

SurfLIFE

ISSUE 40 – September 2019



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES

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Member for Manly James Griffin and Minister for Emergency Services David Elliott joined lifesavers and Nippers at Manly Beach to raise the flags for another season



Surf Patrol Season Kicks Off

Saturday September 28 heralded the start of a new patrol season for NSW surf lifesavers as they returned to protect the public on beaches across the state.

NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services, David Elliott, officially opened the Surf Life Saving patrol season at the iconic Manly Life Saving Club in Sydney.

From Saturday 28 September, over 21,000 active volunteer surf lifesavers from 129 surf clubs will hit beaches across the state, patrolling on weekends and public holidays through until the end of April 2020.

"In the last 12 months, volunteer surf lifesavers rescued almost 4000 people from drowning across NSW," Minister Elliott said.

"Our surf lifesavers are an essential part of our community and I want to thank all those who selflessly dedicate their time to protecting others on beaches and along our coastline," he said.

Surrounded by a sea of surf lifesavers and Manly Nippers, Minister Elliott and Member for Manly James Griffin MP officially raised the first flags of the new patrol season.

With 44 coastal drownings recorded in NSW last season, the state's surf lifesavers are on high alert for what is expected to be a long, hot summer.

Member for Manly James Griffin expressed his thanks on behalf of the NSW Government, for the enormous contribution made by the 75,000 members of Surf Life Saving NSW.

"I can't thank the volunteers here at Manly Beach and throughout the state enough for their commitment to protecting us on the beach and increasingly beyond the flags and outside patrol times," said James Griffin.

"The NSW Government is proud to support our surf lifesavers to do what they have done so well for over one hundred years."



To view the launch, visit:
<http://bit.ly/2m9ZF2P>

Top NSW lifesavers honoured at state awards

On 31 August 2019, almost 500 finalists, friends and family frocked up to celebrate the 111th season of Surf Life Saving in NSW at the annual Awards of Excellence proudly supported by Port Authority of New South Wales.

The event celebrated the outstanding achievements of volunteer surf lifesavers across surf sports, education, administration, membership and lifesaving.

Television personality and 30-year member Tom Williams hosted the evening at Dockside, Darling Harbour. He shared the stage with the state's top surf lifesavers as they were honoured in front of their peers.

Central Coast clubs picked up six major awards on the night with Umina Beach SLSC taking three on their own, including; Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year, Patrol of the Year and the prestigious Club of the Year award.

Umina Beach SLSC has enjoyed resounding success with their campaign, 'Does the Cap Fit'. They have made significant inroads increasing engagement from sponsors, members and the community. This year they achieved the 1000th member milestone and have had several incredible results in surf sports, education and training and retention.

The state's most southern branch took home four awards including Branch of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, the Innovation Award and the President's Medal, awarded to Cheryl McCarthy from Bermagui SLSC. Seven clubs make up the Far South Coast Branch, with a footprint covering one of the largest and most isolated stretches of coast in the state – some 230 kilometres.

The Branch has championed the development of new processes in partnership with other emergency services for remote search and rescue incidents. They are leading the way with multi-agency operations with the Police and SES where they have integrated drones, giving them greater capability to contribute to after-hours callouts.

"Our branch works so hard and we'd be nowhere without the forward-thinking of our Board of Directors and amazing members," said Far South Coast President, Tony Rettke.

"We might be one of the smallest branches in the state, but we have some of the most hard-working, passionate and innovative members who put not only their day jobs on the line to respond to call-outs 365 days of the year, but also their lives on the line to save others.

"I'm so proud that the seven clubs in the Far South Coast can be recognised for their efforts in a room of amazing lifesavers, for the second year running. It's a real thrill to be here and accept this award on behalf of the Far South Coast."

The prestigious 2019 Port Authority of NSW Surf Lifesaver of the Year was awarded to Maroubra SLSC's Mathew Harper.

A member for 15 years, 24-year-old Mat has obtained almost every Surf Life Saving award including the Gold Medallion. As Club Captain he has helped his club achieve a record 100 percent proficiency in the 2018/19 season. He is an Australian Championship medallist, trainer, assessor and coach.

"It's a very prestigious award and I'm so honoured to receive it," said Mat. "I'd like to thank all my friends and family. This is not my award, it's everyone's award especially those at Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club and my lifesaving team.

"The award means a lot to me. No one does what we do for recognition but it's fabulous. It shows that all the time and effort that we do put in means something. People say why do we do what we do, some of the best people that I've met are through Surf Life Saving.

Our volunteer surf lifesavers are some of the most skilled first responders on the NSW coastline and we are delighted to recognise the best in each field at our Awards of Excellence.

