



Kiama Downs Surf Life Saving Club Inc

Annual Report

2025 – 2026



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Thank you to our Supporters and Sponsors – local, State, National



Mission Statement

Our mission statement defines the principles that guide us into our future and ensure that we continue to provide effective services to the community:

“To provide a safe and enjoyable environment delivering quality lifesaving services and education to our members and the community.”

Our Values

Our Values are fundamental to the way that we conduct our duties. We embrace the following values as being vital in achieving our mission:

- Professionalism
- Effective
- Ethical
- Accountability
- Friendship
- Community Focused
- Health & Wellbeing
- Responsible
- Sustainability
- Visible



Patrol 2 group photo

2025 – 2026 Committee Members

President	Brett Schweitzer
Vice President	Trina Jensen
Secretary	Noelene Sinclair
Treasurer	Gary Trudgett
Club Captain	Ben McAlister
Vice Club Captain	Josh Douglas
Assistant Treasurer	Julie Greenfeld
Registrar	Keren Wilson
Training Officer	Steve Guy
IRB Captain	Nathan Foster
Vice IRB Captain	Steven Strong
Radio Officer	Ralph Steel
First Aid Officer	Spencer Murray
Junior Activities Chairperson	Ben Woods
Junior Club Captains	Polly Gazzard/Archie Weir
Publicity Officer	Lily Gazzard
Gear Steward	Ben McAlister
Hall Hire Manager	Gary Trudgett
Uniform Officer	Jan Horspool
Assistant Uniform Officer	Tambi Delahunty
Safety Officer	Adam Steel
Welfare Officer/Member Protection Information Officer	Trina Jensen
Member Services Officer	Lily Gazzard
Bar Manager	Josh Douglas
Website Officer	Wil Orellana
Fundraising Officer	Vacant
Public Officer	Josh Douglas
Delegates to Branch	Current Executive Committee
Honorary Solicitor	Lewis and McKinnon
Auditor	Greg and Steve Norris



Life Members

We acknowledge our Life Members for what they have done for the Club in the past and what they continue to do for the Club. Thank you!

Keith Ross (deceased)	1991/1992
Rob Burke	1991/1992
Bill Gowan* (deceased)	1996/1997
Phil Ross	1997/1998
Darryl Foster	2000/2001
Ian Hornsby	2001/2002
Steven Guy	2004/2005
Josh Douglas	2010/2011
Tony McGee	2010/2011
Jan Horspool	2017/2018
Naida Guy	2017/2018
Trina Jensen	2017/2018
Nathan Foster	2019/2020
Brett Schweitzer	2022/2023

*Bill Gowan Award and Bill Gowan Radio Room named in his honour



Pictured here on 26/1/26 Trina Jensen, Ralph Steel and Skip Guy

President's Report

Kiama Downs Surf Life Saving Club continues to maintain strong operational and community outcomes across all areas of surf lifesaving, membership, sport, and community engagement.

During the 2025/26 season (the Club's 44th year), 110 patrolling members completed more than 4,550 patrol hours across nine patrol teams. Members responded to two critical rescues, 26 preventative actions, and several after-hours callouts throughout the local area. Tragically, there was also an out-of-hours drowning at the beach during the season, with the Club providing support where required.

The Club welcomed 24 new Bronze Medallion holders this season, strengthening patrol capability and ensuring continued growth in active membership. Equipment inspections and patrol operations continued to receive positive feedback, reflecting the Club's commitment to maintaining high operational standards.

Club membership increased to 514 members, with a strong focus placed on inclusion, family engagement, and member retention. Through targeted initiatives and strong Club culture, the Club retained 99% of its membership base, a result significantly above broader regional trends.

Leadership transition also occurred during the season, with Ben McAlister appointed Club Captain. The Club acknowledges and thanks outgoing Club Captain Josh Douglas for his outstanding contribution over the past 20 years and the significant role he played in developing the Club's operational culture and standards. His devotion to surf lifesaving reflects an exceptional commitment to community safety and wellbeing.



The Nippers program again delivered strong participation and representation at Branch and State carnivals. This season saw Kiama Downs with a thriving community of 198 proficient nippers led by dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers ensuring the nippers program was filled with fun and surf education.

SLS and our Club are committed to safeguarding children and young people. This commitment is reflected through our Nippers program, club activities involving children and young people, and practices that support member welfare.

The Club secured grant funding during the year to undertake important facility upgrades, including restroom improvements and accessibility enhancements, supporting both operational capability and inclusiveness.

Community engagement remained a key focus, highlighted through the Club's annual Australia Day Breakfast on the Beach. More than 500 community members attended the event, which remains the longest-running Australia Day celebration within the Kiama Municipality after 35 years of operation. Acknowledgement of this successful event was made by the Club receiving the South Coast Branch Award of Excellence for Community Engagement.

Looking ahead, the Club remains focused on continued membership growth, leadership development, facility improvements, and maintaining high standards in lifesaving operations, community engagement, and member experience.

Brett Schweitzer

President



Secretary's Report

What a year it has been, marked by many positive moments as well as difficult ones. Some of our members were called on to use skills they are trained for but hope never to need, and our surf lifesaving community also felt the loss of people who contributed so much to the movement and its extended family. It has been a challenging year, with loss of life felt across the wider community.

Let's focus on the positive.

Congratulations to all members – juniors and seniors for a successful year. We are Club as a whole and need to continue to work together building strength from the nippers, their parents and patrol members.

Congratulations to our Junior Lifesavers of the Year nominees, to our amazing continually successful IRB champion team, Club award nominees and Branch Awards of Excellence nominees.

Our Juniors continue to grow and enjoy the learning provided on the beach in a fun way and, if they wish, a competitive way. Patrols are a mateship. I speak for myself when I say I have met lifelong friends in this fraternity and hope others have too.

The Club survives on fundraising activities, and the hiring of the hall is a huge contributor and without the dedication of Gary Trudgett, the Club wouldn't be in such a financially strong position.

Triathlon volunteering – water safety is what Surf Life Savers do and to combine this with triathlon events and provide the important role of water safety is such an amazing partnership and thanks to Josh Douglas and Julie Greenfeld for making this happen again this year. With the support of Club volunteers, though more are always needed, the program was again a great success. It provides most of the funding needed to support Club activities. Many Club members also had the opportunity to provide water safety support for the World Triathlon Championships in Wollongong, a world-class event where the surf lifesaving team delivered exactly what was required.

Santa Selfies – well done Team Woods (Ben and Kate) and Santa helpers. This is a great community event that I know many locals wait its announcement, so they can get their annual photo with family members, human and furry.

Another successful community event was the Australia Day Breakfast on the Beach, which once again brought the community together. Council supported local Indigenous involvement through a smoking ceremony, wreath making and wreath laying on the water, along with a range of other activities for all to enjoy.

The event was again well attended, and its ongoing success was recognised this year when it received the South Coast Branch Awards of Excellence Award for Community Engagement Event. This annual event has been running for more than 30 years and was initiated by Life Member Trina Jensen, who accepted the award on the night of the Branch Awards.

Building maintenance is ongoing, much like looking after a family home. Our volunteers continue to step up whenever repairs are needed. This year, the downstairs ladies' amenities received a major renovation, including a new unisex bathroom and upgraded ladies' showers, and the result looks impressive. Thank you to everyone involved in securing the grant funding, completing the renovation, and supporting the work as builders and volunteers.

Maintenance also included volunteer painting of the upstairs area and entrance, ongoing gardening when time allowed, lawn mowing, tree trimming and door repairs.

This work is all carried out by volunteers, and we sincerely thank everyone who lends a hand. There is always plenty to do and time is often limited, so if you are able to volunteer, please come down to your Club — it is a rewarding way to contribute to the community.

Gear inspection is another major event at the start of the season. Many members may not realise how much work is involved, with hours spent preparing equipment, ensuring it complies with requirements, and setting it out for inspection. Thank you to the dedicated few who take on this task each year to ensure our equipment is safe and in good order.

The Post Office box subscription was cancelled this year and changed over to a secure letterbox on the front of the building. With a defibrillator on the front of the building and a Shark Bite kit on the side of the building, the community can be assured that assistance is available to help deal with any issues. Many Club members are on the Emergency Call out team and unfortunately have been called upon numerous times throughout the year.

Sunday Arvos @ The Surfie and Friday Nights @ The Surfie were held again this year. Thank you to the members and community who supported these relaxed social gatherings. Attendance was a little quieter this year due to limited volunteer availability to help coordinate music and food trucks. If anyone has ideas or can help bring these community events back to full strength, please come forward.

Abe's Bagels generously supplied a large number of bagels for Club members and has been a valued sponsor. The bagels were shared with as many members as possible, served at Club events, and were especially popular at the end-of-season juniors event. Thank you to Ben and Kate Woods for promoting them so well — and our Club President certainly enjoyed them on patrol!



Thank you to the Committee for your support throughout the season and for the many volunteer hours given to keep our beachgoers safe and our Club strong. Our juniors are the future of the Club, and it has been wonderful to see nipper numbers grow under the commitment of the Junior Committee, led by Junior Activities Coordinator, Ben Woods. Patrol members have also shown strong dedication to maintaining their surf lifesaving skills, with the majority achieving 100% patrol attendance.

The Club is fortunate to benefit from experienced, long-serving leadership, as well as the energy and commitment of younger members who continue to make a meaningful contribution to its future. To those people, you know who you are — thank you for everything you do!

