

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

SOUTH WEST ROCKS  
SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

104<sup>th</sup> SEASON



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## - BOARD OF DIRECTORS -

President - Rod McDonagh - 9 out of 10 meetings attended  
Vice President - Renee Smailes - 9 out of 10 meetings attended  
Director of Administration - Vicki Thomas - 9 out of 10 meetings attended  
Director of Finance - Noel Langthorne - 9 out of 10 meetings attended  
Director of Lifesaving - Brienna Elford - 9 out of 10 meetings attended  
Director of Junior Activities - Megan Curnow - 7 out of 10 meetings attended  
Director of Surf Sports - Bruce Caldwell - 6 out of 10 meetings attended  
Director of Marketing - Belinda Telford Miller - 9 out of 10 meetings attended

## - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE -

IRB Captain - Erin Cook  
Education Officer - Ian Everingham  
Gym Coordinator - Molly McBain  
Boat Captain - Paul Owens  
Board/Ski Captain - Andrew Packwood  
General Committee - John Tyne

# SWRSLSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2023 - 3PM

## AGENDA – Annual General Meeting

<b>Name:</b>	South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club
<b>Date:</b>	Sunday, 18 August 2024
<b>Time:</b>	3:00 pm
<b>Location:</b>	SWR Surf Club, 1 Livingstone Street, South West Rocks
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Rod McDonagh (Chair), Renee Smailes, Noel Langthorne, Vicki Thomas, Brienna Elford, Belinda Telford-Miller, Bruce Caldwell, Megan Curnow

### 1. Opening Meeting

#### 1.1 Opening of Meeting

Opening of Meeting - Meeting requires a quorum of 20% of members entitled to vote to commence. Members eligible to vote at the meeting are as follows: Active 18 years and above, Active Reserve, Long Service, Life Member, Award members undertaking patrolling activities and Non-Award Outgoing Board of Directors.

#### 1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

#### 1.3 Welcome from the President

#### 1.4 Acknowledgement of Members Passed

#### 1.5 Life Governors Message

#### 1.6 Apologies

#### 1.7 Confirm Minutes – AGM 13/8/2023

#### 1.8 Business arising from the Minutes

#### 1.9 Correspondence relevant only to the meeting

### 2. Presentation and adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2023/24

#### 2.1 President Report

#### 2.2 Vice President Report

#### 2.3 Auditor Report - Alaine Ylias - Northcorp Accountants

#### 2.4 Director of Finance Report

#### 2.5 Director of Administration Report

#### 2.6 Director of Junior Activities Report

#### 2.7 Director of Lifesaving Report

#### 2.8 Director of Marketing & Communications Report

#### 2.9 Director of Surf Sports Report

#### 2.10 Club Manager Report

#### 2.11 Adoption of Annual and financial reports for the 2023/24 Season

3. Election of Officers for the Season 2024/25

**3.1 Election of Board of Directors**

Nominations received:

President: Rod McDonagh

Vice President: Renee Smailes

Director of Finance: Noel Langthorne

Director of Administration: Vicki Thomas

Director of Lifesaving: Brienna Elford

Director of Marketing & Communications: Belinda Telford-Miller

Director of Surf Sports: Bruce Caldwell

Director of Junior Activities: Ginja Ryan & Megan Curnow - **vote required**

**3.2 Affiliation SLSMNC & SLSNSW**

**3.3 Election of Public Officer**

**3.4 Appointment of Patrons**

**3.5 Appointment of Auditors for 2024/25**

4. General Business

**4.1 IRB Australian Championships 2025 & 2026**

5. Close Meeting

# MINUTES 2022/23 AGM

## DRAFT MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



<b>Name:</b>	South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club
<b>Date:</b>	Sunday, 13 August 2023
<b>Time:</b>	3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (AEST)
<b>Location:</b>	SWR Surf Club, 1 Livingstone Street, South West Rocks
<b>Board Members:</b>	Rod McDonagh (Chair), Belinda Telford-Miller, Brienna Elford, Bruce Caldwell, Megan Curnow, Noel Langthorne, Renee Smailes (RS), Vicki Thomas
<b>Attendees:</b>	Alex Wilcox, Erin Cook, Georgia Gaddes, Graham (Sid) Jeffery, Ian Everingham, Joshua McLaren, Mark Notley, Paul Owens, Ron Brasier, Stu Cole
<b>Guests/Notes:</b>	Alaine Ylias - Northcorp Accountants

### 1. Opening Meeting

#### 1.1 Opening of Meeting

#### 1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

#### 1.3 Welcome from the President

#### 1.4 Acknowledgement of Members Passed

#### 1.5 Life Governors Message

#### 1.6 Apologies

Moved Bruce, 2nd Brienna

#### 1.7 Confirm Minutes

Annual General Meeting 21 Aug 2022, the minutes were confirmed as presented.

