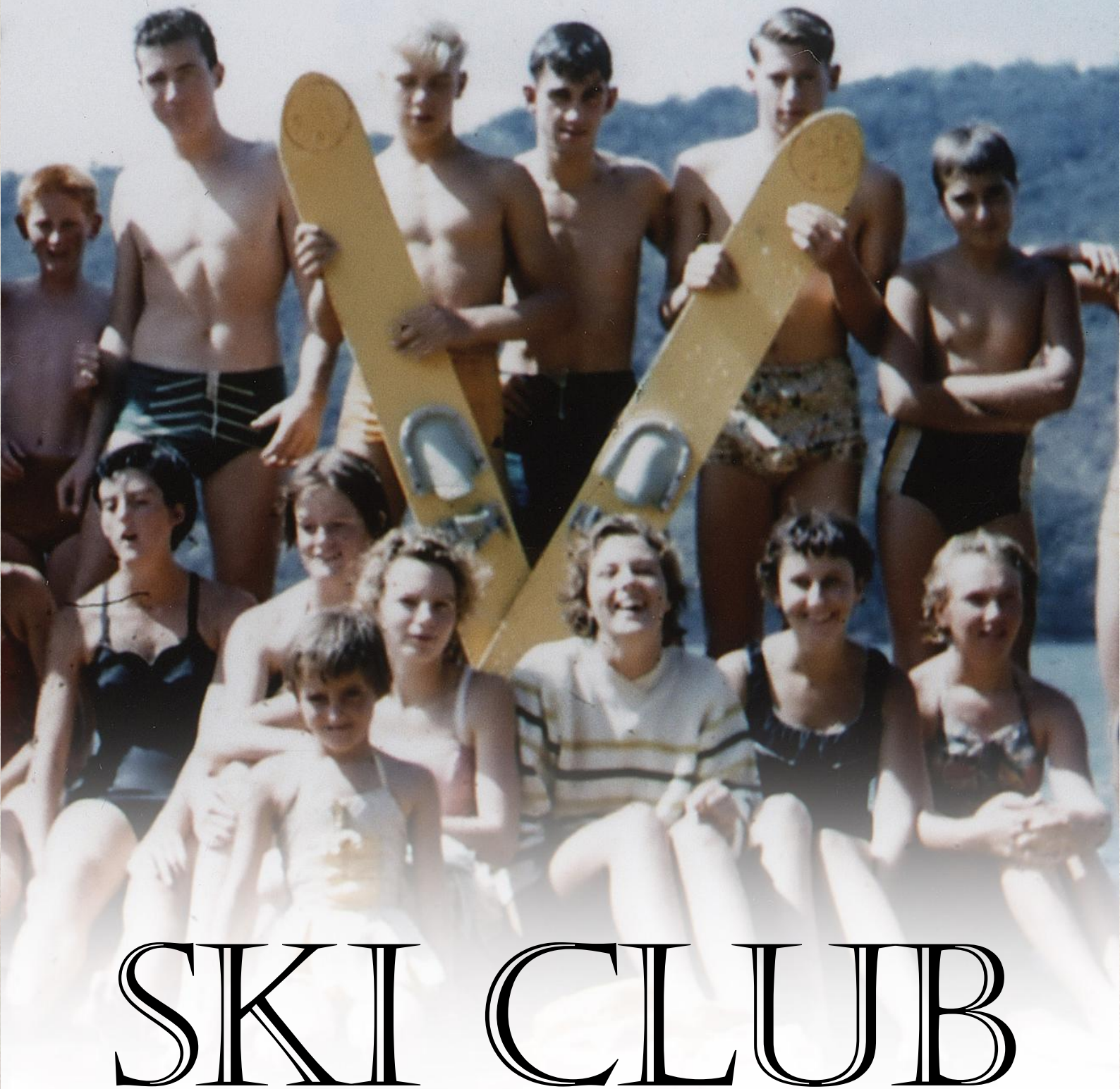


FILDON TENAGE



SKI CLUB



HERITAGE
SERIES

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB

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HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB

Name: Eildon Teenage Ski Club
Location: Eildon
Established: Late 1950s
Ended: Circa 1970

The Eildon Teenage Ski Club was established in the late 1950s and was an extremely successful club for teenagers wishing to learn to ski and develop in this new aquatic recreational sport.



