

**LENNOX HEAD  
ALSTONVILLE**  
SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB  
ANNUAL REPORT

2023 / 2024

## Office Bearers

<b>President</b>	Tim Breen
<b>Vice President</b>	Geoff Harris
<b>Secretary</b>	John Beasley OAM
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brett van Zuylen
<b>Club Captain</b>	Chris Bond
<b>Chief Training Officer</b>	Brian Farrell
<b>Surf Sports Coordinator</b>	Samantha Miller
<b>Registrar</b>	Kate Bruce
<b>Youth Activities Coordinator</b>	Jodie Roberts
<b>Public Officer</b>	Scott Roberts

<b>Life Members</b>	Tony Cole *
	William Onslow
	Don McAteer
	Larry Platt *
	Bryan Lyndon
	Lou Wilson
	Geoff Harris
	Mark Laverty

<b>Patrons</b>	Honourable Justine Elliot MHR	The Federal Member for Richmond
	Tamara Smith MLA	The State Member for Ballina
	Sharon Cadwallader	The Mayor - Ballina Shire Council

## President's Report

The 2023/24 season was very busy at Lennox Head which made patrols challenging at times and I thank all our patrolling members for their time and commitment in making sure we carried out our responsibilities maintaining our patrols on the beach.

Junior Activities at club remain strong with 283 Junior and Cadet members filling the beach every Sunday morning for Nippers and a strong competitive culture fostered by Jodie Robert's as JAC who took a team of competitors to both the Country and State Titles. We were very successful at the Junior State Titles, our State competitors were Willow Dilger, Harley Dilger, Indy Stewart, Hannah Prior, Amy Roberts, Miliani Tighe, Billy Stewart, Abi Matthews and Luke Roberts and they brought home 3 gold medals, 3 silver medals and 3 bronze medals. The collective result was a super impressive 49 points, placing us 17th overall out of 75 clubs. Abi Matthews was selected as our female Far North Coast representative for Junior Lifesaver of the Year ('JLOTY') and will represent our club and our branch at the State JLOTY development camp in April.



*Surf Sports Coordinator with some of our Junior and Cadet Competitors*

Club membership was down slightly with 587 total members and 105 patrolling members and we would like to acknowledge and thank our Club Registrar, Kate Bruce for her tireless work this season culminating in 100% of memberships being submitted and paid online.

The Club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in December 2023 with a dinner and presentation for all past and present members. With a cast of luminaries in attendance including four of the original ten first patrol members from 1973, some of the club's earliest State medallists, and a



who's who of members, surf sports competitors and now grown up nippers, it was a night to remember.

Guests enjoyed entertaining speeches from Tony (Tige) Lovett, Donny McAteer, Daryl Ceely, Tom Berry and Sam Miller, who each took us on a trip down memory lane as they revealed the highlights from each of the club's five respective decades. Formalities culminated with the unveiling of a 50-year commemorative plaque by Ballina Mayor, Sharon Cadwallader.

The club was also the recipient of a number of grants this seasons which allowed us to purchase two new IRB's. These IRB's were named after volunteers members of the Club who have recently passed away and we held a small naming ceremony for the families as a thank you for their contribution to the Club and the wider community.



The visitor numbers to Lennox Head this season increased with the removal of travel restrictions post the COVID-19 lock-downs, which made it a busy season for Patrols. Thank you to all of our patrolling members for their time and contributions this season.

Thank you also to the LHASLSC Management Committee for the time that they contribute to the Club above and beyond, Patrols, Nippers, Training, Officiating and Water Safety. We farewell a number of members of the Management Committee at the end of the seasons and I look forward to working with the new Committee members for the upcoming year.

**Tim Breen**  
*President*

## Secretary's Report

Once again, no lives were lost on our patrolled beach during season 2023-2024 and the Club's appreciation to our dedicated patrolling members.

During my time as Secretary over the past eleven years, the amount of paperwork created by the various institutions, including Surf Life Saving NSW, Surf Life Saving Australia and various Government departments, seems to increase each season. The Club has always considered itself a Volunteer Organisation and part of the Lennox Community, however, there have been several times that we could have been involved but due to the lack of interest from members, the Club has not participated.

