

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

SOUTH WEST ROCKS
SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

105th SEASON



SWRSLSC.COM.AU

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- BOARD OF DIRECTORS -

President - Rod McDonagh - 11 out of 12 meetings attended

Vice President - Renee Smailes - 11 out of 12 meetings attended

Director of Administration - Vicki Thomas - 12 out of 12 meetings attended

Director of Finance - Noel Langthorne - 10 out of 12 meetings attended

Director of Lifesaving - Brienna Elford - 11 out of 12 meetings attended

Director of Junior Activities - Ginja Ryan - 9 out of 12 meetings attended

Director of Surf Sports - Bruce Caldwell - 9 out of 12 meetings attended

Director of Marketing - Belinda Telford - 11 out of 12 meetings attended

- MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE -

IRB Captain - Jarrod Hasler

Education Officer - Ian Everingham

Gym Coordinator - Molly McBain

Boat Captain - Paul Owens

Board/Ski Captain - Wayne Morris

First Aid Officer - Debra Moran

Member Protection Officer - Stephen Moran

Public Officer - Rod McDonagh

General Committee - John Tyne

SWRSLSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

SUNDAY 24TH AUGUST 2025 - 3PM

AGENDA



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Name:	South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club
Date:	Sunday, 24 August 2025
Time:	3:00 pm (AEST)
Location:	SWR Surf Club, 1 Livingstone Street, South West Rocks
Board Members:	Rod McDonagh, Renee Smailes, Vicki Thomas, Noel Langthorne, Brienna Elford, Bruce Caldwell, Belinda Telford, Ginga Ryan.

1. Opening Meeting
 - 1.1 Opening of Meeting
 - 1.2 Acknowledgement of Country
 - 1.3 Welcome from the President
 - 1.4 Acknowledgement of Members Passed
 - 1.5 Life Governors Message
 - 1.6 Apologies
 - 1.7 Confirm Minutes dated 18 August 2024
 - 1.8 Business arising from the Minutes
 - 1.9 Correspondence relevant only to the meeting
2. Presentation and adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2024/25
 - 2.1 President Report
 - 2.2 Vice President Report
 - 2.3 Auditor Report - Alaine Ylias Northcorp Accountants
 - 2.4 Director of Finance
 - 2.5 Director of Administration
 - 2.6 Director of Junior Activities
 - 2.7 Director of Lifesaving
 - 2.8 Director of Marketing
 - 2.9 Director of Surf Sports
 - 2.10 Club Manager
 - 2.11 Adoption of Annual and financial reports for the 2024/25 Season
3. Election of Officers for the Season 2025/26
 - 3.1 Election of Board of Directors
 - 3.2 Election of Management Committee
 - 3.3 Affiliation SLSMNC & SLSNSW
 - 3.4 Election of Public Officer
 - 3.5 Appointment of Patrons
 - 3.6 Appointment of Auditors for 2025/26
4. General Business
5. Close Meeting
 - 5.1 Close the meeting

MINUTES 2023/24 AGM

DRAFT MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Name:	South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club
Date:	Sunday, 18 August 2024
Time:	3:00 pm to 4:01 pm (AEST)
Location:	SWR Surf Club, 1 Livingstone Street, South West Rocks
Board Members:	Rod McDonagh (Chair), Belinda Telford, Bruce Caldwell, Megan Curnow, Noel Langthorne, Renee Smailes (RS), Vicki Thomas (VT), Brienna Elford

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Opening of Meeting

Quorum reached - meeting opened at 3.03pm

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

1.3 Welcome from the President

1.4 Acknowledgement of Members Passed

1.5 Life Governors Message

1.6 Apologies

1.7 Confirm Minutes

Moved Tony Hayes, 2nd Andrew Packwood

1.8 Business arising from the Minutes

No business arising

1.9 Correspondence relevant only to the meeting

No correspondence received

2. Presentation and adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2023/24

2.1 President Report

2.2 Vice President Report

2.3 Auditor Report - Alaine Ylias - Northcorp Accountants

2.4 Director of Finance

2.5 Director of Administration

2.6 Director of Junior Activities

2.7 Director of Lifesaving

2.8 Director of Marketing

2.9 Director of Surf Sports

2.10 Club Manager

2.11 Adoption of Annual and financial reports for the 2023/24 Season

Moved by Ian Everingham, 2nd Mick Adams

3. Election of Officers for the Season 2024/25

3.1 Election of Board of Directors

President: Rod McDonagh

Vice President: Renee Smailes

Director of Finance: Noel Langthorne

Director of Administration: Vicki Thomas

Director of Lifesaving: Brienna Elford

Director of Marketing & Communications: Belinda Telford-Miller

Director of Surf Sports: Bruce Caldwell

All duly elected.