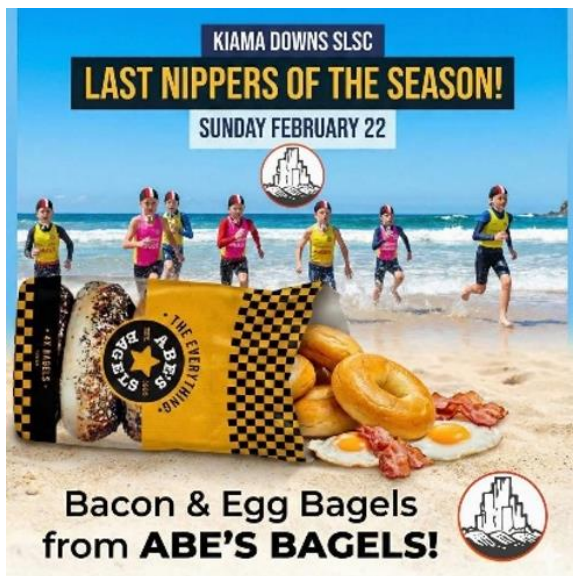
I'd like to acknowledge that our Club had two members as Directors at Branch level for last season – Lily Gazzard as Member Services and Josh Douglas as Education Director (and the many other roles he undertakes at Branch and State level). Trina Jensen also provides invaluable knowledge and support to Club members, particularly following difficult emergency responses. We are fortunate to have such dedicated surf lifesavers and administrators.

Club leadership is changing. After 20 years as Club Captain, Josh Douglas has mentored incoming Club Captain Ben McAlister. Long-serving President Brett Schweitzer has also announced he will not renominate as President. Brett has provided outstanding leadership, helped secure the Club's financial success, and played an instrumental role in bringing the community together through the involvement of local Indigenous groups in the Australia Day Breakfast on the Beach events. Brett has also been a long-serving patrolling member, both as himself and under his well-known alias, #4!

Best wishes to all Club members and their families.

Noelene Sinclair
Secretary







Illawarra Mercury 4h •

Update:
The man, who was brought to shore by surf lifesavers on a jet ski, has been taken to hospital.
<https://tinyurl.com/56fec2zp>



Man transported to hospital after being swept into water at Kiama Downs beach





Treasurer's Report

Thank you once again for entrusting me with the important role of Treasurer for KDSLSC. This has been my third full year in the position, and I continue to gain a deeper appreciation of the administration of our great club and the significant effort that goes into keeping our beach safe for the community, providing a welcoming place for our members, and ensuring the club remains financially sustainable.

I sincerely thank the Executive and Management Committee for your continued support and friendship, which is always valued and greatly appreciated.

I would also like to extend a very sincere thank you to Assistant Treasurer Julie Orellana, who manages the club's bookkeeping activities with great care and diligence. Julie ensures that bills are paid on time, monies owed are received and properly accounted for, and our quarterly tax obligations are reported accurately. The club's financial management and records were again assessed as compliant this year against the requirements of a charitable organisation through our association with the ACNC. This positive outcome is a strong reflection of Julie's efficient and reliable bookkeeping.

Through a NSW Gov grant and our own investment, the Woman's Surf Club bathroom was upgraded, creating a clean, modern and compliant room for all our female members and visitors. The upgrade also included a 'parents' cubicle' for our youngest visitors to have a clean and private area.

Financial Position

KDSLSC remains in a healthy financial position, achieving a positive net income result for FY25/26, as detailed in the appended Financial Reports and the below bank balance summary:

Westpac Community Solutions One  032-689-541355 87,740.73 Statement balance (Jun 30) 87,746.73 Balance in Xero Balance difference 6.00 Reconcile 2 items	Westpac Business Cash Reserve - ...  032-689-199203 1,806.43 Statement balance (Jun 30) Reconciled View account transactions	Westpac Business Cash Reserve - ...  032-689-199246 154,753.78 Statement balance (Jun 30) Reconciled View account transactions
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Investing in the Surf Club

Through grant funding, donations, fundraising and the hard work of our volunteers, the surf club has invested in an uplift of the surf club, additional tools for surf patrol and supporting our competitors:

Investment	Amount
Womens Bathroom Upgrade	\$26,000
UAV (Drone)	\$11,000
Competition Fees (Nipper & IRB Carnivals)	\$9,000
Member Social Events	\$15,000
New Balcony Stools (deposit)	\$2,500
First Aid Equipment	\$3,700

Grants

We recognise and appreciate the support from organisations providing grant funding to support various initiatives to uplift the surf club and strengthen our capacity to patrol the beach:

Donor	Value	Use
NSW Gov	\$15,000	Womens Bathroom Upgrade
SLSA BSEF	\$10,000	UAV (Drone)
SLS NSW	\$8,000	ACNC Compliance Grant
SLS NSW	\$10,000	CPR Training Equipment & Patrol Radios
Kiama Council	\$8,000	3yr Rotation Grant & Patrol Service Agreement
Kiama Council	\$3,000	Australia Day Grant

Donations

We recognise and appreciate the support from members and the community who have donated to KDSLSC:

Raine & Horne Kiama	Ken & Jan Horspool
Reduce Reuse Recycle Kiama	SofGoks Golfers
City Coast Services	U3A Kiama
CWA Kiama	Zuora (via Nadia Filmalter)
Unifab Pty Ltd	SLS NSW
Kiama Council	Minnamurra Lions Club
Billy & Jemma Attard	Stuart Fox Family
Nick Mulholland Family	Douglas Builders

Fundraising

Thank you to our member volunteers who take personal time to support fundraising activities and events:

Event	Amount
Santa Photos	\$3,500
Triathlons	\$25,000
Training (Bronze, SRC)	\$6,500
Australia Day	\$1500
Community Donation Boxes	\$570

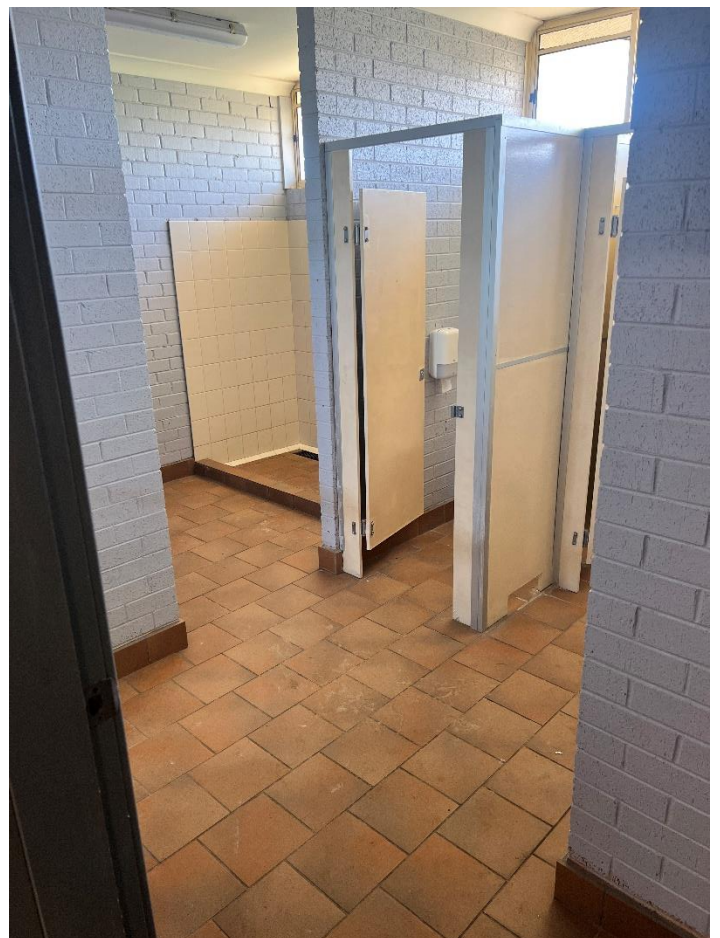
The New Financial Year:

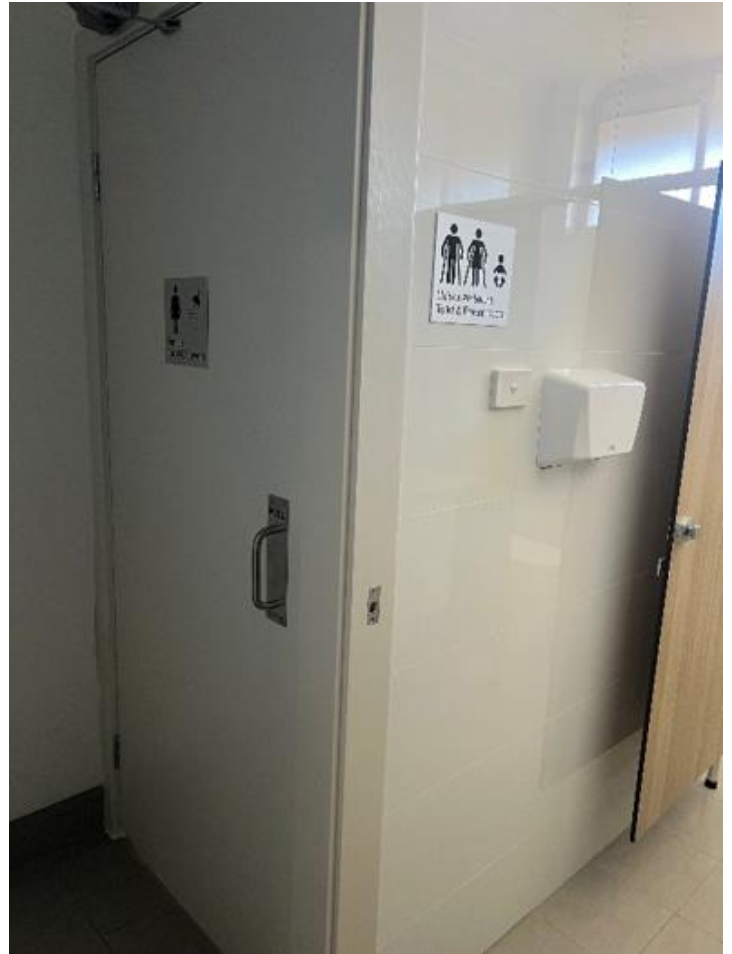
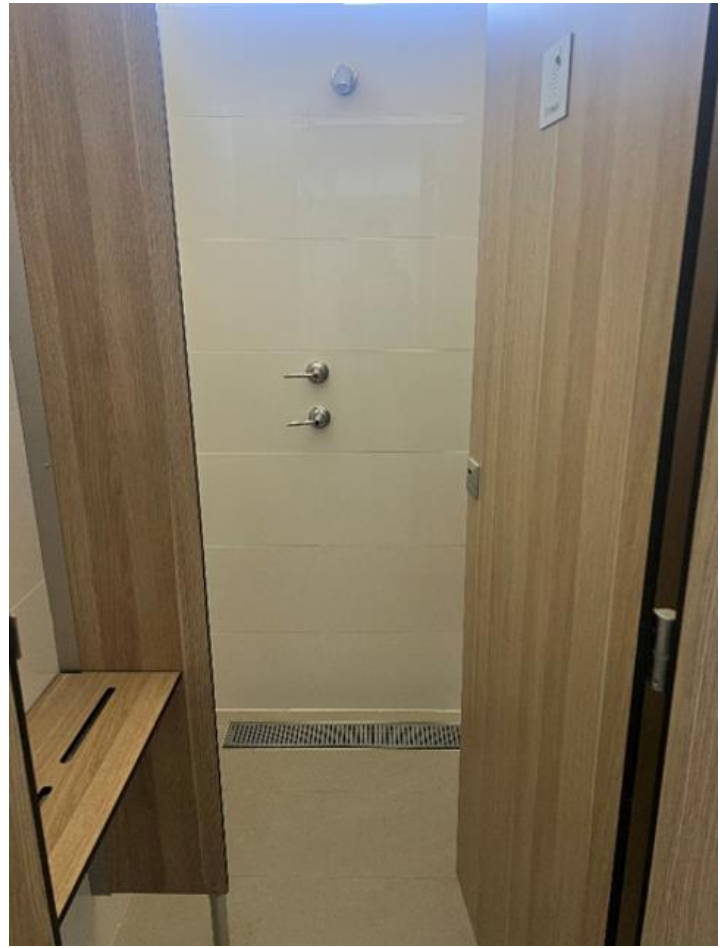
The budget for the new FY 26/27 includes further investment in the maintenance and uplift of the Surf Club and reward for our surf life saving volunteers.

