

# SURF LIFE SAVING FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**MAJOR SPONSORS**

**SURF LIFE SAVING**

**FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH**



Here for good.



**NEWCASTLE  
PERMANENT**

***TURSA*** 

SURF LIFE SAVING FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH COMBINES  
TEN SURF LIFESAVING CLUBS, A JET RESCUE BOAT  
SERVICE AND THE NORTH COAST BOAT SERIES  
EXTENDING FROM FINGAL HEAD IN THE NORTH TO YAMBA  
IN THE SOUTH

**FINGAL ROVERS SLSC** 

**CUDGEN HEADLAND SLSC** 

**SALT SLSC** 

**CABARITA SLSC** 

**BRUNSWICK SLSC** 

**BYRON BAY SLSC** 



 **LENNOX HEAD ALSTONVILLE  
SLSC**

 **BALLINA LIGHTHOUSE AND  
LISMORE SLSC**

 **EVANS HEAD CASINO SLSC**

 **YAMBA SLSC**



## OFFICE BEARERS 2021-2022 SEASON

### Surf Life Saving Far North Coast Branch Affiliated with Surf Life Saving Australia Affiliated with Surf Life Saving New South Wales

#### Patrons for 2021 / 2022 Season – Local Politicians

Justine Elliott MP, Federal Member for Richmond  
Kevin Hogan MP, Federal Member for Page  
Geoff Provest MP, State Member for Tweed  
Tamara Smith MP, State Member for Ballina  
Janelle Safin MP, State Member for Lismore  
Christopher Gulaptis MP, State Member for Clarence

#### OFFICE BEARERS

President	Wilson Cregan
Director of Administration	David Rope
Director of Finance	Marissa Worling
Director of Lifesaving	Ben Redman
Director of Surf Sports	Debbie Pawsey
Director of Education	Geoffrey Horsey
Director of Member Services	Simon Ceglinski
Public Officer	James Dougherty
Registrar	Debbie Pawsey
Auditor	On Track Accountants
Honorary Medical Doctor	Brian Witt
Honorary Legal	Dan McOmish, Ballina
Emergency Services / Support Operations Coordinator	Jimmy Keough
First Aid Advisor	Maryanne Sewell
Chief Scrutineer	Kim Holdom
Gear Steward	Gavin Marshall
Coaching Advisor	Samatha Miller
JAC Co-ordinator	Kirsty Pockley
Trauma Officer	Reverend Graeme Davis
Awards Processor	Stephen Perris
Team Manager	Adam Mills
Team Coach	Scott McCartney
Media Officer	Jimmy Keough
COVID-19 Coordinator	David Rope

#### COMMITTEES

##### Constitution Committee

John Beasley  
Geoff Harris  
Kim Holdom  
John Watson

##### Honours & Life Membership Committee

John Beasley  
Kim Holdom  
Keith Kennedy  
John Watson

##### Finance Committee

Marissa Worling  
Andrew Dougherty  
John Beasley  
Mark Humphries  
Avan Christie

##### Meritorious Awards Committee

Ben Redman  
Michael Pontefract  
Garry Meredith  
Keith Kennedy  
John Watson  
Bill Onslow

##### Support Operations Committee

Jimmy Keough  
Ben Redman  
Jet Rescue Boat representative  
Two Branch Duty Officers.

##### Competition Committee

Bryan Lyndon  
Harry Klouzal  
Scott McCartney  
Paul Irwin

##### Selection Committee

Adam Mills  
Scott McCartney  
Harry Klouzal  
Bryan Lyndon  
Debbie Pawsey

## PREVIOUS OFFICE BEARERS

### Presidents

1934	1960	A. G. Denison*
1960	1981	N. J. Flanagan BEM*
1981	1987	R. J. Watson AM
1987	1990	N.M. Godbee OAM*
1990	1995	C. Johnston
1995	2006	W. D. Cregan
2006	2008	J. B. Beasley OAM
2008		W. D. Cregan

### Director of Administration

1934	1936	J. O'Grady*
1936	1943	D. C. Murray*
1943	1945	D. P. Jones*
1945	1946	A. Mudge*
1946	1950	P. Rice*
1950	1956	G. A. Coulter*
1956	1962	K. W. Sharpe*
1962	1981	R. J. Watson AM
1981	1982	S. F. Watson
1982	1992	C. J. Cox OAM*
1992	1995	S. Anderson
1995	2003	M. Tutt
2003	2006	P. R. Albertini
2006	2015	D. Pawsey
2015	2017	L. Moore
2017	2018	D. Pawsey
2018		D. Rope

### Director of Lifesaving

1934	1943	A. Kennedy*
1943	1946	F. Emms*
1946	1948	A. Hockey*
1948	1960	N. J. Flanagan BEM*
1960	1965	C. J. Goddard*
1965	1968	R. G. Mapp OAM*
1968	1969	B. Pearce*
1969	1975	N. M. Godbee OAM*
1975	1979	W. J. Onslow
1979	1984	G. Horsey
1984	1994	R. Shepherd
1994	1995	J. McDonald
1995	1996	G. Rodgers
1996	2003	G. Horsey
2003	2006	P. Baird
2006	2009	G. Horsey
2009	2011	J. Keane
2011	2015	B. Redman
2015	2018	C. J. Samuels
2018	2019	D. Field
2019		B. Redman

### Director of Education

2009	2012	B. Lewis
2012		G. Horsey

### Director of Finance

Year	Member	
1934	1943	A. Rummery*
1943	1945	S. J. Denning*
1945	1946	S. Chilcott*
1946	1949	K. W. Sharpe*
1949	1950	J. Suffolk*
1950	1953	J. Tippett*
1953	1956	K. W. Sharpe*
1956	1959	J. D. Savage*
1959	1962	K. W. Sharpe*
1962	1965	A. J. Clarke
1965	1966	G. B Carlill
1966	1981	D. H. Gibson*
1981	1982	G. Cox
1982	1987	C. Mallam
1987	1989	G. Horsey
1989	1990	L. Cox
1990	2006	J. B. Beasley OAM
2006	2008	A. Fletcher
2008	2010	T. Berry
2010	2016	G. Clarke
2016	2021	A. Dougherty
2021		M Worling

### Director of Surf Sports

1995	2003	K. J. Holdom
2003	2015	R. J. Watson AM
2015		D Pawsey

### Director Member Services

2003	2006	C. Cain
2006	2009	J. Keane
2009	2016	P. Smith
2016	2019	D. Pawsey
2019	2021	D. Field
2021		S Ceglinski

### Public Officer

1988	1992	C. Cox*
1992	1995	S. Anderson
1995	2003	M. Tutt
2003	2004	J. B. Beasley OAM
2004	2005	P. Ninness
2005	2006	P. R. Albertini
2006	2010	D. Pawsey
2010	2011	G. Harris
2011	2019	E. Cummings
2019		J.W. Dougherty OAM

\* Denotes Deceased

## LIFE MEMBERS

### LIFE MEMBERS SURF LIFE SAVING FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH

1952 A. G. Denison*	1964 F.J. Hall BEM*	1983 R. Shepherd	2006 M. Tutt
1952 W. Haskew*	1966 A. McGeary*	1983 M. J. Sidney	2006 G. Hickey
1952 F.J Emms*	1971 R.J. Watson AM	1985 C. J. Cox OAM*	2006 C. Buchanan
1956 E.D Healy*	1971 N.M. Godbee OAM*	1992 G. Horsey	2006 J.B Beasley OAM
1957 N. J. Flanagan BEM*	1972 B. Maughan*	1998 C. Johnston	2007 D. Lee
1959 L. Maria*	1974 K.W. Smith*	1999 D. T. McAteer	2007 J. Baird
1959 C.J. Goddard*	1974 K.A. Kennedy OAM	2002 W. Onslow	2007 M. Harris
1960 K.W. Sharpe*	1975 R.Plunkett*	2002 J.W. Dougherty OAM	2010 W.D. Cregan
1962 R. Byrnes*	1976 R.G. Mapp OAM*	2002 K.J Holdom	2010 D. Morrow
1963 G. McNaughton OAM*	1978 W.G Cox*	2003 K. Sutton*	
1964 J. Graham*	1983 B. Pearce*	2003 E. Cummings	

### LIFE MEMBERS SURF LIFE SAVING NEW SOUTH WALES

1949 F.J Emms*	1967 W. Haskew*	1983 G.McNaughton OAM*	2005 K.J. Holdom
1953 A.G. Denison*	1973 L.Maria*	1985 N.M. Godbee OAM*	2006 A. Chubb
1958 N.J Flanagan BEM*	1976 R.J. Watson AM	1991 C. J. Cox OAM*	2007 W.D. Cregan
1963 C.K. Asmussen MBE*	1978 J.B. Beasley OAM	1994 R. Shepherd	2009 E.Cummings
1966 J.Switzer OAM*	1981 K.A Kennedy OAM	2003 K. Sutton*	

### LIFE MEMBERS SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA

1946 F.J. Emms*	1966 C.K. Asmussen MBE*	1989 G.McNaughton OAM*	2005 N.M. Godbee OAM*
1954 A. G. Denison*	1971 J.Switzer OAM*	1999 J.B. Beasley OAM	2017 P. Connell
1965 N.J.Flanagan BEM*	1987 R.J. Watson AM	2004 K.A Kennedy OAM	2018 P. J Kenny
			2019 J. A. Kenny

### LIFE MEMBERS FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH BOARD OF JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Mr. J.Clark	Mr.E.Buchanan.+	Mr.B.Muggleton.
Mr.E.Layton.+	Mrs.J.Buchanan.+	Mr.R.Hutchinson.+

## LIFE MEMBERS, SERVICE and HONOURS

### 75 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA

Mr G McNaughton OAM+

Mr B Cribb

### 70 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA

Mr C Asmussen MBE+ Mr N J Flanagan BEM+ Mr J Trevan

### 60 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA

Mr R Shepherd  
Mr J Saunders

Mr R J Watson AM  
Mr M Ryan

Mr W Lynch  
Mr G Horsey

Mr K Lazenby+  
Mr K Kennedy OAM

Mr J Beasley OAM  
Mr R Moran

### 55 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA

Mr D Morrow

### 50 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA

Mr F J Hall BEM+

Mr J O Palmer+

Mr W G Cox+

Mr E Cussen

Mr H R Small+

Mr C Wraight+

C W Schaeffer+

Mr J Aked+

Mr J Switzer OAM+

Mr L W Dickson+

Mr E Buchanan+

Mr L Webster+

Mr R G Mapp OAM+

Mr M Godbee OAM+

Mr A J Clark

Mr C Lowien+

Mr B Sidney

Mr M Sidney

Mr R Bymes+

Mr C McGrath

Mr A Maxwell

Mr W Dougherty OAM

Mr J Graham+

Mr B Hammond

Mr C Prendergast

Mr R Moran

Mr D Lee

Mr M Jones

Mr K Gooley+

Mr B Hutchings

Mr D Moss

Mr J Gray

Mr F Moss

Mr A Cole+

Mr P Gielis

Mr W D Cregan

Mr G Harris

Mr T Sahlqvist

Mr G Sanders

Mr R McKeon

Mr P Kenny

Mr D Marsh

Mr C Buchanan

Mr G Pile

Mr M Tutt

Mr A Vidgen

Mr M Abbott

Mr P Gleeson

Mr M Smith

Mr B Stewart

MR R Eady

Mr N O'Connor

Mr S Andrews

Mr G Holloway

Mr K Ryan

Mr T Healy

### 40 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA

Mr G Hickey

Mr R Jackson+

Mr J Stainlay

Mr B Collis

Mr C Spears

Mr J Dougherty OAM

Mr H Small

Mr G Stainlay

Mr G Hill

Mr D Thuys

Mr D McAteer

Mr R Moore

Mr S Merrick+

Mr T Sheridan

Mr R Zahn

Mr K Morgans

Mr K Holdom

Mr G Zietsch

Mr G Crether

Mr K Small

Mr K Sutton+

Mr H Klouzal

Mr G Smith

Mr W Onslow

Mr J Fisher

Mr A Russell

Mr R Burridge+

Mr D Cahill

Mr C Marshall

### 35 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA

Mr M Harris

Mr M Pontefract

Mr D Field

## SERVICE and HONOURS

### 30 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA

Mr G Gordon	Mr J Baird	Mr C Bond	Mr S Wilson	Mr L Burtonwood+
Mr W Lusted	Mr M Roney	Mr G Fettell	Mr P Shepherd	Mr T Rushton
Mr G Marshall	Mrs V Connell	Mr L Wilson	Mr M Nelson	Mr A Curtis
Mr E Cummings	Ms S Eke	Mr B Lyndon	Ms L Horton	Mr R McSkimming
Mr B Bullock	Mr R McCartney	Mr P Fahey	Mr M Buckman	Mr F James
Mrs M Hickey	Mr A Mills	Mr D Hutton	Mr M Player	Mr S Small
Mr M Quinn	Mr G Meredith	Mr W Ball	Mr J Fahey	
Mr A Tarrant+	Mr J Harbison	Mr A McGeary+	Mr R O'Brien	
Mr M Robson	Mrs S Watson	Mr A Clark	Mr T Gielis	
Mr A Schofield	Mr G Arthur+	Mr R Plunkett+	Ms C Nelson	
Mr P Sweetman	Mr J Fleming	Mr P Hickey	Mr J Holey	
Mr S Herbert	Mr R Batson	Mr W Haskew+	Mr K Beavis	

