

**SLSFNC**

BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

**DRAFT VERSION**

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# 2009 / 2010 Annual Report

FINGAL ROVERS  
CUDGEN HEADLAND  
SALT  
CABARITA BEACH  
BRUNSWICK  
BYRON BAY  
LENNOX HEAD-ALSTONVILLE  
BALLINA LIGHTHOUSE-LISMORE  
EVANSHEAD-CASINO  
YAMBA  
  
BALLINA JET BOAT SURF RESCUE



SURF LIFE SAVING FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH INCORPORATED

## Major Sponsors

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## Sponsor Partners

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**T&G Helicopters Far North Coast**



# Branch President's Report

This season the Branch celebrates seventy five years and it is with great pleasure that I present my report in this historical season.

The Far North Coast continues to grow in all facets of lifesaving, Education, Competition and the Branch Clubs can be proud that no lives were lost between the flags. The actions carried this season were Patrol Hours 37,332, Rescues-1309, Preventative Actions-9736, Searches-43, Lost Children-78, Shark Alarms-9, Incident Report Forms Completed-29, and Beach Closures-60.

However, the Branch could not function with the degree of success that it has achieved this season without the support of our major sponsors. Tursa Employment and Training who have now sponsored the Branch for the past four seasons, Newcastle Permanent for the second season and who are also great supports of Surf Life Saving from the Central Coast to the Far North Coast Branches Woollam Constructions who last season donated a rescue Board to each club in the Branch and have indicated that they will again sponsor the Branch Clubs with necessary lifesaving equipment for the season 2010-2011. To our other sponsors DHL/Westpac who this season provided new patrol uniforms to the Branch Clubs. While the Branch Sponsorship Coordinators have had a discussion with Westpac regarding further sponsorship of the Branch Clubs. Telstra who donated a new jet ski to the Ballina Jet Boat Rescue Services which was greatly appreciated by that organisation. NBN again provided the Branch and Clubs with any required publicity.

On behalf of all Clubs and the Branch I take opportunity to thank all the Sponsors that have assisted us at all levels within Surf Life Saving. Without their support of these organisations, our clubs would not be able to provide the high level of lifesaving and rescues capabilities for the bathing and boating public within our Branch. During this season Janelle Saffin, Federal Member for Page and Don Page, State Member for Ballina gave me a great deal of support and to you both my sincere thanks.

The number of awards gained in the Branch this season has slightly increased, this is mainly due to the dedication of the Club Training Officers and the Branch Assessors. In my report last season I mentioned the part that they played in the training of personnel for the various awards and the part played by the then newly appointed Director of Education. In November 2009 the Branch received a Certificate of Excellence from Surf Life Saving New South Wales in recognition for the outstanding achievement of Education.

All beaches were patrolled this season in accordance with the signed Patrol Agreements with Surf Life Saving New South Wales; however a number of clubs required their members to patrol longer hours due to the small numbers of members. This is one area which requires attention this coming season.

In competition the Branch was well represented at the Country, State and National Championship and the members performed well, while a number were successful in winning medals including the National Championships.

This season saw the inclusion of Member Services into the Constitution and Paul Smith was appointed Director. The Director this season conducted various age Development Camps and these were highly successful and thanks to the Director and his team for a well organised and enjoyable camps. The Director of Members Service among his many duties he also responsible for the operation of the Youth Activities Committee. The Director in his initial season has established a bench mark for this portfolio.

This Season the Branch conducted the "Raising of the Flags" ceremony to mark the start of the season. This was held at Lennox Head Alstonville SLSC and was conducted for the time first and considered a great success. At the ceremony each Club and Ballina Jet Boat Rescue Services were presented with their respective lifesaving equipment by the various Sponsors. Our thanks to Lennox Head Alstonville SLSC for their organisation. This event should be conducted at the commencement of each season, in the future.

The Duty Officers once again coordinated emergencies throughout the Branch together with the Ballina Jet Rescue Services. The Branch can be proud of having one the most efficient call out systems in the State and thanks to all who participated. To all the SurfCom Operators who spent many hours manning the radios, SurfCom could not operate without these people.

My thanks to the Directors for the manner in which you carried out your portfolios and the assistance you offered me during the past season. Also to the Club Presidents and Members for their help who contributed to the success of the Branch's achievements this season my personal thanks.

**John B Beasley OAM**



# Director of Administration

It is with pleasure that I submit the 75th Annual Report of Surf Lifesaving Far North Coast Branch.

Another season has come and gone and again we would like to recognise the contribution of our volunteer surf lifesavers. Over 1077 patrolling members from Fingal to Yamba managed to keep the Far North Coast safe for swimmers during patrols hours. In total there were over 38393 hours performed.

On behalf of all members and Clubs in the Branch I take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors that have assisted us at all levels within Surf Life Saving. Without the support of these companies, whether they are local or multi-national companies, our clubs would not be able to provide the high level of lifesaving and search and rescue capabilities for the bathing and boating public within our branch.

We continue to have the support of major sponsors TURSA and Newcastle Permanent Building. The support they have put into the branch this season has been a tremendous help. This season also saw Woollam Constructions join our sponsors with a presentation at the raising of the flags in September of a rescue board to each club.

I would like to congratulate Elton Cummings on becoming the latest Life Member for Surf Life NSW, since joining Ballina in 1972, Elton has gained over 20 Lifesaving awards, along with awards of recognition 30 years service, Nation Medal, club and branch Life Membership and now one of the highest recognitions Life Membership to SLSNSW. Always looking forward, Elton has been behind many new initiatives in Surf Lifesaving including the Westpac Helicopter, Ballina Jet Boat Rescue and Surfcom. Congratulations Elton.

Thank you to John Woods for his many years as Branch Junior Chairperson, John has held the position for many years and his contribution will be missed but I am sure he will continue to share his knowledge with the new committee. Thank you John.

Finally, I thank this opportunity to thank the Executive Committee of the Branch and their families for their support and assistance over the past twelve months. We are very fortunate to have such a strong and committed Executive Committee.

Looking forward to the 2010 / 2011 Season.

Debbie Pawsey  
Director of Administration

# Director of Life Saving

It is with great pleasure that I submit this report for the 75th season of Surf Life Saving Far North Coast. Once again the dedication of our Branch's 1248 volunteer surf lifesavers and support personnel has seen our region deliver an extremely efficient lifesaving and emergency service to the residents and tourists of the Far North Coast. With a total of five drowning across the Branch this season, there is no doubt this toll would have risen if it wasn't for the commitment of our valued volunteers.

Before I continue my report I must firstly acknowledge our retired Director of Lifesaving & Education, Geoff Horsey, who ended his role in June 2009 after fifteen non-consecutive seasons in the position. Geoff has and still remains a tireless member of our local surf life saving community. On behalf of the Branch, the clubs and indeed all surf lifesavers I would like to thank Geoff for his many years of service and guidance.

This season saw our region's surf lifesavers rescue 459 people in distress, administer first aid on 2210 occasions, and prevent 9866 potential dangerous situations. Rescues increased by 40%, preventative actions remained relatively consistent, while first aid cases experienced by far the greatest gain, logging 1436 extra cases compared with last season statistics. In addition beach visitation was also recorded with the count exceeding a quarter of a million people utilising our services across our ten patrolled beaches.

Our lifesavers and support personnel this season have shown extensive knowledge and skill in a variety of dangerous and high-risk situations. To all who volunteer their time to assist in providing a safer beach environment, you have my upmost respect and thanks. Thank you for your service and professional conduct this season.

As beach visitation continues to rise, along with it grows an increased number of swimmers who get into difficulty. While our services seem to be a drawcard for locals and tourist alike, the risks of swimming outside of a patrolled area cannot be ignored. The unfortunate occurrence of five fatal drownings this season on the Far North Coast made our region sit atop the state's highest drowning statistics, surpassing even the city regions. While this generates a harsh reminder to always swim between the flags, it more importantly reminds our Branch of the need to extend our patrolling operations to meet the growing number of people using all of our beaches.

As a step forward this season we have been working hard to streamline and expand rescue water craft operations within the Branch. While the process has been challenging to say the least, we are moving positively in the right direction with a revitalised service ready to patrol the coming season. I thank all clubs for their support and vision in making this important goal a reality.

The 2009 – 2010 season witnessed the implementation of a new management structure within the Far North Coast Branch and subsequent splitting of the Board into four separate portfolio areas. The change has seen an increased level of communication between clubs and has made my role as Director easier. Along with this implementation we

have also seen changes in uniform, patrol audit procedures, Surfcom data entry and communications to name a few.

This season has undoubtedly been an extensive learning experience in my first year as Director of Lifesaving for our Branch. I would like to take the time to especially thank those who have mentored me along the way. To Geoff Horsey, Elton Cummings, Kris Beavis and Steve Leahy, I appreciate and thank you for the support and guidance you have provided. Special thanks are given to Brian Lewis and his expansive team of dedicated trainers, assessors and facilitators for increasing the knowledge and skill of our patrolling surf lifesavers.

In addition I sincerely thank our tireless Duty Officers in particular Jimmy Keough, Andrew Mills, Garry Meredith, Peter Sweetman & Bill Onslow.

I thank Geoff Gray and his dedicated team of Surfcom Operators who man our radio network.

