

Runner was only casualty in lengthy rescue

ITHACA treasurer and former club captain Jim McClelland and his family have very strong ties with the club.

In 1974 when Jim was 15 and his brother, Hugh, was 16, the pair were involved in a rescue which turned into an amazing feat of endurance.

"All the surf beaches were closed and ours was almost getting to the closed stage,"

Jim recalled. "The patrol had just finished one Sunday about 4.30pm and two little girls about nine and 10 were swept out to the bar.

"My brother and I dived in after them and took them out through the bar. It was about a 3m surf in cyclonic conditions. We stayed with the girls of course and ended up a mile down from the Bar on Bribie

Island before we could get back to land again.

"It must have taken a good hour. There was no way anyone could see us because it was so choppy and windy. We ended up walking back (to the northern tip of the island). It was before we had our boat and Surf (life savers from Metropolitan Caloundra) came across and got us.

"We were all checked out and the girls were OK. The only one who suffered was one of our guys.

"He suffered exhaustion from running down from our beach to Kings Beach to get help. He was in hospital overnight.

"It was probably one of our longest and most dramatic rescues."