October 2011

SOUTH NARRABEEN LIFESAVER ANDY CROSS HONOURED AS 'NIKON CLUBBIE OF THE YEAR' WINNER

Andy wins $5,000 for his club and $5,000 for himself!

This weekend saw South Narabeen's Andy Cross recognised as the 'Nikon Clubbie of the Year' 2011. In addition to being recognised by the community, his peers and the country's leading Ironmen and women, Andy was presented with $5,000 cash plus a Nikon AW100 camera for himself, and $5,000 cash for his surf club, in addition to $1,000 worth of Nikon gear credits raised through the community votes.

The inaugural 'Nikon Clubbie of the Year' award was presented by Ironman legend Trevor Hendy at the prestigious national Awards of Excellence in Sydney on Saturday. This people's choice award was designed to recognise the commitment and passion shown by Surf Life Saving clubbies across the country, and allow Nikon and the community to show their appreciation and give back.

Andy from South Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club faced incredibly tough nationwide competition from some inspirational fellow surf lifesavers. After a public vote Andy was honoured as the winner out of 116 clubbies nationwide, nominated by their peers for the award.

Andy was one of only two finalists from NSW. He was joined in the final by Brett Riley from Ocean Beach NSW, Kerie Allen from Wonthaggi VIC, Michelle Jacobson and Robert Pollock from Mooloolaba and Kurrawa, QLD and Alex Daw from Glenelg, SA.

Andy's place in the 'Nikon Clubbie of the Year' final was due to his complete dedication to South Narrabeen Surf Life Saving club and his role as a clubbie. Andy loves the family environment and sense of community at his South Narrabeen surf club. His favourite thing about being a clubbie is being able to share his knowledge of the ocean with others. Andy has achieved all SLS awards including the Gold Medallion and in 2009 he also won the Harry Ragan Outstanding Service Award.

Andy feels that winning this award will really make a huge difference to South Narrabeen Life Saving Club at a local level. The $5,000 dollars which he has won for his club will help with much needed renovations and also help them buy the vital equipment which they need to keep their beach and members of the local community safe.

As someone who knows just how vital surf lifesavers are to the Australian way of life and how much dedication and sacrifice is involved is Australian Ironman legend Trevor Hendy, who has spent the past three weeks encouraging Australians to get behind their clubbies and vote:

"I'm so proud to have been part of the Nikon Clubbie of the Year award, there were some truly inspirational people nominated and reading all the entries made me incredibly proud to be Australian."

"Andy is a fantastic representation of the Australian way of life. He has contributed an incredible amount of time and dedication to saving the lives of others and is a deserving winner."

Nikon developed Clubbie of the Year as a way of recognising the huge commitment surf lifesavers make to the community. During voting stage, every vote placed for a clubbie generated a $10 contribution redeemable for Nikon gear credits for their surf club, up to $1,000 per club.

With $114,660 raised as a result, this will make a real difference to clubs across Australia at local level and go towards vital life saving equipment like the high-powered binoculars Nikon contributed to every SLS club nationally earlier this year.

All five runners up have received $1,000 cash for themselves and $1,000 cash for their club plus the new Nikon COOLPIX AW 100 shockproof, freezeproof and waterproof camera. To further support Surf Life Saving, Nikon is also making a $10 contribution to Surf Life Saving for every AW 100 sold (*for a limited time).

For more information about the competition visit nikonclubbieoftheyear.com.au

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