

# 32 Surf Clubs

## To Share In \$5 Million Government Grant

Bronte SLSC is a big winner out of the latest round of funding through the NSW Government's Surf Club Facilities Grant, one of 32 clubs to benefit from a pool of \$5 million this year.

Minister for Sport, Steve Kamper and Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib confirmed the successful applications on 13 May, the latter doing so in person at the soon-to-beredeveloped Bronte surf club.

Clubs were able to apply for up to \$1,000,000 through the program this year, with three categories – Facility Improvement Projects, Small-Medium Construction Projects and Large Construction Projects – offering tiered funding support.

As part of its \$3.39 million ground floor redevelopment, forming part of a new multi-storey community facility, Bronte SLSC will receive \$1,000,000 towards the cost of the build.

Other funding awarded under the program includes \$632,000 for upgrades to North Narrabeen SLSC, \$398,000 for an education and training room at Ocean Beach SLSC, and \$151,000 to replace the roof at Narooma SLSC.

Bondi SBLSC also received the highest available amount, being

\$1,000,000, to go towards the construction of a basement for rescue equipment storage – Phase 1 of a project that will eventually result in a new building.

The Surf Club Facility Program helps Surf Life Saving Clubs develop facilities that encourage increased participation and facility usage as well as improve community safety.

"The volunteer patrol season has only just finished, with our more than 20,000 active surf lifesavers performing over 4,600 rescues, 1 million preventative actions and almost 20,000 first aid treatments. It has been one of our busiest patrol seasons in years," SLSNSW President, Peter Agnew AM said.

"The Surf Club Facility Program has always contributed greatly to the ongoing important community service our lifesavers deliver, through enhanced facilities to ensure our lifesavers are rescue ready, trained and equipped appropriately, and allows our 78,000 members to focus on saving lives."

Minister Dib said that it was imperative to ensure lifesavers are well equipped to meet the challenges of patrolling our coastline.

"Our Surf Life Saving volunteers might have hung up their hats for this patrol season, but they were critical over the warmer months in keeping the beachloving communities of NSW safe," he said.

"It is important that surf clubs are kept in good condition so that our dedicated volunteers have a safe and modern base to operate from, and I'm proud to be part of the government that invested a record amount in Surf Life Saving NSW in the budget announced last year."

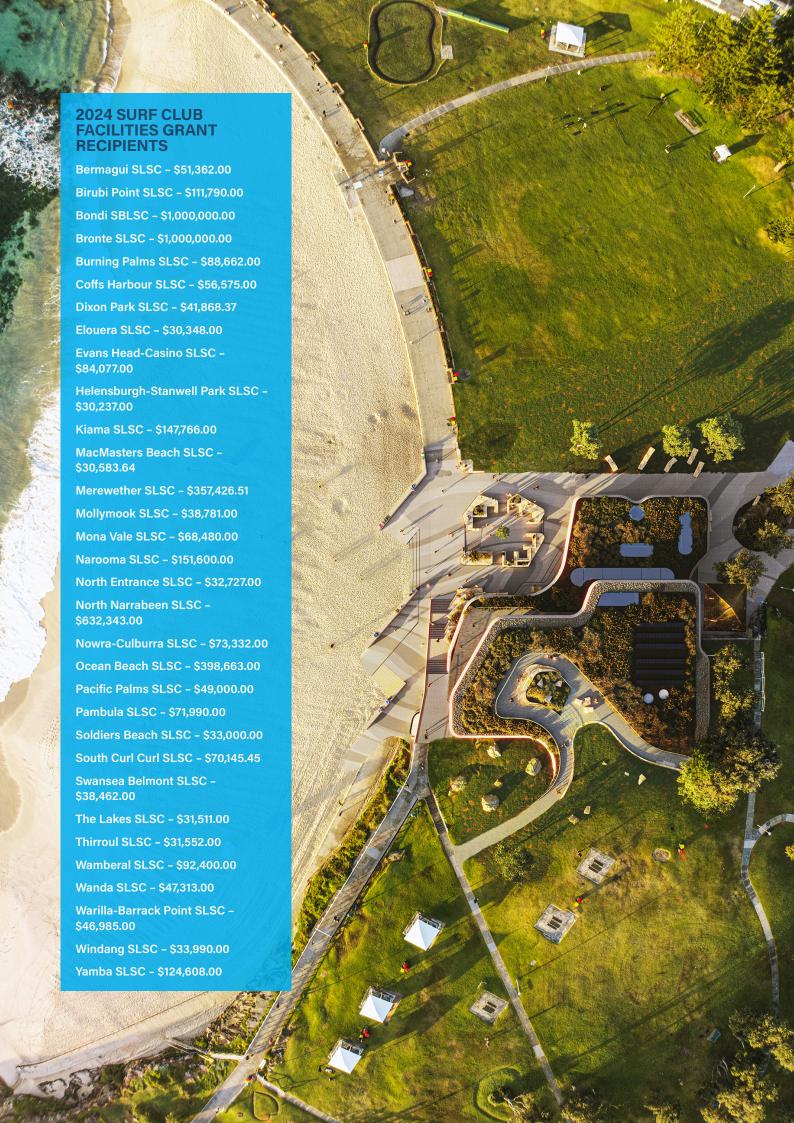
Minister Kamper also noted the desire to marry world class facilities with world class volunteers.

