

SATURDAY 25 JULY SESSIONS

8:00am	Registration Desk Open		
9:30am	Acknowledgment of Country, Welcome & Housekeeping		
9:40am	Opening Address		
9:50am	President's Opening: Strengthen & Consolidate – Elissa Hancock – SLSNSW President		
10:10am	Opening Keynote – Ivan Cleary		
11:00am	Morning Tea		
	Mascot C	Mascot B	Mascot A
11:30am	Duke of Edinburgh Award: Creating New Pathways for Youth The Duke of Edinburgh Program Umina SLSC	Cyber Risk & Coverage: Protecting Your Club in a Digital World Marsh Insurance	Mental Fitness Kickstarter: Gotcha4Life
12:05pm	Building Emergency Management Capability at Club Level SLSNSW	Shaping the Future: Strengthening the Way We Work Together SLSNSW Nous Group Representatives	Connection First: Lessons in Building a Stronger Club Community Dee Why SLSC
12:35pm	Lunch		
1:30pm	Marine Wildlife & Public Safety: Understanding Surf Life Saving's Role NSW National Parks & Wildlife <i>Session 1 of 2</i>	The Grant Seeking Unit: Helping Clubs Secure More Funding SLSA Grant Seeking Unit	Emergency Management & Rescue Services: Pathways to Specialist Capability SLSNSW
2:20pm	Understanding Risk, Insurance & Your Club's Responsibilities SLS Legal Counsel, Marsh Insurance, SLSNSW	Leadership Through Experience: Reflections from the Front Line Bondi SBLSC, North Bondi SLSC <i>Session 1 of 2</i>	From Data to Decisions: Shaping the Future of Lifesaving Services SLSNSW and Branch Panellists
3:00pm	Afternoon Tea		
3:30pm	Marine Wildlife & Public Safety: Understanding Surf Life Saving's Role NSW National Parks & Wildlife <i>Session 2 of 2</i>	Community Education: Creating Impact Beyond the Beach SLSNSW	Inclusion & Diversity Panel: Inclusion in Action South West Rocks SLSC, Port Macquarie SLSC, Wanda SLSC
4:20pm	Growing Surf Sports: Building Stronger Participation Pathways SLSNSW	Leadership Through Experience: Reflections from the Front Line Bondi SBLSC, North Bondi SLSC <i>Session 2 of 2</i>	Expanding UAV Capability: From First Flight to Operational Impact SLSNSW, Club Panellists
5:00pm	Evening of casual food, drinks and live music		

SATURDAY 25 JULY PRE-REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

Workshop Overviews can be found on the final page of this document. Workshops are capped at 40 participants to create more opportunities for discussion, collaboration and sharing ideas. Please submit your workshop preferences by **Wednesday 8 July**.

We'll confirm your workshop allocations by **Friday 17 July**. Any remaining workshop places will then be released on a first come, first served basis. As workshop places are limited, only members with a confirmed workshop allocation will be able to attend.

Register your workshop preferences via this [link](#).

11:00am	Morning Tea	
	Botany	Kingsford
11:30am	Getting Started with AI: A Practical Introduction for Club Leaders AI Consultant, Strategic Membership Solutions	Mental Health & Wellbeing at Your Club SLSA Wellbeing Advisor
12:35pm	Lunch	
1:30pm	Practical AI for Your Club: Real Problems, Live Solutions AI Consultant, Strategic Membership Solutions <i>Session 1 of 2</i>	Supporting a Strong Club Culture Through Systems & Governance The Equality Institute <i>Session 1 of 2</i>
2:20pm	Engaging Young People: Where to Start SLSNSW, Umina SLSC, Fairy Meadow SLSC <i>Session 1 of 2</i>	The Communication Challenge: Getting the Right Message to the Right People SLSNSW <i>Session 1 of 2</i>
3:00pm	Afternoon Tea	
3:30pm	Practical AI for Your Club: Real Problems, Live Solutions AI Consultant, Strategic Membership Solutions <i>Session 2 of 2</i>	Building a Strong Club Culture Through Leadership SLSNSW <i>Session 1 of 2</i>
4:20pm	Public Rescue Equipment: What Works Where? SLSNSW <i>Session 1 of 2</i>	Supporting a Strong Club Culture Through Systems & Governance The Equality Institute <i>Session 2 of 2</i>
5:00pm	Evening of casual food, drinks and live music	

