

Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc
MINUTES
65th Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, August 5th, 2025, Commencing at 6:30pm

1. Welcomed by SLSSNB President – Rod McGibbon

Good evening and welcome to the 65th Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Annual General Meeting. My name is Rod McGibbon and on behalf of the SNB Executive, I welcome and thank you for joining us tonight. We will start by acknowledging the many Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their enduring connections to land, sea and community. We especially acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet tonight, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, and pay respects to the Elders and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hope of Indigenous Australians.

Special Guests, Branch Life Members, Club Presidents, Service Honour Members and the Executive welcome and thank you for joining us tonight;

2. Attendance

Executive: Rod McGibbon (President), Peter Fenley (Deputy President), Robert Giblin (Director of Finance), Cameron Powell (Director of Lifesaving), Natalie Neary (Director of Education), Tony Hilliger (Director of Surf Sports), Lee Auzins (Director of Member Services), Tracey Hare-Boyd (CEO), Jen Huston (Branch Manager).

SLSSNB Club Presidents: Tim Cuthbert (Manly), Shanny Dyer (Freshwater), Matthew Campbell (South Curl Curl), Lachlan Pike (Dee Why), Matthew Sweeting (Long Reef), Mark Anderson (Collaroy), Greg Gillespie (Narrabeen Beach), Adrian Hill (North Narrabeen), Mark O'Connell (Warriewood), Ian Jones (Bungan Beach), Bec Capell (Newport), Ian MacDonald (Bilgola), Kieran Gallagher (Whale Beach), Warren Howard (North Palm Beach)

Life Members: Gary Cook (Newport), Robyn Holt (Queenscliff), Stephen Price (Narrabeen Beach), Brian Kinsey (Warriewood), Peter Kinsey (Long Reef), Janine Fahey (Collaroy), Gordon Lang (Palm Beach), Peter Gard (Manly), Barry Antella OAM (Queenscliff), Rob Berry (Whale Beach), Jeff Andrew (Dee Why), Craig Susans (Queenscliff), John Cassidy (South Curl Curl), Tony Haven AM (South Narrabeen), Thecla Haven (South Narrabeen), Warren Young (Avalon Beach).

Honour Members: James Shearer (North Narrabeen), Michelle Rae (North Palm Beach), Allen Lakeman (Dee Why), Louis Tassone (North Curl Curl)

Sponsors & Partners:

Graham Liddell (Dee Why RSL), Peter Sheeham (Director DYRSL),
Sue Heins (Northern Beaches Council Mayor) Via Zoom, Steve Pearce ESM (SLSNSW)

Members: George Prescott (Queenscliff)

2.1 Apologies

SLSSNB Club Presidents: Christine Gibbs-Stewart (President of North Steyne SLSC), Kevin Harris (President of Queenscliff SLSC), Glenn Slater (North Curl Curl), Duncan Schieb (South Narrabeen), Jon Dibbs (Mona Vale), Andrew Clark (Avalon Beach), Mark Highfield (Palm Beach)

Life Members: Jenny Drury (South Curl Curl SLSC), Jeff Hewitt (South Curl Curl SLSC),
Marianne Troop (Collaroy SLSC), Keith Abraham (North Steyne SLSC),

Parliamentarians: Zali Stegall OAM, (Federal Member for Warringah), Peter Agnew (SLSNSW President), Dr Sophie Scamps (Federal Member for Mackellar), The Hon. James Griffin (State Member for Manly), Jacqui Scruby (Member for Pittwater)

2.2 Proxies

Ian Jones (Bungan Beach)

3. One Minutes Silence

Over the last 12 months, we have sadly lost a number of Long Serving members of our movement in this Branch. We have these noted within the Annual Report but please join me by standing, facing the East, as we pay our respects with a minute's silence.

4. Welcome New Club Presidents & Acknowledgment of Retiring Club Presidents

We farewell:

Michael Bate AM Freshwater SLSC, and welcome Shanny Dyer
John Dulieu, Warriewood SLSC and welcome Mark O'Connell
Ralph Stonell, Mona Vale SLSC and welcome John Dibbs
Guyren Smith, Newport SLSC and welcome Rebecca Capell
Bernadette McKay, Avalon Beach SLSC and welcome Andrew Clark
Alex Tyrrell, Palm Beach SLSC and welcome Mark Highfield

5. SLSSNB Executive Team Introductions

Peter Fenley – Deputy President
Robert Giblin – Director of Finance
Cameron Powell – Director of Lifesaving
Natalie Neary – Director of Education
Tony Hilliger – Director of Surf Sports
Lee Auzins - Director of Member Services
Tracey Hare-Boyd – CEO
Jen Huston – Branch Manager

I would like to thank our outgoing Deputy President, Michael Wasley and Director of Surf Sports Ernesto Calderon for their work and commitment over the last couple of seasons.

