

Rip Swim 2021

WHY

With social and competition opportunities for 2020-21 likely to be limited due to the current COVID pandemic, I am keen to develop some flexible small group alternatives that bring youth members together.

“The Rip” between Portsea/Point Nepean and Point Lonsdale is a 3.2km stretch of water that has recently become more accessible for swimming. For the past 5 years, Grant Siedle of The Rip Swim has organised logistics and water safety for over 20 swims, with nearly 500 swimmers safely making the crossing including Anglesea SLSC members Colin Brodie, Ryan Nolan, Ingiliby Dickson, Nick Hinsley, Naantali Marshall and myself.

I am inviting 20 ASLSC Youth Members (post Nippers) aged 13-17 years to be a part of this project. Groups of 5 swimmers of the same ability would be escorted across the rip with a paddler and boat support. Participants would need to swim 3km in around 1 hour as a minimum. A preliminary date has been made for Anglesea SLSC youth members to swim on 20 or 21 January 2021.

TRAINING & PREPARATION

A preliminary online information session will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 8 October via Zoom, and I hope potential swimmers and their parents can join to discuss the project and hear from myself and Grant Siedle.

Training opportunities should become increasingly available over the next few weeks with an easing on pool and travel restrictions. Small, COVID-safe group training will commence as Victorian restrictions permit and will be based at both Anglesea and Port Phillip Bay venues.

TEST SWIM & PLAN B ALTERNATIVE

A trial swim will be an important part of the project to ensure 5-person teams can stay together and are fit enough to complete the crossing. A test swim in early-mid January will be held at Anglesea over a 1km, 2km or 3km swim. In the event of changing COVID restrictions that prevent proceeding with the entirety of the project, or individual swimmers not yet able to achieve the required standard/confidence level, this event will serve as a standalone achievement for the project.

Please feel free to contact me via youthdevelopment@angleseaslsc.org.au to ask any questions and register your interest.

Sam Hume
Youth Development Director.

