



Swansea Belmont Surf Life Saving Club Ltd

97<sup>th</sup> Annual Report 2023/2024



# Swansea Belmont Surf Life Saving Club

## 2023/24 Annual General Meeting

### Sunday, 21 July 2024

### Commencing at 10.00am

#### **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

The 97th Annual General Meeting of the Swansea Belmont Surf Life Saving Club Ltd will be held in the Clubhouse, Blacksmiths Beach, on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024 commencing at 10.00am.

#### **AGENDA**

1. Life Saver's Prayer
2. Acknowledgment to Country
3. President Address
4. Minutes Silence for passed members
5. Apologies
6. Confirmation of Minutes of the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting
7. Presentation of 97th Annual Report and Financial Statements
8. Election of Officers and Sub-Committees for the forthcoming season
  - NB: Under new legislation, nominees for Directors positions must be registered with ASIC before their appointment can be confirmed and take effect.
9. Life Membership & Distinguished Membership Awards
10. Presentation of Long Service Awards
11. Notice of Motion/s
  - Nil
12. General Business
  - Investment portfolio (Information Attached)
  - Presentation to retiring Directors

For and on behalf of the Committee

Katrina Pastourmoglou

Secretary

# Australian Surf Lifesavers Pray

O LORD OF ALL GOOD LIFE, who have given to me and my friends this land of Australia;

Bathed in sunshine,

Enriched by the bounties of nature,

Encircled by the rolling waves;

I ask that you will accept the service I offer as a guardian of the lives of others.

I give thanks for;

The joy of living,

The strength of humanity,

The honour of a noble deed.

Teach me to know the value of a single life is of

infinite worth in Your sight.

May I ever be alert to the needs of those whose safety

is dependent of my vigilance.

Help me at all times never to flinch in the call to duty.

Make me ready to match the moment of testing with the spirit of courage and adventure.

Make me strong and steadfast in the service I have embraced.

Help me to be a good comrade. May I never be disheartened by difficulties or discouraged  
by discipline.

May the standard of my life be a help to those who look to me as an example.

Help me to offer to You, to my Club, and to those whose safety is dependent on my skill  
nothing less than the best I can give;

And to ask for no reward save that of knowing

That I do my duty and fulfil your will.

O Lord, My God, accept my prayer.

AMEN

## 2023/2024 Committee

PRESIDENT	B Fox
DEPUTY PRESIDENT	C Griffith
TREASURER	D Pringle
SECRETARY	K Pastourmoglou
DIRECTOR OF SURF SPORTS	S Dowsett
DIRECTORS OF LIFE SAVING	C Gocher
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	A McCallum
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING	A Leadbeatter
DIRECTOR CLUB HOUSE ACTIVITIES	P Johnston, W Davies, N Pezely
DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR ACTIVITIES	M Legge
REGISTRAR	C Connolly
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	C Connolly
ASSISTANT TREASURER	P Scanes, C Wallis
BEACH CAPTAIN	A Leadbeatter
BOARD CAPTAIN	N Stoddart, B Mc Gregor
BOAT CAPTAIN	P Sparks
SKI CAPTAIN	J Murphy
SWIM CAPTAIN	J Boag
R & R CAPTAIN	R Liddell
IRB CAPTAIN	J Considine
HEAD COACH	T Foran
CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE	C Paul, P Mitchell, C Wallis, T Morton, J Mowbray
DELEGATE TO BRANCH	R Liddell
FINANCE COMMITTEE	D Pringle, K Pastourmoglou, C Wallis, N Marshall, P Scanes, G Burge
GYM CO-ORDINATOR	S Robertson
FIRST AID OFFICER	R Liddell
ROOKIE COORDINATOR	J Patterson
OHS	D Hooey
GEAR STEWARD	A Murphy
LIFE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	G Burge, T Morton, J Mowbray, R Liddell, C Wallis
BUILDING COMMITTEE	G Burge, C Wallis, J Mowbray, T Dunne, M Chalmers
MOBILE VEHICLE OFFICER	M Bint/D Banks
RADIO OFFICER	D Banks
SOCIAL SECRETARY	M Burge
SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR	
SPORTS SECRETARY	C Connolly
CHILD PROTECTION	L Byrne, S Lincoln
AUDITOR	Mark Walmsley Chartered Accountant
HON. SOLICITORS	P Mitchell
HON. DOCTORS	Dr. D. Gordon, Dr. M. Joseph



## Life Members

1936	Joe Charlton*	1983	Archie Salaris
1940	Allan Paterson*	1984	Don Gregory*
1944	Roy Byrnes*	1984	John Rees
1944	Ern Heath*	1986	Norm Turney
1944	Herbert McPherson*	1987	Brian Drinkwater*
1953	Kevin Byrnes*	1988	Ron Liddell
1956	Bill Behrends*	1989	John Halpin
1956	Ben Behrends*	1989	Terry Watts
1956	Vic Convery*	1990	Chris Paul
1957	Bert Chant*	1993	Bob Gregory
1957	Jock Gregory*	1994	Ken Murray*
1960	Graham Barrass*	1996	Iain Pattie
1960	Harry Walton*	1997	John McDougall*
1962	Fred Moodie*	2000	Jeff Mowbray
1967	Jim Turner*	2000	Mark Scully
1968	Harold Behrends*	2001	Gary Brown
1968	Jim Charlton*	2001	Peter McGregor*
1986	Trevor Ham	2002	Tom Gilmore*
1968	Cliff Marsh O.A.M.*	2002	Trevor Mowbray
1968	Geoff Murray *	2008	Robert Burge
1968	John Regan*	2008	Graham Burge
1970	Gordon Mc Millan*	2009	Phil Cousins O.A.M.
1970	Trevor Morton	2009	Martin Ross
1973	Jim Corkett*	2010	Barry Dobb*
1973	Peter Lee	2011	Jim McKenna
1974	George Cooper	2011	Brian Summers*
1975	Barry Moses*	2013	Barry Freeman
1976	Bill Cambridge*	2013	Jon Langford
1977	Ross Blatchford*	2016	Tim Allen
1979	Noel Corkett*	2016	Craig Wallis
1979	Paul Kibble*	2017	Sid Johnstone
1982	Wayne Matthews	2018	Peter Scanes
1982	Jim Purcell	2018	Anthea Stephens
		2022	Rose Parkes

# Milestones of Nine Mile

## **Swansea Surf Life Saving Club founded 1927-28 season:**

Green, cream and gold colours adopted

### **First Executive**

President - Joe Charlton; Secretary - Harold Hall; Treasurer - Frank Marshall; Club Captain - Jack Chapman; Chief Instructor - Ernie Heath

### **1928-29**

Boat crew awarded Certificate of Bravery from the Royal Humane and Shipwreck Society for a rescue on the treacherous Swansea Channel bar

### **1931-32**

First Australian Championship won by the club - senior boat championship at Bondi

### **1935**

Crisis period - no funds and very few members

### **1936**

Joe Charlton elected as the club's first Life Member

### **1942**

15th February - prominent member Matt Roach - AIF - killed at fall of Singapore

### **1946**

Tom Humphreys' innovative 'tuck stern' surf boat launched. In the same year, fire destroys dance hall and club shed

### **1947 - 15th September**

Named changed to Swansea-Belmont Surf Life Saving Club

### **1949-50**

Major double - Australian Senior and Junior Boat Championships at Coolangatta, Qld, resulting in aggregate point score success

### **Late '40'**

Major rebuilding program for clubhouse facilities

### **1950**

Ernie Heath elected Life Member, National Council, SLSA of Australia

### **1954, 1955**

Alan Patterson appointed Manager of NSW Representative Team

### **1955**

Maitland flood rescue work

## **1960**

Alan Patterson elected Life Member, National Council, SLSA of Australia

## **1960-61 to 1962-63**

Winners of three successive Newcastle Branch 'BP' competitions

## **1964**

Original 'Little Nippers' led the march past at the club's annual carnival

## **1964**

Hosted New South Wales Championships

## **Early '70's**

Building of a new, modern clubhouse

## **1972**

Hosted Australian Championships

## **1973**

Bruce Laughton, Clyde Freeman awarded SLSA Meritorious Awards, in the same season, Cliff Marsh coaches NSW Representative Team

## **1974**

Cliff Marsh selected in Australian Team to World Congress, South Africa

## **1970's**

Community Education programs were at their peak - Pool Survival, School Lecturing, Simulated Shark Attacks - all of this followed the Learn-to-Swim campaigns of the 1960's

## **1977**

Won Australian Open Surf Teams Championship - Bancoora, Vic

## **1980**

Hosted New South Wales Championships

## **1981**

Cliff Marsh appointed Coach of the Australian Team to tour USA

## **1984**

Cliff Marsh elected Life Member, National Council, SLSA of Australia

## **1980's**

Increasing number of Swansea-Belmont members selected in representative teams; ongoing building projects, including renovations and additions outstanding progress of the junior activities section of the club; revival of 'Cross-Lake Swim', Coal Point to Belmont

## **1988**

First Place - overall point score - New South Wales Championships (venue: North Curl Curl) – a 'first' for a club from outside the metropolitan area



## **1990**

Hosted New South Wales Championships

## **1990**

Melissa Thurlow selected to represent Australia in Japan and West Germany

## **1992**

Sean Davis represents Australia against South Africa

## **1994**

Hosted Australian Championships - four gold medals a fitting result at these highly successful championships - 4th place in the overall point score; won Association R&R Premiership

## **1996**

Hosted New South Wales Junior Championships

## **Late '90's**

club instructors busy putting record numbers of candidates through for various awards

## **1999**

Ken Murray elected Life Member, National Council, SLSA of Australia. In the same season, the Open Boat crew selected to represent Australia

## **2002, 2003**

Hosted New South Wales Championships - second in '02, first in '03

## **2003**

Led Australian Championship overall point score at Kurrawa, Qld, until the last two events of the carnival, ultimately finishing second - a wonderful achievement!

