



COOKS HILL

LIFE SAVING & SURF CLUB

Leading the future of Surf Lifesaving



Cooks Hill Surf Lifesaving Club Inc
Annual Report

2016-2017

Sponsors



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R. Burgess*	F. Keddie*	A. Stamp
C. Bevege*	A. Pearson*	W. Clarke
E. Curly*	F. Taylor*	R. Young
G. Dart*	S. Greenland*	J. Saunders
F. Dodd*	R. Trew*	S.W. Bear
A. Henry*	E. Alterator*	G. Wheeler
D. Johnson*	H. Clark OAM*	G. Dobson *
R. Kilgour*	D. Wylie*	R. Harrison
J. King*	M. McRuvie*	R. Taylor
W. Line*	C. Doherty*	S. Joyce
P. Scully*	H. Doherty*	S. Davies
W. Moore*	D. Power*	B. Pinnock
H. McLardy*	A. Hodgson*	D. Phelan
W. Nickisson*	N. Quinn*	P. Martine
D. Thompson*	G. Jones*	W. Moylan
A. Warland*	J. Wilson*	R. Walker
C.R. Ward*	J. Mantle*	D. Solomon
C.C. Ward*	D. Sills	S. Lennox
L. Wilson*	B. Trotter	J. Anderson OAM
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W. Fitzgerald*	F. d’Arcy	B. Derwin
F. Roberts*	N. Dart*	C. Doherty
J. Paget*	G. d’Arcy	
J. Cook*	T. Cosgrove	

* Denotes deceased

Office Bearers

OFFICE BEARERS 2016 - 17	
Patron	The Lord Mayor of Newcastle - Cr Nuatali Nelmes
Co-Patrons	Roy Duffy, Kaye Duffy, Mark Rabbitt, Kurt Fearnley
President	Richard Hermens
Deputy President	John Reid
Secretary	Adrian Miles
Assistant Secretary	Jenny Hicks
Treasurer	Trudy Smith
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Sims
Club Captain	Mark Doherty
Junior Coordinator	Drew Miller
Director of Education	Tony Blake/Ros Sklavos
Director of Surf Sports	Monique Williams
Boat Captain	Craig Doherty
Craft Captain	John Manning
Members Services Officer	John Mayo
Rookie Officer	Jade Williams
Committee	Melissa Dagg, Angus McConnel, Shaleigh Lennox, John Wilson
Honorary Solicitor	CDG Law
Honorary Auditor	Prosperity Advisors

President's Report

I am pleased to be able to present this report as President of Cooks Hill LS & SC 2016-17.

Again, members and the wider community have enjoyed another successful season of life saving activities at Bar Beach.

With dedication and diligence our patrolling members have again kept our beaches safe and fatality free continuing our 'No Lives Lost' record and patrols remained breach free throughout the season.

Running a successful surf club is no easy task; there are many regulations and external stakeholders to maintain, it takes a large team of willing and dedicated volunteers to achieve the required outcomes. I thank and congratulate our hard working Board of Directors and club officials who have again worked tirelessly to help ensure all this happens. I am proud that Cooks Hill is recognised as one of the most professionally run surf clubs in NSW.

Thank you to our many volunteers who provide such a committed service to the Hunter and the broader beach going community. Each year the dedication to our club by so many humbles me, and this is one thing that makes us great.

This year we have had some outstanding major achievements throughout the whole club.

Club Captain Mark Doherty was recognised for his bravery in rescuing three people from drowning, this saw him nominated for and receiving the National Rescue of the month for February 2017. Mark also won Lifesaver of the Year at the Hunter Branch SLS Awards of Excellence in June. I'm sure everyone will agree, he's a very worthy winner.

As the National winner, Mark and Cooks Hill LS & SC were awarded a ROTM medallion and citation presented by the Governor General and Parliamentary Friends of SLS at Parliament House in Canberra on 15 June 2017.

Mal Kelly also received NSW Rescue of the month in October 2016 after his daring rescue of a female swimmer in distress amongst the rocks on the northern end of Bar Beach.

Both rescues happened after patrol hours. I thank Mal & Mark for their commitment for not hesitating to perform these rescues. Congratulations to you both.

Kaitlyn McMahon was honoured with Hunter Branch Junior Lifesaver of the Year; Katy's win was the 6th Hunter JLOTY for the Club in eight years. Certainly, a testimony not only to the maturity of the individuals in the club, but to the dedication and support from the parents and the leadership at Cooks Hill.

Two of our young competitors are now Australian Champions! Bella Williams had an outstanding finish to her season, winning two gold medals at the Aussie Youth Championships in the U14's iron woman and board race and also winning silver in the surf race. Bella was also recognised in Parliament by the Hon Tim Crakanthorp for her outstanding season and success at Aussies. Kye Taylor won the U15's male board race. We finished the Australian Championships with an impressive three gold, three silvers and two bronze medals. Congratulations to everyone.

The junior competition team finished 4th at the NSW Age Championship, down from last season's success, missing out by only two points for third place. Considering the number of competitors attending from the larger clubs, this is a great achievement. Congratulations to all competitors, officials and parents for your dedicated support of the junior competitors.



Kaitlyn McMahon – Hunter Junior Lifesaver of the Year 2016

In 2016-17 we embarked on the mammoth task of updating our constitution. We are now able to report that the new constitutional was approved at a Special General Meeting on Wednesday 12th July 2017. The various portfolio committees are now finalising the club management structure and the by-laws will now be produced and attached to the final document. The new constitution follows the same structure and organisation as SLS Australia and SLSNSW. It will allow the club to function more effectively in the future.

A huge amount of work has gone into this document and the team John Reid, Steve Sims, Shaleigh Lennox and Mark Doherty should be thanked and acknowledged for all their hard work. The Life Members, Constitution and Meritorious Awards committee of, Jack Saunders, Stuart Bear, Shaleigh Lennox, Ross Cooper, Brett Derwin and Terry Cosgrove should be recognised and acknowledged for their initial and ongoing works on the updating of the constitution and awards processes for the club.

Our junior activities section has had another great season. Our "Nippers" Program continues to be one of the most professionally run programs thanks to the continued efforts of the parents that participate and integrate with the Junior committee.

Fundraising and community activities are always key to the ongoing success of our club. This year, they were broad and varied with volunteer members committing to and supporting events such as the Newcastle Anzac evening commemorations, Hill to Harbour running festival, Blacksmiths to Nobbys charity walk and the Newcastle Permanent cinema under the stars, just to name a few.

This year grants and donations came in from Clubs NSW, Wests, SLSA Beach Safety Equipment Fund, Hunter Branch SLS, Newcastle RSL Sub Branch, FordComm, Variety and Life Without Barriers.

A special thanks to the Junction Primary School whose students and staff raised \$2,500.00 for specialised disabled beach wheel chairs. The cheque was presented by their school captains at a school assembly in November 2016. It truly was an honour and I was deeply moved to receive this cheque on behalf of the Club, from such a wonderful group of young people, who had nominated Cooks Hill's disabled programs as one of the recipients of their community fundraising.

Each year we apply for major and minor grants to be able to support the clubs many educational requirements, vital

lifesaving equipment, activities and building repairs. These take copious hours to investigate, draft and submit. So we thank the Grants team David Knight, Deb and Steve Sims, Jenny Hicks, Angus McConnel, John Reid for the submission of the many Grant applications this year.

Also, we thank the support from the many local businesses and sponsors who continuously support our Club and I would like to give a special thanks to some of them. Our sponsors are: The Albion Hotel, Planet Fitness, Robinson Property and Dial before You Dig. Your ongoing support allows us to continue to keep our beach safe and to be able to offer our services to the community.

Again, our community outreach programs were part of the club's strengths. This year we continued running the highly successful and recognised Same Waves program, Disabled assisted swim program and Refugee, Immigrant and Indigenous programs.

The success of these programs is due to the enthusiasm of the participants and our many volunteers that come from both inside and outside the club. Not many can resist the smiles and tears of joy that comes from reaching out and helping these beautiful people, as they achieve many milestones for the first time.

John Mayo and Sue Hermens head up this team and must be congratulated for the many hours of service to these amazing programs.

Sue Hermens received the NSW Premier's Volunteer Recognition Award from the Hon Tim Crakanthorp for her dedication and contribution to the community through her ongoing efforts to the Same Waves program.



The Junction Primary School

The Club Redevelopment

Yes, this has been a long and arduous task.

The building committee comprises of John Wilson, Brett Derwin, Rod Harrison, Andrew Howard, Trudy Smith, Ian Gray, Steve Sims, Marc Glanville, Adrian Miles, and Jon Webber. All members have committed many hours, endless meetings, finance sourcing, grants and media support and have now delivered the keys to us for this new and exciting building. Having started on the new extension on the northern end of the existing building in August of 2016 I am proud to report that we will gain full access to the new extension before the end of the month. Delivered within budget, this extension will ease some of the issues of storage and offer disabled and female amenities and dedicated training areas.

Financial support for the extension building came from Newcastle City Council, Mars, Life Without Barriers, St Vincent de Paul, Earp Bros, members' donations and NSW Surf Club Facilities Grant.

We also need to recognise and thank the kind bequeath of Aussie Higham which helped us achieve this amazing result.

We continue to seek avenues of funding to be able to deliver the redevelopment of the existing clubhouse (stage 2) and to fulfil a reality which, realised fruition 10 years ago by a small group. This group envisaged a facility that would see the club deliver the outstanding community support and services for another 100 years.

We must acknowledge the support from Hunter Branch, SLS NSW President David Murray and the team from SLS NSW, The Newcastle Permanent and the Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes of Newcastle, the Hon Sharon Claydon, the Hon Tim Crakanthorp, the Hon Scot MacDonald and our co-patrons Roy and Kaye Duffy, Mike Rabbitt and Kurt Fearnley for their ongoing support.

Sadly, we lost two of our Life Members this year. Graham Dobson (22 April 2017) and Neil McPherson (22 June 2017). Both Graham & Neil were dedicated volunteers, Presidents and Life Members of our club. Cooks Hill commiserates the loss of both men from our Surf Life Saving Community.



Sue Hermens receiving the NSW Premier's Volunteer Recognition award from MP Tim Crakanthorp

Thank you, if you're a volunteer just doing your part, a nipper, a parent, a competitor or a supporter. We don't often receive the recognition, thanks or accolades that one deserves. You may think you go unnoticed and it might be a small thing you do and your part may be small but when combined it is big.

This is and what makes a club not average but great! This is Cooks Hill LS & SC.

On behalf of the Executive and members we thank you all for an outstanding season. We look forward to seeing you all in the upcoming season.

Richard Hermens

President 2016-17

Secretary Report

2016-17 has yet again been another successful year for the club.

With the redevelopment starting slowly in August last year, it's been exciting to watch it grow out of the ground over the course of the year. I know I join the rest of the club in thanking not only the Builders – Mars Building, but also our Building committee who have worked tirelessly alongside the builders to ensure we have gotten it to the stage we have today successfully. Thank you to John 'Jocky' Wilson, Brett Derwin and all the other Building committee members for all your work.

