



*50 Years of
History
Narrabeen Beach
SLSC
1964 – 2014*





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Dee Why
RSL Club

Major Sponsor of Narrabeen Beach SLSC

Foreword

In 50 years, Narrabeen Beach SLSC has come a long way but it could never have happened without the dedication, commitment, contribution and support of our loyal members. Many have been involved with our club for decades and still give their time to patrol or help out after all these years.

When the beach was first patrolled in the 1960s, all that was needed was two reels on the beach. Now we have IRBs, rescue boards, radios, exceptional training programs, and many other initiatives.

The initial aim of the surf lifesaving movement was “Vigilance and Service” and I’m delighted to say that with 50 years of expertise, Narrabeen’s support to the community continues to be diligent, responsible and reliable.

While we have always been one of the smallest clubs in the Branch, it is our band of enthusiastic members who ensure that Narrabeen Beach SLSC continues to thrive, grow and educate the next generation.

The great camaraderie, the satisfaction of giving back to our community, the opportunity to learn and develop valuable skills, and the experience of being part of a team environment are just some of the benefits.

Fortunately, after five decades of service, Narrabeen Beach SLSC can still claim that “No lives have been lost during patrol hours.”

This history is just a snapshot of what our members have achieved over the past 50 years.

Tracey Lake

President

Narrabeen Beach SLSC

IN THE BEGINNING

While Narrabeen Beach Surf Club as we know it today officially commenced on 12 July 1964, there is evidence that some form of rescue operated from the same approximate area as early as 1910.

12 December 2010

Warringah Shire Council minutes stated they would construct a dressing shed as soon as Narrabeen Surf Club contributed one-third of the cost. On receipt of a further one-third of the cost, tenders would be called for a second shed.

Messrs Pritchard and Mitchell were delegates for a newly formed lifesaving club in the centre of Narrabeen Beach. The club was small and only formed recently, but they were financially strong and intended erecting danger notices – the channels were only considered dangerous at high tide.

1914 / 15 season

The Narrabeen Surf and Lifesaving Club affiliated with the Surf Bathing Association.

1928

The Council paid half and the shopkeepers paid the rest between them to position a lifesaver at Waterloo Street, Narrabeen.

Bill Pilon worked for two years in the role: *“We used to start on Eight Hour Day and finish at the end of March...It became known as Pilons Beach. At one period we had the top of a lorry and on each corner a 44 gallon drum was lashed to it. We had a chain on a swivel and a tram wheel for an anchor and it was taken out about 200 yards from the beach. We used to swim out and have a rest on it and wait for waves, but nearly every time we got on it, a shark would come out from underneath.”*

Bill worked weekends as well. His wage was £6.10.0. The basic wage was £4.10.0.

12 April 1964

The Patrol Book report for this day stated: **“Three rescues, one drowning.”**

Former Narrabeen SLSC Vice President and Foundation member, Harold “Googa” Lumley recalled that a swimmer was in trouble 300 metres north of South Narrabeen Beach.

“They grabbed the reel and started up the beach, gradually getting closer to the person in trouble. The beltman donned the belt and dived in after having to run all the way. He is weak, and when at last he brings the person in, it is too late. He has drowned.”

Worried the same thing may happen in the future, the solution was to set up another patrol crew for that part of the beach.

15 April 1964

A group of Bronze Medallion qualified men proceeded to establish the Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club, under the guidance of Fred Bertram.

North Narrabeen, South Narrabeen, Collaroy, Freshwater and Mona Vale Surf Clubs helped and also contributed the necessary gear to patrol the beach each Sunday with just a handful of members. From its humble beginnings, Furlough House, across the road from Narrabeen Beach, gave permission for the club to initially store their gear in a tin shed located there. Furlough House decided to call for tenders for the removal and purchase of a 19 square cottage at the south side of the other buildings. The club bought it to construct their first surf club building with the generous help of people from all over Sydney.



7 May 1964

The *Pacific Times* newspaper published an article advising that Narrabeen Lions Club President, Fred Bertram, had convened a public meeting to discuss the formation of a surf club between King and Albert Streets on the eastern side of Ocean Street, Narrabeen. The meeting was scheduled for 11 May 1964 at South Narrabeen SLSC.

“There was a substantial parking area and toilet facilities on the site chosen. For some time this section of the beach has been used by a large number of bathers and several rescues have already been carried out,” Mr Bertram said.



1 July 1964

A meeting was held at the South Narrabeen SLSC and convened by the Narrabeen Lions Club. It was attended by 12 of their members and chaired by their President, Fred Bertram.

At this meeting, it was resolved to establish a surf club that would be located in Ocean Street, Narrabeen, on parkland opposite Furlough House. The club would be named Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club (changed later to Narrabeen Beach SLSC).



12 July 1964

Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club was officially inaugurated, operating from the Furlough House site.

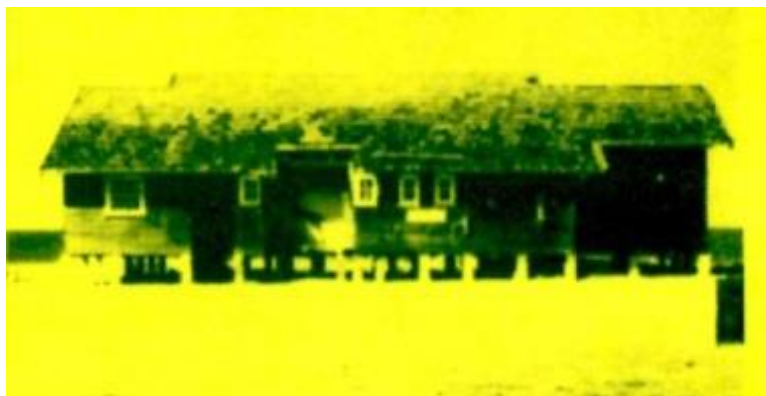


1964 / 65 season

President – Keith Rumble

The club started surf lifesaving patrol duty at the start of the 1964/65 season. The Club House, originally a private residence standing not far from its present site was purchased, transported and erected during the club's first season. Much of the building

supplies and equipment were generously donated, while most of the interior work was carried out by Narrabeen Surf Club Vice-President, Harold "Googa" Lumley.



Original clubhouse when first placed in position

After 50 years of service to the community, Narrabeen Beach SLSC is proud to say that:
"No lives have been lost on this beach while patrols were on duty."

This quote was first bandied around in the early years of the Club and fortunately we can still make reference to it five decades later.



1966 / 67

President – Norm King

Club Captain – Bill Geldart

- Narrabeen Beach Nippers established, with Ray Tyler as Chairperson.
- Asquith Rugby Leagues Club hired at least one bus to travel to Narrabeen SLSC each Sunday morning for the next eight years. The bus drove junior and senior football club members and their families to participate in the Juvenile Club (nipper) and Senior Club beach activities (see more in *Yarns from Yesteryear*).



1967 / 1968 season

President – Norm King

Senior Club Champion - Tom Thrussell

Club Captain – Bill Geldart

Junior Club Champion - Barry Hancock Jnr

- The Narrabeen Beach clubhouse was now well on its way to being completed.
- 30 active members in Narrabeen SLSC. A further 25 members comprised active reserves, active juniors, active cadets, associates and country members.
- 95 rescues, including two resuscitations.
- Largest Juvenile Club (nippers) in the Branch with 280 members.
- Narrabeen Beach successfully hosted its first major carnival – Manly Warringah Branch Juvenile Nipper Championships - Narrabeen won the A K Dein Trophy for the highest point score of the season.

Narrabeen Beach SLSC was also a hub for many social activities. The Narrabeen Beach Surf Club Ladies' Auxiliary actively raised funds for a new club kitchen through such initiatives as dances, a Wig Parade, a Cooking Demonstration, Smokers Morning,

Melbourne Cup celebration, Wine & Cheese Tasting Evening, Tupperware parties, and a fashion parade.

Ladies Auxiliary President, Beverley Geldart, said “...in future, we will work with the aid of modern conveniences instead of displaying that pioneering spirit of carting water etc.”



1968 / 1969 season

President – Norm King

Club Captain – Bill Geldart

Senior Club Champion – Tom Thrussell

Junior Club Champion – Steve Campbell

- Narrabeen successfully hosted the Branch Championships.
- Greg Fields became Narrabeen Club's first ever State Champion at the NSW Cadet Sprint Championships at Corrimal Beach.



Greg Fields



1969 / 1970 season

President – Norm King

Club Captain – Bill Geldart

Senior Club Champion – Barry Hancock

Junior Club Champion – John Lawler

- Exterior painting of the surf club was completed.
- 55 active members - the largest in the history of the club.
- Tuff Club was introduced in the winter months by Warren Slater and included volleyball, swimming, surf polo, beach sprints (to the hot showers), hand tennis or football, before the “blood warming” rum-running would take place.

