BRANCH REPORTS
The 2015-16 season has been a challenging one for the 10 clubs from Yamba to Fingal Head, the Ballina Jet Boat and everyone associated with Far North Coast lifesaving. There’s an expectation from the public that when there’s a patrol on duty, people are safe - and we have to meet that challenge.

Last season 735 State Operations Centre requests for assistance were received during the season throughout New South Wales, and of that figure almost one third, or 233, were on the Far North Coast.

Many of our lifesavers have gone beyond the call of duty this season, and I know we can all be proud of our wonderful organisation.

Achievements

• This season we experienced increased demand for our services outside the patrolling season as well as after hours. Fortunately the Branch was able to secure sponsorship from Newcastle Permanent to purchase two new 4WD vehicles. The Jet Ski fleet has also increased to six and man hours spent on these skis significantly boosted.

• The Annual General Meeting was held at Cudgen Headland Surf Club and the Board welcomed a new Secretary (Leanne Moore), a new Director of Lifesaving (Chris Samuels) and a new Director of Surf Sports (Debbie Pawsey).

• Far North Coast Branch celebrated its 80th season at our Awards of Excellence evening at Twin Towns. Cudgen Headland won Club of the Year and Jimmy Keough received the President’s Award for Outstanding Service to Surf Life Saving.

• Fingal Rovers SLSC was rewarded with the National and NSW Rescue of the Month award for October after Debrah Cheers rescued a female who had bravely entered the water to save the life of a child swept from rocks at Fingal Headland. Chris Dennis rescued the young boy, but the woman unfortunately couldn’t be revived.

• Members from Far North Coast received a number of individual accolades this season. Darcy Morrow and Eoin Johnston were recognised with 50 Year Service Awards at Ballina, while Garry Meredith was announced Volunteer of the Year for Ballina Shire region.

• Our Branch Junior Lifesaver of the Year winners, Hayley Smith (Cudgen Headland SLSC) and Zane Patience (Cabarita Beach SLSC) represented the Far North Coast at Surf Life Saving NSW’s development program.

• The Yamba Rescue Facility was opened by Chris Gulaptis, MP for Clarence.

• In surf sports, the Far North Coast was successful at the NSW Interbranch Championships, claiming the title of the top Country Branch and finishing fifth overall.

• Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore took out the title in the Branch Pool Rescue Championships at Southern Cross University.

• The Byron Bay duo of Jy Timperley and Gabrielle Kay competed for Australia in the New Zealand Pool Rescue Championships in October. Jy and Gabrielle continued their form into the surf for Byron Bay where the club took out the NSW Country Championships by the narrowest of margins over Cudgen Headland at South West Rocks SLSC in February. Byron Bay’s successful season continued at the Branch Titles where they finished ahead of close rivals Cudgen Headland.

Acknowledgements

• I would like to say thanks to the support and funding from the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation which enabled the Far North Coast Branch to purchase two new 4WDs.

• Funding from the State Government provided us with two new jet skis and we’re very thankful for the funding we receive.

• My personal thanks and best wishes go out to all those involved with the Branch in the 2015-16 season. To our lifesavers, families and supporters, the juniors, emergency services and district supervisors, sponsors, club presidents, Branch Executive, Ballina Jet Boat, the local community and public thank you for your efforts and I wish you all the best for 2016-17.

Wilson Cregan
President
The 2015-16 season was highly successful for our eight clubs, support operations, and callout teams who continue to demonstrate the dedication needed to maintain the high standards that we have set in preventing and responding to emergencies on beaches across the North Coast.

Achievements

- Poppy Smyth from Coffs Harbour SLSC and Patrick de Carle from Sawtell SLSC represented the Branch at the NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year development camp.
- Emily Girard (Sawtell SLSC) and Jackson Della (Woolgoolga SLSC) attended the Youth Opportunity Makers and the 18-25 Development Networking Program respectively. The future of North Coast lifesaving looks to be in safe hands and congratulations must go to these young club members for their efforts this season.
- Coffs Harbour won the NSW Rescue of the Month Award for March after a valiant rescue and resuscitation effort at North Wall on two unconscious swimmers. Unfortunately neither patient could be revived, but it was a courageous effort from the lifesavers involved.
- It has been a successful season in education across the branch with Director Sue Neil working with all clubs to ensure they have enough people trained to cover all patrol roles. Many members participated in the diverse range of courses offered. Sue and her fellow trainers also conducted the Junior Development Camp with great success. Thank you to all the Branch Trainers and Assessors who put in the extra hours to improve the standard of education across the Branch.
- Senior competitor numbers are down with junior numbers remaining stable. All carnivals held within the Branch were well attended, while North Coast club members continued to perform strongly at the major championships. It was pleasing to see a large contingent of local athletes travel to South West Rocks for the Country Championships. At the Interbranch Championships held at Cape Hawke last December the North Coast Branch team put in an admirable performance.

