

Media Release – Shellharbour Spirit at Coolangatta Gold!

Shellharbour Surf Life Saving Club was well represented at the recent 2010 Coolangatta Gold surf life saving event held on the Gold Coast on the 7th November.

The gruelling event consists of a 23km ski paddle, 3.5km swim, run legs totalling 14km and a 5.5km board paddle. The event is one of the highlights of the Australian Ironperson season.

Paul Schloeffel, Ray Hobson, Paul Richards, Kyle Glazier and Dene Boyton all from the Shellharbour Surf Life Saving Club made the trek to Kurrawa on the Gold Coast to compete in the event this year. They were supported by a loyal support crew of four Shellharbour members who handled their gear at the transition points in the race and paddled with them during the swim leg.

Conditions were challenging, with big seas and a strong southerly wind. For the first time in the race's history, officials elected for a deep water start (where the ski paddlers make their way out to beyond the surf break prior to race start and then start the race out the back).

Paul Richards, Kyle Glazier and Dene Boyton competed in the Team section of the event and finished in a creditable 6 hours, 44 minutes 28 seconds.

In the Individual Masters section, Paul Schloeffel was pleased to finish in 6 hours, 51 minutes and 15 seconds. Ray Hobson battled tough conditions for 2 hours before being timed out of the event.

For Paul Schloeffel, the spirit of Shellharbour was alive and well, with everyone trying to support each other when they could throughout the race. He, Ray and Dene are no strangers to the event, having competed as part of a team previously. This was his first attempt at the entire event and he was satisfied to complete it, having to forego hopes of a sub 6 hour time due to the very challenging conditions.

Paul is a busy member of Shellharbour Surf Club, as he is also the Club's Chief Instructor, which involves him facilitating the education of volunteer surf life savers.

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