Today, Narrabeen Beach still welcomes members and friends to take part in Tuff Club each Sunday morning during the winter months. However, these days it starts with a run and a swim (no wetsuits) once the patrol season has finished followed by some delicious, homemade soup and fresh bread, but the days of warming nips of rum have long gone.

- Narrabeen Beach established its own Club Championships.



1970 / 1971 season

President – Bill Geldart
Club Captain – Warren Slater

Senior Club Champion – Barry Hancock
Junior Club Champion – Wayne Hill

On 1 November 1971, the new clubhouse was officially opened by Sis Bertram, the wife of the club's Founder, Fred Bertram. While women were not yet permitted to be active surf lifesaving members on the beach, they were heavily involved behind the scenes. Sis was an active community member involved in the Manly Warringah Branch of Surf Life Saving, the Surf Clubs' Ladies Auxiliaries, Lions Club, Scouts and local schools.

- Narrabeen came third in the Branch Patrol Efficiency Competition - their fourth season in the top three winners for this Award.
- In addition to the Bronze Medallion, active members now also had to pass a resuscitation certificate.
- Narrabeen Surf Club was now equipped with a main hall, 16-bed bunk room for members who travelled from the Western suburbs, a well-appointed kitchen, shower and change rooms, and boat shed large enough to house two boats.



New Narrabeen Beach SLSC – 1971

1971 / 1972 season

President – Harold Lumley
Club Captain – Ian George

Senior Club Champion – Barry Hancock
Junior Club Champion – Wayne Hill

- Narrabeen Beach came second in the Branch Patrol Efficiency Competition.
- First open boat race ever won by the Narrabeen Beach Surf Club in the Marlborough Open Boat race at the South Narrabeen Carnival.
- Narrabeen Beach "A" and junior boat crews were dumped during training and several crew members were swept out to sea, resulting in front page news coverage. Local surfboard rider, Grant Oliver, and the power rescue boat helped to avert a possible tragedy.
- Many new members from Barker College gained awards this season.
- Ladies from a Concord RSL committee successfully obtained their Resuscitation Certificates.



1972 / 1973 season

President – Harold Lumley
Club Captain – Ian George

Senior Club Champion – John Lawler
Junior Club Champion – John Robson

- 4 March, 1973 a young board rider was believed drowned between Narrabeen and North Narrabeen. Members from Narrabeen, North Narrabeen, South Narrabeen and Collaroy, along with two power boats and two police launches were involved in the search, but sadly the youth was never found.
- For the first time, Narrabeen Beach was also awarded first place in the Branch Gear Inspection Competition winning a new reel, line and belt.
- Narrabeen Beach was one of the few clubs in the Branch to acquire its first two-way radio.
- Narrabeen Beach SLSC had proudly performed in the Top 3 of the Branch Patrol Efficiency Competition for seven out of the nine years of its short life.
- A trial was conducted to include girls in the nipper program. Until now, girls were not permitted to participate (see more in *Yarns of Yesteryear – 1966 / 67*).
- The Narrabeen Beach SLSC Rugby Union Club scored nine wins this season.



Narrabeen Beach March Past Team

1973 / 74

President – Geoff Moffatt
Club Captain – Ian George

Senior Club Champion – John Robson
Junior Club Champion – Bob Bownern

- The hollow “U” shaped patrol enclosure was changed to a closed triangular area. Patrol gear, first aid equipment and clothing were kept in the enclosed area while patrol members were to be located along the water’s edge.
- Patrol setups included placing a cordoned off area for the helicopter to land on the beach, if required.
- Introduction of the four-man rescue team, along with the new radio linkup system that hooks up with the helicopter rescue service.
- For the first official time, girls were formally allowed to be involved in the nipper program (see more in *Yarns of Yesteryear – 1966 / 67*).
- Ladies surf swim and beach events competition was introduced to get the girls more interested and involved in the club. The ladies were not as enthusiastic to compete as the men were to watch.



1974 / 1975 season

President – Geoff Moffatt
Club Captain – Ian George

Senior Club Champion – John Robson
Junior Club Champion – Philip Lindsay

Now 10 years old, Narrabeen Club had the best guidance and helping hand of experience over the past decade from the likes of Norm King, Bill Geldart, Bronco Hancock, Fred Bertram, Googa Lumley, Warren Slater, Tom Thrussell, John Macpherson, Geoff Moffatt, Ian George and Club Patron, Dave Wong.

- For the fourth year running, Narrabeen was awarded second place in the Patrol Efficiency and Branch Gear Inspection competitions.
- For the ninth season in a row, Narrabeen finished in the top three of the 21 clubs in the Manly Warringah Branch.
- In the last 10 years, Narrabeen undertook 480 rescues, 27 of them this season.
- Advanced Resuscitation Certificate (ARC) introduced as a new award.
- The Oxy-Viva Mark II - a new piece of equipment used with the ARC – was considered the most advanced life saving protection in the world.
- Bill Russell was the first person to obtain the ARC award at Narrabeen Beach.
- A request was made to the Federal Government for assistance in rebuilding or renovating the Narrabeen Surf Club.



1975 / 1976 season

President – Ken Leonard

Senior Club Champion – John Robson

Club Captains – Grahame Smith /

Junior Club Champion – Peter Chapple

Robert Bower

The prospect of introducing female lifesavers was now under consideration. Until now, women were only allowed to be members of the surf lifesaving movement on an administrative basis. Women were able to attend the Club's Committee meetings and vote on motions if they were a member of the Committee.

Monica Rond became Narrabeen's first female member and was elected as the club's Honorary First Aid Officer.

- Narrabeen Beach won the Branch Patrol Efficiency competition.
- The club was awarded second place in the Gear Inspection competition.
- 25 January 1976 - Narrabeen Beach launched the "Collnarra", a new power rescue craft provided by the Fisherman's Beach Power Surf Rescue Service. Narrabeen Beach was one of four clubs responsible for the Fisherman's Beach Power Rescue Service.
- A number of large social functions took place including a Chicken and Champagne night, New Year's Eve Party with a "Change of Sex" theme, End of Season Bucks Night, a Car Trial day, and the regular "Chook Raffle" at The Royal Antler Hotel.
- Collecting money from motorists at traffic lights was no longer permitted – this had previously been a good source of income for the club.



1977 / 1978 season

President – Ken Leonard

Senior Club Champion – John Robson

Club Captain – Grahame Smith

Junior Club Champion – David Harriman

- The Junior Clubhouse was completed by members. It was built on top of the amenities block. Members created a conga line to hand bricks up to the club.
- Warringah Shire Council carried out urgent repairs and improvements on the SLSC premises, including retiling the roof.
- The proposed additions were reviewed by Council and the club could now expect new facilities and improvements far beyond original expectations.
- Narrabeen Beach gained second place in the Patrol Efficiency competition.
- 35 rescues at Narrabeen Beach, including three with a helicopter.
- For the first time, Narrabeen participated in North Narrabeen's *Shivering Sharks* event to compete for the Narrabeen Shield. Each team had to nominate 10 members to swim the length of the pool and nominate the time the team could swim the 10 laps in. Strictly no wetsuits. Narrabeen came fourth out of nine teams. They have been involved in the competition every year since.

The annual event had been running since 1966 and was open to any local sporting club with the word "Narrabeen" in its name. The event is held in memory

of Charlie Brady, former Captain and life member of the popular winter swimming club, "The Sharks". Charlie swam until he was 89, inspiring lots of young locals to take up surf swimming.

Vernon Bottomley sadly passed away this season after a prolonged illness. He was highly regarded in the club through his association with the Board Riders Club.



1978 / 1979 season

President – Ken Leonard

Senior Club Champion – Steve Campbell

Club Captain – Grahame Smith

Junior Club Champion – Mark Sweetman

- The SLSA implemented mobile patrols to monitor areas outside the flags.
- All day patrols were trialled, but soon reverted back to Saturday and Sunday half day patrols.
- John Robson was the first person at Narrabeen Beach to gain his IRB Drivers Certificate and Tony Reid his IRB Crewman's Certificate.
- 13 rescues recorded this season, including a mass rescue.
- On one day, the duty patrol went through 10 bottles of 'metho' to treat marine stingers - customers were queuing up "by the dozen" during peak periods.
- The proposed club extensions at the club were at the 'call for tender' stage.
- Tuff club welcomed its first woman member this season – Lorraine "Rusty" Shawyer, who joined regulars for some winter Sunday runs and swims.



1979 / 1980 season

President – Ken Leonard

Senior Club Champion – Wayne Schwebel

Club Captain – Philip Lindsay

Junior Club Champion – Martin Wartmann

- Approval was given to SLSCs to admit females as full members.
- 21 June 1980 – opening of Warringah Council's renovations and additions to the club which provided additional space to the main hall, a new first aid room, extra gear storage space and an open upper sun deck.



