



MEREWETHER SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB Annual Report 2018/2019



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Merewether SLSC



Annual General Meeting – 2018/2019

Due notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Merewether Surf Life Saving Club, Inc. will be held at the Clubhouse, Corner Watkins and John Parade, Merewether Beach on Sunday 7th July 2019 from 10.00 a.m.

Agenda

1. Opening of Annual General Meeting by Nick Newton, President
 - I. Apologies –
 - II. One-minute silence for Deceased Members
2. President's Address by Nick Newton
3. Dignitaries/Hunter Branch Surf Life Saving Address
4. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM from the 2017-2018 Season
 - I. Moved: Seconded:
 - II. Matters arising
5. Presentation of Annual Report for the 2018-2019 Season
 - I. Motion to adopt
 - II. Moved: Seconded:
6. Presentation of provisional Financial Statements for 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019
 - I. Motion to adopt
 - II. Moved: Seconded:
7. Presentation of Club Patrons, Vice Patrons and Honorary Positions

Title	Representative
Patrons	Mr. Tim Crakanthorp MP Member for Newcastle, Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Nuatali Nelmes, John Adamson, Sue Paul.
Vice-Patrons	Mr. John Twohill, Mr. Evan Walton, Mrs. Susan Walton OAM, Mr Ross Taggart
Honorary Auditor	Robert Jones
Honorary Solicitor	Craig Doyle (McDonald Johnson)
Medical Officers	Dr Geoff Fowler
Ambulance Officers	St John Ambulance, Laurie Graham & Richard Taylor

I. Motion to adopt list of Patrons, Vice Patrons, Honorary Auditor and Solicitor

II. Moved: Seconded:

8. Life Membership

9. Election of President

10. Election of Officers

All nominations listed below:

Club Captain	Kevin Buckley
Secretary	Jamie Paras
Treasurer	Mark Owen
Chief Training Instructor	Anthony Tietze
Registrar	Jan Roche * Nomination
Director of Surf Sports	Bill Sidwell
Board and Ski Captain	Kris Wall
Vice Club Captain	Dave Hoar
Junior Coordinator Chairperson	Julie Sutton
Youth Coordinator	Sarah Bugbird * Nomination
Rookie Coordinator	Karen Wallace
IRB Captain	Nathan Wright
Boat Captain	Emma Gale
WH&S Officer	Kathy Spong
Member Protection Information Officer	Kate Flint
IT Co-Ordinator	Evan Jobling
Publicity Officer	Dave Hoar * Nomination
Radio Officer	Dave Hoar
Gear and Equipment Officer	Chris Warren * Nomination
Merchandise Officer	Warren Sterling
Historical Officer	Tony Robinson

11. Honorariums for the 2019-2020 Season (unchanged from last season)

- President, Secretary, Treasurer - \$500
- Chief Instructor, Registrar - \$250

I. Motion to adopt

II. Moved: Seconded:

12. Determination of Club Fees for the 2019-2020 Season:

Membership Type	Fee	increase
Senior Active & Cadets (registered on or before 31st October)	\$100.00	+10
Senior Associates (Not patrolling)	\$135.00	+ 10
Over 65's Associates	\$65.00	nil
Junior Active member (1 st child)	\$95.00	+ 5
Additional junior active members	\$75.00	+ 5
Junior Associate (parent)	\$10.00	+ 10
Family Membership (1 adult, 2 children)	\$200.00	+ 10
Additional family members	\$75.00	+ 5
LATE membership fee (after 31 st October 2016)	\$35.00	nil

- I. Motion to adopt the membership fees for the 2019-2020 season
- II. Moved: Seconded:

13. Resolution for Affiliation with Hunter Branch

- I. Moved: Seconded:

14. General Business

15. Motion to approve a new category of community membership.

Community Members;

- (a) Any adult person who is involved in the bar and function room operation and conduct of the fundraising activities for the Club and who does not qualify for any other category of membership, or who does not wish to join the Club in a category of membership for which they are qualified, are required to become a Community Member.
- (b) a Community Member shall have limited use of the Club premises and facilities as determined from time to time by the Management Committee.
- (c) a Community Member is not entitled to obtain a gym key.
- (d) a Community Member will not be eligible for a role on the committee.

(e) a Community Member will not have voting rights of members at the Annual General Meeting and all Special General Meetings on all matters including the election of officers, ballots, motions, and any other matters where voting is required.

(f) The yearly fee for this category of membership will be set at the Club's AGM and/or after initial membership, waived by the Executive Committee upon the amount of voluntary hours completed.