Moved by Ian Everingham, 2nd by Alys Farley

#### 1.8 Business arising from the Minutes

No business arising

#### 1.9 Correspondence relevant only to the meeting

No correspondence

## **1.10 Interests Register**

## **2. Presentation and adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2022/23**

### **2.1 President Report**

### **2.2 Vice President Report**

### **2.3 Auditor Report - Alaine Ylias - Northcorp Accountants**

### **2.4 Director of Finance**

### **2.5 Director of Administration**

### **2.6 Director of Junior Activities**

First season in the role - but by the end felt very comfortable in the role. Having 3 young children keen to stay involved. Currently organising an open day to encourage more members.

### **2.7 Director of Lifesaving**

### **2.8 Director of Marketing**

### **2.9 Director of Surf Sports**

### **2.10 Club Manager**

### **2.11 Adoption of Annual and financial reports for the 2022/23 Season**

Moved by Alys Farley, 2nd by Andrew Packwood

## **3. Election of Officers for the Season 2023/24**

### **3.1 Election of Board of Directors**

Director of Junior Activities - Megan Curnow

Bruce, Caldwell, Debbie Purvis

### **3.2 Election of Office Bearers - Management Committee**

Patrol Officer -

Gear & Equipment Officer -

Education Officer, Ian Everingham, Moved by Sid & Renee

IRB Captain - Erin Cook - Moved by Brienna, 2nd by Alys Farley

Board & Ski Captain - Andrew Packwood

Surf Boat Captain - Paul Owens, nominated by Dave Pearson & Sid

Publicity Officer -

Social Activity Officer -

First Aid Officer -

Youth Officer -

Member Protection Officer -

Gym Coordinator -

General Committee Members - John Tyne Moved by Ron, 2nd Brienna

### **3.3 Election of Public Officer**

2nd Vicki Thomas, Moved Tony Hayes

### **3.4 Appointment of Patrons**

Moved Grahame Ball, Andrew Packwood

### **3.5 Appointment of Auditors for 2023/24**

Ian Everingham, Bruce Caldwell

## **4. Other Business**

### **4.1 Fees**

Moved Dave Pearson, Alys Farley

## **5. General Business**

### **5.1 General Business arising**

### **5.2 Constitution and By-Laws / Life Members**

## **6. Close Meeting**

### **6.1 Close the meeting**

**Next meeting:** No date for the next meeting has been set.

Finished at 3.56pm

## SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

<b>Name:</b>	South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club
<b>Date:</b>	Sunday, 26 May 2024
<b>Time:</b>	3:00 pm to 3:30 pm (AEST)
<b>Location:</b>	SWR Surf Club, 1 Livingstone Street, South West Rocks
<b>Board Members:</b>	Rod McDonagh (Chair), Belinda Telford-Miller, Brienna Elford, Bruce Caldwell, Renee Smailes (RS), Vicki Thomas
<b>Attendees:</b>	Andrew Packwood, Molly McBain
<b>Apologies:</b>	Noel Langthorne
<b>Guests/Notes:</b>	Michael Adams, Grahame Ball, Peter Brannelly, Alys Farley, Steve Hayes, Anthony Hayes OAM, Graham Jeffery, Wayne Morris, David Pearson, Chris Reading, Tony Silvia, Steve Smailes, Sonja Tayler

### 1. Opening Meeting

#### 1.1 Apologies



##### Apologies noted

Apologies given by Noel Langthorne, Belinda White, Stu Cole and Alex Farley

**Decision Date:** 26 May 2024

**Mover:** Brienna Elford

**Seconder:** Belinda Telford-Miller

**Outcome:** Approved

### 2. Major Decisions and Discussions

#### 2.1 New constitution to be voted in



##### Adopt new Constitution as presented

Moved by Alys Farley

2nd by Chris Reading

ALL IN FAVOUR - all hands risen

**Decision Date:** 26 May 2024

**Outcome:** Approved

### 3. Close Meeting

#### 3.1 Close the meeting

**Next meeting:** Full Committee Meeting - 18 June 2024, 6:30 pm



## -SLSA SPONSORS-



## -SLSNSW SPONSORS-



## - SLSMNC SPONSORS-



# - SWRSLSC SPONSORS -



Major Sponsor

## South West Rocks



Rotary  
South West Rocks



# -SWRSLSC SPONSORS-



SHERIDAN  
LEGAL



# - THE SEASON THAT WAS -



# - THE SEASON THAT WAS -



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# - THE SEASON THAT WAS -





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past season has provided an opportunity for SWR SLSC to consolidate our primary functions and plan. This was evident with a solid effort to grow our patrolling numbers, increase our overall membership, evaluate our business operations, review governance and to remain relevant in the local community.

