

SurfLIFE

ISSUE 29 - JULY 2015

Northern Operations Centre Opens
Anzac Centenary Commemorated
Lifeguards Look Back On Busy Season
Education Targets Rockfishing Drownings



NEWS IN BRIEF



Tourism e-News Launched

Almost 40% of all victims of coastal drowning in Australia lived further than 50 kms away from where they drowned.

The Coastal Accommodation Network forms a vital link between the Surf Life Saving movement and frontline tourist operators. Already we provide those in the network access to free educational resources, dangerous surf warnings and other information to help them provide a better service to their guests and help keep them safe.

To coincide with the winter school holidays, we launched the first ever electronic newsletter – a quarterly update which included a variety of surf safety information, links to resources and tips for staying safe while on holidays on the coast.

Surf Life Saving NSW's education team is looking to expand the resources available to coastal accommodation providers and extend the reach of the network to include more tourism businesses and operators in the lead up to summer.

For more information go to:
www.surflifesaving.com.au/coastalaccommnetwork



Dangerous Surf Warnings

Dangerous Surf Warnings are an important communication tool for Surf Life Saving and the wider community. Here are some handy hints to let your guests know what to do when rough weather is on the way.



Keeping Safe While Rock Fishing

Anglers love regaling each other with their stories, and the yarn about the "one that got away" is a familiar topic of conversation at local hotels. But sadly rock fishing has emerged as one of the most dangerous sports in Australia.



Surf Safety Resources

We can provide you with resource packs free of charge! It includes multi-lingual beach safety resources (flyers, posters, table-top cards), Rip Current posters, stickers and magnets. To order resources, please contact spidgeon@surflifesaving.com.au.



Get to know your Safety Signs

Winter weather isn't a hindrance for hardy guests keen to enjoy the temperate climes of the NSW coast. Make sure your guests are "beach ready" by knowing what the various warning signs mean. Check out [Beachsafe](#) for further information.

Moruya Opens Revamped Clubhouse

Champion Paralympian Michael Milton joined government, community and club representatives at the opening of the revamped Moruya SLSC in May. Club President Michael Hallahan hailed the re-opening as the "dawn of a new era" for the Far South Coast based club.

The club's own fundraising efforts were combined with donations from local sponsors, council and a grant of more than \$200,000 through the NSW Sport & Recreation Surf Club Facility Development Program, administered by Surf Life Saving NSW.

"The Special Nippers program was the catalyst for the re-development as we realised that our club wasn't accessible to those with a disability; in some cases the physical layout just wasn't appropriate.

"We've had a lot of support and the Surf Club Facility Program grant really helped us kick-start the project, it's doubtful that we would have even been able to get started without it," he said.



New Season Preparations

The winter break has been a chance for our volunteer lifesavers to recharge their batteries after another busy season keeping beachgoers safe. With spring looming on the horizon, many of these dedicated members are busy upskilling their knowledge, gaining qualifications and doing all the gear and equipment and administrative preparations that go into making a successful season.

“Our volunteer lifesavers play a key front-line role in keeping people safe on our beaches, and we are grateful that they continue patrolling each season,” NSW Director of Lifesaving John Restuccia said.

“Lifesavers from around NSW will shortly be ramping up their preparations for the new season, and we look forward to working with them to help deliver on our core mission which is saving lives.”

Patrols for the 2015/16 NSW season begin on Saturday 19 September.

National Volunteer Week Celebrated

Surf Life Saving NSW was proud to recognise the fine contributions of the many unsung heroes in the life saving community during National Volunteer Week in Mid-May. Current DHL Volunteer of the Year, Andy Cross from South Narrabeen SLSC, took time out from conducting a surf safety workshop at the William Rose School of Special Education in Sydney’s West to discuss what volunteering means to him.

“I think it’s important for volunteers to be recognised and to celebrate how much fun it is and what an experience it is to be able to give. It’s wonderful to be able to give your knowledge, your time and your experiences to help others.

“This country would not run without volunteers and I encourage everyone to feel what it means to give back,” Mr Cross said.