Motion to adopt:

For the motion:

Against the motion:

Meeting Closed:

MEREWETHER SLSC Life Members

E.A. Merewether⁺
 A.Watt⁺
 Colonel Ranclaud⁺
 Edgar Hinchcliff⁺
 Vic Lovell⁺
 Albert (Bert) Caldwell⁺
 Jim Wiebe⁺
 Keith D.McDonald⁺
 E.(Ted) Pritchard⁺
 Phil M Evans⁺
 Jack Wiebe⁺
 Norm Wiebe⁺
 R.(Bob)Morton⁺
 R.F.(Frank) Mahony⁺
 R.(Dick) Tressider⁺
 Harry Norton⁺
 R.(Bob) Hughes⁺
 Alf Hiland⁺
 A.J.(Albert) Edwards⁺
 W.(Bill) Read⁺
 Jack Blackett⁺
 Sid Bignall⁺
 Jim Hiland⁺
 Doug Read⁺
 W.(Bill) Morgan
 Cliff Brown⁺
 Noel Long
 Neville Henshaw OAM⁺
 William R. Adamson⁺
 Frank Long⁺
 Keith Swan⁺
 Brad March

Albert Peel⁺
 Jim McKenzie⁺
 Jeff Agland
 Ron Webster⁺
 Gary Miller
 Greg Nelmes
 Graham Walton
 Robert J.Balks
 Stewart Hetherington⁺
 Robert Richards
 Evan Walton
 Cliff Ireland
 Peter Alcock
 Phillip Watt
 Laurie March
 Laurie Graham
 Jack Cavanagh⁺
 John Adamson
 Peter Hogg
 Sue Paul
 Iain Kelso
 Phil Mosgrove
 Ross Purvis
 Michael Rees
 Anthony Robinson
 Patricia Stallard
 Steve Stallard
 Ross Taggart
 Robert Dan OAM
 Nick Newton
 Mark Woodcock
 Gregory Struck



Charlie Bugbird
 Grahame Lott*
 Max Ebrill*
 John Lyddiard*
 W.G. Lyddiard*
 David Pratt*
 Terry Carroll*
 Barry Harris*
 Kaye Lott*
 Noel McFayden*⁺
 John Brown*
 Elaine Brown*
 June Ebrill*
 Graham Adam

* For Service to Merewether Junior SLSC

MEREWETHER SLSC – 2018/2019 Committee Members

President	Nick Newton
Club Captain	Kevin Buckley
Vice Club Captain	Dave Hoar
Treasurer	Mark Owen
Secretary	Jamie Paras
Junior Activities Chairperson	Julie Sutton
Registrar	Jamie Paras
Chief Training Instructor	Anthony Tietze
Surf Sports	Bill Sidwell
IRB Captain	Nathan Wright
Board and Ski Captain	Kris Wall
Boat Captain	Emma Gale
Gear and Equipment Officer	Bernie Sabine
IT Coordinator	Evan Jobling
Function Room Manager	Emma Gale/Rebecca Farr
License Manager	Norm Rodgers
Youth Coordinator	Sarah Bugbird – March 2019
Rookie Coordinator	Karen Wallace
WH&S Officer	Kathy Spong
Publicity Officer	Vacant
MPIO	Kate Flint
Radio Officer	Dave Hoar

Thank You to All Our Sponsors



Supported by the



Thanks to **NSW Government**, the **Federal Government** for the **Beach Safety Equipment Fund** and the **Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme**.

President's Annual Report

By Nick Newton

Thanks to our Club Captain, Vice-Captain, Patrol Captains and our dedicated patrolling members we ran our beach well throughout the season, again with no recorded breaches and complying to all our surf lifesaving manning and equipment requirements, along with this we also met our NCC patrol operation obligations, and our club captain has sent his thanks for everyone's diligence on patrol and persevering with the patrol app.

We had difficult conditions right through the season with nearly every patrol day having to contend with the issue of strong, constant sweeps and rips. But our patrols performed well and managed the situations accordingly keeping the public safe although these trying conditions did result in us performing a number of rescues both when the beach was open and closed and shows why we must always remain alert and vigilant at all times.

Unfortunately, things can work against us, and as an organisation as hard as we do try this is sometimes not enough - as shown by the events along our northern stretch of the beach which resulted in tragedies previously unknown to us that have affected and saddened us all.

However, as terrible as those events where we must move on, and we will take the learnings to improving the processes of not only how we operate but also making us better and more efficient at what we do into the future. Coming will be changes in structure and more opportunities for developing specialised skills and the opportunities to be working closer with other rescue support services.

Of course for us to be on the beach at all requires a huge amount of organising and effort from all our members, our juniors and their management team - our education and training teams bringing providing us with competent and confident lifesavers and crews, our patrolling members and your team captains managing the beach no matter what the conditions each weekend for 7 months of the year, and we have our supporters who assist in all various ways. In particular I need to thank Peter and Louise Glennie from Juice Plus and Nathan Wright and Mark Owen from FUNDA Financing for their ongoing and significant financial support in helping us with much needed funds.

Of course, behind the scenes we have the running of the club which is accomplished by our dedicated committee members and management team who quietly go about making things happen and getting the job done. A huge thanks goes to these members and I can't thank them enough, not only for their huge efforts and continued support, but for everything they do, as I've said many times without them we simply couldn't function as a club and again as individual thanks to you to all.

Some of the season highlights.

As always at the start of and during the season we update gear and equipment as funds and opportunities arise, and our patrolling members will be pleased to know we have a new Can Am SSV ordered for an August preseason delivery, financing this vehicle was accomplished by using 2 available grants and the sale of our old machine resulting in the need for minimal additional funds added to the purchase – around \$4-5k. – This amount has now been offset by some additional funding (\$4k) received at the Branch Presentation.

Penny and her Beach Hotel raffles team have done a great job and netted us over \$7300 to date – Penny has asked if anyone would like to join the team you are more than welcome to be part of the fun – just give her a call.