## **2008, 2009, 2010**

Host Club for the New South Wales Championships

## **2010**

Jeff Mowbray elected Life Member Surf Life Saving NSW

## **Mid-2000's to present**

ongoing building renovation projects

## **2012**


Training Room & Kitchen renovation completed

## **2012**

Hosted NSW State Endurance Champs

## **2012/13**

Record points winning Hunter Branch Championships

A background image showing a coastal scene with a lifeguard tower on a grassy hill overlooking the ocean. In the foreground, there is a garden with various plants and a wooden bench.

## **2012/13**

Special Needs Nippers commenced with outstanding response

## **2013**

Club celebrated 85 years with a wonderful luncheon

## **2015**

Arch Salaris Life Member Hunter Surf Life Saving

## **2015**

Chris Paul Life Member NSW Surf Life Saving

## **2016**

Inaugural Nine Mile Ocean Classic Swim – April 2016

## **2017/18**

NSW State Championships return to Swansea Belmont 2017/18

90 year Anniversary

## **2018/19**

NSW State Championships return to Swansea Belmont 2018/19

## **2019**

Ashby Allen, Ben Rees, Josh Murphy and Matt Rees selected in the Australian Ocean Ski racing Team

Ashby Allen selected in the U16 Kayak Australian Team

Dan Chisholm selected in the NSW Youth Pathway Team

Kye Taylor selected in the SLS Australian Youth Team

## **2019/20**

NSW State Championships return to Swansea Belmont 2019/20

Kye Taylor selected in the NSW State Team

DR D & R Gordon donation for purchase of new boat

## **2020/2021**

NSW State Championships return to Swansea Belmont 2020/21

Kye Taylor selected in the Nutri-Grain Iron Series

Zara Foran & Lola Russell selected in the NSW Honorary Youth Team

Bella Williams, Eliza Johnson & Kye Taylor selected in the NSW Honorary Team - Opens

Zara Foran selected in the Australian Life Saving Team Youth ID Squad

6th place Australian Open Point score

2nd place Australian Youth Point score



## **2021/2022**

Bella Williams & Kye Taylor selected in Nutri-Grain Iron Series

## **2022/2023**

NSW Flood Emergency Response

Singleton/Bulga – Graham Burge, Lee Archer, Shane Dowsett, Andrew McCallum, Malcolm Rae

Walgett/Brewarrina – Kyle Probert

Gunnedah – Andrew McCallum

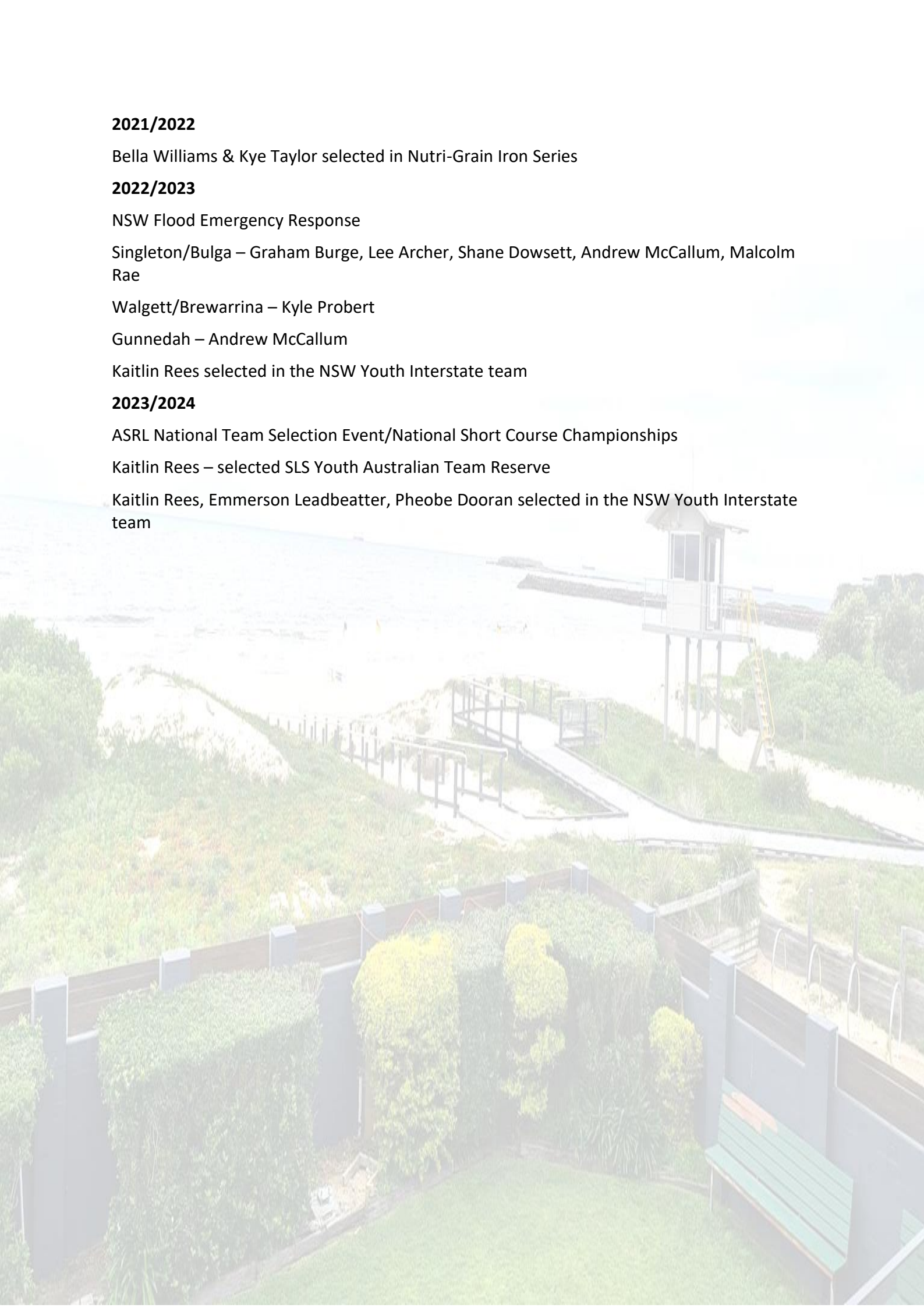
Kaitlin Rees selected in the NSW Youth Interstate team

## **2023/2024**

ASRL National Team Selection Event/National Short Course Championships

Kaitlin Rees – selected SLS Youth Australian Team Reserve

Kaitlin Rees, Emmerson Leadbeater, Pheobe Dooran selected in the NSW Youth Interstate team



# History of Swansea Belmont SLSC Club House

## *Leaving the Old Club House*

After serving our club faithfully for 20 years the old place had seen its day. Built by volunteers over and above the old outdoor dance floor area, the building had become unsound. An example was masonite floor in the main area, this had deteriorated so much that during our frequent dances the masonite red dust would slowly rise and everyone would emerge with a red glow over clothing and all.

To overcome this problem and to continue our social life we decided to introduce "sand dances", a first in our region. We barrowed tons of sand onto the floor to a depth of six inches and the scene was set for some memorable occasions. At one stage we placed the shark tower in the centre of the hall.

Some of the best times in our history were held in the atmosphere. We would take a day to fill the hall and three months to take it out finding many trinkets on the but failing to locate a certain engagement ring thrown in anger.

Finally, we could do no more and we left the old place of many memories to enthusiastically move to our new clubhouse on the hill.

## *The New Club House*

As Club President in 1969 I grew tired of seeing our neighbouring clubs building new club rooms with the assistance of Lake Macquarie Council. Both Caves & Redhead were well underway but no matter how hard we fought no help was coming our way.

The use by date for our old clubhouse was long gone and so I proposed that we go it alone and build a new clubhouse. This was enthusiastically approved by our committee and the process was commenced.

Jim Purcell was secretary at the time. I was determined to see the new building overlooking the beach. Architect Pat Cahill had been on my patrol, and I approached Pat to design the new building, he was encouraged to present a substantial design which would overlook our beach with storage at ground level along with change rooms, first aid etc and with a large auditorium on the second floor.

His final plans were accepted by our committee and all necessary approvals secured including a substantial septic system. To ensure the beach overlook it was necessary to raise the level of the rise above our old club house.

I approached John Darling, Lambton and Burwood Collieries to provide us with fill from their chitter waste and many thousands of tons were trucked and spread over the building footprint, raising it to the required level - our thanks to those collieries.



The final location of the building was helped by the decision to have as much beach as possible to the south of the building and north of the breakwater despite some opposition to locate directly above the old clubhouse. And so, work began with the club labour to the fore.

This stage consisted of a very large auditorium, kitchen, bar, balcony & toilet facilities. To span and support the huge auditorium level, Pat Cahill specified very large section steel work.

At this stage the dollars had run out. Again, I approached Burwood Colliery, through Nom Monger, looking for a donation of steel.

There was a substantial quantity of the heavy steel in by of the borehole pit bottom and Norm said if I could get the steel to the pit bottom, he would bring it up the shaft for Boiler Shop Boss, Alf Jones to sand blast & cut.

Working after hours, with a beaut pit pony called Baldy, over a period of a month I dragged there and up she went from the pit bottom.

Life member George Cooper & his partner owned a fabricating business at Redhead & after perusing Pat's specifications George undertook to fabricate our steel framework. Friend Bill Arthur transported the steel from Burwood to George's factory and the detailed fabrication job was finished and transported to our building site.

The huge weight of the steelwork required two cranes, one each side of the building to raise the frame. It was a credit to George's skill that the frame lowered perfectly onto the holding bolts with one kick from Rex Elvin in the northwest corner seeing the job settle. Now we could continue the build.

The late Alan Russell, stroke of our successful "A" Boat crew and his partner provided labour for our brickwork labour at a greatly reduced cost. Tiles and flooring for our change room toilets and our unique steam room were purchased on "sale" in Sydney, transported in an overloaded, oversized trailer by Trevor Mowbray & I. AB Danvers completed our tiling free of charge, a huge job.

Plumbing and drainage including the septic system was controlled by Sid Johnston with help from "Bing" Crosbie. And so, stage one grew to being suitable for occupation and we left the old club house for the last time in 1970.

Funds were hellishly short, and we tried everything to gather money, including a drive to have old members rejoin to pay fees and help the cause.

Raffles, Benefit Nights, doorknocks, all manner of schemes, even selling members their own brick.

