

# The Lifesaver Times

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## STILL PLENTY OF LIFE LEFT IN THE OLD FARTS

By ROSS CURRIE

The Fish Hoek Lifesaving Club was founded in 1957. The original/founding members were mostly a bunch of friends who had met while being members of the first Fish Hoek Sea Scouts, having outgrown the Sea Scout era.

We continued meeting on the beach until it was decided to start a lifesaving club. A qualified Australian lifesaver by the name of Brian Lovell came to this country and helped train the guys. With his hands-on assistance we eventually all gained our SPA (Surf Proficiency Award) which allowed us to compete in lifesaving competitions.

### A rich history of lasting competing friendships

At this time there were already lifesaving clubs in Port Elizabeth, East London, and all along the Natal coast. We went to our first national champs in Durban in 1960.

Vic Grebe and I were in the air force gymnasium in Pretoria at that time. But on impulse decided we couldn't miss the club's first nationals - so we went

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FHLSC MASTERS WORLD CHAMPS ITALY 2004  
K KINGMA, R CURRIE, V GREBE, C WAKEFORD,  
D WAKEFORD, B STURMAN.





Masters world champs, Lorne, Australia (2006). Doug Wakeford, Ross Currie, Brian Sturman, Ken Kingma, 'Bones' Barrett.



Masters world champs, Warnemunde, Germany (2008). Ren Vrahimis, Ross Currie.

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AWOL and hiked down to Durban to meet up with the rest of the Fish Hoek team.

Our biggest problem in the early days was that we didn't have a clubhouse, and having to meet at the green hose-reel box on the beach in front of what is now the Galley restaurant.

My dad, Jack Currie, became chairman of the club in the early sixties, and was a real McGiver-character who would always face up to a challenge. He went to the local council, talked them into granting the club a 100-year lease on a piece of land near the old bathing boxes. He had plans drawn up, begged, borrowed or stole the building material. He then organised all of us teenagers into work groups, and under his guidance built the first wooden clubhouse exactly where the current clubhouse stands today.

The club went from strength to strength, and today is the number one club in the country.

After years of competing and doing duty on the beach, the original guys got married, had kids and careers to look after - although keeping contact with the club, were not so active as before.

In the year 2000 a Masters division was formed which included a national, as well as a world championship. In the Masters champs you compete in five-year age groups - in other words, if you were 40, you competed against guys between 40/45. The oldest competitors were over 75.

In 2004 a group of us entered the World Masters champs in Italy. (See photo on page 1).

After returning from Italy I decided we should all meet up on Fish Hoek beach for an old farts' breakfast. It just grew and grew. After starting with seven guys, we now boast 31 on our breakfast list - many having competed in five or more world champs, and are still competitive at 75-plus. In fact, one of our Masters, who shall remain anonymous, has just turned 80!

It is great to think that we have known each other since we were approximately 10-years-old, and that those early friendships have endured until today.

Breakfast starts at 9am, and two rules are strictly adhered to. Rule 1 - we may only talk about health issues for the first 15 min (otherwise we would be having lunch, not breakfast!). Rule 2 - no speeches!

**Long live the Old Farts!**



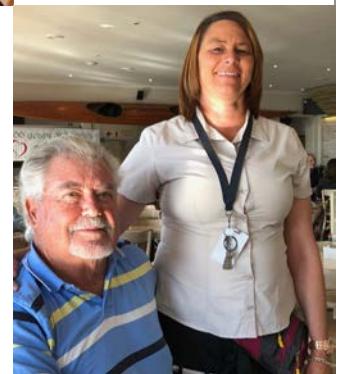
Masters world champs Alexandria, Egypt (2010). Ken Kingma, Mark Wiley, Stompie Wakeford, Ross Currie, Andrew Crook, Ren Vahimis, Doug Wakeford, Bruce Cowling.

## Tables set at the Galley for healthy appetites. . .



**Herbie Eichel**

Since inception, the Old Farts' breakfast has been held at the Galley in Fish Hoek. Restaurateur **Herbie Eichel** continues to pull out all the stops to serve arguably the best breakfast in town. *Our grateful thanks Herbie, for your hospitality and generous sponsorship of the lifesaving club over all these years.*



**Ross with Carmen, popular long serving waitron at the Galley.**





50<sup>th</sup> year reunion (2008). Cedric Reid, Johnny Smuts, Brian Hollingworth, Warwick Neville, Roy Wright, Clive Duffell, Doug Wakeford, James Sivewright, David Nelson, Ivor Wright, Vic Grebe, Jan Mol, Ross Currie, 'Stompie' Wakeford.



Clive Duffell, Hughie Hutton, 'Bones' Barrett.



Ken Smith, Hylton Ross, 'Stompie' Wakeford.

## They've left their mark. . .

These mates have passed on. Each in his own unique way made a valuable contribution to the club, and has endeared himself to his fellow lifesavers.

- \*Clive "Stompie" Wakeford
- \*Butch Watson Smith
- \*Anthony "Bones" Barrett
- \*Steve van Rooyen
- \*Kenny Austen
- \*Cedric Grebe
- \*John Horsfield.

*They will never be forgotten.*

## Old Farts digging in. . .



Brian Sturman, Charlie Marshall, Ross Currie, Ronnie Gaylard, Barry Noble, Cedric Reid, Clive Duffell, Vic Grebe, Hylton Ross, Hughie Hutton.



Garth Watters, Brian Sturman, Andrew Crook.



Doug Wakeford, 'Carrots' Wright, Ross Currie.



Hylton Ross, Cedric Reid, Vic Grebe.



Warwick Neville, Clive Duffell, Jeff Louw.



old bullets enjoying a braai and a few beers.  
Hylton, Clive, Dougie, Hughie, Ken, Ross, Warwick, Stompie.



These old  
farts made  
the  
back  
page. . .  
for  
whatever  
reason



Carrots Wright, Ken Kingma, Hughie Hutton, John Reid, 'Stompie' Wakeford, Barry Noble, Vic Grebe, Hylton Ross, Clive Duffell, Doug Wakeford, Butch Watson Smith, Ross Currie.



50th Reunion 2008. James Sivewright, Roy Wright, Peter Wright.



Charlie Marshall, Ronnie Gaylard, John Alexander, David Nelson.



'Stompie' Wakeford, Ross Currie, Butch Watson Smith, John Reid.



John Alexander, Ken Kingma, Clive Duffell, Graham Shambler, Brian Sturman, Doug Wakeford, Garth Watters, Warwick Neville, Hylton Ross, Vic Grebe, Cedric Reid, Ross Currie, Ronnie Gaylard, Hughie Hutton, David Nelson.