



PACIFIC PALMS SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

40 YEARS PUNCHING ABOVE OUR WEIGHT

V1 ISSUED – SEPTEMBER 2026

COMPILED BY MICHAEL PATRONI

The Information contained in this publication has been extensively researched to provide an accurate account of the history of our club. The club welcomes additional information submitted for future historical publications or updates.

Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated 2026.

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Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club 40 Years Punching above our weight ©

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DEDICATION AND REMEMBRANCE

Dedicated to all the Pacific Palms
Lifesavers and members for giving
freely of their time to this valuable
community service.

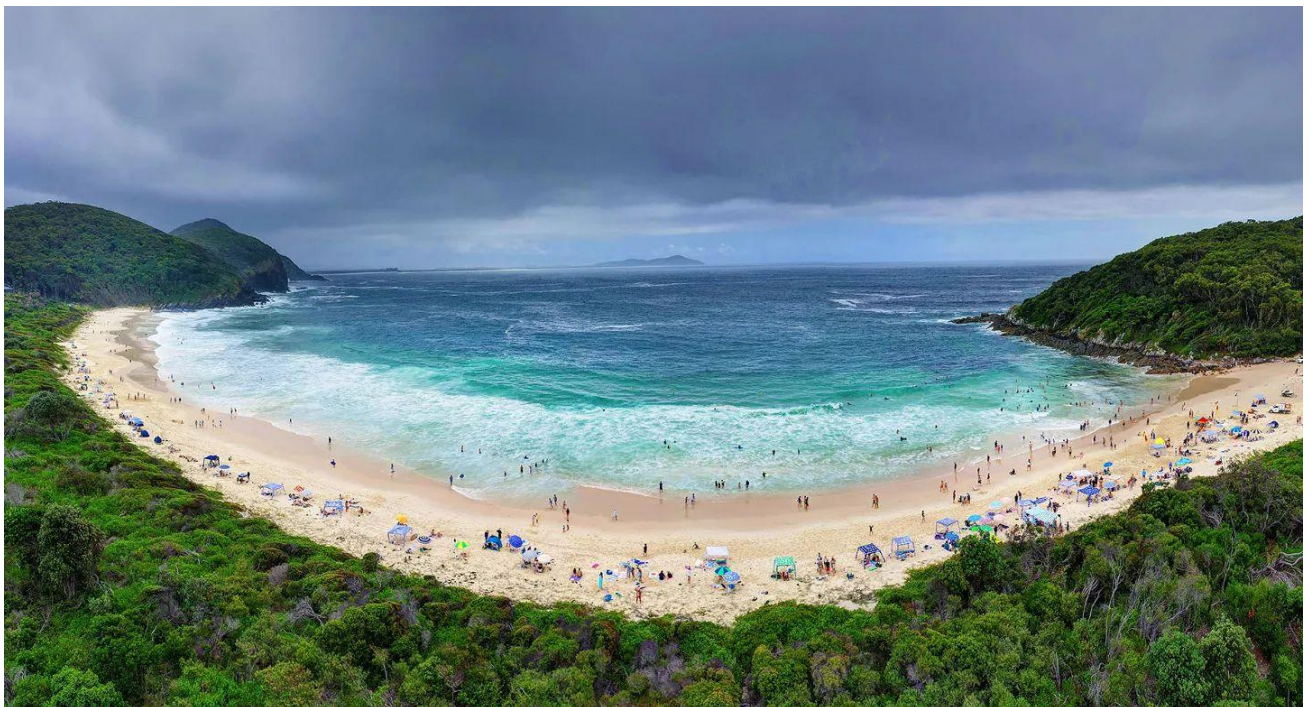
In loving remembrance of our friends
who are no longer with us.



THANK YOU TO SPONSORS AND DONORS

OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS WE HAVE HAD HUNDREDS OF SPONSORS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR CLUB SO A SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION TO ALL THE PAST AND PRESENT SPONSORS.

THANKS ALSO TO ALL THE DONORS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS AND ITEMS THAT HAVE ENABLED THE CLUB TO OPERATE.



PREAMBLE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As a first generation “Aussie” growing up in western Sydney in the 1960’s, my first ocean beach experience was when I was almost 18. Not being a strong swimmer and never having experienced the surf did not count for much with my mates. That first ocean experience at Queenscliff in a large swell is one that I will never forget. There began, and ended (I thought), my surf life saving career.

40+ years later I found myself replying to an email from the then president of the PPSLSC asking for people to help out. With my vast experience in surf life saving (read NIL) I put my hand up and became the Director of Education. Although I joined as a member in 2000, it was not until we moved to Elizabeth Beach permanently that I became heavily involved in the workings of a surf life saving club.