To all those involved with Support Operation particularly those within the Ballina Jet Boat and the various RWC Groups – thank you. I have also appreciated and thank Scott McCartney and his team at the Australian Lifeguard Service for their support. To our well travelled Patrol Auditor - Geoff Horsey, First Aid Advisor - Maryanne Sewell, the SLSNSW Lifesaving team headed by John Restuccia, SLSNSW Support Officer - Belinda Camp, the Branch Gear Inspectors, Club Captains, Patrol Captains and fellow Branch Council members I also offer my sincere thanks.

**Joe Keane**



# Interbranch Championships 2009

**The 2009 Interbranch Titles** were held at Cape Hawke (near Foster). The Team, consisting of 47 competitors and 9 Officials, travelled on the Friday to compete on Saturday and Sunday. Cape Hawke was a good venue with small but testing surf conditions.

The Team conducted itself admirably and received several commendations on their behaviour and attitude. At all times, the Team was a credit to themselves, great ambassadors and representatives of the FNC Branch.

Nadi and Jarrod did a great job as Team Captains and their assistance with the younger members was appreciated, as was the assistance of all our Senior members. Our Chaperones, Lorraine, Allison and Maryanne did a remarkable job. Ken, Lou and Glenn's work around and on the beach was commendable, as was Steve Sharp's and Steve Spence's assistance, simply invaluable. It was great to have the support of John Watson, who travelled with the team, for the trip.

The Far North Coast Team performed very well overall, apart from the outstanding performances, listed below, there were many of our athletes that finished in the top placings. Points at Interbranch are awarded from 1st to 11th place and all our representatives fought on hard to obtain their best possible placing for the Team. Our Male Boat crew, "Evans Head" performed admirably, and weren't too far off the pace, they finished 7th. Considering the unfortunate injury to one of the "Yamba" women's crew, which meant we were unable to compete in and surrendered points in 3 events, realistically we were only 30 points off South Coast, so it was a great Team effort.

Congratulations to all for an outstanding performance on all fronts. To all Officials and Competitors for their assistance, I extend my thanks and gratitude for making the trip a successful and memorable Interbranch Titles. Also, appreciation to Kay from Kozzi Swimwear and David Cahill from Promax for their assistance in outfitting the Team.

## Country Pointscore

1st-South Coast 1063; 2nd-Far North Coast 994; 3rd-North Coast 689.5

## Results

1ST

Scott McCartney Open Male Board Race

Josh Brown U13 Male Surf Race

Open Male Board Teams (Jarrod & Scott)

2ND

Nathan Sharp U17 Male Beach Sprint; U13 Iron Man

Teams; U12 Iron Woman Teams;

3RD

Josh Brown U13 Ironma; Eliza Armstrong U12 Iron

Woman; Lorne Greenlaw U14 Surf Race; Samantha Corbett

U12 Female Board

Kaitlin Bakker U19 Female Beach Sprint; Jay Meaney U15

Male Beach Sprint; Jay Meaney U15 Male Beach Flags

Open Male Board Rescue; U17 Male Board Teams; U15

Female Board Teams; U12 Male Board Rescue; U19 Female

Ski Teams;

U17 Female Ski Teams

4TH

Lorne Greenlaw U14 Ironman; Nadi Canning Open  
Womens Surf; Conor Moriarty U13 Surf; Kim Chappell  
Open Female Ski

Dylan Klein U19 Male Ski; Alannah Bennett Open Female  
Flags; Ben James U19 Male Flag;s Nick Meaney U13 Male  
Beach Sprint

Jacob McGoldrick Under 14 Male Board; Ethan Barr U12  
Male Board;

Open Male Ski Teams; U14 IMan Teams; U12 Male Board  
Teams; U13 Male Board Teams; U13 Cameron Relay

U14 Male Surf Teams; U13 Male Surf Teams ; Rosie Alder  
U12 Female Beach Flags

"A " Final Beach Sprint

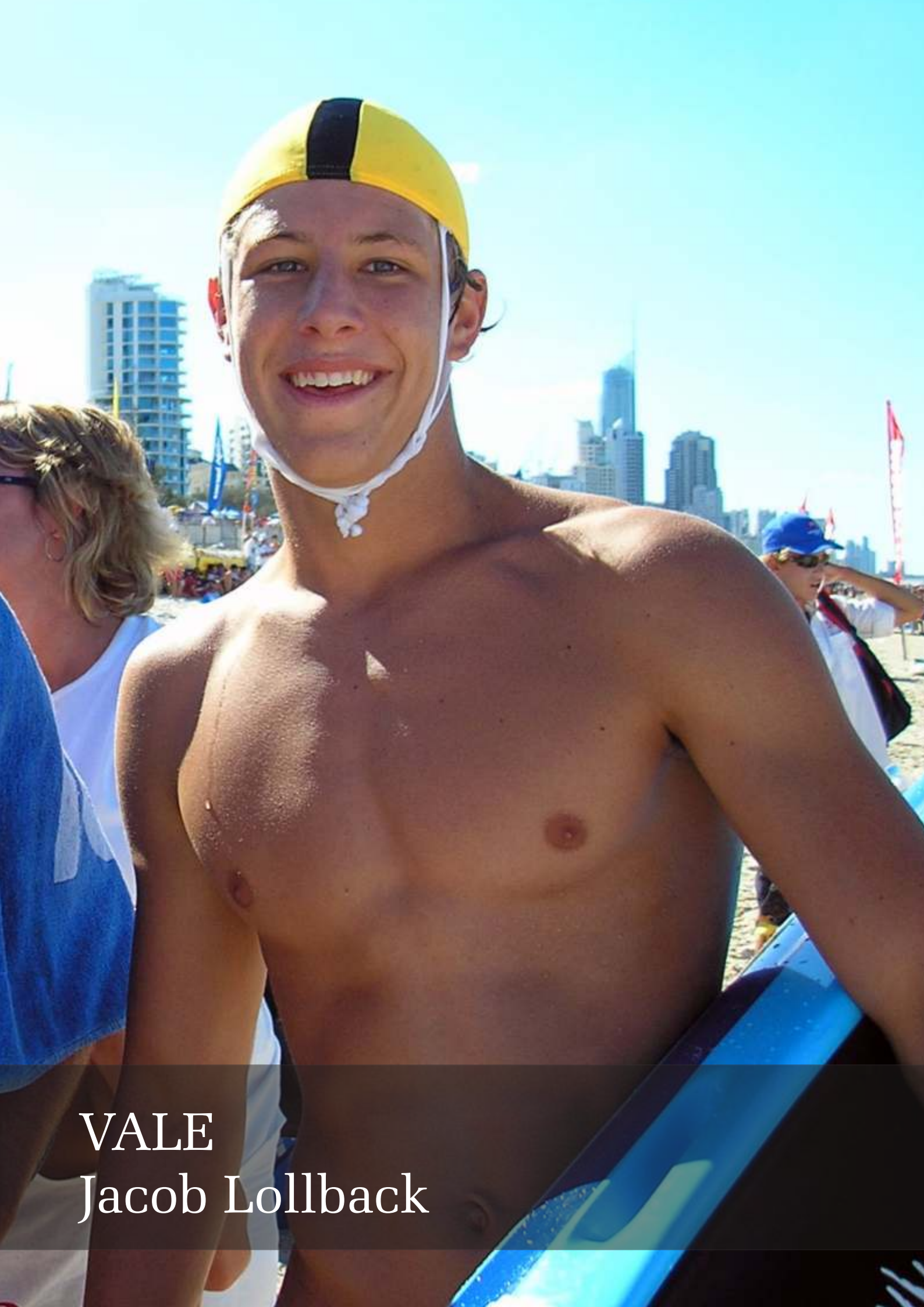
Angela Clarke (U14); Bindhi Gaze (U14); Rosie Alder (U12);

Scott McCartney (Opens); Abby Clarke (U15)

Regards

Harry Klouzal (Team Manager)

Interbranch



VALE  
Jacob Lollback

On Sept 22nd 2009 Yamba Surf Club and the Far North Coast Branch were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of one of their most loved members, 20 year old Jacob Lollback. Jacob tragically drowned as a result of 'shallow water blackout' while on a diving expedition off the Queensland coast near Gladstone.

Jacob joined the Yamba Surf Club as a seven year old nipper in the 1995-96 season and very quickly made a name for himself winning gold medals in the Under 8 beach sprint, wade race and beach relay at the 1996-97 Junior State titles held at Kingscliff.

Soon after this, his preference moved from beach events to board events but it wasn't until he graduated from the shorter nipper boards to the longer boards used in senior competition that his exceptional talent really began to shine.

Jacob developed an almost perfect paddling technique that led to him becoming one of the best board paddlers in Australia. He won three consecutive Australian Board titles from 2006-2008.

In his relatively short career Jacob amassed a total of 12 Australian Surf Lifesaving medals – 5 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze – a tribute to his talent and training. Jacob represented in Surf Lifesaving at every level possible – Yamba club, Far North Coast Branch, NSW State, Qld State and also Australia four times – twice as Captain of the Australian Age team. He was also a member of the prestigious Kellogg's NutriGrain Ironman series in 2008 as its youngest competitor.

One of Jacob's favourite representative trips away was as a member of the Far North Coast Branch Team contesting the Inter Branch championships at beaches up and down the coast of NSW. For eight consecutive years from Under 11s through to Under 19s, Jacob was a much loved and valued member of this team. He loved the bus trips and the friendships that developed with other team members from branch clubs.

As well as being a talented athlete, Jacob was also a dedicated lifesaver, patrolling our beaches both as a volunteer member and as a council lifeguard.

