Achievements

• The season opened with the Raising of the Flags at Lennox Head-Alstonville.
• The magnificent new surf club at Lighthouse Beach Ballina was finally opened. The club has been highly successful under trying circumstances in recent seasons and are now looking forward to further progress and success with this first class facility.
• The Branch took possession of the old Ballina Shelly Beach Clubhouse and renovations and refurbishments have now commenced. It will be a real asset for lifesaving and the community, primarily as a meeting and training venue. Our sincere thanks must be extended to Paul Smith and his team for their generosity in installing the new kitchen facilities.
• The Ballina Jet Boat performed magnificently with a rescue involving two capsized vessels near the mouth of the Richmond River. The crew were awarded the NSW Rescue of the Month, Rescue of the Year at the NSW Awards of Excellence and Surf Life Saving Australia’s Individual Meritorious Award with Silver Insert.
• Lennox Head SLSC undergoes extensive renovations of around $180,000 with support from the NSW State Government and the local community. Brian Dell, his Executive and members are to be complimented.
• Salt SLSC was successful in obtaining DA approval for the redevelopment of their clubhouse to the value of $2.4million.
• Jim Dougherty, a stalwart of the Yamba SLSC was rightfully awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours List.
• It is with regret that we note the passing of two well-known Life Members of the Branch – John Graham (Brunswick Heads) and Brian “Buzza” Pearce (Evans Head-Casino) and a Life Member of the Branch JAC, Joyce Buchanan (Cudgen Headland).
• The Branch was pleased to assist the Fingal Rovers SLSC with administrative support after a major change to their Executive and in this respect we warmly acknowledge the services of Belinda Camp.

Far North Coast Branch excelled again in the competition arena.

• Ela Heiniger was selected in the NSW team, NSW High Performance Squad and was awarded Country Athlete of the Year at the NSW Awards of Excellence.
• Cudgen Headland hosted both the Junior and Open Branch Titles with distinction.
• Byron Bay won the NSW Stramit County Championships at Mollymook on the South Coast with Cudgen Headland in third and Ballina and Lennox Head also finishing in the top 20.
• The NSW Interbranch Championships held at Soldiers Beach saw the Far North Coast take out Champion Country Branch and finish fifth in the overall pointscore.
• Far North Coast competitors and officials were not daunted by the long distances to travel and attended the NSW Surf Life Saving Championships at Umina and the Australian Titles at Scarborough in great numbers and with considerable success.

Acknowledgements

The Secretary’s Award for an outstanding contribution to Surf Life Saving was awarded to Jimmy Keogh, the senior Branch Duty Officer.

I have been very impressed by the support and enthusiasm throughout the season from all the various Club Presidents and their efforts to attend and contribute to Branch Council Meetings.

The Branch has been very fortunate to be served by a willing and capable Executive – each Director has contributed and fulfilled their roles. I sincerely appreciate and acknowledge the services of Debbie Pawsey, John Watson, Elton Cummings, Paul Smith, Greg Clark, Geoff Horsey and Ben Redman for a job well done.

I am aware that the performance and future of Far North Coast Surf LifeSaving is a team effort and I understand that there are many contributors – club executives, officers, officials, club members, families, friends, supporters, sponsors, politicians and local government and the community at large – to all a big thank you.

Wilson Cregan
President | Far North Coast Branch
The 2013-14 season was again a very busy one for all the clubs in the North Coast Branch. Our patrolling members were vigilant and no lives were lost in our area. A number of major rescues were performed which certainly saved lives at Red Rock, Sawtell and Coffs Harbour. The North Coast Support operations group continued to have a high presence in the branch. To all these volunteers we say thank you for your great contribution to Surf Life Saving on the North Coast.

Awards and Acknowledgements

The Junior Lifesavers of the Year were Lani Goodman from Woolgoolga SLSC and Harrison Jacobs from Coffs Harbour SLSC. Louise Dam (Sawtell) was the Branch Female Lifesaver and Mark Yager (Red Rock-Corindi) was the Male Lifesaver for this season. The Trainer/Assessor of the Year was Garry Howe (Urunga) and the Administrator of the Year was Trevor Acason (Woolgoolga).

There was one nomination for the Rescue of the Month. This was the group from Red Rock Corindi, consisting of Sarah Blanchard and Brad Kearns. Their brave actions certainly saved a life on the day.