1980 / 1981 season

President – Ken Leonard

Senior Club Champion – Wayne Schwebel

Club Captain – Grahame Smith

Junior Club Champion – Martin Wartmann

- Further club improvements, including tiling of the amenities area.
- As part of Warringah Shire Council's beach stabilisation programme, grass now replaced sand in front of the clubhouse.
- The Narrabeen Lions Club provided picnic and play equipment for the park area, enhancing its appearance and providing much needed public facilities.

- An influx of new members, including women. Despite the enthusiasm and training of the young female members, they were not yet sufficiently competent to obtain their Bronze Medallion award.

Club Co-Patron, Vi Wong, wife of David Wong passed away this season. Vi had been involved with Narrabeen Beach SLSC, in particular the Junior Club, since its inception in 1964. Both Vi and her husband, Dave, were advocates of the club for many years.



1981 / 1982 season

President – Ken Leonard

Senior Club Champion – Wayne Schwebel

Club Captain – Grahame Smith

- Narrabeen Beach won the Branch Patrol Efficiency Award.
- For the first time a new IRB was acquired, providing an innovative and exciting rescue method to help back-up the work of patrolling members.
- Membership increased significantly now that women could be members. Intense training was underway along with great enthusiasm and club spirit.
- Carron Bottomley and Liesa Rowell were the first women representing Narrabeen SLSC to compete at the Australian Championships.

Sadly, May “Sis” Bertram passed away this season. Sis and her husband helped with founding Narrabeen Beach Surf Club 18 years earlier. Sis opened the club on 1 November, 1970 and was always a keen supporter. Her ashes were scattered off Narrabeen Beach on Sunday, 20 June 1982, as part of a moving ceremony that was supported by a large gathering of her many friends.



Narrabeen Beach lifesavers with the new IRB



1982 / 1983 season

President – Ken Leonard

Senior Club Champion – Roger Osborne

Club Captain – Grahame Smith

Junior Club Champion – Murray Carroll

- Narrabeen was represented at the World Surfing Titles in Hawaii, as well as the Australian, State and Branch Titles.

- A surf boat was purchased from Bilgola SLSC.
- 52 members in the club.
- Narrabeen SLSC expanded competition to surf swimming, beach sprints, boat races (junior and senior), Malibu paddling, single racing skis, and beach flags.

Sadly, Dr P. Rosati and the Rev. Father, A. J. Sobb (parish priest) passed away. Dr Rosati was the Club's Honorary Medical Officer for many years and a keen surfer at Narrabeen Beach. His advice and contribution to first aid supplies was invaluable. Both men also officiated at the dedication and christening of Narrabeen's first IRB.



1983 / 1984 season

President – Ken Leonard **Senior Club Champion – Scott Brassey**
Club Captain – Wayne Schwebel **Junior Club Champion – Leisa Rowell**
Grahame Smith (*resigned March 1984*)

- Narrabeen's 20th year of service and the Branch's 25th year Silver Anniversary.
- Narrabeen won the highly sought after Gear Inspection competition.



1984 / 1985 season

President – Ken Leonard **Senior Club Champion – Murray Carroll**
Club Captain – Wayne Schwebel **Junior Club Champion – Brendon Daly**

- This season marked a milestone in the Club's history, with 21 years of service to surf lifesaving and community support.
- Narrabeen SLSC won third place in the Branch Patrol Efficiency competition.
- 3 February, 1985 – Narrabeen hosted the Branch Surf Lifesaving Titles.
- Number of patrols increased from seven in October to nine in December.
- Eight rescues were performed this season – nearly all were small children.
- Warringah Shire Council contributed a yearly grant to the Club and also provided support with maintenance.



1985 / 1986 season

President – Warren Slater **Senior Club Champion – Scott Brassey**
Club Captain – Wayne Schwebel **Junior Club Champion – Anthony Astorquia**

- After nine years, Ken Leonard decided to step down as President.
- January 1986 - 27 rescues were carried out over one weekend. Patrols endured hot weather, large crowds and treacherous surf with flash rips.
- New junior and senior boat crews commenced training on Narrabeen Lake.

Sadly, during this season Fred Bertram BEM, the surf club's Patron, Trustee, Vice President and Co-Founder, passed away. Fred was greatly missed - he was a vigorous worker in the community and surf lifesaving movement. He helped form the Narrabeen

Club, was President of South Narrabeen SLSC for 21 years, a member of the Lions Club, a member of the Balgowlah Masonic club, and a life member of both the Manly Warringah SLSA and Narrabeen Beach Junior Club.

As part of Fred's tribute, South Narrabeen SLSC scattered his ashes off Narrabeen Beach, while North Narrabeen SLSC brought up their surf boat for the guard of honour.



1987 / 1988 season

President – Warren Slater

Senior Club Champion – Mark Prevost

Club Captain – Wayne Schwebel

Junior Club Champion – Peter Downing

- Four x hand-held radios, two x 5-watt base radios, a new Johnson 25HP outboard motor, and Coca-Cola machine were generously donated by sponsors.
- The club revised its constitution resulting in a new name - Narrabeen Beach Surf Lifesaving Club Incorporated.
- The “Junior Club” and “Senior Club” amalgamated into one club.
- A gym was built at the surf club. The club's bunk room was also renovated after the source of a leak was found.
- Narrabeen Beach won the Narrabeen Shield in the annual North Narrabeen Shivering Sharks event.



1988 / 1989 season

President – Warren Slater

Senior Club Champion – Peter Walker

Club Captain – Wayne Schwebel

Junior Club Champion – Anthony Cook

- 25th anniversary of public service by the Narrabeen SLSC.
- Narrabeen purchased another IRB through the Federal Government's dollar for dollar gear grant; refurbished its original IRB, and purchased a new motor.
- 60 active members in the Narrabeen Beach Club.
- Tuff Club lived up to its name this year by sorting out the 'sheep from the goats' due to very cold water and very cold weather.
- Narrabeen took delivery of its new purpose built gear trailer. It could fit up to 14 boards, tents, reels, Eskys® and much more.
- The surf club was repainted this season and a refurbishment also commenced, courtesy of Warringah Shire Council.



1989 / 1990 season

President – Warren Slater

Senior Club Champion – Peter Downing

Club Captain – Wayne Schwebel

Junior Club Champion – Harvey Thompson

- Dexion, the major sponsor of Narrabeen Beach for the past 10 years, announced they could no longer provide their support to the Club this season.

However, Narrabeen decided to keep Dexion's name on the Club's IRB, in appreciation of their extensive support over the years.

- The diabolical weather last season was even worse this season and there was a lot of hysteria in the media about water pollution.
- Surf clubs up and down the coast were in trouble. Memberships were way down, and at least two clubs were in imminent danger of closing. Thankfully, Narrabeen was not one of them, despite its small size.
- Narrabeen Nippers was impacted due to the pollution publicity. All nipper clubs in the Manly Warringah Branch suffered membership declines, except one. In fact, some of the larger clubs lost 50% of their nippers, compared with the season before. Two nipper clubs actually folded completely.
- After faring well in Beachwatch reports, Narrabeen started to refer to its beach as "The Pollution Free Beach" as a way to attract people back.
- First edition of *Narrabeen News* monthly publication distributed to the community of Narrabeen.
- Narrabeen Beach SLSC offered Narrabeen High School the use of the club, facilities and equipment, after they introduced new sports oriented Higher School Certificate courses for the first time. One of the sections of the course involved surf lifesaving skills including bronze medallion and IRB driver. Narrabeen also offered to provide training to students and teachers.



1990 / 1991 season

President – Warren Slater

Senior Club Champion – Peter Downing

Club Captain – Peter Walker

Junior Club Champion – Kevin Harper

- Narrabeen SLSC Branch team members – Peter and Jenny Downing – were picked to go to New Zealand as the Club's first international representatives.
- The surf club kitchen was completely refurbished at a cost of over \$6,000.
- For the first time in years there were two boat crews training at the club.
- The hand-held 27MHz radios (\$100 each) were changed over to UHF (\$1000 each) providing clearer and more reliable communications.
- Aqua bags with shoulder holsters were introduced to protect radios from sand and water, allowing patrolling members to use them in the IRB.
- Honorary Beach Inspectors (HBI) were introduced by Warringah Shire Council this season.

Sadly, Dave Wong, Foundation Member, Life Member, and Club Patron since the late 60s, passed away this season. He was a great friend to many and a great member of Narrabeen Surf Club. So much so, that Dave was presented with an Honour Blazer for his outstanding work in the club over the years. Dave was remembered as a Club stalwart and even had the first Narrabeen Beach Surf Boat named after him. Dave's love of the Narrabeen SLSC was noted with pride at his funeral service and he was sadly missed by the members.