We are now in the process of applying for grants for the second stage of the club redevelopment. In February this year, our Grant writing team of Jenny Hicks, Angus McConnel, Steve & Deb Sims, Richard Hermens and Peter McNally spent two weeks submitting a grant request to the NSW State Government for \$5.5M. To date we have yet to hear anything on this grant. We are taking no news as good news! If we are successful in gaining the grant, we would be able to start immediately (pending builders being appointed and consents completed). So please join us in keeping our fingers crossed.

Last year we spoke about sustainability of the club and ensuring we have a model, which will sustain us with growth in the future. In 2016-17 Cooks Hill LS & SC was the number one ranked Surf Life Saving Club in NSW for Club sustainability in the 2015-16 season. This displays the clubs ongoing strength in the areas of club administration, member participation, education and training, lifesaving & surf sports. This would not have been possible without the dedication and persistence of our Executive committee, in particular our education team, led by Ros Sklavos and also our club members, who have up skilled themselves over the course of the last two years. Well done everyone.

Once again, our community programs and disability beach access have been extremely successful and this is all because of the power of our volunteers. We are now well recognised within the community of being an inclusive beach community. I'd also like to thank Variety for their donation of the two beach wheelchairs, this makes the time in the water so much more enjoyable for everyone involved. These chairs along with our new extension, will ensure we continue to lead the way forward of having an assessable beach for all. As always,

a huge thank you to the Richard & Sue Hermens and John Mayo, your efforts in making these programs happen. Everyone truly appreciates your dedication for driving such initiatives.

A number of our club members have been recognised this year by Hunter Branch for their continued commitment and dedication to Surf Life Saving. Congratulations to:

NAME	CATEGORY
Kaitlyn McMahon	HSL - Junior Lifesaver of the Year
Jade Williams	HSL - Youth Lifesaver of the Year
Mark Doherty	HSL - Lifesaver of the Year
Kye Taylor	HSL - Youth Male Athlete of the Year
Richard Hermens	HSL - Volunteer of the Year

Jade, Mark & Richard's nominations have been put forward to the NSW Surf Life Saving Awards, which are being held in Sydney in August. Good luck to you all.

On the administrative front, once again thank you to Jenny Hicks without her our club would not be able to grow to the levels it has and will in the future. She supports, not only myself in my role of Secretary but the Executive & Management Team tirelessly.

Adrian Miles

Secretary



Cooks Hill Girls out at Bar Beach

Committee meeting attendance

MANAGEMENT MEETINGS ATTENDED 2016-17			
Position	Name	Attended	Apologies
President	Richard Hermens	12	0
Deputy President	John Reid	9	3
Secretary	Adrian Miles	11	1
Assistant Secretary	Jenny Hicks	5	7
Treasurer	Trudy Smith	9	3
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Sims	9	3
Club Captain	Mark Doherty	9	3
Junior Coordinator	Drew Miller	6	6
Director of Education	Tony Blake/Ros Sklavos	7	5
Director of Surf Sports	Monique Williams	12	0
Boat Captain	Craig Doherty	3	9
Members Services Officer	John Mayo	9	3
Committee	Angus McConnel	4	8
Committee	Shaleigh Lennox	11	1
Committee	John Wilson	12	0

Sid Forbes – Catho Board Challenge



Treasurer Report

I would like to thank the Executive and Management committees but in particular, Stephen Sims, Adrian Miles and Jenny Hicks for their help and support throughout the season.

The club has performed strongly over the past 12 months and our income with the help of our sponsors, donors and fundraising efforts has covered our operational outgoings with all accounts that have been presented being paid in a timely manner.

The commencement of the club extension has resulted in our invested funds being depleted, however, as the funds had always been intended for this purpose I see no need for concern in this matter.

The Bar/Function centre has seen many changes through the season, most significantly the appointment of our new Functions Manager, Kathryn Mulherin. Function bookings have dropped off in numbers as the building works have progressed, however the functions that have been held under the new management team have been well run with numerous letters of appreciation received by the club. The club is currently working on new packages and pricing structure that will hopefully improve the forecasted bookings.

Milestone Catering have been well received by members and guests with their bar eats available during Coldies trading on Sunday afternoons and the occasional pop up restaurant.

The clothing and merchandise cupboard has been run throughout the season with thanks to mainly Kaitlyn McMahon and Heather McMahon. I would also like to thank Nicole Mulder for their help at the start of the season. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control additional orders for nipper swimwear were not received in a timely manner and a number of families were inconvenienced. We are planning to increase the range of swimwear and casual wear available to members in the coming season, details will be emailed to members as they come to hand.

During December, our nippers held the inaugural 'Wade-a-thon' as a fundraising event. Thanks to Heather McMahon for organising the event. Much fun was had on the day and vital funds were raised. Congratulations to nipper member Lani Beiboer for her mammoth effort in raising \$3,300.

Thanks also to Richard Hermens, David Knight, Jenny Hicks, Angus McConnel and John Reid for their efforts in writing grant applications. We have been successful in attaining a grant from Clubs NSW and Wests for the purchase of boards for our nippers. A Surf Life Saving NSW Facility Grant of nearly \$183,000 (with thanks to the NSW Government), these funds are specifically for the fit out of the female and accessible facilities in our surf club extension. The St Vincent de Paul Society also contributed to the redevelopment with a donation of \$10,000 towards the accessible lift that will be part of the new build.

This season saw the introduction of the building fund levy, which was placed on our membership fees to help us raise funds for the surf club extension. This initiative raised over \$26,000, and will remain in place for the 2017-18 season. Along with this, our membership was invited to make donations towards the build, all donations of \$1,000 or more will be recognised by displaying the donor's family name in the new building. I would like to thank the following members and their families for their contributions: John Mayo, Mark and Trudy Smith, Dr Nicholas Moncrieff and The Miroshnik Family, Adrian Miles, Geoffrey Natrass, Bryn Cotterill, Stephen Rich, Chris Dalton, Craig Coates, James McMahon, Peter McNally, Soozy Smith, James Lorang, Nicholas Dalton, Douglas Routley, Jodi Hilton, Dr Peter Harrigan, Dan Solomon, HIC Services Pty Ltd, Rig Installations, Torren Bell Building Designs and Donna McMillan-Beiboer.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge and thank the contribution by Newcastle City Council through Hunter Branch, along with Surf Life Saving Australia in the form of the BSEF grant for funds that have been spent on replacing patrol uniforms and equipment.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Planet Fitness for their going support and sponsorship.

Finally, I would like to thank, Alex Hardy and Amelia Patronaggio from Prosperity Financial Planning for their help and patience throughout the auditing process.

Trudy Smith
Treasurer

Deputy President's Report

Season 2016-17 has been an exciting year to be involved at Cooks Hill Surf LS & SC.

The years of hard work put in by many members of the club in planning the upgrade and extension of our clubhouse has come to fruition. Our club extension is nearing completion of the contracted works and is the result of all those who put so much effort in to planning, fundraising, and now construction. It is a testament to our club that we have been able to do this largely with the use of our own members funds. To thank everyone involved individually is fraught as there have been so many. However, you are all owed congratulations. As the building of our extension has continued apace, I would like to thank the Immediate Past Deputy President, John 'Jocky' Wilson for his work and also in keeping the House committee up to date with how the works are progressing.

Jocky & Brett Derwin have ably represented the Club on the Building project team and the hours and effort they have put in should be acknowledged.

The functioning of every club relies on volunteers and particularly those that step forward to serve on Committees and in functions and roles within the club. I thank everyone who takes on these roles and devotes their time and energy.

The Club will be now operating under a new Constitution and the work of Committees, sub committees and working parties will become more important than ever. This is a chance for all members to assist in the operation of the club and have their say in how it runs. It can be time and mind consuming, but it is rewarding.

Which brings us to the work of these committees and the people who do the work.

Thank you to all the members of the House committee, Scott Bear, Gary Martine, Greg Silcock, Steve Sims, Robert 'Beans' Young and Jocky Wilson. It would be hard to find a more easy-going group who just get on and do things as and when required. Whilst everyone contributes greatly to this I do want to thank Gary & Jocky for the workload they took on and the assistance they gave to me personally.

There were further changes to our catering arrangements. Stacie Gould, our Functions Manager left during the year to take up a full time position. On her departure Gary Martine stepped in to mentor and to assist Kathryn Mulherin in this

role. Thanks to Gary, Kat, Simon Fraser and all the bar staff for the operation and presentation of the club's functions. All have worked well with our new caterer Milestone Catering.

The club will continue to run the Functions role at the club whilst we await the outcomes of applications and funding for the redevelopment of the existing clubroom. Once clarity is available (hopefully in the form of a large grant) the next steps will be taken for use of the existing club rooms.

The Constitution Review Sub committee of Mark Doherty, Shaleigh Lennox, Steve Sims and myself waded through constitutions old and new. The leadership & drive of Mark has seen this through to the acceptance at the Special General Meeting. It is fitting and apt that Mark was awarded the Hunter Branch Lifesaver of the Year for his work. His involvement stretched far beyond lifesaving duties and beyond Cooks Hill.

The aim of the updated constitution is to ensure we comply legally with all our requirements as well as modernise and add flexibility so that the dedicated volunteers can focus on delivery of all the functions and programs we carry out.

Highlights and memorable events of the year are plentiful. Knowing full well I will miss some that should be mentioned I note just some that spring to mind.

Cooks Hill was recognised twice in the season for New South Wales Rescue of the Month, Mal Kelly & Mark Doherty. Mark was also recognised as the National Rescue of the Month.

Surf Lifesaving competition results were outstanding, from Hunter Branch through to the Australian Titles, Cooks Hill and its competitors (particularly Juniors & Youth) were noticed by all for their results and endeavours.



Rookie's Christmas Eve Patrol 2016



Cooks Hill's Hunter SLS Interbranch Team Representatives



Jackson Myers - Flags - Hunter SLS Interbranch Team

Cooks Hill partnered with other organisations (Clubs NSW - Wests & Variety) to provide equipment for our programs and to provide services to them. Catering for the Variety Bash Breakfast and Lunch was a great PR and fundraising success for both organisations. Thank you to all who volunteered, especially to Trudy Smith for organising the catering for the Variety Bash.

The involvement of the Club in the Commemoration of our Club Captain Big Jim Antcliff falling at the Battle of Messines on the 7th June 1917 was a poignant reminder of the great sacrifices of some of our founding members

I am sure throughout this report there will be many highlights reported by the Directors, of the successes and achievements in their areas of responsibility. Whilst I am also sure they will **not** highlight how their own contributions are so important to this success.

To all Club members you are Cooks Hill Surf Club!

John Reid

Deputy President



Fletcher Myers Hunter SLS Interbranch Team

Building Report

After deliberation by the Executive the decision was made to commit to the building extension at Cooks Hill LS & SC, to bring facilities built eight decades ago into the 21st century. In November 2015 a Building Steering Committee was formed to see the project to fruition.

After the design was agreed by the committee and construction documents completed by Webber Architects, the project was put to competitive tender. Mars Building were appointed as project builder and Webber Architects as project managers. Due to limited funds at the time the club entered into a contract to complete the shell of the building, i.e. four walls and a roof to lock up stage.

