

SurfLIFE

ISSUE 28 – MARCH 2015



NSW Governor Visits State Champs
Celebrating A Centenary of Surf Sport
Surf Safety Lessons For At-Risk Youth
National Rescues of the Month Honoured

Busy Summer for
Australian Lifeguard Service



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES

EMERGENCY CALLOUTS INCREASE

The State Operations Centre and the Surf Rescue Emergency Response System have experienced increased activity this season with volunteer callout teams handling incidents and major rescues at any time of the day or night, often in remote locations.

A hand-picked group of highly-experienced volunteer State Duty Officers operate the Emergency Response System 24/7, coordinating requests for assistance from Police and other Emergency Services to coastal incidents and emergencies.

When a call is received, the system shifts into gear immediately and the nearest, most appropriate surf life saving assets are tasked to respond. This could include lifesavers on patrol or off-duty club callout teams, lifeguards, Jet Rescue or Offshore Rescue support operations or the Westpac Life Saver Rescue helicopters.

The scope of incidents and emergencies responded to by volunteers is wide and varied and could include anything from swimmers or surfers in trouble, fishermen washed from rocks, capsized vessels, missing toddlers, coastal medical emergencies, shark encounters, stranded kite surfers or major search and rescue operations.

Progressive season stats to the end of

February indicate that there have been an additional 50 requests for assistance from Emergency Services compared to the same period last season. That's 386 compared to 336 in the previous season and means on average, the system is activated at least once a day. During peak periods, duty officers and callout teams have sometimes dealt with more than 10 major emergencies in a single day.

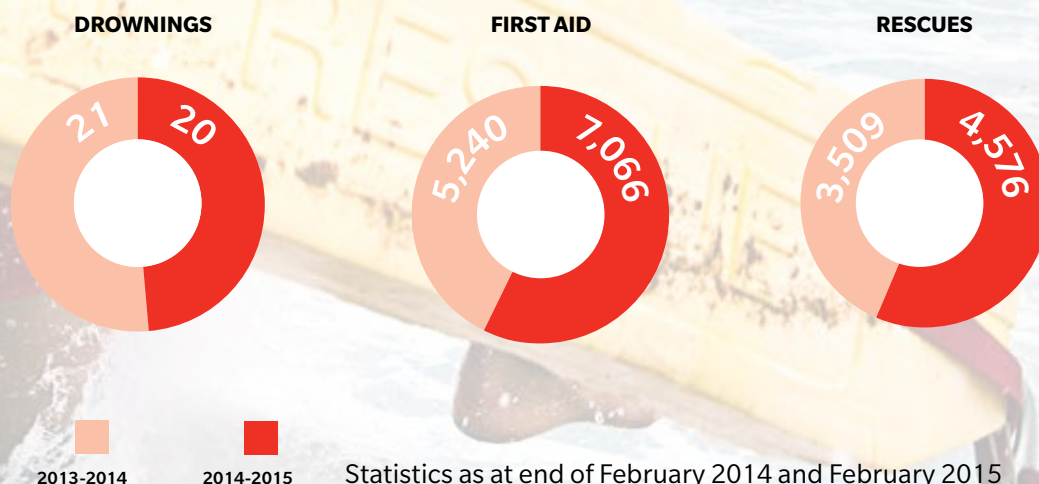
NSW Lifesaving Manager Andy Kent praised the ongoing relationship between the State Operations Centre and Emergency Services, noting it has been a busy season so far for everyone involved in protecting our beaches.

"We value effective communication between our State Operations Centre, our volunteers and other Emergency Services, and this is something we have worked hard on strengthening over the last 18 months," Mr Kent said.

"We have seen the benefit of these strong relationships when we are involved in co-ordinated rescue efforts.

"With the increase in calls to our Emergency Response System and State Operations Centre over summer, our volunteer lifesavers on and off the beach, including our SurfCom radio operators, have all worked extremely hard. We thank them for their efforts."

