



Message from the President

Hello from lockdown - I hope you are all managing to survive this difficult period of social isolation and all the challenges it has presented and that you and your loved ones have managed to stay safe and well. I am sure - like me - you are looking forward to an easing of the restrictions. I have been very grateful for the fact that we can continue enjoying our beautiful beach and environment whilst still maintaining social distancing.

Covid-19 brought an abrupt end to our patrolling season and all the events associated with that, including sadly our Nippers Presentation Ceremony, our end of season Annual Awards and our club championships. While the Nippers could not proceed with their awards event, it was great to see them celebrating the success of their season utilising social media with the added nice touch of Junior Chairperson Gerard posting a video to the Age Groups with messages of congratulations and thanks. I'd also like to thank and congratulate all the Age Managers, Committee members and parent helpers and most importantly - the NIPPERS - who made this season such a great one. Nippers are the lifeblood of our club and it is so good to see such a strong committee of both returning and new members stepping up for roles for the coming season.

A very big shout out and congratulations to all our newly minted SRC group from the U14s. Happily they were able to squeeze in a quick celebration

at the end of the season before the restrictions were in place. I'm looking forward to seeing you all on patrol next season and maybe even out there doing water safety for nippers and at carnivals. Well done crew!

One important event coming up is the AGM which will be held - hopefully in person - on **Sunday 28 June**. I urge all members to make an effort to attend this meeting - and to consider taking on a role. The Club needs all the support it can get, with many people on our committee having been in their role for a number of years. Every club benefits from change, fresh ideas and different perspectives that new committee members bring. Please reach out to myself or any of our Committee members if you are thinking of taking on a role but not sure what is involved. Our model for bringing new committee members onboard is to have them supported and mentored by current position holders so they are not 'thrown in the deep end'.

UPCOMING DATES

AGM

28 June

hopefully in person

GEAR INSPECTIONS

28 – 29 August

proposed

- ▶ While on the topic of giving our members a say, I would also urge you all to complete a Member Survey which can be found at <https://bit.ly/2KzTSfw>

We will also send out this survey as a reminder/stand alone message in two weeks. We really do appreciate you taking the time to provide us with some thoughtful and constructive input on the future direction and management of the club. The closing date for responses will be 31 May 2021.

While the Clubhouse has been off limits due to Covid-19 restrictions, we have been taking advantage of the opportunity to continue with various maintenance and renovation tasks. Members of the building development sub-committee have been continuing to work on

securing additional grant funding so we can progress the redevelopment of the surf club. The next stage is a revamp of the auditorium which, when complete, will serve as a more substantial revenue stream as a venue for hire.

Finally on behalf of the club I would like to send a message of support to Duncan from the Surf Club Kiosk who was seriously injured in a cycling accident. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Duncan and his family and we hope to see him back in Sawtell before too long.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and on the beach!



Sheena McTackett
0477 771 481



Message from the Club Captain

With the early finish of the patrol season due to the Covid-19 restrictions it is appropriate for me to thank every single one of our patrol members who did so much during the season to keep the public safe at Sawtell. It was a very successful season as indicated by all the usual metrics – no drownings or very serious injuries, very few rescues and relatively few preventative actions. In addition, all patrol inspections undertaken by the Branch Director of Lifesaving were passed with flying colours. We met all our obligations under the Lifesaving Service Agreement in regard to patrol times, member competencies and patrol equipment without exception throughout the entire season. We also assisted Bellinger Valley / North Beach with their patrol obligations as they were not able to roster IRB drivers and crews for half of their patrols. As a surf lifesaving club we really do undertake our role on the beach very competently and professionally.

It's a bit ironic really that some of the best weather for the entire season occurred during the last few weeks after patrols were called off. It would have been nice to get just a few patrols with nice weather during the season. There's always next year to look forward too!

