

February 2015

First patrol for Starfish Nipper

Despite having special needs, Anglesea SLSC's newest Starfish Nipper, Jenni Strauch, has continued a family tradition by becoming a patrolling member.

This season the 30-year-old joined the Starfish Nippers program, which caters for people with special needs, and recently completed her Surf Life Saving Radio Operations Certificate, which qualifies her to be a radio operator as part of the lifesaving patrol team.

Program Director Janet Jones said she was surprised when Jenni approached her last year about getting involved.

"At the time I didn't realise she wanted to be involved as a participant and explained that all she needed to do is become a member of the club and she could come and help," she said.

"When I realised she wanted to be a participant rather than a volunteer I said I could fix the age bracket from 7 – 25 years to 7 and above. Jenni replied 'You have made my day,' and as a result she joined the Starfish Nippers this season."

In joining Anglesea's patrol team, Jenni has followed in the footsteps of her grandfather John Worrell, one of the founding members of Anglesea SLSC and says she is happy to be given the opportunity to carry on the tradition.

"Not many people with disabilities have the opportunity to do this.

"If it wasn't for Janet Jones and her program, I would never have had the chance to do it."

Anglesea SLSC Chief Instructor Mieke Foster joined Jenni on her first patrol last month.



Photo by Emma at Paper Rose Photography

"It was an absolute pleasure to have Jenni on patrol. She made lots of new friends and we all really enjoyed her company," she said.

"Our Patrol Captain, Jack Fry did an amazing job at introducing her to patrolling and we look forward to her joining us again."

Jenni's mother Jan is thrilled to see her daughter involved with the club and taking on new roles.

"Jenni has increased her confidence and enjoyment in the surf. She loves coming down to the beach to meet up with her new friends and trainers. Jenni has thoroughly enjoyed this season and loves encouraging and supporting the younger Starfish Nippers."

To find out more visit www.starfishnippers.com.au or www.facebook.com/StarfishNippers