

SurfLIFE

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SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES

Volunteer Lifesavers Return To Beaches

More than 20,000 active patrolling volunteers have returned to the beach with the beginning of the Surf Life Saving season – marked by a symbolic raising of the red and yellow flags – officially announced at Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club on 23 September by the NSW Premier, Dominic Perrottet.

Off the back of a 12-month period where Surf Life Saving NSW recorded the equal highest coastal drowning toll since the figure was recorded, the Premier urged beachgoers to heed caution and observe safe beach practices when heading to the coastline this summer.

“Every life lost is a tragedy,” Mr Perrottet said.

“The best thing that we can do is follow the instructions of our surf lifesaving volunteers, who are also

putting their life on the line each and every day to keep us safe.”

“Swim between the flags, make sure you supervise your children, wear a life jacket where it’s necessary, and if you do that, we’ll have fun and we’ll keep people safe.”

Mr Perrottet also noted the many Bondi SBSLC surf lifesavers in attendance to mark the beginning of the season.

“I particularly want to thank our volunteers today because there is no country in the world that has a surf lifesaving volunteer organisation like we do in Australia,” he said.

“I think that’s remarkable and what makes our state great. We have over 20,000 surf lifesaving volunteers. We have over 30,000 Nippers and our young people that will end up becoming great surf lifesavers themselves.”

“It’s a wonderful thing that that spirit of service gets passed down from generation to generation to generation.”

While the weather failed to hold out, a



few drops from the heavens wouldn't dampen the spirits of the volunteers on the beach as Mr Perrottet, accompanied by Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, Steph Cooke, joined local Nippers and surf lifesavers to raise the first red and yellow flag at arguably Sydney's oldest club.

Ms Cooke would also announce that \$1 million in NSW Government funding had been provided to Surf Life Saving NSW for the rollout of new Support Operations equipment ahead of summer.

"It's going to be wonderful to see our volunteer lifesavers out again, particularly after the challenging years that we've experienced," she said.

"The addition of 11 jet skis and 11 fully kitted out support vehicles will further enhance the ability of our lifesavers to respond to emergencies in the water and help people when they get into trouble."

For the first time in three years, volunteer lifesavers will not enter the season under a cloud of COVID-19 restrictions, and instead can give their full attention to beach and aquatic safety.

Surf Life Saving NSW President, George Shales OAM said volunteers are focussed on providing a safe environment for beachgoers.

"NSW is blessed with beautiful beaches across the coastline, with many of them patrolled by Surf Life Saving NSW volunteers and our 129 clubs," he said.

"While our membership is constantly upskilling and undertaking education and training courses to expand their abilities, it's important to take your own safety into your hands.

"We are encouraging the public, particularly considering the harrowing statistics that came to light following the release of our NSW Coastal Safety Report, to know their limits and avoid placing themselves and their families in unnecessarily risky situations."

THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEER SURF LIFESAVERS THIS SUMMER INCLUDES:

- Identify the safest part of the beach to position the red and yellow flags
- Patrol the flagged area and monitor the beach conditions
- Conduct preventative actions and rescue people in distress
- Provide modified first aid and assistance to people in trouble on the beach and in the water
- Work with other emergency services to assist with incident response away from patrolled locations or outside patrol hours
- Provide information to beachgoers about surf conditions, beach safety and beach alert or closure information due to Covid restrictions (via Beachsafe.org.au or the Beachsafe App)

The volunteer Surf Patrol season runs until Anzac Day 2023.

SLSNSW President, George Shales, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, Steph Cooke, NSW Premier Dom Perrottet and SLSNSW CEO, Steve Pearce.



ROCK FISHING SAFETY PROGRAM

launches at deadly blackspot

The first in a series of ground-breaking rock fishing safety sessions has been delivered at Port Kembla, with Surf Life Saving NSW and the NSW Government joining forces to build awareness of the dangers of the sport.

