

# SurfLIFE

ISSUE 38 – December 2018



SURF LIFE SAVING  
NEW SOUTH WALES

**Your local club is a proud supporter of Surf Life Saving NSW and wishes all volunteer surf lifesavers a safe summer ahead.**



**Find a club near you.**  
[www.yourlocalclub.com.au](http://www.yourlocalclub.com.au)



---

**Your local club**



Rip survivor Samantha Morley reunited with her rescuers Phil Traves and Tony Worton from Camden Haven SLSC.



## Rip Awareness Campaign launched for summer

Before racing into the ocean it pays to stop, look, and plan no matter what your age or ability in the water. This is the key message a new Surf Life Saving safety campaign is taking to Australians everywhere this summer.

The campaign was launched at Sydney's Tamarama Beach on 13 December and focusses on the concept of the "Think Line", urging people to stop, look, and plan before entering the water.

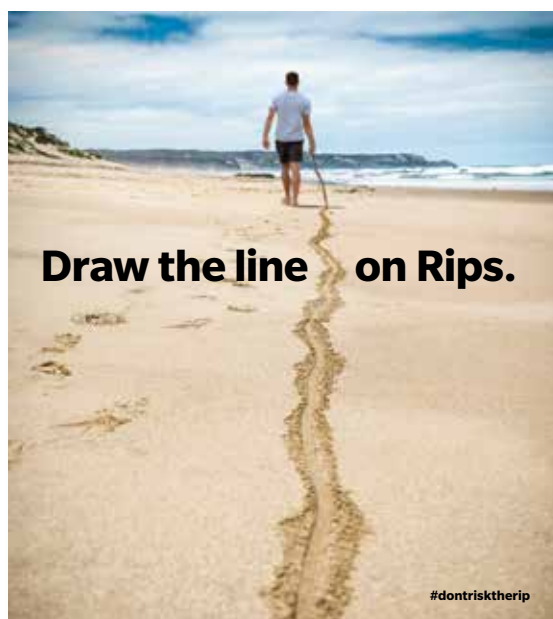
Rip currents are an ever present danger on NSW beaches responsible for a significant number of rescues performed by surf lifesavers, while alarmingly, research shows that while beachgoers express confidence in their ability to recognise a rip, in reality less than half actually can.

It is believed that nearly 4 million Australians have experienced the terror of being caught in a rip current with the majority of those involved in a fatal incident are males aged 25-39.

This new awareness campaign calls on Australians to draw a line on the sand and to pause, look for hazards, and assess the dangers before entering the ocean.

It is a continuation of a multi-year approach by Surf Life Saving to encourage Australians to be beach-aware and to help lower the national drowning death toll.

The campaign rolls out nationally and runs until the end of February and includes TV, radio and social media messaging.



### Stop. Look. Plan.

Thousands of people are caught in rips every year, and too many of them drown. Before you cross the line, STOP to check for rips. LOOK for other dangers. PLAN how to stay safe.

Draw the line at [beachsafe.org.au](http://beachsafe.org.au)



## Lifesavers pause for Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day 2018 had an added poignancy to it as it commemorates the 100th anniversary of the armistice that signalled the end of World War One. Surf lifesavers across NSW paused to reflect on the sacrifice of those who gave their life for their country.

Ocean Beach SLSC on the state's Central Coast is one of many who participated by hosting a small ceremony.

The club was joined by the Federal Member for Robertson Lucy Wicks MP to unveil a plaque commemorating the armistice as an extension to the memorial wall opened in 2015 that honours members from Ocean Beach and Umina surf clubs who have served in war.

"Although our club didn't begin until after the war we have a direct connection to the Gallipoli landing with our second president, James Morris, actually landing at Anzac Cove. It's an opportunity to reflect and pass on stories through the generations," said former club President Scott Hannel.

Driven by a desire to do their part and a lust for adventure, it is believed that over 1,200 lifesavers from NSW alone signed up during the course of the conflict between 1914-1918.

They served with distinction on battle fields around Europe including France, Belgium and Turkey.

It's difficult to ascertain the true figures and it remains a passion of a group of surf historians to try and identify every lifesaver who laid down their lives, but it is estimated that at least 203 surf lifesavers didn't return from the war.

