

Annual Report 2022/2023

Nowra Culburra SLS



Nowra-Culburra
SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC

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Nowra – Culburra Surf Life Saving Club Presidents Report

2022/ 2023 brings to the end a successful season for the Nowra-Culburra Surf Life Saving Club, and it is my privilege to deliver my first presidents report. I am proud to report that due to the dedication and hard work of the Surf Club members, no lives were lost in our patrolled area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate club captain Josh Chambers and Vice Club Captain Codi Brickhill. Josh and Codi have brought renewed enthusiasm to surf club operations. Along with our dedicated patrol captains, patrol members and emergency call out crews, they oversaw a season in which booming holiday crowds returned to the beach. The 2022 Christmas period saw extremely good weather, and the increased tourism placed pressure on not only our patrolled beach but on all beaches in our area of responsibility. At times the club was called upon to respond to incidents in the Shoalhaven River and down into Jervis Bay. Special thanks to all of our volunteers who went way beyond their patrolling obligations to keep the community safe. I am happy to report that, even though we had a couple of very complex rescues, there were no major incidents.



Thanks to our IRB and Equipment officers Josh Chambers and Simon Fillery for their never-ending work to maintain our Jet Ski, IRB's, ATV's and other rescue equipment. We are truly indebted to this crew as they keep our gear in the very best condition and they save the club considerable maintenance costs. This season saw the club replace one ATV and we've restocked all of our rescue boards for future seasons.

I would like to congratulate our outgoing Junior Activity Co-ordinator, Dylan Anderson, for his exceptional contribution to the nippers program. Dylan has established a junior committee which has worked very hard to reinvigorate nippers. With an influx of first year nippers, Dylan and his team have done a great job of introducing them to the surf. Sunday morning with the nippers on the sand is still my favourite day at the beach and I am very hopeful that all of Dylan's hard work will pay off in the future as these kids become more confident.

Nowra - Culburra was represented in surf sports this season, the club had members attend South Coast Branch Championships, Sydney Water and NSW Country Championships. Congratulations to all of our members who competed, in particular Denzel Atkinson who achieved great results in Under 17 beach events, and Chad Poland who is a very well known surf sports competitor.



This season we also saw a large number of patrolling member's upskilling their knowledge and qualifications thanks to the Club Trainers Brad Lilly and Andrew Ling. The club also conducted two SRC and Bronze courses this past season and it was great to welcome new members into the patrol roster.

Our Club hosted the 20th Tilbury Classic ocean swim on Easter Saturday. This swim is a great fundraiser for our club. The success of the swim is a credit to the volunteers within our club and would not happen without the dedicated organising committee. Thank you to all involved behind the scenes, the weather was kind to us and the swim was hugely successful.



On behalf of all club members thank you to our sponsors, IT Basecamp, Culburra Sports and Social Club, Culburra and Districts Community Health Service, Holiday Haven Tourist Parks, and the Shoalhaven City Council. A special thanks to the team at Ray White Culburra Beach for their continuing sponsorship of our nippers program. This season Ray White ensured our nippers were safe by funding their Hi Vis Vests and competition jerseys.

I would like to acknowledge our management committee for all their work. While all committee members have contributed to our club, there a few members who carry a heavy load. Brad Lilly has made an exceptional contribution as both Secretary and Treasurer. Brad's administration of club activities was critical to the club maintaining a strong financial state and compliance across the board with SLS requirements. The volunteer hours he has put into Surf Club beyond his patrol obligations is unheralded and a great credit to him.

At the 2023 Nowra-Culburra SLSC Presentation Night, several of our members were recognised for their achievements in the 2022/23 season.

Club Person of the Year – Dylan Anderson
Junior Club Person of the Year – Isaac Sleath
Cadet Club Person of the Year – Tamsin Walsh
Patrol of the Year – Patrol 6 PC Brad Lilly
Patroller of the Year – Elijah Foster-Percy
IRB Captains Award – Josh Chambers



Most Promising Senior Competitor – Kirra Dale
& Elijah Foster-Percy
Excellent Achievement in Surf Sports – Chad Poland & Denzel
Atkinson
Club Rookie of the Year – Amanda Soper



Two new Life Members were also announced. Mitch Pakes is a 3rd generation Surf Lifesaver who joined the club as a nipper. He is an active Patrol Captain, an IRB and Jet Ski driver, a member of the emergency call out team and served as President for eight years.