We – surf lifesaving – have officially been recognised as a dedicated rescue service – that has a lot of implications particularly for our call out teams and will affect a number of training requirements and skills upgrades.

We continue to run Xmas day as a voluntary patrol and still never have a shortage of numbers, thank you to everyone who comes along to assist and importantly enjoy themselves.

We (very successfully) ran our Xmas food appeal for a very appreciative St Vinnies, it was an outstanding collection resulting in a huge amount of food and items. In June we also ran a winter appeal collection and had a good result.

Our annual Easter egg hunt was very successful and well attended, it is rapidly growing each year and is turning out to be a very effective way of getting community involvement along with highlighting our club with the associated games and public resus demonstrations by our education team. As an example of the popularity of this event last year we buried 90 eggs and came up short, this year it was around 200 eggs and, came up short again!

We continue with the planning for progressing our club refurbishment – with the recent position structure and changes in NCC we again had to resubmit our proposal for the “agreement in principle” to clear us to continue ahead in the current format. This agreement has now been given along with advice from council on proceeding to the Development Application. This marks a huge step in the process and enables us to keep moving forward with our planning.

This year Drones were introduced to our Branch area with the main purpose of “monitoring marine activity” with Emma Gale and Dave Roche piloting on behalf of Merewether and Simon Lovell piloting on behalf of Branch – understanding that due to the military airport the whole area around our beach is restricted air space and needing appropriate licencing and official permission before any launching.

Although not affecting us directly, we had the “catch and release” drum line trial off our beach through the summer months, we know they caught a few “large fish” but we have to wait for the official report to see how effective the program is.

We had a professional painter come in and give a much-needed refresh to the function room. We had an anonymous donation of internal gas heaters for the function room.

We have a new function room manager (Rebecca Farr) taking over from Emma. Rebecca has thrown herself into the role and it also includes taking the bar manager position which now allows the long-suffering Norm freedom to move on to other activities.

We had Santa again visit our beach to the delight of our junior members and again this position, and that of the Easter bunny were filled by your club captain.

We had a visit from the Cessnock Air Force cadets for a presentation on our patrolling and emergency service techniques

Our junior members continue to grow in strength with another strong season and high-end results in competition. Oscar Wright was runner up for the Junior Branch Surf Life Saver of the year and also received the President's Shield – great effort. Trish Stallard represented the Masters with good results in Branch, State and Aussies.

As part of our "inclusion program" we have affected an alliance with Another Sunrise – suicide prevention group, also we have our ongoing association with the NDIS Healthy Change Challenge team running their regular boot camps with our help.

The last day of patrol saw us have our patrol games, which was a lot of fun for those involved, along with a BBQ and the all-important after coldies celebration it was a great day.

The Beach Breakfast Business Club celebrated 4 years of attending and supporting our club.

We have a number of members now in Branch positions, Jamie Paras as administration advisor, Charlie Bugbird education advisor, Sarah Bugbird youth advisor and Grahame Lott branch life membership committee and branch gear and equipment steward and Simon Lovell as Director of Lifesaving.

At 2019 Hunter SLS Branch Awards, Life Member Charlie Bugbird received the Branch Assessors award. Congratulations to Charlie and his ongoing commitment to Hunter Surf Life Saving.

So, quite a lot has happened with a lot more to come in the next season, and again a huge thankyou to everyone for their support, efforts and diligence throughout the season.

Nick Newton
Club President



Membership Report

By Jamie Paras, Secretary/Registrar

It's been a very busy year at the Club and we are always working behind the scenes to ensure all our administrative statutory obligations are met. Congratulations to all our Committee Members for 2018-2019 who have also contributed so much over the last 12 months that has been pivotal within our management structure.

I'll take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Nick Newton and Mark Owen who have been more than supportive in their roles as President and Treasurer. Without their guidance and expertise in business management we wouldn't have this Club as one of the most stable and successful surf clubs in the Hunter.

We currently have 150 patrolling members, 22 Life Members- 25 Associates – 310 Nippers and 195 Nipper Parents – 26 junior members. The current membership for 2018-2019 season at Merewether Surf Life Saving Club is at 728 active members.

The renewal of WWC have commenced and I thank those members for notifying the Club on updating their expiry dates. Members are encouraged to update their details and renew memberships via the SLS Members Portal.

We will continue to provide additional support to our members with payment options via our eftpos facilities.

Thank you also to the continued support from the committee and our members. I look forward in continuing being your Club Secretary over the next financial season.

Jamie Paras

Club Secretary



Lifesaving Report

By Kev Buckley, Club Captain and, Dave Hoar Vice Club Captain

Merewether Lifesaving Report – Season 2018-2019

The Patrol Season status summary:

Over this season within the patrol hours we had approximate 22,000 members of the public attend our beach within the patrol area that is Merewether Beach.

At the end of the season we had 165 active patrolling members.

- Patrol Hours for the season – 5000 hrs.
- Number of Incidents / First Aid Treatments – 41.
- Number of Rescues – 14.
- Number of Preventions – 1400.
- Number of Beach Closures – 19 patrols.

Patrol Report: - In Summary

The 2018/2019 Patrol Season was again a successful and safe season. No patrol breaches and everyone responding well to the challenging Merewether conditions.