Patrols were well attended and dealt with large numbers of visitors on the beaches, who presented us with all types of challenges. Our professional teams were responsive and prevented many more serious circumstances. There were a number of beach closures due to poor weather conditions and shark sightings. The patrolling members completed over 2,600 patrol hours this season, an increase of over two hundred from last season. We welcomed a number of new Bronze Medallion members and other award holders who bolstered our capability.

Our Call Out team and local Duty Officers were kept busy during the season with a number of call outs as well as providing assistance at other emergency incidents across the Branch.

My thanks to our patrolling members, the education trainers and those behind the scenes who endure some tough days on the beach. Everyone exhibits outstanding dedication and expertise, and it is encouraging to see the comradery among members.

It has been a team effort in which we have achieved excellence in all areas of surf lifesaving, including administration, lifesaving, surf sports, juniors, support operations and education. The competence shown by all members is to be commended and I thank you for this.

This season we hosted a local Branch Carnival and attended others within the Branch. Our Juniors acquitted themselves well and under the guidance of Megan Curnow conducted weekly activities for our keen nippers. Our senior competition was low in numbers and attendance at point scores was competitive. Thanks to Bruce Caldwell and his helpers for keeping the momentum, but it is certainly an area that we can build on in the future. The highlight of the season was the success of our 180s Boat Crew who were successful in the North Coast Boat Series and went on to take a Bronze medal at the State Champs and back it up with an Aussies Bronze. A well-deserved reward for years of perseverance and training. Hearty congratulations to Paul Owens, Mark Notley, Chris Ward, Ben Thomas and sweep Craig Schweikert. It was an immensely proud moment to see our boys on the podium at Alexandra Headland.

The SLSMNC Awards of Excellence once again showcased our members with the following awards winners:

- Rookie of the Year - Jarrad Hasler
- Youth Volunteer of the Year - Ollie Byrne

Our own Presentation and Awards of Excellence was once again a momentous event with over one hundred guests in attendance - just going to show the strength of the Club within the community. Congratulations to all the Club award winners and those who were recognised with a National Service Medal for their patrolling service.

Thank you to those members who continue to assist not just on the beach but around the clubhouse with maintenance, bus driving and fundraising, including the Friday Night Raffles, BBQs, and other events. The work of many of our members who turn up for these tasks is a huge contribution, and there is indeed a very unified crew who share a close bond and friendly rivalry, but this is what makes a healthy Club.

The continued support the Club and our members show other events held in our local area is something that needs to be acknowledged. This season we provided support at - Trial Bay Triathlon and South West Rocks RunFest. The support of South West Rocks Rotary, has once again been exceptional and we continue to build ongoing partnerships with Rotary. The installation of the defibrillator at the Clubhouse has proven a lifesaver on three occasions and displays the commitment of both organisations to build better communities. The positive working relationship between the two community groups is unique and we would like to acknowledge and thank Rotary for their ongoing support towards the Club.

Similarly, we have been involved with the SWR Chamber of Commerce for many years, with the joint management of the Beachside Markets. This arrangement has now ceased, and SWR SLSC will take on full responsibility for the organisation of the markets moving forward. We have had fruitful discussions with the Chamber and look forward to exploring other opportunities with them and showing gratitude for their support.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance and support from Surf Life Saving New South Wales, Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast, Federal MP Pat Conaghan, State MP Michael Kemp, and Kempsey Shire Council Mayor Leo Hauville. Our local sponsors and supporters have once again shown their loyalty to the Club, and we thank them for their ongoing support.

It would be remiss of me to not recognise our staff led by Alex, who continues to provide a first-class experience to members and guests at our bar and bistro. The

favourable comments and pleasant atmosphere see us as a leading venue in the area. The positive atmosphere sees us as a leading venue in the area. The positive attitude of our staff, our Club Board of Directors and Management Committee put us in a very fortunate position, as all are passionate about SWR SLSC and continue to work as one team to maintain our good standing. It is that extra effort and harmony that has enabled us to be consistently successful.