LIFESAVING STATISTICS: SEASON COMPARISON



STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS A HUGE SUCCESS



Surf Life Saving NSW would like to take this opportunity to thank ClubsNSW, Gosford City Council, Engine and Dolphin Surfcraft for their support of the 2015 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships held at Ocean Beach-Umina from 28 February to 15 March. We would also like to thank all officials for volunteering their time and effort.

Age Pointscore

1	Manly	300
2	Wanda	191
3	Avoca Beach	122

Masters Pointscore

1	Queenscliff	265
2	Bondi Surf Bathers	256
3	North Bondi	217

Opens Pointscore

1	Newport	419
2	Manly	340
3	Wanda	172

GOVERNOR VISITS JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Surf Life Saving NSW was delighted to host the NSW Governor His Excellency General The Hon David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Mrs Hurley at the 2015 Age Championships held at Ocean Beach-Umina on the state's Central Coast.

His Excellency, who is the vice-regal Patron of Surf Life Saving NSW, attended the Twilight Finals session of the Beach Sprints held in the ClubsNSW Arena on Saturday 8 March.

Chief Executive Officer of Surf Life Saving NSW Mr Phillip Vanny AM and President Tony Haven were among the official party who escorted His Excellency and his wife around the venue.

"On behalf of Surf Life Saving NSW we would like to thank Governor Hurley for taking the time to attend the championships and present some medals to our young competitors," Mr Vanny said.

"The State Championships are one of the high points on the surf sports calendar and many of the young athletes competing will go on to become future leaders within the lifesaving movement."

During his visit to the Championships His Excellency spent some time talking to the junior competitors about the importance of the Surf Life Saving movement, and also presented medals to some of the finalists during the presentation ceremony.



CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF SURF SPORTS



Power, passion, pride and colour, these are all words associated with the long and distinguished history of Surf Life Saving competition in Australia. In 2015 the movement celebrates a significant milestone – the centenary of the founding of Surf Sport competition.

The event that was the forerunner of the Australian Championships started life as the NSW Surf Life Saving Championships on 20 March 1915 at Sydney's iconic Bondi Beach. Just two events were given championship status in that inaugural year with the home-town club taking out the senior Rescue and Resuscitation event and club-member J.G Brown winning the

open surf race. In contrast 2015 saw 400 hundred separate events and 7000 competitors battle it out for the right to be called State Champion.

To win a state title, which were known as the Association Championships during the 1920s and 30s, was to be by default, the National Champion. Interstate competitors entered the NSW Championships, recognising it was the best place to develop their skills as lifesavers and athletes. The event was seen as a great way to round-off the season, and was held every year apart from a brief hiatus during the First and Second World Wars.

Due to a desire for the movement to take on a more national focus it became essential for the State Championships to be run as a separate event. In March 1950 the NSW Championships were contested in North Wollongong, the first major event to be held outside the Sydney metropolitan area.

“In 2015 the movement celebrates a significant milestone – the centenary of the founding of Surf Sport competition.”

Hunter Branch has hosted the championships on 12 occasions over the last 65 years, followed by Sydney (11), Sydney Northern Beaches (10), Illawarra (9), Far North Coast (8), Central Coast (5) South Coast (5), Mid North Coast (2), Far South Coast (2) and North Coast (1).

Six decades later and the NSW Surf Life Saving Championships deservedly sits on the podium as one of the most prestigious competitions on the Australian surf sport calendar.

First NSW Surf Life Saving Championships on 20 March 1915 at Bondi Beach

1915

In 1950 Illawarra hosted the first State Titles to be held outside Sydney, and last hosted the championships in the 1991/92 season

1955

In 1935 a special carnival was held at Manly to honour the visit by the Duke of Gloucester

Since 1950 hosting duties have been shared around the clubs. The sheer scale of the event today means that not all beaches are suitable to host the championships



Photo provided by Umina SLSC

In 1973/74 the first Country Championships were staged

In the mid-80s women's events were formally added to the championships

In the late 90s the Junior Championships were incorporated into the main State Titles

2015 marks the fourth occasion that Umina and Ocean Beach have hosted the State Championships

1975

1995

2015

The first 2-day championships took place during the 1964/65 season at Coogee

In 1982/83 the competition was extended to a three-day format

Sydney Branch last hosted the championships during the 2006/07 season



BEACH SAFETY MESSAGE FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

Forty teenagers from the Campbelltown area took time out in the January school holidays to attend a beach safety workshop in Wollongong.