Also, congratulations to the Club's competitors who performed well at the Branch, Country, State and Australian Championships.

Regarding this season it has been a pleasure to work with the members of the Management Committee and makes my portfolio so much easier.

### Management Committee Meetings Attendance

POSITION	NAME	ATTENDANCE	APOLOGIES
President	Tim Breen	10	
Vice President	Geoff Harris	10	
Secretary	John Beasley OAM	10	
Treasurer	Brett van Zuylen	7	3
Club Captain	Chris Bond	8	2
Chief Training Officer	Brian Farrell	5	5
Surf Sports Co-ordinator	Samantha Miller	6	3
Registrar	Kate Bruce	2	1**
Youth Activities Co-ordinator	Jodie Roberts	10	
Public Officer	Scott Roberts	8	2

\*\* Leave of absence approved from September 2023 until April 2024.

**John Beasley**  
*Secretary*



## Treasurer's Report

Prior to depreciation and any audit adjustments to our accounts, the club made a cash loss for the year of \$5,633. This is significantly smaller compared to last year. The loss was due mainly to the club funding the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event in December.

Notable improvements were as follows:

- An increase in membership subscription fees of \$5,009 to \$50,150
- Grants were up by \$28,922 due largely to a NSW Flood Assistance grant to cover the costs of the replacement IRB
- Bank interest improved \$2,340 due to higher interest rates on the club investment accounts
- A small decrease in net electricity costs to \$6,122 due to increased recovery of electricity costs from the kiosk.
- Hall hire sales were up by \$2,965, to \$25,836
- Sponsorships were up by \$4,315 for the year.
- A significant reduction in capitation costs, saving \$3,116

These improvements were offset by the following factors:

- Cleaning costs were up by 36% due to a change in supplier and a general increase in cleaning costs.
- A fall in bar sales by \$2658
- General donations were down by \$11,063

Lois Bucket Real Estate has continued her Gold sponsorship of the club and Club Lennox also became a Gold Sponsor this year. Lennox Gelato & Coffee became a Bronze sponsor this year as well. The Station Grocer at Lennox Head has continued to provide all of our fuel needs.

We continued to invest in our JAC and senior members, with capitation, training camps, team uniforms and carnival entry fee costs of well over \$14,000.

Overall, total income for the year was \$195,348, which was an increase of 15% for the year.

The club remains in a strong financial position with cash assets of \$253,000.

Other items of interest are that the club now has its own charitable gifts registration due to a change in legislative requirements resulting in Surf Life Saving no longer having a single registration for all clubs, and the club has re-registered for NSW Government Active Kids vouchers.

**Brett van Zuylen**

*Treasurer*

## Club Captain's Report

I am delighted to present my report for the 2023-2024 season. Lennox Head Alstonville SLSC accorded with all requirements during the season to provide patrol teams which performed admirable operational coverage, protecting swimmers, surfers and the beachgoing public at one of the most popular holiday spots on the eastern seaboard.

10 functional Patrol Teams performed 13 patrols each across the season.

I am pleased to say that when I calculated volunteer patrol performance across each team, averaging the hours of the members who do more than a base point of 10 hours a season, all the patrols gave exemplary volunteer service of between 26 and 41 hours per person which is outstanding considering the general decline in volunteering nationwide. These calculations



provided information enabling the selection of a 'Patrol of the Year' which along with a 'Patrol Person of the Year' will be presented at a forthcoming awards presentation.

We are in good shape considering the decline of some clubs in this Branch and others. The club is proud to note that 17 members performed more than 50 hours of patrol service, with 21 members completing more than 40 hours; but from the perspective of appreciating any contributions a volunteer can make, we welcome any small effort that our active members can provide.

