***EXCITING NEWS RELEASE.***

You have all seen and used the building improvements the Committee has attended to over a numbers of seasons since the Life Saving Victoria audits were carried out on our Clubhouse.

Approximately three weeks ago The City Of Kingston Council officers carried out their four yearly intrusive building audit.

This audit involved thoroughly investigating the status of our Clubhouse. Removing bricks, checking internal and external weather and age damage. Edithvale Club house is the oldest in Port Phillip Bay.

After this was done the City of Kingston requested a meeting with the Committee to discuss the findings. The major problem was that if we had the balcony door open and strong winds came in during summer our roof could lift off. The heavy duty poles holding up the radio room have rusted through and are not attached along with other structural damage internally as well.

At the first meeting we had agreed for the Manager to engage an Architect to do some drawings to be able to see what a new building would look like. He produced four options. This was done at council’s cost.

After all information was given by the Manager and Council officers and their recommendation, the Committee then discussed all options and decided it was better to re- build and have a building that would last, for a very long time, rather than doing a renovation for a short period of time. We also could see no reason to waste money.

As you will be aware in the last State Budget our Club was named one of four Clubs to receive a $1.5 million dollars to redevelop our Clubrooms from the State Government.

The council staff and officers have been carrying out works on our building to make it safe for us to re- enter. We have had to remove some Boards, the ATV, Boats and motors to offsite. They have undertaken works to make the building safe for us to use and we will be able to patrol and have Nippers. We will be operating as usual this season.

On behalf of the Committee we are very much aware of the importance of this very big project we have undertaken on your behalf, but we believe after discussions that it is in the best interests and safety of all members to have a new building. This would also mean top safety for the members of the public who use our beach.

We have now received confirmation that the City of Kingston Council has accepted the Manager’s proposal, and at their last meeting prior to the Council elections, they have passed that Edithvale Life Saving Club in conjunction with the Club Committee redevelop new Club rooms. Life Saving Victoria will be handling the funding of the grant on behalf of the Victorian State Government.

At the appropriate time I will set a date for a special general meeting where we will have gathered all the necessary information so that we can present you with plans, time frames etc.

At this present time I ask please, that you support your Committee while we move forward with this building. If you require any information please contact me your President on mobile 0402241984., or email diannemontalto@gmail.com.

I can assure that our Lifesaving will continue on as usual with Nippers, Patrols, Training and Exams, and I ask you to please continue to be members of our wonderful Lifesaving family at your Club Edithvale.

We have also received another Government grant to purchase a new All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and we have also purchased a new boat and motor to assist us on patrols and Nippers in the coming season.

Sincerely.

Dianne G Montalto. ESM.

President.