Director of Junior Activities: Ginga Ryan - scrutineers Mick Adams, Steve Moran - won with majority of vote

Ballot Papers to be destroyed - - Moved by Anne Pearce and Dave Pearson

3.2 Election of Management Committee

Patrol Officer - Linda Cooper

Moved by: Tony Hayes, Molly McBain

First Aid Officer - Deb Moran

Moved Steve Smailes, Mick Adams

Gear and Equipment officer

Education officer - Ian Everingham

Moved by Brienna, 2nd by Wayne

IRB Captain - Jarrod Hasler

Moved by John Tyne, 2nd by Molly McBain

Board and Ski Captain

Surf Boat Captain - Paul Owens

Moved by Renee Smailes, 2nd by Brienna Elford

Gym Coordinator - Molly McBain

Youth Officer - Sophie Smailes

Moved by Molly McBain, 2nd Mick Adams

3.3 Affiliation SLSMNC & SLSNSW

Sppok and Bruce

3.4 Election of Public Officer

Pat Conahagn, Mayor, Mick Kemp

Moved Brienna, 2nd Renee

3.5 Appointment of Patrons

Pat Conahagn, Mayor, Mick Kemp

Moved Brienna, 2nd Renee

3.6 Appointment of Auditors for 2024/25

Moved by Wayne and Molly

4. General Business

4.1 Australian IRB Championships 2025 & 2026

5. Close Meeting

5.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: No date for the next meeting has been set.

-SLSA SPONSORS-



-SLSNSW SPONSORS-



- SLSMNC SPONSORS-



-SWRSLSC SPONSORS-



Major
Sponsor

South West Rocks



Rotary
South West Rocks



-SWRSLSC SPONSORS-



- THE SEASON THAT WAS -



- THE SEASON THAT WAS -



- THE SEASON THAT WAS -



- THE SEASON THAT WAS -



- THE SEASON THAT WAS -



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past season has seen great achievement by our Club in all areas and the benefits of previous planning and hard work is fostering a healthy Club culture.

Our patrolling numbers have increased and we managed to negotiate the Life Saving Agreement with SLSNSW to our satisfaction. Whilst this was a tedious process the end result has seen more efficient patrol groups and a small reduction in hours for most.

Patrols were kept busy with large visitation to our beaches and some extreme conditions throughout. The capability of our teams, coordination with UAV pilots and SLSMNC RWC operators and Duty Officers typified our professional approach to beach management. All Patrol Captains and every active member are applauded.

Our patrols go hand in hand with Education and an increase across all categories bolstered our skills base. We gained new IRB drivers which is welcomed and new Bronze members. We have had a small team leading our Education which is a vital component of our ongoing development. Spook, Rebecca, Craig and Brienna have been the inspiration at Club and Branch level. Our role in flood events goes unnoticed but once again response from IRB Crews and on ground support to other agencies should not be discounted.

Whilst there were a number of out of hours call outs, one ended tragically in the loss of a young life. Unfortunately, this was an extraordinary incident that no level of response could have managed. Our members and lifeguards worked alongside other Emergency Services to no avail. I am acutely aware of the effects that this incident had on people involved and we were able to provide support where required.

More positively the banding together at a difficult time strengthened relationships within the Club and Community. The event drew widespread interest and I recognise the sensitive issues that were endured and the way that you all maintained tact.

The Nippers were interrupted by poor weather and unfavourable seas again this season but under the guidance of Ginja Ryan we saw a happy group participate at weekly events and Branch Carnivals. Numbers are gradually improving and the education and surf skills gained by our young charges will prepare them well for next season and indeed for their lifetime.

SWRSLSC conducted the SLS Mid North Coast Branch Championships and we had a good number of both senior and junior competitors taking part, which resulted in us placing third in overall water events. It goes to show we do have some capable

competitors who took home a number of medals. Our Surf Sports has potential for greater participation and success, but a structured approach is required. The male and female boat crews were consistent with the North Coast Boat Series. There are initiatives that we need to advance with activities to encourage more participation in both the Junior and Senior Surf Sports area.

There have been a few new initiatives this season, namely Silver Salties, pool swims Sunday morning swims which all go to the development of our great organisation. The Silver Salties have indeed been a motivation and had a significant contribution to the fabric of our Club.

Another major achievement of significance is the implementation of the Reconciliation Action Plan which is the first in NSW and second in Australia for a surf club. We have always had strong relationship with our Indigenous family, going back to Harry Penrith aka Burnum Burnum completing his Bronze Medallion at SWRSLSC in the 1950s.

The Newcastle Permanent SLSMNC Awards of Excellence were held at South West Rocks and once again showcased our members with the following award winners:

- Sophie Smailes - Youth Volunteer of the Year
- Renee Smailes - Volunteer of the Year
- Vicki Thomas - Administrator of the Year
- Silver Salties - Community Education Program of the Year
- Cultural Connection - Innovation Award
- SWRSLSC - Club of the Year - Highly Commended.

Hopefully, we will be successful at the Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence!

Our own Presentation and Awards of Excellence was once again a momentous event with over one hundred guests in attendance - just going to show the strength of the Club within the community.

We have a proud history of conducting many major events on the SLS calendar over many years. Notably this past season we held the Newcastle Permanent SLSMNC Branch Championships and assisted with local Trial Bay Triathlon and a Development Day for the North Coast Boat Series.