As part of an effort to engage with the region's youth, Campbelltown City Council offers a free bus service for young people to visit beaches in Wollongong throughout the hot summer months.

With a report identifying Sydney's greater west as an area at risk of coastal drowning, both Wollongong and Campbelltown councils became concerned that young people were not equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to safely enjoy a day at the beach.

In an attempt to address this problem, the two councils have worked alongside Surf Life Saving NSW to develop an educational workshop to overcome these issues.

The teens aged 14-17 who participated in the workshop heard key messages

about surf safety as well as engaged in a practical water safety demonstration.

Surf Life Saving NSW Community Education Officer Stacey Pidgeon believes that education plays a key role in helping prevent coastal drownings.

"Western Sydney has been identified as a high risk area for coastal drownings and it is troubling that many of these fatalities are in the 14-24 age bracket.

"By spreading the message of beach safety to the youth of Western Sydney in a fun and innovative way we hope that it encourages them to safely enjoy their day at the beach," she said.

"Ultimately we hope that these young people will share these messages with their peers and family and that the beach safety messages become a core part of their lives."

The workshop was positively received by those who attended and covered topics such as the role of lifesavers and lifeguards, the different types of surf conditions and how to identify rip

currents, basic CPR and first aid skills. Surf Life Saving NSW is continuing to engage with the community in Western Sydney in regards to beach education and water safety by offering free workshops to Western Sydney High Schools throughout 2015.



Photo above by Vicky Hudson, Fairfield High School
Photo below by Jo Massey, Director of Education Illawarra



MASKA'S BONDI ADVENTURE

When the Nauru Lifeguard service was inaugurated in October 2012 it's fairly safe to say that its members never expected to have to deal with large crowds. After all, this Pacific Island nation boasts a population of slightly less than 10,000.

That all changed when two young lifeguards from The Republic of Nauru took a trip to Australia during the summer.

Maska Huber and Ollimac Scotty arrived in the country in December 2014.

After spending time travelling along the eastern seaboard the opportunity arose for the duo to visit Palm Beach and Currumbin SLSCs in Queensland. They had a great time touring the club's facilities and inspecting the beach.

But much more was to come for Huber when he was given the chance to patrol Sydney's busiest beach alongside members of Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club on 17 January.

Club Captain James Roger and Patrol Captain Roger Butler were on hand to help guide this rookie patrolman as he made history becoming the first from his country to patrol Sydney's iconic Bondi Beach. He spent some time on the water's edge and also learned how the equipment and Inflatable Rescue Boats operated.

On the day there was an estimated 20,000 visitors on the shoreline, but Huber confidently handled the situation during his five hour stint.

"Thanks everyone for supporting me all the way through, without your support I couldn't make it this far. God be the Glory," Maska Hubert said on social media following his time on the beach.

During their time in Australia both men were exposed to the skills and techniques developed over a century of lifesaving, and both have expressed a keen desire to teach others what they have learned thereby strengthening the lifesaving movement in their homeland.



MILLER TAKES HOME YOUNG ATHLETE GONG

It has been a big year for Newport's Georgia Miller who was crowned NSW Young Athlete of the Year at the 20th anniversary NSW Sport Federation awards in February.

The 19-year-old was recognised for her consistent performances at a club, state and international level throughout 2014.

She beat a red-hot field to take home the prize in the highly competitive youth category at a gala ceremony in Sydney.

"I had no expectations of winning this award as there are so many outstanding athletes in this field, so this genuinely is a surprise for me," Miller said on the night.

"I've had a really enjoyable but busy year with many exciting challenges. It began when I started at a new club, and continued when we went to

"I had no expectations of winning this award as there are so many outstanding athletes in this field"

France for Rescue 2014 with the Australian team and was fortunate enough to perform well over there."