Jacob was an all round 'champion bloke', his presence will be greatly missed throughout the Surf Lifesaving community and beyond, but his smile and charm will be remembered always by all who were fortunate to call him 'friend'.

He is survived by his parents Eric and Kaylene, and brothers Andrew, Daniel, Mitchell and Joshua, all of whom have been patrolling members of Yamba SLSC.

Jim Dougherty

VALE  
Jacob Lollback



# Member Services

It is with much pleasure that I submit the Director of Member Services report for the 2009-2010 season.

5TH ANNUAL SURF LIFE SAVING FAR NORTH COAST AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE was held at Yamba SLSC on the 21 June . Members, sponsors and supporters turned out for a night to acknowledge and recognise some extraordinary members within our organisation.

Lifesaver of the year Ben Redman (Evans Head Casino SLSC)

Highly Commended Gary Murphy (Ballina SLSC)

Junior Lifesaver of the year Stuart Wright (Ballina SLSC)

Cadet Lifesaver of the year Max McRae (Brunswick SLSC)

Highly Commended Rhys Balkin (Ballina SLSC)

Assessor of the year Andrew Chubb (Fingal Rovers SLSC)

Training Officer of the year Rob Balkin (Ballina SLSC).

There was two highly commended Robyn Wonson (Fingal Rovers SLSC) and Terry Currie (Brunswick SLSC)

Male Competitor of the year Tanynd Lyndon (Lennox Head SLSC)

Highly Commended Glen Lawrence (Byron Bay SLSC)

Female Competitor of the year Shannon Hulbert-Green (Byron Bay SLSC)

There were two Highly Commended Ellie Leaver (Lennox Head SLSC) and Maddison Blue-Bekerleg (Lennox Head SLSC)

Masters Athlete of the year Jan Gielis (Cudgen Headland SLSC)

Highly Commended Glen Lawrence (Byron Bay SLSC)

Coach of the year Ken Small (Cudgen Headland SLSC)

Competition Official of the year Sam Patterson (Cudgen Headland SLSC)

Branch Point Score Byron Bay

Administrator of the year Max Tutt (Byron Bay)

Highly Commended Teena Redman (Evans Head Casino)

Promar FX Presidents award Brain Lewis(Fingal Rovers SLSC)

Administration club of the year Yamba SLSC

Education club of the year Lennox SLSC

Surf Sports club of the year Byron Bay SLSC

Surf Life Saving Club of the year Ballina SLSC

Club of the year Byron Bay SLSC

## RAISING OF THE FLAG

I would just like to thank our major sponsors Tursa, Newcastle Permanent and Woollam Constructions for their support to Far North Coast Surf Life Saving at the raising of the flag ceremony for the 2009-2010.

## JUNIOR LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR

This season there were 12 nominations for the SLSFNC Junior Lifesaver Of The Year Title.

Nominations were received from 7 of the 10 clubs in our branch. Congratulations to all those nominated-just to be nominated is a huge achievement in itself.

The nominees were:

Maddy O'Mahony (Yamba)

Morgan Smith (Ballina)

Tarrah Vanderstock (Lennox Head)

Hayden Blair (Lennox Head)

Maddie Rowley (Byron Bay)

Lorne Greenlaw (Byron Bay)

Mac Dennis (Brunswick)

Zayla Arthur (Brunswick)

Angela Clark (Cabarita)

Riley Chaffer (Cabarita)

Angus Macphail (Cudgen)

Sam Vickery (Cudgen)

Congratulations to Mac Dennis of Brunswick SLSC and Riley Chaffer of Cabarita for taking out the 2010 FNC Junior Lifesaver of the Year awards. They both went on to represent the Branch at the Junior Lifesaver of the Year Development program for Surf Life Saving NSW. Both Mac and Riley represented the Branch with distinction, so much so that Mac was highly commended. On behalf of the branch we extend our congratulations to both candidates. CONGRATULATIONS!

I would also like to thank John Woods, John Watson and Rose Bradley for taking the time to interview the candidates. Your help is always appreciated!

## NEWCASTLE PERMANENT BRANCH NIPPER OF THE WEEK

I would just like to thank Newcastle Permanent for there sponsorship of The Nipper of the Week Program. This season every club participated in this program and each week a different club gave an award plus a cap to a Junior member of their club.

## UNDER 13/14 JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This year's camp was held at Nymbodia Canoe Center on the 5 to the 7 of January.

In total 60 participants from the Far North Coast attended the U13-U14 Development Camp. I would like to thank all Clubs for supporting this camp and every club should be proud of the standard of young members they have within their club. . The camp would not have been possible without the support from Belinda Camp, Joe Keane, Greg Pile, Alyssia Clarke, Brett Draman, Julie Anderton, Carol Smith, Nymbodia Canoe Center and Rob Delderfield. Also thank you to the major supporters Surf Life Saving NSW, Far North Coast Surf Life Saving Branch, Accent on Stone and also to our minor supporters of the program Woolworths, Britt's Meats, Bakers Delight, Tweed Fruit Exchange and Markwell Fisheries.

## UNDER 15/ 17 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This year's camp was held at Fingal Rovers Surf Lifesaving Club on the 17 and 18 of April.

There were 23 participants from 9 clubs attended this camp. The aim of the Camp was to develop their lifesaving and personal skills as well as having fun and meeting new people. The Leadership Development Program main focus is on trying to retain the members long after they have left the junior ranks. Some of the goals was for them to have fun, make new friends and give some guidance on path ways they can take to achieve these goals.

Once again I would like to thank Belinda Camp, Joe Keane, Greg Pile, Kayla Laverty, Robyn Wonson, Michael Gibbs and Carol Smith for giving up there time to lead these cadets in the right pathways. I would also like to thank Scott McCartney for giving up his time to speak to the youths about Lifeguarding and to Peter Baird for helping. I would like to thank Fingal Rovers SLSC for letting us use their great facilities and also to Woolworths for donating some of the food towards the camp.

# Member Services

about Lifeguarding and to Peter Baird for helping. I would like to thank Fingal Rovers SLSC for letting us use their great facilities and also to Woolworths for donating some of the food towards the camp.

## STATE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Surf Lifesaving Youth Opportunity Makers Program aimed at the 15's-17's year olds looked at developing leadership and team building skills to achieve and set realistic goals in a challenging and constructive environment. The Branch should be proud of the representative as they embrace the spirit of the program and showed just what Far North Coast can achieve.

We had 8 nominations for this program and the four successful participants were:

Brendan Irwin (Byron Bay)

Brett Draman (Cabarita)

Teagan Quinn (Cabarita)

Kaitlin Smith as 2009 Junior Life Saver of the Year (Cudgen)

I would just like to thank Joe Keane as one of the facilitator for this program and for winning

THE SIR ADRIAN CURLEWIS SCHOLARSHIP.

It has been a pleasure to have held the position of Director of Member Services this season. I am eagerly awaiting the 2010-2011 season.

### **Paul Smith**

Director of Member Services.



# FAR NORTH COAST JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



# FAR NORTH COAST JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



# Director of Surf Sports

The 70th Branch Competition Season commenced at Lennox Head on 25th October with U/12-U17 Youth Carnival. A very good attendance of Branch clubs were present to contest the events. The carnival was conducted in very good weather conditions. A very good attendance also of Competition Officials were present to conduct the events which were concluded at 2.30pm which the competitors appreciated. This carnival has become very popular with our branch clubs.

The Salt Sponsored Carnival was not held this past season mainly because of the downturn in the National Economy and because of this previous sponsors could not support the carnival.

2009/10 Branch Masters and Senior Club Championships were allocated to Lennox Head S.L.S.C. The Championships set down for Sunday 7th February unfortunately were postponed because of bad weather conditions, however were successfully conducted the following weekend. This is the third consecutive year that the Championships had to be postponed because of bad and unsafe weather conditions.

It is planned to conduct 3 senior carnivals in the coming season. It is very important that our competitors are given more local competition. At this point in time only one branch club has applied to conduct a carnival next season. There is still two vacancies which have to be filled.

Junior Carnivals held in the branch last season were held at Lennox Head, Cudgen, Yamba, Evans Head, Byron Bay and Fingal. All carnivals with the exception of Yamba were held in good weather conditions. The Yamba Carnival was conducted in cold overcast conditions, and because of this and the sea conditions at Main Beach the carnival was transferred to Turners Beach where conditions were more suitable. Overall the Youth Carnivals were well supported by branch clubs. Some shortages of competition officials appeared early in the season, but this was corrected when the ratio of competitors to officials was enforced.

This coming season will see the Branch Youth and Senior Championships being conducted at Evans Head. The Championships had been by rotation allocated to Ballina -Lismore S.L.S.C but because of Clubhouse conditions and facilities Ballina requested a release from the Championships obligation.

A draft programme has been prepared and it is suggested that because of the long season the Branch Youth Championships be held on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th February with the Seniors and Masters Championship to follow on Sunday 27th February.

At the 2009/10 Branch Championships Byron Bay successfully defended their Point Score Championship. Points were Byron Bay 618 points, Lennox Head- Alstonville 562 points, Cudgen Headland 304 points. Inter Branch Championships.

Season 2009/10 Championships were held at Cape Hawke in the Mid North Coast Branch. The Far North Coast Branch team was managed by Harry Klouzal from Cudgen, coach

was Ken Small also from Cudgen.

