

SurfLIFE

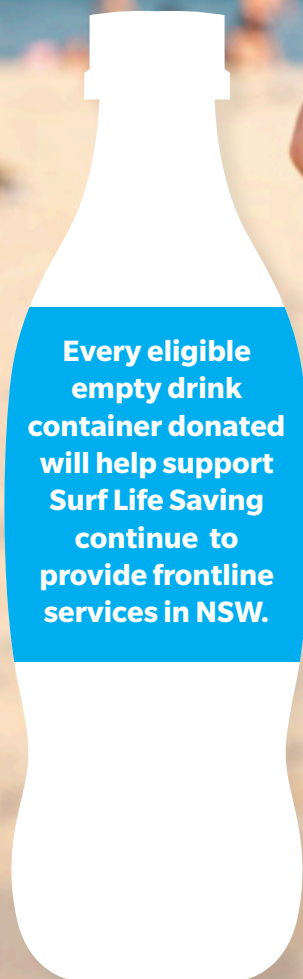
ISSUE 35 – December 2017



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES

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SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



Local Father Forever a Lifesaver

The death of a respected community member who heroically saved his son from a rip last April prompted one Hunter school to rally for one of their own, and now thanks to their generosity, many more lives will be saved in the future.

On behalf of Warners Bay High School, captains Georgia O'Sullivan and Riley Lowe accepted a surf rescue board purchased by funds raised by both the school and wider community to honour the memory of Stephen Dick.

Also present at what was an emotional and powerful ceremony was Marianne Bonnay, Mr Dick's wife, NSW Deputy President Brian Wilcox who attended the scene as a Duty Officer on the day, and Hunter Surf Life Saving CEO Rhonda Scruton.

Mr Dick was holidaying with his family at Boomerang Beach on the Lower North Coast when his son got swept away by powerful rip. After going to his aid and coaxing him back to the safety of the shore, Mr Dick himself got into difficulty and sadly couldn't be revived.

The family wanted to turn the darkness of the tragedy into a positive and have become strong advocates for surf lifesaving and water safety over the last year.

Inspired by this attitude and also by the friendship of Mr Dick's children, the outgoing Year 12 cohort was motivated to show their support for not only the family but for the cause that they were becoming so passionate about promoting.

"It really was a tragedy that shook the whole school community, and we got together at the end of last year and asked ourselves how can we best help?," said Georgia O'Sullivan.

"The support from not only everyone at the school has been absolutely amazing."

Riley Lowe agreed.

"In the beginning we wanted to keep it under wraps, but when we told everyone, the support was overwhelming," he said.

"We just wanted to show the family that Warners Bay High School cared and that they are and will remain a part of our community."

The initiative of the young leaders impressed many within the school including Deputy Principal Brett Carr.

"In many way schools are communities within the community and this tragedy deeply impacted on us all here. The least we could do was offer our support and by working together with the family to get the message out there about educating people around beach safety is a powerful message."

"It really was a tragedy that shook the whole school community, and we got together at the end of last year and asked ourselves how can we best help?"



Pacific Palms SLSC President Dave Ellis and club captain Kel McCredie

When Surf Life Saving NSW learned of the fundraising campaign a decision was made to honour the memory of the man who gave his life for his family by using the donation to purchase a surf rescue board.

"It's been a very difficult year for our family and we couldn't

have made it without the school support or without the support of the wider community," said Marianne Bonnay.

"This board is an incredible gift. It replaces a terrible memory with a good one. I really want to give back and respect Stephen's memory, and if this rescue equipment saves one life it has done its job but I think it will save many more.

"It's lovely to have a tangible memory and to hold something that will make a difference," she said.

The rescue board will now sit in the club house of Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club; the location closest to the scene of the tragic accident.


The donated rescue board carries the following inscription: "Donated By Warners Bay High School - In Loving Memory of Stephen Dick"

It's a fitting tribute for a man who above all else loved his family.