OPENING SESSIONS

**President's Opening:
Strengthen & Consolidate**

Saturday 9:50AM – 10:10AM

**Facilitated conversation with
Surf Life Saving NSW Board
Representativeas**

**Elissa Hancock – President,
SLSNSW**

As Surf Life Saving NSW enters the next phase of its journey, this opening session will explore the opportunities, challenges and priorities shaping our movement. Through a conversation with President Elissa Hancock, hear reflections on what members and clubs have told us, what it means to strengthen and consolidate our organisation, and where we should focus our collective efforts over the next five years. A thought-provoking start to the conference that will set the scene for the discussions, ideas and learning to follow.

**Opening
Keynote**

Saturday 10:10AM – 11:00AM

Ivan Cleary



SUNDAY 25 JULY

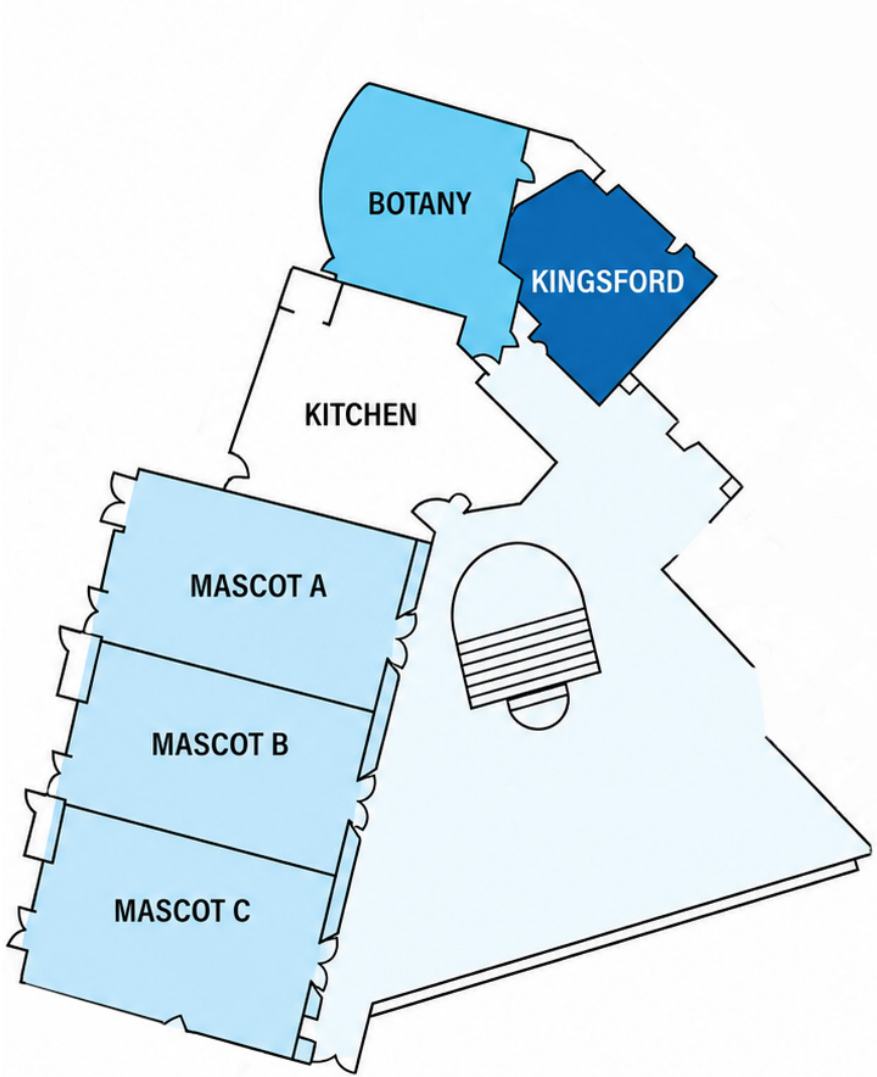
SESSIONS

	Mascot C	Mascot B	Mascot A
8:30am	Clubhouse Projects: Lessons from the Front Line SLSNSW, Club Panellists	Localising Water Safety: Activating the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2030 Royal Life Saving	
9:20am	Safe, Respectful & Inclusive Clubs: What Leaders Need to Know SLSNSW	Turning Experience into Action: Learning from Incidents Across Surf Life Saving SLSNSW	
10:00am	Morning Tea		
10:30am	Conference Photo on the Stairs		
10:45am	Conversation with SLSNSW Board Representatives		
11:15am	Closing Keynote - Liz Ellis AO		
12:15pm	Conference Thanks & Wrap Up		
12:30pm	Lunch & Departure		

SUNDAY 25 JULY

PRE-REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

	Botany	Kingsford
8:30am	Public Rescue Equipment: What Works Where? SLSNSW <i>Session 2 of 2</i>	Building a Strong Club Culture Through Leadership SLSNSW <i>Session 2 of 2</i>
9:20am	Engaging Young People: Where to Start SLSNSW, Umina SLSC, Fairy Meadow SLSC <i>Session 2 of 2</i>	The Communication Challenge: Getting the Right Message to the Right People SLSNSW <i>Session 2 of 2</i>
