



# Celebrating 60 Years at Narrabeen Beach SLSC 1964 - 2024





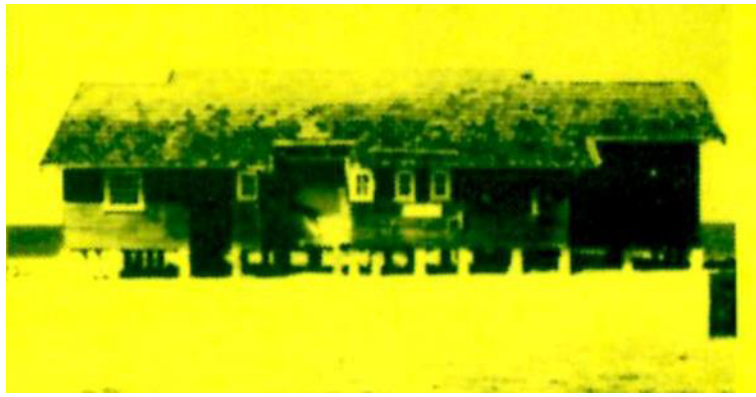
- In 60 years, Narrabeen Beach SLSC has come a long way, but this could never have happened without the dedication, commitment, contribution and support of our loyal members.
- Many have been involved with our club for decades and still give their time to patrol or help out after all these years.







**The initial aim of the surf lifesaving movement was “Vigilance and Service”, and I’m delighted to say that with 60 years of expertise, Narrabeen’s support to the community continues to be diligent, responsible and reliable.**



**Ten years ago - on 12 July 2014 - we celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a memorable Black Tie Gala dinner at Dee Why RSL.**

**As part of those celebrations we also documented a 40-page Commemorative History detailing a timeline of events over the previous 50 years.**





**From 2014 to 2024....**

**Ten years on, we'd like to present a few highlights in recognition of the last decade of surf lifesaving at Narrabeen Beach.**



## 2014 – 2015 season

- President – Tracey Lake.
- Members patrolled 4,029 hours, carried out 20 rescues, and 1,087 preventative actions.
- 145 junior members attained their relevant participant and competition skill evaluation awards.
- Launch of the internal Patrol Activity Competition with points earned by members for all forms of lifesaving involvement.
- The 'Narra Water Rats Initiative' won the President's Award in the SLSSNB Awards of Excellence. Active membership increased from 6 to 21.
- Graham Cook awarded Life Membership of SLSSNB.







## 2015 – 2016 season

- 120 active members patrolled 4,398 hours, carried out 25 rescues, 210 first aid treatments and 1,296 preventative actions.
- Narra Water Rats membership increased from 21 to 35. Provided water safety and patrol assistance at Wet 'N Wild and Garie Beach SLSC.
- Members achieved 43 new awards in all areas of surf lifesaving, including IRBC & Bronze.
- In June 2016, Narrabeen SLSC provided support at the Collaroy / Narrabeen storm emergency in cooperation with NSW Police and other emergency services.
- Ella Cook was awarded SLSNSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year, a first for Narrabeen Beach to be recognised at State level for this award category.
- In Surf Sports, our members competed with distinction in Club, Branch, State and National Championships.



## 2016 – 2017 season

- Members patrolled 4,709 hours, carried out 7 rescues, 171 first aid treatments and 646 preventative actions.
- Narrabeen Beach SLSC awarded the Most Outstanding Club for Lifesaving, in the SLSSNB Awards of Excellence.
- Second year running the SLSNSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year award was again won by a Narrabeen SLSC member – this time, Elliot Prasad.
- Narra Water Rats membership increased to 40, and contributed to 35% of our patrolling strength.
- Wayne Schwebel recognised for 40 years of service, along with Ian Harper and Richard Whipp for 25 years of service.







