

September 2014

Starfish Nippers program continues to grow

After three fantastic summers, Australia’s first Starfish Nippers program, developed at Anglesea SLSC in 2011, is continuing to grow with three new Life Saving Clubs eager to sign up for the 2014/2015 season.

Starfish Nippers is a modified special needs program for young individuals, aged from six years and above, and is run alongside the traditional nippers program.

Program developer Janet Jones said the expansion of the program has occurred because clubs had heard about it through word of mouth

“The feedback we have received so far has been amazing from all clubs involved, with many saying they found the program easier to start up and run than they thought,” she said.

“Having initially started at Anglesea, last year the program expanded to Point Lonsdale SLSC and Hampton LSC and now we welcome Mentone LSC, Torquay SLSC and Ocean Grove SLSC, which is really exciting.

“Parents of Starfish Nippers have continually said how pleased they are that their children are included by the entire community. It is so exciting for them to be able to participate in the program, something that previously they were only able to watch their siblings or friends do.”

With discussions currently underway to expand the program within Victoria and interstate, Mrs Jones encourages all clubs to start the conversation now about how they can become involved.

“It is so rewarding to see the Starfish Nippers’ excitement and enthusiasm,” she said.



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“The inclusion of the special needs children creates an ambience in the club, which is exciting and motivating. The spirit and morale within the club has been very uplifting.

“We have also found it is a great driver of youth retention as the Starfish Nippers program helps to engage young members by getting them involved as trainers.”

For anyone interested in starting the Starfish Nippers program at their club, Mrs Jones suggests they look at the website and discuss with their club the possibility of taking on the program.

“Fortunately our expansion has been strongly supported by the State Trustees which has enabled us to produce videos, training resources, our website, with a member’s resource section, and flyers for potential clubs.

“We also have a range of resources ready for clubs looking to begin the program, such as an introductory letter, parent and trainer evaluation forms, medical forms, equipment lists, visual aids for participants, risk assessment information, a presentation video and an induction and training PowerPoint.”

For more information on the Starfish Nippers program and how to get your club or child involved please visit www.starfishnippers.com.au or check out their [Facebook](#) page.