10:00am	Morning Tea	



PROGRAM SESSIONS

SATURDAY

Mascot C - Left	Mascot B - Middle	Mascot A - Right
Understanding Risk, Insurance & Your Club’s Responsibilities	Cyber Risk & Coverage: Protecting Your Club in a Digital World	Mental Fitness Kickstarter: Gotcha4Life
Saturday 11:30AM – 12:00PM	Saturday 11:30AM – 12:00PM	Saturday 11:30AM – 12:00PM
Ian Fullagar – SLS Legal Counsel Brent Jaenke – Marsh Insurance Phil Ayres – SLSNSW COO	Josh Ward – Principal Broker, Marsh Insurance	Paddy Casey – Gotcha4Life
Strong clubs understand their risks and responsibilities. Join this expert panel for a practical discussion on club governance, risk management and insurance coverage. Learn about key areas of exposure for clubs, what your insurance does and doesn’t cover, and the steps you can take to better protect your members, volunteers and organisation. Leave with greater clarity and confidence to support informed decision-making and effective club leadership. Essential for Club and Branch Presidents.	As clubs become increasingly reliant on digital systems, understanding cyber risk is now an essential part of good governance. Join Josh Ward from Marsh Insurance for a practical session exploring the cyber threats facing community organisations, what cyber insurance can and can’t cover, and the simple steps clubs can take to reduce risk. Gain the knowledge and confidence to better protect your members, data and operations in an increasingly connected world.	Strong organisations start with strong people. Join the team from Gotcha4Life for an engaging and interactive session that explores mental fitness as a proactive approach to wellbeing. Through powerful storytelling, lived experience and evidence-based insights, you'll learn practical ways to strengthen personal resilience, support meaningful conversations, and build habits that help individuals and teams thrive – creating stronger, more connected surf lifesaving communities.

