

Title: Rip Rule – Stay Cool!

Category: Fostering Grassroots Sport

Club Name: Tradies

Entrant: David Kowald, President

- 1. Provide an outline of the program, project or cause that addresses each of the following aspects:**
 - a. The program/project/cause objectives**
 - b. The support the club provided, i.e. was it financial, in-kind, staff volunteers or use of club facilities?**
 - c. A timeline of activities/events**
 - d. Any developments made since implementation (for example: if the support spans multiple years, how has the program grown? Will the club provide support again? Will the program be enhanced in the future?)**

a) The Tradies Surf Awareness Clinic (the SAC) is an annual program hosted by Elouera Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated in early January each year. The objective of the program is to teach surf survival skills to program participants, who range in ages from 7 to 12 years old inclusive.

b) Tradies has supported the SAC for 24 years, since 1998, after the inaugural sponsor (Otis) withdrew their support. The SAC has been hosted by Elouera SLSC for 39 years. Tradies has provided financial support to cover the clinic's fixed costs, currently \$7k per annum, and Tradies directors routinely volunteer to assist with running the clinic. On occasions Tradies has also offered their function rooms for the end-of-clinic thankyou lunch for all volunteers to help run the clinic. The support by Tradies enables Elouera to keep registration costs at \$65 for the week long program, with many participants opting for the \$10 early bird discount. The low cost assist make the program an inclusive event.

c) Each morning is broken up into four practical 30-minute "wet" sessions and one 30-minute theory session. The practical sessions include: how to body surf; paddle and ride both body boards and nipper surfboards; and describing the use and reason of the inflatable rescue boat (IRB). Across the five days of the program the theory sessions include: surf danger recognition by identifying wave types, rips and currents; basic theory and demonstration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); first aid; personal skin protection presented by the NSW Cancer Council; proper usage of flotation vests demonstrated by a representative of the Roads and Maritime Services; and an explanation of the roles of council lifeguards and the surf life-saving patrol members while being at the beach.

d)The 2020 SAC has been conducted, in January 2020 was the 38th consecutive year that Elouera SLSC has hosted the clinic. Unfortunately the 2021 SAC had to be cancelled at the last minute due to late December COVID outbreak in Sydney. To successfully conduct the clinic, which currently has around 250 participants, required approximately 100 volunteers from Elouera SLSC to assist each morning across five days. That level of volunteer commitment is unique, with the support from Tradies allowing Elouera to provide a token form of acknowledgement to the volunteers.



93 participants attended the inaugural program in 1982, doubling in 1983, but numbers are now restricted to the 250 mark to ensure adequate supervision of participants in the surf by the 100 volunteers.

The program content itself has also developed over the years with the current format having been substantially in place since 2000. The program is widely promoted beyond the Sutherland Shire, with participants regularly being drawn from country areas. The most recent development was the inclusion of participants with special needs, such as those on the Autism Spectrum.

Tradies have indicated they will continue their vital and generous support of the program in future years.

2. Provide a brief insight into why this program, project or cause was supported by the club.

In your answer, summarise:

- a. How the project, program or cause was first presented to the club. For example, did a member present it to the Board or Executive team, was it part of a ClubGRANTS submission, did it come from a local business or the community based on a need, was a survey conducted to identify areas of community need, etc.**
- b. Why it was important to the club to support this community need.**

One year after Otis commenced sponsoring the Surf Awareness Clinic in 1982, Tradies came on board as Elouera's major sponsor. And up to the point in 1998 the close association with Elouera allowed Tradies a first hand glimpse of the benefits to the general community of the program. By then the Tradies President, Mr Graham Hill had been appointed Patron of Elouera SLSC and the Tradies Board of Management supported the extension of their sponsorship to include support of the SAC, which at the time was the donation of an outboard motor for the inflatable rescue boat, assistance from Tradies' office staff with logistical preparations and in-kind donation of directors time during the conduct of the clinic.

Tradies support is vital in allowing the SAC to continue to the present day in its current format as a high quality, low cost inclusive community event.

3. Provide an outline of the positive impact the club's contribution had on the community.

From the commencement of the inaugural Elouera surf awareness clinic in 1982 there have been over 11,000 participants, with many of them later in life becoming Bate Bay (Cronulla, North Cronulla, Elouera and Wanda) surf club members and then also returning as "clinic" instructors.

The five-day program allows for the overall messages of the benefits of looking after your health, maintaining fitness and awareness of beach safety requirements are retained by participants.



The conduct of the clinic is aligned to, but not the core business of Elouera SLSC so club does not record outcomes from the clinic. However parents of participants regularly report back to individual organisers of: the sheer joy of participants attending year on year; participants questioning their parents on lack of appropriate safety life vests when going on fishing trips; and even the application of CPR skills by an eight year old when a family member suffered an electric shock, after disconnecting the power!

4. Add any credits here (optional).

Information in this submission has been provided by Elouera SLSC members Basil Lewis, Mike Batty, Leah Byrne and David Kowald.

5. Supporting material:

- *To request copies of the supporting documents, please email events@clubsnsw.com.au*