

BRONTE

SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB • 1903

Welcome to Nippers in 2025!

We can't wait to see everyone at Nippers soon! We are excited to welcome our U6 nippers for a special introductory session on Sunday 12 October, and all our nippers on Sunday 19 October.

Please take the time to read the information below. It's long and detailed, but please read the sections relevant to your family.

The clubhouse knockdown is finally underway – how exciting! Keep up to date with the project [here](#). Over the season things will change and the construction exclusion zone on the beach will move as needed. Come with an open mind, a positive and flexible attitude and keep the end goal in mind!

FIRST DAY OF NIPPERS

- Sunday 12 October: **Under 6 only** from 8am-9am.
- Sunday 19 October: all nippers. See timetable [here](#).

THE ESSENTIALS

- All nippers must wear their swimmers, pink rashie and Bronte SLSC age cap.
- Wetsuits are a great idea – the water is cold at the start of the season!
- Arrive on time to your Age Group flag, dressed and ready to go. Each Nipper **must sign in and sign out** of Nippers. Nippers who do not sign out may be missing and are phoned, so don't forget to sign out.
- Please take off your Nippers age cap and pink rashie after your session.
- Nippers is volunteer run and we need plenty of willing parents to assist, particularly in U6-U8. To do this, SLS requires parents to have either their 'Age Manager Award' or their Bronze Medallion plus a Working With Children Check number. A WWCC is free for volunteers ([apply here](#)).
- Age Manager Award: this is a short online course – see [here](#). The award enables you to wear a 'Yellow Cap' and help out on the beach, in the pool and in the bogey hole. In doing the course, we do not expect you to become age leaders! It is simply the SLSA prerequisite to assisting.
- For newly qualified yellow caps: [please complete this form](#) by Thursday to receive cap by Sunday of that week.
- Bronze Medallion: a current Bronze Medallion is required to help out in the ocean at Nippers (see [here](#) for details of the Bronze Medallion course).
- Qualified parents must wear their uniform (Age Manager white shirt, Water Safety orange rashie, or Yellow Cap). All other parents are requested to *remain nearby but not get involved.
- At Nippers, we get in the water at every opportunity! Swimming at Bronte is challenging and we do not teach nippers to swim. **We expect all nippers to be in regular, year-round swimming lessons or squads.** Those who are will be safer and have so much more confidence and fun.
- [Proficiencies for U8+](#): completion is pre-condition for participating at Nippers for U8+.
 - catch up pool proficiencies or re-swims will take place during normal Nippers timeslots in Bronte Pool over the first couple of weeks and must be completed before any ocean activities.

- ocean proficiencies for U9+ will take place from 19 October. Ocean swims will then take place every week we can!
- Storage: during the re-build, Club storage onsite is minimal, so the following is ever more important:
 - BYO board if you can. Make sure it is named.
 - Nippers may only use Club equipment **during their session**. If your child wants to stay on to catch waves, it must be on their own equipment.
 - All equipment needs to be brought to the storage unit **on time** at the end of your session, hosed down, and put away carefully. It is a tight fit and requires a careful team effort. The container needs to be locked by 11.15am. Without a Clubhouse, there is nowhere secure to store boards that are brought in late.
- *Finally - **Nippers is not 'drop and go'** – we are in a marine environment and parents are expected to remain present at Bronte Beach with eyes on their children. As with everything, the more you give, the more you get out of it, so we recommend you get qualified and pitch in – it's really rewarding!

WHAT'S NEW THIS SEASON?

If you're a returning Nipper, some things will feel different. They're different for all of us and we'll adapt as we need.

- Minimal office access: our temporary office is small - send an email! If you really need to speak to Tilly, come to the window as long as it is **outside of SRC training hours (see below)**.
- The Deck: our U14 SRC will be using the deck exclusively for SRC training from 7am-11am during the first 8 weeks of Nippers. Please do not enter during their training. Outside of training hours, remember the deck is a shared workspace with Council park staff and Council Lifeguards. Please keep it clear (no bags, no changing etc).
- Lost property: there is no space in our office for this! A lost property milk crate will be strapped to the deck and not locked away. Check its contents promptly. It will be emptied regularly.
- Storage: as above, this is limited and public facing. All Club equipment needs to be washed down, stored carefully and locked in the container on time after Nippers.
- No Clubhouse steps for 'stuff': travel light! Arrive dressed for Nippers and holding your essentials.
- No kiosk: come pre-caffinated! The BBQ will be on hand for breakfast.
- Fundraising goals: every little bit counts! If you're able to contribute to our fundraising goals, please check out options on [this page](#), contact fundraising@brontesurfclub.com.au or donate [here](#).

MERCHANDISE/UNIFORMS

The merchandise stall will be open (**card only**):

- Friday 10 October: 3pm-5.30pm
- Friday 17 October: 3pm-5.30pm
- Sunday 12 October: 7.45am-9.30am
- Sunday 19 October (and all Nippers Sundays thereafter): 8am -11am

We recommend attending on the Fridays if possible - the queues on the first day of Nippers can be long.