Lou Wilson from Lennox Head was assistant to Ken Small. The team competed very well and were great ambassadors for the branch. The team was narrowly beaten by South Coast Branch for the Champion Country Branch Title. The preparation by Team Manager Harry Klouzal was excellent as was the efforts of the Team Coach Ken and his assistant Lou Wilson.

The support Team of Glen Moriarty, Lorraine James, Alison Leaver, Maryanne Sewell, Beach Coach Steve Sharp and the Team Gear Steward Steve Spence thanks for your support. The Team Managers report can be found elsewhere in this report.

## **Coaching Course.**

Last season there was not a level 1 coaching course conducted. However the coming season a course will be conducted at Yamba on 9th and 10th July. More information will be advised to clubs in due course.

## **Brunswick Masters.**

This popular event was conducted at Brunswick on Saturday 9th January 2010 in perfect weather conditions quite a contrast to the previous five years of absolutely impossible weather. I have been going to Brunswick for 50 years and I have never seen such wonderful weather conditions ever there. Competitors from an area of Fingal Bay in the South to the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. There were 19 clubs in attendance. The Branch supplied 10 Competition Officials for the conduct of the events. Next season the Masters will be held on Saturday 11th December.

## **School League Carnivals.**

This carnival in the past season was held at Camden Haven. Venue for the coming season has not yet been notified. Previous years both Public and Catholic Colleges held carnivals annually in Far North, North and Mid North Coast Branch's.

## **N.S.W Country Championships.**

The 2009/10 Championships were held at South West Rocks in January 2010. The branch was again very well represented at these Championships. Branch club competitors were placed in the majority of events conducted with some outstanding performances recorded. The Country Championships 2010/11 will again be conducted at South West Rocks on 15th, 16th, 17th January 2011. The Championships were conducted in very good weather conditions. Some 39 Branch Competition Officials attended the Championships. Their attendance contributed greatly to the successful completion of the Championships.

## **N.S.W Junior Lifesaver of the Year.**

The past season again this activity was well supported by branch clubs with 12 nominations being received. Nominations were received from Lennox Head 2, Yamba 1, Brunswick 2, Ballina 1, Byron Bay 2, Cudgen 2, Cabarita 2. All candidates were interviewed by the selection committee.

# Director of Surf Sports

Final selection to represent the Branch were Male Julius (mac) Dennis of Brunswick S.L.S.C. Female Representative selected was Riley Chaffer of Cabarita Beach S.L.S.C. All nominations received were of a very high standard with both winners selected by the smallest of margins in each category. Both Julius and Riley are to be congratulated on their efforts at the final judging at the State Championships. Julius received a very high commendation from the judging panel.

## **Branch Youth and Competition Committee.**

At the last Annual General Meeting of the Committee John Woods was re elected Chairman. Also re elected was Carol Smith to the position of Secretary of the committee. Debbie Pawsey was again elected Carnival Organiser. The elected officers worked very hard and well together over the past season. A special mention must go to Carol Smith did an excellent job in the position of Secretary. Through Carol's efforts meeting attendances of club delegates to meetings was excellent, a big improvement on previous years. This past season clubs were checked on their ratio's of competitors to officials. Some clubs were found wanting but this was soon corrected when clubs were put on notice. The branch has 120 accredited officials, and with this number there should never be a shortage to conduct a carnival.

## **N.S.W. State Age Championships.**

These Championships were held at Swansea Belmont in February. The branch was well represented by Branch Clubs. The 2010/11 State Championships will be held at Kingscliff on 11th, 12th, 13th, March 2011. Medal winners: U/14m Board Race Rescue Lennox Head 3rd. U/13m Surf Race Josh Brown Byron Bay 1st. U/13m Board riding Luke Gyory Byron Bay 3rd. U/13f Board Riding Lennox Head 3rd. U/13f Board Riding Alicia Hurt Cudgen 2nd. U/12m Surf Race Connor Smith Cudgen 2nd. U/12m Board Rescue Cudgen 2nd. U/12m Board Ethan Barr Cudgen 3rd. U/11f Surf Scarlett Fahey Lennox Head 3rd. U/11 Iron Woman Scarlett Fahey Lennox Head 2nd. U/11f Iron Woman India Brown Lennox Head 3rd. U/11f Board Relay Lennox Head 2nd. U/10 Female Board Emily Hurt. Cudgen 1st. Pointscore Lennox Head 19th out of 65 competing clubs. Congratulations to all winners.

## **N.S.W State Seniors Championships.**

These Championships also were held at Swansea Belmont the following week to the age Championships. These championships attracted good nominations from the branch clubs. There were eight Branch Competition Officials attending.

Medal winners : U/19m Board Rescue Cudgen 3rd. Open Iron Woman Nadi Canning Lennox Head 3rd. U/19 Iron Woman Tahnee Fleming Byron Bay 1st. U/19 Board Riding Ben James Cudgen 1st. U/17 Board Riding Mitchell James Cudgen 2nd. Open Board Race Scott McCartney Cudgen 1st. U/15f Board Relay Lennox Head 2nd. U/17 Single Ski Tom Burns Byron Bay 1st. U/17 Single Ski Alex Burns Byron Bay 3rd. U/19 Ski Relay Byron Bay 3rd. U/17 Ski relay Byron Bay 2nd. U/19f Single Ski Tahnee Fleming Byron Bay 2nd. Open Female Ski Relay Byron Bay 3rd. Open Female Double Ski Byron Bay 3rd. Open Xd Double Ski Byron Bay 3rd. U/19 Double Ski Byron Bay 3rd. Open Female Belt race Nadi Canning Lennox head. Pont score

Byron bay 18th out of 70 clubs competing. Lennox Head 22nd and Cudgen 23rd. Congratulations to all winners.

## **N.S.W.State Masters.**

A good representation of our more senior competitors nominated for the State masters Championships. Some good performances were recorded. Medal Winners were 40/44 Rescue Tube Race Michio McMullen Byron Bay 2nd. 45/49 Iron Man Russell Zahn Cudgen 3rd. 180 yrs Surf boat Cudgen 3rd. 50/54 Board Race Geoff Brodin Byron Bay 1st. 40/44 Female Board race Jo Kay Byron Bay 1st. 50/54 Beach Flags Helen Jarvis Byron Bay 1st. Point Score Byron Bay 28th out of 91 clubs Congratulations to all winners Australian Championships.

A welcome return to the east coast in 2010. Branch clubs again were well represented and some excellent results were achieved. In the Master Glen Lawrence of Byron Bay had very good results in the 45-49 Rescue Tube 1st. 45-49 Surf Race 2nd. Lennox Head-Alstonville girls in the U/15 Surf Teams collected gold in their event. Also a fine performance by Nadi Canning also from the Lennox Head Club in the Open Womens Belt Race was rewarded with a Bronze Medal for third place. The Championships were conducted in very atrocious conditions with a lot of events not getting to the finals because of the cancellation of all water events owing to the tragedy that occurred. Congratulations to all those who nominated and were successful in their events. Unfortunately at the time of writing this report very few results were available There were 10 branch competition officials who were appointed to the carnival.

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

Season 2009/10 courses were set down for 28th February at Evans Head which was cancelled through lack of nominations for the course. Course held at Byron Bay in December was very successful with 20 applications being received for the course. Of the 20 attending the course 12 have already fulfilled their course post course work and are now qualified officials. Presenters at the course were Peter Allsopp, Debbie Pawsey and John Watson. Course for the coming season will be notified to all clubs and interested persons in due course.

## **Branch Carnival Equipment.**

The Branch Carnival gear has again been cared for by branch gear steward Mick Shea. The branch will start the new season with all gear in first class condition. Last season the gear for all areas were repaired and put in separate boxes for officials to use. It is requested that all competition officials please take care of this much needed equipment for the successful conduct of carnivals. Last season boxes were returned to the gear steward with items missing sand and water in the box which someone has to clean and repair. This coming season sectional referees will be required to sign for and return the boxes intact to the gear steward. Also a reminder that the host club for a carnival must supply an assistant for the gear steward for the issue and return and washing of all gear at the conclusion of the carnival.

# Director of Surf Sports

## **Vale Jacob Lollback.**

The Branch Officers and Members were saddened to hear of tragic accident that took the life of Yamba club member Jacob Lollback September last. Jacob as we all know was a top competitor and held many Branch state and Australian Championship Titles. He also represented Australia being selected in National Teams on one occasion he was elected Captain of the Team that contested an international event in Japan.

The Branch plus many other clubs ,State, Inter State and National representatives were present at Jacob's funeral in Grafton in September.

Jacob was an elite competitor loved by all who knew him. He will be missed and we offer condolences to his parents Kaylene and Eric and family members

## **Conclusion and Thanks.**

Firstly to the Officers and members of the Lennox Head-Alstonville S.L.S.C a big thank you for your magnificent effort in the conducting three Major Branch Carnivals over the past season. The Club very successfully conducted the U/12-U/17 Youth Carnival , The Branch Youth Championships and the Branch Masters and Senior Championships. The preparation and effort by the club was excellent and congratulations and thanks from the branch for a job well done.

To our Branch Scrutineers Ron Jackson, Debbie Pawsey and Geoff Horsey thank you for your assistance during the year. A special thank you to Mark Harris who was on the beach at all carnivals doing scrutineering for our clubs competition equipment.

Our Chief Scrutineer Ron Jackson had some health setbacks through the season but am happy to report that he is on the road to a return to good health.