"This award represents every lifesaver on the beach that puts countless hours into helping others and saving lives," said Mat.

Surf Life Saving NSW President George Shales said the evening

was the perfect way to commend exceptional efforts among the 75,000 strong membership.

"Each year our volunteer surf lifesavers put hundreds of thousands of hours into protecting the public on our beaches," said George.

"They display courage and bravery in some of the harshest conditions. They are innovators, leaders, educators, athletes, watermen and women. They are some of the most skilled first responders on the NSW coastline and we are delighted to recognise the best in each field at our Awards of Excellence.

"As the new season is about to begin, we look forward to our iconic red and yellow flags and volunteers returning to the beaches each weekend and on-call 24/7. Our 129 surf clubs will open their doors for another year," he said.





Jackson Borg and father Glen celebrate at the Awards of Excellence

Sydney surf athlete wins major lifesaving award

Jackson Borg from Newport Surf Life Saving Club had plenty to smile about, taking home the Surf Sports Athlete of the Year Award at the Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence in Sydney.

The Athlete of the Year is a highly competitive award with all the finalists this season achieving considerable success on the state, national and international stage.

Newport's Jackson Borg took out the award due to the consistency of his performance at every level of competition. He won from a group of eight finalists from across NSW.

"I'm super stoked. I didn't expect to win the award. I'm glad all the hard work paid off.

"Everyone who was nominated are extremely amazing athletes, so I was just pleased to be in the running with them," said Jackson Borg.

Not only is Jackson the 2019 NSW Open Ironman champion, his outstanding results across all levels of competition include gold in the NSW Interstate Board Race, the Interbranch Open Ironman and the Sydney Northern Beaches Taplin and Board Rescue events.

He brought home silver in the Open Ironman at the International Life Saving World Championships and the Ocean 6 Series Run Swim Run.

"In ten years' time I still want to be competing in Ironman competition. I want to be solidified in the Nutri-Grain series - hopefully in the top five," said Jackson.

Jackson has spent a lot of time passing on his skills and surf knowledge as an instructor and team leader with the Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches education team.

"It's great to be fit and to be able to compete at a high level but it's awesome to be able to help someone in trouble and potentially save a life. It's the foundation of what we do," Jackson concluded.

2019 WINNERS

Sport

Official of the Year

Louis Tassone, North Curl Curl

Coach of the Year

Sean Golding, Sawtell

Surf Sports Team of the Year

Under 17 Male Board Relay, Swansea Belmont

Youth Athlete of the Year

Naomi Scott, Manly

Masters Athlete of the Year

Paul Lemmon, Terrigal

Athlete of the Year

Jackson Borg, Newport SLSC

Membership

Junior Lifesavers of the Year

Mikala Campbell, Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore
Ainsley Dalton, Woolgoolga

Administrator of the Year

Michael Cameron, Taree-Old Bar

Services Team of the Year

Bondi Education Team, Bondi

Youth Volunteer of the Year

Aidan Yourell, Evans Head Casino

Education

Innovation of the Year

Development of Joint Operations Search and Rescue Capability, Far South Coast

Community Education Program of the Year

Maroubra Marlins, Maroubra

Trainer of the Year

Markus Meier-Lindner, Bulli

Assessor of the Year

Mike Le Geyt, South Curl Curl

Facilitator of the Year

Paul Duignan, Copacobana

Lifesaving

Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year

Kai Darwin, Umina Beach

Patrol Captain of the Year

Kaitlin Smith, Cudgen Headland

Patrol of the Year

Patrol 12, Umina Beach

Rescue of the Year

North Cronulla

President's Medal

Cheryl McCarthy, Bermagui

Lifeguard of the Year

Ben Dickens, Ballina

Overall

Branch of the Year

Far South Coast

Club of the Year

Umina Beach

Volunteer of the Year

Wendy Law, Broulee Surfers

Port Authority of NSW Surf Lifesaver of the Year

Mathew Harper, Maroubra



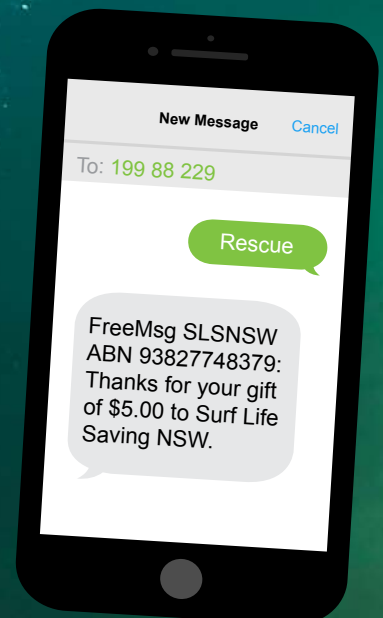
View the all the highlights here:
<http://bit.ly/32oGAcV>

IN MARCH, 11 YEAR OLD MAX SAVED A LIFE.