"NSW Surf Life Saving Clubs deliver a world-class service, protecting swimmers in the water and keeping people safe at the beach," he said.

"Rain, hail or shine, surf lifesavers never waver in their commitment to protecting the community and likewise, the NSW Government will not waver in its support of these incredible volunteers."









Following in the footsteps of Nathan Smith in 2005, Kendrick Louis in 2018 and Max Brooks in 2019, the Redhead SLSC star put together a near-seamless race, including a dynamite board leg that ultimately positioned him to take out the title in his stronger swim leg – the last of the race.

Former champion, Kendrick Louis of Manly LSC and Charlie Verco of Newport SLSC rounded out the NSW-only podium, while Jackson Borg finished in fourth.

Collins' win rounded out a banner day not just for the Redhead club, but the Hunter region more broadly. Half of the Iron finals finished with a Novocastrian atop the dais – Alex Walker from Cooks Hill SLSC coming home strongest after a party wave brought five potential U17 Male champions into shore, while Kaitlyn Rees of Swansea Belmont SLSC won the U17 Female category.

Rees was also successful in taking out





the U17 Female Board, while on the sand her clubmates, Luana Da Rocha, Phoebe Doran, Kaylee Dowsett, and Emerson Leadbeatter bagged gold in the U19 Female Beach Relay.

Still on Redhead, Lani Waller grabbed three gold medals across the U19 category, winning the Swim and the Board race after teaming with clubmate, Charli Burns to win the Board Rescue.

Further south, Central Coast clubs also achieved some amazing results, highlighted by a seen-to-be-believed finish in the U19 Female Double Ski that saw Avoca Beach SLSC's Davara Marshall and Natalia Drobot come from the clouds to pip a Southport SLSC duo that was probably certain they were about to be crowned Australian champions.

Drobot would later back up that win in the U19 Single Ski with another gold medal, while neighbouring club, Terrigal SLSC would see Olivia Edwards, Zahra Green, and Sienna Sinclair team up to win the U17 Female Ski Relay.

Meanwhile, in the Surf Race, Jacob Falconer from Ocean Beach SLSC finished first in a very strong U17 Male age group.

NSW's excellent water performances didn't stop there – Cudgen Headland SLSC's Niamh Sharpe and Issy Tate, and Wanda SLSC's Otis Jessop and Dane Sutton ensured a clean sweep of the U17 Board Rescue, and Conner Maggs won another U19 Male Board gold.

North Curl Curl SLSC saw success in the U17 Male Surf Teams with Sam Davis, Samuel Higgs, Luke Higgs, and Braith Howison, and Maguire Reid jagged two gold for Newport – one in the U19 Male Ski and one with Bailey Clues in the U19 Male Double Ski. Bailey's sister, Olivia would also win the U17 Female Ski and was part of the Newport team that won the U17 and U19 Surf Teams.

On the sand, Kobe Sorenson from North Cronulla SLSC was too strong in the U17 Male Flags, while Michael Hanna won the Open Male Sprint for Elouera SLSC.