Andy Cross with teachers and kids from William Rose School



Keith Grima OAM

Lifesavers Receive Queen’s Birthday Honours

A number of current and former Surf Life Saving members were honoured in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list in June.

Keith Grima (pictured) and Thomas Symonds from Maroubra SLSC both received Order of Australia (OAM) medals for services to Surf Life Saving, while long time club mates Superintendent David Donohue (Australian Police Medal) and Paul McGuiggan (Australian Fire Service Medal) were also honoured.

North Bondi’s Peter Agnew received an Emergency Services Medal for his career contribution to developments in emergency management and training.

Byron Bay SLSC and former Olympic kayak coach Ben Hutchings was awarded an OAM as were Kevin Andrews (Terrigal), Beryl Bracken (Coffs Harbour) and Darrell Pannowitz (Ocean Beach) for service to their community.

Surf Life Saving NSW wishes to extend our congratulations to all recipients for their dedicated service over the years to not only the Surf Life Saving movement, but also the community at large.

LIFEGUARDS CLOSE BOOKS ON BEACH SEASON

It has been a busy but successful 2014/15 season for lifeguards from the Australian Lifeguard Service (ALS) as they kept watch over 83 beaches, 2 resorts, and one lake throughout NSW.

There was a slight dip in beach attendance in comparison to the 2013/14 season, however numbers were greater than 4 million meaning that lifeguards throughout the state were in demand, particularly over the summer holiday peak periods.

In recent seasons there has been a greater emphasis on preventative actions as lifeguards attempt to stop situations from escalating to the point where they need to carry out a rescue. Preventative actions include things such as identifying potential hazards and asking swimmers to move back between the flags. Throughout this season there were 286,000 instances of preventative actions performed, a significant increase on 2013/14.

Correspondingly, rescues fell with only 839 carried out in comparison to the 892 of the previous season. The most rescues occurred in the Pittwater Local Government Area with Bega and Tweed Shires also recording high numbers.

Lifeguards were kept busy administering first aid treatments for a variety of incidents throughout the 19 ALS contract areas, including suspected spinal injuries, fractures, marine stings and dislocations. This was an increase on last season.

The professionalism and vital contribution of the ALS was recognised by a number of councils with the extension of services in some regions as well as widespread praise for many successful rescues conducted by lifeguards.

In what is regarded as a boost in beach safety for the ever increasing number of visitors to the picturesque Shoalhaven region, the ALS has been contracted to provide professional lifeguard services at the eight patrolled beaches across the area for the next five years.

At Tathra, the ALS provided lifeguards for an additional month after a local business consortium banded together to fund a trial expansion of services. This year was also the first full season that the ALS patrolled Byron Bay's Main Beach

year-round and this decision has proved popular among tourists and locals alike in the Far North Coast holiday mecca.

Australian Lifeguard Service NSW Manager Brent Manieri says it has been a highly successful season for lifeguards across the state.

"Lifeguards patrol a huge area of coastline with each beach throwing up its own set of unique challenges but the professionalism that our people continue to exhibit and the enthusiasm they show for the job means the public were vigilantly watched over and provided with the highest possible service at all times this season," Mr Manieri said.

"Our relationships with all ALS councils continue to strengthen each season and we look forward to building on these crucial partnerships as we strive to achieve our core goals of drowning prevention and protecting the public on NSW beaches."

Many NSW councils have realised the benefit of ensuring a total service provision, as the Australian Lifeguard Service integrates 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.

839
RESCUES

5,719
FIRST AID

286,331
PREVENTATIVE
ACTIONS

4,107,436
BEACH ATTENDANCE

VOLUNTEERS VIGILANT OVER SUMMER

Every weekend during patrol season, from September to April, volunteer lifesavers are at work patrolling our beaches. Their vigilance plays an enormous role in keeping people safe along the coastline, and it is a tradition that has lasted for over a century.

Collectively 21,000 active patrolling members contributed over 600,000 hours of their time to ensure that beachgoers around NSW were protected throughout the season.