Our major focus areas for this seasons patrol were on:

- Members actively patrolling at the water's edge and working on preventions.
- Training on patrol especially board and swim skills in the surf.
- Patrol Captain delegating effectively at the start and end of patrols.
- Adding to member's skills especially IRB Driver and Crew, Spinal Management, Advanced Resuscitation Techniques and First Aid
- Patrol Caps rostering patrol AM and PM splits in advance – with more members committing to sharing the PM patrols.

Top 10 Male Patrolling Members 2018/19

Dave Hoar	119.5
Kevin Buckley	88.4
Nick Newton	74.8
Gary Semetka	73.4
Cal Burke	72.8
Michael Spillane	68.5
Anthony Tietze	68.3
Tim Coghlan	65.5
William Banbury	60.5
Jamie Boswell	58.3

Top 10 Female Patrolling Members 2018/19

Karen Wallace	11.9
Sarah Bugbird	55.3
Kay Flint	53.0
Lucy Boswell	52.0
Emma Gale	49.0
Talara Bosworth	45.2
Amy Nosike	38.3
Penelope Britz	37.2
Janiece Roche	35.1
Jackie Stirling	34.5

100% Patrol Attendance was awarded to the following members:

- Patrol 1** - Charlie Bugbird, Jamie Paras, Kathryn Spong, Steve Stallard, Patricia Stallard, Sara Bugbird, Talara Bosworth, Adam Mailes, Luke Menzies, Mark Jackson, Emily Bryant, Terry Flynn.
- Patrol 2** - Peter Mulhearn, Geoff Murray, David Rees, Nathan Mckelligott, Jackie Sterling, Warren Sterling, Thomas Lyons, Cathy Lyons, David Ray, Lyndal Whealey, Matthew Mulhearn.
- Patrol 3** - Penny Britz , Phil Cooke, Rob Dan, Rosemary Dan, Katrina Cowie, John Lehman, Michael Spillane, Shane Simpson, Kieren Stevens, Tim Spence, Greg Graham.
- Patrol 4** - Kevin Buckley, Garry Semetka, Karen Wallace, Ralph Foster, Emma Gale, Simon Hill, Bruce Rummins, John Adamson, Paul Ryan , Amber Darnell, Cal Burke, Bernie Sabine, Amy Nosike.
- Patrol 5** - Adrian Harte, Anthony Robinson, Ian Wilson, Wendy Scott, Dave Vaughan, John Bamberry, Dave Hoar, Jamie Boswell, Lucy Boswell, Kate Flint, Charlie Bray, Greg Reynolds.
- Patrol 6** - Liam Benson, Norm Rodgers, Brendan McNabb, Kris Wall, Scott McFarlane, Scott Bishop, Lisa Hoar, Chris Warren.
- Patrol 7** - Dom Wilson, Peter Flook, Jocelyn Flook, Leah Fordham, Rod Fordham, Evan Jobling, Phil Jobling, Jan Roche, Dane Miller, Angela Tiedeman, Tahlia Powell.
- Patrol 8** - Grier Lovell, Jason Simmons, Craig Doyle, Simon Lovell, James Stevenson, Mitch Thomson, Anthony Tietze, Tim Coghlan, Iain Kelso
- Patrol 10** - Nick Newton, Nathan Wright, Phil Kendall, Sarah Gray, David Wood, Westley Shirlaw, Riley Martin, Oscar Wright, William Sidwell.

Reserve Active – Mark Owen.

Club Presentation Awards:

President's Shield:

Oscar Wright.

Encouragement Awards:

Jae-Hun Yang
Riley Martin

President's Appreciation Awards:

Norm Rodgers
Cal Burke
Garry Semetka
Iain Kelso
Dane Miller
Jason Simmons
Steph Roache

Patrol Person of the Year:

Terry Flynn

Patrol Captain of the Year:

Dave Hoar

Patrol of the Year:

Patrol 7

Patrol Games Champions: -

Patrol Champions – Patrol 1

Female

1st Tahlia Boswell / 2nd Sarah Bugbird / 3rd Gemma McMillan.

1st Kathy Spong / 2nd Karen Wallace / 3rd Jan Roache

Male

1st Aaron Hockey / 2nd Cooper McCarthy / 3rd Mitch Thomson.

1st Jamie Paras / 2nd Bruce Rummins / 3rd Dave Hoar.

Competitor of the Year:

Trish Stallard

Seagull of the Year Award:

Ralph Foster

Most Improved IRB Driver - KB Award:

Mitch Thompson

Costa Concordia IRB Award:

Ian Wilson and Michael Palmer

Club Person of the Year:

Jamie Paras

Merewether Branch Award Nominations 2018/2019 Season:

- Administrator of the Year Jamie Paras
- Trainer of the Year Anthony Tietze
- Assessor of the Year Charlie Bugbird
- Lifesaver of the Year Dave Hoar



Education and Training Report

By Anthony Tietze, Chief Training Officer for MSLSC

The Education Department at MSLSC is in good shape thanks to our team of skilled and dedicated trainers. The Club ran two Surf Lifesaving Awards courses this season, one in the spring commencing on 12 September 2018 and one in the summer commencing on 30 January, 2019.