I praise the Executive of Renee Smailes, Noel Langthorne, Vicki Thomas, Brienna Elford, Megan Curnow, Bel Telford-Miller, and Bruce Caldwell, who are a hands-on group who exhibit a wealth of skill and enthusiasm towards our goals.

This season saw the popular announcement of two new Life members, Andrew Packwood and Brienna Elford who have displayed exemplary service over many years. On behalf of fellow Life Members, we applaud your appointment.

Surf Life Saving in general is undergoing change and needs to be flexible in our approach to patrols, education, emergency response, surf sports and junior activities is vital for our future sustainability that we embrace innovative technology and make our time at the Club enjoyable and inclusive. We have laid the foundation for this, but we need to be proactive, face the challenges and promote the integral role that we all play in building our Club and developing leadership in the aquatic environment.

Finally, thanks to all members who contribute in many ways. The interaction among all members is enlightening and makes it a focal point of why we become involved in Surf Life Saving. Our younger members are the future, and I trust that they continue to remain involved in our Club and enjoy the benefits of our great organisation as many have done for many years.

Rod McDonagh ESM  
President  
Life Member  
SWRSLSC

# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have enjoyed another season in the Vice President's role during 2023/24 and am pleased to offer my report for the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club. I have had some new experiences again this season and continue to be impressed by the commitment, passion and knowledge our Executive Committee has and how much work goes on behind the day to day that most members do not get to see. It takes many hours outside of the monthly meetings to ensure all aspects of the club are functioning successfully, I would personally like to thank all of the Executive and General Committee, as well as Alex Wilcox in her role for all the work that is done, I know that it doesn't go unnoticed.

I again represented SWRSLSC at the Branch Meetings each month and am building some positive relationships with other club representatives and have also attended extra Branch Meetings as required to ensure SWRSLSC is well represented and has input into Branch matters.

We have had a busy year with club members representing at many community events as well as SLS events; Queenscliff Board Camp, Raising of the Flags at Bonny Hills, Dee Why Youth Development Camp (youth participant and chaperones), Trial Bay Triathlon, SWR Running Festival, North Coast Boat Series, Branch Carnivals and Championships, ANZAC Day Dawn Service, Friday Night Raffles, Courtesy Bus Drivers, Rotary Events and our beloved Old Farts can't be forgotten.

I had my first Constitution Review experience as part of the working party. This piece of work took many hours again out of monthly meeting time but has strengthened the clubs governance procedures and is vital to ensure our club stays strong.

Congratulations must go to our 180's Mens Boat Crew for their amazing result at the Aussies, 3rd place! This was our first medal at Aussies in over 15 years and I hope it inspires more of our members to take up the competition part of SLS.

Lastly, I would also like to highlight the development of the new Club Swimmer range in conjunction with local Dunghutti artist Freeda Roberts, the uniform sub-committee and Kozii Swimwear. They look amazing and I can not wait to see our members wearing them next season.

Many thanks to each and every one of our members, it takes all of us to come together and play our part to continue to strengthen our club - SWRSLSC!

Renee Smailes  
Vice President  
SWRSLSC

# DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

I am pleased to present the financial report for the year ended 30 April 2024 and to be able to report another successful trading result for the Club.

A profit of \$220,835 was achieved being an increase of \$40,364 (22.3%) on the previous year. This was achieved by increasing total revenue by \$250,383 attributed to Bar increase of \$112,773 and Food of \$163,072 with some small reductions in other revenue areas, which demonstrates how much we rely upon our trading. In this regard I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of our management team Alex Wilcox and Molly McBain and all our staff, who have contributed to this result.

Noting the good results and trends, we must be mindful that we occupy an aging building and ongoing repairs and maintenance could place our reserves under pressure.

It is important for me to acknowledge and thank Cate Madden from Busy Books Bookkeeping Services. Whilst Cate is paid for the services she provides, I can assure you that she goes beyond her job description guidelines and shows a real interest in the Club's performance. I regard Cate as a valued member of our team and would have difficulty doing my role without her assistance.

We have worked closely with Alaine Ylias from Northcorp Accountants our Auditors to ensure that we meet compliance standards which is necessary due to the size of our operation. Detailed Management Report has been provided by Northcorp to assist us with the management of the Club and I am pleased to advise we are tracking in the right direction in this regard.

A final thank you to Vicki Thomas our Director of Administration for her patience with me due to my lack of computer skills.

Noel Langthorne  
Director of Finance  
SWRSLSC

# DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION REPORT

The 2023/24 season was another successful season for South West Rocks.

