

# Historical Signs

Historical signs depicting significant people and events from our past are displayed around the Club.

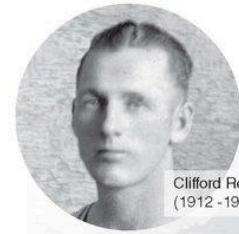
## The First Patrol

The first patrol on Kings Beach was conducted by the newly established Metropolitan-Caloundra Life Saving Club on Saturday 7 October 1933. The members who formed the patrol were: Clifford Reginald Croughan, William Porter and Douglas Alwyn Mabin

Cliff Croughan was born in Liverpool, England. He was living in New Farm, Brisbane and working as an upholsterer when he joined the Club, and became the first Chief Surf Instructor. He served as a Corporal in the RAAF in the Second World War, and moved to Caloundra in 1954. He was elected a Life Member of the Club in 1949.

Bill Porter gained his Royal Lifesaving Bronze Award at the Bribie Island / Ithaca Club in 1931 and was an active member of Metropolitan-Caloundra until at least 1936. There is little club history of him, however he is believed to have lived in Brisbane.

Doug Mabin was born in Rockhampton. He was living in Sherwood, Brisbane and working as a salesman when he joined the Club, and became Assistant Instructor. He served as a Lieutenant in 2/9 Battalion AIF in the Second World War, and moved to Buderim in 1968, where he worked in real estate.



Clifford Reginald Croughan  
(1912 -1998)



William Porter



Douglas Alwyn Mabin  
(1913 -1994)



## Walter "Pop" Soden (1877 – 1964)

"Pop" Soden was the first President of the Club in 1933. He then served as Patron from 1934 to 1957.

While not an active Life Saver, he became President of both the Royal Life Saving Society and the Surf Life Saving Association in Queensland.

Pop was born, lived and died in Brisbane, and became the Managing Director of a transport company and was active in the Brisbane business community.

His sons Les (the first Club Captain) and Ivan (a Foundation Member) were also active in the early years of the Club.



## J.J. Betts (1885 - 1971)

Known as "The Professor", Joseph James Betts was a foundation member of the Club in 1933 and was also involved in the foundation of the Maroochydore Life Saving Club.

Born in London, he emigrated to Brisbane before World War 1. He was a close associate of Club founder Frank Venning, and for many years managed the Brisbane Gymnasium.

He was Secretary of Surf Life Saving Queensland from 1946-57 and a Life Member of Surf Life Saving Australia.

Betts was a Vice-Patron of the Club from 1940, and Trustee from 1950, until his death. In 1950 he inaugurated the Club's oldest perpetual trophy - for the member completing the most patrol hours in a season.

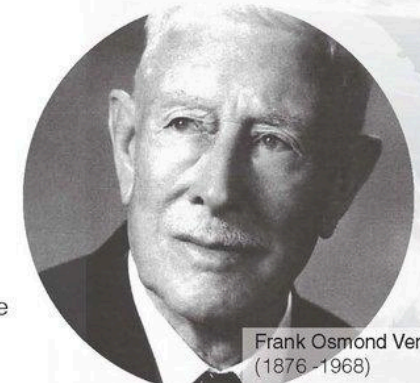


## Frank Osmond Venning MBE (1876 - 1968)

After migrating to Queensland from England in 1908, Frank Venning became the leaseholder of the Ithaca Baths in Paddington, Brisbane. He formed the Metropolitan Life Saving Club there in 1924 as part of the Royal Life Saving Society, of which he was State Secretary.

He recognised the need for lifesaving services at surf beaches and arranged for the Metropolitan Club to patrol Kings Beach during the Christmas holidays from 1929 – 32. In 1933 the Metropolitan Life Saving Club moved to Kings Beach and commenced patrols.