‘Gone Fishing Day’ is a practical, first-of-its-kind program designed to better educate rockfishers on the safety measures and skills that can make this popular pastime a whole lot safer.

More than 100 participants (320 people including families) from 20 different nationalities took part in the program in September at the Illawarra blackspot.

In NSW from July 2021 to June 2022, 11 people lost their lives while rockfishing. At Hill 60, Port Kembla alone – the site of the inaugural program – in the last 20 months, six people have drowned while rock fishing.

With the support of the Government through the Department of Primary Industries, Surf Life Saving NSW will host a minimum of 10 coastal and 10 in-community workshops aimed specifically at multicultural and at-risk groups, including 1,000 free lifejackets and crucial lifejacket-fitting advice from experts.

“We know that for many of our rock fishing communities, especially those newer to Australia, there is a lack of basic safety knowledge and understanding of the dangers of rockfishing,” said Surf Life Saving NSW CEO Steve Pearce.

“This is practical and targeted rock fishing safety education that will help save lives.”

‘Gone Fishing Day’ aims to equip rock fishers with the tools to safely visit the coastline and then return home to their families.

“We understand that across Australia more than one million people participate in rock fishing along our coastline each year, with the majority here in from NSW,” Steve said.



“Many people think Surf Life Saving is about volunteers on the beach and swimming between the red and yellow flags, but our educational reach extends so much further.

“Programs like ‘Gone Fishing Day’ are vital for our at-risk communities to learn valuable skills and be able to better understand the dynamic nature of the ocean and the dangers involved with rock fishing and how to ensure you protect yourself and your family.

“We’re very excited to begin delivering these workshops, which we hope will have a positive impact on at-risk communities and our coastal drowning toll.”

Participants learn how to prepare for the day, how to pick a safe location, what safety gear to bring, how to assess the conditions and what to do if they get washed into the surf, among other crucial safety tips.

Minister for Agriculture Dugald Saunders announced in July that the NSW Recreational Fishing Fund would invest \$205,000 toward the delivery of these workshops.

Following the program launch at Port Kembla, the next ‘Gone Fishing Day’ is set down to take place at Coffs Harbour in October before moving south to Avoca, La Perouse and Kurnell.



Rock fishers were presented with free life jackets as part of the program.



Female Lifesavers Dominate At SLSNSW Awards Night

An 'unprecedented' number of female lifesavers cleaned up at the Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence in August – a clear indication of the positive ways in which we are celebrating our female high achievers.

Of the 24 awards available across five categories on the night, 13 were won specifically by female volunteers and a further five team or group-specific awards included female members.

"As a not-for-profit organisation we are very proud of our entire membership, but particularly the way our female volunteers continue to stand up and make a difference on our beaches," said Surf Life Saving NSW President, George Shales.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we are leading the way in terms of gender equality benchmarks for volunteer emergency service organisations and that's something we will continue to focus on and build upon."

"What a fantastic night to be a lifesaver."

Of the five 'Major Awards', each of the three individual awards – being the President's Medal, Volunteer of the Year, and the blue-chip Surf Lifesaver of the Year – went to deserving female nominees, while the Surf Sports category was dominated by female athletes. An outstanding female member was also recognised with the award for the Support Operations Member of the Year, a highly contested category.

Surf Lifesaver of the Year winner, Shannon Fox from Wollongong City SLSC, said she was very proud to be a part of the surf lifesaving movement.

"I can't believe it," she said after her win.

"Every second category was girls making a difference and having an impact tonight and inspiring everyone to stand up.

"That's been the best part of tonight."

It would prove a night of great success for Illawarra Branch, with Shannon's award coming after her own club, Wollongong City had earlier taken out the Innovation of the Year category for its 'Patrol Meights' program.

Meanwhile, Bulli SLSC would claim three awards across the evening, including the Rescue of the Year where more than 60 members from the club, supported by Sandon Point SLSC, Woonona SLSC and Thirroul SLSC, responded to a mass rescue involving an overturned boat at Waniora Point in October.

