

News

## Group learns about symbols

GUEST speaker for the Caloundra Family History Research in October was group member Ian Edwardson.

His presentation was titled "Sound the Symbols" and Ian showed how mankind had always lived with symbols.

They have been with us from cave paintings to computers.

They're used as warnings, to advise and advise.

They identify and clarify, and they evoke compassion and passion.

Probably the best-known symbol we see is the flag, and in recent years the ribbon has become a powerful symbol among many, including pink for breast cancer awareness, light blue for men's health, and lately the white ribbon used in the anti-domestic violence campaign.

All inquiries about the group and events held are welcomed by contacting Valerie on 5437 3879, Roz on 5493 1197, or Dawn on 5492 2208.

# Heroes come to the rescue

## Four rush into dark water at Happy Valley to save struggling swimmer

By JANINE HILL

POLICE and a member of the public who ventured into the sometimes treacherous stretch of water at Happy Valley to save a man have been praised for their efforts.

Officers responding to a 000 call about 9pm on November 1 spotted a man about 120 metres offshore.

Constable Wes Hopper dropped his shoes, belt and vest and dived in while Acting Sergeant Kelly O'Brien kept a torch on the man's head bobbing in and out of the water.

Nearby resident Dan MacFarlane, 38, heard the commotion and ran across the road to help.

Mr MacFarlane swam to the man and held him afloat before helping him swim to shallower water, where Detective Constable Andy Bauer and Detective Constable Stuart Fairgrieve helped pull him to shore.

The 52-year-old man, a local, was treated at the scene by paramedics before being taken to Nambour General Hospital for further assessment, but was conscious and breathing.



WATCHFUL EYE: Paul Seto and Samantha Barry are among the lifeguards who look after the sometimes treacherous Happy Valley by day.

PHOTO: PATRICK WOODS

Senior Sergeant Gavin Ricketts, officer-in-charge at Caloundra station, said all of those involved in the rescue should be commended for their efforts. Const Hopper said Mr MacFarlane deserved most of the praise.

"He didn't have to jump in

the water. He's got in and located him and brought him back," he said.

With the rescue shaping up as difficult, Const Hopper thought he might only have been able to keep an eye on the man until a boat arrived.

Mr MacFarlane, who is in

only his second season as a volunteer lifeguard, said his only thought was that "somebody had to do it".

He said the outgoing tide appeared to have turned not long before, which was in everyone's favour.

"If it was in the middle of low tide, it might have been

a whole different story because we could have got sucked out," he said.

Snr Sgt Ricketts said all of those involved had bravely entered the water in darkness without any thought of unseen threats.

He said police were often confronted by situations where their lives could be at risk.

"We're not always getting into the water but it's fairly regular. It's not necessarily rescuing people, just the general violent situations that people sometimes get into," he said.

Paul Barry, a long-standing member of the Ithaca-Caloundra City Life Saving Club at Bulcock Beach, said Happy Valley could be dangerous for swimmers because of a rip in the middle and the strong pull of the outgoing tide.

"A large volume of water sweeps into the passage on high tide and sweeps out on low tide, and you get a very strong current going out in the ocean," he said.

Const Hopper joked that the rescue was his first swim since transferring from Longreach four months ago.

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