Two of our members were recognised at the SLSMNC awards – Jarrod Hasler for Rookie of the Year and Ollie Byrne for Young Volunteer of the Year. Peter Brannelly and Craig Schweikert also received Highly Commended Awards.

The Showbags (180s Men’s Masters Surf Boat Crew) consisting of Mark Notley, Ben Thomas, Paul Owens, Chris Ward and Craig Schweikert did us proud over the season, winning 3rd at Aussies and State and 2nd overall in the North Coast Boat Series.

We also welcomed two new Life Members, Andrew Packwood and Brienna Elford, and Rod McDonagh was also awarded Life Governor to join Tony Hayes OAM and Bruce Caldwell. Rod then surprised us all with the announcement on the King’s Birthday of having the honour of being awarded the Emergency Service Medal.

As part of our commitment to give back to our Community we:

- assisted with the annual triathlon and Run Fest by providing members (for marshalls, water safety & first aid) and hosting a BBQ,
- created a partnership with our local Rotary and provided South West Rocks first public defibrillator,
- ran the Horseshoe Bay markets with the local Chamber of Commerce
- attended our local schools delivering water safety messages to our local juniors
- continued our partnership with the South West Rocks Figtree Descendants Aboriginal Corporation, including hosting a Culture Day for all Macleay Nippers
- laid a wreath at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service

We reviewed and updated our Constitution as well as realigned our Rules and Bylaws to become Regulations to ensure consistency with the new SLSNSW Constitution and Regulations.

We finished off the season with the news that we will be hosting the Surf Life Saving Australia IRB Championships in 2025 and 2026!

Membership for the 2023/24 season was 191 (up from 161 from the previous season) consisting of:

- 41 Junior Activity Members (5-13 Years)
- 5 Cadet Members (13-15 Years)
- 11 Active Members (15-18 Years)

- 55 Active Members (18 Years & over)
- 6 Award Members
- 1 Reserve Active Member
- 4 Long Service Members
- 58 Associate Members
- 7 Life Members
- 3 Honorary Members.

It is great to see the numbers grow every year and look forward to another successful year.

Vicki Thomas

Director of Administration

SWRSLSC

# DIRECTOR OF SURF SPORTS REPORT

Firstly I would like to congratulate our President Rod McDonagh on being awarded the Emergency Service's Medal (ESM). This award was announced on the King's birthday long weekend in June 2024. Well-deserved Rod.

The 2023/2024 Sunday point score competition got off to a slow start with the first competition being held on Sunday the 15th of October 2023. The attendance was a bit disappointing with only fifteen members participating in the events on the first Sunday of the point score competition. The competition continued over nine Sundays during the season and resulted in these members winning their categories, U/15 Female champion Elenore Briggs, U/19 Female champion Imogen Ward, U/19 Male champion Michael Briggs, Open Female champion Molly McBain, Open Male champion Jarred Hasler, Over 40 Female champion Janelle Cook, there was a four-way tie in the Over 40 Male division with Peter Brannelly, Ian McGregor, Craig Schweikert and Chris Ward finishing on equal points. The overall Female champion was Molly McBain and the overall Male champion was Craig Schweikert. The member with the most points for the season and the overall champion was Molly McBain.

In early March it was decided to hold a Surf Sports Patrol Competition between the seven patrols. The competition was a mixture of water and beach events with points allocated from 1st place to last place. Even though only four patrols participated on the day, the events were fiercely contested with Patrol No1 being crowned winners with 103 points. In second place was Patrol No 3 with 96 points, Patrol No 4 was third with 79 points and Patrol No 5 was fourth with 12 points. Hopefully, this event will become a permanent fixture on the club's competition calendar.

JAC members had a busy season competing in their Sunday morning competition, along with the interclub competition with the two other Macleay clubs, Some strong performances were put in by various members.

South West Rocks held a two-day carnival in early December with JAC members and senior members acquitting themselves well.

The Branch Championships were held at Hat Head over two days in February. All water events were held on Saturday and beach events were held on Sunday. JAC members performed well with Sage Lategan winning Gold in the U9 Female Beach Flags and a Silver Medal in the U9 Female Board Race, she also finished 5th in the U9 Female Surf Race. Lincoln Benson won a silver medal in the U11 Male Beach Flags



and was 6th in the U11 Male Beach Sprint, Willow Fotheringham gained a Bronze Medal in the U9 Female Beach Flags and Bronze in the U9 Female in the U9 Female Beach Sprint. The U9 mixed Board Relay Team finished 4th, Stella Martin finished 4th in the U11 Female Beach Sprint and 5th in the U11 Female Ironperson. Oslo Lategan finished 4th in the U11 Male Beach Flags. The Junior March Past team finished 4th. Elon Lorber finished 5th in the U8 Male Beach Sprint. The JAC members that competed at the Branch Championships over the two days finished 5th in the Branch JAC point score, a great effort from a small team.

