

BRONTE

SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB • 1903

Dear Bronte Nippers Families

We are looking forward to welcoming our Nippers back to Bronte this year, and are delighted to be extending the welcome to U6, U7 and new families!

General information

This season we will again need to take a cautious approach, keep our minds open and flexible, and be prepared to change things as regulations require. We're super keen to get going, but we're equally keen to keep our community safe.

The [Nippers pages](#) of our website are now bursting with useful information in relation to our Nipper program. Please check online for updates and additional information. Club policies are also [here](#).

Nippers start date. Please plan for Sunday 7 November 2021 for U8-U14 proficiency swims (see below), and a uniform stall / collection for new Nippers. Regular Nipper activity will commence (with restrictions) from Sunday 14 November. We have extended our season by a couple of weeks in March to help make up for the delayed start.

Under 6 returns! We're thrilled to welcome our youngest Nippers. Due to restrictions last year, all Nippers in this year's U6 and U7 age groups will be joining for the very first time. We will need volunteers willing to help for the whole season, and will be looking to the parents in these cohorts to assist in leading the groups. Initially, some experience of Nippers will be very useful. Please get in touch if you're keen: nippers@brontesurfclub.com.au.

Proficiencies. All U8-U14 Nippers complete a proficiency swim before they can undertake water activities at Nippers. Requirements can be found [here](#). A 'proficiency morning' will take place on Sunday 7 November (timetable to follow) and proficiency swims will be completed in Bronte Pool and in the Ocean. Wetsuits are recommended.

Please get your kids in the water over the coming weeks (ocean or pool) and back into lessons and squads as soon as you can. We're really aware that some kids may not have been able to swim over lockdown. A few sessions in a pool or in the ocean may be just what they need to build confidence.

Parent involvement. It is now an SLS requirement that only **qualified** parents are permitted to participate at Nippers. 'Qualification' means holding your Bronze Medallion (with current proficiency) OR Age Manager Award. All volunteers must also have their Working With Children Check Number (apply here: [WWCC](#))

Age Manager Award. We strongly encourage **all** families to have one parent with either their Bronze Medallion or Age Manager award. Note that in doing the Age Manager

course, we do not expect you to become age leaders. It will simply allow you to help as an 'Age Assistant' on the beach at Nippers. The Age Manager award is a short online course, followed by practical assistance (helping out at Nippers) under the guidance of an experienced Age Manager. Please see [here](#) for details of the course.

Vaccination. In accordance with SLS NSW and Club [policy](#), all volunteers at Nippers (including Age Managers, Age Assistants, Water Safety, Covid Marshals, BBQ'ers) and SRC are required to be vaccinated against Covid-19. Prior to returning, please ensure that you provide evidence of double vaccination to the Club in accordance with one of the methods set out in the policy (in person, WhatsApp or email options available). The vaccination requirement for volunteering at Nippers extends for the full season.

Uniform. There are 2 compulsory items at Nippers: the Age Group cap and a pink, high-vis rash vest. This is a safety requirement so that all Nippers are easily seen on the beach and in the water. No cap and high-vis rash vest = no water. No exceptions. Your Nipper will wear the same Age Group cap from U6 right through to U14 and all new Nippers will be given their cap. Nippers uniforms are available [online](#). We will also run some Nippers merchandise stalls – stay tuned for details.

BBQ. The Nipper BBQ is a huge part of the Sunday morning experience and an awesome opportunity to help out the Club. We're introducing a new approach this season: each age group will be [rostered on](#) for one entire Sunday morning shift (8am-11am). But that's it for the season! Please make sure your morning is well-staffed. If anyone is keen to become the Nipper BBQ manager (potentially a paid position each Sunday morning) please contact management@brontesurfclub.com.au.

Training. The Club offers board training (U9-U14) and sand training (U8-U14) for kids interested in advancing their skills. Training will resume shortly and details will be sent via TeamApp. Beginners board training will start the first Tuesday afternoon following the recommencement of Nippers (currently scheduled for 9 November).

Arrive, participate and leave! At least for November, unless you are Water Safety, an Age Manager, an Age Assistant or volunteering at the BBQ, please drop your Nipper and go. Head home, go for a walk, grab a coffee or do your own thing. Whatever you decide, please DO NOT gather in groups with fellow parents to watch your Nippers. Nippers is a highly visible activity involving large groups in public areas. We do not want it to be shut down. Let's make this work!

If in doubt, opt out. Please do not send your child to Nippers, nor attend yourself if your child, or any of your household, has **any** symptoms of Covid-19, however slight. We have a collective responsibility towards each other to keep our community healthy, at school and at work. Let's keep the vulnerable Nippers within our cohort, front of mind.

Nippers under the Reopening NSW Roadmap

In accordance with the [Reopening NSW Roadmap](#), any Nippers activity in November will be much more restricted than activity in December. The Roadmap is new to each of us

and as the kids return to school, we expect a few bumps and changes along the way. We will revise things as we need to, so please stay alert to communications and updates.

Nippers in November (80% vaccination restrictions). Under Covid-19 restrictions at 80% vaccination, Nippers may return in segregated groups of up to 200 people with no co-mingling between them. This number includes Nippers and volunteer parents. QR code sign-in procedures, hand sanitation and physical distancing are required.

Expect it to look as Nippers did last season: individual age groups will gather and undertake their activities within distinct areas on the beach, marked out with bollards and bunting. Sand activities (sprints) may also be limited.

Nippers from December. From December, many restrictions will be eased and the 200 person cap on outdoor numbers is removed. As at December, we anticipate removing the bollards and bunting marking out separate areas on the beach. Any changes to timetable that may be necessary in November will revert to normal.

Important notes

Refund policy. Please see the Club's Nippers refund policy attached.

Situation subject to change. Like all activities, we may need to make further changes to our Nipper program as we progress down the Reopening NSW Roadmap.

Medically at-risk families. In running our Nipper program, we will adopt reasonable precautions in line with SLS requirements and NSW Government Regulations. We understand that each family needs to make their own decision as to whether to participate this season. If a family decides not to register for Nippers due to Covid-19 concerns, please let us know in writing to nippers@brontesurfclub.com.au. These families will be treated as returning members in 2022/23 should they wish to re-join.

Active Kids Vouchers and financial hardship. When registering, Nipper families can use their Active Kids Vouchers towards payment.

The Club has some provision to support the membership of Nippers whose families are experiencing financial hardship due to Covid-19. This has been made possible by a generous donation from one of our Nipper parents. Please don't hesitate to email Director of Nippers, Anthony Burrows (directorofnippers@brontesurfclub.com.au) if you wish to be considered for this support. No child shall be denied access to Nippers due to financial hardship.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Nippers!