

# 2017/2018 ANNUAL REPORT

*Surf Life Saving Far North Coast Branch*



# 2017-2018 SPONSORS

WE APPRECIATE YOUR VALUED AND CONTINUED SUPPORT



# WHAT DOES YOUR BRANCH DO?

<b>S</b>	<b>SURF SPORTS</b>	Delivering a coordinated program of well run Carnivals and Events
<b>E</b>	<b>EDUCATION &amp; TRAINING</b>	Providing education in all areas and improving skills of Club Trainers
<b>R</b>	<b>RESCUE SUPPORT</b>	Coordinating volunteers and infrastructure to provide 24/7 Rescue Services and support operations on FNC
<b>V</b>	<b>VOICE FOR LIFESAVING IN ON FNC</b>	One voice representing 10 clubs to relevant stakeholders with in Surf Life Saving and externally
<b>I</b>	<b>INFORMATION &amp; SUPPORT</b>	The Executive and Staff provide a comprehensive range of information advice and administrative support for FNC Clubs
<b>C</b>	<b>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</b>	Developing sponsorship and grant opportunities in addition to Club efforts as well as promoting the value of Surf Life Saving to the community
<b>E</b>	<b>EFFICIENT PROCESSES</b>	Disseminating and developing processes that deliver common standards and minimal duplicated effort





## **SURF LIFE SAVING FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH INCORPORATED**

*Affiliated to Surf Life Saving Australia Limited and Surf Life Saving New South Wales Incorporated*

### **PATRONS FOR THE 2017/2018 SEASON**

*Justine Elliott MP Federal Member for Richmond,  
Kevin Hogan MP Federal Member for Page,  
Luke Hartsuyker MP Federal Member for Cowper  
Geoff Provest MP State Member for Tweed,  
Tamara Smith MP State Member for Ballina,  
Thomas George MP State Member for Lismore,  
Christopher Gulaptis, MP State Member for Clarence,*

**President:**

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*Vacant*

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*Elton Cummings*

**Director of Finance:**

*Andrew Dougherty*

**Director of Lifesaving:**

*Chris Samuels*

**Director of Surf Sports:**

*Debbie Pawsey*

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**Gear Steward:**

*Charlie Buchanan*

**Hon Medical Officers:**

*Dr Brian Witt Lismore*

*Dr Peter Rodger Byron Bay*

**Hon Legal Advisor:**

*Adam Gibbs*

**Committees Constitution**

*President\* -*

*Gordon McNaughton*

*John Watson*

*Geoff Harris*

*Geoff Horsey*

**Honours & Life Membership**

*President\* -*

*Kim Holdom*

*John Watson AM*

*Keith Kennedy OAM*

**Finance**

*Director of Finance\**

*Elton Cummings*

*John Beasley*

*David Rope*

*Braeden McHugh-Easy*

**Meritorious Awards**

*Director of Life Saving\**

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*John Watson AM*

*Keith Kennedy OAM*

**Selection Committee**

*Director of Surf Sports*

*John Watson AM*

*Kim Holdom*

*Harry Klouzal*

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**Competition Committee**

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*Kim Holdom*

*Jim Dougherty OAM*

*Paul Irwin*

**Support Operations**

*Director of Life Saving\**

*Duty officers Rep*

*(Support Operations)*

*Radio Advisor*

*Jet Boat Rep*

**Board of Youth Activities**

*Danielle Connley*

*Debbie Pawsey*





## VALE

### Maxwell Godbee

#### Norman (Max) Godbee OAM

SLSA Life Member Max Godbee OAM passed away in July 2017 at the age of 86. His illustrious 65 year career as a Yamba surf lifesaver including a host of roles at all levels of the organisation, including the international stage officiating at World Live Saving Championships.

His commitment to surf Life Saving was represented when he was made Life Member of Yamba and the Far North Coast Branch in 1971, Surf Life Saving New South Wales Life Member in 1985 and awarded SLSA Life Membership in 2006. Being acknowledged as a Life Member at every level of the organisation shows his commitment and influence he had, and in 2003 Max was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for services to surf lifesaving and the Clarence Valley Community. This was further represented by the establishment of 'The Max Godbee Award' which is presented to a local annual Community Sports Awards night to whom has made outstanding contributions to the sporting landscape in Clarence Valley.



### John Woods

#### John 'Woodsy' Woods

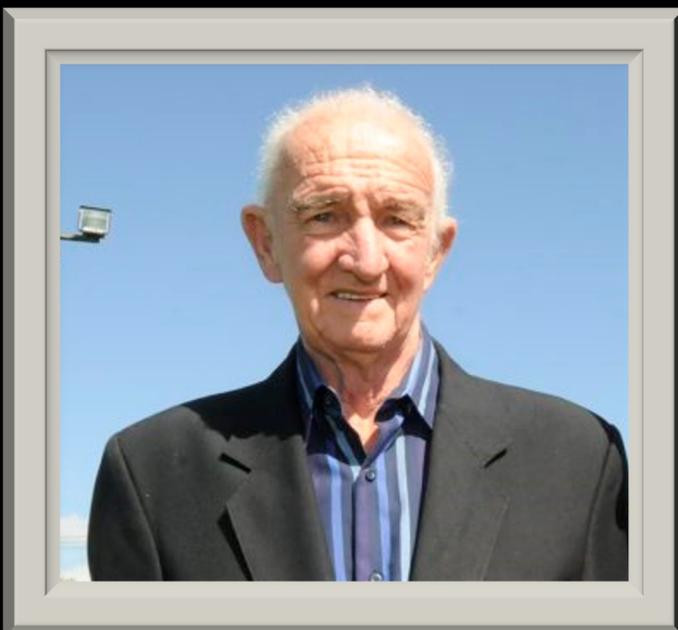
Woodsy was involved in the Juniors for many years, serving at club and Branch level.

John Joined Ballina Surf Club after moving from Victoria where he started his love for Junior activities, he went on to join Lennox Head-Alstonville and Evans Head-Casino SLS Clubs where he passed his knowledge of Junior Activities on to members. John ended taking on the roll as Branch Junior Activities 1986-1990 Secretary, 2001/2002 and again 2004-2011 Chair Person.

He also officiated at all levels of competition from club, Branch to national titles.

John's love was beach events and he would not miss a carnival, sometimes scrutineering before beach events starting.

He will be sadly missed throughout the Ballina community for all his work with a number of organisations.





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Parliament of NSW Legislative Council Hansard 13 February 2018 – the Hon. Ben Franklin (in part) – “Lifesavers are outstanding ambassadors for our community and I want to publicly acknowledge a range of outstanding achievements by Surf Life Savers right across my home part of the world, the North Coast.

At the recent New South Wales County Championships, the Far North Coast demonstrated its strength with a number of stunning performances. The four clubs of Cudgen Headland (1st), Byron Bay, Lennox Head and Yamba, all finished inside the coveted top ten in the overall standings, with Ballina and Brunswick also having a great competition.

I could not talk about the wonderful work and success of our Surf Life Saving Clubs and Branch's without mentioning the incredible drone rescue which took place on the north coast over the summer. This world first event was truly extraordinary due to the quick thinking and efficient work of life guards at the Lennox Head – Alstonville Surf Life Saving Club. I conclude by thanking Surf Life Saving NSW, the members of Clubs and Branch's across the State for all the extraordinary work they do in protecting our swimmers and beachgoers. Beach culture is a central part of the Australian way of life, and the selfless contribution of our lifesavers across the state will ensure that it remains that way.”

A busy and most successful season on the Far North Coast, with many highlights:

- The season commenced with the Annual General Meeting and no real changes to the Branch Executive
- The Awards of Excellence followed the meeting, Cudgen received due recognition as Club of the Year, and the Director of Surf Sports, Debbie Pawsey, was the recipient of the President's Award for an outstanding contribution to Branch affairs
- Cudgen was the highest placed FNC Club in the NSW Inflatable Rescue Boat Championships at South West Rocks
- The State Government announces a grant for the Ballina Club to complete its storage facility and gym at Lighthouse Beach
- The Australian IRB Championships are held and hosted by Cudgen Headland Club
- Surf Life Saving lost an outstanding member when Colin Hadwell of the Byron Bay Club lost his life in a tragic accident while cycling through his beloved Byron Shire
- Ben Mortimer was named Ballina Lifeguard of the Year for the 2016/17 season
- Jai Sheridan was named Lifeguard of the Year for the Byron Bay area
- Far North Coast supports the publication of the first Thai lifesaving manual
- Four (4) surf life savers from the Branch were selected for a junior development camp in Sydney – Maalik Moston (Lennox Head), Oliver Sharpe (Lennox Head), Kalani Ives (Yamba), and Lily O'Sullivan (Cudgen)
- The Branch lost two more outstanding lifesavers with the passing of Max Godbee and Kenneth “Poppy” Jones, both legendary and loyal servants of Surf Life Saving
- The senior development camp for under 19 to 23's was held with great success at Cedar Creek, Mt Tamborine
- Evans Head Club conduct a special presentation at the Branch Headquarters, Shelly Beach, East Ballina for five of their long serving members: Debbie Pawsey – 20 years officiating, Geoff Horsey – 60 years service, George Crethar – 40 years officiating, Shirley Watson – 30 years service, Gordon McNaughton – 75 years service
- Stage Two of the Shelly Beach facility upgrade was celebrated with the unveiling of a special plaque by the Hon. Tamara Smith MP. The work was funded by a NSW Government grant through the community building partnership program. Other special guests included Ballina Mayor, David Wright and the Hon. Ben Franklin M.L.C
- Newcastle Permanent continue as the major sponsor of the Branch and without their continued and ongoing support Life Saving would not function with the same level of professionalism and efficiency
- A celebration of the life of Tod Martin was held at the Byron Bay Surf Club on 7th October 2017, a treasured member of the club
- Jai Sheridan's achievements were recognised when he was announced as a finalist for the 2017 S.L.S Australia Awards of Excellence
- Students at Kyogle High School were presented with an amazing opportunity to train for becoming a qualified lifesaver by teacher Paul Ellem and the Evans Head – Casino Surf Club
- Far North Coast finish 1st Country Branch and a strong 5th overall at the NSW Inter-Branch Championships at Stockton Beach near Newcastle. The team performed brilliantly and were only 38 points behind the strong Central Coast team
- Evans Head – Casino Club secure a \$275,000 grand for urgent remedial works to their Clubhouse under the State Government's Surf Club Facility Program
- Lennox Head – Alstonville members, Maisie Miller and Nathan McKenzie, were chosen for the under 14/15 New South Wales team for the Inaugural Youth Pathway Cup on Sydney's Freshwater Beach on Australia Day
- Geoff Provest MP conducts an official hand-over of an all-terrain vehicle purchased through the NSW Government Community Building Partnership Program.
- Five F.N.C members are selected for the Country to City Life Saving Exchange Program 2018 – Hayden Kydd (Fingal), Lewis Warne (Cudgen), Sage Nara (Brunswick), Kate Blunn (Evans Head), Jack Graham-Jones (Ballina) – Lewis was then selected for the New Zealand exchange
- Cudgen emerged as the dominant club at the NSW Country Surf Life Saving Championships, finishing more than 400 points ahead of second placed Sawtell, with Byron Bay third. Key competitors for Cudgen were Anthea Warne, Luke Chaffer and Lily O'Sullivan
- Cudgen was also the top performing Country Club at the NSW Junior Surf Life Saving Championships. Lily O'Sullivan was a stand-out
- The 12th Annual Salt S.L.S.C Sportsman's Lunch attracts a capacity crowd at the Salt Bar and a most interesting presentation by Tom Carroll

