



WONTHAGGI NIPPER

INFORMATION GUIDE

This information guide provides details of the Wonthaggi Life Saving Club Nippers and Junior Life Saving Program for the coming season.



2026-2027

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WELCOME

We're thrilled to welcome you all to another exciting season at Wonthaggi Life Saving Club. Whether you're a returning member or new to our community, we can't wait to have you involved this season, making memories, learning essential skills, and keeping our beaches safe.

Our club has a rich history, rooted in community spirit and a commitment to safety. Established to protect and serve our local beaches, Wonthaggi Life Saving Club has been a cornerstone of the community for many years. We've seen generations of lifesavers train and grow here, all while forging lifelong friendships and connections.

The Nipper Program is at the heart of what we do. It's where our youngest lifesavers begin their journey, gaining confidence in the water, learning vital surf safety skills, and, most importantly, having fun!

This season promises to be filled with new adventures, challenges, and opportunities to make a positive impact on our beautiful coastline. We look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new ones as we continue the proud tradition of lifesaving at Wonthaggi.

Here's to a fantastic 2026- 27 season!



THE TEAM

Our Nipper's Program is run by certified SLISA Age Managers who are dedicated and skilled in delivering Junior Programs. All of our Age Managers are parent volunteers and give up their time to provide the program for your children.

We would like one adult member of each family to become an Age Manager. Please consider becoming an Age Manager.

PROGRAM DATES

FOR 2026-2027

Time	Activity
9:30am	Roll Call
9:35am	Aerobic Warm up
9:45am	Break into age groups
11:30am	Finish
12:00 - 12:30pm	Sausage sizzle on nominated days

Months	Days
December	28 th , 29 th , 30 th
January	2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th
Club Championships	10 th January

Nippers can stay longer and use the equipment provided they always have parental supervision. All Nippers registered in the program must have a parent/guardian registered as well.

At Wonthaggi Life Saving Club, we're excited to provide a BBQ at nominated Nippers sessions, but we need the help of our fantastic parents to make it happen! For every session, we'll be asking for parent volunteers to assist with preparing, cooking, and cleaning up.

BBQ

Nippers will be able to enjoy sausages after their session. Since not all Nippers finish at the same time, we'll ensure everyone gets a sausage before offering seconds.

Your support ensures that we can keep this tradition going and that our Nippers finish their session. with a smile. Thank you in advance for your help!

AGE MANAGERS

As the popularity of our Nippers Program at Wonthaggi Life Saving Club continues to grow, we are seeking parents to take an active role in managing the program and assisting behind the scenes. We kindly ask that at least one adult member from each family becomes an Age Manager as part of their membership.

To help with this, we offer an Age Manager Course at the start of each season. The course takes approximately 2 hours with some pre-course paperwork to be completed at your convenience. There will also be on-the-job training throughout the program. The more Age Managers we have, the greater the benefit for our children. With more Age Managers, we can create smaller groups and provide more water and beach time for each child, ensuring they get the most out of the Nippers Program.

NIPPER AGE CATEGORIES

Age as at 30th September 2026	Birth date range	Junior Activity Age Group
5 Years old	1st Oct 2020 - 30th Sept 2021	Under 6 - Gecko Green
6 Years old	1st Oct 2019 - 30th Sept 2020	Under 7 - Teal Blue
7 Years old	1st Oct 2018 - 30th Sept 2019	Under 8 - Red
8 years old	1st Oct 2017 - 30th Sept 2018	Under 9 - Purple
9 Years old	1st Oct 2016 - 30th Sept 2017	Under 10 - Yellow
10 Years old	1st Oct 2015 - 30th Sept 2016	Under 11 - White
11 Years old	1st Oct 2014 - 30th Sept 2015	Under 12 - Dark Blue
12 years old	1st Oct 2013 - 30th Sept 2014	Under 13 - Dark Green

The age group for the season is determined as at midnight on the 30th of September at the commencement of that season (32nd Edition, Competition handbook).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

At Wonthaggi Life Saving Club, our Nipper Program runs during December and January. Throughout the sessions, your child will be guided through the SLISA Surf Education Program (Surf Ed), which is designed to equip them with essential knowledge and skills in six key areas:



Surf Awareness



Rescues



First Aid & Resuscitation



Safety



Communication



Teamwork

While having fun, your child will learn vital lifesaving skills that will benefit them not only on the beach but in all aspects of their life. The knowledge and abilities they gain through this program could one day help them save the life of a friend or family member. We look forward to seeing your child at the Nipper sessions this December and January!