Early on I worked out that while the PPSLSC had a proud history, it was not documented as a history that could be referred to in decades to come, as information was in paper format, across multiple documents, living in boxes inside cupboards that were deteriorating, and there was no single repository of events that had taken place. As such, with the 40th anniversary of the Club approaching, I decided I would put together this 40 year history.

As I compiled this history it was also evident that there are conflicting facts associated with what took place to establish the Club, and what can be deemed the date of ‘inception’. As such I relied on what was minuted, and where other documentation or comments needed to be relied on, I detailed where there was uncertainty so the reader is not misled.

Multiple sources of information and people were involved including;



Paul McQueen author of
21 years of the PPSLSC

- ✓ 21 years of the PPSLSC compiled by Paul McQueen
- ✓ MidCoast Council
- ✓ SLSNSW - historypanel@surflifesaving.com.au
- ✓ Club minutes
- ✓ Club annual reports
- ✓ Club and community emails
- ✓ Club newsletters
- ✓ Interviews and emails with:
 - Terry Brooker
 - David Ellis
 - Mick Evans
 - Annette James (Club Registrar in 2026)
 - Ian Martin and family
 - Mark Martin
 - Paul Martin
 - Sue Martin
 - Kel McCredie
 - Terry McSweeney
 - Stephen Scott
 - Ian Sercombe
 - Cathy and Wayne Tindall
 - Doug Whitton

What became evident is that many of the original people involved in the Club have passed away, have difficulty remembering specifics or do not have old records. Fortunately, there are enough

minutes and annual reports to compile what I believe is an accurate history of the Club, in particular the initial stages. Having said that, I acknowledge that there may be conflicting dates and names so I have had to determine what the most likely 'fact' was and run with that.

This history documents the forty year history of the Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club (PPSLSC), covering its evolution from a 1985 steering committee to a modern emergency service provider. The text details the Club's foundational challenges, specifically the protracted construction of the Club house at Elizabeth Beach and the complexities of securing official affiliation. It highlights a "golden era" of sporting success at state and national levels, alongside the essential role of female members and the growth of the Nippers program. Extensive timelines and presidential summaries track the Club's leadership, community fundraising efforts, and the impact of major events like the Battle of the Boats. Finally, the record addresses future challenges, including declining volunteerism, the redevelopment of local caravan parks, and the ongoing integration of new rescue technologies.

I want to thank all those people who helped me on this journey and I hope that this 40 year history becomes the foundation for people to carry forward in the years to come.

This initial version will be made available as a PDF and the Club would welcome any additions and changes that may be required (with supporting facts rather than opinion) so that this document evolves over time and maintains the history of the Club as it progresses.

INTRODUCTION

Of all the material reviewed, the following best summarises who we are and what we do – year after year.

Daniel Morgan – 2019/20 Annual report

The PPSLSC is a small group of members within a small community that all pull together as a team to make things happen. Most of us have jobs or businesses externally, partners, families and children to care for and love. We are involved with not just SLS, but soccer, the school, netball, board riders, cricket, taekwondo lessons, swimming lessons, dancing lessons, play dates, birthday parties and just plain old helping a mate out when needed, etc, etc, etc,..... and some of us try to squeeze a surf in as well!..... The list is endless, but somehow it all gets done.

In addition to our other commitments, our Club members and community collectively managed to complete a long list of activities again this year. We had our AGM, formed a board, registered our members, established our nippers program, completed hours of training and maintenance, coordinated and executed the 21st Battle of the Boats and Rock to Rock Swim. We patrolled Elizabeth Beach, hosted a stack of weddings and 3 other Clubs that assisted on our patrols. We held 2x trivia nights, a band night, a nippers sleep over, outdoor movie night, secured grants, progressed our Public Access Defibrillator Scheme (PADS), attended 2x branch carnivals and a myriad of other tasks that had to be done to support the operation of the afore mentioned and the administration of the Club in general.

I want to thank all those that contributed. I would like you all to feel proud of your Club and all that it achieved in the past season and I want to ask everyone to please consider what they might be able to do to assist in the next season. See you on the beach!

NOTE: For the purpose of this document, we have aligned the year to the Club's reporting period being 1st of May to 31st April.

SUMMARY OF KEY EVENTS

- 1983/4 – ‘Surf Awareness’ classes began at Elizabeth Beach held by Terry McSweeney and the children that were trained became the juniors for the PPSLSC when it started
- **Meetings that formed the Club:**
 - i. Informal meetings were held at Little Dicks Bottle Shop (last shop located at the western end of the Blueys shops)
 - ii. On 18th August 1985, Sunday 11:30am a meeting was held at the Pacific Palms Recreation Club with a Pilot Committee established and activities/actions agreed
 - iii. The Pilot Meeting was held on 17th October 1985 at The Extension Bistro at Bluey’s Beach where it was agreed that a public meeting be called
 - iv. The Public meeting was held 16th November 1985 at the Pacific Palms Community Centre (PPCC) – “to see how the community felt about such a project”
 - v. A second public meeting called for a Steering Committee to be formed. On 26th November 1985 the election of the first PPSLSC Steering Committee took place and application for Membership forms were handed out.

