable materials by club members and then handed over to a demolition company.

The club's equipment and belongings were spread out across Ocean Grove member's homes. A site hut at the beach and a storage shed in the local industrial park were both made available to the club for free by the City of Greater Geelong.





Below: Some photos of the inside of the clubhouse shortly before it was demolished.



Men's Change Room



Craft racks in the old Boat Bays



Main Gear Store



Radio Room in the front balcony



Lounge



Women's Change Room



Men's Bunkhouse (top) and Hall (through doors to Lounge)



Front Balcony with Radio Room at the end



To Men's Shower and Toilets

1994 – Construction on Clubhouse #2 begins

Clubhouse construction began in June 1994 and to enable patrols to function and gear to be stored, the club was able to move into the bottom section of the building on the 18th December 1994.



Below: Clubhouse in 2018.



Below: 19th December 1994 - The official opening by Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett, Club President Vincent Tremaine and Diane James (Chair of the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee)



L to R: Member for Bellarine Garry Spry, Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett, Club President Vincent Tremaine and Chair of the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee, Diane James.

Below: The construction of the Surf Beach Complex set a precedent for buildings of its type on foreshore land fuelling a demand for more of its type.

Waiter, many more rooms with a view please

Picture: JACK ATLEY



At Chalky's in the Dunes you can enjoy an ocean panorama with your meal — provided you finish by 9pm — and the State Government hopes other restaurants will follow suit.

By RICHARD YALLOP

The Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club is hardly the place you would expect a cultural revolution to begin, but that's exactly what is happening, in the dunes behind the beach.

If you look carefully at the brand-new, \$1 million dollar building, you will see it is much more than the traditional concrete bunker in which the local surf life saving club stores its boats and life vests. It is also a restaurant, where people can engage in that simple pleasure which has generally been denied to Victorians — gazing out of a window at a hypnotic sea while consuming a meal and a bottle of wine.

The Minister for Conservation and the Environment, Mr Birrell, is seeking to change the way Victorians use and manage their coast, and he wants to see similar joint ventures in other prime sites with spectacular beach views. Proposals have been discussed for Port Melbourne and Williamstown, and he is keen for something on the bay between Brighton and Rosebud.

Mr Birrell's previous visits to Sydney, and meals beside the water, inspired the change of approach: "For over a decade I've found it unacceptable that people can't enjoy a view with their meal," he said. "We should celebrate this project, because it's worked. We're unlocking a great opportunity."

Melbourne's first beach restaurant, Jean-Jacques, opened to great public acclaim in 1986 on the site of the old bathing pavilion in St Kilda. "There's something very romantic about a restaurant on the beach," said Susan Lale-Demoz, one of the original partners in Jean-Jacques. "It reminds you of Greek tavernas, and those restaurants in France."

Jean-Jacques has been followed by the revamped Stokehouse, Windows on the Bay at Mordialloc and Sails on the Bay at Elwood, all of which were developed from existing kiosks or changing rooms. Michelle Frank, manager of Windows on the Bay, said: "I would love to see restaurants all round the bay, because everyone wants them."

Previous attempts to open restaurants on the coast away from Melbourne were blocked by existing State Government policy that the only buildings allowed on the foreshore should be "coastal-dependent", such as yacht clubs or surf life saving clubs. Liquor licences were only allowed in clubs on the foreshore.

Mr Birrell reversed both policies to allow the Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club to share its striking, architect-designed premises with a restaurant, Chalky's in the Dunes, run by John Chalker, a former Melbourne restaurateur.

The restaurant has been doing good business since it opened in December, and the only problem is a wrangle over closing time. Mr

Chalker wants to stay open until late, in line with normal restaurant hours, but, as a reminder of how the bureaucracy used to stifle initiatives like this, he is being told to close at 9pm.

The whole project was the culmination of 10 years of planning and negotiation by the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee. It had started out as an attempt to upgrade the kiosk and improve the run-down surf life saving club. It ended up as a brand new, million-dollar building, funded by income from the local caravan park, which was sited on Crown Land.

"You can't do anything on the coast without controversy," Mr

Continued: PAGE 2

The Ocean Grove Surf Beach Complex



Diane James
President,
Ocean Grove
Foreshore Committee



Garry Spry, MLA
Member for Bellarine



Vincent Tremaine
President of
Ocean Grove
Surf Lifesaving Club

Last December the Victorian Premier, Jeff Kennett, and the Member for Bellarine, Garry Spry opened an exciting new complex on the beach of Ocean Grove.