Thanks to Executive for your many hours and tireless efforts

6. Adoption of the 2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Attached to the Agenda invitation were the Minutes of the 2024 AGM. Are there any matters arising from the Minutes? No matters arising.

Motion: That the Minutes of the 2024 SNB AGM be adopted.

Moved by: Kieran Gallagher, Seconded by: Michelle Rae. **Carried**

7. Presidents Address – Rod McGibbon

Director of Lifesaving, Cameron Powell, we note

- No Lives Lost during the season between the red and yellow flags
- Multiple high-profile rescues through the off season and during the season
- SNB members participated in flood and swift water training and several deployments to assist were carried out
- Thanks to Palm Beach, Newport, Warriewood, Dee Why (training and patrol) and Freshwater for housing the RWC's throughout the Branch

- Some pertinent facts for Lifesaving
 - Males are twice as likely to have to be rescued than females
 - Northern Beaches residents are twice as likely to have to be rescued than non-residents
 - IRB's undertake the most rescues
 - 30 year old's are the age most like to be rescued; and
 - People who live in Mona Vale are more likely to be rescued in January than any other North Beaches Suburb

Director of Education, Natalie Neary, we achieved

- 612 Bronze, 380 SRC, 293 ART, 865 Volunteer facilitated First Aid courses, 79 Silver Medallion Patrol Captain, 217 IRB Crew, and 75 IRB Driver Awards, 19 RW Operators, 20 UAV operators
- SNB Facilitators delivering Silver Medallion Patrol Captains and Bridging courses, Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue, Training Officer Course, Facilitated First Aid, RWC, ART and IRB along with 2 assisting in the SLSNSW Assessor Skillset pilot course
- Close to 5,000 Junior Awards processed and presented to Nippers.
- Bilgola hosted our intensive bronze programs and assessments for the Surf Life Saving School
- The Surf School Community Education programs continue to thrive on our beaches teaching school age children throughout NSW some water proofing lessons and provide local schools with required awards to enable their Surfing programs to continue

Director of Surf Sports, Ernesto Calderon, we ran

- 35 planed events with 33 being run
- 10% increase in overall participation
- Branch Champs including Inclusion Events hosted at Newport SLSC
- Branch Boats Champs hosted at Palm Beach SLSC
- NSW Surf Life Saving Championships hosted at Queenscliff, Freshwater and North Steyne SLSC's
- 20 Core Officials and 43 Technical Officials trained
- Congratulations Manly LSC on winning both the Open Branch Handicap Point score and the Combined Branch Point score
- Congratulations to Newport SLSC on winning NSW Open Championships and finishing 2nd overall in the Australian Championships
- Thank You Freshwater and North Narrabeen for hosting the SNB SIC camps

Director of Member Services, Lee Auzins, we congratulate the

- SNB Junior Lifesavers of the Year Pearl Brown, North Steyne SLSC and Max McDermott, Warriewood SLSC
- Congratulations to Max McDermott, Warriewood SLSC on then being named the SLSNSW Male Lifesaver of the Year.
- We participated in Pink Patrol & Rainbow Day held across SNB celebrating inclusion and diversity by acknowledging everyone in our lifesaving community
- Avalon Beach SLSC celebrate 100 years.
- Long Reef SLSC and Warriewood SLSC celebrate 75 years
- Ahead of the Wave youth program run at Fisherman's Beach
- Congratulations Amber Curnow, Long Reef SLSC and Samuel Travis, North Curl Curl SLSC on being named male and female Nipper of the Year. Runners up Rose Rowlands, Collaroy SLSC and Louis Castro Lago, Bilgola SLSC also deserve a special mention given the judging was so close.

Director of Finance, Robert Giblin, lead us to

- A strong financial position as we look to ways we, as a Branch can invest for the future of our Clubs and their members
- Rob will address the room with the presentation of the financials shortly.

Thank you to the Directors and congratulations on your achievements over the 2024/25 season.

Some Branch Honours to note, Congratulations

Terry Kirkpatrick, North Palm Beach SLSC, on being awarded Branch Distinguished Service

Bailey Dwyer, Collaroy SLSC on being awarded Branch Prominent Service

The Branch continues to be supported by SLSNSW and thank them for their support with lobbying the Government for funds and Grants and the distribution of resources to our Clubs.