NO FLAGS MEANS NO LIFESAVERS. BE WATER SAFE, NOT SORRY.

Last year, NSW had the highest number of drownings Australia-wide with 93 people losing their lives. Many were young men at unpatrolled beaches. This summer, play it safe by the water.

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NEW SOUTH
WALES



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SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES

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Indigenous rangers with
The Little Ripper Group
representative Micah Ruedin
and Port Macquarie Lifeguard
Supervisor James Turnham

It's a Game of Drones for Rangers

With Unmanned Aerial Vehicles already proving to be a potential lifesaver on NSW beaches, The Little Ripper Group took their experience and knowledge to the rangers of Far North Queensland.

Port Macquarie Lifeguard Supervisor James Turnham, himself a graduate of the Westpac Little Ripper UAV training program, was selected to represent the Australian Lifeguard Service and Surf Life Saving NSW on the five-day trip to some of the country's most remote areas.

This UAV training program involved specialist trainers from the Little Ripper Group who worked with the Cape York Development organisation to deliver the course to rangers from the Coen and Aurukun areas.

A key goal of the visit was to meet with the indigenous rangers, train them in the basics of UAV technology, and also highlight the opportunities that it could offer them in their line of work.

"Leading up to the trip, I was curious as to how the locals and indigenous rangers would accept the new technology of UAVs into their line of work on the land that they know and manage so well. It was a pretty special feeling when we first gave an introduction and demonstration to the indigenous rangers as their eyes lit up and they were in awe of what these drones could do," said James Turnham.

"We quickly learnt how much they would appreciate the use of a UAV to assist them in their work, especially the simple fact of having an instant aerial view of their surrounding area wherever they are."

Because of the sheer size of the mostly untouched landscape, there are numerous ways in which UAVs could be integrated into daily life for the rangers to help them in their duties.

Some of these include monitoring the nesting pattern of turtles along the coastline, checking the fences, counting wild pig numbers, quickly spotting bushfires and monitoring the water quality of lagoons.

For James Turnham though, the journey was a cultural experience to treasure.

"During quiet periods the local indigenous people shared some incredible stories and showed me country that barely anyone else has stepped foot on," he said.

"They were also very interested to hear about my line of work on the beaches, and were fascinated by the amount of people that would attend the beaches each summer and by some of the statistics I shared."

Whether it's being involved in a search for a distressed swimmer on a Port Macquarie beach or counting wild pigs in the untamed landscape of Far North Queensland, the sky is the limit for UAV technology, and Surf Life Saving is proud to be associated with this exciting and innovative initiative.



Tony Worton,
Michelle Garvan
and Phil Traves

Camden Haven Rescue Recognised

A courageous rescue undertaken by Camden Haven surf lifesavers on Easter Saturday has been honoured with the Rescue of the Year Award at the 2017 Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence.

The drama began at South Beach, Dunbogan when a holidaying family from Sydney got into difficulty after patrol hours.

Samantha Morley and her husband Dominic Johnson were sitting on the beach watching their two daughters when a large set of waves crashed through and the girls lost their footing.

The adults raced to the children's aid but Samantha was washed out to sea in what was the start of a 90 minute ordeal.

Camden Haven lifesavers Phil Traves and Tony Worton responded to the emergency call-out and launched an Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) to rescue Samantha Morley. Jacob Worton, Jay and Adam Toogood and Club President Michelle Garvan also provided assistance.

Speaking after receiving their award, the humble lifesavers were proud of the rescue efforts of everyone involved.

"It's amazing to get this award for everyone at the club, but to us the most important thing is Samantha is still with us today," said Tony Worton.

"It's good to see that all the years we spent learning to be a driver and the time spent at the club coming through Nippers and everything became relevant on the day," Phil Traves added.

Lifesavers Scrub Up for Awards of Excellence

Over 300 of the state's finest surf lifesavers took time out away from the ocean in August to celebrate a successful season at a glittering ceremony in Sydney.

