

# SurfLIFE

ISSUE 24 – FEBRUARY 2014



**Lifesavers Exchange Skills**

**Country Championships**

**Australia Day Honours List**

Lifesavers awarded

**Australian Lifeguard Service**

SURF LIFE SAVING  
**NEW SOUTH WALES**





## COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS A HUGE SUCCESS

A new era for the Stramit Country Surf Life Saving Championships began with a bang this year at the brand new venue of Mollymook Beach on the state's South Coast.

The first major Surf Life Saving event held on the South Coast in nine years was blessed with perfect weather, warm water and fierce competition which eventually saw Byron Bay SLSC emerge victorious for the fourth straight year.

The powerhouse team from the Far North were dominant throughout the whole carnival maintaining a string of results to take the title on the final day finishing a long way ahead of rivals Warilla-Barrack Point SLSC and Cudgen Headland SLSC who finished second and third respectively.

Byron Bay's Head Coach, Paul 'Poodles' Irwin, says he is extremely proud of the positive team culture currently at the surf club.

"Byron's strengths have always been our teams which are what has helped us again this weekend. Our team members are always keen to back up and our Masters are not just interested in competing but rather developing and supporting the younger athletes is just as important.

"We've really enjoyed Mollymook and congratulations to the club because it was an amazing carnival and full credit to the surf club and Surf Life Saving NSW for putting on the show," said Paul Irwin.

Close to 1200 competitors and over 3000 spectators descended on

Mollymook for the Championships bringing an estimated \$5 million boost to the local region.

Mollymook Surf Club President, Rod Austin, was full of praise for the army of volunteers that made the event run so smoothly.

"A huge thankyou needs to be given to all the officials, lifesavers, water safety personnel, kitchen staff, sponsors, Surf Life Saving NSW and everybody else who made this huge event possible. With a successful event under our belt we're already looking forward to the 2015 Country Championships."

Surf Life Saving NSW would like to specially thank Stramit, Shoalhaven Council, ClubsNSW and Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club for ensuring the event was such a memorable one.



**Stramit** 



# COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS A HUGE SUCCESS



### Top Twenty Pointscore

1	Byron Bay	882.5
2	Warilla Barrack Point	665.5
3	Cudgen Headland	556
4	Shellharbour	462
5	Coffs Harbour	297
6	Tacking Point	295
7	Sawtell	262
8	Port Macquarie	256.5
9	Mollymook	220.5
10	Broulee Surfers	147
11	W'hope Bonny Hills	131
12	Lennox Head - Alstonville	118
13	Moruya	93
13	Nowra-Culburra	93
14	South West Rocks	83
15	Salt	79
16	Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore	78
17	Yamba	74
18	Batemans Bay	62
19	Black Head	59
20	Gerringong	54



## LIFESAVERS EXCHANGE SKILLS

The annual Surf Life Saving NSW Lifesaving Exchange Program has wrapped up for another successful year with eight city and 11 country participants taking the plunge.

The Lifesaving Exchange Program has been run for five years and aims to provide an 'urban' patrolling experience for young Patrol Captains from country clubs by rostering them on busy Sydney city patrols such as Bondi, Coogee and Maroubra over the Australia Day long weekend. Similarly city members are provided with a regional lifesaving experience by visiting Byron Bay, Ballina and Lennox Head.

Surf Life Saving NSW, Lifesaving Manager, Andy Kent says the program is crucial in developing inter-club relationships and allowing for skill and leadership development in young lifesavers.

"The Lifesaving Exchange Program aims to bridge the gap between country and city Surf Life Saving clubs and exposes participants to very different patrol situations," said Andy Kent.

It is a reward for our outstanding members who continue to work hard. It provides them with the chance to expand their knowledge and also inspire them to continue to be involved in the Surf Life Saving movement," said Mr Kent.

Lifesavers on exchange up north this year got more than they bargained for when they were called on to assist in the dramatic rescue of a young man who sustained serious head injuries after falling from a jetski on the Gold Coast.

Every year members who take part in the program are eligible to be selected for the New Zealand Lifesaving Exchange Program which takes place in March.

**Below:** Country Surf Lifesavers visit the Sydney Westpac Rescue Helicopter Base; **Insert:** City participants visit Byron Bay.





## SURF LIFE SAVING NSW AND CLUBS NSW JOIN FORCES TO HELP SAVE LIVES

Surf Life Saving NSW is pleased to announce a three-year partnership with ClubsNSW which will provide support for crucial competition and education programs across the state.

Over the next three years, ClubsNSW will assist Surf Life Saving NSW in supporting 77,000 volunteer lifesavers to display their skills at the country's largest Surf Life Saving competition, the NSW Championships, along with the Country Championships and the vital Beach to Bush education program; Surf Life Saving NSW's most significant educational initiative.

