

Surf Lifesaving Sydney Northern Beaches – History

Draft Working Document March 2024

Early days:

Bathing in the sea on beaches in the north was in vogue in mid-1800's but it was not until December 1899 that a public meeting was held for the purpose of a Life Saving Brigade.

The main area where surf bathing was taking place was in the Manly to North Steyne beach although Freshwater is also mentioned around that time. A surfboat began patrolling what was known as the Ocean Beach on 23rd March 1903.

On 18 October 1907, a number of surf clubs convened a meeting, the outcome of which was the formation of "The Surf Bathing Association of New South Wales". Manly was a member of this group.

There were clubs in existence such as Manly Surf Club, Seagulls (South Steyne Surf Club) and Brookvale Surf Club that were all later to become defunct or merge into other surf lifesaving clubs.

In 1907 North Steyne Surf Bathing and Life Saving Club was formed and in 1908 Freshwater Surf Lifesaving Club came into existence.

During the first decade of the 1900's these early surf bathers clubs affiliated with the Royal Life Saving Society which had formed under the auspices of the Royal Human Society. By 1908-1909 season there were 19 surf bathers' clubs in Sydney.

The North Steyne club introduced the first surf-based proficiency certificate in 1909. In 1920 the Surf Bathers Association became the Surf Life Saving Association of NSW and affiliated clubs were encouraged to change their logos, incorporating a reel inside a lifesaver buoy and end their membership of RLSS.

In 1923/24 SBA was renamed Surf Life Saving Association Australia and then in 1991, simply the SLSA. It had become a national institution headquartered in Sydney.

All clubs were supervised by Surf Life Saving Association of Australia.

Other clubs on the northern beaches began to emerge and a schedule of these is shown below with the dates of their establishment shown alongside.

The formation of Northern Beaches Branch became a constant subject of discussion and a meeting was held at North Steyne SLSC in 1959 attended by a number of local clubs with delegates from Whale Beach SLSC.

A steering committee was formed and in the ensuing months permission to form this new Branch was granted by State Centre.

The Manly Warringah Branch held its first meeting in February 1960. Mr Alan Fitzgerald of North Steyne SLSC was elected President and the Honorary Secretary for two seasons was Jack Clark of Whale Beach until the Northern Beaches Branch was incorporated.

Manly

Surf Club Founded: 16.07.1907

Affiliated: 31.08.1909

Life Saving Club Founded: 22.09.1911

Affiliated: 30.09.1911

How was the Club formed: On 22nd September 1911, Manly Life Saving Club was formed at a public Meeting at Manly School of Arts, following an ultimatum by Manly Surf Club to Manly Borough Council, that it would take no further part in lifesaving on Manly Beach. The Vice-Captain and Chief-Instructor of Manly Surf Club William A. Kellam immediately convened a meeting to form a new Lifesaving Club.

Formation Date: Friday 22nd September 1911.

First Club President: James Bonner Mayor of Manly, Friday 22nd September 1911.

First Club Captain: Fredric Henry Schwartz, Friday 22nd September 1911.

Council Approval Date: Friday 22nd September 1911.

Patrols Commenced: 2pm Saturday 23rd September 1911.

Affiliation S.B.A. of NSW: Saturday 30th September 1911.

First Clubhouse: Club occupied existing shed, Saturday 23rd September 1911. First Erected 1891.

First male bronze squad S.B.A. of NSW: Sunday 25th February 1912.

First Surf Carnival: Saturday 6th January 1912.

Second Clubhouse Built: 20th December 1913.

Amalgamation: Seagull Club with Manly Life Saving Club 17th March 1914.

Junior Cub Formation: 9.30am. Sunday 10th October 1965 – Ian Craig – Founder.

First Female Bronze Squad: Sunday 21st November 1980.

First Female Patrol Captain: Helen Dudding – Appointed Saturday 4th October 1980.

First Female Chief Instructor: Ruth Kelly – Sunday 18th August 2001.

First Female Club Captain: Ruth Kelly – Sunday 31st August 2003.

First Female Club President: Victoria Sweetman O'Halloran – Sunday 24th July 2022.

Club History Book: 28th January 1961 Heroes of the Surf – Reginald Sydney Harris.

Died executing Club duties: Rodney Hillas Cresswell – Saturday 13th October 1951 - Club Duty; John Pembroke Tuohy – Saturday 18th March 1969 – Belt Rescue; Richard Henry Seeney - Sunday 26th October 1980 – Proficiency; David Michael Fleming – Thursday 19th August 1982 – Club Duty.

Club Historian: Ray Petersen.

North Steyne

Surf Bathers and Life Saving Club Founded: 9.12.1907

Affiliated: 31.08.1909

How was Club Formed: As a reaction to drownings at the beach in early 1907

Formation Date: 1907. Foundation Club of the Association

Affiliation Date: 1907 Foundation Club of the Association

Council Approval Date: 1907

Patrols Commenced: December 1907. Every alternative Sunday from 8am to 4pm

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: 3rd April 1910. The first three Bronze squads of the Association. Nos. 6 to 26.

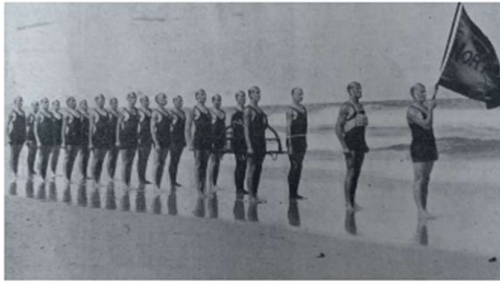
First Clubhouse Built: 1907 (gear shed)

Subsequent Clubhouses: 1913, 1934 (current club house with additions).

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date:

Club Historian: Simon Fry (0412312906)

Has a History Book been written. Yes. Published 2007



Queenscliff

Founded: 15.01.1924

Affiliated: 20.10.1924

How was the Club Formed: On Tuesday, 15 January 1924, W.G. Simmonds called a public meeting at Warton's Tea Rooms on the corner of Pine Street and North Steyne. Thirty people attended, each paying a subscription fee of £80. This meeting was the birth of the Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club.

Formation Date: On 13 February 1924, the Club's formal rules were adopted, and on 25 February 1924, red and royal blue were chosen as the club colours.

Affiliation Date: 20th October 1924

Council Approval Date: unknown

Patrols Commenced: Presume Early 1924

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: Presume Early 1924

First Clubhouse Built: 1924

Subsequent Clubhouses: 1939 then 1983

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: Early 1970s

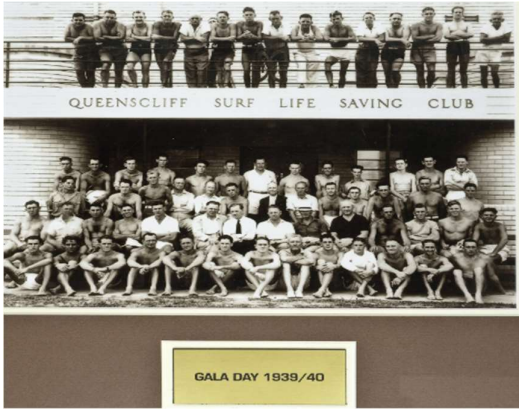
Club Historian: Brian Dolly

Has a History Book been written? Underway, due for completion late 2023



Queenscliff S.L.S. Club's Activities 1928 - 29.





Freshwater

Founded: 10.12.1908

Affiliated: 31.08.1909

First Clubhouse Built: 1909

How was Club Formed: Freshwater SLSC has a proud history stretching back to 1908. Our club continues to be one of the most influential in developing/promoting Surfing and Surf Life Saving in Australia.

In the early part of the 1900s, the Freshwater area was a popular weekend swimming and camping spot for many people. As surf swimming grew in popularity, and following a tragic drowning in early 1908, the need for a surf rescue club at the beach was recognized.

A meeting was held at Undercliff Rd Freshwater on 22 November 1908. Those present agreed to form the club, with Doctor Arthur (State MLA) named as President. Fees were set at 2 shillings 6 pence each for the 100 members. This was followed by a further meeting on 28 November at the Fosters Grad Pier Hotel at which a number of resolutions were passed.

A further meeting was held at the beach on the 29 Nov 1908, with the 'Office Bearers' confirmed, including Dr Arthur (President), Mr A. Neven-Tossau (Secretary) and John B. Steel as Auditor. At this meeting, it was also agreed to hold a surf carnival on 'Anniversary' Day, 26 January 1909.

Some weeks later in Dec 1908, it was reported that Alex Walker had been elected as Captain and Fred 'Fritz' Schwarz elected vice-captain (Bronze Medallion 9th April 1911). It was at this time the club's first lifesaving reel was placed on the beach

Formation Date: The initial formation date can be considered to be 22 November 1908. However, it appears that, due to lack of members willing to patrol on Sundays and holidays, the Club ceased operations for a relatively short, albeit unknown period, as noted in the Star Newspaper article of 3rd Feb. A renewed effort was made to recommence patrols and in early February 1910 the club was reformed. The secretary is noted as William Waddington.

Affiliation Date: The first Annual report of the Surf Bathers Association published in 30/08/1909 includes Freshwater.

Council Approval Date: Not known

Patrols Commenced: Approx 1908-10

The Surf Bathing Association

The popularity of surf bathing early in this century produced the need for rescue work. At first this was done in an impromptu manner by men swimming out and towing the patient in. Rescue methods were based on methods used in still water rescues in England, but were quite unsuitable for Australian surf. Eventually, the Australian surf reel was designed and built and it has stood the test of time. More rescues have been made by line and reel than by all other methods combined.

So that uniformity of rescue methods could be obtained, it was decided by the few clubs in existence to form the Surf Bathing Association (the forerunner of the present Surf Life Saving Association of Australia). The inaugural meeting took place at the Sydney Sports Club on 18th October, 1907, but our club was not in existence then.

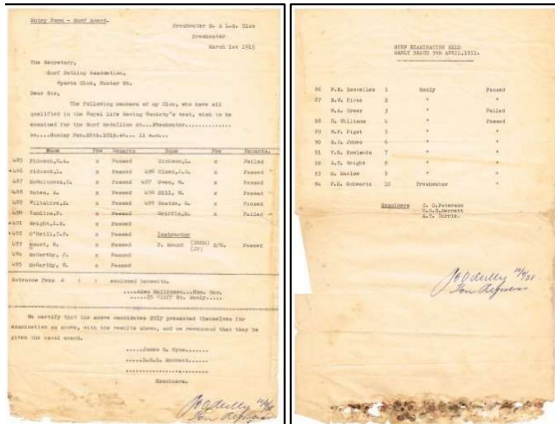
The first report of the S.B.A., published on 30/8/1909, contained the following list of subscribers:—

Bondi Surf Bathing Life Saving Club.
Coogee Life Saving Brigade.
Helensburgh Surf and Life Saving Club.
Thirroul Surf Bathing First Aid Club.
Manly Surf Club.
Bronte Surf and Life Saving Club.
Maroubra Life Saving Club.
Royal Life Saving Society.
Bondi Baths Life Saving Club.
Bondi Surf and Social Club.
North Steyne Surf Bathing and Life Saving Club.
Little Coogee Surf and Life Saving Association.
Freshwater Surf Club.
Red Head Surf Club.

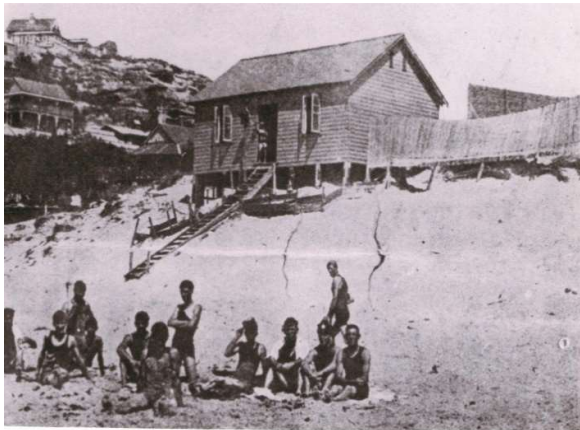
The total receipts for the year were £16/12/6, outgoings £9/9/6, leaving a balance of £7/3/-. For further details of the S.L.S.A., reference can be made to many publications dealing with this wonderful organisation. Our present interest is the Freshwater Club.



First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: Possibly 1915, although some members obtained their bronze in 1911 (eg. Fred Schwartz)



First Clubhouse Built: Our first clubhouse was built during 1910 and officially opened 26 Dec 1910.