Steve Richardson joined the Surf Club as a nipper parent and achieved his bronze medallion in 2006. He is a highly regarded Patrol Captain who is a role model surf lifesaver and the ultimate quiet achiever. Steve was also awarded his National Medal for over 15 years of surf lifesaving service.

Congratulations Mitch and Steve, your distinguished service to surf lifesaving at the Nowra-Culburra SLSC for over 15 years is greatly appreciated.

The Nowra-Culburra SLSC was founded in 1954 and we will celebrate our 70th anniversary next year. My goal as president will be to ensure that we celebrate our history properly and place ourselves in a position to be here for another 70 years.

Thank you to the many people who have supported me in my first year as president. The resilience of our volunteers and their ability to snap into ‘rescue mode’ when called upon is what I am most proud of. I look forward to 2024.

Col Lawrence
President
Nowra – Culburra SLSC

Club Captain Report

The 2022/2023 patrolling season was not only my first as Club Captain but my first full season as a club member! It was a privilege to work with the dedicated members of the committee and all club members, whether it be on patrol, water safety or on training courses.

I would firstly like to thank all of our members for their tremendous efforts throughout the season. From active patrolling members and Nipper participants through to associate

members who work in the canteen and parents ensuring their kids can attend Nippers. Your hard work and dedication ensures our club is able to provide the Nipper program, SLS training and courses, competition opportunities and ultimately beach patrols to ensure a safe environment for the community to enjoy.

The season commenced on the 24th September with Patrol 1 taking the lead. Being new to the club, I was hesitant to make any drastic changes to the patrols and rostering but adjusted the ordering to distribute the public holidays throughout the patrols. As a result of Covid, the patrolling member base had declined and it became evident many of the patrols were struggling with attendance. We made the difficult decision to reduce the number of patrols to lessen the load, which sustained us to the end of the season.

Throughout the season, two Bronze Medallion courses were instructed to provide the much needed numbers to patrol. Member training commenced in top gear, where the club hosted a First Aid course and an Advanced Resuscitation Techniques course during October. The courses were well received and much needed to up skill our members for the season ahead.

October also saw the commencement of Nippers where they had to first display their abilities in the pool, commencing at Warrain Beach the following weekend. The season provided little time for members to settle back into patrolling duties with our most impressive rescue effort conducted at the end of October. Patrol Six did a fantastic job of rescuing a female surfer who had sustained a catastrophic lower leg injury. The patrol members conducted themselves professionally and utilised many of their first aid techniques to manage the distressed patient until they successfully handed them over to paramedics.

The month of December saw an increase in beach attendance as the holidays commenced with many of our members also working as Lifeguards throughout the district. Our lifeguard members balanced their work and volunteer commitments diligently and as a result of their experiences, were able to bring this back to the beach patrol.

Fast forward to the Easter long weekend where the club hosted the iconic Tilbury Classic Ocean Swim, the biggest event on the club calendar. The event brought Olympic professionals and novice swimmers alike to compete in a 2.2km ocean swim around Penguin Headland. The event would not have been possible without Col Lawrences' hard work and the volunteer water safety who set up the course and kept everyone safe out in the water.

The season came to a close on the ANZAC Day long weekend. Throughout the season the club completed nine rescues whilst on patrol. Furthermore, the Nowra Culburra Callout Team conducted numerous rescues from Crookhaven to Huskisson. The club appreciates and thanks all the members of the callout team for their ongoing efforts on and off season.

In May the club held its Annual Presentation Night after a three year hiatus. The club took the opportunity to thank all of its members and present awards to recipients for their achievements throughout the season. It was a successful event and a pleasant conclusion to the patrolling season. Further details on the awards presented are located below.

For the 22/23 season, the club committed 1,788.5 hours of beach patrol service to Warrain Beach. On average, this equates to an average of 26 hours volunteered by our active members. The top ten leading female and male patrol members are listed below.