Thank you to NBC Mayor Sue Heins and NBC CEO, Scott Phillips for their continued support of everything Surf Clubs and of our volunteers.

To our local Parliamentary Members

Zali Steggall OAM

Dr Sophie Scamps

Michael Regan

James Griffin

Jacqui Scruby

Thank you for your support throughout the season.

The Surf Life Saving School is managed through HQ and runs both Community Education programs but more importantly Special Needs programs. I would like to acknowledge and thank Graham Liddell, President, Dee Why RSL for his continued support not just of the Branch but for the funding provided to enable HQ to continue to run these Special Needs programs. While they aren't incoming producing to the Branch, we do pay trained instructors for their delivery of the program and without this funding, we wouldn't be able to continue delivering these programs to very valued members of our broader community. Thank you, Graham and the Dee Why RSL.

This year we celebrated 30 years of our Trauma Incident Peer Support team. Commonly known to all of us as TIPS, the team of Lifesavers carrying for Lifesavers is a group of trained members assisting with peer support post critical incident on and off our beaches.

We acknowledge the work the members of this through has carried out throughout the 30 years within and sometimes outside of the Branch and thank them for their support, professionalism and a program that is second to none within Surf Life Saving Australia.

Thank you to our 2024/25 supporters:

ICMS, URM, Avène, Dee Why RSL, Westfield Warringah Mall, Bennett Boards, Beaches Sea-Doo & Can-Am, Barrenjoey Insurance Brokers, Northern Beaches Council, NSW Government, SLSNSW, SLISA, Isuzu Ute Australia, DHL, Westpac

Steve Pearce addressed the room

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. It's a real pleasure to be here. I have to acknowledge that this is the branch with the most clubs in all of New South Wales, in fact, the largest cluster of surf clubs in Australia, which makes it a very special branch.

It's been an incredible season, apart from the previous one, both for Sydney's Northern Beaches Branch and for the State as a whole. Tragically, there were around 60 coastal drowning deaths, all in unpatrolled areas. Not a life was lost between the red and yellow flags. This highlights the expertise, courage, and the vital role of volunteer lifesavers.

In terms of membership, we are now at our largest in the organisation's history—over 83,000 members—making us the biggest lifesaving organisation in the world. Of these, about 22,000 are frontline members.

To Tracy, Rod, and the rest of the branch management: you've got a huge job looking after and supporting 21 clubs, and you've done a fantastic job. On behalf of Peter Agnew and the Board of Surf Life Saving NSW, congratulations. I look forward to kicking off the new 2025-26 season very soon.

Graham Liddell addressed the room

On behalf of myself and my co-Director friend Peter, it's a pleasure to be here. Thank you for the invitation. We have a fantastic relationship with the branch, and it's a pleasure and an honour to support lifesaving efforts in general along our beaches, especially this branch. We've been working together for many years, and our relationship has grown stronger — that's no small feat, Tracy. Thank you for your dedication, and Rod, thank

you for your work in keeping the partnership strong and thriving. I believe we are in the third year of our agreement, and I can assure you that this Friday, we'll be processing grants, applications, and more. I'm pretty sure the branch will receive a very significant contribution. Thank you, mate, for that, and I hope you all have a great session. Thank you.

Mayor Sue Heins addressed the room

Thank you all so much for what you've done. You've had an incredible season once again, despite the challenges of weather, events, and everything else. Whether you've been there to rescue or not, I appreciate your efforts. I really like your stats about Mona Vale. Thank you so much for everything you do. It truly makes a difference and helps keep our beaches, visitors, and residents safe. That's what makes it all so incredibly important to us.

8. Presentation of the 2024/25 Annual Report

It is my pleasure to present to you all the 65th Annual Report. Another very informative report that showcases the accomplishments of the Branch whilst celebrating the achievements of each of every one of our 21 Clubs. I would like to specifically thank Jen for all her work on this, another great piece of history for our Branch.

