

Riding the next wave

BOARDERS PAY TRIBUTE TO BODYBOARDER

ANGELA SAYER-FARLEY

Death of 'an inspiration' saddens bodyboarding fraternity

Top South African bodyboarder Christopher Elliott died at the scene of a car accident in Constantia on the night of 2nd July. He was just 17.

Chris, who described his riding style as '60% prone, 30% dropknee', had been 'going for gold' at the Wedge Classic in Plettenberg Bay this year. Instead, his friends and former competitors conducted a paddle-out in his honour before the start of the event on Tuesday morning.

Chris, known as 'Chrizzle' to his many friends, was in matric at Reddam House school in Constantia. He had recently moved in with his dad, who lives in Kenilworth. His mother, Jackie, lives in Hout Bay.

Just hours after his tragic death, Chris's 'wall' on the website of bodyboarding magazine Sixty40 had accumulated more than 100 messages from saddened friends.

Comments such as "Lived life

large!", "The man of many words and one of the funniest people I have had the privilege to know" and 'the life of the party,' paint a graphic picture of the popular and fiercely competitive teenager.

"Our trials and events won't be the same without your chirps, laughter and sometimes rants", wrote one admirer. Another referred to his "undying passion and love for the sport" (of bodyboarding).

Chris won the Sport Unlimited Cape Classic in Cape Town earlier this year, and followed that victory with a second place at the Wimpy-Rossi ProAM in Margate in May.

Chris was tipped to win the SA Bodyboarding Association (SABA) Junior title this year (Hout Bay bodyboarder dreams of SA title, Sentinel News).

A wake and memorial paddle-out service will be held for Chris Elliott at Llandudno Surf Lifesaving Club on Tuesday July 15.

● For times and details, call 021 790-6303.



■ Promising.... Bodyboarder Christopher Elliott, right, who died in a car crash last week.

PICTURE: MICHAEL DIE-COUT

At the Hout Bay Surflifesaving Club's fundraiser were:



■ André Jacobs, Consul-General of Hout Bay, and Lindy Nauta.



■ HBSLC chairman Mike Rigg and Helen Osborne



■ Carla Vermaak and Dylaine Lindsay.



■ Matt Mercer, Ross Hall and Candice McWade.



■ From left: Luigi Figliotti, Casey Diamond, Philip Muller and Liesl Ludik had a fun time.

Bay watchers score big

LINDY NAUTA

More than 230 guests dug deep in their pockets to raise R60,000 for the Hout Bay Surf Lifesaving Club at a glittering fundraiser held at Summerville in Camps Bay earlier this month.

The HBSLC was established 18 months ago and now has 135 members. About 70 nippers, most of them from Hangberg and Imizamo Yethu, are currently in training at the club which is registered with Lifesaving South Africa (LSA) and Western Province Lifesaving.

The money collected at the Summerville fund-raiser will be used to buy essential lifesaving equipment as well as sporting and competitive gear for the members. A clubhouse is in it's final planning stages.

"Lifesaving clubs are very much

part of living on the coast in South Africa," said founder and chairman of HBSLC, Mike Rigg.

"The first club started in 1934," he said.

"Sport is an intrinsic aspect of surf lifesaving for nippers from the age of eight and seniors, who are 18 years and older.

"Both beach and water activities are catered for and competitions include beach relays, surf/sea swimming, kneeboarding, surf ski paddling, body boarding and surfing.

"A lot of emphasis is put on fun and developing fitness of mind and body.

"Part of the training of young surf lifesavers is to provide them with a hands-on, fun and educational experience in a range of subjects and skills within the aquatic environment," Rigg said.

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