In closing I offer special thanks to my fellow members of the Branch Executive President John Beasley OAM, Debbie Pawsey, Joe Keane, Brian Lewis and Tom Berry for their co operation and assistance over the Season

**John Watson. AM**

# Director of Education

A positive year for Far North Coast Branch Education. This year saw Far North Coast Branch achieve a 100% compliance level as part of the RTO Audit conducted by SLSNSW. In this regard I would like to thank those Club Education Representatives that assisted in making this possible.

This year also saw SLSNSW audit one Club within our Branch with respect to compliance under the RTO guidelines. The lucky Club, to volunteer, was Lennox Head. To his credit, Larry Platt, was able to answer most of the questions posed by Ann and provide suitable evidence to support his responses. On behalf of the Branch I would like to thank Lennox Head and Larry for volunteering to undertake this audit and represent all other clubs in the Branch so credibly. One of our goals for the coming season will be to ensure that all Clubs have the tools at their disposal to match or better the results achieved by Lennox Head.

The 2009 – 2010 Season has seen the delivery of many courses within the Branch. To this end I would like to thank those Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators for making their valuable time available to run the courses, without each of you, we would not be able to put appropriately qualified Lifesavers on our beaches.

The Far North Coast Branch again conducted regular Education Meetings this season which have proved successful with good representation at each meeting from a majority of Clubs. I would like to thank all trainers, assessors and facilitators for their attendance at these meetings and look forward to this continuing in coming seasons.

On Behalf of the Branch I would like to express my gratitude to Brian Dell and Judy Spicer for their assistance during the past year during my time of ill health. Without the help of these two individuals Far North Coast Branch Education may have come to a grinding halt. Instead it continued on unabated.

It would be remiss of me not to thank Pamela Simon, Judy Spicer, Belinda Camp, Lisa Jones and Ann Stevenson from SLSNSW for all of their assistance during the Past Season. Their assistance and guidance have made my job easier as Branch Education Officer.

Whilst I may not have agreed with everyone, all of the time, I have tried to assist all Club Education representatives to the best of my knowledge and ability to achieve the best outcomes for all clubs and their members. I believe that as a Branch we have again achieved this during the season. I trust that with the ongoing support of all clubs, trainers, assessors and facilitators this will continue to be the case and I look forward to continuing to build on our successes in the coming seasons.

**Brian Lewis**

# Yamba SLSC

The tragic loss of Jacob Lollback on 22nd September 2009 drew the surf life saving community together in support of Jacob's family, remembering a fine young man and champion of the surf. As our Centenary book reports Jacob was Yamba's most decorated competitor in the first 100 years of the club's history. Thank you to the Far North Coast Branch and Clubs for your sincere thoughts and support. Special thanks to Jim Dougherty for providing the memorable eulogy for Jacob.

Following the severe storms and high seas experienced in May 2009 cracks appeared along the Main Beach rock wall, including the boat ramp. Clarence Valley Council were able to carry out temporary repairs to the rock wall and replace the boat ramp, just in time for the opening of the season. During this period the Club carried out repairs to the sub floor foundations and amenities section of the club.

Our volunteer patrolling members again provided a safe environment for our beachgoers and we are pleased to report that 'no lives were lost during patrol hours' again this season. Thank you to all patrolling members for your presence and dedication.

Total Club membership topped the 600 mark during the season, with our Nipper numbers growing to 171. A great JAC carnival was held in difficult conditions at Turner's Beach on 14th November 2009. Thank you to all Branch and Club officials assisting with the carnival.

Awards training have developed to new heights under the leadership of Training Coordinator Kim Morgans and his team of trainers and assessors. 31 new bronze awards were achieved during the season, with several Nipper parents receiving awards. Thank you to Geoff Horsey and Joe Keane for attending and assessing our applicants.

In the Competition arena our JAC competitor numbers continue to grow. Board training numbers are increasing with Coach Phil Kelly, and we now hold weekly handicap board races, as well as the regular surf races. The Boat section had five crews competing at various times during the season, with some keen competition between the 'Chickettes' and 'Boilers' female crews.

During the season Club members met with Belinda Camp to begin the process of preparing our Club Development Plan. Thank you to Belinda for leading this process, which we aim to have finalised by the start of the 2010/11 season. A Sponsorship committee has been established to develop and retain sponsorship. Special thanks to all our Sponsors. Your continued support is appreciated.

Thank you to the Far North Coast Branch Executive for your support during the season.

**Alan Schofield**  
President Yamba SLSC

Yamba SLSC has had a busy year commencing with our centenary celebrations last September and October. These celebrations commenced with a craft carnival offering \$20000 in prize money and attracting elite surf sports competitors. 54 boat crews competed on Pippi Beach with endurance board and ski events from Main Beach and a board riding competition sponsored by Billabong on Pippi Beach. A pod of whales joined the ski race to Angourie much to the excitement of the competitors and spectators. The following week was taken up with a barefoot bowls tournament, golf competition, cocktail party, street march and Dinner for 430 people at the Bowling Club.

Sunday was a BBQ recovery day with a reenactment of a famous rescue by Tiger Teece and Blue Carmont with the original ABC narrative followed by the handicap surf race. Our Club continues to thrive with 530 members including a strong Nippers section and supportive parents many of whom are embarking on their bronze medallion.

Our training panel has been responsible for producing a good number of awards.

The Club House and beach were attacked by the recent floods and high seas but thankfully came through unscathed except for a severe loss of sand on the beach. This is my last season as President and I thank all of the hardworking members of our Club who have given me magnificent support.

Also thank you to the Branch executive particularly John Beasley, Debbie Pawsey, Geoff Horsey and John Watson for their assistance and support.

**Ray Burrige**

# Evans Head SLSC

When I look back over the past 12 months, two things stand out. Firstly, my first year as president has been very enjoyable. I have had the support of a very professional and dedicated group of people on our committee. Thank you to all. Secondly, there have been many changes within the club, and our members have risen to the challenge by taking on various tasks, performing them well, and keeping everything running smoothly. This is the sign of a great team, so thank you to all.

With the support of the council, we have been very fortunate to gain a grant for capital works. This has been undertaken with enthusiasm by a small but dedicated group of people on our building Sub-committee, so once again, many thanks to all.

Our fundraising efforts have included a successful door knock, touch football BBQs, a Charity Bowls Day, as well as meals & drinks at the sand bar, all run by our members and supporters. This support is what enables us to keep our patrols on the beach.

Our patrol members have been involved in over 20 rescues, 5 after hours calls outs, 3 helicopter calls and 1 Tsumani Alert. All these incidents were handled professionally. In fact, our service was recognised by a member of the public who was rescued 12 months ago by way of a very generous donation.

Our nippers have had another solid year fulfilling the SLSA requirements for their age. The programme has been well supported with increases in most age groups. Thankyou to all the parents who have assisted in their childrens' endeavours.

Three boat crews and not one bronze or silver medal all year, but gold all around. Having travelled up and down the coast, competing in local, interstate, national and world events, we have seen some of the best results in our long and proud surf boat rowing history. Congratulations to our 180 crews, 160s and reserves.

It has been a busy, but fun filled year, and I look forward to the next season.

**Judy Robson.**

# Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore SLSC

This year has been a very challenging for our Club, with the first issue to be resolved being where we needed to patrol this season. The extreme weather event we experienced in late May placed considerable pressure on the committee to quickly develop a contingency plan for patrolling activities. After considerable discussion at committee level, we determined that we could not take the risk that the gravel beach would return enough sand to allow us to effectively patrol the beach over the summer.

With the Branch Director of Lifesaving, we held discussions with Ballina Shire Council and Surf Life Saving NSW resulting in the Club's primary patrolling area being moved back to our original home beach of Lighthouse Beach. I am the first to accept that this was not without challenges either, though through the support of Ballina Shire Council and Woollam Constructions, we were able to establish effective patrolling facilities.

I would stress that the facilities are effective, not desirable and we continue to battle for appropriate clubhouse facilities for our members through Ballina Shire Council, State and Federal government agencies. We have notified the branch we cannot host the branch junior and senior championships for 2011 as the facilities we have are stretched to accommodate our nipper mornings already.

At the time of writing this report, the Branch Council have resolved their support of our Club and delegated responsibility to the sitting Branch president to positively support the Club's pursuit of appropriate clubhouse facilities at Lighthouse Beach.

The 2478 postcode featured tragically in 2 separate drowning events this season. The first drowning occurred outside the flagged area of Lighthouse Beach on Boxing Day. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting the final report into the incident.

A little over 3 weeks later, a second (multiple) drowning occurred at South Ballina beach when a family went for a quiet early evening swim. The second event captured considerable national and international media attention as the three children of Joseph and Carole Sherry witnessed the tragedy on the unpatrolled beach.

At the time of the first drowning, I wrote to members reflecting that the basecase at any location is an unpatrolled beach. Our members choose to contribute positively to our community by making a dangerous situation less dangerous by patrolling our local beaches. I want to thank all members for the responsibility they accept in contributing to our patrolling base.

A success of the season has been the strong engagement by our junior activity community, and the view from the Lighthouse lookout carpark of nippers in full swing is magnificent. I would like to thank the JAC chairperson Damon Meaney and his committee for the hours they have invested in the youngest members of the Club over the past season. Similarly, to the age managers for their willingness to give up their time to give Ballina Shire kids the opportunity to develop essential life skills in regard to water awareness and skills.