Acknowledgements

- I would like to acknowledge our major sponsor Newcastle Permanent Building Society for their ongoing support which is very much appreciated by us here at the Branch.
- Paul Kelly from Coffs Coast Travel Services continues to be a great supporter of surf lifesaving on the North Coast.
- SLSNSW as always provided a dividend from their fundraising efforts to all clubs and the Branch while also providing the annual gear grant.
- Congratulations to our newest Branch Life Member Les Pepper from Woolgoolga SLSC. Les has been the Branch Emergency Services Officer for many years and is a great asset with his wealth of knowledge. Les has often been the first responder to many incidents and is a worthy recipient of this honour.
- Sadly the Branch lost another Life Member last year Peter “Pedro” McHenry from Red Rock-Corindi SLSC and formerly of Woolgoolga SLSC. As Branch Superintendent from 1993-1997 and President from 1997-1999, Pedro contributed greatly to local lifesaving over many years.
- The Branch is very fortunate to be served by a willing and capable Executive with all Directors contributing greatly in their roles. To Jayne Morrison, Wayne Scott, John Wake, Sue Neil, Les Pepper and Kevin Clancy thank you for all your tireless work you do for the Branch. I would also like to thank the Directors and staff at SLSNSW who are always there to support us.
- While it is impossible to thank everyone involved in North Coast Lifesaving, know your efforts are very much appreciated. I have great confidence that we as a Branch will continue to be successful into the future because of this team effort. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support, and to all surf clubs and members all the best for an enjoyable and successful season in 2016-17.

Kerry Clancy
President

24,095
Patrol Hours

97
Rescues

62
First Aids

1,725
Preventative Actions
In 2015-16 our clubs patrolled from Camden Haven to Macksville-Scotts Head and continued to perform a vital community service for the Mid North Coast. Our volunteers conducted themselves in a professional manner throughout the season, and all the while adapting to the constant changes in Surf Life Saving.

The Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast (SLSMNC) Board of Directors continued to work towards future sustainability and while challenges remain, the relationship between the Branch and the clubs will ensure that local Surf Life Saving will evolve and strengthen into the future.

Achievements

• For the second year running Macksville-Scotts Head members were involved in a dramatic rescue in treacherous seas. The heroic efforts of Jason O’Donnell, Scott Balfour and their team in rescuing an Irish kayaker in June saw the team win the National Rescue of the Month award, and ultimately the NSW Rescue of the Year at the Awards of Excellence. Their skill and commitment in undertaking this rescue is to be commended.

• The Junior Lifesavers of the Year should be congratulated on a great job as young ambassadors for SLSMNC. Grace Kunhell (Wauchope-Bonny Hills SLSC) and Isaac Plunkett (Port Macquarie SLSC) are a reflection of the quality of the juniors coming through the ranks. Both have taken a keen interest in Branch affairs and are encouraging their peers to become involved in lifesaving.

• Our surf sports program over the season has been well attended with several local Open and Junior carnivals conducted. Mid North Coast clubs were well represented at the Country, State and Australian Championships with some outstanding performances and medals achieved at all levels. It was pleasing to see our members undertake officials courses which will assist us in our longer term goals within the surf sports portfolio.

• The North Coast Boat Series continues to operate with strong numbers and this has moulded some of the excellent results at higher levels.

• Our Interbranch team put in a good performance at Cape Hawke and made us all proud.

• The Stramit Country Championships were held at South West Rocks, which attracted large numbers of competitors. The event was a great success and will again be hosted by South West Rocks in 2017.

• It’s been a big season for our Member Services team with continual improvement in all aspects of assisting our members to become better lifesavers. Several development camps were conducted throughout the season, while trips to the metropolitan area further advanced the skills of our members.

• Junior membership is in a strong position at all clubs but obviously we can always strive towards better initiatives for the future. It is vital that we further engage with our membership and identify areas of improvement.