(The Surf Lifesaving Award incorporates the Bronze Medallion in addition to stand-alone modules such as First Aid, Advanced Resuscitation Techniques and Spinal Management). An SRC course was run for our younger members in conjunction with spring Surf Lifesaving Award.

Each Bronze course involves ten evenings of theory and nine Sunday morning sessions training on the beach and in the water, all culminating in the final theory and practical assessments.

This amounts to a lot of work for the Education Team (all voluntary of course), with the primary driver being for our new Bronze Medallion holders to go on patrol at the completion of their course. Bringing new blood into our patrol teams is essential in ensuring the ongoing viability of the club and in this the Education Team plays a vital role.

It goes without saying that, in addition, a considerable amount of administrative input is needed to run a course successfully.

Keep in mind that surf lifesaving clubs which struggle to maintain a workable number of active patrolling members must put more pressure on their remaining members. They in turn find reduced numbers and more frequent patrols more onerous, leading to further attrition. Very quickly this can snowball down to a club which struggles to fulfil their responsibilities.

TRAINING ACHIEVEMENTS & COURSES

The following is a summary of qualifications gained by MSLSC members over the course of the 2018-2019 season.

- Bronze Medallion – 30 members
- Surf Rescue Certificate – 4 members
- Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue – 2 members
- Silver Medallion Basic Beach Management – 11 members
- IRB Crew – 4 members
- IRB Driver – 3 members
- Radio Operators Certificate – 38 members
- Advance Resuscitation Techniques - 52 members
- Applied First Aid Course – approx. 40 members
- Spinal Management – 30 members
- Trainer – 2 members
- Cert IV Leadership and Management – 4 members
- Assessors Course – 3 members (in progress June 2019)

In addition, the Education Team runs Proficiency sessions throughout the season for all patrolling members. All these sessions require planning, coordination, execution and follow up administration. Thank you to our trainers and assessors for their time, skill and dedication.

Have a chat with members of the Education Team and don't forget that a little thank you can go a long way.

Our club has continued to nurture and maintain good relationships with both Dixon Park and Cooks Hill SLSCs, to integrate the delivery of our clubs' training and assessment programs.

MSLSC Awards from 2008 to 2018

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL
Surf Rescue Certificate	37	18	12	19	12	6	14	10	4	10	4	146
Bronze Medallion	53	43	45	39	26	31	30	15	15	22	30	347
IRB Crew	5	6	14	9	8	27	5	5	6	4	4	93
IRB Driver	3	2	9	4	5	5	8	0	6	0	3	45

Spring Surf Lifesaving Award

Our spring Surf Lifesaving Award team did the club proud at the CVA (Combined Venue Assessment) on Stockton Beach on 17 November 2018. The team bonded well throughout the ten-week course and the comment was made that they will miss the fun and the exercise on Sunday mornings.

The whole squad have become valuable patrolling members of MSLSC.

Lucy	Boswell	Ross	Marshall
Charlie	Bray	Riley	Martin
Tracey	Bray	Sonia	Nathan
Tim	Harker	Elise	Reynolds
Aaron	Hockey	Greg	Reynolds
Nick	Mandicos	Teah	Suisted
Max	Mantach	Chris	Warren

Spring Surf Lifesaving Award Recipients



Spring Bronze Team at the CVA on Stockton Beach



Spring Bronze Team Celebration BBQ

Summer Surf Lifesaving Award

Our summer Surf Lifesaving Award team performed with distinction at the CVA on Stockton Beach on 6 April 2019. All fourteen members formed a strong team who worked well together and enjoyed the challenge. They have been allocated patrols and we look forward to their contribution in the 2019-2020 season.

Emily	Bryant	Brendan	Kiley
Sean	Cranney	Cooper	McCarthy
Matthew	Fox	Gemma	McMillan
Paige	Harker	Georgina	Roach
Adrian	Hussey	Campbell	Russell
Connor	Hussey	Joshua	Wall
Jason	Ingold	Jae-Hun	Yang

The Summer Surf Lifesaving Award Recipients



Bronze Training at MSLSC Function Room



Summer Bronze Team Training on Merewether Beach



Summer Bronze Team Training at Merewether



Spinal Management Assessment at the CVA



The Summer Bronze Team at the CVA on Stockton Beach



Summer Bronze Team Celebration BBQ

IRB Driver & Crew Courses

Nathan Wright successfully trained another squad of IRB drivers and crew, with the final assessment held on Stockton Beach on Sunday 14 April 2019. Keeping up the numbers of competent IRB drivers and crew is an essential part of allowing MSLSC to fulfil their patrol responsibilities.

Almost anyone can drive or crew in calm water, but the skill comes when working the white water, where snap decisions may need to be made. The right decision and your off and running, the wrong one and your upside down, sometimes spectacularly.



Celebrations for (from L to R) Tim Coghlan, Chris Warren, Tom Lyons, Nathan Wright, Riley Martin, Liam Benson & Sam Caldwell

Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC)

MSLSC are currently low on members who hold their SRC. Participant numbers do tend to be cyclical in nature, as for all awards and we have had several SRCs advance to their Bronze over the last two seasons. This is a natural progression and is very much encouraged, but it's important that these "outgoing" SRCs are replaced with new blood.