The young lifesavers hailed from 35 surf clubs stretching from Yamba in the north through to Moruya on the South Coast.

Many clubs suffered losses.

Manly Life Saving Club lost 22 members while other Sydney clubs including Maroubra (16) and Coogee (15) also experienced heavy losses.

Outside of the metropolitan area at least 19 Newcastle members did not come home.

Arguably as a percentage of enlisted men versus casualties, no club suffered more than Corrimall SLSC. Seven would travel to the front and of these four would be killed in action.

The idea of mateship and serving your community, reinforced by the horrific experiences of war, is an ordeal that would never leave those who lived through it. Their legacy is seen every weekend when the red and yellow flags fly.



## Lifesavers spring into new season

The Raising of the Flags ceremony is eagerly awaited by thousands of surf lifesavers across the state each spring as it heralds the start of the new patrol season.

In 2018 North Steyne SLSC hosted the event where NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Emergency Services Minister Troy Grant, and Manly MP James Griffin joined a host of lifesavers to plant the red and yellow flags in the sand for the first time this season.



## Preparations on track for Country Surf Life Saving Championships

In a little over six weeks the 2019 Envirobank NSW Country Surf Life Saving Championships will kick off at Kingscliff Beach, home of defending champions Cudgen Headland SLSC.

After spending the last three years at South West Rocks, the state's largest surf sport event for athletes outside of metropolitan areas returns to Kingscliff Beach for the first time since 2003.

Cudgen Headland SLSC was awarded hosting rights after an impressive bid and will stage the event for the third time in its history.

No stranger to hosting major surf sport events, the club has successfully hosted both the NSW Championships and the Australian Inflatable Rescue Boat Titles in recent years.

Club President, Adam Mills, said that the club in partnership with the Tweed Shire Council and the Kingscliff wider community are looking forward to welcoming visitors to the beach in February.

"Hosting the Country Surf Life Saving Championships further increases the profile of the sport amongst our surf lifesavers and the broader community as well as providing a boost to the local economy.

"The club's major events planning team provide a strong collective capability that will be used to ensure the highest level of success for the delivery of the Championships," Mr Mills said.

A delegation from Surf Life Saving NSW travelled to Kingscliff for a pre-event inspection several months ago and they share the club's enthusiasm for a successful competition.

"I believe Cudgen Headland is going to be absolutely outstanding hosts," said Sports Manager Rob Pidgeon.

"The club has been working very hard with planning well advanced for the competition, and as we have seen many times in recent years, Cudgen Headland always stages highly successful events."

The count-down clock is well and truly on.

Competition in the 2019 Envirobank NSW Country Surf Life Saving Championships gets underway at Kingscliff Beach on the weekend of February 2-3, and is open to competitors aged from 8 through to over 70.

## Pool medal glory for NSW young guns

Travelling to take on the world's best Pool Rescue athletes in their own backyard is no easy task, let alone it being your first taste of international competition, but the young NSW squad who made the trek to New Zealand in October certainly made their mark.

The 2018 Surf Life Saving NSW U18 Pool Rescue Development team comprised of representatives from Cudgen Headland, Caves Beach, Umina Beach, Newport and Bulli. The team flew across the Tasman to compete at the New Zealand Pool Rescue Championships which were held in Auckland.

NSW performed strongly returning with 12 medals (4 gold, 5 silver, and 3 bronze) in their possession.

Rookie Head Coach Susan McCaughtrie said it was a fantastic effort from what was a very inexperienced NSW squad.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for our team to compete against what was a very tough field of New Zealand's best pool rescue athletes.

"There were a number of highlights across the competition in both individual and team events and I believe they got a lot out of the experience," she said.

### 2018 NSW U18 Pool Rescue Development Team

Joseph Warne **Cudgen Headland SLSC**  
Liam Worling **Cudgen Headland SLSC**  
Emily Curran **Caves Beach SLSC**  
Lexi Harrison **Newport SLSC**  
Jordan Lefevre **Newport SLSC**  
Kaylah Holmes **Umina Beach SLSC**  
Kirsten Miller **Umina Beach SLSC**  
Lachlan Braddish **Umina Beach SLSC**  
Blake Hessel **Umina Beach SLSC**  
Zara Sharman **Bulli SLSC**

### Team Management

Susan McCaughtrie **Head Coach**  
Max Gonzalez **Team Manager**  
Callum Lowe-Griffiths **Assistant Coach**

## Quick thinking family saves surfers at Freshwater

They may have interrupted the Campbell family dinner at Sydney's Northern Beaches in dramatic fashion, but fortunately for two young tourists their story has a happy ending.

