Page 24 — The Southern Star, Tuesday, January 18, 1994

Veteran Ros keeps the lifesavers on their toes

BY NATHAN PICONE

HOBART has been hosting the Centenary Championships of The Royal Life Saving Society of Australia at the Glenorchy Pool.

Society members from throughout the nation have been competing, and this year some members from Scotland, took part in the competition and celebrations of the society's activities.

The Centenary Championships have been a highlight of 14 years of competing for Tasmanian Ros Dillon, who has been a stalwart in events for over-30's and over-40's.

Ros, of New Town, joined the society when she was 16 years old, and still at school.

"At that time life saving was really popular, but it was only really the women who were in it." she said. "There weren't many males in it, and it was sort of a woman's sport."

"My old school The Friends School really encouraged life saving, and it was very popular."

She participated in the junior life saving competitions for ten years, and then left the sport to have her family.

"Then I returned when they brought in the older age groups, in 1987. Overall, this is my 14th competition," Ros said.

"During that time, I think my best performance was winning the over-30 division in 1990, in Sydney.

"I was in my fortieth year, which was really surprising, as most of the field was closer to the 30-year-old mark. I was quite pleased with the result." Ros said.

Tasmanian representation has been strong in the national competition, but now the state competition is really taking off.

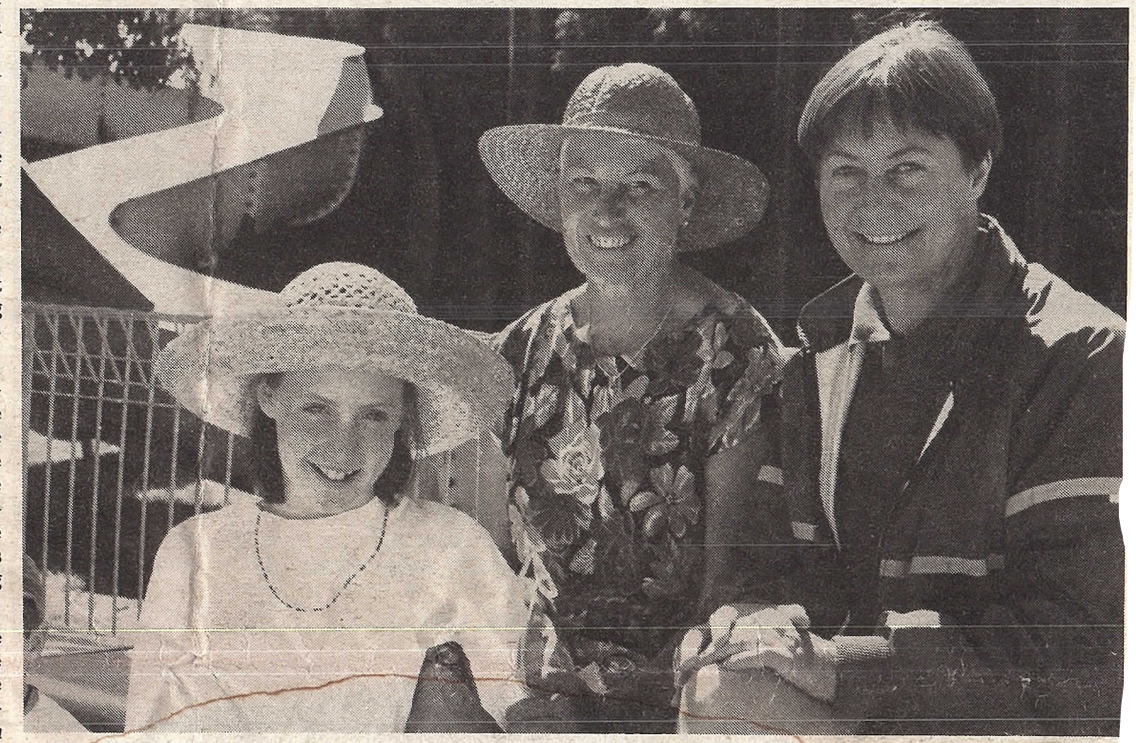
"Every year, school-aged members of the Life Saving Society take part in a competition at St. Michael's Collegiate pool," Ros said.

"It's good to see that it draws so many young and talented competitors."

"Generally the Tasmanian team is quite competitive, but the teams from other state often seem to be stronger, which is probably because they have more patrolled beaches and more life saving clubs."

● A Rosny College student, Nathan Picone recently spent some weeks on work experience at the *Southern Star*.

★ Lifesaving veteran Ros Dillon competed in the over-30 women's 200m medley.



★ Daughter Kate, 12, left and Dorothy Webb are long-standing supporters of Ros, right.