After patrols finished we undertook surveillance patrols with the Surf Life Saving Jet Ski (aka Rescue Water Craft or RWC) every weekend and public holiday morning until the official end of the season on Sunday 26 April. These were undertaken by five of the SLS qualified Jet Ski Operators within our club - Rick Fischer, Shelley Lantry, Shannon Wilson, Scott Rayson and myself. Matt O'Donnell from Coffs and Garry Howe from Urunga also helped at Sawtell while Kevin Clancy spent a long time helping at Nambucca. Due to the weather and sea conditions no rescues were performed by the RWCs over this period.

Our afterhours Call Out team is also available to respond to emergencies outside of patrol hours. We recently had one minor call to assist lifeguards and the ambulance service with the transport of a suspected spinal patient from north of Murrays Rocks.

A key part of ensuring the patrols can operate effectively is ensuring that our patrol equipment is always right to go. For instance, in an attempt to prolong the working life of our beach vehicles the ATV has been rustproofed and serviced whilst the Club is in



lockdown with the ute to undergo similar treatment in the coming weeks.

This ongoing task was undertaken this season primarily by Shannon Wilson our gear steward and Scott Rayson, the IRB Captain. Shannon and Scott were assisted by Mark Sherrin, Neil Robertson and myself and others who were co-opted as required. Could I request that drivers of the beach vehicles also play their part in helping extend the lifespan of both by ensuring they are washed down after use.

Traditionally our club undertakes IRB Crew and Driver training during the off season from May to September. The IRB training team of Scott, Shelley, Shannon, Shane, Neil and myself are champing at the bit to commence this training as soon as the Coronavirus restrictions are eased enough to enable this to happen. The IRB Crew and Driver are essential members of every patrol and simply there are never too many IRB operators. As soon as we get permission to start we will be looking to commence so I would like every bronze member to consider doing whatever IRB training we can put on before the next season.



Until then, see you on the beach.

Steve Rayson 0429 025 845

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SLSNSW has determined to postpone the distribution of hard copy certificates and medallions until further notice. Instead, they will be emailing pdf copies of Statements of Attainment for units of competency only directly to your members.

Once all are back on deck at Belrose, hard copy Award Certificates, Medallions and Statements of Attainment will be distributed as per normal practice.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

SLS have advised that to help keep clubs and members motivated during social isolation. SLSNSW has collated some resources and fun activities to share.

If you need help during this time, we encourage you to speak with family and friends, and you can call the support services below:

Lifeline Australia: 13 11 14

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636

Additional health resources are available via

<https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/resources/coronavirus-covid-19updates-resources-slsnsw-members>

Building Development Update

The first stage of the building development is now complete save for issues with the driveway. Landscaping to be completed by the Club is on hold until the issue with the driveway is resolved.

The Club can advise it was successful in obtaining a Grant under the Community Building Partnership Program to upgrade the Auditorium. The \$28,000 grant received will cover the cost of some electrical works, rendering and painting and carpeting the auditorium with the Club to pay for replacement windows.

The Club can also advise it has submitted a Grant Application under the Surf Club Facility Grant Program to cover the cost of a Waste Management Compound to include trade waste disposal, gas bottle storage and bin storage.

Garry Murray
0428 517 665



Message from Juniors

It was a very different end to the 2019/2020 season compared to previous years. The presentation of awards has been postponed until the beginning of the 2020/2021 season, with dates still to be confirmed. It is hoped that this season will be able to begin like any other.

Our AGM was able to be held before restrictions were put in place and I would like to formally welcome our new committee members: Mark Mullholland, Troy Pinder and Deb Reinholdtsen. Thank you for volunteering your time for the benefit of all our Nippers.

Training in all forms has been placed on hold; however, it is hoped that some forms of training will be able to recommence over the coming weeks, if not months.

It was great to see, from the distance, many Nipper families at the beach over the Easter holidays, enjoying the water and using the skills they learned in the previous season.

Please keep an eye out on Team App for messages regarding dates for the next season.

Continue to stay safe and I look forward to the new season.

See you on the beach.

Tiffany Easman
0437 000 030



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G.J. Gardner. HOMES



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and Relaxation Massage



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