The pressure of having the Australian Championships on our beach in 1972 kept our group going to see stage two at least to lock up prior to the championships.

Key members who assisted throughout the build - Pat Cahill, Trevor Mowbray, Jim Purcell, George Cooper, Allan Russell & partner, Rex Elvin, Arch Salaris, John Wagstaff, Barry Dobb, Kevin Wolfenden, Ken Hodgson, Ab Danvers, Bruce Danvers, Sid Johnston, Bing Crosbie, Ian Gray, Wayne Matthews, Peter Arnall, David Melville, Neil "Sammy" Hinks, Jim Turner, Don Gregory, Tom Gilmore, Brian Drinkwater, Dennis Searle, Carl Croal, Jeff Mowbray, Ross Blatchford and Cliff Marsh.

The cedar window frames, doors and fittings were finally paid for and installed, and the roof tiled, the tiles were discounted by Monier. A stainless-steel balcony balustrade was donated from Stewarts & Lloyds. When we were first married, Leoni & I rented a flat from Alf Luders, a Macquarie Homes director, with the flat next door to the factory. Pat and I were keen to see a timber ceiling and an approach to Macquarie Homes saw us acquire pine floorboards which when erected and sealed provided an excellent dramatic, expansive ceiling. This was erected in the main by volunteer carpenters.

Many of the ceiling boards were carried upstairs by three young cadets - Gary Brown, David Burt and Wayne Rose. Kitchen fittings, toilets and a bar installed by Ron Simpson and sons Gary and John saw Stage Two to lock up. Electrical work upstairs was completed by Keith "Cage" Callen and John Clifford.

The new building helped tremendously with the 1972 Championships and complemented by officials from throughout Australia. Later in '72 we proceeded with the installation of the dance floor. Again, I approached Macquarie Homes and they generously donated sufficient kiln dried brush box timber to install a beautiful sprung floor. This work was done over many weekends by George Cooper, Trevor Mowbray, Arch Salaris, Carl Croal, Dennis Searle, Cliff Marsh & some other volunteers.

Following completion of the dance floor I approached Jim and Tom Michilis for help with levelling the auditorium floor to suit the height of the dance floor. They generously donated material and labour to see the job done and eventually carpet came along.

For almost three years this project was an all-consuming daily task, organising materials, labour, volunteers, tradesmen and constantly checking on jobs completed.

The task had a dramatic effect on my home life and work - but in the long run - worth it.

Cliff Marsh  
Life member



## VALE



GEOFF MURRAY – Secretary during the period 1962-65, Geoff took on the role as Carnival Organiser for the 1964 New South Wales Championships, the first major championship to be held on our beach. “Caesar” held the Treasurer’s position from 1967 to ’69 and returned as Secretary for the 1973-74 season and was active as an instructor with the Pool Survival ’76 project’. It would be difficult to find a more dedicated patrol member, who progressed to the position of Patrol Captain, than Geoff Murray. Elevated to Life Membership - 1968

# President's Report

It is a great honour to present my first Annual Report for the 2023/2024 surf season on behalf of Swansea Belmont SLSC. Last year, our departing President, Graham Burge, made a symbolic gesture by handing over a large bunch of keys and shaking my hand as he stepped down after a long and dedicated tenure. His legacy, and those of the long-serving board members, have laid a strong foundation, enabling me to step into the role of President and lead a club with a promising future and the confidence to move forward.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our Club Directors and Management team for their unwavering support over the past 12 months. Their assistance has made my transition into this role smoother than anticipated. Special thanks to our Vice President, Chad Griffith, for his extensive experience and modest leadership and to our Secretary, Katrina Pastourmoglou, for her countless hours of dedication and invaluable administrative knowledge. The numerous volunteer hours contributed by our board in Life Saving, Finance, Education and Training, Competition, and Administration have been instrumental in achieving outcomes that benefit our diverse membership, ensuring safer beaches, and strengthening our local community connection.

Volunteers are the backbone of our club, our history, and our future. To everyone who volunteered their time this season, I extend my deepest gratitude.

## Patrolling

Every year, our patrolling members don the red and yellow uniform, dedicating their ever-increasingly limited time to

protect both their local communities and visiting beachgoers. Our club had yet another successful season with zero breaches over the season and no loss of life between our flags. Thank you to our Patrol Captains, Vice-Captains, IRB crews, and all water safety personnel for your dedicated service.

Outside of the red and yellow flags, the requirement for our call-out teams to respond year-round to emergency situations across the coastline, dropping their daily lives to don the red and yellow, is increasing. Surf Life Saving NSW, as the newest gazetted emergency service, plays a key role in emergency response outside of our traditional scope of operations. Special thanks to Jeff Mowbray, Graham Burge, and Lachlan Rae for their participation in intense interagency flood rescue training, supporting the newly formed Flood Response Group across NSW.

Very special thanks to Catherine Gocher, Director of Life Saving, who is standing down from her position after nine years. Your dedication, direction, and countless hours on the beach, ensuring that our commitment to saving lives is professionally administered and patrol rosters are programmed and manned, are greatly appreciated. Also, thank you for your recent negotiations in renewing our life-saving agreement.

Finally, thanks to the permanent and part-time Lake Macquarie City Council Lifeguards who excelled and served alongside our Patrol teams again this season.



## Patrol Statistics 2023/24

- Rescues – 3
- Preventative Actions – 97
- First Aid – 43
- Beach Closed – 29
- Beach Attendances – 14,363
- Patrol Hours – 4,572.83
- Patrol Members – 216 (13 Patrols)

## Competition

Our Junior Activities program had another excellent season with plenty of fantastic results achieved at carnivals. The mentoring by our Age Managers ensures our future is in a good place. Thank you to our Director of Junior Activities, Michael Legge, and the Junior Committee for your dedication throughout the season. Thanks also to our junior coaches, Sunday water safety helpers, IRB crews, and those who step up as officials or water safety at our many carnivals.

Swansea Belmont SLSC is proud to have many young members who are our future lifesavers, adult patrolling members, volunteers, and club leaders. Keeping them safe while at our club or surf carnivals is paramount. We follow SLSNSW's Child Safe Program to protect them from abuse, harm, and exploitation. Please report any concerns to our clubs MPIOs or through the SLSA online reporting portal.

The Senior Club continues to represent us well at all levels of competition across Australia, thanks to our dedicated voluntary coaching staff. This season's achievements include a successful State Championships at Queenscliff and the journey to the Sunshine Coast QLD for the Aussies, where we secured numerous medals. Congratulations to our latest Green Jacket recipients and all our Club Award winners.

## Major Club Award Recipients

- Patrol Person of the Year – Saskia Lewis
- Patrol Captain – Carolyn Connolly
- Lifesaving Commitment – Jeff Considine
- Lifesaving Excellence – Hamish Rae

## Building our knowledge

Our Education and Training team has done a remarkable job this season, putting many members through an enormous range of courses. This is an important pillar within our Surf Club and one we must continually work at to maintain the quality of patrols we pride ourselves on. This season, we achieved 60 new awards, including Surf Rescue, Bronze Medallion, and various other qualifications. Many thanks to our Director of Education, Andrew McCallum, for his years of service in this role and all the trainers who assisted in educating our members. Without your dedication, our core activity of lifesaving would be hard to achieve.

## We couldn't do it without your help

To our club sponsors and supporters, your continued support is greatly appreciated. It enables us to provide essential services and equipment for training, education, lifesaving, and patrol duties. Special thanks to:

- SLSA – Ampol, DHL, Isuzu, Westpac
- SLSNSW – Your Local Club, Ingenia Holiday Parks, SharkSkin, Midford
- Hunter Branch – Newcastle Permanent
- Club - McDonalds Swansea and Belmont, Lake Macquarie City Council, Belmont 16's, Kracka Surf Craft, Pelican RSL, Race One Surf Craft, Caves Beach Butchery, Terry's Mobile Mechanics, Big Mamma's Pizza, Bakers Delight Belmont, Swansea Lions Club, Swansea – Caves Senior RLFC, Swansea Hotel Netball Club, Swansea Surf Shop and many others.

The club remains in a healthy financial position due to increased functions, social events, fundraising efforts, and generous donations for rescue equipment upgrades.

We also acknowledge The Surf Life Saving Foundation for their centralised fundraising efforts, which free up our members' time to focus on lifesaving activities.

On behalf of Swansea Belmont SLSC, I would like to acknowledge the NSW Government through the Emergency Services portfolio for ongoing state-wide operations and programs benefiting club members and the community. Additionally, I'd like to thank The NSW Premier The Hon. Chris Minns and Steve Kamper MP – Sports Minister and the Office of Sport, for their support to increase usage, safety and participation in Surf Life Saving through ongoing programs. Specifically, the Surf Clubs facility grants program which provided \$38,462 in funding to our club for the upgrade of security with CCTV and key-less entry.

The relationship with Lake Macquarie City Council has been very productive and supportive over the past season. I formally thank Mayor Kay Fraser and the elected Council for their support in all our activities. We are fortunate to be represented by two members of Parliament, The Hon. Yasmin Catley MP and The Hon. Pat Conroy MP, who support the club whenever possible. I also extend my thanks to the Hunter Branch Executive for their assistance and advice.

Finally, thank you to the Federal Government for Beach Safety Equipment Funding which directed \$10,000 to every SLSC for the purchase of vital rescue equipment, first aid and medical supplies.

## **A place to gather and feel welcome**

We are working towards renewing our Club Lease with LMCC, a process that began in the 2015/16 season. Significant progress has been made, and we are hopeful for a favourable outcome in the coming season. Special thanks to John Waghorn, Chad Griffith, Matt Chalmers, and the building committee for their tireless efforts in addressing Fire Safety and Risk Management defect issues identified by LMCC. After significant works performed, we now await a letter of comfort from LMCC to close out all outstanding aged Development applications.

As we look ahead to the 2024/25 season, I aim to work closely with our board to develop a strategic plan focusing on our club's long-term viability and growth. This plan will address all aspects of our club, including finances, people, structures, systems, processes, community, products, customers, suppliers, and competitors.

Finally, I thank my wife Leanne and children, Oliver, Callum, and Julieanne, for their patience, understanding, and support as I navigated my first year as President of Swansea Belmont Surf Life Saving Club.