Obviously the 2025 Sharkskin SLISA IRB Championships in July were the jewel in the crown. This event was a major success which could not have been achieved without the involvement from our members and community. Whilst a major logistical and work force exercise, the benefits for Club comradery, community spirit, mateship and economic input to the community is immeasurable. One of the stand outs for me was the interaction between nippers, cadets, active members, life members, community people from 8-80 years of age all joining forces. Our expertise is noted amongst SLISA circles and I was immensely proud of the job that we did.

A major component of the Club is our Boulders Bistro, and Bar facilities, over many years we have strived to promote SWRSLSC as a community hub. We provide a venue for members and the community but it is not without much hard work, by both the staff and Board of Directors. This season we acquired a Coffee Van to complement our overall business plan which has been highly successful. I believe we are a major hub

for all in our Community. The efforts of our staff and Alex our Facilities Manager are without peer, and is testament to the strong Club ethos where we are all one Club.

Moving forward we face many lifesaving changes in patrolling, emergency response, education and administration that all places extra load on all members, but we are well prepared and ongoing input from new members is vital. In this regard we have had a new cohort of people join our ranks and all have been magnificent in their contribution.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance and support from Surf Life Saving New South Wales, Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast, State Member for Oxley Michael Kemp, and Kempsey Shire Council Mayor Kinnie Ring. Our local sponsors and supporters have once again shown their loyalty to the Club, and we thank them for their ongoing support.

The positive attitude of our staff, our Club Board of Directors and Management Committee put us in a very fortunate position, as all are passionate about SWRSLSC and continue to work as one team to maintain our good standing. It is that extra effort and harmony that has enabled us to be consistently successful.

I praise the Board of Directors Renee Smailes, Noel Langthorne, Vicki Thomas, Brienna Elford, Ginja Ryan, Bel Telford, and Bruce Caldwell, who are a hands-on group, exhibiting a wealth of skill and enthusiasm towards our goals. Bel, Bruce and Noel will not be seeking re-election but will still be around. My personal thanks to these three who have worked hard to keep the principles of surf lifesaving in focus and been devoted to their roles.

I also speak on behalf of Life Governors Tony Hayes and Bruce Caldwell, and I was honoured to be elevated to that role during the season. It is outstanding that all of our life members are heavily involved in our Club and still do the hard yards.

Surf Life Saving in general is undergoing change and needs to be flexible in our approach to patrols, education, emergency response, surf sports and junior activities is vital for our future sustainability that we embrace innovative technology and make our time at the Club enjoyable and inclusive. We have laid the foundation for this, but we need to be proactive, face the challenges and promote the integral role that we all play in building our Club and developing leadership in the aquatic environment.

Finally, thanks to all members who contribute in many ways. The interaction among all members is enlightening and makes it a focal point of why we become involved in Surf Life Saving. Our younger members are the future, and I trust that they continue to remain involved in our Club and enjoy the benefits of our great organisation as many have done for many years.

Rod McDonagh ESM
President and Life Governor
South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with great pride that I present the Vice President's Report for the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club's 2024/2025 season. This year has been another remarkable chapter in our club's history, marked by significant activity and achievement across all areas.

Tragically, we faced a profound loss with the passing of Kaison, an event that deeply affected us all. Despite this heartbreaking circumstance, I was immensely proud to witness the strength and unity of our members and staff as we supported one another and the broader community. Surf Life Saving NSW provided invaluable assistance during this difficult time, offering support to our club, members, and staff to help us navigate these challenges. This support remains ongoing, and I encourage anyone needing assistance to reach out—please know I am always available.

Our club continues to be well represented at Branch meetings, with active participation in all matters concerning the Branch. Notably, three SWR members serve on the Branch Executive, demonstrating our club's strong commitment to Branch initiatives. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from the extensive experience of Branch members, which has strengthened my confidence in my role as our club's Branch representative. This season, I had the privilege of participating on the interview panel for the Junior Lifesaver of the Year Awards, an experience I found both rewarding and insightful.

For a small club, we consistently achieve significant milestones and remain an integral part of the South West Rocks community. Personal highlights this season included the annual Queenscliff SLSC Board Camp in September and the beach and water safety school visits, where crucial safety messages were shared with children from four local primary schools, spanning Kindergarten through Year 6. We continued to advance our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in collaboration with the South West Rocks Figtree Descendants Aboriginal Corporation, with special thanks to Aunty Cheryl and Nancy. The Cultural Nippers Day was once again a powerful and successful event.

The January school holidays saw the Badarr (Dolphin) Nippers program take place, where participants showed remarkable improvement in water confidence and safety over three weeks. The bonds formed between the children and our dedicated volunteer members were truly inspiring.

Additionally, we secured an Inclusive Beaches grant and hosted our first Inclusive Nippers Day. While participation numbers were lower than anticipated this season, this initiative represents an important foundation, and we look forward to growing it in the coming year.