1991 / 1992 season

President – Warren Slater
Club Captain – Peter Walker

Senior Club Champion – Peter Downing
Junior Club Champion – Heath Zylmans

- Narrabeen hosted the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships over four days – the event was to be held at Collaroy but the beach was washed away.
- Nipper membership more than doubled to 70 children since last season's registrations.
- The Narrabeen Surf Club bar raised over \$7,500 enabling the ladies facilities to be refurbished.
- Draft plans were drawn up for a new lounge area to be built upstairs on the concrete deck between the main clubhouse and the Nipper club.
- Bilgola SLSC donated a surfboat to Narrabeen Beach Surf Club this season
- Warringah Shire Council introduced paid lifeguards on our beaches every day during the season.



1992 / 1993 season

President – Warren Slater
Club Captain – Graeme Langford

Senior Club Champion – Craig Schweikert
Junior Club Champion – Heath Zylmans

- There were now 130 registered members in the club – 18 of them ladies.
- 43 surf lifesaving awards were gained – the highest ever in one season.
- The Pittwater Rotary/Surf Club Car Raffle was introduced – it raised more than \$11,000 for Narrabeen SLSC and was put towards a new surfboat.
- The club was broken into and two-way radios valued at \$5000 were stolen, amongst other gear. The first aid room, Nippers clubroom and other areas were damaged. Two of the stolen radios were later anonymously returned.
- W & W Security offered to include the surf club as part of their guard patrol.
- The IRB's were damaged this season due to over inflation - one beyond repair. More than one third of all rescues were now performed by IRBs so they could not be out of service for too long. Fortunately, the Junior section donated \$4,500 towards a new IRB.
- The proposed upstairs club extensions were put on hold due to insufficient funds. A proper lounge / recreation area was considered essential – not only for existing members but also to attract new members.
- The Reel, Line & Belt were eliminated from both the Bronze Medallion syllabus and from the gear required.
- Narrabeen was joint winner of the Sydney Northern Beaches (SNB) Patrol Efficiency Competition.



1993 / 1994 season

President – Wayne Schwebel Senior Club Champion – Peter Downing
Club Captain – Graeme Langford Junior Club Champion – Shaun Reynolds

- Now in its 30th year, the club experienced a resurgence of enthusiasm, especially in Carnival participation and rowing.
- The club received a \$20,000 capital works grant from the NSW State Government to expand the clubhouse member's facilities. While still in the planning phase, the extensions were expected to be completed by June 1995.
- Dee Why RSL Club also surprised Narrabeen Club at its Presentation Night with an arrangement to sponsor a new boat for the upcoming season.
- The club was again broken into about four or five times this season. However, it didn't suffer the enormous losses of last year.
- The Neck Brace and new spinal lift and carry were introduced.
- The Branch Board of Examiners piloted a new Bronze exam incorporating scenarios. Individuals and squads could fail if not up to scratch.



1994 / 1995 season

President – Wayne Schwebel Senior Club Champion – Ian Harper
Club Captain – Andrew Beveridge Junior Club Champion – Matthew Cook

- The Presentation Night held in July 1994 marked the 30th anniversary of the Narrabeen Surf Club.
- One of the worst summers on record and the only time in history that every beach on the peninsular was closed for an entire weekend during the season.
- Surf Life Saving awards were introduced for each age group in the junior ranks. The aim was to help the juniors appreciate what surf lifesaving is all about, while providing them with some valuable survival skills.
- Plans were in place for clubhouse extensions. Warringah Shire Council was in the process of finalising the Development Application and Building Approval.
- Dee Why RSL generously helped to purchase the new "Googa Lumley" surfboat.
- The girl's boat crew won the NSW State Championships and also collected a bronze medal at the Australian Championships.
- The club now had 61 junior members.



1995 / 1996 season

President – Wayne Schwebel Senior Club Champion – Brett Hatherall
Club Captain – Andrew Beveridge Junior Club Champion – Dale Durlacher

- The Pittwater Rotary/Surf Club Car Raffle earned the club \$10,800. While yet to sell the winning ticket, Narrabeen was the champion club ticket seller for the fourth year in a row. Funds raised were put towards club extensions.

- Warringah Council provided a construction date - the club anticipated the extensions could be completed by early 1997.
- The senior ladies boat crew won Gold at the Metropolitan Championships, Gold at the NSW Premiership and a Silver medal at the NSW State Titles.
- For the first time, the senior club was involved in the Junior Surf Life Saving National Award training and examination program - it was a huge success.
- Wayne Schwebel, Craig Schweikert, Bob Chidgey and Warren Slater received their 15 year patrol certificate this year.



1996 / 1997 season

President – Wayne Schwebel Senior Club Champion – Michael Moran
Club Captain – Andrew Beveridge Junior Club Champion – Owen Wall

- Ian Harper created an IRB racing team - a new era for Narrabeen Beach.
- The ladies boat crew won Gold at the SNB Branch Championships.



1997 / 1998 season

President – Wayne Schwebel Senior Club Champion – Michael Moran
Club Captain – Andrew Beveridge Junior Club Champions – Owen Wall (Boys)
Sarah Cook (Girls)

- Active Reserve patrols were successfully introduced to help lighten the load on the rest of the patrolling members.
- Narrabeen SLSC hosted the Branch Championships.
- The Junior Club introduced a new format for male and female Club Champions. This year's winners were Owen Wall and Sarah Cook.
- The club's major sponsors, Dee why RSL Club, helped Narrabeen purchase a new IRB motor again this season.



1998 / 1999 season

President – Wayne Schwebel Senior Club Champion – Greg Gillespie
Club Captain – Andrew Beveridge Junior Club Champions – Nick Alderson
Sarah Cook

- After six years, Wayne Schwebel decided to step down as President. Wayne continues to be an active and enthusiastic member of the club 37 years later.
- Narrabeen Beach received the "Most Improved Club" Award in the SNB awards.
- The "Collnarra" consortium (Collaroy, South Narrabeen, Narrabeen Beach and North Narrabeen SLSCs) hosted the 1999 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships and the 1999 NSW IRB Rescue Championships this year.

- Narrabeen Beach SLSC established a website hoping it would become the major way to share senior and junior weekly results, committee meeting minutes, event calendars, and social function information with members.
- Email was introduced to reduce the 47 cent postage for each letter sent. A member database was created to communicate information directly online.
- A new boat - the “Ken Leonard” - was launched for five boat crews to use.



1999 / 2000 season

President – Tracey Lake

Club Captain – Stuart Brown

Senior Club Champion – David Chidgey

Junior Club Champions – Alex Buckton

Bianca Foster

- Collnarra 2000 was the first time in NSW Surf Life Saving history that all three State Championships – Seniors, Juniors and Masters - were held in one location over consecutive weekends. Involving more than 9,000 competitors over 12 days, the Championships were staged with the help of \$50,000 in sponsorship and resulted in an outstanding operational and financial success for both Surf Life Saving NSW and the four Collnarra Surf Clubs (Collaroy, North Narrabeen South Narrabeen and Narrabeen).
- After eight years, the clubhouse redevelopment came to fruition. Tracey Lake had taken on the role to get the upgrade underway and finished.
- The northern area of the building was turned into a member’s lounge and bar area while the northern end boat sheds were turned into the patrol area and nipper’s storage area.
- Internal assessments were introduced to keep patrol members’ training current.
- The ladies veteran’s boat crew campaigned for separate divisions at veteran’s events so they didn’t have to compete against male crews.



2000 / 2001 season

President – Tracey Lake

Club Captain – Stuart Brown

Senior Club Champion – Brett Hatherall

Junior Club Champions – Patrick Delaney

Bianca Foster

- 20 November 2000, Gloria Cook – an outstanding and active club member – was presented with a Distinguished Service Award at her hospital bedside. The Gloria Cook Memorial Trophy was established in her honour. Outstanding rookie, Josh Buckton, was presented with this inaugural trophy. A tree was planted between the surf club and the beach to always remind us of Gloria.
- The club received a “Regional Sports Facility Grant” for \$47,500 from the Department of Sport and Recreation. It was used to complete the upgrading and refurbishment of the existing original clubhouse in the off-season.

- The ladies boat rowing B crew won Gold at the Branch Masters, Gold at the NSW State Masters and finished in the quarter-finals at the Aussies.
- Narrabeen was one of the first surf clubs in the SNB Branch to undertake a Rookie program. Children aged 12 – 15 years were given the chance to meet with other Rookies in our Branch to gain lifesaving skills and qualifications before helping on weekend patrols.