One afternoon in October, a group of Argentinean men in their 20s were making the most of their time surfing at South Curl Curl Beach, but in an error that could have had disastrous consequences, they misread the conditions and got caught in a powerful rip current.

After battling the conditions for some time the group drifted past the Campbell family home shortly before 8pm.

Luck was on their side however and their shouts for help were heard.

South Curl Curl teenage twins Angus and David joined their father Mark and their mother on the headland and quickly assessed the situation.

"It was pitch black so we took out a flashlight and tried signalling to the surfers that they shouldn't try to get out of the water near the rocks," said Mark Campbell.

"Despite the language barrier they got the message and Wayne Setttee (a fellow club member) was able to ring Triple zero."

One of the group was able to make his way out of the water and to safety however his two friends were drifting towards Freshwater Beach.

Emergency services raced to the scene with Police, paramedics, and Sydney Northern Beaches duty officers all in attendance.

A NSW Ambulance helicopter was also tasked to provide aerial support.

In the meantime under the direction of his father, 14-year-old David grabbed a foam surf board and paddled out to the surfers. Using all his skills as a waterman he was able to get them to the safety of the shore.

Back on Freshwater Beach the surfers were assessed by paramedics and despite suffering from fatigue they emerged unscathed from their ordeal.

"I have every confidence in my son's ability in the water as they are very strong paddlers," said proud father Mark Campbell.

**The skills that they have developed in the water are thanks to Surf Life Saving.**

## Aussie icons join forces on Beach Safety

Qantas is taking passenger safety to new heights by including beach safety messages in its in-flight public announcements to many coastal capitals and regional centres this summer.

The airline has partnered with Surf Life Saving in an attempt to keep tourists and international visitors safe on our beaches.

Cabin crew will be supporting the fight against drowning by advising passengers to always swim between the red and yellow flags at the beach where they will be watched over by surf lifesavers and lifeguards.

Each year international tourists in particular are rescued or tragically drown on Australian beaches and many coastal drowning victims are often unfamiliar with the specific hazards of the surf environment.

With the messages continuing until the end of April, Surf Life Saving believes the initiative is a welcome first step toward greater support from the tourism industry and congratulates Qantas on making the safety of its passengers a priority, both on and off the aircraft.

The following destinations will be part of initial beach safety message rollout; Sydney, Lord Howe Island, Newcastle, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Brisbane, Cairns, Gold Coast, Bundaberg, Fraser Coast (Hervey Bay), Mackay, Sunshine Coast, Perth, Broome, Geraldton, Adelaide, Whyalla, Melbourne, Launceston, Hobart, and Devonport.





## Team Australia wins world crown

The Australian Surf Life Saving team put a decade's worth of frustration behind them at Glenelg Beach earlier this month to be crowned world champions for the first time since 2010.

Manly's Kendrick Louis was the lone NSW representative in the Open team and the recently crowned Australian Surf Sport Athlete of the Year was in fine form taking out the Oceanman Title.

But it was another former NSW competitor the ex-Newport, now Northcliffe athlete, Georgia Miller who would have a day she wouldn't forget winning seven gold medals and playing a key role in the pool rescue events.

The Australian Youth Team put in a heroic effort but unfortunately fell short in overall honours to New Zealand with a healthy contingent of NSW athletes in the squad.

Congratulations to Naomi Scott (Manly LSC) who was named co-captain of the team where she was joined in the green and gold by Keeley Booth (Avoca Beach SLSC), the Redhead duo of Jack Curran and Bailey Proud, Michael Hannah (Elouera SLSC), Leah Rampoldi (North Cronulla SLSC), and Anthea Warne (Cudgen Headland SLSC).

## Training for success

Far away from the distraction of the October school holidays, the state's most talented teenage ocean competitors were putting in the hard yards at the 2018 Junior Development Academy.

Over three days the 44 youngsters gained an early insight into the life of an elite surf sport athlete.