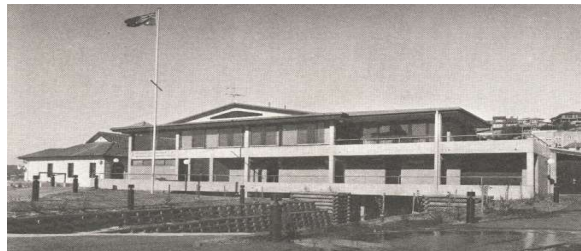
1910



Rebuilt 1914



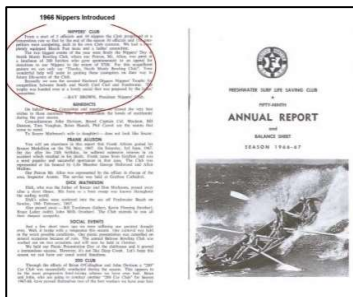
1934 Clubhouse



1988-2023 Clubhouse

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: 1966

1966



1970s

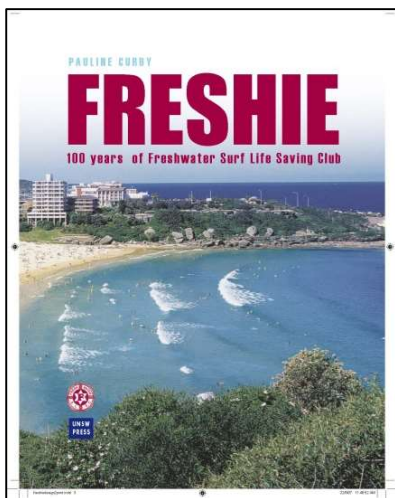


2020s



Club Historian/s: Ross Parry, Dave Inches, Lindsay Davis, Wayne Freakley, Eric Middeldorp

Has a History Book been written: Yes, 1908-2008 Centenary History Book



1908 to 2008 Centenary History Book



South Curl Curl

Life Saving Club Founded: 11.2.1911

Affiliated: 30.09.1911

First Clubhouse Built: Mr. King built a rough shed on the hillside, which in 1909 he allowed the surf Club to use as the first Clubhouse. Mr. King repossessed the “clubhouse”, when members drifted away, and the club ceased to function. A new clubhouse was built when the Club was reformed in 1911.

How started: In 1907, a small group of young men came at weekends, calling themselves the Curl Curl Surf Brigade. Each weekend they came from Drummoyne and Glebe, pitched their “headquarters tent in the scrub-filled hills and made their plans to found a surf club. They built a small galvanized iron shed on the grass near where the pool is today and here they kept a reel and line. The first committee was formed in 1908.

Dublin born Balmain Resident John Flynn travelled by horse and dray most weekends since building a holiday shack in the early 1890’s and was duly elected the club’s first president. Once the Club became an established part of the community, more people began swimming at South Curl Curl. Among the few locals who became more interested in the Club’s activities, Mr. King built a rough shed on the hillside, which in 1909 he allowed the surf Club to use as the first Clubhouse.

A host of tales are told concerning the abandonment of the club, but it appears gambling by one official forced it to disband. Mr. King repossessed the “clubhouse”, members drifted away, and the club ceased to function.

The beach remained unguarded for nearly two years but a meeting in 1911 resulted in a new club being formed. During the ensuing season, a new clubhouse was built. It was small but neat, timber with an iron roof. There was every indication the club was on a firm footing, and it would affiliate with the now fully inaugurated Surf Life Saving Association.

World War 1 dealt the club another shattering blow, membership fell to three and the club again disbanded. All hopes of ever having a fully patrolled beach at Curl Curl faded with the marching of troops to other lands. After two attempts to establish a surf club and most of the men off at war, there seemed little likelihood a club would evolve.

Third Time Lucky

But after the war, there was some hope.

Early in the 1918-19 season, interest revived and with a small influx of new members the club was able to proceed again under Clive Backhouse’s presidency. A new clubhouse was built – slightly bigger than the previous one – about where the current club stands.

This was the beginning of South Curl Curl SLSC as we know it today.

How was the Club Formed: The Club was formed 3 times.

Formation Dates:

1907 - Curl Curl Surf Brigade. 1908 first Committee.

1911 – Reformed. Folded due to WWI

1918 – current Club formed

Affiliation Date: Unknown

Council Approval Date: Unknown

Patrols Commenced: 1907

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date:

First Clubhouse Built: 1909

Subsequent Clubhouses: 1921 then 1937 (current Clubhouse)

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: 1963

Club Historians: Charles Kuhn and Kevin Moffatt

Has a History Book been written? Yes – 1968, 1993 and 2018



c. 1934

1928



1920 Bronze Squad



c. 1920



c. 1927

North Curl Curl

Founded: The club was founded in 1922 after a drowning on an unpatrolled beach.

Affiliated: 23.10.1923

First Clubhouse Built: The first wooden clubhouse was opened in 1922

How was Club Formed: The club was started after a drowning at the then unpatrolled beach

Formation Date: 1922

Affiliation Date: 23.10.1923

Council Approval Date: Not known

Patrols: December 1922

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: Gained awards on 17 December 1922. (G Boyt, H Dixon, E Hirsch, G Langford, T O'Toole).

First Clubhouse Built: First wooden Clubhouse built in 1922

Subsequent Clubhouses: Second clubhouse was a brick building erected in 1934. A third clubhouse was opened in 1979.

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: 1965

Club Historian: Not known

Has a History Book been written: Yes. "The Upraised Arm" 75 Year History – 1997



B Crew 1947 B. Gray, J Maggs, B Duff, K Stoneman, L Cook



1948 launch of the 'Jantzen'



1948

Dee Why

Life Saving and Surf Club Founded: 12 October 1912

Affiliated: 19.10.1914

How was Club Formed: Dee Why Beach was privately owned until 1911, firstly by the Jenkins family and then by the Salvation Army who fenced it off from public access. The NSW Government persuaded them to relinquish control of the sand. The beach then began to attract swimming crowds.

Formation Date: 12.10.1912

Affiliation Date: 19.10.1914

Council Approval Date: Not known

Patrols Commenced: 1912

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: Not known

First Clubhouse Built: On 7 November 1913, the first clubhouse was opened. It was built with funds donated by the NSW Government.

Subsequent Clubhouses: The club is currently situated in its fourth building however details of when this was erected and those of previous buildings is not known.

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: Not known

Club Historian: Not known

Has a History Book been written: Yes



1921 Clubhouse



Members 1931



Surf Lifesavers c. 1925



Tug of War Team 1914



3rd and 4th clubhouse 1968



Surfboat Crew c. 1942

Above photos courtesy of Northern Beaches Library History Hub

Long Reef

Founded: Patrols commenced in October 1950

Affiliated: 30.09.1950

How was Club Formed: The club was formed in 1950 when a number of members moved from Collaroy SLSC to set up Long Reef SLSC with its first "clubhouse/storage shed being what was then the old tram stop shed and which is now an upgraded bus stop shelter

Formation Date: 1950

Affiliation Date: October 1950

Council Approval Date: October 1950

Patrols Commenced: 1950

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: 1950/1951 with the first 10 bronze medallions awarded on the 28th January 1951

First Clubhouse Built: The first Clubhouse was part of the Long Reef bus shelter and was leased from the Department of Roads and Tramways and was occupied until 1952/3 Season.

Subsequent Clubhouses: The Gear Shed and Casualty Rooms were completed in 1952/1953 then upgraded in 1954/1955 with the addition of a shower and a sink a timber fence was added to the court yard the timber fence was removed and replaced with a brick fence. In 1996/1997 a new wing consisting of a bunk room and a committee room was added. The old clubhouse was demolished in 2021 with a brand new 2 story clubhouse being built which was officially opened on the 11th February 2023.

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date:

Club Historian: Do not currently have one.

Has a History Book been written: A history book is currently being prepared



c. 1986



Huts at Long Reef

Photos courtesy of Northern Beach Council Library History Hub

Collaroy

Collaroy Surf and Life Saving Club Founded: On 11 August 1911 a meeting of the “Wombats” and community leaders was held to form the Club.

Affiliated: On 19 October 1914, Collaroy Surf and Life Saving Club affiliated with the Surf Bathers Association.

First Clubhouse Built: Christmas 1911. Destroyed in 1913/14 Season.

How started: c. 1906 a group of young men from the Eastern Suburbs called the “Wombats” established a camp in Fielding Street. They were possibly members of Eastern Suburbs clubs such as Tamarama. On 11/8/ 1911 they met with Community leaders and local residents to discuss the formation of a surf club and the first committee was filled. First AGM held in 1912. In 1912/13, they were joined by another group from North Sydney known as the “Crows” who were camped near Mactier Street.

First Bronze Squad: 6.12.1914

Questionnaire

How was the Club Formed: On August 11th, 1911, a group of concerned residents met at the local “Twight Tea Rooms” to discuss the formation of a Life Saving Club on Collaroy Beach, following several drownings. Their decision to proceed was unanimous and that night a committee was formed.

Formation Date: August 11th, 1911.

Affiliation Date: With the Surf Bathers Association of NSW on October 19th, 1914.

Council Approval Date: August 25th, 1914.

Patrols Commenced: Late 1911.

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: December 6th, 1914

First Clubhouse Built: In 1911/1912, a basic timber structure was built on the sand and flattened during 1913/14 by the large surf and strong easterly wind.

Subsequent Clubhouses:

2nd Clubhouse: 1914 – a timber structure built on the beach by Warringah Council and sold in 1926 to a local resident, it was then removed from the beach to his property.

3rd Clubhouse: 1926/27 - a substantial brick building with a tiled roof opened on November 27th, 1927.

4th Clubhouse: 1945 – planning for the current club building commenced during that year. This building encompasses the previous Club House (building 3). Preliminary work commenced during the 1952/53 season. Major work commenced during 1953. Completed and opened during the 1956 season.

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date:

1st attempt: they were called Juveniles and formed on March 18th, 1928. Folded in the early 1930's.

2nd attempt: was during the 1965/66 season again called Juveniles, however they folded in the late 1960's due to being seen as a baby-sitting organisation.

3rd attempt: during the 1985/86 season still going strong today.

Club Historians: Geoff Small and Janine Fahey

Has a History Book been written: Yes, “Vigilant and Victorious” published in 1995.



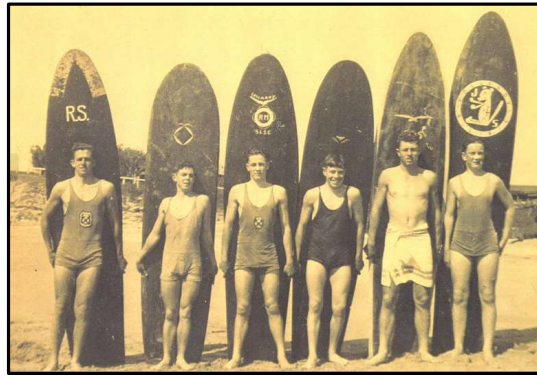
*First bronze medallion qualifiers December 1914
in front of the second clubhouse*



First Clubhouse c. 1919



Members heading home after the Bondi Surf Carnival 1925-26 Season



Club members with their solid boards in 1937



Collaroy during the war years



Senior Belt Team at the Collaroy Carnival 1956: Wal Eadie & Jim Sheldon (front handles) Len Wildman & Eddie Robinson (rear handles) and Bill Abbott (beltman)

South Narrabeen

Founded: 1922

Affiliated: 23.10.1923

How was Club Formed: The Club was formed after discussion with members of the McLean Family and others in late 1922, possibly after Council had asked them to look after some life-saving gear stored by Council in Devitt Street.

Formation Date: On 21 January 1923 Norman Cox wrote to Council with a proposal for a surf club near Devitt Street sheds. Council agreed to support the establishment of the club at a meeting on 15 February 1923.

Affiliation Date: 23rd February 1923

Council Approval Date: 15th February 1923

Patrols Commenced: 1922/1923

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: Unknown

First Clubhouse Built: Opened 15th December 1923

Subsequent Clubhouses: 2nd Clubhouse 1933, 3rd Clubhouse 1976

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: Nippers formed 1974, Folded 1975. Nippers reformed 1989.

Club Historian: Stephen Martin

Has a History Book been written: Yes. Due for publication 2023

Narrabeen Beach

Founded: 24.11.1910

Affiliated: 19.10.1914

First Clubhouse Built:

How started: Prior to the early 1960's the Narrabeen stretch of beach was patrolled by North Narrabeen and South Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Clubs. On 12th April 1964, the patrol at South Narrabeen were alerted to swimmers in trouble around 300 m north of the patrol area. The patrol ran, carrying the reel, line and belt to the location to find a swimmer in difficulty. The beltman rescuer, having run the length of the beach, then dons the belt and swims to the patient, who was caught in a rip and was well out to sea.

Although exhausted from the strenuous activity, the beltman brings the patient ashore but unfortunately, the patient failed to recover from drowning. On the same day, three other rescues are performed in similar locations. The patrol logbook on the day recorded, "three rescues and one drowning".