• The Education team conducted many courses which were made available to both members and the wider community. All of these courses have been very professionally conducted by our team Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators. We have developed and streamlined processes for proficiencies and administration of awards to benefit the membership. We are constantly reviewing our policy and procedures to ensure that members get the best possible education and quality training.

Acknowledgements

• The Branch wouldn’t function without our members who fulfil the many roles within our clubs and my thanks to everyone. Our club presidents have faced some challenges during the past season and I commend them all on a job well done.

• Our thanks to Surf Life Saving NSW Directors and staff, Kempsey Shire Council, Nambucca Shire Council and Port Macquarie Hastings Council who have afforded various financial and in-kind support throughout the 2015-16 season.

Rod McDonagh
President
Congratulations to all members of Surf Life Saving Lower North Coast (SLSLNC) for a successful 2015-16, and I’m pleased to report that no lives were lost on our patrolled beaches this season.

Our six clubs, from Crowdy Head SLSC in the north to Pacific Palms SLSC in the south, have once again shown the dedication needed to maintain the high standards required to keep our beaches safe.

**Achievements**

- Congratulations to Annelise Romer and Jordan Fowler from Forster SLSC who represented SLSLNC at the Surf Life Saving NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year program.
- The many community education programs run by clubs, including Blackhead Special Nippers, Forster Christmas holiday Surf School, the Koori Girls and Boys Surf Program, and Forster Youth Group Beach to Bush Program should be applauded for their innovation and value to the communities that we live in.
- One of our most important jobs is running our Nipper and youth programs. By educating our kids and keeping them active we keep them alive in the surf and hopefully put them on a pathway in life of physical activity and community participation. We also gain most of our patrolling members from Nipper parents.
- Our education teams in our surf clubs and at Branch have worked hard again this season facilitating over 200 awards. The awards gained have spanned the whole education program which is fantastic in a world where patrolling members are getting harder to find, we need to multi-skill our members to meet our patrolling requirements.
- Surf sports and competition is going through a huge transition from club level right up to national level. There are many challenges due to the changes in society, most importantly, people have less time for leisure and they place a greater value on their time. There are plenty of ideas already being planned for introduction into our Branch next season to make events more time efficient with greater satisfaction for the competitors.
- Our Support Operations and club call-out teams have once again put in many hours doing extended search and rescue operations with not always the positive result that we seek. The dedication of these teams to give up their time to help with rescue or recovery operations is inspiring.

**Ackowledgements**

- Thank you to the club presidents and executives for endless hours of planning and administration that keeps our clubs functioning.
- To our sponsors, thank you for helping us save lives and keep our communities safe. We are blessed to have a major sponsor in Newcastle Permanent who not only sponsors surf lifesaving, but is involved in supporting many local initiatives.
- Thank you to our local, state and federal political friends for their support of our clubs and organisation. Their influence and contacts can make the difference between us achieving things to help our communities or not being able to do anything at all.
- Thank you to SLSNSW for the support for clubs and the running of programs and events for our members. I would like to thank our Branch Executives who are all very capable people, and give of their time so freely to help our clubs to be the best they can be.
- In closing, I would like to extend to all clubs and their members my appreciation for your efforts during the season, in keeping Surf Life Saving strong and relevant to our communities. We should not underestimate our worth to the community and should be justifiably proud of the service we provide. The most important ingredient is that everyone has fun and enjoys each other’s company, and we are looking forward to helping our clubs and members meet their goals in 2016-17.

Brian Wilcox  
President

17,546  
Patrol Hours  

36  
Rescues  

172  
First Aids  

2,002  
Preventative Actions
Thank you to all Hunter Surf Life Saving (HSLS) patrolling members, trainers, assessors, age managers, youth organisers and most of all our club executives.

Achievements

- Our Community Education Program for school students reached 6,000 participants which is an outstanding achievement. Our thanks go to everyone involved in this important project. I must also acknowledge Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation gave HSLS a new 4WD for our Community Education program in order to tow the trailer.

- Seven of our surf clubs were involved in the special needs New Wave program. This program gives people living with a disability an opportunity to participate in Surf Life Saving. This is also a great retention program with many youth and older members facilitating it.

- Congratulations to Jade Williams (Cooks Hill SLSC) and Luke Walmsley (Caves Beach SLSC) who represented HSLS at the Surf Life Saving NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year program.