The North Coast Branch aims to ensure that our clubs are able to perform their core business, which is, to patrol our beaches and make sure that all our beach goers feel confident that they are in safe hands when they visit our area. The branch supports the clubs in fulfilling these obligations.

Surf Sports

North Coast Branch had athletes attend the NSW Talented Athlete Program camp and also the Athletes Exchange to Sydney. The Woolgoolga Boat Masters crews were the outstanding athletes this season winning the NSW Championships and going on to win a gold and silver medal at the Australian Championships. Ryan Beckett from Coffs Harbour was also an Australian bronze medallist in the Under 17 Ski. Many of our athletes continue to be involved with the North Coast Academy of Sport, which enables them to train with other athletes from our neighbouring branches. There was also the new Yarads series of carnivals conducted between North Coast, Mid North Coast and Lower North Coast. These carnivals were held over the December/January period which gave our athletes the much needed competition before the NSW Country Championships.

Member Services

The branch conducted the U14 Development Camp. Also a new initiative this year was a 15/18 leadership camp which was very well attended. Naomi Howe (Urunga) attended the Youth Opportunity Makers program, Leila Walker (Sawtell) the Lifesaving Exchange program and Sarah Marsden (Bellinger Valley North Beach) attended the 18-25 Development Networking program. All of these fine young lifesavers help me to feel confident for the future of lifesaving in our branch.

Education

Under the guidance of our Director of Education Sue Neil, there has been a very comprehensive education calendar. The courses offered were many and varied and taken up by many of our members.

Sadly the branch lost another Life Member this year; Barry Morrison from the Nambucca Heads SLSC was a valuable member of the branch in past years.

To my fellow members of the Branch Executive, thank you for your advice, support and hard work throughout what has been a demanding season on your valuable time.

The continued overall success of our branch is due to a team effort from all clubs, delegates, all our dedicated Directors and office bearers, our branch sponsors, as well as the CEO and staff of SLSNSW and our many state and national sponsors.

Kerry Clancy
President | North Coast Branch
The Mid North Coast Branch has continued to maintain a high standard of life saving services to the public during the 2013-14 season. This has been supported by our eight clubs providing exemplary patrols and fostering membership and education. Again, Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast can boast that we had zero drownings between the flags this season. This season our branch saw dedication recognised with Tony Hayes, Life Member of SLSNSW, receiving an OAM in the Queen’s Birthday Honour List, Bruce Caldwell, Life Member of SLSNSW, receiving the 40 years of Officiating Certificate and Ryan Rosenbaum of Tacking Point SLSC named the DHL Australian Surf LifeSaver of the Year.

In the competition arena we conducted several local junior and senior carnivals with encouraging attendances. The Yarads Young Guns Series was held over three rounds with a round in the North Coast, Lower North Coast and Mid North Coast Branches. Thanks to Camden Haven and Macksville Scotts Head SLSCs for conducting the Senior and Junior Branch Championships respectively which were held in good conditions and well organised. Several clubs attended Country, State and Aussie Championships with some very pleasing results. Director of Surf Sports Ray McDonagh put in a huge effort to coordinate events.

Our Director of Life Saving Paul Rayner has guaranteed that all patrols and our Support Services have operated at a professional level. Our Support Services crew have once again performed above and beyond the call of duty and attended an increasing number of emergency situations. Unfortunately some of these situations involved fatalities, mainly at isolated locations in unfavourable conditions.

This season saw Member Services and Youth Development triple their Development Programs. Both a Junior and Youth Development Camp were conducted and also an enthusiastic youth group visited Dee Why SLSC to learn first-hand how our city cousins operate. The Young Life Saver of the Year program was carried out with some quality candidates. Congratulations to all who took part in the program. We have seen our members selected to attend Australian and State development programs such as The National Leaders Master Class, NSW Combined Portfolio’s Conference, Youth Opportunity Makers and Junior Lifesaver of the Year and also take part in the Lifesaving Exchange Program. Gary Hawkins is to be commended for his enthusiasm and efforts facilitating the Member Services and Youth Development role; a magnificent effort.

We have seen a few changes in education with new awards this season. Currently we have 47 trainers, 29 assessors, and 10 facilitators with 12 probationary trainers and 9 probationary assessors available in the branch. We have had 155 candidates obtain their Bronze Medallion and 72 Surf Rescue Certificates, 43 IRB Crew, 20 IRB Driver, plus 329 other awards, and 2926 proficiencies this season. This is a huge increase from last year. I would like to congratulate all the trainers, assessors and facilitators for the great effort they have put into educating the members of the Mid North Coast Branch this season.