Lake Eildon was established 1956 after the flooding of the 'Big Eildon Project', a dam upgrade to the smaller Sugarloaf Weir - located at Eildon in Central Victoria. Mac Myers, a mechanic who owned and ran 'Mac's Eildon Auto Service and lived in Eildon, had a strong interest in boating and skiing, even buying his own ski boats (*Nipper* and *Gee-Whiz*. *Gee-Whiz* was a large ski boat powered by an eight cylinder engine and was powerful enough to reach speeds in excess of 30 miles per hour and pull up to six teenage skiers or three adult skiers at one time.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB

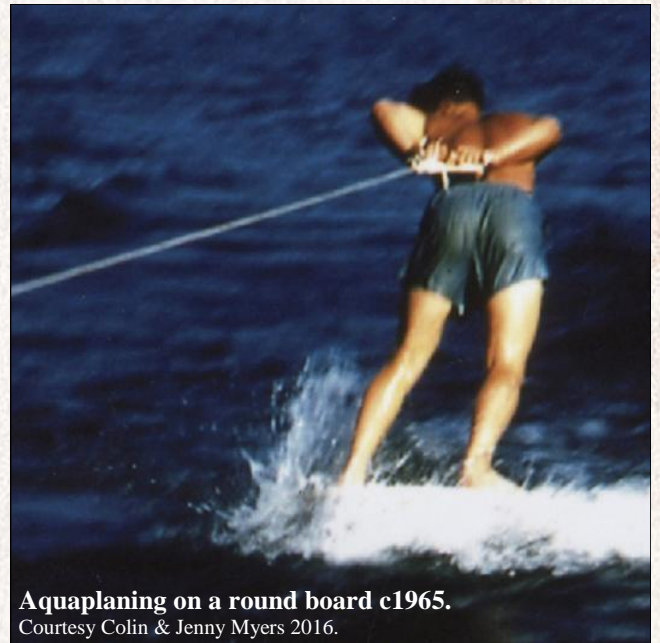
The club ran from a small floatable jetty located between the Eldon Boat Harbour (then owned by Sid Rosan) and the private Boat Club. Boats would enter the water at public boat ramps and then travel to the jetty where teenagers would be waiting.

Sid Rosan owned one of the early cruisers on Lake Eildon named *Seagull*. He used the cruiser for aquaplaning (where a flat board attached to the back of the cruiser via two ropes, was pulled through the water with enough speed to keep the board above water). However this was still slow and people yearned for more speed.

Mac Myers was an early adopter of skiing on Lake Eildon and responsible for the early establishment of the sport on the Melbourne side of the lake. He engineered his own skis from pictures in an early issue of the American 'Popular Mechanics' magazine. The imagery did not indicate length and width of the skis with any accuracy, so Mac designed them as best he could. His first skis were long and wide boards with tennis shoes bolted to them. These early homemade skis were successful and are now an important part of the history of skiing on the lake.

It did not take long for Mac to become an accomplished skier and move to teaching others to ski. Participants were often so impressed with skiing the lake - that they would return home and buy their own ski boat and equipment. They would then return to the lake over and over - becoming part of the early promotion of Lake Eildon as a recreational boating destination.

All of this was happening after the end of World War II and the Korean War - a time when Australian tourists were eagerly looking for new and exciting travel destinations and recreational activities. Lake Eildon quickly became an important tourist destination for Melbournites who could end work on a Friday, jump in a vehicle and be on the lakes edge within just a few hours of easy driving - even with their boat trailer in tow.



Aquaplaning on a round board c1965.
Courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers 2016.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB

The Eildon Teenage Ski Club was established during this time (late 1950s) and Mac was instrumental in setting up the club and teaching teenagers to ski. He generally covered the costs of running and fuelling his boat himself and freely supplied skis and early life jackets (belts with blocks of polystyrene in them).

The belts were made of a heavy grade canvas which were even heavier when wet. It was not uncommon for belts to slip down due to their weight when wet. This period was prior to wetsuits, boat licences and significant regulation of boating on inland waterways. This made it easier for early adopters of the sport to setup and get skiing.

Club meetings were usually held at Mac's home and ski lessons were generally held over an entire day. Club meetings were held most weekends during summer and skiing conducted on at least one day of each weekend.

During lessons, Mac would only allow people to fall off three times before giving someone else a turn. It is reported by a former member of the club that he would 'growl' if people got frightened and let the rope go.