From the meeting on the 26th November 1985 to the first AGM, nine meetings were held, and David Wylie and others attended 5 Branch Association meetings in Taree

- August 1985 – David and Betty Wylie applied to State Centre for **admission to join SLSC** and were granted a two year probation term (1985 to 1987)
- 27th Nov 1985 – **Brian Reeves was listed as the first Member** (Associate category) having paid a fee of \$14. There were 29 paid members as of the end of December 1985
- 13th January 1986 – a letter was drafted to the State Centre (to Andrew May) for **affiliation**
- 4pm, 19th February 1986 – A State Recreation Area Trust meeting was held at Great Lakes Shire Council chambers to **discuss building plans** (club house) and a site location, with PPSLSC members in attendance
- **The first Club patrol season** was 1986/87. In 1986 the Anzac day two-up proceeds were donated by the Pacific Palms Recreation Club to PPSLSC and raffles took place for many years to raise funds
- 10am, Sunday 29 June 1986 - The **inaugural General Meeting** was held at the PPCC
- Sunday 10th August 1986 – The **first Bronze training** was held at Elizabeth Beach and a second at Pacific Palms Primary School on Tuesday 12th August 1986
- 30th October 1986 – An **Environmental Impact Statement** was prepared by D. Turner, Manager of Booti Booti State Recreational Area for the building of our Club house
- 21st November 1986 – the **first Fund Raising night** (auction) was held at Pacific Palms Recreation Club
- 30th November 1986 – the **first IRB** from S.L.S. State Centre was received
- Sunday 1st Feb 1987 – the **Club’s first competitors** (Erin Bryant, Jason Mauger, Cy Parmenter and Paul Cheers) represented our Club at the Cape Hawke SLSC Carnival
- Saturday 11th April, 1987 – An executive meeting of the Club decides the **club house location**: "This Club having considered available alternatives, now considers Elizabeth Beach to be the desired location for the future surf Club facilities and that the Booti Booti State Recreation Area Trustees be requested to consider an application for a suitable site and to make urgent representations to the Minister on behalf of the Club"
- 6th June 1987 – the **first Club presentation night** was held at the PPCC
- 28th July 1987 – the National Parks and Wildlife Service grants ‘approval in principle’ to the establishment of the surf Club house

- 25th August 1987 – the Great Lakes Council receives the Development Application for the proposed surf club
- 10th September 1987 – the National Parks and Wildlife Service approves Development application 2809, Booti Booti State Recreation Area for the surf club
- 9th January 1988 – submission of working plans to Great Lakes Council
- 4th February 1988 – Great Lakes Council notice of determination (3143) for our Club house (approved DA 2709). Description of development – “It is proposed to develop a single storey surf Club house building with an observation tower and rooftop deck, together with site access roads, carparking and landscaping.”
- 31st March 1988 – Great Lakes Council Building Application submitted for original building (Application # 292-88 B/A # 281-88 DA # 2709, Building permit 281-88)
- During the 1988-1989 season:
 - a) The Club became officially **affiliated with the Lower North Coast Branch** of Surf Life Saving
 - b) The Club **applied for incorporation** during the same period as the probationary period had been served
- 1st August 1989 – the Club was **incorporated as ‘Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club’**
- 1992 – the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) took over Booti Booti State Recreational Administrative Trust. Booti Booti National Park was officially established as a national park in 1992 (no longer a State Recreation Area which it had been since September 30, 1977)
- 3rd August 1992 – the Club submitted the **Stage 2 DA application** (Toilets) (estimated cost \$60,000) and DA 2709 was re-issued 9th October 1992. The building permit was issued 10th December 1992
- 21st December 1992 – Great Lakes Shire Building application 946-92 was submitted for alterations and addition to the surf Club
- 10th October 1993 – the AGM amended Rule 22 of the Constitution to allow for the Club’s registration under the **Charitable Collections Act**
- September 1994 – the **Club “Newsletter”** started to be catalogued. It became the “Palms Surf News” (Jan 1996), the “Pacific Palms SLSC Newsletter” (September 1996), the “Unnamed Newsletter” and it finally evolved into “The Huey” in Feb 1997
- At the 1995 Aussies – Terry Brooker earned himself a place in Pacific Palms history with **the first Australian Medal for our Club**. At the Aussies Terry achieved 2nd in the sprint, having also achieved 1st in sprint and 2nd in flags at the State event
- 1996-1997 season – Following strong lobbying by the Club and the LNC Branch, **Great Lakes Council approved professional lifeguards** for holiday patrols at Elizabeth Beach for the first time
- Late 1997 – Pacific Palms SLSC members launched a series of **educational sessions** aimed at educating holiday visitors in “Surf Awareness” after a tragic drowning of a young surfer at Tiona Beach
- January 1998 – The **Club’s first Gold Medal** at the NSW Junior Country Championships was won at Tathra. Jay Davidson won a Gold Medal in the U/9 swim and a silver medal in the U/9 Board events
- **1999 – Battle of the Boats commenced (Feb)** and was awarded **Country Event of the Year**. PPSLSC won the U19 Men’s and Open Ladies
- 23rd April 2000 – (Easter Sunday) saw the launch of our **first ever Rock to Rock** swim at Elizabeth Beach (1,500m swim)

