

SurfLIFE

ISSUE 26 – SEPTEMBER 2014



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES

Awards of Excellence
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Funding for Regional Hub
New Nippers Club
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NSW CLUBS CELEBRATE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



Above: Team of the Year: U19 Male Water Competition Team, Newport SLSC

2014 Awards of Excellence Winners

Award	Winner	Club
Surf Lifesaver of the Year	Allan Davis	Crowdy Head
Volunteer of the Year	Andrew Cross	South Narrabeen
Lifeguard of the Year	Steve Mills	ALS - Byron Bay
Young Lifesaver of the Year	Jessica Rayner	Port Macquarie
Junior Lifesaver of the Year (Male)	Jackson Heinze	Terrigal
Junior Lifesaver of the Year (Female)	Isabella Ferencz	Cooks Hill
Branch of the Year		Central Coast
Club of the Year		Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore
Administrator of the Year	Maxine Cook	Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest
Team of the Year	Newport SLSC U19 Male Water Competition Team	Newport
Trainer of the Year	Kathryn Donnelly	Nobby's Beach
Assessor of the Year	Robert Powell	Umina
Community Education Program of the Year	Asia Pacific Special Olympics Australian Beach Experience and Community Education Programs	Hunter Branch
Initiative of the Year	'The After Dark Youth Program', Zachary Dibben & Jessica Cotterill	Dee Why
Facilitator of the Year	Debbie Booth	Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest
Surf Sports Coach of the Year	Jack Patison	Austinmer
Young Athlete of the Year	Georgia Miller	Manly
Surf Sports Athlete of the Year	Max Brooks	Newport
Masters Athlete of the Year	Dori Miller	Bondi
Surf Sports Official of the Year	Louis Tassone	North Curl Curl
Rescue of the Year	Tod Rowbotham	Freshwater

NSW surf lifesavers gathered in Sydney to celebrate the very best in lifesaving at the 2014 Awards of Excellence proudly supported by Stramit Building Products.

More than 280 of Surf Life Saving’s most outstanding lifesavers, athletes, coaches and administrators were on hand to recognise the enormous contribution of volunteers and clubs from across NSW for the largest ever Awards of Excellence.

Seven time surfing world champion, Layne Beachley, who was MC for the

“Lifesavers are all volunteering their time and without that gesture Australia’s beaches would not be as safe as they are”

night, praised the spirit of lifesavers.

“What I find inspiring about Surf Life Saving is everybody involved with the organisation is proud and parochial about being a part of it.

“Ultimately surf life saving wouldn’t be what it is today without that passion because at the end of the day lifesavers are all volunteering their time and without that gesture Australia’s beaches would not be as safe as they are today,” said Layne Beachley.

Crowdy Head lifesaver, Allan Davis, was announced the Surf Lifesaver of the Year for the 2013 -14 season.

Allan, who has been a lifesaver with the club for 26 years, had a simple message of how he has stayed so passionate over time.

“This is such an unexpected honour and I am truly humbled at being

named the NSW Lifesaver of the Year. Surf Life Saving gives me a chance to really get my hands dirty and help make a difference and that makes it easy to stay motivated to be a volunteer.

“We’re all one big happy family within SLS and I could never be named the lifesaver of the year without the support of my wife and the Crowdy Head Surf Life Saving Club,” said Mr Davis.

Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore SLSC was named the Club of the Year while the Central Coast was announced the Branch of the Year.

Former NSW Surf Lifesaver of the year, Andrew Cross (South Narrabeen), was named the NSW Volunteer of the Year while Newport’s Max Brooks was named the NSW Athlete of the Year.



Surf Lifesaver of the Year: Allan Davis



Layne Beachley (MC) and husband Kirk Pengilly



Volunteer of the Year: Andrew Cross



OPERATIONS CENTRE TAKES SHAPE

Construction work has commenced on the new Surf Life Saving NSW Operations Centre in Port Macquarie.

The Operations Centre is a significant regional development which will provide greater sporting, training and education opportunities to lifesavers in the entire North Coast region as a result of generous joint funding from the NSW and Australian Governments.