Reporting and governance requirements are very important and Director of Administration Jo Hawkins has put in a massive effort keeping things running smoothly and I thank her for her assistance to me during the season. Our Director of Finance Mike Stevenson and Registrar Bruce Caldwell have also been diligent behind the scenes in often unnoticed tasks.

Obviously we cannot survive without the assistance of Local Government, SLSNSW and our local sponsors.

In conclusion I wish to acknowledge our hard working Executive Committee and Deputy President Ken Wilson who stepped up in my absence during the year under some difficult circumstances. More importantly I thank all our volunteer lifesavers and the Club Office Bearers for their contribution and assistance to Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast in 2013-14.

Rod McDonagh
President | Mid North Coast Branch
Congratulations to all members of Surf Life Saving Lower North Coast for a successful 2013-14 season with no lives lost on our beaches for the fourth consecutive year.

Our six clubs, Support Operations and club call-out teams have once again shown the dedication needed to maintain the high standards in preventing and responding to emergencies.

Clubs should be commended on the professionalism they show in running the diverse business that surf lifesaving has become.

This season our clubs have been involved in running many events including ocean swims at Cape Hawke, Forster and Pacific Palms as well as Open carnivals including the Forster Weekend of Surf, Pacific Palms Masters Carnival, Lower North Coast Branch Championships at Pacific Palms, Crowdy Head Carnival and Battle of the Boats at Pacific Palms – all of which have kept clubs busy. Clubs have also helped in community events by providing water safety and first aid.

Achievements

• Three entities (Blackhead, LNC Support Operations, Pacific Palms) were nominated and recognised in the SLSNSW Rescue of the Month Awards, with Pacific Palms winning State Rescue of the Month for October 2013.
• We were ably represented by our Junior Lifesavers of the Year, Toby Jones and Sarah Ward of Forster SLSC, at the SLSNSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year camp.
• We were represented at the SLSNSW Youth Opportunity Makers Workshop by Ruby Jones and Tamara Morgan of Forster SLSC.
• Two of our members acted as SLSNSW Duty Officers – Ben Atkinson and Richard Ellery.
• Nathan DeRooy of Cape Hawke SLSC represented us on the SLSNSW Youth Panel.
• The continued operation of two fantastic community engagement projects, the Blackhead SLSC Special Nippers Program and the Forster SLSC Surf Safety Schools were well attended and very successful.
• Another very successful Junior Development Camp at Camp Elim was attended by more than 40 of our youth members.
• Inclusion in various Emergency Services training exercises and an Open Day for Emergency Services at Forster Marine Rescue Base was held during the Christmas school holidays.

Competition throughout the season was healthy with several carnivals being held in our branch.

Education is a strong focus within the branch, with many awards being gained by members throughout the season. The continued dedication of clubs to up-skill their members is the key to providing professional patrolling of our beaches and ultimately the safety of our visitors to the beach and surrounding environment. Our Facilitators, Assessors and Trainers have worked tirelessly to train and qualify our members.

Acknowledgements

Most of our clubs have benefited from the $2 million NSW Government Surf Club Capital Facility Program and the Community Building Partnership Grants offered by the NSW Government. We have to thank our state MP’s Steven Bromhead and Leslie Williams for their support of surf lifesaving receiving considerable funds through this grant.

The gear and equipment grants offered through SLSNSW on behalf of NSW Communities, Sport and Recreation, and Police and Emergency Services portfolio’s of the NSW Government, have certainly allowed all clubs to access the best equipment to allow their members to patrol effectively.

I would like to thank our Branch Executives, Alan Davis (Dir. Admin), Jim Tyrpenou (Dir. Finance), Julie Wilcox (Dir. Lifesaving), Terry Aldridge (Dir. Surf Sports), Stuart Small (Dir. Education) and Lorraine Morgan (Dir. Youth and Member Services) for the leadership they have provided.

I would like to thank all clubs and their members for your efforts during the season, in keeping surf lifesaving strong and relevant to our communities. To the staff and Executive of SLSNSW and SLSA, thank you for your dedication and support. We should not underestimate our worth to the community and should be justifiably proud of the service we provide.

We are looking forward to helping our clubs and members meet their goals in 2014-15.