I am eagerly anticipating the 2024/25 season and the exciting opportunities it will bring.

Brad Fox  
President



# Treasurer's Report

The following two pages set out the financial performance of Swansea Belmont SLSC for the year ended 30 April 2024 and the financial position as at 30 April 2024. These pages were prepared prior the finalisation of the annual audit but are unlikely to change in any material way. More details of the detailed accounts are reported in the audited Financial Statements.

**In summary the club generated an Operating Surplus before depreciation of \$170k and incurred capital expenditure of \$174k. It was fortunate however to earn Investment income of \$100k.**

## Operating Results

In the 2023/24 financial year there was an Operating Surplus Before Depreciation of \$170k which was in line with the level reported in 2023/23.

An analysis of the sources of income and areas of expenditure is shown in the following graphs. Highlights of the operating revenue were Catering & Function Income of \$110k (which was in line with 2023/23) and the variety of other sources that were all significant and necessary contributors to the club's financial performance. Without any one of those sources of income the club would have reported a significant Operating Deficit (net of capital expenditure) in 2023/24.

## Investment Income

The club earned investment income during the year of \$100k including \$83k from Exchange Traded Funds and \$17k of interest on bank term deposits. This is an improvement of \$72k over the \$28k reported in 2022/23. Prior to 2022/23 the club had never reported investment income above \$11k.

## Capital Expenditure

The club incurred capital expenditure of \$174k during the year, much of which was funded by grants from the NSW Office of Sport and SLSA. This expenditure is not included in the Operating Results.

Payments included:

- Upgrades required by Lake Macquarie Council to bring the clubhouse up to safety standards - \$55K
  - Lifesaving Equipment - \$37k
  - vehicle replacements - \$33k
  - Other building upgrades - \$20k
- Financial Position At the end of the year the club had Net Assets of \$3,596k, mostly comprising:
- Property, Plant & Equipment (mostly clubhouse) - \$2,492k and
  - Financial Assets of \$1,067k including o Term Deposits of \$458k and o Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's) of \$552k

D A Pringle CPA  
Treasurer

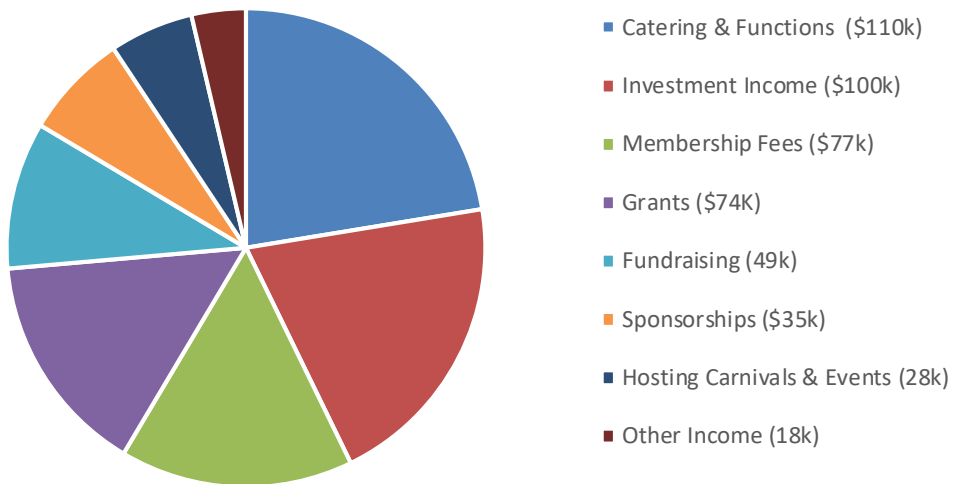


Swansea Belmont S.L.S.C					
Full Year May 2023 to April 2024					
Income Statement					
	Full Year 2023/24			Prior Year	
	Revenue	Direct Cost	Gross Margin	2022/23	Variation
<b>Gross Margin</b>					
Catering & Function Income	285,766	(176,182)	109,584	110,161	(577)
Memberships	77,030		77,030	80,410	(3,380)
Grants	73,665		73,665	73,522	143
Fundraising	67,327	(18,745)	48,582	73,665	(25,083)
Sponsorships	34,727		34,727	3,752	30,975
Total Hosting Carnivals & Events	48,338	(20,590)	27,748	14,100	13,648
Merchandising	26,389	(22,198)	4,191	1,828	2,363
Total Other Income	17,883		17,937	13,905	4,032
<b>Total Gross Margin</b>	<b>631,125</b>	<b>(237,715)</b>	<b>393,464</b>	<b>371,343</b>	<b>22,121</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Lifesaving & Competition			131,755	110,736	(21,019)
Facilities			68,559	69,171	612
Administration			23,577	21,081	(2,496)
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>223,891</b>	<b>200,988</b>	<b>(22,903)</b>
<b>Operating Surplus Before Investments &amp; Depr. (EBID)</b>			<b>169,573</b>	<b>170,355</b>	<b>(782)</b>
Total Investment Income			99,572	27,738	71,834
<b>Surplus Before Depreciation</b>			<b>269,145</b>	<b>198,093</b>	<b>71,052</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			<b>128,389</b>	<b>136,472</b>	<b>8,083</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>			<b>140,756</b>	<b>61,621</b>	<b>62,969</b>

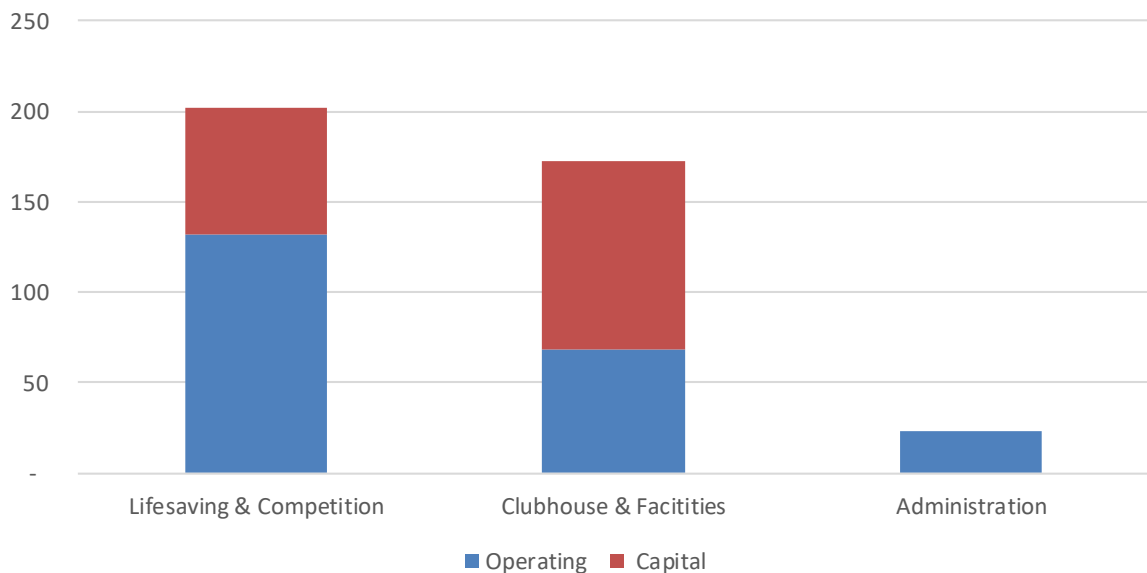
Capital Expenditure			
	Year to Date		
	This Year	Prior Year	Variation
Buildings	74,780	74,648	(132)
Lifesaving Equipment	70,342	4,545	(65,797)
Furniture & Fittings	29,114	3,935	(25,179)
	<b>174,236</b>	<b>83,128</b>	<b>(91,108)</b>

Financial Assets			
	Year to Date		
	This Year	Prior Year	Variation
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>958,279</b>	<b>873,681</b>	<b>84,598</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>			
Cash	56,516	119,579	(63,063)
Term Deposits	458,130	351,302	106,828
Exchange Traded Funds	551,919	487,398	64,521
	<b>1,066,565</b>	<b>958,279</b>	<b>108,286</b>
<b>Annual Surplus</b>	<b>108,286</b>	<b>84,598</b>	<b>23,688</b>

### 2023/24 Revenue - Gross Margin by Source \$489k



### 2023/24 Expenditure - Operating and Capital - \$398k





## 2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP FEES

<b>Active Patrolling Membership</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Active opens senior Competitor Membership</b> Competitors to pay Carnival entries	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Active Competitor Membership 14s to 19s</b> Includes 4 x Local Hunter Carnivals and/or Beach Stormers plus, Freshwater and NSW State Championship	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Australian Championships</b> Competitors to pay for entry.	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Active Reserve Membership</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Long Service Membership</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Active Reserve/Long Service Competitor Membership</b> Competitors to pay Carnival entries	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Associate Membership</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Gym Fee for Associate Members</b> Patrolling Members over 17 your membership includes gym usage providing you do 75% of your patrol FOB is \$50.00 Member and \$0 for Digital key	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Award Membership - Non – Patrolling</b> This is for under 30-year-old and hold a surf certificate. This includes membership and Gym use and digital key.	<b>\$300.00</b>



## 2024-2025 JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP FEES

### **Nipper Membership**

**\$100.00**

It is compulsory that one parent must join as an Associate Member or be a Full Active Member to participate in Surf Life Saving activities as per the guidelines of our governing body Surf Life Saving Australia.

### **Junior Competition Levy Per Child U/9-U/14**

**\$70.00**

Must be paid when paying Membership. This includes all local branch carnivals

### **NSW State Championships**

**\$65.00**

### **Australian Championship**

**TBA**

U13 & U/14 competitors to pay for entry

### **Associate Membership**

**\$60.00**

### **Active Patrolling Membership**

**\$60.00**

If you wish to have Gym access, you must join as an Active or Associate Member.

Enquiries - [swanseabelmontslsregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:swanseabelmontslsregistrar@gmail.com)



## Secretary's Report

After 9 years of secretary, it is time to handover the position to someone that is willing to give time and commitment.

I must say it has been a very frustrating year, with more expected from the Directors from SLSNSW and Hunter branch and no extra help. I understand everyone is time poor but unfortunately the club is run by volunteers.