Work began on the extensions in July 2016 before the DA consent was due to lapse in August. With financial contributions from Newcastle City Council, Life Without Barriers, the State Government, Club Members, a NSW Department of Sport and Recreation Surf Club Facility's Grant, St Vincent De Paul Society and generous work in kind by suppliers and contractors we will see the lower and mid-levels (hopefully) completed by the AGM in August. This is a much better result than originally anticipated.

The lower level consists of a change room for those with a disability and a female change room including a multipurpose space fronting the beach for training and storage. The mid-level has both male and female toilets and an administration

office for club operations and clothing sales, with an adjacent meeting room for the various committees in the club.

The upper level, including a training and club function space, will be completed when funds become available, hopefully sooner than later!

A mechanical lift has been installed to provide access to all three levels and internal stairs to link the upper and mid-levels.

The Grant writing Team in our club is continually seeking funding from all levels of government to allow us to complete the extensions to the North and to eventually knock down and rebuild the existing club.

A massive thank you must go to Earp Bros Tiles who arranged all the tiles for the project at zero cost to the club and of course, to the builder Mars and architect.

Thanks also to all involved with the project from design to projected completion.

John Wilson

The Building Team



Excavation begins for the Surf Club extension – August 2016



Surf Club – July 2017

Junior Activities Report

It was a great start to the season with over 600 enrolled nippers, 25 new age managers and 20 new water safety personnel. The weather was also on our side with plenty of beach, small swell and off shore winds, the perfect recipe for encouraging our nippers to explore deeper waters.

A big thank you goes out to our volunteers who are responsible for the nipper program from week to week, Age Managers, Water Safety, BBQ Volunteers, Junior Committee members and the Merchandise team. This season sees the retirement of one of our long serving Junior Committee members. Thank you to Monique Williams for your commitment and passion to the junior program.

The activities and success of juniors were many and although not the sole measure of this, our competitive results are worthy of a special mention. Cooks Hill was again at the top of our region and 4th in the state, this is a great team achievement.

This year's King of the Beach was to be held here at Bar Beach. But unfortunately, the rocks, which sit either side of our flagged area, proved to be unsafe to hold the event.

Congratulations to this year's nominees for Hunter Surf Lifesaver of the Year Kaitlyn McMahon and Dimitri Filactos. Kaitlyn was then selected as the female Junior Life Saver of the Year for the Hunter. This was an outstanding achievement for these young members who have shown dedication and commitment to all facets of Cooks Hill and Surf Life Saving.

Training and education is integral to the Junior Program, 43 Nippers completed their Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) this year, which is an outstanding result. Thanks go to the SRC training team for all your work and encouragement.

The successful roll out of the Junior Coaching Program from a few years ago has continued this year. This program is paid for by the club and is delivered at no charge to members where intensive coaching and training was given to novice juniors particularly, but not exclusively, in the Under 8 and 9 age groups. The feedback from those who attended was fantastic and the skills passed on were a credit to Wayne Whiteman who oversaw the program and its delivery.

To all parents, guardians and nippers your involvement will be as rewarding for you as it is for others.

Drew Miller

Junior Activities Coordinator



Wade-a-thon - U6 & U8's - December 2016



Club Captains Report

No lives lost at Bar Beach (Cooks Hill)

Cooks Hill has had yet another exceptional year providing a safe and secure beach and aquatic environment for the beach-goers at Bar Beach. Cooks Hill LS & SC was also pivotal in the success of Hunter SLS being acknowledged as the best branch in NSW and again "Breach Free" for the third successive season.

It was with great pleasure I continued in the role of Club Captain and wish to acknowledge the outstanding work from the Executive and Management Committee members, whom have worked tirelessly within our club, our members, volunteers, our competitors, and the parents of our younger members.

Specifically, I wish to recognise and thank;

- The Lifesaving Operations team of Jessica Charlton (First Aid), John Manning (IRB), Dan Solomon (Radios), Mal Kelly (Gear & equipment) and the patrol captains and vice patrol captains who provide invaluable commitment and support throughout the season,
- The Education Team of Ros Sklavos, and the many trainers and assessors who delivered a wealth of highly skilled lifesavers to patrol Bar Beach (see Education Report) and,

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to all our active patrolling members, and Rookie Patrol members, for their dedication, commitment and hard-working service to keep Bar Beach safe for the public.

The patrol teams attended to the usual matters of first aid, stings and searching for lost children as well as the more serious incidents and rescues. This season we had a lot of sand on the Reef producing a great sand bank for the swimmers but an inshore gutter and littoral current resulting in a lot of rescues of people being swept out of the flags to the south. We had two after-hours rescues, one by Mal Kelly and the other by Mark Doherty, with both rescues receiving State and National recognition respectively.

All situations, major and minor, were handled with expediency and professionalism. Some statistics to quantify the incredible effort of our patrol teams are;

Total patrolled hours = 9,582 hours (an increase of 12% on last season)

Total Rescues = 294 (a significant increase from the 28 rescues last year due to the inshore littoral rip)

Total First Aid = 247 (a decrease of 21%)

Beach Closures = 14

Preventative actions 1,967 (an increase of 123% increase on last season also due to the sand bank and inshore rip)

This focus on preventative actions is an excellent lead indicator and the foundation of an incident free lifesaving season.

The breakdown of the above statistics is;

RESCUES	COUNT
No Gear	99
Rescue Tube	21
Rescue Board	173
IRB	1
Total Rescues	294

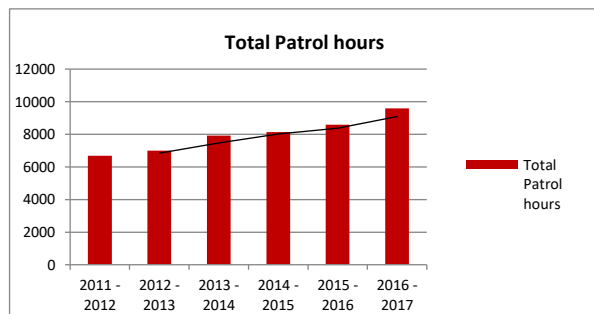
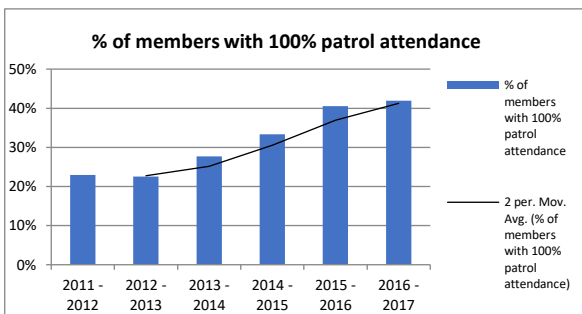
PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS	COUNT
Lost Children	6
Preventions	1960
Searches	0
Shark Alarm	1
Total	1967

FIRST AID	COUNT
Fractures/Dislocation	3
Major Marine Stings	3
Major Wounds	3
Minor Cuts/Abrasions	22
Minor Marine Stings	208
Other	7
Resuscitation	0
Spinal	1
Total	247

Congratulations to the 120 members who completed 100% of their rostered patrols. This represents 42% of our patrolling members and is a very good result. These members qualified for the 100% award by attending all rostered patrols or arranging a substitute if they could not attend, and in return attended the rostered patrol of the members who had substituted for them.

Both patrol effort (total hours patrolled) and patrol commitment and reliability (100% patrol attendance) have both increased over the past five seasons, see table & graph below, although the results have started to plateau which indicates a need for a renewed focus on patrol attendance for next season.

Year	Total Patrol hours	Members with 100% Patrol Attendance	Number of patrol members	% of members with 100% patrol attendance
2011 - 2012	6684	67	292	23%
2012 - 2013	7002	71	315	23%
2013 - 2014	7921	84	303	28%
2014 - 2015	8135	86	258	33%
2015 - 2016	8594	120	296	41%
2016 - 2017	9582	120	286	42%



Cooks Hill patrol members helping with HSLs Ducks 4 Dollars



Rookie members conducting a spinal rescue

The members achieving 100% patrol attendance are;

100% PATROL ATTENDANCE 2016-17			
Sara Angelozzi	Stephen Davies	Christian Langley	Paris Scott
Benjamin Aston	Kurt Denham	Graeme Lee	Zac Shaw
Lilly Baines	Brett Derwin	Gavin Leigh	Ian Sheppard
Luke Barron	Craig Doherty	Shaleigh Lennox	Gregory Silcock
Scott Bear	Mark Doherty	Chloe Linstrom	Robert Silkman
Georgia Bendall	Matthew Doherty	Matthew Lintott	Jade Silva
Matthew Bendall	Gordon Dryburgh	Lucy Lowe	Andreas Sklavos
Anthony Blake	Mathew Egan	Paul Lumley	Lucas Sklavos
Benjamin Bowen	Julie Farmer	William Mainey	Roslyn Sklavos
Bryn Bowen	Dimitri Filactos	Ethan Manditch	Harry Smith
Jeff Bower	Lara Flint	Liam Manditch	Mackenzie Smith
Alicia Breasley	Lily Francis	John Manning	Mark Smith
Mark Breasley	Belinda Grealy	Mia Martelli	Soozy Smith
Molly Breasley	Jordyn Haig	John Mayo	Dan Solomon
Ian Bryson	Craig Hamilton	Angus McConnel	Alex Spelliers
Andrew Burke	Daniel Hart	Kaitlyn McMahon	Terry van Haren
Iain Byrnes	Kadisha Haynes	Ben McPherson	Darcie van Huisstede
Jessica Charlton	Mitchell Hermens	Peta Mead	Kim van Huisstede
Stephen Charlton	Richard Hermens	Adrian Miles	Reed van Huisstede
Tom Clancy	Steven Howell	James Morris	Robert Walker
Abby Clifford	Simon Hunt	Jack Morrow	Grant Watson
Gregory Collinson	Rebecca Jackson	Aidan Mulder	Hamish Watson
Bryn Cotterill	Shane Joyce	Madison Mulder	William Watson
Trevor Cotterill	T'ese Keddie	Gregory Pawley	Tallis Watters-Cowan
Daneeka Croker	Blake Kelly	Robert Pinnock	Bella Williams
York Dalton	Malcolm Kelly	Lauren Redriff	Jade Williams
Eliza Darney	Stephen Kelly	John Reid	Monique Williams
Jason Darney	Edmund Keogh	Ben Relf	Peter Williams
Lloyd Davies	Freya Konetschnik	Charlotte Roberts	Frances Wilson
Ryan Davies	Ellie Lambkin	Jadon Routley	Robert Young

This year Cooks Hill members performed two significant rescues that were acknowledged at Hunter, NSW and Australian Lifesaving levels. The two rescues; the first by Mal Kelly who received recognition by SLS NSW for Rescue of the Month for October 2016, and the second by Mark Doherty, who was recognised by Surf Lifesaving Australia with National Rescue of the Month for February 2017.

A summary of each of the rescues is detailed below;

- Sunday 16th October 2016, Mal Kelly, at approximately 5:30pm, rescued a woman who had been washed of the rocks at the northern end of Bar Beach
- Sunday 12th February 2017, Mark Doherty, at approximately 5:45pm, rescued two children and their father caught in a rip approximately 200m from shore off the southern end of Bar Beach.