Beaches patrolled include Fingal in the far north down to Pambula on the far south coast – a huge stretch of unique and diverse coastline that presents a variety of challenges for lifesavers.

Beach users include local residents, tourists, international visitors and everyone in between. Many are going to a beach where conditions are unfamiliar and as a result, the role of the lifesaver becomes crucial.

Volunteers have had to handle everything from bluebottle stings, lost children, spinal injuries, shark sightings, extreme heat, dangerous surf conditions, major rescues and resuscitations and reports of many, many lost GoPros!

Unfortunately there have been 35 coastal drownings in the last 12 months, all outside patrolled areas or patrol times, four more than in 2013/14 but still below the 10-year average. A sobering reality is that of those drownings, almost 40% live over 50 kilometres away from the beach where the incident occurred.

Education plays a key role in drowning prevention and as an organisation Surf Life Saving has reached thousands of people through various public safety programs, school initiatives including the Beach to Bush program and community workshops and forums for specific coastal users, including rock fishers.

“The contribution made by surf lifesavers both on and off the beach this season has been outstanding,” said NSW Director of Lifesaving, John Restuccia.

“The simple fact that there were no drownings between the red and yellow flags for another season speaks volumes for the vigilance and commitment of our patrolling lifesavers, supported by many more volunteers within our clubs who tirelessly contribute behind the scenes.”

The new patrol season begins in NSW on Saturday 19 September, 2015.

“The contribution made by surf lifesavers both on and off the beach this season has been outstanding”

9,199
FIRST AID

5,902
RESCUES

7,116,682
BEACH ATTENDANCE

138,775
PREVENTATIVE
ACTIONS

LIFESAVING MOVEMENT HONOURS ANZACS

Surf Life Saving in NSW was in its infancy when World War One broke out in 1914 with many of those who would go on to play an influential part in the ongoing development of the movement in later years signing up to do their part, while others sadly did not come home.

Surf club members from around the state paused to commemorate Anzac Day in April at a variety of ceremonies.

At Sydney's Collaroy Beach, 100 surf boats staged a spectacular commemoration, rowing into shore where they were each presented with a hand-crafted wreath from schools invited to participate in the ceremony.

The event was timed to coincide with the dawn service in Gallipoli, and the boats then rowed out to sea to commit the wreaths to the deep, along with a traditional 'oars-up' boaties salute.

In Gallipoli itself, touring surf boat teams from around NSW joined crews from New Zealand and Turkey for a commemorative row down the Turkish Peninsular. Many of these specially decorated surf boats displayed the names of local servicemen or club members who were killed in action.

For the participants in the 'Gallipoli 100' the opportunity to enter the commemorative event was a personal chance to relive family history with the poignant experience being capped off with a landing in Anzac Cove.

The combined Queenscliff/Broulee team were the only all-female crew to row the Dardanelles, and with the majority of their team having a personal connection to war they decided to document and share their experiences in blog form.

"Our great uncle, Robert Butt, was part of the 1st Battalion, 8th Reinforcements of the Australian Infantry and would have stepped out of a rowing boat on the shores of Gallipoli," Alex and Sam Butt wrote.

"Anzac Cove is only a couple of metres of sand. From the water, you just see this mind-blowing terrain stretching up

that must have been horrendous to fight in. One hundred years later to stand and raise an oar, not only where the Anzac legend was born, but where so many people fought and died, provides a unique view and understanding."

Team mate Alex Salier's great uncle also fought at Gallipoli and she said it was a special moment when her father was able to watch her row ashore.

"My great uncle, Gordon Alexander Salier was in the Third Light Horseman and arrived on the shores of Gallipoli on the 9th of March 1915," she wrote.

"When I spoke to dad afterwards, he told me that after talking to some of the historians he was touring with he found out whereabouts Gordon would have landed. He then said to me that I would have landed within 100 metres of where my great uncle landed, almost 100 years before."

Pip Butt feels that trip was special as it reinforced the connection and respect she has for the Anzacs dating back to before her time as an Army Cadet at high school.