Building Emergency Management Capability at Club Level	Shaping the Future: Strengthening the Way We Work Together	Connection First: Lessons in Building a Stronger Club Community
Saturday 12:05PM – 12:35PM	Saturday 12:05PM – 12:35PM	Saturday 12:05PM – 12:35PM
Anthony Jones – SLSNSW	Elissa Hancock – SLSNSW President Steven Pearce AFSM – SLSNSW CEO Nous Group Representatives	Lachlan Pike – President, Dee Why SLSC
Strong emergency management capability starts at the local level. This session explores how Surf Life Saving NSW is supporting clubs to build and strengthen Emergency Call Out Team (ECOT) capability through local engagement, training and development opportunities. Learn about the role ECOT members play in supporting emergency operations, the pathways available for members to get involved, and how clubs can develop a sustainable capability that contributes to community resilience and operational readiness.	How can we better support clubs while reducing duplication, improving consistency and making volunteer leadership more sustainable? This session will introduce SLSNSW's review of how functions, roles and responsibilities are delivered across clubs, branches and the State Centre. Meet the Nous project team, learn about the engagement process, and discover how you can contribute your experiences and ideas. The session will conclude with the launch of the first stage of consultation, inviting members to share their perspectives and help shape the future operating model for Surf Life Saving NSW.	What does it take for a club to turn things around? Following a period of uncertainty and declining club health, Dee Why SLSC entered Surf Life Saving NSW's Club Capability Program. Through a deliberate focus on listening, connection and member experience, the club implemented practical changes that strengthened culture, improved engagement and rebuilt momentum. Hear this success story firsthand and learn how a people-first approach helped the club achieve record membership, increase patrol participation and successfully exit the Club Capability Program.

PROGRAM SESSIONS

SATURDAY

Mascot C - Left	Mascot B - Middle	Mascot A - Right
Marine Wildlife & Public Safety: Understanding Surf Life Saving’s Role	The Grant Seeking Unit: Helping Clubs Secure More Funding	Emergency Management & Rescue Services: Pathways to Specialist Capability
Saturday 1:30PM – 2:15PM	Saturday 1:30PM – 2:15PM	Saturday 1:30PM – 2:15PM
Andy Marshall – Marine Wildlife Team, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service	Susan Ahmelman – SLSA Grant Seeking Unit Manager	Oliver Munson – SLSNSW Nathan De Rooy – SLSNSW
From whale entanglements and dolphin strandings to seal haul-outs and turtle nesting events, marine wildlife interactions are becoming an increasingly visible part of coastal operations. Join this session to explore emerging issues, the roles and responsibilities of different agencies, and how Surf Life Saving members contribute to safe and effective responses. Gain practical insights into managing public safety, supporting partner agencies and navigating the operational challenges these incidents can present.	Strong clubs need sustainable funding to support their members, services and communities. This practical session introduces the SLSA Grant Seeking Unit and the support available to clubs across NSW. Learn how the team identifies funding opportunities, assesses eligibility and prepares high-quality grant applications on behalf of clubs. Discover how partnering with the Unit can strengthen your club's capacity, reduce volunteer workload and maximise funding success.	Surf Life Saving offers members a wide range of opportunities to develop specialist skills and contribute beyond the patrol environment. This session provides an update on Emergency Management and Rescue Services pathways, highlighting training, development and engagement opportunities available across NSW. Whether you're looking to build your own capability, support member development, or strengthen your club's operational readiness, discover how these pathways continue to evolve and how members can get involved.

Marine Wildlife & Public Safety: Understanding Surf Life Saving’s Role	Leadership Through Experience: Reflections from the Front Line	From Data to Decisions: Shaping the Future of Lifesaving Services
Saturday 2:20PM – 3:00PM	Saturday 2:20PM – 3:00PM	Saturday 2:20PM – 3:00PM
Andy Marshall – Marine Wildlife Team, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service	Liz Webb – President, Bondi SBLSC Steve Larnach – President, North Bondi SLSC	Glen Dunkley – SLSNSW Chris Twine – SLSNSW Katherine Millar – SLSNSW Club & Branch Panellists TBC
From whale entanglements and dolphin strandings to seal haul-outs and turtle nesting events, marine wildlife interactions are becoming an increasingly visible part of coastal operations. Join representatives from the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service to explore emerging issues, the roles and responsibilities of different agencies, and how Surf Life Saving members contribute to safe and effective responses. Gain practical insights into managing public safety, supporting partner agencies and navigating the operational challenges these incidents can present.	Leadership is a journey, not a destination. Join the Presidents of Bondi SBLSC and North Bondi SLSC for an honest conversation about leadership, growth and learning. Through a facilitated interview, they will reflect on the experiences that shaped them over the past year, the challenges that tested them, and the insights they gained about themselves as leaders. A powerful reminder that leadership development is a lifelong process of learning, reflection and continuous growth.	Data-driven service planning is not a new conversation for Surf Life Saving NSW, but our capability continues to evolve. Since the 2024 Lifesaving Conference, significant progress has been made in understanding coastal risk through improved data analytics, people movement insights, real-time intelligence and emerging predictive modelling. This session will explore how these developments are informing risk-based service planning, supporting future lifesaving agreements with clubs, and helping ensure our resources are deployed where they can have the greatest impact.