### 25 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA

Mrs B Cahill	Mr D J Maughan	Mr J Julius+	Mr M Buckman	Mr RT Brownell+
Mrs D Pawsey	Mr D Menger+	Mr J O'Mara	Mr M Edwards	Mr S Hogben
Mrs J Kenny	Mr D Spicer	Mr J Pearson	Mr M O'Brien	Mr S Tanner
Mrs R Bradley	Mr D Taylor	Mr J Quirk+	Mr N Campbell	Mr S Vickery
Ms C Dagworthy	Mr D Wraight+	Mr J Wheeler	Mr P Albertini	Mr S White
Mr A Brodrick	Mr E Donovan	Mr J Wright	Mr P Batson	Mr T Bell
Mr A Downes	Mr F O'Laughlin+	Mr Jo Fahey	Mr P Connell	Mr T Boland+
Mr B Maughan+	Mr G Cooper	Mr K Batson	Mr P Donnelly	Mr T Eady
Mr B Misson	Mr G Davis	Mr K Scutts+	Mr P Mirs	Mr T J Tanner
Mr B Pearce+	Mr G Flynn	Mr K W Smith+	Mr P Sobels	Mr W James
Mr B Sutton	Mr G Humphreys	Mr L Burtonwood	Mr P Yager	Mr W Miller
Mr C De Vlieger	Mr G Raso	Mr L Cooper+	Mr P Julian	Mr W Woods
Mr C J Goddard+	Mr G Stubbs	Mr L Donald	Mr R Batson	Mr W Wynter+
Mr C Johnston	Mr G Wraight	Mr L Maria+	Mr R Budd	Mr J Graham+
Mr C Mallam	Mr J Budd+	Mr L Platt+	Mr R Fulwood	
Mr C Sanderst+	Mr J Emslie	Mr L Wall+	Mr R Killen	
Mr D Forsyth	Mr J Fuller	Mr L Wraight	Mr R Meijer	
Mr D Gray	Mr J Goodin	Mr M Abbott	Mr R Moran	





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021-22

An outstanding contribution and effort by Lifesavers right across the Far North Coast Branch throughout the entire 2021 - 22 season. Congratulations and thank you to all our members, not only for their committed lifesaving service on our beaches, but also for their cooperation and support to the communities during COVID, and their unselfish work, support and contribution to the evacuation and then recovery effort following the devastating floods in this region.

It well and truly emphasised SLS Far North Coasts' integral role and place along the Coast, in the Towns, Cities and Countryside of the entire area of which we are now such an important and necessary part.

We will now endeavour to highlight just some of the many achievements and contributions by our proud lifesavers over another busy season.

- The Branch Annual General Meeting is held, all positions are filled and we welcome to the Executive Simon Ceglinski (Director of Member Services) and Marissa Worling (Director of Finance)
- The awards of excellence followed the AGM with the State President, George Shales OAM in attendance. Cudgen is awarded Club of the year and Michael Pontefract (Evans Head Casino) receives the President's Award for his outstanding contribution to surf Lifesaving over many years.
- Ballina Club hold their Annual General Meeting and popular President Jo McIntosh is returned to the Chair, and similarly all other incumbent Branch Club Presidents were re-elected.
- All Far North Coast Branch Clubs conduct their presentation / awards nights with success and strong attendance.
- The Branch Administration Support Officer Sam Clutterbuck gives notice to join Surf Lifesaving Queensland. Sam was a "breath of fresh air" for the Branch and made great progress in establishing the Branch office and advancing the Branch aims and ideals with a bright future.
- 2022 marks 50 years of history and service for the Ballina Jet Rescue Boat – a small but highly professional group that has become an icon in our region.
- The New South Wales State awards recognise Michael Pontefract (Patrol Captain of the year) and Garry Meredith (Inaugural Support Operations Member of the year)
- Unfortunately, the Raising of the Flags for the commencement of the season had to be cancelled, mainly due to Lismore being in COVID lockdown.
- We welcome the arrival of the new Branch Administration Support Officer – Aaron Ryan. Aaron had the right qualifications and experience and he is the ideal replacement for Sam.
- Jason Armbruster (Ballina) wins the Surf Lifesaving New South Wales April 2021 rescue of the month - simply a most heroic effort. Jason went on to be awarded the SLSA Certificate of Merit for the same rescue.
- The Branch Titles were re-located from Byron Bay to Cudgen Headland, who again hosted a very successful carnival and achieved further success with an outright win in the carnival point score.
- Ballina nipper, Jack Keough, was quick to spring into action to save a young girl struggling in a Ballina waterway.
- December 2021, COVID vaccination becomes mandatory in New South Wales.
- January 2022 a Tsunami warning closes our beaches after a volcanic eruption in Tonga.
- Jimmy Keough and Garry Meredith are awarded the Emergency Service Medal in the Australian Honours List.
- The Country Tiles were held at Cape Hawke from 28th to 30th January 2022. Far North Coast Branch clubs filled four places in the top ten – Cudgen 1st, Lennox Head 4th, Byron Bay 5th, and Yamba 7th.
- Kirsty Pockley and David Field organise an SRC course at Kingscliff with 18 candidates taking part across Cudgen and Byron Bay Clubs, with the assistance of trainers and assessors from both Clubs. This was an example of a real team effort.
- Tweed Byron Police District and New South Wales Health request assistance for guest welfare (numbering 84) at Byron Bay deemed close COVID contacts during the annual schoolies event. Within 12 hours Byron Bay Surf Lifesaving Club had a volunteer workforce on the ground.

- The anonymous donor again makes a generous donation to the Branch, including an automated external defibrillator and 10 rescue tubes.
- The Branch junior lifesavers of the year are announced during the Branch Titles at Cudgen. The female winner was Ruby Yantsch from Lennox Head and the male winner was Jayden Matthews also from Lennox Head.
- Nominations for Rescue of the Month (October 2021) were submitted by Cabarita Beach Surf Club to Surf Lifesaving New South Wales for Brett Fischer, James Allen, Jodie Davis, Susi Turner, Robert Coulton, Murray Neal and Patrick Raftery.
- Yamba's annual ocean swim was moved to Whiting Beach due to rough surf conditions. The race attracted more than three hundred competitors. Overall winner was Jayden Beaumont (Thirroul) and first female Milli Luaghnán (Singapore).
- Certificates of appreciation for Rescue of the Month (December 2021) nominations were presented to Charlie Ticknor, Oliver Arragon, Ned Barany, Sol Novak and Max McGillivray as well as Mark McDonald.
- The February / March floods in 2022 devastated much of our coastal region and the work, support, dedication and time of our lifesavers right across the Branch was exemplary.
- Most events at the New South Wales State Titles had to be cancelled due to weather and environmental conditions.
- Cabarita Beach Surf lifesaving Club conducted a charity fundraiser to assist flood victims in their town with an excellent outcome of more than \$20,000 raised. Teniell Jocumsen's effort in organising was magnificent.
- Surf Lifesaving lost an outstanding member and contributor – Michael Gibbs, the second president at Salt Surf Lifesaving Club, producer of the Branch annual report for many years and great supporter of Surfcom.
- Jayden Matthews (Lennox Head) is the junior lifesaver of the year (male) for New South Wales, a special talent and result.
- Tursa a long-time supporter of Surf Life Saving is confirmed again as a major sponsor of the Branch.
- The Australian tiles were held on the Gold Coast and there were many strong results by Far North Coast Branch competitors, personal bests and quite a few medal recipients. Special mention to all the Gold medal winners including Niamh Sharpe of Lennox Head Alsontville, Lachlan Arghyros of Cudgen Headland, Joanne Kay of Byron Bay, Odette Blacklock of Salt, Paul Pattison of Byron Bay, as well as the Masters boat crew from Evans Head / Casino, the 170 years male Taplin team from Byron Bay and Masters male double ski team from Byron Bay.

The last seasons emphasis once again and quite emphatically confirmed the important role that Surf Lifesaving plays in the local communities and we must try to acknowledge those members and supporters who make this contribution possible; in particular our dedicated members, Lifesavers, Clubs, families, supporters, Ballina Jet Rescue Boat, North Coast Boats, Branch Council and Executive, our major sponsors (Newcastle Permanent and Tursa), Government at all three levels, the Police, Rescue Helicopter Service, Emergency Services and call out teams, the ESO – Jimmy Keough, Our Admin Support – Aaron Ryan, Surf Life Saving New South Wales, Surf Life Saving Australia, and the public at large who willingly give their support to our cause.

We continue to grow as a Branch and individuals, we have high ideals and mission as a volunteer organisation, we will provide the support our communities expect and acknowledge. The community spirit and commitment shown by our members throughout the season was exemplary and what our organisation is all about.

Thank you

Wilson Cregan  
President

It is with pleasure that I submit my fourth Annual Report to the Branch Council for consideration.

Again we have continued to experience the effects of COVID across all facets of surf lifesaving and our everyday lives.

Through the off season the COVID lockdown restrictions had continued through the greater Sydney area, which caused further people to want to flee the large capital cities and seek refuge in the coastal communities. This resulted in COVID being prevalent in some of our communities for the first time since the pandemic began in 2020, causing the State Government to introduce lockdown restrictions in some of the Local Government areas across the Branch affecting some of our Clubs.

Additionally similar restrictions prohibited travelling between Local Government Areas without an exemption, a challenge with our patrolling and emergency response capabilities.

The season started with many of those restrictions still in place and with SLSNSW imposing a maximum of six patrolling members being on patrol at any one time, in an attempt to reduce the risk.

Compounding this community sport was prohibited, which remained in place until late October 2021, well into the usual start of the junior season. When community sport was permitted again it was accompanied by further vaccination requirements for the parents of the juniors.

In February 2022 SLSNSW introduced the controversial Vaccination Mandate for frontline lifesaving members being required to be “double vaccinated” to undertake patrolling, education, training, support operations and surf sports activities. This Mandate remains in place at the time of publishing this Annual report.

In February 2022 we saw areas of our Branch communities impacted by unprecedented flood levels since records began. The flood waters decimated entire communities, affecting many of our members personally with losses of their residences, business or in some cases, both. This continued into March and just when we thought we had seen the worst of it, a second flooding event occurred later that month.

The flooding impacted our Clubs and in particular a number of our Clubs had members suffer immense personal loss.

As a result of the ongoing COVID environment, we continued the use of the ZOOM platform as an option to join Branch Council meetings, which again saw the attendance of the Club Presidents and Delegates remain consistent, with only a small number of absences across seven Branch Council meetings this season.

Clubs again this season benefited from the significant number of lifesaving equipment grants available including CLEG, Anonymous Donor and BSEF [which was increased to \$15,000.00 (Ex GST) ] for this season and next season.

Governance and compliance requirements continue to increase for Branch and our Clubs.

Thank you once again to our major sponsor Newcastle Permanent Building Society for the ongoing association with surf lifesaving and in particular Far North Coast Branch with their commitment for another three seasons.

Tursa have again sponsored the Branch across the season and are committed again coming into the new season. Thank you.

Thank you also to our other sponsors who continue to back up year after year.

A big thank you to my fellow Branch Executive members for all of the hard work and support.

A big thank you to Aaron Ryan, our new Administration Officer funded by the NSW Government.

Thank you to all the Clubs for their support across the season.

Yours in Life Saving.

David Rope  
Director of Administration

#### Meeting Attendance Branch Executive

	Executive Meetings		Branch Council	
	Possible	Attended	Possible	Attended
President	3	3	7	7
Director of Administration	3	3	7	7
Director of Finance	3	1	7	3
Director of Lifesaving	3	3	7	6
Public Officer	3	3	7	7
Director of Life Saving	3	3	7	7
Director of Surf Sports	3	3	7	7
Director of Education	3	3	7	7
Director of Member Services	3	3	7	7

## DIRECTOR OF FINANCE 2021-22

The 2021/2022 season has seen the return of more activities across all facets of lifesaving operations while working with the Covid restrictions put in place from time to time. This has come with additional cost of putting into place additional safety measures as required.

The Surf Life Saving Far North Coast Branch has maintained a large inventory of Lifesaving, Surf Sports and Education equipment. During the season the Branch sold two of the duty officers' vehicles. The Branch continues to ensure all assets are well maintained and remain 'rescue ready' with an amazing team of duty officers.

The branch continues to support member development, surf sports and Lifesaving activities. This season the Interbranch didn't go ahead however the Branch selected a Development Team to participate in a Carnival at Swansea Belmont, this is reflected in the costs that weren't incurred last year but are allowed for in the Budget.

This season's funding mainly comes from our government and sponsor partners, this season saw a new 3 year agreement with Newcastle Permanent. All funds provided during the year go to supporting education, member development, providing surf sports participation opportunities and providing our primary Lifesaving responsibilities.

We finish the year again in a strong financial position and look forward to the next season seeing a further return of more Surf Sports and Member Development activities.

Yours in Lifesaving

Marisa Worling

Once again, mother nature was not on our side this season.

With a lot of wet weather, big seas and flooding.

Our 1142 active members on the Far North Coast, performed 4492 preventative actions, 132 first aid cases, 81 rescues and patrolled for a total of 43273.5 hours.

February 2022 saw the beginning of our major flooding emergency on the Far North Coast, with many of our members being tasked to assist their communities.

In total we had approximately 264 Members attend these taskings and performed many Rescues.

This emergency had a major impact on our Clubs and members.

We had many members also directly affected by the flooding.

Every one of our members that took part in these operations did so with great professionalism and it showed our communities that we are there for them no matter what.