Gary Trudgett
Treasurer

Julie Greenfeld
Assistant Treasurer

Before and after photos – bathroom renovations





Club Captain's Report

This season was my first season as Club Captain, the first change in this role our club has seen after a gallant service of 20 years by one of our extremely committed members, Josh Douglas.

It has been a privilege to serve as Club Captain over the past season, and I would like to thank all of our members for their commitment, professionalism and support throughout the year. It is a role I have not taken on lightly, and one that I have thoroughly enjoyed undertaking. I give thanks not only to Josh for recognising my passion and dedication for our Club, but for believing in me to serve in this role and supporting and guiding me in doing so. I extend that thanks to our Executive Committee, Management Committee and also to all our members, as without you, we do not have this great Club to call ours.

This season has been another successful one for our Club, with members demonstrating outstanding dedication to keeping our beaches safe while maintaining the strong sense of camaraderie that makes our Club such a special place.

Every patrol completed, training session attended and event supported reflects the commitment of our volunteers to serving our community and ensuring that everybody gets to go home safely at the end of the day.

I want to express a sincere thank you to all of our patrolling members who consistently gave their time to ensure our patrol requirements were met to a high standard.

Whether completing regular patrols, filling last-minute vacancies or mentoring newer members, your willingness to step up whenever needed has been greatly appreciated. The high standard of patrol operations is a direct result of your commitment and teamwork.

Over the course of the patrol season, our 110 patrolling members completed 4550 patrolling hours, had 23,238 visitors to our beach, responded to 7 emergency call outs after hours, recorded 26 preventative actions and completed 2 rescues during patrol hours.

Sadly, a handful of our members responded to a report of a missing person in March this year, which resulted in the recovery of a unconscious male and resulted in extensive CPR efforts, however the male could not be revived.

Our members efforts that day were nothing short of incredible, we acted swiftly and professionally, and our efforts were commended by NSW Police and NSW Ambulance who attended that day. The team that responded that day were also later recognised with the SLSNSW Rescue of the Month award and have been nominated for the SLSNSW Rescue of the Year, both remarkable achievements that are well deserved recognition for the members involved in the incident.

In addition to our regular beach patrols, we have a number of members who have completed RWC patrols along our coastline, assisted in searches for missing persons and also have assisted in water safety at carnivals, triathlons and local events.

Our members are skilled and experienced in what we do, which has only been possible due to the efforts and dedication of our education team. This small team of members over the last season have spent countless hours training, assessing and facilitating courses to help upskill our members to ensure that our patrols are supported and have the coverage needed to ensure the safety of all who visit our beach.

Over the course of the last 12 months our education team have delivered First Aid, Advanced Resuscitation, SRC, Bronze Medallion, IRB Crew, Silver Medallion IRB Driver, Silver Medallion Patrol Captain, Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue and RWC courses, as well as countless other courses and skillsets that go further than skills that get used on the beach.

A huge part of our Club's fundraising comes through our longstanding relationship with Elite Energy, who host a number of Triathlon and Water based events around the country. Our Club has again provided water safety services to them for their local events this year, which include the Batemans Bay Triathlon, Little Husky, Callala Tri, Big Husky, Kiama Triathlon, Western Sydney Tri and the World Triathlon championships held in Wollongong.

Across these events our members provided a combined 670 hours of water safety at these events, which has raised over \$20,000 for our Club this year. Thank you to each and every member who has responded to the call and volunteered at these events and raised these much-needed funds for our Club.

Reflecting on the last year not only as Club Captain, but as a lifesaver in general, I could not be prouder to represent this incredible movement and what it stands for. This year has been especially challenging, not only for our Club, but for the movement as a whole across the State. We continue to turn up and demonstrate what we are capable of as an emergency service, we punch above our weight time and time again, and when the going gets tough we pull up our sleeves and rip in.

An outstanding example of this were the events that took place at Bondi Beach in December 2025, volunteer lifesavers, put themselves in the face of extreme danger and not because they were asked. They did what lifesavers do and rolled up their sleeves and saved countless lives.

We stood shoulder to shoulder to not only pay our respects to the people who lost their lives that day, but to send a very strong message – that we will stand together and support each other, always.



As we look ahead to next season, I encourage all members to continue building on our continuous success by supporting one another, welcoming new members and maintaining the high standards of lifesaving that our community knows from us.

Together, we can continue to provide a safe beach environment while fostering the inclusive and supportive culture that makes our Club something we can all be proud of.

Thank you again for another outstanding season, and I look forward to working alongside you all in the year ahead.

See you on the beach!

Ben McAlister (Scotchy)
Club Captain



100% Patrol Attendance

Congratulations on an outstanding effort throughout the season!

Josh Douglas	Blair Joynson
Doug Luckman	Melinda Brady
Trina Jensen	Scott Case
Spencer Murray	Ella Cleal-Cook
Bob Sinclair	Josh Ehlbeck
Noelene Sinclair	Jan Horspool
Ben McAlister	Cameron Mitchell
Steve Strong	Jessica Reitze
Brett Schweitzer	Paul Van Wel
Steve Guy	Nathan Foster
Michael Holz	Darcy Newman
Kylie Strong	Kurtus Newman
Oliver Van Wel	Elsie Wilson
Heath Byron	Adam Steel
Jessie Pill	Dominik Arnet
Paul Boniface	Nick Mulholland
Ralph Steel	Jordan Dusmanovic



Patrol Roster



Kiama Downs SLSC Patrol Roster - 2025/2026

2025

September					October				
Day	Date	Time	Team	Notes	Day	Date	Time	Team	Notes
Saturday	27/09/2025	10am-4pm	1	Kiama Tri	Saturday	4/10/2025	10am-4pm	3	
Sunday	28/09/2025	10am-4pm	2		Sunday	5/10/2025	10am-4pm	4	
					Monday	6/10/2025	10am-4pm	5	Labour Day
					Saturday	11/10/2025	10am-4pm	6	
					Sunday	12/10/2025	10am-4pm	7	Nippers
					Saturday	18/10/2025	10am-4pm	8	Tri World Champs
					Sunday	19/10/2025	10am-4pm	9	Nippers/Tri World Champs
					Saturday	25/10/2025	10am-4pm	1	
					Sunday	26/10/2025	10am-4pm	2	Nippers
November					December				
Day	Date	Time	Team	Notes	Day	Date	Time	Team	Notes
Saturday	1/11/2025	10am-4pm	3	Little Husky Tri	Saturday	6/12/2025	10am-4pm	5	
Sunday	2/11/2025	10am-4pm	4	Nippers/Little Husky Tri	Sunday	7/12/2025	10am-4pm	7	Nippers
Saturday	8/11/2025	10am-4pm	5		Saturday	13/12/2025	10am-5:30pm	8	Calala Tri
Sunday	9/11/2025	10am-4pm	7	Nippers	Sunday	14/12/2025	10am-5:30pm	9	Nippers
Saturday	16/11/2025	10am-4pm	8		Saturday	20/12/2025	10am-5:30pm	1	
Sunday	16/11/2025	10am-4pm	9	Nippers	Sunday	21/12/2025	10am-5:30pm	2	
Saturday	22/11/2025	10am-4pm	1		Thursday	25/12/2025	10am-5:30pm	Vol8	Christmas Day
Sunday	23/11/2025	10am-4pm	2	Nippers	Friday	26/12/2025	10am-5:30pm	3	Boxing Day
Saturday	29/11/2025	10am-4pm	3		Saturday	27/12/2025	10am-5:30pm	4	
Sunday	30/11/2025	10am-4pm	4	Nippers	Sunday	28/12/2025	10am-5:30pm	5	
January					February				
Day	Date	Time	Team	Notes	Day	Date	Time	Team	Notes
Thursday	1/01/2026	10am-5:30pm	7	New Years Day	Sunday	1/02/2026	10am-5:30pm	1	Nippers
Saturday	3/01/2026	10am-5:30pm	8		Saturday	7/02/2026	10am-5:30pm	2	Batemans Bay Tri
Sunday	4/01/2026	10am-5:30pm	9		Sunday	8/02/2026	10am-5:30pm	3	Nippers
Saturday	10/01/2026	10am-5:30pm	1		Saturday	14/02/2026	10am-5:30pm	4	
Sunday	11/01/2026	10am-5:30pm	2		Sunday	15/02/2026	10am-5:30pm	5	Nippers
Saturday	17/01/2026	10am-5:30pm	3		Saturday	21/02/2026	10am-5:30pm	6	
Sunday	18/01/2026	10am-5:30pm	4		Sunday	22/02/2026	10am-5:30pm	7	Nippers
Saturday	24/01/2026	10am-5:30pm	5		Saturday	28/02/2026	10am-4pm	8	
Sunday	25/01/2026	10am-5:30pm	7						
Monday	26/01/2026	7am-10am	Vol8	Australia Day					
Monday	26/01/2026	10am-5:30pm	8	Australia Day					
Saturday	31/01/2026	10am-5:30pm	9						
March					April				
Day	Date	Time	Team	Notes	Day	Date	Time	Team	Notes
Sunday	1/03/2026	10am-4pm	9		Friday	3/04/2026	10am-4pm	9	Good Friday
Saturday	7/03/2026	10am-4pm	1		Saturday	4/04/2026	10am-4pm	1	Easter Saturday
Sunday	8/03/2026	10am-4pm	2		Sunday	5/04/2026	10am-4pm	2	Easter Sunday
Saturday	14/03/2026	10am-4pm	3		Monday	6/04/2026	10am-4pm	3	Easter Monday
Sunday	15/03/2026	10am-4pm	4		Saturday	11/04/2026	10am-4pm	4	
Saturday	21/03/2026	10am-4pm	5		Sunday	12/04/2026	10am-4pm	5	
Sunday	22/03/2026	10am-4pm	6		Saturday	18/04/2026	10am-4pm	6	
Saturday	28/03/2026	10am-4pm	7	Big Husky Tri	Sunday	19/04/2026	10am-4pm	7	
Sunday	29/03/2026	10am-4pm	8	Big Husky Tri	Saturday	25/04/2026	10am-4pm	8	Anzac Day
					Sunday	26/04/2026	10am-4pm	9	