"After each Anzac Day Service was over I recall getting stopped and thanked by ex-servicemen from WWI and WWII for participating and remembering. It is a humbling moment to be thanked when it should be the other way around," she wrote.

"My grandpa fought in WWII and I had two great uncles in WWI so it is important to me to keep the Anzac memory alive and be able to carry forward my own story of a different moment in time at Gallipoli."

The memorable trip ended on a high for the Queenscliff/Broulee team when they were presented with one of just three 'Spirit of Anzac' Awards.



MILESTONE FOR SURF EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM

Since its inception back in 2007/08 the Surf Rescue Emergency Response System has played a vital role in responding to search and rescue incidents along the NSW coast and has recently celebrated a historic milestone of its own.

The Surf Rescue Emergency Response System has coordinated surf life saving assets to conduct more than 1000 successful rescues while racking up in excess of 2500 requests for assistance since the system was established eight years ago.

The establishment of the Surf Emergency Response System was a game-changer in terms of improving the coordination of coastal incidents and emergencies and has saved many, many lives. It provides a single point of contact, 24/7, for Emergency Services to request assistance from Lifesaving resources.

A team of volunteer State Duty Officers backed up by staff in the Surf Life Saving NSW State Operations Centre (SOC) will task the nearest, most appropriate lifesaving assets to respond to emergency callouts, including club volunteers, council lifeguards, jetski operators, inflatable rescue boat crews or the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter.

This emergency response capability is just one part of an integrated system which works to keep beachgoers and coastal users safe.

“This past season we have seen an increase in jobs tasked to us through the NSW Police, and I think this reflects the effort that we have made to strengthen ties between our organisations,” said Lifesaving Manager Andy Kent.

“It’s important that all emergency services have a good working relationship as ultimately we all have the same goal of keeping coastal users safe.

“Obviously the Emergency Response System is just one piece of that puzzle, and we are proud of the fact that we have coordinated more than 1000 successful rescues,” he said.

.....
“It’s important that all emergency services have a good working relationship as ultimately we all have the same goal of keeping coastal users safe”



NORTHERN LIFESAVING'S BOLD NEW ERA



Volunteer Surf Lifesavers, Stella Moore and Alisha Cooper, Oxley MP Melinda Pavey, ClubsNSW CEO Anthony Ball, Lyne MP Dr David Gillespie, ClubGRANTS Chairman Mike Colreavy, SLSNSW President Tony Haven and Surf Lifesavers Jess Rayner and Mali Gilbert.

Lifesavers in Northern NSW are on the cusp of a new era following the official opening of the SLSNSW Northern Operations Centre at Port Macquarie.

Dignitaries from Federal, State, and Local Government joined sponsors and Surf Life Saving representatives on the scenic Mid North Coast town on June 30 for a gala opening.

The construction of the Operations Centre was possible due to Surf Life Saving NSW's successful applications for funding under the NSW Government's ClubGRANTS Category 3 scheme and the Federal Government has provided funding for the facility under the Community Development Grants Programme.

The new facility is a significant regional development which will provide greater training, education and sporting opportunities to lifesavers throughout the north of the state and is the result of generous joint funding from the NSW and Australian Governments.

"Surf Lifesavers do an amazing job keeping us safe on the beach and this new centre will provide support to lifesaving activities, boost participation in volunteering and strengthen our local communities," said Member for Lyne Dr David Gillespie MP.

The multi-purpose building will provide a secure facility from which volunteers can train, store and maintain vital lifesaving and rescue equipment, and deliver first aid and CPR training to surf lifesavers and the community.

Surf Life Saving NSW President Tony Haven was thrilled with the government support that has helped the project get off the ground.

"We are grateful for the support of the Australian Government through the Community Development Grants Programme and the NSW Government through the ClubGRANTS program, to give our regional volunteers some of the same opportunities their city counterparts enjoy.

"This new facility marks the beginning of a new era for our lifesavers in Northern NSW and will allow them to continue doing what they do best – saving lives in a high quality, modern environment," Mr Haven said.