Members at South Narrabeen were greatly concerned after the incident that drownings would occur in the future. Under the direction of Fred Bertram, and South Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club, a group of bronze holders decided to establish a new club at Narrabeen Beach. It was quickly installed with borrowed equipment from North Narrabeen, South Narrabeen, Mona Vale and Freshwater Surf Life Saving Clubs. For the remainder of that season, gear was stored at Furlough House and carried across Ocean Street for each patrol.

The inaugural meeting for the club was held on 24 July 1964 to elect the Committee and establish the Club. The meeting was held at The Royal Antler Hotel and the inaugural committee was;

President: Keith Rumble, Vice Presidents, Fred Bertram, Jim Blair and Stan Dawson.

Club Captain: Peter Carruthers and Vice Captain; Laurie Barraclough.

Hon Secretary; Parie Chaperon and Treasurer: Eric Gibbs.

A small cottage at Furlough House became available and funds were raised by Fred Bertram and members to purchase the cottage for £375 (\$750). It cost another £575 (\$1,150) to arrange relocation to the current clubhouse position in Furlough Park. With donations from local builders, Warringah Council, building material suppliers and others, the cottage was converted into a clubhouse for members. Much of the interior work was carried out by Harold (Gogga) Lumley, who later became President of the Club in 1968.

A formal licence agreement was made on 31st December 1969, with Warringah Council, NSW Lands Department and Narrabeen Beach Surf Life Saving Club for the continuous use of the facility and land for a Surf Life Saving Club.

How was the Club Formed: Prior to the early 1960's the Narrabeen stretch of beach was patrolled by North Narrabeen and South Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Clubs. On 12th April 1964, the patrol at South Narrabeen were alerted to swimmers in trouble around 300 m north of the patrol area. The patrol ran, carrying the reel, line and belt to the location to find a swimmer in difficulty. The beltman rescuer, having run the length of the beach, then dons the belt and swims to the patient, who was caught in a rip and was well out to sea.

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President: Keith Rumble, Vice Presidents, Fred Bertram, Jim Blair and Stan Dawson.

Club Captain: Peter Carruthers and Vice Captain; Laurie Barraclough.

Hon Secretary; Parie Chaperon and Treasurer: Eric Gibbs.

Formation Date: 24 July 1964

Affiliation Date: August 1964

Council Approval Date: A formal licence agreement was made on 31st December 1969, with Warringah Council, NSW Lands Department and Narrabeen Beach Surf Life Saving Club for the continuous use of the facility and land for a Surf Life Saving Club.

Patrols Commenced: At Narrabeen Beach in October 1964.

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: Training of Bronze Medallion commenced in 1964 with the first recipients receiving awards in 1965.

First Clubhouse Built: A small cottage at Furlough House became available and funds were raised by Fred Bertram and members to purchase the cottage for £375 (\$750). It cost another £575 (\$1,150) to arrange relocation to the current clubhouse position in Furlough Park. With donations from local builders, Warringah Council, building material suppliers and others, the cottage was converted into a clubhouse for members. Much of the interior work was carried out by Harold (Gogga) Lumley, who later became President of the Club in 1968.

Subsequent Clubhouses: The original clubhouse continued in use with modifications through to 1999. The southern section of the club was then upgraded to include a second-floor function room and kitchen. This was used to hire for functions and community groups which provided an income for the club. Then in 2010 the old northern section of the building was demolished and fully rebuilt into the facility we have today. This was built through the assistance of a NSW State Government grant, club funds, members loans and bank loan.

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: Narrabeen Beach SLSC junior activities started in 1967 not long after the formation of the club. The junior section operated as a separate club, up until amalgamation with the senior club in March 2000. The club continues to run a Junior Activities section with parents acting as age managers and a separate sub-committee under the Director of Junior Activities.

Club Historian: Wayne Schwebel (M) 0402 011 204

Has a History Book been written? No



Opening of the new clubhouse in 1970



Branch Championships 1985



Photo Courtesy of Northern Beaches History Hub



January 1982



Club Building 2023

North Narrabeen

Surf Life Saving Club Founded: 1912

Affiliated: 19.10.1914

How was Club Formed: A group known as “Lake Watchers” under the title of North Narrabeen brigade looked after the safety of the beach in the early 1900’s.

Formation Date: 1912

Affiliation Date: 19.10.1914

Council Approval Date: not known

Patrols Commenced: 1912

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: Not known

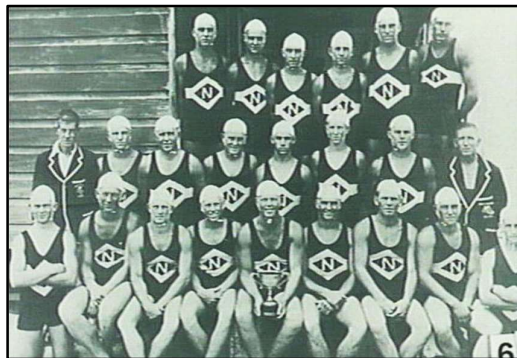
First Clubhouse Built: The first unofficial clubhouse operated from the male public dressing sheds made of tin situated on the beach.

Subsequent Clubhouses: A new clubhouse was completed 1914 close to Malcolm Street. This building was a wooden structure with an observation tower fitted on the top of the building. A second clubhouse was constructed in 1927. This structure was altered several times in its lifetime and was eventually replaced by the first stage of a new concrete structure in 1975 on a new site, this was added too with a second stage in 1982.

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: Not known

Club Historian: Not known

Has a History Book been written: Not known



c. 1920 – courtesy of NB Council Library History Hub

Warriewood

Founded: 18.02.1950

Affiliated: 30.09.1950

How was Club Formed: Efforts to form a surf club at the beach started as early as 1927, although the club did not officially come into being until 1950.

As early as 1927 the Warriewood Progress Association were lobbying Warringah Shire Council to have lifesaving equipment placed on the beach but to no avail as Council reasoned that there was o Surf Life Saving Club there.

The Club was formed following a meeting of the Warriewood Progress Association and held its first General Meeting on 18th February 1950. In 1950 the Salvation Army donated a piece of land for the establishment of a surf club and the Club remained at Warriewood since then.

Formation Date: 18th February 1950

Affiliation Date: 30th September 1950

Council Approval Date: Not known

Patrols Commenced: 1950

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: Not known

First Clubhouse Built: In 1950 after the club was formed a member had purchased a new car and its crate became the first clubhouse. A kiosk was built in 1953 to provide refreshments along ide the 2 additional car crates being used to store lifesaving equipment

Subsequent Clubhouses: In 1958 a two-story building was progressively replacing the car crates. This was completed with council assistance in 1960. In 1983 a new clubhouse had arisen out of the old club house which had mysteriously been destroyed by fire a year earlier.

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: 1965

Club Historian: Brian Kinsey

Has a History Book been written: Two books have been written. One for the 50th anniversary and one for the 60th anniversary.

Mona Vale

Founded: 21.10.1922

Affiliated: 23.10.1923

How started: The club was originally started in 1912/13 but it folded during World War 1 in 1922.

Freddie Lane was the first President upon its reformation.

How was Club Formed: In 1907-1912 the first club is recorded in Warringah Shire Council minutes. In 1914 due World War 1 the club ceased operating and was abandoned.

Formation Date: The club was reformed on 21st October 1922

Affiliation Date: unknown

Council Approval Date: unknown

Patrols Commenced: December 1922

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: 17th December 1922 – squad details shown on page 13 of the 100 year publication.

First Clubhouse Built: “The Shed” was built in 1909

Subsequent Clubhouses: “The Shack” was built in 1934 and was followed in 1969 by the next club house which has just been superseded by the current building in 2022.

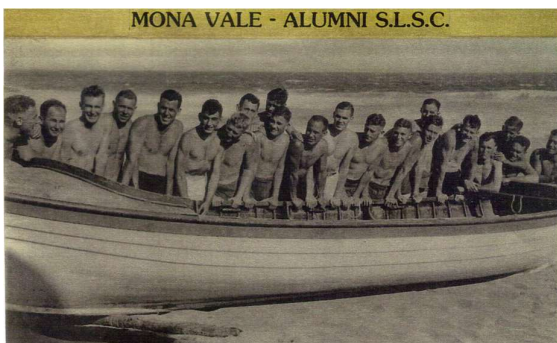
Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: 21st November 1965

Club Historian: Alan Mason

Has a History Book been written: Yes “100 years of Saving Lives and much more. 100th Anniversary Mona Vale SLSC 1922-2022”.



Clubhouse 1969 to 2022. Photo courtesy of NB Library HH



First Surfboat 1933



Australian Championships 1950

Photos courtesy of NB Library HH

Bungan Beach

Founded: 1952

Affiliated: 6.11.1953

How started: Although the surf at Bungan Beach was regarded as dangerous it was not until 7 April 1953 that a surf club was established by a group of locals and regular surfers at the beach. The only access was via two steep tracks at the centre and northern ends of the beach. The first “clubhouse” was a tin roofed lean-to in the centre of the beach followed by a Caterpillar packing case to store reels and boards. In 1954 an ex-army Nissan hut was purchased, dismantled and carried down the northern track and re-assembled on the site of the current club. It was cement rendered in 1960. The difficulties of access meant that members needed to be dedicated, a trait that continued for decades. Membership slowly increased to the stage where the club held restricted carnivals in 1957, 1958 and 1960. Water and electricity were connected and a boatshed and separate canteen were added in 1959.

Dwindling membership in 1964 saw the club reach a low point but a membership drive targeting juniors from St Ives and Strathfield again saw the club viable. Novice boat crews had represented Bungan in two marathon boat races prior to 1969 when Gordon Harmon transferred from Newport to form a crew from existing members. This resulted in the club’s Open crew being runners up in consecutive State and Australian Championships (1970-72) and members realised they could match larger clubs. The boat crew were members of the winning Branch teams in 1972 and 1973.

After previous unsuccessful applications to Council for a new clubhouse, plans for a new building were approved and in July 1970 the old Nissan hut was demolished. The new building was finally opened on 8 January 1972. However, the landmark storm of 28 May 1974 demolished the southern end of the club and it took until 1977 for rebuilding to be completed. A mass rescue in 1974 resulted in a donation of \$500 from one of those rescued. The boat crews continued to feature at carnivals along with Ed Ifould the club’s outstanding solo competitor in board, ski and ironman events.

Lavinia Wood and Carmen Campton became the first two female members in April 1982 while the club’s first major sponsor was Channel 9 in 1982-83. In 1985 the Open boat crew, swept by Ross Jorgensen, broke the ice by winning the State and Australian Championships with a record of two firsts, a second and a third over consecutive years at the Nationals and were members of the Australian team vs NZ. Despite this success the club ran into problems in 1987-88. Following an approach by Bob Richardson, a Barker College teacher, surf lifesaving was adopted as a school sport in 1988, beginning a mutually beneficial association with Barker which continues to the present day. From an initial squad of 6 students, numbers increased to over 100 in 1996-97 and ex-students began to take up administrative positions in the club.

Efforts to gain approval for a new clubhouse in the mid ‘80’s were frustrated by the existing building being in a “wave- action” zone. An amended concept utilizing the existing site and land to the rear was accepted and a building application was approved in July 1999. Fundraising and donations allowed construction of additions and renovations to the existing building to commence in 2000, with vehicular access finally a reality. Boat crew(s) again represented Bungan and featured in major carnivals during the 2000 -2010 decade. The new club building was officially opened in 2011.

Highlights of recent years have been the successful association with Bungan Boardriders, the introduction of Nippers in 2018 and its continued growth, and the consolidation of gains in membership, awards and a healthy financial position. Members have also been recognized at Branch and State level for their achievements.



Yewen and Beeby Families picnic at Bungan c. 1919



Clubhouse c. 1995

Newport

Surf Bathers and Life Saving Club Founded: 6.12.1909.

How was Club Formed:

Newport Beach was becoming a popular surf bathing beach by 1908. So much so that in September 1908 WSC [laced a reel and line at Newport. Local businessmen, hoteliers, boarding house owners, shopkeepers and some locals formed the club to help protect their visitors and clients.

Formation Date: December 1909

Affiliation Date: 1910 with RLSS and to Surf Bathing Association of NSW in 1911

During the 1909-10 Season, the Newport Surf and Life Saving Club affiliated with the Royal Life Saving Society.

Affiliated on 30.09.1911 with Surf Bathers Association of NSW

Council Approval Date: Not known

Patrols Commenced: 1909

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: 1909-10 five members to RLSS

First Clubhouse Built: First clubhouse was 1910

Subsequent Clubhouses: Second clubhouse was opened 30th January 1915 with the third and current clubhouse being opened on 30th September 1933

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date:

Nippers 1: 1927 to 30th January 1932

Nippers 2: 24th September 1967 to January 1970

Nippers 3: October 1993 to current.

Special needs nippers October 2002.

