

Surf LIFE

ISSUE 25 – MAY 2014

Royals Make a Splash at Manly

Rescues Are Up For Lifesavers

Junior Lifesavers Announced

**State Championships to
Remain on Central Coast**



**SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES**



ROYALS MAKE A SPLASH AT MANLY

Young Surf Lifesavers from Sydney's northern beaches were delighted to show off their skills in a colourful demonstration at Manly Beach on Easter Friday for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

The Royal couple watched future Surf Lifesavers showcase a range of activities in a competitive, yet friendly 'surf carnival' scenario, with champion Ironwoman and Olympic Kayaker Naomi Flood from Manly LSC and Champion Lifesaver Shannon Job from North Steyne SLSC, helping to greet the Royals and provide them with a running commentary throughout the demonstration.

On the sand, close to 100 Nippers, aged between 12 and 15, entertained the huge crowd and the Royals by

competing in Beach Flag, Swim and Board racing events.

North Steyne SLSC President Tracey Hare-Boyd was surprised at how close the kids were able to get the Royal couple.

"I really thought they would be up in a stand or something so when they started walking on to the sand towards us the kids just bolted at them. It was like they were rock stars.

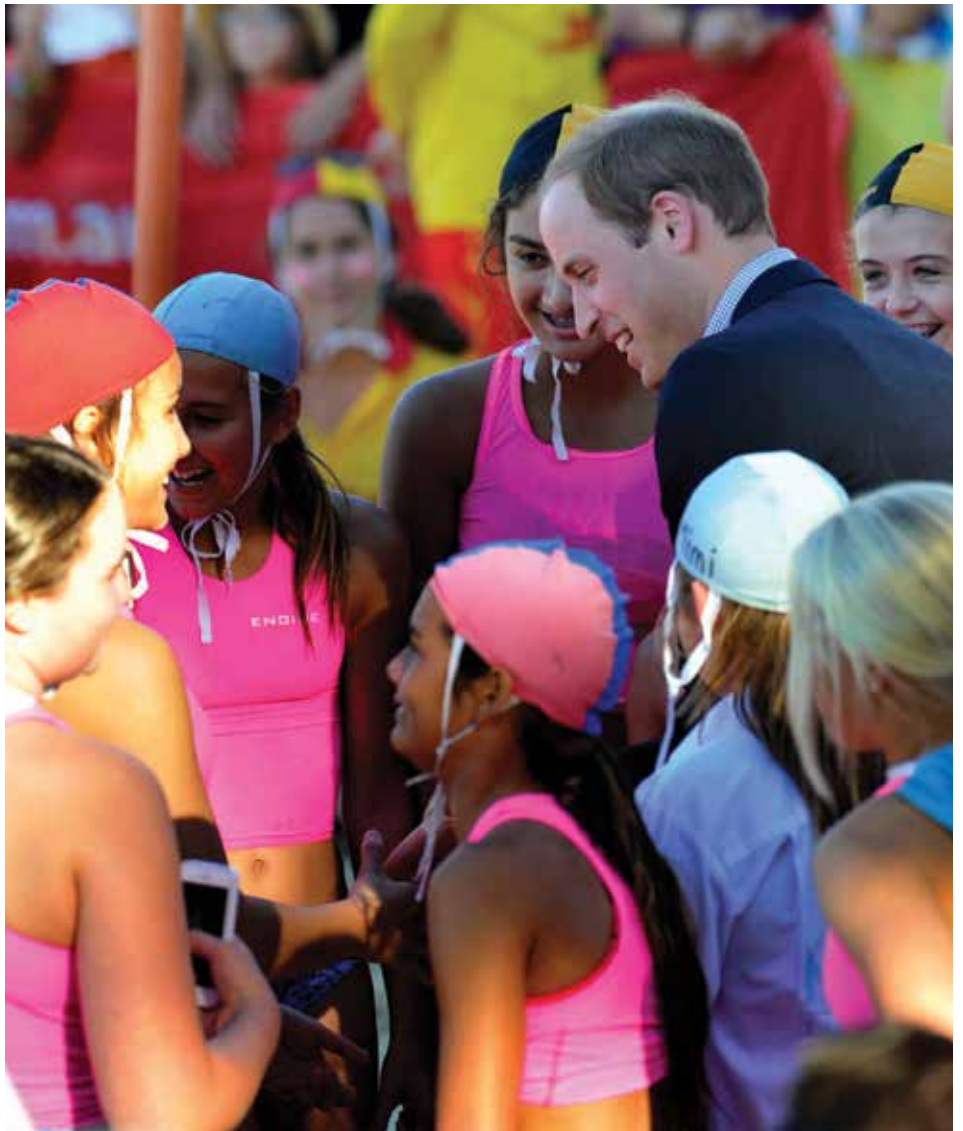
"The Duke and Duchess were very inquisitive asking the children lots of questions about how long they had been involved in Surf Life Saving and why they enjoy it. The international coverage we received for the event was also fabulous for the Surf Life Saving movement," said Ms Hare-Boyd.