We also had some of our volunteers attend and work alongside the police and other emergency services in the emergency operation centres doing extremely long shifts with little sleep for the duration of the flood event.

It is this can do attitude and sense of community that makes me proud to wear the red and yellow.

With this being my final report as Director of Lifesaving I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Branch Executive and Club Committees that make the Far North Coast the best Branch in the Country.

I don't believe that we could be where we are as a Branch without the great leadership of our President Wilson Cregan.

Yours in Lifesaving

Ben Redman

The 2021/2022 Season was a continuation of the problems that existed within the previous season regarding Covid with the addition of severe flooding which made the execution of the duties of our Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators that more difficult to comply with the various rules and regulations

Skills Maintenance was conducted via varying methods by clubs but the end result was that majority of our members complied with the many restrictions placed upon us by the Governing Bodies. Next season it is hoped that we will be able to complete these skills without further restrictions. We have been advised that the National Circular on the various requirements will be released in time for early planning prior to the commencement of the next season.

We have been very fortunate to be able to obtain more than our fair share of candidates for the SLSNSW Facilitated Training Officers Course. However due to Covid and the Flooding there were not sufficient course been run so these candidates could complete the practical section of the award. In nominating members for this course clubs are asked to ensure that they only nominate members that will fully complete the course.

With the introduction of the new Health Units of Competency all of our Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators that either Train and or Assess the Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation and First Aid Certificate have had to upgrade to the new Advanced Resuscitation Technique and First Aid with the relevant Units of Competency to be able to remain competent in the running of these courses. We are in the process of upgrading these members and this should be completed prior to the commencement of the 2022/2023 season.

The FNC Education update which was distributed monthly to all of our Trainers, Assessors Facilitators and others has had its distribution cut back to only the Club Chief Training Officers with the hope that they will pass on all the relevant information to the various members within their club. This will be a discussion point with the upcoming preseason Education Meeting.

Our Director of Education is a member of the SLSNSW Standing Education Committee which as a minimum meets on four occasions each year, these are both via Zoom and Face to Face. To assist with the communication between SLSNSW, The Branch and Clubs it is hoped to introduce meetings with the Director of Education and the Club Chief Training Officers on a regular basis with these meetings been via Zoom, this will be finalized at our preseason Education Meeting.

Branch run Facilitated Courses will again be introduced now that the restrictions on the method of running these courses has been relaxed and as soon as we have upgraded all of our Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators to the current Units of Competency. Clubs will have to show patience until this process is completed. There have been major changes to our First Aid, Advanced Resuscitation Technique and notably the Silver Medallion Beach Management Course has been discontinued and will be replaced with a completely new Patrol Captains Course which at present the National Body has not set a release date or time line.

In conclusion I would firstly like to thank Stephen Perris for taking on the position of Branch Awards Processing Officer, to all of our Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators thank you for your dedication in the Training and Assessing Process, hopefully in the near future we will be able to have the hours spent in this field fully acknowledged within possibly the Surfguard System. To my fellow Executive Officers thank you for your support over the previous season and especially David Rope for your discussions and wisdom on many subjects.

God willing, I hope to see you all some time some place on the Beach during the 2022/2023 season.

Geoff Horsey  
Director of Education



Once again it gives me great honour to submit this annual report on behalf of the Surf Sports members.

With all the COVID-19 restrictions of last season finally starting to ease, this season carnivals were much easier to run, but the organisation behind the scenes for the Competition Committee and the Host Clubs we just as challenging.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions still restricting numbers, we had to cancel our first carnival. There were a number of COVID-19 mechanisms we kept in place. All clubs attending carnivals were required to appoint a Club COVID-19 Marshall who liaised with the FNCSB COVID-19 Marshall to adhere to the COVID-19 Regulations within the competition Area. Also, regulations put on to clubs with all members 16 years and over entering the competition having to be double vaxed. This also impacted our officials and water safety. Using the QR Code for FNCSB, we were able to control numbers of people in our competition areas.

Fingal Rovers SLSC hosted the first Youth – Open Carnival, it was great to be back at Fingal after eight years, and everyone who attended had a great day. The club worked hard to set up a great competition area and we had great conditions for a carnival in some time, surf conditions at Fingal this weekend could not get any better for our young lifesavers to kick off the season.

Yamba hosted our first junior carnival and because we were still restricted to numbers at an event, it was decided to split the carnival over two days. Saturday saw the Under 12s – to Under 14s take to the beach for their competition, Sunday the Under 8s through to Under 11s. This format proved to be popular early in the season with most clubs using it as a bonding weekend. Thanks, to the Yamba club for once again pulling together for a wonderful carnival.

Lennox Head & Alstonville SLSC hosted the first Open Carnival, the club worked hard to set up a great competition area and we had great weather conditions for a carnival in some time and the surf conditions at Lennox this weekend could not have been any better. New formats to our carnivals is proving to be popular with our competitors and we will continue to change programs to increase enjoyment of competition.

Unfortunately, the round of the North Coast Boats series at Evans Head-Casino SLSC had to be cancelled due to surf conditions. We hope to see them back next season.

To our dedicated officials, Water Safety Personal and helpers that have remained dedicated to the Branch, thank you. Branch spirit of work hard and pulling together has made our carnivals very successful. Fingal, Yamba, Lennox Head, and Cudgen Headland hosted the Club Carnivals this season. All clubs did a great job making sure the carnivals ran smoothly.

With the beach erosion at Byron Bay still an issue, I would like to thank Cudgen Headland for hosting the Branch titles this year, with changes almost weekly it has put a lot of extra work on a number of people. Special thanks to Harry Klouzal, Bryan Lyndon, and Paul Irwin. With the new format combining the Juniors and Seniors, being popular with all attending and we look forward to continuing with this format. Let's hope we will be able to go to Byron Bay next season for our Branch Championships.

COVID restrictions forced SLSNSW to cancel the Interbranch Championships for the second year in a row and the news greatly disappointed our athletes particularly in a season that already had limited options for competition due to the restrictions on our athletes competing in QLD.

The Hunter Branch extended us with an invitation to compete as a Branch Development Squad at the Lake Macquarie Games Carnival which was scheduled on the same weekend as the cancelled Interbranch event. This provided the branch with a unique opportunity to still invest in our athletes and select an FNC Branch development squad to travel down to the Hunter area and compete as a Branch team. Thanks to our management team for putting this together, it is important for our member retention and to keep offering this pathway for our members.

Competition scrutineering was undertaken at Branch conducted carnivals for both Juniors and Seniors by Max Harris, Kim Holdom and John Watson. Competition Scrutineering was also carried out at club requests (once COVID-19 restrictions were lifted) however there were several instances where scrutineering was left till the last minute.

We have had a number of new officials this season, with clubs still working on encouraging new officials but we still need a lot more to go through the process of completing this course as we usually have a 41% drop off of new officials

To all those superb group of Officials, First Aid, Water Safety and Scrutineers throughout this Branch – thank you.

Once again thanks to everyone for another great season.

Yours in Surf Life Saving,  
Debbie Pawsey  
Director of Surf Sports

## Australian Open Championships 2022

	Place	Name	Club
U17 Female Surf Race	3	Kalani Ives	Yamba
U17 Female Ironperson	3	Kalani Ives	Yamba
U17 Female Surf Board Riding	2	Suke Alford	Byron Bay
U17 Male Board Race	3	Ollie Sharpe	Lennox Head Alstonville

## Australian Masters Championships 2022

40-44 Yrs Female 2km Beach Run	3	Rhiannon Archer	Salt
50-54 Yrs Female Board Race	2	Joanne Kay	Byron Bay
65-69 Yrs Male Board Race	2	Paul Pattison	Byron Bay
60-64 Yrs Male Board Race	2	Peter Rheinberger	Yamba
65-69 Yrs Male 1km Beach Run	1	Paul Pattison	Byron Bay
55-59 Yrs Male Beach Flags	2	Adam Mills	Cudgen Headland
35-39 Yrs Female Beach Sprint	1	Odette Blacklock	Salt
65-69 Yrs Male Beach Sprint	2	Paul Pattison	Byron Bay
50-54 Yrs Female Single Ski	1	Joanne Kay	Byron Bay
50-54 Yrs Female Ironperson	2	Joanne Kay	Byron Bay
60-69 Yrs Male Short Board Riding	3	Peter Rheinberger	Yamba
60-64 Yrs Male 2km Ocean Swim	3	Peter Rheinberger	Yamba
60-64 Yrs Female 2km Ocean Swim	3	Barbara Mortimer	Ballina / Lismore
45-49 Yrs Male Double Ski	1	C Team	Byron Bay
170 Yrs Min Male Taplin	1	Team A	Byron Bay
130 Yrs Min Male Taplin	3	Team A	Yamba
110 Yrs Min Male Surf Teams	2	Team A	Yamba
60-64 Yrs Male Board Rescue	2	A Team	Byron Bay
180 Yrs Min Female Surf Boat	2	Yamba Boilers	Yamba
220 Yrs Min Male Surf Boat	1	Team A	Evans Head/Casino SLSC
60-69 Yrs Male Malibu Long Board	3	Peter Rheinberger	Yamba
70 Yrs & Over Male Malibu Long Board	3	Derek Goodchild	Cudgen Headland

## Australian Youth Championships 2022

U13 Female 2km Beach Run	3	Marli Francis	Lennox Head Alstonville
U13 & U14 Female Surf Teams	3	Team A	Cudgen Headland
U14 Male Beach Flags	3	Tex Milroy	Cudgen Headland
U13 Male Beach Flags	2	Cooper Bird	Cudgen Headland
U13 Male Surf Board Riding	1	Lachlan Arghyros	Cudgen Headland
	3	Reuben Sharpe	Lennox Head Alstonville
U15 Female Surf Board Riding	1	Niamh Sharpe	Lennox Head Alstonville
	3	Molly Eddy	Cudgen Headland
U13 Female Surf Board Riding	3	Coco Ofsoski	Cabarita Beach
U14 Female Surf Board Riding	2	Ava Arghyros	Cudgen Headland
U13 Male 2km Ocean Swim	3	Jake Tickle	Cudgen Headland

### **Life Saving/Patrol equipment**

Scrutineering of Patrol gear presented some interesting logistics and taxing issues due to Covid-19.

The Scrutineers based in the Tweed Shire were forced to live in a bubble for several months and completed the inspections on club's within Tweed Shire. The southern scrutineers carried out inspections at Lennox Head, Ballina and Evans Head. The remaining club's namely Brunswick, Byron Bay and Yamba were inspected by appointed club members by the Chief Scrutineer assisted by electronic means such as mobile phones and laptops.

Inspections and re inspections were carried out commencing in August. All lifesaving gear was checked for safety and currency and this included IRB's, trailers, vehicles, rescue boards and tubes, flags. 1st Aid rooms and Patrol 1st Aid were inspected by our 1st Aid Officer, Maryanne Sewell. In the main the gear was of a reasonable to good standard and re inspections was needed in some instances. The main issues were rescue boards and tubes. Club's need to have an asset replacement program for all Life Saving gear. I would suggest that Club's and Club Gear Steward's familiarise themselves with SLSNSW Circular, "SLSNSW Annual Gear and Equipment Inspection Program".

The Life Saving /Patrol Equipment inspections should be deleted from the Champion Club Award as in the previous season due to some clubs doing self-assessments due to Covid 19 issues.

### **Competition Equipment**

Competition scrutineering was undertaken at Branch conducted carnivals for both Juniors and Seniors by Max Harris Kim Holdom and John Watson Competition Scrutineering was also carried out at club requests (once Covid 19 restrictions were lifted) however there were several instances where scrutineering was left till the last minute.

The FNC Branch was represented by Max Harris and Kim Holdom as Scrutineers at the Australian Championships held on the Gold Coast. The standard of competition craft in this Branch is top shelf in comparison to other Branches in NSW and Queensland and this is due to the scheduling and diligence of our Branch scrutineers.

Kim Holdom

Chief Scrutineer, FNC Branch.

## 2021-22 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The Annual Surf Lifesaving Far North Coast Branch Awards of Excellence was held at Ballina RSL Club. Over 140 members came to celebrate and acknowledge those members who excelled in a number of areas. A range of awards were recognised from Lifesaving through to Education.

Well done and thank you to all those who participated and attended. A special mention to Michael Pontefract who was successful in winning the Surf Lifesaving New South Wales award for Patrol Captain of the Year and Gary Meredith for Support Operations Member of the Year.

Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year	Lara Wegemund – Cabarita Beach SLSC
Lifesaver of the year	David Rope – Cudgen Headland SLSC
Patrol Captain of the year	Michael Pontefract – Evans Head – Casino SLSC
Support Operations Member of the year	Garry Meredith – Evans Head- Casino SLSC
Lifesaving Club of the year	Yamba SLSC
Training Officer of the year	Jill Ennever – Yamba SLSC
Assessor of the year	Dennis Eyre – Cudgen Headland SLSC
Facilitator of the year	Stephen Perris – Ballina Lighthouse / Lismore SLSC
Education Club of the year	Lennox Head – Alstonville SLSC
Services Team of the year	Cudgen Headland Major Events Committee
Junior Club of the year	Lennox Head – Alstonville SLSC
Administrator of the year	Teena Redman – Evans Head – Casino SLSC
Administration Club of the year	Cudgen Headland SLSC
Competition Official of the year	Kylie Ryan – Milroy – Cabarita Beach SLSC
Coach of the year	Samantha Miller – Lennox Head- Alstonville SLSC
Masters Athlete of the year	Joanne Kay – Byron Bay SLSC
Athlete of the year	Hayley Smith – Cudgen Headland SLSC
Youth Athlete of the year	Kalani Ives – Yamba SLSC
Surf Sports Club of the year	Cudgen Headland SLSC
Youth Volunteer of the year	Sven Loemker – Cudgen Headland SLSC
Volunteer of the year	Matthew Bell – Cudgen Headland SLSC
Far North Coast Branch Presidents Award	Michael Pontefract – Evans Head – Casino SLSC
Overall Club of the year	Cudgen Headland SLSC



## MEMBER SERVICES

The 2021/22 season has provided more challenges and obstacles to overcome than any other season I can remember.