It was South Maroubra SLSC's Luke Newrick, however, who was arguably the best track star for the state – he picked up gold in the U17 Male Sprint ahead of Sorenson before joining the Sydney club's relay teams to win the U17 Male, U17 Mixed and U19 Mixed Beach relays.

Wanda, Coogee SLSC, Warilla-Barrack Point SLSC and North Bondi SLSC all had wins across various 2x1km Beach Relay categories, and between Wanda and Freshwater SLSC, NSW cleaned up the Open R&R categories.

The Collaroy Ladies and the Bears also went one/two in the Open Mixed March Past competition.







# ALA Partners With 3Bridges For First Aid Training

SLSNSW's service arm, the Australian Lifesaving Academy (ALA), will provide vital first aid and CPR training to community services organisation, 3Bridges as part of a newly formed strategic partnership.

As part of this partnership, the ALA has been engaged by 3Bridges to provide nationally recognised first aid training to its workforce. This training will equip its employees and volunteers with essential lifesaving skills, empowering them to respond effectively in

emergency situations both at the workplace and in the community.

The ALA's renowned expertise in delivering high-quality training programs also ensures 3Bridges will have access to state-of-the-art facilities and instruction from certified professionals, preparing them to handle emergencies with confidence and competence.

"We are excited to partner with 3Bridges and support its people development strategy," said Phillipa McNamara, General Manager – Commercial Training at ALA.

"By investing in emergency care training, we empower individuals to make a meaningful difference in emergency situations, potentially saving lives."

"As a volunteer member with the Surf Life Saving movement myself, I am confident that this partnership will significantly increase our emergency response capabilities," agreed Caroline Tumeth, General Manager – Quality and Compliance at 3Bridges.

"At 3Bridges, we are committed to offering our staff and volunteers the best possible learning experience, although we have the scope to offer first aid training through our Enterprise RTO, we have chosen to partner with the expert ensuring our workforce is armed with the lifesaving skills and feel prepared for the unexpected."

The partnership between ALA and 3Bridges represents a shared commitment to fostering a safer and resilient community.

## Records tumble at

# NSW POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Three new world records were set at the 2024 NSW Pool Lifesaving Championships, held over the weekend of 14-16 June, with Manly LSC's Ronnie Dalsgaard and Shelly Beach SLSC's Dan Kingsley setting sensational times in some key events.

Following official verification from the International Life Saving Federation, Ronnie and Dan confirmed they had written their names into the history books after special showings over the course of the Championships, held at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre in Homebush.

Ronnie – already a world record holder in the 35-39 100m Manikin Tow with Fins after setting a blistering time of 55.01 in late 2018 – managed to shave nearly a full second off the previous record in posting a 56.18 in the next age bracket up of the same event, the 40-44 Male category.

He would later blow the existing 40-44 100m Manikin Carry with Fins literally and figuratively out of the water, ending Frenchman, Jean-Baptiste Gimie's seven-year reign as the world's quickest with a time more than 1.5 seconds faster (50.88).

For Dan, who raced in both events as part of a broader 40-49 Male race, he managed to break the 45-49 100m Manikin Tow with Fins world record with his cracking time of 56.62 more than a half second quicker than the previous best.

The times highlighted three excellent days of racing from more than 200

eager competitors, in the second year of a joint delivery of the Championships between Surf Life Saving NSW and Royal Life Saving.

Among the best moments away from the record-breaking swims included a dramatic .04 second split between Cronulla SLSC clubmates, Eve de Carle and Ella Greene in the U11 Women 50m Brick Carry, and Brayden Woodford of Bulli SLSC's ding dong battle with Cooks Hill SLSC's Charlie Walker across their 10 events together.

Woodford grabbed each of the individual wins in the U19 Male category, however it was Charlie and his brother, Alex Walker, alongside their clubmates Stephen Carcary, Yan Tung Li, and Oi Ki Ching, who picked up wins over Woodford-led teams in the Mixed events.





### **Parliamentary Friends Come Together**

Another year, another great example of the incredible support Surf Life Saving NSW receives from state parliamentarians from across the political spectrum. In June we convened the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving group and were thrilled by the amazing show of bi-partisan support from MPs state-wide. We were really proud to have support in the room not only from coastal electorates, but from parliamentarians who represent communities away from the coast; communities that are often some of our most vulnerable.