I would commit to SBSLSC a minimum of 35 to 40 hours a week and never complain but this year has been challenging.

Remember if everyone helps it makes less stress on others.

We have had a busy season 2023-2024 it feels like the season went so fast.

We had record membership joining our Club this season, especially in our younger Nippers.

The club had a great year with Sunday sips on the balcony with live music we would love to see more members enjoying this.

Sunday old boys enjoy their lunch time beers and chats with light nibbles supplied.

Like to thank our working bees', oldies, on a Monday at the club they do an amazing job and happy to supply yummy chocolate biscuits for the sweet tooth or should I say some toothless lol. Huge thanks.

I coordinated a huge breast cancer fundraiser and big thanks to our bar staff who I dressed in pink sequins you all worked so hard and we raised \$35,000.00.

To our hard-working Directors we are like family and all work so hard to make this club an amazing club. Thank you all for everything you do.

Let's all keep working hard to keep Swansea Belmont SLSC an amazing club.

I will still be running functions and helping with the bar duties.

I have meet so many friends for life and have so much love for SBSLSC.

Thanks

Katrina Pastourmoglou

Secretary



Dedication and Service Award to Swansea Belmont SLSC, presented by NSW MP Yasmin Caitley

# Director of Life Saving's Report

I would like to begin this report with a huge thank you to all our Swansea Belmont Life Savers. Thanks to your time and efforts, the flagged area at Blacksmiths Beach has again been a safe place for all visitors with zero lives lost on Blacksmiths Beach. However, it isn't only between the flags where our efforts make a difference. Early in the season, thanks to Patrol 5 team in responding to an emergency with a bike rider hit by a car across the road from the surf club. The bike rider was in the middle of the road with possible spinal injuries, traffic and crowd control was required. Well done Ethan, Raemon, Harry, Bec, Shaun, Kasey and Will. Lots of comments from the public about how lucky the community is to have support from the volunteer lifesavers and council lifeguards. The patrol continued to provide assistance to the paramedics with the spinal board and even managed to continue monitoring the beach while the incident played out. Very proud of all of you. Patrol 11 also came to the rescue of a fisherman with a fishhook embedded in his hand. Just goes to show, between the flags is only part of our volunteering service. Thank you, not only for your efforts, but also for representing the Club and Surf Lifesaving so well!

The season wouldn't happen without so many people who do so much. I would especially like to thank Andrew, Karen and the trainers. It's not just the education courses but also our annual proficiencies where the education team work hard.

Early in the season we had some great weather and plenty of fun on the proficiency dates. It was a very smooth process this season as members have a clear expectation of e-online modules, CPR, signals, a swim around the cans and demonstrating a rescue technique.

As well as training, lifesavers need equipment, and that equipment needs care and maintenance. A special thank you to Jeff Considine, Dave Banks and Jeff Mowbray for looking after the IRB's and ironing out some of the issues with our new patrol van. Thank you very much Ron Liddell for the time you put into First Aid and for bringing your expertise to the role. Our club is very fortunate to have all the equipment needed to manage safety on the beach and provide emergency assistance when required. Much of that equipment, or the funds to source it, comes from grants that Katrina tirelessly applies for and our sponsors. Thank you for our new ATV.



It is amazing to have so much valued support from organisations and individuals in our community. I encourage all members to know our sponsors and support them as they support us.

My fellow Club Directors, and especially the tiny firecracker, Katrina, have been a huge help this season and every season, thank you all for so many years of fun and friendship. Whilst you may not hear much from some of them, I can assure you they are all working towards a common interest making volunteer life and club membership as easy as possible.

Some of the most important people in keeping our beach open and safe are my Patrol Captains. It has been a privilege to lead a team of dedicated members who nurture and supervise their patrols on Blacksmiths Beach. Thank you for everything you do, the support and advice you have given me to improve our lifesaving commitment.

I want to thank our patrolling, back of beach volunteers and their families who every year continue to choose to provide a service to our local communities. Thank you, you are the heart and soul of our movement, please don't forget that. My favourite part is recognising our members for outstanding effort with annual club lifesaving awards.

As I write this, Swansea Belmont Emergency Response team have just completed yet another volunteer session assisting police in Lake Macquarie. Six members in 3 IRBs spent 10 hours searching the lake and ocean. An outstanding effort by Jeff Considine to have 3 fully functioning IRB's, fully fuelled, hulls ready and motors in top condition in

the off season. To coordinate these emergency responses makes me so proud of our Club and skilful volunteers.

It is with heavy heart, I farewell my role as Director of Lifesaving. After 9 years as director, it is time to pass over the reins to an energetic and passionate member who loves our patch of paradise as much as I do. Not to mention, the wonderful friends, volunteers, kids from our club but also our neighbouring clubs. I will still be patrolling the beach but please don't ring me if the van gets stuck on the sand, or the ATV is out of charge, or you need subs for your patrol. Your new Director of Lifesaving, whoever that may be, will jump at the chance to help you out.

Lastly to my family Gav, Kalen, Hammer, Jimmi and Anna, thank you for 9 seasons where you have stepped up on many occasions to fill in and volunteer at Swansea Belmont. My directorship was only possible because of your support and equal love of the club, the community and sense of duty. But I guess hanging out on our little piece of paradise is not such a bad gig.

Cat Gocher

Director Lifesaving



Total Patrol Hours	
Swansea Belmont	5,683.58

Leading Female Patrol Members		Leading Male Patrol Members	
Name	Hours	Name	Hours
1. Carolyn Connolly (ID: 4638110)	60.5	1. Robert Clark (ID: 5779828)	69.0
2. Karen Lucas (ID: 5538373)	52.8	2. Hamish Rae (ID: 5567530)	69.0
3. Rachel Fallis (ID: 5442637)	52.0	3. Jeffrey Considine (ID: 5943449)	65.0
4. Saskia Lewis (ID: 5862229)	52.0	4. Lachlan Rae (ID: 4662918)	58.5
5. Lea Watson (ID: 4755191)	52.0	5. Andrew McCallum (ID: 5562193)	57.0
6. Isabella Campbell (ID: 4719733)	47.0	6. Cooper McKenzie (ID: 5586692)	55.0
7. Leanne Johnson (ID: 4401695)	46.0	7. Aidan Rae (ID: 5410512)	52.5
8. Kaleah Kingston (ID: 5440622)	45.8	8. Cambell Connolly (ID: 5487394)	52.0
9. Rosalie Parkes (ID: 3556074)	45.0	9. Rodd Millington (ID: 5795092)	52.0
10. Emerson Connolly (ID: 4641813)	44.0	10. Michael Rees (ID: 3613682)	52.0

Surf Life Saving NSW : Hunter Branch : Swansea Belmont								
Team Name	Make-Up Hours	Penalty Hours	Rostered Hours	Substitute Hours	Trainee Hours	Volunteer Hours	Water Safety Hours	Total Hours
2023/2024 Patrol 01	0	0	52	4	0	32	0	88
2023/2024 Patrol 02	9	0	721.25	45.5	0	53.75	0	829.5
2023/2024 Patrol 03	0	0	293	0	0	23	0	316
2023/2024 Patrol 04	0	0	719	0	0	58.75	0	777.75
2023/2024 Patrol 05	0	0	502.25	0	0	35	0	537.25
2023/2024 Patrol 06	13	0	374	8	0	40	0	435
2023/2024 Patrol 07	0	0	463	8	0	100	0	571
2023/2024 Patrol 08	0	0	543.41	8	0	9.83	0	561.24
2023/2024 Patrol 09	0	0	76	0	0	4	0	80
2023/2024 Patrol 10	0	0	433	7	0	86	0	526
2023/2024 Patrol 11	0	0	302	8	0	54	0	364
2023/2024 Patrol 12	0	0	326.5	33.5	0	20.5	0	380.5

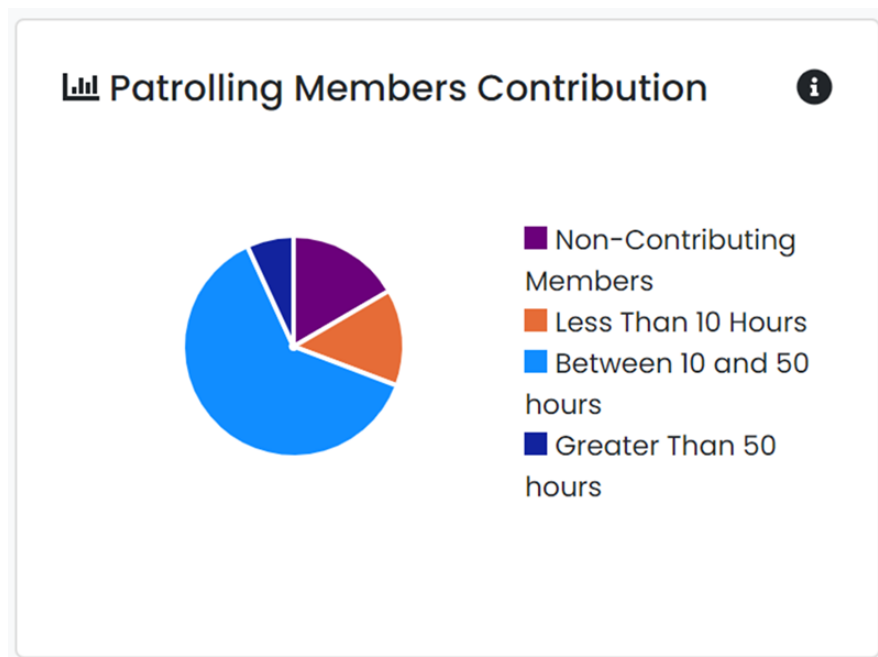
- Whilst it is amazing to see patrols with so many hours, the focus was and always will be with the new Lifesaving Agreement 2024/2025, to use data to allocate volunteering hours as efficiently as we can. It was never an intention to have **all** members patrolling **all** day.
- I have worked hard to introduce a new direction of patrolling organisation using available digital data to reflect peak and off peak hours, whilst maintain SLS NSW policies for beach patrol minimum requirements. I hope the work smarter not harder approach continues.