- 2000-2001 season – the **abolition of national park entry fees** at Elizabeth Beach
- 13th May 2002 – the adoption of our **Child Protection Policy**
- 2003 – **national recognition** was received by Chris Gagg, Chris Taylor and Daniel Moran, who were awarded a Group Citation of Merit for Bravery for their rescue of schoolchildren in April 2001
- 2003-2004 – the first **Website** went live hosted by Golden Age Media (www.mypage.tsn.cc/ppslsc)
- 2008-2009 season – launched the **Booti Bar**. The Club now has an "**On Premises**" **liquor licence** enabling us extended trading hours and the option to open to the public.
- 2009-2010 season – introduced **Saturday patrols outside school holiday periods**
- October 2009 – Council meeting voted to remove **lifeguards** after many years of providing the service. LNC and our club successfully petitioned for a reversal of this decision
- 2010-2011 season – **The Huey** was now distributed via email where addresses are available. The Sydney Northern Beaches Branch generously offered to assist Lower North Coast Clubs during the coming Christmas period (**first visiting Club**)
- 2012-2013 – Pacific Palms Recreation Club **Community Raffles were discontinued** due to low Club membership participation to sell raffle tickets
- 2013-2014 season – the last year of **Blueys Cellars Masters Carnival**
- 2014-2015 – **IT system upgrades and Facebook** were utilised to promote the club and communicate. Prior to the new email system the club used ppslsc@tsn.cc as its email account. Everyone other than the Secretary had used personal email accounts to communicate
- 27th March 2016 – the 16th Rock to Rock Swim now featured a **new 600m Mini Swim**
- 2015-2016 season – the appointment of a **dedicated Venue Coordinator** (initially a volunteer role then casual paid role) led to a significant increase in venue-based income (primarily from weddings)
- 2017-2018 – the Club Launched a **community AED (defibrillator) initiative**
- 2018 – Surf Life Saving NSW became a gazetted emergency service organisation. Volunteers could now be asked to respond to calls for assistance alongside police, ambulance and other emergency service organisations
- 2018-2019 season – \$24,880 was received from the NSW Community Building Partnership for **solar upgrades**
- 2020-2021 –
 - The **Battle of the Boats** was cancelled due to Australian Surf Rowers League (ASRL) date clashes, COVID logistics and limited Club Members to organise the event
 - The **Pacific Palms Real Estate Rock to Rock** Ocean Swim was cancelled due to flood-related water quality concerns
 - **Mid Coast Events (Bel Boyle)** was welcomed as the new Venue Coordinator
 - **Surfcom**, a state-wide radio communication system based on the Central Coast was introduced
- 2021 to 2023 – **Stage 6 of building works** – timber deck replacement, patrol store, foyer and staircase
- March 2024 – PPSLSC started selling **SLS lottery tickets** online
- December 2024 – PPSLSC **Champion Life Saver Carnival** was established

- 2024 to 2026 – saw **ongoing renovations and upgrades**. Street dish drain, replacement of roof iron, replacement concrete slab, repair of men’s shower leak and enclosure of street side veranda took place.

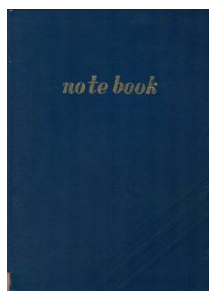
HOW WE GOT STARTED

While the Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club (“PPSLSC” or Club) started operating in Nov 1985 and taking memberships the formal date for the Club commencing was post the inaugural AGM (June 29, 1986) and the appointment of the first Committee (as opposed to a steering committee that had operated). Also supporting the 1986 start date is:

1. Submission to The Trustees of the Booti-Booti State Recreation Area dated 18th May 1987 stated Club “formation a year ago” (Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club, 18th May 1987)
2. Membership records are headed 1986/87 as the first period even though the first member was in 1985 (PPSLSC, 1985 to 1999).
3. Early annual reports state “Established 1986”.