The selected participants from across NSW travelled to the Sydney Academy of Sport on the Northern Beaches for a unique development program aimed at youngsters who have demonstrated an aptitude for any of the water disciplines contested in surf sports.

Throughout the program the athletes participated in training sessions under the eagle eye of some of the best surf sports coaches, attended discussions on nutrition, had their skills and techniques analysed and were introduced to high performance and recovery techniques.

Surf Sports Development Officer Chiara Nowland was impressed by the talent on display from the youngsters.

"While it was disappointing not to be able to finish on a high with a carnival due to the weather conditions, it was fantastic to see the improvement in just a few short days.

"The sport scientists and coaches were absolutely fantastic and for the athletes to get that knowledge at such a young age will be extremely beneficial to them. I look forward to seeing how they progress both this summer and beyond," Ms Nowland said.



## Beach to Bush turns 25

Over 6,000 youngsters got a taste of the beach when the 25th annual Beach to Bush program rolled into towns including Tamworth, Lismore, West Wyalong, Young, Moree, Gunnedah, Narrabri and Canberra late last month.

This year marked a quarter of a century of the Surf Life Saving NSW Beach to Bush program – a surf safety program delivered to rural schools across the state by volunteer surf lifesavers.

Each presentation was carefully designed to ensure age appropriate lessons are delivered with a wide range of topics covered such as the role of the lifesaver, how to spot a rip current, what to do if you get into trouble at the beach and the different types of marine life that can be found along the coast.

In 2018 a team of 16 volunteer presenters from coastal clubs across the state took part.

Over the course of the week they delivered 66 presentations, covered approximately 8,000 kilometres on the road and visited 36 schools.

“It’s such a wonderful program that has continued to evolve over 25 years. I’ll keep coming back for as long as they want me,” enthused Adrienne Lowe who is one of the longest-serving presenters of the program after completing her 15th Beach to Bush.

“It was really fun having small groups because you can get everyone involved and the kids are full of interesting questions about the beach. Everywhere I went they recognised the red and yellow flags which is wonderful to see,” she said.

All of the presenters were delighted that the children were so receptive and willing to share their knowledge about the beach.

“It’s a fantastic program. I wanted to become involved after hearing so many positive stories from my friends in Surf Life Saving who had previously participated,” said Merewether lifesaver and rookie presenter Sarah Bugbird.

“The kids were really engaged with what we had to say and I think it’s because of how interactive the presentations are,” added Steve Corcoran (Broulee Surfers SLSC) who assisted during the largest presentation of the trip at Amaroo School in Canberra where 1,000 students participated in a single day.

The Beach to Bush Program, proudly supported by Your local club and the Cancer Institute NSW, is the largest and most innovative surf safety education program in Australia, having reached more than 250,000 primary school students since it began in 1994.



To view this years video visit:  
<http://bit.ly/2018BeachToBushVideo>



## New Life Members honoured

Four long-serving volunteer lifesavers were elevated to the distinguished position of Life Member at the recent Surf Life Saving NSW Annual General Meeting.

Pambula's Donald Hay and Maroubra's George Shales were presented this honour alongside Peter Rowlands (Freshwater SLSC) and Jayne Morrison (Nambucca Heads SLSC).

Boasting over two hundred years of combined experience, the quartet has been recognised for their outstanding contribution to the movement as lifesavers, competitors, coaches and administrators.

"It's always a special occasion to be able to announce new Life Members, and I would like to acknowledge Don, George, Jayne, and Peter for their fantastic achievements during their time in Surf Life Saving," said SLSNSW CEO Steven Pearce.

"On behalf of everyone in the movement we congratulate these outstanding surf lifesavers and welcome them as a deserved part of this exclusive club," he said.



Pictured: Two of four NSW Life Members announced earlier last month George Shales (Maroubra SLSC), Donald Hay (Pambula SLSC)

## 2018 SLSNSW Life Member inductees:

### George Shales, Maroubra SLSC

George Shales has been a committed surf lifesaver since signing on for the first time as a member at North Bondi SLSC in the 1981 season.

In 1995 he joined his current club Maroubra SLSC, and has been heavily involved at Branch level for over 30 years.

He has served as the Director of Lifesaving, Director of Administration and gear inspector, was a Life Member in 2012 and is the current Sydney Branch President.

