

WHALE BEACH SLSC

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 / 2026



NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Whale Beach SLSC Incorporated will be held at the Whale Beach Surf Club commencing at 2:00pm on Sunday, 9 August 2026.

Agenda

- President’s Welcome
- Apologies
- Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
- Adoption of Annual Report
- Adoption of Balance Sheet and Financial Statement
- Notices of Motion:
 1. That affiliation be sought for the 2026/27 season with Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc. (The Branch), and that the articles, constitution, by-laws, regulations and resolutions, together with the awards and equipment of The Branch, Surf Life Saving NSW and Surf Life Saving Australia Limited, be accepted without reservation.
- Election of the following approved Life Member nominees:
 - Rob Burfitt-Williams
 - George Hannaford
 - Brian Lamrock
 - Peter Myers
- Election of Officers and Committees for the 2026/27 season, including Auditor
- General Business
- Presentation of Association Awards and Trophies

Download the PDF of our 2025/2026 Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report from our website at www.whalebeachslsc.com/about/annual-reports/

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Honorary Patrons Sue Heins (Mayor, Northern Beaches Council) Dr Sophie Scamps (Member for Mackellar) Jacquie Scruby (Member for Pittwater)	Junior Activities Captain Peter Myers	Auditor Kevin Veale	Education Committee Jacqueline Rees (Chair) Angus Wines Cameron Cormio Eloise Love Hamish Jones Lara Boyle Maddie Zagorski Natasha Hodgkinson Olivia Rees-Ewen
President Brett Babicci	Social Secretary Owen Saunders	Management Committee Brett Babicci Aaron Hendrikson Lara Boyle Harry Millard Hamish Jones Madeline Zagorski Harry Millard Kieran Gallagher Peter Myers Jacqueline Rees Olivia Rees-Ewen Owen Saunders Natasha Hodgkinson Sally Gordon	Ocean Swim Sub-Committee Claudette Good Samantha Rouhan Rob Berry
Treasurer / Public Officer Aaron Hendrikson	Membership Officer Maddie Zagorski	Governance Committee (Life Membership, Judiciary and Constitution Sub-Committees) Eloise Love Jonathon Pratten Graeme Stewart Peter Myers Laura Mears	Administration Committee Harry Millard (Chair) Nat O’Carroll
Secretary Harry Millard	Handicapper Natasha Hodgkinson	Finance and Investment Committee Aaron Hendrikson (Chair) Not appointed	Entertainment Sub-Committee Owen Saunders (Chair)
Immediate Past President Kieran Gallagher	Boat Captain Brett Babicci	Property Committee Brian Lamrock (Chair) Peter Myers	Election Sub-Committee Harry Millard (Chair)
Club Captain Olivia Rees-Ewen	Board and Ski Captain Angus Wines	Lifesaving Committee Olivia Rees-Ewen (Chair) Angus Wines Cameron Cormio Eloise Love Hamish Jones Reuben Hackett Ziarne Wyatt	Junior Activities Committee Peter Myers (Chair) Not appointed
Vice President Lara Boyle	Radio Officer Reuben Hackett	Competition Committee Natasha Hodgkinson (Chair) Brett Babicci Angus Wines Sophie Nettlebeck Greg Hannaford Olivia Rees-Ewen	Management Committee Property Club (PC) Martin Armstrong Rob Berry Brett Babicci John Lewis Jon Pratten Danny Ryan Phillip Schmidt
Chief Training Officers Jacqueline Rees	First Aid Officers Ziarne Wyatt		Executive Committee (PC) Not appointed
Ocean Swim Director Claudette Good	Sponsorships Officer Vacant		Annual Report Production Team Heather Noakes
IRB and Power Equipment Captains Cameron Cormio	Child Safe Coordinator Nat O’Carroll		
Gear Officer Hamish Jones	Occupational Health and Safety Officer Peter Myers		
Club Vice Captains Eloise Love Hamish Jones	Club Administrator Nat O’Carroll		
Competition Secretary Natasha Hodgkinson	Delegate to Branch Brett Babicci		
Marketing Officer Sally Gordon	Membership Protection Information Officers Peter Myers		
Social Media Officer Natasha Hodgkinson	Merchandise Officers Vacant		
Digital Officer Not appointed	Complaints Handler Brett Babicci		
Communications Officer Nat O’Carroll	Honorary Medical Officer Graeme Stewart		
Property Officer Brian Lamrock	Honorary Solicitor John Cooper		
House Captains Olivia Rees-Ewen	Honorary Architect Not appointed		
	Honorary Engineer Not appointed		
	Honorary Photographers Chris Hendrikson Greg Hannaford		

The President and Secretary are ex-officio members of all committees and sub committees of Whale Beach SLSC.

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CHARITABLE PURPOSE

The following objects of the Association are taken from the Whale Beach SLSC constitution:

- a. The study, practice and teaching of the methods of surf lifesaving as promulgated by the National Association.
- b. To minimise the loss of life from drowning by providing efficient lifesaving personnel and apparatus.
- c. To promote demonstrations, and arrange classes of instruction, and to further the best interests of surf bathing and surf lifesaving.
- d. To appoint patrols to render all possible aid to those in distress.
- e. To organise and conduct carnivals and social functions for the benefit and assistance of the Association in the attainment of the above objectives.
- f. To carry on any other activity whatsoever calculated directly or indirectly to enhance or further the interests of the Association.

The Big Swim Sponsor



MACQUARIE BANK

The Little Big Swim Sponsor



McGrath Pittwater

DONATIONS AND SPONSORS

Whale Beach Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) exists to save lives, create great Australians and build a better community at Whale Beach. Donations can take many forms such as personal and corporate time, loan of equipment, purchase of equipment, loan of facilities, donation of products and direct monetary donations. The Management Committees of Whale Beach SLSC Incorporated and Whale Beach Property Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated extend sincere thanks to all sponsors and corporate, member and private donors. We are also grateful for the generous support of contributors who wish to remain anonymous. Special thanks is due to our major sponsorship partner, Macquarie Bank, for their long-standing commitment to our Club and its pre-eminent ocean swim event, The Big Swim. The Little Big Swim is sponsored by our local McGrath office and we are also very grateful for the support of our local businesses; Mekong Merchants Avalon, J Group Projects Avalon and Hire A Hubby Palm Beach who sponsored our boat rowing crews.

Surf Life Saving Australia

Major National Partners	National Partners	Major Government Partner
DHL	Ampol	Department of Health
Isuzu	Airbnb	Government Partners
Westpac	BRP	Sports Australia
Qantas	National Sponsors	Gold Coast City Council
	Dulux	The National Coronial Information System
	Finz	Tourist and Events Queensland

Surf Life Saving NSW

NSW Major National Partners	NSW State Partners	Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Branch	Surf Life Saving Australia
Ampol	Abe's Bagels	Avene	Beach Safety Equipment Fund (BSEF)
DHL	Ingenia Holiday Parks	Council	Surf Life Saving Services
Dulux	Sharkskin	Dee Why RSL	Club Lifesaving Equipment Grant (CLEG)
Isuzu	Your Local Club	Northern Beaches	
Qantas		URM	
Westpac		Warringah Mall	
		Westfield	

Whale Beach SLSC

Whale Beach Major Sponsors	Whale Beach Major Supporters		
Macquarie Bank	Australian Lifeguard Services	Marine Rescue NSW, Cottage Point	Surf Life Saving Foundation
McGrath Avalon	Brown Bros. Skip Bins	Marine Rescue NSW, Hawkesbury	Surf Life Saving NSW
Mekong Merchants Avalon	Can Too Foundation	Oceanswims.com	Surf Life Saving Sydney
Hire A Hubby Palm Beach	Fresh Produce Group	Pittwater Life	Northern Beaches Branch
J Group Projects Avalon	Knox Grammar School	Rural Fire Service, Ingleside	Local Surf Clubs:
	Marine Rescue NSW, Broken Bay	SB Web Designs	Avalon Beach SLSC
	Marine Rescue NSW, Central Coast	Signarama Pittwater	Bilgola Beach SLSC
		Surf Life Saving Australia	Mona Vale SLSC
			Newport Beach SLSC
			North Palm Beach SLSC
			Palm Beach SLSC