"The new facility is a significant regional development which will provide greater training, education and sporting opportunities"

BEFORE

AFTER



PROJECT BLUEPRINT MOVES INTO FINAL STAGES

The final phase of a four year project to help improve safety along the NSW coast has begun with a visit to Great Lakes and Taree on the state's Lower North Coast.

Surf Life Saving NSW's Project Blueprint aims to help reduce coastal drowning deaths by assessing every accessible beach and rock platform in the state.

More than 350 people have drowned along the coast of NSW in the last decade, and while the incidents have been varied, two common causes are people caught in rip currents while swimming, or swept from rocks while fishing. Almost all the incidents occurred at unpatrolled locations and outside patrol hours.

Since 2012, 916 locations and 1230 kilometres of the coast have been assessed thanks to financial support from the NSW Government Blackspots Fund. The aim of the project is to reduce coastal drowning by 2020.

Following each on-site visit, the Coastsafe project team prepares a report for the local council and

National Parks and Wildlife Service. The team have delivered 23 final reports to the various stakeholders with the data gained from the project even being cited in recent coronial proceedings.

Consultation takes place during each visit in the form of an open community forum which allows anyone from the local community to engage with and share their knowledge to benefit the project. Many locals have taken this opportunity to share their views, and their intimate knowledge of the risks of their local coastline proved invaluable to the project.

Surf Life Saving NSW Operations Manager Adam Weir believes that the project will leave a lasting legacy to help improve safety along the NSW coastline.

"It's been a monumental challenge to assess the entire length of the coastline for risks, but we are more than confident that the information gleaned by the project will be used by stakeholders such as local land managers to help improve safety at their beach," Mr Weir said.

"Our position at Surf Life Saving NSW is that we want to do everything possible to reduce the risk of drowning along our coastline in order to achieve the NSW Water Safety Strategy's aim of reducing coastal drowning by 2020.

"Generous government support and interest from the stakeholders has helped make this possible, and we are all committed to achieving this goal within the timeframe," he concluded.

The Project Blueprint team visited Taree and the Great Lakes area in late June, and will conduct field work in Port Stephens in August.

A research trip to Port Macquarie and Kempsey will follow later in the year before the project concludes in early 2016 with visits to Lake Macquarie and Newcastle.

"It's been a monumental challenge to assess the entire length of the coastline for risks"



FISHING SAFETY MESSAGES DELIVERED TO COMMUNITY

Surf Life Saving NSW has continued its efforts to educate and improve the safety of rock fishermen by jointly hosting a theoretical and practical workshop in late May.

The dangers of rock fishing are a hot topic in NSW at present with a second group coronial inquest held at the Glebe Coroners Court in June, and a number of recommendations being subsequently handed down by the Deputy State Coroner. A key recommendation was for the wearing of lifejackets to become mandatory while rock fishing, a position that SLSNSW supports and endorses.

Statistics for rock fish related deaths make for sobering reading. Over the last 5 years, 41 rock fishermen have lost their lives across the state while in the 2014/15 season there have been seven fatalities. It is for this reason that education about the dangers remains a core prevention strategy, and is a key driving force behind the workshops.

The May workshop involved representatives from Willoughby Council, the Department of Primary Industries, Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW and NSW National Parks & Wildlife Services. It is the fourth of its kind since the program began in October 2014, and is targeted at residents from multicultural backgrounds who might not be familiar with the unique challenges of the NSW coastline.

In an effort to embrace the diversity of the area, the session was translated into Mandarin and Cantonese. A large cross-section of the community was represented with children, men and women all participating.

Unfortunately rough weather conditions forced the cancellation of the practical aspects of the workshop, but over 100 participants were still able to complete the theoretical aspects of the course.

Other topics covered during the day included beach safety tips, the importance of conservation and the regulations surrounding fishing, an introduction to CPR and a demonstration of filleting techniques.

Surf Life Saving NSW Education Officer Stacey Pidgeon believes that the workshops are making a difference in the community.