- Cudgen trio Luke Chaffer, Olissa Onley and Scott McCartney won gold medals at the NSW Surf Life Saving Championships at Swansea Belmont. Cudgen was also the top performing club from the F.N.C Branch, finishing 17<sup>th</sup> overall
- Riley Green from the Ballina Club epitomised what surf lifesaving is all about, when he assisted an elderly lady to have her first swim at the Beach in more than a year.
- Stalwart and long standing worker for junior Life Saving, John Woods, passed away, but leaves great memories and a strong legacy
- Lily O'Sullivan of Cudgen wins three gold medals at the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships at Scarborough Beach in Western Australia. In a quality performance by Country Clubs, Lennox Head, Byron Bay and Cudgen win a total of 36 medals, with Cudgen and Byron Bay members achieving five gold medals each. Olissa Onley (Cudgen) also performed magnificently winning two gold medals and one bronze
- Jack Breen (Lennox Head – Alstonville) and Paris Brailsford (Yamba) are F.N.C finalists in the NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year awards
- SLSFNCB support Operations Report disclosed 2500 hours by Duty Officers (10 rescues) and 710 hours by R.W.C operators (21 rescues). Within the F.N.C branch there were 136 rescues, 865 first aid treatments and 88 emergency tasking's

We have a strong and dedicated core of volunteers, workers, administrators, and supporters who combine to make this Branch the strongest Country Branch in Australia. Even though, in the past season, two Directors positions were not filled, it was hardly noticed, as everyone else stepped up and did that little bit more. The Branch Executive of Elton Cummings, Andrew Dougherty, Geoff Horsey, Debbie Pawsey, and Chris Samuels, make a hard working, unified team. Special mention must also be made of our E.S.O, Jimmy Keough, whose performance all season can only be described as magnificent.

But great credit and sincere thanks must go to all our volunteer lifesavers, who again have performed above expectation and often without reward or acknowledgement. You are truly a magnificent group of people who serve your Community with spirit and pride.

There are many contributors to the success and achievements of Far North Coast Surf Life Saving, apart from our lifesavers and administrators, partners, families, sponsors, politicians, Local Government, supporters, officials, juniors, Emergency Services, Ballina jet boat, our communities and the public generally – you all play an important role and you are not forgotten – a sincere thank you.

Wilson Cregan  
President





# Raising of the Flags



## Director of Finance

Congratulations to all clubs and members on a successful season across all facets of lifesaving operations.

The 2017/18 season for the Branch has been one of consolidation with the Shelly Beach facility becoming operational and previously purchased equipment being maintained. Prior to the current season a number of grant opportunities had been realised with major funding of building works and equipment expenditure in place. At the beginning of the season we had the opportunity to employ a part time administration assistant which has reduced some of the workload for Branch Directors and office holders.

SLS FNC Branch is responsible for an increasing inventory of Lifesaving, Surf Sports and Education equipment which is reflected in the depreciation figures within Branch accounts. While the opportunities for replacement of these items was limited in the 2017/18 season there will be a need to pursue funding opportunities and grants to replace some of this equipment for the 2018/19 season. Thanks to Jillian Pratten, Elton Cummings and Stacey Nowlan for putting grant submissions together.

A large part of Branch funding comes from our sponsors which has been more important than ever with the increasing costs of Branch operations. Lifesaving has been particularly busy this season which is reflected in the level of callouts and operational costs. The Far North Coast Branch would be one of the busiest branches in NSW outside of Sydney.

Thanks to all our sponsors and supporters who have donated not just funds but the amount of in kind support we have received has been tremendous this year and we could not have moved forward this season without it.

The Branch is in a good financial position to continue with its mission of supporting Club activities and promoting lifesaving in the region. Thanks to all who have given the most valuable thing we have available to us - their time.

Yours in Lifesaving  
Andrew Dougherty



# Director of Life Saving

I would firstly like to thank all of our active patrolling members and our members that work behind the scenes to ensure our beaches are patrolled and safe for the swimming community. It is not an easy job that we undertake and takes up a lot of our spare time, often with no thanks, so thank you to each of you for your ongoing support.

This season proved once again to be very challenging, with increasing beach goers, both to the patrolled and unpatrolled areas, we were called once again to put our skills and knowledge of the water to the test and in every example we went above and beyond the expectations of lifesavers and come together to help our neighbouring clubs in time of need.

With an ever growing beach population in our branch and our support operations and call out teams being put under greater pressure we began to seek assistance from neighbouring clubs and even states. This season we saw surf lifesaving Queensland increase their patrolling and callout response to our branch. This proved on several occasions to be an invaluable asset and great working allies. We look forward to a solid working partnership with surf Queensland and their members.

This will be my final season as director of lifesaving, I have learnt so much from my time as director and I cannot thank enough my fellow committee members and club members from our branch for assisting me when needed and working with me. As I mentioned this is not an easy job that we all do and it takes a lot of our spare time, effecting us both mentally and physically and without the support of everyone working together in our branch we would not be able to provide the highest level of water safety to the swimming community, so thank you to each and everyone of you.

Chris Samuels



Lennox Head made history when it became the scene of a dramatic rescue involving the deployment of the Westpac Little Ripper UAV and Rescue Pod.

Lifeguard Supervisor Jai Sheridan, the 2017 NSW Lifeguard of the Year, was piloting the UAV at the time, immediately responded and was able to locate the swimmers within minutes of the initial alert.

In a world first real life situation, he dropped the rescue pod to the swimmers, who were able to cling onto it and make their own way to shore where they were met by lifeguards from Lennox Head who had raced to the scene in an ATV.



## ***Education Report***

The Far North Coast Branch Education Team continues to deliver consistent and high quality training and assessment to all the members of our clubs and associated bodies. This team consists of all club Trainers, Assessors, Facilitators and content experts who over the season carried vast numbers of voluntary hours to train our members for the necessary awards to carry out our patrolling duties.

Skills Maintenance [previously known as Proficiency's] is another activity of our Education Team together with the authorised delegates of their respective club's ensures that our members have a satisfactory competency and knowledge in their current awards to carry out our obligations to the bathing and beach user community. These Skills Maintenance activities are carried out at the respective clubs on dates set prior to and at the Pre Season Education Meeting.

Skills Maintenance online activities continue to be a part of this procedure and following feedback we have been able to have this system bought up to a standard that is satisfactory to most of our members.

Branch Facilitated courses continues to offer to members those awards that are above the base awards that are required by our members. During the 2017/2018 season we ran 17 Facilitated Courses that saw 208 of our members gain their respective awards. I would like to thank those 15 Facilitators who assisted me in these courses, these also included Sue Neil DOE from the North Coast Branch and Judy Spicer the SLSNSW Education Support Officer.

Two courses that stand out were first the Training Officers Courses that was conducted at the Holy Family Catholic Primary School at Skennars Head, to them we give a very big thanks for the use of their facilities over the week end at no cost other than I do have to run their annual First Aid course later this year. In the first place we had 22 members who put their names forward and we were able to have this course transferred from Port Macquarie to our Branch, the number that actually attended the course was only 9, which was a bit of a disappointment, however I am pleased to say that those 9 members will be a great asset to both their club and the Branch.

The second course was the Silver Medallion Advanced First Aid which was conducted at our Training Centre at Shelly Beach Ballina, 16 members completed this course and I was able to gain my Facilitators Certificate also. At the debrief after the course together with the other Facilitators Judy Spicer and Sue Neil were able to make recommendations that have seen some aspects of the course changed.

There have been a number of changes throughout the season however I feel the greatest that is going to affect all of our Facilitators and others that hold the current Certificate IV TAE in Training and Assessment is the new compliance training requirements with the addition of the TAELN411 Address adult language, literacy and numeracy skills and TAEASS502 Design and develop assessment tools. SLSNSW is working with an outside RTO to present the LLN unit in the first place with a webinar induction followed by self paced learning and later to present the unit through face to face workshops within the Branch. The latter unit Design and develop assessment tools will be required to be completed by both our Facilitators and Assessors and at present this would be possible via a face to face workshop in the Branch.

The additions of both these units are not a result of Surf Life Saving but by the requirements of the governing body of the education systems and I feel that it could have a significant effect on the number of Assessors and Facilitators within our Branch, however time will tell on this.

I would be amiss if I did not mention the cooperation that is taking place between the Evans Head Casino SLSC and the Kyogle High School. There has been a program running called the Bush to Beach which allows students to gain their surf awards and join the Patrol ranks of the Evans Head-Casino Club. This season has seen the joint venture obtain so far 59 awards, this includes the SRC, BM, ROC, IRBC, Spinal Management and SMAR. To add to this tally there is a First Aid Course with 25 candidates to start early June over a number of days at the Kyogle High School and a number training over the winter months to gain their IRBC and IRBD awards. The School is covering all costs in allowing the students and necessary Teachers to attending training and assessment at Evans Head and the use of the School Bus to attend their Patrols on the week end.

To finish I would like to sincerely thank all our dedicated Trainers/Assessors and Facilitators for the significant number of hours that you put into surf life saving education within our Branch, to the SLSNSW Education Staff that I deal with on a regular Basis, Dan Gaffney, Steve Allen and especially Judy Spicer thank you its greatly appreciated, to the other executive of the Branch Wilson, Elton, Debbie, CJ and Andrew thank you for your friendship it's been a pleasure working with you, and lastly to Larry Platt our awards processor you continue to do a magnificent job and make things that much easier for me.