In an ideal world all our Under 14 nippers will naturally progress to a SRC course, but it does happen that nippers will drift away to pursue other interests. This bleeding happens with younger nippers for a variety of reasons but can create a moving gap as that age group progresses through the system.

Irrespective of any foregoing, the bottom line is that MSLSC is currently short of SRCs on the beach. This we need to address, both by targeting our existing nippers and by doing some marketing to attract potential candidates for the Spring SRC course.

Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue (SMAR)

The purpose of this course is to provide participants with the skills and knowledge to participate as a team member in search and rescue operations.

Be aware that SLSNSW has introduced a new requirement. To remain proficient in the SMAR each year you must complete a 400m pool swim in 8 minutes or better (which is the same as the pre-requisite swim required in order to undertake the course).

If you are worried about whether you can make the time have a few practice runs down at the pool. You'll feel better all round for having put in the effort

Radio Operations Certificate

MSLSC run Radio Operations Certificate courses over a single evening as part of the Surf Lifesaving Award. Being a standalone module, this course is open to all active members of MSLSC. Henry Scruton, President of Hunter Branch, has run this course over the last few years.



Henry Scruton Hosting a Radio Operations Course at MSLSC

Upcoming Courses

Our next Surf Lifesaving Award will commence in late September or early October in 2019 and our next Surf Rescue Certificate course will be run in parallel with the spring Surf Lifesaving Award.

Don't forget that if you have done these courses in the past, but are no longer proficient, attendance will reinstate your proficiency.

Numerous other courses will be run throughout the season, including First Aid, Advanced Resuscitation, Spinal Management, Radio Operations, IRB Crew, IRB Driver, Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue and Silver Medallion Beach Management.

Course Prerequisites

Surf Lifesaving Award

- 15 years of age at date of final assessment
- Able to swim 400m in the pool in 9 minutes or better
- Willing to go on patrol for a minimum of one season with MSLSC

SRC

- 13 years of age at date of final assessment
- Able to swim 200m in the pool in 5 minutes or better
- Willing to go on patrol with MSLSC

Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue

- 16 years of age at date of assessment.
- Able to swim 400m in the pool in 8 minutes or better.
- Be a proficient Bronze Medallion holder and hold the Cert II in Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue.

THE EDUCATION TEAM

- ✓ Anthony Tietze
- ✓ John Bamberry
- ✓ Charlie Bugbird
- ✓ Sarah Bugbird
- ✓ Cal Burke
- ✓ Kate Flint
- ✓ Dave Hoar
- ✓ Nathan McKelligott
- ✓ Warren Sterling
- ✓ Richard Taylor
- ✓ Karen Wallace
- ✓ Dom Willson
- ✓ Nathan Wright



The Education Team at the 2019 Presentation Night

New Trainers

MSLSC is always looking for new people to become a part of the MSLSC training machine. The Hunter Branch does run train the trainer courses on a regular basis and participants who complete this course would gain the following nationally recognised units of competency:

- TAED301 Provide Work Skill Instruction
- BSBCMM410 Make a Presentation

The knowledge and skills learnt on the course are highly transferable to areas outside of Surf Life Saving and it wouldn't be the first time that a decision to help out with training has led to a more rewarding career. Jan Roche and Tim Coghlan completed the Trainers Course in the 2018 – 2019 season.

We have very good people on the team and it is a rewarding experience to see candidates come away with new knowledge at the completion of their courses. If you're keen all you need to do to start is to come along to some training sessions and help out.

PROFICIENCIES

Thank you to all those patrolling members who completed their bronze proficiencies on time. A mighty effort by all has resulted in almost all our patrolling members maintaining their Bronze proficiency, a statistic which would turn many surf lifesaving clubs around Australia green with envy.

Please get in early next season. On your part it's one less thing to do and it does ease the burden on the trainers and organisers, a workload which is often not recognised or appreciated.

Confirmation of members having performed a proficiency must be passed on to Anthony Tietze in writing (email or hard copy) in an "auditable" form, including type of proficiency, date and name of assessor. Members are not able to patrol after 31 December in a capacity in which they are no longer proficient. (This is not a club or Branch rule, rather a requirement set down by Surf Lifesaving Australia. Failure to comply can leave the club exposed from a liability point of view).

Keep in mind that if you were really under pressure on the beach with say an unconscious patient and concerned family nearby you can guarantee that things will not go exactly by the book. We can only do our best, but the more practice you have had, the more effective you will be. The same applies when you are on patrol. You will perform with greater ease and confidence if you have already had a run and a swim or paddle out the back.

	Bronze Medallion	IRB Driver	IRB Crew	Advanced Resuscitation	Spinal Management	SM Aquatic Rescue
Number of Proficient Patrolling Members	165	36	60	66	55	20

MSLSC Proficient Statistics for Active Patrolling Members

DONATION OF NIPPERS COMPETITION BOARDS

Janet Merewether of the Merewether family was kind enough to donate two Bennett brushed carbon nippers competition boards to MSLSC. Many thanks to Janet and her son Arlo for their generosity. William Lyons will use one of the boards for practice and competition throughout the season.



William Lyons with one of the Boards Donated to MSLSC by the Merewether Family

Thank you to the MSLSC Education Team for their ongoing efforts and thank you to the MSLSC Committee for their continued support of the Education Team. Thank you also to Hunter Branch for their guidance, support and assistance. Your contributions go to make MSLSC a club for us to be proud of and a club for others the envy.