Surf Life Saving NSW and its members were also nominated in a number of other categories at the award ceremony. Paul Lemmon (Terrigal) and Dori Miller (Bondi) were both finalists in the Masters Athlete of the Year, while the successful 2014 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships, proudly supported by ClubsNSW was also formally recognised by the Sports Federation after being nominated in the Event of the Year category.



Photo: Courtesy of Sport NSW



Photo: Stephen Chu

NATIONAL RESCUE AWARDS FOR MACKSVILLE AND REDHEAD



NSW lifesavers Jason O'Donnell, Peter McNally, Gail Evans and Chris Bird receive awards

Volunteers from NSW Surf Life Saving clubs continue to be recognised for their outstanding efforts protecting the state's beaches, picking up two national awards at Parliament House in Canberra recently.

The National Rescue of the Month is presented quarterly at a ceremony hosted by the Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving in the nation's capital.

Macksville-Scotts Head SLSC President Jason O'Donnell and club members, Peter McNally and Paul Young received their award at Parliament House for their rescue of a swimmer who was caught in a rip last October.

Mr McNally said he was honoured to receive the award, but played down his achievements in a typically modest fashion.

"You don't really think about the recognition that comes with rescues. When you're rescuing someone you just go out there and use the skills that you've learned from being a lifesaver."

Redhead SLSC members Gail Evans and Chris Bird were on hand to accept the award on behalf of a team of lifesavers who rescued two stranded ski paddlers in November.

The lifesavers braved three metre swells and strong winds to get to the paddlers who had managed to scramble onto some rocks after losing their skis in the treacherous conditions.

Gail Evans is very proud of her Hunter-based club, especially the strong teamwork that was demonstrated throughout the rescue.

"Receiving a national award for rescuing someone is amazing but it comes with the job of being a member of a Surf Life Saving Club.

"In our rescue, we all knew each other's strengths as lifesavers which worked extremely well in saving the ski paddlers from great danger," she said.

Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving Matt Thistlethwaite MP who attended the ceremony alongside a number of other politicians congratulated all winners, and praised Australia's volunteer lifesavers, describing them as the "best in the world."

The next National Rescue of the Month ceremony will take place in May.



Surf Life Saving NSW is nominated to win the My Child 2015 Award of Excellence.

Vote for us to win under HEALTH & EDUCATION section

"Your favourite EDUCATIONAL PRODUCT"

www.mychildmagazine.com.au/my-child-2015-excellence-awards/

NEXT GENERATION LEADERS RECOGNISED

The development of the next generation of leaders within the surf life saving movement kicks into hyper-drive over the next few months following the selection of a talented group of young lifesavers to youth programs.

Participants in the Youth Opportunity Makers (YOM) Workshop and finalists in the NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year will attend a development program in April at the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

The YOM program has been developed for club members aged 15-17, and supports Surf Life Saving's younger members by providing them with the opportunity to exchange ideas, participate in activities designed to broaden their understanding of the organisation and present to them the many opportunities that are available within Surf Life Saving.