Member / Private Donors

Barthelmess, Jonathan	Enestrom, Ron	Hughes Estate, Paul	McGrath, John	Stewart, Graeme
Beale, David	Enestrom, Suellen	Jones-Gentle, Kylie	Nash, Janet	Stewart, Richard
Borean, Derick	Fausboll, Annette	Kavanaugh, Johnathan	O'Brien, Naomi	Stuckey, Louise
Bownes, Iain	Flynn, Douglas	Laidlaw, Hilary	O'Brien, Paul	Taylor, Graham
Bradford, Drew	Friend, Tina	Laurence, Michael	Parker, David	Warburton, John
Buckingham, Simon	Fryer, John	Lynch, Suzanne	Pearce, Andrew	Waters, Kathleen
Callander, Hugh	Gale, Eric	Lysaght, Penny	Pratten, Jon	Williams, Penelope
Campbell, Michael	Gaven, Isabel	Mackay, Ross	Read, Irene	Wines, Andrew
Carnegie, Charles	Good, David	May, Simon	Rose, Anthony	Wines, Lian
Cooper, John	Goldsmith, Augusta	Mclellan, Matthew	Ryan, Daniel	Wines, Robert
Craney, Mirek	Gorman, John	Moore, Helen	Shaw Reynolds	Wines Family
Crisp, Danny	Hansford, Richard	Moore, Nicholas	Lawyers	Charitable Trust
Dillon, Nicola	Hennessey, Ross	Morgan, Carolyn	Spencer, Ian	Wright, Nicholas
Dillon, Peter	Hewitt, Lucine	Morgan, Simon	Stack, Virginia	



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brett Babicci
President

As President, in my first report the most important message is thank you.

Whale Beach SLSC continues to thrive because of the number of people who are willing to step forward, work together, and give back to the community. I remain genuinely amazed by the quiet generosity and the "just get it done" attitude that members bring to patrols, training, events, competition, and the day-to-day running of our Club. Whether you contributed one patrol or many, helped behind the scenes, competed, attended working bees, supported events, donated, or sponsored the Club, Your contribution matters!

We welcomed 58 new members this season, which is a terrific outcome and a real credit to the members who helped new joiners feel part of Whale Beach SLSC from day one. Special thanks to the amazing Nat O'Carroll for her invaluable time spent sharing information and giving welcoming new members, and to our education team for an exceptional contribution running two successful courses and ensuring new members felt welcome and supported on patrol.

While recruitment remains encouraging, we also have a clear opportunity to keep building momentum. We finished the season with 44 fewer members than last season, and that impacts how evenly we can share the load during peak patrol periods. The positive news is that we know what works: people feel connected when they're welcomed, included, trained, and given easy ways to contribute.

Over the off-season, our focus will be on improving retention and strengthening the member experience by reviewing feedback and implementing practical, member-led improvements that

keep volunteers engaged, supported, and connected. We will also continue to develop a mix of new and existing partnerships including local schools, Northern Beaches Hospital, and our Knox program to promote Whale Beach SLSC and support sustainable membership growth. These priorities will directly inform our new strategic plan, which we look forward to implementing in 2026/27.

Most importantly, I want to ask every member whether patrolling, associate, or community to come together with the same passion and dedication that defines this Club. If each of us helps bring just one new person into the fold, welcomes them, and helps them find their place, we will grow the membership base, reduce pressure on our volunteers, and strengthen the amazing Club we all enjoy.

Whale Beach has always been built on awesome people, and with a shared commitment to growth, the best seasons are still ahead.

The 52nd Big Swim scheduled for Sunday 25 January was cancelled in the days leading up to race day, based on expert advice due to increased shark activity and deteriorating water quality after significant storm conditions. While this was deeply disappointing for our swimmers, volunteers, and supporters, safety remained the absolute priority, and the Committee is confident it was the right decision.

The cancellation does not diminish the huge amount of planning and preparation completed. Special thanks to Samantha Rouhan and Natasha Hodgkinson for their outstanding contribution across planning and coordination; to Rob Berry and Rob Burffit-Williams for sharing their knowledge and guidance; and to Martin Archer for stepping into a key role held by Bob Wines for 30 years and ensuring registrations was ready to run smoothly. Thank

you also to the entire Big Swim committee and Major Sponsors Macquarie Bank and McGrath Avalon for their ongoing support.

Whale Beach always offers challenging conditions, Sunday racing remained strong, helped by a revised 10.00am start and the introduction of the "Fin Brigade," which built confidence in more challenging swells. Highlights included Palmy v Whaley strengthening the connection between our Clubs, the successful Fast Fives our first craft carnival in nearly 20 years and strong representation across Branch, State, and Australian Championships. Thank you to every competitor, official, and the passion of Natasha Hodgkinson who helped build participation and Club pride.

Finally, thank you to our major sponsors, supporters, and private donors. Your backing directly enables training, equipment, competition, and community events, and we are sincerely grateful.

In closing, I want to extend my sincere thanks to every member of the Management Committee for your support, guidance, and patience with me as a new President. At times this season we were learning as we went, and we didn't always have the depth of knowledge or experience that may have existed in previous years. We may have fumbled along the way, but we worked together, and we got the job done.

What I'm most proud of is the way the Committee remained constructive, respectful, and committed to building the Club. Thank you for the time you gave, the calm you brought when things were challenging, and the care you showed for Whale Beach SLSC. This season has been a strong foundation, and I'm grateful to be part of a team that is so willing to step up for our beach and our community.

Whale Beach SLSC is built on people. Thank you for helping keep our beach safe and our community connected.





SECRETARY’S REPORT

Harry Millard
Secretary

As I reflect on the 2025/2026 season, I do so with a strong sense of pride in our Club and the people who continue to make it such a valued community.

This season began under difficult circumstances and presented challenges that tested us all. However, what stood out most was the way our Club responded. In the face of uncertainty, our members, volunteers and Committee showed resilience, commitment and a shared determination to keep moving forward. That collective spirit has been one of the defining strengths of this season.

I would like to acknowledge the Management Committee for the leadership, professionalism and dedication they have shown throughout the year. Their efforts helped guide the Club through a demanding period while keeping a clear focus on the future. I also want to

sincerely thank all members and supporters who contributed their time, energy and ideas along the way. Whether your contribution was large or small, every effort played a part in strengthening our Club.

Throughout the season, our focus has been not only on managing immediate priorities, but also on building the foundations that will support the Club for years to come. A strong and sustainable club is built on trust, transparency, participation and a shared sense of purpose. Encouragingly, meaningful progress has been made in these areas, and that work will continue.

We are introducing new approaches aimed at improving member engagement, encouraging greater participation and creating stronger pathways for people to connect with the life of the Club. While there is always more to do, this season has created a stronger platform for the future and reinforced the importance of culture and community in everything we do.

The Club concluded the 2025/2026 season with **401 members** across all categories, compared with **445 members** in the previous year. While this represents an overall reduction of 44 members, the membership picture also contains several encouraging signs.

Growth was recorded in a number of important categories, including **Reserve Active (+7), Cadet Members (+6), Long Service (+4) and Past Active (+3)**, along with the addition of **nine new General members**. These results reflect the ongoing connection many people have with the Club and the strength of our community across different stages of membership.

Some categories saw a decline, most notably **Probationary (-26), Active Junior (-23) and Associate (-19)** memberships. The reduction in Active Junior members was influenced in part by the smaller Knox program this season. These

areas will be a key focus as we continue to strengthen our efforts around recruitment, retention and member engagement in the year ahead.

It is also pleasing to note the strong representation of female members, who now account for **135 of our 401 members**. This is an encouraging reflection of the inclusive and welcoming environment we are continuing to build.

Looking ahead, I am optimistic about the Club’s future. The progress made this season, together with the dedication of our Committee, volunteers and members, provides a solid foundation for continued growth. I look forward to working alongside our Club community as we build on this momentum in **2026/2027** and continue to strengthen a Club that is active, connected and welcoming for all.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Maddy Zagorski
Membership Officer



This season continued to focus on strengthening and expanding our member base, welcoming 58 new members. Nat O’Carroll played an invaluable role in helping these members settle in, sharing key information and giving tours of our Clubhouse. Our education team also contributed significantly by running two successful courses over the season, and making these new members feel welcome on patrols.

While this is positive, our overall membership remains below the level needed to reduce the risk of burnout among our current volunteers. This season we lost 125 members, a 36% reduction from last season. This is particularly felt during peak patrol periods.

Looking ahead, we are continuing to prioritise member experience and retention, exploring a variety of new and existing partnerships

with local schools, Northern Beaches Hospital, and our Knox program to further promote Whale Beach SLSC. Our focus in the off-season will be to review member feedback to implement strategies in future seasons that keep our volunteers engaged, supported, and connected. These efforts will influence our new strategic plan, which we look forward to implementing in the 2026/27 season.