The ongoing pandemic, vaccination policy, tsunami warning, unprecedented and catastrophic flooding and poor water quality have meant Nippers on the Far North Coast had a delayed start, large restrictions, and a premature finish to the season.

A number of events, including 'Raising of the Flags' and Nipper camps, were cancelled. A new diversity and inclusion event, Rainbow Beaches, was planned to be celebrated throughout the coast the day before the catastrophic and unprecedented floods. This will happen later in the year, when we get a couple of consecutive days with blue sky. It was sponsored by the Newcastle Permanent Building Society and Tamara Smith MP.

The 2021 SLSNSW Combined Clubs Conference was also a victim of the global pandemic.

I was proud to be party to re-signing the Newcastle Permanent Building Society as the major sponsor of Surf Life Saving Far North Coast Branch, including having NPBS taking on additional sponsorship of the branch's Nipper bibs for all clubs from the 22/23 season onwards..

The 'NPBS Junior Lifesaver of the Year' was held at FNC Branch Championships, and candidates from most clubs represented themselves extremely well, with the winners only just beating out over the other candidates.

The 2021-22 NPBS JLOTY winners are:

Female – Ruby Yantsch, Lennox Head Alstonville SLSC

Male – Jayden Matthews, Lennox Head Alstonville SLSC

Jayden went on to win the 'Surf Life Saving NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year' award in Sydney.

FNC Branch was also represented at the Youth Opportunity Makers workshop in Sydney by Bella Griffiths, an upcoming leader from Brunswick SLSC. Bella has also been stepping up at Brunswick SLSC to fly UAVs on patrols.

Membership trends at all clubs remain similar to the previous 2020-21 season with:

Active members – 1142

Junior members - 1806

Total financial members – 4941

While 1866 members did not renew their membership from last season, we gained almost the same back with 1795 new members this season.

We continue to close the gap on gender equality on the FNC, with female members now representing more than 44% of overall membership – a big congratulations to all clubs.

Efforts were made by Surf this year to better understand what the membership feels and expects from leaders at club, branch and state level, and a member satisfaction survey was held in October 2021 to establish a baseline and

to allow a tighter and more relevant annual survey to be completed. This satisfaction benchmark is being used to help formulate a recruitment/retainment campaign as well as to be able to provide leadership training to all levels from Age Manager to Presidents.

A further survey was held in late 2021 to gauge the feelings of the membership around a vaccination policy. This survey was used by the board at SLSNSW to formulate a member policy designed to safeguard frontline members. Since then, this has been under constant review with feedback provided to the board by Branch Presidents and Standing Committee Members.

Changes this season for membership also include a new Member Protection Policy along with Complaints Procedure as well as streamlining SurfGuards pricelist to allow clubs an easier renewal process.

Changes coming in the off-season will allow a greater flexibility to the way clubs run Nippers and a bigger focus on Nippers becoming surf life savers, while still continuing a theme of fun and fitness.

I look forward to leaving pandemic restrictions behind in the upcoming season as well as a return to Nipper camps and other events.

Simon Ceglinski  
Director Member Services



## UAV REPORT

The exciting area of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) also known as Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs) is changing the way we patrol and respond to Search and Rescue tasking.

The war in Ukraine has focused the world's attention on the capability of UAVs. The manufacturer of SLSNSW drones is DJI and it is reported these same drones are being used by Ukraine with the countermeasures employed against them by the Russian also manufactured by DJI.

Our use of drones is somewhat more peaceful and across the 10 clubs more and more lifesavers are becoming drone qualified.

The goal for the remainder of this year is to ensure that we have enough pilots and operators in each club to support each patrol on the beach with "top Cover". Courses will begin in June and run through the off season.

SLSNSW was using the drone program as a means of recruiting previously non-SLS people into the SLS family. While this has brought some new people in - it created the need to also provide these people with a surf award for insurance purposes and to make sure they had at least a fundamental understanding of surf life saving operations. It appears now that SLSNSW is moving from their previous position to new operators needing to hold a surf award as a prerequisite. The SLSNSW drone award is not yet recognized by SLSA. NSW has led the way in drone use.

Highlights for the past season has been the growth of operators trained across the Branch. The rollout of full UAV services to Brunswick, Fingal and Salt was very welcome news thus giving every club drone capability. According to a statement from the UAV education officer in February – FNC has the most clubs equipped of any Branch and is the most advanced in its coordination with UAVs. The recent fatal shark attack in Sydney led to a massive recruitment drive to get more drones over the metropolitan beaches.

The March floods saw the deployment of volunteer and paid UAV operators to assist Fire and Rescue NSW with Rapid Damage Assessment. This was a profound experience for those involved in the RDA of South Lismore and surrounds. Our own support operations teams are making drones and operators a required part of their SAR operations.

UAVs do have limitations – wet weather, even light rain, will ground a drone. Wind above 32KPH will likewise keep a drone on the ground, aircraft movements and poor light will also prohibit flying.

The promising news ahead is the possible revision of the "line of sight" rule in certain situations to allow operators to fly in what is termed EVLOS Extended Visual Line of Sight and even BVLOS Beyond Visual Line of Sight. The technology is advancing so quickly regulations sometimes lag behind capability. At this stage NSW SLS UAV Standard Operating Procedure do not support these new initiatives.

People wishing to become drone qualified should contact the Branch Admin. Officer. Course dates and enrolment procedures are on the Branch website.

David Field

Branch UAV Coordinator







## INTERNATIONAL LIFESAVING DEVELOPMENT

As the world comes out of lockdown and opens up the organisations we have been supporting in South East Asia are reaching out.

A typhoon devastated Bohol Island in the Philippines late last year and the SANGA lifesaving group that FNC has been supporting had their rescue boards and other donated equipment destroyed or severely damaged. Northcliff SLSC has come to their aid with the provision of uniforms and other items but their need for new rescue equipment remains.

Vietnam, in particular, Danang and Hoi An are anxiously awaiting a shipment of FNC boards. However, waiting for the shipping costs to stabilize is like waiting for real estate to fall so we face the expense of around \$5000 to ship the boards, tubes and other gear to Danang. The boards we sent last time have had 4 years in the tropical sun and look pretty grim.

Phuket is looking forward to a training visit from Australia scheduled for late July. The Australian Consul General is also requesting the visit and a possible link-in with local disaster resilience bodies on the island. Anyone interested in joining the tour the tour should contact David Field. The goal is to qualify or requalify local public and hotel lifeguards to an ILS Lifeguard Beach and ILS Lifeguard Pool Certificate. Our partner organization, Phuket Lifeguard Club is endorsed by ILS to award these certificates. Following the Phuket leg a trip to Myanmar is possible to assist the fledgling lifesaving foundation in Yangon.

It is pleasing to report the progress of three recipients of the Zahn Scholarship.

In Thailand Chonlathis Nontree, who was part of the ASEAN visit to FNC in January 2020, is at University and is pictured below lifeguarding with his father Jula.

In Vietnam, Nguyen Duc Vu, who was here in 2016, is now the director of the body that is responsible for the 17km of beaches around Da Nang and who employs over 90 lifeguards. Here is Vu opening the summer season two weeks ago to much razzamattaz.

Finally Thin Vu who also visited here in 2020 is carrying on the work of community CPR and school based water safety. Pictured here with his classroom on wheels.

David Field





## SUPPORT OPERATIONS GROUP

Once again, an outstanding performance from Far North Coast Branch Support Operations Group during season 2021 / 2022.

This season has seen a wide variety of operations, from our general patrolling commitment, assisting clubs and patrols to the unprecedented flood response throughout the Far North Coast Region. On all fronts many lives have been saved with high exposure and professionalism shown at all times.

This season we have seen the addition of new RWC operators which have come on board. These new operators bolstered operator numbers and strengthened Far North Coasts commitment to aquatic surveillance. Throughout the season RWC patrols were conducted from Cudgen Creek, Brunswick, Ballina and Yamba. (Cudgen 2 x RWC. North & South). All areas complied with Lifesaving Agreements endorsed by Surf Lifesaving New South Wales. I'd like to personally thank the assistance of the appointed RWC Area Captains & RWC Trainers for their commitment and management of operators & assets within their appointed areas. Thank you to the area captains Gary Raso (Tweed Coast), David Griffith (Brunswick / Byron), Al Noble (Ballina / Richmond), Matthew Saunders (Clarence Valley), Michael Pontenfract (RWC Facilitator) & Brian Lewis (RWC Facilitator). Thank you must also be passed to Dan Andrew & Tweed Coast Marine for their maintenance support.

Far North Coast Branch's Surf Lifesaving Command & Control structure has once again been dominant and clearly demonstrated throughout this season by hard work and operational commitment from the Far North Coast Branch appointed Duty Officers. This season had seen the reappointed of duty officers after a process of "Expression of Interests" circulated prior to the season. With the reappoint of most duty officers we did also see the introduction of three new duty officers being Matthew Bell, Duncan Hope and Todd Muller. These three-gentleman come to us with years of lifesaving experience, emergency service experience and quality personal attributes. Over this season these duty officers along with club Emergency Response Teams (ERT's) & Support Operations personnel have responded to numerous aquatic & coastal incidents.

We saw major escalation of the duty officer role during the unprecedented flooding that impacted our region during February and once again during March 2022. This escalation saw the stand up of all duty officers in same form of command and control either on the ground as forward commanders and or liaison with combat agencies & emergency services at local Emergency Operations Centres and or Incident Control Centres. As we all know numerous challenges were thrown at us over this period, but operations were able to continue with great oversight and many persons saved. Appointed Far North Coast Duty Officers thank you for your commitment.



## Duty Officers

Chris Samuels – Tweed Coast

David Dempsey – Tweed Coast

Andrew Mills – Tweed Coast

Matthew Bell – Tweed Coast

Roger Beadman – Brunswick / Byron

Dan Andrew – Brunswick / Byron

Ben Redman – Ballina / Richmond

Garry Meredith – Ballina / Richmond

Duncan Hope – Ballina / Richmond

Todd Muller – Ballina / Richmond

Peter Sweetman – Clarence

Matthew Saunders – Clarence.

All of the Far North Coast Duty Officers have / or will be undertaking Emergency Management Training conducted by New South Wales Emergency Management, undertaking a Level 1 Incident Controllers Course by an external provider. These learning initiatives will continue as required by SLSNSW as our organisation grows in the emergency management network.

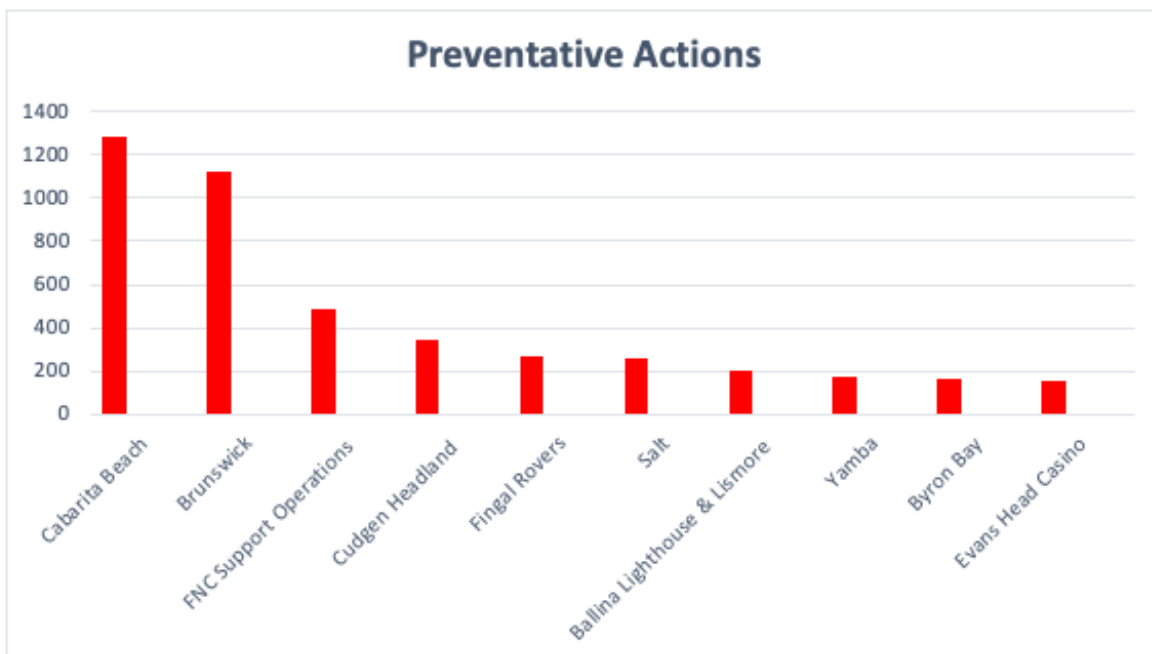
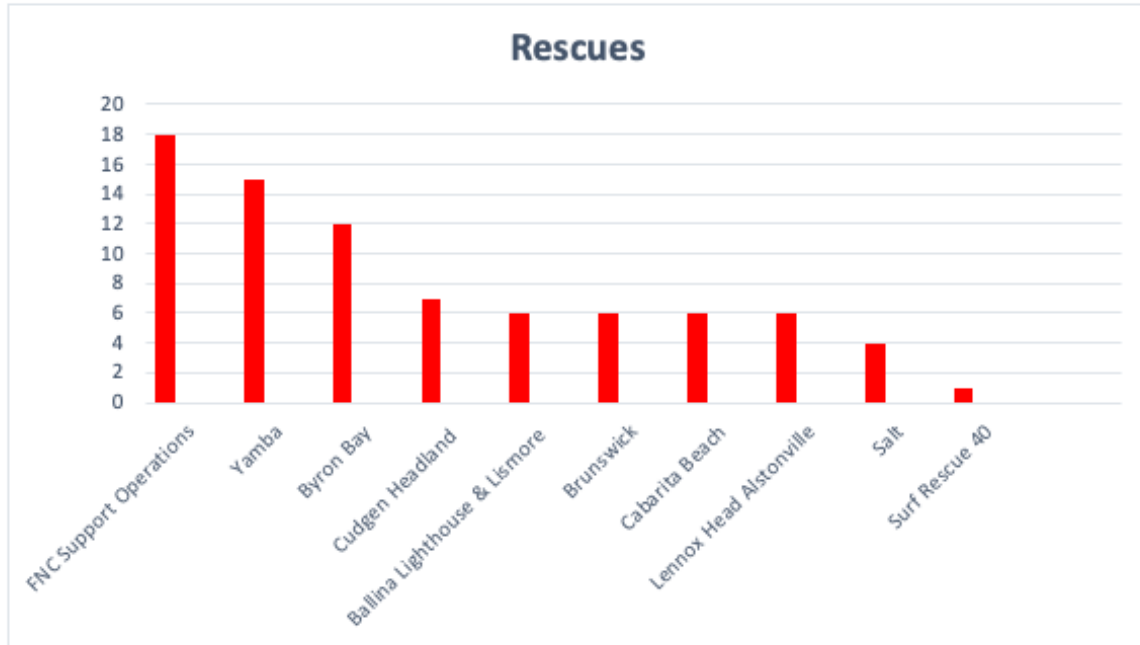
Moving forward Far North Coast Support Operations will continue to support the Branch, Clubs and general community in providing aquatic / coastal surveillance and response.