9. Motion of the 2024/25 Annual Report

Motion: that the 65th Annual Report be adopted
Moved Adrian Hill, Second Matt Campbell **Carried**

10. Presentation of the 2024/25 Financial Report

Robert Giblin. This year was largely business as usual from a finance perspective, with ongoing efforts to strengthen and consolidate our financial position amid declining long-term revenue, economic uncertainty, and rising community demands on members and clubs. Despite increasing costs, our dedication to clubs and participation resulted in a slight rise in capitation fees, which remains well below inflation. This was achieved through efforts to generate alternative income sources, including returns from investments, surf school grants, fundraising, and new sponsorships over the past financial year. Tracy, our CEO, successfully retained our existing sponsors and secured a three-year sponsorship worth \$300,000, which also included delivering new patrol tents to all 21 clubs. The surf Life-saving school continues to grow, contributing over \$130,000 in profit to the branch and attracting more young potential volunteer lifesavers. In the previous season, the branch effectively eliminated structural debt, and this season, it increased equity by \$70,000, with \$35,000 allocated for long-term investment, now totalling approximately \$764,000 and generating an additional \$32,000 in income. The branch successfully avoided long-term structural debt, limiting reliance on costly overdraft facilities to just a few weeks. Overall, it continues to strengthen its financial stability, ensuring a sustainable future while reducing the financial burden on clubs and still providing essential services and support. For the year ending 30 April 2025, the branch reported a comprehensive income of just over \$70,000, an increase of just over \$8,000 from previous years. Notable financial highlights include a \$1,000 increase in revenue, mainly due to a \$60,000 rise in sponsorship income, and a 9.2% growth in total revenue—from just over \$1 million to just over \$1.1 million—while expenses grew by 3.3%, from just over \$1 million to just under \$1.1 million. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the branch in delivering effective and efficient service to the clubs, members, and the community. A special mention and appreciation go to my fellow directors and branch staff, who continue to be realistic and financially sensitive to our priorities. All matters—from budgets and ad hoc expenses to problems and opportunities—are discussed openly and strategically. The upcoming season is expected to be similar to the last, with some minor adjustments to training and the anticipated update to CPR training. Our community continues to face increasing health risks, competition for voluntary time, and a pervasive cost of living increase that will likely see more people attending beaches. This will put pressure on our patrolling members and clubs from a financial perspective. Our major sponsors include Avene, URM, DYRSL, ICMS, Westfield Warringah Mall. The correction to my report by URM, who has been a longstanding and strong financial supporter of this branch and ensures our viability. The Branch remains susceptible to losing a single major sponsor, and retaining them will be a priority in the coming season. Our alternative income sources will mitigate the impact of losing a major sponsor, but only marginally. Beyond this, we continue to grow our

current alternative income streams and investigate additional opportunities to generate income while minimising our outgoing costs as the current custodians of our wonderful organisation. We are acutely aware of our obligation to current and future members to create and maintain a financially strong and capable branch that will continue to deliver support services to all 21 clubs of our Sydney northern beaches. In closing, I would like to thank my fellow directors, branch staff, and club presidents for their support throughout the year. As your director of finance, I look forward to the year ahead and remain committed to supporting our 21 clubs and strengthening our financial position into the future.

10. Adoption of the 2024/25 Financial Report

Motion: That the 2024/2025 Financial Report be adopted.

Moved by Adrian Hill seconded by Tim Cuthbert **Carried**

2024/25 AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT ADOPTED

12. Notice of Motion to affiliate

That affiliation be sought with Surf Life Saving New South Wales for the 2025/26 season. Further, that the articles, constitution, by-laws, regulations and resolutions, together with the Awards and equipment of Surf Life Saving Australia Limited and Surf Life Saving NSW be accepted without reservation."

Proposed by Rod McGibbon (President), seconded by Peter Fenley (Deputy President)

All in favour

Motion Carried.

13. Appointment of Auditor for 2025/2026 – Peter Power FCA

Motion: Peter Power FCA be appointed as the Auditor for 2025/2026.

Moved by Kieran Gallagher seconded by. Michelle Rae **Carried**

14. Patrons for the 2025/2026 Season

- The Hon. Zali Steggall OAM Federal Member for Warringah
- Dr. Sophie Scamps, Federal Member for Mackellar
- The Hon. James Griffin, State Member for Manly
- Michael Regan, State Member for Wakehurst
- Jacqui Scruby, State Member for Pittwater
- Sue Heins - Mayor of Northern Beaches Council
- John Baker ESM, SLSA President
- Peter Agnew ESM, SLSNSW President

Motion: that the Patrons be accepted for the 2025/26 season

Moved: Kieran Gallagher, Seconded Adrian Hill. **Carried**

15. General Business

Thank you to the 21 Clubs for their support

Friday, October 17 is the Surf Sports Golf Day at Bayview Golf Club. Please book your teams in and join us at 7:00am for a bacon and egg roll before teeing off or if you don't fancy chasing a little white ball around 18 holes, join us for LUNCH

There being no further business, I would like to thank you all for attending in person and virtually and wish you all a safe 2025/26 season and see you on the beach

Please stay for a drink and some nibbles.

Meeting Closed: 8.02pm