Brian Wilcox
President | Lower North Coast Branch

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The 2013-14 season commenced with a group of community members from CityServe and Newcastle City Council offering to paint our six city SLSC’s inside and out. The clubs took the opportunity to do a few refurbishments and the end results are very clean, attractive buildings for our members and the community.

All clubs took part in the Opening Ceremony of the Asia Pacific Special Olympics and hosted a beach experience, barbeque and water program for the 2600 competitors and their carers.

The Hunter Branch clubs were well represented at the 18-25 years Development Networking Program by Callum Reedman from Newcastle, Rachel Zieleman from Nobbys Beach and Sarah Bugbird and Aaron McDonald from Merewether.

The Lifesaving Exchange Program saw Nic Owen from Stockton and Mitchell Hermens from Cooks Hill complete patrols at Sydney beaches; Mitch was also selected as a New Zealand Exchange participant.

Member Services was very active this year starting with the Junior Club Course. Every club that participated in this program reported their most successful season yet, with 32 of our 13 and 14 year olds going to the Aussie Bush Camp.

This year Jack Curran from Caves Beach SLSC and Isabella Ferencz from Cooks Hill SLSC, were our Junior Lifesavers of the Year, these two young lifesavers are a credit to their parents, their clubs and Hunter Branch. Isabella went on to be named the 2013-14 Surf Life Saving NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year.

**Achievements**

Last season we introduced a Club Assistance Program, including Ducks 4 Dollars races on Australia Day and $36,000 was raised by the clubs with the program responding to targets set by Branch.

Community Education was again booked solidly for Term 4 and Term 1. This is an amazing educational program that delivers essential skills and knowledge on water safety and has encouraged us to look at expanding community education in the coming season.

In December Newcastle SLSC hosted a round of the Kellogg’s Nutri-Grain Series for the third year. This one off NSW event attracted $1 million to the local economy. In February Stockton SLSC hosted the Australian Surf Rowers League National Championships for the fourth year, with a record entry of 355 teams. This saw another $1.6 million injected into Newcastle and surrounds.

Surf Sports witnessed one of the most successful seasons for Hunter clubs. Members won 15 gold, 11 silver and 17 bronze medals at the Australian Titles. Our juniors also did us proud with 21 gold medals, 16 silver and 13 bronze state medals. Hunter Branch came a credible fourth at the SLSNSW Interbranch Championships.

On the Education front Hunter Branch has attained 98% compliance in our Education Audit. The Patrol and Education Sustainability Award Targets achieved 95%, clubs taught 11,518 awards and conducted 6,578 proficiencies.

This season saw two new clubhouses opened at Fingal and Birubi Point.

**Acknowledgements**

All of the above contributed to Hunter Branch being awarded 2013 NSW Water Safety Award for the Organisation that Contributed Most to Water Safety and recently the NSW Government Sport Volunteer Management Award for a Region.

Our clubs have shown maturity, professionalism and a great effort to act as one group. These accolades could not have been achieved without a full team effort.

The above was achieved with the support of sponsors. All of the programs, carnivals and events take time and effort to coordinate and thanks to them we are able to provide resources to make this happen.

Thank you to SLSNSW for their ongoing support over the year. It was with sadness that we lost our friend, Branch Life Member and Club President of Nobbys Beach SLSC Mick Jennings in May.

Henry Scruton
President | Hunter Branch
What an amazing year the 2013-14 season was for Surf Life Saving Central Coast (SLSCC). To be recognised as the prestigious SLSNSW ‘Branch of the Year’ in our 75th Anniversary season is a dream come true and gave our members the opportunity to reflect on our proud history and achievements. Our red and yellow army of volunteers made us proud once again, protecting over a million visitors to our beaches and again there were no lives lost at our patrolled locations thanks to their vigilance and service.

Achievements

Over the past two seasons we have improved our ‘club support’ to ensure best practice is being achieved in all areas of club operations and management through the Quality Club Program. Fourteen of the fifteen clubs are currently enrolled in this program and it is SLSCC’s goal to have all of the clubs achieve their Bronze Level as soon as possible.

The Member Services portfolio continued to work hard at developing our youth through the successful delivery of our ongoing Junior Activities Program, Rookie Lifesaver Program and 15-17 Youth Leadership Program. All programs play an integral role in assisting the clubs in retaining and developing our young lifesavers.

Our Education programs play a very important role in up-skilling our members and strengthening our core business of lifesaving. Our members gained 13,001 awards during the season and we must pay tribute to our many devoted trainers, assessors and facilitators for delivering these courses.