### Jayne Morrison, Nambucca Heads SLSC

Jayne Morrison has been a patrolling member since 1980 and has made an incredible contribution to Nambucca Heads SLSC and to the North Coast Branch during that time.

She is the Chief Training Officer/Registrar, Vice President and member officer.

In addition she manages her duties as Director of Lifesaving for the North Coast Branch, a position she has held since 1997.

Jayne was a member of the original SLSNSW Lifesaving and Education Board and was made Life Member of her club in 2002 and North Coast Branch in 2013.

### Donald Hay, Pambula SLSC

Pambula's Donald Hay has been a significant contributor to Surf Life Saving for almost four decades. After obtaining his Bronze Medallion in 1980 he served in many roles for his beloved club before taking on the reigns of President in 1994.

He achieved Life Member Status at Pambula SLSC in 1997 and for the Far South Coast Branch in 2008.

### Peter Rowlands, Freshwater SLSC

Peter's journey began as a member of North Bondi SLSC in 1949 where he would remain for the next 30 seasons.

In 1979 he signed on at Freshwater SLSC.

One of his great passions has been March Past competition and for over two decades he has been involved as a coach, mentor and competitor during an era where his club has achieved much success.

Between 1990 and 2008 he was the organiser of the annual Freshwater Australia Day carnival and is an integral member of the NSW March Past Panel.

Since 2010 he has served as a member of the SLSNSW History Panel.

Peter gained Life Membership of Freshwater SLSC in 1998 and for Sydney Northern Beaches Branch in 2011.



## Lifesaving comms for remote surf clubs

Volunteer surf lifesavers charged with protecting the coastline in Sydney's Royal National Park have been given new satellite communication equipment to help save lives this summer.

As part of their patrols each season, volunteers from Garie, Burning Palms, and Era Surf Life Saving Clubs often respond to emergency incidents across the Royal National Park which incorporates the famous Figure 8 Rock Pools.

Some of the incidents that surf lifesavers respond to at the tourist hotspot include rescues, falls, medical episodes, and earlier this year a bushfire emergency that required the use of the clubs as evacuation points.

An ongoing challenge is the geographical isolation of the area. Radio and mobile coverage is extremely limited.

Reliable communication is essential for first responders in emergency situations and huge strides have been made towards achieving that goal with the handover of new satellite phones and digital radios.

Heathcote MP Mr Lee Evans has long been a supporter of the work that surf lifesavers do in his electorate and with support from Ray Williams, the Minister for Multiculturalism and Disability Services, funding was secured to purchase the new equipment.

## Fingal Emergency Response Beacon launched

Surf Lifesavers joined government and local representatives at Fingal's Dreamtime Beach in November to launch the state's first permanent Emergency Response Beacon (ERB).

Over the last 12 months Surf Life Saving has been working with the NSW Government, Tweed Shire Council, and the Aboriginal Land Council in an effort to come up with a solution to a number of drownings and fatalities at the remote location.

The installation of the ERB, made possible with grant funding from the NSW Government, will help to save lives by alerting rescuers to an emergency situation on the beach.

Boasting direct communication with the Surf Life Saving State Operations Centre in Sydney, solar panels for power and camera capability which allows operators to view an incident, the aim of this lifesaving device is to streamline and shorten response times to coastal emergencies.

Member for Tweed Geoff Provest MP believes the installation of the device marks an important milestone for the local community.

"The ERB not only complements the Angel Rings that are already in place here at Dreamtime Beach, but reinforces the importance of technology in providing surveillance along the NSW coastline," said Mr Provest.



## Tamarama lifesaver at United Nations Strategy Launch

It's a long way from Tamarama Beach to New York City – almost 16,000 kms in fact but one surf lifesaver recently had a leadership experience to remember in the city that never sleeps.

After a whirlwind trip across the Pacific, William Chan is back on home soil having been selected as a youth representative at the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly where a historic declaration was made.

The UN Youth 2030 Strategy and UNICEF global education and training partnership "Generation Unlimited" was unveiled by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres with much ceremony.

It's an important document which reinforces the organisation's commitment of working with young people to ensure they have access to and are engaged with education, training, or employment by 2030.

For a man who has long been a youth advocate and a passionate believer in creating equal opportunities for everyone regardless of their background, it was music to William Chan's ears.