Club Historian: Michael King

Has a History Book been written: History books 1909-2009 and 2009-2019



1st Clubhouse "La Solitaire" built in 1909



2nd Clubhouse built in 1915



Above Left: Third Clubhouse built 1933. Senior Surf Boat Crew 1963. Right: Boat named after the late Robin Cale, Club President from 1963 - 1970





Above Left: March Past Team 1955, the late Life Member Peter Dawson as Standard Bearer. Right: Ladies March Past Team 1992-93. First all female team to win a Bronze Medal in SLS Championship events – 3rd M/W Branch Champs and 3rd SLS NSW State Champs.



Kinghorn Racing Academy formed in 2013 and still continues in 2024 with the very generous support of the John and Jill Kinghorn Foundation. John was a former rower at the club in 1963.

Bilgola Surf Life Saving Club

Founded: 1949

Affiliated: 30.09.1950

How was the Club Formed: As a result of several drowning deaths, a group of locals decided to form a club to stem this flow of tragedies.

Formation Date: First Annual Report season 1949/50 ending 30 June 1950.

Affiliation Date: Constitution, Rules and By-Laws drawn up and Club officially recognised and affiliated with Surf Life Saving Australia 1949/50.

Gear and Surfboat: Gear was originally kept in the garage of the Oag family who had a house on the beach in Allen Avenue and 2 sons as members. The first surfboat was a gift by Avalon Beach SLSC but needed work and 50 pounds spent on repairs and replacement of oars.

Patrols Commenced: Officially soon after January/February 1950 season when the first Bronze Medallion squads were successful.

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: 14 members in several squads in January/February 1950 were all successful with training provided by K. Webster from the Whale Beach SLSC, Stan Butler from Avalon Beach SLSC and Laurie Payne from Newport SLSC (also District SLSA supervisor).

First Clubhouse Built: Hon. Architect C.C.Rumald provided detailed plans and specs.

Jim Robson Scott used a bulldozer from his firm to level the site. Late in 1950, 2 builders Syd Fischer and David Lyall began the build of the bottom floor – a hall, boat shed and toilet facilities. Midge Gonsalves from Palm Beach SLSC was responsible for the stonework.

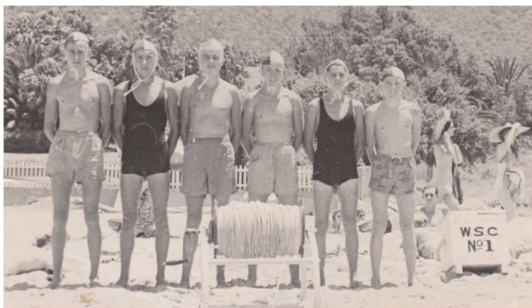
Subsequent Clubhouses: The top floor was later let out as a contract. A major addition was an almost complete rebuild in 2003.

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: Begun in 1988 with 55 local children. Nippers presently number around 400.

Club Historian: Life Member David Lyall provided much of the info plus the website.

Geoff Searl compiled the information (Club historian of ABSLSC)

Has a History Book been written? Not to my knowledge (70 years Anniversary in 2019)





Avalon Beach

Founded: 8.03.1925.

Affiliated: 19.10.1926

First Clubhouse Built: Through prolonged effort by the Avalon Beach Progress Association and by providing shared financial support with the Warringah Shire Council, a Clubhouse with attached male and female change rooms was built and officially opened in 1934.

How started: In 1925 a small group of young men who were regular surfers at Avalon Beach, met in a private home of a local business man and decided to form a surf lifesaving club.

In 1925 a small group of young men who were regular surfers at Avalon Beach, met in a private home of a local business man and decided to form a surf lifesaving club. In the summer of 1925 and 1926, five members were examined by a member of North Steyne Club and successful qualified for the Bronze Medallion. This award was recognised by the New South Wales Surf Life Saving Association.

At the start of the 1929 season there was no lifesaving service only a simple surf line placed in a box well back from the surf.

Information about the Club is very sparse over the following years through the 1930's and the time of the Great Depression. Continuity of patrols was haphazard without a clubhouse for a weekend base. Through prolonged effort by the Avalon Beach Progress Association and by providing shared financial support with the Warringah Shire Council, a Clubhouse with attached male and female change rooms was built and officially opened in 1934.

There is no early Club record of formal affiliation with SLSA, NSW State Centre or Sydney Branch or when Manly Warringah came into being, but it is assumed as registered.

The number of active members was soon decimated by enlistment in the armed services during World War II. SLSA advertised for a PAID LIFESAVER Sundays and public holidays at Avalon Beach. To ensure patrol numbers, young men from the Police Boys Clubs in the outer suburbs being encouraged to join. After the war years, membership grew and finances strengthened with a new 2 storey clubhouse opened in 1961.

Two delegates attended Branch meeting and the Branch Secretary for 1972/73/74 was Avalon Beach SLSC member, Harry Regan.

In 1981/82, Michael Byrne, then Treasurer of Avalon Beach SLSC, was elected Deputy President of Surf Life Saving NSW for 1982 to 1984 and was then elected President from seasons 1984 to 1989.



Reel and line box stand, Avalon Beach circa 1936



1925 meeting to form Avalon SLSC was held at house of Arthur. J. Small, which was named 'Avalon'



Many early members were from Woolloomooloo Police Boys Club who travelled down to patrol



Official opening of first clubhouse, January 1936



IRB 's first tried and SLSA acceptance by Warren Mitchell of Avalon SLSC



Second clubhouse opened 1961



The Avalon Beach SLSC opened in 2014

Whale Beach

Founded: 21.01.1929

Affiliated: 31 October 1937 with SLSA. Or 30/09/1929 - check

First Clubhouse Built: The first clubhouse and shark lookout tower was the frame of a windmill water pump stand enclosed with corrugated iron.

How started: During the 1920s Whale Beach became a popular weekend camping place for those who were keen surfers. Following several near fatalities by drowning.

In 1926, a group of beach regulars formed a lifesaving squad and purchased a reel, line and belt and they began all day patrols each weekend. These patrols became spasmodic over the next decade until a group of campers, weekenders and some locals, joined to formally establish a Whale Beach Surf Life Saving Club. The inaugural meeting to form a club was in October 3rd, 1937.

Brief history:

During the 1920s Whale Beach became a popular weekend camping place for those who were keen surfers. Following several near fatalities by drowning.

In 1926, a group of beach regulars formed a lifesaving squad and purchased a reel, line and belt and they began all day patrols each weekend.

These patrols became spasmodic over the next decade until a group of campers, weekenders and some locals, joined to formally establish a Whale Beach Surf Life Saving Club

The inaugural meeting to form a club was in October 3rd, 1937.

It was attended by 40 people and was chaired by Mr Adrian Curlewis, then President of the Surf Lifesaving Association of Australia.

The first General Meeting was held on October 31st .1937.

Affiliation with SLSA was confirmed and Club membership set at five shillings.

On January 9th, 1938, eleven members gained the Bronze Medallion followed by a further 10 over the next 3 months.

The first clubhouse and shark lookout tower was the frame of a windmill water pump stand enclosed with corrugated iron.

The Club was affiliated with the Sydney Branch of SLSA and in 1957, the secretary of Whale Beach SLSC, Jack Clark, became Vice President of that Branch.

The formation of Northern Beaches Branch became a constant subject of discussion and a meeting was held at North Steyne SLSC in 1959 attended by a number of local clubs with delegates from Whale Beach SLSC.

A steering committee was formed and in the ensuing months permission to form this new Branch was granted by State Centre.

The Manly Warringah Branch held its first meeting in February 1960.

Mr Alan Fitzgerald of North Steyne SLSC was elected President and the Honorary Secretary for two seasons was Jack Clark of Whale Beach until the Northern Beaches Branch was incorporated.

How was the Club Formed: The Northbridge Swimmer Club President F.J.'Pop' Timms, had bought land and built a shack and a number of NBSC members became weekend regulars This was in the mid 1930's. Campers, weekenders and the few locals were canvassed about forming a surf lifesaving club.

Formation Date: The inaugural meeting was held in the timber dressing sheds at the southern end of the beach. Date was October 3rd, 1931. It was attended by 40 people and the chairperson was Mr Adrian Curlewis. It was a unanimous vote to form the Whale Beach SLSC.

Affiliation Date: At that meeting it was decided to affiliate with the Surf Lifesaving Association of Australia.

Council Approval Date: No record of formal Council approval in Club minutes.

Patrols Commenced: In 1926, a group of beach regulars formed a lifesaving squad and had a reel, line and belt supplied by the Council and patrolled the beach on weekends and public holidays. Those organised Patrols stopped after only few summers.

First Bronze Medallion – Squad – Date: At the inaugural meeting, 23 individuals registered as members. Two bronze squads were formed and all 11 members achieved the Bronze Medallion on January 9th, 1937. A further 10 qualified over the following year and season.

First Clubhouse Built: In 1937, the first clubhouse was made from a windmill water pump tower enclosed at the base by corrugate iron and a shark lookout platform higher up. Inside the structure was room for two surf reels or two members to change.

Subsequent Clubhouses: In 1941, a stone boathouse/clubhouse was built just above the high tide mark on the top level of the sandhill. Council approved the Club collecting parking fees from motorists. Hot water, tea and foods were on sale to raise money and special events held to raise funds. The goal was to finance purchase of land and the build a clubhouse. This was achieved with the opening of a two storey, brick and concrete clubhouse on December 20th 1953. There is now a third story to this building and a large boat/gear shed with a first aid room in front of the clubhouse.

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: In the 50s and 60s, Club had a good number of cadets aged from 10 to 13 years. A majority staying on as active members from age 16. Due to its location, there was not call for 'Nippers' with few families living in the surrounding areas. The Club has conducted activities over Christmas holidays for 'Little Rippers', being children of visitors and members.

Club Historian: Andrew Pearce, Past President 2015-2020

Has a History Book been written? A 110 page book recording the 50 Years of Whale Beach SLSC was produced in 1987. In 2022, another publication records personal stories of rescues at Whale Beach from the Meritorious Awarded rescue in 1937 to recent times. It also outlines the achievements of the Club in acquiring a substantial, freehold clubhouse, in carnival competition, initiating the premier ocean swim event with it's 50th anniversary in 2024 and other memorable Club events. Many members are named.



First Whale Beach SLSC Clubhouse 1937



Meritorious Awarded Rescue December 1937



Stone club room, & boat shed with shark tower



R&R Team for Manly Carnival 1946



First IRB 1969, the 'Moby Dick'



In 75th year, 2012, clubhouse and gear shed

Palm Beach

Founded: 26.11.1921

Affiliated: 30.09.1922

Club colours of black and green were chosen to reflect the colours of the First Battalion, First Australian Imperial Force.

How the Club was formed: January 25th 1920, Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Marks attempted to rescue of a woman carried out to sea in a rip. Marks had become the youngest Lieutenant-Colonel in the British and Dominion armies. Fully clothed, Marks swam out but could not reach the woman in time. Marks was overcome by the strength of the rip and exhausted. Both Marks and the woman drowned. This was the third drowning at Palm Beach over a couple of years. Following Marks' drowning, the Palm Beach Progress Association sort the service of a paid lifeguard and hired Austin Dellit, a member of Collaroy SLSC.

Formation Date: On November 26th, 1921 locals and weekend visitors held a meeting and voted to form the Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club and speedily became affiliated with the Surf Life Saving Association of NSW

First Bronze Medallion Squad: January 1922, a squad of 17 gained the Bronze medallion including Adrian Curlewis who became President of SLSA for 36 years. By 1930, qualified membership had grown to 54. That season, 27 rescues with belt and line, 27 without and 1 by surfboat were recorded.

Clubhouses: February 1922, a wooden shed was built beside residence of Peters family (now the current surf clubhouse).

The second clubhouse was a small timber building was built on Hordern Reserve, in the southern corner of the beach. It was demolished and a third clubhouse built in 1929 on Council land further north, where the Douglas Marks Pavilion is now situated. In 1936, the Club purchased the weekend house of William Chorley, then a deceased estate. It was converted into a clubhouse with accommodation. That building is now the Cabbage Tree Club. The large Peters residence 'Powhokohat' was purchase in 1954 and became the current Clubhouse. This heritage building was significantly refurbished in 2022.

Competition: In 1922, a 'Johnny Walker' design surf boat was purchased. First carnival held on New Year's Day, 1923. In its early days, the club was very competitive in the water, on the beach and on surfboards. The club has had continual representation in the boat competition since its inauguration. In recent years, the club has become a consistent winner in surf boat and masters' competition and has won a number of Australian Championship titles.

Junior Activities/Nippers Formation Date: During the war years, there was a Junior Lifesavers squad

Has a History Book been written? 75 Year History published in 1996 and a 100 Year history to be available in 2023/24 season.



c. 1921



c. 1930

Barrenjoey Surf Life Saving (or Surfers) Club (now Nth Palm Beach)

Established: 1930-1940

Affiliated: 14.10.1941

Bronze Medallions – 6 on 23 March 1941

How formed: In the 1930s there was an attempt to form a Surf Bathers Club made up of surfing enthusiasts from the camping area. They met initially in the Beacon Store in 1939 and later became known as “Barrenjoey Surfers Club” but was forced to disband due to the outbreak of WW2.