Senior member Imogen Ward won Gold Medals in the U19 Female Surf Race, U19 Female Board Race, U19 Female Beach Flags and the U19 Female Beach Sprint. What a great effort Imogen. Sophie Smailes finished 5th in the U14 Female Surf Race.

Congratulations to the club's 180 years surf boat crew (The Show bags) that gained a Bronze Medal at the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships on the Sunshine Coast in April of 2024. The crew consisted of Mark Notley, Ben Thomas, Paul Owens, Chris Ward and Craig Schweikert. The crew put in the hard yards during the season under the coaching of Craig Schweikert and came away with the Bronze Medal in very testing conditions. This is the club's first Australian medal since 2008.

A number of SWR club members attended the Mid North Coast Branch Awards of Excellence which was held at Tacking Point Surf Club on Saturday night the 29th June. Some were successful in winning various awards. Rookie of the Year went to Jarred Hasler, Youth Volunteer of the Year went to Ollie Byrne. Highly Commended Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Craig Schweikert. Peter Brannelly was awarded a Highly Commended Life Saver of the Year. The club was also placed second in the Branch for the number of Life Saving Awards gained during the season. Congratulations to these members and also to the club's training group who spent many hours teaching and training new members for their various awards.

Thanks to Vicki Thomas and Brienna Elford for their help in sending out the SMS messages each Saturday reminding members about the point score and to our water safety and members who assisted on the beach judging and running the events.

Hopefully, we can get more members involved in the Sunday Competition next season. If so this will lead to a stronger presence at all levels of competition. I would like to think that this is a goal for some of our members to achieve.

Bruce Caldwell  
Director of Surf Sports  
Life Member  
SWRSLSC

# DIRECTOR OF LIFESAVING REPORT

The 2023/24 season at South West Rocks witnessed a remarkable achievement: zero lives lost between the red and yellow flags. This success is a direct reflection of the unwavering dedication of our volunteer patrolling members, whose efforts are integral to ensuring beach safety each summer.

Over the course of the season, from October through April, 88 devoted patrollers contributed a total of 2,628 hours—an impressive increase of over 200 hours compared to the previous season. Our patrol teams continue to thrive, with a notable 25% growth in membership over the past five years, allowing us to add a seventh patrol team to our roster.

In the off-season, Surf Life Saving New South Wales (SLSNSW) hosted a Lifesaving Conference in Sydney, drawing 400 members from clubs across the state. The conference covered critical topics such as Lifesaving Agreements, flexible patrolling models, the rebranding of Support Operations to Rescue Services, and broader advancements in surf lifesaving. We were fortunate to have four members attend: Rod McDonagh, SLSMNC President; Renee Smailes, Club Vice-President; Molly McBain, Emerging Leader; and myself, Director of Lifesaving. Their return was marked by renewed enthusiasm and a commitment to share the invaluable insights gained with our team.

The season statistics are as follows: Rescues: 9, First Aid Treatments: 8, Preventative Actions: 224, Beach Closures: 16 and Beach Attendance: 13,774.

The data collected during patrols is crucial for our funding applications and the development of our Lifesaving Agreements with Surf Life Saving NSW. We extend our gratitude to the members who diligently record these statistics.

A highlight of this season was our reduced number of emergency call-outs, offering a welcome break from major incidents. Nevertheless, our Club Call Out Team consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication and skill, responding to calls within 10 minutes and arriving fully equipped. I am deeply committed to ensuring that all our equipment is rescue-ready at all times. The readiness of our gear and assets is not just a protocol but a crucial aspect of our preparedness. Even in the case of false alarms, these moments provide invaluable opportunities for our members to practice and enhance their readiness.

Our top patrolling members for this season were - Aden Mills 75 hours, Rebecca Mitchell 71.5 hours, Ollie Byrne 68 hours, Alys Farley 66 hours, Dave Pearson 63 hours, Emma

Matlock 60 hours, Andrew Packwood 58 hours, Vicki Thomas 55.5 hours and Tim May 52 hours.

Our Education Team has also made significant strides this season. We successfully conducted two Bronze Medallion courses, IRB Training, and annual skills maintenance. A special thank you goes to Bec, Craig, and Spook for their exceptional commitment, expertise, and enthusiasm for surf lifesaving. Their hard work has been instrumental in maintaining our high standards of training and readiness.