Special thanks goes out to the Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving Chair, Dr Marjorie O'Neill,



Member for Coogee and Co-Deputy Chairs, Adam Crouch and Liza Butler who continue to fly the flag for our members.



### **ERBs In At Eight New Locations**

Surf Life Saving NSW with support from the NSW Government has completed the installation of eight new Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs) in key coastal blackspots.

The beacons are solar powered, 4G and 5G enabled for video and voice notification in the event of an emergency and monitored by SLSNSW at highly visible locations along the NSW coastline.

The new locations include Forresters Beach, Bateau Bay, North Palm Beach, Turimetta, Gordons Bay, Mahon Pool, Woonona (pictured), and Austinmer. These bring the total number along our coastline to 40.

### **AESS Behind The Scenes At Vivid**

The Australian Event Safety Service (AESS) has over 25 years' experience providing First Aid, Aquatic Rescue and Risk Management services to a variety of clients.

As a long-time event first aid and water safety provider for VIVID in Sydney, we went behind the scenes with some of the people who keep things ticking along at one of the world's biggest celebrations of creativity, innovation and technology.





Surf Life Saving NSW moved to thank its active volunteer patrol force of more than 20,000 statewide, as well as their Australian Lifeguard Service counterparts, as another testing season comes to an end in April and again now that the reporting year has wound down.

Flags were lowered across NSW on Sunday 28 April, having first gone up during the September school holidays in 2023.

For the period 1 July 2023 to the end of June 2024, volunteer lifesavers and ALS lifeguards completed more than 5,300 rescues, made over 1 million preventative actions on our beaches, and delivered almost 20,000 first aids – a monumental effort.

"In NSW we are very lucky to have more than 78,000 volunteer members in total, and I am extremely proud and grateful to every single one of them for their contributions throughout the patrol season," SLSNSW President, Peter Agnew AM said.

"Beyond our 20,000-plus active patrolling members who keep our beaches safe each week, every volunteer has a role to play in the lifesaving functions and community support that our surf clubs deliver year round. "The rescue figures to date are on track to surpass those recorded last year, which demonstrates the critical role that Surf Life Saving performs and the great determination and dedication shown by our members to protect their communities."

Sadly, and despite the best efforts of lifesaving personnel across the state, 55 people have drowned since 1 July 2023 in NSW coastal waters, all at unpatrolled locations or outside of patrol hours.

During the 2023/24 season, lifesavers saw the early impact of the NSW Government's \$23 million increased commitment to Surf Life Saving in NSW – since July, the funding has assisted in the roll out of new Support Operations vehicles and jetskis for all 11 branches statewide.

This has aided the lifesaving efforts of our volunteers and contributed significantly to the figures behind another bumper season.

Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib moved to thank lifesavers and recognise the impact the organisation has had, helping people on our coastline.

"I would like to thank our volunteers who give up their time to protect our coastline and allow visitors to enjoy a day at the beach knowing that help is at hand if they need it," Minister Dib said.

"We have had a busy season on our beaches and the large number of rescues shows how important the work of lifesavers is helping swimmers when they find themselves in difficulty.

"From Tweed Heads to Eden our beautiful beaches are patrolled by committed surf lifesavers and we are proud to support them in their work protecting their local communities."

## **Southern Kids Star**

### As Junior Lifesavers Of The Year Announced

Zara Hall of Moruya SLSC and Archie Weir of Kiama Downs SLSC are the Ingenia Holiday Parks Junior Lifesavers of the Year after three days of team building and leadership development on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Zara and Archie were two in a group of 22 eager 14-year-olds who came from each of the 11 branches across NSW, having been acknowledged themselves as Junior Lifesavers of the Year for their region.

The pair represented the South Coast and Far South Coast with distinction, proving that NSW is blessed with talented young lifesavers along the entire coastline.

Knowing well that they were privileged to be among a very worthy group, all of whom could have been named as winners, the pair were thrilled.

"I did not expect to win and I was so surprised when I got it," Zara said.

"I went through all the emotions, I was nervous, I was excited, but it means so much to me to represent the Far South Coast and my club, Moruya here."

"I'm ecstatic, it's been a bit of a dream of mine for a while. I've been in lifesaving since I was a little Nipper and it means so much to come here to this camp and be with likeminded people, it's really expanding my horizons." Archie added.