God willing I look forward to see you all on the beach some time and some place during the 2018/2019 season.  
Geoff Horsey

## Member Services

The 2017 Development Networking Program is an annual event targeted at young lifesavers in the 18-25 age bracket who have been identified by their clubs and the branch as a future leader.

Clubs across the branch were represented by Kate Blunn - Evans Head-Casino, Samuel Atkins - Brunswick, Taylor Durrant - Cabarita Beach, Isabella Reinke - Cabarita Beach and Tahl Collinson – Brunswick as a facilitator.

One thing that was apparent is the keen love of Surf Life Saving that everyone who attended the program felt with those selected heavily involved in all aspects of the movement including actively patrolling beaches, serving on club committees, competing in surf sports, and helping out with education and training. The opportunities that the young leaders were shown clearly lit a fire in these passionate individuals.

U13 & U14 Development Camp had a great turn out in January held at CYC Burleigh with 60 nippers in attendance. All of them had a fantastic time with activities such as abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing, night beach walks, trivia, an ocean swim organised by Ben of Burleigh Heald Surf Club, "Amazing Race" run by our own Leaders in Cooper Murphy, Penelope Lovett, Chloe ones and Shaylla Young which had the nippers searching for clues along Burleigh Beach.

The children learnt to build new friendships bases and dot things outside or their comfort zone and nearly all attempted the more challenging activities.

But a great camp comes with a great team of people behind the scenes so a big thank you to the following.

Denise Young for taking the role on and organising the camp pulling it all together, for those who assisted Danielle Connolly JAC Chairperson attending as a chaperone, leaders Cooper Murphy, Penelope Lovett, Chloe and Shaylla Young. Special guest speakers President Wilson Cregan and Scott McCartney.

A big thanks to drivers Darryl Mills, Mark Davis and Owen Simpson for giving their time and patience once again without their help the cost would be out of reach for a lot of our members.

U15 & U17 Camp, unfortunately, we did not get enough number to run the U15 & U17 camp, but we have set a new date 14-16 September 2018. We hope this time of the year will allow more to attend.

Congratulation to Lewis Wearne, selected to tour New Zealand on a Life Saver exchange after being selected after the Country City Exchange over the Australia Day Long Weekend. It is yet to be released in the media.

U18-U25 Camp, the senior development camp for under 19 to 23's was held with great success at Cedar Creek, Mt Tamborine

Jack Breen (Lennox Head – Alstonville) and Paris Brailsford (Yamba) are F.N.C finalists in the NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year awards attended the JLOY camp in Sydney and represented the Branch very well, a great time was had by all.

Five F.N.C members are selected for the Country to City Life Saving Exchange Program 2018 – Hayden Kydd (Fingal), Lewis Warne (Cudgen), Sage Nara (Brunswick), Kate Blunn (Evans Head), Jack Graham-Jones (Ballina) – Lewis was then selected for the New Zealand exchange



The 2017 Far North Coast Awards of Excellence was an enjoyable night by all acknowledging our members for the 2016/2017 Season.

Lifesaver of the year  
J Ryan  
Junior Lifesaver  
I McMullen  
Cadet of Lifesaver  
B Holmes  
Administrator  
L Small  
Coach of the year  
K Small  
Female Competitor  
A Warne  
Male Competitor  
L Chaffer  
Master Athlete  
N Canning  
Official of Year  
Dennis Eyre  
Trainer of the Year  
S McNabb  
Volunteer of the Year  
T Eady

Overall Club of the Year  
Cudgen Headland SLSC  
Competition Point Score  
Cudgen Headland SLSC  
Junior Club of the Year  
Cabarita Beach SLSC  
Education Club of the Year  
Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore SLSC  
Administration Club of the Year  
Cudgen Headland SLSC  
Surf Sports Club of the Year  
Cudgen Headland SLSC  
Life Saving Club of the Year  
Byron Bay SLSC  
Jacob Lollback Incouragement  
Sarah Wilson  
Presidents Trophy  
Faciliator  
D Field  
Assessor  
R Beadman

Surf Sports Team of the Year  
Byron Bay Ladies Masters  
K Irwin  
G Coleman  
H Murray  
J Kay  
  
Service Team of the Year  
Byron Bay Education Team  
R Beadman  
M Sewell  
B Irwin  
L Potter  
P Harvey  
M Sewell  
T Eady



DNP members. Kate Blunn, Samuel Atkins, Taylor Durrant, Isabella Reinke with facilitators Tahl Collinon and Fletcher Budd.





# Director of Surf Sports Surf Sports Report

The Far North Coast Branch has once again had a very big and successful 2017/2018 season.

The season started on the 30th September with the Lennox Head Enduro, this carnival remains popular for the Lennox Head –Alstonville Surf Life Saving Club attracting competitors for the neighbouring branches.

The ever-popular Cudgen Classic is also very popular amongst the Youth Movement drawing very good support from local and visiting clubs alike. The carnival is again set down for the 27th October 2018.

The Under 12 to Open Carnival was conducted at Salt in October in excellent conditions. For the first Club carnival of the season attendance was good for both competitors and officials, and full marks to all concerned for their dedication to have these results finalised on the day. Competition also made things very difficult for the Branch Selectors trying to select the members for the Branch Representative Team to contest the Inter Branch Championships at Stockton Beach in December.

### Senior Carnivals

With the high quality of competitors in the branch, for some reason branch carnival activities does not receive the support of senior competitors that it deserves. Byron Bay conducted a carnival in November which was followed up by the Annual Carnival being held Cudgen being brought forward to the end of November. With the addition of the Ocean 6 Series, and Ocean 38 the competition calendar is full, making it hard to run senior carnivals.

Unfortunately, the senior branch championships had to be cancelled after being postponed due to extreme weather conditions. The positioning of State and Australian Titles saw it unable to hold this carnival.

The Brunswick Masters Carnival was held on the 3rd March while Junior state was held, this took a number of branch master competitors and officials. Thanks to Brunswick and Peter and Val Connell for helping Brunswick with officiating.





## **Inter Branch Championships.**

This event was conducted at Stockton Beach in very good weather conditions. The branch was represented in all sections of these Championships. The team was placed 5th overall in the Championships, once again taking out the Champion Country Branch Point Score. The coming season the Championships will be conducted Black Head SLSC on 8-9 December 2018. Congratulations To Team Manager Harry Klouzal , Assistant Manager Greg Pile and Team Coach Scott McCartney for their organisation and assistance given to the team. Team Captains Luke Chaffer and Mahli Borman for their assistance and guidance to the team especially the younger members of the team.

The Junior carnival season came to an end, meeting at Byron Bay SLSC for the Branch Championships. Thanks to Byron Bay SLSC for hosting this carnival. Competitors compete for the last time this season at branch level before many of them travelling to South West Rocks for the Country Titles and then on to Swansea Belmont SLSC, to compete against the best in the state at the SLSNSW State Age Championships.

The 2017/2018 Season has given us a few obstacles to overcome with weather and high tides.

The season commenced with the Youth Carnival at Salt, conditions gave us an excellent start to the season. This carnival is helping to bridge the gap between junior and senior carnivals, with Country Titles the only other carnival where we come together as one carnival. I believe the evidence is with the growing numbers in the Under 15 and Under 17's now competing at senior carnivals. Thanks to Salt for organising such a successful carnival, the work party had everything covered.

The first Junior Carnival held at Lennox Head with surf conditions testing our young competitors the younger groups were moved to the Lake. This is a popular decision as to not scare the younger competitors at their first carnival. Thanks to Lennox for organising such a successful carnival, being able to adapt to moving half of the carnival to the lake.

Byron Bay once again hosted the Teams Carnival. The program for this carnival had to be adapted on the day with the high tide making it almost impossible to get events on the beach till about mid-day. Byron Bay Club always manage to organise a well set up – thanks Byron Bay SLSC for your efforts.

I had the privilege to be involved with the Junior Lifesaver of the Year interviews at Byron Bay and the enthusiasm of the nominees is contagious, the Branch is in safe hands with the young members that we interviewed. Congratulations to Paris Brailsford Yamba and Jack Breen Lennox Head & Alstonville SLSC.

The next carnival was held at Cabarita Beach, a fine day met competitors and a great day of competition. Cabarita SLSC did a great job setting up the beach and water areas ensuring the carnival ran smoothly. Excellent work Cabarita SLSC. Being the first weekend of the school Christmas holidays numbers were greater than expected and we event had a special visit from Santa.

To Peter Allsopp, Bryan Lyndon, Sam Patterson, Charlie Buchanan, Harry Klouzal and Tracey Barnes took on the roll of Referees and Section Referees this season and did an excellent job. A huge number of U/8s came to the carnivals and Bryan, Tracey and Matt did a great job of making sure their introduction to Surf Life Saving competitions was an enjoyable experience.

I would like to also make mention of our Scrutineers who make sure all equipment is safe for our members, thanks to Ray Leaver & Kim Holdom for making time at junior carnivals.

To all officials, who turn up at the Junior Carnival, I would like to give my sincere thanks. The professional manner in which you have officiated ensured competitors enjoyed their events. Without these dedicated people, many of whom do not have children competing, our carnivals would not operate. To the new officials this season, welcome, and I hope you have enjoyed yourselves and gained experience at an official level. A special mention to the officials who set their alarms early to get to carnivals at 6am to run the Surf Board Riding Competitions, without your support we would not be able to program this event.

Thanks also to Maryanne Sewell for supplying the First Aid.



### **Level 1 Competition Officials Courses.**

We managed to run a officials course prior to the season, this was the last prior to the course going on line. This course has not seen the number of officials coming through. The branch has concerns with the course and has expressed concerns to those concerned.

### **Country Championships.**

South West Rocks was once again the host of the Annual New South Wales Country Championships in February. The Championships were conducted in fine hot conditions with a medium Surf running over the weekend. The Far North Coast Branch Clubs support for this carnival is and has always been to the strongest of any Country Branch in New South Wales. 4 of the Branch clubs took out the top 10 Cudgen 1<sup>st</sup> 1048, Byron Bay 3<sup>rd</sup> 494 , Lennox Head 5<sup>th</sup> 348 and Yamba 8<sup>th</sup> 209.