2026





Kiama Downs SLSC Patrol Roster - 2025/2026

PATROL TEAMS

Patrol 1			Patrol 2		
Award	Name	Committee Pos	Award	Name	Committee Pos
A, B, D, F, P	Josh Douglas	Vice Club Captain	A, B, D, F, P	Bob Sinclair	
A, B, F, P	Mick Holz		A, B, D, F	Ella Cleal-Cook	
A, B, C	Brett Schweitzer	President	B, F	Noelene Sinclair	Secretary
A, B, C	Doug Luckman		A, B, D, F, P	Trina Jensen	Vice President
B	Spencer Murray	First Aid Officer	A, B, D, F	Cameron Mitchell	
B	Scott Douglas		B, D	Dom Arnet	
A, B, F, P	Ebony Holz		R	Ralph Steel	Radio Officer
B	Olivia Douglas		A, B, D	Tom Daly	
B	Annabelle Murray		SRC	Oliver Van Wel	
B	Lee Singleton		B	Paul Van Wel	
			SRC	Abby Woods	
			SRC	Erisie Wilson	
Patrol 3			Patrol 4		
Award	Name	Committee Pos	Award	Name	Committee Pos
A, B, D, F, P	Josh Douglas	Vice Club Captain	A, B, C, F, P	Scott Case	
B, D, F	Kurt Newman		B, D, F, P	Heath Byron	
R	Melinda Brady		B, C	Brent Lipscombe	
B	Leithan Wallace		B, D	Bob Willetts	
B, C, F	Darcey Newman		B, F	Paul Smith	
B, C	Jack Solitro		B	Sienna Singleton	
B, C	Eli Champley		B	Erin Willetts	
			B	Sasha Singleton	
			B	Taylah Lipscombe	
			B, J	Zach Byron	
			B, C	Toby Byron	
			B	Gareth Eldridge	
			B	Hannah Case	
			B	Sienna Smith	
			B, C	Archie Weir	
			B, D	Ben Steel	Junior Club Captain
			B	Jorgen Slottenberg Hildal	
			SRC	Felix De La Vaga Hildal	
			SRC	Charlie Griffiths	
			SRC	Cameron Arnet	
			SRC	Julian Stack	
			SRC	Martin McGuinness	
Patrol 5			Patrol 6/Flexible		
Award	Name	Committee Pos	Award	Name	Committee Pos
A, B, D, F, P	Steve Guy	Training Officer	Captain		
B, D, F, P	Nalda Guy		Vice Captain		
A, B, C, F	Melissa Thompson		IRB Driver		
B	Amanda Trudgett		IRB Crew		
B	Cathy Grose-Jones		First Aid		
A, B, C, F	James Wright		ARTC		
B	Anthony Hourigan		Bronze		
B	Isabelle Hourigan		Bronze		
B	Aimee Head		Bronze		
B, C	Paul Boniface		Bronze		
B	Mischa Boniface		Bronze		
B, C	Lily Gazzard	Publicity Officer	Bronze		
B, D	Liam Ovenden		Bronze		
B, C	Macoy Guy				
B	Zai Guy				
B	Emma Trudgett				
B	Max Boniface				
B, C	Luke Thompson				
SRC	Polly Gazzard	Junior Club Captain			
B, C,	Josh Reitze				
SRC	Jessica Reitze				
A, B, C, F	Ben Reitze				
B	Liam Campbell				
B	Hamish Ovenden				
SRC	Sophie Eldridge				
Patrol 7			Patrol 8		
Award	Name	Committee Pos	Award	Name	Committee Pos
A, B, D, F, P	Blair Joynson	IRB Captain	A, B, D, P	Josh Ehlbeck	
A, B, D, F, P	Nathan Foster		A, B, D, P	Steve Strong	Vice IRB Captain
B	Andrew Wall		A, B, C, P	Kylie Strong	
SRC	Digby Griffiths		A, B, D, F	Jessie Pill	
SRC	Owen Wall		A, R	Jan Horspool	Uniform Officer
B	Lewis Preece		A, B, D, F	Jordan Dusanovic	
B, F	Troy Kaltenbach		B, C	Aiden Hazell	
A, B, D, P	Bradley Honey				
A, B, F	Ruby Walker				
A, B, F	Adam Steel	Safety Officer			
B	Kiel Steel				
			Patrol 9		
Award	Name	Committee Pos	Award	Name	Committee Pos
A, B, D, F, P,	Ben McAlister	Club Captain	A, B, D, F, P, -	Nick Mulholland	
A, B, D, F, P, -	Josh Douglas	Vice Club Captain	A, B, D, F, P, -	Blake Shanahan	
B, D, -	Cooper Shanahan		B, C, F	Jess Nolan	
B, C, F	Zac Cracknell		B		

Registrar's Report

The 2025/2026 season saw several positive shifts in our Club's membership profile.

Probationary memberships increased significantly from 24 in 2024 to 36 this season, reflecting strong interest from new members looking to become actively involved in surf lifesaving.

Cadet membership also experienced healthy growth, increasing from 30 to 36 members, while Active (15–18 years) membership rose from 33 to 39, demonstrating encouraging retention and progression of our younger members through the Club's pathways.

Adult Active membership remained very stable, with only a slight decrease from 135 to 134 members. Junior membership declined from 219 to 198 members, which may be attributed to the reintroduction of Nipper registration fees in 2025 after a period without payment.

Pleasingly, membership across most other categories, including Life Members and Long Service Members, remained consistent with previous years. Overall, the Club continues to maintain a strong and engaged membership base, with positive growth in key areas that support the club's long-term sustainability and volunteer workforce.

Keren Wilson

Registrar

Sub-Membership Category	Total Members	Male Members	Female Members	Non-binary Members	Unknown Gender	2024 Season Total Members	Member Retention (%)
Probationary	36	17	19	0	0	24	150 %
Junior Activity Member (5-13 years)	198	105	93	0	0	219	90.41 %
Cadet Member (13-15 years)	35	21	14	0	0	30	116.67 %
Active (15-18 yrs)	39	28	11	0	0	33	118.18 %
Active (18yrs and over)	134	92	42	0	0	135	99.26 %
Award Member	2	2	0	0	0	7	28.57 %
Reserve Active	5	3	2	0	0	5	100 %
Long Service	5	2	3	0	0	5	100 %
Associate	46	16	30	0	0	53	86.79 %
Life Member	8	4	4	0	0	8	100 %
General	6	3	3	0	0	0	- %
Non Member Participants	1	1	0	0	0	7	14.29 %
Community Member	3	1	2	0	0	1	300 %
Nipper Parent	5	2	3	0	0	1	500 %
Total	523	297	226	0	0	528	99.05 %

Training Officer's Report

Every rescue, patrol and water safety operation relies on members having the skills and confidence to respond effectively when it matters most. Training provides the foundation for that capability and continues to play a vital role in the success of our Club.

Throughout the season, members of all ages and experience levels committed themselves to developing new skills, maintaining qualifications and supporting others in their learning. The result is a stronger, more capable club that is well prepared to serve our community both on and off the beach.

Award Name	New Award	Proficiency Refresher
Silver Medallion Patrol Captain	3	
Bronze Medallion	24	70
Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed)	22	12
IRB Crew Certificate	4	53
Silver Medallion IRB Driver	1	33
RWC	3	
First Aid	4	1
ARTC	4	9

One of the most significant developments this season was the introduction of the new Life Saving CPR program. The revised format has provided an excellent opportunity for members to further develop and refresh their resuscitation skills while placing a greater emphasis on the critical components of CPR that have been shown to improve patient outcomes. The practical, hands-on nature of the training has been well received and has helped ensure our members remain confident and capable when responding to emergency situations.