Deputy Premier and Member for Oxley, Andrew Stoner and Member for Port Macquarie, Leslie Williams announced recently that Surf Life Saving NSW had been successful in their application for funding under the ClubGRANTS Category 3 program.

Surf Life Saving NSW was one of just 10 organisations (out of 182 applications) who successfully received funding \$1,051,245 (out of a pool of \$12,403,592) through the NSW Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services, the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing ClubGRANTS Category 3 Fund.

This funding will go towards the construction of a three storey Operations Centre which will include a secure warehouse for the storage of equipment, meeting rooms and a training area for up to 80 people.

This facility will provide a boost to the

lifesaving capacity across the entire North Coast region and surrounding areas; and it will enhance participation levels in sport and recreation activities.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is proud to support projects that encourage community participation in health and lifestyle activities and this project will definitely improve access to sporting and recreation opportunities for the Port Macquarie community,” Mr Stoner said.

“This facility will inject new life into the local community and will provide another avenue for athletes as well as the wider community to interact and engage in sporting activities,” Mrs Williams said.

“This will be an important and very welcome facility for the Mid North Coast community and I commend Surf Life Saving NSW for their outstanding submission.”

This funding is in addition to the \$1,051,243 SLSNSW has received through the Australian Government’s Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Surf Life Saving NSW President Tony Haven says, “Locating a multi-purpose operations facility at Port Macquarie is good news for volunteerism in a regional area and it will provide

much needed support, pathways and development programs, which will increase participation in Surf Life Saving activities away from the major metropolitan centres.

“When complete this new facility will provide a springboard for regional sport and recreation, boost participation in volunteering, lifesaving activities and strengthen our local communities.

“We are grateful for the support of the NSW Government, through the ClubGRANTS program, and the Australian Government’s Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development Regional Development Australia Fund to give our regional volunteers and athletes some of the same development opportunities their city counterparts enjoy,” Mr Haven said.

“Our organisation is appreciative of the support of both the NSW and Australian Government in recognising Surf Life Saving activities and the value we provide the community,” said Mr Haven.



PROJECT BLUEPRINT FUNDING SECURED

Surf Life Saving NSW has been successful in obtaining funding through the NSW Water Safety Black Spots Fund to deliver the fourth and final year of ‘Project Blueprint’.

‘Project Blueprint’ commenced in July 2012 and with the support of the NSW Government, the assessment of the entire NSW coastline can be completed.

The project has not only expanded our knowledge base of coastline information, but for the first time a standardised risk based prioritisation

system will be applied across all accessible beach and rock platforms in the state. This will be independent of whether or not there is a service at the location and will enhance the planning and development of future lifesaving and emergency services needs along the coast in response to the coastal drowning issue.

Coastal Risk Manager, Adam Weir, says “We are grateful for the opportunity provided by the NSW Ministry for Police and Emergency Services to finish such a comprehensive and expansive project.

“The data and evidence collected through this project will provide guidance and support for future drowning prevention strategies delivered across the NSW coastline.”

For further information on Project Blueprint visit www.coastsafe.org.au/blueprint

“This project will provide guidance and support for future drowning prevention strategies”

SLSNSW WELCOMES NEW NIPPERS CLUB



Surf Life Saving NSW has officially welcomed a new nippers club with the announcement of the Bawley Point Kioloa Community Nippers Club on the state's south coast.

SLSNSW President, Tony Haven, welcomed the club into the surf lifesaving network at the Kioloa Rural Fire Service Station on Thursday 31 July.

The formation of the club follows strong community groundswell for the creation of a nippers club at Kioloa Beach separate to any other existing surf clubs in the region.

SLSNSW Member Services Manager, Kate Higginbotham, explained that a new nippers club brings the opportunity to teach surf safety to a whole new generation of kids.

"It's exciting that with the creation of this new nippers club we will be able to ensure that as many young people as possible will get the opportunity to learn vital surf safety and begin to experience the ocean in a safe and enjoyable environment.