We experienced significant growth within our Community Education program last season with a record 3143 Primary School children participating in the successful Surf Fun Day program. Thanks to a new partnership with Unilever Australia, we were also able to create and deliver a new public Rip Awareness Campaign and re-implement the previously successful Summer Surf School program for the first time since 2007.

In Surf Sports, members from our clubs continued their strong performances at the highest of levels with many athletes bagging State and Australian gold medals. We continue to produce such talented athletes due to the exceptional programs at club level as well as development opportunities provided through the events and programs.

Acknowledgements

The previous season will be the last for SurfCom Central Coast. Going forward these services will be provided by SLSNSW out of the State Operations Centre. We thank our many volunteers who have contributed towards the success of this vital service over the past five years.

We appreciate the strong ongoing relationships we have in place with all levels of Government. Both Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council continued their support for clubs and the association with annual operating grants and joint share equipment. The Gosford City Council Water Safety Rate Levy continues to provide valuable support to surf club facilities and provide essential rescue equipment to the nine Gosford City surf clubs.

We thank our four State Members of Parliament; Darren Webber, Chris Spence, Chris Hartcher and Chris Holstein along with our Minister for the Central Coast, Rob Stokes, for their continued support of our clubs and lifesaving services. We also thank them for the direct support to SLSCC in funding two new lifesaving support operations vehicles and a new Rescue Water Craft through the NSW Community Building Partnership Grants.

Our thanks and appreciation must also go to our local Federal Members Lucy Wicks and Karen McNamara for your support and advice during your first 12 months in Parliament and we look forward to growing your support into the future.

To all our sponsors, we thank you for your support that enables us to continue to provide a valued community service to the residents and visitors on the Central Coast.

Thanks must also be passed onto the Directors and staff of our governing bodies SLSNSW and SLSA and our State and National sponsors.

In closing, thank you to the Directors, their partners and staff of SLSCC for your commitment and dedication. The success of the branch over the past 12 months is a direct result of your leadership and work ethic.

Stuart Harvey
President | Central Coast Branch
To all those volunteers who support our 21 clubs on Sydney’s Northern Beaches and the branch a big thank you for your amazing efforts. Again I am pleased to report no lives were lost during our watch.

Achievements

At the beginning of the season, the branch developed strategic and operational plans based on areas where we could add value to our clubs. At the same time, we established a strategic review committee which reviewed the strategic direction of the branch and provided more than 30 recommendations back to improve our governances, performance and systems. Both of these initiatives have led to a greater focus on helping our clubs across all areas.

One of the specific goals in surf sports was to increase the number of officials in the 2013-14 season and we had 37 new members on board, taking the total to 375. They put in more than 8000 hours on the beach.

Kendrick Louis, Georgia Miller, Max Brooks, Jake Lynch, Mieke Kassulke and Bronte Sloan represented NSW at the Interstate Championships at Newport. Jake Lynch and Naomi Flood were chosen in the Australian team to compete in France in September, with Georgia Miller chosen in the Australian Youth team for Rescue 2014.

Georgia Miller rewrote the record books, winning 10 gold medals at the NSW Surf Life Saving Championships at Ocean Beach-Umina and Max Brooks was named Male Competitor of the Australian Championships in Perth. Manly LSC won the State Junior pointscore for the 5th year in a row and Newport the State Open pointscore for the first time in the club’s long history.

In Rescue Services, the SurfCom/radio room had a total refurbishment during the off season. We had several new Duty Officers inducted, which brought the total Duty Officers to 18. SNB supplied around 45 of the 57 radio operators for State Operations Centre at Belrose and the SurfCom Warringah site.

Once again our caring and dedicated TIPS team is to be commended for the support they provide branch members in difficult times. A goal for next season is to raise the overall awareness of patrols and be prepared for the unexpected.

After the long running negotiation with Warringah Council over obtaining a long-term lease for the Warringah Surf Rescue Building at Fisherman’s Beach, the Branch finally had a victory when NSW Lands Minister Kevin Humphries awarded a 21-year lease to SLSSNB.

In Youth and Membership, a lot of initiatives and projects were realised and accomplished. We assisted Education and took on a tracking program for the Gold Medallion. The tracking program showed award pathways which needed to be achieved and lifted training levels.

We were fortunate to have three of our clubs, Manly LSC, North Steyne SLSC and Queenscliff SLSC, involved in the Royal Visit on Good Friday – what a wonderful experience for all involved.