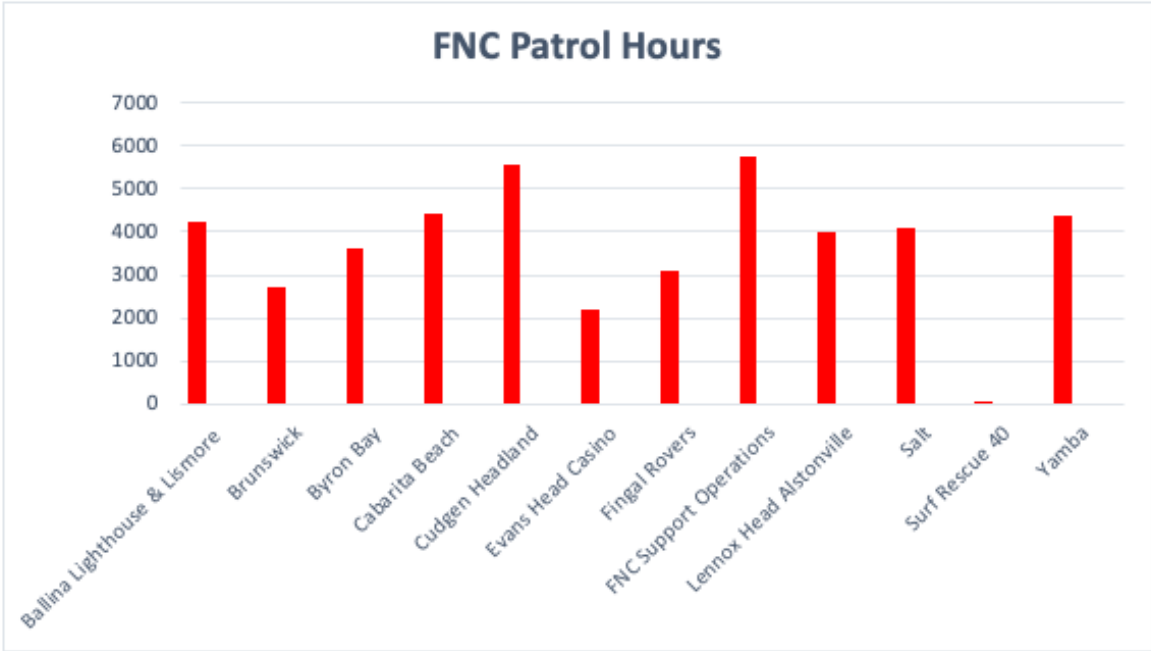
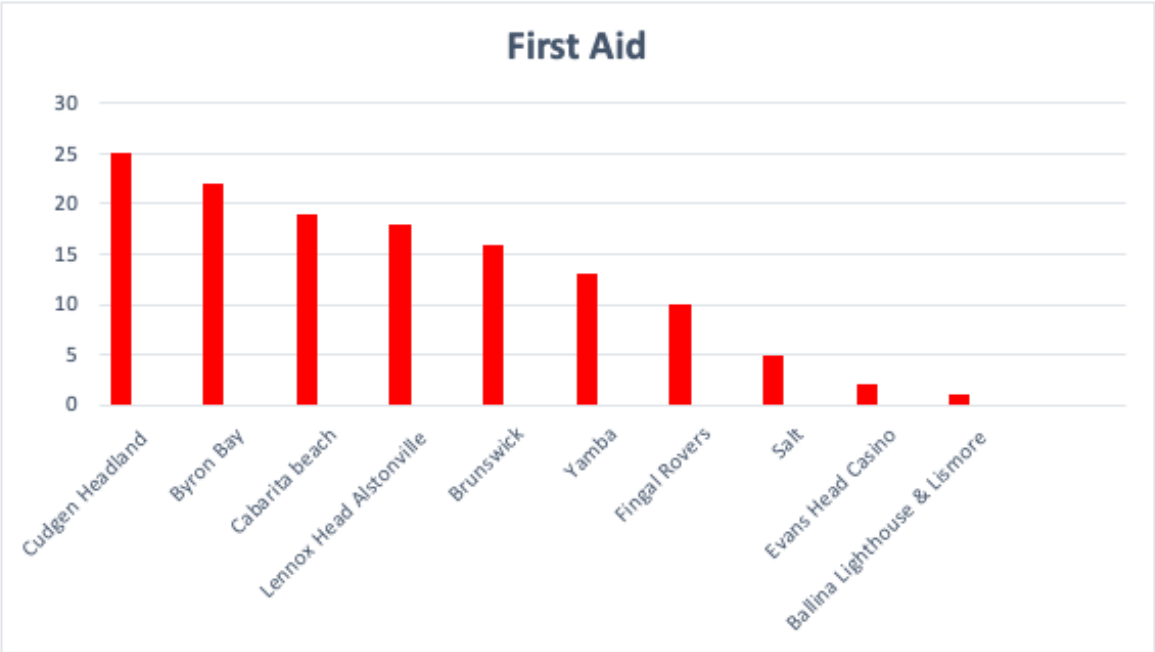
Jimmy Keough

Emergency Services Officer



# FNC BRANCH STATISTICS





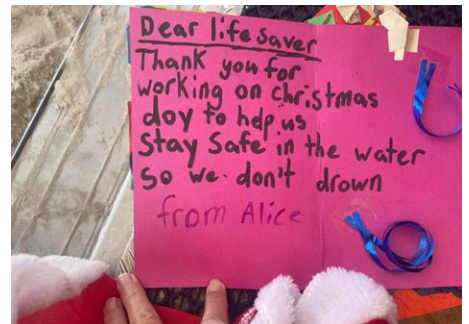
# FNC BRANCH STATISTICS

## Support Operations Patrol Hours

Dan	Andrew	238	Todd	Muller	104.5
Roger	Beadman	547	Cooper	Murphy	21
Matthew	Bell	213	Allan	Noble	78
Michael	Berti Mendez	54.5	Joseph	O'Connor	10
Peter	Boyd	5	Stuart	O'Neill	42
Scott	Callaghan	10	Cherie	Raso	76
David	Carter	22	Gary	Raso	137.5
John	Costigan	40.75	Joseph	Raso	77
David	Dempsey	264	Robert	Readman	24.5
David	Field	58	Ben	Redman	44
Dougal	Forsyth	49	Grant	Rogers	49
David	Griffiths	31	David	Rope	314
Robert	Harper	8.5	Christopher	Samuels	535
Matthew	Holmes	48.5	Matthew	Saunders	323
Duncan	Hope	205.75	Timothy	Sharman	5
Richard	Hughes	12	Robert	Slade	99.5
John	Keough	418	Gavin	Smith	63
Michael	Keough	10	Peter	Sweetman	396
Brian	Lewis	45	James	Tanner	19.5
Bryan	Lyndon	20.5	Brett	Tetlow	123.75
David	Lyons	7	Iain	Thomas	67
Garry	Meredith	355	Chris	Van Der Waal	42
Luke	Mewing	18	Adam	Van Zuylen	17
Andrew	Mills	336	Roger	Varcoe	19
Beau	Monks	15	Simon	Worboys	10
Ben	Mortimer	12.5			
David	Mortimer	15			
Terry	Mortimer	19			







### PRESIDENT'S REPORT – FINGAL ROVERS SLSC 2021 SEASON

The 2021 Season was very challenging for our club. We were reminded how vulnerable we are to mother nature and how decisions by external forces associated with the coronavirus namely, border closures and vaccination policies placed additional constraints on us and our ability to patrol and train. Nevertheless, with all the challenges faced, Rovers' members met them head on, found solutions and completed the patrol season which included providing additional volunteer assistance to our community and Queensland SLS friends.

Our total team patrol hours continue to grow. 3,200 hours this season compared to 2,700 and 2,000 in the previous two years. We also had a busy beach season with attendances significantly higher than season 2020 (27,344 -v- 15,277). Preventatives were high but thankfully no rescues. Thanks to all of our patrollers and Rovers' Director of Life Saving, Julie Blake, on her work organising and managing patrols.

Our 2021 season was a story in 2 halves....

During the first half of the season, due to the hard border and vaccination constraints, Rovers managed to fill only 5 rostered patrol teams. Living so close to the Qld/NSW border, not only did we have Qld based members who could not attend patrols but we had local members who relocated to Qld to ensure they held their jobs. The result was a loss of ~25% of our active members, most of whom we lost for the entire season. Training was near impossible.

Rather than just tread water, what did we do, we took on more challenges.....

Our SLS friends from the southern end of the Gold Coast were also constrained by border/vaccination regulations which resulted in their young members (who resided in NSW) unable to attend Nippers at their clubs. Whilst Rovers does not have Nippers, we happily provided our beach each Sunday from October 2021 to December 2021 to assist with development of young people through surf lifesaving.

On 7 November 2022, Rovers hosted our first carnival since 2013. The FNC Open Carnival took place on our beach and was a great success (and loads of fun).

The 2021 season was Rovers' first full season with UAV's integrated into the patrols. Rovers has had a strong uptake of active members wishing to fly the UAV's and were able to roster a minimum of 2 UAV operator/pilots to each patrol. During the first half of the season, the weather was favourable and the volunteer operators managed many flights (up to 18) in each 6 hour patrol. Thanks to Rovers' UAV Captain, David Dempsey for all the work in recent years to get this technology integrated into our patrols.

The second half of the season was a completely different story due to mother nature, most notably, Our region suffered 2 floods events including a "rain bomb" which isolated our Fingal Head community for several days;

Rovers recorded 36 beach closures during the season (3 during season 2020). 32 of the closures was due to dangerous surf;

Rovers managed to roster 6 patrols. Whilst our volunteers attended patrols, they spent most of the patrol in the clubhouse carrying out surveillance. Strong winds and rain grounded our UAV for most of the second half of the season; and

Training was heavily impacted by weather events. Our BM Course had to be delayed and we hope to complete it in the off season.



During the March flood event, Rovers assisted with the evacuation and recovery efforts in a number of ways: A new solar / battery system maintains clubhouse power during blackouts. During the flood, Rovers opened our clubhouse to the local community to charge devices, prepare and eat food and safely store medications at our club. Many thanks to the NSW Office of Sport's Surf Club Facility Grant and Quantum Solar for making this installation possible;

Our life savers (lead by Rovers' ESO Leanne Cheers) assisted with evacuations, rescues, first aid and organising food drops. Our small group were kept very busy. Many thanks to David Rope who organised through the local Emergency Operations Centre a team of Gold Coast lifesavers to be dispatched to Fingal Head bringing much needed water and food; and

ADF personnel from Charlie Company 8/9 RAR and DFSW squadrons were guests in Rovers' bunkrooms for 3 weeks and we thank them for all their efforts to assist with the recovery operations.

We are a small club but we made a large contribution to helping our community out.

For the second season in a row, Covid restrictions decimated revenue from fundraising and clubhouse bookings. We are grateful for the additional funding that has been available to surf clubs through the various governments and generosity of private donors. In particular the Anonymous Donor and the SLS Foundation, SLSA (through the BSEF); SLSNSW (through the CLEG and Fundraising arm, Guardians of the Angels) and the Kingscliff Lions Group.