"The opportunity to voice my experiences in community service to global leaders at the UN was surreal and an incredible honour. I'm very keen to share the youth development and leadership skills learnt back at my surf club," said William Chan.

As someone who is a first generation Australian from Hong Kong, William wholeheartedly embraced the Surf Life Saving lifestyle and is playing an important role in helping others make their mark in the movement.

"I'm passionate about the community outreach that Surf Life Saving promotes to youth, particularly in response to the crucial need for social inclusion, diversity and education," said William.

"It's important to create a welcoming community for young people from abroad who have decided to call Australia home."

As a previous recipient of the Tamarama SLSC Chief Instructor's Award he helps newly arrived migrants, refugees, and international students understand surf safety and actively encourage them to develop their skills.

William has also played a supporting role on the panel that administers the Kirsty Boden Scholarships. These scholarships honour the memory of the late lifesaver and nurse who tragically passed away in London in a terrorist attack last year by providing financial assistance for migrants to complete their Bronze Medallion course and become patrolling surf lifesavers.

**I'm passionate about the community outreach that Surf Life Saving promotes to youth, particularly in response to the crucial need for social inclusion, diversity and education**

# NSW lifesavers score big at National Awards

There was something of a blue tinge at Surf Life Saving's night of nights as NSW members and clubs took home eight major gongs at the 2018 National Awards of Excellence.

After another outstanding season on the surf sport circuit, Umina's Jemma Smith was named Young Athlete of the Year, while Kendrick Louis (Manly) still on a high after claiming his club's first ever Australian Open Ironman title in April, was awarded overall Athlete of the Year.

The good news kept coming in the sporting field with Cudgen Headland's Jenny Kenny recognised as the country's top Surf Sports Official, while Port Macquarie Australian Lifeguard Supervisor James Turnham was honoured for his professionalism with the DHL Lifeguard of the Year Award.

An initiative to give Canberra youngsters a chance to participate in Nippers was awarded Community Education Program of the Year, and Terrigal's quest to find and honour their original female lifesavers with their richly deserved Bronze Medallions is the National Innovation of the Year.

In fact one of the loudest cheers of the night was reserved for 93-year-old Muriel James (nee Ogdin), who was part of the group of women who patrolled the beach so diligently during World War Two.

The nonagenarian stole the show with some quick one-liners earning herself a standing ovation from the assembled crowd who acknowledged her part in lifesaving history.

Cheers could be heard across the Northern Beaches as Avalon Beach SLSC was judged Australia's top club, while the evening's final award went to Matt Slattery (North Avoca) who was crowned the 2018 DHL Surf Lifesaver of the Year.

SLSNSW President David Murray congratulated the winners. "I think what this highlights is the strength of our state's lifesavers, all 75,000 of them, not just those who have received national awards," he said.

Also honoured on the night was former long-serving NSW Lifesaving Director John Restuccia (Maroubra SLSC) who was elevated to SLSA Life Membership after years of continuous service.

A number of brave lifesavers from Tathra, Broulee Surfers, Moruya, Batemans Bay, and Whale Beach were presented with Meritorious Awards for their efforts in performing lifesaving rescues throughout the year.

## NSW Recipients

### DHL Surf Lifesaver of the Year

Matt Slattery (North Avoca SLSC)

### DHL Club of the Year

Avalon Beach SLSC

### DHL Lifeguard of the Year

James Turnham (Port Macquarie ALS)

### Innovation of the Year

Terrigal SLSC "Honouring First Female Lifesavers"

### Community Education Program of the Year

Broulee Surfers/Canberra Nippers

### Official of the Year

Jenny Kenny (Cudgen Headland SLSC)

### Young Athlete of the Year

Jemma Smith (Umina Beach SLSC)

### Athlete of the Year

Kendrick Louis (Manly LSC)

Pictured: Matt Slattery (North Avoca SLSC), Jenny Kenny (Cudgen Headland SLSC), Broulee Surfers SLSC.





## Lord Howe Nippers set for stellar summer

An island oasis in the Tasman Sea isn't a location that immediately springs to mind when it comes to a Nippers program, but just as it is in mainland Australia for the people of Lord Howe Island beach safety is an important community concern.