“These workshops provide an excellent overview of the dangers associated with rock fishing on an unfamiliar coastline. We don’t want to stop people enjoying it as a pastime, but we do wish to provide everyone with the skills and confidence to be able to engage in it safely,” Ms Pidgeon said.

“We believe that education plays a critical role in helping people make informed decisions. The role of all the community focused organisations in delivering this service helps us convey a united message.”

Workshops will be held frequently throughout 2015 across a number of Local Government Areas.

“These workshops provide an excellent overview of the dangers associated with rock fishing on an unfamiliar coastline”

General Rock Fishing Safety Tips:

- Stay alert to the weather and ocean conditions. Observe first, fish later.
- Plan an escape route in case you are washed in
- Always wear a life jacket
- Wear appropriate non-slip footwear and light clothing
- Always fish with a friend
- Never turn your back on the ocean
- Do not jump in if someone is washed in - wait for assistance
- For an in-water emergency contact Triple – Zero Police





Bondi Beach is one of three areas where the Community Inclusion Project will be trialed

COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROJECT GATHERS MOMENTUM

It's an exciting time for the Community Inclusion Project as it moves into a new phase with SLSNSW confident it will generate new opportunities around beach precincts for people with a disability.

The Community Inclusion Project, funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, will be implemented over the next 12 months in three trial sites along the NSW Coast. The sites are:

- Merimbula commercial area and Pambula Beach
- Bondi Beach
- Nobbys and Newcastle Beaches

SLSNSW is working with Councils, surf clubs, local businesses and other community organisations to promote the inclusion of people with disability in all aspects of community life in

coastal precincts.

A grant program for businesses and service providers within the three council areas involved in the project is currently open with successful applicants to be informed mid-August.

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for businesses and service providers for initiatives that promote inclusion within the three trial sites.

The grants can be used for a range of initiatives including small upgrades to infrastructure (e.g. installing an access ramp or widening doorways, installing a charging station for chairs or scooters) through to staff training about communicating with and providing customer service to people with disabilities. Funded projects will be implemented between September 2015 and April 2016.

Surf clubs can play an important role in promoting the active inclusion of people with disabilities in community life.

“As an iconic community organisation that promotes safety and engagement with the coast, Surf Life Saving is well placed to encourage the inclusion of people with disabilities in a range of coastal activities,” SLSNSW Inclusion Officer Meredith Harrison said.

“We hope businesses and service providers take up the opportunity these grants present for them to access the skills, equipment or expertise to create a positive coastal experience for everyone in their community.”

For information about the Community Inclusion Project please contact SLSNSW Inclusion Officer Meredith Harrison on (02) 9471 8085 or mharrison@surflifesaving.com.au

LIFESAVERS TEST WATERS AT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

A group of dedicated club members from across the state spent the June long weekend at the first leadership program for lifesavers aged over 26, held on Sydney’s Northern Beaches.

The inaugural 26 years and over Development Program targeted members who are relatively new to lifesaving, and are currently in or considering taking up leadership positions within their club. Only participants who have obtained their Bronze Medallion within the last three years were eligible.

“A few years ago we realised that there was a gap in developmental opportunities for adult club members who are perhaps new to the movement or want to further their own leadership aspirations within their club,” NSW Lifesaving Manager Andy Kent said.

“Our goal at Surf Life Saving NSW is for all our members to feel part of the life saving community, and to help provide opportunities for them to develop their skills and interests which they can then take back to their clubs and branches.”

South Maroubra’s Nicole Krite said that the program has inspired her to continue furthering her involvement within surf life saving.

“Our goal at Surf Life Saving NSW is for all our members to feel part of the life saving community”

“It was really great to be able to meet people who all share a passion for surf life saving. Sometimes it can feel like you’re the only one but to meet like-minded people and to share ideas that we can all use at our own clubs was a fantastic opportunity.

“We’re all striving for the same thing which is to save people’s lives and the program challenged me to think differently about lifesaving. Sometimes I forget that in my role as a trainer and educator I have 650 potential lifesavers on the beach every Sunday morning in summer participating in Nippers and I think the challenge is to keep them engaged and encourage them to become patrolling members down the track,” she said.