TOTAL MEMBERS BY CATEGORY

Category	2025/2026 Total Members	Male Members	Female Members	2024/25 Total Members	Change Versus 2024/25
Life Member	14	14	0	15	-1
Reserve Active	24	23	1	17	+7
Active Senior (18 years and over)	101	66	35	100	+1
Active Junior (15 to 18 years)	23	15	8	46	-23
Cadet (13 to 15 years)	10	0	10	4	+6
Long Service	41	36	5	37	+4
Award	19	5	14	18	+1
Past Active	7	6	1	4	+3
Honorary	1	1	0	1	0
Associate	108	70	38	127	-19
Probationary	0	0	0	26	-26
Junior Activity Member (5 to 13 years)	0	0	0	2	-2
Community Member	44	23	21	48	-4
General	9	0	2	0	+9
Total	401	266	135	445	-44

MEMBER PARTICIPATION



401

TOTAL MEMBERS
(-10%)

65%

RETENTION RATE
(-16%, -125 members)

177

PATROLLING MEMBERS
(-2%)

80

NEW MEMBERS
(-40%)



41

HOURS AVERAGE PER PATROLLING MEMBER (-6%)

6,502

HOURS PATROLLED THIS SEASON (-18%)

133

LIFESAVING AWARDS GAINED (-10%)

FINANCIAL HEALTH OF CLUB



\$555,175.48

EXPENSES (-8%)

\$582,178.69

EXTERNAL INCOME (-13%)

SAFETY OUTCOMES



***425**

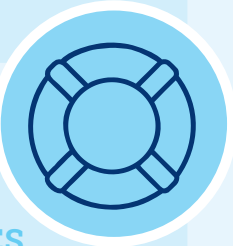
PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS (+76%)

***13**

FIRST AID TREATMENTS (-85%)

***4**

RESCUES (-20%)



*Data is unreliable due to inconsistent adoption by patrol teams of the digital technology replacing paper based logbooks.





TREASURER'S REPORT

Aaron Hendrikson
Treasurer

The Club's finances remain solid, with external net profit of \$17.4k in 2026, down from \$66.2k the previous year. The key drivers of income are membership, sponsorship, donations, grants, the Deck, functions and the Big Swim. The Club has benefited from the stewardship of a series of capable treasurers, and the financial position reflects their work.

The Club thanks its sponsors for their ongoing support in keeping the beach safe, Macquarie Bank and McGrath, who supported the Club through the cancellation of the 2026 Big Swim. Some income and expenses from the cancelled event have been carried into the 2027 financial year, and the

full cost will not be known until after the 2027 Big Swim's event.

The reduction against the previous year reflects lower income from the cancelled Big Swim, food and beverage operations, and membership.

Our club and clubhouse have been founded on donations and that continues to help keep us saving lives. Thank you to all of you who generously donated to the club.

The Deck supports the Club's goal of a safe beach by providing a vantage point over the surf, while also feeding patrol members

and contributing income to the Club. Deck income was down 11.6% in 2026, with margin improved by 0.5%. The Club thanks Richard for his careful management of the Deck.

The clubhouse renovations supported by the Property Club provide accommodation for members and support patrol operations. Members are encouraged to view the new works at the rear of the clubhouse.

Finally, the Club thanks Jon Pratten and Natalie Carroll for their support during 2026.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Whale Beach SLSC Incorporated (the Club) is incorporated as an association under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW).

As part of its operations, the Club is required to comply with a number of legal and regulatory obligations, including those under: the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and related Regulations the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW) and related Regulations the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and related Regulations

The Club conducts its fundraising activities under SLSNSW Charitable Fundraising Number 11033.

The financial statements included in this Annual Report are a summary of the Club's full Financial Report, which is available on the Club's website: <https://whalebeachslsc.com/about/annual-reports/>

The full Financial Report includes the Club's detailed compliance disclosures as well as the independent audit report prepared by the Club's Auditor, Kevin Veale of Morgan Veale & Co.

The Management Committee is responsible for the financial statements included in this

Annual Report and confirms that:

the Club has complied with the obligations and standards that apply to it; the summary financial statements in this Annual Report are a true and accurate extract from the full Financial Report; and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Club will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Management Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Brett Babicci Aaron Hendrikson
President Treasurer

1 July 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2026

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 April 2026

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	9,048	6,584
Trade and other receivables	64,400	9,001
Inventories	33,154	36,520
Total current assets	106,602	52,105
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	58,193	106,613
Total non-current assets	58,193	106,613
Total assets	164,795	158,718
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	17,684	16,720
Other liabilities	12,841	12,841
Total current liabilities	30,525	29,561
Total liabilities	30,525	29,561
Net assets	134,270	129,157
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	134,270	129,157
Total equity	134,270	129,157

Profit and Loss Account

For the Year Ended 30 April 2026

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Member subscriptions	60,920	71,993
Donations and bequests (other)	95,802	10,650
Sponsorships	56,167	51,667
Competitions & carnivals (incl. The Big Swim)	29,097	60,034
Surf Club functions	13,268	20,628
Food & beverage	349,541	395,579
Merchandise	1,803	17,998
Miscellaneous income	6,482	8,535
Interest received	2	4
Revenue from government - grants	-	7,796
Other grants	30,024	27,564
Profits on sales of fixed assets	-	-
Total income	643,106	672,448
LESS: EXPENSES		
SLS State and Branch fees	15,042	14,254
Uniforms and apparel not for resale	1,509	(1,212)
Training	16,561	8,952
Competitions & carnivals (incl. The Big Swim)	20,208	19,325
Printing, photography, media	17,902	24,875
Depreciation	71,312	70,425
Repairs and maintenance	82,010	85,245
Surf Club functions	42,769	26,718
Trophies, prizes and tributes	5,509	6,604
Food & beverage	309,973	352,969
Merchandise	8,892	25,628
Utilities	8,792	7,541
Miscellaneous expenses	2,902	1,938
Donations to WB Property Club	-	25,000
Donations (other)	-	5,005
Bank charges	7,187	8,588
Office expenses	4,322	2,728
Postage & freight	1,346	992
Administration & management fees	501	885
Auditor's remuneration - audit	5,000	5,000
Wages and salaries	14,520	9,120
Superannuation	1,734	1,043
Total expenses	637,992	701,623
Profit (loss) before income tax	5,114	(29,175)



Download the PDF of our 2025/2026 Financial Statements and Auditor's Report from our website at www.whalebeachslsc.com/about/annual-reports/



CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Olivia Rees-Ewen
Club Captain

The 2025/26 season was defined by commitment and the strength of a dedicated group who ensured Whale Beach remained safe, welcoming, and well cared for. In a season marked by reduced patrol numbers, the continued reliability and professionalism of our patrol members stood out as the key achievement, demonstrating just how deeply our lifesaving values are embedded within the Club.

Throughout the season, Whale Beach operated with fewer active patrolling members than in previous years. This shift placed increased responsibility on a smaller group, who consistently stepped forward to fill patrols, mentor others, and maintain operational standards. Despite these pressures, the culture on patrol remained warm and inclusive, with members always willing to stop for a chat, welcome passers-by, and represent the Club with pride and approachability. The positive presence of our patrols continued to be felt by the wider community, reinforcing trust and connection on the beach.

Patrolling members contributed over 6,674 hours across the season. During this time, patrol teams conducted 4 rescues, responded to 13 first aid incidents, and carried out 425 preventative actions. These figures represent not only statistics, but countless decisions made in changing conditions, long days on the sand, and the sustained focus required to manage beach safety week after week. The effort to maintain coverage, compliance, and readiness placed real demands on those involved, making their consistency all the more significant.

The Lifesaving Committee played a vital role in supporting patrol operations throughout the season. Through managing rosters, supporting training and assessments, ensuring equipment readiness, and adapting to ongoing challenges, their work enabled patrol members to perform with confidence. Their contribution remained largely behind the scenes, but was essential to the continued delivery of safe and effective patrol services.

As we look ahead, the Club will be introducing a new patrolling rostering approach next season. This change is designed to provide greater flexibility, allowing members to nominate patrol days that better align with their availability, while supporting more sustainable participation across the membership. It reflects a collective commitment to adapting how we operate, supporting one another, and strengthening patrol capacity.

As the season closes, sincere thanks are extended to every member who gave their time, energy, and care. Your contribution has been invaluable, and the future of Whale Beach surf lifesaving will be built through continued involvement, shared responsibility, and a community willing to lend a hand.