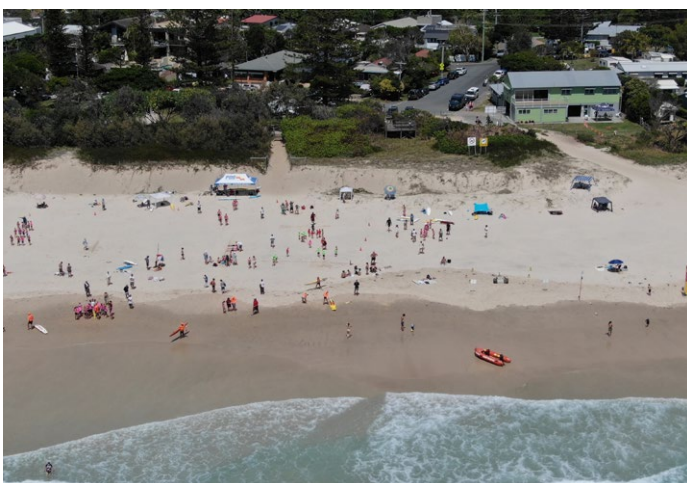
Thank you to Rovers' Board of Management (Richard Roberts, Julie Blake, John Colvin, Ash Blake, Richard Adams, Robyn Wonson (part year), John O'Neill (Part year)) for another successful year. It's a pleasure working with you.

Sadly, during this season we said our good byes to Michael Gibbs. Michael was a member of Rovers between season 2006 – 2011 and contributed to the club both on and off the beach. Michael was also a former President of both Salt and Kirra SLSC's prior to joining Rovers.

In Season 2022, we are hoping to have our Kiosk completed and leased for the first time since 2012. Thanks to the NSW Office of Sport's Surf Club Facility Grant.

I've learnt to never underestimate the strength of volunteers. We've had a busy year and as always, I am left in awe over the unselfish acts of our volunteers and look forward to being part of our club next season.

Jane Colvin  
President – Fingal Rovers SLSC



## CUDGEN HEADLAND SLSC

Cudgen Headland SLSC's Centennial season has been filled with many incredible achievements, culminating in members coming together to celebrate the Centennial of Cudgen Headland SLSC. (Circa 1922).

Life Members of our club were recognised as well as the many different aspects of life at CHSLSC at this event, held at Twin Towns Services Club with an attendance of 300 people, the event was a fabulous success! I would like to thank the members involved in this wonderful celebration event of our Club.

Yet again the year had challenges with COVID compliance and restrictions, though our Patrolling members and volunteers accepted and managed the restrictions this virus inflicted on our schedules and members with little fuss.

I'd like to also acknowledge those who were involved in the floods and rescue teams. The year of 2022 has been a tumultuous year for our community with devastating floods/storms with an enormous amount of rescue and preventative work happening. The role of a lifesaver has moved from the beach and developed even further into a community support role for all water events. The members who helped with these floods were amazing in their ability to work so hard for so long in trying circumstances.

CHSLSC operates because of the willingness of our volunteers to support the club in patrolling and administrative support roles, I thank all members who have put up their hand to help the cause of lifesaving. We are grateful to those who volunteered their time to take up a position on the Board as well as our many sub-committees.

The ability of Cudgen to step beyond our club is evident in the roles fulfilled by our members at a Branch and State as well as across other Lifesaving events. We acknowledge and celebrate our members expertise in helping not only Cudgen but also in upskilling other branch members and the general community with skills to support Lifesaving.

Yet again, we have had a hugely successful year with our Surf Sports team. Well Done! The coordination and support our Director of Surf Sports, the Surf Sports committee, our coaching staff together with the members who volunteer as officials, IRB drivers, crew and water safety, our competitors could not compete at events including State and Aussies. We thank you and appreciate your support for our competitors.

Cudgen for the fifth season in a row won the overall point score at Country Championships. What a fabulous acknowledgement of our determination and lifesaving skills and the depth of ability of our Junior and Senior and Master members.

Congratulations particularly to Lachlan Arghyros who won GOLD in the Youth Aussies.

Congratulations to all our competitors on their results for the season. We are proud of you all. Medals scored at Country and State as well as Aussies Level reflect how good the training and Team Cudgen work to achieve results at this level of competition.

On behalf of our members, I wish to extend our appreciation to the local community, Tweed Shire Council and all our sponsors who have steadfastly supported the Club during the last twelve months.

Of note our sponsors, the McIntosh Family, MR "R", Solo Resource Recovery, SCCU, Murwillumbah Truck Centre, Tweed Shire Council and our wonderful Cudgen Old Boys who are always willing to help. With your continued support, and together with the Club's volunteer membership base, we can continually improve our facilities and range of lifesaving services.

The Centennial season yet again produced another tremendous effort on the beach: thanks to our Surf Lifesaving Director Michael O'Brien, Patrol Manager David Field, all



our Patrol Captains and our patrolling members who, without their support and commitment, we would not be able to continue to support our community.

Special note must go to Sven Loemker, who this year received the Tweed Shire Council 2021 Young Achiever in Community Service award. Sven's youthfulness support to the community is to be congratulated and we are very happy that his engagement has been recognised.

In our Nippers section I would like to say Thank you to all the parents and supporters who graciously volunteer their time to help with water safety and to continually assist with our "Nippers", the base of any great club is its Juniors and we have a very strong team led again this year by the Juniors Director Paul Burdekin. In the future, Cudgen Headland Surf Lifesaving club will continue to endeavour and strive to achieve best practices in all our club activities. We are so thankful of our volunteers both in the water and in the support roles and recognise this is our strength – The Members! I THANK YOU!

Dr Grant Rogers  
President Cudgen Headland Surf Life Saving club  
1922 - 2022



5 years in the job and I cannot thank the Board members enough.

This year flooding was thrown into the equation, along with the ever present COVID. Sometimes these major disasters bring the best out in a community. Teniell Jocusen took it upon herself and put together a great event at the club to raise funds for the flood victims. Along with willing hands from the Club, local community groups and Wilson Cregan, our FNC Branch President, Teniell's efforts raised just short of \$28,000. A big thank you to Wilson who ran the auction in the rain, and the whole community who supported it.

To Sharnee Virag, our Club Administration who along with the support of Michaela Flood, keeps the admin office working seamlessly. Sharnee is a valued long term employee of our Club & we appreciate her efforts immensely. The future here is looking very positive. Michaela never ceases to amaze, the grants keep flowing in. Stephen Duffield has taught her well, and is still there to help.

Let's hope the renovations start soon. Construction Certificates should not be too far away. To have a third level Patrol Tower with drone capabilities will be a major resource for not only our Club, but also the local Emergency Services.

Sharnah Bowen, our Chief Training Officer, who has survived flood number 2 or is it number 3, lost count, keeps smiling and has the club at heart. I cannot thank you enough. Training would not be the same without your happy presence. After the last couple of years, recruitment will be a major focus. It will not be easy, but I am very confident we can get the numbers back to where they need to be.

Ian Hamilton has had to work out of two containers this season due to the renovations. Keeping the IRB's operational has not been easy. I can tell you they haven't missed a beat. Also being our Gear Steward, what a nightmare. Well done Ian and THANK YOU.

With COVID and flooding, Murray Neal, our Lifesaving Director has kept the patrol members happy. No small feat, also I think he has forgotten what Patrol he is in. Murray has filled in more times than I can remember. The club will be forever grateful for his dedication. Let's hope the world gets back to some form of normality soon.

It is very pleasing to see competition still growing. We even went to Aussies this year. I really hope this momentum keeps going as it can really develop friendships for life.

Izzy Topper, our Junior Activities Co-Ordinator and the whole team that put the Nipper program together need to be congratulated. Putting this together is like running a whole club inside a club. These young ones are our future and are in very good hands. Numbers are back to where they were pre-COVID. What can I say, this is a success story. Congratulations and thank you.

Julie Cummings and the fundraising team keep on going. It's not been easy with COVID and the floods but what a team they are!

To all our casual staff who run the bar and function room, thank you for your dedication. Wendy Waters who oversees most of this, your professionalism has not gone unnoticed.

To our wonderful community, I would like to give a big thank you to all who come up to the Club and support it on the weekends. To our local businesses that support us in the way of donations for our fundraisers, sponsorships, etc. - we are lucky to have a wonderful community and greatly appreciate your much needed support - without you guys we would not be where we are!

Lastly I would like to thank the Far North Coast Branch for their support over the season, it is nice to know they're there to help. Surf Life Saving



New South Wales is making themselves more available. I see this as a positive thing. When making or putting decisions in play let's hope they look at Country Clubs, knowing they do not have the same numbers as City Clubs.

See you on the beach, fingers crossed no more COVID, no more floods.  
ONE LAST THANK YOU TO EVERYBODY we do not have a club without you.

Andrew Baker President  
Cabarita Beach S.L.S.C



I would like to congratulate all of our volunteering patrol and non patrol members for a challenging season under the forever changing COVID safe regulations and local natural disasters. Thanks to their efforts there were no lives lost at Brunswick this year. Your efforts and commitment to Brunswick SLSC is valued and appreciated.

It was challenging to provide training services to our members to upgrade their qualifications and to attract new patrolling members due to Covid restrictions. All our patrolling members have shown determination throughout this difficult patrol season. We did lose some patrolling members due to the vaccine mandate. This season 3 rescues were performed by our patrolling members, 16 First Aid actions and 1124 preventive actions. Total beach attendance for the season was 14,951. Unfortunately poor water quality due to the floods, a shark sighting and dangerous conditions led us to close the beach for up to 62 hours this season. During a beach closure we had a call out to a person in distress at the river mouth which resulted in 2 helicopters, ambulance, police and duty officers being called to the scene. The person of interest was located safe and well.

During the February floods our emergency call out team were tasked to conduct emergency evacuations at New Brighton, Brunswick, South Golden Beach and Mullumbimby. The Brunswick SLSC assisted Marine Rescue, VRA and the SES during this emergency. We were not prepared for the scale of the disaster and the amount of people that were requiring evacuation. One of the challenges during this event was the communication failure that restricted communication to our members from the command center. Surf Life Saving brought in other surf clubs to assist. Thank you to Cudgen, Byron, Ballina and Lennox surf clubs for assisting in our hour of need. We would also like to thank the Hotel Brunswick and the Ocean Shores Country Club for providing support during this time to our members.

The club would like to thank the QLD Surf Lifesaving Foundation for offering to support us which we had to decline again due to the expected surf club rebuild as there is no room to store any additional equipment.

Once again the Building Committee has been busy with plans to progress our new clubhouse development. There have been many challenges to obtain the Construction Certificate with a view to commence building in the near future. As part of our requirements of the construction was to participate in the Aboriginal Awareness training. This training provided knowledge of the local Arakwal people and they interacted with the land on which our club is located. The continued hard work of this committee is to be acknowledged and is always appreciated by the Club.

The Brunswick Surf Club was not able to hold any of our fundraising events this year due to COVID. The only event we were looking at running was the Mullum to Brunz Paddle in conjunction with Marine Rescue and the Brunswick Visitors Center, unfortunately this was canceled as well due to the damage to the river because of the floods. The Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club financial donation was gratefully received and will be utilised in future training endeavours.

The RWC was utilised over the season and had a great visual impact on our beaches. The new RWC has been a great resource in helping to train new recruits, tasking to emergencies and patrolling through the busy holiday periods. The RWC was called out numerous times for this season and is a valuable resource for the Club and our community. I would thank the RWC operators for going above and beyond their regular patrolling duties in providing this valuable service to the community on behalf of the Surf Lifesaving Far North Coast.

We would like to thank David Field for conducting the UAV operators course during the season. Patrols from December to the end of the season used the 2 UAV's that were paid for by Surf Life Saving NSW and NSW DPI as part of the shark surveillance program. The UAV's are also used for risk assessments and missing persons. This program increased our patrolling members.





The annual Brunswick Masters carnival was held at Yamba this season due to us anticipating the club closure. We are thankful to Yamba SLSC for allowing us to run this signature event at Yamba which was well attended. This season our attendance at surf competitions were reduced due to COVID and some key members not being able to compete due to the vaccine mandate.

Congratulations and thank you to our Nippers Executive 2021/2022 committee Warren Burgess, Phil Parker, Matt Simmonds and Julia Couter for their commitment on looking after our up and coming life savers. Thanks to everyone involved in these activities particularly given the challenging nature of a post COVID season. We look forward to working with the new committee for the 2022/2023 season.

The Club would like to send out condolences to any Club Members who have lost any dear friends or loved ones during the season.

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

Finally, I would like to thank Mark, Warwick, Leigh and Vanessa of the executive committee and all other Club Members that have contributed above and beyond to help make this club what it is today. Congratulations to our CTO Simon Ceglinski on his election to the position of Branch Director of Member Services.

Craig Reid

President Brunswick Surf Club



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

Once again this year, our communities have suffered the major impacts of COVID, severe weather events, flooding, economic and other community and society adverse events.

The 2021/22 season has highlighted the resilience, supportiveness and community spirit that is present. The provision of patrols, nipper activities, training and recreational activities has required some creative thinking by our club position holders, their assistants and members.

Erosion, wet and wild weather, poor water quality and dangerous surf conditions has been the norm. I thank the members lead by our team of patrol captains for their vigilance and adaptiveness during these challenging conditions.