To conclude the season, we proudly hosted the Sharkskin SLSA IRB Championships, a major event that highlighted our club's ability to collaborate effectively with community groups, local council, and Surf Life Saving Australia. The success of this event reinforced our reputation as "the hosts with the most," and we should all take pride in the hard work and commitment demonstrated.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to our Executive Committee, General Committee, all club members, community partners, and especially Alex, our Club Manager, and her dedicated team. Together, we are committed to the ongoing growth and success of our club, and I eagerly anticipate what the 2025/2026 season will bring.

Marrungbu (Thank you)

Renee Smailes

Vice President

South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

I am pleased to present the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2025.

The Club had another successful trading year with total revenue of \$1,925,107, up by \$148,466 (8.3%), resulting in a net profit of \$230,726, up by \$9,891 (4.4%).

The relatively modest trading increase of \$127,492 after factoring in price increases demonstrates that we are nearing the maximum trading capacity of facilities. In this regard, it is pleasing to note that other income increased by \$20,974, showing the importance of other sources of income as we go forward.

I would like to thank our managers, Alex Wilcox and Molly McBain, for the excellent work they have done and to all our staff who have been a factor in our excellent result.

A further thank you to Cate Madden of Busy Books Bookkeeping Services for her patience and help she has provided to me.

It would be remiss of me not to mention our mature volunteers (some people refer to them in a derogatory manner) who meet at the club on Tuesdays or whenever required to perform maintenance and repairs around the club. They definitely provide a cost-saving benefit to the club if this work were outsourced. Thank you, John Tyne, Mal, Alan, Wayne and apologies to anyone I missed.

On a personal note, it is with mixed feelings that I advise that I will not be seeking re-election for the position of Director of Finance. After four years in the role and with the ever-increasing need for computer skills, for which I am not up to scratch, I feel it is the right time.

Noel Langthorne

Director of Finance

South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION REPORT

The 2024/25 season was another successful year for South West Rocks SLSC.

The introduction of the Silver Salties program not only gave the club a renewed sense of community purpose, but also brought in a whole new volunteer army—especially for the Aussie IRB's! Their enthusiasm and energy have been a welcome addition to our operations.

Our growing relationships with other community organisations—Rotary, SES, RFS, Marine Rescue, and many others—have created a strong and supportive network. These partnerships have been especially valuable during what has felt like a year of constant challenges and disasters for our region. The sense of unity and resilience around the club has never been stronger.

A special thank you goes to our Bistro staff, whose support behind the scenes has made our volunteer roles easier by taking on many of the essential but often overlooked tasks.

I also want to acknowledge the Board of Directors. Their willingness to take on additional responsibilities within their portfolios has made my role significantly easier this year. It's been a true team effort.

We welcomed a total of 234 members, an increase of 43 from the previous season (191). Our membership breakdown is as follows:

- 39 Junior Activity Members (5–13 years)
- 4 Cadet Members (13–15 years)
- 11 Active Members (15–18 years)
- 57 Active Members (18 years and over)
- 7 Award Members
- 7 Long Service Members
- 99 Associate Members
- 7 Life Members
- 3 Honorary Members

Thank you to everyone who contributed to another fantastic season. I look forward to continuing our work together in 2025/26.

Vicki Thomas

Director of Administration

South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club

DIRECTOR OF SURF SPORTS REPORT

JAC members had a busy season under the leadership of Ginga Ryan. Ginga put her hand up to take on the position of JAC Coordinator for the 2024/2025 season and did a sterling job. During the season Ginga ran Sunday morning competitions for the JAC members, honing their skills in beach events and water events. The JAC members also competed in the inter club competition with Kempsey Crescent Head and Hat Head. Some strong performances were put in by various members. All of the training and competition on Sundays showed in their performances at the Branch Championships which were held on our beach here at SWR with some great results achieved by the young competitors. Sage Lategan won the silver medal in the U/10 Female Beach Flags. Lincoln Benson won the silver medal in the U/12 Male Beach Flags. Well done kids.

During the season the Sunday competition for the seniors was a little bit disjointed with a couple of days cancelled due to bad weather and sea conditions with only eight competitions being held on Sundays during the season. Winners of the Sunday competitions were, U/15 Females - **Eleanor Briggs**, U/15 Males - **Gus Ryan**, U/19 Females - **Mia Matlock**, U/19 Males - **Ollie Byrne**, Open Females - **Belinda White**, Open Males - **Chris Schulz**, Over 40 Females - **Rebecca Mitchell**, Over 40 Males - **Andrew Packwood**. The overall winner was **Belinda White**.

There were only three surf carnivals held during the season. The first one was held at Tacking Point, the second at Flynns Beach Port Macquarie and the Branch Championships at South West Rocks. Members performed very well at the Championships winning and placing in many events.