Well done to Mal and Mark and to all our patrol members and Rookie Patrol members who keep Bar Beach safe.

As always Patrol of the Year was a very close competition and the final decision was a difficult choice. As such congratulations to Patrol #6 being awarded Patrol of the Year 2016-17. This patrol is one of our more senior patrols with patrol attendance and commitment just edging them ahead of patrols #1, #3 and #9 who also performed very well. Congratulations and well done to;

PATROL #6	
Adrian Miles (C)	Peta Mead
Stephen Kelly (VC)	Grant Midwinter
Ben Bowen	Joanne Midwinter
Peter Harvey	Soozy Smith
Stephen Fleck	William Watson
Shaleigh Lennox	

And as the Rookie Patrol Team initiative has been in operation, successfully, for two years we decided to acknowledge our Rookies with a Rookie Patrol of the Year award. We have not yet developed performance criteria so the 2016 – 2017 Rookie team of the Year was based on feedback from our senior patrol captains. Congratulations to all our Rookies, but specifically to Rookie Patrol Team #3 as our Rookie Patrol of the Year for 2016 – 2017. They are;

ROOKIE PATROL 3	
Hamish Bell	Paris Scott
York Dalton	Hugo Van Haren
Oliver Ferencz	Joel Van Haren
Sean Jones	Hamish Watson
William Lucas	Tallis Watters-Cowan
Ben McPherson	Jade Williams
Max Moser-Finch	



Patrol members fixing the ramp at the south end of the clubhouse

I look forward to seeing you again next season.

Mark Doherty
Club Captain

Senior Presentation Night

Two months earlier our club house was filled with 180+ members, friends and guests at the Cooks Hill Annual Awards night and for the 3rd year the MC's, John Reid and Angus (Gus)

McConnel, hosted an amazing night and kept the crowd on the edge with anticipation and humour.

The award recipients for 2016 – 2017 season were

Award	Recipients 2016 - 2017
Representative Team selection	Allira Richardson, Jackson Myers, Danielle McSeveney, York Dalton, Kye Taylor, Lara Manning, Fletcher Myers, Freya Konetschnik, Bella Williams, Flynn Hamilton, Lilly Forbes, Holly Sargeant, Jack Breasley
State Medallists	Bella Williams Jackson Myers
Aussie Medallists	<p>Australian Youth Championships</p> <p>Kye Taylor - Gold - U15 Male Board Race</p> <p>Bella Williams - Gold - U14 Female Board Race</p> <p>Bella Williams - Gold - U14 Female Iron woman</p> <p>Bella Williams - Silver - U14 Female Surf Race</p> <p>York Dalton, Kye Taylor & Fletcher Myers - Silver - U15 Board Relay Team</p> <p>York Dalton - Bronze - U15 Male Board Race</p> <p>Fletcher Myers - Bronze - U14 Male Beach Sprint</p> <p>Australian Master Championships</p> <p>Silver - Jason Dwyer - 35-39yrs Male Board Race</p>
Volunteer of the Year	Richard Hermens
Official of the Year	Peter Williams
Team of the Year	Kye Taylor, York Dalton, Fletcher Myers (U15 Male Board Relay Team)
Boat Crew of the Year	Masters Boat Crew (Masters 160 men's)
Best Surf Competitor	Bella Williams
Best Beach Competitor	Fletcher Myers
Best Veteran Competitor	Best Veteran Competitor – Jason Dwyer
D.A.D Boatie Award	Robert Silkman
Coach of the Year	Wayne Whiteman
Rookie Clubman of the Year	Bryn Bowen & York Dalton
Junior Clubman of the Year	Madison Mulder
Senior Clubman of the Year	John Manning
Training Officer of the Year	Ros Sklavos
IRB Crewman	Steve Kelly & Mark Breasley
Heroes of the Surf	Mal Kelly & Mark Doherty
100% Patrol Attendance	Various

Justin Minell Awards U16	Jade Williams
Justin Minell Awards U21	Jessica Charlton & Kadisha Haynes
Lifesaver of the Year	Mark Doherty
Rookie Patrol of the Year	Rookie Team 3 Hamish Bell, York Dalton, Oliver Ferencz, Sean Jones, William Lucas, Ben McPherson, Max Moser-Finch, Paris Scott, Hugo Van Haren, Joel Van Haren, Hamish Watson, Tallis Watters-Cowan, Jade Williams
Patrol of The Year	Patrol #6 - Benjamin Bowen, Stephen Fleck, Peter Harvey, Stephen Kelly, Peta Mead, Grant Midwinter, Joanne Midwinter, Adrian Miles, Soozy Smith, William Watson

Surf Sports Report

With hard work, determination and dedication comes success and this year Cooks Hill LS & SC certainly had an eventful year in Surf Sports. Our athletes received accolades at Australian, State and Branch Championship levels. Our competitors continued to compete strongly at all carnivals and this year Cooks were triumphant in a new area of life saving competition, in which we have never competed within before.

The season commenced with Forster's 'Weekend of Surf' Carnival, and this year saw the level of competition ramp up. Many of the bigger Sydney clubs took up the opportunity to begin the surf season early. Cooks Hill was represented by a team of sixty plus competitors, our biggest contingent to date. Our aim was to win the Overall Point Score Trophy for the fifth consecutive year but unfortunately, Sydney's super club Manly narrowly beat Cooks Hill. Forster Surf Club hosted a wonderful carnival and we look forward to returning to the Mid North Coast and taking up the challenge again in 2017.

The Hunter Interbranch Team

Cooks Hill was well represented in the Hunter Interbranch Team this season. The team consists of 42 competitors in which twelve were from Cooks Hill.

Congratulations to Allira Richardson, Jackson Myers, Danielle McSeveney, York Dalton, Kye Taylor, Lara Manning, Fletcher Myers, Bella Williams, Flynn Hamilton, Lily Forbes, Jack Breasley, Holly Sargeant and myself as Team Manager. Freya Konetschnik was also originally selected but unfortunately, she had to withdraw due to an injury. Nevertheless, it is fantastic to see our juniors making up a large portion of this team. All athletes are all to be highly commended on the way they represented themselves, their families and Cooks Hill.

This year the team raced at The Lakes on the Central Coast and narrowly missed out on coming third by nine points to the Central Coast. All of Cooks Hill's team members shared in the success of points over the weekend.

Branch Championships

This season the championships were held at Fingal Beach and at both Junior and Senior Branch, Cooks Hill continued to dominate. At Junior Branch our competitors raced admirably, especially in the team events, our surf race and board rescue teams were highly successful across all age groups. Unfortunately, at Senior/Masters Branch, there wasn't an equal representation by all Hunter clubs due to another major event

being held on the same day. However, our team made the most of it, making up teams where they could. On the local and State scene we saw the re-introduction of the 2km beach run. Plenty of competitors took up the challenge, many finishing with medals. The table below shows our success as a club.

SLSNSW State Championships

Swansea-Belmont hosted the SLSNSW State Championships for 2016-17; unfortunately, it was marred by inclement weather and big swells. The growth in our club over the past five years is outstanding. At Junior State we had plenty of finalists and medallists in both individual and team events. We finished fourth on 192 points, two points behind Elouera and nine points behind Wanda in second position – the gaps are closing.

The event finished on a super high with our all-age board relay team coming second. This is the first time Cooks Hill had qualified for this event and the boys blew everyone out of the water (except Wanda). There are too many medallists to mention but congratulations to all our juniors on another successful season. The Club looks in good stead for the future. The results of this event are tabled on the following pages.

A special thank you to our Club Executive for the constant support of our juniors at surf sports. Thanks also to Wayne Whiteman for his coaching expertise and all the parents, who either age manage, official, assist with IRB driving and crewing, first-aid plus perform water safety. We have an amazing crew of support – thank you!





Bella Williams & Coach Wayne Whiteman



Bella Williams & Kye Taylor
Australian Champions



York Dalton & Kye Taylor
U15 M Board Race Medallists



Bella Williams on Podium



Cooks Hill Competitors



Fletcher Myers, Kye Taylor & York Dalton
U15 M Board Relay

This season we began to build on our senior competitors, as we transitioned our biggest age group, our Under 14's into the senior ranks. It was their first opportunity to race in Seniors at State. However, it was another weekend of bleak conditions but much bigger swells. Usually, Blacksmiths Beach is known for plenty of sand and beach area, it was similar to Umina for the last couple of years, under water, so most clubs settled in the dune area. The competition was suspended for most of the first day of competition. When the chance came to race again, officials decided it was larger culls of competitor numbers to reduce the amount of races required to make finals and keep within scheduled time frames for the event.

Our Team of 25 raced generally well but unfortunately, we made mistakes and finished with heaps of fourth places. Jackson Myers secured a silver medal in the U19 Male Flags whilst Bella Williams finished first in the U15 surf race and third in the U15 Iron woman. As a club we finished 18th on the ladder with 35 points, only two points and one place separated Cooks

Hill and Swansea Belmont who had an additional 20 competitors in comparison to Cooks Hill.

Our Masters lost a day of competition due to the east coast low and only those who were at peak fitness were advised to participate in the competition. For Cooks there wasn't a strong contingent of competitors represented this year but Jason Dwyer and the Over 140 years Boat Crew were successful in gaining points for Cooks Hill.

Australian Championships

The Australian Championships were held at North Kirra Beach this season. The championships commenced with the youth followed by the masters but with Cyclone Debbie on her way down the Queensland Coast there was only one day of competition for Seniors before all competition was suspended due to heavy rain, and dangerous surf conditions.

Cooks Hill's Youth Team (U14/U15's) walked away with an astonishing seven Australian Medals in total with both days of

finals exciting. In the water arena Cooks Hill had a competitor in each final except for one race. On the beach and track we also had success. Congratulations to all our competitors especially those who made finals and received points. As for our medal winners, congratulations to Kye Taylor on being the Australian U15 Board Champion for 2017 and Bella Williams for taking out silver in the U14 surf race and gold in the U14 board race and the iron woman events, a truly remarkable effort by both athletes. Silver was also won by our U15 male board relay team, which consisted of Kye Taylor, York Dalton and Fletcher Myers. Additionally, well done to our Bronze Medal winners - York Dalton for placing in the U15 Board Race and Fletcher Myers in the U14 Beach Sprint. Our competitors were highly spoken about by the commentators during the event and I would have to say Cooks Hill stamped their name on the surf sports map, as a club to be recognised in the future.

Jason Dwyer, our only masters' competitor, wasn't going to let the youth receive all the accolades. Jason received a silver medal in his age division for the board race and fifth in the 2km beach run. Well done Jason on a terrific season.

HSL Board Riding Championships

In June this year the above was held at Merewether Beach. Kyan Bowker was our one and only competitor. Kyan was successful in winning first place in the U13 Male age division. Well done Kyan.