Preventative Actions
97
Rescues
3



Attendance					
Times \ Type	Swimmers	Swimmers Outside Flags	Craft	On Beach	Total
01:00	0	0	0	0	0
02:00	0	0	0	0	0
03:00	0	0	0	0	0
04:00	0	0	0	0	0
05:00	0	0	0	0	0
06:00	0	0	0	0	0
07:00	35	12	20	65	132
08:00	404	262	288	1394	2348
09:00	279	58	116	1125	1578
10:00	207	64	165	914	1350
11:00	297	107	107	817	1328
12:00	486	198	124	1420	2228
13:00	509	140	227	1808	2684
14:00	261	87	102	547	997
15:00	121	30	39	203	393
16:00	191	70	58	469	788
17:00	152	19	47	319	537
18:00	0	0	0	0	0
19:00	0	0	0	0	0
20:00	0	0	0	0	0
21:00	0	0	0	0	0
22:00	0	0	0	0	0
23:00	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2942	1047	1293	9081	14363

- This season, Blackies saw a significant decrease of beachgoers visiting our beach in the 2023/2024 season. From nearly 20,000 last season, to 14,363 this season – a 5,523 decrease and statistically between 10:00am and 2:00pm





## **Lifesaving Commitment –**

### **Jeff Considine Patrol 10**

Jeff's incredible achievements have been built on only 4 years of dedicated service. After joining Swansea Belmont in 2020, Jeff has patrolled our beaches for 240 hours. The 2024 season was Jeff's highest year patrolling with 65 hours. To date Jeff's relevant positions and responsibilities have included:

- awarded bronze medallion in 2021
- 4 years patrolling
- Silver Aquatic Management medallion in 2021
- Silver IRB medallion in 2021
- UAV operator 2022
- Probationary Trainer 2021
- IRB Captain 2023/2024
- Patrol Captain for 3 years
- Voluntary bar duty



## **Lifesaving Excellence –**

### **Hamish Rae Patrol 02**

Hamish has been a familiar face at Swansea Belmont SLSC for many years with the infamous Rae clan.

- SBSLSC membership since August 2014.
- Career patrol hours since joining SBSLSC total 128.5.
- Hamish completed SRC in November 2022.
- Fabulous competitor with great results at the championships and therefore a strong patrol member with outstanding rescue skills



#### **Patrol Person of the Year -**

##### **Saskia Lewis Patrol 4**

- SBSLSC membership since 2019.
- She achieved her SRC in 2022
- Saskia achieved her Bronze in 2023
- Saskia has volunteered 94.5 hours to date.
- 52 hours this season



#### **Patrol Captain of the Year -**

##### **Carolyn Connolly Patrol 4**

- Joined Swansea Belmont in November 2010
- We are grateful to have the whole Connolly family volunteering
- Career patrol hours since joining SBSLSC total 322.5
- Carolyn has patrolled 60.5 hours this season alone.
- Carolyn has been a committed patrol captain for Patrol 4 for 5 years
- Not only does Carolyn complete rostered patrols but she also does numerous roles around the club



### **Patrol Family of the Year -**

#### **Millington/Fallis**

170 hours of patrolling in 2023/2024 season



### **Patrol of the Year -**

#### **Patrol 2 – can't go beyond the hours**

This patrol had significant patrol hours spent on Blacksmiths Beach – 829.5hrs. Patrol 2 - 5 x male members in the top 10 hours category. An impressive patrolling season with many young members juggling part time jobs and carnivals.

#### **Congratulations to Patrol 2**

Lachlan Rae Patrol Captain

Malcom Rae Patrol Captain

Kyle Probert  
Sytske McCallum  
Lewis Davies  
Andrew McCallum  
Hunter Thomas  
Famke Mc Callum  
Hamish Rae  
Cooper McKenzie  
Skyla Poole  
Aidan Rae  
Sunni Parker  
Liam Doyle  
Riley McKenzie  
Emma McCallum  
Noah McCallum









# Director of Education's Report

I am pleased to present the Director of Education report, highlighting the achievements and efforts of our dedicated team over the past period. Our commitment to excellence in education and training has once again yielded outstanding results.

## Achievements

- **27 Bronze Medallion Awards:** This accomplishment reflects the hard work and dedication of our trainees and the exceptional guidance provided by our trainers. The Bronze Medallion is a crucial qualification that equips individuals with essential lifesaving skills.
- **13 Surf Rescue Certificates:** These certificates are a testament to the proficiency and readiness of our members to perform rescues and provide emergency care in surf environments.

## Acknowledgments

Our achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering support and expertise of our trainers and subject matter experts (SMEs). I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals:

- **Trainers:**
  - Cat Gocher
  - Karen Lucas
  - Rebecca Paterson
  - Di Fleming
  - Josien McCallum
  - Jeffery Considine
  - David Banks
- **Subject Matter Experts (SMEs):**
  - Kyle Probert
  - Carolyn Connolly

Your dedication, hard work, and passion for educating our members have been instrumental in our success. Your efforts ensure that our members are well-prepared to handle the challenges they may face and contribute significantly to the safety and well-being of our community.

## Looking Forward

As we continue to build on these successes, we remain committed to providing high-quality training and education programs. Our goal is to empower more members with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in their roles and make a positive impact.

## Transition

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that I will be stepping down as Director of Education. It has been a privilege to serve in this role, and I am proud of what we have achieved together. Although I am stepping down, I will remain a dedicated member of the education team and continue to support our initiatives and programs.

Thank you once again to everyone involved for your exceptional contributions. Together, we will continue to uphold the highest standards of education and training.

Warm regards

Andrew McCallum

Director of Education



# Director of Surf Sports Report

This year has been marked by a significant transition as some of our seniors have taken on the role of sectional captains. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Josh Murphy, Beau McGregor, Nick Stoddart, and Julian Boag for their exemplary professionalism throughout this process. Their commitment to fairness and integrity has greatly facilitated the selection process, ensuring that it was both smooth and equitable.

Undoubtedly, the selection process is always a challenging Endeavor, and the final decisions are never made lightly. I want to express my deep appreciation to all members for their patience and understanding throughout this session.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to Carolyn for her dedicated efforts in managing all the entries for carnivals. This is an immense responsibility that demands a considerable amount of time and effort, and Carolyn has executed it with utmost diligence.

Additionally, I wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of Brad, Chad, and Katrina. Their assistance and support have been invaluable this year.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our officials and water safety volunteers. Without your unwavering dedication and commitment, our carnivals simply wouldn't be possible. Your selflessness and generosity of time are truly commendable and deeply appreciated.

Last but certainly not least, I want to express my profound gratitude to all our coaches. Your willingness to volunteer your time and expertise to the club is truly commendable. The guidance, support, and knowledge you pass on to our competitors is invaluable, and our club's success would not be possible without your tireless dedication. Thank you for everything you do.

What a fantastic kick-off to the season with the Wanda bus trip! It was a brilliant initiative that truly united the club and set the tone for an exciting start. Despite the challenging conditions of big surf, everyone embraced the carnival spirit, testing their skills and enjoying every moment. The journey back and the dinner at the Yard Kings added even more camaraderie to the day.

Another big idea was the senior training day spearheaded by Eliza Johnson, which brought together our seniors and nippers for a unique experience. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with the nippers thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to learn from our seasoned members. It's a program I hope we can sustain and build upon in the coming years.

Throughout the year, the competitors put in tremendous effort not only by participating in the Summer of Surf and local carnivals but also by fostering camaraderie and banter between the different squads, adding an extra layer of excitement to the competitions. Despite the challenges, the Beachies managed to come out on top and bring home well-deserved accolades. The continuous hard work and dedication of all the individuals involved made the entire year a remarkable one for the competition and its participants.

Shane Dowsett  
Director Surf Sports





## Director of Junior Activities Report

Swansea Belmont Surf Lifesaving Club has experienced a remarkable season, marked by the enthusiastic participation of numerous new juniors. These young members have not only embraced the joy of the sport but have also acquired exceptional skills in the surf, which is a testament to the club's commitment to nurturing talent. The season was highlighted by impressive performances at the Hunter Branch titles, the NSW state titles, and particularly noteworthy were the achievements of our 13 and 14-year-olds at the Aussie titles.

The success of our fundraising events has been nothing short of outstanding, providing essential support for our activities and equipment. This success is largely due to the tireless efforts and dedication of our age managers, whose guidance and kind nature are the backbone of our club's vibrant community. Their ability to inspire and motivate our juniors is invaluable, and it is their spirit that encourages our young athletes to return with enthusiasm each season.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our helpers, whose relentless commitment and thankful efforts are the pillars that sustain our club's operations. The generosity of Sold Real Estate as our sponsor has been a boon, and their support is deeply appreciated. It is partnerships like these that enable us to continue our mission and enhance our offerings.

Looking ahead, the anticipation for another great year is palpable. The collective efforts of everyone involved with the club have created an environment where excellence is not just pursued but achieved. The club stands as a beacon of community and sportsmanship, and it is the collective contribution of each individual that shapes the club into the remarkable institution it is today. Here's to the unwavering spirit of the Swansea Belmont Surf Lifesaving Club and to the bright future that awaits us all. Thank you, once again, for making this club extraordinary in every way. Your passion and commitment are the driving forces that propel us forward, and for that, you are all truly amazing.

Best regards

Michael Legge







## Directors of Club Activities Report

The combined effort of all our amazing people who volunteer their time to do the bar and other needed work around the Club House have again made this past year a success. The Sunday afternoon music, functions and fund raisers such as Timberlina continue to be the main source of revenue for the Surf Club.

In the coming year we hope to do some renovations and maintenance to the upstairs and downstairs bars so that these areas can serve the Surf Club trouble free into the future. Thank you to Mark "PA" for his behind the scenes work that he does even though he is not living on site and his health has not been the best his input every week makes life a bit easier for us.

To Katrina, year in and year out you continue to work tirelessly for this Club not only organising the whole range of different functions but also work that goes unnoticed but massively benefits our Club.

To Mel, your organising of the entertainment and social events is very much appreciated, Sunday afternoon music is really popular due to the quality of artists that you get to perform.