*Help our surf clubs train
more people like Max.*

**Max's story is now airing on television
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Persons under the age of 18 years of age must have parent/guardian permission to donate.
Please see www.surflifesaving.com.au for Terms and Conditions.
Start Date: 1/12/2018 at 00:01 AEDT Close Date: 30/11/2019 at 23:59 AEDT



11 year-old wins NSW rescue award

Max Taylor from Wamberal SLSC on the Central Coast is just 11 years old. He showed life skills and rescue experience beyond his years when he pulled a swimmer from a deadly rip current.

Growing up on the sand and in the waves as a Nipper and member of the Wamberal Express Boardriders club, Max knows his beach well. "He's grown up in the waves," said Max's Dad James. "He knows Wamberal, really understands the beach, and he's a fit kid."

Little did Max or his Dad know, this local knowledge, fitness and skill would be unexpectedly thrown into action to save a life.

At 5.30pm on Tuesday 12 March 2019, Max paddled in, returning to shore from an after school surf at Wamberal. He headed across the beach to the carpark where he expected he would meet his Dad. However, he was distracted when he heard someone calling for help.

Max recalls looking around to identify where the cries were coming from and seeing a group of people on their phones calling 000 (triple-zero). Beyond the group he noticed a swimmer struggling in a rip current. "I'd just come in and thought I could help," said Max.

With council lifeguard patrols over for the day and no other surfers in the water, Max took it upon himself to attempt a rescue, using his experience and knowledge of the surf to assess the situation and paddle out to the swimmer.

"I felt really confident. I'm in the water every single day even in winter so I've built up my skills," Max said.

The tide was low and the wave size was about a metre high and breaking heavily on the sandbank. The testing conditions forced Max to be smart with how he used the rip to his advantage to get to the patient as quickly as possible.

After negotiating the break, Max paddled out to the swimmer and looking back at the shore, noticed he was almost 150 metres from the beach.

The swimmer was panicking and fatiguing fast. Max got off his board and pushed it over to his patient to put space between them so he wasn't dragged underwater. He then instructed the patient to climb onto the board.

After he had the patient balanced and floating on the board, Max pushed and kicked the board from behind back to shore. Despite being a fit waterman, Max admitted that assisting the adult male on the board was tough and wore him out. "There was one point on the way back in that I got really tired and puffed out, but I saw Harry running down and he came to help me," said Max.

Off-duty Central Coast lifeguard Harry Carpenter, as well as a fellow surfer and member of Wamberal SLSC, assisted Max as he arrived back onshore. The group ensured both the patient and rescuer were okay before talking to the patient about how he got into trouble.



He admitted this was his first swim in Australia and that he had just dropped everything on the beach and walked into the water. The man was exhausted from the experience but overwhelmingly thankful for the fast response from young Max Taylor.

Unaware of the incident, Max's Dad watched a group of adults on the beach chatting to his son while he waited in the car. "He was standing there chatting away and I thought it was funny that they were shaking his hand," said James Taylor. "He had a huge smile on his face as he walked up to the car. Harry walked up with him and told me what he'd done. I was really overwhelmed by it. He'd paddled out and plucked a fully-grown man out of the water."

After nominating Max for the Rescue of the Month award, Wamberal SLSC member Wayne Young spoke of the enormous contribution Max makes to his community on and off the beach.

"We're very proud of Max. He's learnt so many skills as a Nipper and in his Boardriders' club," he said.

"It is truly admirable that an 11 year-old could have the maturity to assess the risk to himself and know the extent of his own skill to save someone on his own," said Wayne Young.

James Taylor said his son is very humble but hopes he understands the significance of what he was able to do and how proud everyone is of his actions.

Max said, "I felt really happy that I saved someone's life. It made me feel proud."

Max was awarded SLSNSW Rescue of the Month for March 2019.