- HSLS hosted a round of KNG Iron Series, Summer of Surf and Wave Warriors this season which proved to be a draw card to our area. Short sharp carnivals have been a great hit with athletes, officials and parents. A special mention must go to Daniel Collins from Redhead SLSC who represented Australia in Japan at the Sanyo Cup earlier in the year.

- Our 13 clubs were again breach free for a second year, with the clubs working hard to reach their sustainability targets. This has strengthened patrols, given club captains a better rostering system, and produced very confident and happy patrolling members. HSLS currently has 15 Duty Officers and 35 RWC Drivers, and this season we also replaced four RWCs in our fleet of craft.

- HSLS introduced a Central Venue Assessment Program, and this was positioned in the middle of the Branch at Stockton Beach SLSC. All practical assessments were conducted on a Saturday morning. Assessors were eager to participate as dates were set before the season started.

- Our trainers were happy as squad commencement dates were 10 weeks apart and all members in the Branch knew of squads to enrol in.

- HSLS has entered into a Memorandum Of Understanding with Hunter TAFE to educate members in Certificate 4 in Leadership and Management. So far 40 members have participated in this program.

- Sustainability charts for patrols, education and officials has assisted all 13 clubs meet targets to ensure future viability, with all clubs having participated in the Quality Club Program for four years. The standard of governance in the clubs is very good, which makes for happy members.

- Seven members gained the Certificate 4 in Assessing and Training; and this has ensured every club has qualified trainers and assessors.

Acknowledgements

- Thank you to Surf Life Saving NSW for the funding they provide our clubs through the Lifesaving and Equipment Grant, Support Operation Grant and Emergency Funding Grant.

- Our thanks go to the NSW Government for funding digital radios for Hunter surf clubs, and also for grants which helped us to purchase two RWCs and develop a new website. The Federal Government also assisted with funding for an RWC.

- HSLS thanks outgoing NSW President Tony Haven AM and Director of Surf Sports Michael Bate for their friendship and service, and the staff of SLSNSW for their extraordinary service to HSLS members.

Henry Scrutton
President
CENTRAL COAST

The 2015-16 season has been the most successful and exciting one for Surf Life Saving Central Coast (SLSCC) in many years. Plans that had been spoken about by the SLSCC Board and sub-committees for years finally came to fruition with outstanding achievements obtained, and many new initiatives implemented.

Achievements

- While we had great results across all areas, the outcome that we pride ourselves on most was achieving zero swimming related drownings at Central Coast beaches this season. I would like to thank all our members for their continuing vigilance and service to the community.
- A special mention must go to Denver Brown from Wamberal SLSC who won National and NSW Rescue of the Month for November after he rescued two female teenagers who were struggling in a rip off Wamberal Beach.
- Avoca Beach SLSC won the NSW Rescue of the Month award for January thanks to the efforts of their surf lifesavers who treated 11 beachgoers who had sustained serious injuries after being knocked over by a freak wave on the rocks south of the clubhouse.
- The SLSCC Board of Surf Sports implemented many exciting new initiatives this season which has led to increased participation. Highlights included working with the elite Nutri-Grain Ironperson Series to provide our grass root U10-U17 aspiring athletes competition opportunities, co-ordinating with the North Coast Boat Series to hold the first combined Boat Series event, the implementation of a unique Board and Ski series with a format not seen before in Surf Life Saving. Goals of this series were that the competitors had fun as well as increasing participation, and this was certainly achieved.
- Our Member Services teams continue to deliver many programs targeted at developing and retaining our youth including the Junior Life Saver of the Year, Rookie Lifesaver Program, 13-14 Development Camp, and 15-17 Youth Leadership Program which toured the NSW North Coast.
- Congratulations to our Junior Lifesaver of the Year winners, Cerys Cousins (MacMasters Beach SLSC) and Dylan Barrett (Ocean Beach SLSC) who represented our Branch at Surf Life Saving NSW’s development program.