PROGRAM SESSIONS

SATURDAY

Mascot C - Left

Duke of Edinburgh's International Award: Creating New Pathways for Youth Members

Saturday 3:30PM – 4:15PM

Duke of Edinburgh
Lily James – Umina SLSC

Discover how Surf Life Saving NSW is partnering with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award to create new opportunities for youth member engagement and development. This session will launch the 2026/27 pilot program, showcase how existing member pathways align with Award requirements, and outline what's involved for participating clubs. Learn about the support available from SLSNSW and the NSW Office of Sport, and explore how this initiative can strengthen youth retention, participation and leadership development.

Mascot B - Middle

Community Education: Creating Impact Beyond the Beach

Saturday 3:30PM – 4:15PM

Rachel Borthwick – SLSNSW

Community education programs help clubs build stronger community connections while creating valuable development opportunities for members. Discover Surf Life Saving NSW's new and refreshed community education toolkits, resources and support available to deliver programs in schools, early childhood settings and diverse communities. Learn how community education can engage members of all ages – from young presenters developing leadership and communication skills to experienced members sharing their knowledge – and explore practical ways to expand your club's impact beyond the beach.

Mascot A - Right

Inclusion & Diversity Panel: Inclusion in Action

Saturday 3:30PM – 4:15PM

Brienna Elford – South West Rocks SLSC
Melinda Cockshutt – Port Macquarie SLSC
Denny Rowlands – Wanda SLSC

What does inclusion look like in practice? Hear directly from clubs that are turning good intentions into meaningful action. From inclusive Nippers programs and local Indigenous partnerships to creating welcoming environments for LGBTQIA+ members, this interactive panel explores real initiatives, lessons learned and challenges overcome. Focused on practical club experiences rather than theory, this session will provide ideas, inspiration and proven approaches that can help strengthen participation, connection and belonging in your club.

Growing Surf Sports: Building Stronger Participation Pathways

Saturday 4:20PM – 5:00PM

Greg Pierce – SLSNSW

Strong surf sports programs rely on strong participation at every level. This session will explore Surf Life Saving NSW's 2026/27 initiatives to grow and retain athletes, coaches and officials across the state. Learn about new regional workshops, the Surf Sports Academy Program, and pathways to develop more Senior Officials, Performance Coaches and Safety Officers, particularly in regional areas. Discover how these initiatives will strengthen clubs, build capability and support the future of surf sports.

Leadership Through Experience: Reflections from the Front Line

Saturday 4:20PM – 5:00PM

Liz Webb – President, Bondi SBLSC
Steve Larnach – President, North Bondi SLSC

Leadership is a journey, not a destination. Join the Presidents of Bondi SBLSC and North Bondi SLSC for an honest conversation about leadership, growth and learning. Through a facilitated interview, they will reflect on the experiences that shaped them over the past year, the challenges that tested them, and the insights they gained about themselves as leaders. A powerful reminder that leadership development is a lifelong process of learning, reflection and continuous growth.

Expanding UAV Capability: From First Flight to Operational Impact

Saturday 4:20PM – 5:00PM

Emma Gale – SLSNSW
Club Panellists TBC

Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are becoming an increasingly valuable tool for enhancing coastal surveillance and supporting lifesaving operations beyond the flags. Whether your club is exploring UAV capability for the first time or looking to maximise an existing program, this practical panel session will share lessons from clubs at different stages of the journey. Learn how clubs have established, grown and integrated UAV operations, the challenges they've overcome, and the opportunities this capability creates to strengthen local service delivery and community safety.