Leading Female	Patrol Hours	Leading Male	Patrol Hours
Tamsin Walsh	56	Elijah Foster Percy	90
Klara Barak	45	Isaac Sleath	66
Millie White	36	Colin Lawrence	65
Amanda Bagnall	33	Brad Lilly	64
Stella Cournane	33	Joshua Chambers	60
Tania Trenerry	28	Dylan Anderson	58
Kirra Dale	23	Ronald Letters	56
Codi Brickhill	23	Ron Denovan	54
Georgina Hooke	13	Simon Fillery	54
Natalie Harrison	10	Andrew Fenech	52

The club conducted a total of nine rescues this season during patrol hours. All rescues occurred outside the flags with the majority being completed by IRB. Nine rescues may not sound like many, but this is a good thing, preventative action is more effective than action when it comes to distressed persons. This is a testament to our patrol members abilities and I am looking forward to volunteering alongside our members during the 23/24 season ahead.

Club Captain
Joshua Chambers

Treasurers Report

The club finances have continued in the 2022 / 2023 season to be reasonably strong. BSEF and CLEG Grants have assisted us to procure and turnover another Can Am ATV via the BRP dollar for dollar scheme. The strong price of the second hand vehicles means the change over cost is very minimal and the beach is rough on these essential items. A new IRB motor was procured as well. We also purchased new Victorian SLS high quality radio bags with this grant money. Thanks to Col

Lawrence President for chasing down local grants that have skipped a few years over the Covid period.

We were also lucky enough to be awarded a \$3500 grant for purchase of mock blood trainers for upcoming First Aid courses. This was via the local parliament member Shelley Hancock.

The hall hire management has been assisted generously by president Col Lawrence and this is a regular income source. We thank a few regular companies that rent the hall for weekly use for Yoga and Physie dancing as well.

Overall, the use of an external use of and accountant has been working well however I feel we should look to get a full time bookkeeper and have the committee oversee the treasurer role if no-one in the club wishes to take on this role.

The audited accounts will be emailed to the outgoing committee.

Brad Lilly
Treasurer.

Trainers Report.

This year saw the running of an early First AID and ART upskill undertaken by approximately 11 members. 2 Bronze / SRC courses followed as we do every year.. In total approximately 15 new members were added to Patrols over the season. We welcome them to the beach.

I want to make particular mention to some members Amanda Soper, Cameron Colhoun for their enthusiasm and commitment to becoming surf life savers. Extra training at the pool and on Saturdays was undertaken to make sure they passed.

With the absence of an Assessor at the club we would like to thank Branch Training Director Josh Douglas and Karl Poulton form Shoalhaven Heads SLS for giving up their time to assess our club members.

Keeping up-to-date with awards and ongoing training is a key aspect of a successful club. Members are encouraged to keep their qualifications current and to undertake further training where needed. This is beneficial for the Club and for the members, as many of the qualifications gained in Surf Life Saving can carry over into the workforce and help employability.

Brad Lilly
Club Trainer.

Junior Activities Report

The 2022/2023 Nippers Season proved to be a success. We were still challenged by weather at the commencement of the season but overall, the run of the season was largely successful in comparison to other years. The proficiency for Nippers was well attended with only a small number to catch up prior to the commencement of the season at the beach. We had 2 occasions where Nippers was held at Ocean Street.

We had 61 registered nippers; however, weekly attendance suggested that half of these were actively involved. For the second year in a row, there were more new nippers than retained nippers.

Water safety continues to be an area of improvement for the nippers program with Age Managers doubling in this role quite often. I wish to thank all the water safety who continued to work with our age managers week to week.

We had one small incident that ended up being a positive lesson for some of our nippers. During a surf race, a group of nippers were caught in a sandbank collapse, unable to reach the beach for some time. All nippers involved drew on their learnt skills through the program to continue moving through the water in a calm and efficient manner.

During the season we had a small number of parents become qualified with their Bronze Medallion. This inspired interest from a few more parents who hope to complete their bronze in the coming season.

