

Yamba Surf Life Saving Club had a strong team at the two-day Far North Coast tiles at Fingal Head last weekend but there was disappointment with only one day of competition due to the cancellation of Sunday events due to the weather.

However there were some good results on Saturday.

In the under 8's Malik Elabbasi was 2nd in the boys sprint, Molly Imeson 1st and Kalani Ives 2nd in the girls sprint, in the under 9's Hayley Fischer won the girls sprint and flags and Carissa Miltiadou was 2nd in the girls swim and in the under 10's Harrison Earle 3rd in the boys flags and Tyler Essex was 4th in boys flags and 6th in the swim.

In the under 11's Jorden Elabbasi was 2nd in the boys swim, 4th in the ironman and 6th in the board, Sophie Watson 2nd in the girls swim, 6th in the ironwoman, 6th in the board and in the under 12's Brianna McFarlane was 3rd in the girls flags, 5th in the sprint and Max Gilbert 6th in the boys ironman

A highlight of the carnival was the presentation of a magnificent trophy to Malik Elabbasi for the overall season 2012/13 under 8 branch points score.

The Carl Schaeffer memorial handicap surf swim resumed at Main Beach on Sunday, after an extended flood break, and in a field of 14 starters the winner was Martin Dougherty from Peter Rheinberger and Thomas Dougherty.

Hugh Dougherty (Tugun) was 5th and in now in 11th place overall and Alyce Bennett (North Burleigh) was 9th (11th overall) after the 5th round of the Kelloggs Nutri Grain ironman and ironwoman series at Coolum on Sunday.

Hugh and Alyce, both former Yamba nippers and current members, will be aiming to improve their standing with a good result in the last round at Noosa, which will be televised live by the Channel 10 network, this Sunday February 14.

Nipper activity numbers were smaller on Sunday with most of the older nippers at the branch titles at Fingal Head but those at home had a morning of fun and education at the Yamba Community Heated Pool.

The Under 6's and 7's had relays and a competitive game of flags in the wading pool and also participated with the older age groups in food, Sunsmart and emergency information sessions, CPR and first aid while the under 8's to under 14's added paddle board training, triathlon and swimming.

Sally White was in charge of the program, Col White manned the BBQ and a large number of parents provided valuable assistance.

The nippers are planning to return to Main Beach this Sunday February 24, a team of 10 will be at the NSW titles at Umina Beach on Saturday & Sunday March 2 & 3 and the final 2012/13 season activity day and presentation is on Sunday March 10.

Rob Imeson has nipper board training, including beginners, from the under 8 group and older, at Main Beach on Wednesdays from 4pm - 5pm

Yamba SLSC nippers thank their sponsors for their support and encouragement during the 2012/13 season

The 2012/13 nipper sponsors are All Terrain Access Scaffold & Edge Protection, Fairways Restaurant @ Yamba Golf & Country Club, Jim's Mowing, Lower Clarence Funerals, Tony McFarlane Builder, Yamba Florist, Yamba Physiotherapy, Signcraft, Maclean Variety Meats, Melay Independent Tiles and Waves Fitness & Squash.

Yamba SLSC will have masters, under 23 and under 19 boat crews at the SLSNSW Far North Coast branch titles at Byron Bay this Saturday February 23.

The masters crew is Andrew Cumberland, Chris Bonner, Wayne Ringland, Brendan O'Mahony, Rod McSkimming (sweep), under 23's Calam Ellem, Marc Adamson, Andrew Bell, Sam Kapeen, Rod McSkimming (sweep) and under 19's Zac Robison, Josh Ryan, Nic Agostino, Vince Boulton, Ray Wiblen (sweep).

Coming senior carnivals are the NSW titles at Umina Friday to Sunday March 8-10 and the Australian titles at North Kirra/Tugun Monday to Sunday April 15-21.

Yamba SLSC senior club sponsors for the 2012/13 season are Gold – Elders Real Estate Yamba, Clarence Valley Council, Yamba Golf & Country Club; Silver - .Westlawn Finance, Yamba Shores Tavern, Freemason/MasoniCare, North Coast Heavy Towing, Nortec; Bronze – All Terrain Access, Clarence Valley Review, Maclean Variety Meats, Belinda's Store, The Daily Examiner, Yamba Lions, Yamba Rotary, Daily Examiner, Pacific Hotel, Radio 2GF and Sanctuary Cove Golf.

Senior memberships and renewals are still open online at www.lifesavingonline.com.au at the surf club office on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9am till 12 noon or at Elders Real Estate in Coldstream St during business hours.

All club information, including membership forms and training programs, is available on the web site www.yambaslsc.com.au

A team of walkers, canoe and raft paddlers will tackle the Nymboida, Mann and Clarence River system in a 3 week/377 km downstream River Odyssey from Barren Mountain on the Dorrigo Plateau to Yamba in March this year.

The paddle is raising funds for the Maitland Hospital Foundation and Yamba Surf Lifesaving Club - donations can be made at www.mycase.com.au/page/54157

Alex & Stephen Abrahams, Richard Bennett, Bob Wonders, Paul McDonald and Shaun Walsh will start the the paddle at the source of the Nymboida River on Barren Mountain, 1470 metres above sea level on Friday March 8.

The first stage will involve 3 days walking to reach sufficient paddling water and avoid the 90 metre drop at Rob Roy Falls, 2 days canoeing and 2 days rafting to reach the Nymboida Hotel on March 15.

Brothers Alex and Stephen with Richard and Bob will complete the paddle into the Mann and Clarence Rivers to finish at sea level on Main Beach Yamba, subject to good weather, a good flow in the rivers and suitable tides/swell, on March 26.

The weekly Yamba SLSC raffles at the Golf Club with 33 terrific meat trays this Saturday February 23 have Brian & Heather Badgery, Scott Greensill & Roger Maclean selling tickets from 5.30pm with the draw from 6.30pm.

This weekend patrols are:

Saturday February 23 9am-1pm Patrol 8: Pat Ridgway (c), Jim Wheeler (vc), Linda Horton, Simon Worboys, Jo Worboys, Caitlin Cooney, Will Brighton, Pierre De Billot, Patrick De Billot.

Sunday February 24 9am-12.30pm: Patrol 9: Brendan O'Mahony (c), Jake Pitkin, Harry Fahey, Jack Morrissey, Kealy Day, Thomas Dougherty, Noah Hodgson, Angus O'Mahony, Thomas Smith, Marty Rose, Zac Sullivan, Will Pitkin.

Sunday February 24 12.30pm-4pm: Patrol 10: Andrew Morris (c), Joe Fahey, Darby Fahey, Sam Connor, James Connor, Kelsey Wilkes, Sashelle Aitken, Julian May, Clayton Marshall, Vincent Gizzard.

CAPTIONS

Top Photo: Lily Saunders (Under 8's) learning to master the paddle board.

Bottom Row Left to Right: Under 6/7's girls loving the new flag race format ;Sam Earle (Under 6/7's) learning his CPR; Chloe Williamson and Maddison Quick (under 12/13/14's) learning the finer skills of a board rescue; the under 6/7's finding out about diet, Sunsmart and emergency information.

Mike Harvey