Remarkably, water sports athlete Hannah Minogue would take home two awards, first being recognised as the Masters Athlete of the Year – largely thanks to her incredible showing at the Australian Championships in April – before being announced just moments later as the Athlete of the Year as well.

The Surf Sports category also highlighted the strength of North Cronulla SLSC, with the Coach of the Year (Tom Rampoldi), Youth Athlete of the Year (Lucy Flanagan) and Surf Sports Team of the Year (Open Beach Relay Team) all coming from the Sydney club.

Tom's three daughters, Emily, Alex and Leah, made up three of the four



From top to bottom: Shannon Fox, Donna Hargreaves, Nixy Krite, Georgia Gaddes



North Cronulla's Surf Sports Team of the Year and Kim Raynor

members of the Surf Sports Team of the Year, while Lucy was the fourth member.

"These girls just have this knowledge and understanding," Tom said of his daughters and Lucy.

"That's why they get to where they are, they're all switched on.

"Everyone's a good workers, everyone knows the processes that are required, they're a great group."

Meanwhile, Sydney Northern Beaches Branch flexed its Educational muscles, taking out three of the four available awards in the category. Warriewood SLSC saw Angela Shanahan and John Dulieu take out the Trainer and Assessor of the Year, respectively, while North Narrabeen SLSC's Education Team was recognised as the Community Education Program of the Year winners.

Among the other major award winners were Julie Redfern, bringing the Volunteer of the Year award home with her to the Central Coast and her club, Terrigal, and Bronte SLSC was rewarded for its focus on support, succession planning, mentoring and skill development with the Club of the Year accolade.

Mid North Coast was recognised as Branch of the Year on the back of its all-round strength in lifesaving, governance, education and junior activities, and the President's Medal was awarded to long-time North Cronulla SLSC member, Donna Hargreaves.

Surf Life Saving NSW President, George Shales congratulated all winners on the night and said he was proud of the wide representation across the Branches.

"After an incredibly challenging season the field of candidates for all of the award categories was so strong, there were so many deserving recipients of the State awards," he said.

"I'm very proud to be leading an organisation that represents so many people who have no hesitation in giving up their time to protect the lives of others."



ALL WINNERS

Education Awards

Trainer of the Year

Angela Shanahan, Warriewood SLSC

Facilitator of the Year

Kim Rayner, Tacking Point SLSC

Assessor of the Year

John Dulieu, Warriewood SLSC

Community Education Program of the Year

North Narrabeen SLSC Education Team

Membership Awards

Administrator of the Year

Jackie Bower, Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest SLSC

Youth Volunteer of the Year

Georgia Gaddes, South West Rocks SLSC

Services Team of the Year

Surf Rescue 30

Innovation of the Year

Patrol Meights, Wollongong SLSC

Surf Sports Awards

Official of the Year

Mick Lang, Tacking Point SLSC

Coach of the Year

Tom Rampoldi, North Cronulla SLSC

Surf Sports Team of the Year

Open Female Relay Team, North Cronulla SLSC

Youth Athlete of the Year

Lucy Flanagan, North Cronulla SLSC

Masters Athlete of the Year

Hannah Minogue, Bulli SLSC

Athlete of the Year

Hannah Minogue, Bulli SLSC

Lifesaving Awards

Lifeguard of the Year

Reece Dobbin, Clarence

Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year

Sven Loemker, Cudgen Headland SLSC

Patrol Captain of the Year

Kerry Morris, Dee Why SLSC

Support Operations Member of the Year

Nixy Krite, Bondi SBLSC

Rescue of the Year

Bulli SLSC, Illawarra Branch

Major Awards

Presidents Medal

Donna Hargreaves, North Cronulla SLSC

Branch of the Year

Mid North Coast Branch

Club of the Year

Bronte SLSC

Volunteer of the Year

Julie Redfern, Terrigal SLSC

Surf Lifesaver of the Year

Shannon Fox, Wollongong City SLSC



LIFESAVING REIMAGINED

At State Conference

More than 300 representatives from the state's 129 surf clubs and 11 branches have re-defined what Surf Life Saving looks like in the future, how it can evolve to meet the needs of members and the community as the largest volunteer emergency service in NSW.



