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Press Release

Victorian Lifesaver Event State Titles

On Thursday 26 January 2006 Jan Juc SLSC made its mark in the first battle of this season's Victorian Titles by taking out the Open Champion Patrol and Open Men's Champion Lifesaver events.

In what can only be described as oppressive heat, with temperatures soaring into the 40's, the Jan Juc Lifesaving Team (consisting of David Ulbrick, Stephen Iannazzo, Paul Iannazzo, Dominik White, Mick Ryan and Dean Sibun) sweated it out at South Melbourne Lifesaving Club and ultimately came away winners.

In the Champion Lifesaver event, David (Dave) Ulbrick narrowly edged out David Scambaro of Ocean Grove SLSC (who finished with 105 points) to take first place with a total of 106 points out of a possible 120. The result means that Dave Ulbrick qualifies to represent Victoria at the Australian Titles held in Queensland in late March. Stalwart Matthew Culka of St. Kilda finished in third place with a total of 92 points. In the end it was the theory paper that won the day for Dave. Dave was pleased with the win "it's great to be back in the winners circle," he said after the event, "but it's a long way to Aussies and the competition up there is red-hot so I have a lot of work ahead."

With one only one spot for Aussies up for grabs the Champion Patrol, which sees teams battling it out over a theory paper, surf teams race, board-tube-rescue relay, resuscitation and a patrol scenario, was also hotly contested.

The team from Jan Juc narrowly outscored long-time rivals Ocean Grove in the resuscitation component. Ocean Grove fought back in the physical events and tie in the theory meant that it was always going to be decided in the scenario.

The scenario sees teams pitted against all manner of happenings on a beach including irate cricket players, drowning swimmers, heart-attack victims and enquiring beach-goers. Teams are scored on how well they manage the situation given the resources at their disposal. The seasoned team from Jan Juc drew on their experience and scored strongly in the scenario aspect to finish five points up from the team from Ocean Grove at the end of the day.

"I was really pleased with that result," said Steve Iannazzo, a long time member of the Lifesaving Team, "especially because Ocean Grove came here today and put up a real fight. It was a really good battle, but I'm happy that we won!"

For the Jan Juc team the spot at Aussies is assured however that means some hard training between now and the end of March. "We went well," said new star recruit

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P. O. BOX 179, TORQUAY, VICTORIA, 3228
Club Office: 03 5261 2755 Fax: 03 5261 2755 Club Phone: 03 5261 2602
Email: info@janjucsurfclub.com.au Website: www.janjucsurfclub.com.au

Dean Sibun, “but there are definitely some areas we need to work on and grow as a team.”

Jan Juc SLSC is one of the most active and vibrant surf lifesaving clubs in Victoria and welcomes new members. The Club has a strong family focus and conducts a raft of lifesaving, social and competitive activities. For more information surf the information super-highway to the Club’s website at www.janjucsurfclub.com.au.