The club's actions in Compliance with SLSNSW Annual Requirements included:

1. Meeting the Lifesaving Service Agreement in terms of hours covered and qualified lifesavers on roster
2. Provision of an Emergency Call-out Team (to be revised for next season).
3. Gear and Equipment Inspection (conducted around July-August annually) found that club resources such as Inshore Rescue Boats and Motors, All-Terrain Vehicle, Rescue Boards, Tubes, Lifejackets and associated rescue devices were all in a condition of operational readiness and any deficiencies were corrected or renewed.
4. Inspection of First Aid and resuscitation equipment will occur this month with a Branch official in readiness for the season.
5. Submission of a new Lifesaving Service Agreement to SLSNSW (Note: it was determined by the club that we emphasise that we were only prepared to stay with the previously agreed hours rather than extend to longer operations proposed by SLSNSW, the intent of which was to see us have teams on the beach until 6pm in summer focus period).

I continue to be very grateful for the work done by the Chief Training Officer, Brian Farrell, and his team of assistant instructors and assessors, by scheduling training courses which expand our roster of qualified surf lifesavers.

Also, much appreciation goes to the IRB Team:

- Rossco Wilson for his high level of attention to vessel maintenance and operational readiness, including his master plan of a very effective WhatsApp Group which keeps everyone up to speed on the condition of our IRB Fleet;
- and to Steve Manley for his expertise in training new drivers and crew candidates.

This is a vital part of our capability going forward in that Surf Life Saving has become a very mobile force with much of our work done outside the flags, so the motorised arm of our service is ever more important.

Some of our members have extended their capability into state level training in Flood Rescue and Support, and with the organisation being gazetted as an Emergency Service, we can be called upon to be deployed further afield to offer All-Agency/ All-Hazard assistance in major rescues or emergencies. This is an opt-in and opt-out situation for any of us as we can choose to remain with our 'business as usual' service between the flags or contribute our skills in multi-agency response. I can advise anyone of a range of training and capability enhancement that is currently available if required.

Next season brings a new format of patrol rostering in which I will consult club executive and Patrol Captains as to its effectiveness, but with a view to maximising our service to the public. We will continue our goal of no lives lost whilst on duty in our area of operations.



**Chris Bond**  
*Club Captain*



## Chief Training Officer's Report

2023-2024 has been an action packed season for the Training Team. Training and Education is an important part of our club and our ability to provide a skilled volunteer service to our community.

Congratulations to those who attended and completed courses this season, and thank you to all members that took the time to attend proficiency and renew their awards. It's great to see many nipper parents and new faces joining us for training to help with water safety and weekend patrols. It's also great to see existing members upskilling their awards.

Below are the award numbers for this season:

Surf Rescue Certificate	3
Bronze Medallion	19
Training Officer's Certificate	1
CPR ( resuscitation )	7
Patrol Captains Course	1
Advanced Resuscitation	1
UAV (Drone)	11
IRB Crew	8
IRB Driver	3
Assessor	1

We completed the following proficiency numbers this season:

Bronze Medallion	116
Surf Rescue Certificate	4
IRB Crew	32
IRB Driver	21
Advanced Resuscitation	22

We could not complete all our training and proficiencies without our dedicated team of volunteer trainers. A huge thank you to Barry Holland, Bryan Lyndon, Michael (Rossco) Wilson, Stephen Manley and Coen Acret for all your hard work and dedication this year.

We are very thankful and appreciative of the support from surrounding clubs and the granch for loaning us assessors throughout the year, to help us have everything completed.

Thank you to Terry Mortimer and Steve McNabb from Ballina SLSC for helping assess our candidates, Geoff Jorsey from FNC Branch for his ongoing assistance, and to Stephen Perris at FNC Branch for all the time checking our course paperwork before being sent to SLS NSW.

Finally a special thank you to Mark Law and Bob Harper for their work as Endorsed Delegates, helping us with proficiency this season. Their help was greatly appreciated and made it a smooth and efficient process.

**Brian Farrell**

*Chief Training Officer*

## Registrar's Report

Firstly, a thank you to Phoebe, the previous registrar, who rendered support & guidance during my first year in the role. Secondly, a thank you to the all members this year in being able to navigate the online system which at times can feel like an IQ test.