JUNIOR LIFESAVER PROGRAM

Our Nipper Program not only teaches essential beach safety but also paves the way for our young lifesavers to develop advanced skills. Starting from the age of 12, Nippers will begin learning more advanced lifesaving techniques, including rescue techniques using rescue boards and rescue tubes, water survival skills, and CPR.

Once your child turns 13, they can take their skills further by completing their Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC). The SRC is their first step towards becoming a fully qualified lifesaver, allowing them to patrol the beach and help keep others safe.

Through our program, your child will not only gain vital lifesaving skills but also grow in confidence, teamwork, and leadership. We're excited to help them take these important steps in lifesaving!

NIPPER EVENTS

Beach Events

Beach Sprints
Beach Flags
Beach Relays
Surf Wade

Water Events

Surf Swim
Board Race
Run-Swim-Run
Iron Man/Woman
Board Relay
Tube Rescues

WHAT IS EXPECTED

FROM OUR NIPPERS?

We encourage all Nippers to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time to ensure they are ready for their session. Here's what each child needs to do before the program begins:

Have their name marked off the roll every week

Secure their nipper cap on their head

Wear a rash vest or wetsuit

Apply sunscreen

Be ready to listen to instructions

Pick up their board—please don't drag it across the concrete

And most importantly, have FUN!

After completing the aerobic warm-up activity, Nippers will line up in their age groups and be led by their Age Manager to the relevant activity area to start the day's session. It's crucial for the safety of all participants that children listen to and follow the instructions of their Age Manager.

When in the water, your child's safety is our top priority. Patrollers and Age Managers are responsible for ensuring the safety of the group. Parents may assist their own child, but unless you have permission from friends or family of other members, please refrain from helping other children in the water.

Any assistance should always be under the supervision and direction of your child's appointed Age Manager.

NIPPER EQUIPMENT

We've been able to enhance our Nipper Program over the past few seasons with the purchase of new Nipper boards and equipment, funded through program fees and government grants. This investment has significantly improved the experience for our Nippers, and we ask that everyone plays a part in taking care of this valuable equipment.

Please make sure that boards are handled with care do not leave them unattended on the beach, and always treat them with respect. By looking after our gear, we can ensure that future Nippers continue to benefit from these resources for years to come. Thank you for helping us protect our club's equipment!

WHAT IS EXPECTED

FROM OUR PARENTS?

- 01 Become an Age Manager
- 02 Should ensure their child is on time and are ready for the session Will be expected to help set up the courses on the beach
- 03 Will be expected to pack up the courses on the beach
- 04 Help with their child in the water and on the beach
- 05 Take the boards to the beach and help pack them away
- 06 Assist if directed by an Age Manager

WATER SAFETY

(BRONZE MEDALLION & SURF RESCUE CERTIFICATE)

We expect all parents to help with the Nipper sessions. Each session you attend with your child, try to help in a different way. Help set up or the pack up and then the following week with the beach activities etc. We do not want to see the same parents doing the same thing each week; the workload needs to be shared around.

If you are staying at the beach after Nippers has finished, children must either wear their cap or rash vest so the Patrol members know your child is part of the Nipper Program and they can use the boards in your presence.

As a Parent or Guardian, you are required to be always at the beach during the Nipper program.

The club must meet water safety conditions set out by Life Saving Victoria. The club must meet water safety conditions set out by Life Saving Victoria. We must have one Bronze qualified Lifesaver for every 10 Nippers when in the water. We therefore are encouraging as many parents as possible to complete their Bronze or SRC qualification. The club pays for this award and will be running bronze courses during the season. You will receive a free Patrol Uniform and can also help with patrolling the beach; this not only benefits the club but also provides you with valuable skills that one day may help save the life of a friend or family member. Contact the Chief Instructor for details on when the next course will be run.

PICTURES

Only authorised photographers are allowed to take pictures or video during Nipper sessions. Due to child protection laws any parent or member of the public seen taking unauthorised pictures will be asked to leave the beach if their actions are deemed to be suspicious. This policy has been established in line with child protection and anti-child pornography laws and assists in keeping your children safe. An official club photographer will take random photos during the season which will be made available for you to download of your children at the end of the season (upon request).