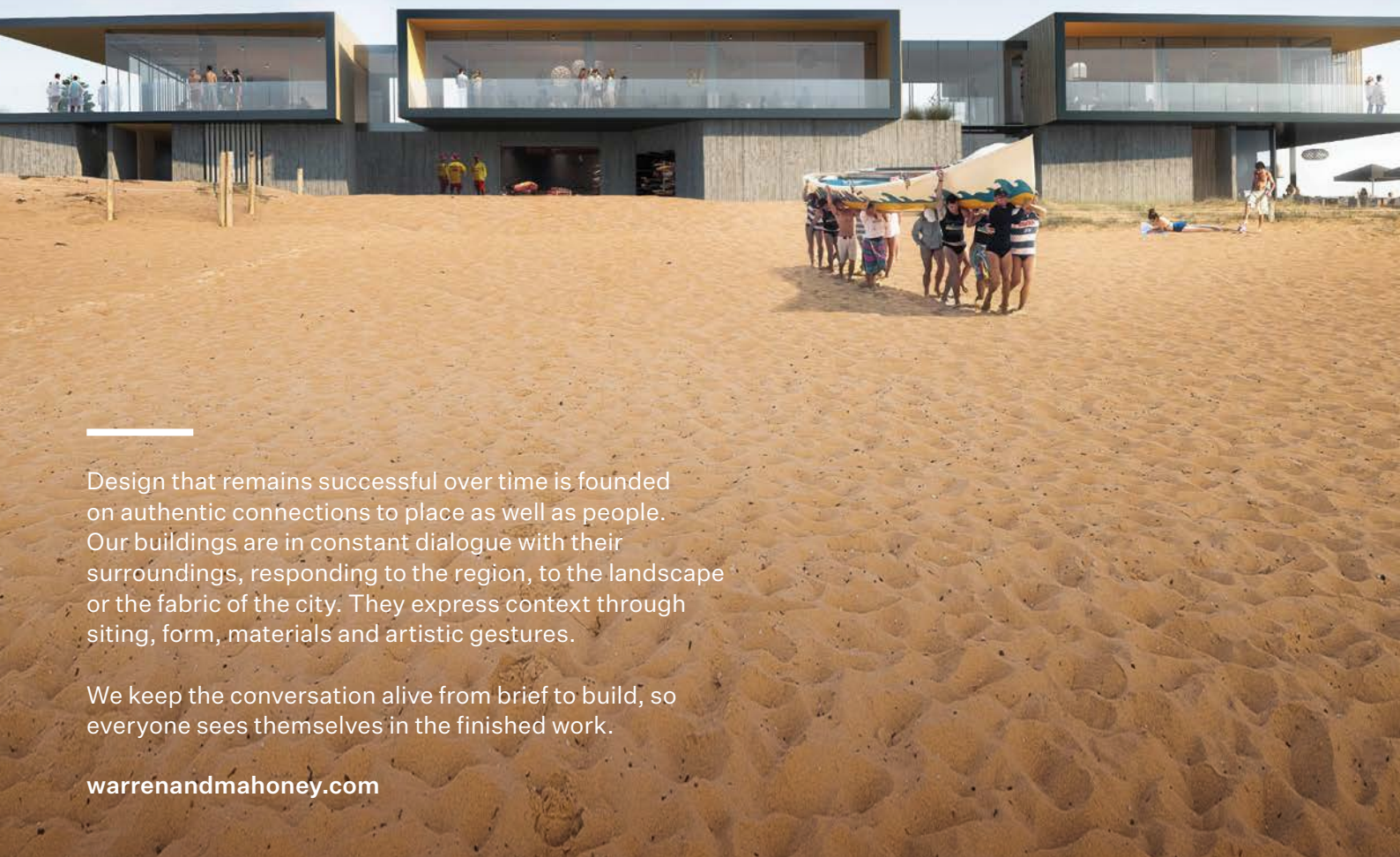
It is truly admirable that an 11 year-old could have the maturity to assess the risk to himself and know the extent of his own skill to save someone on his own.



To see Max's story, visit:
<http://bit.ly/2WT3UjV>

Mona Vale Surf Life Saving Club

In designing a new facility for the Mona Vale Surf Life Saving Club, we knew that the new building needed to meet all the practical requirements, be flexible for a wide range of uses and be a focus for community pride.



Design that remains successful over time is founded on authentic connections to place as well as people. Our buildings are in constant dialogue with their surroundings, responding to the region, to the landscape or the fabric of the city. They express context through siting, form, materials and artistic gestures.

We keep the conversation alive from brief to build, so everyone sees themselves in the finished work.

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Prince Edward receiving honorary patrol uniform from volunteer surf lifesavers at North Wollongong SLSC



Illawarra Lifesavers Get Royal Treatment

Australian beaches are well-known for their propensity to attract English tourists, but it was an unusually high-profile Englishman who visited North Wollongong Beach on Saturday 14 September.

Surf Life Saving NSW Illawarra hosted none other than His Royal Highness, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex at North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club.