BBQ

Each Nipper group will be rostered on to assist with the BBQ **from 8am-11am** (a full morning!). BUT: most groups will only be rostered on once for the whole season. What a great way to help out our Club – no experience required! BBQ roster is [here](#).

WATER SAFETY (BRONZE MEDALLION HOLDERS)

- **Final Skills Maintenance 15 November, 8am and 9.30am:** (penultimate session on 12 October now full) Make sure you have signed up. [All information is here.](#) The Club has now held many sessions – there will be no more after 15 November.
- Please sign in to each group you assist with at the table in front of the deck. Hours cannot be retrospectively allocated.
- Water safety are expected to volunteer 30 hours per season. Check your SLS Hub regularly. Shortfalls can be made up via patrol hours or volunteering at the Bondi-to-Bronte.

CHILD SAFETY AT BRONTE

Bronte SLSC takes child safety – prevention of harm, injury, abuse or exploitation – very seriously. If you have, see or hear of any concerns, please immediately contact Ant, Jess or the Child Safe Committee (childsaf@brontesurfclub.com.au). Keep an eye out for regular guidance and tips from the Child Safe Committee in our Club newsletter.

BOARD AND SAND TRAINING U9-U14

The Club offers terrific additional board training and sand training for Nippers who are interested in improving their skills and representing Bronte at Nipper carnivals.

[All the info is here!](#) Please read it carefully and note that:

- a season fee is payable for training
- there are 3 levels of board training: beginners, development and competition. All those who sign up to board training (including beginners) must have their own board - **the Club does not lend, rent or sell boards** but offers a buy-back program for foam boards. Water safety is required.
- training commences 17 October (sand) and 21 October (boards). It takes place at Bronte and at Bondi.

NIPPER BOARD CARE

We have rationalised our fleet of boards to fit in the container, but have kept the best of the best! Please:

- handle them / put them away CAREFULLY. Most damage occurs off the water.
- CHECK the fiberglass boards before paddling - if they are cracked, they'll become waterlogged when used and harder to fix.
- REPORT any damage: mark the damage with the red tape in the Nippers container; ideally photograph the damage + the board number and send to nippers@brontesurfclub.com.au; bring the damaged board to the office. The quicker we know about the damage, the better chance we have to fix it.

- the nippers will be embarrassed about damaging the boards. We don't mind if boards are accidentally damaged at Nippers - but we do want to know when they have been damaged so we can fix them.
- Redbacks are for U6-U8 ONLY. Big kids – please leave them for the younger ones.

NIPPERS CARNIVALS

Nipper Carnivals are a great way to meet new nippers, challenge yourself and improve skills. Local carnivals (Participation Carnivals) are hosted by various Clubs on most weekends and are open to all proficient nippers and links to Carnival Calendars (Sydney Branch / Sydney Northern Beaches Branch) are [here](#). For interested U9-U14, please diarise these key dates (some carnivals also open to U8):

- Sunday 9 November: Waverley Shield at North Bondi
- Saturday 31 January and Sunday 8 February: [Sydney Branch Championships \(U9+\)](#) at Bate Bay
- Thursday 19 February - Sunday 22 February: [SLS NSW State Championships](#) at Swansea Belmont SLSC

We encourage all U8-U14 Nippers to attend the Waverley Shield. Branch and State Championships (Championship Carnivals) are only for U9+ competitive kids who train.

Carnivals are volunteer run (SLSA is Australia's largest volunteer organisation!). **Every family who sends a child to a carnival is expected to volunteer at that Carnival** either as water safety (Bronze Medallion required) or as an official (short course - [details here](#)) or in a very small range of other roles. Please discuss with your child whether they would like to compete this season and **complete your qualifications early**.

WAVERLEY SHIELD NIPPERS CARNIVAL (U8 - U14) – SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER

The Waverley Shield Nippers Carnival is a friendly, annual competition between the surf clubs of the Waverley Council area. It's a great morning for all interested kids to 'have a go' at competing amongst club mates, school mates, and new mates in a familiar environment.

The Carnival is held at North Bondi and **is volunteer run**. Each Club is responsible for one area (for Bronte, it's U8) but is also responsible for fulfilling volunteer roles in all areas. All age groups from U8-U14 can expect to play a role (set up, pack down, water safety, officials etc). Many of the jobs are small and many hands make light work! More to come, but if you know your child is keen to compete, please be prepared.

CLUB TRAINING EVENTS FOR BRONZIE ADULTS & CADETS

The Club has a terrific range of training for adult members:

- Sunday Surf Race at 11am on Sundays. Handicapped swim race around the cans, available to all proficient Bronze Medallion holders, SRC, and Competition Squad members.
- Swim group with Garry Luscombe, Wednesdays 6am at Bondi (meet in front of North Bondi SLSC). Contact the office to sign up to the WhatsApp group.
- Paddle groups for proficient Bronze Medallion and SRC holders - join the relevant Club WhatsApp groups for details. Intermediate paddlers usually meet at 6am Tuesdays and 3.30pm Sundays.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU DOWN AT THE BEACH!!

Nippers Committee: Anthony Burrows, Jess Stewart, Al Visch, Amy Sharma, Neil Hayward