- To raise awareness and recognise our amazing surf lifesavers, SLSCC joined forces with the Central Coast Mariners who dedicated one of their home games to Surf Life Saving Central Coast. The players wore a one-off red and yellow uniform, while our surf clubs engaged in pre-game and half time entertainment. The match was televised Australia-wide on Foxtel which was fantastic brand awareness for Surf Life Saving.
- SLSCC continues to push the SLSNSW Quality Club Program with our clubs. We are proud that 100% of our clubs registered for this program in 2015-16 and would like to see all clubs gain a minimum of bronze level accreditation next season.
- To complement the Quality Club Program, SLSCC partnered with a local accounting firm, Fortunity Chartered Accountants and Financial Advisors, to provide in-kind accounting and auditing advice to SLSCC and our clubs with an overall aim of enhancing transparency, governance and consistency across all entities.
- Thank you to our Board of Education, who had another big season and it was fantastic to see the streamlining of forms and processes by SLSNSW to support our Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators. This was a positive step in the right direction and we hope to see SLSNSW add even more efficiencies to education requirements to support our volunteers into the future.

Acknowledgements

- On behalf of all at SLSCC, I would like to thank our valued partners and supporters at all levels of Surf Life Saving along with Central Coast Council and our local state and federal members.
- Thank you to the SLSNSW staff and Directors for your leadership and ongoing support, and thank you to the dedication of the SLSCC Directors, staff and Branch Council for your commitment and positivity, which allows us to continue to grow Surf Life Saving within our region.

Stuart Harvey
President

96,492
Patrol Hours

1,200
Rescues

2,853
First Aids

22,580
Preventative Actions
It’s an honour to serve and provide stewardship to such a great organisation filled with people endowed with passion, commitment, skills, expertise and professionalism. The 2015-16 season saw no lives lost during our watch thanks to the vigilant efforts of our 21 clubs and their 5,516 patrolling members.

I thank all of our volunteers for their efforts throughout the season and everyone who supported us in attaining this outcome. As the statistics show, it was another busy but successful season for Sydney Northern Beaches Branch.

We sincerely thank the patrolling members of our 21 clubs for their efforts over what was a long, hot summer, especially through the month of February!

Achievements

- The Branch continues to focus its efforts towards helping our clubs and we have developed and delivered on a number of initiatives across all portfolios to make life easier at club level.
- Congratulations to Yao Xen Tan (North Steyne SLSC) and Michele Kaye & Nigel Kassulke (Manly LSC) who were awarded February National and NSW Rescue of the Month award for reviving a swimmer who was brought to shore not breathing by local surfers at Manly Beach.
- My President’s Award for this season went to North Steyne SLSC for their initiative in bringing the Sydney Wet’n’Wild Nippers to North Steyne for a “real surf” day. The Sydney Wet’n’Wild Nippers interacted well with the North Steyne Nippers in what is now planned as an annual event.
- Surf Sport Highlights included the Branch retaining its Interbranch title for the second year; Manly winning its 7th consecutive NSW Age Championships; Newport winning the NSW Open Championships for the third year running; and at Aussies, Newport coming 3rd, Manly 7th and our clubs claiming 25 per cent of all medals on offer - an outstanding result.
- All of our clubs performed at a high level throughout the season as was reflected in our patrol audits. All of our clubs achieved 94% or higher on at least one audit, reflecting the overall high standards. The Branch allocated $20,000 to the top seven place getters in our patrol competition - the money to be spent on lifesaving equipment.
- We are grateful for the support provided by Dee Why RSL Club who provided funding through the Clubs Grant program over three years for a new Surf Rescue vehicle. This new vehicle is being fitted out for use by our Duty Officers for the coming season.
- It was another busy season in the Education portfolio. We processed just under 8,000 new awards including over 1,100 advanced lifesaving awards. We continued to assess Bronze and SRC at central venues not only relieving the pressure on our Assessors but also improving the overall standard and uniformity of our assessments. A big thank you to all who are involved in training and assessing within our Branch - you are a wonderful and talented team.
- In the Member Services area we had strong participation in our Junior Lifesaver of the Year category with some very capable and inspiring young members being nominated by our clubs. We were thrilled when Ella Cook from Narrabeen Beach SLSC was announced as the female Junior Lifesaver of the Year and commend our male finalist Zizo Ayoub from Dee Why SLSC.

Acknowledgements

- We thank the NSW Government for their funding which allows our clubs to purchase vital lifesaving equipment each year and for their support with the new surf club lease templates. We value the support provided by our local members of Parliament who take an active involvement within our Branch.
- To the Board of Directors and staff at SLSNSW, thank you for your stewardship and assistance to the Branch throughout the year.
- We would like to acknowledge outgoing SLSNSW President, Tony Haven AM and thank him for his many years of service. We also welcome newly elected SLSNSW President David Murray who is a past President of SLSSNB and wish him well in his new role.