Prince Edward was in Australia to commemorate 60 years of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. He was particularly interested in speaking to some of Surf Life Saving's youth members who have joined the movement to satisfy the volunteer component of the Duke of Edinburgh Award program.

The Prince couldn't have picked a more beautiful day to visit North Wollongong SLSC. Arriving by official motorcade, the Prince was greeted by Surf Life Saving officials including; Illawarra Branch President Peter Evert; Maria Caldwell, Director of Member Services; North Wollongong SLSC President David Meredith; Holly Holmesby from Bulli SLSC; Kara Osgood from Sandon Point SLSC and Matt Logan from Coalcliff SLSC.

Illawarra Branch President Peter Evert said he was surprised how relaxed the Prince was with the volunteers and Nippers.

"It was really great, he went straight to the crowd when he got out of the car. He was very laid back and more than happy to chat with lifesavers," said Peter Evert.

Kara Osgood from Sandon Point SLSC was one of three young lifesavers from the Duke of Edinburgh Award program chosen to meet Prince Edward.

"I was able to speak to him about how I had joined Surf Life Saving as part of the service component of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and how it had sparked my passion for community service," said Kara Osgood.

Prince Edward was also met by a throng of enthusiastic Nippers who were steadfast in their determination to get the Prince in the water for a swim between the flags. Unfortunately, the Prince had forgotten his boardshorts. Undeterred, a young Nipper suggested the Prince could "strip off and go in". Needless to say, a swim didn't eventuate.

"The Prince was just so personable. He had clearly read-up on what surf lifesaving is all about and asked some great questions. He was really relaxed and just loved meeting the Nippers. Although I don't think any of them really knew who he was," said Maria Caldwell, Director of Member Services at North Wollongong SLSC.

The Prince was eager to speak to the young volunteer surf lifesavers who were clearly excited to chat with him about their passion for lifesaving. He met with a large group of about 23 young lifesavers from across the 17 Illawarra surf clubs and by all accounts was genuinely interested in hearing about their experiences as volunteers.



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NSW athletes break 17 Australian records

NSW Surf Life Saving clubs continued their outstanding performance in the pool at the 2019 Australian Pool Rescue Championships.

The national event was held at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre on August 10 and 11 with 17 NSW clubs travelling to the Sunshine State to compete.

From as far south as Broulee Surfers SLSC to our most northern club, Cudgen Headland SLSC, some of the state's best athletes from the beach showed their elite skills in the pool, which resulted in over 100 medals and 17 Australian records broken.

Terrigal SLSC took out second place in the Masters overall point score and an impressive fourth behind top Queensland clubs in the Open division. The Central Coast club took a total of 59 medals on the weekend including 30 gold.

Paul Lemmon is an assistant coach and all-round veteran athlete with Terrigal SLSC. Paul broke two Australian records on the weekend, clearly demonstrating why he has won SLSNSW Masters Athlete of the Year for a record 11 times since 1999.

Paul said it was an amazing effort by the Terrigal team who continue to impress under experienced coaches and dedicated athletes, from kids through to masters.

"The conditions were challenging being in an outdoor pool with strong winds," said Paul. "Full credit to everyone who broke records and dealt with those conditions."

"Our team had a fantastic result. We don't have the funding that the Queensland clubs get to train and travel so we're really happy that we can put them under the pump and we had a strong team of 50 athletes."

"We all love Pool Rescue. It keeps the club together throughout the off-season and keeps our rescue skills and fitness up. Heading up as a big team for the Australian Championships wasn't about winning for us, it was about having a fun trip with our club-mates."

Dom Melbourne from North Curl Curl SLSC won the first gold medal for NSW and broke the first Australian record in the Under 12 years 100 metre obstacle race in a time of just 1:07.43.

At just 12 years-old Dom is in her last year of Nippers but loves that she can compete throughout the year in Surf Life Saving events.

"It feels great to win this title, such a great feeling being here and then winning a gold medal," said Dom. "It was a real surprise to break the record as well. I love all the events and try to compete across as many as I can."

We all love Pool Rescue. It keeps the club together throughout the off-season and keeps our rescue skills and fitness up.

The Interstate event was run concurrently with a strong field of athletes from across the state. Individual competitors represented their states and accumulated points for their performance which were tallied to make up the Interstate Championship point score.

Queensland snuck ahead of NSW to take out the 2019 Interstate Pool Rescue Championship with a total of 536 points. NSW came in second with 489 points and Western Australia finished a close third on 462 points.



Bronte SLSC continues board riding dominance at North Narrabeen

The state's best surfing lifesavers took advantage of great conditions at the 2019 Midford Board Riding Championships in August.

