



HAMPTON NIPPERS – INFORMATION PACK

WHO ARE WE?



Hampton Life Saving Club (HLSC) is one of 53 Victorian lifesaving clubs who run Australia's iconic Nippers Program. We are very proud to operate one of the biggest and most popular junior activities programs in Bayside. Our club sits on the foreshore at Hampton Beach between Small and Orlando Streets.

HLSC has been patrolling Hampton beach for over 100 years. We have over 900 members of all ages and abilities, and from a diverse range of

backgrounds. Many of our members have progressed through the junior ranks to become senior lifesavers, surf sport competitors and management team members.

We are a family-friendly club, focused on providing inclusive programs, activities and events for all our members. Most importantly, we have fun – whether that be through lifesaving, sports (competition), junior activities or social events.

WHAT IS NIPPERS?

Nippers is a great way for children to make friends, be active, and enjoy the beach in a safe environment. In Victoria there are over 8,000 nippers aged between 5 and 13 years old who hit our beaches as part of the Junior Development Program each summer. This includes approximately 400 nippers at Hampton Beach (just in front of the lifesaving club).

Our program includes a combination of **beach activities** (flags, sprints, relays, games), **water activities** (swimming, wading, boards, surf skis and simulated rescues), as well as **surf education** (with both theory and practical safety topics, which are tailored for each age group).

Upon completion of enough program elements, Nippers qualify for a SLSA Surf Education Award that will be presented at our Junior Presentation Day on 18th March 2017.

The transition to lifesaving activities starts in the Under 14's group. During the season, U14's work towards gaining their Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) which allows them to start their patrolling life on the beach, and to enter other development pathways. They also provide coaching support to our youngest Nipper age groups.

NEW NIPPER PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Saturday 5th November, 2pm at HLSC Clubroom.





Please be aware that Nippers is not a learn-to-swim program. All participants in the Under 8 age groups and above must meet SLSA and LSV water competency requirements to be able to progress beyond shallow water. Our assessors will conduct a preliminary assessment before a Nipper starts the program at Under 8 and above. This compulsory assessment is not a pass/fail – it simply allows us to formally register the competency of everyone entering the water.

Please note that we will not allow Nippers beyond shallow water until they have passed the minimum criteria outlined in the table at the end of this document. So depending on volunteer availability, we may ask those parents to get wet!

WHEN & HOW DOES NIPPERS RUN?



The 2016-17 program will run at Hampton every Saturday afternoon (3pm-4.30pm) from **19th November 2016 to 18th March 2017**, with a 2 week break over Christmas.

Each age group has its own curriculum and they are run separately to each other. For some ages, there may be more than one group. Each group has a dedicated Age Manager and assistant. Parents are also encouraged to get involved in supporting the activities.

On the first day (19th November), we will conduct our junior preliminary assessments to ensure that our volunteers are aware of each participant's competency in the water.

For those Nippers who wish to compete, there are seven carnivals through the season, which culminate in the Victorian Junior State Championships on 11th-12th March 2017 at Warrnambool. For further information on competitions and lifesaving sport, please contact Michael Pratt (sport@hlsc.org.au).

For all Nippers, competing or not, the HLSC Nippers Presentation Day will take place on 18th March 2017. This is a fun-filled afternoon of games and activities and every child is recognised for his or her accomplishments over the season.



WHAT ARE THE AGE GROUP REQUIREMENTS FOR NIPPERS?

In Australia, the minimum age for children to participate in Nippers is 5 years (Under 6) up to a maximum of 13 years (Under 14) on a seasonal basis. Children cannot be registered for the program, or as members of any club before their 5th birthday.

Nippers are placed into a particular age group based on their **age on 30th September** – a new member's date of birth will be validated when our registrar sights their birth certificate or passport. For the 2016-2017 season, the group placing, education program and minimum water competencies are:

GROUP	DATE OF BIRTH	SURF ED PROGRAM	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
Under 6	1 st Oct 2010 to 30 th Sept 2011	Surf Play 1	Nil (shallow water only)
Under 7	1 st Oct 2009 to 30 th Sept 2010	Surf Play 2	Nil (shallow water only)
Under 8	1 st Oct 2008 to 30 th Sept 2009	Surf Aware 1	25m swim + 1 min survival float
Under 9	1 st Oct 2007 to 30 th Sept 2008	Surf Aware 2	25m swim + 1 min survival float
Under 10	1 st Oct 2006 to 30 th Sept 2007	Surf Safe 1	25m swim (freestyle) + 1½ min survival float
Under 11	1 st Oct 2005 to 30 th Sept 2006	Surf Safe 2	50m swim (freestyle) + 2 mins survival float
Under 12	1 st Oct 2004 to 30 th Sept 2005	Surf Smart 1	100m swim (freestyle) + 2 mins survival float
Under 13	1 st Oct 2003 to 30 th Sept 2004	Surf Smart 2	150m swim (freestyle) + 3 mins survival float
Under 14	1 st Oct 2002 to 30 th Sept 2003	Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC)	200m swim+ 3 mins survival float

These allocations are automatically designated by SLSA when you register your lifesaving account. Please note that we are not able to accommodate any changes in Age Groups.