IRB Racing

This season saw our IRB Racing team compete at four rounds over the winter period at Caves Beach, Mollymook, Ocean Beach and Cape Hawke. Our team competed in the Over 35 Males, the Open Men's and the Mixed Under 23 divisions. In early July, our crews contested the SLSNSW IRB Championships at South West Rocks. Our club continues to make it through to semi-finals and continuously improve and grow in confidence while clubs such as Kiama Downs and Caves Beach remain successful due to their experience. However, as Surf Sports Director I'm extremely proud of these competitors, it takes real strength of mind to keep racing in cold wet conditions but they must have heaps of fun and certainly enjoy what they do.

The 2017 IRB Team is Steve Kelly, Ian Bryson, Mal Kelly, Jessica Charlton, Andreas Sklavos and Matthew Lintott. Well done to all our competitors in our IRB Team and all those who support the Cooks Hill IRB Team. A special thank you to John Manning who will be stepping down this year as Craft Captain, he has done a terrific job for the past few years maintaining our IRB craft. John's care and dedication to our club equipment is a testament to his character.



Pool Rescue Team – Bella Williams, Kaitlyn McMahon, Sophia McMahon & Charlie Walker



IRB Racing Team in action



U15 Female Surf Race start



All Age Board Relay Team – Silver Medallists



Girls with boards at Senior Titles



U9's Female Board Relay



Cooks Hill State Team 2017



U13 Female Board Relay Team

SLSNSW Pool Rescue Championships

During July, the above event was held at Ryde Aquatic Centre. Cooks Hill LS & SC were represented by a small team of Charlie Walker, Sophia McMahon, Kaitlyn McMahon and Bella Williams. For all these competitors, it was their first time competing in this arena. For the limited amount of training, they performed well and are to be commended on all of their performances. It's certainly a technical sport, which requires concentration as well as fitness. Charlie Walker was successful in gaining three gold medals the U12 Male 100m Obstacle Race, the 50m Brick Carry and the 50m Freestyle with fins. Bella Williams also gained a silver medal in the U14 Female 200m Obstacle Race. Cooks Hill are planning to attend next year with a larger team so they can compete in more team events. It was a great weekend and it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces that compete in both arenas of surf and the pool.

Boat Shed

During the off season of Surf Sports, some renovations have taken place in our boat shed at Nobbys Beach due to the numbers increasing in our youth and those transitioning into senior ranks. Our Club has accommodated for our ski paddlers, by providing in the boat shed a new racking system, which was installed with the helpful hand of a few good people, it has the capacity to hold 16 skis. With the new door and new racks, which have rollers, it makes it easier to manage the positioning

and weight of the skis in and out of the shed for the paddler. A special thank you to Mat Egan for fabricating the new racks and door plus sourcing all the stainless steel at no cost to the club by one of his Suppliers. Thanks also to John Manning, Jeremy Sargeant and Peter Williams for all their trade knowledge and assisting with the installation and process.

That's it for the 2016-17 season, wow; it's certainly been a productive and successful year for Cooks Hill, one that we'll remember. It's hard to believe within 10 weeks we will be back into it again. But as we all know there are some engine rooms that never stop working. So for our Surf Sports Committee, we will now commence putting a few things in place for the season ahead. Lastly, if I could finish my report by saying thank you to Heather McMahon, Trudy Smith and Jenny Hicks who have all assisted me in my role throughout the year, ladies your assistance is always appreciated. Thanks also to Craig Doherty, our Boat Captain, who is also sadly stepping down, he too has been great to work with over the last few seasons and to finish a special thank you to Richard Hermens for his ongoing support in which, I am truly grateful.

Monique Williams
Director of Surf Sports

List of Member Sporting Achievements

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS		
NAME	AGE/CATEGORY	TEAM
Allira Richardson	Open Female Water Events	Hunter Branch Team
Jackson Myers	Open Male Beach Events	Hunter Branch Team
Danielle McSeveney	U17 Female Beach Events	Hunter Branch Team
Lara Manning	U15 Female Water Events	Hunter Branch Team
York Dalton	U15 Male Water Events	Hunter Branch Team
Kye Taylor	U15 Male Water Events	Hunter Branch Team
Freya Konetschnik	U14 Female Water Events	Hunter Branch Team
Bella Williams	U14 Female Water Events	Hunter Branch Team
Fletcher Myers	U14 Male Beach Events	Hunter Branch Team
Lily Forbes	U13 Female Water Events	Hunter Branch Team
Flynn Hamilton	U13 Male Water Events	Hunter Branch Team
Holly Sargeant	U12 Female Water Events	Hunter Branch Team
Jack Breasley	U12 Male Water Events	Hunter Branch Team

Branch Championship Results

MASTERS (FINGAL BEACH)		
NAME	EVENT	PLACE
John Reid	50-54yrs Male Iron Person	Gold
	50-59yrs Male Surf Race	
Shane Dwyer	40 - 44yrs Male 2km Run	Gold
Jason Dwyer	30 -39yrs Male Board Race	Silver
	30 – 39yrs Ironman	
Joel de Carle	40-49yrs Male Surf Race	Silver
Greg Harrison	50-59yrs Male Board Race	Bronze

TEAMS		
J de Carle, G Harrison	40 - 44yrs Male Board Rescue	Gold
J Flint, J Reid	50-54yrs Male Board Rescue	Gold
J de Carle, J Flint, J Reid	130yrs Male Surf Race	Gold
J Dwyer, S Dwyer, J Flint	130yrs Male Board Relay	Gold
J de Carle, G Harrison, J Reid	150yrs Male Board Relay	Gold
	150yrs Male Taplin Relay	
Gonads	160yrs Surf Boat	Gold
J Dwyer, S Dwyer, J Reid	110yrs Male Ski Relay	Silver
Dingoes	220yrs Surf Boat	Silver

U15's to OPENS (FINGAL BEACH)		
NAME	EVENT	PLACE
Fletcher Myers	U15 Male Beach Sprint	Gold
	U15 Male Beach Flags	
Kye Taylor	U15 Male Surf Race	Silver
	U15 Male Iron Person	
Tom Clancy	U15 Male 2km Beach Run	Silver
Bailey Myers	U15 Male Beach Flags	Silver
York Dalton	U15 Male Board Race	Bronze
	U15 Male Iron Person	
Aidan Mulder	U15 Male Beach Sprint	Bronze
Beau Dwyer	U15 Male Beach Flags	Bronze
Lara Manning	U15 Female Board Race	Gold
	U15 Female Beach Sprint	Silver
	U15 Female Beach Flags	
	U15 Female Surf Race	Bronze
	U15 Female Iron Person	
Bella Williams	U15 Female Surf Race	Gold
	U15 Female Iron Person	Silver
	U15 Female Board Race	
	U15 Female Beach Sprint	Bronze
Freya Konetschnik	U15 Female Beach Sprint	Gold
	U15 Female Iron Person	
	U15 Female Board Race	Silver
	U15 Female Surf Race	Bronze
Lily Francis	U15 Female 2km Beach Run	Bronze
Luke Dwyer	U17 Male Beach Flags	Gold
	U17 Male 2km Beach Run	Silver
	U17 Male Beach Sprint	
	U19 Male Beach Flags	
Danielle McSeveney	U17 Female Beach Sprint	Gold
	U17 Female Beach Flags	Silver
Kayla Hatcher	U17 Female Surf Race	Bronze
	U17 Female Iron Person	
Madison Mulder	U17 Female Beach Sprint	Bronze
Jackson Myers	U19 Male Beach Flags	Gold
	Open Male Beach Flags	
	Open Male Beach Sprint	
	Open Male 2km Beach Run	Bronze
Thomas Myers	U19 Male Beach Flags	Bronze
	Open Male 2km Beach Run	Silver
	Open Male Beach Flags	
	Open Male Surf Race	Bronze

Jason Dwyer	Open Male 2km Beach Run	Gold
John Reid	Open Male Surf Race	Silver

TEAMS		
Y Dalton, A Mulder, F Myers, J Routley	U15 Male Beach Relay	Gold
Y Dalton, B Dwyer, F Myers, K Taylor	U15 Male Surf Team	Gold
T Clancy, A Mulder, B Myers	U15 Male Board Relay	Silver
Y Dalton, K Taylor	U15 Male Board Rescue	Silver
Y Dalton, A Mulder, F Myers, B Williams	U15 Male Cameron Relay	Silver
T Clancy, B Dwyer, B Myers, K Taylor	U15 Male Beach Relay	Bronze
T Clancy, F Myers	U15 Male Board Rescue	Bronze
T Clancy, D Dwyer, B Myers, J Routley	U15 Male Cameron Relay	Bronze
L Francis, F Konetschnik, L Manning, B Williams	U15 Female Beach Relay	Gold
F Konetschnik, L Manning, K McMahon, B Williams	U15 Female Surf Race	Gold
F Konetschnik, L Manning, B Williams	U15 Female Board Relay	Gold
L Manning, B Williams	U15 Board Rescue	Gold
L Francis, F Konetschnik, L Manning, B Williams	U15 Female Cameron Relay	Gold
L Flint, K McMahon, J Williams	U15 Female Board Relay	Bronze
F Konetschnik, J Williams	U15 Board Rescue	Bronze
L Dwyer, J Myers, T Myers, J Reid	Open Male Surf Race	Gold
L Dwyer, S Dwyer, J Myers, T Myers	Open Male Beach Relay	Silver
L Dwyer, S Dwyer, G Harrison, J Myers, T Myers, J Reid	Open Male Taplin Relay	Silver
L Dwyer, J Dwyer, J Myers	Open Male Board Relay	Bronze
Strowkers	Open Women Surf Boat	Bronze
Hillbillies	Open Men Surf Boat	Bronze

AGE U8's -U14's (FINGAL BEACH)		
NAME	EVENT	PLACE
Zac Denham	U8 Male Beach Sprint	Silver
Alexis Sutherland	U8 Female Beach Flags	Bronze
Lily Egan	U8 Female Wade	Bronze
James Jackson	U9 Male Surf Race	Gold
Albert Forbes	U9 Male Board Race	Silver
Bronte Bowker	U9 Female Board Race	Gold
	U9 Female Beach Sprint	Silver
	U9 Female Surf Race	Bronze
Daisy Breasley	U9 Female Beach Flag	Gold
	U9 Female Surf Race	
	U9 Female Beach Sprint	Bronze
	U9 Female Board Race	
Elias Richards	U10 Male Board Race	Silver
Lara Clack	U10 Female Surf Race	Gold
Andie Widseth	U10 Female Surf Race	Bronze
Kurtis White	U11 Male Beach Flags	Gold
	U11 Male Beach Sprint	Silver