In addition to re-establishing the Royal Life Saving Society in Queensland in 1910; Frank was instrumental in establishing other Queensland Surf Life Saving Clubs and the Queensland State Centre - where he served for many years as Secretary and Vice-President. Known as the "Father of Queensland Lifesaving", he became a Life Governor of the Royal Life Saving Society in London and in Queensland; a Life Member of Surf Life Saving Australia; and became a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1963.



Frank Osmond Venning  
(1876 -1968)



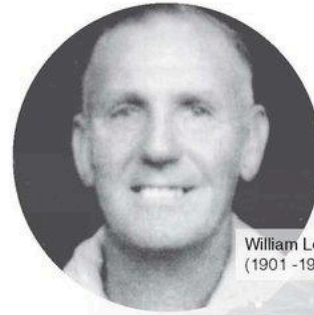
## The Hardcastle Family

The Hardcastle brothers were involved at the establishment of the Metropolitan Life Saving Club at Kings Beach in 1933.

Les Hardcastle was the President of the Club from 1934 to 1962, and became its first Life Member in 1944. He received his Royal Life Saving Bronze Medallion at the Metropolitan Life Saving Club in Brisbane in 1927. He lived in Ashgrove, Brisbane and was a shipping officer for Shell Company. He retired to Caloundra in the 1960's.

Sid Hardcastle was the inaugural Secretary of the Club. He received his Royal Life Saving Bronze Medallion at the Metropolitan Life Saving Club in 1933. He lived at Hawthorne, Brisbane and was a travelling salesman.

The family has had a continuing involvement in the Club. Les' son Geoff was Treasurer in 1958 and became a Life Member in 1983; and his grandson Ross was Club Captain in 1999 - 2000.



William Lesley Hardcastle  
(1901 - 1981)

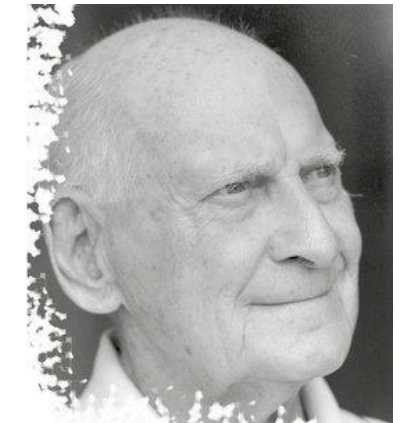


Sidney Mervyn Hardcastle  
(1905 - 1986)



## John Robertson Spender OBE, OStJ (1911-1998)

Jack Spender, after whom Spender Lane is named, dedicated more than 60 years to the growth of both Royal Life Saving and Surf Life Saving in Australia and internationally. 'Mr Life Saving' joined the Metropolitan-Caloundra Surf Life Saving Club in 1936, after migrating to Australia from Scotland. His involvement extended to the highest levels – President and Life Member of the Sunshine Coast Branch and Surf Life Saving Queensland; Life Member of Surf Life Saving Australia; and Life Governor of Royal Life Saving Society (International). For his services, he was appointed as an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) in 1965, and an Officer of the Order of St. John (1970). His family continues to be involved in Surf Life Saving.

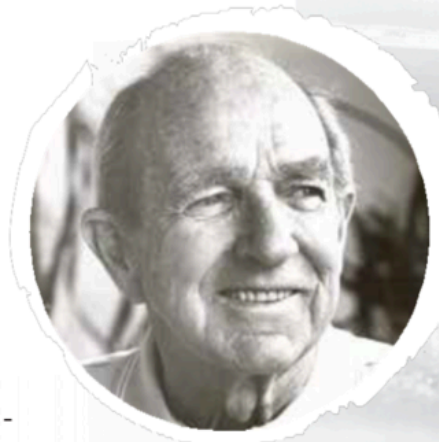


## Ben Bennett (1912 - 1987)

Ben Bennett and his father Arthur were foundation members of the Club in 1933. His father, the publican of the nearby Hotel Francis, became a Vice-President and Trustee of the Club.