The partnership was formally announced at the recent launch for the 2014 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships at Ocean Beach-Umina which are set to be held over four weekends from February 22-March 16.

The NSW Championships is the perfect platform for up to 9000 of the state's lifesavers to perform at the highest level across multiple disciplines as well as offering grassroots level support to our lifesavers of the future, our Nippers, to stay engaged and involved with the movement.

ClubsNSW CEO Anthony Ball said what made this partnership special was the important role both organisations play in their local communities.

"When you have two organisations that have the same community focus and ideals, then naturally a partnership like this is the next step in building a long-lasting relationship," he said.

"We've seen first-hand the great work that local Surf Life Saving clubs do for the community and want to be able to help in any way possible to make sure that great work continues.

Surf Life Saving NSW President Tony Haven said that he believed this partnership was a good fit because both organisations have the same core-values when it comes to encouraging community well-being, social inclusion, education, and disaster relief.

"What makes this partnership work is that we both have strong ties to the community which will make promoting vital messages throughout the local community that bit easier in the long run," he said.

"We are looking forward to working closely with ClubsNSW over the next three years and would like to thank them for their on-going support."

Anthony Ball said that clubs right across NSW, over many years, have built close friendships with their local Surf Life Saving Clubs, so partnering with Surf Life Saving NSW made perfect sense.

"Over the last five years, clubs have given their local life saving clubs almost \$5 million through the ClubGRANTS program in support of their programs," he said.

"While most people would associate Surf Life Saving clubs with the beach, our clubs have been engaging them to facilitate other education programs such as First Aid courses that have even saved lives!

"An example of this was last year when Merimbula RSL, which works very closely with the Pambula Life Saving club, asked them to train staff in Senior First Aid.

"Two days later, a lady collapsed in the dining room and required resuscitation to save her life.

"It was the quick reaction from the club staff who attended the Senior First Aid course and the vital skills that were taught by the local surf life saving club that saved that lady's life.

"This is one of many examples of why we wanted to partner with Surf Life Saving NSW and why we're looking forward to watching this relationship grow and achieving some great things along the way."



## AUSTRALIAN LIFEGUARD SERVICE

Lifeguards from the Australian Lifeguard Service (ALS) have had a very busy summer school holiday period across the entire state.

350 lifeguards were employed across 19 contracted council areas for the peak period with six lifeguard services currently ongoing.

Surf Life Saving NSW Lifeguard Manager, Nigel Tebb, says the organisation is always looking to strengthen the relationship with land managers throughout NSW while ensuring it remains the leading lifeguard service in Australia.

“What makes the ALS unique is that we ensure a total service provision, integrating the Australian Lifeguard Service with Surf Life Saving’s volunteer patrol structure, state-wide support operations network, 24-hour emergency callout system and strategically located Westpac Rescue helicopter services.

“We are pleased to be working alongside our volunteers and with local councils to ensure the safety of every beachgoer,” said Mr Tebb.

To cope with increasing beach attendance, a number of additional services were employed including the provision of an additional lifeguard at North Kingscliff Beach in the Tweed over the peak Christmas/New Year’s holiday period and at Mollymook Beach in the Shoalhaven to assist with the Stramit NSW Surf Life Saving Country Championships.

Extension of services including additional patrol hours, days and staff were highly successful in council areas and National Parks such as Clarence Valley, Munmorah State Conservation Area, Royal National Park and the Shoalhaven.

A number of high profile rescues across the state further cemented the important role that the Australian Lifeguard Service plays in keeping NSW beaches safe.

### Northern NSW

In another big season in Byron Bay, lifeguards were consistently busy at Main Beach and Watego’s including one hectic day when lifeguards at Wategos conducted ten rescues in one afternoon.

Further south, six teenagers at Scotts Head were thanking their good fortunes when lifeguards rescued them in a dramatic after hours mass rescue.

Northern NSW Lifeguard Coordinator, Scott McCartney, praised the efforts of professional lifeguards in being prepared for and responding to dramatic circumstances over the period.

“Our goal for the peak period was to focus on prevention and eliminate any dangers or hazards before they arise.

On a whole, it was a very successful year for the Northern NSW Coastline. Even though the crowds were extreme and the conditions were tricky the lifeguards acted professionally and created a safe environment for all beach goers. I am very happy with the performance of all the lifeguards and hope to continue this throughout the remain of the season” said Mr McCartney.

### Southern NSW

In the state’s south more than 200,000 people flocked to beaches in the Bega and Shoalhaven regions with lifeguards performing a number of big rescues.