It is also evident in the younger members "hanging out", despite no facilities, around the surf club precinct and is particularly evident in the 15-18 year groups. Of all our patrolling members; these members, together with the 13-15 age groups really are the future of our Club.

We had identified last season the need for structured activities for our members, and considered some beach activities for all members would assist. This season saw a return to regular Sunday competition for our members, with Club Captain Andrew Dougherty establishing a Sunday morning handicap swim. The consistency of numbers has illustrated that our members are keen to take part in these type of organised activities, and I wish to record my thanks to Andrew for his enthusiasm to have this part of our club calendar.

I would like to note my thanks to the both our Club Captains this year with Andrew Dougherty stepping into the Club Captain role after Brent Manieri moved to Sydney to take up a role with Surf Lifesaving NSW.

Joe Keane remains heavily involved at a branch level as Director of Life Saving and I congratulate him for taking on this executive position in the branch. To Rod Balkin and Darcy Morrow, I would also like to convey my thanks for the work undertaken outside the club boundary through their involvement as branch assessors.

Whilst members are aware of the presence of a club committee, the extent of the time the committee members spend of their own time in the interests of the club is substantial. To our committee— my substantial thanks for the manner that you approach the role.

**Kris Beavis.**

# Lennox Head Alstonville SLSC

It gives me great pleasure to provide this information to the Far North Coast Branch Annual Report.

The 2009/10 season has again been a very busy and demanding season on all aspects of the Club and as President it was great to see how well our members responded to these challenges.

From a competitive perspective the club has again seen success with LHASLSC being named overall winners at this seasons Country Championships. This was a fantastic result that reflected the commitment of all the competitors both young and those not so young as well as the efforts and skills of our coaches led by Lou Wilson. Whilst not wanting to single out individuals it would be remiss of me not to highlight the performance this year of Nadi Canning who won an individual bronze at the Australian Titles as well as other great results through the season, all this whilst studying medicine and always with a smile.

In addition the Under 15 Female Swim Team comprised of Alana McGoldrick, Mikayla Gray, Abbey Clarke and Grace Armstrong won Gold at the Australian Titles, the result of an enormous commitment and the look of joy on their faces when they realised they had won will be a memory to treasure for a lifetime.

The Club operated 10 Patrols this year ensuring that the Lennox Head beach was a safe and enjoyable place to come for both locals and visitors alike. The surf skills and first aide skills of the patrolling members were tested during a very busy and demanding season. The effort of these members was fantastic and I know the local communities appreciate their ongoing commitment.

I wish to thank Ballina Shire Council for the ongoing support in addressing the some of our maintenance problems in the club house as the age and wear of the building requires ongoing repairs. Ballina Shire Council has agreed to commence preliminary work to allow the club to engage an architect to start the consultation and development of concept plans for the replacement of the current club house.

A special thankyou must go to the social club who arranged a number of events for members this year that were all a massive success. The energy and good humour this small band of members provided adds to the social fabric of the club and reminds us that surf clubs are not just about nippers, competition and patrols but also about enjoying each others company.

In closing I wish to thank the Management Committee for their tireless work in keeping the club functioning. Much of the work of keeping a club functioning is unseen by members and often goes unrewarded, but I wish to thankyou for the energy, passion and commitment you all provide to LHASLSC.

We all look forward to a little break to energise ourselves for the upcoming 2010/11 season.

**Wayne Jones**





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# Byron Bay SLSC

The 2009 -2010 season proved to be exciting and very successful for the Byron Bay Surf Club. With the distinction of being awarded the Far North Coast Branch Club of the Year.

Our patrols performed their duties with great pride and enthusiasm through out the year with ever increasing first aid and preventative actions.

Competitively, the club had one of its most successful seasons with achievements such as defending Far North Coast Branch Champions, N.S.W. Country Senior point score Champions and out standing performances at the N.S.W. and Queensland State Championships.

These performances are a credit to our members and the several coaches who put in the enormous amount of time training to compete at such a high level.

Once again the members of the Byron Bay Surf Club performed admirably in providing water safety and assistance with the annual Winter Whales Ocean Swim and the Bryon Bay Triathlon.

I would like to commend Roger Beadman and Phil Harvey for the endless amount of time they commit to the training of our members, and also to Jimmy Keogh and the small group of volunteers who perform the after hours emergency call out service and rescues.

The Byron Bay JAC under the leadership of Joanne Kay and her committee have again increased its membership and their strength is increasing, thanks to the many parents and volunteers willing to help out.

The costs associated with Surf Life Saving are always increasing. But with the help of our many sponsors, Large and small, The Byron BaySurf Club continues to grow.

We look forward to the coming season and providing our community with a voluntary service we are proud to provide.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the Far North Coast Branch executives and officials for their assistance during the past season and wish the in coming office bearers all the best for the next season. At the same time I wish to say thank you to SLS NSW Executive and Officers for their continued support.

**Neil Cameron**

# Brunswick SLSC

It is with great pleasure that Brunswick SLSC once again submits this Annual Report for season 2009/2010.

Once again I would like to congratulate our patrolling members on another safe and successful season. Our patrolling members in 6 patrols did an exceptional job with no major incidents or injuries within our patrolling area. Outside of patrol duties we were also called to assist local authorities with searches and welfare checks.

To maintain our high standards of care to the community a new Kawasaki Teryx ATV commenced service thanks to Hotel Brunswick and Mullum / Brunswick Lions Club and fitted out by Mullumbimby Motorcycles and Jet skis'. A new oxy-viva / defibrillator pack was also donated by Quota International Brunswick Valley and Combined Services Australia Day Breakfast in the Park.

We would also like to thank Woollam Constructions for their donation of a surf rescue board and Guardians of the Surf for their generous donation.

We commenced season 2009 / 2010 with the grand opening of our new patrol tower. After many years of groundwork it was great to see the end payoff – all our members will benefit from this modern, efficient and comfortable observation platform.

Special mention must go to Stewart White for overseeing the project and the many members who contributed their time and expertise. After the May storms, our beach was heavily eroded and the tower became much more up close and personal with the ocean and access to the beach became problematic.

Congratulations to Max McRae our 2008/2009 Club and Branch Junior Life Saver of the Year and also congratulations go to Club Nipper of the Year nominees for 2009/2010 Mac Denis and Zayla Arthur. Mac was selected as the Branch Nipper of the year and represented the Branch at the state titles where he was awarded a very high commendation for his efforts.

It is great to see that the Brunswick club produces juniors of this caliber and we congratulate the junior for a job well done.

Congratulations also to those members who make the effort to attend carnivals this year. Another successful Masters Carnival was held in January with perfect weather and water conditions – it only took 15 years to crack a good day. We would like to thank all the competitors and officials for making it such a successful day and Adrian and his helpers for their hard work.

The Brunswick Surf Club has been very active in supporting other community events including the Kites and Bikes Festival, Australia Day Breakfast in the Park, Mullum to Bruns Paddle, Camp Quality Byron to Brunswick Beach Walk and the Brunswick Byron Athletic Association Fun Run from Byron to Brunswick. Our own 6th Brunswick Family Triathlon was held again in September, with record numbers and an enjoyable morning of exercise was had by all.

We look forward to seeing all our valued members back next season. Thank you to John Beasley and the Branch Executive on a job well done and hope to see everyone on the beach next year.

**Craig Reid**

# Cudgen Headland SLSC

Another trying however successful patrol season completed on Kingscliff beach. With Veranda extensions completed late 2009 the start of our patrol season incurred minimal disruptions thanks to contractors and members support.

The completion of the first stage of our extensions has given us much needed storage area downstairs. With the help of Tweed Shire Council and two State Government Grants, our Training room extension and renovations to upstairs and downstairs Male and Female change rooms will commence in May 2010.

Statistics for the season include: 11 Rescues, 148 First Aid actions, 850 Preventative Actions, 1 Search and 2 Beach Closures. Attendance on Kingscliff Beach during Rostered Patrol Hours was approximately 31,000 with over 4,500 voluntary patrol hours completed by membership. Members also gained various National Patrol Service Awards, 5 Ten Year, 2 Fifteen Year, 1 Twenty Year, 1 Twenty Five Year, 1 Thirty Year and 1 Fifty Year.

Training saw our members gain the following awards 17 Bronze medallion (Aquatic Rescue), 15 SRC, 9 IRB Crew, 2 IRB Drivers, four ARC, 2 senior First Aid, special thanks to David Field for his time and efforts.

Fundraising this year saw Brian Vickery run another very successful Car competition, Fund Raising Committee lead by Donna Clapham, Phil Davis and several other members carried out Thursday, Friday and Sunday Raffles at the Club, Holiday raffles through Kingscliff Caravan Park and Christmas Raffle. Without the hours of work done by these members our Club would not be able to function, thank you.

Junior Activities Committee had another very successful season with large numbers attending beach activities and all members completing either Surf Awareness, Surf Play, Surf Safe and Surf Survival.

The efforts of age managers and their committee are essential in providing surf smart children in our community. As usual there were also strong performances at all levels of competition.

Senior competition saw a strong representative commitment by our members with Ken (Coach), Harry (Team Manager) and seven senior members selected in the FNC inter branch team. Our masters: Boat Crew again excelled at State level in the 180 Years age group.

Masters Ladies also excelled with several podium finishes at State and Australian Championships. State Championships showed again how strong our senior team is with Jarrad, Scott, Callum, Ben and Mitchel all gaining podium finishes. Well done to all competitors, Coaches, Team Manager and Officials for results obtained this season. However I am sure Cudgen will have even better results on our Beach next year.