PROGRAM SESSIONS

SUNDAY

Mascot C - Left

Clubhouse Projects: Lessons from the Front Line

Sunday 8:30AM – 9:15AM

Phil Ayres – SLSNSW COO
Club Panellists TBC

Planning a major clubhouse redevelopment, extension or upgrade? Hear from club leaders who have recently completed – or are currently navigating – significant facilities projects. Through an honest panel discussion, they will share lessons learned, challenges encountered and practical advice on managing complex works projects, from planning and approvals through to delivery and stakeholder engagement. Whether your club is considering future improvements or is already underway, gain insights that can help set your project up for success. Please note, this session focuses on project delivery rather than grant funding opportunities.

Mascot B - Middle

Localising Water Safety: Activating the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2030

Sunday 8:30AM – 9:15AM

Dr Will Koon – National Manager of Drowning Prevention Strategy, Royal Life Saving Australia

Australia has a bold goal to reduce drowning by 50% by 2030. Join Dr Will Koon for a brief update on the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2030 before exploring how clubs can bring the Strategy to life in their own communities. Through discussion and practical examples, this interactive session will help clubs identify local opportunities, share ideas, and strengthen their role in preventing drowning where they can make the greatest impact.

Safe, Respectful & Inclusive Clubs: What Leaders Need to Know

Sunday 9:20AM – 10:00AM

Louise Cooke – SLSNSW

Creating a positive club culture is no longer just good leadership – it's an important governance responsibility. This session explores the growing focus on psychosocial hazards, what recent legislative changes mean for clubs, and the practical steps leaders can take to foster safe, respectful and inclusive environments. Learn how psychological safety strengthens participation, volunteer retention and club culture, and discover how Surf Life Saving NSW's Inclusive Leadership Pilot will support clubs to build stronger, more connected communities.

Turning Experience into Action: Learning from Incidents Across Surf Life Saving

Sunday 9:20AM – 10:00AM

Cheryl McCarthy – SLSNSW
Gary McKinnon – SLSNSW

Every incident provides an opportunity to learn, adapt and strengthen our organisation. Join this session to explore Surf Life Saving NSW's approach to capturing lessons from operational incidents and translating them into meaningful improvements across training, procedures and service delivery. Hear how the Lessons Framework is helping identify opportunities for improvement, share knowledge across the movement and build organisational capability. Discover why a strong learning culture is essential to safer operations, better decision-making and continuous improvement.

PRE-REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

Botany

Getting Started with AI: A Practical Introduction for Club Leaders

Saturday 11:30AM – 12:30PM

Julian Moore – Chief AI Consultant,
Strategic Membership Solutions

New to AI, or not sure where to begin? This hands-on session is the perfect first step. Julian cuts through the hype to show – live, not in theory – what AI actually is and what it can do for you today. You'll learn which tools are worth using and which to avoid (and why), how to protect your privacy and keep club information safe, how to personalise AI so it works the way you need it to, and how to check that what it gives you is actually correct. It's a practical, no-jargon introduction designed for volunteers who want to feel confident using AI. You'll leave having seen it work, set it up on your own device, and used it for the first time.

Kingsford

Mental Health & Wellbeing at Your Club

Saturday 11:30AM – 12:30PM

Dr Sam Fien, SLSA Wellbeing Advisor

How can clubs turn wellbeing principles into meaningful action? This interactive workshop explores practical ways to bring the SLSA Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework to life at a local level. Facilitated by Dr Sam Fien, SLSA's Wellbeing Advisor, the session will explore support available across the movement and provide opportunities for clubs to share experiences, discuss challenges and exchange ideas. Leave with practical approaches to strengthen wellbeing, connection and member support within your club.

Practical AI for Your Club: Real Problems, Live Solutions

Saturday 1:30PM – 2:15PM
Saturday 3:30PM – 4:15PM

Julian Moore – Chief AI Consultant,
Strategic Membership Solutions

Bring your biggest time-drains and watch Julian solve them in the room. This session is driven by you – the delegates identify the problem and Julian will showcase the solution live in front of the audience. Think BBQ rosters, pre-season communications (like explaining nippers costs to parents), and the recurring paperwork that eats into volunteer time. Using real-world club examples and live demonstrations, these sessions turn AI into something that does real work for your club. You'll leave with practical solutions you can take straight back and put to use.