North Steyne, Manly and Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Clubs filled a range of roles for the event. Some competitors assisted the Duchess in correctly putting on a rescue tube, while other lifesavers provided crowd control at the event.

Queenscliff's Craig Susans said he almost lost control of the kids at one point due to all the excitement.

"It was a great day, everything that is good about Surf Life Saving was on display and the Royals were so easy to talk to and definitely calmed all the kids' nerves," said Mr Susans.

Cover photo courtesy of Darryl Bullock, below photos by AUSPIC.



RESCUES ARE UP FOR VOLUNTEER LIFESAVERS

In a much busier year than last season volunteer lifesavers across NSW have once again shown their huge commitment to the community, collectively contributing 679,112 voluntary patrol hours on NSW beaches during the 2013/14 season.

Keeping volunteers busy across NSW, beach attendances rose 6.7% to 6,750,734. With more people on the beach, lifesavers recorded a 12% increase in rescues, saving the lives of 4,411 people. Lifesavers also made 150,129 preventative actions, a 20% increase on the previous season. Preventative actions include instructing swimmers to move out of dangerous areas and ensuring they swim between the flags.

Coastal drownings are much lower so far this year at 27 down from last year's high of 48. While the ultimate goal is for this number to reach zero this figure would undoubtedly be higher if not for the vigilance of the volunteers.

Director of Lifesaving, John Restuccia, praised the state's lifesavers and highlighted that for many lifesavers the job doesn't stop just because summer patrols have wound up.

"The dedication of our membership is showcased not just by the hundreds of thousands of hours contributed on regular patrol duty, but also by the response of our specialist callout teams 24/7 to emergencies along our coastline. These members will continue to be busy throughout the

winter, responding to many rock fishermen, surfers and swimmers who will get into strife and need to be saved by surf lifesavers.

"We thank them and all members for their selfless bravery and dedication to the community. The work that they do for the good of the community continues to amaze and their devotion to their roles allow other Australians and international visitors to safely enjoy our beautiful coastline," said John Restuccia.

Overall, surf lifesavers have once again put in a huge effort during a very busy patrol season, keeping the state's popular beaches safe for millions of people throughout the year.

NSW at a Glance - 13/14 Season	
Emergency Response Callouts	440
Coastal Drownings	27
Rescues	4,411
Preventative Actions	150,129
First Aids	5,972
Beach Attendance	6,750,734
Total Membership of SLSNSW	76,972
Active Patrolling Members	21,752
Total Patrol Hours	679,112



FALLEN LIFESAVERS REMEMBERED IN NEW MEMORIAL

For over 100 years, the Australian surf lifesaver has been a national symbol of strength, heroism and a protector of human life. A new national memorial unveiled at Coogee recognises those lifesavers who made the ultimate sacrifice in war.

Despite miserable weather conditions, hundreds braved the rain to see the memorial unveiled on Sunday 27 April by the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Marie Bashir, Premier

of NSW The Hon. Mike Baird and Randwick Mayor, Councillor Scott Nash and attended by members of the RSL, Australian Defence Force, the Surf Life Saving community and relatives and loved ones of fallen lifesavers.

Graham Ford, Surf Life Saving Australia President explained what the memorial means to clubs across the country. "As I go around the country to different surf lifesaving clubs, I see honour boards honouring all those who have served

and those that were killed in action. This memorial has a national focus and it's very strongly supported."