The Club also invested in new training manikins equipped with Bluetooth technology that links directly to a mobile phone application. These manikins provide real-time feedback on key CPR performance measures such as compression depth, rate, recoil and ventilation effectiveness. This technology has significantly enhanced the quality of our training by allowing trainers and participants to objectively assess performance and make immediate improvements.



Our Bronze Medallion and Surf Rescue Certificate programs continued to be a major focus throughout the season. It remains particularly encouraging to see strong participation from younger members, many of whom have either gained new awards or successfully completed their annual proficiencies. The ongoing involvement of these members in patrols and water safety activities provides great confidence in the future strength and sustainability of our Club.



We also continue to see positive growth across our specialist awards, including IRB operations, First Aid and Advanced Resuscitation Techniques. These qualifications are essential in ensuring we have a diverse and capable membership able to support patrol operations, water safety activities and community events.

As always, the success of our training programs relies heavily on the dedication and generosity of our trainers, assessors and mentors. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed their time and expertise throughout the season. The willingness of experienced members to support and encourage others is one of the Club's greatest strengths and is fundamental to maintaining the high standards we strive for.

Looking ahead, the future remains bright. The enthusiasm shown by our members, particularly our younger lifesavers, combined with a strong training team and continually improving training resources, places the Club in an excellent position to continue developing skilled, confident and capable lifesavers for many years to come.

Steven (Skip) Guy
Training Officer



Junior Club Captains' Report

This year has been another successful and rewarding one for our Cadet program, with strong participation, commitment and enthusiasm shown by our members both on and off the beach. Our cadets have continued to develop their lifesaving skills while making some valuable contributions to the club through patrols, training and community involvement.

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of our members throughout the season. A special congratulations go to Abby Woods and Elsie Wilson, who were selected as candidates for the South Coast Junior Life Saver of the Year award. This is an amazing achievement and reflects their ongoing commitment to SLS.

Congratulations also to Elsie Wilson on her selection in the South Coast Interbranch Team. This is an outstanding achievement and reflects the hard work and determination she has shown throughout the season.

One of the highlights of the year has been the member engagement. We had a number of cadets actively participating on patrol, gaining valuable experience while helping keep our beaches safe. It has been wonderful to see so many young members embracing the responsibilities of lifesaving and contributing positively to the patrol environment.

Many Cadets have participated in training programs such as the Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion. We welcomed an enthusiastic Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) group, with members developing the skills and confidence needed to become active lifesavers. We also celebrated a dedicated group completing their Bronze Medallion, marking an important milestone in their lifesaving journey and allowing them to learn more lifesaving skills.

In addition, we were pleased to welcome several new Water Safety volunteers who have generously given their time to help at nippers. Their willingness to assist has not gone unnoticed.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed throughout the year. We look forward to the upcoming season and hope to continue developing a stronger cadet program.

Polly Gazzard & Archie Weir

Junior Club Captains
Polly Gazzard & Archie Weir



Junior Activities Chairperson's Report

The 2025/26 Kiama Downs Surf Life Saving Club (KDSLSC) Nipper season has been a resounding success. Welcoming a thriving community of 186 proficient Nippers, the Club delivered 13 beach sessions filled with fun, surf education, and some competitive triumph.

A highlight of our season was winning back the prestigious Saddleback Cup, alongside a strong showing from our representative competitors at carnivals up and down the coast. Our reputation as a relaxed, safe, and highly organised Nipper program continues to draw families from both within and outside our immediate catchment area.



Season Statistics & Highlights

- Total Proficient Nippers: 186
- Beach Sessions Conducted: 13
- Club Championship Rounds Completed: 3
- KD Team Representative Competitors: 11
- Major Achievement: Regained the Saddleback Cup against local clubs

Major Club Award Winners

Our major award winners reflect the true character, skill, and volunteer ethos of Kiama Downs SLSC:

- **Junior Club Person of the Year: Abby Woods**

Abby completed her Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) this season and stepped straight into critical roles. She frequently stepped up as a fill-in Age Manager, provided extensive water safety, and contributed behind the scenes with event setup, Santa Photos, and even mowing club lawns. She embodies the absolute pinnacle of club spirit.

- **Junior Chairperson's Award: Keren Wilson**

Recognising her multi-year dedication as Registrar. Keren is the primary point of contact for new families and works tirelessly to navigate registration, transfers, and compliance data to keep our Nippers on the beach.

- **Junior Competitor of the Year: Fletcher Stone**

Fletcher represented Kiama Downs with ultimate pride at every single carnival this season (excluding Country). He brought home a spectacular collection of medals and was selected to represent the South Coast Branch at the Interbranch Championships.

- **Most Improved Junior: Abigail Torrens**

Abigail truly began to shine across the sand and water this season, showing massive leaps in skill competency and personal confidence.



Club Championship Rankings (U8–U13)

Points accumulated over three intense Club Championship rounds determined our age-group champions and runners-up:

Age Group	Male Champion	Male Runner-Up	Female Champion	Female Runner-Up
Under 8	Hugo Musgrave	Hunter Orszagh	Isabel Lam	Lilian Laughlan
Under 9	Xavier Foster	Koda Poole	Madeleine Shirlaw	Mikayla Stockwelly
Under 10	Jackson Wager	Hayden Trist	Sadie Rimmer	Uea Sosefo
Under 11	Jack Torrens & Alfred Maitland	Lennox Ashton	Olivia Coghlan	Kelsie Delahunty
Under 12	Riley Woods	Francis Simpson	Lucy Trist	Maeve Rimmer
Under 13	Fletcher Stone	•	Samara Kristen	Maria Khoury

Committee & Operations Review

The committee introduced several strategic initiatives throughout the 2025/26 season to refine beach operations and boost community engagement:

- Operational Streamlining: Implemented the SLS Hub Nippers Tracker app for digital attendance tracking across Age Managers.
- Cap & Board Trials: Initiated an age-group colour cap trial and a structural transition plan for the 2026/27 season, making parents responsible for Nippers retaining their Nippers caps. A board colour-tiering system was also established to optimise management for U8 to U13 ranks. This will see an ongoing purchase of new boards to replace the older stock.
- Training & Capability: Weekly Thursday board training sessions driven by Kirra Laughlan significantly increased mid-week water hours. Emergency-response capability was buffered via Bronze proficiency updates and by promoting the new "Water Safety Assistant" pathways.



AGM & Outgoing JAC

At the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, March 15, 2026, outgoing Junior Activities Coordinator (JAC) Ben Woods officially stepped down. Ben extended his deepest gratitude to the committee, patrol teams, age managers, and parent helpers, noting that the health of the club relies completely on the shared volunteer network. Ben leaves the program in phenomenal shape as Tim Laughlan steps in as incoming JAC Chairperson for 2026/27.

Key Elected Committee Positions for 2026/27

- JAC Chairperson: Tim Laughlan
- Competition Coordinator: Elesha Stone
- Education Coordinator: Sean Delahunty
- Registrar: Keren Wilson
- Beach Setup Coordinator: Kirra Laughlan
- Uniform Coordinator: Jan Horspool
- Water Safety Supervisor: Ben Wilson

Ben Woods

Junior Activities Chairperson



Uniform Officer's Report

Our "Swap and Go" rack continues to grow. Rash Shirts, competition singlets, club shirts and wet suits are now available for families to swap sizes or donate good quality gear that is no longer needed.

Swimwear and Hooded Towels continue to be supplied by Fashion Fish. The system of ordering direct with the supplier is working well. It eliminates a huge workload for the uniform committee and provides our design direct to our members. Our Nippers community continue to support the indigenous design which was introduced a few years ago.

The system for coloured Age Caps for our Nippers changed this year. Each age group was given their coloured caps, and these caps will remain with the nipper for the entirety of their journey through nippers. Lost cap replacement will be charged a fee and next year, our new nippers will purchase their new caps.

We initially sourced a new supplier for our coloured caps, Made on Country. They are a First Nations-owned and controlled fashion industry supply chain in Australia located in Windang. Made On Country has subsequently received a large grant and they will no longer be able to supply our coloured caps. We will be looking to Kozii to supply both our rash shirts and coloured caps in the future.

This year we introduced a "Touring Shirt" for our competitors. The cost to competitors was halved due to a generous donation by a member. The shirt design will remain unchanged for future years.

A survey of members showed an interest in introducing a variety of head wear and a Hoodie to our current club gear offering. These items will be available for purchase for the 2026 – 2027 season via our online store – order only. We continue to limit the amount of stock held on hand, to compulsory items such as Rash Shirts, Competition Singlets, Competition Caps and our Age Caps.

I would like to thank Tambi Delahunty for her support throughout the year. Tambi has assisted with all aspects of the role, and her help has been very much appreciated.

Jan Horspool

Uniform Officer



IRB Captain's Report

The 2025/26 season again saw our patrol members and IRB call out teams volunteering their time provide an important rescue capacity servicing the Jones Beach and surrounding foreshore area and were involved in some important rescue operations. It is a credit to all users how they responded professionally under challenging and confronting scenarios.

The IRB's and the Club's crews continue to also provide very professional water safety support for local sporting events including triathlon and surfing, and these operations continue to provide an important fundraising opportunity for the Club.

The 2026 IRB competition season was another stepping stone season in re-building phase for the team, New faces, and new crew combinations slotted in amongst our experienced competitors.

Kiama Downs delivered credible results in IRB competition, despite an unlucky run with injuries to some key team members, the team finished 5th overall in both the 4 round NSW Premiership Series, NSW State Championships held at Fingal Bay.



The Australian Championships were held at South West Rocks for the second consecutive year.

The masters led the way bringing home a Gold in the male teams' race, and a number of other finals appearances in both men's and women's events to claim 3rd in the overall masters point score.

Other outstanding performances came from the under 23s women's who won Bronze in the tube rescue and finished 4th in the rescue final.