- **Sophie Smailes** - U/15 Female Division, Bronze 2km Beach Run,
- **Imogen Ward** - U/19 Female Division, Gold Beach Sprint, Beach Flags and 2km Beach Run,
- **Molly McBain** - Open Female Division, Silver Surf Race, Beach Sprint, Beach Flags, 2km Beach Sprint and March Past Team,
- **Belinda White** 30-39 Years Female Division, Gold Surf Race, Board Race, 2km Beach run, Silver Beach Sprint, Beach Flags and March Past,
- **Sarah Thomas** 30-39 Years Female Division, Gold Beach sprint, Beach flags, Silver March Past Team.
- **Maurice Wallis** 40-49 Years Male Division, Bronze Board Race,
- **Andrew Packwood** 50-59 Years Male Division, Gold Beach Sprint, Silver Beach Flags and March Past, Bronze Surf Race and Board Race,

- **Bruce Aulsebrook** 60-69 Years Male Division, Bronze Surf Race,
- **Belinda White** was the top 30-39 Years Female competitor in the Branch for the 2024/2025 season. Congratulations Belinda.

There were a number of members that made finals and performed very well.

Next Season South West Rocks will be hosting the New South Wales Country Championships. Hopefully with these good performances at the Branch Championships our Sunday competition can grow stronger next season and we can see more members representing the club at Branch carnivals and the Country Championships Our annual Awards of Excellence was held on Sunday June the 1st. Congratulations to the members that won and were presented with awards at the presentation. Some of the winners were then up for awards at the Branch Award of Excellence night at the end of the month.

Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast Awards of Excellence was held at South West Rocks at the end of June. A number of our members were successful in winning awards at the presentation.

- **Sophie Smailes** was awarded the John Vipond Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award,
- **Vicki Thomas** was awarded the Ragland Memorial Administrator of the Year Award,
- **Renee Smailes** was awarded the Volunteer of the Year.
- **The Silver Salties** won the Community Education award.
- **South West Rocks** was awarded the Innovation of the Year award.

These winners will now go on to the State Awards of Excellence in Sydney. Good luck to all.

Once again my thanks to Vicki Thomas and Brienna Elford for their help in sending out the SMS messages each Saturday reminding members about the point score and also to all people that carried out water safety duties and to the members that helped out on the beach with judging and running the events. These events would not happen without the help of many members. Thanks everyone.

See you all on the beach next season.

Bruce Caldwell

Director of Surf Sports

Life Governor

South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club

DIRECTOR OF LIFESAVING REPORT

As the Director of Lifesaving for South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club, it is my privilege to present the annual report for the 2024/2025 season, my fifth season in this role. This year has been defined by the unwavering commitment of our volunteers, whose collective efforts ensured the safety of thousands of beachgoers along our beautiful coastline. Through skilled patrol operations, comprehensive training programs, and proactive community engagement, our club continues to uphold its proud tradition of lifesaving excellence.

Our dedicated patrol teams operated every weekend and public holiday from 28th September through to 27th April. Across the season, seven patrol team members logged a total of 2,171.83 hours, providing a highly visible and effective lifesaving presence on the beach. This season saw 16,999 public attendances, underscoring the vital role our club plays in ensuring safety at South West Rocks.

The number of patrolling members is growing each season, an increase of 56% since the 2020/21 season, to now 86 patrolling members.

Lifesavers conducted 216 preventative actions, 70 first aid treatments, and performed two rescues — each one a testament to their vigilance and training. Additionally, our team managed 25 beach closures due to hazardous surf and responded to a number of serious incident call-outs, one of which sadly resulted in a fatality.

We also had one of our members, Pete Brannelly, deployed as part of the emergency response to assist with the natural disaster that was Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Our members continue to go above and beyond, and I'd like to acknowledge the top 10 patrolling members by hours contributed this season:

1. Jarrod Hasler – 81.5 hours
2. Brienna Elford – 81 hours
3. Mia Matlock – 71.3 hours
4. Kris Matlock – 66.3 hours
5. Rebecca Mitchell – 65.8 hours
6. Emma Matlock – 62.5 hours
7. Alys Farley – 58 hours
8. Peter Brannelly – 55 hours
9. Ian Everingham – 48 hours
10. Steve Smailes – 47 hours

We celebrated our first 'Pink Patrol' on International Women's Day, 8th March, where our patrol was made up of all female members. Even though Tropical Cyclone Alfred was hovering around, and we had to close the beach, it did not dampen the spirit of the day. It was great to promote some of our amazing statistics – female members make up 44% of our patrolling members, our Board of Directors are 63% female, and our General Committee is 47% female – some impressive statistics regarding inclusivity within the club and showcasing the importance of female members in leadership positions.

Lifesaving excellence is built on training, and this season was no exception. We ran multiple courses, which resulted in the following awards – Bronze Medallion x 7 and Surf Rescue Certificate x 2, along with IRB Crew x 4 and Driver x 2 qualifications, First Aid x 9, and Advanced Resuscitation Technique x 9 awards. These programs resulted in the successful up-skilling of members and the recruitment of new patrolling lifesavers.

