

Towards the end of 1945, military servicemen were encouraged to take up all kinds of sport whilst awaiting their discharge from the army. The original members of the club were servicemen of the Australian Electrical and Mechanical engineers, stationed at Bulimba workshops, Brisbane. Permission was granted to them by the Surf Life Saving Association to start a club at what is now known as Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC. The name Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC was gazetted on 11th September, 1946. Prior to the naming of Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC the club was known as the A.E.M.E. Surf Life Saving Club.

Until such time as a fibro shack was built at the end of Ocean Street, all members were housed at Ben Stoyles home in Venice Street.

The first clubhouse was constructed of fibro and contained one room with 12 bunks. As membership increased, an adjoining kitchen and bunkroom were added to the back of the shack. All water was supplied by a hand pump and conditions were primitive. In 1948 an order for a surf boat was placed with Mr Norman Wright, boat builder of Bulimba, Brisbane. The cost was 265 pounds (\$530.00), plus equipment. Delivery of the boat took place in November 1948 and it was named "Ilma Mary".

Towards the end of 1951 construction was commenced on a new clubhouse in Hedges Avenue, on the present site. This clubhouse was opened on 3rd May, 1952. This clubhouse had a large upstairs dance floor and was used for fund raising.

In 1972, clubhouse No 2 was demolished and construction began on clubhouse No. 3, which was officially opened on 25th February 1973, which is the clubhouse we now have, with several renovations and additions having been made over the years to achieve the standard we now have.

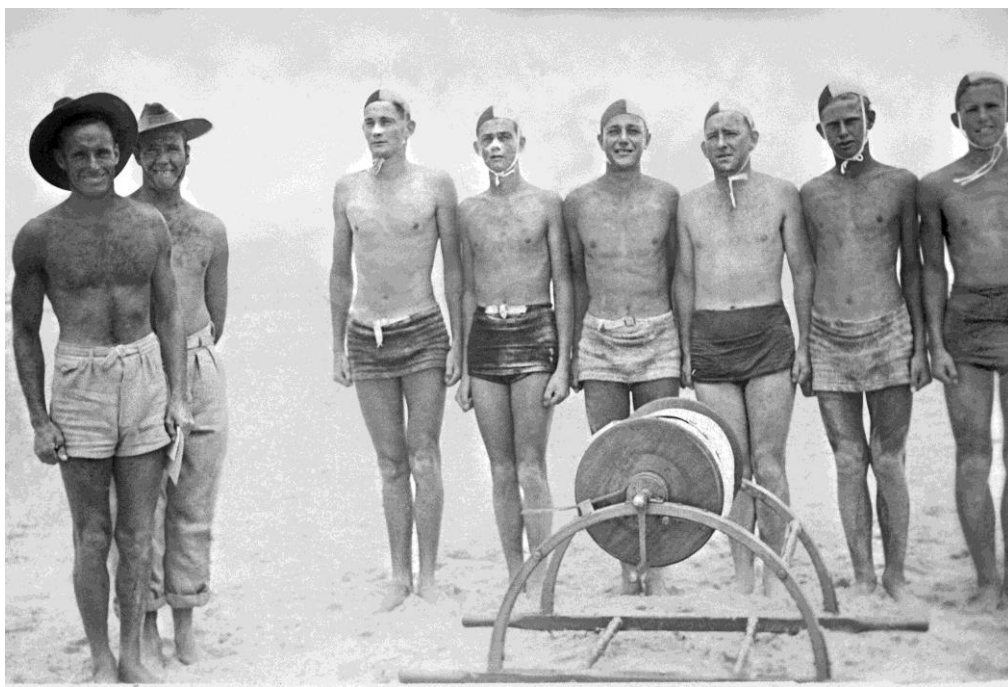
Nippers were first introduced to Mermaid Beach in October 1977.



Field Marshall Montgomery inspecting the troops from the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers on his visit to Australia in 1945.

Left: Captain John Chamberlain and Field Marshall Montgomery.

Far Right: Army apprentice Collin Hill, a member of the 1st bronze squad



Members of our 1st squad to obtain their bronze medallions. Dec 23rd 1945

Left: Stan Irvine, Keith Doig, Lofty Kinghorn, Col Hill, Phil Oakley, Paul McNally, Bob Kipper and Paul Choquenot.



Our 1st active patrolling members.

Standing: Unknown, Sam Keys, Col Hill, William Snodgrass, Lofty Kinghorn, Des Taylor, Jack Dixon, Unknown, Ben Stoyles and Lawrence O'Connor
Seated: Unknown, Keith Edwards, Horrie Armstrong, Unknown and Bob Kipper.



One of our 1st patrol groups, consisting of 5 members and Reel for rescues.
Left: Jack Dixon, William Snodgrass (in harness), John Thorpe, Des Taylor and Col Hill



The first Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Life Saving Club, 1948. Located on the sand dunes at the end of Ocean Streets, Mermaid Beach.

Pictures: Bill Roser, Vern Thureck, Ian Leslie, Barney Manthey, Ian Davidson, Ben Stoyles, Tom Feige, John Harris, Harry Edwards, Harry Tischler, Con Mappas, Alan Gilpin, Frank Evans, Rodney Pegus, Keith Jones, Brian Condon, Bobby Smith, Vere Dowling, Brian Hersee, Jo Johanson, Bill Beeston, Kev Gill, Merv Gilpin, Kev Smith



Opening Second Club House 1951/52
by Jack Duggan Dep. Labor Premier Qld

Second club house, which sits on our current location, was opened on the 3rd May, 1952 by Jack Duggan. Dep. Labour Premier of Qld.



The third club house is our current club house, plus a few renovations over the years. Opened in 1973 by Ald. Bruce Small, M.L.A., Mayor of Gold Coast.

Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC history



Jack Dixon and Sam Keys with one of the original skis used at the club for both rescues and competition.



“Our First Nippers” David and Peter Armstrong, sons of Horrie Armstrong, the clubs 1st president. 1946.



1st Carnival held at Mermaid Beach on 16th March 1947. Teams were competing for the Parkes Challenge Shield.



Mermaid Beach AEME SLSC team winning the QLD March Past Title at Mooloolaba 49/50.

W Beeston, B Manthey, C Mappas, Roy Carey, Ron Carey, S Cronin, J Dixon, N Lawrence, I Leslie, J Dougal, K Edwards, B Condon, J Armstrong, A Gilpin, V Dowling, B Toohey, J McIntosh, T Fiege, K Smith, and K Steer. Coach G Brown.



Our 1st Surf Boat, called the “Ilma Mary”, named after the Bill Armstrong’s wife, president at the time the boat was launched.

Left: Vere Dowling (sweep), Jack McIntosh, Tom Fiege, Jim Kissane and Ken Steer.

The clubs original competition cap was Royal Blue and Red. The white stripes were added in 1960’s