The Club rounded out another great carnival making the relay final and securing 6th place, a fantastic result in the 16 person event against the powerhouse clubs from around Australia.

Many thanks are extended to all the IRB crews and patrolling members for the efforts this season and I extend an invitation to any interested members to join the IRB Racing team for next season. Information regarding training dates will be advised on the Club's social media and email correspondence.

Nathan Foster

IRB Captain



IRB Vice Captain's Report

2026 IRB Competition Report



Our IRB Team put on a great show and produced some excellent results through the 2026 Season.

Our IRB team had a great year and showed that we continue to punch above our weight in the world of IRBs.

With retirements, work, babies and such the focus this year was on rebuilding and developing our young up and coming crews.

Our U23s male and female crews built strongly from round 1 culminating in making Australian finals and even bringing home some Australian medals along the way. This is a credit to both our coaching and development from head coach Nathan Foster, supported strongly by all of our senior members, but, more importantly the young crew's eagerness to listen and learn.

The 2026 NSW IRB Premiership was hosted over 3 rounds beginning at Warilla Beach and finishing up at Swansea Belmont.

The team picked up multiple medals and headed home for a 1 week break then it was off to State Championships at Fingal Bay. Which again put us solidly in the medal count.

A couple niggling injuries meant, some crews being rested for Aussies.

Aussies were held at South West Rocks SLSC and kicked off with a bang in the Interstate Championships. NSW broke the Queensland stranglehold on the trophy in a dominant display of IRB racing.

Our Club had 3 members involved in the team this year. Steve Strong as Manager, Nathan Foster was in charge of Boat handling and set up, while Kylie Strong was given the task of managing the patients and getting them where they needed to be.

NSW took a 3-point lead over Queensland in the first race of the day and never let go.

Ultimately taking the IRB Interstate Championships in a dominant display, winning the title by 13 points, rumour has it there may have been some serious celebrating at the surf club after the Championships.

The Australian Championships ran from Thursday thru to Saturday, with racing squeezed into 3 days due to rising seas and deteriorating conditions forecast for the Sunday. Our young guns got the Club off to a great start highlighted by our U23 tube rescue team of Ella, Kirra and Brad claiming the Bronze medal.



Aussie Bronze: Kirra, Brad, Ella



Ella and Kirra leading the way

The team made 11 finals over the Championships with one of the highlights being our U23 male crew making the Open Rescue Final. Well done Elijah, Cooper and Ruby on an outstanding result.

Our Masters team finished 3rd on the overall point score and won the Masters Male Teams Rescue, welcoming 2 new members to the **Australian Gold Medal Club**. Congratulations and welcome to this special club to Cameron McInerney and Bronte Bagala.



Aussie Gold: Strongy, Foz, Alex, Kylie, Cam, Bronte

NSW IRB Premiership

The NSW IRB Premiership was hosted over 3 rounds with KD finishing with a swag of medals and 4th on the overall point score. Well done team.

With 2 gold medals, 2 silver and 4 bronze the team were regular visitors to the podium. Results are listed below.

State Championships

The 2026 Sharkskin NSW IRB Championships took place from 2nd to 5th July at Fingal Beach SLSC in Fingal Bay.

The Championships served as a key lead-in event for the Australian Championships being held at South West Rocks SLSC only 2 weeks later.

With such a short lead in to the Australian Championships the team had to rest some key athletes due to injury recovery.

The team performed well making 14 finals and bringing home 2 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals. An outstanding result from a team rebuilding and many crews and individuals competing in their first season of IRB racing.

KDs ability to take on the big clubs and deliver is something special. Quality coaching, the right training and having our gear in perfect operating condition are all key parts to the success that is KD but absolute belief in yourself and knowing your team will be there for you is what it's about.

Special thanks to our volunteer officials who give up their time to ensure these events happen and our Club can compete. Wendy Walsh, Richard Black, Mick Crowle & Steve Strong volunteered to officiate for KD throughout the season.

Thank you also to Wayne Grinly who although not racing this year, gave up his time to get to the carnivals and move and handle boats all weekend, a huge task and the team really appreciates your work mate.

Another very important piece in the puzzle is the family and friends who travel and work with the team, getting everything on and off the beach (including team members 😊), manage clip boards, cart jackets and cheer and support everyone, it's part of what makes IRB racing at Kiama Downs such a special experience. Thank you all.

Congratulations on an outstanding year team, looking forward to seeing you all on the beach again soon. 😊

Stephen Strong (Strongy)

IRB Vice Captain



Kath and Kylie



Thanks Wayne, Alex & Lou

IRB RACING RESULTS

Australian IRB Championships South West Rocks SLSC: 15th – 18th July 2026

- 1st Masters Male Teams Rescue: Steve Strong, Alex Rainford, Kylie Strong, Cam McInerney, Nathan Foster, Bronte Bagala
- 3rd U23 Female Tube Rescue: Kirra Dale, Ella Cleal-Cook, Brad Honey
- 4th U23 Female Rescue: Ella Cleal-Cook, Kirra Dale, Thomas Foote
- 4th masters Female Teams: Kylie Strong, Kathy Foster, Nathan Foster, Alex McLaughlin, Louise Skjieme, Jessie Pill
- 4th Masters Female Mass: Kylie Strong, Kathy Foster, Brad Honey, Oliver Van Wel
- 5th Masters Female Rescue: Kathy Foster, Kylie Strong, Oliver Van Wel
- 6th Open Mixed Relay: Ella Cleal-Cook, Georgie Thomas, Oliver Van Wel, Kylie Strong, Kathy Foster, Ruby Thomas, Cullan McInerney, Cooper Walsh, Elijah Foster Percy, Hamish Dixon, Jessie Pill, Blair Joynson, Brad Honey, Alex Rainford
- 6th Masters Female Tube: Kathy Foster, Louise Skjieme, Alex Rainford
- 7th Masters Female Mass: Alex McLaughlin, Louise Skjieme, Jessie Pill, Cullan McInerney
- 8th Open Male Surf Rescue: Copper Walsh, Elijah Foster-Percy, Ruby Thomas
- 8th Masters Male Mass: Alex Rainford, Steve Strong, Hamish Dixon, Jessie Pill

NSW State IRB Championships: Fingal Bay Beach – 2nd – 5th July 2026

1st 35+ Female Teams: Kathy Foster, Kylie Strong, Nathan Foster, Alex McLaughlin, Louise Skjieme, Jessie Pill
1st 45+ Mass Rescue: Alex Rainford, Scott Parker, Jessie Pill, Hamish Dixon
2nd Open Female Teams: Bronte Bagala, Kylie Strong, Nathan Foster, Kathy Foster, Kirra Dale, Oliver Van Wel
2nd 35+ Male Rescue: Nathan Foster, Cam McInerney, Oliver Van Wel
2nd Rookie Mass Rescue: Cameron Mitchell, Blair Joynson, Jessie Pill, Hamish Dixon
3rd Open Male Tube: Nathan Foster, Blair Joynson, Brad Honey
3rd 45+ Rescue: Alex Rainford, Scott Parker, Jessie Pill
4th 35+ Female Tube: Kathy Foster, Louise Skjieme, Alex Rainford
5th Rookie Rescue: Cameron Mitchell, Blair Joynson, Cain Dooey
5th Open Male Mass: Nathan Foster, Cullan McInerney, Bronte Bagala, Oliver Van Wel
5th Open Male Rescue: Nathan Foster, Cullan McInerney, Oliver Van Wel
5th Open Female Tube: Kathy Foster, Kirra Dale, Brad Honey
6th U23 Male Teams: Thomas Foote, Cameron Mitchell, Cain Dooey, Elijah Foster-Percy, Cooper Walsh, Bronte Bagala
6th Open Mixed Relay: Kylie Strong, Kathy Foster, Georgie Thomas, Oliver Van Wel, Kirra Dale, Bronte Bagala, Ruby Thomas, Cullan McInerney, Cooper Walsh, Nathan Foster, Elijah Foster-Percy, Hamish Dixon, Jessie Pill, Blair Joynson, Alex Rainford, Brad Honey

2026 NSW IRB Premiership Results as follows:

Overall Pointscore: 4th

1st U23 Female Rescue: Ella Cleal-Cook, Kirra Dale, Thomas Foote
1st 35+ Male Rescue: Nathan Foster, Cam McInerney, Oliver Van Wel
2nd Open Female Teams: Ella Cleal-Cook, Kirra Dale, Hamish Dixon, Bronte Bagala, Kylie Strong, Oliver Van Wel
2nd U23 Female Mass: Ella Cleal-Cook, Kirra Dale, Hamish Dixon, Jessie Pill
3rd Open Male Rescue: Nathan Foster, Cullan McInerney, Bronte Bagala
3rd U23 Male Teams: Thomas Foote, Cameron Mitchell, Bronte Bagala, Elijah Foster-Percy, Cooper Walsh, Cain Dooey
3rd 35+ Female Mass: Louise Skjieme, Alex McLaughlin, Jessie Pill, Georgie Thomas
3rd 35+ Female Rescue: Louise Skjieme, Alex McLaughlin, Jessie Pill



Our gun patients



Cam

Hall Hire Manager's Report

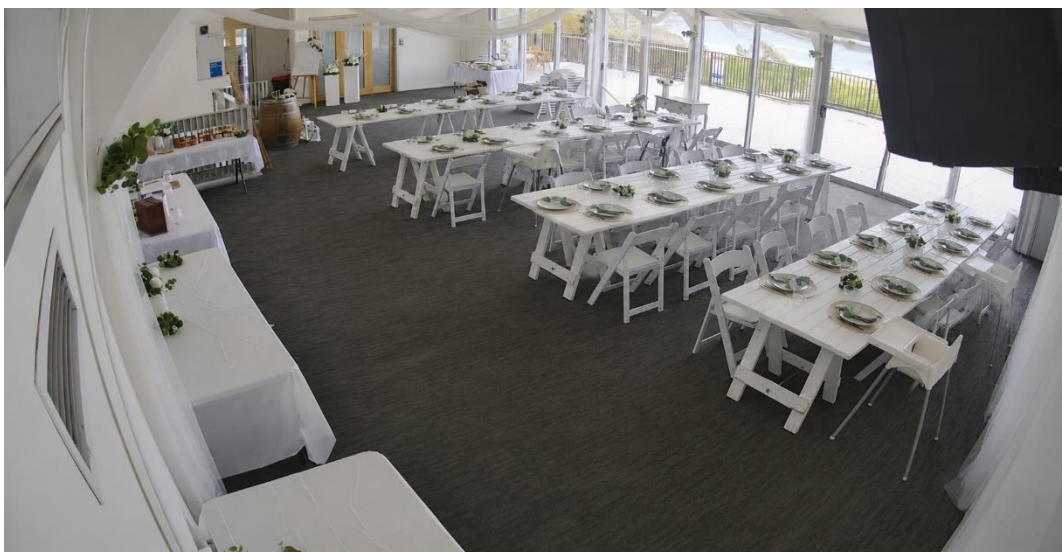
KDSLSC Hall Hire continued to be a valuable source of income for the club, generating a net profit of \$34,000 in FY25/26.

