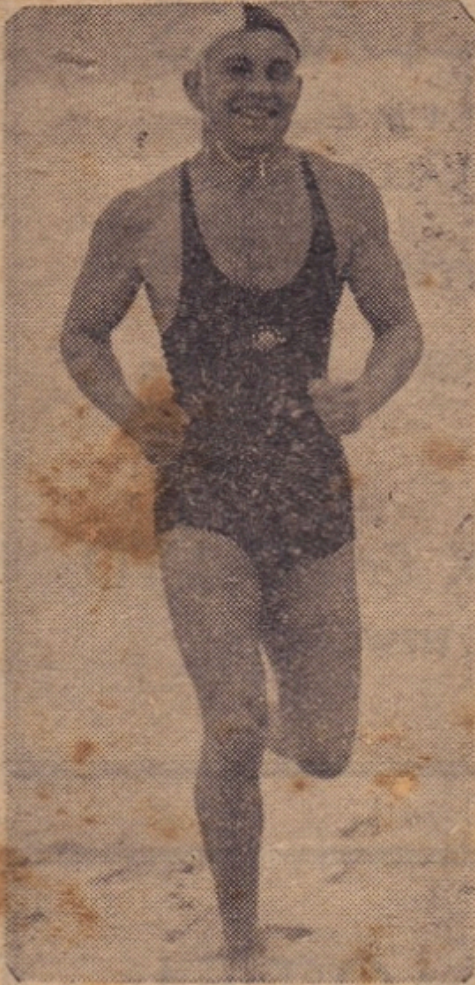


# Bill Clarke - School Captain 1942 and Top Sportsman

## CLUB PERSONALITIES



### **BILL CLARKE**

Bill Clarke, Deputy President of Newcastle Club, was one of the district's outstanding surfers for a number of seasons. At present he is still a force to be reckoned with, being a member of the Club's R. & R. Team and Open Surf representative.

Having occupied an official position for a number of years, Bill's experience as a solicitor, coupled with his interest in surfing administration, has proved of immense value to the Club.

Bill's formidable record is listed below.

N.S.W. Combined High Schools  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile Champion 1941-42.

Runner up N.S.W. all Schools  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile Championship 1941-42.

Runner-up N.S.W. Open Mile Championship 1941-42, 1945-46.

3rd N.S.W. Open Mile Championship 1946-47.

3rd N.S.W. Open  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile Championship 1942-43.

Snr. and Jnr. Club Champion 1943-44.

Northern Districts Snr. and Jnr. Surf and Belt Champion 1943-44.

Northern Districts Senior Surf and Belt Champion 1944-45.

Northern Districts Senior Belt Champion 1947-48.

Queensland Open Mile;  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile;  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile Champion 1944-45.

3rd Australian Open Surf Championship 1945-46.

Also a member of Northern District R. & R. and Surf Teams Champions on 5 occasions.

Various other places in N.S.W. Country and Northern Districts Still-water championships.

Runner up and place getter in various other Northern Districts Surf and Belt Championships.

1947.

— THAT BIG —

# SURF CARNIVAL

## NEWCASTLE BEACH

### Saturday, 8th February

AT 2.15 P.M.



BILLY CLARKE—Newcastle Club's Hope.



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**30 SURF - BOATS,  
SURF - SKIS  
and  
BOARDS**

— THE —  
**CARNIVAL  
NOBODY  
FORGETS**

\*\*\*\*\*

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Photo. by courtesy of "Newcastle Morning Herald."

## 500 SYDNEY LIFE-SAVERS

### FEATURING MAROUBRA'S LADIES MARCH PAST TEAM

**Price: 3/- (Reserves); 2/-; Children 6d. (Under 14).**

BOX PLAN AT MICK SIMMONS.

NEWCASTLE SURF LIFE-SAVING CLUB

MYER COHEN, President.

V. WATTS, Hon. Sec.

NORMAN DODDS, Hon. Treas.

H. M. Hutton, Printer, Regent St., New Lambton.

# Clarke kept resurfacing

1998

## Bill Clarke

BILL Clarke was 22 years old when he retired from competitive surf lifesaving.

That was in 1948 and his retirement lasted four years.

In 1957 he retired again and this time he was stayed away for eight years.

By the mid-1960s he once again came out of retirement.

Bill's surfing career began in 1940 when he joined Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club.

By then he was already a brilliant schoolboy swimmer, winning titles in the NSW Combined High Schools titles in 1941-42.

At the Newcastle branch surf championships at Stockton in 1943-44 he won the junior and senior belt double, the open and junior board, and the patient swim in the Rescue and Resuscitation.

It was considered the best performance at a branch championship in Newcastle until that of Swansea-Belmont's Guy Andrews in February, 1989, also at Stockton.

In 1944-45 the young Bill Clarke retained his senior belt and surf titles and continued to do well in stillwater swimming.

In that season he won the Allied Services 100m and 200m championships in Brisbane and the Queensland ASA's 440yd, 880yd, and mile championships.