The \$1 million Ocean Grove beach complex is built in the dunes on the site of the old Surf Life Saving Club.

The desire to relocate the beach kiosk, to provide new public amenities and to develop a much needed new premises for the Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club drew both the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee and the Surf Life Saving Club together to work on the exciting project.

Mid-1991 saw the project gather momentum as several delegations lobbied the State Government to gain support for the project. A deputation to the treasurer's office, assisted by Garry Spry, finally succeeded in gaining a guarantee for the development.

The development will be self-funded with both the Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club and the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee undertaking major fundraising activities.

The president of the foreshore committee, Dianne James, said she hoped the complex "would entice many more people to enjoy our beaches.

"This committee believes that the more people appreciate our precious coastline, the more they will respect and protect it," she said.

People of all ages will be able to take advantage of the new facility. The opening of Chalky's In The Dunes means that people are able to enjoy an early morning breakfast from 6am, while watching the sunrise, or a dinner with friends while taking in a view stretching past Port Phillip Heads.

Mr Vincent Tremaine, the president of the Ocean Grove Life Saving Club, told GSN the development was the largest and most ambitious project in the club's 50-year history.

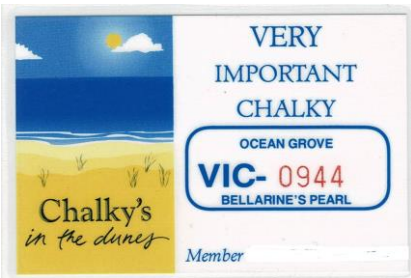
"By the time we complete the fit-out and pay off our loan, we will have contributed some \$300,000, a staggering amount in Victorian Surf Life Saving terms.

"The club's involvement would not have been possible without the magnificent support that we have received from the people of Ocean Grove and the business community," he said.

"This new building will go a long way towards ensuring that we continue to provide a high quality, dependable, surf life saving service to the people of the region."



These Companies Proudly Contributed to the Development of the OGSBC.



The complex's co-resident was John Chalker who established "Chalky's in the Dunes" as an upmarket restaurant catering for the more refined diner. He had a real battle on his hands with the beach crowd, Saturday morning runners and dog walkers who clearly wanted a casual café. Chalky's consequently didn't last long!

Left; club members were made to feel special with our own VIC card! It didn't offer any discount.

On our side of the complex, we set up a respectable bar (thanks to a donation of \$12,000 by Carlton and United Breweries) and for a while on Friday and Saturday nights, we purchased bulk hot meals from Chalky's in the Dunes that we served from our own Bae Marie.

The meal service was a great success but didn't last that long due to difficulties in obtaining readymade food. However the bar and big social events continued on for the life of the clubhouse.





1954 Almora overlooking 2008 patrol members.



A gear store bay next to the gym.



Bronze Week 2016



Back balcony BBQ area.



Lounge at Nipper capacity and extended into the Patrol Room to cope with a growing membership.



Best views in town

2018 - Clubhouse #2 Down. Arise Clubhouse #3!

By 2018 clubhouse #2 was outgrown by the membership and club equipment. Design flaws first identified in the original plans finally doomed the waterlogged building. The clubhouse was demolished in May 2018.

It was fortuitous that when design and construction of clubhouse #3 was being planned, a State government election loomed resulting in \$4.275 million for the project if the Labor government held office (similar from the Liberal government if they won), \$1.15 million from the federal government and \$150,000 from the City of Greater Geelong. Combined with more generous design freedom due to the success of clubhouse #2, a substantial building was achieved.

Clubhouse #2 Demolition



2018 – Clubhouse #3 Construction Begins.

Construction began in August 2018 with work commencing firstly on the patrol tower so that patrols could be operational at the start of the 2018/19 season. Construction continued on the clubhouse over that season. The clubhouse was officially opened on the 5th July 2019 by Lisa Neville, the Victorian Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Clubhouse #3 Construction