Supporting a Strong Club Culture Through Systems & Governance

Saturday 1:30PM – 2:15PM
Saturday 4:20PM – 5:00PM

The Equality Institute

Strong clubs rely on more than good intentions – they need systems and structures that support fair participation, effective leadership and member confidence. This interactive workshop will share emerging insights from Surf Life Saving NSW's review of leadership pathways, governance practices and approaches to managing below-the-line behaviour. Participants will explore key findings, test recommendations and contribute their perspectives on how governance, leadership pathways and member support systems can evolve to strengthen fairness, trust and participation across the movement.

PRE-REGISTERED WORKSHOPS CONT.

Botany

Engaging Young People: Where to Start

Saturday 2.20PM – 3.00PM
Sunday 9.20AM – 10.00AM

Shannon Fox – SLSNSW Director
Mollie Murphy – Unima SLSC
Jeremy Kuiper – Fairy Meadow SLSC

Don't just come to listen – come ready to rethink how your club engages young people. Young people have told us what keeps them involved in Surf Life Saving – and it isn't just more events. In this interactive workshop, you'll hear what youth members across NSW value most, explore practical ideas that support connection, belonging and progression, and consider why it's important to work alongside young people to shape activities that matter to them. You'll leave with some clear first steps to help your club begin creating a youth engagement plan with – not for – its young members.

Kingsford

The Communication Challenge: Getting the Right Message to the Right People

Saturday 2.20PM – 3.00PM
Sunday 9.20AM – 10.00AM

Donna Wishart – SLSNSW
Patrick Boddan – SLSNSW

Every club faces communication challenges - whether it's reaching the right members, avoiding information overload, keeping volunteers informed or cutting through competing messages. This interactive workshop puts clubs at the centre of the conversation, providing an opportunity to share communication challenges, exchange practical ideas and learn from the experiences of others. Just as importantly, Surf Life Saving NSW wants to hear directly from clubs about what's working, where barriers exist, and how we can improve communication across the movement to reduce duplication and ensure the right information reaches the right people at the right time.

Public Rescue Equipment: What Works Where?

Saturday 4:20PM – 5:00PM
Sunday 8:30AM – 9:15AM

Oliver Munson – SLSNSW
Hamish Jones – SLSNSW

Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) plays an important role in improving water safety beyond the flags, but selecting the right equipment for the right location is critical. This interactive workshop will provide an update on current PRE initiatives before challenging participants to apply their knowledge in a practical scenario. Working in small groups, attendees will assess a coastal location, identify key risks and discuss the most appropriate PRE solutions. Share ideas, learn from others and build confidence in applying PRE principles to real-world environments.

Building a Strong Club Culture Through Leadership

Saturday 3:30PM – 4:15PM
Sunday 8:30AM – 9:15AM

Louise Cooke – SLSNSW

What makes a club a place where people want to stay, contribute and thrive? Drawing on insights from member survey data across Surf Life Saving NSW, this interactive workshop will explore the leadership behaviours, practices and experiences that shape positive club culture and member experience. Participants will reflect on their own club's strengths and challenges, share ideas with peers, and identify practical actions to strengthen culture, connection and engagement. Clubs that pre-register may also receive tailored insights from their own member survey data, where available, and leave with a plan for action.

WRAP UP

Looking Ahead: What We Heard

Sunday 10:45AM – 11:15AM

Facilitated conversation with
Surf Life Saving NSW Board
Representatives

This conference is about more than sharing ideas – it's about listening to the voices of our members. Throughout the event, delegates will be invited to share their reactions, insights, opportunities and concerns arising from the sessions. In this closing conversation, Surf Life Saving NSW Board representatives will reflect on what they've heard, respond to key themes emerging from the membership, and explore what these insights mean for the future of our clubs, our members and our movement.

Closing Keynote

Sunday 11:15AM – 12:15PM

Liz Ellis AO