Special thanks must go to our trainers and assessors, Ian 'Spook' Everingham, Rebecca Mitchell and Craig Schweikert, who volunteer many hours behind the scenes to ensure members are confident and capable. Their dedication directly supports the strength and safety of our patrol teams, their knowledge being second to none. As part of the Education Team, I can vouch for how lucky we are to have these educators in our club and the invaluable part they play. Also, thanks to the other TAFs from the northern clubs – Macksville-Scotts Head, Hat Head and Kempsey-Crescent Head whom we continue to work closely, especially Sue Croad, who facilitates all the First Aid and Advanced Resuscitation for our members.

At the start of the season, we held our second Gotcha4Life 24 Hour Row, in conjunction with Isaac and Amanda Mainey from Ritual Fitness. Due to the ongoing break-ins at the time, we did not feel that it would be safe for our members to be at the club overnight. It was a successful event, and we look forward to an ongoing partnership with Ritual Fitness in the future.

The 2024/25 season was the fourth season that we had offered the early morning pool swims at the South West Rocks pool. Thank you to Debbie Purvis, Mark Notley and Kath Langthorne, who provide their coaching expertise for free to our members. This has been a great initiative, which most clubs would not have available, and we hope that the number of participants increases going into the upcoming season.

On the back of the pool swims a Sunday Morning swim/paddle was introduced for all members of the club, to increase their fitness and skills in the water. Only after a few weeks, this initiative has grown into a partnership with Hat Head Tri Club,

training alongside each other. We hope this fun Sunday get-together continues to build, for those who may wish to engage in additional training for the 2025/26 competition season.

This year saw our members volunteer for events around the South West Rocks community, including water safety for the Trial Bay Triathlon and the South West Rocks NAIDOC Celebrations, as well as marshalls for the South West Rocks Runfest. Our community engagement and relationships throughout not just South West Rocks but the wider Macleay Valley continue to grow and prosper. These initiatives included:

- In September, we held an information session for Clontarf Students from Kempsey High and Melville High on pathways through Surf Life Saving. This included some water activities, touch footy on the beach and presentations surrounding all things red and yellow and paid opportunities as lifeguards or drone operators.
- October saw parishioners from the South West Rocks Catholic Church – Our Lady Star of the Sea, attend a CPR and defib awareness session to provide education on how to use their new defib.
- Our Term 4 annual school water safety talks continued to grow, and we visited South West Rocks Public School, Smithtown Public School, Gladstone Public School and Kempsey South Public School. Thank you to Renee, Ginja and Sophie, who gave up their time to visit the schools and spread the importance of water safety.
- In January, we held the first Badaar Nippers holiday program for children from Kempsey South Public School. This has been a wonderful initiative, and we are looking at expanding this program in the upcoming season.
- After the flooding event in May, we reached out to our local community to donate non-perishable items for our local flood victims. The response was overwhelming and very generous. When the items were delivered to families, there needed to be two trips to be able to fit all the hampers into the ute. A testament to the South West Rocks community.

It would be remiss not to mention the newest movement of members at the SWRSLSC – our Silver Salties. On the 30th September, the first program of activities started, facilitated by Anne Pearce, Debbie Purvis and Jennie Grahame, with Chair Yoga and Walk/Swim Sessions. This then grew to include a third option of a Gentle Exercise Class. We are now onto our third round of programs, with no chance of slowing down. The Silver Salties membership is now over 60 members and continuing to grow – they have their own t-shirts and have become important

members of the club, assisting with various roles to support the committee. This initiative has no doubt been a major success for the 65+ years demographic – promoting inclusion, social connection, fitness and water safety. Congratulations to Greg Lawton, our first Silver Salties member, who gained his Bronze Medallion and to the members who have overcome their fears of the surf and are loving being in the water on a weekly basis.

SWRSLSC hosted an ALBERT Course in March. This course is for current IRB Crew and Drivers who are looking to upskill to more advanced training. Facilitated by SLSNSW coaches, close to 50 participants from North Coast and Lower North Coast joined our Mid North Coast Members in what was a great weekend of powercraft upskilling.

As we prepare for the 2025/2026 season, our focus will be on strengthening our patrol teams, expanding community education, and securing funding for equipment and member development. We are also prioritising mental health support and recognition for our volunteers – ensuring they feel valued and empowered to continue serving.

My sincere thanks go to every volunteer, TAF, committee member, and supporter. The collective dedication of our club family is the foundation of everything we achieve. Special thanks to the families of our patrolling members, whose support behind the scenes makes such a difference.

Together, we are not only saving lives—we are building a stronger, safer, more connected community.

Respectfully submitted,
Brienna Elford
Life Member
Director of Lifesaving
South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club

DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Queenscliff Nippers were here in October before our season started, and some of our South West Rocks crew joined in for the weekend and learnt new board skills, helping build confidence in the water and on the beach.

This season, we started with 38 children. It was a very consistent season for most of our Nipper children, arriving each week and having a go at all the beach events and water activities. Overall, we had 14 nipper sessions on the beach, pool swims and Nipper days at Hat Head and Kempsey-Crescent Head.

Brienna Elford, Mark Notley, Debbie Purvis and **Kath Langthorne** held squad training for our members at the South West Rocks pool, where two of our nippers were consistent the whole way through and attended every early morning pool session.