Recipients of long service awards after years of patrolling for Narrabeen Beach SLSC:

25 Year Awards

David Benson
Bob Chidgey
Wayne Schwebel

15 Year Awards

Graham Cook
John Gooley
Adam Schofield
Ross Tester

10 Year Awards

Stuart Brown



2001 / 2002 season

President – Tracey Lake
Club Captain – Stuart Brown

Senior Club Champion – David Chidgey
Junior Club Champions – Brendan Buckton
Aimee Cook

- With all debt repaid, the club could look forward to growing income streams from the hiring of the Function Centre.
- The NSW State Government and the Department of Sport and Recreation generously provided our club with a fully equipped quad bike, including rescue board, rescue tube, oxy viva and radio.
- Warringah Council report indicated that Narrabeen's 10 x patrols contributed 2,887.5 hours of voluntary service to the community, worth almost \$52,000. Club volunteers gave a further \$75,000 worth of time for training, coaching and club administration.
- Board and ski training was reintroduced for juniors and seniors.



2002 / 2003 season

President – Tracey Lake
Club Captain – Neil McInnes

Senior Club Champion – Mick Moran
Junior Club Champions – Simon Millard
Katrina Koukoutas

- Increasing demands were placed on surf clubs for OH&S, insurance, child protection, duty of care, commercial operations, liquor licences and the need for certification and award attainment to carry out patrols, training and educational responsibilities.
- Narrabeen won first place in the Gear Inspection competition.
- Smaller patrol numbers were introduced to provide a larger break between shifts.
- IRB Crewperson Certificate was introduced. The IRB motors received a pounding after one was written off and several roll overs.

- Narrabeen hosted a very successful Junior Nipper Carnival and some of the nippers also got to be TV stars with Tim Bailey on Channel 10's weather report.
- After 10 years in the Junior Club - six as Chairman - Robert Buckton moved to the Senior Club as all his children had now completed the nippers program.
- The front deck of the club was finished and disabled amenities completed.
- Plans were in place to complete all areas of the building such as refurbishing all amenities, painting the building and refurbishing the gym area.
- The "Ken Leonard" surfboat was sold to the Taree Old Bar Surf Club.
- Electronic data entry was now necessary for all SLS awards and Carnival entries.



2003 / 2004 season

President – Tracey Lake

Senior Club Champion – David Chidgey

Club Captain – Neil McInnes

Junior Club Champions – Sarah Coburn

Matt Bedwell

- Narrabeen Beach SLSC celebrated its 40th anniversary in July 2004.
- 28 March 2004 – dramatic surf rescue of four swimmers (two unconscious) from a rip 200 metres north of the patrol area (see full story in *Yarns of Yesteryear*).
- Due to Narrabeen's success hosting the Junior Carnival, Branch requested the event be expanded to two days - Seniors on Saturday; Juniors on Sunday. Given our small size and lack of resources, South Narrabeen SLSC put their hand up to host the surfboat competition.
- The club was now equipped with a 'real' office upstairs, complete with a fully integrated MYOB accounting system.
- A new computer database called 'SurfTrax' was introduced by Branch – membership updates, running reports and patrol rosters were now easier.
- A new Safety Induction Program was introduced - all patrol captains were trained on using the Quad Bike.
- Crewman Certificates were now required for crewing on IRBs. Every patrol now required at least one IRB driver and one IRB crew member.
- The Function Centre now accounted for 50% of the club's annual income, directly enabling the purchase of skis, boards and other equipment.



2004 / 2005 season

President

Tracey Lake

Director of Lifesaving Operations

Richard Whipp

Senior Club Champion

David Chidgey

Junior Club Champions

Nicole French & David Coburn

- A fully equipped gym was opened at the club on 7 July, 2004.
- The club's 40th birthday celebration was a gala black-tie function attended by around 200 past and present members, friends and club supporters.

- The club received a \$3,000 grant from the Federal Governments “Volunteer Assistance” program which was used to purchase a new gear trailer.
- A new organisational structure was introduced at Narrabeen SLSC, with the newly created role of Director – Lifesaving Operations and Education, replacing the Club Captain and Chief Instructor roles.
- Each patrol now required one HBI, one IRB driver, one IRB crew person and one ARC holder.
- January 2005, Narrabeen hosted another successful two-day Junior and Senior Carnival weekend.
- Narrabeen Beach SLSC achieved third place in the Branch “Most Outstanding Club” Award and also received the “Most Improved Club” Award after improving 11 places since last year.
- The club successfully trialled a new system of text messaging patrol members to remind them of an upcoming patrol.
- Group proficiencies were nominated for members in the lead up to next season, allowing everyone to do their awards in advance of the cut-off date.
- Narrabeen won the Narrabeen Shield in the North Narrabeen Shivering Sharks winter swim event. Narrabeen entered two teams and it was the “B” team that swam closest to their nominated time.



2005 / 2006 season

President

Tracey Lake

Director of Lifesaving Operations

Richard Whipp

Senior Club Champion

Eli Ball

Junior Club Champions

Nicole French & David Coburn

- Narrabeen Beach won the Sydney Northern Beaches Branch “Most Outstanding Club” (MOC) Award.
- Narrabeen Beach won the “Most Outstanding Club – Junior Activities and Member Development Award” for the Branch.
- 80 patrolling members in 12 fully trained and staffed patrols gave 3,297 patrolling hours during the course of the season.
- Hosted the Branch Championships over two weekends in February 2006.
- Narrabeen nippers were fortunate to enjoy a visit from Olympic Gold Medallist, Shane Gould.
- For the second year running, Narrabeen Beach won the Narrabeen Shield in North Narrabeen’s winter swimming event.
- Narrabeen had success in the Branch Championships winning Gold in several events - Masters Ski Team (Mick Moran, Mike Clempson, Richard Whipp), Under 19 Ski (Alex Gold) and Under 17 Single Ski events (Brendan Buckton).

- Thanks to a dollar-for-dollar grant from Surf Life Saving NSW, a new Rhino “side x side” two-seater bike was purchased – it was more serviceable and user-friendly on the beach.



2006 / 2007 season

President	<i>Tracey Lake</i>
Director of Lifesaving Operations	<i>Richard Whipp</i>
Senior Club Champion	<i>Alex Buckton</i>
Junior Club Champions	<i>Olivia Carter & Rhys Byrne</i>

- Narrabeen Beach also won third place in the “Most Outstanding Club” Awards.
- Our 97 patrolling members spent 3,472 hours patrolling the beach.
- At the AGM, members voted to move to a more professional structure with a:
 - ❖ Board of Lifesaving and Education
 - ❖ Board of Youth and Membership Development
 - ❖ Board of Surf Sports
 - ❖ Board of Administration and Finance
- Architect plans for Stage 2 of the club’s premises were now ready – a massive undertaking at a projected cost of more than \$1 million.
- The club purchased a new gear trailer to help make the setting up and packing up of the beach a lot easier.
- The Club Championship competition introduced an over 50s age group. There were also Over 35s, Opens, Females, Under 19s, Under 17s, and Under 15s events in the weekly and Club Championship competitions.
- The club introduced a Sportsmanship Award. This year’s winner was Kirsten McFadden.
- Ross Tester won the Turkey Award presented for the first IRB rollover of the season. It is not an encouragement award - just a fun recognition of something gone wrong with hopefully no injuries.



2007 / 2008 season

President	<i>Tracey Lake</i>
Director of Lifesaving and Education	<i>Richard Whipp</i>
Senior Club Champion	<i>David Chidgey</i>
Junior Club Champions	<i>Jessica Sainsbury & Hugo Douglas</i>

- Four Indian lifeguards visited from Rashtriya Life Saving Society, as part of the SLSC Australian based Lifeguard Training program and an international exchange program coordinated by Surf Life Saving Australia.
- In September, the club received a NSW Government Capital Development Grant of \$320,000 for extensions to the clubhouse, which were now approximately 50% completed.

- Narrabeen Beach won third place in the “Most Outstanding Club” Awards.
- Narrabeen Beach won third place in the “Patrol Assessment Competition.”
- Our 110 patrolling members spent 3,370 hours patrolling Narrabeen Beach.
- The function room now had a new commercial kitchen and new bar facilities. The builders managed to get the room 90% finished before our first function.
- Dave Chidgey, Mick Moran, David Tudor Jones, Sean Townsend and David Lawler competed in the Coolangatta Gold - a 46.65 km event comprising a 23km surf ski leg, 3.5km swim, 5.5km board paddle, and 14.65km beach run.



2008 / 2009 season

President

Tracey Lake

Director of Lifesaving and Education

Joshua Buckton

Senior Club Champion

David Chidgey

Junior Club Champions

Kaitlin Quinlan & Nathan Giles

- May 2008 - construction commenced on Stage 2 extensions and renovations. The old part of the clubhouse was demolished - patrolling gear and equipment was stored in 2 x 40 foot containers for the next seven months.
- Narrabeen SLSC received approximately \$200,000 in loans and prepaid subscriptions from a number of club members to contribute to the clubhouse redevelopment, which was now moving towards completion.
- A record 151 junior members registered (40% increase on last season).
- After four years, the Narrabeen Beach SLSC March Past Team returned.
- Narrabeen also hosted one of the Branch “Ocean Ski Series” events.
- SLSA introduced “lifesaving online” to reduce the administration workload of membership renewals and changes to personal details. This new initiative meant members could now manage these processes directly themselves.
- BPM Trading Company Pty Ltd provided a new 385 soft hull Achilles IRB.
- SLSA announced much stricter proficiency requirements by all clubs. This meant Narrabeen had to review its current proficiency process to comply.