An enthusiastic and motivated lifesaver with personality bubbling well above the surface, Zara is a passionate individual who gives so much to her club, Moruya, where she actively supports the Same Wave program for all-inclusive lifesaving and passes on her knowledge to younger members.

Judges noted she places a strong value on education, hoping to establish a program at her club that raises awareness of the beach to those visiting from inland.

"It makes me so happy to represent Moruya when I think about the things the club is a part of, like the Same Wave program," Zara said.

"I love just being at the ocean, around the club, I love competing, I love patrolling, I love everything about Surf Life Saving."

Archie, meanwhile, has several years of club experience, and the panel noticed his desire to constantly improve his skills and his understanding of the important role lifesavers play on our coastline.

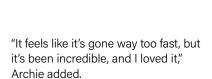
"It was important to me that I showed that I have leadership qualities and the different ways that we can show compassion to the community through lifesaving," he said.

"Lifesavers are that sense of safety for the community and by being a lifesaver, I also get a really strong sense of belonging."

Junior lifesaver finalists engaged in a three-day team building and leadership development program at Collaroy, which culminated in Zara and Archie being selected as the NSW Junior Lifesavers of the Year.

"I enjoyed learning about who we were and what we want to be as lifesavers, what our future is, we had some talks on that," Zara said.

"It's been amazing, and I want to thank all the facilitators who made it possible."



"The ice bath challenge was definitely a highlight.

"We got to really learn and understand where everybody comes from and what they do, and it was a big part of our development."

Matt Young, Executive General Manager of Tourism for Ingenia Holiday Parks, said being involved in a program now in its 34th year gave them great pride.

"We have a responsibility to ensure the guests who come and stay with us go home happy and having had a safe trip, and part of that is working with Surf Life Saving NSW and helping to grow the new generation of lifesavers," he said.

"I come here at the end of the event really excited to speak to everyone who has participated. They're all enthusiastic, and it's great to see this generation coming through so focussed on giving back to the community."





# Warriewood Cliff-Face Rescue Wins State Award

The lifesaver behind a major rescue on Sydney's Northern Beaches in January believes the efforts of herself and her patrol team should act as a reminder that swimming where there are no flags in challenging surf is a recipe for danger.

Saskia Rundle-Trowbridge and her Inflatable Rescue Boat driver, Adam Kovac (Warriewood SLSC), alongside two members from Mona Vale SLSC, were this quarter retrospectively awarded the Surf Life Saving NSW Rescue of the Month for their role in bringing three people back to shore after they became stuck at the base of a cliff in the mouth of the notorious Warriewood blowhole on 21 January.

This particular area of the beach is familiar to patrol members as it is a popular jump location where the water entry point is the beginning of a small tunnel leading from one side of a cliff face to another – hence the blowhole, particularly on a day with significant swells and water movement.

The rescue, which came under five minutes into Saskia's patrol and was her first ever in an IRB, was highly publicised at the time, with many labelling her a "teen hero", but the 16-year-old remains level-headed and rescue-ready as ever.

"I'm just happy that everyone was alright," she said.

"The boys got back safe and neither myself nor anyone in my patrol was harmed performing the rescue. Our aim is to keep people safe and keep ourselves safe too.

"You might think 'oh it's okay, I'm a strong swimmer, I'll be fine.' But you can still find yourself in a bad situation."

Saskia also saved special mention for her driver, Adam, who, as a Patrol Captain and trainer himself, was able to call on years of experience to help coach Saskia through the rescue.

"I'm so grateful for the rest of my patrol and for Adam. It genuinely was a team

effort and wouldn't have happened without them. Adam was talking me through the whole time," she said.

The assistance of the Mona Vale SLSC IRB crew of Mark Bonney and Jacob Rodwell was also invaluable – the pair being acknowledged in the Rescue of the Month award for also responding and aiding in the retrieval of the three boys.

While the IRBs couldn't get close to the cliff due to the conditions, the second boat proved helpful in bringing all three boys safely back to shore once Saskia had swum out with her rescue tube and retrieved them.

"The whole time we were climbing back down to the rocks and swimming out to the boat, I just kept repeating, 'we're going to be okay! My goal the entire time was to keep both the boys and myself safe," Saskia said.