### **New South Wales State Youth Championships.**

The 3-day event is proudly supported by Your local club and will once again be hosted by Swansea Belmont SLSC at the beautiful Blacksmiths Beach. This year saw Cudgen coming 13<sup>th</sup> overall, Lennox 24<sup>th</sup>

### **New South Wales Open Championships.**

These Championships were held at Swansea Belmont following the State Youth Championships in quite the opposite conditions as the weekend before. The conditions proved an advantage for the experienced water competitors who were able to read the surf, pick the break out and negotiate the shore dump on the way back to shore.

Cudgen Headland's Scott McCartney displayed practiced board paddling skills to make the most of Luke Chaffer's great swim leg to get a first in the Open Male Board Rescue, ahead of Redhead and Newport.

Unlike the water, the beach track was much more predictable and events ran smoothly through sprints, relays and beach flag events. After watching their younger counterparts last week, the Under15, 17,19 and Open athletes were keen to get their races underway during a big three-days of competition.

Cudgen Headland SLSC was the best performing Far North Coast club finishing inside the top 20 and with 6 medals to their credit. They were led by Olissa Onley who stormed home to win gold in the U15 2km Beach Run, and long-time friends and training partners Scott McCartney and Luke Chaffer who teamed up to win the Open Board Rescue. Rory Matthews and Kai Onley finished in second spot in the U19 Board Rescue, and Joshua Jones took silver in the U17 Board. Rounding off the medals for the reigning Country Champions was a bronze finish for the U17 Ski Relay team (Mette Klinkers, Paige Leishman, and Anthea Warne), and third place on the podium to the U17 Female Board Rescue duo of Anthea Warne and Hayley Smith.

Lennox Head-Alstonville walked away from the competition with two medals thanks to the efforts of rising start Nathan Mackenzie who ended his championship campaign with silver in the U15 Board Race and bronze in the Ironman.

There was more joy for the Far North Coast as Ballina added to the medal tally after Jack Graham-Jones claimed bronze in the U19 Male 2km Beach Run.

### **Australian Championships.**

This season saw clubs travel to Perth for the 2018 Championships

The 2019 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships will be hosted by Broadbeach SLSC and North Burleigh SLSC from 30 March 2019 to 7 April 2019. The Youth Championships will be conducted at North Burleigh SLSC from 30-31 March, with the Masters and Open Championships being held from 1-7 April at Broadbeach SLSC.

### **Branch Carnival Equipment.**

Branch Gear Steward Charlie Buchanan has again kept the Branch Carnival Equipment in good condition, the work Charlie puts in has seen the branch gear kept in excellent condition, reducing the costly part of the Branch Competition Activities.

### **2018 Pool Rescue Competition.**

This season the Pool Competition will be conducted in September to open the 2018/2019 Season.

I would thank sincerely those hardcore officials who without question support me in my duties as the Director of Surf Sports, I don't have to mention them they know who they are and for your continued support I thank you. In closing I offer my thanks to my fellow Branch Directors President Wilson Cregan, Public Officer Elton Cummings Treasurer Andrew Dougherty, Director Lifesaving Chris Samuels, Education Director Geoff Horsey, for the friendship and assistance given me over the past season.

Well done and thank you.

Debbie Pawsey  
Director of Surf Sports



# Australian Results

## Australian youth

Cudgen Headland SLSC U14 Female Surf Board Riding	Olissa Onley	1 <sup>st</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U14 Female 2km Beach Run	Olissa Onley	1 <sup>st</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U14 Female Board Race	Olissa Onley	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U14 Male Beach Flags	Stirling Crawford	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U14 Male Beach Sprint	Stirling Crawford	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U14 Female Ironwoman	Lily O'Sullivan	1 <sup>st</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U14 Female Board Race	Lily O'Sullivan	1 <sup>st</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U14 Female Surf Board Riding	Lily O'Sullivan	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U14 Female Surf Race	Lily O'Sullivan	1 <sup>st</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U15 Male Board Race	Joseph Warne	6 <sup>th</sup>
Lennox Head - Alstonville SLSC U14 Male Board Race	Jack Breen	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Lennox Head - Alstonville SLSC U15 Male Board Rescue	Jack Breen, Nathan Mackenzie	5 <sup>th</sup>
	Team A	



## Masters Championships

Byron Bay SLSC 150 yrs min Male Taplin Relay (3 team)	Paul PATTISON, Gregory McCabe, Tim PEACOCK	4 <sup>th</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 170 yrs min Male Taplin Relay (3 team)	Graeme CONDIE, Colin MUSTOE, Glen LAWRENCE	7 <sup>th</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 170 yrs min Male Board Relay	Paul PATTISON, Colin MUSTOE, Glen LAWRENCE	1 <sup>st</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 150 yrs min Male Single Ski Relay	Glen LAWRENCE, Gregory McCabe, Tim PEACOCK	5 <sup>th</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 170 yrs min Male Surf Team	Graeme CONDIE, Colin MUSTOE, Glen LAWRENCE	4 <sup>th</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 45-99 Male Double Ski	Gregory McCabe, Tim PEACOCK	3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Team A	
Byron Bay SLSC 60-64 Male 1km Beach Run	Paul PATTISON	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 55-59 Male Single Ski	Glen LAWRENCE	4 <sup>th</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 60-64 Male Beach Sprint	Paul PATTISON	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 60-64 Male Board Race	Colin MUSTOE	1 <sup>st</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 60-64 Male Ironman	Colin MUSTOE	1 <sup>st</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 55-59 Male Ironman	Glen LAWRENCE	1 <sup>st</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 60-64 Male Surf Race	Graeme CONDIE	5 <sup>th</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 55-59 Male Surf Race	Glen LAWRENCE	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 60-99 Male Board Rescue	Paul PATTISON, Colin MUSTOE	1 <sup>st</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC 60-69 yrs Male 2km Ocean Swim	Graeme CONDIE	4 <sup>th</sup>



## Open Championships

Cudgen Headland SLSC U19 Female Rescue Tube Rescue	Hayley Smith, Anthea Warne, Sofie Boyd, Chloe Jones	1 <sup>st</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U17 Female Surf Belt	Anthea Warne	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Team A	
Cudgen Headland SLSC U17 Female Ironwoman	Anthea Warne	8 <sup>th</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U17 Female Taplin Relay (3 team)	Hayley Smith, Anthea Warne, Sofie Boyd	7 <sup>th</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U17 Female Board Rescue	Hayley Smith, Anthea Warne	4 <sup>th</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC U17 Female Surf Board Riding	Sofie Boyd	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Cudgen Headland SLSC Open Male Board Relay	Luke Chaffer, Scott McCartney, Angus MacPhail	5 <sup>th</sup>
	Team A	
Cudgen Headland SLSC U17 Female Board Relay	Hayley Smith, Anthea Warne, Sofie Boyd	7 <sup>th</sup>
	Team A	
Cudgen Headland SLSC U17 Female Surf Race	Anthea Warne	9 <sup>th</sup>
Byron Bay SLSC U17 Male Single Ski	William JONES	3 <sup>rd</sup>



# Overseas Activities

Since last reporting to Branch this time last year a great deal has happened in the Branch's assistance to overseas lifesaving entities.

## Thailand

At the request of personnel within SLSA in April I produced a report on recent alarming developments in Phuket.

If space permits read the full report at the end of this report or read it online at [seasianlifesaving.com](http://seasianlifesaving.com) or on the Surf Life Saving Facebook Page.

Cudgen Junior Lifesaving Development Tour will go ahead in July and the annual carnival will happen in December along with an open water swim.

## Philippines

Elton Cummings has continued his support of three areas of lifesaving activity there. He visited each group in 2018. Cebu Surf Life Saving Club which is a Red Cross volunteer group started by our exchange lifesaving trainer, Jong Sinsuan in 2013, Zambales Lifesaving Inc on the main island of Luzon and now Bohol Island. Elton is attempting to upskill these groups through remote SLSA Education delivery. He has arranged shipments of equipment to Philippines with Kyle Beattie under the BoardsAbroad initiative. In March, Elton was guest of honour at the Zambales Lifesaving Competition. He returns to Thailand this July to join the Cudgen tour.

## Vietnam.

The 7 year lifesaving development project begun in 2011 under Australian Government support concluded in May 2018. David Field was the volunteer in this project since 2014. Now the project will continue as a not for profit company. The company will continue to deliver water safety activities to young people through its successful Nippers Program. Its community water safety activities, public life-guard training and supply of donated equipment under the BoardsAbroad project will also continue. The new company, registered as Surf Life Saving Vietnam will fund its operations through commercial training in the hotel and resort industry. If successful in requesting a new Australian Volunteer for late 2018 SLSV will be able to further develop its water safety work in Central Vietnam. FNC members who are interested in becoming an Aus. Gov. volunteer in Vietnam should contact FNC Branch or check out the website

<https://www.australianvolunteers.com/opportunities>

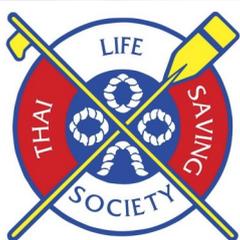
FNC Branch remain in the Twining arrangement with Danang City Lifeguards.

**Boards Abroad Vietnam** – the last shipment sent to Vietnam has been impounded by customs in Saigon. We have a water safety charity negotiating with customs for the release of the container.

The previous container was landed in Danang without any problems – this year's container will again be shipped to Danang to avoid a repeat of the problem.

**Asean Grant.** FNC Branch recently supported an application by D Field to DFAT. for an ASEAN Grant. If successful, this grant will fund a major training and lifesaving development project across 5 countries. Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, Australia. FNC Branch will play an important part in this and it will provide opportunities for Clubs and their members to play a part in international lifesaving development.

David Field



# Fingal Rovers

Fingal Rovers The 2017-18 season has been exciting and full of challenges which the members have strived to turn into opportunities for improvement.

Unfortunately, there are those in the community who continue to snipe at the Club putting up road blocks at any opportunity to hinder the Club's progression.

I am proud to belong to a Surf Life Saving Club that has so much potential and continues to provide a volunteer service to the greater Tweed Coast Area and to the many visitors that come to our beach despite those who offer no support but are quick to unjustly malign the Club's efforts.

Our members carried out many hours of voluntary patrolling duties, which included first aid cases, making public contacts and preventative actions in and around the patrolled area. The positive preventative actions, as a result this season we saw a reduction in rescues needing to be performed at our beach.