Doug Menzies
President

148,385 Patrol Hours
1,611 Rescues
2,943 First Aids
43,780 Preventative Actions
The 2015-16 season has been extremely busy for Surf Life Saving Sydney. I have been fortunate to have the same Board supporting me in this, my second season as President.

The main focus this season at Branch level has been to ensure we were relevant to our 15 clubs. This meant we were continually striving to deliver value and provide leadership and guidance to all.

The year in review, with our focus on innovation and suitability for the future, enabled us to deliver a number of activities which were aligned with the overall strategic plan.

**Achievements**

In summary the key achievements delivered by Surf Life Saving Sydney in 2015/16 include;

- Driving the drone technology for use in Surf Life Saving at all levels of the organisation – managed by Deputy President, Peter Agnew ASM
- Delivering new competitive events in Sydney Branch – delivered by Director of Surf Sports, Wayne Druery
- Finalising the review and rewriting the Constitution and By-Laws – delivered by Keith Grima OAM
- Restructuring the Lifesaving and Education committees – delivered by Director of Lifesaving and Education, Simon Torsellini
- Delivery of the SLSS Member Recognition Application – delivered by Director of Lifesaving and Education, Simon Torsellini
- Clubs Gear Inspection engagement sessions - delivered by Director of Lifesaving and Education, Simon Torsellini
- Quality Club Program with 9 of the 15 clubs engaged – managed by Director of Member Services, Trent Thomas
- Formation of the Member Services committee – delivered by Director of Member Services, Trent Thomas
- Emergency scenario training for junior activities in the event of a missing person occurring during Nippers which will be supported by emergency response kits at each club – delivered by Director of Junior Activities, Doug Hawkins
- Congratulations to Chloe Walker (Coogee SLSC) and Michael De Francesco (North Cronulla SLSC) who represented Surf Life Saving Sydney at the SLSNSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year program in April 2016.
- North Bondi and South Maroubra SLSCs were awarded National and NSW Rescue of the Month awards for April 2016 and July/August 2015 respectively. South Maroubra won their award after rescuing a fisherman who had broken his leg after falling off rocks at Malabar Headland on 9 August 2015. North Bondi Patrol 14 rescued a group of swimmers from dangerous conditions near rocks on 23 April 2016.
- The 2015-16 Surf Life Saving Sydney Awards of Excellence was a great success and a tribute to the work the Board and office staff put into the evening. The evening saw recognition of the best lifesavers and competitors in our Branch.
- The number of new Bronze awards has decreased slightly this season, however we had 3% increase in Bronze proficiency numbers across the Branch.

**Acknowledgements**

- I would like to take this opportunity to reconfirm that there were no lives lost between the flags in Sydney Branch and in closing, I sincerely thank the Club Presidents for the continued support you have provided to me and the Board.
- To the Board - I wish to extend my sincere thanks for your support and dedication to our Branch. To the backbone of the organisation - Linda Perrin and Victoria Raymond - thank you for the unrelenting support you provide to all the clubs and Board. We are extremely fortunate to have you on the team.
- I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the team at SLSNSW for their ongoing support provided to the team at SLSS. In particular to outgoing President Tony Haven AM and Director of Surf Sports Michael Bate for the service provided.

George Shales  
President

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Congratulations to members of Surf Life Saving Illawarra (SLSI) for another successful season. Well done to our patrolling members whose efforts ensured no lives lost for another year. I am very proud of the hard work and achievements made by each of our 17 clubs throughout the 2015-16 season.