The annual Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence is an opportunity for volunteer lifesavers from around the state to come together and honour outstanding contributions in surf sport, education, member services and lifesaving.

Central Coast clubs enjoyed a very successful night, taking home six awards including Community Education Program of the Year and Young Lifesaver of the Year for the 2016/17 season.

The Far North Coast Branch earned two awards while lifesavers from the Mid North Coast returned home as the winners in three categories including Rescue of the Year (Camden Haven SLSC).

Sydney and Sydney Northern Beaches clubs had plenty of reasons to smile, picking up eight awards between them while the Lower North Coast, North Coast, and Far South Coast branches also earned awards on the evening.

After volunteering more than 200 hours this season and impressing the panel with her knowledge of Surf Life Saving, Lara Boyle from Whale Beach SLSC was crowned the prestigious Surf Lifesaver of the Year.

It was a fantastic achievement by the young lifesaver who wears many hats at her club.

There were also plenty of cheers when Bermagui SLSC was announced the Stramit Club of the Year.



Lara Boyle and Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant

SLSNSW CEO Steven Pearce,
Sutherland Lifeguard Steven Winner
and Mayor Cr Carmelo Pesce



New CEO for SLSNSW

Surf Life Saving NSW welcomed a new Chief Executive Officer in July with the appointment of experienced emergency services professional, Steven Pearce.

Mr Pearce holds the Australian Fire Services Medal (AFSM) and has more than 30 years' experience in senior roles at Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW State Emergency Service, in addition to beach safety experience having been a volunteer Lifesaver in the Illawarra.

Surf Life Saving NSW President, David Murray said Mr Pearce's significant emergency management and government experience is a considerable asset for the organisation.

"Steven's demonstrated leadership experience in the volunteer sector, and his synergy and affinity to volunteer ideals, culture and values makes him a perfect fit for our organisation," Mr Murray said.

Since taking over as CEO, Mr Pearce has thrown himself enthusiastically into the world of Surf Life Saving travelling the coastline to meet the volunteers he considers the best in Australia.

Emergency Response Beacon to Save Lives at Sutherland

Surf Lifesavers and Sutherland Shire Council have collaborated to install new technology that will help reduce response times at one of the Sutherland Shire's unpatrolled beaches.

The state's newest ERB (Emergency Response Beacon) was launched at Greenhills Beach early in December with representatives from both the lifesaving community and local government on hand to see it in action.

Weighing in at approximately 18 kilograms and utilising a 3G voice intercom, SMS functionality, and a camera, the technical aspects of the machine are impressive.


In an emergency situation the button can be depressed by a witness and instantly connects with the State Operations Centre at SLSNSW HQ. A text message is also sent to the nearest lifesavers or lifeguards which alerts them to the situation.

"This is a next generation tool for Surf Life Saving, and is a great way for us to support lifesavers and lifeguards on the beach," said SLSNSW Chief Executive Officer Steven Pearce.

Sutherland Shire Mayor, Cr Carmelo Pesce said it will help keep residents and visitors to the area safe.

"Each year, tens of thousands of people visit our beautiful Greenhills Beach and we want to make sure every single one of them gets home safe," he said.

"Greenhills is a remote stretch of beach and this is why we have chosen this location to install the Emergency Response Beacon."



From the Beach to the Bush, Lifesavers Deliver Education Program

Australia's most popular primary school aged surf education program has closed the books on another successful tour with almost 9,000 country students taking part in a lesson on surf safety from our volunteer lifesavers in November.

The 16 presenters swapped IRBs and jet skis for the more traditional transport option of a car as they headed inland to areas as diverse as Weilmoringle and Dubbo.

Along the way they clocked over 9000 km of travel, visited 50 schools, and delivered more than a 100 presentations. They fielded questions about what it's like to be a lifesaver, demonstrated the finer points of zinc application, and above all showed their passion for Surf Life Saving whilst educating children about the importance of staying safe at the beach.