Thank you to our emergency response team who have continued to support and respond during these difficult times. They combined with a cross-section of members to provide on-call responses as well as support the flood search and rescue as well as COVID response when requested. The follow-up flood assistance from our members and community was amazing and appreciated.

Two of our major community events were possible this year in less than ideal conditions. I thank the members for the huge effort in providing water safety for both the Byron Bay Ocean Swim and Byron Bay Triathlon.

Once again I would like to acknowledge the amazing work done by Kirsty Pockley who is not only our Nipper Coordinator but Club Secretary. The Nipper season had its weather, beach and COVID challenges but Kirsty with her great support team and parents provided a full and enjoyable program for our kids.

The surf sports program was impacted by COVID and weather events. We had great representation at NSW Country Championships and appreciate the ongoing commitment to this event by SLSNSW. Aussies saw some great masters' results and keen competition from our opens. Congratulations to Suki Alford for her performance in the surfing. Again I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work by Maryanne and Mark Sewell in the provision of First Aid services.

Maintenance is an ongoing commitment for the surf club. We replaced our extensive deck area with assistance of members and the professional support of Jarrod Monti.

The club would like to thank the wonderful support by national, state, FNC branch and our local sponsors: the Beach Hotel, Winter Whales Ocean Swim, the Roofing Craftsman, Beach Suites, Farmers Market, Rotary, In the Pink, Dash Security, McGrath Real Estate, First Light Health Care and Sun Protection, Apollo Property, Bennett Construction, Mullumbimby/ Kingscliff Podiatry. It is much appreciated.

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

Thank you to the Byron Bay SLSC members, their families and local community who generously volunteer their time and skills. These are challenging times but we look forward to coming together again for the 2022-23 season.

Paul Pattison - BSLSC President.





## LENNOX HEAD ALSTONVILLE SLSC

This year has brought with it some difficult times what with Covid, extreme weather, rain and floods and in the latter part of the season polluted water keeping beaches closed due to water quality.

This made patrols challenging at times and I thank all our patrolling members for your commitment in making sure we carried out our responsibilities maintaining our patrols on the beach.

Club membership this year has reached record levels due I believe to the population increase in the area and our excellent junior activities programme run by Brendan Mathews and his team of age managers .

This year has seen excellent results by both our junior and senior competitors at local, State and Aussie carnivals and our thanks go to the coaches involved with these athletes.

Congratulations to Courtney Yantsh and Jayden Mathews for being selected to represent the Branch as Junior Life Savers of the year Jayden went on to win the NSW Junior Life Saver of the year.

Our club has responded to a number emergencies this year firstly in the search for a young man who tragically lost his life of our beach. Our thanks to the IRB crews involved and also to the members who provided food and refreshment's to all the emergency personnel involved.

The severe local flooding saw a number of our members involved in search and rescue operations and the club opened as an evacuation centre.

To the IRB crews the ladies who ran the evacuation centre the members who cooked food for not only our centre but 2 other evacuation centres in the area thank you.

I must also thank our water safety and officials for their work during the season and all our members who work behind the scenes to keep our club going.

Finally thanks to the Members of the Management Committee for their advice and support during the season.

Geoff Harris  
President





## BALLINA LIGHTHOUSE AND LISMORE SLSC

Season 2021/22 started with much trepidation around the COVID pandemic and finished the season on what can only be described, for our local region, as an unprecedented flood event. Despite all of this there are many achievements and highlights we should all be proud of.

Once again, we can say with pride, that there were no lives lost on Lighthouse Beach during the 4,173 patrol hours completed. Our Patrol Captains and their patrol teams continuing to maintain our beach to the high standard we have set ourselves.

Despite the constraints of regulations and changes to courses, our Education and Training team managed to get all active members proficient, train new members in their Bronze Medallion course and start some of our Junior members on their development pathway, by teaching them about resuscitation to allow them to attend patrols with an award.

Our Surf Sports team trained when they could, adapting to the ever-changing conditions of our beach and competed in Branch, State and National Carnivals. It is a big job to grow our competitive team but we are fortunate to have 'Aussies' gold medal winning coaches and families who, once they get to carnivals have to then take on roles as water safety, officials, team managers, gear stewards and support coaches. Their efforts did not go unnoticed.

We had an increase in Junior numbers this year although we had to delay the commencement of the Nippers Program. We started our season with an Acknowledgment of Country in Bundjalung by Kristian Sines, a Bundjalung local and Junior member. Although there were some great times on the beach, many Nippers mornings were not able to be held due to weather/water conditions. It's always a hard call to make and many factors go into making these tough decisions. It's no mean feat to organise /set up activities/instruct/encourage/cheer on/pack up activities and feed 166 Nippers aged from 5 to 13 yrs., but we do, and we do it well.

The Club continues to be called upon by local schools to provide Surf Education to their students. Students from Years 5,6,11 and 12 from Summerland Christian College had a day at Shaws Bay learning basic skills about rescues, first aid and some fun at beach flags.

Although the 2021/22 season cannot be all about 'the flood' it really highlighted what our club is capable of: IRB Drivers and Crew assisting other emergency service agencies with flood rescue in our own neighbourhood and our region

Members assisted in the community by filling sandbags, removing flood damaged possessions from people's homes, and helping with flood clean up

Assisting our members, friends, family, and colleagues who had been flood affected.

Continuing to turn up for patrol despite the beach conditions, the smell, and the clubhouse cleaning!

Annette Lee has been the Director of Finance for 3 terms and will step down from the job, this year. Annette's has maintained the club's financials to a very high standard, thank you Annette.

During the season SLSNW requested that all clubs review their Club Constitution in line with the Incorporated Associations Act, Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission, the SLSNSW and the SLSA Constitutions. Thanks to Stephen Perris and Kris Beavis for undertaking this review and the



revised constitution to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

The club is grateful for the support of the SLS Branch and State organisations as well as the Anonymous Donor through the Surf Life Saving Foundation. In addition, grants have been sought and received from State and Federal Governments. Our sponsors and supporters continue to assist us despite the constraints of the pandemic and flood.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Board Members and Office Holders who take on many jobs in the day to day running of the club, over and above their designated roles these efforts largely go unnoticed. All members should be proud of what they do for the club, the community and surf lifesaving, never underestimate your contribution.

Joanne McIntosh  
President



The 21/22 season was another extremely hard year for both our club members and for the wider Northern River's region.

The Covid pandemic continued to wreak havoc, and then we had the unprecedented floods in February. Unfortunately, many of our members lost their homes, businesses and/or belongings during the devastating flood events. Our beach unfortunately had to be closed an unprecedented number of days due to the pollution and flooding.

Despite many being personally impacted by the floods, members were quick to volunteer their time to assist the local community. Be it performing rescues, evacuations, providing logistic support and or assisting at the community evacuation centres, our members went above and beyond. I received an incredible amount of feedback from the local emergency services and the wider community in general as to what a professional job our members did and how grateful they were for our support.

Despite our season being cut short, our 6 patrol teams logged a total of 2186 hrs on the beach with many preventive actions and 0 rescues. Special thanks also to our after-hours call out team who were on hand for a number of requests of assistance throughout the year.

Congratulations to our Club Captain Michael Pontefract for winning the Surf Lifesaving NSW Patrol Captain of the Year and also to Garry Meredith for being the NSW Support Operations Member of the Year.

Our boat crew excelled once again at the Aussies, bringing home Gold in the 220year men's race. With the crew directly affected by the floods and with their training schedule in disarray, it was a phenomenal effort.

In conjunction with the Richmond Valley Council, we held the 2022 Australia Day celebrations and awards ceremony at the Surf Club which was a resounding success. Congratulations to Michael Pontefract for being recognised as the RVC Citizen of the Year award for 2022, to Jacob Yourell for winning the Young Volunteer of the Year, and to Abbie Yourell for her Young Sportsperson of the Year award.

Once again our small training team of Donna Watts, Gay Steintal and Michael Pontefract did a fantastic job with 15 SRC, 12 Bronze Medallion, 6 IRB crew and 3 IRB driver awards being attained throughout the year.

Thanks to our Nipper team of Lucy Ellis, Lisa Cotrell, the Age Managers and all the Water Safety crew for navigating an unfortunately disrupted season.

We were once again generously supported by the Anonymous Donor and the Surf Life Saving Foundation. This year with their assistance we were able to replace our aging 30 year old Massey Ferguson tractor with a brand new Kubota. Our Fundraising Committee once again oversaw another successful Charity Bowls Day event in January.

To all our committee representatives thank you for your ongoing dedication and for all the tireless behind the scenes support you provide.

We look forward to another exciting year ahead, commencing with the raising of the flags in September, kicking off a big weekend of celebrations for our 100th year on the beach.

Avan Christie  
President







The 2021/22 season was another very challenging one and can really be divided into 2 halves. The first saw Yamba SLSC return to the beach with a growing nipper group, strong patrols and the beach in a very healthy state. The second half was marred by floods, landslides and road closures that resulted in patrols being suspended for some 6 weeks due to access and safety issues. Despite this, it has been a very successful season on many fronts.

We started the season with some fresh blood on our Board with Frankie Aird (Lifesaving), Jill Ennever (Education) and Kim McFarlane (Clubhouse) all taking on roles. It has been great to have some fresh ideas and new perspectives to ensure we stay motivated and strive to deliver great outcomes for our members. Our departing Lifesaving Director, James Ryan, is deserving of special mention for his contribution to the club during his lengthy stint in the role. He regularly performed in excess of 100 hours of patrol and was at times the glue that held the club together.

Despite the disruptions our Education team did a fantastic job of bringing new members into the club and upskilling our existing members. Thankyou to everyone who helped with training and assessing.

On the competition front we had one of our most successful seasons in recent memory. A fantastic Nipper Carnival on our home beach in November and the Brunswick Masters Carnival at Yamba in February were local highlights. At the Country Titles we had our best results in many years with numerous winners from the youngest nippers right through to Masters. Kalani Ives was outstanding, winning 8 gold in the u/17 and Open female divisions. We also had success at the Nippers State Titles with Clarence Dougherty and Felix Forbes winning gold and bronze respectively in their Board events.

The Aussie Titles was a highlight. In the Masters events there was 3 individual medals for Peter Rheinberger as well as silver medals in the 110 Years Surf Teams and 180 years Female surf boat. In the Open competition Kalani Ives was rewarded for her hard work and dedication over many years with 3rd placings in the u/17 Surf Race and Ironwoman. A fantastic result for Kalani and the first medals in Open competition for Yamba since 2006.

The club once again held a successful running of the Yamba Ocean Swims on January 2. Large seas saw the 800m and 2km swims relocated to Whiting Beach with an entertaining Dash for Cash held back at Main Beach. This is a great community event that highlights the spirit within the club. It is very rewarding to see so many members getting involved in many different ways to ensure the success of this event each year.

It is expected that we will see the access issues that plagued the club through the back half of the season resolved over the winter. The beach will likely take some time to recover from the erosion damage but hopefully the winter is kind to us and the rocks slowly start to disappear again.

The club cannot continue to operate without the support of our many sponsors and donors and we thank them all very much. Thanks in particular to the Anonymous Donor for the continued support of Surf Lifesaving on the Far North Coast.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Board members, the Branch executive and all of our amazing volunteers who help to make this club a great one to be a part of. Let's hope that next season brings a little less disruption.

Joe Dougherty

President





## FAR NORTH COAST SURF LIFE SAVING 2021 BRANCH DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

The Interbranch Championships is a team competition which provides the branch with development opportunities for our FNC Surfspots Athletes and the FNC brand is one that is highly valued by all those that are involved in Surfspots from across our branch.

The uncertainty around COVID restrictions forced the SLSNSW to cancel the Interbranch Championships for the second year in a row and the news greatly disappointed our athletes particularly in a season that already had limited options for competition due to the restrictions on our athletes to compete in QLD.

The Hunter Branch extended us with an invitation to compete as a Branch Development Squad at the Lake Macquarie Games carnival which was scheduled on the same weekend as the cancelled Interbranch event. This provided the branch with a unique opportunity to still invest in our athletes and select an FNC development squad to travel down to the Hunter area and compete as a branch team.

### **Selection**

Since the Lake Macquarie Games carnival was a traditional format, the branch supported the selection of a larger team of athletes to enable us to field full teams. As an investment in our athletes the selection of a larger team also provided an opportunity for some of those athletes that may not normally get selected to represent the branch. In addition to the use of the guidelines outlined in the FNC Interbranch Team Selection Policy the SLSFNC Selection Committee also ran a trail event at Cudgen Headland SLSC which was an important tool for the selectors to be able to view whether a particular athlete who may have already been identified for possible selection from last year's results had returned to the sport, whether they had been able to maintain their fitness during the winter period or whether they had transitioned into the next age group effectively. It also enabled athletes to test themselves against the other athletes that had nominated in their age group. 91 nominations for the branch team were received from 8 clubs across the branch.

A team of 68 athletes ranging from U12 to Open were selected and a management team of 10 people.

### **Logistical Challenges**

The selection of a larger team created some additional logistical challenges requiring the use of a larger 61 seat bus and the Cudgen minibus to transport the whole team down to the Hunter. In addition, the senior age groups (U17 – Open) were accommodated separately to the Junior age groups (U12-U15) at The Entrance Backpackers due to the limitations on the availability of cabins at the Shelley Beach Holiday Park. The team still held joint lunches, dinners and training activities to maintain the opportunities for the younger athletes to bond with the senior group.

