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**Incorporation No.:**  
A0011569L

16 September 2024

## Junior Programs 2024-25

Dear Junior Members and Families,

We are pleased to provide enrolment information for Nippers and Surf Rescue Certificate. **There is a fair amount of information in this email so please take the time to read in thoroughly as we don't want children missing out because a step was missed in the enrolment process.**

Included in this letter:

1. Enrolment Dates
2. Contact Details
3. Enrolment Process
4. Nippers Dates and Information
5. Starfish Nippers
6. Nippers FAQ
7. SRC Dates and Information
8. Preliminary Skills Requirements
9. Enrolment Form Links

Please follow the necessary steps to complete your enrolments as detailed and should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to reach out to the relevant person.

We look forward to seeing you on the beach this summer.

Phil, Nikki, Melissa & Alicia

## **Enrolment Dates**

The dates and registration details of the various Nippers, and SRC programs follow. As always numbers are capped due to our beach size, equipment availability, and volunteer supervision ratios. Accordingly, we request that you register your child in the relevant program at your earliest convenience and we will confirm your place as soon as we can.

As usual, we are offering existing members/past participants with a priority booking window, before opening to new members on our waitlist. Please don't delay your registration as we don't like to see people missing out.

Registration Dates for **ALL** junior programs are as follows:

**Existing families** who were members during the 2023/24 season or those children who have previously participated in Wye River Nippers have a priority enrolment window as follows:

Registration Opens: **3 October 2024**

Priority Registration Ends **9 October 2024**

Final Registrations Close: **30 October 2024** (or before if full)

### **New Members**

Waitlist opens: 3 October 2024 (Admission from 10 October)

Final Registrations Close: 30 October 2024 (or before if full)

Please note that once the priority registration period ends, we will commence admitting new members from the waitlist, if you do not get the enrolment process completed (steps 2 - 4) within the priority window, we cannot guarantee places.

## **Queries & Contact Details**

Please direct your queries to the relevant person as follows:

All enrolment queries: Melissa McIntosh, junior program administrator	<a href="mailto:wyerivernippers@gmail.com">wyerivernippers@gmail.com</a>
Membership queries: Melissa McIntosh, registrar	<a href="mailto:WRSLSMembership@gmail.com">WRSLSMembership@gmail.com</a>
Nippers program: Phil Cohn, Nippers Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:wyerivernippers@gmail.com">wyerivernippers@gmail.com</a>
Starfish Nippers program: Nikki Carrol, Starfish Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:wyerivernippers@gmail.com">wyerivernippers@gmail.com</a>
SRC program: Alicia Brooker, Chief Instructor	<a href="mailto:Alicia.brooker123@gmail.com">Alicia.brooker123@gmail.com</a>

## **Enrolment Process**

For your child to participate in Nippers, or SRC you must complete **ALL** the following items by the due date

### **STEP 1 – Apply For/Update your Working with Children Check (WWCC) details**

All members over the age of 18 are required to have a WWCC. Many people already hold a WWCC with other organisations. If this is the case you must update your WWCC to add Wye River SLSC to your list of organisations.

If you do not hold a WWCC you must apply for one. You can do this online at

<https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children>. A Volunteer WWCC is free to apply for.

**If you do not currently have a WWCC, please proceed to step 2 once you have made your application, do not wait for the WWCC to arrive. You can provide these details later once they are available.**

### **STEP 2 – Renew/Apply for Membership of Wye River SLSC**

Please ensure that you have renewed/applied for membership for EACH family member who wants to be involved. When renewing a family group you need to tick the check box next to EACH name.

All junior members under the age of 15 must be part of a family group and at least one parent/guardian must also be members of the club. The family membership fee is payable and this includes membership of both parents and any dependent children from the same household.

Membership Renewal is arranged online at [members.sls.com.au](https://members.sls.com.au). Detailed Instructions on how to renew can be found here:

<https://lsv.com.au/wp-content/uploads/How-to-Renew-an-Individual-or-Family-Membership.pdf>

### **STEP 3 – Fee Payments**

We cannot process your membership renewal /application until we have received your membership fees. These can be paid online as part of the renewal process, or after the event by logging into your account at <https://members.sls.com.au>

You must pay for both your membership fee and any Junior Activity fees that apply as follows:

Family Membership Fee	\$240
Nipper Fee (First child)	\$0
Nipper Fee (second & subsequent children)	\$50 per child
SRC Fee	\$95 per child

You should also pay for any swimwear/merchandise ordered on your enrolment form as part of this process.

Please make sure you add your name in the narration.

**STEP 4 – Online Enrolment**

Complete the relevant online enrolment form for each child based on the correct age group. The online enrolment forms will not be accessible until **9am** on the registration open date above. If you can't access the online enrolment for the desired age group, it may be because the age group is full. Please complete the waitlist enrolment instead.

Links for the relevant age groups are on page 7

Once you have completed steps 1 – 4 your enrolment will be processed. We will confirm enrolments by email periodically.