SLSNSW Lifesaver of the Year Lara Boyle was one of the volunteer presenters.

"Personally I got a lot from being a presenter and I really enjoy getting to share the surf safety message and the sun safety message with as many kids as possible especially kids who might not hear it otherwise," she said.

The program was made possible thanks to the generous support of ClubsNSW and the Cancer Institute of the NSW. The SLSNSW Beach to Bush program has been running since 1994.



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NSW Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving

Lifesaving Community Updates Parliament

In late November representatives from SLSNSW attended Sydney's Parliament House for the final gathering of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving for 2017.

The meeting was well attended by Members from both houses and an update was provided on some of the many activities of Surf Life Saving in recent times.

Attendees included the group's co-Deputy Chairs Adam Crouch and Yasmin Catley and Chair Melinda Pavey.

It was also an opportunity to reflect on another positive year with a number of key policy announcements including the doubling of the Surf Club Facility Grant which allows NSW Surf Clubs to apply for funding to complete vital infrastructure projects.

Tablet Technology Takes to the Beach

Lifesavers know the importance of having to record data from their time on patrol, and this summer that crucial task will be easier than ever thanks to a shiny new piece of technology.

Prior to the season, all 129 surf clubs were issued with a Samsung tablet for use on patrol.

The device is pre-loaded with the Patrol Ops App (a new update was released in December), which allows clubs to sign on and off with the State Operations Centre, and capture patrol information in real time on NSW beaches.

As a result of this streamlined process it is hoped that time consuming paperwork will be reduced, and the tablets also provide access to operating procedures and weather apps.



2017 Coastal Safety Report Released

The 2017 Surf Life Saving NSW Coastal Safety Report was officially released at the Raising of the Flags season launch.

“This report and its findings will play an important role in our understanding of what is happening on the NSW coastline and will help us better utilise our assets and capabilities as we plan for the season ahead,” said SLSNSW CEO Steven Pearce.

Some of the key findings of the report include;

- While total drownings for the season numbered 31, down from a record high of 53 in 2015/16, there was a spike of drownings at the height of summer with 30 people losing their lives in NSW waters in the span of a few weeks
- Overwhelmingly males continue to represent the majority of drowning deaths
- 32% of people who drowned were in the 20-29 age group
- 42% of people drowned while swimming predominantly as a result of getting into difficulty in a rip current, and 19% while rock fishing
- Almost 70% of drownings occurred more than 5km from a patrolled area suggesting that the message still isn't getting through to people to swim between the flags



To view the full report, visit
<http://bit.ly/coastalsafe>





Lifesavers Raise Flags on New Season

The 2017/18 patrol season was officially launched in late September at Sydney's Maroubra Beach.

Joining NSW Premier The Hon Gladys Berejiklian in raising the flags on the new season was Bruce Notley Smith MP, Member for Coogee as well as a number of other dignitaries from across government, emergency services sector, and of course the lifesaving community.

Attendees were treated to an impressive rescue demonstration of lifesaving equipment featuring jetskis, the Offshore Rescue Boat, a Westpac Little Ripper UAV, and a flyover by the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter.

Additionally the UAV Shark Algorithm technology SharkSpotter was also highlighted which is one of the great new innovations that will feature on the beach this summer.

SLSNSW President David Murray said the ceremony marks an important milestone for the season.

“It was a fantastic opportunity to be able to celebrate the new season with our members who all do a fantastic job to keep visitors to our many beaches safe particularly during the hot summer months,” he said.

Volunteer surf lifesavers will be on patrol each weekend and public holiday until the season concludes on Sunday 29 April.

Innovative Nippers Scoops Canberra Award

When most people picture our nation's capital they think of wide open spaces and the heartland of political power; indeed a day at the beach and a bunch of Nippers running around would probably be the last thing to come to mind. But one surf life saving club is trying to change that perception and is winning acclaim for those efforts.