Glimpses into a more inclusive, brave and adaptive organisation were outlined by internal and external presenters at the event in July. Highlights included the keynote presentation from leading researcher Dr Vivien Forner, who is heading up SLSNSW's leadership development program, on what members really want from their volunteering experience and how clubs need to address some confronting truths about changing the culture and encouraging flexibility.

ABC personality Todd Sampson delivered some inspirational insights into the power of the brain and how we can harness the unlimited potential within all of us.

"It's been four years since we were able to come together like this, with Covid throwing a spanner in the works for the last two years," said SLSNSW President George Shales.



"The energy and positivity we saw over the two days from everyone involved was fantastic and it was great to see clubs sending some of their younger members along to get a better insight into activities across the state and network with other clubs doing some really cool things."

Popular breakout sessions over the weekend included future trends in lifesaving equipment R&D, insights into Gen Z and connecting with youth members and inclusion and how we can better support member wellbeing.

"The conference really delivered a booster shot into the arm of our organisation to reimagine the way we do things and collaborate better to drive real innovation and change processes," said George.

NSW Records Deadliest Year for Coastal Drownings

The release of the 2022 NSW Coastal Safety Report by Surf Life Saving NSW in September revealed that 2021/22 recorded the highest number of coastal drownings on record – up almost 30% on the 10-year average.

Last year's drowning toll equalled the previous highest recorded figure in 2015/16 where 55 people in NSW lost their lives on our beaches, in the ocean, coastal waterways and rock platforms.

December to February also claimed the record for the most coastal and ocean drowning deaths over summer, with 25 fatalities recorded, despite the higher than usual rainfall from La Niña and reduced beach attendances.

In particular, rock fishing deaths increased significantly to 11, up from 8 the year prior. Rock fishing continues a year-on-year trend as the second highest cause of coastal drowning (behind swimming/wading).

Surf Life Saving NSW is partnering with the NSW Government to tackle

the spike in rock fishing deaths by delivering our largest ever rock fishing safety initiative.

Surf Life Saving NSW Director of Lifesaving Joel Wiseman said the first rock fishing skills session was held at the notorious rock fishing hotspot, Hill 60 in Port Kembla, last weekend, with more than 100 rock fishers taking part.

"This summer we'll see more of these skills sessions held up and down the New South Wales coast, providing participants with life-saving information and a free life jacket," Joel said.

"It was also pleasing to see that Wollongong City Council has voted to introduce mandatory lifejacket legislation for rock fishers, becoming the ninth LGA to do so."

Other trends highlighted by the NSW Coastal Safety Report include an over-representation of males in coastal drowning incidents – 87% compared with just 13% females. Over 60% of those who drowned were aged 40+ years.

Boating was also a big cause of drowning with eight people boating or using personal watercraft when they drowned.

"Regardless of what you're doing on the water, it's absolutely vital that you check the conditions prior to heading out, understand the environment you are entering, understand your own limitations and abilities, and ensure you are well-equipped should things go wrong," Joel said.

Over the 2021/22 season, surf lifesavers, Australian Lifeguard Service lifeguards and support operations rescued more than 4,000 people in NSW, and volunteers spent over 621,000 hours on patrol. The number of emergency callouts responded to by Surf Life Saving increased to 791 for the year.