After receiving acceptance into the program, step 5 should then be completed:

**STEP 5 – Preliminary Skills Form **ESSENTIAL****

Please see page 6 for information regarding this. *Please note that Preliminary Skills forms are not due until 20 December 2024*

## **Nippers 2024/25**

Nippers is about having fun, making lasting friendships, and teaching an appreciation and enjoyment of the ocean. Whatever the goal, be it simply to improve water safety and confidence, become a surf lifesaver or a champion athlete, the program will teach the foundation skills needed.

Nippers offers a fantastic journey of personal development and not just for the kids. Nippers is run 100% by volunteers and we ask all Nipper parents to help in some way.

### **Dates**

Our nipper's program will consist of 7 sessions, the draft program is as follows but is subject to change.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Nippers Details</b>	<b>Social Functions</b>
27 December 2024	Uniform Collection & Group Allocation	
28 December 2024	Nippers Session 1	Summer Fling/Season Launch
29 December 2024	Nippers Session 2	
30 December 2024	Nippers Session 3	Nippers Movie Night
31 December 2024	Nippers Session 4	
1 January 2025	Rest Day	
2 January 2025	Nippers Session 5	Nippers Ipod Shuffle
3 January 2025	Rest Day (CFA Fete TBC)	Sunset bar
4 January 2025	Nippers Session 6	
5 January 2025	Nippers Session 7 – Junior Club Championships	
6 January 2025	March Out & Presentation	

### **Age Groups**

Wye River's Nippers program commences at "Under 7s" through to "Under 13s". Children need to be born between 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2017 to participate.

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Date of Birth Range</b>	<b>Certificate</b>
Starfish	1 Oct 2017 – (no upper limit)	Starfish
Under 7	1 Oct 2017 – 30 Sept 2018	Surf Play 2
Under 8	1 Oct 2016 – 30 Sept 2017	Surf Aware 1
Under 9	1 Oct 2015 – 30 Sept 2016	Surf Aware 2
Under 10	1 Oct 2014 – 30 Sept 2015	Surf Safe 1
Under 11	1 Oct 2013 – 30 Sept 2014	Surf Safe 2
Under 12	1 Oct 2012 – 30 Sept 2013	Surf Smart 1
Under 13	1 Oct 2011 – 30 Sept 2012	Surf Smart 2
SRC (Under 14)	Attain the age of 13 on or before 6 January 2025	SRC

## **Starfish Nippers 2024/25**

Starfish nippers is a modified and tailored nipper program designed for young people who have special needs.

The program is designed for young people aged 6 years and above with a disability, including physical and intellectual disabilities and learning difficulties, and can be modified to suit an individual participant's needs so everyone can be included.

Run entirely by volunteers at a number of Life Saving Clubs around Australia, the program ensures that students with disabilities and their parents can be involved with surf skills and lifesaving like their siblings, friends and others on the beach.

We believe every young person deserves to have access to the SLSA Nippers program. The Starfish program allows all young people to be part of a nippers program where they can learn critical beach skills while having fun and learning important life skills such as teamwork.

Started by volunteers at the Anglesea SLSC, it was first included in Wye River's nippers program in 2023.

# Nippers FAQ

## **What should my child wear to Nippers**

Nippers should arrive each morning in their bathers, full uniform and sunscreen.

There are three items of compulsory uniform that nippers must wear to each session: Competition Cap, Nippers Rash Vest and Broad Brimmed Hat. Club bathers are optional.

All nippers must wear a competition cap along with the fluoro nippers rash vest so they are easily identifiable to age managers and water safety. This is a Surf Life Saving Australia Requirement for all participants. Additionally, Wye River SLSC is a sunsmart club and all nippers are required to wear a broad brimmed hat and sunscreen.

Wetsuits are optional but recommended to keep children warm.

First time nippers are provided with the broad brimmed hat and nippers rash vest free of charge, the competition cap must be purchased. Returning nippers should use the uniform they were previously given; replacements can be purchased from our merchandise shop if they have been outgrown/lost. You can order replacement uniform items and optional bathers on your nipper's enrolment form.

We have a range of other merchandise available to buy from our merchandise shop including bathers, hoodies and hoodie towels.

## **Parent Duties**

All of our programs are run by a large team of volunteers and we are always on the lookout for new parents/older siblings to join in. Please consider volunteering to assist and indicate your interest on the registration forms. Some of the volunteer positions require qualifications (First Aid, Water Safety), but most do not. Training is provided prior to the program where required.

It is also important that you are on the beach during nippers and available at all times for your child.

## Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) 2024/25

Nippers in the Under 14 Age group will complete their SRC. The SRC provides participants with the skills and knowledge of basic patrolling and surf awareness in order to be able to participate in lifesaving operations and act in the role of Water Safety Personnel. The program contains a combination of theory and practical elements each day.

The SRC will take place **on Friday 3rd January 2024 to Monday 6th January 2024**. Candidates must have attained the age of 13 by the final assessment date of 6<sup>th</sup> January and should be able to confidently swim 200m freestyle in open water. The SRC program typically runs from 10am to 4pm (at the latest) each day, although some flexibility may be required due to beach conditions and other club activities. On the first day SRC will not commence until 11am.