In the 2013-14 season we built on groundwork established in the previous season to involve club Chief Training Officers more in SNB processes. Both SNB Advisers and clubs saw benefits to Education, including greater success in the Central Venue program.

Over the course of the season, we ran four Training Officer courses, aimed at increasing the capacity for training at club level. The Board of Education and Assessment endorsed 17 new BRZ assessors. The rapid expansion of new assessors is a healthy sign that our ‘Trainer-Assessor-Facilitator pipeline’, instigated two seasons ago, is performing well. We also offered additional Emergency Services Officer courses for senior club officials.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of our 21 clubs, I would like to acknowledge the support of our National sponsors DHL, Telstra and Westpac, our State sponsors and the NSW Government; without you we would not be able to deliver the vital community service that we do.

To our 21 Club Presidents and their committees, the Branch Executive and Branch staff, I extend my sincere gratitude for your wonderful work during my term as President. Also to the staff and Directors at SLSNSW who provided valuable support and guidance throughout the year. Thank you.

A special thank you to our State and Federal Members of Parliament who have been unwavering in their support for our movement.

David Murray
President | Sydney Northern Beaches Branch
As the 2013-14 season has come to a close, it is an honour to be able to report that no lives were lost during patrol hours on our 15 beaches. I would like to extend a big thank you and congratulations to all our members who have volunteered their time to ensure our beaches were protected, including our Support Operation Services who have been there to assist our members and clubs when needed.

Achievements

This season we welcomed the return of Surf Rescue 20 (offshore rescue boat) back to the Bate Bay beaches after many years of being off the water. I extend my congratulations to the members that have been working hard getting Surf Rescue 20 operational with rebuilding numbers and returning to the water.

The season started with the Annual Gear Inspection and the standard of the gear put up each season by the clubs has improved over the years. Thank you to the panel members who give up their time for two days to ensure that the inspection is completed. Lifesaving is an area that needs to be addressed before the start of the season to ensure that we go back to being the leading branch in this area, which I am sure that by working together we can achieve.

It is pleasing to see that awards were stable in some areas and others decreased but the quality of our lifesavers on the beach have improved over the years. This is due to the great work accomplished by our Education Manager Christopher Thompson and all our Area Education Supervisors, their assistants and the many Assessors. They have given up their time to ensure that the assessments are conducted to a very professional standard.

In the area of Surf Sports we welcomed Wayne Druery into the position of Director of Surf Sports after Mike Vitnell retired from the position, after many years. The Board of Surf Sports started the season off by reviewing the way we run competition within the branch which was well received by all the competitors and clubs, especially the introduction of half day carnivals and splitting events over different carnivals.

A big thank you to all the clubs that hosted events this season and the professional way you put on a carnival at your beach and the fantastic work force that are also part of these. A special thank you to the Ladies Committees that take the time to ensure that our officials are well looked after with meals and drinks, before, during and after the carnivals.

This season our Interbranch team went off to the Central Coast and it is pleasing to advise that they returned back with the overall point score trophy. Congratulations to all 46 competitors and Team Management for a fantastic effort. I was impressed with our performance and behaviour during the weekend. The team spirit that was shown was inspirational. Congratulations to our Team Captains Jay Furniss and Elly Graf who led and encouraged all team members during the weekend and your efforts showed at the end of the Interbranch Championships to be crowned winners.

Acknowledgements

The Board of Junior Development group to amazes me with over 7000 nippers on our beaches each weekend. Clubs conducted Age Managers courses as well as delivered Surf Education during the season. Once again they conducted the Under 13 and Under 11 Development Camps that I had the pleasure to attend and address the members on the weekends.

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Board, Deputy President Peter Agnew, Director of Administration George Shales, Director of Finance Peter Carney, Director of Lifesaving Glen Clarke and Simon Torsellini, Director of Sports Wayne Druery, Director of Juniors and Youth Doug Hawkins; your support and commitment to your positions was fantastic and I really appreciate your help during the year.

We are very fortunate to have two wonderful ladies working in our office and I wish to extend a very special thank you to Linda Perrin and Victoria Raymond.

As I announced at the June Election meeting in 2013 this is my last report as President and I would like to thank everyone for their support during my five year term. Thank you to all the members that were on the Board, the 15 Club Presidents, our past Presidents and Life Members for their advice and friendship.

I would like to conclude by wishing Sydney Branch clubs all the best for the 2014-15 season.