2009 / 2010 season

President

Tracey Lake

Director of Lifesaving and Education

Joshua Buckton

Senior Club Champion

Alex Buckton

- After 11 years Tracey Lake decided to step down as President.
- Our 112 patrolling members spent 4,333 hours patrolling at Narrabeen Beach.
- 64,580 people visited Narrabeen Beach. There were three major rescues and a further 487 preventative actions.

- Advanced Resuscitation Certificate (ARC) was renamed the Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate (ARTC) and would combine oxygen-aided resuscitation with defibrillation and suction capabilities.
- Spinal Management Award was added to the minimum patrol qualifications.
- First Narrathon Iron Men and Women event took place after 10 years planning. It was organised by Fiona Russell and won by our own Michael Moran in 1:40:08.
- The club was now hosting ski and ocean craft ocean races, Nipper Carnivals, Narrathon for Iron Men and Women and the Narrafun endurance swim.
- “Narrabeen Noahs” swam 1.2km -1.5km north or south from Narrabeen Beach each Saturday.



2010 / 2011 season

President

Jason Oakes

Director of Surf Sports & Administration

Joshua Buckton

Senior Club Champion

Steve Patten

- Jason Oakes was appointed new President of Narrabeen SLSC.
- 22 August 2010 – new clubhouse officially opened at the AGM by the Federal Member for Mackellar, the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop.
- 67,701 people visited Narrabeen Beach – an increase of 3,121 since last year.
- New club kiosk opened and performed exceptionally well.
- Club obtained its liquor licence.
- Club social functions include comedy night, family New Year’s Eve, NRL Grand Final and State of Origin matches.
- New Nippers mantra was introduced: “If you give it a go, you’re a hero”.



New Narrabeen Clubhouse

2011 / 2012 season

President	<i>Jason Oakes</i>
Director of Lifesaving the & Administration	<i>Joshua Buckton</i>
Senior Club Champion	<i>Pete Wells</i>

- The club again hosted the Narrabeen Downwind Challenge, the Narrathon, NarraFun Ocean Swim, Junior Carnival and Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Branch Championships for all age groups across two weekends.
- Members patrolled 4,449 hours on the beach – 15% increase on last season.
- Six rescues were performed outside of rostered patrol hours.
- A record 104,580 people visited Narrabeen Beach.
- New IRB guidelines saw more difficult proficiencies and more checks on drivers and crew men.
- Narrafun Ocean Swim was well attended this season with 132 competitors completing the 1.8 km circuit.
- 205 registered junior members - a 15% increase on last year.
- More formal Under 10 / 11 and Under 12 nipper training introduced, including basic first aid instruction and DRABC.
- Board training introduced - 30 kids signed up.



2012 / 2013 season

President	<i>Jason Oakes</i>
Director of Lifesaving & Administration	<i>Joshua Buckton</i>
Senior Club Champion	<i>Bruce Dando</i>
Junior Club Champion	<i>Alexander Hall</i>

- Narrabeen won equal first place with North Steyne in the SNB Patrol Assessment Competition.
- Members patrolled a total of 4,982 hours in occasional wild conditions. In fact, Narrabeen Beach was closed 17 times.
- North Narrabeen, South Narrabeen and Narrabeen SLSCs won the SNB Initiative of the Year for introducing a joint Bronze Medallion training program.
- Narrabeen Beach went solar providing most of the club's daily needs for refrigerators, lighting and other daytime power.
- Narrabeen acquired a new IRB this season, along with two new IRB motors.
- Girls ski relay team won Gold at the Branch Carnival at Dee Why Beach - they smashed their competitors by 300 metres.



NARRABEEN BEACH SURF CLUB PATRONS

Jim Blair	Fred Bertram	Dave Wong	Vi Wong
Bill Biggs	Sis Bertram	Harold Robson	A.S. Yates
John Scarf	Mrs Faulkner	C. Gaskin	D Long
D Maxwell	Bill Ross	Steve Povey	Terry Childs
Bert Rose	Frank Perram	Ted Jackson OAM	David Dowsett
John Laffey	The Right Hon.	John Brogden MP	Ken Leonard
Bronwyn Bishop MP	Sir R.W. Askin		



NARRABEEN BEACH PRESIDENT AWARDS

1987 / 88	Harvey Thompson	1999 / 2000	Stephen Price
1988 / 89	Peter Downing	2000 / 2001	Lynn Benson
1989 / 90	Jenny Downing	2001 / 2002	Graham Cook
1990 / 91	Kevin Harper	2002 / 2003	Mick Moran
1991 / 92	Heath Zylman	2003 / 2004	Claire McManaway
1992 / 93	Andrew Beveridge	2004 / 2005	Josh Buckton
1993 / 94	Andrew Beveridge	2006 / 2007	Skye Holt
1994 / 95	Brett Hatherall	2007 / 2008	Robert Cook
1995 / 96	Julie Baker	2008 / 2009	Sean Townsend
1996 / 97	Kieron Dobbin	2009 / 2010	Skye Holt
1997 / 98	Ian Harper & Graham Cook	2010 / 2011	Sean Townsend
1998 / 99	Grahame Cook	2011 / 2012	Kevin Lee



SLSSNB PRESIDENT AWARDS

Clem Klausen (2006 / 07)

Tracey Lake (2007 / 08)



CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

1971 / 72	Bob Chidgey	1998 / 99	Stuart Brown
1978 / 79	Wayne Schwebel	1999 / 2000	Andrew Beveridge
1987 / 88	Ross Tester	2000 / 2001	Graham Healey
1988 / 89	Leigh Shephard	2001 / 2002	Robert Buckton
1990 / 91	Graham Cook	2002 / 2003	Neil McInnes
1991 / 92	Dennis Campbell / Craig Schweikert	2003 / 2004	Richard Whipp
1992 / 93	Graeme Langford	2004 / 2005	Claire McManaway
1993 / 94	David Moller	2005 / 2006	Richard Whipp
1994 / 95	Brett Hatherall	2006 / 2007	David Cook
1995 / 96	Ken Leonard	2007 / 2008	Gordon Coburn
1996 / 97	Kieron Dobbin	2008 / 2009	Rob Cook
1997 / 98	Clem Klausen	2010 / 2011	Rob Cook
		2011 / 2012	Gordon Coburn
		2012 / 2013	Belinda McCann

PATROL OF THE YEAR AWARD

1969 / 70	Don Carlson	1994 / 95	Brett Hatherall
1970 / 71	Neil Allard	1995 / 96	Ian Harper
1971 / 72	Philip Chidgey	1996 / 97	Stuart Brown
1972 / 73	Colin Hill	1997 / 98	Clem Klausen
1973 / 74	John Travers	1998 / 99	Stuart Brown
1974 / 75	Philip Lindsay	1999 / 2000	Eli Ball
1977 / 78	Grahame Murrell	2000 / 2001	Joshua Buckton
1978 / 79	John Oudhof	2001 / 2002	Stuart Corkery
1980 / 81	Chris Anderson	2002 / 2003	Ian Harper
1981 / 82	Chris Anderson	2003 / 2004	Stuart Brown
1982 / 83	Gerard McCaugherty	2004 / 2005	Stuart Brown
1983 / 84	Michael O'Neill	2005 / 2006	Graham Cook
1987 / 88	Frank Downing	2006 / 2007	David Cook
1988 / 89	Kate Boyd	2007 / 2008	Gordon Coburn
1990 / 91	Frank Downing	2008 / 2009	John Coburn
1991 / 92	Frank Downing / Craig Ferns	2009 / 2010	Gordon Coburn
1992 / 93	Ross Tester	2011 / 2012	Gordon Coburn
1993 / 94	Ian Richardson / Mark Anderson	2012 / 2013	Gordon Coburn



SLSSNB PATROL CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Skye Holt (2007 / 08)



NARRABEEN BEACH LIFE MEMBERS

Fred Bertram BEM* (1982)	Ross Tester (1994)
Harold Lumley* (1982)	Craig Schweikert (1997)
David Wong* (1982)	Robert Chidgey (1997)
Grahame Smith (1982)	Stephen Price (1997)
Ken Leonard (1984)	Bruce Warman (1998)
Warren Slater (1986)	Graham Cook (2000)
Wayne Schwebel (1988)	Tracey Lake (2006)
John Gooley (1988)	Robert Buckton (2011)