"We've had close to 60 children already registering their interest with us and I expect we may get up to 80 once the season starts in October"

"With the closest surf clubs up to 30 minutes away, families who may have been interested in joining a surf club in the past were often unable to because of the distance and this new

club should really help cater to local needs," said Mrs Higginbotham.

Local mum and club spokeswoman, Nina Rogan, expects interest to build further throughout the community now that the club has officially been recognised by Surf Life Saving NSW.

"We've had close to 60 children already registering their interest with us and I expect we may get up to 80 once the season starts in October. This will all depend on how many adult volunteers we can get trained up and qualified to run water safety, so I would ask any interested parents to come forward and get involved," said Mrs Rogan.

The "Stingrays" as the club will be known will be based at Kioloa Beach following a decision from local lifesavers.

"A panel of experienced Surf Life Saving officials determined that it is the most appropriate beach in the area so it was a natural decision to base the club there," explained Mrs Rogan.

SURF CLUB FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP, the NSW Minister for Sport and Recreation, recently announced the continuation of funding for the Surf Club Facility Development Program (SCFDP) for the 2014-2015 year. The Minister approved one year of funding for this program and advised the funding pool for the 2014-15 program available to clubs this year will be \$1.7 million.

The SCFDP assists Surf Life Saving Clubs (SLSCs) throughout NSW to develop their facilities to increase the usage, safety and/or participant numbers in Surf Life Saving and at Surf Life Saving facilities by the general public and club members.

In a change to previous years, the 2014-15 program will be managed directly by the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation.

The NSW Government has also provided funding for SLSNSW to

undertake a future Strategic Facility Plan for surf clubs in NSW to ensure the viability of infrastructure.

SLSNSW President, Tony Haven, said "On behalf of our membership, I would like to thank the Minister and the NSW Government for the enormous investment they have made in the development and upgrade of our surf club facilities.

"This now brings the total commitment from the NSW Government since the inception of the program to \$20 million, which recognises the significance of increasing the standard and quality of clubs in NSW for the benefit of not only our members, but the wider community as well," Tony Haven said.

For further information on the SCFDP, please direct enquiries to Sport and Recreation on 13 13 02 or grants@sport.nsw.gov.au

Avalon Beach SLSC has used funds from the SCFDP for an extensive renovation:



Before



After

NIPPERS TO GO WET'N'WILD FOR ANOTHER SEASON

Following the success and positive community response of its debut season, Surf Life Saving NSW and Wet'n'Wild Sydney have committed to an expanded program for the Wet'n'Wild Sydney Nippers Club for another season.

The club which was the first of its kind in Australia, was set up to give kids in Western Sydney (Australia's leading coastal drowning blackspot) a genuine nippers experience teaching them vital surf safety skills and education in a fun, supervised environment.

After a successful debut season that saw 300 children participate in the program, an expanded nippers program will run with 500 children split into two 11 week seasons running before and after Christmas.

The popular Ripper Nipper program catering for children with disabilities and additional needs will once again be an important aspect of the upcoming season. Ripper Nippers enjoy the same fun weekly activities as their peers with additional

assistance and support provided by an experienced and caring team.

In order to ensure the nippers program continues to improve and expand, Surf Life Saving NSW will be recruiting a Nippers Coordinator to oversee the delivery and planning for the upcoming seasons.

Just like coastal nippers clubs, volunteer assistance is a key component of the upcoming Wet'n'Wild nippers season.

Surf Life Saving NSW Member Services Manager, Kate Higginbotham, says that there has been a strong interest from parents looking to get involved in volunteering for the club.

"This season we will be running under 6 to under 12 age groups, meaning that we need all hands on deck to help make this another successful season. Our Nipper parents are an invaluable resource in making this happen, and we look forward to their involvement as Age Managers this year".

The assistance provided by Surf Life Saving Clubs is another important aspect of the Sydney Wet 'n' Wild

Nippers program. These volunteers bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the program, particularly through the provision of vital water safety.

Last season surf lifesavers from 18 different NSW surf clubs volunteered for the nippers program and this year SLSNSW is hoping to expand that even further.

"We are so excited to see how much we can grow and improve the Sydney Wet'n'Wild Nippers club over the season.