Situated 600 kilometres east of Port Macquarie and approximately two hours flight time from Sydney this patch of paradise famous for its natural beauty, wildlife and geography is an unusual setting for a Surf Life Saving Junior Activities Program.

In October Steve Allan, an experienced trainer from Surf Life Saving NSW, travelled to the Island for a week of training and educational opportunities for parents and youngsters alike.

Over the course of the week 25 kids aged 5-13 participated in water sessions in a fun and healthy way.

More importantly however were the sessions for the parents and volunteers which were aimed to teach them how to be age managers, how to structure lessons, and all the little things that people who grow up around Nippers and the beach take for granted.

The parents and volunteers also complete training in water safety, being the SLSA Surf Rescue Certificate, plus gained additional risk assessment skills and knowledge.

It was a fantastic week and it was awesome to see the skills of the kids and adults improve so rapidly throughout the week as their confidence around the water grew.

"Our main goal was to impart knowledge and while it was challenging to set a program because of the different ages of the kids they responded so positively to whatever we asked of them, and I think they all felt part of the Nippers family.

"Water safety is a fundamental part of the Australian culture and whether you're a Nipper taking part in a session at Coogee or swimming in a lagoon at Lord Howe Island, everyone needs to have access to the education lessons that could help keep them safe around the water," Mr Allan said.

## Cave rescue earns National gong for Central Coast surf lifesavers

A successful rescue of two teenagers along a notorious stretch of coastline has earned the Central Coast Support Operations Team national recognition as the Australian Rescue of the Month for September 2018.

The incident occurred on Saturday 15 September when Central Coast Duty Officers David Sneddon, Glen Clarke, and Josh Cole received a call at around midday alerting them to the fact that two teenagers were stranded in a cave at Snapper Point.

The incident prompted a multi-agency response with Police, and Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter joining volunteer surf lifesavers at the scene.

A rising tide meant that escape was impossible for the swimmers and it was decided that a jetski and Inflatable Rescue Boat were the best assets to attempt a rescue.

The craft were quickly launched at The Lakes SLSC and made their way to the location.

The Central Coast Support jetski driven by Sean Leicester (The Lakes) was able to drop Brianna Coyte (Toowoyn Bay SLSC) at the entrance to swim into the cave and assist the female patient to swim out to the jetski safely.

She then returned to the cave to rescue the young male.

Both patients were transferred to the IRB crewed by The Lakes members Anthony Smith and Gavin Brown and taken to Fraser Park Beach.

Fortunately they were unharmed by their ordeal.

Speaking after the rescue Brianna Coyte described the conditions as challenging and that the young female teen was pretty shaken up when she reached her.

"She was pretty scared of going back into the water, so I made a joke about being her Uber driver for the day and managed to get her to put on a lifejacket. She was eventually OK to swim out and in the end she was fine," said Ms Coyte.





## Northern Beaches defends Interbranch title

The representative surf sport season kicked-off in style earlier this month with more than 300 athletes in action at the annual Interbranch Championship which was hosted by Black Head SLSC on the state's Lower North Coast.

After a titanic tussle over two days, Sydney Northern Beaches were crowned champions for the second straight season doing enough to hold off fierce rivals Sydney by a mere 13 points.

Hunter Branch rounded out the podium while the Far North Coast was again crowned the Champion Country Branch after finishing fifth overall.

"It's been great though, everyone has supported each other. We all pulled together today as we knew it was super close and we knew we had to do the job. Everyone on the team has been amazing, worked together, supported each other and it's been a real team effort," a delighted Northern Beaches co-captain Maddie Spencer said after the event.

### Final Standings

Sydney Northern Beaches (1,198)  
Sydney (1,185)  
Hunter (1,055)  
Central Coast (1,000)  
Far North Coast (834)  
Illawarra (772)  
South Coast (675)  
Mid North Coast (545)  
North Coast (467)  
Far South Coast (311)  
Lower North Coast (267)



## Tathra Lifeguards sign on for February patrol

After enduring a challenging few months following the fires that ravaged their coastal town, residents and the business community of Tathra are looking forward to a big summer and are keen on getting the message out that Tathra is open for business.

The Australian Lifeguard Service has reinforced its long-term commitment to the community and will again be extending patrols through to the end of February to keep holiday-makers and beachgoers safe.

In a gesture that underscores the ALS's commitment to the region, it was also announced that they will absorb the cost of funding the additional patrols this summer.