Ben, a noted lifesaver and surf competitor in Queensland and interstate carnivals, also became the Club's Chief Surf Instructor in 1934-5 and 1938-41. He was also active in Club and Branch sports administration. After active service with the Army in 1941-46 he was elected a Life Member of the Club.

Ben was a noted resident of Caloundra as the owner of the Strand Theatre from 1939 to 1970; a Landsborough Shire Councillor 1964-70; a prominent Rotarian; and a keen botanist - after whom the Ben Bennett Bushland Park adjacent to the High School is named.



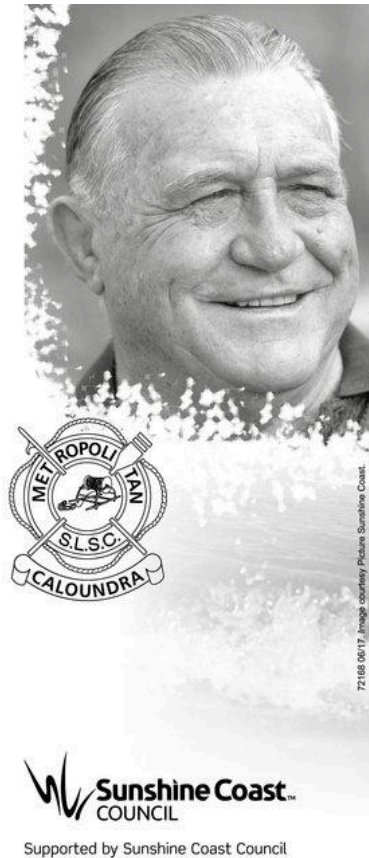
## Sir Francis Nicklin KCMG, MM (1895-1978)

Frank Nicklin moved to Beerwah in 1910. He served in World War I and was awarded the Military Medal and during World War II, rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Nicklin purchased a pineapple farm at Palmwoods and became involved in Country Party politics. He served in the Queensland State parliament (1932-1968), was Leader of the Opposition (1941-1957) and Premier of Queensland (1957-1968). He was knighted in 1968. Nicklin was also involved in Surf Life Saving. He was President of North Coast Surf Life Saving and Patron of the Metropolitan-Caloundra Surf Life Saving Club (1958-1977).



## Desmond James Dwyer OAM (1933-2013)

Des Dwyer settled in Caloundra in 1938. He was a Landsborough Shire and Caloundra City Councillor (1988-1991), including a period as Mayor (1994-2000). For many years he operated a well-known electrical retail business and was active in community groups. He joined the Metropolitan-Caloundra Surf Life Saving Club in 1949 and served as President (1965-1971) and Life Governor (from 2002). He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2004 for his service to the community. His family continues to be involved in the community and Surf Life Saving.



## Ken O'Connell (1943 - 2018)

Ken joined the Club in 1960 and was an active patrolling member for some 30 years. He was a Trainer and Assessor for over 43 years, and an able administrator in the Surf Club and the Supporters' Club for many years. He held positions as Club Deputy-President, Secretary and Vice-President and was a member of many Committees.

Active in Branch and State Life Saving, Ken was elected to Life Membership of the Club (2007), Sunshine Coast Branch (2014) and Surf Lifesaving Queensland (2001).

Reflecting the values he held highest in Life Saving, he instigated the Club's *Ken O'Connell Trophy for Best Club Man* in 1986-7.



## Jeff's Deck

Jeffery Morris joined the Club in 1972 and gained his Bronze Medallion in that year.

He served the Club for many years and in a number of capacities.

He was a major contributor to surf sports in the Club – coaching both Junior and Senior members as Water Coach and Craft Coach from 2003 to 2017; and as Director of Surf Sports from 2010 to 2015.

He was a long-time Masters Competitor in all water events at Branch, State and National level.

Jeffrey was elected to Life Membership in 2007

A builder by trade, Jeffrey was instrumental in the planning and design of this deck; and completed its construction in 2016.

The Committee of the Supporters Club resolved to name the Deck after Jeffrey, following his untimely passing in 2017.