To the volunteer members who sweat it out in the BBQ area each Sunday and any special events that come up, thank you for working so hard and putting in the hours.

Lastly to all our Surf Club people, without volunteers there is no Club so thank you to all our members.

Thank you  
Pez, Waz, Johnno





## Boat Captain's Report

Another season come and gone and as a section of the club we stand pretty much where we left off last year with the number of people rowing and crews. It was extremely disappointing, that we again did not compete at the State and Australian Championships.

The masters' men and women both had commitments with children and work and the under 23 girls had to forgo the championships as their sweep had to pull out because of issues with the upcoming birth of their third child. It was no one's fault but everyone was disappointed. As a section we tried to secure a competent sweep from elsewhere to take the under 23 girls to both the NSW and Australian Championships but to no avail.

Again, we are struggling with recruiting people and those people that we did recruit only replaced people we had lost from sickness or injury.

We did have a junior male crew start midway through the season but only three of the four have their bronze medallion so again we had no junior crew competing.

On this subject of recruitment, it is not just Swansea Belmont that are having this problem. Apart from Redhead there are no other junior men's crews in the Hunter. Australia wide competitor numbers in all boat rowing divisions have fallen dramatically to what it was in the past.

I would encourage anyone both female and male, young and older, who are thinking about trying rowing, to come and give it a go. You may decide once you have tried it that this is the sport for you. If you are looking for a sport to get fit, rowing requires whole body fitness, as it covers the whole body, legs, torso, and arms.

Not only do we need rowers, but we need sweeps and anyone in the club who wants to try sweeping are more than welcome to contact us and we will arrange for you to try it out. I look at clubs like Avoca who have sweeps that have never rowed but were very good ski paddlers and who have gone on and swept crews to win numerous medals both State and Australian.

I would once again like to acknowledge Mick Reese for his commitment to the boat section and all the work he does making sure that everything is maintained in safe working order.

And Katrina, who does so much for, not just the boat section, but the whole club. Many thanks, once again Katrina.

The contact numbers if you are interested are, Mick Reese (0488037321) or myself (0407237131).

Perry Sparks

Boat Captain

## Looking Forward

I am very confident that those crews that finished this season, Master Men, Master Women, and Under 23 Women will all take up where they left off come season 2023 / 2024 as they are continuing to row during the off-season.

I have also been approached from previous under-23 rowers indicating they are wanting to resume rowing again. I hope this comes to fruition as it would be great for the club and a big incentive for other members to come and give rowing a chance.

Everyone both female and male are welcome to come and try rowing, but for the club and for the sport into the future, junior rowers both male and female are desperately needed.

If you ever wonder what it would be like get in touch with Mitchell (0406045743), Mick (0488037321) or myself (0407237131) we would love to see you.

Perry Sparks

Boat Captain







# Ski Captain's Report

Another unreal season in the books!

Firstly, a huge thank you and congratulations to head coach, Tim Allen. He will be stepping down as ski coach this year, and Geoff Hall and Matt Rees will be taking over. Tim's been the coach for the last seven years and what an incredible squad he has built in that time. He is continuously studying the sport, writing up programmes and sessions and analysing techniques to help every athlete achieve their goals, Thanks Tim.

I'd also like to extend thanks to all the parents and coaches who helped pack and unpack trailers and to everyone who towed trailers as well, it is much appreciated by all of us athletes, thank you.

This Ski Squad excelled in every carnival we competed in. Some big results include, Tom Hall winning the under 17s Summer of Surf overall point score, Sam Murphy just behind in second. Katy Rees took out second in the overall Summer of Surf point scores. At State, the under 17s boys won gold in the Ski Relay. The Open Male ski paddlers also ended up with a few medals which we haven't seen in a while. Aidan Rae finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the under 17s single ski race at Aussies and combined with his brother, Lachlan Rae for a 2<sup>nd</sup> in the under 19s male double ski at Aussies. The under 17s male ski relay also took out 3<sup>rd</sup> at Aussies.

The beginner ski squad is back up and running and we have huge numbers this year. The squad is continuously growing every year. So, I would like to encourage all our young and upcoming athletes to come and give it a go, you never know until you try it!

See you on the water soon!

Josh Murphy





## IRB Captain's Report

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our drivers and crewie's that put their hands up for the club's usual water safety commitments with hunter branches carnival's and cva's.

We also had Kracka which was uneventful and smooth with only one rescue from behind Moon rock.

An even bigger shout out to Yasmin Catley for the generous donation of 22k to purchase a new IRB hull and motor which was received last November.

We thank you Yasmin.

During the 2-day Lake Mac Games we provided much-needed water safety. Not sure what some of these swimmers would have done with the enormous amount of jelly fish in the water.

We also held a 3-day ASRL carnival and a couple of the Central coast / Hunter boat series. This was also an enormous success with the club coming together to fulfil our water safety duties.

Another thing we concentrated on this season was maintenance on our boats and motors. They are all firing and ready to go.

Again, an enormous thank you to all our drivers, crew and general members for your help this past season.

Jeff Considine

IRB Captain



# Beach Captain's Report

Another fantastic season for our Swansea Belmont Beach Team. We came away from Aussies with three gold medals, five silver, two bronze, and many top eight performances.

Our dominance in the distance events continued at Aussies with Thomas & Mitchell Chalmers winning gold in the 2x1km Beach Run making it two years in a row and remaining undefeated at Aussies for the event. Tye Worell & Ty Leadbeatter won silver in the U19 2x1km, their 4th consecutive Aussie medal in the event. Harry Hall & Will Paterson had a fantastic race winning silver in the U15 2x1km Beach Run, with Harry also finishing a close 4th in the individual 2km. Emerson Leadbeatter & Phoebe Doran took home the bronze in the U17 2x1km. Tom & Mitch continued their dominance in the distance events to win individual gold & silver in the U14 2km Beach Run for the second year.

The results are a credit to our athletes who week in week out complete the long hard soft sand sessions in preparation for these events.

Our U17 girls had another great year with Phoebe winning Aussie silver in the U17 Beach Sprint and our newest member Luana Da Rocha winning bronze in the U17 Flags. The U17 Beach Relay Team of Luana, Emerson, Phoebe & Kaitlin Rees finished a close 2nd with our U19 Beach Relay Team of Kaylee Dowsett, Luana, Emerson & Phoebe winning the Australian Title and crowned new Australian Champions.

Our two mixed relay teams made the finals with the U19 Team of Ty, Tye, Emerson & Phoebe finishing 5th and our U17 Team of Thomas Hall, Cambell Connolly, Phoebe & Emerson finishing 7th after a small baton mishap.

This is the first time in a very long time we have had beach relay teams at Aussies. It was great to see them all make the finals against some big clubs with huge beach teams. I'd also like to thank all of our competitors who put their hand up to race in our relay teams, I hope you all had a great time under lights at Aussies.

Emerson & Phoebe were both named in the NSW Interstate Team. Phoebe finished 2nd in the sprint and Emerson 2nd in Flags, helping NSW claim the overall win and title of Australian Champions.

We also had other very strong performances from our nippers on the beach at the State Championships and it's good to see some talented beachies coming through the nippers.

Our senior beachies ran some flag and sprint training sessions for our nippers this season which was very well received with lots of our nippers attending, this is something we will continue in 2024/25.

2023/24 Beach Encouragement Award – Harry Hall

2023/24 Beach Competitors of the Year – Phoebe Doran & Emerson Leadbeatter

Great season Team SB!

Angela Leadbeatter  
Beach Captain







## Board Captain's Report

We would love to give a huge thanks to our three main coaches Tim, Gav and Burgo for your commitment and dedication to building such a quality program and encouraging environment for us all. Consistently motivating and guiding our younger aspiring paddlers with your endless knowledge and experience is a massive part of our squad's success and each individual reaching their own goals. So, thanks guys

We would also like to thank all the coaches, parents, and helpers throughout the season on all your work helping not only us athletes, but also the club. Whether it's at carnivals, around the clubhouse or raising funds, it all doesn't go unnoticed, and we wouldn't be able to compete and achieve our goals without all your effort to supporting our club.

The squad performed exceptionally in our major carnivals this year, both individually and in team events. It was great to see the squad show some real improvement from our new 14s through to our open competitors. Completely away with multiple state and Aussie medals.

Under the guidance of our experienced coaches and senior athletes, we recognize the ongoing opportunities for growth and improvement each year. We know there is more room to grow and achieve bigger and better next year. We extend sincere thanks to everyone whose dedicated efforts behind the scenes make all this possible.

Nick Stoddart

# Surf Sports Results

## Interbranch

This year we had 17 Club members representing Hunter at Fingal Bay.

The point score was tight but Surf Life Saving Sydney were able to keep their lead to take out the overall Championship title. Huge congratulations to all for fielding such competitive team.


Under 12	Female	Allira	Cook
Under 12	Male	Archie	Doyle
Under 12	Male	Chace	Harrison
Under 13	Female	Chloe	Rees
Under 14	Female	Luca	Burge
Under 14	Male	Mitchell	Chalmers
Under 14	Male	Thomas	Chalmers
Under 15	Male	Bodi	Bone
Under 15	Male	Hamish	Rae
Under 15	Male	Harry	Hall
Under 15	Male	Kai	Cook
Under 17	Female	Emerson	Leadbeatter
Under 17	Female	Phoebe	Doran
Under 17	Female	Xanthe	Calov
Under 17	Male	Billy	Foran
Under 17	Male	Cambell	Connolly
Under 17	Male	Aidan	Rae

## Branch Championships

With smaller numbers than usual this year we held onto 3 places with some close racing. The U17 females were the standout in the team events and Kia Cook with 3 first places.

## **NSW State Championships**

NSW Surf Lifesaving State Championships - Swansea Belmont's Top 6 performances

Congratulations to our senior State Team who finished an excellent 4th place in the overall point score standings, beating some very large Sydney clubs. We were pipped by 4pts for the bronze by our neighbours Redhead SLSC and we congratulate them on their fantastic result. We had lots of fantastic performances over the weekend and the Club is very proud of how our competitors represented Swansea Belmont on and off the beach. Thank to our officials and water safety for giving your time .

Finally, a big thank you to our State Team sponsors, Swansea McDonalds & SOLD Real Estate for your support.

