

# Tim Gates loses the battle after Fairhaven accident

# Surf legend dies

JULIE McNAMARA

WELL-loved surf lifesaver and school teacher Tim Gates has died after a surfing accident at Fairhaven on Tuesday.

Mr Gates, 52, who has been described as a legend of the Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club, was pulled from the water unconscious after suffering a head injury in the surf while paddling a malibu board.

Lifesaving Victoria has applauded the efforts of lifeguards and volunteer lifesavers who spent 30 minutes administering CPR on the father-of-three.

He died at The Alfred hospital on Wednesday night.

Mr Gates lived in Bullengarook, near Bacchus Marsh, and worked as the director of Melbourne Gram-

mar School's outdoor education facility, the Robert Knox Camp at Woodend.

Melbourne Grammar School principal Paul Sheahan said the school was deeply saddened by the loss of Mr Gates, who had been employed at the school for about 20 years.

"He was a much loved and much respected member of our community," Mr Sheahan said.

"Tim touched the lives of so many students in a positive way.

"Tim's example and influence in the community will not be lost.

"He was probably as much at home in the water as on land and it seems so desperately unfair for his life to be plucked away from him in such a freak way."

Life Saving Victoria presi-



Tim Gates with his daughter Sarah.

dent Mike Martin said Mr Gates' death was a terrible loss for the association.

"Tim was a much loved and

well respected member of Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club and had been a major force in the expansion of the

club's membership over a long period," Mr Martin said.

"Our thoughts and condolences are with his family, the members of Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club and the many friends that Tim had within the organisation.

"It'll be a very, very sad place at Fairhaven over the next few days but knowing Tim, he has gone in a way that he would have liked because he just loved the beach and water."

Mr Martin said Mr Gates had been a member of the Fairhaven club since he was a teenager and had been an elite competitor in his younger days.

"He won many, many medals at the Victorian level and competed very, very well," Mr Martin said.

He said Mr Gates excelled at board paddling but was

also strong in the ski and swimming events.

Mr Martin said he had held several positions within the Fairhaven club, including club captain and secretary.

Mr Gates was a keen and successful participant in masters competitions up until his death. He competed in the Pier to Pub event on January 5 where he finished 15th in the veterans category.

Mr Martin said it would be unclear exactly what happened to Mr Gates until the autopsy results were available.

He said Mr Gates was survived by his wife Jane and their three daughters Samantha, Sarah and Emma, who are all members of the Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club.

Lifesavers were counselled after the rescue and follow-up treatment is being offered.

## Gwen's the muscle in the force

DANIEL BREEN

WHEN Senior Constable Gwen Carbone collars a criminal they know they have been collared.

The 41-year-old is serving a six-week stint with Bellarine police but away from the station she is a world class bodybuilder.

Last year, Sen-Constable Carbone won the heavy-weight title at the World Natural Bodybuilding Championships in New York.

She was also crowned overall champion after the initial winner tested positive to drugs and was disqualified.

The win came less than a year after the seemingly light-framed policewoman, who stands at just 163cm, started training for competitions at coach Michael Tabban's Richmond gym.

Sen-Constable Carbone, who is normally based in Melbourne with the Victoria Police Critical Incident Response Team, said she started the sport almost by accident.

"I'm at the force response unit and there's a pretty high fitness standard you have to maintain. I came from the prosecutions office and had started getting fit when people suggested that I should start competing," she said.

"I did five competitions last year, mainly in the figure sections but they said I was too muscular and should enter the bodybuilding section, so I did and I ended up winning the world title in New York."

Sen-Constable Carbone said her muscular physique had also come in handy on the job.

"Some crooks are a little bit surprised at my strength because I'm so small. They think they can play up but I've got a vice-like grip, so that helps when you're making an arrest," she said.

"I'm in my off season now but I stayed in that ripped figure for eight months. I compete at 57kg and I weigh



Senior Constable Gwen Carbone with her bodybuilding trophy.

about 61kg in the off season but I still look very athletic."

Plenty of work has gone in to sculpturing that figure.

Away from crime fighting, Sen-Constable Carbone finds time to fit in seven days of training a week and stick to her strict diet of oats, boiled chicken, salad and rice in the six-week lead-up to competitions.

There will be plenty of that this year as she weighs up an offer to compete on the professional card.

"I'll probably do the whole WNBFF series, so I'll be aiming for the state championships in October and if I get a good result there I'll move on to the nationals and then go and defend my title in New York," she said.

Down the track, Sen-Constable Carbone said she would one day like to work permanently in the region after enjoying her introduction to the region with the Bellarine crew.

"It (Bellarine) is a good station, full of nice people," she said.

"We have a holiday house in Ocean Grove but I'd love to live down here and to work in Geelong would be sensational."



STRIKING A POSE: World Natural Bodybuilding champion Gwen Carbone.

Photo: MICHAEL TABBAN

## Crash victim a Thai visitor

JULIE McNAMARA

THE man killed in Wednesday's car crash at Pt Addis was on a holiday from Thailand with his wife.

It is believed the couple were in Australia visiting their son who was driving the car which slammed into a tree.

Senior Constable Adam West of police media said the man was aged 51 while his son, from Sydney, was aged in his 20s.

The man's wife and son escaped with minor injuries.

Police from the Major Collision Investigation Unit are investigating the crash, which happened on the Great Ocean Rd, about 50 metres past the Point Addis turn-off, on Wednesday morning.

Sen-Constable West said police visited the scene to take measurements of the road and speak to witnesses yesterday.

He said their investigations into the cause of the crash were ongoing and police had not laid any charges.

Other motorists rushed to help the deceased man who was trapped in the front seat of the Hyundai sedan.

However, he died at the scene a short time later.

The section of the Great Ocean Road remained closed for hours on Wednesday while police carried out their investigations.