Club Lounge



Board Room



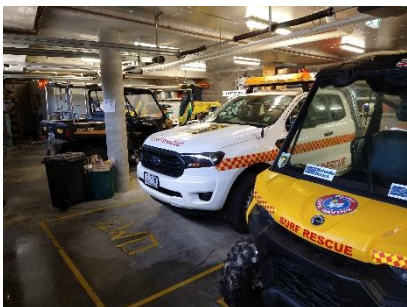
Craft Storage



Nipper Board Storage



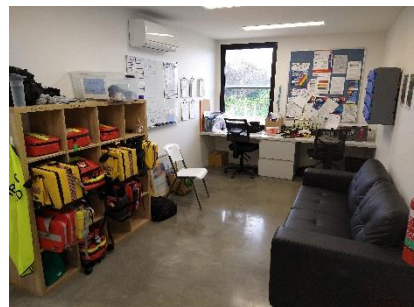
IRB Area



Vehicle Garage



First Aid Room



Patrol Room



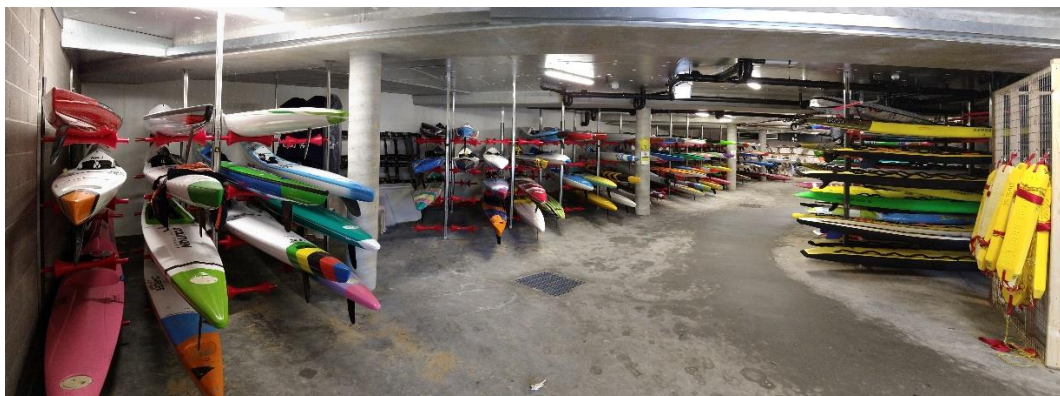
Jet Skis



Dave Renton Patrol Tower



Men's Changeroom





PRIME LOCATION: The revamped Ocean Grove Surf Lifesaving Club complex was formally opened by acting Premier Lisa Neville (right) on Sunday.

ANDREW JEFFERSON

The new Ocean Grove lifesaving clubhouse has been officially opened, boosting the safety of beachgoers at one of Victoria's most popular surf beaches.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville unveiled the plaque to mark the opening of the modern, fit-for-purpose clubhouse, thanking the club and the community for delivering the project.

"This fantastic facility is testament to the community and club working together to ensure the safety of locals and visitors for many years to come," she said. "The club has been keeping beachgoers safe for the past 70 years and in the past 25 years, club membership has quadrupled. These new facilities will help its many loyal members continue their wonderful work."

The old clubhouse had long and distinguished history, but no longer served members' needs. This new facility will deliver a much-needed boost to volunteers, Ocean Grove residents and visitors to the Bellarine Peninsula.

The State Government has invested \$4.3 million in the project, which will give volunteer lifesavers more space to support their summer patrols, as well as education and training opportunities as part of the club's strong commitment to aquatic sports.

The surf club was established in 1948 and today has about 1000 members, including about 350 nippers. The new facility replaces the one that was more than 25 years old and no longer fit for purpose, which catered for 250 members at the time of construction in 1994. During the 2018-19 season, lifesavers and lifeguards performed 7862 preventive actions and 82 first-aid treatments.



David Pavia, Jim Mason, Lisa Neville and Phil Emery at the opening of the clubhouse. Picture: DAVID SMITH

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Clubhouse Working Bees

Working bees to maintain and improve the clubhouse are a frequent fixture of club life. Starting with the building of clubhouse #1 in the 1950s and 1960s to then maintaining and improving the building and surrounds.



From 1970, work on clubhouse #1 was a constant necessity as the building was deteriorating quickly in the harsh conditions and at the same time a rapidly growing membership and rescue equipment inventory meant that modifications and extensions to the building had to be made until ultimately clubhouse #2 was built in 1994.

Early clubhouse #1 working bees included an annual digging out the shower sump pit. Over time, sand from the men's shower overran the sand trap (which nobody ever cleared) and accumulated in a vertical pipe that allowed shower water to disperse into the sand dune. Overtime the sand had to be dug out, usually a job for the club juniors! The pipe was about 3 metres deep and 1.5 metres in diameter. Black smelly sand was shovelled into a bucket and dumped onto another part of the sand dune. An unpleasant job.

The clubhouse's upstairs hall was not really a social area but as membership grew, it became a halfway house to the tip for people's old furniture and TV's. We always had to facilitate that final trip to the tip!