The final State Championship event for the 2018/19 season was held at North Narrabeen - one of Australia's most iconic surf breaks.

This year the Board Riding State Championship event celebrates 70 years since it was first held in the 1949/50 season. Over its 70 years, the event has crowned state champions who have been among the most influential and successful surfers and water-people not only in Australia, but the world.

As part of a partnership with Surfing NSW established in 2018, competitors were judged by some of the most experienced competition officials in the country. Head judge Phil Courtney, who has worked with many of Australia's top surfers, said the standard across all divisions was very high.

"It's been really enjoyable to be here at Narrabeen this weekend," said Phil. "There have been some great waves ridden and big scores given. It's been a really enjoyable weekend."

Courtney commented on the significance of the event location and the partnership between Surfing NSW and Surf Life Saving saying, "North Narrabeen has a surf history like you wouldn't believe. To be part of an event on this beach again has been great. Surfers and surf lifesavers, we're one and the same. Some of the best surfers have come out of surf life saving clubs."

Historically a strong board riding club, Bronte SLSC continued to dominate this year. Bondi Lifeguard and Bronte member, Anthony 'Harries' Carroll continues his gold medal tally in both the Opens and Masters division. This year he won the 40-49 Long Board and Short Board and the Open Long Board finals. Harries was backed-up by fellow Bondi Lifeguard Ryan Clark who took gold in the 30-39 Long Board and Short Board.

Harries, who has won consecutive state titles said, "It's been really good to get down here again and we've all had a great time. We're all so passionate about coming down here every year. Surfing is a really important part of Surf Life Saving, it's our heritage. By keeping it included as a championship event we're continuing to celebrate its legacy and recognise surfers who play such a big part in rescuing people outside the red and yellow flags."

With over 40 competitors in this year's event, Bronte SLSC took out the overall point score with 58 points. They beat MacMasters Beach SLSC with 31 points. Palm Beach SLSC and Wanda SLSC tied for third place on 27 points.

Trent Martin of MacMasters Beach SLSC was stoked to accept second place for his club in the overall point score and commented on how both the surfing and Surf Life Saving communities on the Central Coast are so well integrated. "Our board riders' clubs and surf clubs all cross-over. Some of the best surfers have grown up in Nippers and everyone shares the surf club as a meeting place. It doesn't matter if you're on patrol or out at the point surfing, everyone just gets together and has a good time."

Kyla Whitfield, North
Narrabeen SLSC



Photos: Alicia Nash

Sophie Wade of Palm Beach SLSC is a competitive surfer and a surf boat rower for her club. She was thrilled to take out the Open Long Board as well as the Masters Short and Long Board titles after an impressive display of progressive surfing in front of her husband and two children.

"I'm traditionally a surf boat rower but I like throw my hat in the ring for everything to support Surf Life Saving events," said Sophie. "I've competed in the Masters and Opens this year and pretty stoked to pick up three gold medals."

Darci Air took out both the Under 17 and Open Short Board titles. She said despite the tricky conditions she found the break similar to her home break at Thirroul. Darci competes in other surf sports events and has been part of the Thirroul SLSC since she was five years old. "I got lucky. I got a few lefts and it all just worked out for me today and it's great to have a state title in surfing. It's good to come back and catch up with all the girls, it's just a lot of fun," she said.

Sixteen-year-old Finlay Browning from Cronulla SLSC took on some incredible competition to win the Open Short Board title. He said after his win, "It was pretty fun out there. There was a good rip bowl that made some sections of the waves perfect for big, critical turns which is what the judges were rewarding."

The 2019 Midford Board Riding Championships was held Friday 2 – Sunday 4 August.

Board Riding Heritage

Past champions in Surf Life Saving NSW Board Riding is like a hall of fame, featuring many of the country's best surfers. Since its inception as a State Championship event in the 1949/50 season, it has featured many legends including Keith 'Spaz' Hurst (1951 Champion). He pioneered surfing in Australia in the '40s and '50s. Spaz also swept the surfboat in the famous Bondi to Coolangatta journey to compete in the Australian Championships, as well as being great uncle to Ironman champion Ky Hurst.

Other pioneers of the sport like Jack 'Bluey' Mayes of Tamarama SLSC (first Shortboard champion 1968), Doug Andrew of Dee Why SLSC winner of the first Bells Beach event in 1962 (1973 champion), former professional surfer Mark 'Sanga' Sainsbury of Avoca SLSC (1982 and '83 champion), dual world champion Tom Carroll of Newport SLSC (1975 champion), as well as Tom Whittaker of Bronte SLSC, Nick Carroll of Newport SLSC, Laura Enever of North Narrabeen SLSC, Jessie Miley-Dyer of Bronte SLSC, Shane Bevan of Cudgen Headland SLSC and one of Australia's top coaches Clancy Dawson of South Maroubra SLSC.