KEY FINDINGS IN 2021-22



55

DROWNING DEATHS



87%
MALE



DROWNINGS BY SURF LIFE SAVING BRANCH

- 2 Far North Coast
- 3 North Coast
- 0 Mid North Coast
- 4 Lower North Coast
- 3 Hunter
- 4 Central Coast
- 6 Sydney Northern Beaches
- 12 Sydney
- 6 Illawarra
- 7 South Coast
- 5 Far South Coast
- 3 Other

KIAMA DOWNS TAKES THE CROWN

at IRB Championships

Kiama Downs SLSC confirmed a clean sweep of the Sharkskin NSW IRB series events in July, taking out the Sharkskin NSW IRB Championships in South West Rocks in a nail-biting finish. It was their ninth title overall and sixth in the last seven years of competition.

It came after line honours at Ocean Beach at the end of June ensured the South Coast club would pip challengers Caves Beach SLSC to the 2022 Sharkskin NSW IRB Premiership title – the precursor four-round event in the lead up to State Championships.

Mass Rescue event dominance underpinned another strong performance from Kiama Downs, taking out three of the five finals on offer in the category, and 12 finals overall, to once again pip Caves to the post in dramatic fashion.

Just nine points separated the two teams on the final point score.

"Kiama Downs has a really long history of doing well in IRBs, this is what we do," Kiama Downs Team Manager, Steven Strong said.

"We came in with a team of 18, we didn't think we had enough, so to pull it off is just incredible."

"These guys and girls, they do everything we ever ask of them, they train their backside off, we race hard and we expect a lot of them and of each other.

"We're a little club in numbers but we're a big club in IRBs and I just love it."

After a COVID-19 affected 2021 Premiership, racers were thrilled to get back in the water and complete a full series – none more so than Kiama Downs, who were hoping to



carry over the form that saw them dominate the early rounds of racing last year before lockdown would bring boats, and eventually the series, to a halt.

Indeed, the champions incumbent would stumble only once on their ascent to the top this year, finishing second on a choppy opening weekend in Terrigal – unfamiliar conditions for the traditionally tame beach.

From there, they stood at the top of the podium at each of the next three stops in the series – first in Bulli, then Broulee over the June long weekend, then again at Ocean Beach on the Central Coast, and now, finally, at South West Rocks.

"It's been rumoured there's something in the water," Steven continued.

"I don't know what it is. Maybe we're a little bit crazy, but we train hard and we're lucky.

"We've got a lot of people with a lot of experience over the years behind us, so that I think plays a big part.



Our coaching and mechanics are just fantastic."

For their part, Caves Beach proved worthy challengers over the weekend, as they had all series. The Hunter club battled, as many teams did, with inconsistent team lineups throughout the series, but managed to pose a serious challenge to Kiama Downs in their pursuit of the title.

In the end, less than 10 points separated them from a victory that would have completed a full circle moment for Caves – having won the opening round of the IRB Premiership back in May, the team were eager to round out the state season with a bang.

Host club South West Rocks was pleased to turn on a fantastic weekend of racing for the more than 470 competitors and club president Rod

McDonagh said he was extremely proud of his hard-working volunteers who all worked together to make it happen.

"We've got a bit of a proud tradition at South West Rocks for holding events, it's great to get everyone together," he said.

"A lot of hard work but it's all fallen into place.

"Our aim is to have a couple of teams up and running for next year and we'll be nominating to host again.

"It's great for the community in general."



STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS OVERALL POINT SCORE

121	Kiama Downs
112	Caves Beach
44	South Maroubra
32	North Cronulla
29	Terrigal
28	Queenscliff
25	Newport
20	Thirroul
13	Avalon Beach
10	Nobbys
9	North Avoca
0	Maroubra
0	Bungan Beach
0	Coogee
0	Helensburgh Stanwell Park
0	Ocean Beach





SLSNSW Members Honoured with National Medal

Surf Life Saving NSW congratulated 70 surf lifesavers in September who were awarded the National Medal, as well as First Clasps, Second Clasps and Third Clasps for their sustained service and commitment to surf lifesaving.