The Canberra/Broulee Nippers is only in its second season and was recently rewarded for its innovative approach to Surf Life Saving by winning the Sport Minister's Award for Innovation at the Canberra Sports Awards in a highly competitive category.

“It's amazing to get this recognition and be acknowledged by the ACT Government,” said Bethany Williams who is the founder and manager of the program.

“There's been a lot of work to get to this point and what I really hope to achieve is for it to continue to grow and help pass on the skills and knowledge to children right across the area.”



Kingscliff Beach Open for Business

The 2017/18 season marks a first for the Australian Lifeguard Service (ALS) with Lifeguards now patrolling Kingscliff Main Beach for seven months from September through to April.

This new weekday service, which will continue until the end of the April school holidays, ensures comprehensive beach coverage for locals and visitors alike.

ALS NSW Northern Coordinator Scott McCartney said having Lifeguards on the beach for longer was a fantastic proactive decision by Tweed Valley Council.

"As Kingscliff Main Beach continues to be the busiest in the Tweed Valley it became clear that additional Lifeguard patrols were needed to help ensure the safety of the beach-going public.

"For the first time locals have access to a patrolled location during the week and Council should be congratulated on their forward thinking and pro-active approach to safety."

This service extension is part of a four-year contract renewal finalised in recent months as a result of the positive relationship between Tweed Shire Council and the ALS over almost 30 years.



UAV Operator from China Flies into Port

Port Macquarie's reputation as the home of the UAV gained another tick of approval after a successful visit by a Chinese delegation to the scenic Mid North Coast town in September.

Aspiring Chinese UAV pilots could soon be utilising the top class training facilities located at the Surf Life Saving NSW Northern Operations Centre to further their education in this exciting industry as they look to obtain their CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority) qualifications.

Representatives from Port Macquarie Hastings Council, the Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce, SLSNSW and The Ripper Group welcomed a visiting Chinese UAV consortium to Port Macquarie headed by Mr Janci Yang - Chairman of the ShenZhen UAV Industry Association and Mr Ronnie Chen - Chairman of JTT.

The group were in Port Macquarie to inspect the training facilities at SLSNSW Northern Operations Centre with view to the Ripper Group providing commercial training for visiting Chinese UAV students.

Although the pilots can still elect to study in China, one key advantage of obtaining CASA qualifications is that it is recognised in multiple countries, which is vitally important in an industry which is expected to enjoy rapid growth.

As one of the world's largest UAV manufacturers, JTT is looking to train up to 100 Chinese students annually. Should this eventuate this has the potential to provide a big economic stimulus to the region as well as enhance the international reputation of the Port Macquarie community.

Under the terms of the proposed plan, the UAV student pilots will live in Port Macquarie for up to four weeks at a time where they will be put through the demanding course, training for search and rescue, film and photography, asset inspection and agriculture applications.

One key advantage of being located in Port Macquarie for the visiting students is that it will become so much more than a study trip. They will have the opportunity to explore the region, practice their language skills and also see how UAV technology is being employed in the Australian environment.

TUNE IN THIS SUMMER TO...



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SURF LIFE SAVING NSW 2016/17 COASTAL DROWNING SNAPSHOT



31

COASTAL
DROWNING DEATHS



90%

COASTAL DROWNING
DEATHS WERE MALE



4,966

RESCUES
COMPLETED



42%

SWIMMING / WADING



19%

ROCK FISHING



650,078

VOLUNTEER
HOURS



15,750

FIRST AID
TREATMENTS



127,161

PREVENTATIVE
ACTIONS



6,696,024

BEACH
ATTENDANCE



New Skills for Maldivian Lifeguards

The international reputation of the Australian Lifeguard Service (ALS) NSW continues to be enhanced with the professionalism, skills, and knowledge of its personnel praised for recently updating the qualifications of resort Lifeguards in the Maldives.