We note that due to the age cut off, some children who would ordinarily participate in Under 13 nippers may meet the age requirement to do SRC. If we have more registrations than places, priority will be given to those who have already completed under 13s. It is in the club's best interest that candidates who participate in this course are committed to patrolling. We ask our patrolling members to complete at least 16 hours of patrol/water safety each season.

### Cost

A \$95 fee applies to all SRC Candidates.

### Public Safety & Aquatic Rescue Training Manual

All SRC candidates should download the Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Training Manual from Life Saving Victoria

### Swimming Requirements

We recommend candidates get some swimming practice in the pool in the lead up to SRC. Candidates are also **required to complete the Preliminary Swim Form** prior to commencing the program. Please see page 9 for an explanation on this. The preliminary skills form can be found in a separate attachment. Please ensure the attached preliminary skills form is completed by a qualified swimming instructor.

### What to Wear/Bring

The SRC course consists of both theory and practical sessions, with most days starting with theory at either the club house or the bunk house. Students should wear their bathers and comfortable clothing on top. They should bring a towel, goggles and wetsuit.

### Online Course Component

Part of the course assessment includes the completion of an online course. **This needs to be completed prior to the beginning of the SRC program.** Details on how to enrol and access in this online course will be provided to successful enrollees once it is available.



## **LSV Preliminary Swim Requirement**

Being able to swim competently is an integral part of making children safe at the beach as well as allowing them to actively participate and enjoy lifesaving activities. We do recognise that swimming in the ocean is a new experience for many children and even competent pool swimmers can find this challenging at first. Our aim is to encourage children and to help develop their confidence and skills swimming in the ocean, as well as provide surf and inland waterway education.

Preliminary swim evaluations are a risk management procedure that is in place to ensure nippers are fit and able to meet the minimum requirements for safety of the nipper program. The evaluations consist of floatation, submersion and propulsion. NOTE new requirements have been introduced this year.

**The preliminary swim assessment has strict minimum requirements that each child must be able to complete prior to commencing nippers. Should you not get this form completed prior to the commencement of nippers or should your child not meet the minimum requirements, then they must wear a wrist band and one-on-one water safety will be provided (if there is a sufficient number of water safety available), otherwise your child can participate in land-based activities only.**

*Please note Nippers is not a learn to swim program and we strongly advise that all children are enrolled in swimming lessons all year.*

We are attaching the preliminary swimming assessment form for Nippers; this needs to be completed by a qualified swimming teacher or life guard. It is a requirement for all nippers to attend their local swimming pool to have the swimming assessment signed off for their relevant age group **prior** to commencing nippers.

Please scan or send a clear photograph of it to [wyerivernippers@gmail.com](mailto:wyerivernippers@gmail.com) by **20 December 2024**. If your child is unable to meet the swimming requirements on the form, please contact us so that we can ensure the necessary water safety ratios.

## **ALL REGISTRATION LINKS OPEN ON 3rd OCTOBER at 9am**

Please click on each of the relevant links to enrol your children as required. If the links do not work copy and paste to your web browser. Remember this is just one of the three steps required to enrol, so please ensure you also renew your memberships fully as detailed above.

### **Registration Links (Existing Members):**

#### **Nippers**

Register for **Starfish Nippers** <https://forms.gle/RzjnaN3sqTSjztiT6>

Register for **Under 7s** <https://forms.gle/rpxLe1c2yM8KjS4K9>  
(born between 1 October 2017 - 30 September 2018)

Register for **Under 8s** <https://forms.gle/Mb1nEyTfmS3vEsZt6>  
(born between 1 October 2016 – 30 September 2017)

Register for **Under 9s** <https://forms.gle/AP5vrbNPSUDgKQT39>  
(born between 1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016)

Register for **Under 10s** <https://forms.gle/Qj1R6oYMNSGhQYho6>  
(born between 1 October 2014 – 30 September 2015)

Register for **Under 11s** <https://forms.gle/FtuQD61XuzbJ9jKf8>  
(born between 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014)

Register for **Under 12s** <https://forms.gle/WofzuUMDNocrvCgBA>  
(born between 1 October 2012 – 30 September 2013)

Register for **Under 13s** <https://forms.gle/cgFEG7dNHLXoDZwP7>  
(born between 1 October 2011 – 30 September 2012)

Register for **SRC** <https://forms.gle/oNPKewRoeXGnvxDm8>  
(must be 13 at 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024)

### **Waitlist Registration Links (New Members)**

Waitlist for **Starfish Nippers** <https://forms.gle/RzjnaN3sqTSjztiT6>

Waitlist for **Nippers** <https://forms.gle/zLSHznvXbVaXHxnx7>  
(born between 1 October 2011 and 30 September 2018)

Waitlist for **SRC** <https://forms.gle/9NFFawj1EAxgcWZg6>  
(must be 13 at 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024)