During the recent annual Education update, Surf Life Saving NSW emphasised efforts to simplify Education processes. This includes streamlining the pathways to becoming a Trainer or Assessor, enhancing the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process with an RPL hotline, and transitioning all paper-based learning to eLearning platforms. These changes are aimed at making our educational offerings more accessible and efficient for all members.

This season saw the following awards being gained: Surf Rescue Certificate - 2, Bronze Medallion - 13, First Aid - 18, Advanced Resuscitation - 17, Radio Operators Certificate - 2, UAV Operator - 1, IRB Crew - 5, Silver Medallion-IRB Driver - 3, Land Based Flood Response - 2 and Assessor - 1.

As we transition into the new season, I extend a warm invitation to all members to introduce their friends, neighbours, and family to our South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club (SWRSLSC) family. There is a place for everyone within our community, whether their skills lie in the water, on the sand, or within the clubhouse.

Surf lifesaving offers more than just a role; it provides invaluable experiences and opportunities for personal and professional growth. It has given me so much more than I have put in, and I am grateful for the countless learning experiences and connections it has afforded me.

If you love surf lifesaving and have loved ones who might be interested, I encourage them to take the leap. Don't just support a surf lifesaver—come and be one! There's a role for every skill set, and together, we can continue to strengthen our team and make a meaningful impact in our community.

Yours in surf lifesaving,

Brienna Elford  
Director of Lifesaving  
Life Member  
SWRSLSC

# DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Most improved nipper over the season were:

U 6 Albert Batterson

U7 Ella Benson

U8 Elon Lorber

U9 Sage Lategan

U10 Oscar Nicholl

U11 Oslo Lategan

U 14 Sophie Smailes

Junior point score winner

U8 Ilaria Simms 1st

U8 Hudson Freifeld 2nd

U8 William Mitchell 3rd

U9 Willow Fotheringham 1st

U9 Peyton Tugwood 2nd

U9 Mali Bradley 3rd

U10 Oscar Nicholl 1st

U10 George Marshall, Amailia Brandt 2nd

U10 Nevaeh Simms 3rd

U11 Stella Martin 1st

U11 Lincoln Benson 2nd

U11 Brandon Mulvey 3rd

## **Special awards**

Kerrie Fisher Memorial Award for Attitude and Effort - Lincoln Benson

Junior Competitor of the Year - Peyton Tugwood

Junior Lifesaver of the Year - Sophie Smailes

Thanks everyone for a great season, can't wait for 2024/2025.

Megan Curnow

Director of Junior Activities

SWRSLSC

# DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

I have really enjoyed my second season in the role of Director of Marketing & Communications and would like to thank the people who have supported me again this year.

We continued to have amazing support from returning sponsors and from new sponsors who have rendered financial assistance this year. We are sincerely grateful for the support we have received. Once again without the backing of our sponsors, we would not have been able to achieve our primary objective of keeping South West Rocks beaches safe for our community and visitors.

Our weekly Friday night raffles continue to be a great money earner for our club, and I encourage all members to come down on a Friday night and have a drink and/or meal and support the raffle. Thank you to our valued sponsors over many years Balls Butchery and Pick of the Crop for generously donating their delicious meat/seafood and fruit/veggie trays. A BIG thank you to the crew for all your hard work and a special SHOUT OUT to Nippers Sophie Smailes and Liam Slade for making the raffles a success and providing some light entertainment for our members and guests every Friday night.

Our merchandise has been flying out the door. New items will be introduced next season including bucket hats and singlets. We have a new supplier and a new design for our club swimmers for the 24/25 season.

Over the last 12 months, South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club has had great exposure for members in our local newspaper, The Macleay Argus, with many back-page articles showcasing our members' achievements at local and branch carnivals, Country and Aussie Championships. We also have many avenues to keep you informed with newsletters, Facebook (3.4k followers), Instagram (748 followers) and our Club Website. Over the past year, our Facebook and Instagram followers have increased which is positive.

I look forward to a successful 2024/25 season.

Belinda Telford-Miller

Director of Marketing & Communications

SWRSLSC

# CLUB MANAGER REPORT

It's been another wonderful year at the Surf Club. We had a fantastic Summer Holiday period, booked out every night and, much like the year before this busy period extended pretty much all the way through to Easter Long Weekend.