2015 Youth Opportunity Makers Participants

Sage Nara (Brunswick Heads) Far North Coast
 Samuel Atkins (Brunswick Heads) Far North Coast
 Emily Keith (Ballina Lighthouse -Lismore) Far North Coast
 Grace Foster (Sawtell) North Coast
 Lani Goodman (Woolgoolga) North Coast
 Hayley White (Woolgoolga) North Coast
 Nicholas Croker (Crowdy Head) Lower North Coast
 Rihanna Allen (Pacific Palms) Lower North Coast
 Shelby Connolly (Black Head) Lower North Coast
 Coco Aislabie (Nobbys) Hunter
 Max Young (Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest) Hunter
 Samantha Hallett (Caves Beach) Hunter
 Isabella Ferencz (Cooks Hill) Hunter
 Jade Heber (Ocean Beach) Central Coast
 Caitlin Oakes (Ocean Beach) Central Coast
 Ella Henderson (Soldiers Beach) Central Coast
 Jackson Heinze (Terrigal) Central Coast
 Courtney Halford (Long Reef) Sydney Northern Beaches
 Tahlia Dearden (Freshwater) Sydney Northern Beaches
 Danielle Edwards (North Steyne) Sydney Northern Beaches
 Molly Yeldon (Bronte) Sydney
 Brianna Tier (Maroubra) Sydney
 Jarrod Tranter (North Cronulla) Sydney
 Katelyne Bath (Windang) Illawarra
 Charlie-Faye Blackstock (Windang) Illawarra
 Chloe Bell (Helensburgh Stanwell Park) Illawarra
 Nathan Troiani (Shellharbour) South Coast
 Ainslie Scully (Moruya) Far South Coast
 Jack McGuire (Pambula) Far South Coast
 Grace Knox (Pambula) Far South Coast

Junior Lifesaver of the Year

The Junior Lifesaver of the Year award recognises clubbies in the U14 age group who have demonstrated dedication to their club and leadership potential within the life saving movement. Each of the 11 branches selects a male and female winner who are then invited to attend a development camp. During the program the NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year finalists are interviewed by a selection panel which assesses their leadership skills and potential, and then determines the overall NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year.

Surf Life Saving NSW congratulates all those selected for these exciting development opportunities.



Junior Lifesaver of the Year Finalists and Facilitators 2014

2014/15 NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year Finalists

Brianna Clarkson (Brunswick Heads) Far North Coast
 Oliver Harnell (Brunswick Heads) Far North Coast
 Patrick Steward (Bellinger Valley -North Beach) North Coast
 Kiahni Huthnance (Woolgoolga) North Coast
 Ella-Jayne Wehlow (Port Macquarie) Mid North Coast
 Hugh Stewart (Wauchope Bonny Hills) Mid North Coast
 Alexander Fiebig (Cape Hawke) Lower North Coast
 Karla Berg (Forster) Lower North Coast
 Abby Clifford (Cooks Hill) Hunter
 Reed Van Huisstede (Cooks Hill) Hunter
 Matthew Douglass (MacMasters Beach) Central Coast
 Bronte Smith (Umina Beach) Central Coast
 Cameron Gaw (Collaroy) Sydney Northern Beaches
 Sam Le Geyt (South Curl Curl) Sydney Northern Beaches
 Emily Maythers (North Cronulla) Sydney
 Jed Buckley (Wanda) Sydney
 Michael Usher (Woonona) Illawarra
 April Hockey (Windang) Illawarra
 Brooke Cavanagh (Warilla) South Coast
 Liam Farrer (Shellharbour) South Coast
 Elka Pike (Moruya) Far South Coast
 Eyrl Boulton (Tathra) Far South Coast

BUSY SUMMER FOR AUSTRALIAN LIFEGUARD SERVICE

It's been a busy holiday period across the state's beaches for lifeguards from the Australian Lifeguard Service (ALS).

Throughout the 2014/15 summer there were a total of 19 contracts fulfilled covering 83 beaches, 3 pools, and for the first time a lake. A total of 340 people were employed as a mixture of fulltime and casual lifeguards to help deliver this important service.

As at the end of January an estimated three million people had attended a NSW beach patrolled by ALS lifeguards. ALS lifeguards had also undertaken 539 rescues, recorded 5,381 first aid treatments, and performed 183,333 preventative actions.

With just over a month left for the season, it is expected that these numbers will only increase with the weather looming as a deciding factor.

"We're currently tracking below the number of rescues that we made in the 2013/14 season, but we are performing more preventative

actions," Australian Lifeguard Coordinator Brent Manieri said.

"Most of our summer contracts have wrapped up, and we are currently in the process of evaluating our procedures and policies so that we can deliver the most effective service we can to our clients.

"A key focus for ALS lifeguards this season was to intervene before situations became dangerous, and these numbers reflect that proactive approach."