Lennox Head-Alstonville SLSC continues to consistently attract large nipper numbers, which transforms the surf club into a vibrant and lively hub of activity on Sunday mornings. This large turnout for nippers has not had a flow on effect to the older age groups, with low cadet numbers.

Moving forward this is something we can look at addressing in how to support our nippers into the surf rescue certificate, patrolling and beyond.

The number of patrolling members has also been consistent over the last few years. With the large nipper turn-out, it would be great if we can encourage more parents to complete their Bronze course, which allows them to get involved with water safety & in turn, bolster patrol numbers.

Junior members	297
Patrol members	134
Associate members	222

**Kate Bruce**  
*Registrar*



# Surf Sports Report

Congratulation to everyone who had participated in the 2023-2024 surf season. It was another fabulous season that saw lots of great results across the board.

From our nippers through to our seniors, you all showed determination and dedication that proved that's what it takes to get the results you did.

For our seniors, they have just returned from Aussie titles and after starting training in July it makes for a very long season indeed.

We had Frankie Moir -Dobbs and Abi Matthews travel to Maroochydore to compete against the best in Australia in the Youth Aussies and these girls did us proud in a huge swell.

Abi made all semi-finals in the Under 14 swim, board and Iron and just missed out on finals, whilst Frankie contested the iron and board with a fabulous 5th place overall in the board Race. It was super exciting and very close. Well done girls.

We then had Lachie Mahon in the Under 19 give it his best shot. Again, the swell was challenging and had us biting our nails while we watched the surf ski's venture in and out. It was entertaining that's for sure and you can only marvel from the beach, watching these athletes go up against mother nature. Lachie was unlucky not to progress through to finals, but again he gave it his all.

We also had Niamh and Ollie Sharpe compete and even though they were wearing another cap (Cudgen), we still count them as ours. Niamh came away with a gold in the Under 17 board rescue, 2nd in the 17 board relay and made the swim final and board final. Ollie made the 19 board final and both were unlucky not to place, they raced so well.

Jackson Bond was also competing for Kurrawa, and the same thing, we count him as ours. He made the finals in the Under 19 Double Ski, Taplin, Ski Relay, board relay, swim teams as well as individually swim, ski and Ironman. Legendary effort.

As the kids get older, finish school and venture off to Uni, they will move to other clubs that are nearer to them and that will be able to offer bigger opportunities. But it's so lovely to see that they will always recognise their beginnings and we wish them all the best.

I would like to give a huge shout out to our coaches - Lou Wilson, Chris Bond and Brendon Matthews. July until now is a long time and the club is very grateful to your dedication especially as it is voluntary.

Cheers to another great year and see you all next season!

**Sam Miller**

*Surf Sports Co-ordinator*

## Youth Activities Co-ordinator's Report

Our 2023/24 Nippers Season for Lennox Head Surf Club has come to a close with an on-par record of 298 Nippers joining the club. We had a fantastic and dedicated team of Age Managers and Administrative Volunteers, who made the running of Nippers throughout the season enjoyable for all. We were so grateful for their enthusiasm and commitment each week.

We'd like to especially thank Caroline and Lachie Klose who have been the Age Managers for our Under 14s and have led this cohort since they started out as Under 6s right through to completing their SRC. We are grateful for the support Caroline and Lachie have given to our up-and-coming surf life savers over the years.

A huge thank you also to Kristy and Sam Stewart who have been our team managers for 4 years, their dedication has been hugely appreciated. Our former JAC of many years and current Surf Sports Coordinator Sam Miller has continued to also provide unwavering support throughout the season, Sam's commitment to our Juniors, Seniors and the surf club overall is inspiring. Kristy S, Sam S and Sam M were all awarded the Chairpersons Award for the season in recognition of their outstanding contribution.

Of special note also, has been Zoe Parkinson our BBQ coordinator who took on this role for the first time with enthusiasm! Beth Lawler who took on our Uniform Officer for the first time also and did a wonderful job! Kate Sattler took on the role of Registrar for the first time and picked up the many intricacies of this role with ease (and made it fun along the way!). Steve Tighe was committed to doing our beach set up every Sunday morning and we're super grateful for his help. Mel Dilger also joined the team this year as our Social Media manager and did a great job with our comms throughout the season.