"Without the support and assistance from Wet'n'Wild Sydney, none of this would be possible and we once again thank them for allowing us to run this innovative program," said Kate Higginbotham.

Wet'n'Wild Sydney General Manager, Dianne Rigg says after a successful inaugural season, Wet'n'Wild Sydney is looking forward to continuing the partnership.

"We're really excited about partnering with Surf Life Saving NSW for another nippers season at Wet'n'Wild Sydney. This is a fantastic opportunity for the kids of Western Sydney to get involved and learn about the importance of water safety".

Season A of the 2014-15 Sydney Wet'n'Wild Nippers season is set to kick off on the 21st September. For more information please visit www.surflifesaving.com.au/get-involved/nippers/wetnwild-sydney-nippers-club



Sydney
Wet'n'Wild
Nippers

TEA GARDENS HAWKS NEST A QUALITY CLUB



Maxine Cook

Tea Gardens Hawks Nest SLSC has set the benchmark by becoming the first surf club in NSW to be awarded Gold Level Status as part of the Surf Life Saving Quality Club Program.

Gold Level Status, the highest level of the program, is a tremendous achievement and is awarded to clubs which have shown outstanding progress over the season. The program recognises best practice operations within all areas of Surf

Life Saving including lifesaving and patrols, training and education, surf sports, member services and a range of club management areas including administration, finance and marketing.

Surf Life Saving NSW Member Services Manager, Kate Higginbotham, says, "Volunteer surf lifesavers work hard each summer to keep the public safe on our beaches and the Quality Club Program is one way to recognise the commitment, teamwork and high level skills achieved by our clubs.

"The program focuses on developing and maintaining the health of the Surf Life Saving movement throughout NSW by recognising the continual improvements and achievements that are made by clubs and supporting their future planning," added Ms Higginbotham.

Tea Gardens Hawks Nest President, Stephen Howell, was thrilled with the outstanding effort from the club.

"Being awarded the Gold Level

Status is a great reflection of what we have been doing as a club. The program verifies these processes and procedures we have been undertaking and provides reassurance that as a club, we are complying in all areas of Surf Life Saving.

"This couldn't have been achieved without the hard work of our secretary Maxine Cook, who went through the archives and provided all the evidence to demonstrate that we are indeed, a quality club," said Mr Howell.

Encouraging and awarding clubs for achieving best practice not only recognises the efforts of the club's volunteers, but provides the local community and visitors to Tea Gardens Hawks Nest, a safer beach environment.

Maxine Cook was awarded the prestigious title of 2013-14 Administrator of the Year at the Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence proudly presented by Stramit Building Products, for her contribution to the club achieving gold level status.

TAMARAMA SURF LIFESAVER APPOINTED UNICEF AUSTRALIA YOUNG AMBASSADOR

Volunteer surf lifesaver, William Chan, 24, has been selected as a UNICEF Australia Young Ambassador, joining a powerful group of child rights advocates from around the nation.

William, a senior active member and Bronze Medallion instructor with the Tamarama Surf Life Saving Club, was selected from more than 250 applicants to join UNICEF Australia's sought-after program and will, over the next year, work with UNICEF Australia to undertake nation-wide consultations with children and young people to find out what matters to them.

In his role, William is hoping to further develop his understanding of issues relating to children's rights. He is hoping to share his passion with other young

Australians and to inspire them towards promoting child's rights issues.

William particularly looks forward to engaging with local surf clubs as part of the nation-wide consultations. He has experience working alongside other young athletes, having represented the Sydney branch as part of the NSW youth development and networking squad.

Children and young people's experiences and opinions will be compiled into a report by the UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors and presented to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child at the end of the year.

UNICEF Australia's Young Ambassadors are aged between 15 and 24 and represent the voice of young

Australians. They also support Australia's children and young people to learn about their rights and offer an opportunity to speak out on issues they feel are unfair or unjust.



Our doors are open

2014 Surf Club Open Day
Sunday 21 September



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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Images for SurflIFE provided by Jamie Nilsson.

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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