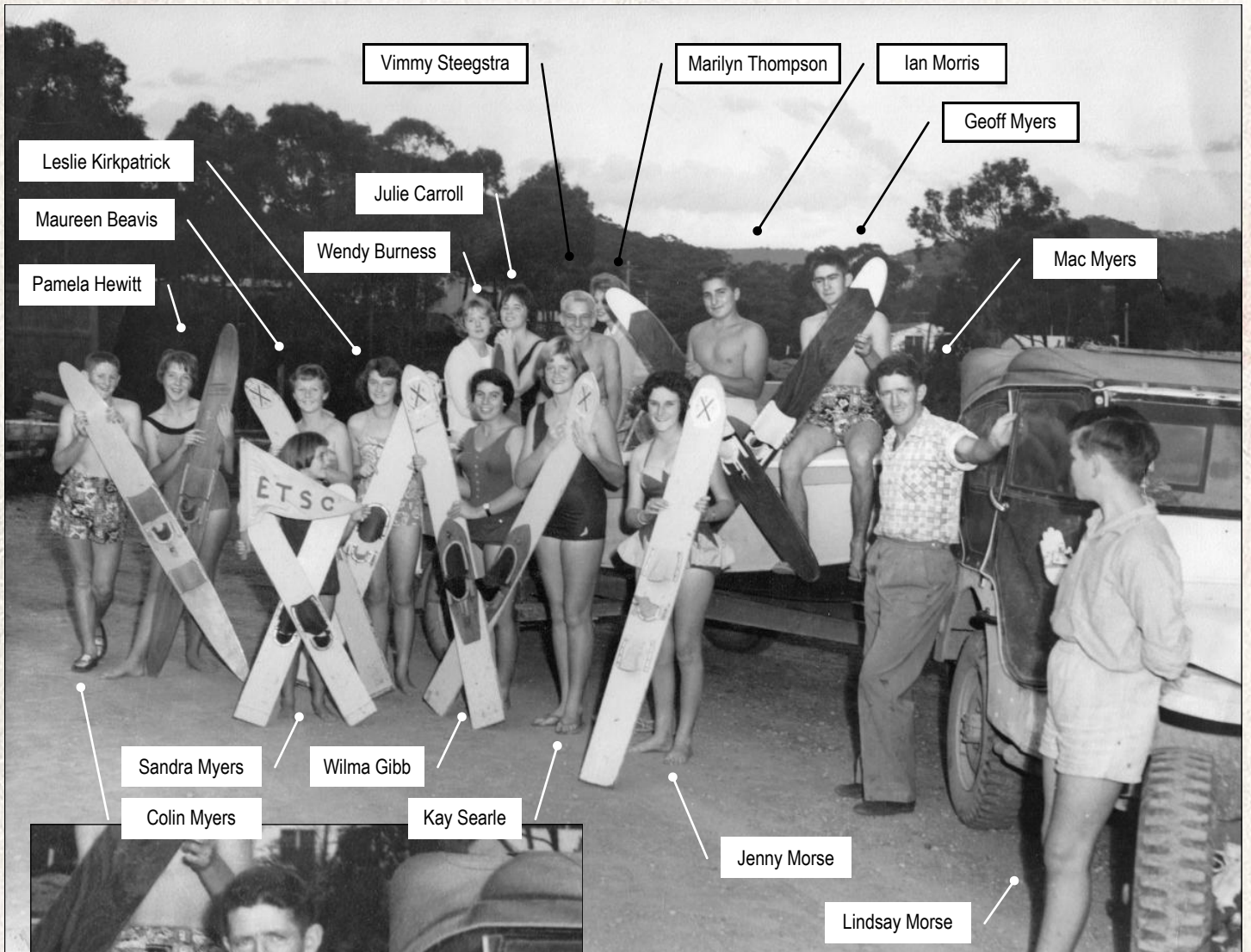
A female member recalls how she held on as long as she could, being too afraid of Mac growling at her to let go. Although Mac was a tall gentle man, he commanded respect from those he was training and they feared letting him down.

A testimony of the club was that during its time of operation, no one was ever seriously injured and everyone who paid for lessons learnt to ski.

It is believed that the club disbanded during the late 1960s or early 1970s as skiing was declining in popularity and regulations were becoming more strict.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB



Eildon Teenage Ski Club (E.T.S.C.) circa 1960.

(Left) Mac Myers.

Courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers 2016.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB



***Gee-Whiz* circa 1965, purchased by Mac Myers.
This was Mac's second boat, his first being called *Nipper*.**

Courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers 2016.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB



Mac Myers teaching one of his children to ski circa 1965.

Courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers 2016.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB



Teenagers skiing two high circa 1965.
(Top) Colin Myers.
(Bottom Left) Bert Steegstra. (Bottom right) Geoff Myers.

Courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers 2016.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB



Young members of the Eildon Teenage Ski Club waiting for their turn at skiing circa 1965. Colin Myers cousin Rex (far right in red shorts) was one of the first to ever ski using a surfboard on Lake Eildon.

Courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers 2016.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB



Mac Myers skiing Lake Eildon circa 1965.

Courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers 2016.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB



Skiing Lake Eildon four abreast circa 1965.

Courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers 2016.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB



Skiing Lake Eildon four abreast circa 1965.

Courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers 2016.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

Late 1950s

Mac Myers began skiing on Lake Eildon.

Late 1950s

Mac Myers engineered his own water skis from an image in the American 'Popular Mechanic's' magazine.

Circa 1960

The Eildon Teenage Ski Club was established on Lake Eildon by Mac Myers. They operated from a small floating jetty located on private property between the Eildon Boat Harbour and Eildon Boat Club.

Circa 1970

The Eildon Teenage Ski Club disbanded.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

EILDON TEENAGE SKI CLUB



Using the aquaplaning board and skiing backwards circa 1965.

Courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers 2016.

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