The memorial is a reality due to a major effort by Coogee SLSC over many years and through great support from the Randwick City Council.

Stage two of the memorial involves a remembrance wall listing the names of all fallen lifesavers which will be installed in 2015 coinciding with the ANZAC centenary.



RYAN ROSENBAUM AWARDED FOR INNOVATIVE PUBLIC SAFETY

Australian Lifesaver of the Year, Ryan Rosenbaum, has been awarded the 2014 Young Public Safety Innovation Award by APCO Australasia.

The award recognises and rewards young Australians who have demonstrated an innovative design improving public safety.

Ryan, from Tacking Point SLSC, has been involved with the inception of two key processes that have improved

the performance and service delivery of Surf Life Saving emergency service first responders including the establishment of the first external Lifeguard service in NSW to utilise the SLSNSW radio network as well as assisting in the development of text messaging services for duty officers increasing the call out capability during emergencies.



NSW SURF LIFE SAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS TO REMAIN ON THE CENTRAL COAST

A successful partnership between Gosford City Council, ClubsNSW and Surf Life Saving NSW will see the country's largest surf sports event remain on the Central Coast for the next two years.

The 2015 and 2016 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships will be co-hosted by Ocean Beach and Umina SLSCs and proudly supported by ClubsNSW.

The State's premier surf event has been held at this location for the last two years.

More than 8000 competitors from all over NSW participated in this year's event, along with 600 volunteer officials and up to 15,000 family and spectators. The event provides a boost to the local economy in the order of \$18-20 million.

The Age Championships will run from 6-8 March, Masters Championships from 11-12 March and Open Championships from 13-15 March.

Mayor of Gosford City, Councillor Lawrie McKinna said the event has provided a tremendous boost to sports tourism in the region and congratulated the Ocean Beach and Umina surf clubs for hosting the championships successfully for the last two years.

"It's a huge effort to coordinate an event of this size but these clubs and their large contingent of volunteers now have a wealth of experience under their belt and are enthusiastic about next year," said Clr McKinna.

"We have been really pleased with the high level of community support we have received for this event as well as to the ongoing work of our surf clubs and volunteers – who are all champions in their own right.

"The State Championships certainly showcase the commitment of our surf lifesavers to keep the public safe on our beaches each summer," he said.

Tony Haven, President of Surf Life Saving NSW, said the support from Gosford City Council and the local community has been vital to the success of the event since 2012.

This year saw Newport SLSC win their first ever Overall Club Championship in the Opens while Manly LSC and Queenscliff SLSC took out the Age and Masters Championships respectively.



CLUB FUNDING IN COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Surf Life Saving NSW would like to thank the NSW Premier and the Members of Parliament who provided funding to 24 Surf Life Saving clubs, branches and support services worth \$514,633 through the 2013 Community Building Partnership (CBP) Program.

This funding has been provided to support infrastructure projects and recognises the important contribution that Surf Life Saving makes to local communities.

The clubs will use the funding for various infrastructure projects including:

Far South Coast	Batemans Bay SLSC	Redevelopment
Illawarra	Bellambi SLSC	Upgrade to the gym
	North Wollongong SLSC	Refurbishment of the existing toilets
	Woonona SLSC	Refurbishment of Nicholson Park Building
Sydney	Bronte SLSC	Refurbishment to the exterior and interior of the Bronte Beach community kiosk
	Wanda SLSC	Extensions
	North Cronulla SLSC	Kitchen and hall repairs
Sydney Northern Beaches	Dee Why SLSC	Gym Refurbishment, provision of amenities and installation of ceiling speakers
	Queenscliff SLSC	Provision of accessible toilet facilities and club administration office
Central Coast	Surf Life Saving Central Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of an emergency vehicle for Gosford • Purchase of an emergency response and coordination vehicle for the Terrigal Electorate • Purchase of an emergency vehicle at the Entrance • Purchase of an emergency vehicle at Wyong • Purchase of rescue water craft in Tuggerah • Purchase of a rescue water craft for the Entrance
	Umina SLSC	Refurbishment to the garbage disposal at Umina SLSC
	Wamberal SLSC	Maintenance and removal of rust at Wamberal SLSC
Hunter	Catherine Hill Bay SLSC	Replacement of a storage container
	Caves Beach SLSC	Installation of entrance doors to amenities and training room
	Hunter SLS	Installation of mezzanine floor over the current storage area
Lower North Coast	Forster SLSC	Restoration of decking
Mid North Coast	Kempsey Crescent SLSC	Redevelopment
	Camden Haven SLSC	Provision of an all-terrain vehicle for SLS in the Camden Haven area
Westpac Rescue Helicopter	Southern Helicopter SLSA Helicopter Rescue Service	Installation and repair of fire doors and emergency exists to Westpac Life Saver Headquarters