Achievements

- Congratulations to Helensburgh-Stanwell Park surf lifesavers, Jorja Williams and Keehan Reilly who represented SLSI at the SLSNSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year program.
- An outstanding accomplishment was achieved by Bulli SLSC President, Keith Caldwell, who was announced as a Life Member of Surf Life Saving NSW earlier this year.
- Bulli surf lifesavers were awarded National and NSW Rescue of the Month for December 2015 thanks to their efforts rescuing six swimmers after a large set of waves barrelled through the flagged area at Bulli Beach and pulled them 100 metres out to sea.
- Anthony Turner was an outstanding success in his commitment to Surf Life Saving in his role as Director of Lifesaving.
- The 14th season of the Sydney Water Surf Series had close to 1,100 athletes compete over four rounds which included the last round as part of the Summer of Surf series.
- A new initiative focusing on the development of our surf sports athletes was established for U12-U19 surf/craft members. A group of between 30-40 athletes registered for the two sessions per week all season. The program assisted clubs in the new Coaching Framework and developed quality/depth of our Branch team improving skills and results.
- The 2016 Australian Championships were a highlight for Illawarra clubs. Congratulations to the Bulli Open Men’s Boat Crew and Helensburgh-Stanwell Park Open Female Beach Relay team who won gold. It was a season to remember for beach sprinter Samuel Zustovich (Helensburgh-Stanwell Park) as he claimed the treble of gold at Branch, State and Aussies in the U14 Male Beach Flags.
- SLSI were successful in numerous grants that helped supply our members with three new RWCs, two new beach trailers, three new road trailers and three new radios.
- A big step forward for our Branch was the digital radio network upgrade.
- 2015-16 was a very successful season for Illawarra Branch in Education. We had a very strong start to the season with over 50 TAFs attending our pre-season conference held at Wollongong City SLSC and this enthusiasm continued with great attendance numbers at each of our Education meetings. There were 194 new Bronze Medallion holders and a total of 5769 new awards to our Illawarra members.
- Trials of electronic paperwork for award processing and streamlining of systems ensured we followed 100% compliance for our Registered Training Organisation requirements.
- Community Education achieved plenty of growth this season as we hosted in conjunction with the SLSNSW Academy Education team over 20+ sessions for the Blackspot program, as well as over 40 individual club based events throughout the community.

Acknowledgements

- SLSI would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors for their invaluable support throughout the 2015-16 season.
- We thank Noreen Hay MP & Ryan Park MP for the Community Building Partnership Grants where we received two RWCs replacing our ageing fleet.
- I would also like to acknowledge and thank the SLSI Board for their dedication and continued support throughout the season. Thank you also to our staff for their commitment and support.
- The SLSI would also like to thank the SLSNSW Board and staff for their support over the last 12 months, and we are looking forward to an even bigger and better 2016-17 season.

Val Zanotto
President
It is with pride I report to you that South Coast Surf Life Saving has continued to provide an outstanding level of patrol and rescue service to the South Coast community. Our lifesaving members are performing to a high level, and have a strong commitment to the safety of everyone who visits our beaches.

Our volunteer branch and club administrators contribute a highly valued level of commitment to the operations, administration, support, fundraising and financial service to their clubs. At all levels of the club network if it were not for the volunteers who step up and take on the variety of job roles that a club and branch require we would be in a poor functional and administrative state, I congratulate all for their ongoing efforts.

Achievements

- The South Coast Branch Community and School Education program was delivered during the months of September to January. The School Education component saw some 2,100 students participate in the program, which was led by our team of Sue Whitford and Adam Woodward. Sessions were delivered in the southern Illawarra, South Coast, Southern Highlands, Goulburn and Braidwood District.

- During the peak summer holiday period of December and January our team along with Dr Rob Brander of UNSW delivered our water safety program in conjunction with Rob’s “Science of the Surf” talks to many visiting tourists with the series commencing at Shellharbour SLSC, then Mollymook SLSC and to Bawley Point/Kioloa Community Club. Dr Brander delivered one of his lectures on the beach at Bawley Point following the Bawley Ironman Carnival.

- A number of significant sport events were held across the branch during the season. Shellharbour SLSC hosted the Australian Surf Rowers League Open Championships, Branch Championships and a carnival of the Sydney Water Series, and will again host the ASRL Open Championships in 2016-17 season.

- Mollymook SLSC hosted the NSW IRB Championships and the SLSA National IRB Championships. Ocean Swim events have become increasingly popular within our clubs over recent years. The Shellharbour Ocean Swim, Gerringong Captain Christie Ocean Swim, Nowra-Culburra’s Tilbury Ocean Swim and Mollymook Ocean swim are increasingly popular events and a good fundraiser for the surf lifesaving clubs. My congratulations to all south coast clubs, and their volunteer work force in hosting what were outstanding events.

- In August of 2015, we held a Clubs Conference at the Watersleigh Youth Works Outdoors Conference Centre, on the upper Shoalhaven River. This was an outstanding event for our club officials to attend. Branch invited a number of guest speakers including NSW Police Shoalhaven Local Area Commander, Joe Cassar, SLSNSW Board Member and Director of Finance, Ms Pip Butt CPA, and Ms Claire Maddon, a social researcher. The club officials who attended the conference acknowledged they received a benefit from attending.