Clubhouse: In March 1941 a small temporary structure was built to house a surf reel, box line and box lifesaving gear. In November 1941, council enclosed the shed to protect the gear.

North Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club

Founded: 1946 ???

Affiliated: 13.11.1953

First Clubhouse Built: How started: In the 1930s there was an attempt to form a Surf Bathers Club made up of surfing enthusiasts from the camping area. They met initially in the Beacon Store in 1939 and later became known as “Barrenjoey Surfers Club” but was forced to disband due to the outbreak of WW2. Surf Lifesaving NSW records indicate that in the early thirties there was an effort to start a lifesaving service at North Palm Beach and start a club.

It was called the ‘Surf Bathers Club’ and was made up mainly by surfing enthusiasts from the popular camping area. Some would have been ‘permanent resident’ and others frequent weekend campers and then holidaymakers. It then became called the ‘Barrenjoey Surfers Club”. It disbanded at the outbreak of the second World War.

In January 1941, Warringah Shire Council received a request for permission to form ‘The Barrenjoey Surf Lifesaving Club’ to specifically patrol the northern end of Palm Beach. The Council agreed provided the Club affiliated with SLSA. Although there is no record of that occurring. Although it was maybe not affiliated at that time with SLSA, 6 members gained the Bronze in March 1941 and a further 4 in December that year. Probably as a result of the first quad becoming qualified in March 1941, Barrenjoey SLSC asked Council permission to erect a shed to store gear, shed which was being donated by Palm Beach Golf Club. In the mid 1940’s this shed was replaced by a larger building which had been the clubhouse of the Careel Bay Cricket Club and was positioned on the present site of the modern North Palm Beach SLSC.

Above Information sourced from the Avalon Historic Society by Rob Berry.

Below Information sourced from their website by Rob Berry in Sept 2023

Surf Lifesaving NSW records indicate that in the early thirties there was an effort to start a lifesaving service at North Palm Beach and start a club. It was called the ‘Surf Bathers Club and was made up mainly by surfing enthusiasts from the popular camping area. Some would have been ‘permanent resident’ and others frequent weekend campers and then holidaymakers. It then became called the ‘Barrenjoey Surfers Club.” It disbanded at the outbreak of the second World War.

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renovated in the 1980s when women became full members of Surf Life Saving. North Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club has always been at the forefront of lifesaving innovation. Many of the patrolling procedures techniques and items of equipment that have become the standard ways of doing things these days were pioneered on North Palm Beach. In the 1980s Dr Yeo the spinal surgeon from Royal North Shore Hospital worked with the lifesavers at North Palm Beach to develop the techniques and equipment for dealing with spinal injuries in the surf. Many of these techniques have been adopted by Surf Life Saving throughout Australia. North Palm Beach SLSC claims it was the first Surf Club to own a four wheel drive vehicle and to use it as an integral part of patrolling the beach and were then the first to use the Polaris All Terrain Vehicle (ATV). At that time most clubs were using quad bikes. In the late 1970s North Palm Beach SLSC joined with Palm Beach and Whale Beach Surf Life Saving Clubs to operate a jet-boat service for the northern part of the peninsula. During the 1980s, members of North Palm Beach were among the first volunteer crew on the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. events. The club was then also at the forefront of the introduction of rescue jet ski services within the Branch.

The club is quite isolated being located at the extreme northerly point of the peninsular and most of the members are from out of area. The main focus of the volunteers at North Palm Beach SLSC has always been maintaining high lifesaving and patrol standards and North Palm Beach is one of the few clubs to maintain full day patrols with members being rostered for a maximum of 8 patrols over summer.

Around 2000, North Palm Beach was chosen as the location for a TV Series, 'Home and Away' which is shown world-wide. The Club has an alias as 'Summer Bay SLSC and benefits financially.



First clubhouse was the original Avalon Cricket Club building from Hitchcock Park, set up in 1948



First North Palm Beach clubhouse with veranda addition for accommodation



The Clubhouse next to an amenities block amongst The permanent campers at North Palm Beach. Around 1956



First Bronze Squad : LtoR: K.Aubrey, J.Urdel, B.Brown, K.Brooks, B.McBride, D.Rooney



1948 Ladies Auxiliary members March Past Team



NPB SLSC and equipment is used for popular TV series shown world-wide



North Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club as at 2023

Manly Seagulls Life Saving Club

A group of surf bathing enthusiasts, calling themselves the Seagulls, swam together at the Southern end of South Steyne Beach Manly.

A letter from Mr. W. H. Walker to Manly Council, Indicated that on 29th August 1911, they had formed as a club with 15 members, membership had increased to over 60, all being local residents, and certified as lifesavers, It was their desire to assist the Council in any way they can in the application of the ordinances governing surf bathing at South Steyne Beach.

The club would provide efficient beach patrols by senior members to act as surf and beach attendants under appointment by the Council. March 1913 the Seagulls changed their name to South Steyne Life Saving Club and affiliated, at the beginning of the 1913-14 season, with the Surf Bathers Association of N.S.W.

14 May 1913, a gale with enormous seas lashed the east coast and swept away the structures that were Seagulls, the men's and women's public dressing sheds and at South Steyne. The only structure left standing was the one occupied by the Manly Life Saving Club. Council called for tenders for the erection of new dressing sheds for the public and the Manly Life Saving Club. The Seagulls protested that

They that they should be allowed to use the club premises, Manly Life Saving Club suggested an amalgamation of the two Clubs. On 17th March 1914 on the direction of Manly Council, South Steyne Club (Seagulls) must amalgamate with the Manly Life Saving Club, council said there was only room for one in the area. This amalgamation had only just been accomplished when World War 1 was declared.

Formation Date: Seagulls Club 29th August 1911.

Affiliation Date: 30th September 1911 Surf Bathers Association of New South Wales.

First Club President: Adam Ogilvy Ald.

First Club Secretary: W. H. Walker.

First Club Captain: James Daley Vernon.

First Members: Royal Life Saving Society Proficiency Certificates

First Surf Carnival: Seagulls Club Sunday 12th November 1911.

First Bronze Squad: Surf Bathers Association of New South Wales 13th April 1913.

January 1912: Seagulls Club member Tommy Walker gave Surf Board Riding Demonstration.

Balmoral Beach Club

Founded: 10.02.1914

Affiliated: 19.10.1914

Cooks Terrace

Founded: 1953

Affiliated: 13.11.1953

Branch Formation:

Surf Bathers Association of New South Wales was the organisation to which all clubs were directly affiliated to until the Sydney Branch was formed in 1949.

Manly Warringah Branch was formed in 1960 following a decision of the north side clubs to press for the formation of a branch in the Manly Warringah area. A branch executive of Alan Fitzgerald (President), Lionel McDonald (Deputy President), Jack Clark (Secretary) and Harry Rogers (Treasurer), Hector McDonald (Superintendent).

The name of the branch remained Manly Warringah Branch until 1993 when it was changed to Surf Lifesaving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc. to recognise the change in local government structure that took place around that time.

Branch Management:

The Branch Executive of President, Deputy President, Secretary, Treasurer, Superintendent and his Deputy were responsible for the general day to day running of the branch from its formation until in 1994 the management structure was revised with the various areas of control being run by designated directors. At this time an additional member of the executive was added to look after the inclusion of the Board of Junior Activities (Nippers). Changes in the structure have occurred over the years to the current format of today.

In 1983 Jenny Drury commenced as the branches 1st employee to perform much of the day to day running of the work needed to relieve pressure on the volunteer officials. The work carried out was done in the beginning from an area in Manly Surf Club with subsequent relocations to South Curl Curl Surf Club, offices in Dee Why, Cromer and Warriewood.

Support Staff – in alphabetical order

Wendy Abela	Nick Hatch	Sally Johnson	Sally Mulligan	Sharon Raper
Jennifer Drury	Sarah Haven	Narelle Kristiaansen	Sarah Murdoch	Barbara Smith
Ashley Evans	Vanessa Henderson	Alan Lamacraft	Bella Nimmo	Johl Storey
Jodie Frazer	Belinda Hobson	Kieran Le Jeune	Maree Nugent	John Taylor
Verity Gannon	Chris Hopton	Karyn Maxfield	Marcial Nunura	Spencer Wagner
Kate Harby	Katie Hughes	Steve McInnes	Martin Phillips	Kara Wiltshire
Mechelle Hare	Jen Huston	Doug Menzies	Suzi Prsa	Alex Wye
Tracey Hare-Boyd	David Jeffrey	Sandy Menzies	Kristen Raper	

First Committee 1959/60: * from 2011/2 SNB Annual Report

President: Alan Fitzgerald

Deputy President: Lionel MacDonald

Secretary: J Clark

Treasurer: Harry Rogers

Superintendent: Hector McDonald

Deputy Superintendent: Lionel MacDonald

Officers 1959 - 1960 to 1993 - 1994

Season	President	Deputy	Secretary	Treasurer	Superintendent	Deputy Superintendent
1959-60	Alan Fitzgerald	Lionel McDonald	President Jack Clark	Harry Rodgers	Hector McDonald	Lionel McDonald
1960-61	Alan Fitzgerald	Lionel McDonald	Jack Clark	Lindsay Paton	Hector McDonald	Lionel McDonald
1961-62	Alan Fitzgerald	Lionel McDonald	Jack Hopper	Lindsay Paton	Hector McDonald	Carl Willis
1962-63	Alan Fitzgerald	Lionel McDonald	Jack Hopper	Lindsay Paton	Hector McDonald	Carl Willis
1963-64	Alan Fitzgerald	Lionel McDonald	Jack Hopper	Lindsay Paton	Hector McDonald	Andrew May
1964-65	Alan Fitzgerald	Lionel McDonald	Jack Hopper	Lindsay Paton	Hector McDonald	Alan Slevin
1965-66	Alan Fitzgerald	Lionel McDonald	Jack Smiles	Lindsay Paton	Hector McDonald	Alan Slevin
1966-67	Alan Fitzgerald	Lionel McDonald	Jack Smiles	John McCrory	Hector McDonald	Alan Slevin
1967-68	Jack Smiles	Lionel McDonald	Arthur Castleman	John McCrory	Hector McDonald	Alan Slevin
1968-69	Jack Smiles	Lionel McDonald	Arthur Castleman/ Gavin Anderson	John McCrory	Hector McDonald/ Alan Slevin	Alan Slevin/ David Romain
1969-70	Jack Smiles	Allan Fitzgerald	Gavin Anderson	Lindsay Paton	Alan Slevin	Dick Goodfellow
1970-71	Alan Fitzgerald	Jack Smiles	Graeme Clark	Lindsay Paton	Lionel McDonald	Neil Montgomery
1971-72	Alan Fitzgerald	Jack Smiles	Barrie Pill	Paul Day	Lionel McDonald	Neil Montgomery
1972-73	Alan Fitzgerald	Jack Smiles	Harry Ragan	Paul Day/Barrie Pitt	Neil Montgomery	Michael Bymes
1973-74	Alan Fitzgerald	Jack Smiles	Harry Ragan/ Lindsay Paton	Barrie Pitt	Neil Montgomery	Michael Bymes
1974-75	Alan Fitzgerald MBE	Graham McNaughton	Lindsay Paton	Rick Wright	Neil Montgomery	Michael Bymes
1975-76	Graham McNaughton	Paul Day	Michael Bartlett	Rick Wright	Neil Montgomery	Michael Bymes
1976-77	Graham McNaughton	Paul Day	Michael Bartlett	Ernie Davis	Neil Montgomery	Michael Bymes
1977-78	Graham McNaughton	Paul Day	Dave Piper	Ernie Davis	Neil Montgomery	Rick Wright
1978-79	Paul Day	Michael Bartlett	Dave Piper	Ernie Davis/ Graham McNaughton	Rick Wright	Col White
1979-80	Paul Day	Michael Bartlett	Dave Piper	Ken Priest	Lindsay Paton	Col White
1980-81	Paul Day	Graham McNaughton	Jack Smiles	Ken Priest	Lindsay Paton	Charlie Laws