*deceased



SLSSNB LIFE MEMBERS

Fred Bertram BEM*	Stephen Price (2013)
Ken Leonard (2000)	Wayne Schwebel (2014)
Ross Tester (2007)	

*deceased

NSW SLS LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Ken Leonard (2004)



NARRABEEN BEACH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Gloria Cook* (2000 / 01)
Andrew Beveridge (2001 / 02)
Tracey Lake (2002 / 03)
Ross Tester (2002 / 03)
Stuart Brown (2004 / 05)
Ian Harper (2004 / 05)
Keiron Dobbins (2004 / 05)
*deceased

Neil McInnes (2004 / 05)
Robert Buckton (2007 / 08)
Bekky Buckton (2008 / 09)
David Cook (2010 / 2011)
Claire McManaway (2010 / 11)
Richard Whipp (2011 / 2012)
Joshua Buckton (2013 / 14)



SLSSNB DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Ken Leonard (1998)
Ross Tester (2003)
Wayne Schwebel (2004)
Graham Cook (2005)

Tracey Lake (2006)
Stephen Price (2007)
Robert Chidgey (2008)



AUSTRALIAN SPORTS MEDAL

(nominated by SLSSNB for this prestigious Australian medal)

Ken Leonard (2001)
Ross Tester (2001)



SLS AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

(Completed more than 15 years of patrol duties)

Wayne Schwebel (2004 / 05)
Bob Chidgey (2004 / 05)
Neil MacInnes (2004 / 05)

Stuart Brown (2004 / 05)
Ian Harper (2004 / 05)



SLSSNB COMPETITION OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

Stephen Price (1998 / 99)



SLSSNB HARRY REGAN AWARD FOR EXAMINER OF THE YEAR

Ken Leonard (1996 / 1997)
Graham Cook (2003 / 2004)

SLSSNB RAYMOND MATTHEW BROWN RADIO OPERATOR AWARD

Peter Hill (2006 / 07)
David West (2007 / 08)



SLSSNB LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Richard Whipp (2007 / 08)
Rob Cook (2013 / 2014)



SLSSNB HARRY REGAN AWARD FOR OUSTANDING SERVICE

Peter Hill (2007 / 08)



SLSSNB VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Graham Cook (2010 / 11)
Kaz Marks (2011 / 12)



SLSSNB TRAINING OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Rob Cook (2010 / 11)
Gordon Coburn (2011 / 12)
Matt Murphy (2013 / 2014)



SLSSNB INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Gordon Coburn (2012 / 13)



NARRABEEN BEACH JUNIOR SURF LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR

Becky Buckton (1997 / 98) – female winner
Owen Wall (1997 / 98) – male winner



SLSSNB JUNIOR PATROL PERSON OF THE YEAR

Becky Buckton (1999 / 2000) – female winner
Eli Ball (1999 / 2000) – male winner

MEMBER NICKNAMES

In the 1974 / 75 season, Alan "Alby" Hancock documented a list of nicknames that club members were tagged with. Over the decades, the list just grew and grew...

Harold "Googa" Lumley	Peter "The Old Man" Allen	Jimmy "Punch it Out" Charles
Bill "White Whale" Rond	Alan "Alby" Hancock	Jimmy "Blubber" Charles
Bill "Sludge" Geldart	Barry "Bronco" Hancock	Glen "The Fish" Sims
John "Steptoe" Macpherson	"Mr Big Wave" Bronco Hancock	Philip "Mouth" Lindsay
Colin "Dog" Hill	Wayne "Hilly" Hill	Ken "Daddy Lizard" Leonard
Phillip "Pippy" Gunns	Stephen "Dapper" Horder	Peter "Lizard" Leonard
John "Wooley" Travers	Keith "Fred" Dever	Wayne "Horrible" Horder
Ian "Adolf" George	Ken "Early Bird" Williams	Garry "Ginger" Oughtred
Ray "Matho" Mathieson	Michael "The Bible" Knowles	Gary "Ostrich" Oughtred
Ray "Fatman" Mathieson	Donald "Rudolph" Lindsay	Les "Compost" Yule
Phil "Emu" Chidgey	Geoff "The Old Man" Moffat	Warren "Morris" Slater
Bob "Animal Lover" Chidgey	John "Adolf Junior" Oudhof	Warren "Amber" Slater
Robert "Old Man" Chidgey	Paul "Hitler" Oudhof	Warren "Snorkel" Slater
Bob "The Stranger" Chidgey	Trevor "Growler" Allard	Peter "Indescribable" Chapple
John "Robbo" Robson	Neil "Wombat" Allard	Bob "Shorts" Bower
John "Rocket" Robson	Ian "Porky" Pratt	John "Yogi" Coneybeare
Vernon "Pommy" Bottomley	Brian "Womper" Pratt	Grahame "Globetrotter" Smith
Daryl "The Lover" Mowday	Brain "Pratty" Pratt	Graham "Mother" Smith
Craig "Swaggy" Schweikert	"Lion-hearted" Ian (Ted) Miller	Grahame "Smitty" Smith
Craig "Coconut" Schweikert	Craig "Sprocket" Schweikert	Grahame "The Dumb" Smith
"Little" Monica Rond	Craig "Gorilla" Schweikert	Grahame "The Dumber" Murrell
Robert "Squirrel" Squires	Gilbert "Fish" Schweikert	Grahame "Where's Sue" Smith
Robert "Big Bird" Squires	Jane "Moose" Schweikert	David "The Cool" Irons
Marty "Big Man" Fletcher	Manuel "Grasshopper" Psaltis	Steven "Wally" Ward
Mark "I don't Ralph" Ingram	Manuel "Automatic" Psaltis	Terry "The Mouth" Kirkpatrick
Graham "Cookie" Cook	Martin "Super Nipper" Wartmann	Terry "Romeo" Kirkpatrick
Scott "Rastus" Brassey	Martin "Arthur" Wartmann	Lisa "Ralph" Rowell
Scott "Scooby Doo" Brassey	Stuart "Stuey" Brown	Peter "Echo" Exton
Matthew "Rude Boy" Collins	Martin "Wart" Wartmann	Martin "Tato" Fletcher
Adrian "Ade" Holliday	Adam "Little Tato" Fletcher	Chris "Sleezy Rider" Brewin
Donald "Ava Chat" Carlson	Gregory "Small Schooner" O'Neill	Neil (Nev) McInnes
Chris "Spazzo" Anderson	Glen "They're my Nails" Morrow	Brett "Wog" McMullen
Sarah "Goon" Mooney	Gerard "60% strike rate" McCaugherty	Jason "JJJ" Farrell
Murray "ET" Carroll	Gerard "Paddy" McCaugherty	Geoff "Diver" Harris
Martin "Disco" Carroll	Tony "Git" McCaugherty	Mark "Ingo" Ingram
John "Boogie" Fay	Carron "Heart Throb" Bottomley	Justin "JL" Lynch
Tony "Boogie" Fay	David "Nudge" Nugent	Simon "Dimsby" Ormsby
Paul "Poonoo" O'Neill	Roger "Flasher" Osborne	Stephen "Wally" Ward
Michael "Pewee" O'Neill	Roger "Fred Basset" Osborne	Richard "Flash" Muller
Gregory "Shrimp" O'Neill	Leo "Muscles" Stevens	Andrew "Bevy" Beveridge
Glen "Little Glen" Russo	Harvey "Boong" Thompson	Richard "Speedy the Kangaroo" Muller

YARNS FROM YESTERYEAR

1966 / 1967

From 1966 - 1974, the Asquith Leagues Club would hire at least one bus each Sunday and pack it with families from Hornsby, Asquith, Mt Colah and Mt Kuringai to drive them down to Narrabeen Beach SLSC so they could participate in the Juvenile Club (nippers) and Senior Club activities. Asquith Leagues Club had previously played rugby league trial games against Narrabeen so had a well-established connection with the area.

This major influx of new members was so significant that by the following season, Narrabeen Beach SLSC had the largest Juvenile Club in the Branch with 280 nippers.

In those days, girls were not permitted to join the boys for the beach activities, so would watch from the sideline. During the 1972 / 73 season, Narrabeen Beach was the first surf club to conduct a trial of girls participating in nippers. In 1973 / 74 'nipperettes' were officially allowed to be part of the nipper program for the first time.

1967 / 68

At the Metropolitan Branch Championships held in Bondi, Miss Narrabeen Beach – Wendy Spickler – participated in the *Ampol / Daily Telegraph Beach Girl Quest* and made it into the final six contestants.



In this season's Annual Report, President, Norm King, provided his definition of a Lifesaver:

“A Surf Lifesaver”

Between the joy of adolescence and holy wedlock, we find a muscle bound male who conscientiously fills the role of the surf lifesaver.

Lifesavers are usually found around and about members of the opposite sex.

A lifesaver is inexperienced with a female under his wing, Stirling Moss at the wheel of his sports car, Tarzan in his torn “Speedos”.