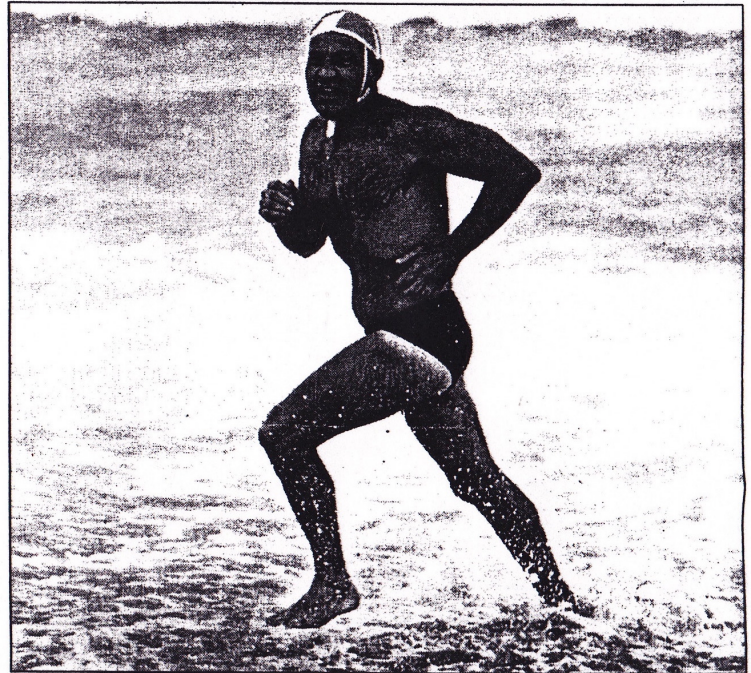
He finished second in the 220yd at the same championships.

He also participated in the Olympic Games Surf Carnival at Torquay, Victoria, in December, 1956.

This involved 35 teams from seven countries. Australia was represented by the States and NSW won both international and interstate events.

Bill Clarke finished fourth in the open surf race, in a field described as one of the 'hottest' ever to line up at an Australian carnival.

During World War II Bill served in the Royal Australian Navy and to keep himself fit he would dive overboard from the deck of a corvette and swim alongside while the sailors on deck kept sharks away by spraying the water with their automatic weapons.



On the beach: Bill Clarke competing in 1966.



**YOUTHFUL TENNIS STAR**—R. Clark, photographed with some of the cups which he has won during a remarkably successful career. A member of the Hill A grade team in the winter competition, he has won the high schools' singles championship four years in succession and is holder of the A.R. grade night championship title. At the Easter carnival he won the under 19 years championship. During the past 18 months he has won 15 championships. Clark, who is a high school student, has represented New South Wales schools three times against Queensland.

# TRAINED FOR TITLE AS GUNS HELD SHARKS OFF

TO hold his swimming form, W. P. Clark, of Newcastle, who won the 1500 metres freestyle title at the State championships at the Valley baths yesterday, on several occasions dived overboard from the deck of a corvette at sea, guarded from sharks by sailors on the decks armed with tommy guns.

The corvettes would be drawn up in the form of a square and a dozen, or more swimmers would dive in together.

Clark, who is a seaman in the R.A.N., trained seriously for only 12 days before the title race. As none of the Newcastle swimmers could give him a thorough try-out over the championship distance, he used relays of six swimmers, each covering about 200 metres at their top.

"On this preparation I thought the title would be beyond me," said Clark yesterday, "but I surprised myself by the improvement that resulted from these long daily swims."

Clark is a first-class life-saver, and the present holder of the Northern Districts (N.S.W.) surf and belt titles. One afternoon he won five life-saving titles, the senior and junior surf and belt championships and the patient swim.

To win these races he swam nearly two miles in a choppy surf.

Clark, who is only 19, covered the 30 lengths of the Valley baths in 22min. 49½sec. to win by a lap and a half. Taking the lead in the first lap, he was never headed. After 900 metres had been covered he led by a lap.

Brough, W. Clark, C. Michel, and H. Sandison.

Tremblet won the title in 1936 in 2.24 1-5, only 2-5sec. outside W. Fleming's record.

Iris Tubman and Denise Spencer, first and second in the 100 metres on Saturday, will clash again—in the 50 metres freestyle. Junior Diana Stansfield also is in this race. All three have figures around 32sec. for the distance.

Nancy Lyons will swim against Diana Stansfield in the 50 metres junior backstroke.

COMPETITIVE RECORD OF W. CLARKE.