The conflicting information related to the Club's start date includes;

- i. Public meeting at Community Centre 2pm November 16 1985 where a motion by Doug Bell ('that we form the Pacific Palms SLSC') was passed. This meeting followed the formation of a "Pilot Committee" at a meeting on August 18, 1985 focused on 'The formation of PPSLSC'
- ii. Public meeting (November 26, 1985) where Club President and other official roles were filled via a vote. This is the meeting where the Club colours of blue and gold were chosen. Membership forms were agreed to be printed and the membership records show the first member was Brian Reeves, registered on 27 Nov 1985 as an Associate paying a fee of \$14 (PPSLSC, 1985 to 1999).

[illegible]

- iii. First AGM – 10am, Sunday June 29, 1986 where a Committee was established.

In the 1983/4 period Terry McSweeney (ex Queenscliff) started 'Surf Awareness' classes at Elizabeth Beach with support from others. This was the first structured training for children in the area and Terry was surprised that a lot of children had not been in the surf or educated in surf skills. Many of these children then went on to become the juniors for the PPSLSC when it started.

From 1983, momentum and interest in establishing a surf Club began to build however the huge capital expense involved slowed progress.

An informal set of meetings to discuss the formation of a surf life saving Club was held next to Little Dicks Bottle Shop (last shop located at the western end of the Blueys shops) that was owned by Ian Martin at the time. Doug Whitton recalls that the 'Gutter Bar' operated at the tables in the park next to Little Dick's Bottle Shop on a regular basis and a number of people attended, including;

- Ian Martin
- Terry McSweeney

- Chris Corrigan
- Ken Atkinson
- Doug Whitton

In addition to the above regular gatherings and discussions, Glenn Miller had moved to Tarbuck Bay in 1979 and he and his son Wayne joined the Cape Hawke SLSC as there were no Clubs in the Pacific Palms area. One night Glenn and Dave Wylie were having a drink and it was decided to see if other locals might be interested in starting a SLSC.

A number of minuted meetings took place that trace the formation of the Club:

- 1) 18th August 1985 – Sunday 11:30am meeting at the Pacific Palms Recreation Club. Pilot Committee established and activities/actions agreed. Attendees were:

- i. Bob King
- ii. Ken Atkinson
- iii. David Wylie
- iv. Terry McSweeney
- v. Chris Corrigan
- vi. Carl Theiss
- vii. Mark Harvey
- viii. Norman Cummings

It was agreed that all attendees at the meeting be a Pilot Committee until further negotiations took place with Mr Buce Parsons, President of the Great Lakes Shire Council regarding land which was to be allocated at Elizabeth Beach, adjacent to the toilet block and oval (Bob, Ken and David were the nominated Club people).

The intention was to affiliate with the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia once the grant of land had taken place.

- 2) Pilot Meeting on 17th October at The Extension Bistro at Bluey's Beach and addressed by:
 - a. John Edstein – President of LNC of SLSA
 - b. Doug Ferguson- Branch Superintendent

SLSC LNC outlined tasks needed to form a Club (via public meeting OR outpost patrol for an existing Club). Attendees were:

- i. Mick Hall
- ii. Carl Theiss
- iii. Ken Atkinson
- iv. Ian Martin
- v. Brad Field
- vi. Ross Field
- vii. Bob Draper
- viii. Betty Wylie
- ix. David Wylie
- x. Terry McSweeney
- xi. Bob King
- xii. Fred Smith-White
- xiii. Greg Saxby
- xiv. Chris Corrigan

Agreed that a public meeting be called (16th Nov).

- 3) Public meeting 16th November 1985 at Pacific Palms Community Association (PPCA) hall – “to see how the community felt about such a project” and 54 people attended. Three motions were passed:
 - a. Doug Bell - that Pacific Palms SLSC be formed
 - b. Next steps should be affiliation
 - c. A follow up public meeting be held (Nov 26)

Bob King chaired the meeting and Betty Wylie took the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting counted 5 active members for patrols.

- 4) The community wanted at least one of the local beaches patrolled and a continuation in the education of people in the area in water safety (what Terry McSweeney had started as ‘Surf Awareness’). At this second public meeting (7:30pm November 26, 1985) 32 people attended and the election of the first Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club Steering Committee took place. The only position requiring a ballot was for President with voters having to decide between Bob King and David Wylie. The election scrutinisers (John Edstein and John Staples) announced David Wylie to be our first President.

Members of the Steering Committee for the Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club

Dave Wylie [President]

Linda Miller [Secretary]

Bob King [Treasurer]

Glenn Miller [Club Captain and Chief Instructor]

Chris Corrigan [Vice Captain]

Betty Wylie [Delegate to Lower North Coast Branch]

Doug Whitton [Delegate to Lower North Coast Branch]

Brian Reeves [Absence proxy to Lower North Coast Branch]

Mick Hall and Terry McSweeney [Committee Members to assist with training and other activities]

Application for Membership forms were issued.