The surf skills of our Nippers continued to grow and this is in large part thanks to Scott Roberts and Brendon Matthews who do a fantastic job leading our Water Safety and Board Training, together with Sam Miller and a team of other Volunteers.

We were keen to have extra opportunities for our Nippers wherever possible. This included hosting a special surf skills training day with Ky Hurst. In addition, in collaboration with Surf Lifesaving NSW, UAV Australia and SheMaps, we hosted a Drone course for U11-U17s and extended this opportunity to the clubs across the Far North Coast.

We were lucky to have enjoyed mostly favourable conditions throughout the season – with one of the most outstanding days being our Club Championships with a perfect wave, glassy out the back, nice little offshore (not common in Lennox during our summer season!) – it was ideal for our younger age groups some of whom completed an Iron for the first time.

The first carnival of our season was hosted by Lennox Head with U12-Masters competing. While numbers were small, we enjoyed a day with our Far North Coast counterparts and thank those for making the effort to take part, and the work party who supported on the day.





Yamba was the second carnival of the season, and we thank the Yamba SLSC for organising such a great event for our Juniors. Although the rain resulted in an early finishing of the day, our Nippers still had a fantastic day, especially our Under 8s who were competing for the first time.

The Branch Championships hosted by Byron SLSC was another awesome weekend, and their hospitality and organisation of our biggest FNC carnival is always appreciated.

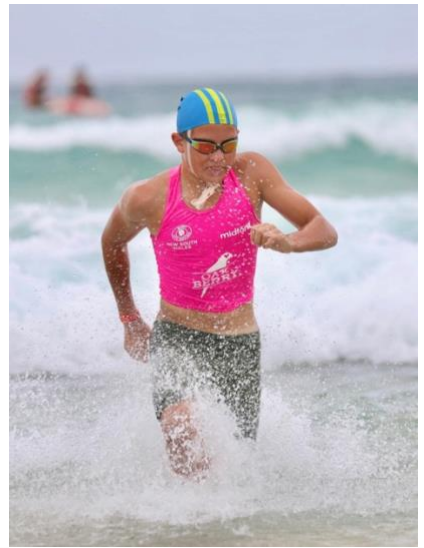
The team who participated also really appreciated the extra effort by Ballina SLSC and Byron SLSC for hosting our inaugural beach series!

We'd like to thank our Officials who supported these carnivals especially Bryan Lyndon who continues to commit long after his kids have finished Nippers.

We had 5 representatives on the Far North Coast team – the kids who had this wonderful opportunity truly cherish this experience and we're grateful to the management team and the branch for their continued support.

We had a small but mighty team head down to the Country Championships in Warilla with a number of our competitors finishing on the podium. We congratulate our Nippers for their outstanding sportsmanship and thank the parents for their commitment to make the journey down to the South Coast.

As the pinnacle event of the Surf Sports calendar, we also had a small but mighty team compete in the NSW State titles – notable mentions to Billy Stewart, Amy Roberts and Harley Dilger for their Gold Medal achievements. Congratulations again to Billy and Amy who went on to becoming our Club Champions with the highest point score for the season.



We would like to name and congratulate our Junior Lifesaver of the year entrants Abi Matthews and Luke Roberts. Each of these nominees are wonderful role models who are passionate about Surf Lifesaving. Abi was chosen as the FNC representative where she had a great experience taking part in the JLOTY camp in Sydney.

Thank you to our Sponsors: Lois Buckett Holidays, Club Lennox Sports, Scope, IGA Lennox Head, Lennox Head Butchery and Deli and our local business and community members for the support and contributions given to our Surf Club.

Last, but not least we thank our Nippers for being incredible children who have fun, work hard, and bring 100% enthusiasm to the beach. We look forward to seeing you all next season!

**Jodie Roberts**  
YAC Co-ordinator



## Sponsors

Lennox Head Alstonville Surf Life Saving Club proudly acknowledges our generous sponsors along with those businesses that donate their products and services that help keep our club running:

**Lois Buckett**



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