## 2017 – 2018 season

- Members patrolled 4,958 hours (up 249 hours), carried out 10 rescues, 125 first aid treatments, and 735 preventative actions.
- Members increased their skillset by attaining 54 new awards, which included Pete Wells gaining his Gold Medallion.
- Fifty year member, Bob Chidgey, (now deceased) was recognised for more than 35 years of patrol service, along with Greg Gillespie for 20 years of service.
- Narrabeen Beach SLSC awarded Community Education Program of the Year Award in the SLSSNB Awards of Excellence.
- Narra Water Rats program grew to 45 dedicated young lifesavers, contributing a healthy 45% of our patrol strength.





## 2018 – 2019 season

- Members patrolled 5,153 hours, carried out 15 rescues, 57 first aid treatments and 730 preventative actions.
- Continued to host three annual community events – Ocean Swim, Junior Carnival, Pub to Pub support.
- Graham Cook recognised for 30 years of patrol service, while Ian Harper, a patrolling member for 27 years was awarded Life Membership.
- At local carnivals, Sean Townsend won 5 x Gold Medals, 1 x Silver Medal, 1 x Bronze Medal across individual ski and board events, as well as team events.







## 2019 – 2020 season

- Members patrolled 3,707 hours, with 10 rescues, 74 first aid treatments and 288 preventative actions.
- The patrolling season was terminated early on 28 March 2020, due to Covid.
- Had the largest ever Surf Rescue Squad (SRC) trained by Rob Cook, and supported by probationary trainers, Ella Cook and Jordan Howard.
- The second half of the season was impacted by bushfires and flooding. Narrabeen SLSC members provided support at the Rural Fire Service Call Centre.
- 20 years of patrol service recognition to Joshua Buckton, Robert Buckton, David Cook and Rebekka Sims.
- On 22 June 2020, we sadly lost Bob Chidgey, one of our longest serving members, contributing almost 3,000 volunteer hours towards surf lifesaving over 35+ years.





## 2020 – 2021 season

- Tracey Lake retired as Club President after serving many years in the role, providing exceptional Club leadership. He was also awarded an SLSSNB Life Member Award.
- Members patrolled 4,727 hours, with 5 rescues, 17 first aid treatments and 140 preventative actions.
- In March 2021, Narrabeen Beach SLSC provided support to the SES as part of the SLS Sydney Northern Beaches IRB taskforce during floods in the lower Nepean area.
- Narra Water Rats youth lifesaving program grew to 59 members, accounting for 44% of the club's patrol strength.
- Pete Wells won a Bronze Medal at Aussies – Narrabeen Beach had not competed at Aussies in more than a decade.
- 30 years patrol service recognition to Ian Harper and 20 years service to Skye Storey.





## 2021 – 2022 season

- Greg Gillespie appointed new Club President.
- Members patrolled 4,297 hours, with 8 rescues, 127 first aid treatments and 190 preventative actions.
- An unprecedented number of weather events resulted in the beach being closed for 26 days throughout the season.
- Members assisted NSW Police and the SES with welfare checks and evacuations following two flood emergencies in Sydney and outer areas.
- Members were first responders during a freak storm incident in December 2021, resulting in a fatality within our club carpark.
- Hosted our largest ever Ocean Swim event in November 2021.





## 2022 – 2023 season

- Members patrolled 4,382 hours, with 4 rescues, 44 first aid treatments and 277 preventative actions.
- Due to poor weather and dangerous conditions, there were 33 beach closed days.
- While nippers missed out on participating in water events, a team of club trainers were kept busy helping members attain 47 new awards.
- Wayne Schwebel was honoured for 46 years of service at Narrabeen SLSC, along with Graham Cook for 35 years of service, and Tracey Lake for 25 years of service.







**...and that's a very small snapshot of what has been happening at Narrabeen SLSC over the past 10 years.**

**Thank you to all our loyal members – past and present – who have devoted so much time and effort to help create a friendly, yet vigilant club that we, the members, can feel so proud to represent.**

**We are also very grateful and thankful to our loyal club sponsors who have been supporting us for many years, so we can continue to provide such an important service to the community.**

**Here's to commemorating 60 years of lifesaving service  
at Narrabeen Beach...!!**