Throughout the program, course participants listened to guest speakers and discussed ideas about how to strengthen their clubs.

Surf Life Saving NSW is currently evaluating the program and will continue to explore future development opportunities for all club members.



26+ Development Program Participants:

- Carmen Perez (Umina Beach) Central Coast
- Federico Baldissera (Byron Bay) Far North Coast
- Amanda Smith (Broulee Surfers) Far South Coast
- Jared Gilkison (Redhead) Hunter
- Konrad Robinson (Fairy Meadow) Illawarra
- Brian Kelleher (Taree-Old Bar) Lower North Coast
- Gayl Ellis (Camden Haven) Mid North Coast
- Gavin Winchester (Sawtell) North Coast
- Thierry Pelaez (Warilla-Barrack Point) South Coast
- Nicole Krite (South Maroubra) Sydney
- Charles Viney (North Steyne) Sydney Northern Beaches

Facilitators:

- Andy Cross (South Narrabeen)
- Adrienne Lowe (Dee Why)



Photo by: Nicole Krite

NSW LIFESAVERS EARN NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Bruce Kelly (North Narrabeen), Josh Vernon (North Bondi), James Fleetwood (North Bondi), Graham Ford (SLSA President), Sonia and Craig Zulian (Towradgi) Pic: SLSA

Sensational efforts from volunteer lifesavers who saved 22 lives in a diverse range of rescue situations helped New South Wales to a clean-sweep of the prestigious National Rescue of the Month award for the first quarter of 2015.

Lifesavers from Towradgi, North Narrabeen and North Bondi Surf Life Saving Clubs were honoured in June at a special ceremony held in Parliament House, Canberra by the Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving.

Craig and Sonia Zulian, Don Allan and Richard Walsh from Towradgi SLSC were acknowledged for the lifesaving rescue at dusk of a teenaged surfer who got into difficulty when he lost his board in the midst of a powerful swell in January.

Friday the 13th of February won't be a day North Narrabeen's Bruce Kelly will forget anytime soon. The long-serving club member was unwinding at home when a family of four got into difficulty literally on his door step. In an amazing

display of endurance, Mr Kelly was able to rescue two young children, their father, and point a third child in the direction of safety while battling an asthma attack.

"I feel so humble that I have saved one family from a possible catastrophe by using my skills learnt from the volunteers of North Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club and the Australian lifesaving community," a modest Mr Kelly said after the rescue.

The National Rescue of the Month Award for March was taken out by North Bondi members James Fleetwood and Josh Vernon, and the members of Patrol 9 for their miraculous mass rescue off Bondi Beach.

In what the group now refers to among themselves as "Big Saturday", James and Josh piloting their Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) rescued 15 people after a strong rip dragged a group of swimmers out beyond the break.

While the lifesavers were thrilled to be honoured at the ceremony, they retain a sense of modesty that is a common trait among most volunteer members of Surf Life Saving.

"It's a big eye opener to see what other surf lifesavers have put themselves through to save a life," Craig Zulian said.

"Receiving the National Rescue of the Month was an outstanding experience and it's great to see what can be achieved as a surf lifesaver. Ultimately our three rescues saved lives and that's why we are part of Surf Life Saving."

The National and SLSNSW Rescue of the Month awards recognise excellence in lifesaving. Recipients have the chance to win the NSW Rescue of the Year, which will be presented at the annual Awards of Excellence on Saturday 29 August.

ALL DAY

HIGH PERFORMANCE SURFWEAR



IRON
JAMMER
SECOND **2** EDITION

engineswim.com

 **ENGINE**

2015 Surf Life Saving NSW

Awards of Excellence

Proudly presented by Stramit Building Products

6:30pm | 29th August | The Four Seasons Sydney



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.

Government



State Sponsors



Preferred State Suppliers



National Supporters



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

SURF LIFESAVING NSW

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NEW SOUTH
WALES

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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