The club needed a social area so in 1979/80, work began to remove the original committee room wall, which itself had already been converted to a TV room, and together with part of the main hall, build a bar and lounge. This became possible when Trengrove Timber in Belmont offered the club all the timber from an office block as long as we dismantled and removed it. That allowed the lounge/bar to be built and also the rest of the hall upgraded. We very quickly outgrew that lounge and so in 1985/86, a further renovation took more of the hall and the original kitchen was converted into a bar.



Extending the first lounge by incorporating the original kitchen as a bar.



The final bar and lounge.

Much of the clubhouse's renovations and extensions were done by tradie members, members with DIY trade skills and those who had to be restricted to basic tasks. Almost everyone reckoned they could paint!

Another major undertaking was the club's access road. When the amenities block and gear store were built, a new driveway was constructed from yellow mix which was great until it rained and the run-off would fill the gear store area with clay. A hell of a mess to clean up.



Above: Keeping the club's dirt access road serviceable and the sand dunes back was a constant task at working bees. Ralf Harries and Russell Middleton on a borrowed front-end loader. Little idea of what we were doing!



Above: An essential clubbie skill in the early years was constructing rock retaining walls to keep back the sand dune.

A funding grant from the government later had the entire club access driveway sealed with bitumen and a stormwater pipe installed to the beach. Not very environmentally friendly but acceptable at the time.



Above: The new bitumen driveway going in. A relief from the repeated clay floods into the gear store area.



No approval, no permit, no registered builders, no care!

There were many small(ish) building projects completed with no council building permits or even Foreshore Committee approval. *The replacement and extension of the front balcony (left) was one such project.*

Clubhouse working bees became less in demand for clubhouse #2 and less again for clubhouse #3.

However working bees and work parties for fundraising and surf lifesaving events have always existed with the need for extra volunteer time from members.



1970s welding up ski racks in the boat bays.
Bill Strachan and Dave Renton.



2010s working bee.

Below: A feed for the workers was always appreciated.



1980s



2010s

Want to see more?

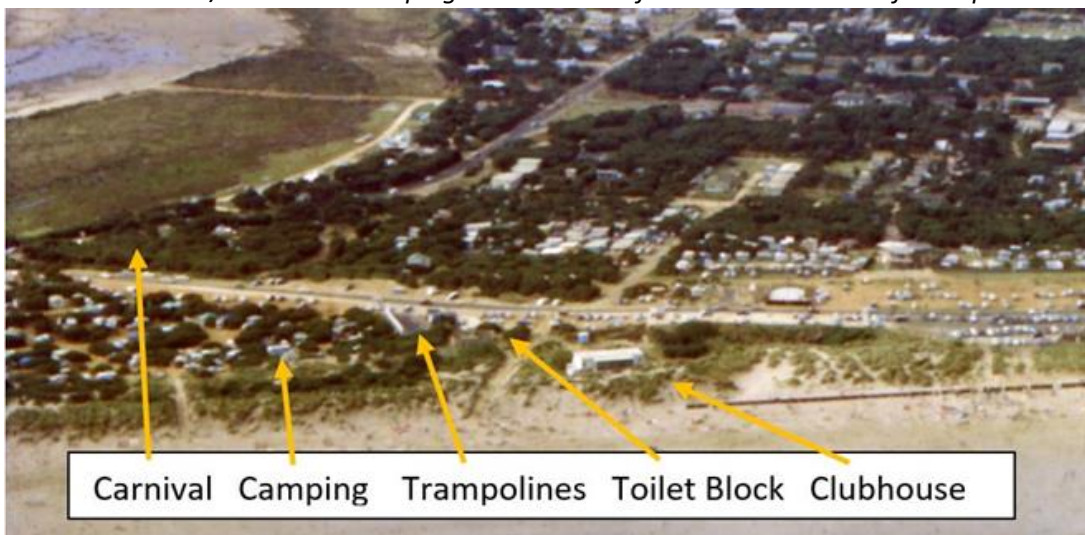
Try these videos on YouTube.

OGSLSC Clubhouses 1955 to 2019 <https://youtu.be/EqQNKAsZRX4>

Ocean Grove SLSC clubhouse demolition 2018 <https://youtu.be/eXmJPhaZSNY>

Official Opening of Clubhouse #2 in December 1995 <https://youtu.be/hE8pPpxwgYI>

The beach. 1960s/70s. Public camping later removed from the ocean side of The Spit.



Clubhouses over the years.

Mid 1980s – Clubhouse #1 with two large patrol towers. One adjacent to the clubhouse and the other next to the boat ramp.



1990s – Clubhouse #2



2010s – Clubhouse #3

