



WELCOME TO THE 2017/18 TATHRA SURFCLUB NIPPERS SEASON

Nippers is about learning new skills, gaining confidence and having fun in a safe beach environment. For Nippers, the beach is the classroom. They gain confidence by passing the 'tests' of swimming, board paddling, beach sprinting, dolphin-diving, spotting a rip, having fun with new friends and discovering things about themselves. The skills gained at Nippers will stick to the soul like sand from the beach and be carried for life. Nippers is a junior activities program that introduces children aged 5 to 13 to surf lifesaving. It is a fun outdoors activity that develops a child's confidence, teaches valuable life skills and safety knowledge. We like to call it serious fun! Nippers is a great way for children to make friends, be active and enjoy the beach in a safe environment.

(NSW Surf Lifesaving Website)

Parent involvement is a vital ingredient for success of the program. Swimming squad or lessons are strongly encouraged to assist the children with confidence in the water. Water safety is provided each week by qualified and proficient lifesavers. Parents without a current beach bronze medallion are NOT allowed to assist in the water. There are many ways you can assist: Age Manager, Junior Official, weekly set up, BBQ helpers, Wharf to Waves volunteers, new ideas and encouragement of all Nippers.

WHAT A NIPPER NEEDS

- To be registered online
- Have a completed pool swim U/8's-U/14's (will not be able to participate in water activities until completed)
- A Tathra Nippers Cap (\$15 must be worn whilst on beach and in the water during Nippers)
- Rashie or wetsuit for sun protection and warmth in the water (Wetsuit sale/swap first 2 weeks of season)
- Sunscreen, towel, water bottle, swimming goggles if preferred
- A parent or carer to be present
- Good listening ears and sense of fun

LITTLE NIPPERS for U/6-U/7's

Includes games, education, and supervised water play

The only difference to what a nipper needs is there is no pool swim requirement

Time 10-11am

Parent support needed

COMMUNICATION

- Updates every week at briefing and Nipper noticeboard
- Tathra Surf Club Facebook Site
- Tathra Surf Club Website is up to date but is being rebuilt this season
- Via SMS hoping to have a Nipper only group

WHEN and WHERE

Nippers will commence on 5/11/17 and every Sunday 10-12pm at Tathra Beach meeting in the surfclub prior to start.

NO NIPPERS during School Holidays or on carnival dates

(Time of day is due to need to have a surf patrol on duty)

CARNIVAL DATES

- 3/12/17 Bermagui
- 18/2/18 TATHRA
- 25/3/18 Pambula

Carnivals are for all Nippers from U/8's-U/14's

They are an opportunity for Nippers to test their skills at different beaches against all the clubs in the Far South Coast Branch (Bateman's Bay, Broulee, Moruya, Narooma, Bermagui, Tathra and Pambula). There are many team events and relays in the water and on the beach. There is another compulsory ocean swim for U/9-U/14 to complete prior to entering water events (completed during Nippers). Carnivals are not compulsory instead a supersized Nippers and opportunity to make even more friends. Cost is \$5 and a pink competition singlet is compulsory. Points are scored from carnivals that go towards Age Champion Awards at the end of season presentation night. It is also how Nippers are selected to represent the Far South Coast at Interbranch (where all 11 branches across NSW compete).

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- November 2017 Parent Dinner Night TBC
- 8-9/12/17 Interbranch Carnival (Stockton SLSC, Newcastle) Far South Coast Representative Team
- 17/12/17 Christmas Nippers (Last nippers prior to school holidays)
- 20-21/1/18 Wharf to Waves Weekend
- 3-4/2/18 NSW SLS Country Championships South West Rocks (Open to any Nipper to compete)
- 8/4/18 Last nippers activities to be confirmed
- Nippers Presentation Night to be confirmed

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

SRC (Surf Rescue Certificate) is offered at Nippers by U/13-U/14 age group (need to be turning 13 by December). On completion they can join a surf patrol (patrol uniform supplied) and assist with water safety, and compete on long racing boards.

Wambiri- U/13- U/14 Junior Leadership Camp (?March 2018)
JLOTY (Junior Lifesaver of the Year) Chosen from the U/14 age group requires a completed application and each club puts forward two or more nominees as voted by the TSLSC Committee

The Far South Coast Branch then chooses a male and female to represent the Far South Coast (by face to face interview normally at first carnival) and attend a Junior Leadership Development Camp at Narrabeen in Sydney in January 2018.

THE NEXT STEP 15-17 YEAR OLDS

At 15yrs many other opportunities are available. Nippers is not a prerequisite but an advantage. These young adults are able to complete their Bronze Medallion / Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue). It is a very well respected addition to their resume.

It allows them to become full patrol members, gain their IRB crew and other awards, participate in surfboat rowing, surf ski, and work towards a paid surf lifeguard position.

SWIMWEAR AVAILABLE contact Loretta Chapple

NIPPER COMMITTEE AND CONTACTS

Tathra Surf Club President: Alan Birchall

Junior Activities Coordinator: Maree Boulton

MEMBER PROTECTION OFFICER: Monica Fraser

Water Safety Coordinator: Ben Potter

Club Captain: Justin Gouvernet

Junior Club Captain: Morgan Chapple

Training Officer: Sharon George

Member Registrar: Grace Daley

Publicity/Media Officer: Wendy Bergsma

Nipper Committee Members: Maree Boulton, Ben Potter, Mel Woodley, Loretta Chapple, Deb Smith, Derek Van Bracht, Janette Robinson and Millie Ford

(Any interested parents are encouraged to join the committee)