We have worked with some wonderful community organisations on their events this year. Kinchela Boys Home have held multiple meetings and family get-togethers at the Surf Club in 2023-24 and we will be holding part of their 100-year celebrations in October of this year. The Rotary Trivia night, held in May was a huge success and such a fun night for all involved. We also had a great presentation evening for the Marlin's John Elford Memorial Shield win in June. In August we will hold the Educator Awards for Macleay Valley Preschools. We hope to build upon these relationships with community organisations in the coming season and develop new ones where possible.

Our incredible team of staff is to be congratulated on their constant professionalism and impeccable customer service. We have maintained our high review rating on Google and Res-Diary and just about all of our reviews mention how incredible and welcoming our staff are.

I would like to thank all of our members for their continued support and encouragement. It is you guys that make working at the Surf Club such a pleasure. Here's to an even bigger and better 2024/25 season! I hope to see everyone at the Club for a beer or Schnitty very soon!

Alex Wilcox  
Club Manager  
SWRSLSC

# 2023/24 PRESENTATION AWARDS

## SENIOR PRESENTATION AWARD WINNERS

**5 Year Service Awards:** Renee Smailes, Steve Smailes, Vicki Thomas, Belinda White

**10 Year Service Award:** James Stokes

**15 Years Service Award:** Linda Cooper

**20 Year Service Award:** Andrew Packwood, Belinda Reid

**Long Service Award - 25 Years Service Award:** Paul Owens

**Long Service Award - 40 Years Service Award:** Tony Silvia

**Long Service Award - 70 Years Service Award:** Tony Hayes OAM

**Officiating Long Service - 15 Years Service Award:** Rebecca Mitchell

**Coaching Long Service - 15 Years Service Award:** Rebecca Mitchell, David Pearson

**Up and Under Award:** Janelle Cook

**Most Consistent Patrol Member:** Aden Mills

**Encouragement Award:** Ollie Byrne

**Cadet of the Year:** Sophie Smailes

**Rookie of the Year:** Jarrod Hasler

**Patrol of the Year:** Patrol 4

**Competitor of the Year:** "The Showbags" Mark Notley, Ben Thomas, Paul Owens, Chris Ward, Craig Schweikert

**Volunteer of the Year:** Craig Schweikert

**Administrator of the Year:** Vicki Thomas

**Services to Life Saving:** Belinda Telford-Miller

**Director of Admin Award:** Allan & Pamela Walsh

**Director of Lifesaving Award:** Garry Osborne

**President Award:** Ginja Ryan

**Male of the Year:** Wayne Morris

**Female of the Year:** Molly McBain

**CLUBPERSON OF THE YEAR:** Peter Brannelly

## JUNIOR PRESENTATION AWARD WINNERS

**Junior Competitor of the Year:** Peyton Tugwood

**Kerry Fisher Memorial Award for Attitude and Effort:** Lincoln Benson

# 2023/24 EDUCATION AWARDS

## **SURF RESCUE CERTIFICATE**

Elanor Briggs

Darcy Gordon

## **BRONZE MEDALLION**

Josie Anderson, Savannah Becham-Hatton, Craig Bradley, Matthew Chow, Corrine de Mestre, Jarrod Hasler, Piper Mills, Jennifer Ritchie, Eric Shannon, Kacey Shannon, Toni Shannon, Sarah Thomas, Stella Thorman

## **PROVIDE FIRST AID CERTIFICATE**

Josie Anderson, Savannah Becham-Hatton, Craig Bradley, Ollie Byrne, Matthew Chow, Corrine de Mestre, Alex Farley, Jarrod Hasler, Emma Matlock, Kris Matlock, Josh McLaren, Aden Mills, Piper Mills, Chris Reading, Jennifer Ritchie, Eric Shannon, Toni Shannon, Sarah Thomas, Stella Thorman

## **ADVANCED RESUSCITATION TECHNIQUES**

Josie Anderson, Savannah Becham-Hatton, Craig Bradley, Ollie Byrne, Corrine de Mestre, Alex Farley, Jarrod Hasler, Emma Matlock, Kris Matlock, Aden Mills, Piper Mills, Chris Reading, Jennifer Ritchie, Eric Shannon, Toni Shannon, Sarah Thomas, Stella Thorman

## **RADIO OPERATORS CERTIFICATE**

Kris Matlock

## **IRB CREWPERSON**

Ollie Byrne, Alex Farley, Molly McBain, Wayne Morris, Arron Shakespeare

## **IRB DRIVER**

Peter Brannelly, Tim May, Patrick Sheridan

## **LAND BASED FLOOD RESPONSE**

Peter Brannelly, Brienna Elford

## **ASSESSOR**

Brienna Elford



# Appendix 1 - Financial Statements