With its crystal clear waters, endless beaches and dazzling array of sea life, the Maldives are rightly and regularly accorded the title of one of the world's most desirable holiday destinations. But for those charged with guarding the waters at one of the many resorts, the responsibility of ensuring visitors' safety weighs heavily on their shoulders. As a result it is crucial that the Lifeguards are trained to the highest possible standards. This season the One&Only Resort, Reethi Rah on the isolated North Male Atoll invited representatives from the ALS to come and share their knowledge.

In August Craig Carney and Steve Allan travelled to the Indian Ocean paradise for five days of intense training with the 12 Lifeguards who will head up the resort's team for the tourist season.

Over the course of the week the participants were trained to the equivalent standards of Australian Lifeguards. With participants coming from a diverse range of backgrounds; Lifeguards are hired from the Maldives, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Indonesia - inter-cultural communication and respecting culture was high on the agenda of the two ALS trainers.

Both were thrilled with the experience and enjoyed the friendship and hospitality of the Lifeguards as the group bonded over their shared passion for the ocean and public safety.

"It was a fantastic experience, and to help people from other countries achieve their dreams and grow in self-esteem is a wonderful thing to be able to do," said Craig Carney.

Steve Allan agreed adding; "This was a great opportunity to be able to pass on our knowledge and experience to the Lifeguards in the Maldives who already have a good base level of knowledge and skills that we were able to expand on throughout the program

"Over the course of the week there was a noticeable improvement in their skills right through to the final assessment day, and I truly believe that the success of this program highlights why it is so important for Australian Lifeguards to continue to support the wider lifesaving community by building these international relationships," he said.

Following the program the Lifeguards achieved qualifications in areas including Bronze Medallion, First Aid, CPR, Advanced Resuscitation, Advanced Search and Rescue, Risk Assessment, Hazard Control, and Jet Ski Rescue.

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Emerging Athletes put Through Paces

While their peers relaxed during the final weekend of the October school holidays, a group of the state's most promising surf competitors traded books for swimsuits at an intensive camp designed to improve their skills which gave them an early insight into the reality of life for an elite surf sport athlete.

Forty-three teenage athletes aged between 12 and 14 from across NSW gathered at Sydney's Academy of Sport on the Northern Beaches in October for this year's development program aimed at emerging athletes who have demonstrated an aptitude for water disciplines.

It is the first time that many of these youngsters have been exposed to a high performance environment, though many of them have already enjoyed success at the NSW Country and State Championships in their fledging careers.

Throughout the three-day program the athletes participated in training sessions under the eagle eye of some of the best surf sports coaches around, attended discussions on nutrition, had their skills and techniques analysed and were introduced to high performance and recovery techniques.

Additionally some of the lectures were delivered by guest speakers with their own background in competitive sport providing an intriguing backdrop. Mark Webster from Winning Edge spoke about the importance of sport psychology on performance, while London Olympian kayaker Jo Brigden- Jones delivered a lesson on goal setting.

"I found the nutrition and mindset components really interesting and I will definitely be implementing a few of the ideas I picked up from these sessions back home as well as core strength and conditioning," said Hayley Fischer from Sawtell SLSC.

"One of my other highlights from the program would also



Junior Development
Academy participants

have to be getting to know all the other athletes at the Junior Development Academy.

Surf Life Saving NSW Development Officer Tim Piper said introducing these youngsters to a high performance environment will accelerate their development as they look to make their mark on surf sport.

"It's been a really positive experience to introduce these young athletes to this type of environment and to see them make friends with their age group rivals," he said.

"One of our plans in recent seasons has been to streamline the development path from junior prospect to the state team and it's great that we had our senior coach Jim Walker conduct a session.

"I'm looking forward to seeing this group's results both this summer and beyond. The athletes certainly got a lot out of this program," Mr Piper concluded.



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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Net-N-Nippers**

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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 74,000 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 webmaster@surflifesaving.com.au

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