- The South Coast Branch Awards evening was attended by 124 club members and guests. It was a great evening with the success and achievements of a number of our members recognised. Naida Guy of Kiama Downs SLSC was awarded the South Coast Branch Surf Lifesaver of the Year. Naida’s involvement in her club extends from organising Nippers, being an age manager, training, a patrol member and a member of the female IRB racing team. Naida is a great ambassador for surf lifesaving.

Acknowledgements

- I take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution and outstanding support given to the Branch by our supporters who contribute funds which enables South Coast Branch to provide continuing operational support to our nine surf life saving clubs.

- In closing, I congratulate all South Coast Branch members involved at all levels from patrol and administration to junior activities and look forward to a safe and rewarding 2016-17 season.

Steve Jones
President
First of all a huge thank you must go to the Far South Coast Branch Executive for their ongoing professionalism in supporting our seven clubs, and of course their members. The hard work and countless hours all our members dedicate to Surf Life Saving needs to be applauded.

Another season has finished with all of our clubs fulfilling their patrol agreements, and doing their best to keep beachgoers safe.

Sadly this season we lost several dedicated members - Fergus Thomson OAM, Al Armstrong (GBM founding member) and Jamie Woods who was a Wambiri development program stalwart for 17 years.

Achievements

• Congratulations to Annabelle Smith (Broulee Surfers SLSC) and Jake Shaw (Pambula SLSC) who represented our Branch at the Surf Life Saving NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year program in April 2016.
• The George Bass Surfboat Marathon was our biggest and most successful event this season. Congratulations to Andrew, Sue and the GBM team that pulled it together. Thanks to Bruce and Angela Annabel for their passion for the event through the late “Curly” Annabel, and made a substantial cash injection to make it happen.
• Far South Coast clubs achieved great results in the surf this season with some of our boat crews and competitors at Country, State, Aussies and the Warilla Bowls Boat series enjoying success.
• Jindabyne Yabbies hosted a carnival this season, taking surf lifesaving to the bush which proved to be a very popular initiative and will prosper for years to come.
• Darren Browning and Don Hay did an outstanding job running our RWC services.
• Bruce McAslan and Cheryl McCartney of Bermagui SLSC attended the Surf Life Saving NSW 26+ Beyond My Club program.
• Thanks to Duty Officers Ken & Anthony Bellete, Don Hay, Ben Bate, Andrew Holt, Harley Dengate and Josh Crouch for their dedication to this challenging role.
• Congratulations to Pambula surf lifesavers Dave Prowse, Hayley Ashcroft, Nick Tondering, Marcia Vitouchova, Karen Griffeths and Frank Davey who won Branch Rescue of the Year after reviving a swimmer who was pulled from the water by family members more than 1km north of the flags in January 2016.
• Broulee SLSC won Branch Lifesaving Club of the Year performing 110 rescues, 38 first aids and 386 preventions.
• We implemented a U15-U17’s program which resulted in 25 IRB, 11 SMAR and 18 new IRB drivers in training so far. We’re looking into funding for the program to continue the amazing work and keep this age group interested in progressing through surf lifesaving.
• Our Youth Development Program, Wambiri for U13-U14 members is currently in its 19th year and is still a big hit with quality youngsters coming through the ranks.
• The Same Wave Program is experiencing ongoing success with an increased demand and interest from the community. The program is now in its 17th year in Pambula and 5th year in Moruya.
• Education has been a strong point of the Far South Coast Branch for many years, and throughout the 2015-16 season we’ve welcomed three new Facilitators, an Assessor and a Trainer to assist educating our members.

Acknowledgements

• In our little towns on the Far South Coast, there is far more to Surf Life Saving than volunteers in red and yellow protecting our beachgoers.
• I’d like to thank Surf Life Saving NSW and their continuing support of us on the Far South Coast.
• We are community centres, teaching both young and old what it is to build and retain community spirit. I congratulate our 2156 members across seven clubs for contributing the time it takes. Thank you to the Branch Directors that keep this all together, and finally my wife Judy for her support always.

Tony Rettke
President

19,646
Patrol Hours

157
Rescues

100
First Aids

1,137
Preventative Actions