John De Cean
President | Sydney Branch

1745 FIRST AID TREATMENTS
25166 PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS
1328 RESCUES
125448 PATROL HRS
1102756 TOTAL BEACH ATTENDEES
16957 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
Congratulations to all members of Surf Life Saving Illawarra for another successful season with no lives lost. We are committed to uniting Illawarra in lifesaving and our 17 clubs strive to work jointly to achieve branch outcomes and never lose sight of striving for excellence.

- Junior Lifesavers of the Year - Tegan Robertson (Corrimal) and Hamilton Reilly (Helensburgh-Stanwell Park)
- Lifesaver of the Year – Daren Weidner (Sandon Point)
- Volunteer of the Year – Stephanie McGuinness (Helensburgh-Stanwell Park)
- Club of the Year – Sandon Point SLSC

Achievements

While progress on our Future Directions is at an infancy stage there are a number of goals to be worked through and achieved to ensure our Mission and Vision comes to fruition.

There have been a number of great achievements in Illawarra Surf Sports with Hannah Minogue (Bulli) making the Nutri-Grain Iron Woman Series and being awarded 2013-2014 Athlete of the Year. Illawarra boat competitors won medals at both the State and Australian Titles. Congratulations also to all branch beach sprints and flags competitors who came home with some fantastic results, and to all who those who went on to represent us at State, Australian and High Performance Titles.

During the 2013-14 season the Illawarra held Branch Championships, Sydney Water Series, Warilla Boat Series and one round of the NSW IRB Premiership Series. Wollongong City and Bulli SLSCs also ran a Nipper Clinic with Shannon Eckstein.

Within lifesaving the branch is working on rebuilding relationships with local media with media releases regarding dangerous surf conditions, rock fishing dangers and swimming at patrolled beaches and between the red and yellow flags.

On Australia Day, Lifesavers worked closely with Wollongong City Council Lifeguards and Support Operations which resulted in better use and value of our resources by combining our ATVs, 4 wheel drives, RWCs/IRBs at patrolled and unpatrolled beaches.

The Illawarra Branch is aiming to increase members’ skills knowledge through education of higher awards broadening members’ skill base. We have 11 new assessors and 9 new trainers that have completed their mentoring program throughout the season. The branch has been given a 100 % compliance letter. Thanks to all the clubs for their efforts to ensure our system is in top shape.

The last two years we have worked with NSW Sport & Recreation and Wollongong City Council to create a Multicultural Surf Education Program. The success of this program has led to an extension and it will be run again this year in addition to a new program called Sailability, which will train and assess disabled sailors. This allows new IRB and RWC candidates to get experience which might take them several years to achieve.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge and thank Peter Evert (Deputy President), Bill Seay (Advisor) and the Directors of Surf Life Saving Illawarra: Anthony Turner (Lifesaving), Craig St George (Education), Matt Sweeney (Member Services), Maria Caldwell (Finance) and David Greene (Surf Sports) for their dedication and continued support throughout the season. Due to unforeseen circumstances Matt is unable to continue in his role and we welcome James Naughtin who has volunteered to be our Director of Member Services. We are also pleased to welcome to our team Executive Officer, Carl Nottage. Thank you also to Brett Quince and Maria Sewell for their dedication and ongoing support.

A well-deserved welcome to the ranks of Illawarra Branch Life Membership is extended to Terry Hagan, Don McAlister and Keith Caldwell. Congratulations to all.

We are looking forward to an even bigger and better 2014-15 season.

Val Zanotto
President | Illawarra Branch

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South Coast clubs made an outstanding effort to ensure that our beaches were patrolled adequately during the patrol season. Although the season is seven months long I congratulate all our patrol members who made the commitment to support their communities in providing surf patrol and rescue services over the patrol season.

Achievements

Within the South Coast we have two clubs who are going through a period of low patrol membership despite efforts to recruit new members. Particular concern is Sussex Inlet whose patrol membership has fallen dramatically. An effort to recruit has had little effect and over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, a number of surf lifesaving members from clubs in the Illawarra, Sydney and Sydney Northern Beaches made an extraordinary effort, by travelling to Sussex Inlet for a weekend and providing surf lifesaving patrols on Cudmirrah Beach. The South Coast Branch extends our most sincere appreciation to those members for their continuing support to water safety and support to the Sussex Inlet community.