1981-82	Paul Day	Graham McNaughton	Robert Parkhill	Ken Priest	Rick Wright	Charlie Laws
1982-83	Paul Day	Barry Burke	Robert Parkhill	Steve Miles	Rick Wright	Charlie Laws
1983-84	Paul Day	Barry Burke	Robert Parkhill	June King	Rick Wright	Mike Edwards
1984-85	Paul Day	Charlie Laws	Robert Parkhill	June King	Rick Wright	Mike Edwards
1985-86	Bruce Johnston	Bert King	Robert Parkhill	June King	Rick Wright	Ross Matthews
1986-87	Bert King	Jeff Andrew	June King	Tom Fraser	Ross Matthews	Graham Howard
1987-88	Bert King	Jeff Andrew	Michael Fitzhardinge/ June King	Tom Fraser	Graham Howard	Terry Boardman
1988-89	David Piper	Jeff Andrew	June King	Bill Goodman	Graham Howard	Terry Boardman/Col Rae
1989-90	Hector McDonald OAM	Louis Johnson	Bill Goodman	Bill Goodman	Graham Howard	Col White
1990-91	Hector McDonald OAM	Louis Johnson	Bill Goodman	Bill Goodman	Graham Howard	Terry Boardman
1991-92	Hector McDonald OAM	Louis Johnson/ Terry Boardman	Bill Goodman	Bill Goodman	Terry Boardman	Col Rae
1992-93	Hector McDonald OAM	Terry Boardman/ David Olsen	Graeme Causon	Bill Goodman	Col Rae	Brian Kinsey
1993-94	Jeff Andrew	Graham Howard	Graeme Causon	Bill Goodman	Col Rae	Brian Kinsey

Directors 1994 - 1995 to 2001 - 2002

Season	President	Deputy President	Admin	Finance	Rescue Services	Examination/ Education	Competition/ Coaching	Club Rep	BJA Chairman
1994-95	Jeff Andrew	Graham Howard	Graeme Causon	Bill Goodman	Brian Kinsey	Andrew Chubb	Peter Gard	Simon Moriarty	Peter O'Dwyer
1995-96	Jeff Andrew	Ritchie Lytham	Graeme Causon	Bill Goodman	Brian Kinsey	Andrew Chubb	Peter Gard	Simon Moriarty/ Terry Boardman/ Bill Worth	Peter O'Dwyer
1996-97	Ritchie Lytham	William Worth	Graeme Causon	Barrie Pitt	Brian Kinsey	Andrew Chubb	Ross Jorgensen	Peter Daley	Peter O'Dwyer
1997-98	Ritchie Lytham	William Worth	Graeme Causon	Barrie Pitt	Brian Kinsey	Barbara Smith	Jeff Hewitt	Peter Daley/ Warren Young	Peter O'Dwyer
1998-99	Ritchie Lytham	William Worth	Ernie Davis OAM	Barrie Pitt	Brian Kinsey	Glenn Langley	Jeff Hewitt	Peter Daley	Peter O'Dwyer
1999-00	Ritchie Lytham	William Worth	Ernie Davis OAM	Barrie Pitt	Brian Kinsey	Glenn Langley	Jeff Hewitt	Peter Daley	Peter O'Dwyer
2000-01	Bill Worth OAM	Tony Haven	Ernie Davis OAM	Barrie Pitt	Brian Kinsey	Glenn Langley	Jeff Hewitt	Peter Daley	Ross Tester
2001-02	Bill Worth OAM	Tony Haven	Tony Burns	David Fisher	Brian Joyce	Marianne Troop	Jeff Hewitt	Glenn Langley	Ross Tester

Directors 2002 to 2003

Season	President	Deputy President	Administration	Finance	Rescue Services	Examination/ Education	Competition/ Coaching	Youth Development	Junior Development	Sponsorship/ Marketing
2002-03	Tony Haven	Jeff Hewitt	Tony Burns	David Fisher	Brian Joyce	Marianne Troop	Ritchie Lytham	John Woods	Ross Tester	Peter O'Dwyer

Directors 2003 to 2004

Season	President	Deputy President	Administration/ Finance	Rescue Services	Examination/ Education	Competition/ Coaching	Youth Development	Junior Development	Sponsorship/ Marketing
2003-04	Tony Haven	Jeff Hewitt	Tony Burns	Richard Andjelkovic	Glenn Langley	Ritchie Lytham	John Woods	Ross Tester	Peter O'Dwyer

Directors 2004 to 2015

Season	President	Deputy	Admin/ Finance	Rescue Services	Education/ Assessment	Surf Sports	Youth & Membership	Sponsorship/ Marketing Development
2004-05	Tony Haven	Ross Tester	Tony Burns	Richard Andjelkovic	Neale Cummins	Michael Bate	Glenn Langley	Peter D'Dwyer
2005-06	Tony Haven	Ross Tester	Tony Burns	Glenn Langley	Neale Cummins	Craig Susans	Jenni Jones-Billington	Tony Bonner
2006-07	Tony Haven	Ross Tester	Tony Burns	Glenn Langley	Julie Isbill/ Karl Lewy	Michael Bate	Michelle Rae	Gordon Lang
2007-08	Gordon Lang	Doug Menzies	Phil Cullis	Steve Faddy	Ross Tester	Michael Bate	Adam Traugott	Alan Mason
2008-09	Gordon Lang	Doug Menzies	Phil Cullis	Steve Faddy	Ross Tester	Michael Bate	Adam Traugott	Alan Mason
2009-10	Gordon Lang	David Murray (Jan 2009)	Phil Cullis	Steve Faddy	Michael Wasley (Aug 2008)	Michael Bate	Ross Tester (Aug 2008)	Alan Mason
2010-11	Gordon Lang	David Murray	Phil Cullis	Steve Faddy	Michael Wasley	Ross Tester	Ross Tester	Alan Mason
2011-12	Gordon Lang	David Murray	Phil Cullis	Steve Faddy	Michael Wasley	Ross Tester	Glenn Langley	Alan Mason
2012-13	David Murray	Christine Hopton	Phil Cullis	Steve Faddy	Shannon Job (Jan 2012)	John Fahey (July 2011)	Glenn Langley	Rob Berry
2013-14	David Murray	Christine Hopton Doug Menzies (June 2013)	Lance Barnes (Nov 2012)	Geoff Raper	Michael Kirkby (Feb 2013)	John Fahey	Glenn Langley	R Berry
2014-15	Doug Menzies	Shannon Job	Lance Barnes	Geoff Raper	Adrienne Lowe	Michael Kirkby	Glenn Langley Tracey Hare-Boyd (June 2013)	Rob Berry
						Darren Warrenner	Tracey Hare-Boyd	Rob Berry

Directors 2015 to 2022

Season	President	Deputy President	Finance	Lifesaving	Education	Surf Sports	Member Services
2015-16	Doug Menzies	Shannon Job	Lance Barnes	Geoff Raper	Adrienne Lowe	Darren Warrenar	Tracey Hare-Boyd
2016-17	Doug Menzies	Shannon Job	Lance Barnes	Geoff Raper	Adrienne Lowe	Darren Warrenar	Tracey Hare-Boyd
2017-18	Doug Menzies	Shannon Job	Lance Barnes	Glenn Tolan	Adrienne Lowe	Darren Warrenar	Tracey Hare-Boyd
2018-19	Doug Menzies	Shannon Job	Lance Barnes	Glenn Tolan	Adrienne Lowe	Louis Tassone	Tracey Hare-Boyd
2019-20	Doug Menzies#	Tracey Hare-Boyd	Tony Hill Igar	Adrian Hill	Adrienne Lowe	Louis Tassone	Geoff Raper
	#(Leave of Absence January 2020 - May 2020) - Acting President during this time	Tracey Hare-Boyd					
2020-21	Tracey Hare-Boyd	Michael Wasley	Tony Hill Igar	Adrian Hill	Adrienne Lowe	Louis Tassone	Geoff Raper
2021-22	Tracey Hare-Boyd	Michael Wasley	Tony Hill Igar	Cameron Powell	Adrienne Lowe	Louis Tassone	Kerry Seipelt
2022-23	Tracey Hare-Boyd (6/03/23)	Michael Wasley	Tony Hill Igar (30/06/23)	Cameron Powell	Rod McGibbon	Ernesto Cideron	Emily Buckle
	Rod McGibbon Acting President from 20/03/2023						

Board of Examiners (BOE):

When the Branch was first formed there were 33 members of the B of E who had been carrying out functions within the set up of the Sydney Branch. Broken up into areas with District Supervisors was how the operation of this area performed.

Upon the creation of the new Branch the B of E became one unit for the 20 Clubs currently in existence at that time. Its membership now exceeds 200.

The first Superintendent was Hector McDonald who was elected following a meeting in December 1959 and it was his role to supervise the B of E operations which included Life Saving, Examinations and Competition. Lionel McDonald was also elected at that time as his deputy.

The BOE was responsible for the introduction of "torpedo rescue buoy" in 1961 following the necessary funds for its construction being made available by Avalon Lions Club. The innovation was adopted by SLSA following the representations made by the MW Branch. The rescue tube as it is now known is extensively used as standard patrol equipment.

The examination area of the B of E basically consisted of examining candidates from all clubs for their bronze medallion which is the primary qualification for becoming a surf lifesaver. Numerous other disciplines are now included including Surf Certificate, Advanced Resuscitation, IRB, and others.

Many of the areas that the B of E looks after are listed and described in more details under separate headings'

The B of E remained the strength of the Branch until 2004 when it was disbanded following a restructure of Branch management. A new board of management was elected into 3 separate areas board of surf sports, board of lifesaving, board of examination and education.

The B of E was the largest board within Australia.

Competition:

Events – when was each event introduced.

Originally U16 and U18 but age groups became U15, 17 and U19.

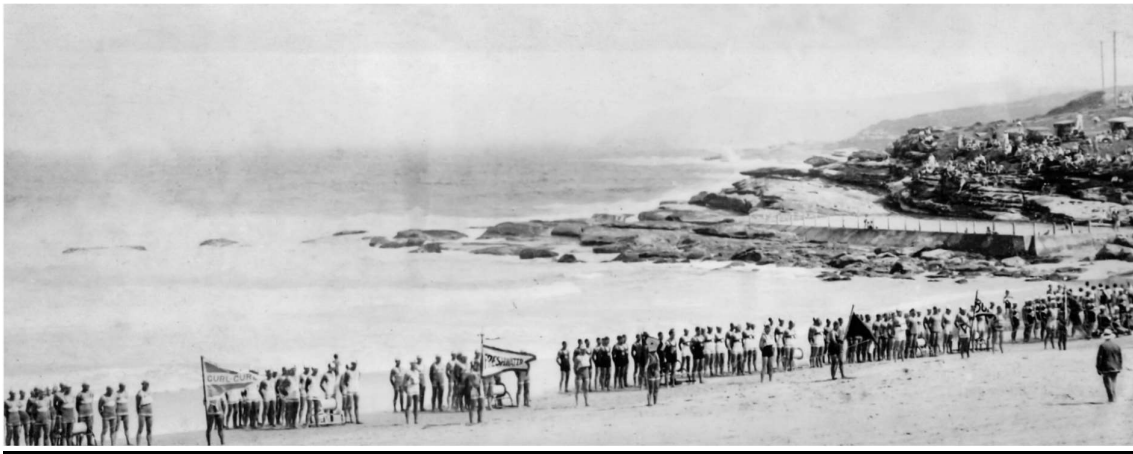
The Branch has always been well represented at all levels of competition winning numerous medals.

Competition has revolved around the many formats of surf carnivals including surf, beach, surfboat rowing and lifesaving skills. Most competition is held during the surfing season however IRB competition is normally held once the season has finished due to IRB's being needed by Clubs to perform their normal lifesaving functions during patrol hours.

Some surf carnivals have been held continuously for more than a century like the Freshwater carnival held annually on Australia Day.

During the 1950s a series of restricted carnivals were held at beaches between North Palm Beach and Warriewood with up to 7 clubs competing in events which included such novelty events as pillow fights.

The 1982-83 Carnival season ended at Warriewood with the inaugural Inter Branch Carnival for Under 18's and the inaugural Masters Carnival. Both carnivals were a great success for all concerned and in particular, the Branch which promoted the concept.



Carnival at South Curl Curl



Introduction of Females:

Prior to July 1980, women's roles were restricted to support and back office. The attitude was that women were not physically capable of carrying out a rescue in the surf. The only exception to this was during World War II where a number of women were allowed to patrol on some beaches. In early 1980, a resolution was passed by National Council that from 1 July women should be able to patrol on our beaches once they had gained their bronze medallion.

The first squad was from Port Kembla SLSC who flew up to Coffs Harbour, where the water was warmer, to be assessed just six days after the new rules took effect. Long Reef was the first club in the branch to admit females into their membership and thus become qualified patrolling members.

The current percentage of Active & Reserve Active members across the 21 Clubs is 38% of all members. They are very well represented in all areas of lifesaving and competition.

Support Services and Innovations:

Radio Room: The radio facilities at Warringah Surf Rescue situated at Fisherman's Beach was set up by Peter Liddle in the early seventies in at the power boat shed. Later with financial assistance from the Council an additional level was added. This structure is still in place today.

The radio room initially had contact with all clubs in the branch and was able to co-ordinate emergency services when required.

The service offered was found to be so well managed that some other branches at times used the radio facilities.