I want to say a huge thank you to our Junior Activities sponsors for providing our Nipper and age managers with long sleeve shirts designed by local Dunghutti artist **Freeda Roberts**:-

-
- **Seabreeze Beach Hotel Fishing Club**
- **The Heritage Guesthouse**
- **LJ Hooker**

Three nipper children received extra training through the season when they joined in with the SLSMNC Branch Development Squad. It helped them build up their confidence on the board.

We held our Macleay Nipper day with Hat Head, Kempsey-Crescent Head and South West Rocks, with 150 nippers turning up with their families! It was a very organised day and everyone had lots of fun with beach events and mini iron person for U11/U12/U13.

Marrungbu Nancy, Aunty Cheryl and Kristy for this season's Cultural Day. The children were very engaged, listening to the Dhungutti language and learning the terminology about our sea life. We even got to leave our handprints in the sand around the sea turtle Nancy created.

What a beautiful morning to celebrate the Dhungutti culture on the beach. Everyone had a wonderful time learning and making their turtle, and weaving the rings for the mobile.

This year, for the Branch Championships, the Junior March Past Team were trained by **Noel Langthorne** and placed 4th. For some of the children, it was their very first time marching, and it was great to see everyone involved and in their march past uniform.

This season, we started off with 5 age managers, but due to other commitments and illness, we ended the season with 4. Thank you to **Sophie Smailes, Belinda Telford, Luke Marshall, Megan Curnow & Linda Cooper**. One of our Age Managers, **Luke Marshall**, also completed his bronze – well done!

A huge thank you to all my parent helpers who wore a purple vest and encouraged the children in each age group with positivity every Sunday.

Thank you to our water safety personnel, without you guys, my job wouldn't run as smoothly as this season did, so thank you very much.

A big thank you to my support crew, you do a lot for me behind the scenes, and I want to say thank you so much. Without all of you, I wouldn't be where I am today.

At our junior presentation, these children were awarded these awards from their commitment each week, go-to attitude and encouraging their peers with positive words.

Competitor of the Year – **Sage Lategan**

Kerry Fisher Memorial Award for Effort and Attitude – **Oscar Nicholl**

U12s Most Consistent and KING of the Raffles – **Liam Slade**

U11s Most Consistent – **George Marshall** and **Quinn Swan**

U10s Most Improved – **Mitchell George**

U9s Most Improved – **Sammy Russell**

U8s Most Consistent – **Billy Shakespeare**

U7s Most Improved – **Henk Mottee**

U6s Most Consistent – **Murray Lorber**

This has been my first season as Director of Junior Activities, and I've had a wonderful first start. I hope to keep building our junior memberships and getting more involved in the community.

Ginja Ryan

Director of Junior Activities

South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

The 2024/25 season was another successful season for South West Rocks.

We continue to have amazing support from returning sponsors and from new sponsors that have rendered financial assistance for the 2024/2025 season. We are sincerely grateful for the support we have received.

Without their backing, we would not have been able to provide our primary objective – protecting the community and visitors while enjoying our South West Rocks Beaches.

Once again, our Friday night raffles continue to be a fantastic money earner for our club. This season, we introduced a new ticketing system and raffle roster, which has been very successful. A BIG thanks to Patrolling members, Nippers and their families, Boaties, The Old Farts volunteers and Board members who helped out throughout the season, enjoying a drink and/or a meal while supporting the Friday night.

Thank you to our valued sponsors over many years **Pick of the Crop** and **Balls Butchery and Providore**, for generously donating their delicious fruit/veggie and meat/seafood trays. A special SHOUT OUT to **Liam Slade** and **Oscar Nicholl** for being our ticket number callers; both have become more confident on the microphone over the season and have provided some light entertainment for our members and guests when calling the winning ticket numbers.

We had a successful Mother's Day raffle this year. **Roberta (Bobby) McCarthy**, a member of the Silver Salties, kindly donated a lovely handmade quilt.

Our merchandise continued to fly out the door. We introduced a singlet to our range this season, which proved to be very popular, as well as our newly designed club swimmers for our Nippers and Patrolling members to purchase.

Over the past 12 months, once again South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club has had great exposure for members in our local newspaper, The Macleay Argus, with many articles showcasing our members' achievements at local and branch carnivals, Country and Aussie Championships. We also keep you informed on club news with our newsletters, Club website, Facebook (3.8k followers) and Instagram (7.9k followers) with both platforms increasing in followers again over the 2024/25 season.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the people who have supported me in the role of Director of Marketing and Communications this season.

Here's to a successful 2025/26 season.

Belinda Telford

Director of Marketing and Communications

South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club

CLUB MANAGER REPORT

We began this season with a view to business growth and development within the hospitality side of the Surf Club. Taking over the Beachside Markets at the end of July last year was a decision made in the hopes of strengthening our community ties and involvement. Progress has been a little slow going on this front but we look forward to making the markets a priority in the coming months and developing a plan for the future of the event that benefits both the stallholders and the community as a whole.