### Under 15

U15 Board Relay – 1st place Hamish Rae, Kai Cook & Will Paterson

U15 2x1km Beach Relay - 1st place Tom Chalmers & Mitch Chalmers

U15 2x1km Beach Relay - 3rd place Harry Hall & Will Paterson

U15 Surf Team – 3rd place Bodi Bone, Hamish Rae, Kai Cook & Liam Doyle

U15 Board Rescue – 4th place Liam Doyle & Hamish Rae

U15 2km Beach Run – 4th place Harry Hall

U15 Board Relay – 5th place Liam Doyle, Mitch Chalmers & Tom Chalmers

U15 Board Race – 5th place Kai Cook

### Under 17

U17 Board Rescue – 1st place Kaleah Kingston & Katy Rees

U17 Beach Flags – 1st place Emi Leadbeatter

U17 Ironperson – 1st place – Katy Rees

U17 Board Relay – 1st place Billy Foran, Sam Murphy & Aidan Rae

U17 Surf Race – 1st place – Katy Rees

U17 Ski Relay – 1st place Aidan Rae, Sam Murphy & Thomas Hall

U17 Beach Sprint Relay – 1st place Emi Leadbeatter, Luana DaRocha, Katy Rees & Phoebe Doran

U17 Beach Sprint – 2nd place Emerson Leadbeatter

U17 Beach Flags – 2nd place Luana DaRocha

U17 2x1km Beach Relay – 2nd place Phoebe Doran & Emi Leadbeatter

U17 Mixed Beach Sprint Relay – 2nd place Thomas Hall, Phoebe Doran, Cambell Connolly & Emi Leadbeatter

U17 Board Race – 4th place Sam Murphy

U17 Beach Sprint – 4th place Phoebe Doran

U17 Single Ski – 4th place Aidan Rae

U17 Male Taplin – 4th place Billy Foran, Thomas Hall & Sam Murphy



U17 Beach Flags – 4th place Phoebe Doran

U17 Ski Relay – 5th place Cambell Connolly, Billy Foran & Darcy Masia

U17 Board Race – 6th place Billy Foran

U17 Female Taplin – 6th place Xanthe Calov, Katy Rees & Kaleah Kingston

### Under 19

U19 Beach Sprint Relay – 2nd place Kaylee Dowsett, Emi Leadbeatter, Luana DaRocha & Phoebe Doran

U19 Mixed Sprint Relay – 2nd place Tye Worell, Phoebe Doran, Jack Johns & Emi Leadbeatter

U19 2x1km Beach Relay – 2nd place Tye Worell & Cambell Connolly

U19 Double Ski – 3rd place Thomas Hall & Sam Murphy

U19 Single Ski – 6th place Lachlan Rae

U19 Taplin – 6th place Tye Worell, Jack Johns & Lachlan Rae

### Open

Open Board Race – 2nd place Nick Stoddart

Open Ski Relay – 3rd place Beau McGregor, Josh Murphy & Greg Tobin

Open Ski – 3rd place Josh Murphy

Open Board Relay – 3rd place Beau McGregor, Kurt Murphy & Nick Stoddart

Open Mixed Double Ski – 4th place Greg Tobin & Josh Murphy

### Under 9

U9 Flags – 1st Sailor Grintell

U9 Sprint – 1st Sailor Grintell

U9 Surf Race – 6th Jake Chalmers

U9 Sprint Relay – 2nd – Eleanor Berry, Sailor Grintell, Quinn Mittmann, Olivia Sams

U9 Mixed Sprint Relay – 4th Eleanor Berry, Sailor Grintell, Archie Mackel, Jack Mullins

U9 Board Relay – 2nd – Freya Crake, Eleanor Berry, Oliiva Sams

U9 Surf Team – 5th – Grace Blair, Freya Crake, Harper Degan, Olivia Sams

U9 Surf Team – 1st – Jake Chalmers, Atticus Dunn, Archie Mackel, Joseph Fuller

### Under 10

U10 Surf Race – 2nd Neve Harrison

U10 Surf Race – 4th Ry Turkington

U10 Board Race – 3rd Ry Turkington

U10 Board Race – 2nd Indi Hoetzer

U10 Flags – 6th Ryan Marples

U10 Mixed Sprint Relay – 3rd Neve Harrison, Indi Hoetzer, Ryan Marples, Alex Wyborn

U10 Board Relay – 2nd – Neve Harrison, Indi Hoetzer, Georgie Withyman  
U10 Surf Team – 1st – Neve Harrison, Indi Hoetzer, Audrey Howe, Georgie Withyman

### Under 11

U11 Surf Race – 1st Liam Blair  
U11 Ironperson – 1st Liam Blair  
U11 Mixed Cameron – 2nd – Bodhi Cousins, Lucy Sams, Liam Blair, Piper Williams  
U11 Board Rescue – 5th – Billie Brooks, Piper Williams  
U11 Board Rescue – 3rd – Liam Blair, Bodhi Cousins  
U11 Board Relay – 3rd – Patrick Blair, Bodhi Cousins, Liam Blair  
U11 Board Relay – 6th – Paton Mittman, Piper Williams, Billie Brooks  
U11 Surf Team – 1st – Oliver Legge, Liam Blair, Parick Blair, Bodhi Cousins

### Under 12

U12 1km Beach Run – 3rd Archie Doyle  
U12 1km Beach Run – 4th Elsie Howe  
U12 Board Relay – 2nd – Jett Degan, Archie Doyle, Chace Harrison  
U12 2x500m Beach Run – Archie Doyle, Hamish Dunne  
U12 Surf Team – 4th – Jett Degan, Archie Doyle, Chace Harrison, Liam Urbanowicz

### Under 13

U13 Board Rescue – 6th – Charlie Legge, Lennox Withyman  
U13 Board Relay – 4th – Chloe Rees, Asha Hoetzer, Blair Turkington  
U13 Surf Team – 5th – Asha Hoetzer, Amelia Parker, Blair Turkington, Kaili Williams

### Under 14

U14 2km Beach Run – 1st Thomas Chalmers  
U14 2km Beach Run – 2nd Mitchell Chalmers  
U14 2km Beach Run – 6th Grace Mueller  
U14 Ironperson – 5th Thomas Chalmers  
U14 Board Relay – 5th – Luca Burge, Maili Parker, Grace Mueller  
U14 Board Relay – 6th – Thomas Chalmers, Mitchell Chalmers, Liam Krysko  
U14 2x1km Relay – 1st – Thomas Chalmers, Mitchell Chalmers  
U14 2x1km Relay – 5th – Luca Burge, Grace Mueller  
U14 Cameron – 3rd – Liam Krysko, Luke Leadbeatter, Mitchell Chalmers, Tom Chalmers  
U14 Board Rescue – 3rd – Mitchell Chalmers, Tom Chalmers

## **Australian Titles**

The atmosphere was electric with anticipation as Aussies descended upon Maroochydore this year. Heartening moments unfolded as seasoned Masters emerged from retirement, lending their expertise to bolster the team's collective effort.

Navigating through surf conditions, from the spirited U15 competitors to the opens, each athlete seized their moment to shine. Amidst these challenges, the cohesion of the beach teams was exemplary, harmoniously working together to deliver remarkable outcomes. The U15 board relay team orchestrated a breathtaking comeback, clinching the coveted gold medal. This triumph was a testament to their resilience and skill, underscoring their determination to overcome adversity. The team's cumulative achievements culminated in an impressive 8th place overall, amassing a commendable 77 points.

The journey to Maroochydore was not merely about competition but also about camaraderie, resilience, and the unwavering pursuit of excellence. It was a celebration of dedication and passion, leaving an indelible mark on the annals of Australian surfing history.

## **Results**

### **Youth/U17-Opens**

Gold – U14 2km Beach Run – Thomas Chalmers

Gold – U14 2x1km Beach Run – Thomas Chalmers & Mitchell Chalmers

Gold – U15 Board Relay – Hamish Rae, Will Paterson & Kai Cook

Gold - U17 Ironperson – Kaitlin Rees

Gold - U17 Board Race – Kaitlin Rees

Gold - U19 Sprint Relay – Emerson Leadbeatter, Luana Da Rocha, Kaylee Dowsett, Phoebe Doran

Silver – U14 2km Beach Run – Mitchell Chalmers

Silver – U15 2x1km Beach Run – Harry Hall & Will Paterson

Silver – U15 Surf Board Riding – Kai Cook

Silver – U17 Single Ski – Aidan Rae

Silver – U17 Sprint – Phoebe Doran

Silver – U7 Sprint Relay – Emerson Leadbeatter, Luana Da Rocha, Kaitlin Rees, Phoebe Doran

Silver – U19 2x1km Beach Run – Ty Leadbeatter & Tye Worell

Silver – U19 Board Relay – Tye Worell, Jack Johns, Billy Foran

Silver – U19 Double Ski – Lachlan Rae & Aidan Rae

Bronze – U15 Board Rescue – Liam Doyle & Hamish Rae

Bronze – U17 Flags – Luana Da Rocha

Bronze – U17 Ski Relay – Thomas Hall, Aidan Rae, Sam Murphy

Bronze – U17 2x1km Beach Run – Phoebe Doran & Emerson Leadbeatter

Bronze – U17 Taplin – Xanthe Calov, Kaleah Kingston & Kaitlin Rees

### **Masters**

Gold – 35-39yrs Single Ski – Greg Tobin

Gold – 45-49yrs 2km Beach Run – Angela Leadbeatter

Gold - 130yrs Taplin – Stephen Ford, Greg Tobin, Steve Masia

Gold – 50-54yrs Board Rescue – Graham Burge & Sean Davis

Silver – 130yrs Ski Relay – Nathan Croal, Greg Tobin & Stewart O'Regan

Bronze – 35-39yrs Double Ski – Greg Tobin & Stephan Ford

Bronze – 130yrs Ski Relay – Steve Masia, Mark Masia & Stephan Ford

Bronze – 150yrs Taplin – Matt Rees, Sean Davis & Graham Burge



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# Annual General Meeting



**Sunday, 21 July 2024**

**Members renew at 9am**

**Meeting starts at 10am**

**Swansea Belmont Surf Club**