Parents tolerate them, young children idolise them, the general public supports them, the Government ignores them, the Surf Lifesaving Association scolds them and girls thrive on them.

A surf lifesaver is a composite – he has the appetite of a horse, the tan of a negro, the lungs of a jersey bull, the knees of a housemaid, the imagination and persuasive powers of a top salesman, and when forced to participate in R & R drill, he has five thumbs on each hand and two left feet.

The things he likes – bikinis, posing in a tracksuit, sloppy jumpers, thongs, fast cars, women, waves, long hair, telling yarns and boat races. He thinks that the surf club he's joined is the ONLY CLUB on the coast.

The things he does not like are: Male members of other clubs, paying fees, club meetings, training, uncooperative females, dancing, girl's fathers, chief instructors, "Noah's Arks", formal dress, ie - wearing a collar and tie, lost children and Club Presidents.

He approves of women who cannot swim; spending money (other peoples), wearing a patrol cap on a crowded beach and eating.

Nobody else can look so groovy, catch a girl so efficiently, lose her so easily or disappear so quickly.

His most cherished possessions are a pair of tattered old rugby shorts, somebody else's mattress, list of phone numbers, and some other guy's surfboard when he's not looking.

To a Chief Instructor's mind, Surf Lifesavers fall into three categories – Indifference, Hopeless, Helpless.

1971 / 72

During the Tuff Club season, participants journeyed by bus to do battle with the North Cronulla sharks. Narrabeen members were hot under the collar when the sharks pulled a "fast one" by making competitors swim in a heated pool, rather than the chilly winter waters.

1972 / 73

This season started well until November when the beach became infested with bluebottles, resulting in many people being treated for stings.

Grahame Smith was the Honorary Secretary for the club at this time and made a particular reference in this year's report to Ken Williams, the First Aid Officer. He said, "*If ever you are hurt, call Ken. He may not fix your injury [immediately] but by the time he gets to fix you up you will have forgotten what you came in for!*"



When it came to carnival time, it was always difficult to arrange the towing of the boats. So when Phil Marshall joined the club this season, his help towing the boat to training and carnivals was most appreciated.

However, on one occasion during the trip to the Australian SLSC Championships at

Burleigh Heads, the car, boat and trailer were extensively damaged in a road accident. The results from the carnival that year?...well, they all had a good time!



When Narrabeen successfully hosted the Branch Championships this season, Ray “Matho” Mathieson brought the crowd to their feet when he demonstrated great dexterity while taking the boat head first “down the mine” after laying the buoys.

1973 / 74

Narrabeen SLSC President, Geoff Moffatt, said “Surf Clubs are a great leveller, in civilian life you could be Prime Minister, but at Narrabeen Beach you would probably just be the ‘Canberra Kit.’

On the other hand, your vocational calling could be that of say apprentice Garbologist with three years to go but if you are a good club member, you will always be thought of for what you have contributed to your club.

1979 / 80

To encourage more active member participation President, Ken Leonard, published the following poem in this season’s Annual Report:

Today’s Thought

Are you an active member – the kind who would be missed?

OR

Are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the function and mingle with the flock?

OR

Do you stay away, criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the club along?

OR

Are you satisfied to be the kind that just belongs?

Do you push the club along and help make things really tick?

OR

Leave the support to just a few and talk about the ‘clique’?

Think about it, MEMBER. You know the right from wrong.

Are you an ACTIVE MEMBER or DO YOU JUST BELONG?

1981 / 82

Narrabeen had two surfboat crews in training this season. Rumour had it that when Narrabeen couldn't sell the surfboat, Ken Leonard lined up all the guys and threw bricks at them. Those who ducked became swimmers and beach runners, but those who didn't picked up the oars. Thus, for the first time in many years Narrabeen had two boat crews in training.



A 17-year-old male member of the surf club was having a kiss and a cuddle with his date in the First Aid Room one evening when a gunman on the beach side of the clubhouse started shooting randomly through the glass doors. After quaking in their boots, the pair stayed in the room for 20 minutes before they were game to venture on their way. On the same evening, the gunman also shot through a Butcher's window in Palm Beach. The offender was eventually caught.

1989 / 90

A former Nipper President measured up the frame for the new club trailer but forgot to measure the height of the doors it had to go through.

1990 / 91

When one of the stretchers came asunder after going beyond its limits, some ex-Navy (1946) surplus canvas plus some galvanised nails came to the rescue to put the stretcher back in service. The refurbished stretcher ended up being tested on a real casualty after the IRB Captain, Graham Cook, had a run in with the IRB. Graham selected the stretcher as his ideal mode of transport off the beach.

1991 / 92

The surf club northern boat shed was extended by a half a metre, as it was originally built 300mm too short to fit a standard length surfboat. Rather than knocking a hole in the doors, the club elected instead to build an extension of 500mm.



While the club could still claim that "no lives were lost at Narrabeen Beach while on patrol", unfortunately there was a life lost on our beach this year, but not while members were on patrol.

A woman got into difficulties near the Marquesas which was almost the same place where a drowning occurred more than 25 years earlier, resulting in the establishment of the Narrabeen Surf Club. The incident occurred during the week and despite being resuscitated by a Council lifeguard on duty that day, she died later in hospital.

1998 /99

After 10 years of driving the IRB and during his last year as IRB Captain, Ian Harper had his first rollover on the opening day of the State Titles.



The “Collnarra” consortium (Collaroy, South Narrabeen, Narrabeen Beach and North Narrabeen SLSCs) hosted the 1999 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships and the 1999 NSW IRB Rescue Championships this year.

The venue for these events was scheduled for Narrabeen Beach club but big storms resulted in lack of sand on the beach, so at the last minute the NSW Surf Life Saving Championships were transferred to North Narrabeen. Two x 40-foot containers of equipment were used for the State Championships, housed in a security compound flood lit at night. Some other heavy duty gear was also needed, including two monster Komatsus and a tractor which were based at Narrabeen Beach to help pull the boats up the beach to the championship area.

The NSW IRB Rescue Titles were held in June 1999. The sand had returned to Narrabeen Beach by May 1999 but was impacted again after yet another storm. So it was back to North Narrabeen again for another three days of motorised action.

2003 / 2004

The club’s mantra for the past 40 years had been – “No Lives Lost at Narrabeen Beach During Patrol Hours” – this year it could have easily been a different scenario.

On the morning of Sunday, 28 March 2004, the exemplary skills, training, teamwork and courage were displayed by patrolling members involved in the dramatic surf rescue of four swimmers – two of whom were unconscious - from a rip 200 metres north of the patrol area.

At around 11:30am, a woman alerted the beach patrol that people were in difficulty 200 metres north of the flagged area between Narrabeen Beach and North Narrabeen.

Patrol captain, Greg Gillespie, immediately sent the IRB driven by Ian Harper with crewperson, Joel Wilson. The IRB crew had to negotiate difficult surf conditions with a two-metre surf breaking into shallow water on the sandbank.

Two swimmers were in difficulty in the break and were caught in a rip. A woman was being supported by a man but both were struggling in the conditions. Two other people had also got into difficulty after going to assist the other two swimmers.

The IRB initially collected two of the swimmers – one was able to hold onto the side of the IRB in to shore, but the female swimmer was not breathing.

Meanwhile, Greg Gillespie was able to get to the remaining swimmers but lost the rescue board due to the conditions. So once again the IRB was despatched to assist.

This time a male patient was not breathing initially. After treatment on the beach both patients were sent to hospital by ambulance where they recovered and were released.

It emerged afterwards that both patients were overseas tourists – one from Holland and the other from Germany, but neither knew each other and were swimming independently.

All patrolling members involved in the rescue were presented with Certificates of Merit by the club for their outstanding efforts.



During Richard Whipp's tenure as Chief Instructor there was a memorable incident by a candidate who was demonstrating radio techniques in Part Two of their Bronze Medallion exam when they called "Warringah Mall, Warringah Mall, this is Narrabeen Beach."



QUOTABLE QUOTES...from the early days

Adolf	<i>"Merry Christmas, you're suspended."</i>
Daddy Lizard	<i>"See ya in yer sluggo's"</i>
Lizard	<i>"21 today, 21 today"</i>
John Lawler	<i>"I've looked at love from both sides now."</i>
Don Carlson	<i>"How's that girl?...Which one?"</i>
Adrian Holliday	<i>"Beach closed. Total rejection. Some delinquents went surfing, me included."</i>
Roger Osborne	<i>"Great day, lots of sunburn."</i>



Narrabeen Beach Surf Lifesaving Club would like to acknowledge the generosity of its many sponsors over the years. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to do what we do. Our current sponsors include:

<i>Dee Why RSL</i>	<i>Commonwealth Bank</i>	<i>Rod Jones First National Real Estate</i>
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