Mid-week commercial hire activity also increased during the year, with regular bookings now occurring each weekday in addition to our weekend social hire events.

In the new season, I look forward to presenting the new balcony stools, which will further improve the comfort and presentation of the hall and balcony area. My thanks go to Noels for her persistence and care in researching suitable options and preparing the proposal that secured approval for this upgrade.

I also sincerely thank the volunteers who painted the inside of the hall. Their efforts made a noticeable improvement to the presentation of the space and has been appreciated by all hall users.

Gary Trudgett
Hall Hire Manager





Bar Manager's Report

The club bar continued to provide an important social and fundraising function for members, guests and the broader club community. As always, the bar operated with a focus on responsible service, compliance and creating a welcoming environment that reflects the values of our club.

Throughout the year, the bar supported a range of club activities including regular member gatherings, post-patrol social occasions, club functions, presentation events, fundraisers and hall hire-related activities.

The bar was managed in accordance with our obligations around responsible service of alcohol, workplace health and safety, and club procedures. Volunteers and helpers were reminded of the importance of responsible service, appropriate conduct, and maintaining a clean and functional bar area.

Club events remain a key part of the bar's yearly activity. The bar supported a variety of functions and social occasions, contributing to the success of club gatherings and helping provide a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere for attendees. These events are an important part of building connection across the club, from active patrolling members through to families, supporters and community guests.

I would like to acknowledge everyone who assisted with setup, service, pack down and general support throughout the year. The smooth running of the bar depends heavily on volunteers giving their time before, during and after events.

One of the ongoing challenges is ensuring there are enough suitably qualified and willing helpers available for functions and busy periods. Encouraging more members to obtain or maintain their Responsible Service of Alcohol qualification would provide greater flexibility and reduce the workload on a small number of regular volunteers. The bar continued to make a positive contribution to the club's fundraising and operating income. Revenue generated through bar operations assists the club in meeting ongoing costs and supporting the delivery of lifesaving services and member activities.

Thank you also to all members and peoples who supported the bar and club functions during the year. I look forward to continuing to support the club in the season ahead.

Josh Douglas

Bar Manager

2025 – 2026 Club Major Award winners

Club Person of the Year –

Patrol Person of the Year –

Junior of the Year –

Cadet of the Year –

Bill Gowan Award –

Competitor of the Year –

Under 18 Competitor of the Year -

Club Service Awards

(NAMES TO BE ADDED AFTER PRESENTATION OF AWARDS)



2025 – 2026 South Coast Branch Awards of Excellence

THE CLUB NOMINATED THE FOLLOWING:

Female Surf Lifesaver of the Year – Ella Cleal Cook

Club Administrator of the Year – Julie Greenfeld

Trainer of the Year – Steven Guy

Volunteer of the Year – Noelene Sinclair



THE CLUB WON THE BRANCH AWARD:

- Community Engagement of the Year Award – Breakfast on the Beach/Australia Day



Brett Schweitzer and Trina Jensen



Junior Lifesaver of the Year nominees:

Abigail Woods and Elsie Wilson

NSW AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED 22 AUGUST 2026



Administrator of the Year

- Karen Perris, Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore
- Marije Kleverlaan, Bellinger Valley-North Beach
- Nicole Crowe, Camdan Haven
- Sienna Elmer, Crowdy Head
- Kristinn Egan, Cooks Hill
- Stuart Harvey ESM, Avoca Beach
- Janine Fahey, Collaroy
- Uri Teitler, South Maroubra
- Adam Wilkinson, Austinmer
- Thiago Figueiro, Kiama
- Samuel Robinson, Broulee Surfers

Assessor of the Year

- Jill Ennever, Yamba
- Craig Schweikert, South West Rocks
- Scott Graham, Cape Hawke
- Eric Gatehouse, Birubi Point
- Craig Le Brocq, Shelly Beach
- Joe Mastrangelo, North Steyne
- Stewart Wells, Clovelly
- Jeremy Kuiper, Fairy Meadow
- Steven Reid, Shellharbour
- Peter Bootes, Pambula

Athlete of the Year

- Hayley Smith, Cudgen Headland
- Bayley Johnson, Woolgoolga
- Kate Sutherland, Wauchope-Bonny Hills
- Emerson Leadbeater, Swansea Belmont
- Jett Green, Avoca Beach
- Jemma Smith, Newport
- Rory Muldowney, South Maroubra
- Nicholas Aivaliotis, Wollongong City
- Kobe Sims, Warilla-Barrack Point
- Zara Hall, Moruya

Club of the Year

- Cudgen Headland, Far North Coast
- South West Rocks, Mid North Coast
- Crowdy Head, Lower North Coast
- Avoca Beach, Central Coast
- Manly, Sydney Northern Beaches
- North Wollongong, Illawarra
- Shellharbour, South Coast
- Broulee Surfers, Far South Coast

Coach of the Year

- Stephen George, Cudgen Headland
- Dean Vigors, Coffs Harbour
- Steve Monaghan, Wauchope-Bonny Hills
- Tim Foran, Swansea Belmont
- Trevor Gee, Avoca Beach
- Mike Given, North Curl Curl
- Nixy Krite, Bondi
- Hannah Miroguez, Bulli
- Craig Burke, Warilla-Barrack Point
- Neil Innes, Batemans Bay

Community Education Program of the Year

- Surf Education Sessions, Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore
- Badaar Nippers, South West Rocks
- Community Water Safety Team, Forster
- Rockstar Nippers, Redhead
- Ask Me How to Stay Safe at the Beach, Ocean Beach

Community Education Program of the Year (continued)

- Marri Mittigar - Refugee Surf Awareness Program, Bungan Beach
- Giant Steps, Clovelly
- Community Impact Weekend, Bulli
- Brekky on the Beach, Kiama Downs
- Open Day and Gotcha4Life 24 Hour Row, Moruya

Facilitator of the Year

- David Field, Cudgen Headland
- Ian Everingham, South West Rocks
- Scott Graham, Cape Hawke
- Stephen Fogwill, Birubi Point
- Paul Dowdell, Shelly Beach
- Jess Menzies, Newport
- Rodd Sanchez, Cronulla
- Kaye Norris, Windang
- Danielle Dunajcik, Mollmook
- Nyrie Tickell, Pambula

Masters Athlete of the Year

- Alan Dunne, Yamba
- Raelene Myers, Port Macquarie
- Kim Winter, Pacific Palms
- Francesca Mortell, Newcastle
- Paul Lammon OAM, Terrigal
- Ronnie Dalsgaard, Manly
- Jeannette Brits, Bondi
- Ben Squires, Wollongong City
- Darren Drewsen, Broulee Surfers

Official of the Year

- Rebecca St John, Yamba
- Cath Ninness, Coffs Harbour
- Mick Lang, Tacking Point
- Jeff Horn, Cape Hawke
- Malcolm Rae, Swansea Belmont
- Siye Marshall, Avoca Beach
- Nina Gordon, Manly
- Phil Cole, Cronulla
- Adrian Walsh, Windang
- Michael Crowle, Mollmook
- Anthony Griffiths, Batemans Bay

Patrol Captain of the Year

- Craig Reid, Brunswick
- Andrew Kirby, Hat Head
- Wayne Barry, Cape Hawke
- Keith Elliot, Birubi Point
- Richard Boylan, Umina
- Levi Broughton-Rouse, Bilgola
- Jodie Salmon, North Bondi
- Andrew McLeod, Bulli
- Sidney George, Gerringong
- Paul Hill, Moruya

Services Team of the Year

- BBQ Squad, Fingal Rovers
- Rescue Services Team, Mid North Coast Branch
- Generations on the Grill, The Lakes
- After Hours Duty Officer Team, Sydney Northern Beaches Branch
- Education Team, Tamarama
- Rescue Water Craft 7, Illawarra Branch
- Cadet Team, Shellharbour
- Nippers Team, Bermagui

Support Operations Member of the Year

- Robert Slade, Cudgen Headland
- Peter Brannelly, South West Rocks
- Jim Wills, Forster
- Sean Leicester, The Lakes
- Romilly Madew, Bilgola
- James McLennan, Bronte
- Anne-Maree Connolly, Coalcliff
- Wayne Cavanagh, Shellharbour
- Anthony Bellette, Batemans Bay

Surf Lifesaver of the Year

- Aidan Yourell, Evans Head-Casino
- Shelley Lantry, Sawtell
- Andrew O'Brien, Tacking Point
- Greg Randall, Forster
- Wayne Bower, Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest
- Leanne Longford, The Lakes
- Mark Head, Avalon Beach
- Dominic Winkle, Clovelly
- Manuel Schultdt, North Wollongong
- Peter Gallagher, Kiama
- Troy Burpho, Tathra