Applications for the next round of funding will be open in the coming months and Surf Life Saving NSW will promote this to surf clubs.

JUNIOR LIFESAVERS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Isabella Ferencz (Cooks Hill SLSC) and Jackson Heinze (Terrigal SLSC) have been named the 2014 NSW Junior Lifesavers of The Year.

The future looks bright for Surf Life Saving as NSW's youngest and brightest junior lifesavers (U14s) wrapped up the 2014 Junior Lifesaver of the Year (JLOTY) development camp and awards in Sydney recently.

The award recognises and rewards outstanding younger members of the surf lifesaving movement who show an advanced level of maturity and leadership potential.

During the camp the finalists from each branch were involved in a

wide range of fun, challenging and teamwork-based activities requiring great leadership and communication from the participants.

"The Junior Lifesaver of the Year camp is a fantastic opportunity to recognise our most promising young lifesavers as well as further develop their skills and attributes and show them the amazing opportunities within Surf Life Saving," said SLSNSW Member Services Manager, Kate Higginbotham.

Lifesaver of the Year, Isabella Ferencz, had an unforgettable experience.

"I'm so happy to win this award. I've met so many people from around the state and it's been such an amazing

learning experience all week. In 2011 I won an award through my club and it spurred me on to go on with surf life saving and really achieve something."

Terrigal lifesaver, Jackson Heinze, could not believe he'd won.

"It's so great to win such a prestigious award and I definitely did not expect it."

Umina lifesaver, Jasmine Darwin, also received a special commendation in a very close result with Isabella.

Congratulations to Isabella, Jackson, Jasmine and all the other nominated junior lifesavers.



WET'N'WILD NIPPERS FIRST SEASON A BIG SUCCESS

NSW's newest Nipper club located at Wet'n'Wild Sydney celebrated the final day of a highly successful first season at the end of March by staging a mini surf carnival.

The partnership between Surf Life Saving NSW and Wet'n'Wild aims to bring beach safety messages to a whole new generation of kids growing up away from the beach and targets a known blackspot demographic for coastal drownings. Over 300 kids

and their parents have taken part in 2013-14 and finished the season with participants showing off their skills in a mini carnival.

Wet'n'Wild Sydney General Manager, Chris Warhurst, is extremely happy with the way the program has been rolled out and sees positive things for its future.

"I couldn't be happier with how the Wet'n'Wild Nipper program has

resonated with local families this year. In its first year it has really been embraced and to see the 300 kids from Western Sydney who got to enjoy the full Nippers experience without having to travel to the beach is fantastic.

"This is a truly unique program and hopefully will continue to grow as we look ahead," said Chris Warhurst.



RIPPER NIPPERS

Surf Life Saving prides itself on being an inclusive movement and strives to give all children equal opportunity to foster a love of the beach and learn about surf safety. The incredibly popular Ripper Nipper program caters for children with disabilities and additional needs.

Wet'n'Wild Ripper Nippers enjoy the same fun weekly activities as their peers with additional assistance and support provided by an experienced and caring team.

Dianne Batcheldor, whose son Sebastian took part in the Under 11 years group, says he has picked up many new skills along the way.

“Sebastian has special needs as he is deaf and autistic however he is in the U11 group with the other kids and takes part in all the same activities. He is behind a little bit in picking things up but he is picking them up eventually which I think is just amazing,” said Ms Batcheldor.