Previous champions also include one of Australia's greatest modern big wave surfers Mark Mathews of Maroubra SLSC (1988 and 2000 champion) and much of the Bondi Rescue television series cast including Lifeguard Rod Kerr, the legendary waterman and veteran world tour pro of the '80s and '90s.



View the highlights video here:
<http://bit.ly/2mudh99>

Minister for Emergency Services
David Elliott launches new
support operations equipment



New rescue equipment for NSW surf lifesavers

Surf Lifesavers now have even greater capacity to save lives with the handover of new support vehicles and Rescue Water Craft (jetskis) through enhanced rescue funding provided by the NSW Government.

The fully-equipped support vehicles and jetskis are being rolled out to all 11 Surf Life Saving Branches in NSW and will boost the response capability of the state's volunteer lifesavers and callout teams this summer.

Surf Life Saving NSW is increasingly expanding its services beyond just beach patrols during the summer season with volunteers called on to respond to incidents including searching for missing swimmers, rockfishers swept off rock platforms and watercraft users in distress on a 24/7 basis.

The new equipment was unveiled at Sydney's Wanda Beach on Tuesday September 10 and forms part of a \$16M funding package from the NSW Government for Surf Life Saving NSW to enhance the capability and support of volunteers over the next four years.

"We recognise the contribution surf lifesavers make to protecting and saving lives along our coastline and we are pleased to be able to support the organisation with fit-for-purpose rescue equipment," said Minister for Emergency Services, David Elliott.

The support operations vehicles are fully kitted-out to assist Surf Life Saving Duty Officers respond quickly and effectively to callouts and incidents along the coast. Advanced oxygen resuscitation and first aid kits are standard, along with off-road equipment for beach and remote area access.

Warning lights are fixed to the vehicles to be used to signal the presence of Surf Life Saving assets at coastal emergencies and loud-speaker PA equipment, including a shark alarm, are also fitted.

The support vehicles and jetskis are fitted with GPS tracking devices to ensure the safety of volunteers who often work in remote locations on their own or with just one other person.

Surf Life Saving NSW CEO Steven Pearce says the new rescue equipment rolling out will better support and enhance the safety of frontline volunteers.

Until now, these volunteers have had to provide their own gear so this will make a big difference, particularly to our smaller branches and clubs

"Our members are often called out to serious emergencies along the coast and now they will have the support of dedicated rescue-ready gear to respond to incidents out of hours and in tricky situations," said Steve Pearce.

"The safety of our members is our first priority so the addition of GPS tracking on jetskis and warning lighting on vehicles will help ensure volunteers have a greater level of protection when responding to high risk incidents."

Surf Life Saving Duty Officers and Support Operations teams are also being kitted out with personal protective equipment including uniforms, wetsuits, lifejackets and helmets to ensure their safety when responding to coastal emergencies this summer.

"Until now, these volunteers have had to provide their own gear so this will make a big difference, particularly to our smaller branches and clubs operating in more remote areas of the state," said Steve Pearce.



View the equipment handover here:
<http://bit.ly/2krCyQG>

Miraculous rescue receives state and national award

An amazing story of survival and serendipity has won an isolated surf club team the Surf Life Saving Rescue of the Month.

In winter, the days are short, the water cold and the swell can be hazardous. There is no sign of the red and yellow flags on most beaches, however across NSW, volunteer surf lifesavers remain on-call. Throughout the year they continue to be first responders to critical incidents on our coastline, putting their lives on the line to save others.

On Saturday 22 June, lifesavers from Pacific Palms SLSC and the Lower North Coast Support Operations Team were going about their usual Saturday morning activities away from the beach.

A family group had made their way up to the isolated Pacific Palms area south of Forster, from Sydney for the weekend. They were keen rock fishers and had headed out on Saturday morning along the jagged rocks south of Elizabeth Beach in the Booti Booti National Park.

The surf was up and conditions were hazardous. It took one wave, slightly larger than the rest, to sweep a man and woman from the group and into the water where they were being washed up against the rocks. Fortuitously, both were wearing lifejackets, although it was only because of a nagging husband that this was the case.

It was 11.41am when Branch Duty Officer Richard Ellery received a call from the State Operations Centre advising of the incident on the point north of Boomerang Beach. Richard was advised there was a person in the water, 100 metres from the rocks, conscious and waving for assistance.