Please Note: proof of age is required for all new Nipper Members. Please bring a birth certificate, passport or immunisation certificate to the Nipper Parent Information Session or email to: membership@hlsc.org.au .

HOW MUCH DOES NIPPERS COST?

The program at Hampton is run entirely by volunteers, however every year we need to purchase and maintain a vast amount of junior and lifesaving equipment, as well as our facilities.

We charge a flat fee of \$260 per family per season, plus \$20 for each child participating in one of our programs (whether that be Nippers, Starfish for special needs, or YIPS for older children). This fee is discounted to \$140 in subsequent seasons for those who take on a volunteer role such as Age Group Manager, Coach, Water Safety Officer or other Club Official (subject to a minimum number of volunteer hours being verified for the previous season).



Please note that every Nipper must purchase an official club Rash-Vest from our Gear Shop if they do not already have one. They will also need a broad-brim hat, filled water bottle, bathers, towel, goggles and sun block, some of which can be purchased from the Shop.

WHEN AND HOW CAN I APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

Our program will be open to new registrations from **Wednesday the 5th October 2016** until age groups are full. This is after our existing club members have been given a chance to renew their memberships and we know how many spaces are available. Please note our Program is popular and most younger age groups do fill up fairly quickly. We will send out notifications on our Website and Facebook page with a link to an **Expression of Interest** page, where you will be able to request spaces in our program. Once/if accepted, you will then be asked to register as a member of HLSC on the SLSA Portal.

Please note that membership is only confirmed, and participation in our programs can only start, upon completion of all membership criteria; including **registration** for **all** family members, full **payment**, and a **Working with Children Check** assigned to HLSC and LSV. You must complete all formalities before the 19th November in order to reserve your space.

DEVELOPMENT AND PATHWAYS



Our Nippers program is the beginning of a rewarding lifesaving journey – with pathways to Sports/Competition, Patrolling, Coaching/Training, Youth Involvement, Leadership Development and community work.

We are very proud to have a strong and growing Sports team that competes both within Victoria and nationally in a number of surf, beach and pool disciplines at Junior, Senior and Masters levels. A growing number of our Nippers are training for and competing in Summer Surf and Winter Pool Carnivals on top of their Junior Activities commitments.

Each year we nominate a few older Nippers to participate in various leadership & development camps with LSV, which provides a unique experience to make friends and learn from other clubs and mentors. In return, they bring this experience back to our club to help us improve our own skills and programs.

Upon graduation from the Nippers Program there are a variety of pathways that allow former Nippers to further deepen their lifesaving and community skills as they see fit. Whether that be as a Patroller, IRB crew/driver, Competitor, Coach/Trainer, or in any number of non-patrolling officer roles within the club. The gateway to these pathways is through our Youth Involvement Program (YIPS) – we encourage all Nippers graduates to become involved in our Youth program in order to continue enjoying their lifesaving experience. More information on YIPS can be found on our website.

LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED?

We need volunteers to help run our programs and activities – it's not hard and not much work as you will be on the beach anyway and you will find it the most rewarding and enjoyable experience. Roles include Age Managers who run the program, Coaches and Water Safety Officers (Bronze Medallion required) and you get take part in the program directly with your children. Previous experience is not

necessary and full training and accreditation (where necessary) will be provided so please get in touch with us if you are interested in taking on a volunteer role within the club.

WHAT ARE MY OBLIGATIONS TO THE CLUB?



We are all volunteers, and we ask that all parents (or guardians) get involved in some way in order to keep the costs of our programs to a reasonable level. All parents or guardians attending the club need to be members, and will automatically be assigned a club duty around 2-3 times per season unless they are a registered volunteer. These duties include Age Group helper, BBQ/Kiosk helper or Gear Shop helper.

We require parents or guardians to remain **on the beach** during Nippers, and specifically within earshot of either their child's Age Group Manager or the club's PA system. This is important as we must be able to immediately locate a parent in the unlikely event of injury or other incident. There are also occasions where we need to reunite lost children with parents during or after a session. Note: Nippers is explicitly not a "drop-off" program.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

Victorian legislation requires that all club members over 18 must hold a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC), registered to both HLSC and Lifesaving Victoria (LSV), regardless of club duties or vocation. This is a simple process requiring the presentation of the appropriate form at your local post office, or if you already hold a WWCC with another organisation (including your vocation such as teacher or police officer) – you can add our organisations online at the Department of Justice website.

There are no exceptions to this policy, with membership only being accepted when the club receives notification directly from the Department of Justice. Please see our website for more information on WWCC requirements.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please check our Website (<http://www.hlsc.org.au/>) and Facebook page for current detailed information. If you still have questions, please drop us an email at nippers@hlsc.org.au but please note that it might take a few days for our volunteers to get back to you.

On behalf of the Management Team at Hampton LSC, we look forward to welcoming you to our Program.

Murray James

**Director – Junior
Activities**

juniors@hlsc.org.au