Anthony Tietze

Director of Education and Chief Training Officer for MSLSC

Work Health and Safety Report

By Kath Spong, WH&S Officer

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) is guided by the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, and for the purposes of this Act, MSLSC is a place of work.

As a result, MSLSC has duty of care to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of its members, visitors and the general public.

At the commencement of and during each season MSLSC conducts a WH&S inspection, to:

- Confirm that the required WH&S procedures and signage is in place
- Identify new and changing WH&S risks
- Recommend additional control measures required

As part of MSLSC ongoing commitment to safeguarding young children within our club we recently installed new signage on the men's & women's bathroom doors to meet the privacy needs of children when using these facilities.

Installation of gym key outside gym to allow access in an emergency

Repair to power points on eastern side of building

Replaced gym mats

Acquired a new fridge to replace old fridge in patrol room (kindly donated by Kate Flint)

Replaced door mat located at entry to club

No serious injuries or incidents reported

Please keep up the great work and be mindful of the safety of yourself, your colleagues and the public in general.

Kath



Surf Sports Report

By Bill Sidwell, Surf Sports

The Competition year has come to a close and Merewether has had quite a successful year across the seniors and juniors. Well done to all our competitors for the season. Next season we would like more of our senior and junior members to come along to a carnival to see what it is all about and have some fun trying their hand at beach or water events.

The season commenced well with a grant from Souths Rugby League Club to the juniors towards renewing our fibreglass nipper board fleet. The Merewether Family also donated two boards, and Dan Burton from Quest Apartments donated two boards. All up we managed to secure grants and sponsorship to allow us to get a total of seven new glass nipper boards. Thank you to Souths, Quest Apartments and the Merewether Family for your support.

Our Senior of the Year was awarded to Trish Stallard who competed well through Branch, State and Aussies, despite getting sick in the week leading up to Aussies. A well-deserved award for a Masters competitor.

The Junior of the Year was awarded to Liam Sidwell this season. Liam has had a fantastic season along with his U11 teammates who have all improved immensely. Liam competed in the Newcastle Permanent Junior Ironman Series as well as the local Hunter Newcastle Permanent Series. Liam came second in the U11 point score for the Ironman series. He also came third overall in the U11 Male Water Championship in the local Hunter Branch Newcastle Permanent Series despite missing one of the carnivals due to a clash with the Ironman Series.

Thank you to the Juniors' parents who work hard getting their competitors to training and carnivals, as well as helping out with Water Safety, Judging and wrangling Nippers to marshalling areas. Thank you also to our Assessors, particularly Kaz and Sarah who have allowed our Nippers' competencies to be assessed throughout the season, as well as Anthony updating Surfguard to keep the competencies up-to-date.

The State Championships were held in early March followed by Aussies in April.

NSW Masters Results

Graham Adam 65-69 Male Single Ski 5th
Bill Sidwell 45-49 Male Surf Race 6th
Patricia Stallard 60-64 Female Beach Sprint 3rd
Patricia Stallard 60-64 Female Beach Flags 1st
Patricia Stallard 60-64 Female 1km Beach Run 4th

NSW Juniors Results

Liam Sidwell U11 Male Ironman 5th
U11 Male Surf Team 7th (Lucas Burton, Ben Keeling, Boston Byrne, Liam Sidwell)

Aussies

Patricia Stallard and Graham (Tamba) Adam represented the club at Aussies Masters in Broadbeach and North Burleigh. Unfortunately, Tamba injured himself before the competition. Trish managed to have a successful carnival despite falling sick.

Patricia Stallard 60-64 Female Beach Flags 5th
Patricia Stallard 60-64 Female 1km Beach Run 6th
Patricia Stallard 60-64 Female Beach Sprint 7th

Thank you for a great season and see you all (as well as some new faces hopefully) in September.

Kind regards
Bill Sidwell



Junior Activities Report 2018-19

By Julie Sutton, Junior Activities Chairperson

The 2018/19 season for MSLSC Nippers resulted in 314 enrolled students aged from 6 to 14 years. This represented a 25% increase from the previous year.

Around 30 parents volunteered to support the MSLSC Nippers program. Volunteer roles filled included two or more Age Managers/ Assistant for each age group, all executive committee roles filled plus coordinator positions. Job descriptions include treasurer, registrar, water safety, uniform, communications, BBQ, proficiency requirements and training.

Communications were consistently posted on Instagram, Facebook and more detailed updates on Team App.

Three registrations evenings were conducted at the SLSC function room with all members requiring to complete all paperwork face to face. This resulted in more Nippers being enrolled, massive improvement in service delivery, massive decrease in emails and reduction in workload by registration coordinators. A uniform one stop shop was also created with all sales going through eftpos.

An induction book was also provided to new parents again this season.

All age managers completed their necessary training by the second week of Nippers with the majority completing training prior to the season. All age groups from 8 and above had an age manager trained in bronze medallion.

The first time in the club's history, normally around 20 Nippers, the U8s peaked to over 80 enrolled Nippers. Two new teams were created with associate age managers. Additional parents completed an expression of interest to complete either their SRC or Bronze Medallion training.