Awards were determined based on merit and selected by age managers and the JAC. Point score was also held this season, with points being calculated by category. Nippers were competing for Beach Champion and Water Champion. Where a nipper was awarded both, they became the overall Age Champion. Overall, point score was a good way to introduce the sport of Surf Lifesaving and unveil the competitive side of our sport.

The awards allocated are detailed at the end of this report.

We had good representation at South Coast Branch Championships with representatives Dean Osgood, Jack, Sophie and Thomas Webber, Luka and Kobie Cardow and Molly Zillaman competing in various disciplines. Jack Webber came away with a bronze medal in the Beach Flags event.

As the outgoing JAC, I am incredibly proud to see the progress the club has made since the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Nippers Program continues to grow in numbers and continues to reach further into our community. There are a dedicated group of parents, keen to see the program's success and a number of businesses happy and willing to help in any way. A big thank you must go towards Ben Carmody who provided \$1200 to go towards new increased volume boards, allowing our older nippers to successfully negotiate a board race with ease.

I would like to thank the committee for their continued support for the nippers program.

I would also like to thank all those who put their hand up over the past 3 years to assist in various roles.

Nippers is an incredibly valuable asset to our community and I look forward to seeing further growth in the program over the years.

2022/2023 Season Awards

Age Champion Awards

Under 8

Billie Brown

Ehan Kakkatt

Toby Griffiths - *Beach Champion

Under 9

Sophie Webber

Ollie Soper

Under 10

Aina Adal

Jack Webber

Under 11

Molly Zillman

Toby McColl

Beej Edwards - *Beach Champion

Luka Cardow - *Water Champion

Under 12

Thomas Webber

Under 13

Kye Edwards

Rose Howard

Under 14

Hannah Doyle

Angus Zillman

Age Manager Awards

Under 6

Charlotte Maynard

Noah Griffiths

Under 7

Isabel Uptis

Jed Carmody

Under 8

Zoe Marum

Tristan Carley

Under 9

Jessica Maynard

Ollie Soper

Under 10

Aina Adal

Dean Osgood

Under 11

Abigail Doyle

Beej Edwards

Under 12

Thomas Webber

Under 13

Rose Howard

Oskar Driscoll

Under 14

Hannah Doyle

Angus Zillman

Perpetual Replacements

Award Details: President Award

Sophia Bagnall

Award Details: Harry Scouller Award

Jack Webber

Sophie Webber

As the outgoing JAC, I wish the future of Junior Activities and the committee all the very best and thank them for their unwavering support over the years.

Dylan Anderson

2023 Tilbury Classic Report

The 20th Tilbury Classic ocean swim was hosted by the Nowra-Culburra SLSC on 08 April 2023. Easter Saturday served up great conditions for the 2 km course with 120 competitors setting out from Ocean St Beach at 10am to swim around the headland to the Nowra-Culburra SLSC on Warrain Beach.



The winner, Bill Thorley, repeated his effort from 2022 and completed the course in 26 minutes, another outstanding result. The first female across the line in seventh place overall was Sharon Crisafi.

Surf Club legend, Chad Poland, crossed the line in third place, and one of the original organisers of the Tilbury Classic, Lloyd Smith, crossed the line in 46 minutes, not too bad for someone who is now used to swimming in warm Queensland conditions. All swimmers completed and afterwards enjoyed the hospitality of the Surf Club on a sunny autumn day. Full results are available on the Tilbury Classic facebook page.



A very special mention to all of the Nowra-Culburra SLSC volunteers. Surf Club member Brad Lilly said 'The Tilbury Classic is an event that only happens with the full

support of the volunteers. Club members enjoy supporting the event and we are proud that people return year after year to swim around the headland.'

All of the competitors were very excited to be in the water again, especially given that the forecast weather conditions for the Easter weekend abated in time for the swim. Many were appreciative of the welcoming atmosphere with local ocean swimming regular Grant Walsh commenting, 'I really enjoy this event, I get the opportunity to swim around the headland and the surf club makes an effort to cater for all swimming abilities. Often the last swimmer over the line gets the biggest cheer, I'm already looking forward to next year.'



A great community event hosted by the Nowra-Culburra SLSC.