GEAR AND EQUIPMENT REPORT

Hamish Jones
Gear Officer

For the gear team, this season focused on building new capabilities and improving the way we manage our space.

One of the biggest steps forward was the purchase and implementation of an Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (Drone), with help from the NSW Government's Club Lifesaving Equipment Grant. Over the season, we have successfully embedded this capability into our patrol operations, and it has quickly become a staple of our day-to-day. The drone has already been used to support search and rescue activities, improve situational awareness, and assist decision making on the beach. Importantly, members have become more confident in operating it, and it is now a practical, working part of how we patrol our beach rather than just a new piece of equipment.

We also made several improvements to our boat sheds

to make the space more functional and easy to use, including;

Upgrades to the first aid room, including a new sink area and extra shelving
Changes to the ATV storage room and lifeguard area, improving layout and usability
The purchase of two new IRB racks, allowing our hulls to be stored more efficiently and safely when not in use.

In addition, the Club was able to donate one of our older Inflatable Rescue Boats to Bilgola SLSC, supporting our neighbouring Clubs and branch capability whilst ensuring the asset continues to be used where it is needed.

Lastly, I wanted to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has helped look after our Club's gear over this last season. The way our equipment is maintained and respected makes a huge difference in our ability to operate day in and day out, and it has not gone unnoticed.



IRB AND POWER EQUIPMENT REPORT

Cameron Cormio
IRB & Power Equipment Captain

The 2025/26 season has been another strong year for IRB and Powercraft operations at Whale Beach SLSC. As Captain, I have been proud to build on recent progress across patrol support, training, equipment and operational readiness.

A major highlight was the long-awaited arrival of our new, top-of-the-range IRB. Ordered two seasons ago, this significant investment strengthens our fleet and rescue capability for years to come.

We also transitioned mechanical servicing to Nugget Marine, which has improved equipment standards and operational readiness, while a new engine stand in the shed has enhanced safety and storage.

Training remained a focus. We commenced shared IRB course delivery with Palm Beach SLSC, improving access to trainers and participants and strengthening ties between our clubs. Our thanks to all trainers and assessors who supported it.

Looking ahead, we're keen to put together an IRB competition team. Racing is a great way to sharpen skills, build crew depth and bring some healthy rivalry to the program if you'd like to be part of it, get in touch.

We're also grateful to every driver and crew who volunteered this season, including water safety at neighbouring ocean swims a reflection of the cooperation across the Northern Beaches.

Special mention to Greg Hannaford, whose commitment, reliability and work training others has been invaluable. We also acknowledge Sam Wallis, whose first season as a driver including a memorable "upside-down rubber duck" showed exactly the enthusiasm that keeps our program strong.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to another successful year at Whaley.





EDUCATION AND TRAINING REPORT

Jacqueline Rees
Chief Training Officer

The season began with our strong training team, led by Head Trainer and Assessor, Lara Boyle, Head Trainers Madeline Zagorski and Eloise Love, supported by Olivia Rees-Ewen, Cameron Cormio, Angus Wines, Natasha Hodgkinson, Stephanie Darley, and Gregory Hannaford. Miriam Woof joined as an experienced trainer and Hamish Jones as a probationary trainer, enhancing our team's capacity to deliver Bronze Medallion, SRC, IRB Crew, and IRB Driver courses. With the updated CPR training from SLS Australia, we were well prepared for a busy start.

Trainers started with TAF Skills Maintenance, learning the new Lifesaving CPR process. SLS Australia introduced a streamlined resuscitation approach, requiring all educators to adapt quickly. Our team successfully implemented this training from September to December. Due to lengthy sessions, we partnered with Avalon SLSC for evening courses and offered our weekend courses in return, strengthening inter-club collaboration.

Extended training time challenged our ability to run Bronze/SRC courses alongside Skills Maintenance. Trainers worked tirelessly every weekend, and their efforts are deeply appreciated. By December's end, 118 lifesavers completed their Skills Maintenance for the season.

Our partnership with Knox Grammar remains consistent under the leadership of Whale Beach trainers and lifesavers. Angus Wines was supported by Cameron Cormio, Toby Milroy, Brooklyn Clarke-Bruce, and Madeline Zagorski in delivering training and building this connection.

Awards Undertaken in the 2025/26 Season: Throughout the season, we ran two Bronze and SRC courses. Whilst our numbers were down in candidates, we were excited to welcome many young SRC members, whose families have held a long connection to the Club. We also welcomed several local candidates, which bodes well for future support from our community. All our new recruits have been warmly included in patrols and are already proving to be great assets to the Club. We were also thrilled

that many lifesavers expanded their qualifications, including ten people undertaking the important training of patrol captains. We are proud of their dedication.

Advanced Resuscitation Technique 13

Bronze Medallion Award 14

First Aid Certificate 26

Inshore Rescue

Boat Crew Certificate 4

Inshore Rescue Boat

Silver Medallion Driver 3

Silver Medallion

Patrol Captain 10

Rescue Water Craft Operator Certificate 1

Radio Operator Certificate 1

Silver Medallion

Aquatic Rescue 4

Surf Rescue Certificate 8

Training Officer

Bronze Medallion 4

Training Officer IRB 2

UAV Operator (non RePL) 4

UAV Pilot (RePL) 1

We sincerely thank our trainers for their dedicated hours and inspiring enthusiasm. Thanks also to Avalon, Bilgola, and Palm Beach SLSC's for collaborating on Skills Maintenance, First Aid, IRB Crew, and Drivers' courses. Working with such a supportive community is invaluable.

Next season, we aim to expand our training team and continue improving skill delivery and expertise. We also hope to partner again with our neighbouring Clubs to increase our capacity to run more courses and broaden our skill base. This will enable us to better support lifesavers, foster excellence, and keep our beach safe.



SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION AWARDS (133)

25 Year Long Service Award (1)

Stewart, Richard (Belated)

40 Year Long Service Award (1)

Stewart, Richard (Belated)

70 Year Long Service Award (2)

Berry, Robert
Steward, Richard

National Medal (1)

Schmidt, Philip

5 Year National Patrol Service Award (19)

Angille, Jeannine
Bernard, Benjamin
Carolan, Finn
Ewen, Olivia
Hackett, Barnabas
Hackett, Jonah
Hodgkinson, Natasha
Humphrey, Angus
Kovac, Lilly
Milroy, Toby
Parker, William
Saunders, Owen
Sherlock, Sarah
Sippe, Angus
Williams, Jemima
Wines, Angus
Woof, Miriam
Yiu, Jayden
Yiu, Kayla

10 National Patrol Service Award (9)

Bownes, Iain
Ewen, Dylan
Gallagher, Kieran
Hackett, Juliette
Hackett, Andrew
Love, Angus
Markovitch, Timothy
Stenning, David
Zagorski, Madeline

15 Year National Patrol Service Award (1)

Burfitt-Williams, Robert

20 Year National Patrol Service Award (4)

Felder, John
Hale, Geoffrey
Myers, Peter
Webster, Evan

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (11))

Keft, Eleanor
Knox, Thomas
McKenna, Oskar
McKenna, Robert
Morrison, Anna
Reatti, Anna
Rigele, Dylan
Saunders, Owen
Tsybriy, Kristina
Underwood, Kirstie
Wyroba, Bartosz

Bronze Medallion (14)

Beale, India
Dare, Brent
Edema-Cross, Quinn
Ellis, Thomas
Knox, Thomas
Kuhlmey, Boris
Marran, Nicholas
Marsh, Archer
Mulvany, Caitlin
Myers, Harry
Rogers, Kate
Smith, Miguel
Underwood, Kirstie
Warnes, Robert Simon

First Aid (27)

Archer, Martin
Dare, Brent
Edema-Cross, Quinn
Eglinton, Jillian
Ellis, Thomas
Keft, Eleanor
Knox, Thomas
Kuhlmey, Boris
Marran, Nicholas
Marsh, Archer
Moody, Scarlett
Mulvany, Paul
Myers, Harry
Nicholls, Amelia
Power, Alexander
Prasad, Charlize

Jacqueline Rees
Rees-Ewen, Dylan
Sanderson, William
Saunders, Owen
Smith, Miguel
Symons, Eleanor
Underwood, Kirstie
Warnes, Robert Simon
Wyatt, Ziarne
Zhou, Jasper
Zhou, Jeremy

IRB Crew Certificate (4)