Kalen Routley	U11 Male Beach Sprint	Gold
	U11 Male Beach Flags	Bronze
Sidney Forbes	U11 Male Surf Race	Silver
	U11 Male Iron Person	Bronze
Tiana Sargeant	U11 Female Surf Race	Gold
	U11 Female Iron Person	Silver
	U11 Female Board Race	Bronze
Lani Waller	U11 Female Board Race	Gold
	U11 Female 1km Beach Run	
Imogen Egan	U11 Female Beach Flags	Silver
	U11 Female Board Race	
	U11 Female 1km Beach Run	Bronze
Lola Russell	U11 Female Surf Race	Bronze
Charlie Burns	U11 Female Iron Person	Bronze
Charlie Walker	U12 Male Surf Race	Gold
	U12 Male Iron Person	
Jack Breasley	U12 Male Surf Race	Silver
Holly Sargeant	U12 Female Board Race	Gold
	U12 Female Iron Person	Bronze
Isabella Campbell	U12 Female Iron Person	Silver
	U12 Female Board Race	Bronze
Charlotte Clack	U12 Female Surf Race	Silver
Xanthe Rheinburger	U12 Female Surf Race	Bronze
Kyan Bowker	U13 Male Board Race	Gold
Byron Richards	U13 Male Iron Person	Silver
	U13 Male Beach Sprint	Bronze
	U13 Male 1km Beach Run	
Flynn Hamilton	U13 Male Board Race	Silver
	U13 Male Iron Person	Bronze
Sophia McMahon	U13 Female Surf Race	Gold
	U13 Female Iron Person	
	U13 Female Board Race	Silver
Riley Gardner	U13 Female Beach Flags	Gold
	U13 Female Beach Sprint	Silver
Logan Dalton	U13 Female Board Race	Gold
Lily Forbes	U13 Female Surf Race	Silver
	U13 Female Iron Person	
Fletcher Myers	U14 Male Beach Flags	Gold
	U14 Male Board Race	
	U14 Male Beach Sprint	Bronze
Aidan Mulder	U14 Male Beach Sprint	Gold
	U14 Male 2km Beach Run	Bronze
Tom Clancy	U14 Male 2km Beach Run	Silver

Bella Williams	U14 Female Surf Race	Gold
	U14 Female Board Race	
	U14 Female Iron Person	
	U14 Female Beach Sprint	Bronze
	U14 Female 2km Beach Run	
	U14 Female Beach Flags	
Freya Konetschnik	U14 Female Beach Sprint	Gold
	U14 Female Board Race	Silver
	U14 Female Iron Person	
	U14 Female Surf Race	Bronze
Molly Breasley	U14 Female Beach Flags	Silver

TEAMS		
A Clifford, T Cotterell, Z Denham, O Russell	U8 Male Wade Relay	Gold
A Clifford, Z Denham, J Fenton, O Russell	U8 Male Beach Relay	Bronze
L Bell, A Booth, L Egan, A Sutherland	U8 Female Wade Relay	Silver
L Bell, A Booth, L Egan, A Sutherland	U8 Female Beach Relay	Bronze
P Burgess, A Forbes, J Jackson	U9 Male Board Relay	Gold
M Amidy, P Burgess, J Rheinburger, J Webber	U9 Male Beach Relay	Gold
C Clancy, A Forbes, J Jackson, J White	U9 Male Surf Team	Silver
B Bowker, D Breasley, H Horn, M Pitfield	U9 Female Beach Relay	Gold
B Bowker, D Breasley, M Waller	U9 Female Board Relay	Gold
B Bowker, D Breasley, H Horn, M Waller	U9 Female Surf Team	Gold
B Mackley, E Richards, A Walker	U10 Male Board Relay	Gold
R McMahon, E Richards, J van Esveld, A Walker	U10 Male Surf Team	Bronze
D Breasley, L Clack, S Sutherland, A Widseth	U10 Female Surf Team	Gold
L Clack, S Sutherland, A Widseth	U10 Female Board Relay	Bronze
J de Carle, H McConnel, K Routley, K White	U11 Male Beach Relay	Silver
S Forbes, S Horn, H McConnel, K Routley	U11 Male Surf Team	Bronze
S Forbes, K Routley, T Sargeant, K White	U11 Mixed Cameron Relay	Silver
S Forbes, H McConnel	U11 Male Board Rescue	Bronze
C Burns, I Egan, S Horn, A Walker	U11 Mixed Cameron Relay	Bronze
C Burns, T Sargeant, L Waller	U11 Female Board Relay	Gold
C Burns, L Russell, T Sargeant, L Waller	U11 Female Surf Team	Gold
T Sargeant, L Waller	U11 Female Board Rescue	Gold
M Cotterell, I Egan, A Flook, O Fenton	U11 Female Surf Team	Silver
C Burns, M Cotterell, I Egan, T Sargeant	U11 Female Beach Relay	Silver
M Cotterell, I Egan, L Russell	U11 Female Board Relay	Silver
C Burns, L Russell	U11 Female Board Rescue	Silver
M Cotterell, I Egan	U11 Female Board Rescue	Bronze
J Breasley, K Routley, C Walker, K White	U12 Male Beach Relay	Gold
J Breasley, S Forbes, C Walker	U12 Male Board Relay	Gold
J Breasley, C Walker	U12 Male Board Rescue	Gold
J Breasley, K Routley, C Walker, K White	U12 Mixed Cameron Relay	Gold
I Campbell, C Clack, X Rheinburger, H Sargeant	U12 Female Surf Team	Gold
I Campbell, X Rheinburger, H Sargeant	U12 Female Board Relay	Gold

I Campbell, H Sargeant	U12 Female Board Rescue	Silver
K Bowker, F Hamilton, B Richards	U13 Male Board Relay	Silver
K Bowker, L Forbes, F Hamilton, B Richards	U13 Mixed Cameron Relay	Silver
K Bowker, F Hamilton, S Murland, B Richards	U13 Male Beach Relay	Silver
	U13 Male Surf Team	Bronze
K Bowker, F Hamilton	U13 Male Board Rescue	Bronze
M Clancy, L Dalton, L Forbes, S McMahon	U13 Female Surf Team	Gold
M Clancy, L Dalton, L Forbes	U13 Female Board Relay	Gold
L Dalton, L Forbes	U13 Female Board Rescue	Gold
M Clancy, H Sargeant	U13 Female Board Rescue	Silver
B Dwyer, A Mulder, F Myers, T Sargeant	U14 Male Beach Relay	Gold
F Myers, T Sargeant	U14 Male Board Rescue	Gold
L Brown, T Clancy, F Myers, T Sargeant	U14 Male Surf Team	Silver
A Mulder, F Myers, T Sargeant, B Williams	U14 Mixed Cameron Relay	Silver
L Brown, T Clancy, B Dwyer, L Sklavos	U14 Male Beach Relay	Bronze
T Clancy, F Myers, T Sargeant	U14 Male Board Relay	Bronze
L Brown, T Clancy	U14 Male Board Rescue	Bronze
L Brown, T Clancy, B Dwyer, F Konetschnik	U14 Mixed Cameron Relay	Bronze
M Breasley, D Croker, F Konetschnik, B Williams	U14 Female Surf Team	Gold
M Breasley, F Konetschnik, B Williams	U14 Female Board Relay	Gold
F Konetschnik, B Williams	U14 Female Board Rescue	Gold
M Breasley, D Croker, F Konetschnik, B Williams	U14 Female Beach Relay	Gold
L Flint, K McMahon	U14 Female Board Rescue	Silver
L Dalton, L Forbes, L Francis	U14 Female Board Relay	Bronze
L Flint, L Francis, K McMahon, S McMahon	U14 Female Surf Team	Bronze
M Amidy, Z Denham, F Myers, B Richards, K Routley, A Walker, C Walker	All Age Sprint Relay	Silver
J Breasley, A Forbes, S Forbes, F Hamilton, F Myers, A Walker	All Age Board Relay	Silver
L Bell, D Breasley, I Campbell, F Hamilton, B Mackley, A Mulder, K White	All Age Sprint Relay	Bronze
B Bowker, K Bowker, E Richards, H Sargeant, T Sargeant, B Williams	All Age Board Relay	Bronze
D Breasley, M Clancy, T Cotterell, D Croker, J de Carle, L Egan, H Horne, S Horne, H McConnel, K Routley, O Russell, M Waller	Junior March Past	Bronze



**U11 Female Board Relay Team with Nutri-Grain Ironman Kendrick Louis
Charlie Burns, Tiana Sargeant and Lani Waller –
Gold Medallists - Third Consecutive Year**

SLSNSW Championships Results

SLSNSW AGE & OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (BLACKSMITHS)		
NAME	EVENT	PLACE
Daisy Breasley	U9 Female Surf Race	Gold
Bronte Bowker	U9 Female Surf Race	Silver
	U9 Female Board Race	Bronze
James Jackson	U9 Male Surf Race	Gold
Albert Forbes	U9 Male Board Race	Bronze
Alexander Walker	U10 Male Surf Race	Gold
Tiana Sargeant	U11 Female Iron woman	Silver
Charlie Burns	U11 Female Iron woman	Bronze
Sidney Forbes	U11 Male Board Race	Silver
Charlie Walker	U12 Male Surf Race	Bronze
Riley Gardner	U13 Female Beach Sprint	Bronze
Flynn Hamilton	U13 Male Board Race	Silver
Freya Konetschnik	U14 Female Board Race	Silver
	U14 Female Surf Race	Bronze
Fletcher Myers	U14 Male Flags	Silver
Bella Williams	U14 Female Board Race	Gold
	U14 Female Iron woman	
	U15 Female Surf Race	Bronze
	U15 Female Iron woman	
Jackson Myers	U19 Male Beach Flags	Silver

TEAMS		
NAME	EVENT	PLACE
B Bowker, D Breasley, M Waller	U9 Female Board Relay	Gold
B Bowker, D Breasley, H Horn, M Waller	U9 Female Surf Team	Bronze
P Burgess, A Forbes, J Jackson, J Rheinberger	U9 Male Surf Team	Silver
C Burns, T Sargeant, L Waller	U11 Female Board Relay	Gold
T Sargeant, L Waller	U11 Female Board Rescue	Gold
C Burns, L Russell	U11 Female Board Rescue	Silver
C Burns, L Russell, T Sargeant, L Waller	U11 Female Surf Team	Gold
J Breasley, S Forbes, C Walker	U12 Male Board Relay	Bronze
J Breasley, C Walker	U12 Male Board Rescue	Bronze
J Breasley, I Campbell, C Clack, C Walker	U12 Mixed Cameron Relay	Bronze
L Dalton, L Forbes, S McMahon	U13 Female Board Relay	Bronze
K Bowker, F Hamilton, B Richards	U13 Male Board Relay	Silver
M Breasley, F Konetschnik, B Williams	U14 Female Board Relay	Silver
M Breasley, D Croker, F Konetschnik, B Williams	U14 Female Surf Team	Silver
J Breasley, A Forbes, S Forbes, F Hamilton, F Myers, E Richards	All Age Board Relay	Silver

Australian Championship Results

SLS AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (NORTH KIRRA BEACH)		
NAME	EVENT	PLACE
Bella Williams	U14 Female Iron woman	Gold
	U14 Female Board Race	
	U14 Female Surf Race	Silver
Kye Taylor	U15 Male Board Race	Gold
York Dalton, Fletcher Myers, Kye Taylor	U15 Male Board Relay	Silver
Jason Dwyer	35-39yrs Male Board Race	Silver
Fletcher Myers	U14 Male Beach Sprint	Bronze
York Dalton	U15 Male Board Race	Bronze



Jade Williams – Youth Lifesaver of the Year

Kye Taylor – Youth Male Athlete of the Year



Mal Kelly – Heroes of the Surf

Mark Doherty – Lifesaver of the Year

Richard Hermens – Volunteer of the Year

Boat Captain's Report

Cooks Hill Boaties 2016-17 season started with a mixture of old hard heads and new rowers, which is always great to see. In the Streets Surf Boat Hunter and Central Coast Branches Series, Cooks Hill fielded crews in Men's Open, Open Women's, three male Reserves crews, and two male Master's crews. With a number of these competitors, going around the cans for the first time. All of the competitors put in a valiant effort throughout the season. Unfortunately, not all come up with a podium position however; we now have a great base to build on for next season.