The Club colours were discussed – blue, white and gold were suggested but Mr Edstein explained that three colours would be more expensive than 2 and a motion was moved that the colours be blue and gold. The design would be discussed by committee at a later date.

From the meeting on the 26th November 1985 to the first AGM in 1986 nine meetings were held, and David and others attended 5 Branch Association meetings in Taree.

David and Betty travelled near and far picking up gear and equipment from surf Clubs and inspecting Club premises from Queensland to Sydney for the latest ideas in building design.

They applied to the SLS NSW State Centre for admission to join the SLSC and were granted a two year probation term. During that time, they had to set training programs and look for land.

Becoming Affiliated into Vigilance and Service

The Club became officially affiliated with the Lower North Coast Branch of Surf Life Saving during the 1988-1989 season (exact date unknown). The Club's Public Officer of the time, Lyle Rees, applied for

incorporation during the same period as the probationary period had been served. A stint completed without any problems and done with style and grace.



Official club opening July 1986 (PPCC Hall)

As reported in a local paper (assuming Great Lakes Advocate, see picture below) a special general meeting was called at 9am on 28th August 1988 to consider a resolution for the incorporation of the PPSLSC.

24.8.88

Palms clubhouse moves ahead

Great news is reported on the progress of the Pacific Palms SLSC Clubhouse.

The lower ground floor is now completed to the stage where rescue equipment has been placed on racks ready for this season's training, prior to the patrolling of beaches.

On previous years equipment was stored at various private homes in the Palms district. Having all this gear stored on site now enables the Surf Life Saving Club to respond much quicker to calls for help and eliminates any problems relating to access on call, when residents may not be at home.

Pacific Palms SLSC's new Clubhouse is well on the way to completion — member

Also it means that the instructors can now continue with the important instruction to lifesaver trainees on equipment storage and maintenance.

On August 28, at 9am at the Pacific Palms Recreation Club a special

Gary Lyle is pictured above doing brickwork on the building.

general meeting will be held to consider, and if thought fit to pass, a resolution for the incorporation of the Pacific

Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club

Members are also reminded that annual subscriptions are now due.

The Pacific Palms SLSC First Financial Statement			
PACIFIC PALMS SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT PERIOD 2ND DECEMBER 1985 TO 30TH APRIL 1987			
RECEIPTS			
Donation - Ron Pritchard		\$10,000.00	
Raffles and Donations		13,570.80	
Membership Subscriptions		1,110.50	
Interest - Bank	55.32		
Partnership Pacific	600.00		
		665.32	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			25,364.62
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Postage and Stationery	275.22		
Raffle tickets & Prizes	127.00		
Advertising	42.91		
Catering	265.09		
Floral tributes	20.00		
Keys	6.00		
Putty Cash etc	443.86		
T Shirts	383.50		
Radios	220.00		
Patrol Gear	710.94		
Hardware & Paint	58.07		
Oxygen	70.00		
Signs	100.00		
First Aid	71.79		
Trailer	200.00		
IRS Maintenance	201.58		
Fuel	290.42		
Insurance	606.42		
Awards & Training Manuals etc	457.00		
Bank Charges and Fees	22.95		
		4,833.56	
Excess of Income over Expenditure for Period			20,751.04
Which is represented by:			
Commonwealth Savings Bank - Current Account		5,143.04	
Commonwealth Bank - Term Deposit - Maturity Date 22.8.87		1,000.00	
Partnership Pacific Limited - Deposit		10,000.00	
		16,143.04	
			20,751.04

\$10,000 was made available by Ron Pritchard from
Zenith Development Corporation, Castlecrag

SELECTING A SITE (Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club, 18th May 1987)

After considering all the evidence available an executive meeting of the Club was held on Saturday 11th April, 1987, which was attended by representatives of the Booti Booti State Recreation Area Trust, the Great Lakes Shire Council and the Surf Life Saving Association. The meeting resolved that:

"This Club having considered available alternatives, now considers Elizabeth Beach to be the desired location for the future surf Club facilities and that the Booti Booti State Recreation Area Trustees be requested to consider an application for a suitable site and to make urgent representations to the Minister on behalf of the Club." (Wylie, 11th April 1987)

As a consequence of this resolution the application was made to the Trust to have a suitable site set aside at Elizabeth Beach to permit the erection of a small building to house surf club facilities. It was then up to the Trust to consider and recommend to the Minister.

There were many discussions and inspections concerning the future location of a building. Previous approaches had been made to the Booti Booti Trust and a detailed Environmental Impact Study was prepared by Mr. David Turner of the Trust in October 1986 in support of the Elizabeth Beach site.