Bekmann, Jochen
Ellis, Thomas
Smith, Miguel
Wyatt, Ziarne

Radio Operator Certificate (1)

Eriksson, Cleon

Rescue Water Craft Operator Certificate (1)

Rees-Ewen, Olivia

Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue (3)

Hodgkinson, Natasha
Rees-Ewen, Olivia
Rigele, Dylan

Silver Medallion IRB Driver (3)

Hodgkinson, Natasha
Wallis, Samuel
Wines, Angus

Silver Medallion Patrol Captain (9)

Babicci, Brett
Burfitt-Williams, Robert
McKenna, Robert
Myers, Peter
Rees, Jacqueline
Sherlock, Sarah
Sippe, Angus
Wines, Sophie
Wyatt, Ziarne

SS- Australian Sports Commission Community Coaching (1)

Hodgkinson, Natasha

SS- Australian Sports Commission Community Coaching (2)

Hodgkinson, Natasha
O'Carroll, Natalie

SS- Technical Official (2)

Hodgkinson, Natasha
O'Carroll, Natalie

Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR Endorsed) (8)

Bolton, Marlie
Conwell, Harper
Eriksson, Cleo
Mackie, Nieve
Moody, Scarlett
Myers, Maddie
Nicholls, Amelia
Prasad, Charlize

Training Officer

Bronze Medallion (2)

Wines, Angus
Hodgkinson, Natasha

Training Officer IRB (4)

Cormio, Cameron
Darley, Stephanie
Hodgkinson, Natasha
Yiu, Jayden

UAV Operator (4)

Craney, Mirek
Fausboll, Annette
Jones, Hamish
Mowday, Mark

UAV Pilot (1)

Woof, Miriam





COMPETITION REPORT

Natasha Hodgkinson
Competition Secretary

Despite several weekends of difficult weather, surf conditions, and beach closures, Sunday Races remained a consistent feature of the season and continued to play an important role in developing surf awareness, fitness, and confidence among members. A revised 10am start time attracted strong weekly participation, while the introduction of the "Fin Brigade" legitimised the use of fins in surf races and encouraged members to build confidence in larger surf conditions.

One of the standout moments of the season was the annual Palm Beach v Whale Beach competition, which once again brought both Clubs together for a highly anticipated day of racing and camaraderie, strengthening the longstanding relationship between the two Clubs. Palm Beach ultimately retained the win following a competitive day on the beach.

A major milestone for the Club was the successful hosting of the Bennett Fast Fives Carnival, marking the first surf sports carnival held at Whale Beach in around 20 years. The event created a vibrant atmosphere on the beach and highlighted the Club's

growing involvement and enthusiasm for surf sports competition. Thank you to the first aid team, work party volunteers, officials, and supporters who ensured the carnival's success.

The season also featured strong participation at Club and external events. "Moby's Masters" competed at the Adrian Curlewis Twilight Masters Carnival at Palm Beach, with Greg Hannaford, Sam Rouhan, Brett Babicci, and Angus Love racing in the Surf Race, Board Relay, and Taplin events. The team delivered strong performances, particularly in the Board Relay, while Sam Rouhan produced an outstanding swim.

The rescheduled Point to Point Swim generated significant excitement, with competitors navigating challenging surf conditions from the Wedge across Whale Beach and into Bogey Hole. Dylan Rees-Ewen and Natasha Hodgkinson claimed the Noel Greenfield and Peters-Gowing-Robb Shields respectively. The Midget Farrelly Surfing Competition also showcased the depth of talent within the Club, with Dylan Rees-Ewen once again taking out the Memorial Board following a closely contested competition.

Whale Beach competitors also achieved strong results at Branch, State, and Australian Championships. Natasha Hodgkinson recorded outstanding performances at Branch, including first place in both the U19 Female Beach Sprint and 2km Beach Run. At State Sarah Sherlock placed 5th in the 2km Beach Run. Surf boat crews competed strongly throughout the season, with notable performances from the Free Willy's, Blowholes, Moby Dicks, and Lil D's crews across Reserve and U23 Male and Female divisions. At the Australian Championships, Whale Beach was represented in both surf boat and individual events, with Natasha Hodgkinson and Greg Hannaford achieving commendable results in beach and masters competition.

The female beach sprint relay team, "Whales Tails," also continued to build momentum, with Chloe Yiu, Kayla Yiu, Natasha Hodgkinson, and Ziarne Wyatt achieving fourth place at Beach Stormers in Manly.

Thank you to all competitors, volunteers, and supporters who contributed to another successful surf sports season. Your commitment and enthusiasm continue to strengthen both the competitive and community culture of Whale Beach.



THE BIG SWIM AND THE LITTLE BIG SWIM

Claudette Good
Race Director

The 2026 Big Swim was scheduled for Sunday 25 January, continuing its place as one of the Northern Beaches' most iconic and long-running ocean swim events, now in its 52nd year.

Unfortunately, the 2026 event was cancelled in the days leading up to race day. The decision followed expert advice from Surf Life Saving NSW, Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches, and Northern Beaches Council, based on increased shark activity and deteriorating water quality in the wake of significant storm activity the preceding week.

While deeply disappointing for the hundreds of swimmers, volunteers, and supporters who had worked toward the event, the safety of all participants and water safety crews remained the absolute priority. The decision was not made lightly, and the Committee is confident it was the right one.

The Big Swim could not be delivered without the support of our sponsors and event partners. We thank the following for their involvement in the 2025/2026 season:

Macquarie (principal sponsor of The Big Swim)
McGrath (sponsor of The Little Big Swim)
oceanswims.com (registration partner)
Marine Rescue NSW (water safety)
Rural Fire Service (traffic management)
Brown Brothers
Northern Beaches Council
Surf Life Saving Sydney Branch
Multisports (timing)
BossFotos
CanToo

A tremendous amount of work goes into delivering an event of this scale, and this year was no different. Despite the outcome, the preparation undertaken by the organising committee was thorough, professional, and a genuine credit to everyone involved.

Special thanks go to Samantha Rouhan and Natasha Hodgkinson, who contributed many hours of planning, coordination, and on the ground support throughout the lead up to the event. Their commitment made a real difference, and it is deeply appreciated. We are also very thankful for the wealth of information provided by Rob Berry and Rob Burffit-Williams. Special mention of thanks to Martin Archer, who stepped in the Bob Wines very big boots with ease, ensuring registration would run smoothly.

The broader Big Swim committee and all Club volunteers are also acknowledged warmly. From logistics and safety, to communications, vendor management, volunteer coordination, and race day preparation, every contribution mattered. The cancellation does not diminish the effort that went in.

The 2026 experience has provided valuable insight, particularly around environmental

risk management, late stage decision making, and mass communication. Several key areas have been identified for strengthening ahead of 2027:

Formalised risk trigger points with clear cancel or postpone criteria

Addition to the risk management plan of a specific trigger for shark activity during the swim, including: a shark alarm being activated, a beacon signal detecting a shark in proximity to the course, or a fin being sighted.

Documented contingency scenarios (shortened course, alternate swim, no swim activation)

A comprehensive event playbook to support handover and ongoing delivery

Planning for the 2027 event is expected to commence later in the year, with the Club continuing to build on the strong foundations and learnings from this season. We look forward to welcoming swimmers back to the start line at Palm Beach.





ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

Owen Saunders
Social Secretary

I have had the pleasure this year of stepping into the Entertainment Secretary role during the course of the season. While I did not begin the year in this position, I was fortunate to be welcomed into it with enthusiasm and trust, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the social fabric of Whale Beach SLSC. The role has offered a unique vantage point from which to witness the strength of our community, the dedication of our members, and the joy that comes from bringing people together.

One of the standout moments of the season was our Neighbours Night in January. This event was not only a lively and memorable evening but also a wonderful opportunity to provide a service to our local community. It allowed us to open our doors to neighbours, friends, and visitors, fostering connection and showcasing the welcoming spirit that defines our Club. With attendance exceeding 80 people, the night was a testament to the appetite for community-driven events and the value of

creating spaces where people can gather, unwind, and enjoy the company of those around them.

Equally significant was our Awards Night in May, an evening dedicated to celebrating both our members and the broader community that supports us. This event remains one of the highlights of the Club calendar, offering a chance to acknowledge the hard work, achievements, and contributions of individuals across all areas of the Club. Once again, we saw more than 80 attendees come together to share in the pride and camaraderie that make Whale Beach SLSC such a special place. Organising this event was both a privilege and a rewarding challenge, and I am deeply appreciative of everyone who played a part in bringing it to life.