The Cudgen Old Boys Association once again this year supported our competition team, which offset expenses for our competitors.

Thanks to Brian Vickery, Lyndel Small, Susan Young, Carol Neilson, all office bearers and the whole active membership for all your time and effort through out another very successful season.

Thanks to the Dial before you dig, Scandinavian Cone Company, Cudgen Headland Old Boys, Tweed Shire Council and all of our many sponsors for their valuable support throughout this season.

**Gary Cain.**

“ Don't grow up too quickly, lest you forget how much you love the beach ”

– Michelle Held



# Cabarita SLSC

The Club is fast approaching the end of our patrolling season and although we have struggled at times we got through another year.

I believe 2009/1010 will be remembered as a season that was difficult for many of us and affected our ability to contribute to the Club. Under these difficult conditions the Club still prospered and we fulfilled our obligations admirably. There are some things we didn't get done this season that I hoped would have been finalized.

The Deck is still in limbo, we are at a stalemate with Council not reconsidering their stand on the infrastructure contributions. We are ramping up our submissions and seeking public and ministerial support for our cause. We will also be obtaining legal advice as to our position. The Supporters Club.

It has been the intention of the Club to look into the possibility and viability of incorporating a Supporters Club to provide a supporting body capable of managing the sponsorship, fundraising and running of the clubroom bar/functions.

The Tweed Support Organisation (TSO) and the jet skis. Some time ago Far North Coast Branch was informed by State Centre that Clubs and associated organisations where not to own jet skis and that any resources of this nature were to come under the management of Branches. There have been prolonged negotiations between the four stakeholders in TSO, Fingal, Cudgen, Salt and Cabarita Beach Surf Life Saving Clubs and Far North Coast Branch as to how these resources where to be transferred to Branch and how those resources and operations were to be managed.

To enable the Club to have our quota of the skis to be rostered on our beach we will need to have RWC drivers. I will pursue this during the off season and welcome any other suitably qualified member to have a go. We still have a brand new Yamaha outboard (not so new, but still unused) and a de-commissioned IRB hull sitting in the boatshed. I would have liked to have seen these sold. We have had a couple of offers but for whatever reason I was unable to follow them up. If anyone could see this through, it would be much appreciated.

I would like to get onto all the positive things that we have achieved this season, but bear with me I still have a few things we need to cover.

Fundraising. Even in spite of our lack of fundraising efforts this season we are still in a comfortable financial position. I will let the Treasurer, Brett Arthur, explain our full position in his report however, we have been fortunate this season considering our inactivity in that we have had very few big ticket items.

I would like to extend a big thank you to the Sunday Morning BBQ boys, Alan and Glen, the nipper parents who helped and all those who supported the BBQ every Sunday morning.

While I am on functions I need to acknowledge a few

people, Frank, Julieanne and Chris for their continued efforts to put on social nights for the members. Sippers has been rolling along even with the lure of the members draw, we don't do big numbers, but we must remember sippers is for the members and their guests not necessarily to keep the cash register ringing.

With the advent of the Supporters Club I trust this area of the Club will grow significantly. Juniors. Against all the odds the Club had a very successful season. The JAC will cover all the details in their report but coming from a position at the beginning of the season where we were almost forced to cancel nippers I can only extend a heartfelt WELL DONE to you all.

The future of our Club is our juniors and when I see what they have achieved this season under such adversity I can only see a great future ahead of us. Congratulations to all those who participated in the program and achieved personal goals, all those who represented the Club at competition and a special mention to Riley Chaffer for being selected as Far North Coast Junior Lifesaver of the Year.

Patrols. Again I will let our Director of Lifesaving, Jo Howes, give her report but I must say this season seems to have been a struggle, sometimes just scratching by to meet minimum requirements. I assure you however the struggle was well worth it and Jo's report will attest to this. The Club also provided IRB's and a driver (myself) to be part of the filming of an episode of "Escape from Scorpion Island" for which the club received \$500.00.

Gear. We have had a few ups and downs with gear., Our pop-up tents suffered at the hands of some less than intelligent members of society. We have a new IRB hull in the shed which is a great hull to drive. The Rhino had some major work done to it and the "Limo" and carnival trailer needed some attention, but overall we got through the season relatively lightly.

Grants. The Club has received some significant grants this season and I would like to acknowledge the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation, Surf Lifesaving Guardians of the Surf and the Surf Club Facilities Development Program for their assistance.

As mentioned the 2009/2010 season has been difficult on several fronts, personal and Club and my ability to serve the Club to the best of my ability has been sorely tested. I believe the hurdles encountered during this time have been overcome and I look forward to a great new season.  
Yours in Life Saving

**Des Anderson.**

# Salt SLSC

It is with pleasure that I provide a branch report on behalf of Salt SLSC for the season 2009/10. This season has seen Salt SLSC really come of age as a surf club.

Our membership continues to grow, however more importantly, our level of awards has increased greatly in areas that were needed. We now have IRB drivers and patrol captains to cover all patrols. We have seen members also obtain advanced resuscitation and spinal management awards.

Our priority this year was one of prevention. Patrolling a dangerous beach requires a great deal of communication, both to active members of the club on what is best practice and also to the education of the public.

We were vindicated in our efforts here with no serious rescues during the season and our highest total yet for preventative actions. This was a fantastic effort from our active members.

On an administrative side, the undoubted highlight was Tweed Council accepting our proposal for the construction of our own surf club. This will enable us to have proper storage facilities, member's facilities, training rooms and a club function room. We will finally have a place to call home and is the final chapter in our "arrival" as a surf club.

At this moment we currently have both a Plan of Management and a Development Application underway. This is really an exciting time for the club.

Our nippers continue to increase and the platform we have set here will see us entering the competition side of nippers a great deal more next season. I look forward to seeing future Salt SLSC champions in action. Our Sunday nipper's was a great event each week and the BBQ's that followed were great for club spirit and unity. Another highlight was the arrival of our new nipper trailer.

Thank you to our sponsors who continue to support the club. We will keep endeavouring to provide them with a positive promotion through Life Saving and its undoubted qualities.

Thanks to all the FNC Branch Executive and members for their continued support of Salt SLSC. Once again the branch has had another very successful year and it's a credit to all involved. Yours in Lifesaving

**David Hoare.**

# Fingal Rovers SLSC

Fingal Rovers Presidents Report Season 2009/10

After an interesting season we can report that no lives were lost between the flags at Fingal this season. As this is our key business then things are going well in most areas.

This season we continued with our ongoing major focus, getting even more patrolling members. The numbers at the end of last season were over 60, we have not increased that number by many as we lost some members in the off-season, but we were very happy to gain many locals as SRC holders, and this gives us hope of more Bronzies into the future.

As usual, we started putting together the roster by ringing current and past members and pleading with them to come down so we could commit them to once every three weeks for a full day patrol. The aim was to grow from 6 patrols at the start of the season to 8 by mid-seasons re-rostering. This was not to be as Fingal members seem to still have trouble coming to grips with the substitute system, Patrols with 12 on them were often scrambling to find 3 bronzies with the right qualifications. We continued with 6 patrols all season but have built many strong patrols that may be broken up by the new regime when they take over. Again Lennox Head SLSC helped out at our busiest times. They had two distinct groups who wanted to help at Fingal – The FOBS and the Lifeguards plus friends. They agreed to come up and cover 4 days during late November through to early February and were a great help except when they had to all go to the ACDC concert and we scrambled for a patrol. We volunteered to substitute for them at the concert but this was not to be. Again thanks for your help, we would be lost without you.

This season we held no intense training camps, but did have a regular training regime of mid week and weekend training. Thanks mainly to Robyn Wonson, we managed to get quite a few new awards and we would suffer without her constant work in this training area.

We again had an increase in numbers this season in the Juniors area, which stretched the Nipper Parents and Water Safety to the limit. Many thanks to those who helped out with the SurfEd training – especially in gaining so many Resuscitation Certificates, especially to Lewy and Robyn. This season we tried again at having our first Nipper Carnival in anyone's living memory, after last year's was cancelled the day before and then would have been cancelled anyway due to the shark attack. The club rostered on 3 patrols and we managed to have 37 club members working various shifts during the day. Some covered a 12 hour shift from 5.00 am to 1700 hours. A great show of strength for a small club and we got reasonable feedback in relation to the carnival running, all except the sprint area which wasn't helped by the rocks we find have been uncovered by beach erosion, but that is another story that effects all of our beaches. The Committee decided that we would only apply to run this season every two years as it really drained the club, and this timing will allow for there to be a low tide in the morning so we can have a beach every two years.

With our workaholic Chief Training Officer Robyn Wonson

at the helm we spent a lot of this season feeding in new members at the bottom end of the career path table. But the flavour this season was upgrading awards, get more awards, be overqualified – this is Fingal Rovers!!! We had a few of the new ARTCs go through and Spinal Management as well as a few Basic Beach Management Silvers and SFAs, We also ran an IRB Drivers and Crew weekend which generated some interest and we are still finishing off a few awards in this area in the off-season.

Competition. Only the nippers and a Masters competitor had a go in this area this season. We seem to be more of a Family Club than a Competitive club. We did manage to take out the majority of Medals in the Board Riding area at our Carnival, well done to the local SRCs, especially those that woke up and actually made it to the start line – you know who you are, sleepy head. We had people assisting with Water Safety at the Aussies now it is up the road again. We are in IRB racing training mode to attend many of the Queensland IRB carnivals. As we noted to the Branch Meeting where we requested approval to cross over the Mexican border, “The nearest NSW IRB carnival is farther away than the most distant Queensland Carnival” This racing training is making us increase our personal skills and our equipment has taken a jump in standard as well.