ALS lifeguards were involved in three dramatic, but ultimately successful rescues in January which highlight the diverse situations that those tasked with protecting NSW beaches can face.

- On 8 January, lifeguards at Byron Bay Main Beach successfully revived a 60-year-old man who had been pulled unconscious from the surf. The lifeguards administered a number of shocks from a defibrillator whilst also performing CPR on the patient until paramedics arrived. The patient has since made a full recovery.

- On 12 January, lifeguards from Turners Beach were tasked to perform major first aid after a 19-year-old man fell 15 metres from the top of a cliff. The teenager had suffered multiple fractures to his body, and had his neck and head immobilised and was administered oxygen by the lifeguard. He was later airlifted to hospital.
- A local surfer from Pottsville broke his neck after hitting his head on a sandbank on 17 January. Lifeguards at the scene moved quickly to stabilise his head and neck, and protected him from the sun while they waited for emergency personnel to arrive. The man is expected to make a full recovery thanks to the professionalism of the lifeguards.

.....
"As of the end of January an estimated three million people had attended a NSW beach patrolled by ALS lifeguards."
.....

5381 +
FIRST AID

3 MILLION
TOTAL BEACH
ATTENDEES

183333
PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS



539
RESCUES

CLUB FACILITY GRANTS PROVIDE VITAL SUPPORT

In a major boost for eight Surf Life Saving Clubs in NSW, the recipients of the 2014/15 Surf Club Facility Grants were announced over summer by the NSW Minister for Sport and Recreation, Stuart Ayres.

The Surf Club Facility Development Program assists surf clubs throughout NSW to develop their facilities to increase the usage, safety, and participation in Surf Life Saving by the general public, community groups and volunteer surf lifesavers.

A total of \$1.7 million will be shared among the eight clubs to help revitalise their facilities for member and public use.

“The members of Surf Life Saving put their lives on the line to help ensure that the traditional, healthy and active summer past-time of going to the beach is safer for all of us to enjoy,” Minister Ayres said.

“Our beaches would not be as safe as they are today without the proud traditions and passion of our volunteer surf lifesavers.

“Their dedication and efforts in patrolling our beaches saves the lives of locals, visitors and tourists,” he said.

Over the last decade NSW surf clubs have received \$20 million in vital

funding through the Surf Club Facility Development Grant Program. This support has played a significant role in helping clubs maintain safe and operationally effective facilities in which volunteers can train, perform their roles and house specialised rescue equipment. More than 80 clubs have benefited through the program since its inception.

“I would like to thank Minister Ayres and the Department of Sport and Recreation for their support through the Surf Club Facility grants program and would urge the NSW Government to continue funding this important lifeline to our volunteers,” NSW President Tony Haven said.

“Many surf life saving clubs still require significant investment to upgrade their infrastructure and this funding plays a key role in helping us provide adequate facilities so our members can focus on their primary role – saving lives.”

Over the next few months, at the request of the NSW Government, SLSNSW will complete a state-wide audit to identify the future infrastructure funding needs of clubs to ensure the sustainability of surf club facilities in NSW.

.....
“This support has played a significant role in helping clubs maintain safe and operationally effective facilities”
.....

- 2014/15 PROJECTS:**
- Tamarama clubhouse redevelopment
 - Broulee club expansion and refurbishment
 - Hat Head club upgrade and improvements
 - Lennox Head club improvement strategy
 - Forster clubhouse upgrade of deck area
 - Tathra clubhouse partial reroofing and fascia replacement
 - North Curl Curl surf club alterations and additions
 - Burning Palms surf club installation of a solar system





SAVE THE DATE

SURF LIFE SAVING NSW

Awards of Excellence

29 AUGUST 2015

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

Tickets on sale soon at www.surflifesaving.com.au



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



Surf Life Saving NSW wishes to thank the following sponsors and supporters for helping our volunteers protect 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 almost 76,000 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 Marketing on 02 9471 8000 or marketing@surflifesaving.com.au

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SLSNSW endeavours to ensure all information contained in SurfLIFE is correct and true, however accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies or mistakes contained in the publication.

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