Beyond these major events, our monthly drinks have continued to serve as a consistent and cherished fixture on the last Saturday of each month. These gatherings on the deck have become a reliable moment of pause in the rhythm of

Club life a chance for members to connect, reflect on the month's achievements, and enjoy the simple pleasure of good company in a beautiful setting. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to one of our valued sponsors, Mekong Merchants, for their ongoing generosity in providing delicious food for our patrons. Their support has enriched our events and contributed greatly to the warm and welcoming atmosphere we strive to maintain.

Stepping into this role has been both exciting and immensely fulfilling. I would like to extend my gratitude to all who have assisted, encouraged, and collaborated throughout the season. It is through the collective efforts of our members, volunteers, and supporters that the social life of the Club continues to thrive as the vibrant, inclusive, and unique community hub that it is.



LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Olivia Rees-Ewen

Leadership and development programs are among the most prestigious opportunities in Surf Life Saving, with members selected to represent our Club, Branch, and State alongside outstanding members from across Australia. Designed to develop leaders within the movement, these programs focus on leadership capability, strategic thinking, networking, and personal development.

This season, Whale Beach SLSC was proudly represented across multiple Branch, State, and National leadership programs, with members developing leadership skills, building networks, and bringing valuable ideas and experience back to the Club. Congratulations to Natasha Hodgkinson, Olivia Rees-Ewen, Eloise Love, Sophie Wines, and Lara Boyle on their selection and representation of Whale Beach SLSC.

Having multiple members selected into these programs in one season is a significant achievement for Whale Beach SLSC and reflects the strong



leadership continuing to develop across the Club. The experience, ideas, and networks gained through these opportunities will help strengthen future planning, support upcoming strategy discussions. We look forward to supporting more members to become involved in development opportunities in the seasons ahead.

Program Participation

SLSNSW 18-25 Development Program: Sophie Wines, Lara Boyle (Facilitator)

SLSNSW Emerging Leaders Program: Natasha Hodgkinson, Eloise Love

SLSA Women's Mentoring Program: Natasha Hodgkinson

SLSA National Leadership College: Olivia Rees-Ewen

"The SLSA Women's Mentoring Program has provided valuable personal and leadership development throughout the season. I was mentored by Courtney Taylor from Currumbin SLSC, who supported me in balancing the demands of school, Club leadership, and personal life. The program helped me to separate responsibilities from what I enjoy most within lifesaving, creating a more sustainable and enjoyable experience. Courtney also encouraged me to take on greater responsibility aligned with my career goals, strengthening my leadership, professionalism and confidence. The SLSNSW Emerging Leaders Program further developed my strategic thinking and leadership capability through collaboration with like-minded members from other Clubs." Tash

"Attending the National Leadership College was an incredibly valuable experience that challenged me to reflect on my leadership style and how I can better support the people around me. One of my biggest takeaways was the importance of having a strong strategic plan and clear direction to guide both teams and organisations forward. Throughout the program, we heard from several inspiring speakers who shared valuable insights from their own leadership journeys. A key lesson reinforced was the importance of reflection and self-discovery - by understanding your own 'why' and the motivations of others, you are far better placed to serve the lifesaving community. One of the most rewarding aspects of the experience was forming strong connections with Surf Life Saving members from all around Australia. It was extremely valuable to hear about the different challenges and successes experienced across Clubs, branches, and states, and learn from how others have approached difficult situations and achieved success. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity and hope to share these learnings as we continue moving forward as a Club." Olivia



WOMEN OF WHALE

Women of Whale Committee

The 2025/26 season was an energetic and uplifting year for the Women of Whale, marked by connection, creativity, and renewed momentum. With a strong focus on shared experiences and community building, the initiative delivered meaningful opportunities for women and girls across the Club to come together, celebrate one another, and strengthen their sense of belonging.

A highlight of the season was a series of activities centred around International Women's Day on 8 March. These events created moments of fun, reflection, and connection for members of all ages. A girls' sleepover brought together younger members in a relaxed and supportive environment, providing space to build friendships, share stories, and feel part of something larger within the Club. Complementing this, a bracelet-making session encouraged creativity while fostering connections and Club spirit through shared time and conversation.

Sustainability and community care were also key themes this season. A Women of Whale clothing swap invited members to bring along pre-loved clothing to exchange with one another. The initiative was met with enthusiasm, and any remaining items were donated to women's and girls' shelters, extending the impact beyond the Club and supporting those in need within the wider community.

The Pink Zinc Patrol once again brought colour and energy to the sand, with games and activities helping to keep members engaged throughout the day while celebrating women's contribution to surf lifesaving. Training opportunities, including time on boards and rescue watercraft, supporting confidence-building and skill development. The day was further enhanced by the generous support of several local and aligned brands, who donated items for goodie bags and prizes. Sincere thanks are

extended to Jayd Swim, Hotlox Newport, Budgy Smuggler, Freshwater Farm, and Solsista Collective for helping make the celebration memorable.

Fundraising took a creative turn this season with the hosting of a bazaar selling pre-loved items. The event not only raised funds to support Women of Whale initiatives, but also reinforced the value of reuse, connection, and shared contribution.

A heartfelt thanks go to every woman and girl who participated, supported, and contributed to Women of Whale. Looking ahead, the focus remains on building on this momentum, continuing to create inclusive opportunities, and supporting women at every stage of their journey within Whale Beach SLSC.



RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Lifesaver of the Year

Selected by the President, this award recognises patrol and Club duties performed at a distinguished level over and above expectation for a Senior Active member.

Natasha Hodgkinson

Young Lifesaver of the Year

Selected by the President, this award recognises the achievements of a Junior Active member who has performed patrol and Club duties at a level beyond expectation.

Elliott Gordon

Captain's Service Award

This award recognises members who achieve more than 100 hours of patrol service with the Club, excluding hours performed at other Clubs or services.

Hamish Jones

Most Valued Patroller

Nominated by the Patrol Captain or from a vote within patrol, this award recognises the differentiated contribution and exemplary attitude of that patrol member over the course of the season.

Patrol 1. Harry Myers
Patrol 2. Angus Love
Patrol 3. Gabrielle Howard
Patrol 4. Sam Rouhan
Patrol 5. Kirstie Underwood
Patrol 6. Nicole Nicholls
Patrol 7. Sarah Sherlock

Contribution to Education

This award is presented to the trainer who made the greatest contribution to training and education.

Angus Wines

Patrol Captain of the Year

This award is presented to a Patrol Captain who demonstrates consistent attendance, excellence in communication, encourage patrollers to upskill and be involved in Club events, as well as strong organisation skills and vigilance on the beach.

Eloise Love

Outstanding New Member

Miriam Woof

Patrol of the Year

Patrol 2 - The Kooks

Marlie Bolton
Harper Conwell
Jeffrey Cullis
Cleo Eriksson
Michael Estrella
Andrew Hackett
Juliette Hackett
Eleanor Keft
Steven Kougioumtzis
Mick Lamb
Caitlin Leonard
Angus Love
Mel Love
Laura Mears
Maddie Myers
Jacqueline Rees
Kristopher Ritter
Anthony Rose
Ashley Thomas
Evan Webster
John Whiteman
Jenny Witeman

Gus Bownes Encouragement Award

This award recognises a younger patrolling member of Whale Beach who exemplifies some or all of Angus Bownes' attributes. The qualities to be honored include:

- Bravery
- Strength
- Encouragement
- Proactive and responsible
- Kind, empathetic, friendly, supportive, compassionate and humble.

Cameron Cormio

Club Champions

Female Opens Club Champion

Natasha Hodgkinson

Female Masters Club Champion

Samantha Rouhan

Male Junior Club Champion

Elliott Gordon

Male Open Club Champion

Owen Saunders

Male Masters Club Champion

Brett Babicci

Male Veteran Club Champion

Greg Hannaford



The image is a collage of 60 photographs, arranged in 6 rows and 10 columns. Each photograph captures a different moment from a formal event, likely a gala or awards ceremony. The subjects are predominantly young adults, possibly students or young professionals, dressed in formal attire such as tuxedos, gowns, and suits. The photos show a variety of social interactions: couples posing for portraits, groups of friends celebrating, individuals receiving awards or gifts, and people socializing at tables. The lighting is warm and focused on the subjects, with a dark background that suggests an indoor evening setting. The overall mood is festive and celebratory.