Surf Sport Team of the Year

- U13 Male Surf Team, Yamba
- 150 Years Female Board Relay, Port Macquarie
- IRB Team, Forster
- 130 Years Female Taplin, Newcastle
- U17 Male Taplin, Avoca Beach
- U17 Male Board Relay, Manly
- Open Male Surf Boat Crew 'Wanda Weapons' Wanda
- Open Male IRB Teams Rescue 'Yeah the Buys' Thirroul
- U19 Male Board Rescue, Warilla-Barrack Point
- U23 Male Surf Boat Crew 'Narooma Nautis' Narooma

Trainer of the Year

- Christine Warren, Evans Head-Casino
- Paul Bastick, Urunga
- Alex Fisher, Tacking Point
- Darren Bourke, Crowdy Head
- Freya Franklin, Cooks Hill
- Simon Hicks, Toowoomb Bay
- Emanuel Freer, Bilgola
- Michele Carter, Maroubra
- Adam Turner, Austinmer
- Carla Quigley, Kiama
- Michael Hallahan, Moruya

Volunteer of the Year

- Christine Warren, Evans Head-Casino
- Jeremy Burrow, Nambucca Heads
- Natalie Mealing, Hat Head
- Ron Hartley, Forster
- Callum Mercer, Birubi Point
- Bradley Dawson, Umina
- Lachlan Pike, Dee Why
- Amy Hanna, North Bondi
- Meagan Dawson, Fairy Meadow
- Ronnie Danoven, Nowra-Culburra
- Miep Krechting, Pambula

Youth Athlete of the Year

- Isabella Arghyros, Cudgen Headland
- James Hamblin, Tacking Point
- Aria Trifco, Cape Hawke
- Kaitlin Rees, Swansea Belmont
- Marli Hoyland, Umina
- Pipi Te Pania, Newport
- Dane Sutton, Wanda
- Nicholas Aivaliotis, Wollongong City
- Imogen Moore, Warilla-Barrack Point
- Rosie McPartland, Broulee Surfers

Young Surf Lifesaver of the Year

- Logan Militadou, Yamba
- Cooper Sweeney, Tacking Point
- Chelsea Lyons, Pacific Palms
- Andie Widseth, Redhead
- Matilda Lawrence, Umina
- Joel Huxley, Warriewood
- Catriona Burns, Austinmer
- Harrison Wicks, Gerringong
- Brandon Ford, Pambula

Young Volunteer of the Year

- Matilda Langtry, Brunswick
- James Cookshutt, Port Macquarie
- Evie East, Cape Hawke
- Lily Egan, Cooks Hill
- Lucy Marshall, Avoca Beach
- Harrison White, Dee Why
- Zoe Fletcher, Bondi
- Chae Conte, Windang
- Niamh Hicks, Shellharbour
- Charlie Johnson, Tathra

Lifeguard of the Year

- Kalahni Gray, Bellingen/Nambucca
- Chloe Jones, Tweed
- Jason Pearson, Byron Bay
- Sol Novak, Ballina/Richmond Valley
- Roderick Brookes, Clarence
- Jonathan Vandermeys, Kempsey
- Nicholas Rickwood, Port Macquarie
- Tristan Marshall, Mid Coast
- Jodie Greenwood, Port Stephens
- James McLennan, Royal National Park
- Lucia Nolan, Shoalhaven
- Mitch Shields, Eurobodalla
- Jim Campbell, Bega

Rescue of the Year

- July 2025, ALS Port Macquarie
- August 2025, Warriewood
- September 2025, Mona Vale/Newport
- October 2025, Garie
- November 2025, Dee Why
- December 2025, Bondi/North Bondi
- January 2026, North Steyne
- February 2026, Tathra
- March 2026, Kiama Downs
- April 2026, ALS Kempsey
- May 2026, No nomination
- June 2026, TBC

Community Education Program of the Year (continued)

- Marri Mittigar - Refugee Surf Awareness Program, Bungan Beach
- Giant Steps, Clovelly
- Community Impact Weekend, Bulli
- Brekky on the Beach, Kiama Downs
- Open Day and Gotcha4Life 24 Hour Row, Moruya

Rescue of the Year

- July 2025, ALS Port Macquarie
- August 2025, Warriewood
- September 2025, Mona Vale/Newport
- October 2025, Garie
- November 2025, Dee Why
- December 2025, Bondi/North Bondi
- January 2026, North Steyne
- February 2026, Tathra
- March 2026, Kiama Downs
- April 2026, ALS Kempsey
- May 2026, No nomination
- June 2026, TBC

RESCUE OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

The members involved on the beach at the March 2026 rescue at the southern end of Jones Beach outside of patrol hours were:

Ben McAlister
Nick Mullholand
Bob Sinclair
Josh Douglas

NATIONAL MEDALS AWARDED THIS YEAR

Blair Joynson



To add any others awarded at Presentation

NSW PREMIER'S FLOOD EMERGENCY CITATION

Jake Cleal Cook

Zac Cracknell

Tom Daley

Josh Douglas

Ben McAlister

Nick Mulholland

Rod Parker

Alex Rainford

Bob Sinclair



To add photos from presentation here

NSW POLICE REGION COMMANDER'S CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Josh Douglas

Support Operations Group member, South Coast Emergency Coordinator, South Coast Branch Director of Education, Life Member South Coast Branch and Life Member Kiama Downs Surf Club was the recipient of a Certificate of Merit recognising his courage and lifesaving efforts, bravery, community spirit and meritorious commitment to the preservation of life under hazardous and difficult circumstances.

The emergency response at Bombo Headland on 2 June 2025, was particularly confronting and Josh managed with customary skill, professionalism and exceptional leadership.



NEW PAVERS

Additional pavers will be laid as part of the paver project to recognise the achievements of Club members:

Nathan Foster – NSW Masters Athlete of the Year 2023

Archie Weir - NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year 2024

Josh Douglas – NSW Facilitator of the Year 2025



HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH

The event began in the early 1990s, possibly 1994, as an Illawarra Area Health Service health education project, run in partnership with Kiama Downs Surf Life Saving Club and Minnamurra Rotary. Life Member Trina Jensen has been involved since the beginning.

Early sponsors included Dairy Farmers, the Me No Fry project, the Quit Smoking project and the Illawarra Area Health Service.

Over the years, breakfast was offered free or at minimal cost to cover expenses, with sausage sandwiches, steak sandwiches, egg and bacon rolls, fruit cups, cereals, and damper with golden syrup. Minnamurra Rotary were involved here tirelessly cooking the BBQ and cutting fruit from the beginning. Unfortunately, the Minnamurra Rotary Club wound up in 2017. They donated their purpose-built BBQ trailer to the Surf Club so that their spirit would continue for the event.

Activities have included the Brickies Relay, which became a much-loved annual feature, bringing laughter, competition and prizes. Road closures made it possible for teams of two to run barefoot on the hot tar, loading, carrying and unloading bricks from the start line to the finish.

Local businesses donated prizes, with long-term support from Kiama Golf Club and Toyworld Kiama.

The Surf Club has also hosted jumping castles, sand modelling competitions, treasure hunts, thong and flipper throwing—in 2026 this became Croc throwing as footwear trends changed.

Council has provided Australia Day Ambassadors, including local highlight Robbie Maddison.

The Club continues to welcome a special guest speaker, play the National Anthem, and raise the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on specially designed flagpoles.

In 2021, the Surf Club Australia Day Breakfast was the only Kiama Municipal Council event held, operating under strict requirements for masks, sanitiser, gloves and COVID officers. It remained hugely popular and brought the community together during a difficult time.

With Brett Schweitzer's initiative and the Executive Committee's support, local Indigenous groups became proudly involved in the community breakfast.

The event has included Welcome to Country by local Aboriginal elders, Indigenous dancers, didgeridoo players, smoking ceremonies, wreath laying on the water and indigenous crafts. Council has supported the Club in strengthening this important community inclusion.

Another highlight was Kiama Council holding its Citizenship Ceremony at the Club. Several National Medals were presented to Club members on the day, and one fellow Club member received citizenship and delivered a memorable public speech.

Each Australia Day, prominent flagpoles are erected on the Club verandah as a sign of solidarity and respect. Flag raisers are chosen from across the community, with people of all ages and backgrounds taking part.

The event's success over more than 30 years reflects the dedication of Club members, including Life Members Trina Jensen, Josh Douglas, Brett Schweitzer and Steven Guy, along with many other volunteers who support catering, barbecue cooking, games, set-up and clean-up. Without their commitment, the event could not go ahead.

It is wonderful to see the event recognised at South Coast Branch level and nominated for a State Award. Well done, Team KD!

Kiama Independent
26.1.94

Celebrating Australia Day 1994

Beach breakfast

BREAKFAST on Jones Beach will begin at 7am this morning and will run until about 11am.

Kiama Downs Rotary will be selling sausage sandwiches, cereals, damper and golden syrup and fruit to treat the crowds to a healthy breakfast to keep them going throughout Australia Day.

The breakfast promises to please all beach-goers, with an assortment of cereals for all different tastes and tea, coffee and soft drinks on sale from Kiama Downs Surf Life Saving Club.

Rotary will be working with the club, whose members have planned various activities to ensure the day is full of fun and enjoyment for families and individuals.

PHOTO: Pictured preparing for today's Breakfast on the Beach are, from front left, Jessica Peters, 5, Eoin Peters, 9, Trina Delahunty of Kiama Downs Surf Life Saving Club and Health Education Officer for the Illawarra Area Health Service, Mayor Joyce Wheatley, Kiama Downs Rotary Club member Keith Parker and local surfer Clinton Rogers.







KDSLSC EXTENDS THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS



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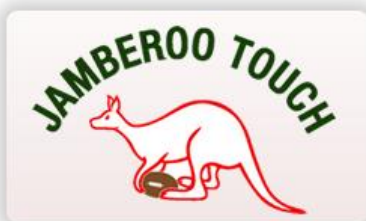
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This report will be emailed to all Club members and available on the Club's website.