While unfortunately our Club's members were involved in three drownings this season, two south of Fingal headland and one to the North backing up a mass rescue at another beach. Despite the outcomes, the feedback I received about our members efforts were both complimentary and positive in nature.

We all know that our members can't do it on their own, without the generous support of our sponsors: Tweed Shire Council, the Anonymous Donor Grant, Medstock Pty Ltd, Paramount Safety Products, Quota International, Dulux Paints Australia, Daysheff Fire Systems and grateful members of the public.

A special mention to Cudgen and Mermaid Beach Surf Life Saving Clubs for their ongoing support, members of our neighbouring NSW and Queensland SLSCs and to the Far North Coast Branch again for their overall support during the 2017 – 2018 season. Not forgetting the individuals from our Club that gave their time to complete extra patrols that

weren't covered, filled, or members not showing up for their rostered patrols or those who forgot to organise a substitute, a huge thank you. It is members like you that will ensure the survival and growth of this Surf Life Saving Club. Truly a big thank you.

Although it has been a hard season, it would have been so much harder if it wasn't for the behind the scenes work of Michael Crawley, David Rope and Leanne Manning also a big thank you.

Thank you also to Mark Humphries and Kyle Beattie for their assistance as part of the Tweed Coast Clubs Management Team.

The Club completed its building works, with the assistance of Tweed Shire Council (TSC). We would like to thank TSC for their ongoing and continued support with grants and providing information and guidance in all areas, to all those unsung heroes who have given freely of the time, the end has arrived.

We have seen a small but steady growth in membership, unfortunately the members have mostly come from other Clubs.

With the new season only five months away, Fingal Rovers with its old and new members alike stand ready to provide a proactive and vigilant service to the ever-increasing numbers of public that visit our part of the coast line. We look forward to providing the best Surf Life Saving service possible to our beach users.

With a new committee to drive the Club forward and overcome the history of the past, the Club can only become stronger.

Mark Flavell  
President



## Cudgen Headland SLSC

The clubs season started early with the successful delivery of the 2017 Australian IRB Championships at our own Kingscliff Beach from the 13-16 July. The event provided us with an another opportunity to showcase our region and we look forward to delivering the event again in 2019.

The start of the 2017/18 patrolling season kicked off with the raising of the flags ceremony, which acknowledged the club's efforts in being named the branch "Club of the Year". This award was reward for all the hard work and dedication of our members over the past season in striving to make a difference through their contribution and engagement with our local community.

I acknowledge the contribution of all the outgoing members who volunteered their time to take up a position on the Board or any of our sub-committees and take this opportunity to personally thank them on behalf of the members.

We extend our appreciation to the local community and our sponsors who have steadfastly supported the Club's volunteer membership base, enabling us to continually improve our facilities and range of lifesaving services.

### Club Management

This season we welcomed some new faces into some of the Standing Committee positions and with their appointment came a renewed enthusiasm, which has continued to see us grow as a club and maintain our reputation as one of the best clubs in Australia.

I would like to make mention of the huge amount of work that Lyndel Small does behind the scenes to keep the club compliant which has resulted in the club achieving silver quality club status.

### Surf Lifesaving

Thank you to our Surf Lifesaving Director Mike Crawley, Patrol Manager Jenny Curnow, our Patrol Captains and our patrolling members who have contributed their time to assist throughout the season. A special thank you to those members that volunteered to help Fingal again this season.

Our training teams, led by Sue Eke, put in another fantastic effort delivering a wide range of surf lifesaving courses throughout the year and supporting the delivery of a number of branch courses.

Many thanks go to Chris van der Waal and our IRB team for their efforts in maintaining the compliance of our IRB's this season. The ALBERT program was rolled out to a number of branches across the state and we have received interest for the delivery of similar programs in other branches across the state and at some interstate venues.

We once again thank our sponsors and the Cudgen Old Boys Association for their support and our dedicated group of club supporters who continue to maintain their involvement around the club in support of its activities.

"Finally, I thank all of our members for the hard work and dedication that they have committed during the season in striving to make a difference through their contribution and engagement with our local community and their dedication in keeping our beaches safe, as the demand for our services increases each year".



## Surfsports

The club had one of our most successful seasons in competition and all the hard work by our competitors during the off season paid off with some fantastic results at all of the major carnivals.

The club was well represented in the Interbranch and NSW Country Teams and we again claimed both the FNC junior and senior carnival point score results.

The club rallied for the NSW country championships to dominate the championship point score and we look forward to hosting the event for the next two years.

I congratulate all of our state and Aussie medallists who continue to inspired the next generation of young competitors. The strong results of our Youth team at this year Aussie Champs demonstrates the depth and quality of the competitors that we continue to produce and I look forward to seeing the results from Next year's Aussie Champs.

A special mention on the efforts of Lily O'Sullivan this season, who took out the Triple Crown at the Aussie Youth Championship in Perth winning the U14 Swim, Board & Iron.

Anthea Warne and Shantel Luxton were rewarded for all of their hard work in the pool with selection in representative teams that toured South Africa and NZ .

Thank you to our Surfsports committee and all those members who volunteered their time as officials or IRB drivers, crew and water safety, without your assistance our competitors cannot compete.

### Junior Activities Committee (JAC)

The JAC again saw healthy numbers signing up for the season. Gavin Smith took on the JAC Coordinator role and along with his committee delivered a well-structured training and activity program resulting in an increase in the skill level of each age group throughout the season.

Thanks is extended to all the parents and supporters during the season who have volunteered their time as water safety during our training sessions, assisted on the regular Sunday morning activity days, or travelled to the carnivals to support our teams.

The club is planning a tour of Thailand in July 2018 and we look forward to complimenting some of the great work that Dave Fields has been doing across South East Asia for the last decade.

### Supporters

We extend our thanks to all those who volunteered their time to assist with our fundraising activities throughout the season.

A special mention to Sandra Palmer and Lyndel Small who again took on our annual car draw and John Borrowdale who facilitated our trivia night each week, securing much-needed funds to support our Lifesaving Section.



# **SALT**

Firstly, I would like to thank all our patrolling members for their dedication and commitment in maintaining a safe beach in season 2017/18. Along with this the many members, volunteers, supporters and sponsors of our club who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure we have the people, funds and equipment to meet our life saving obligations to our community.

This year has again seen growth in our junior and senior member base. We have had an increase in the number of members patrolling our beach, in conjunction with an increase over last season in patrol coverage hours. The increase in numbers over the last 2 seasons has resulted in a reduction of per-member patrol hours required, further spreading the load amongst our great volunteer lifesavers.

An important milestone in the club's history has been achieved this season, as we commence building the final stage of our clubhouse. The dedication, knowledge, experience and commitment of our members has been outstanding and benefitted all facets of club operations.

The building of our clubhouse would not be possible without several government grants, club member fund raising, private donations and volunteer works. Most of the funding is coming from the Federal Coalition Government through the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and two State Government Grants from the NSW Department of Sport & Recreation (via the Surf Club Facility Grant program). We also have a loan from Tweed Shire Council.

After a few delays, building works on the clubhouse commenced in February 2018. To date, the progress of the building works is 50% complete and on schedule to be finalized in August 2018, in time for the Clubs next patrolling season.

This facility will allow members to finally have dedicated areas for training, award presentations, member's social interaction and meetings. More importantly, it allows for the accelerated membership growth our club needs to be able to supply an even greater level of Surf life Saving support to our community, local residents and tourists.

Our juniors have grown this season with a number of new families signing up and new nippers in every age group, mainly in the U6 and U7's. Overall nipper numbers are up 5% on last season and 50% over the last two seasons. With the support of the growing Casuarina community, we are on track to increase the junior membership next season. The influx of new members this season has been fantastic and a special thank you to all the new parents who have embraced the program. The Mantra, "Learn Where You Live" has resonated with local parents and assisted in beach safety and awareness with our juniors. The junior education program will enjoy more clubhouse floor space in 2018. Thank you to all the dedicated parents and volunteers who have assisted with the Salt nipper program this season, whether that be, on the BBQ, in administration, education, training or water safety.

Congratulations to Lexi Barnett for another very successful year in competition and representing the club at many carnivals, including winning medals at the NSW Country Carnival and State Championships.

Our committee again has done an amazing job, Kareen, Ben, Jeff, Rob S, Adam, Simon, Julianne, Chris and Rob B, thank you for your dedication. We have also had some valuable input from our sub committees with regards to Governance and WHS. The hours and work ethic shown by these people is amazing and they sacrifice family time, work commitments and financial income to serve the member base.

Achievements for 2017 / 18

Surf Club Building to be completed August 2018.

Junior and Associate memberships have increased from 2016/17.

New Bronze and SRC training squads qualifying.

Salt SLSC Strategic Plan and SWOT Analysis updated.

Another sold-out Sportsman's lunch.

Penelope Lovett attended the SLSNSW Youth Opportunity Makers camp.

Nipper's sign-on and numbers up.

Social media expansion, quarterly community newsletter and overall communication improvement.

Constitution updated to reflect changes in legislation, advancement in technologies and updates to the Surf Life Saving NSW Constitution.

Our many sponsors continue to support our cause and grow with us, without their vital funds and contributions the club would not be able to operate at such a high standard and provide the Life Saving services.

Thank you all very much for a great season!

Greg Lovett  
President



# CABARITA BEACH

This is my first year as President of CABARITA BEACH SLSC and I couldn't be happier.

Most importantly the public had a wonderful summer knowing they were in good hands under the watchful eyes of our many loyal lifesavers.

The Trainers in the club have done a fantastic job keeping all our active members up to date and proficient in their duties. Our Bronze squads keep ticking over and the retention rate is fair. With a lot of our youth moving away to go to University or to pursue other opportunities it is often left to the older mob to hold the reins. Nipper parents are often stepping up and gaining their Bronze medallions, which is great to see.

Our Lifesaving division has been in great hands and all our equipment is in good shape right through to the First Aid room. I cannot thank these people enough.

Competition is still moving in the right direction and personally I would like to see this side of things improve a lot more. The Board is right behind making this one of our goals.

I have been involved in a number of different clubs over the years and I can quite honestly say the current Board has supported me and each other remarkably well. When Board members get along things happen, more importantly when they listen to members they have half a chance of getting it right.

Getting our DA processed for our training rooms has been challenging, but the Building Committee tells me we are ready to go. This will be a fantastic addition to our Club.