The facility is also used by the Council Lifeguards during their operating hours. It was also a central point for branch duty officers during weekend operational times. It is manned by dedicated personnel who volunteer their time during these times.

The facility has wheelchair access and as such persons with disabilities are able to assist in the functioning of the radio room. One member of the personnel involved is wheelchair bound Chris Roberts who has given 40 years' service to branches operation of the radio room.

NEWPORT SLSC- BARTENDER POWER BOATS

During the 1964-65 season through the support of Ampol Petroleum Company and the Bartender Safety Boat Company, Newport SLSC became the first Club to own a motorized surf boat.

The Bartender Class of boat was designed on the west coast of USA by a Marine Architect named George Calkins who could see the potential of a boat that could handle the heavy seas on the west coast river bars and shoals (hence the name Bartender). In 1957 the boat won a national boat safety award and by the end of the year 22 Bartenders were in use by the US Coast Guard.

At Newport SLSC it all started with late Life Members Peter Liddle and Bert King after reading an article in an American boating magazine.

The Boats manufacturer was located in Melbourne and allowed Newport SLSC to try the boat at the Metropolitan Championships in February at Newport Beach. The Manufacturer also sold six of to the Victorian Police for use on Port Phillip Bay and other water ways. The boat was used at the Carnival to lay the Boat Buoys when a standard Surf Boat failed to make the break.

The Boat was later returned to Melbourne as it was discovered that the motor was worn out following previous training by the Victorian Police. Following repairs the boat was returned to Newport SLSC for developmental experiments. It was well utilised in many local rescues and despite many mechanical faults proved very seaworthy. A Committee was set up to instigate development and training procedures for the Bartender. Towards the end of the season the Bartender was traded in on a new boat that had been updated in a number of ways following recommendations from Newport SLSC members. It was powered by a 110 hp Volvo Motor with a modified sea leg to lift quickly if it hit a sand bank.

The Ampol Petroleum Company continued their sponsorship and the manufacturer donated \$1,000 worth of Oil and Fuel. The boat was Christened "Ampol Rescue".

Three hundred hours of operation were completed in the 1965-66 season with many demonstrations carried out at a number of carnivals.

During the 1966-67 season the Ampol Rescue answered many calls some of these at night and during the week.

The 1967-68 season saw the continuation of the good work by Ampol Rescue and a new trailer was designed and built at no cost to the Club which allowed easier access to the water.

The Bartender class of boat proved so successful that a number of other clubs used them and SLSNSW formed a Committee to draft regulations and training procedures for power boat operations.

The Ampol Rescue was sold to a group of Clubs at the Entrance Central Coast after three years of service at Newport SLSC.

Ampol Petroleum Company was keen to sponsor another boat for Newport SLSC using expertise gained over four years experience with two previous boats whilst still using the same basic hull. The new boat was christened "Ampol Rescue 2" in May 1969.

At the end of 1969-70 season saw the completion of six years of Power Surf Rescue at Newport SLSC. In an impressive performance one Sunday afternoon in the 1970-71 season the Ampol Rescue two carried out three mass rescues, two at Newport and one at Mona Vale. The role of the power boat in surf lifesaving was proven again.

The 1971-72 season saw the conversion of the Ampol Rescue 2 from propeller driven to an American Berkley Jet drive system which allowed more clearance under the hull so the boat could operate in shallow water. The maintenance and replacement costs were also lower and a more powerful V8 motor was fitted. These motors could be hooked up to on shore plumbing in the Boat Shed so that the boat could hit the water with a warm engine.

Things did not go to plan in the 1973-74 season with numerous operational issues and the boat being out of action for most of the season.

A big storm hit the club in May 1974 much of the Power Boat gear, tools, spares, power winch and numerous other items were lost. The boat was unable to return to the water until the "Aussies" at Dee Why in 1975.

In the 1975-76 season the boat's future came under serious consideration as the firm contracted to fix the motor went bust and the motor disappeared. The Newport Power Boat Rescue Service then decided to sell the hull and move resources into the new IRBs.

As a result of Newport SLSC introducing the Power Boats, a range of new equipment was added to Surf Life Saving. These included Two Way Radios, the Oxy Viva Resuscitation system and the Air Bag Resuscitation system which was not approved by SLSA for another 20 years.

This report was prepared by Gary Cook Life Member of Newport SLSC and an Accredited Crewman and Driver of the Bartender Vessels. Full information is contained in Newport SLSC's "The First Century 1909-2009 History Book" compiled by Guy Jennings.



The first "Bartender" off Whale Beach and at Newport.

In 1965 a jet powered craft was developed by a group led by Don Matheson BEM and it became the first jet powered surfboat in Australia. The craft operated under the name 'Jack Wilson.'

Helicopter:

In 1973-74 the helicopter service sponsored by Westpac was successfully introduced into Surf Lifesaving in Sydney Metropolitan area. A training day for the service was held at Nth Narrabeen Beach and the first rescue by the helicopter occurred at Bronte three weeks after its introduction.

The Helicopter VH-CSW was chartered from Airfast general aviation group, with it and its crew of two lifesavers and a pilot spending each day on standby at the Army's School of Artillery, North Head in radio contact with 'Surf Command'. The helicopter with a special team of 28 Surf Lifesavers was on duty for 94 days with 209 flying hours during the first season from October to the end of April including the entire summer school holiday period.

The Helicopter crew made many dramatic rescues over the season, which included 27 persons lifted to safety from the ocean, another 12 accident victims flown to hospitals, and over 100 search missions made in response to surf clubs, police and beach inspector calls.

The Helicopter service linked with the Jet Boat and Surf Club Patrols through a newly established "Surf Command" Radio network. This SLSA Radio network allowed their mobile emergency service to coordinate in rescue activities and to be on call to Police and other Civil Rescue Services.

Without a dedicated group of volunteers from Sydney and Manly-Warringah branch clubs the helicopter service could not have been manned so effectively during surfing season.

Inshore Rescue Boat/IRB:

Warren Mitchell OAM from Avalon Beach was the person responsible for the introduction of the IRB into surf lifesaving. The first successful trial was conducted at Avalon Beach on 2 November 1969. Warren along with his brother Don carried out this trial. In the following month Warren together with John Fuller carried out the first rescue with an IRB when 8 children were saved from a rip.

The perseverance of Warren and members of the Avalon Beach SLSC enabled the IRB to be accepted as faster and more efficient method of surf rescue than the previously traditional methods. During the introduction period he faced many obstacles from more conservative members of the SLSA movement but these were all overcome.

For his efforts Warren was awarded an SLSA Innovation Award and also an Order of Australia Medal (OAM). A book "Breakthrough: The Story of the Inflatable Rescue Boat" was written by E Wake-Walker (2007)

Jet Ski:

The use of the Jet Ski is one of the most recent introductions to the rescue equipment used by surf lifesavers.

Upon a visit to Avalon Beach the pioneer of the jet ski Brian Keaulana a Hawaiian lifeguard noted that he had experienced many of the obstacles that had been experienced by Warren during his introduction of the IRB.

Drones:

TIPS Panel:

In 1995 following a tragic incident involving members of the Manly SLSC it was decided by Jenny Drury and Brian Kinsey to approach QBE Insurance for support in the formation of traumatic incident peer support team. This was a new initiative for surf lifesavers to gain emotional/psychological first aid following major incidents. It is also now an integral component of OH&S legislation. The team was successfully managed for many years by Patricia Newton who was awarded an honour for her management and direction of the group.

Branch Tours:

International Tours

- 1959-1960 Inaugural year of Manly Warringah SLSA of A
- 1960-1961 Nothing
- 1961-1962 (Motor surf boat introduced)
- 1962-1963 Nothing
- 1963-1964 In June there were unofficial negotiations conducted with regard to a visit to South Africa by a Branch Team?

(Beach football first introduced for the winter months)
- 1964-1965 (November 1964 Narrabeen Club affiliated bringing total clubs to 21)

Christmas 1964 the touring New Zealand Team arrived in our Branch for a carnival at Whale Beach SLSC with NSW Branches.

A proposal that the Branch should consider a team tour to South Africa was submitted to the Council meeting in June 1964 and on 20th March a team of 15 departed Mascot to spend five weeks in South Africa Manager Mr A Fitzgerald, Coach- Mr A May, Captain Mr P Clarke.
- 1965-1966 Nothing
- 1966-1967 Team from South Africa arrived in Perth 27th December and finally arrive in Manly Warringah on 17th January 1967
- 1967-1968 (individual Club reports introduced into Annual report)
- 1968-1969 Nothing
- 1969-1970 Nothing
- 1970-1971 A South African Surf Team visited Australia. Throughout their Sydney stay they were accommodated in the Manly Warringah District. Hospitality was provided by Harbord Diggers Memorial Club and The Moby Dick Club. A civic reception was given by Warringah Shire Council to honour The Spirit of Competition and Lifesaving between our two nations at Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club (This year has been momentous for National Council seeing the birth of the World Life Saving Council and in conjunction with Manly Warringah Branch arranging for a successful instruction team to tour Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan).
- 1971-1972 Manly Warringah Branch hosted for part of their stay in Sydney, the visiting team from the National Water Life Saving Association of the Republic of China. The team was accommodated at the Time and Tide Hotel.
- 1972-1973 (First photos in Annual Report)
- 1973-1974 Nothing
- 1974-1975 (One Manly Warringah member picked to tour Europe with the Australian team
Congratulations to Ron Payne of Freshwater SLSC)
- 1975-1976 Nothing

- 1976-1977 Ernie Davis and David Piper were members of the NSW State team for an Asian Tour.
- 1977-1978 Northern Command renamed Warringah Surf Rescue. Branch delegates to World Life Saving Congress in Newport California, Congratulations Neil Montgomery and Gordon McNaughton
- 1978-1978 Philippines tour by Board. An instructional team headed by Mr Hector McDonald as Manager and 14 others left 26th December 1978. A total of 133 awards were gained.
- 1979-1980 20th July 1980 the NSW Rep team to Europe was farewelled with Michael Byrnes as Assistant Manager and five others from Manly Warringah Branch.
- There was an International Carnival at North Steyne between New South Wales, New Zealand and Wales
- 1980-1981 Board of Examiners Instructional Tour of the Philippines. Eleven members of the Manly Warringah Board of Examiners took part ably managed by Dave Roberts. The Philippines Life Saving Association was formed.
- 1981-1982 Australian Team that toured USA, three Manly Warringah Branch members chosen to go. Trans-Tasman Trophy in New Zealand had seven Manly Warringah Branch Members. The NSW IRB Team to New Zealand had one Manly Warringah Branch member.
- 1992-1993 Team to South Africa leaving 15th April 1993 Dave Roberts Managing 14 members
- 1993-1994 South African Team visited. National Under21 team competed at a twilight carnival at Queenscliff
- 1998-1999 Northern Territory Tour from Manly Warringah Branch. Andrew Chubb manager of seventeen members providing training in IRB, Nipper Coaching, Train The Trainer Courses and Examiner Courses along with ARC Updates
- 2000-2001 North American and Educational and Development Tour. Managed by Tony Haven AM and twelve up and coming members of Sydney Northern Beaches Branch Board of Examiners.

Wartime and ADF Service:

A book has been written by a panel including Ray Petersen (Manly) entitled "Those Who Served" and should be read to obtain much wider detail of service by surf lifesavers with all sections of the ADF.

In this book there are details of all known service personnel from each club. Individual biographies are detailed of a number of individuals including Sir Adrian Curlewis, John Williams, David Fisher, David McErlane and the Porters of Newport.

During World War II most beaches were barricaded off after the Japanese entered the hostilities. Some photos of this are included in our photo archives.



Gun Posts on Dee Why Headland



Anti-tank trap on Dee Why Lagoon



Barbed wire on the seawall at Queenscliff 1943



Barbed wire at Queenscliff Beach

Shark Attacks

Branch Funding/Sponsorship:

Coppertone

Activities associated with Sponsorship:

“Miss Gidget”

Chariot Races at Harold Park Trots

Prominent Members:

Col White:

Paul Day:

Ernie Davis:

Michael Byrnes:

Ritchie Lytham;

Mick Chapman:

Branch Australian Representatives in Other Sports:

North Steyne:

Rob Heming Wallaby 1961-1967

North Curl Curl:

Jack King Olympics Water Polo 1948

Long Reef:

John Freedman Wallaby 1962-1963

Freshwater:

Holly Lincoln-Smith Water Polo 2006 - 2016

Collaroy:

Brian Morton Olympic K4 1996 & K2 2000

Carissa Tombs Netball 1989-1999

Chris Morgan Olympic Skulls 2008, 2012 & 2016

Chris Reid Rowing 2013 to 2015

Emma Fessey Rowing 2018

Ethan Neville canoe sprint

Georgina Rowe Olympic rowing 2020

Graham Windeatt Olympic swimming 1976

John Felton Olympic canoeing 1996

Luke Chaffer Kayak

Mark Anderson Olympic swimming 1968

Paul Lynch Olympic K4 1996

Peter Montgomery AM –Olympic water polo 1972-1984 and AOC

Renee Kirby Quad skulls 2007

Richard Tombs Wallaby 1992-1996

Rod Macqueen Wallaby coach 1997-2001

Rosie Beasley Rowing 2018

Ross Chaffer Olympic K4 2000

Yanda Nossiter Olympic K4 1996 & 2000

South Narrabeen:

Brett Sheehan Wallaby 2006-2013

Edwin Purkiss Wallaby 1957-1958

Rod Macqueen Wallaby coach 1997-2001

Warriewood:

Brad Dalton Olympic basketballer 1984 & 1988

Karen Dalton Olympic basketballer 1984 & 1988

Mark Dalton Olympic basketballer 1984

Colin Hamilton Olympic modern pentathlon 1992

Peter Hogan Commonwealth Games gymnast 1990 & 1994

Brian Kinsey was an Australian international Rugby referee 1986-1993.