### **The Competition Events**

The Team competed at the Lake Macquarie Games carnival which was held at Swansea Belmont on 4th Dec and is the Hunter branches largest carnival of the season (includes events for ages U9 up to Open for water and beach). In addition, we had 54 athletes compete in the Kracka iron challenge event which was held on 5th Dec at Swansea Belmont for ages U9-U19. Both events were very well run and our athletes felt very welcomed during the weekend. We had some fantastic results winning most of the team events at the carnival and the athletes that backed up for the Kracka challenge the next day in cooler conditions acquitted themselves very well.

### **Management Team**

The Management Team of 10 was a mix of the older experienced support crew and a crop of new Chaperones that were led by Jenni Campbell. Charisma Cass came in as the Assistant Manager after being a competitor on the team for many years and also assisted with the Beach Athletes.

## MANAGEMENT

Head Coach	Scott McCartney	Cudgen Headland
Team Manager	Adam Mills	Cudgen Headland
Assistant Team Manager	Claudia Crawford	Cudgen Headland
Assistant Coach	Paul Irwin	Byron Bay
Chaperone	Jenni Campbell	Ballina
Chaperone	Alison Mathews	Lennox
Chaperone	Deborah Arghyros	Cudgen Headland
Chaperone	Sabra Nichol	Cudgen Headland
Gear Steward	Paul Smith	Cudgen Headland
Gear Steward	Stephen George	Cudgen Headland

I would like to thank the Management Team for taking the time off and working tirelessly over the weekend to assist with ensuring that the team was well prepared with everything that they needed to give us their best and making the trip an enjoyable success.



	FEMALE		MALE	
	Name	Club	Name	Club
U12	Isabella Arghyros Indy Lacson Charli Mills Abbi Mathews Jarrah Onley Myla Naylor	Cudgen Headland Ballina Cudgen Headland Lennox Head Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland	Luke Roberts Adam Price Tom Mison Tim Wellm Max Esgate Jalen Beatty	Lennox Head Byron Bay Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland
U13	Jordan Shead Marli Francis Fray Hutchinson Matilda Mison Piper Phillips Kaimana Lowien-Britt	SALT Lennox Head Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland	Phoenix Preston Lachlan Arghyros Charlie George Jake Tickle Cooper Bird Reuben Sharp	Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Brunswick heads Lennox Head
U14	Ava Arghyros Layla Hutchinson Isabella Tate Willow Nichol Zara Monti	Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Byron Bay	Jules Loemker Fletcher Burdekin Tex Milroy Jayden Mathews Sam Davies Cruz Kill	Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Cabarita Lennox Head Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland
U15	Scarlett George Claudia Arghyros Niamh Sharp Zoe Campbell Wyana Sewell Molly Eddy	Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Lennox Head Cudgen Headland Byron Bay Cudgen Headland	Bede Francis Jack French Deacon Streader Kelly Campbell Luke Bond Ethan Bayly	Lennox Head Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Ballina Lennox Head Lennox Head
Youth	Niamh Thompson Kloe Mills Kalani Ives Poppy Burdekin Charlotte Shepherd	Lennox Head Cudgen Headland Yamba Cudgen Headland Lennox Head	Oliver Sharpe Jackson Bond Maalik Moston Lachlan Mahon Zayne Chisolm	Lennox Head Lennox Head Lennox Head Lennox Head Cudgen Headland
Open	Olissa Onley Grace Eady Hayley Smith Chloe Jones Sofie Boyd	Cudgen Headland Byron Bay Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland	Kai Onley Rory Mathews Liam MacPhail Patrick Thompson	Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Cudgen Headland Lennox Head



## 2021-22 SURF RESCUE 40 BALLINA JET BOAT

While 2021 marked our 50th year of operation it was not the year that we wanted. On a callout in late September we noticed excessive black smoke coming from the engine. During scheduled maintenance the following week it was found that the turbo had disintegrated and sent metal into the engine causing significant damage.

An insurance claim was lodged and we set about making a plan to ensure we used this time off the water wisely. It was decided to get the jet unit re-furbished while the engine was out. It was also decided to modify the induction into the engine to try and limit the amount of salt air drawn into the system.

Worldwide COVID impacts have led to significant time delays waiting for parts and services as well as the recent floods. It is likely that the boat will be ready in the next couple of weeks and we are really looking forward to being back out on the water. We have also used this time to get involved in numerous Bunnings BBQ fundraisers to ensure our finances can cover the costs involved in the refurbishment of the boat.

On the 13th of February, 2022 we received a letter from NSW SLS withdrawing us from service due to significant risks. The letter was sent without warning, without information and without any support for our members. The letter detailed that if we could mitigate these risks that we may be allowed back on the water but the letter also stated that from June, 2024 we would no longer be allowed to operate. Similar letters were sent to the Offshore Rescue boat in Sydney and the Kiama Jetboat.

This began a very stressful time for our members as we struggled to obtain information. We have worked through a number of processes and have had two meetings with NSW SLS since. Those meetings have been beneficial in obtaining information and formulating a plan going forward. The door is no longer shutting in 2024 and this allows us to plan in the longer term to continue to evolve our service.

Without the support of FNC branch and in particular Wilson Cregan, David Rope and Elton Cummings we would not have made it to this point. They have risen to the occasion, supporting us throughout the process and for that we are eternally grateful.

We can't dwell on what has occurred though but what we can do is look to the future and to continue to evolve and to serve our community. We have a great core group of people who dedicate a large amount of their time to ensuring our success. We need to build on that with our processes and recruitment to show our value to our community and surf lifesaving.

Thanks

Dave Carter

President

Ballina Jetboat Surf Rescue



## FNC MEMBERSHIP 2021-22

<b>Ballina Lighthouse/ Lismore</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>Cudgen Headland</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>Salt</b>	<b>539</b>
Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)	148	Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)	291	Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)	202
Cadet Member (13-15 years)	12	Cadet Member (13-15 years)	34	Cadet Member (13-15 years)	8
Active (15-18 yrs)	22	Active (15-18 yrs)	26	Active (15-18 yrs)	9
Active (18yrs and over)	71	Active (18yrs and over)	170	Active (18yrs and over)	84
Award Member	3	Award Member	18	Award Member	9
Reserve Active	1	Reserve Active	6	Long Service	13
Long Service	1	Long Service	42	Associate	12
Life Member	13	Past Active	22	Life Member	2
General	58	Associate	265	General	182
Community Member	56	Life Member	28	Honorary	1
		Honorary	28	Community Member	17
<b>Brunswick</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Evans Head/Casino SLSC</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>Yamba</b>	<b>534</b>
Probationary	4	Probationary	2	Probationary	2
Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)	77	Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)	94	Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)	
Cadet Member (13-15 years)	2	Cadet Member (13-15 years)	24	128	
Active (15-18 yrs)	9	Active (15-18 yrs)	18	Cadet Member (13-15 years)	24
Active (18yrs and over)	45	Active (18yrs and over)	45	Active (15-18 yrs)	19
Award Member	7	Long Service	3	Active (18yrs and over)	74
Reserve Active	2	Associate	8	Award Member	13
Long Service	2	Life Member	12	Reserve Active	2
Associate	48	General	58	Long Service	22
General	4			Associate	231
		<b>Fingal Rovers</b>	<b>136</b>	Life Member	19
<b>Byron Bay</b>	<b>670</b>	Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)	2		
Probationary	11	Cadet Member (13-15 years)	2		
Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)	229	Active (15-18 yrs)	6		
Cadet Member (13-15 years)	21	Active (18yrs and over)	65		
Active (15-18 yrs)	20	Award Member	1		
Active (18yrs and over)	136	Long Service	9		
Reserve Active	1	Associate	37		
Long Service	13	Life Member	14		
Past Active	1				
Associate	215	<b>Lennox Head Alstonville</b>	<b>665</b>		
Life Member	20	Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)	275		
General	1	Cadet Member (13-15 years)	28		
Honorary	1	Active (15-18 yrs)	14		
Non Member Participants	1	Active (18yrs and over)	129		
		Reserve Active	1		
		Long Service	5		
<b>Cabarita Beach</b>	<b>629</b>	Associate	206		
Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)	205	Life Member	4		
Cadet Member (13-15 years)	3	General	1		
Active (15-18 yrs)	12	Honorary	2		
Active (18yrs and over)	85				
Award Member	3				
Reserve Active	8				
Long Service	3				
Associate	239				
Life Member	8				
General	62				
Non Member Participants	1				



## Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	5
Bronze Medallion	16
Certificate II in Public Safety (PUA20119)	21
First Aid	6
Flood Water Rescue Awareness Course	4
Junior Activity Management Course	1
Resuscitation	10
Silver Medallion Beach Management	2
Silver Medallion IRB Driver	1
Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed)	1
Training Officer Bronze Medallion	1

## Brunswick

Certificate II in Public Safety (PUA20119)	2
First Aid	2
Flood Water Rescue Awareness Course	2
IRB Crew Certificate	1
Junior Activity Management Course	1
MPIO	1
Resuscitation	1
Silver Medallion Beach Management	1
UAV Operator (non RePL)	3
UAV Pilot (RePL)	1

## Byron Bay

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	14
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques [AID]	2
Bronze Medallion	24
Certificate II in Public Safety (PUA20119)	27
First Aid	15
Flood Water Rescue Awareness Course	2
Silver Medallion Beach Management	5
Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed)	20
UAV Operator (non RePL)	2

## Cabarita Beach

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	4
Assessor Surf Rescue	1
Bronze Medallion	10
Certificate II in Public Safety (PUA20119)	14
Certificate IV in Training and Assessment	1
Endorsed Assessor - Bronze Medallion	1
Facilitator Bronze Medallion	1
First Aid	10
Flood Water Rescue Awareness Course	4
IRB Crew Certificate	2
Resuscitation	7
Silver Medallion Beach Management	1
Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed)	7
Training Officer Bronze Medallion	1
Training Officer Surf Rescue	1
UAV Operator (non RePL)	7

## Cudgen Headland

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	34
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques [AID]	8
Assessor ART	2
Bronze Medallion	29
Certificate II in Public Safety (PUA20119)	35
Endorsed Assessor - Bronze Medallion	2
Endorsed Assessor - IRB	1
Endorsed Assessor - RWC	1
Facilitator ART	2
Facilitator First Aid	2
Facilitator SMBM	1
First Aid	42
First Aid [AID]	1
Flood Water Rescue Awareness Course	17
IRB Crew Certificate	4
Radio Operator Certificate	3
Rescue Water Craft Operator Certificate	2
Resuscitation	15
Resuscitation [AID]	1
Silver Medallion Beach Management	7
Silver Medallion IRB Driver	2
Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed)	22
Training Officer ART	2
UAV Operator (non RePL)	18
UAV Pilot (RePL)	2

## Evans Head/Casino SLSC

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	6
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques [AID]	1
Bronze Medallion	14
Certificate II in Public Safety (PUA20119)	15
First Aid	6
IRB Crew Certificate	6
Resuscitation	5
Silver Medallion Beach Management	1
Silver Medallion IRB Driver	3
Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed)	5

## Fingal Rovers

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	7
Bronze Medallion	2
Certificate II in Public Safety (PUA20119)	3
First Aid	8
Flood Water Rescue Awareness Course	4
IRB Crew Certificate	2
Radio Operator Certificate	6
Resuscitation	5
Resuscitation [AID]	1
Silver Medallion Beach Management	1
Silver Medallion IRB Driver	1
Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed)	2
UAV Operator (non RePL)	4

## Lennox Head Alstonville

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	12
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques [AID]	3
Bronze Medallion	13
Certificate II in Public Safety (PUA20119)	7
First Aid	12
Resuscitation	7
Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue	2
Silver Medallion Beach Management	3
Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed)	12
Training Officer Bronze Medallion	1
UAV Operator (non RePL)	6
UAV Pilot (RePL)	1

## Salt

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	5
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques [AID]	2
Bronze Medallion	6
Certificate II in Public Safety (PUA20119)	9
First Aid	12
Flood Water Rescue Awareness Course	4
IRB Crew Certificate	7
Resuscitation	4
Resuscitation [AID]	1
Silver Medallion Beach Management	3
Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed)	1
Training Officer Bronze Medallion	1
UAV Operator (non RePL)	5
UAV Pilot (RePL)	1

## Yamba

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	21
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques [AID]	2
Bronze Medallion	11
Certificate II in Public Safety (PUA20119)	16
First Aid	37
Rescue Water Craft Operator Certificate	1
Resuscitation	15
Silver Medallion Beach Management	12
Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed)	13
Training Officer ART	1
Training Officer Bronze Medallion	1
Training Officer Surf Rescue	1
UAV Operator (non RePL)	8
UAV Pilot (RePL)	1

## NORTH COAST SURF BOAT SERIES

The 2021/2022 Surf Season, much like the preceding two seasons, was marked by postponements and – unfortunately more – cancellations due to a combination of COVID-19 restrictions and the impacts of adverse weather and swell conditions; in spite of these challenges the North Coast Surf Boat Series (NCSBS) Management and the hosting clubs were able to successfully deliver five rounds of Surf Boat competition. There were definitely lessons learned about having back up beaches and still water alternatives locked in so that competition can proceed when the Surf Hazard Rating is too high for safe competition.

To action this lesson, the Management Group will be developing a relationship with the RMS to ensure that we can avoid another season of postponements and cancellations. To finish on a positive note, despite the lack of carnivals there were a number of clubs from our Series who made significant achievements this season, with several crews making it into the finals at the major carnivals (ASRL Open and the Aussies) and some came home with medals, hopefully a sign of more good things to come.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the beach next season.

Geyne Feeney  
NCSBS Management Group



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