December saw our purchase of a new asset in the form of a cute little coffee van with a lot of potential. With a huge amount of help from Brienna and the Old Farts we were able to have the van named, stocked, staffed and up and running within just three weeks. Port Macquarie based coffee roasters Holy Goat have been instrumental in assisting us with the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the equipment and the training of staff as well as providing us with the beans that we use to make the coffee. The highlight for Rescue Brew this year was, undeniably its time on the beach serving the hundreds of competitors for the Sharkskin SLSA IRB Championships in July. The potential that this little van holds has yet be fully realised. Throughout the coming months we hope to add more food offerings to the menu and look at taking the van on the road to service local events.

As always, community interaction and involvement has remained at the forefront of everything we do at the Surf Club. In October 2024 we were the venue for the Kinchela Boys Home 100 th year Commemoration and event which saw over 600 people through the doors of the Club in a single day. We continue to be a sponsor of the South West Rocks Marlins Rugby League Football Club and have held the John Elford Shield Presentation and many of the club's other functions for consecutive years. In May this year, with the assistance of many of our members we held a grocery drive, taking donations for families and individuals affected by flooding in the Macleay. And our ongoing relationship with SWR Rotary Club and Marine Rescue has seen us hold multiple events for both organisations.

The Bar and Bistro has continued, this year, to maintain its place as a favourite of locals and tourists alike. Our Christmas/New Year period was beyond anything we could have predicted in terms of footfall, some nights seeing over 200 people fed from our little kitchen in the space of 3 hours.

Our staff are continually applauded for the kind and helpful service and the quality of the food being prepared by our dedicated kitchen team has been praised by customer reviews throughout the year. All our staff show a commitment to this Club both in and outside of work hours and without their dedication to the business my job would be almost impossible.

2024/25 has certainly been a year to remember for the Surf Club Bar and Bistro. We have had a few trials and tribulations to overcome, primarily thanks to weather events but I think it is fair to say that the highs have outweighed the lows this year.

Our wonderful committee, members and staff have certainly been a shining light throughout. Their positive attitudes and willingness to lend a hand in any circumstance always makes it a pleasure to work for the Club. I look forward to seeing what next season brings!

Alex Wilcox
Club Manager
South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club

2024/25 PRESENTATION AWARDS

SLSA LONG SERVICE AWARDS

5 Year Service Awards: Pete Brannelly **10 Year Service Award:** Chris Ward

15 Year Service Award: Janelle Cook

Long Service Award - 60 Years Service Award: Bruce Caldwell

Officiating Long Service - 55 Years Service Award: Bruce Caldwell

Patrol Medal - Belinda Reid

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE - PERPETUAL AWARDS

B+J Crossingham Memorial Award for Most Consistent Patrol Member

Rebecca Mitchell

Colin Ball OAM + Pam Ball Memorial Award for Achievers & Encouragers Award

Mia Matlock

Garry Gillies Memorial Award for Cadet of the Year

Sophie Smailes

Ben Clarke Memorial Award for Rookie of the Year

Kris Matlock

Patrol of the Year

Patrol 6

Gordon 'Coogan' Lawrence Memorial Award for Competitor of the Year

Belinda White

Roger Whitmore Memorial Award for Volunteer of the Year

Renee Smailes

Life Governors' Award for Administrator of the Year

Vicki Thomas

John Hogno Memorial Award for Services to Life Saving

Anne Pearch, Debbie Purvis and Jennie Grahame

Director of Administrator Award

Ginja Ryan

Director of Lifesaving Award

Wayne Morris

President's Award

Mo Wallis

Terry Trevillian Memorial Award for Male of the Year

Jarrold Hasler

W Tom Saul Memorial Award for Female of the Year

Janelle Cook

Kevin Ruscoe Memorial Award for Clubperson of the Year

Molly McBain

2024/25 NIPPER AWARDS

Competitor of the Year

Sage Lategan

Kerry Fisher Memorial Award for Attitude and Effort

Oscar Nicoll

2024/25 EDUCATION AWARDS

SURF RESCUE CERTIFICATE

Jack Ball, Darby Hudson

BRONZE MEDALLION

Gillian Foster, Greg Lawton, Luke Marshall, Kris Matlock, Mia Matlock, Angus Ryan, Sophie Smailes

PROVIDE FIRST AID CERTIFICATE

Bruce Auslebrook, Amy Budden, Dave Cook, Lance Laws, Emma Matlock, Kris Matlock, Mia Matlock, Angus Ryan, Kate Skinner, Sophie Smailes, Amy Tovey

ADVANCED RESUSCITATION TECHNIQUES

Bruce Auslebrook, Amy Budden, Dave Cook, Lance Laws, Emma Matlock, Kris Matlock, Mia Matlock, Angus Ryan, Kate Skinner, Sophie Smailes, Amy Tovey

IRB CREWPERSON

Jarrold Hasler, Kris Matlock, Mia Matlock, Ben Thomas, Belinda White

SILVER MEDALLION - IRB DRIVER

Jarrold Hasler, Arron Shakespeare

RWC

Peter Brannelly

Level 1 - Sweep

Ben Thomas

