

Nowra-Culburra Surf Life Saving Club Presidents Report 2015 / 2016 Season



Newly Finished Renovated Surf Club.

At the end of another season, it is again a privilege to be able to deliver my annual report as president of the Nowra-Culburra Surf Life Saving Club.

I am proud to report, that the dedication and hard work of my volunteer lifesavers has paid off, and we can again boast that no lives were lost during patrol hours on our beach for another season.

The success of our great club comes from the dedication and hard work of all our members, each member plays a vital role in the success of our club and I thank you for your dedication.

The start of the 2015/2016 season saw what would be the toughest start to a season in recent memory. In May 2015 the club saw the start of the final stage of our club renovations, the replacement of the club's balcony. The final stage was postponed until the finish of the 2014/2015 season because the renovations would severely reduce our access to our equipment bays, located under the balcony. Arrangements were made with the local Rural Fire Brigade, who allowed the club to store our ATV and IRB in their station to use if the club was required to respond to an emergency call out over the offseason. Shortly after work commenced the contracted builders uncovered some contaminated building waste, this saw the building site shut down until tests could be undertaken. The Contaminated building waste was removed and the site was made safe but this delayed the renovations by five months impacting

on the start of our 2015/2016 season.

I must commend all members on the efforts to ensure the smooth running of patrols and nippers through this time. We completed the first four months of the 2015/2016 season with no canteen, a pop up first aid room, no IRB maintenance bay and only one storage bay. On average members spent an additional 3 to 4 hours each Saturday and Sunday preparing for patrols and nippers. December 2015 saw the completion of the final stage of the Nowra-Culburra Surf Life Saving Clubs renovations. I would like to thank all members past and present that have played a part in ensuring our plan became a reality.

I would also like to thank the following people for their assistance to the club over the project. Shoalhaven City Council past and present Mayor and councillors, State Member for south coast Mrs. Shelly Handcock and Federal Member for Gilmore Mrs. Ann Sudmalis I also want to thank the wonderful staff at Shoalhaven city council, who have been an absolute pleasure to deal with.

I would like to thank and congratulate our team of patrol captains and patrol members for the tireless work they do throughout the season. I would also like to thank and congratulate the members who achieved 100% patrol attendance and members who patrolled more than their rostered hours.

I would also like to thank our committed and hardworking management committee for their work and support this season. My sincere thanks

to Club Captain Peter Aldington for his support, hard work and responsibilities around the club. I would also like to congratulate Peter on receiving life membership of the Nowra - Culburra Surf Life Saving Club.

I would like to thank and congratulate Brad Lilly, who took on the role of JAC again this season and his committee and all their helpers for their wonderful work each Sunday to ensure the success of our nipper's program. This year saw our numbers grow to over 240 nippers. Brad and his team met the challenge with ease and this is a credit to them and also our club.

Thank you to the Clubs Chief trainer Gaye Adlington and her trainers Ron Letters, Colin Pakes and Peter Adlington. This season again saw a large number of our members upgrade their qualifications. A special welcome to the new members and nippers to our club this year who completed either the Surf Rescue Certificate or Surf Bronze award in a training squads.

Thanks to our Boat Captain Josh Pakes and Deputy Boat Captain Colin Pakes for your never ending work to make sure our fleet of IRB's and ATV's are in the very best condition. You have both saved the club thousands of dollars over the years in maintenance costs. This season saw the club replace one of our IRBS with a new hard bottom IRB, 2 new IRB Motors and a New ATV. I am sure all of our members will enjoy our new equipment, and I know Josh and Colin will take great care of it.

The 2014/2015 season saw another successful ocean swim. Unlike most years the 2016 swim saw fantastic weather for our event and saw over 100 competitors. This swim is a great fundraiser for our club and it has become a successful community event. Thank you to our swim coordinator Colin Lawrence and his team that helped organise and run the swim. Through the funds raised our nippers will be able to start off the 2015/2016 season with new equipment.

This year saw our club well represented again in surf sports. The club had members attend South Coast Branch Championships, South Coast Interbranch team, Sydney Water, NSW Country Championships and NSW State Championships. I would like to congratulate all members who represented our club at these events.

I want to pay special thanks to our out of hours call out team. Over the last few seasons, our club has coordinated and assisted with some large out of hour incidents. Each time our team responds quickly and with the professionalism that makes me and our club proud.

I want to congratulate our members who received awards at our 2015/2016 awards night, Cadet club person of the year Miss Jessica O'Donnell and Mr Eric McColl, Junior club person of the year Mr Cody Rodriguez and Club person of the year Mrs Kerrie Denovan, special thanks to Kerrie for all her dedication and work she does around the club.

A huge thank you to our Club sponsors, we cannot thank you enough for your support, without it, our club could not maintain our high standard of rescue equipment. On behalf of all club members, thank you. A special thanks to IT Base Camp, Assured Locksmiths, Culburra Sports and Social Club, Culburra and Districts Community Health Service, Holiday Haven Tourist Park, Shoalhaven City Council and Surf Life Saving NSW.

At the Nowra -Culburra Surf Life Saving Club we always work together to achieve the best outcome for our community.

Members with SLSNSW President and Branch President at the Successful Annual Awards Evening

Being a part of the Nowra-Culburra Surf Life Saving Club is in my blood; my family has been a part of the club for over 50 years. My goal as president is to ensure that our great club is always going forward and will still be around in another 50 years so my children and their children can enjoy what is now a way of life for most Australians "the Beach".

**Yours in Surf Life Saving,
Mitchell Pakes
President
Nowra - Culburra Surf Life Saving Club.**