Established in 1975 as a military recognition award, the National Medal has since branched out into government and voluntary organisations and is now Australia's most awarded civil medal.

The National Medal is awarded to individuals on behalf of the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and recognises long and diligent service in organisations that are dedicated to protecting life and property at a degree of risk to their members.

National Medals can also be awarded to those who risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community in enforcement of the law or in times of emergency or natural disaster.

"On behalf of our organisation I would like to congratulate the NSW

recipients of this honour," said Surf Life Saving NSW President, George Shales OAM.

"We are very lucky as a gazetted emergency service to be flagged by more than 76,000 dedicated and passionate members, so to see so many of them honoured in this way is a testament to their commitment to the movement and their character as individuals."

Heading the list of those honoured is Paul Johnston (North Avoca SLSC) who receives his Third Clasp for 45 years of service, with Michael Pontefract (Evans Head SLSC), Gerald Stephenson (North Bondi SLSC) and Robert Alan Wright (Woolgoolga SLSC) all receiving Second Clasps for 35 years of service.

Surf Life Saving NSW volunteers with a minimum of 30 patrolling hours over a minimum period of 15 seasons, since September 18, 1986, are eligible for the National Medal.



Paul Johnston



Michael Pontefract



SEE THE FULL LIST



Exciting news



**SURF
SAFETY**

ROADSHOW

In partnership with Ingenia Holiday Parks, we are hitting the road for our very first surf safety roadshow.

Look out for updates through our socials as the crew travel from Byron Bay to Eden delivering surf safety messages to kids in holiday parks.


Ingenia Holiday Parks



**SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES**



SWIM BROTHERS

become surf lifesavers

A ground-breaking, culturally sensitive lifesaver training program culminated at Wanda Surf Life Saving Club on 31 July with a group of Muslim men completing training for their Bronze Medallions and becoming fully fledged volunteer lifesavers.

An MOU was also signed between the Swim Brothers group and Surf Life Saving NSW which will see more lifesavers from culturally and linguistically diverse communities train and become surf lifesavers and join clubs throughout NSW in the future.

It was a landmark day in Sydney's south as the men began their test at 7.30AM, the final step in a bespoke, specially crafted journey towards breaking down barriers and establishing a greater understanding of beach safety that started many months ago.

Much of the course's theory and First Aid components were held at Ruth Everuss Pool in Lidcombe, where the Swim Brothers host their training squad, and following a preliminary swim and introduction session at Gunnamatta Bay earlier this year, the course was paused for Ramadan to allow participants to fast and adhere to their faith.

"All these guys are from culturally diverse backgrounds and had very little swimming ability when they first started," said Feroz Sattar.





“Now they’ve not only met the prerequisite, but they’ve successfully taken that extra step to finish their Bronze Medallion and become surf lifesavers.

“We’re excited to get out there in the summer and patrol on the beaches.

“This is an entry point but there is still a lot to learn and we can’t wait to keep progressing.”

“The opportunities are endless now,” added Omar Mahmoud.

The signing of the MOU between Swim Brothers and Surf Life Saving NSW will help to further the collaboration and continue opportunities to educate at-risk communities.

It outlines the commitment of SLSNSW to deliver programs and support to both Swim Brothers participants and the wider community around beach and water safety, tied in with learn-to-swim lessons.

The programs will include access to multilingual resources and beach safety information, on-beach programs for

participants and CALD communities, family fun days and beach safety theory sessions to be held at local community centres and mosques.

The ultimate goal is to support participants in achieving their Bronze Medallion and becoming volunteer surf lifesavers at both Wanda SLSC and other NSW surf clubs.

“This has so many benefits for Surf Life Saving and the community more broadly,” said Surf Life Saving NSW CEO, Steve Pearce.

“To have seven Muslim men graduate as surf lifesavers is groundbreaking. These members will take water safety messages back to their communities and their families.