Scott Miller Olympic silver medal butterfly and bronze medal 4 x 100 medley relay 1996

Simon Upton Olympic swimmer 1988

Newport:

Allan Livingstone Olympic kayak 1956 & 1960

Bevan Wilson Wallaby 1949

Bill Berge-Phillips Olympic water polo 1964

Brian Johnson Wallaby 1952

Edward Bromley Olympic rowing 1948

Emma Lincoln-Smith Olympic Skeleton Racer 2010

Eric Tindall Wallaby 1973

Fletcher Armstrong Canoeing

James Phipps Wallaby 1953-1956

Jemma Smith Canoeing

Jeremy Rolleston Olympic bob-sled 2006 & 2010

Jon Harrison Olympic rowing 1956

Kristie Edwards Athletics 2024

Liam Taurins Knee Boarding

Steven Lidbury Wallaby 1987-1988

Whale Beach:

Joe Marston Soccer Australian player and coach 1947-1966

Individual Club Initiatives and Tours:

Education of Overseas Organisations:

Junior Activities:

The Junior Surf Lifesaving (Nippers) was commenced in 1965 with the first President being David Lawler and Jim Routh as Secretary. The name of the organisation was changed in later years to Board of Junior Activities. The age qualification has remained at persons 7 to 13 years.

Nippers Unofficial Beginning:

Young Juveniles have had an active role in surf clubs almost from the beginning. There is much anecdotal evidence that suggests young juveniles competed in events and learned basic surf and lifesaving skills. A photograph of four Manly Surf Club juveniles aged 10 and 11, taken in 1907, for many years used to be on display at MLSC.

Photographic evidence also shows members of Bronte Junior Life Saving Brigade, which was formed in 1908, practicing resuscitation procedure.

1920s South Curl Curl Juveniles, R & R team being coached by Bill Robinson.

The minutes of the Newport SLSC reveal that a juvenile surf club existed there in 1926, and Bondi's records also detail junior members known as 'Life Boys' in 1933. At North Wollongong, also in 1933, a group called the 'Sandpipers' was taught the rudiments of surfing, beach work and coached in the baths, before being initiated into the surf club as junior members. The Illawarra clubs, however, are seen as the pioneers of more organised 'juvenile' activities and it was appropriate that the first interclub carnival was held at Bulli. The Thirroul 'Sandcrabs' were formed in 1945, North Wollongong juniors in 1947, and the Stanwell Park 'Seagulls' began activities in 1955 and officially became an organised club in 1958. While the Bulli 'Aqualads' are recognised as having been established in 1962, unofficially they began in 1958 with a group of lads trained by John Jones. In those formative years the younger boys were permitted to compete in cadet surf races and interclub carnivals.

On the Mid North Coast, Port Macquarie is believed to be the first club to create a junior section of its surf club, in 1960. Between 1960 and 1965 there was something of an explosion of organised junior activities at club level in the Newcastle, Central Coast, Sydney's southern and northern beaches and Illawarra Branch.

The impact of such clubs formally training and encouraging 8 – 13 year olds 5 – 6 year olds were included from 1966, but were restricted to 'educational activities' after the 1980s and welcoming them, and their families, into surf club life.

In 1963 at Merewether SLSC in the Newcastle Branch, Senior Club membership numbers had dwindled to just 29, some committee members saw news reports of a nippers carnival in the Illawarra Branch and decided to form a juvenile section. There was strong support by local newspapers and 120 new members registered in the first two weeks of October in 1964. That success saw several other clubs start juvenile sections in ensuing weeks. Many of the boys switched to clubs nearer their homes, with hundreds of their friends also signing up, but Merewether retained around 60, and many went on to become senior club members. Similar impetus was evident in the Cronulla area, where the Shire's clubs embracing of Nipper's, and the early appointment of liaison officers to help them progress into the Cadets, saw their strength in numbers and standard as competitors reach outstanding levels – a trend which has continued through to today.

The fact that parents had taken such an active interest in promoting surf awareness to the younger children also attracted the admiration of the wider community which was only too willing to assist with much needed funding. Manly's Juvenile Club was a typical example, receiving good support from the Manly Rotary Club, Manly Civic Club, and the Manly Bowling Club in its formative years.

Many senior officials in New South Wales, however, shunned the youngsters. Their old-fashioned thinking was that Nippers were a menace, and could be organized separately to their own activities and

that there was no need for them to be involved. This off-hand approach unfortunately meant lost opportunities for the youngsters to progress into the senior club, and they found little welcoming enthusiasm when they attempted to step up into senior ranks. However, people like John Jones, who at age 71 was still swimming 2 kilometres most days in 2007 and had lost none of his obvious affection for the surf lifesaving movement, gave their time to encourage the kids. It was these senior 'clubbies' throughout the state who had the foresight and gave up their time to create a massively successful new movement. John Jones recalls with great pride his initiative to start coaching the kids at Bulli Beach, a gesture that led to a rapid and massive increase in junior participation in the Wollongong area, and ultimately right throughout the state:

Bulli was struggling for membership numbers and strength as Wollongong, Thirroul and North Wollongong were the gun clubs in the 1950s because they also had pools and swim clubs. We only had a rock pool and no swim club. We had to build our own and got a lot of youngsters together and started training them as a group in 1957 ready to progress through to cadets and into the seniors. It caught on and juvenile clubs started up and down the coast.

Nippers Official Beginning:

As Juvenile clubs started to evolve right along the New South Wales coastline, it was inevitable that the movement would grow into its own official organisation. Hot on the heels of the success of Bulli carnival, it was decided to invite all 'interested parties' to a meeting on 24 September 1966 at Wollongong Leagues Club with the view to formally establish a junior movement. Illawarra officials played a leading role in this move, along with keen support from Central Coast and Newcastle counterparts. As Jones continued:

About four months after the success of the Bulli carnival we called an interest meeting to see who would support the establishment of a State association, as we thought with the numbers then competing we needed a formal State body to integrate between the Branches. Con Asmussen, President of Surf Life Saving New South Wales, was very supportive but there was not a lot of support from many clubs, and he had to do a lot of lobbying on our behalf at the State Council meeting.

There were 15 delegates from six branches in attendance – Illawarra, Newcastle, Manly-Waringah, Sydney, North Coast and Far South Coast, as well as guests the mayor of Greater Wollongong, Mr. Tony Ravan, local member for Cunningham, Rex Connor, President of Illawarra SLSA Branch Gil Grant and secretary Don Moir. The meeting was chaired by John Jones and an interim committee was set up. The first annual general meeting was staged on 10 December 1966 at Central Coast Leagues Club in Gosford. It voted unanimously to establish six competitor age groups, from under-8 through to under-13. When it came to naming the association, there was a natural split. The term Nippers had already become common in describing the youngsters who would flit around the beaches full of energy and some delegates naturally felt the NSW Nippers Surf Life Saving Association was appropriate. Others felt something more formal was needed, such as 'juveniles' which was what the Illawarra and Newcastle associations used. The motion that the association be called the NSW Juvenile Surf Life Saving Association attracted an even vote of seven for and seven against, leaving chairman John Jones to use his casting vote to carry the motion.

The background of the commonly used term to describe the junior movement, 'nippers' is a fascinating one. It was initially a term used to describe trainee sailors in England, but its meaning became extended to depict children in the family unit the parents and their three nippers. Although in the first few decades junior officials were meticulous in trying to rid the sport of the term nippers, and the so-called South Australian association changed its name to Juniors very early, in the new millennium its most common association is still certainly in regard to junior surf lifesaving members.

There is some contradiction about how many branches were present at the inaugural general meeting at Gosford. The minutes state that 23 delegates from eight branches attended, but only seven –

Newcastle, Illawarra, Central Coast, Manly-Warringah, Sydney, Mid North Coast, and North Coast – were recorded. An apology was noted as having been received via telegram from the Far North Coast Branch. A circular produced about the meeting records that the above seven branches were present, with three voting delegates allowed from each branch to take an active part in votes. Also present as guests were local parliamentarian Ted Humphries and Wyong shire president Wilf Barrett. The Gosford meeting nominated state Governor Sir Roden Cutler as prospective patron of the association, and in the ensuing weeks he accepted the role, which he continued until 1980. The first elected officers were: John Jones (Illawarra) as president; Neville Henshaw (Newcastle) deputy president; Ted Poole (Central Coast), Bruce Buckingham (Manly-Warringah), Neville Hitchens (Mid North Coast) vice-presidents; John Shumack (Illawarra) hon secretary; Clive Young (Newcastle) hon treasurer; Jim Routh (Manly-Warringah) hon registrar; Col Bruton (Illawarra) assistant secretary and carnival organizer; John Mudge (Manly-Warringah) publicity officer; Ken Donkin (Manly-Warringah) superintendent; Fred McGrory (Central Coast) deputy superintendent; and constitution committee of John Jones, John Shumack, Neville Henshaw, Bruce Buckingham, John Mudge, Jim Routh and Bruce Roebuck.

The Illawarra Branch's constitution was used as the basis of the Association's. Illawarra's 19 clubs were all strong in numbers, while overall membership in Manly-Warringah jumped from 600 to 1164 with the influx of the juniors, enticing those clubs which did not create Juvenile divisions to announce they definitely would be expanding into the lower age brackets the following season. Over 300 boys registered on the Central Coast, 190 on the Lower North Coast, and Newcastle's numbers also grew considerably.

Nipperettes:

Girls had started to compete progressively through the 1970s, when unofficial 'Nipperette' clubs began to spring up along the coast. Some clubs combined the boys and girls to boost numbers, while in larger populated areas girls enjoyed their own clubs and carnivals. In 1972 Newcastle and Central Coast were among the pioneering branches that introduced activities for girls, as families wanted their daughters to experience the intricacies of surf safety as much as their sons. Bob Rogers, junior secretary of Sydney Branch when it began Nipperettes in 1977 predicted at the time: 'It will not be too long before the girls have full state and national competitive association. To operate boys and girls all in the one competition would not work as a joint venture so I can only see them separate.' The Nipperettes did indeed launch a state body in 1977 – 78, affiliated with the junior association, with Central Coast's Thelma Laird and Del Egan the driving forces. As the popularity of girls' events grew, Rogers' next prediction played out as the idea of combining the girls with boys on carnival days proved the next controversial issue – at least until their integration into the senior movement and the splitting of clubs and branches in two.

The inaugural meeting of the NSW Nipperettes Association took place on 1 April 1978, significantly at the same venue of the first Juvenile Association annual general meeting – the Central Coast Leagues Club. Twenty-eight representatives attended from 18 clubs: Yamba, South West Rocks, Camden Haven, Fingal Bay, Caves Beach, The Entrance, Wamberal, Toowoona Bay, Copacabana, Umina, Ocean Beach, Shelly Beach, Wanda, Avalon, Kiama, Bulli, Bellambi and Warilla-Barrack Point. The first annual general meeting was held on 5 August at Maroubra Seals Club, this time with 30 representatives from six branches – Far North Coast, Mid North Coast, Newcastle, Central Coast, Sydney and Illawarra.

Despite these advances, there was some cynicism from those who felt surf competition was a male domain. Del Egan could not pass up the opportunity to comment, when a Nipperettes Association report appeared in NSW Junior Surf Life Saving Association annual report for the first time: Unfortunately there are still a few who feel girls have no place on the beach, except perhaps as

decoration, so it is up to each and every one of us who believe that the children, both boys and girls, are entitled to learn surf awareness and enjoy our beaches, and perhaps give their services to the community in the future.

By this time there were nearly 2300 registered girls in Nipperettes, they had held three annual inter-branch championships, while 91 girls on the Central Coast alone had qualified for national awards the previous season. Nipperettes as a separate entity ran for only four seasons before, as women were integrated into the senior association, girls became part of the Junior Association in 1982 – 83. Illawarra and South Coast had in fact combined the boys' and girls' associations the previous season.