Our Masters Men's 160 years' crew faired the best, beating a hotly contested final to take out the overall series. Congratulations to Iain Byrnes, Michael Eager, Gavin Leigh, Dan Solomon and Robert Silkman (Sweep).

This season could not have happened without Sponsorship from Dial Before You Dig, Planet Fitness, Denton Engineering and The Albion Hotel. We thank them all very much for their support and donations this season.

The Newcastle Hunter Branch Titles was contested in extreme weather condition at Fingal Bay with the weather in the high 30's low 40's. *'Just a typical Aussie day at the beach.'*

Results from the carnival saw:

- Masters 160 men's winning 1st place in their division
- Masters 200 men's placing out 2nd in their division.

Open men's and women's placing third in their respective divisions

Thank all the boat rowers that got on board with helping raise funds for the surf club.

Helping with ducks for dollars, the Cooks Hill LS & SC 100 club and Cooks Hill golf day. I would like to give a special thanks to Gavin Leigh for his tireless effort in organising and running the 100 club, and to Scott Bear for his effort in the organising and running of the golf day.

As I pen my last report as Boat Captain for Cooks Hill, I would like to thank all the rowers and sweeps this season for helping me throughout the year at carnivals, maintenance around the boats and training. Thank you and good luck for next season.

Craig 'Crash' Doherty

Boat Captain



Boat Crews in Action 2016-17 season

Education Report

The 2016-2017 season was another busy year for Cooks Hill LS & SC Education team. We had both current and new club members taking advantage of the many courses available through Hunter Branch SLS and our own club to gain new or update current qualifications.

Popular courses this season with our patrolling members were the Silver Medallion Beach Management, Silver Medallion Search & Rescue & Night Operations course. The Night operations course is a highly specialised training programme teaching participants the necessary skills to perform search & rescues in the treacherous environment of the sea at night. These courses were run by Hunter Branch SLS and are important in maintaining the skills & professionalism of Cooks Hill patrols.

The Surf Rescue Certificate programme this season was very successful, putting through 45 of our younger members who now move into the Cadets and commence Rookie patrols. A big thank you to all those Patrol Captains & their crew who help nurture our newest lifesavers through their first patrol season, maintaining their enthusiasm and pride in the service we all provide to our community.

The Lifesaving Award continues to be popular & helps to maintain the club's sustainability for the future. This programme has been very successful for Cooks Hill LS & SC as the majority of our patrolling members are now holders of a First Aid certificate, Advance Resuscitation & Spinal Management certificates. This makes sure that our patrolling members have the necessary skills & knowledge to deal with any situation that may occur on our beach. It has been wonderful to meet some of our club's newer members taking advantage of this course and helping them achieve their goal of becoming a surf Bronze Medallion recipient.

Our IRB training crew of John Silva, Mal & Steve Kelly has continued to deliver exceptional IRB Driver & Crewman training. It was great to see some of our younger members gain their IRB driver's qualification and some of our newest Bronze Medallion holders taking on the challenge of IRB Crewman training.

Thank you to everyone who has helped encourage and educate our club members this season especially Tony Blake, Monique Williams, Mal Kelly, Steve Kelly, Ian Bryson, John Manning, John Silva, & Craig Hamilton. You have all given an enormous amount of your time & energy to the club ensuring we continue to meet the needs of our club members.

Ros Sklavos

Director of Education



SRC Training Groups 2016-17



Rookie's Report

Cooks Hill had approximately 77 rookies this year, all having completed their SRC and in the transitional phase between Nippers and Seniors. The Rookies ran a fundraising initiative 'Red Frogs for Rookies' on the BBQ each week at nippers this season. It was great to have the support of our new Rookies from under 14's for this task. There were a few weekends when Drew (Junior Activities Coordinator) was short on parent support running the operations of the BBQ, and the Rookies stepped up and assisted. This enabled us to use our skills such as working as a team and communication skills. Whereas, for some it was about learning new skills such as how to cook a sausage well and how to provide good customer service.

Our Rookies are also involved in the Surf club by patrolling the beach approximately once a month with other rookies and also senior members of the club. This enables the Rookies to meet other members and learn various skills from different members. The Rookies also assist by performing water safety or Age-Managing at nippers or assisting with the Same Waves Program. No matter where we are our assistance is always greatly appreciated by the other members of the club and the wider community.

We now look forward to the new season ahead for 2017-18 and programs and initiatives aimed at Rookie retention and strategies to keep Rookies involved in the club.

Jade Williams

Life Membership and Meritorious Awards

The Life Members and Meritorious Awards subcommittee has had a busy season completing a review and re write of the Cooks Hill LS & SC by-laws relating to Life Membership also formalising the process and application process regarding Life Membership.

The subcommittee has also undertaken the big job of reviewing Cooks Hill members who meet the criteria for Surf Lifesaving Australia Awards including National Patrol Service and Long Service membership, the application process for all our members who qualify for the National Patrol Service Awards is almost complete with a data base set up to monitor into the future, work continues on the long service membership awards as the process has been long and drawn out given the lack of historical paperwork available.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all members that while Life Membership is the ultimate club award that can be bestowed on a member, there are numerous other awards that recognise outstanding service offered through both SLSA and Cooks Hill, including long service membership and we encourage our members to review the criteria for these awards and submit your application to the LM&MA Sub Committee.

Thanks goes to the members of the Sub Committee for their hard work over the season Ross Taylor, Brett Derwin, Terry Cosgrove, Stuart Bear and Shaleigh Lennox

Jack Saunders

Chairperson – LM & MA Subcommittee



Life Members gathering – March 2017



Function Manager Report

The Reef Bar at Cooks Hill Surf Club continues to be a popular functions venue. Whilst bookings became quieter over the winter months, bookings into this spring and summer months continue to be extremely popular.

Leading into Christmas 2016, the Club was only taking bookings to around the end of March 2017. This was due to the uncertainty of the future of the current building, and not wanting to book in functions that would need to be cancelled down the line. Earlier this year we decided to continue 'business as usual' and started to take bookings for 2017. This left us with a blank slate to begin with and as a result bookings for this year have been down slightly on last year.

We have been working hard for the beginning of 2017 to bring on board new caterers and we have been working with them to create new packages to offer a broader selection. This is already starting to show some promise with several bookings for early 2018 in place already.

With all this hard work now in place, we are hoping that the run of recent bookings we have taken will continue. The calendar is filling well for the remainder of 2017 at this stage with 25 confirmed bookings to date. I'm sure we will get close to filling the remainder as the year goes on.

Sunday Coldies with Milestone running the restaurant have been a huge success over the summer months. We've also had great days when we've had live music, which has attracted people passing by to stop, come in and enjoy the view and a refreshing drink!

With the construction of the new building almost complete I believe the enquiries will begin to flood in, many potential clients' express concerns, believing it will affect their function in the existing club. Reassurance that it would not, was sadly not enough and we did lose several potential bookings due to it. Once the walls went up the enquiries and secured bookings did begin to increase again.

A very special thank you to Gary Martine and Jenny Hicks for their on-going support and advice week in and week out as I've taken on the role of Functions Manager at the club, and learnt everything I've need to know. To Simon Fraser, thank you for all your hard work and positive attitude behind the bar. Also, thanks to Richard Hermens, John 'Jocky' Wilson, Trudy Smith and all of the committee and board members for their support and encouragement. I still feel I have a lot to learn and I am excited to work towards creating a more profitable future for Cooks Hill LS & SC.

Kathryn Mulherin
Functions Manager

Community Inclusion

Same Waves Program

The very popular Same Waves nipper program for children with special needs had a very successful fourth season during 2016 - 17. The Same Waves nippers was run over three, four week blocks on Sunday mornings at 8.30am over the summer. There were approximately 40 nippers who participated with the main aim being an hour of fun at the beach and it is fun they have. The program runs along with the mainstream nipper group to promote inclusion and involves many club members and volunteer community members to act as support to supervise, assist and ensure safety in a fun environment.

The Same Waves program reaches out to volunteers from the wider community to assist, as significant numbers are essential to effectively run the program. There can be as many as 50 to 60 support people participating each Sunday. The program has enjoyed significant community engagement through the involvement of the wider community. A significant number of the nippers have participated in the Same Waves program for several seasons. Participants express great satisfaction at seeing the nippers' progress and grow in confidence as they participate each week. Club sponsors contribute financially to support the program to allow the payment of membership fees for community volunteers and the nippers themselves.

The program consists of several sand and water based activities and the nippers participate with their support people at their own pace. The emphasis being on both fun and safety. Many of the nippers have progressed to paddling boards and

Disability Inclusion

2016 -17 saw us further advance in enabling access to Bar Beach for all members of the community. We had regular visitors to the beach by individuals with a range of mobility issues. Club members assisted our visitors on the beach and in the water. There were several group visits across the summer by nursing homes from as far afield as the Upper Hunter valley and group homes from the Newcastle area. There were times when all five of the club's beach wheel chairs were in use at the same time.

The Club's beach wheel chair resources were greatly enhanced in January when Variety donated two state of the art beach wheel chairs with the ability to float safely with great stability in the water. These newer chairs have proven to be very popular and are a most welcome addition thanks to the generosity of Variety. The chairs were officially presented to the club at an event held in early January, which generated significant newspaper, radio and television media interest.

The club continues to foster a culture of inclusion and diversity, which allows all in the community to become involved and to furthermore enjoy the great Australian tradition of "a day at the beach."

John Mayo
Member Services Officer



Variety donates two beach wheelchairs to the Club – January 2017

**COOKS HILL SURF CLUB
2017 GOLF DAY**

*Thanks
to our sponsors*



Fundraising

Golf Day

Our annual Golf Day fundraiser was held on the 28th May at Merewether Golf Club.

We had a strong attendance with over 90 players turning out. Conditions were the best we have had in a few years for our Golf Day, which made for a fun and enjoyable day.

Some great golf was played, and as lunch was served in the clubhouse presentations to the various winners was made. Overall winners on handicap were the team from one of our sponsors AJ Edden with a great score in the low 50's. Prizes were also awarded for nearest the pin, longest drive and the best dressed award was won by the lads from Souths Football club.

A welcome addition to the day was the attendance of Richard Bacon who displayed the Paragolf golf buggy on the 16th hole. This buggy is designed to assist in giving people with spinal cord injury the chance to play golf and be active, and it was very impressive to watch. A challenge was set by, for the golfers by Richard to get nearer the pin on the 16th than he could and not many could beat him. A generous \$450 was donated to the club from this challenge. Thanks to Gus McConnel for organising Richard to attend and to Richard for donating his time.