A BBQ coordinator role was filled with a parent. This paid position has resulted in increased sales year on year. The person who completed this role, did miss viewing their child in the Nippers program as parent BBQ volunteers failed to support this initiative on time. Age managers stopping at the BBQ with their group did improve parent volunteers. Despite this the BBQ coordinator always completed with positivity and integrity.

Two lost child incidents occurred during the season and both children were found within 15 minutes and 45 minutes respectively. Key learnings were discussed after each incident and ongoing training was conducted with age managers and relevant SLSC patrol captains. Parents were told repeatedly to sign in and out their child.

Two face to face meetings were held with age managers to improve overall performance. As a result of the first meeting, a one-page summary was developed for age managers to record the skills delivered each week. This record allowed age managers to quickly identify which areas needed to be covered off by the end of the season. The summary also correlated SLSC Nipper program requirements.

In January 2019, beach training was also conducted by experienced age managers teaching newer age managers in swimming and board training drills.

The annual campout was scheduled to be on at the same time as the Surfest Final, however Surfest changed their dates without notifying MSLSC or Nippers. Consultation with relevant government authorities will be considered next year surrounding this event.

Overall feedback from parents was well received and included:

- Request to ensure 6/7s program included drills that emulate competition requirements
- No more than 25 Nippers per group for U8s and above.
- All parents who have completed SRC or Bronze training are included for each age group and none turned away.
- Two sub committees to organise the campout and presentation.
- Certificates for all enrolled Nippers must be confirmed prior to presentation day.
- Limit total Nippers to 300 as Merewether Baths has capacity limits and general public considerations

The Nipper program was called off twice due to weather and Merewether beach was closed up to one half of the overall program.

Lastly the Nippers Committee met regularly throughout the season and proactively discussed most matters as per the recorded minutes. All committee members are committed to continued improvement, respect the heritage of the club, support a sustainable club and want the best for all Nippers and members.

Nippers Values

The Juniors, or Nippers, community is based on values surrounding Community, family focused, inclusive, supportive, organised, relaxed, friendly and welcoming.

The Committee is keen to increase membership for 2017/18 with a target of 250 members. We are committed to ensuring correct enrolment procedures and satisfying working with children check regulations.

Julie Sutton

Junior Activity Coordinator



The Pumphouse Bar

By Rebecca Farr, Function Room & Bar Manager

Over the 2018-2019 season the function room has had regular hirers consisting of yoga and meditation classes, kid's groups, essential oils workshops and Weight Watchers meetings. This year also saw the regular fortnightly/monthly Sunday lunches held by Inner City Winemakers and Urban Mess, based on a communal dining event based around a chosen international cuisine.

Sylvia has continued to run her regular dance classes changing her style of dance each week to learn different dance styles and combined with bar service.

All these activities were advertised on Facebook and available for the public to attend if they wished. In addition, there were several local schools and colleges that hired the room for either beach safety presentations (utilising our own lifesavers, or Council lifesavers), staff development days as well as businesses that held seminars or functions.

We have also had the Capoeira team come and use the Function Room sometimes up to 3 times a week. We have had a several events or enquiries from our Nippers Members who seem to be keen to through a great Kids Birthday Party.

Surfest 2019 hired out the function room for a week in March along with the Wandiyali Indigenous Dinner. Surfest 2020 has been booked again for a week in March.

The function room has also seen steady use on Friday and Saturday evenings for birthdays, engagement parties, weddings and other dedicated events. These are the main activities that provide the greatest financial funding for the club and are supported by the club's wonderful friendly bar staff.

We also welcomed new regular hirers that have come on board this year, Merewether Surfboard Club who run yoga on a Tuesday Night, Kangatraining Newcastle who run their mums and bub classes on a Wednesday Morning, Tula Yoga and Wellness on a Wednesday night and Pre-schoolers French Club on a Friday Morning.

Dave Hoar has continued to run 'The clubs' own Beach Business Breakfast network meetings which is held monthly in the function room and is a wonderful way for local businesspeople to network as well as learn a little about the surf club. In addition, several function room hirers originated from this network and David is a wonderful advocate for linking the business network with the surf club, as well as the function room.

The function room also held club member focused functions including the junior's presentation day, the senior's presentation night and Christmas drinks. Furthermore, the bar has continued to open for Coldies every Sunday, with the bar serviced by volunteers from the club who have their Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) certificate. This has provided a wonderful opportunity for club members to gain experience in bar service, and then undertake paid bar work at functions or work elsewhere.

I began my role with the Surf Club in February and have had such amazing support from so many dedicated and passionate people. Special mentions to Norm Rodgers for the ongoing support and knowledge he provides to the Bar and Function Room. To Emma Gale who spent hours ensuring I felt comfortable in my responsibilities. Jamie Paras for the regular reassurance, support and Laughs 😊.

Dante Pirozzi who has done a wonderful job in cleaning the function room throughout the year and is always available to undertake extra cleaning when it is needed; and of course, to all the volunteers for their time every Sunday for a Coldies Shift.

Lastly, for detailed information on the financial side of the function room please see the financial statements at the end of the Annual Report.

I am looking forward to a great 2019/ 2020!! New caterers and functions booked already 😊

Cheers

Rebecca Farr

Functions Coordinator