To our staff who work behind the Bar and in Administration without your dedication we would find it hard to keep our funding up to support our maintenance and funding to all divisions within the Club.

Fundraising is still very important and without these essential funds keeping everything in shape would be impossible. To all the members and supporters THANK YOU.

I would like to thank the Far North Coast Branch for their support throughout the Season it's nice to know they are there to help.

Again thank you everybody.

Andrew Baker  
President





# Support Ops



# Brunswick

Brunswick SLSC has had another successful year with an increase of members joining patrols. This season a total of 29 rescues were performed, two requiring ambulance attendance. All our patrolling members have been as enthusiastic as ever throughout the patrol season. The first patrol of year saw an increase in beach attendance with perfect weather conditions and everyone keen to swim between the flags.

This year, as in previous years, the QLD Surf Life Saving Foundation passed on an anonymous donation of a new fully equipped IRB and motor which was immediately put to use on the date of arrival in the rescue of three swimmers caught in a rip near the Brunswick River entrance. We would like to thank the QLD Surf Life Saving Foundation for their continued generous support. With this support over the past years we have been able to keep our patrolling equipment updated.

During the on and off seasons our passionate training crew under the watchful eye of our training officer, Braeden McHugh-Easy, have seen an increase of members developing their skills to successfully gain their qualifications in Bronze and SRC courses. IRBC and IRBD courses are currently underway.

Congratulations to Bryce Holmes the Branch Cadet Life Saver of the Year for the second year in a row. Bryce continued to set a high standard throughout the 2017 / 2018 season for our Club and is a great example for our younger members. As a Club we look forward to the 2018 / 2019 Branch Awards of Excellence and congratulate all nominees. Thanks again to the ALBERT program for continuing to be a great training resource for IRB drivers and Crews. This program also instils great camaraderie throughout the branch.

Our annual Brunswick Masters Carnival was again a very successful and an entertaining day. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the Officials that attended and contributed their time. There was a strong turnout of around 100 competitors and 18 Clubs. The ocean conditions were the smallest ever on our beach and all competitors must be congratulated for their efforts and participation with one competitor travelling again all the way from Carlton Park in Tasmania. Brunswick managed to take back the trophy with 166 points only six points from second place which went to Surfers Paradise. Also a huge thank you to Andrew Arthur, Sam Atkins, Simon Ceglinski, Dave Griffiths, Steve Romain, Bryce Holmes and Barry Corley and Yasmine Rutlman for water safety and Pete and Val Connell from North Burleigh SLSC who helped to officiate.

Congratulations to Adrian and Killer for once again ensuring the carnival ran smoothly and the Nippers for running the canteen.

Brunswick Surf Club competed in Carnivals at Scotts Head, Cudgen, Urunga, Country Titles at South West Rocks, QLD State and Aussies. We had some notable wins with Paul Davis winning four Gold Medals and Dave Quemard winning silver in the 1km Beach Run at QLD State and Rob Brown winning Silver in the Surf Race and Rescue Tube at the Aussies in Perth. We had a team of 20 competitors competing for our Club this season and we congratulate them on their combined efforts.

I would like to thank our Fundraising Committee for all their efforts throughout the year. Brunswick conducted seven major fundraising events - Mullum 2 Bruns Paddle, Byron to Bruns Beach run, Boxing Day Appeal, recommencement of the Chincogan Charge, Mullumbimby Show, Australia Day in the Park, and Anzac Day Two-Up at the Hotel Brunswick - to raise much needed funds for our club.

The Branch RWC was utilised over the season and had a great visual impact on our beaches. The RWC was called out numerous times for search and rescues, most notably on Good Friday with seven rescues between Wategos Beach and the Pass. At this present time we have nine operators of the RWC.

Once again the Building Committee have been busy with further development of plans to replace our club house and during the new season we are endeavouring to move forward in negotiations with the Byron Shire Council and Crown Lands on working towards having the plans approved so that we can progress to the next stage.

Congratulations and thank you to our Nippers Executive 2017/2018 committee, Matt O'Hehir, Vanessa Thompson, Jackie Irwin, Leigh Robbins, Sue Keough, for their commitment on looking after our up and coming life savers. We look forward working with the new committee for the 2018/ 2019 season the Nippers committee are – Matt O'Hehir, Warren Burgess, Jackie Irwin, Leigh Robbins and Sue Keough.

Thanks to all the Branch Officials and executives who always ensure the Far North Coast Branch runs smoothly and efficiently and are always there to help our club when needed.

I would like to thank Kim, Sue, Warwick, Matt, Wendy, Braeden and the other club Members that have contributed above and beyond to help make this club be what it is today.

Craig Reid  
President





## BYRON BAY SLSC

It gives me great pleasure to present the Byron Bay SLSC report.

Once again it was a busy year. Club membership is strong and currently at 918 which is up on previous years. Thanks goes to all the club position holders and assistants who have ensured that the club runs smoothly.

We have a beautiful beach and usually safe conditions that attract locals and visitors from all over Australia and overseas. This year saw Byron Bay SLSC complete 4352 voluntary patrol hours as well as further water safety for major water events conducted in the Bay. There have been 330 preventative actions and 592 first aid incidents for this season.

The UAV (drone) trials have occurred at our beach this summer. Thank you to our members who volunteer their skill and time to provide the rescue services to our community. Special mention to those members who are on-call and provide emergency services outside our regular hours. It is with the excellent training from our team of dedicated trainers and assessors including Mary-Anne and Mark Sewell, Phil Harvey, Roger Beadman, Brendon Irwin, Loudon Potter that ensure we are well prepared.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent work done again this year by our JAC President Troy Eady. The nippers have had a great year with strong membership and a supportive group of parents. Thanks to sponsors Local Search, Stone and Wood, In the Pink and Byron Farmers Market. The Byron Bay Paddle was once again a great community event.

This year has seen us finalise a 20-year lease with Crown Lands through Byron Shire Council. I would like to thank Simon Richardson (Byron Shire Council Mayor), SLS NSW with mention to CEO Steve Pearce, Ben Franklin MLA, Justine Elliott, Wilson Cregan and Elton Cummins as well as all our local members and community who have supported us in this journey.

We have a committed and skilled Building Working Party led by Murray Saul and Paul Irwin who have devoted many hours towards the refurbishment and design of the clubhouse. I must also acknowledge all the time and expertise given freely by architects John Zant and Harley Graham. I would like to mention Jared Monti who has happily donated many hours. The clubhouse is in the process of a major repair and upgrade. We thank all these people and the support of local businesses and our members who have also volunteered their time to assist whenever asked.

The club would like to thank the wonderful support by our major sponsors: Winter Whales Ocean Swim, Beach Hotel and Beach Suites. This combined with the Byron Paddle, Byron Triathlon and other activities have assisted the club to maintain services and support the ongoing work of our club.

Surf sports is a strong part of the Byron Bay SLSC culture. I wish to thank the coaches, competitors and parents who have volunteered their time and skills. Thanks to new coaches Kim Clark and Jai Sheridan but also special mention to Max Tutt for continuing to foster our kayaking program.

Congratulations to all our competitors for the way they train and participate in surf sports. I would like to acknowledge the performances of our team that went to Aussies in Perth and mention the third place by Will Jones in the U17 Single Ski Championship. Great effort and well deserved. Thank you to the competitors and parents who supported the local carnivals, Country Titles and State Championships. We have some very good young competitors and look forward to seeing their development. Our paddling competitors produced some great results and personal bests at the Kayak titles.

Regrettably, we saw the passing of Todd Martin. Todd was much loved and respected. He is sadly missed.

Thank you once again to the FNC branch executive and officials and associated clubs for their assistance and support during the past season.

Finally, thanks to the Byron Bay SLSC members, their families and local community who generously volunteer their time and skills.

Paul Pattison  
President



## Lennox Head-Alstonville

What a year Lennox Head has had with new technology and methods coming into practice we were chosen as one location for the trial of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones as part of the Governments Shark mitigation programme. This saw UAVS, weather permitting, patrolling the beach on a regular basis throughout our patrols. A number of our members underwent training to enable them to fly a UAV.

The year also recorded the first rescue by a UAV when two young surfers got into difficulties north of the patrol area on seven mile beach.

We have had another successful year with no lives lost on our beach and I would like to thank the following.

Club Captain Richard Hughes and Vice-Captain Andrew Kneip for running the operations of the Club and to all our patrol members who assisted them and volunteered their time to keep our beaches safe and helped us fulfil our obligations to Surf Lifesaving.

I know I said this last year but unfortunately it needs repeating as we again had reduction in patrolling members. This puts an extra burden on those members who do patrols.

The primary function of the club is to patrol the beach if we do not have a patrol on the beach there are no junior activities or surf sports. To assist in maintaining our patrol numbers I would like all junior parents and other members to consider obtaining your Bronze Medallion and join a patrol. If you can't do your Bronze consider doing a First Aid or Spinal management course this will still enable you to do patrols.

Our Competitors who once again had a great season with everyone contributing to the best of their ability which saw us finishing in equal 4th place with Warilla Barrack Point at the Country Titles an improvement on last year's 5th. While all our competitors did extremely well I would especially like to congratulate Niamh Sharpe on winning gold in the under 11 Board Race, this is the third year she has won her age group, at the Junior State Titles. Other results at the Junior State Titles were Percy Walker 1st under 9 flags, Maalik Moston under 12 - 2nd in the Board Race and 3rd in the Ironman, Nathan Mackenzie under 15 - 2nd in the Board Race and 3rd in the Ironman. Also Jack Breen 2nd in Under 14 Board Race at the Aussies.

Our club coaches for those early morning starts and dedication that have resulted in the success our competitors have had this year.

Sam Miller our YAC Coordinator and all the Age Managers who ensure our juniors have fun while learning new skills.

A special thanks to Mark Laverty who stood down as our Chief Training Officer last year but has continued to assist with training and to keep our members up to date and proficient also to Bob Harper And Michael Brown for your assistance with training. The chief Training Officers Position was vacant this year and we are looking for a replacement so if there is a member out there interested in this most important and rewarding role please let us know. Training can be arranged if required.

Thanks to all our officials and water safety personnel for assistance at carnivals without you we would not be able to compete.

Finally the members of the Management Committee and Advisors thank you for your support during the year

Geoff Harris  
President



# Ballina Lighthouse & SLSC

Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore SLSC has continued to have a significant presence in the community working with many local service and sporting clubs on a variety of local events providing water safety and first aid. The club has also provided a number of surf safety talks to community groups. We are now a registered Active Kids Provider- NSW Government initiative - for the upcoming 2018/19 season (our 85th season).