The South Coast Branch and Mollymook SLSC hosted the 2014 Stramit NSW Country Championships at Mollymook Beach in January 2014. This iconic event in the surf sports calendar is extremely popular and although it is rarely held in the south of the state there was a strong attendance of competitors, families and supporters. South Coast and Far South Coast Branch members participated in strong numbers and the event was well received by the local Milton Ulladulla community. We look forward to hosting the event again in January 2015.

The South Coast Branch provides strong support to our clubs, in particular through member services, the provision of lifesaving patrol and first aid equipment which is made possible through our supporters. The South Coast Branch acknowledges and appreciates the support provided through these partnerships.

Acknowledgements

In a letter to our local member for the South Coast, the Honourable Speaker, Shelley Hancock MP, I sought support from the NSW Government to give consideration to funding support to Surf Life Saving branches in NSW, particularly country branches, through a levy similar to one that gives funding support to Marine Rescue NSW. This would go a long way to ensure financial sustainability of the services and administration delivered by the branches to our clubs, particularly in country NSW.

This year the South Coast Branch revised our Junior Leadership and Development Camp and the aims and outcomes of the camp delivered a strong foundation to our young members who attended. Nineteen 13-14 year old members participated over 2.5 days and gained an outstanding benefit from the camp.

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 2014-15 season.

Stephan Jones
President | South Coast Branch

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<th>First Aid Treatments</th>
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Branch Reports | 57
Branch meetings were again well attended by the Branch Executive, Club Presidents and delegates. My position as President was made a whole lot easier with an awesome group of Directors around me.

Achievements

Yet again this season I must offer a special thank you to Sue Hunt, our Director of Administration; without her dedication and commitment to surf lifesaving in the Far South Coast our branch wouldn’t be the same.

Recently we attended the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence in Sydney. A very small group represented the branch. Our very best lifesavers were nominated for awards; recognition of contributions that they make in all areas of life saving within their clubs and the branch.

There were quite a few highlights in the past season including:

- Andrew Mizzi from Broulee Surfers, a worthy recipient of a SLSA Meritorious Award (Bronze Insert), awarded at the SLSA Awards of Excellence in Sydney.
- George Bass Marathon 2013-14: Despite some trying conditions on the first day and a close eye from Maritime across the first few days, it was a magnificent event yet again.
- Thank you to Tathra Lifesavers for their fast response to the emergency at Bega River mouth in October 2013. Ducks and swimmers were in the water in a very short time, tragically one life was lost.
- Congratulations to Samantha Law on her selection to the State Youth Panel. Sam also took out Branch Female Competitor of the Year.
- Batemans Bay certainly has a lot to smile about. The Surf Club Facilities Grant from our State Government has given the proposed club redevelopment a great start.
- Congratulations to Jim McGrath on being awarded Bega Valley Senior Citizen of the Year, recognised for over 50 years of service to Surf Life Saving in the Far South Coast.
- Wambiri 2014: Great numbers again from most of the clubs in the branch with 65 attendees.
- Congratulations to Sue Hunt for her appointment to the SLSNSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year interview panel.

Acknowledgements

The Far South Coast Branch also had great representation at the various development programs offered by Surf Life Saving;

- I would like congratulate our two Junior Life Savers of the Year chosen to represent the Far South Coast in 2014 - Sally Kennedy from Moruya and Scott Senior from Broulee Surfers.
- Youth Opportunity Makers Workshop – Ashlea Bishop – Batemans Bay and Hallam Brichacek - Tathra
- 18-25s Development Networking Program – Swenja Fischer – Batemans Bay and Jack Phillips – Broulee Surfers
- SLSA Masterclass 2014 – Melissa Meaker

SLSNSW Country Championships: So great to have this event on our doorstep, with a good number of competitors from our branch making the most of the short drive, and swag of medals have come our way.

The most tragic part of the season for most of us was the passing of Tathra’s Chris Armstrong.

On the morning of Thursday 3 April, Tathra SLSC and the Far South Coast Lifesaving family lost one of our own. Chris was one of our regular Club to the Wharf swimmers.

Our hearts go out to husband Rob, who was married to Chris for 45 years and soul mate for many years more.

We ended our season with a fantastic presentation night at Pambula SLSC. An evening shared with SLSNSW President, Tony Haven and his wife Thecla, and Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor.

Lastly, thank you to Judy, my wonderful wife, for your patience and support.

See you on the sand.

Tony Rettke
President | Far South Coast Branch