If for any reason you do not want your child's photo to be taken, please let us know. All original pictures will be destroyed on request.



SURF RESCUE CERTIFICATE



At the age of 13 our nippers are now ready to qualify to Patrol the Beach. They will be taken through a training program that will qualify them to wear a Patrol Uniform and be part of Lifesaving Operations. A full training course will be run for SRC's during. All training is run at our club and is free of charge to Nippers graduating to Cadets.

For more information on our SRC and Bronze program please see our Chief Instructor.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

Wonthaggi LSC and Life Saving Victoria have a moral obligation to protect its young members (U18) and a State legal requirement to ensure all young members are protected from physical and sexual harm. This legal requirement involves all members 18 years and older who undertake volunteer work that. 'Usually involves, or is likely to involve, regular direct contact with a child in connection with a service, body, place, or activity specified in sub-section (3) in circumstances where that contact is not directly supervised by another person. Source: Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic)'

To ensure that our club complies with Life Saving Victoria policy we require all members to have completed a WWCC prior to being accepted in the Nipper Program or as a financial member of the club.

HOW TO OBTAIN A WWCC?

Step 1:

- Submit your details online.
- Go to the WWC Check website.
- Fill out the form online.
- Print out the application summary with all the details you entered.

Step 2:

Go to a participating Australia Post outlet to lodge your application, taking with you:

- The application summary
- Relevant proof of identity documents (100 points required)
- A passport size photo
- The application fee if you are applying for an employee card.

For more details:

- Go to the WWC Check website closer to July for details of when applicants can start filling out the form online.
<http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>
- Read and complete the required information using a black pen. Use the following codes in 'Details of Child-Related Work.' 42 (Clubs and Associations)
- In the 'Details of Organizations' (Section E), please enter both Life Saving Victoria and Wonthaggi Life Saving Club details

WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP ENTITLE YOU TO



As part of your Family Membership with Wonthaggi Life Saving Club, you and your family have access to the club during patrol hours on weekends, public holidays and nominated days we are open. Please note that patrol times may vary throughout the summer season.

Family members listed on your membership can use certain equipment, such as Nipper boards, while the beach is patrolled. However, all equipment must be returned before the end of the day, as part of the pack-up process. Nippers are welcome to use the boards, but they must be wearing either their Nipper cap or rash vest. Before using any equipment, please check with the Patrol Captain or a patroller on the beach to ensure you are properly geared up.

When you're finished using the equipment, it must be returned to the rack in the clubhouse it should not be passed on to others or left at the water's edge. This helps us maintain our gear and keep it available for everyone. If you're ever unsure, just ask a Lifesaver or a Patroller for guidance. And remember, you also have access to the club's toilets during your visit. Stay connected with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest updates join us [here!](#)

NIPPERS

- Compete for fun and not just to please parents or coaches
- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree have your manager approach the official in the proper manner.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other competitors, deliberately fouling or provoking others is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team.
- Be a good sport. Cheer ALL good competitors and support the not so good.
- Treat all competitors, as you would like to be treated.
- Do not interfere with, bully, or take advantage of another competitor.
- Co-operate with your coach, team-mates, and opponents. Without them there is no competition.
- ENJOY YOURSELF.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

SPECTATORS

- Children play sports for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment of spectators, nor are they miniature professionals.
- Applaud good performance and efforts of your child and his/her opponents. Congratulate both on their performance regardless of the outcome.
- Respect the official's decision. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure to question the decision and teach the children to do likewise.
- Never ridicule or scold a child making a mistake during a competition.
- Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it from spectators, coaches, officials, or participants.
- Encourage competitors to compete according to the rules and officials' decision.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behavior by not using foul language, harassing competitors, managers, coaches, or officials.
- Relax and enjoy yourself because that is what sport is supposed to be about.

CODE OF **BEHAVIOUR**

PARENTS

- If children are interested encourage them to play. However, if they are not willing do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child to set realistic goals related to their ability rather than the emphasis on winning.
- Teach them that an honest effort is just as important as victory so that each result can be accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage to play according to the rules.
- Remember they learn best by example. Applaud good performance by all.
- Support efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Recognise the value and importance of helping and becoming involved. Even the smallest help will be appreciated.



BULLYING

Bullying in any form will not be tolerated. If you see an issue, please bring it to the attention of the Age Manger or go and see Mark Scott 0409 159 341.



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