In the area of education and training, club members have gained a total of forty six new awards covering the areas of Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART), ATV Operator Induction, Cert II, First Aid, Radio Operator, Rescue Water Craft Operator Cert (RWC), Silver Medallion Advanced First Aid (SMAFA), Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue (SMAR), Silver Medallion Beach Management (SMBM) and Spinal Management.

The club has also trained seventeen new or upgraded Bronze Medallions (BM) over two courses along with five new Surf Rescue Certificates (SRC) members which were completed during the annual SRC Camp in Oct17. An IRBC course with five candidates was completed, with a proposal for a winter IRBD training being considered during June – August 2018.

Skills maintenance (proficiency) continues to be challenging but has been completed successfully. Our club trainers, assessors and facilitators continue to consolidate and grow with six new Bronze Medallion trainers plus two probationary, one new IRB Trainer and one probationary, one new Spinal Management trainer and one new Assessor Spinal Management.

The Clubs TAF's now totalling 17members (BM), 7 (Assessors), 5 (Facilitators) with 8 holding Cert IV level qualifications (which will need some additional training over the next 6 months in line with SLSNSW VET system)

Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore SLSC continues to provide a safe environment for local community and visitors to our beaches and waterways. The continuing involvement of our club in providing this critical service is something that the club is very proud of. We make our beaches a safer place to enjoy and we save lives through our continued actions!

Some Patrol stats:

11 Patrol teams across 32 weeks (& public holidays) with almost 6000 member patrol hours

Over 56 Incidents of first aid – The majority of these incidents were minor marine stings (41) this season

In excess of 586 preventative actions.

Community beach attendance was up considerably and the season has been one of the busiest in the last number of years.

Over 16 Rescues & Assists – including assists with the Ballina Jetboat.

Our club was also closely involved with the Far North Coast UAV (drone) rollout by SLSNSW with members completing training courses and providing UAV flights not only at Lighthouse Beach but also at other FNC beaches.

Across the Australia Day long weekend we hosted members of Sydney clubs on a lifesaver exchange program. The feedback provided to our club and Branch was extremely complimentary on how we run our Patrols.



# Ballina Lighthouse & SLSC

Junior activities has been very successful this year with increased support from members and parents. The JAC team have provided an exciting Junior season with new ideas that provided actions and new initiatives including: Additional training opportunities in conjunction with surf sports

Providing specialised coaches used on different activities on the beach to assist Age Managers

Utilising an amazing team of Cadets who have been happy to help with both outside club activities (community) and weekly beach activities

Age groups were split in teams, mixing age groups, to make it more enjoyable for all on Con Asmussen and Championship Days

JAC has now created their own group of assessors for pool and surf proficiencies at the beginning of the season Junior camps held by club and branch this year and were a great success.

The goal for this season in surf sports was to encourage more members to attend surf sports training and carnivals. This includes competitors, surf sports officials, water safety, carnival age managers and coaches. This strategy has provided many new faces representing the club at each carnival. As a result carnivals have been very successful, with larger numbers attending, having fun and being competitive. Extra training has been provided and there has been great parent support.

At the Country Championships 44 members competed, with 46 placings with the club finishing 12th of 36 clubs. The State Championships saw 14 members compete with representation in Junior, Open and Masters divisions.

Financially, the club remains in a very strong position and with the additional benefit of grants, donations and sponsorship is able to provide the critical equipment for Life-saving & Education activities. We are looking forward to expanded facilities in the upcoming season with increased storage and member facilities (including a gymnasium) under construction in 2018.

## Strategic Transformation Plan

In addition to the day to day management of the club, the major focus for the club management team (board members and officers) during the 2017/2018 season has been to build on last year's work of completing and implementing the club's Strategic Transformation Plan.

The Strategic Transformation Plan (Plan) is a comprehensive document that aims to lay the foundation for the club's advancement and evolution over the next few years. Thanks to Paul Kelly, a former Ballina Club member and president, for providing facilitation for our strategic planning day and then drafting much of the Plan.

Early in the 2017 club year the initial underlying strategies for club communication and governance were approved by the board and began to be implemented. The complete framework has now been approved and the aim is for the Plan to be fully implemented during the course of 2018/2019 season.

Finally thanks to all our members for the efforts they put in to make the 2017/2018 season a successful season. A special thanks to the club directors and office holders for the huge commitment they give to the club. Thanks to all for the background organisational, planning and management tasks that go mostly unseen, whilst most are often also patrolling and working in other ways for the club.

Mario van Eck  
President



## Ballina Jet Boat Surf Rescue

It's really been pretty quiet for the season but we have managed to stay busy and again provided our 4WD to tow Santa at Markets in Ballina for xmas celebrations as well as running santa around at Xmas time in the JRB plus a range of tow jobs and rescues including a yacht in real trouble on the bar in April 2018.

We undertook water safety or arranged training for the group associated with Skull Candy Surfing, All Girls Board Riding, Coolangatta Gold, Branch RWC training, ALBERT, Lennox Enduro, water safety at Lighthouse Beach for nippers events, Water safety at Lennox for nippers events and Branch Carnivals water safety and Ballina Prawn Festival. We hosted the Lifesaver Exchange again and undertook JRB awareness training at the Branch Development Camps. We attended the opening of Shelly Beach Branch HQ. We also participated in the training using drones to deploy inflatable saving devices. We were visible on the water on Australia day – a popular annual run for us. We lent our 4WD to Branch for a number of uses including drones management and transport for visiting SLS personnel. We appreciate the ongoing support of our great sponsors including Ballina Pipeline Constructions, Scope Club Ballina-Lennox head, Ballina Fisherman's Coop (fuel), Rotary Club of Ballina on Richmond, Ballina Fisherman's co-op, Ballina Shire Council, Cherry St Sports Club Fishing Club Marine Civic Contractors, SLSNSW, Ballina Brake & Exhaust, Rotary Club of Ballina on Richmond, Brian Fields BPC, Invocare, Ballina RSL Club NSW State Government, Tamara Smith MP Ballinam, and the Rabbit Trappers..

We had a few issues with the exhaust system which are now sorted however the altered electronic controls on the JRB is working well. We replaced rocket flares and other signals as they were nearly out of date (good reminder for everyone to have systems in place to regularly check).

We also had a few issues with syringes and broken glass around the shed and on the ramp – such a shame our members are placed in danger by action of the minority. Also a few occasions where the mains power was turned off affecting our battery trickle chargers for all our gear.

We again assisted branch with coordination of the Shelley Beach RWC for support operations. Unfortunately we didn't make it down to Evans Head for a Saturday patrol and weather hampered our attempts to do some training with new bronxies.

We updated our call out systems and have moved to an app for emergency response which appears to be working well. A recent call out of a broken down vessel south of the Ballina Bar resulted in a 19minute response between the call receipt and the vessel being under tow – outstanding.

On an important note for those members in need – we were able to obtain a new key to the Marina Toilets after the locks were changed. This will avoid close calls in future To expand on the response side, it has been quiet with the shark response as the drones and protocols with chopper seems to be working well. We had quite a few calls to objects at sea. These were often tethered surf boards belonging to surfers doing tow in with jet ski's in big seas. We always respond and check things out as we would hate to lose a surfer. We assisted with a yacht recovery (Bumblebee) off Kings Beach (oops). We recovered a broken down runabout off lighthouse beach after flares were sighted at night. We acknowledge the efforts of Duncan Hope in efforts to recover a submerged vehicle under trying conditions in Emmigrant Creek. We did a few tows of disabled vessels. We also assisted police with a very sad recovery of a deceased male on a yacht in the river.

From a "needs" perspective, our RWC is nearly 8 years old and needs replacing at a cost of approximately \$18,000. We will fund raise in the off season for this. Our boat trailer is also reaching the end of its useful life and will need replacing at a cost of approximately \$13,000.

We appreciate that clubs release their members to Ballina Jet Boat Surf Rescue and we have endeavoured again to support Branch activities by making the JRB and/or RWC available for events like the ALBERT, Branch RWC training, Development Camps, JAC activities, carnivals, the lifesaver exchange program and again made the boat and crew available to undertake training exercises with young lifesavers from Sydney

We continued to get considerable interest on social media and made the news on a number of occasions. The professionalism of the group when in the public eye continues to be of a high standard.

I acknowledge the service of all of our volunteers who make the JRB what it is. Without their sacrifice in time and dedication, we simply don't exist.

Gary Murphy  
President



# Evans Head-Casino

It's with great pleasure that I present the report for Evans Head-Casino SLSC for the 2017/2018 Season.

This season has seen our club gain a few more patrolling numbers; our committee members have been trying hard all season to gain more members. We were lucky to receive an exemption from SLSNSW and branch for 6 Saturdays to help us avoid member burn out.

We would like to congratulate all our patrolling members on attendance and conduct this season. With very few incidents. We would like to thank the Woodburn Evans head RSL for funding drone surveillance for our nippers this season.

This season our club members gained senior lifesaving awards and all juniors gained Surf Ed awards.

Congratulations to our Club Members that attended the pool rescue championships and Carnivals this season. Everyone that attended had a great time and Great to see our Club bring home Medals from carnivals and Country Titles.

All the Cadets that attended the different camps had a great Time and Thanks to all involved in making this happens.

Great Job done by Lucy Ellis for being a leader at the YOM camp in Sydney.

Katie Blunn had a great time at the City to Country Program in Sydney.

Thank you to the Branch officials and executives who assisted our club over the season. Evans Head is a safer place from our presence, thank you to every member who fronted for their patrols to ensure the aquatic public have a safe experience while in Evans Head, we hope to see you all again next year between the flags.

Thank you to our Sponsors for their support over the Season, Sly Brothers timber, McGeary Brothers engineering, Woodburn Evans Head RSL, Richmond Valley Council & M J Visual Media

Thank you to the State Government for the Funding to repair the Concrete Cancer this will see some big changes to our surf Club Function room.

Ben Redman



## Yamba

The 2017/18 season has been another prosperous one for Yamba SLSC. The commitment and dedication of our patrolling members means we can again proudly say there were 'no lives lost during patrol hours' on Main Beach.

Financially we have continued to build on our strong position thanks to the support of our generous sponsors and donors. In addition, the fundraising efforts of our members across various activities and the support of the local community mean we can continue to meet our lifesaving demands and look to grow other aspects of the club.