“If we can save even one life through this program, then that is something very valuable.”

Swim Brothers was founded by Omar Mahmoud and Feroz Sattar after a group of men from a western Sydney mosque almost drowned in a rip at a remote beach and were saved by off-duty surf lifesavers.

It began as a learn to swim program providing men from diverse communities with culturally-appropriate training – both in the pool and in the surf.

Four NSW Athletes to be Inducted into SLSA Hall of Fame

Former Newport SLSC Ironwoman sensation, Georgia Miller and legendary Wollongong City SLSC board racer, Bob Little OAM are among four current and former NSW athletes set to be inducted into the Surf Life Saving Australia Hall of Fame later this year.

Announced at the start of September by SLSA, Miller and Little join Bate Bay beach specialist, James Stansell and Ironman, Dean Mercer, formerly of Thirroul SLSC and being honoured posthumously, as two thirds of the 2022 Half of Fame class who will be formally recognised during their induction ceremony at the National Awards of Excellence in November.

The SLSA Board recently endorsed the nominations of Miller and Little for the prestigious Hall of Fame which permanently displays, commemorates, and recognises members and teams who have achieved outstanding accomplishments and provided exceptional contributions to the development of Surf Life Saving in Australia.

The Hall of Fame awards were first introduced in 2004 and have over 100 inductees across Lifesaving, Sport, and Administration.

"The calibre of athletes who are inducted into the SLSA Hall of Fame is always outstanding and it's testament to the strong surf sports contingent we have in NSW that four of the 2022 inductees cut their teeth competing on our beaches," said Surf Life Saving NSW President, George Shales OAM.

"I would like to call on each and every one of our 76,000-strong membership to congratulate these four outstanding volunteers on some very well-deserved recognition and look forward to seeing the impact this success has on our members in driving more competitors to strive for excellence in surf sports."

Georgia Miller reflected on the recognition as something she will 'cherish' after an outstanding career, even over a relatively short time, to date on the sand and in the ocean.

"It's such an honour to be named in the Surf Life Saving Australia Hall of Fame and to be alongside some great company," she said.

"I'm very excited and it's amazing to be rewarded for all the hard work – it's something I am going to cherish.

"To be inducted in the Hall of Fame alongside names like Karla Gilbert, Kristy Munroe and Naomi Flood – I looked up to all those women and to be alongside them is a privilege.

"Growing up you never think that's going to be you, but to now be in the Hall of Fame aged 26 years old, I just can't believe it.

"There are still so many things I have left to do in my career, plenty of boxes I'm yet to tick and still more I want to get from this sport, so hopefully I can achieve them in the next few years."



Dean Mercer



Georgia Miller



Bob Little OAM

Recent video HIGHLIGHTS



LIFESAVING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Nearly 50 participants and leaders from up and down the NSW coastline participated in the second Surf Life Saving NSW Lifesaving Development Program at Narrabeen in July. We caught up with some of them to see what it was all about!



Gotcha 4 Life 24 Hour Row

40 surf clubs across the country, including 28 from NSW, helped to raise nearly \$300K for mental fitness during the Gotcha 4 Life 24 Hour Row, with more than 2,700 people taking part. Here's how it all went down!



POOL RESCUE Championships

The state's swimming future is in safe hands after nearly 250 surf club associated athletes demonstrated their technical skills in the pool at the 2022 Surf Life Saving NSW Pool Rescue Championships. Our team was there to catch all the action!



Surf Life Saving Sydney Branch WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

The brainchild of our 2022 Support Operations Team Member of the Year, Nixy Krite, Surf Life Saving Sydney's Sea Doo Women's Development Clinic has been preparing members for the new season. We tagged along to see what they get up to!



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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 over 75,000 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.

Contact Us

For contributions or suggestions for SurfLIFE please contact SLSNSW Media on 02 9471 8000 or

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

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