“I love that Sebastian is surrounded by the committed young surf lifesavers running the program, who have been a real influence on him and have mentored him throughout the season.”



LIFESAVERS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT ROYAL EASTER SHOW



The iconic red and yellow of surf life saving was front and centre at the 2014 Royal Easter Show in Sydney.

This year the show's main arena production, *Australiana In All Its Glory*, focused on celebrating all that we love about Australia including an emphasis on a true blue Australian icon; the bronzed Aussie Lifesaver.

Forty lifesavers featured in the show which partly focused on important Australian innovations such as the lifesaving reel; an integral part of Australian lifesaving history.

The Sydney Royal Easter Show's Creative Director Di Henry explains that when thinking about Australian icons it was really a no-brainer to include lifesavers.

“*Australiana In All Its Glory* celebrates everything that we love about this great country. Many people may not know that the lifesaving reel was an Australian innovation – one that has stood the test of time,” said Di Henry.

“We are proud to pay tribute not only to this great innovation, but also to the lifesavers that patrol our picturesque beaches.”

As well as being a part of the Arena Show, Surf Life Saving NSW had a booth throughout the two weeks promoting important surf safety messages leading up to the end of the lifesaving season and beyond.

With close to 900,000 people visiting, SLSNSW Academy Community Education Officer Stacey Pidgeon, says it was a fantastic opportunity for lifesavers and the movement to have a high profile role at Australia's largest annual event.

“The Easter Show was a fantastic opportunity to reach a diverse audience from all over Australia.

“Educating the public in surf and beach safety messages was a key focus of the show, with over 3000 stickers, brochures and flyers distributed to the public. Some people had never seen the red and yellow flags before, while others were keen to know where their local patrolled beach was, or where to join a Nippers club.

“It was a great way to raise the profile of Surf Life Saving and educate our communities to be safe when visiting the beach.”

LONE LIFESAVER RESCUES NINE SWIMMERS



Avalon Beach lifesaver, Adriaan Van Der Wallen rescued at least nine people at once in an incredible mass rescue while on holidays at Forster in April.

The 47 year old father of three who is a member at both Palm Beach and Avalon Beach Surf Life Saving Clubs was returning from a family holiday in the area when they decided to stop off at Tuncurry Rock Pool for a swim.

A freak wave set washed through the small beach, sweeping a group of 12-14 Indian tourists playing in the shore out to sea.

Adriaan noticed that they were in trouble and without thinking grabbed his daughter's nipper board and paddled out towards the group.

A keen surfer, lifesaver and experienced board racing competitor, it didn't take long for Adriaan to reach the group where he grabbed the four youngest kids first followed by another three men nearby and told them all to hang onto the straps on his daughter's board.

"I was really acting on instinct and adrenaline and all my training and experience just took over but there were still a lot of people in trouble who were out of reach of the board," he said.

Adriaan ordered the seven people on his board to hold on while he swam over to rescue another two women who were screaming for help.

"The women were in a panic and actually flipped the board over when

they reached it," explained Adriaan.

While another bystander on the beach got the remaining swimmers to shore, Adriaan paddled his board in a super human effort with nine people clinging to it, finally reaching the safety of land.

"When I hit the sand, it was such a relief to feel the sand under my feet. I won't forget that feeling anytime soon," he said.

On reflection, Adriaan realises how lucky those swimmers were that an experienced lifesaver just happened to be nearby when they were washed out to sea and wants his kids to be qualified and experienced enough to be able to one day do the same thing.

"For me the beach is a lot more than just a lifestyle, it's my whole life. My kids will be going through the Nippers program at Avalon Beach SLSC and they love the beach as much as me. I want them to learn everything there is to know about the surf and possibly be able to help others one day too."

COLOMBIANS LEARN SURF SAFETY SKILLS

A group of underprivileged kids from Colombia have received the chance of a lifetime to travel Down Under and learn vital surf life saving skills.

Lifesavers from Toowoon Bay SLSC took the Colombians under their wing for the day teaching them about the various hazards that the Australian coastline can serve up.

The kids were selected from a program in their home country and were also taught how to paddle a rescue board and to perform CPR in a variety of simulated rescue scenarios.