This includes Merimbula lifeguard Mark Van Ryan, who single-handedly rescued four people at Bar Beach while on Boxing Day, two lifeguards at Pambula rescued two swimmers who got into serious trouble in a rip north of the flags.

Southern NSW Lifeguard Coordinator, Phil Dunn, is pleased with lifeguard’s efforts thus far this season.

“The Australian Lifeguard Service has had a busy 2013/14 season so far with hot weather and packed beaches. I have had a dedicated and professional team of well-trained lifeguards working with the councils partnered with the ALS who have provided their beach goers with a safe swimming environment.”

Services have now concluded in Bega Valley, Royal National Park and most of the Shoalhaven while Pittwater, Munmorah Conservation Area and Port Stephens will continue to be patrolled.





## SURF CLUB GRANTS WELCOMED

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Gabrielle Upton MP, recently announced the 12 surf clubs granted funding under the NSW Government's \$2 million Surf Club Facility Grant Program for 2014.

The 12 successful clubs will receive between \$5500 and \$305,000 to help fund essential building and facility upgrades which will benefit members and the wider community. Projects funded include clubhouse renovations, installing sun shelters and disabled access, improving amenities and increasing storage facilities.

"Modern facilities make Surf Life Saving activities more accessible which in turn encourages participation and

improves beach-goer safety," said Minister Upton.

"By investing in Surf Life Saving clubs, the NSW Government is also helping to improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities," she added.

SLSNSW President Tony Haven said it was critically important to public safety for volunteer surf lifesavers to have safe and appropriate facilities in which to train and store vital rescue equipment.

"We are extremely pleased to see the NSW Government recognise the tremendous contribution of our members by supporting them in this way," he said.

This is the final year of the current round of surf club funding, with 97 clubs having received support over the last eight years. SLSNSW has strongly emphasised to the NSW Government, the enormous impact this vital funding has had to clubs, particularly smaller ones in regional areas which struggle to support their members and communities. It is hoped the Government will renew the program into the future.

The 12 surf clubs to receive funding this year are: Salt, Yamba, Macksville-Scotts Head, Kempsey-Crescent Head, Tacking Point, Pacific Palms, Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest, Birubi Pt, Nth Entrance, Maroubra, Nth Cronulla, and Batemans Bay.

## SURF LIFE SAVING MEMBERS IN HONOURS LIST

A number of members of Surf Life Saving in NSW have been named in the Australia Day Honours List for 2014.

Former NSW politician and Bilgola SLSC active member and patron, John Brogden, became a Member (AM) of the General Division of the Order of Australia.

Several past and present members also received Medals in the Order of Australia (OAM).

Yamba SLSC and Far North Coast official and coach, Jim Dougherty, was awarded an OAM for Service to Surf Life Saving and the community.

Cronulla Life Member John Holt (pictured) also received an OAM for service to sport, particularly Surf Life Saving and triathlon competition and administration. John was Australia's first World Ironman Champion, winning titles in 1972 and 1974, and won five NSW Ironman Championship titles during the 70s.

Coogee SLSC member since 1962, Joseph Seddon, was awarded an OAM for Service to Surf Life Saving. He held many administrative and competition

positions at club, branch and State level and was a director of the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service for many years. Sadly he passed away late last year.

London Olympic Gold Medal kayakers Dave Smith (Warilla-Barrack Point SLSC) and Murray Stewart (Manly LSC) also received OAMs for service to sport.

Australia Day also saw many of Surf Life Saving NSW's members recognised with Citizens Awards for their contribution to the organisation. They were Molly Campbell of Pambula SLSC, Julien Vincent of Coogee SLSC, Maurie Fuller of Kempsey-Crescent Head, Jack Moran of Coledale SLSC, Clay Frost of Hat Head SLSC, Lesley Pheaney of Moruya SLSC and Naomi Howe of Urunga SLSC.

On behalf of all Surf Lifesavers, congratulations to those members named in the Australia Day honours list for 2014 and to those who received Australia Day Citizens Awards and thank you for your dedication over many years to Surf Life Saving and the community.



# ClubsNSW



ClubsNSW looks forward to welcoming participants to the  
2014 Surf Life Saving NSW State Championships

[www.surflifesaving.com.au/events](http://www.surflifesaving.com.au/events)

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

## Government



## State Sponsors



## Preferred State Suppliers



## National Supporters



## OUR MISSION

"To provide a safe beach and aquatic environment throughout NSW."

## SUMMARY

Surf Life Saving NSW is the state's major water safety and rescue organisation, and with more than 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](mailto:marketing@surflifesaving.com.au)

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Images for SurfLIFE provided by Stephen Chu and Bill Sheridan.

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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