The selection period was extremely difficult and lasted over two years in which time Ron Pritchard submitted countless professionally drafted plans and had them red pencilled by the Booti Booti Trust. It was not until he submitted an expensive scale model of the Club house to the authority that it was accepted. Since November 1986 the Club's executive had investigated a number of alternative sites at Boomerang Beach. These were found to be unsuitable. Boomerang Beach was seen by some as the logical spot for a Club given that it is regarded as, and has been proved to be, a more dangerous beach than any other. Indeed during the 1986 season a drowning fatality occurred at Boomerang Beach. Its reputation as the most dangerous of the beaches in the area was fully justified and no doubt because of this it does not enjoy the same popularity as does Elizabeth Beach. A number of different sites for a future Club House at Boomerang Beach were investigated and discussions held with both the Great Lakes Shire and the Public Works Department. The sites considered (Turner, 30 Oct 1986) were:

Site 1- Northern end Boomerang Beach foredune

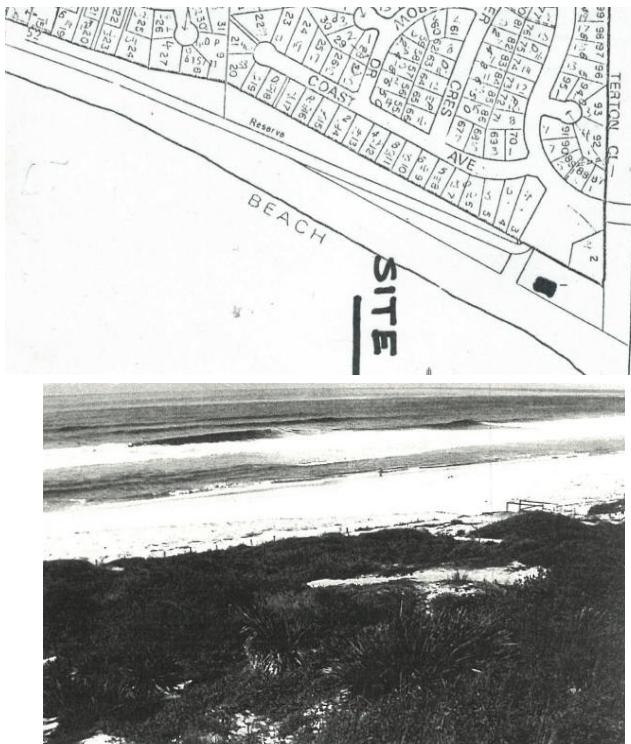
Site 2- Northern end Boomerang Beach top of dune and including car park

Site 3 - Eastern boundary of Lots 3 and 4 Coast Avenue, northern end of Boomerang Beach

Site 4 - Car park at centre at Boomerang Beach

Site 5 - Elizabeth Beach as previously discussed with Booti Booti Trust

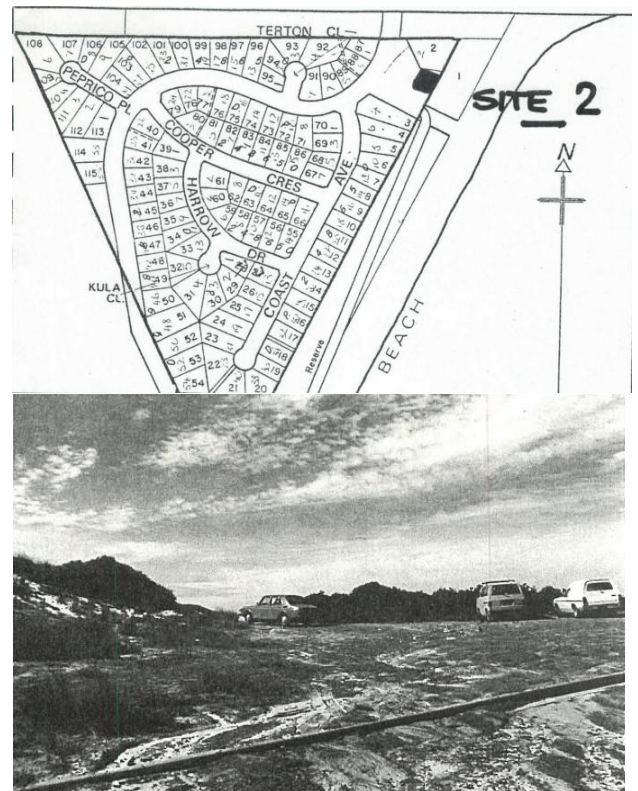
At the time, and as would be expected, some Club members and numerous people living in the area felt that Elizabeth Beach was a poor choice for a patrolled beach and felt that one of the other beaches far more warranted selection. Many felt that Boomerang would have been the best choice given its location between the other two major sites, that being Blueys or Elizabeth Beaches. They felt that Blueys is subject to blustery southerly winds and dangerous water conditions. Elizabeth Beach on the other hand is regularly hit by the prevailing north-easterly winds in summer. However, this is now all academic. Elizabeth Beach was chosen and overall it has proved to be a relatively protected and risk free beach location.