CELEBRATING BOB WINES

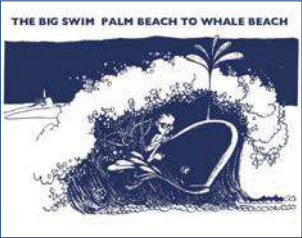
Honouring 30 years of dedication to The Big Swim

For more than three decades, Bob Wines has been a constant and reassuring presence behind one of the Club's most important events. Serving as Head Marshal for over 30 years, Bob has played a critical role in ensuring The Big Swim is delivered safely, smoothly, and to the high standard our community has come to expect.

His commitment in this space has been instrumental to the event's success, underpinning the experience for every participant who has lined up on the start line.

Bob's contribution goes far beyond the tasks he performed. His consistency, calm leadership, and willingness to show up year after year set a standard that reflects the very best of our Club's values. The Big Swim has grown into a cornerstone event for Whale Beach, and it is no exaggeration to say that its success is deeply tied to Bob's dedication and stewardship.

This year marks a significant milestone, as Bob steps



down from his role as Head Marshal. While his day-to-day involvement may change, the impact of his service will endure for many years to come.

We also take this moment to acknowledge Barbara, who has supported Bob throughout this journey. Contributions like Bob's are rarely made in isolation, and Barbara's support has been an important part of this long-standing commitment.

On behalf of the entire Club, we extend our sincere thanks to Bob Wines for his outstanding service.

Your contribution has helped shape the Big Swim into what it is today, and your legacy will remain a valued part of Whale Beach SLSC.

Brett Babicci



VALE

Peter Hall



It is with profound sadness that Whale Beach Surf Life Saving Club farewells Peter Hall "Hally" to all who knew him who passed away suddenly on 5 July, near Grafton, travelling with his beloved wife Jeanette. Hally joined Whale Beach in October 1964 and earned his Bronze Medallion here in 1966. He was an amazing waterman not afraid of big surf or dangerous conditions; he was one of the originals who swam Palm to Whale. He earned his Advanced Resuscitation Certificate in 1978 and his Silver Medallion IRB Driver the following year. He achieved his 25-Year National Patrol Service Award in 1991, his 40 Year Long Service Award in 2009, and his 50 Year Long Service Award in 2018 all mark a lifetime of service, he retained his Long Service membership at Whale Beach even this past season. For many years he served the wider community too, working as a Lifeguard Supervisor for

Pittwater Council, he was well respected on every beach he stood on. Hally was a great man and a larrikin who enjoyed a beer and a laugh, a genuine bloke who loved his wife and family dearly, he always had time for a story and was good mate to many of us.

For me, who came up under him, he was someone to look up to, a fearless waterman, and the kind of bloke you measured yourself against. He held a piece of this club together, I can say I am a better person for the time he afforded me. On behalf of every member, past and present, we extend our deepest sympathies to Jeanette and to all of Pete's family.

All members of the Whale Beach SLSC family are warmly welcome to attend and pay their respects to a man who gave so much to this club.

Vale, Peter Hall, you will be missed mate!

Brett Babicci

Phillip Schmidt



VALE: Philip "Phil" Schmidt (24 September 1944 – 11 May 2026)

It is with deep sadness that Whale Beach Surf Life Saving Club acknowledges the passing of Philip "Phil" Schmidt, who passed on Monday 11 May 2026, aged 82. Phil was a Life Member; he was practical, generous, community-minded, and quietly determined to leave things better than he found them.

Phil joined Whale Beach SLSC in 2001 and immediately set about contributing in a way that reflected his character: he didn't seek recognition, he simply got on with it. He earned his Bronze Medallion on 16 March 2002, and over the years achieved an impressive range of surf lifesaving awards and capabilities, including Senior First Aid, Spinal Management, and Advanced Resuscitation. He also served as a former IRB crew member and driver, always willing to do what was needed to support patrol and keep our community safe.

Phil's service extended well beyond patrol hours. He gave the Club a long period of steady leadership, serving as:

- President (2012–2016) – four seasons
- Immediate Past President (2016–2021)
- He sat on various Club committees including Finance, Building, Fundraising, Life Membership, and OHS, and most recently as a current member of the Property Committee

Phil paved the way for and encouraged younger members to participate in running the Club, backing people in and helping them find confidence through responsibility. Many who now contribute to Whale Beach's management and culture do so because Phil 'not so quietly' opened the door and then stood beside them while they stepped through it.

Phil understood that strong Clubs are built on community, and community is built by making people feel welcome.

His contribution as Social Secretary was extraordinary. Phil was the Sunday BBQ steward, and the driving force behind many of the gatherings that members now see as part of the Club's DNA. He donated and installed the Club's existing large commercial BBQ, and he ran the BBQ on The Big Swim day, rallying volunteers and serving the community with pride.

He also pioneered the much-loved "Pig" Night (later named Neighbours night), coordinating members as volunteers to support and serve the community during this prestigious event. Phil didn't just organise events he created a sense of belonging. He gave people reasons to come down to the Club, stay a little longer, and feel part of something bigger.

Phil also was instrumental in setting up the popular Christmas Rippers (Nippers) event, another example of his instinct for creating traditions that bring people together and keep the Club's spirit alive.

One of Phil's most significant legacies was his role in proposing the mobile phone tower agreement, a deal that helped enable the Club to become debt-free following building renovations, and which continues to provide significant ongoing revenue today. This single contribution has strengthened Whale Beach's long-term financial stability and ensured future generations can benefit from the facilities and community presence that the Club provides.

Phil was a significant long-term financial contributor, and a committed supporter of our boat crews, assisting through donations of equipment and practical support always focused on performance, and helping crews do their best.

On a personal note, Phil was a great advocate for the Club and had a genuine love of surf boats. He followed our Open

Men's crew to Perth in 2008 and 2009, and he was part of the "Big Fish" supporters of the Australian Team during the 2011 International Challenge in New Zealand where he also sponsored the crew a new set of oars.

More recently, during summer mornings this season, Phil and I would often cross paths at Palm Beach, me in the boat, and Phil on his surf ski returning from Barrenjoey Headland. He always had an opinion and words of advice not just for me, but "constructive critique" for whichever crews were on the water at the time.

He loved Sunday competition, and even this season he would still turn up, pull his ski onto the sand, and assess the conditions to see if he could get out, often after already doing a session around the Joey. Sometimes the conditions at Whaley got the better of him, but his determination and his enthusiasm never wavered.

I found Phil an absolute gentleman. I valued his support and advice, and I considered him a dear friend. Our Club is better for his time in it, and his legacy will remain in the culture he helped build, the people he encouraged, and the foundations he strengthened.

Vale, Phil. In recognition of his service and the impact he had on Whale Beach SLSC, the Club flag will be flown at half-mast from today in his memory. We extend our deepest condolences to Phil's wife, Kerrie and to his loved ones. Details of a celebration of Phil's life will be shared when available.

Phil is survived by his children: James (married to Noelle), Heidi, and Margo (married to Richard)

And his grandchildren: Torsten, Merrick, Max and Ava

Thank you for everything you gave consistently, and with a strong force.

Brett Babicci



MEMBERS

Life Member (14)

Armstrong, Martin
Baird, John
Berry, Robert
Cullis, Philip
Hendrikson, Christopher
Lewis, John
Pearce, Andrew
Pratten, Jonathon
Ryan, Daniel
Schmidt, Philip
Stewart, Richard
Strong, David
Webster, Bryan
Young, Paul

Reserve Active (24)

Barkworth, Alexander
Butler, Tim
Cormio, Cameron
Cullis, Jeffrey
Denning, Marshall
Fielder, John
Gallagher, Kieran
Gibson, Will
Higgins, Floyd
Honig, Charlton
Keft, Eleanor
Kellaway, Charles
Markovitch, Timothy
Myers, Peter
Norrgard, Verner
Nugan, Robert
Puertolas, Cesar
Rees-Ewen, Dylan
Rowlinson, James
Sanderson, Thomas
Sanderson, William
Stenning, David
Taylor, Graham
Webster, Evan

Active Senior (101)

Bekmann, Jochen
Berbic, Noah
Bernard, Benjamin
Bownes, Iain
Burfitt-Williams, Robert