Year	Place	Events.	
1941-42	First	N.S.W. Combined High Schools 880 Yds. Championship	
	First	N.S.W. Combined High Schools 440 Yds. Championship	
	Third	N.S.W. Combined High Schools 220 Yds. Championship	
	Second	N.S.W. All School 440 Yds. Championship	
	Second	N.S.W. ASA Senior Mile Championship	
1942-43	Third	N.S.W. ASA Senior 880 Yds. Championship	
	Second	N.S.W. ASA Intermediate 220 Yds. Championship	
	Second	N.S.W. ASA Senior 110 Yds. Country Championship	
	Second	N.S.W. ASA Senior 440 Yds. Country Championship	
	First	N.D.A.S.A. 8 x 110 Yds. Mens Relay Championship	
	Second	N.D.A.S.A. Mens 400 Metres Championship	
	Second	N.D.A.S.A. Mens 200 Metres Championship	
	Second	N.D.A.S.A. under 16 years 100 Metres Championship	
	Second	N.D.A.S.A. Mens 100 Metres Championship	
	1943-44	First	Inter Services 100 Yds. Championship Madang New Guinea.
First		Inter Services 200 Yds. Championship Madang New Guinea	
First		Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship	
First		Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Belt Championship	
First		Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Junior Surf Championship	
First		Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Junior Belt Championship	
First		Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. & Country Senior R. & R. Championship	
Third		N.S.W. ASA Senior 440 Yds. Championship	
First		Newcastle Surf Club Senior Club Championship	
First		Newcastle Surf Club Junior Club Championship	
1944-45		First	Allied Services 100 Metres Championship Brisbane
		First	Allied Services 200 Metres Championship Brisbane
		First	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship
	First	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Teams Championship	
	First	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Belt Championship	
	First	Queensland ASA Senior Mile Championship	
	First	Queensland ASA Senior 880 Yds. Championship	
	First	Queensland ASA Senior 440 Yds. Championship	
	Second	Queensland ASA Senior 220 Yds. Championship	
	Second	N.D.A.S.A. Mens 400 Metres Championship	
	First	N.D.A.S.A. Mens 10 x 50 Metres Relay Championship	
	1945-46	Second	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship
		Second	N.S.W. ASA Senior Mile Championship
1946-47	Third	Australian S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship	
	First	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Teams Championship	
1947-48	Second	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship	
	Third	N.S.W. ASA Senior Mile Championship	
1948-52	First	Australian S.L.S.A. (Non Championship) Surf Race	
1948-52	First	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Belt Championship	
1948-52		RETIRED FROM COMPETITION.	
1952-53	Second	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship	
	Fifth	N.S.W. S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship	
1953-54	First	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior R. & R. Championship	
	Fourth	N.S.W. S.L.S.A. Senior R. & R. Championship	
	Second	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship	
1954-55	Eighth	N.S.W. S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship	
	First	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior R. & R. Championship	
	Ninth	N.S.W. S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship	
	Third	N.S.W. S.L.S.A. Senior R. & R. Championship	
	Second	Australian S.L.S.A. Open (NON Championship) Surf Race	
	First	N.D.A.S.A. Mens 4 x 110 Yds. Relay Championship	
	Second	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship	
1955-56	First	Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Senior R. & R. Championship	
	Second	N.S.W. S.L.S.A. Senior R. & R. Championship	
	Seventh	N.S.W. S.L.S.A. Senior Surf Championship	
	Fourth	Member of N.S.W. S.L.S.A. State Surf Team. (Captain)	
1956-57	Fourth	International Surf Race Torquay	
	First	Newcastle Branch Senior R. & R. Championship	
	First	Newcastle Branch Senior Teams Championship	

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD.

Holder of S.L.S.A. Instructors Certificate since 20th February, 1944.

Newcastle Branch S.L.S.A. Vice-President 1955-56-57.

Newcastle Surf Club President 1956-57. Previously Deputy President and Instructor in Chief.

6th Month

JUNE 1943

30 Days

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE  
TOWN CLERK. BOX 489F, P.O.  
NEWCASTLE  
TELEPHONE NO.  
B 1571 (9 LINES)



IN FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE  
ON THIS SUBJECT PLEASE  
QUOTE REF. NO.

25/1-48/4204

O'M:BB.

CITY HALL,  
NEWCASTLE.

N.S.W.

15th April, 1948.

~~THE GREATER NEWCASTLE  
AND  
HUNTER VALLEY  
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS  
5TH TO 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1947~~

Mr. W. Clarke,  
18 Hunter Street,  
NEWCASTLE.

Dear Sir,

By direction of the Council I desire to refer to the splendid work performed by you and those associated with you in the rescue work performed when two youths were washed to sea adjacent to the Bogey Hole Baths.

The meritorious act and great courage displayed by those who took part has been noted in the Council's records and on behalf of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, I take this opportunity of commending you for the part you played in the face of great difficulties and at such personal risk.

Yours faithfully,

TOWN CLERK.

S.L.S.A. OF AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. STATE CENTRE

**WINNERS INTERSTATE PREMIERSHIP  
AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEST,  
TORQUAY, VICTORIA, 1956**



*D. HORNE*

BACK ROW

B. Hutchins (Bondi), B. Lumsdane (Freshwater), J. Rodgers (Maroubra), B. Bourke (Cronulla), J. Vaughan (North Wollongong).  
B. Lawrence (Newcastle).

FRONT ROW

B. Taylor (Manly), J. McPhee (Freshwater), L. McDonald (Manager-Coch), W. Clarke (Newcastle, Capt.), P. Manning (Maroubra).