On the renovations front, we have tenure for our property. There were 3 parcels of land: one which needed to be rezoned from Street to building, one which was part of the Caravan Park, and finally, a sliver of land in between those other 2 which was Crown Land. We have one Licence in hand and await the issuance of a Lease. We got our DA through in early December 2009 and are now preparing our Construction Certificate drawings in conjunction with an Engineer. The bad news is that the building seems to have been built without any footings drawings being lodged, as we can't find anything to tell us what the building is sitting on. This has caused the Engineer to recommend that we add a new footing all around the building to support the upstairs floor and it should be connected to the existing footings so the whole building moves as a whole. When we have these finished we will know a price for the total building, and then Fundraising and asking for funding will begin in earnest.

This season saw a reduction in rescues, but we aren't going anywhere else whilst we have people who somehow get themselves into trouble in our area of the aquatic environment. Also, if we keep growing we will need a bigger clubhouse – it's just logical that we fix the one we have before it deteriorates. We were gutted to miss out again on the SLS NSW Sport and Recreation Grant. What made it harder to swallow was that 2 of our neighbouring clubs were granted their second amounts of assistance whilst we are hoping our clubhouse doesn't fall down. We are not angry at those clubs, good luck to them, we just lost a good deal of spirit with our second knockback. A Fundraising Committee has been formed and with work tirelessly until the job is done.

“Fingal Rovers – The Family Club” is becoming the place to be and we would like to thank our many partners who have made it possible, whether by patrolling at our beach or through financial support.



# Fingal Rovers SLSC

They are, again in no particular order; Lennox Head Alstoneville SLSC, and to "Friends of Fingal" our anonymous benefactor for their enormous ongoing support, Murwillumbah Brass Monkeys Swimming club who run the Tweed Rivers Swim Classic (largest number of entries ever this year) and Trivia Night Fundraisers each season. To Tweed Shire Council thanks for your ongoing support. To Woolworths Kingscliff and Ozganics Murwillumbah thanks for many raffle prizes.

And to our many supporters not mentioned already, who have given generously of either their time or prizes for raffles or financial support, we thank you for helping our club continue to grow.

Finally we thank all of our members who made themselves available to patrol this season, as well as turn up for the Carnival and the River Swim when asked. Again, we did it, we patrolled Fingal Beach and no lives were lost on our shift.

Thanks to CJ, Dave Dempsey, Lachie and the whole Committee for your work this season. We thank the FNC Branch Executive for their support, especially Brian Lewis, as well as the Branch Sponsors Newcastle Permanent, TURSA and Woollam Constructions.

I will not be seeking re-election and have enjoyed my time at Branch meetings where I may be seen from time to time, I am retiring from Club President to spend more time with my remaining sanity.

**Andrew Chubb**

# Jet Rescue Boat Service

2009 / 10 has been a very good season for the Ballina Jet Boat Group, and with the prospects of improving even further in the forthcoming season.

We have benefitted from joining a number of new members; gained important additions to the Executive with Gary Murphy as Public Officer and Geoff Horsey as Education Officer; welcome Ballina R.S.L and Newcastle Permanent as major sponsors; and we clearly demonstrated our expertise and professionalism with the capable handling of an increased number of call-outs and other duties for the Community.

In addition, at the time of submitting this report, we have been advised that the completion time for the new boat should only be another twelve (12) weeks.

There is no doubt that all our members, our loyal and wholehearted sponsors, Surf Life Saving and the local communities are looking forward to the launch of the new rescue boat. It will be state-of-the-art and significantly enhanced our overall capability.

We all would have wanted to see it completed earlier, but it must be remembered that not only did it have to be constructed, but also almost every section and component firstly designed and tested. But in the end the time and trouble will be worth it, and we must take this opportunity to thank Ross Trease for his many hours of involvement.

We are indeed fortunate to have widespread community support and outstanding sponsors, including David Menegazzo and his companies, the Ballina R.S.L. Club, Newcastle permanent, Ballina Shire Council, Cummins Retrovision, Ballina Fisherman's Co-op, Ballina Pipeline Construction, Richies's (Ballina Central), Ballina Brake and Exhaust, Adam Gibbs (Solicitor), and Kevin Geaghan Funerals.

The dedication, commitment and standard of our volunteers and crew never ceases to amaze and the high level of expertise can only be appreciated fully, if you have worked with them, observed them at work, or needed to call on their services. A detailed list of call-outs for the last season is included at the end of this report.

It is also fair to say that our Executive and Committee have met regularly, acted professionally and responsibly, and served Surf Life Saving and the community with pride and commitment.

It is a very special group made up of special people and some of those we must acknowledge and thank for many different reasons – Gary and Sandy Meredith, Elton Cummings, Ross Trease, Mark Puglisi, Geoff Horsey, Brett Clarke, Carl Virtue, Brad Herd, Joe O'Connor, Gary Murphy, Chris Fabri, Brian Dell, Jimmy Keough, Roger and Sarah Beadman, Joe Keane, Bob Harper, Adam Gibbs, Bill Coulter (Ballina R.S.L.) and David Menegazzo.

You are the people that make it all happen – you are the members and supporters of the Ballina Jet Boat.

And finally we greatly appreciate the support and co-

operation of Surf Life Saving in general and John Beasley and the Far North Coast Branch in particular.

**Wilson Cregan**

# Surfcom

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank The Branch President, Mr John Beasley for his continued support of both SurfCom and the communication needs of the Far North Coast Branch.

I'd also like to personally thank all of the various members of our Branch, including the Director of Life Saving, Operations Support members, Surf Life Saving Club members and the Ballina Jet Rescue Service members for their ongoing support. Thanks also go to the Australian Lifeguard Service and all their staff for their continued support. Of course the biggest THANK YOU is reserved for our SurfCom Radio Operators. These dedicated people assist in the safety of our patrolling members, and play a key role in helping patrolling members deliver a high standard of service to the public. Patrol members should feel at ease knowing help is only a radio call away! This is especially important for areas that have poor mobile phone coverage and rely heavily on SurfCom to provide assistance.

Our efforts over the past seasons in both operations and use of technology have been recognised by State Centre and we have been advised by them that our Branch is "leading the way" in Surf Life Saving communications.

During the season I had the opportunity to test various brands of radios to try and find what was suitable for beach and white water work and what wasn't. I've managed to shortlist a couple of brands that I now recommend. These radios meet our standards in both technology and build and should last a lot longer than some of the existing brands that are floating around. If I could ask any Clubs that are looking at purchasing new radios to contact me before buying to discuss, this way I can advise on what is preferred. This will ensure we have standards approved radios on our network and that you should get a radio that will last a lot longer than previous models which at the end of the day should save you valuable dollars.

We are still looking for more volunteers to join our small dedicated crew. So if you enjoy new challenges and would like to put yourself "in the hot seat" whilst earning valuable points for your Club, please don't hesitate to contact myself or SurfCom Ballina.

The Season has flown by once again, and has left us with a few new projects;

**SurfCom Management System:** This web based system was launched at the beginning of the season by Surf Life Saving Australia and rolled out across the country. This has given SurfCom more flexibility in their statistics gathering role. I know that Clubs have struggled at times to make sense of why SurfCom is asking for information such as wave heights and the number of people on the beach. The reason being is that statistics are now recorded on a national database rather than locally. Reports can now be easily generated from any location and information gathered by SurfCom can be accessed via the Clubs through SurfGuard and transferred across to the Clubs own SurfGuard database. This should make life for your Club data entry officer much easier provided accurate information is passed onto SurfCom at the time.

**Radio Programming:** The Branch has purchased programming equipment to suit about 85% of radio brands throughout the Branch. This means that in most cases, Clubs will no longer have to send their radios away to technicians to have their radios re-programmed at a cost as most of the programming can now be done in-house and free of charge.

I have slowly been making my way around to all Clubs re-programming their radios. All radios (where possible) are being programmed so SurfCom can automatically identify them when they transmit, even if a callsign is not given (ANI). This is especially handy if a Patrol member calls SurfCom for assistance but fails to give their callsign.

At the same time, the radios will also be programmed so that SurfCom can call them like a "telephone" (SelCall). This function will be used if SurfCom cannot raise the Patrol by calling on the radio. If they have no voice response, the radio can be made to ring to get the Patrols attention. This will be especially helpful if SurfCom is trying to contact a Patrol to pass on urgent information.

**SurfCom Standby:** During last season, a number of "emergency" radio calls were made by Clubs or other Surf Life Saving services outside of normal SurfCom Ballina operating hours. As such, a Memorandum Of Understanding has been drawn up between the Branch and VMR Kingscliff (Australian Volunteer Coastguard). VMR Kingscliff are now acting as "SurfCom Standby" on behalf of the Branch. As they operate 24 hours, 7 days a week, they are in a position to take initial emergency radio calls out of "normal" SurfCom Ballina hours. This basically gives our Branch radio network a communications base 24 hours 7 days a week. SurfCom Ballina will still operate as normal during seasonal patrols.

We already have projects planned for next season which should again see some new technological advancements for our communications network. I look forward to working with you all once again during this time.

**Geoffrey Gray**





**SLSFNC**

BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

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