Callander, Hugh
Cameron, Charles
Carolan, Finn
Chant, Aaron
Claire, Lucy
Clarke-Bruce, Brooklyn
Connellan, Elizabeth
Craney, Mirek
Dare, Brent
Darley, Andrew
Darley, Samantha
Darley, Stephanie
Diamond, Alexander
Diamond, James
Downes, Oscar
Dwyer, Darcy
Edema-Cross, Quinn
Elliot, Poppy
Ellis, Thomas
Estrella, Michael
Fausboll, Annette
Frahm, Bowen
Garner, Taya
Gojnich, Amy
Good, Claudette
Hackett, Andrew
Hackett, Barnabas
Hackett, Jonah
Hackett, Juliette
Hackett, Reuben
Hodgkinson, Natasha
Howard, Gabrielle
Humphrey, Angus
Jones, Ella
Jones, Hamish
Knox, Thomas
Kougioumtzis, Steven
Kovac, Lilly
Kuhlmey, Boris
Lamb, Mick
Lamrock, Jack
Lapsley, Hamish
Lenehan, Phoebe
Leonard, Anthony
Leonard, Caitlin
Love, Angus
Love, Eloise
McKenna, Robert

Millard, Harry
Miller Hill, Blaise
Milroy, Toby
Mulvany, Caitlin
Naito, Kazuma
Nayer, Asha
O'Carroll, Natalie
Pancino, Matthew
Parker, William
Reatti, Jack
Rees, Jacqueline
Rees-Ewen, Olivia
Ritter, Kristopher
Robertson, Sydney
Rogers, Nicholas
Rose, Anthony
Rouhan, Michael
Rouhan, Samantha
Rowntree, Alex
Rowntree, Thomas
Saunders, Owen
Shackley, Roy
Sherlock, Sarah
Simmonds, James
Sippe, Angus
Smink, Braydon
Thomas, Ashley
Thomas, William
Thompson, Mia
Treharne, Adam
Tsybriy, Kristina
Underwood, Kirstie
Vega Karpov, Sebastian
Walker, Kristin
Wallis, Samuel
Warnes, Robert
Simon
Whiteman, John
Williams, Jemima
Wines, Angus
Wines, Sophie
Wise, Jessica
Wood, Kai
Wood, Ron
Woof, Miriam
Wyatt, Ziarne
Wyroba, Bartosz
Yiu, Jayden
Zagorski, Madeline

Active Junior (23)

Aveyard, Archie
Baker, Lachlan
Beveridge, Sophie
Choe, Rachel
Gordon, Elliott
Grainger, Thomas
Kendall, Levi
Lamb, William
Lenehan, Sybella
Leung, Kevin
Marran, Nicholas
Marsh, Archer
Mckenna, Oskar
Morrison, Anna
Myers, Harry
Prasad, James
Reatti, Anna
Rigele, Dylan
Rose, Henry
Smith, Miguel
Yap, Hannah
Yiu, Chloe
Yiu, Kayla

Cadet (10)

Beale, Poppy
Bolton, Marlie
Conwell, Harper
Eriksson, Cleo
Mackie, Neive
Moody, Scarlett
Myers, Maddie
Nicholls, Amelia
Prasad, Charlize
Rogers, Kate

Junior Activity Member (2)

Houghton, Drake
Houghton, Oliver

Long Service (41)

Allan, Ted
Archer, John
Babicci, Brett
Babicci, Glen
Barrell, Bryan
Blundell, Peter

Bosson, James
Boyle, Lara
Buckingham, Simon
Christie, Howard
Clark, Micah
Clarke, Saskia
Cooper, John
Crisp, Danny
Dauncey, Helen
Davis, Charles
Gardner, Stephen
Graber, Brian
Gray, Richard
Hale, Geoffrey
Hall, Peter
Hannaford, George (Jnr)
Hannaford, Gregory
Hansford, Richard
Hendrikson, Aaron
Hennessy, Ross
Hromas, Alexander
Jarrett, Matthew
Lamrock, Brian
Lang, Gordon
Laurence, Michael
Lerpiniere, John
Lewis, Benjamin
McRobert, Martin
OConnor, Bradley
Plim, Gerard
Stewart, Adrian
Stewart, Graeme
Taylor, Peter
Webster, Morgan
Williams, Penelope

Award (19)

Angilley, Jeannine
Cooke, Doris
Darley, Carolina
Eglinton, Jillian
Gill, Paul
Leonard, Loretta
Love, Mel
Mckenna, Gillian
Mears, Laura
Mowday, Mark
Mulvany, Paul

Ong, Julia
Power, Alexandra
Symons, Eleanor
Vaz De Souza
Esteves,Nicole
Whiteman, Jenny
Zagorski, Samantha
Zhou, Jasper
Zhou, Jeremy

Past Active (7)

Cooper, Nicholas
John, Benjamin
Lenehan, Julie
Pope, John
Sheer, Oliver
Smith, Harry
Withers, Greg

Honorary (1)

Shepphard, Ian

Associate (108)

Abraham, Jessica
Archer, Martin
Baggie, Hugh
Barter, Chris
Barthelmess, Jonathan
Baulman, Margaret
Beale, David
Beale, Nina
Belle, Adrian
Benjamin, James
Beveridge, Edwina
Boaler, Katherine
Borean, Derick
Bradford, Drew
Brinkmann, Normen
Carlton, Michael
Carnegie, Charles
Chapman, Karen
Cleary, Jon
Cleary, Zara
Cleaver, Jeremy
Coleman, Margot
Devadason, Mark
Dibbs, Kerry

Dorahy, Simon
Enestrom, Ron
Enestrom, Suellen
Ewen, Neil
Fern, Terrence
Figgis, Christopher
Figgis, Jan
FitzGerald, Scott
Flynn, Douglas
Friend, Ryan
Friend, Tina
Fryer, John
Gale, Eric
Gasnier, Mark
Gay, Richard
Glass, Kathy
Glass, Steve
Gliddon, Nathan
Goldsmith, Augusta
Gole, Elizabeth
Good, David
Gordon, Sally
Gorman, John
Grier, Jason
Hankins, Ashley
Hartog, Sebastien
Haughton, William
Holman, David
Holmes, Lee
Jenkins, Megan
Kavanaugh, Jonathan
Laidlaw, Hilary
Leeson, Iain
Lenehan, James
Lynch, Suzanne
Lysaght, Penny
Mackay, Ross
Mann, Erica
Mathews, Benjamin
May, Josh
McGrath, John
Mclellan, Matthew
Mitchell, Luke
Moore, Adam
Moore, Helen
Moore, Nicholas
Morgan, Carolyn
Mulherin, Sharon
Mulligan, Jennifer

Mulligan, William
Munro, Michael
O'Brien, Naomi
O'Brien, Paul
O'hare, Judith
Pegler, Nicola
Platt-Hepworth, Hugh
Puskar, Stefan
Raine, Jenni
Rains, Richard
Read, Irene
Regan, Pete
Robbins, Tiger
Rochester, Zac
Rothwell, David
Sams, Deborah
Sequeira, Marcello
Simec, Richard
Spencer, Ian
Stack, Gerald
Stack, Virginia
Strain, Kaye
Sullivan, Peter
Taylor, Conrad
Turnbull, Darren
Tynan, Chris
Warburton, John
Waters, Kathleen
Watts, Margaret
Williamson, Nicholas
Wines, Andrew
Wines, Lian
Wolthers, Shaun
Wood, Isaac
Zorica, Monique

General (9)

Camera, Grace
Carolan, Jock
Dorahy, Tess
Ellis, Michael
Fitzpatrick, Ryan
Fowler, Jordan
Hill, Maximilian
Houston, Archie
Jacobs-Preussmann, Theo

Community (44)

Adams, Leigh
Beale, Georgia
Beale, India
Beale, Monty
Campbell, Michael
Christie, Rosemary
Cook, Jennifer
Cook, Stephen
Cuschieri, Charles
Davey, Charles
Dillon, Nicola
Dillon, Peter
Edie, Graeme
Edie, Margaret
Emmett, Dominic
Gaven, Isabel
Hromas, Harriet
Jones-Gentle, Kylie
Lenehan, Charlie
Lindsay, Virginia
May, Simon
McCann, Lucinda
Morgan, Simon
Naphthali, Tracy
Nash, Janet
Newby, Greg
Osborne, Barbara
Overton, Rebecca
Pearsall, Mark
Prasad, Felicia
Rose, Sheila
Sanders, Paul
Sanderson, Cathy
Sanderson, Robert
Sanderson, Talbot
Scruby, Harold
Stuckey, Louise
Sullivan, Allan
van Gilst, Amanda
Wallace, Malcolm
Westcott, Julie
Williams, David
Wines, Robert
Wright, Nicholas



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We acknowledge the Garigal and
Gayamaygal Nation, the traditional
custodians of the Country on which
the Whale Beach SLSC stands.