While the cold, wet and windy conditions during the visit were vastly different to the tropical waters of the Caribbean, the group had an enjoyable experience they won't soon forget.

Advisor for the Colombian Office of Cultural Affairs, Juan Esteban Restrepo Castro, said the program has given the participants important skills and great memories.

"On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs I truly want to thank everybody involved for making this day possible. This experience is on the top of our visit to Australia, and it would be remembered forever for all of us," he said.

SLSNSW President Tony Haven, thanked the Toowoon Bay Surf Club and Surf Life Saving Central Coast in putting together the program.

"Australians are leading the way in lifesaving and surf education throughout the world and to be able to demonstrate this to visiting kids and pass on this knowledge is fantastic."

"I would like to say a big thank you to Toowoon Bay SLSC and SLS Central Coast for making this opportunity possible," said Tony Haven.



DEADLY DAY SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON ROCKFISHING RISKS

Two rock fishermen are lucky to be alive while another is tragically presumed drowned after all three were swept off rocks in large surf at Seal Rocks in May.

The men were fishing in a treacherous and remote area of coastline on a day with large and dangerous surf and were not wearing lifejackets at the time.

Local Pacific Palms SLSC lifesaver, Lennon Fisher, who responded to the incident and successfully rescued one of the men with the club's jetski, was worried when he learned of the location of the men.

"I've done a lot of rescues over the years and that one stretch of coast between Boat Beach and Lighthouse Beach is by far the worst and most dangerous. It is so remote, unpredictable and dangerous that I can't fathom why people even go there," said Lennon.

President of Surf Life Saving Lower North Coast and Duty Officer on the scene, Brian Wilcox, elaborated on the area's dangers.

"It's a treacherous spot with plenty of shelves, sharp rocks and blowholes. There's certainly nowhere easy to climb back onto the rocks if you fall in and the water is very deep," he said.

In fact the location was so remote that the fishermen had to abseil down the cliff before they could fish off the rocks.

Once Lennon had left the bay aboard the jetski, he was greeted with the full brunt of a powerful south swell with waves peaking at 3-4 metres and strong winds.

"The wind was so cold and with all the spray in my face and the large swell it was quite hard to see where I was going let alone to spot a man in the water," he explained.

Nevertheless he soon located a man in the water just 10m from the rocks and picked him up while the Hunter Westpac Rescue Helicopter winched the second man who was clinging to rocks to safety. None of the men were wearing lifejackets.

After dropping the man back on the beach, Lennon Fisher continued the search for the third missing man along with the helicopter, NSW Water Police and Marine Rescue NSW.

When the search was eventually called off that evening by Police, Lennon was so cold that he couldn't feel his hands.

Brian Wilcox praised the quick response from Lennon Fisher who went above and beyond during the rescue.

"He's an absolute legend and just the best bloke to have around in this area. He's always ready to help and we're very lucky to have him as part of the surf life saving system up here."

Rockfishing Review

The incident has once again shined the spotlight on the dangers of rockfishing without lifejackets and this was the fourth rock fishing drowning during a five week period in NSW.

Surf Life Saving has contributed to a comprehensive rockfishing review which discusses options including making the use of lifejackets mandatory for rock fishermen.

SLSA Coastal Safety Manager, Anthony Bradstreet, says that the dangers of rockfishing without the appropriate safety equipment are clear.

"In NSW there have been over 180 rockfishing deaths since 1992 and in none of those cases were the victims wearing lifejackets.

"We would support the State Government exploring the issues around the mandatory wearing of lifejackets during rockfishing and look forward to an outcome from the review," said Mr Bradstreet.

Surf Life Saving NSW advises some basic safety precautions while rockfishing:

- Always wear a lifejacket and non-slip footwear
- Check tides, swell and weather conditions
- Fish with a friend – never fish alone
- Carry a mobile phone
- Never turn your back to the sea
- Always spend time watching the conditions before fishing, and constantly scan for changing conditions
- If in doubt, don't go out!





2014 SURF LIFE SAVING NEW SOUTH WALES

Awards of Excellence

Saturday 16th August, The Four Seasons Sydney



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 77,000 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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