Overall membership numbers were down slightly but our active numbers improved strongly. This was in large part due to the outstanding work of our education team who managed to put through 4 Bronze Medallion squads for a grand total of 31 new Bronze medallion holders. The impact on patrols, and in turn the reduced pressure on our active members will be long-lasting and hopefully something we can continue to build on in the coming seasons.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, we have still not finalised a long-term lease with Council for our clubhouse. It is moving forward finally, albeit at a slow pace. Hopefully we have something in place before the start of the new season.

The Yamba Ocean Swims were held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Great weather and favorable surf conditions meant another hugely successful running of this event. With almost 100 members assisting in organising and running the event it really is a case of all hands on deck and the financial result is testament to the efforts of all those involved.

Well done to nipper members Malik Elabbasi, Kalani Ives and Ben Morris who were selected in the Far North Coast Inter-Branch team. Kalani was once again a standout competitor all season culminating in a gold in the Under 13 Board at State. Our Reserve Grade Men's Boat crew also performed strongly with a semi-final berth at State and quarter-final showing at Aussies in Perth.

The Country Titles at South West Rocks saw the clubs strongest showing in many years, finishing in 8<sup>th</sup> place overall. The team was led by our juniors, boat crews and masters with some great performances right across the board. It was very pleasing to see and hopefully something we can repeat as the titles move a little closer to home next season.

The club is about to embark on a major renovation of our kitchen and bar area. This is being funded from the Surf Club Facility Grant we were awarded last season and will help boost the income from functions going forward. Completion of the work is scheduled for early August.

Another highlight of the season was the awarding of FNC Branch Nipper of the Year to Paris Brailsford. Her dedication and enthusiasm are quite remarkable and she is a fine ambassador, not just for Yamba SLSC, but for surf lifesaving in general.

The club once again assisted with water safety support for the Copeton Dam Swim near Inverell in early April with a fun weekend had by those in attendance. Well done to all those members who helped out.

The club is grateful for the support of the anonymous donor through the Surf Lifesaving Foundation. This donation, along with others received from all levels of government help to ensure that we have all the gear and equipment we need to maintain a safe swimming environment for the public and to further the education and skills of our members.

Finally, the club mourned the loss of Max Godbee OAM at the start of the season. A devoted and passionate member, Max will be fondly remembered by all those who knew him. His outstanding contribution was recognised over the years and he is the only Yamba member to achieve lifemembership of Club, Branch, State and Country. Vale Max.

In closing, I'd like to thank my fellow Board members, our volunteers and the FNC Branch executive for their continued support of the club.





# UAV Trial Report

In November 2017 Surf Life Saving New South Wales (SLSNSW) introduced the Remotely Piloted Aircraft's (RPA) more commonly known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicle's (UAV) into surf lifesaving and Surf Life Saving Far North Coast Branch was selected to carry out the trial and evaluation during the 2017/2018 season.

The UAV trial was part of the NSW DPI \$16 million Shark Management Strategy of which an estimated \$450,000 was invested into the UAV trial. The aim was to incorporate new technology to save lives and carry out the surveillance of marine life. As with the introduction of any new equipment there were many issues and challenges that arose. At times it was an overwhelming experience for all involved.

Two groups of 10 volunteers and the Australian Lifeguard Service (ASL) were selected for the first SUB 2-kilogram training course in November 2017. The course was conducted over two full days with members from Tweed Heads to Evans Heads attending.

On Friday 15th December 2017 ALS Lifeguards went live (flew UAV's on patrol for the first time) and lifesavers flew on weekends and Public Holidays.

Quad-rotor DJI Phantom 4 PRO's was the UAV chosen surveillance patrols. There were 18 Phantoms located at 8 beaches and they were; Byron Bay, The Pass, Suffolk Park, Lennox Head, Sharpes Beach, Shelley Beach, Light-house Beach and Evans Head.

SLSNSW also introduced two larger "Rescue UAV's" to meet their goal of saving lives. These were the mighty 6-rotor DJI Matrice 600 Pro and they were fitted with an optical camera, alert siren and a choice of two inflatable pods or one inflatable pod and one shark shield. Because of its larger size it requires the operator to hold a Remote Pilot License (RePL) and to be operated under a UAV Operator's Certificate (ReOC) which is currently held by the Little Ripper Group. The operators (Pilots) were required to attend an intense 6-day course and this was offered to a handful of lifeguards and lifesavers.

There were many issues and difficulties such as; software challengers, battery life and maintenance, corrosion, moisture, sand, wind and salt spray, all of which is the harsh surf environment. In addition, we had storage and poor handling and maintenance issues. Communication was exceptionally difficult especially with a number of external parties involved.

As the trial progressed through the sheer determination of all involved it became evident that the UAV's were an exceptional lifesaving tool. The surveillance UAV's started tracking all types of Marine life with ease and were able to spot rips not seen from below. They can fly on average (line of sight) 800 meters up and down the beach and reach speeds of 70km/h (sport/attitude mode) when responding to an incident.

The M600 rescue UAV proved its own capability early in the season on the 18th January when Jai Sheridan performed the first rescue utilising a UAV. Jai had just flown the UAV at a Media Launch at Lennox Head SLSC when the Lifeguard Duty Manager received a call that two swimmers in danger south of the surf club and immediately dispatched an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and the UAV. Jai flew the rescue UAV to the swimmers and were able to drop a rescue pod to them and they made it safely back to shore. From the time the UAV took off and the pod was dropped to the swimmers this was all achieved within 70 seconds.

By the end of the season over 70 volunteer (lifesaver) pilots were trained on the sub 2-kilogram by the Little Ripper Group. A total of 4,249 surveillance flights were conducted and a total of 1,457 flying hours were completed by the SLSFNC lifesaver pilots and ALS pilots. The following are other general statics;

13 Evacuations of swimmers from the water

1 Rescue

18 Tasking's

21 Sharks Sightings

494 Dangerous Rip Identified



The UAV's have already come along away since the start of the season and the future is looking bright for them to be used by SLSA and the public showed amazing support and interest with the UAV trial.

Without the hard work and dedication of the pilots this trial never would have been as successful and they should be congratulated as they are the ones who kept the community safe. Behind the scenes were extremely determined and hardworking people ensuring everything fell in place and I take the opportunity to thank Elton Cummings, Kelvin Morton and Terry Mortimer.

Jai Sheridan and Jake showed great leadership with the ALS and the support SLS received from the ALS were excellent and much appreciated.

The Little Ripper Group did an excellent job in building the foundations for the trial, supporting us with technical difficulties and without their knowledge we could not have had a successful trial and evaluation.

UAV Support Officer  
Nico Van Wyk

## Branch Snap Shot

Membership Category	Total Members	Male	Female
Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore SLSC	337	195	142
Brunswick	356	203	153
Byron Bay	776	452	324
Cabarita Beach	588	323	265
Cudgen Headland	2447	1368	1079
Evans Head/Casino SLSC	281	162	119
Fingal Rovers	84	49	35
Lennox Head Alstonville	577	338	239
Salt	248	151	97
Ballina Jet Boat Rescue	16	15	1
Yamba	443	278	165
<b>Total Branch Membership</b>	<b>6184</b>	<b>3563</b>	<b>2620</b>
<b>Probationary</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)</b>	<b>1541</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>681</b>
<b>Cadet Member (13-15 years)</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Active (15-18 yrs)</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Active (18yrs and over)</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>Award Member</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Reserve Active</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Long Service</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Past Active</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Associate</b>	<b>1371</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>713</b>
<b>Life Member</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Honorary</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Non Member Participants</b>	<b>1578</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>687</b>

Blackspot Top 10: Rescues		
	Organisation	Total
1.	Brunswick	29
2.	Cabarita Beach	21
3.	FNC - RWC Group	21
4.	Fingal Rovers	19
5.	Byron Bay	16
6.	Ballina Lighthouse	14
7.	Cudgen Headland	14
8.	Yamba	9
9.	Evans Head/Casino	7
10.	Lennox Head Alston-	5
<b>Total Rescues in Far North Coast</b>		



Blackspot Top 10: First Aid		
	Organisation	Total
1.	Byron Bay	593
2.	Cudgen Headland	59
3.	Ballina Lighthouse and	56
4.	Fingal Rovers	51
5.	Lennox Head Alston-	51
6.	Brunswick	47
7.	Cabarita Beach	36
8.	Yamba	22
9.	Evans Head/Casino	12
10	Salt	11
<b>Total First Aid incidents in Far North</b>		

Total Patrol Hours	
Far North Coast Branch	44,832.70
Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore	5,827.75
Brunswick	3,451.23
Byron Bay	4,416.50
Cabarita Beach	6,193.14
Cudgen Headland	5,476.77
Evans Head/Casino	3,286.33
Fingal Rovers	1,488.98
FNC - Duty Officers	2,400.00
FNC - RWC Group	604.00
Lennox Head Alstonville	3,882.00
Lismore - Rescue Helicopter	0.00
Salt	3,380.50
Surf Rescue 40 FNC	199.50
Yamba	4,226.00

<i>Total Awards from FNCB listed are major awards</i>	6431	3838	2589
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques [AID]	33	14	19
Assessor Bronze Medallion	2	1	1
Assessor IRB	1	1	0
Assessor Spinal Management	1	1	0
Bronze Medallion	166	113	53
Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue) (PUA21012)	172	118	54
IRB Crew Certificate	52	32	20
Junior Activities Age Manager - Online Theory	13	10	3
Radio Operator Certificate	42	22	20
Rescue Water Craft Operator Certificate	7	6	1
Silver Medallion Advanced First Aid [AID]	12	8	4
Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue	17	10	7
Silver Medallion Beach Management	14	12	2
Silver Medallion IRB Driver	6	6	0
Spinal Management	25	15	10
Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed)	74	38	36
Training Officer Bronze Medallion	9	4	5
Training Officer IRB	1	1	0
Training Officer Spinal Management	1	1	0



**FINGAL ROVERS**

**CUDGEN HEADLAND**

**SALT**

**CABARITA BEACH**

**BRUNSWICK**

**BYRON BAY**

**LENNOX HEAD-ALSTONVILLE**

**BALLINA LIGHTHOUSE-LISMORE**

**EVANS HEAD-CASINO**

**YAMBA**

**BALLINA JET BOAT SURF RESCUE**