# SLSNSW Members Named In King's Birthday Honours

Congratulations to members of Surf Life Saving NSW who have been named in the King's Birthday Honours List.

Surf Life Saving NSW Life Member and current President Peter Agnew ESM (Nth Bondi SLSC) was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), recognised for significant service to Surf Life Saving. Peter's contribution has been substantial and spans administration, education and leadership roles within the organisation for almost 40 years and in particular for several decades in Sydney Branch. Peter held secretariat roles with the International Lifesaving Federation and senior operational roles with Surf Life Saving Australia. He was awarded an Emergency Service Medal (ESM) in 2015.

The late publisher Kevin Weldon AM received an AO, for distinguished service to international and national Surf Life Saving, to publishing, to animal welfare, and to philanthropic endeavours. He was the founding president of the International Life Saving Federation and a life member of Surf Life Saving Australia. In recent years, Kevin was a champion of the emerging drone technology in Surf Life Saving and founded the Little Ripper Group. Kevin was also recognised as a Grand Knight, Order of Lifesaving, International Life Saving Federation.

Lindsay Davis (Freshwater SLSC) and William Gee (Dee Why SLSC) were also awarded OAMs for their lifetime dedication to Surf Life Saving.

Lindsay is a Life Member of Freshwater SLSC and the Sydney Northern Beaches Branch. Lindsay has been an integral part of her club and Branch, dedicated to all aspects of training and assessing for several decades, along with officiating at surf sport events. Lindsay is a former NSW Trainer of the Year award winner.



**ANDREW EDMUNDS** 



**PETER AGNEW** 

William Gee, a Life Member of Dee Why SLSC, first became a lifesaver in 1951. While with Taree Old Bar SLSC, he was involved in introducing jet rescue craft to Surf Life Saving in 1974. As a surfboat competitor, William won Gold and Silver medals at the Australian Championships. He was awarded a Bravery Medal from the Royal Humane Society in 1975.

In addition, three members of Surf Life Saving NSW received the prestigious Emergency Service Medal.

Andrew Edmunds ESM (Broulee Surfers SLSC) has been at the forefront of emergency services operations with Surf Life Saving NSW at the state, branch and club levels. As a State Duty Officer, Andy coordinates major emergency incidents occurring along the coast. Within the Far South Coast Branch, Andy coordinates support operations, management of incidents, rescue craft operations, incident debriefings and post incident support and has been actively involved in many rescues as a lifesaver and callout team member. He joined as a Nipper in 1995 and obtained his Bronze Medallion in 2000. He has been on both the Broulee and FSC Branch committee for around 20 years. Andy has demonstrated superior dedication and commitment to SLSNSW during his 23 years of excellent service.

David Ellis has been a member of Pacific Palms SLSC since 1993 and has held multiple frontline leadership roles over 30 years including president, vice president, patrol captain and education officer. He is a Life Member of the club and a trainer, assessor and facilitator. David has stalwartly participated in emergency callouts for 30 years and in 2012 as president of Pacific Palms SLSC, he successfully advocated for the Council to deploy paid lifeguards at Elizabeth Beach during holiday periods. Throughout his 30-year career in Surf Life Saving, he has shown outstanding leadership and dedication to excellence, culminating in his appointment as SLSNSW liaison officer during the 2021 Taree floods. He has forged better outcomes for the community such as the introduction of paid lifequards and the installing of public access defibrillators in the local

Rod McDonagh (South West Rocks SLSC) has been an advocate for marine and aquatic safety over decades of service, specialising in emergency management and incident response. He continues to be involved in all levels of Surf Life Saving including patrols, emergency response, education and training and asset maintenance. Rod has responded to many serious critical incidents and search and rescue operations during his time as a volunteer and in his professional career as a NSW maritime officer. Rod is regarded as a leader in this field and has been integral to obtaining rescue equipment and developing Standard Operating Procedures as the president of the Mid North Coast Branch. Rod ensures that ongoing training and assets within the Branch are of the highest standard.



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













#### **National Partners**













SLSNSW endeavours to ensure all information contained in SurfLIFE is correct and true, however accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies or mistakes contained in the publication.

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#### **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 78,000 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