"We're looking forward to returning to Tathra beach and delivering a high quality of service that the people of the Sapphire coast deserve," said ALS NSW Manager Brent Manieri.

"Our lifeguards live and work in the local area with many having been long term employees of the ALS and we are keen to support the community during what looks to be a busy season," he said.

The decision to extend patrols through to the end of the 2019 summer means Tathra will now be the only beach from Mollymook through to the Victorian border that will be patrolled seven-days-a-week throughout February, with local surf lifesaving volunteers fulfilling their patrol obligations on weekends and public holidays.

## Laing looks back on 60 patrolling summers

One sunny day back in 1958 at The Entrance beach on the scenic Central Coast a rookie 16-year-old volunteered for his first ever patrol. Six decades later and Col Laing is still on duty watching the surf and those within it with an experienced eye.

When the new patrol season dawned in late September Laing clocked on for his 60th straight season in the red and yellow as an active patroller, an achievement believed to be a first in the distinguished history of the Surf Life Saving movement.

“Like nearly everyone else my age living on the Central Coast I grew up playing rugby league in the winter and going to the beach in summer, and after I turned 16 and left school I went and joined The Entrance Surf Life Saving Club where I qualified for my Bronze Medallion in 1958.

“I started patrolling and competing in boats which was the start of what would turn out to be a heavy involvement with Surf Life Saving,” Col Laing said.

Over the years Col would maintain a healthy interest in surf sports, throw his hat into administration, and would be involved as a board examiner.

He credits wife Lorraine for enabling him to stay so motivated.

“I couldn’t do this without her total support. She has always been heavily involved with the club even in the years before women could officially join and is as passionate about the surf as I am.

“In fact I think that’s arguably the most positive change I have seen, with women becoming full members and competing in sport. Women have and always had a big role to play in lifesaving even if it took so long to be formalised, and without their participation I think a lot of the smaller clubs including us here at North Entrance would cease to exist,” he said.

Col was one of several local surf lifesavers advocating for the establishment of a club at the northern end of the beach, served as its foundation president, and was there on patrol for its first ever shift on 1 February 1977.

As North Entrance’s original president Col found himself in a rare position of being able to shape the direction of the club.

He gained Life Membership at The Entrance SLSC in 1975, North Entrance SLSC in 1988, and for the Central Coast Branch in 2009.



In 2016 he was elevated to Life Member of SLNSW and is a recipient of the centenary medal for his work in the Wyong Shire.

He has seen many changes over the years.

“The movement has come so far especially in things like the way we perform resuscitation techniques. In my time I’ve gone from using the reel to seeing the introduction of the IRB, and now we even have drones flying in the air!

“There are certainly challenges that the movement will face in regards to keeping members. Teenagers and young adults have so many choices in sport now and other commitments on their time.

“Lifesaving teaches you skills for life and you never know when they will be needed. The opportunities and

friendships you make in this movement are incredibly important.”

The passion and conviction in Col’s voice is evident when he speaks about his love of Surf Life Saving and

you wonder if that 16-year-old teenager who turned up for his first patrol had any inkling of the journey that lay ahead.

“Definitely not,” he laughs, “as a kid I couldn’t imagine standing on the same beach doing my patrols 60 years later. I’ve made some wonderful friends and had some great experiences.”

It was a lucky break for Surf Life Saving when Col Laing signed on all those years ago and it’s fair to say that the legacy of this well-respected member will continue to grow.

**Lifesaving teaches you skills for life and you never know when they will be needed. The opportunities and friendships you make in this movement are incredibly important.**



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

Your local club  
ClubsNSW



## 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.

For contributions or suggestions for *SurfLIFE* please contact SLSNSW Media on 02 9471 8000 or [media@surflifesaving.com.au](mailto:media@surflifesaving.com.au)

Surf Life Saving NSW

@SLSNSW

@SLSNSW

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.

Surf Life Saving New South Wales

T +61 2 9471 8000 F +61 2 9471 8001 E [experts@surflifesaving.com.au](mailto:experts@surflifesaving.com.au)  
3 Narabang Way Belrose NSW 2085 | PO Box 307 Belrose NSW 2085 Australia  
Fundraising Authority No. CFN11033 ABN: 93 827 748 379