Most importantly, thanks must go out to our various supporters who provided the hole sponsorships, which led to one of our most financially successful Golf days. Your support is always greatly appreciated. With your help, we were able to raise over \$5,000 on the day for the club.

Thank you to Merewether Golf Club in helping us make the day go smoothly.

Thanks also to our work party led by Dan Solomon, Stuart Bear and Sam Murland who did a great job in keeping refreshments up to the players, as well as Greg Silcock and Rob Silkman for providing the prizes for our winning teams.

Scott Bear

Golf Day Coordinator

Club Activities

ANZAC Day

The annual ANZAC Day memorial service was held at the club memorial with a large number of club members and many from the local community in attendance. Commodore Justin Jones on behalf of the Australian Defence Force delivered the address and a catafalque party from the Williamstown RAAF Base was also in attendance. The Rector of St John's Anglican church in Cooks Hill Father Murray Woolnough led the prayers during the service.

Club members Sebastian Darney, Thomas Clancy, Kaitlyn McMahan and John Mayo spoke to those gathered on the significance of the origins of the "red and yellow" and recognised the service of club Life Member Garnet Dart and local man Charles Walker during World War 1. The sacrifice of Life Member Edward "Teddy" Curley was remembered. As we continue the tradition to make special mention of one member named on the memorial each year giving an account of both their life and military service.

Tributes were laid at the memorial by Commodore Justin Jones, Club member David Knight on behalf of the Newcastle RSL sub branch, the Hon Sharon Claydon, Federal member for Newcastle, the Hon Scot MacDonald, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, the Hon Tim Crakanthorp State member for Newcastle, Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes, Hunter Branch President and CEO Henry and Rhonda Scruton and Club President Richard Hermens.

The Last Post was sounded by Lisa Thomas and the Nation Anthem led by Alana Wilson.



Groper's Report

The Groper's season commences after the Flags are put away for another season and the beach is deserted by its regular attendees. It commences each week by signing in, making a small gold coin contribution and then running into the water for a quick dip followed by a sprint to the shower before arriving back in the surf club for a cup of hot soup. Some of our youngest Groper's can have this done in less than five minutes whereas for some it is about taking in the aesthetics of our beautiful beach, rejuvenating the soul (or your heart) and making the most of life.

Club member, John Mayo leads the art of conversation at Groper's each week. A strategy he uses each week to encourage involvement and conversation from our youth is finding out from each and every one of them, their sports results from the day before, we also acknowledge birthdays weekly and achievements. There is always plenty of banter and laughs had by all and occasionally there's the odd fine for the non-listeners who are catching up on their own chat. Mayo doesn't miss anything.

Groper's during the winter of 2016 was one of the best swimming seasons ever on record. The temperature never fell below 16.5°C during the entire season. We also only had two out of eighteen weeks that were cold and raining. The conditions most weeks were simply beautiful and the clarity of the water was simply unbelievable. Groper's averaged most weeks around 40 attendees with the odd relative or visitor from overseas. This season there were only five people who

achieved 100% attendance, that being Mia Nash, Grace Rees, Charlotte Roberts, James Lorang and Monique Williams. Mia, Grace and Charlotte were also nominated as our Groper's of the Year as well. Well done girls!

2016 also the best year for enjoying delicious soup. Our soup makers treated us to soups such as cream of cauliflower and celery, chicken dumpling, Massaman curry beef, broccoli, chicken and cheese soup and the traditional favourite soups such as chicken and corn, pumpkin, pea and ham and the good old favourite leek, potato and bacon'. The soup of the year was awarded to the 'Broccoli, Chicken and Cheese. The soup maker, actually, I should say soup makers who won the Golden Ladle award this season were a trio of Adrian Miles, Peta Mead and Shaleigh Lennox with the assistance of Adrian's two sons Ethan and Cody. It was amazing, we were still talking about it a few months later.

All members are welcome to Groper's, so why not come and join us for a swim, and hot soup.

Monique Williams



Last Day of Groper's 2016

Surf Lifesaving Sponsors

Cooks Hill LS & SC would like to recognise the following sponsors of Surf Life Saving NSW and Australia for their support and generosity

- **DHL** as a National Major Partner of Surf Life Saving and for their significant uniform sponsorship, enabling uniforms to be provided free of charge to patrolling lifesavers.
- Westpac as a National Major Partner of Surf Life Saving for their significant sponsorship towards the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service, the oldest civilian search and rescue service in Australia
- **Stramit Building Products** for their support of the Surf Lifesaving NSW Awards of Excellence.
- **ClubsNSW** for their support of the State Championships.
- **Surf Life Saving NSW** and the **Surf Life Saving Foundation** for conducting fundraising on behalf of Clubs and Branches.

Government Recognition

- **NSW Government's Department of Justice** for the ongoing funding of state-wide operations, which benefit all members through our co-operative agreement.
- **The Federal Government** for the **Beach Safety Equipment Funding** for the purchase of vital rescue equipment, first aid and medical supplies.
- **Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme (EVSS)** funded through the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments for receiving equipment to ensure compliance with the new units of competency for Apply Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (HLTAID007).
- **Department of Sport and Recreation** - Capital Facility Development Program, for their ongoing assistance



U14's last day of Nippers



U14's last Junior Branch Championships – Fingal Beach

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A moment to reflect

Big Jim's bravery in battle honoured

BY JIM KELLAR

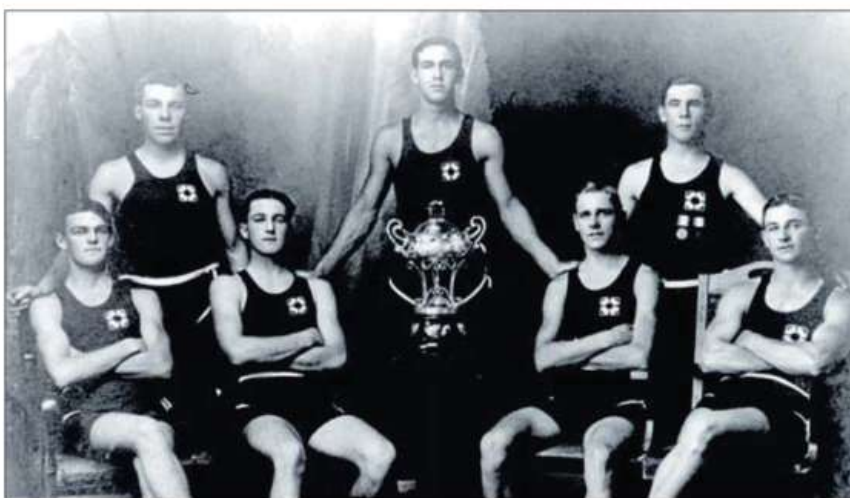
HE WAS the epitome of a Hunter hero: big, strong and friendly, serving his country to the best of his ability. It all ended on June 7, 1917, for Private James "Big Jim" Antcliff, of Cooks Hill, when he was killed while carrying ammunition and supplies to the Allied front lines in the Battle of Messines.

More than 80,000 Allied infantrymen attacked German lines on Messines Ridge in Belgium on the Western Front on the morning of June 7, 1917. At least 10,000 German soldiers were killed by the detonation of 19 huge underground explosives set off at 3.10am at the beginning of the assault. More than 6000 Australian soldiers died in the seven-day fight.

Private Antcliff will be among those remembered and honoured in a ceremony at Sandgate cemetery on Wednesday, organised by the Friends of Sandgate Cemetery and Northern Cemeteries.

In the ceremony, Sandgate cemetery's World War I researcher Gary Mitchell will place a memorial cross to honour Private Antcliff and to also recognise another 38 memorialised, or awaiting memorialisation, 1st Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) soldiers who died at Messines.

The community is welcome at the ceremony.



LEADER OF CHAMPIONS: Jim Antcliff (standing behind the trophy) with fellow members of the winning Cooks Hill Lifesaving & Surf Club R & R team who won the Rundle Cup in 1915.



RECOGNISED: Jim Antcliff of Cooks Hill was 24 when he died in the Battle of Messines. He served with Company B of the 36th Battalion, AIF.

Sandgate Cemetery is the resting place for over 600 Novocastran war heroes who returned from World War I.

As well, there are over 230 graves where the memories of those that made the supreme sacrifice and are buried in foreign lands, have been memorialised by their family on headstones.

Private Antcliff was buried in Toronto Avenue Cemetery in Ploegsteert Wood in Belgium.

Private Antcliff was the oldest of 12 children born to James and Jeanie Antcliff of Council Street, Cooks Hill (it was known as Sandhills at the time). When Jim was 20 his father was killed in a railway accident, leaving Jim, an iron moulder at Goninans, to serve as the family's breadwinner.

Jim Antcliff was a champion surf lifesaver and club captain for Cooks Hill Lifesaving and Surf Club during the 1914-1915 season.



FRIEND OF JIM: Chloe, 9, the daughter of Jean-Michel and Anne-Celine Elslande. She tends to Private Antcliff's gravesite in Belgium at least three times a year.

Meanwhile, on June 7, Private Antcliff's gravesite in Belgium will be visited by nine-year-old Belgian girl Chloe Elslande, whose father, Belgian robotics engineer Jean-Michel Elslande, arranged for her to become a volunteer caretaker of the grave through the country's Adopt a Grave program for war cemeteries.

John Mayo from the Cooks Hill Surf Club, maintains contact with the Elslande family through Facebook,

with them sending him photos of their visits to the site at every occasion.

As Mr Mayo explains it, the relationship began in 2013 after Greg Antcliff, a great nephew of Private Antcliff, visited the Belgian gravesite and left behind a vial of Bar Beach sand and a laminated note about Private Antcliff's background and the Cooks Hill surf club.

Mr Elslande was passing through the cemetery when he noticed the vial

THE SERVICE

The Battle of Messines - 100th Anniversary Memorial Service will commence at 10am on Wednesday, June 7, in Anglican 1 section of Sandgate Cemetery

■ Sandgate Cemetery, 116 Maitland Road, Sandgate

and took it, not wanting to leave it for souvenir hunters or authorities who would have removed it. Instead, Mr Elslande contacted the club, finding Mr Mayo via Facebook, and applied through the Adopt a Grave program for Chloe to become caretaker.

"He did it in Chloe's name because she will live longer," Mr Mayo said. "He wanted to engender in her a sense of responsibility."

The Elslandes, who live in the village of Ploegsteert, visit Private Antcliff's grave at least three times a year - Anzac Day, June 7 and Remembrance Day - to place flowers and pay respect. They always take a photo and send it to Mr Mayo.

"Chloe's only nine, but she will say to her dad, 'We haven't been to see Jim in a while'" Mr Mayo said. "They will park their car, walk through woods to the cemetery, walk around quietly, and pay respect. Each time they visit they take the sand."

Because of the strength of the bond between Mr Mayo and Mr Elslande, at times Mr Mayo, on behalf of Australian families, has asked Mr Elslande to visit the gravesites of Australian soldiers and take photos to give the relatives comfort and peace of mind.

"He is really passionate about it," Mr Mayo said. "He knows what Australians did for his country."