Richard was 20 minutes from the scene so he contacted the Pacific Palms SLSC call out team which included Director of Lifesaving Kel McCredie, Jerrad Allen, Jeanette Allen and club president Dan Morgan who immediately raced to the club to prepare the jetski and IRB for the rescue.

Kel had the jetski at the water's edge, ready for Richard's arrival. Jumping aboard, Richard made his way along the bushy coastline from Elizabeth Beach past Shelly Beach, to where Ambulance officers were signaling to two patients in the water.

"I was surprised how far they had drifted, it was almost 1.5 kilometres from Elizabeth Beach," said Richard. "The report was that there was one person in the water, conscious and waving for assistance, so that was what I was looking for," he said. "I saw two people and they were both very much hypothermic and in shock."

When he reached the couple the man was holding up the woman who was clutching her phone in the air. The man explained the woman's leg was badly broken.

"I tried to get the woman on the sled as best I could," said Richard. "The husband tried to assist me. When they were secure we slowly made our way back to Elizabeth Beach. It took about 10 minutes."

Dan Morgan and Jerrad Allen aboard an inflatable rescue boat met the jetski on the way back to assist. Due to the woman's severe injuries, it was safer to leave her on the jetski sled rather than risk transferring her into the IRB.

Conditions continued to deteriorate with a large swell and strong winds making the trip back to the club longer and more challenging than usual. Richard said he stopped a number of times to ensure the woman's broken leg was stable and the patients were secured on the back of the ski.

After making it back to the safety of the beach, Richard and the patients were met by members of the Pacific Palms call out team and Police.



Kel McCredie, Richard Ellery received the award from the Hon Dr David Gillespie at Parliament House, Canberra on 9 September 2019

Dan said, "There were multiple members who met us to assist in the triage role."

At the clubhouse, Jerrad, Dan, Jeanette and Kel used their advanced first aid skills to stabilise the patients while they waited for the Ambulance officers to arrive. Both were suffering hypothermia and shock, while the man had lacerations to his arm and the woman had broken both bones in her left leg.

Dan is confident that without a doubt, life jackets saved the couple's lives. He recounted that talking to the couple after the incident, the woman said she had resisted wearing a life jacket, but was convinced by her husband that it was crucial.

"Generally, rock fishers in the area don't wear life jackets but this couple did," he said. "Lucky for them they did. Both their injuries meant they couldn't swim effectively and they had heavy wet weather clothing on that would have taken them straight to the bottom without life jackets."

The couple are residents in Sydney's eastern suburbs and were regular rock fishers. They were familiar with the mandatory life jacket legislation in force in the Randwick LGA and this behaviour alone contributed to them surviving their ordeal. They were in the water for almost an hour.

Everyone works together like clockwork and to have a major rescue like this end up with a positive outcome, it really shows the value and the capability of what we do.

Despite being a small club of only 30 members, the Pacific Palms SLSC call out team is experienced with a number of critical incidents and search and rescues in their isolated region.

A proud Director of Lifesaving Kel says, "I can't thank the team enough. They're experienced and good at what they do. For what they do for our club and Surf Life

Saving they are amazing, they're a great bunch of people."

Dan Morgan added that like all incidents, he couldn't thank his community enough, "Our crew exuded confidence and professionalism and that really makes a difference to patients and our outcomes."

"Without the dedicated, fast response of the team, it is very unlikely the couple would have survived," Richard said. "Our Support Operations teams are vitally important to the community, particularly outside patrol hours and at this time of year. Everyone works together like clockwork and to have a major rescue like this end up with a positive outcome, it really shows the value and the capability of what we do."

This rescue was awarded the May/June 2019 State and National Rescue of the Month.



To view the interview, visit:
<http://bit.ly/2k5fj4U>



Surf Life Saving NSW wishes to thank the following sponsors and supporters for helping our volunteers save lives on the beaches each year.

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Our Mission

To save lives, create great Australians and build better communities.

Summary

Surf Life Saving NSW is the state's major water safety and rescue organisation, and with over 75,000 members, is one of the largest volunteer movements in Australia.

The primary role of Surf Life Saving NSW is to save lives on our beaches, while other activities include developing our members through education, leadership and surf sports programs.

There are 129 surf clubs and 11 branches in the state which are affiliated with Surf Life Saving NSW, stretching from Fingal Rovers SLSC near Tweed Heads, to Pambula SLSC on the Far South Coast.

For contributions or suggestions for *SurfLIFE* please contact SLSNSW Media on 02 9471 8000 or media@surflifesaving.com.au

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