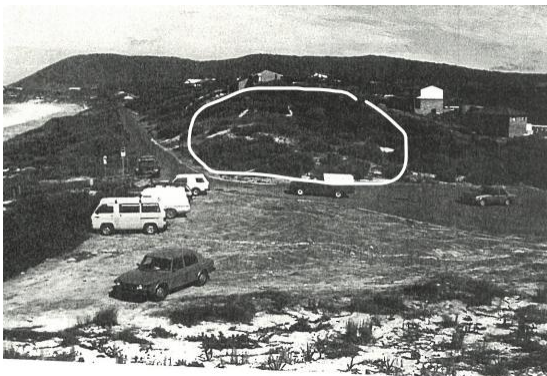


Site 1: Northern end Boomerang Beach foredune. From a surf Club operation point of view this site was ideal in that it provided good access to the beach, has good beach views and available vehicular access. The provision of services would be relatively straightforward and pose no difficulty. However both Great Lakes Shire Council and the Public Works Department oppose this site. Studies undertaken by the Department indicate that the site would be put at risk by natural beach erosion and movement and they as a Department would not be able to recommend their approval to the site. This issue alone seems to completely prevent any future consideration of SITE 1.

The Great Lakes Shire Council would be concerned with the height and bulk of any building and its likely effect on car parking facilities and any views from the car parking area.

Site 2: Northern end of Boomerang Beach, top of dune and including car park. This site had similar advantages to Site 1 except that boat access to the actual beach was made more difficult by the elevation above the beach. The Department of Public Works would not have opposed this site on coastal protection grounds. The Great Lakes Shire Council however had major objections to the location of the building in what was the public car parking area. It is estimated that the desired building and the provision of access there could consume up to 30 car parking spaces. As there was no scope to allow for future parking at this spot, the Council did not favour the location.





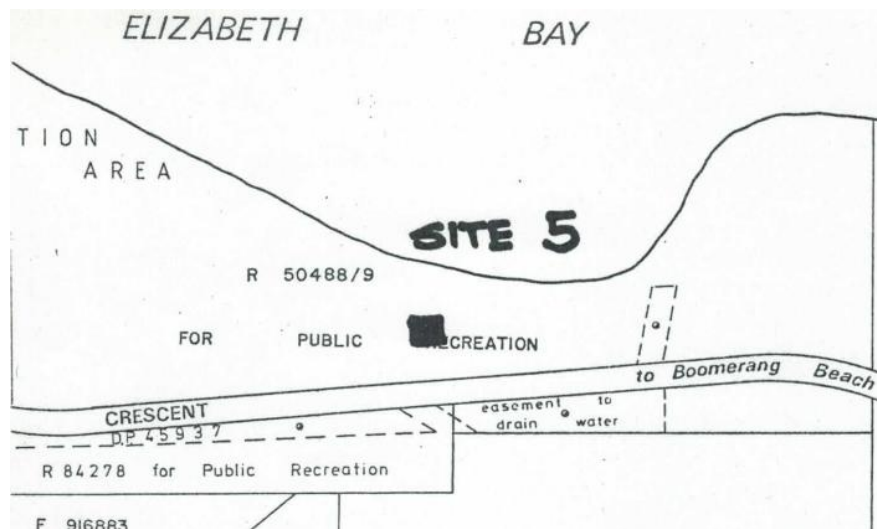
Site 3. Eastern boundary of Lots 3 and 4 Coast Avenue. This site was located entirely on private property. The site was investigated at the suggestion of the Great Lakes Shire Council who proposed the purchase of one or two of the lots to allow for the enlargement and provision of public facilities at the Beach. The site although near the beach had a number of disadvantages from a Surf Club point of view and these included elevation above beach, topography of site adding considerably to construction cost, access to and from the building would have been difficult, beach access made extremely difficult by the height above the beach and the presence of the existing beach road along the foreshore reserve which was well used. Further serious consideration of the site however was not continued as the Council was unable to pursue the acquisition of the land owing to its cost (in excess of \$100,000 per block).



Site 4: Car park at centre of Boomerang beach. This site was clearly not practicable on the grounds of car parking and access. There was already limited parking available and the added pressures of a building would have been unreasonable. The road system also was a disadvantage.



Site 5. Elizabeth Beach. Of the sites inspected and considered this remained the most suitable. The 1986 Environmental Impact Statement (Turner, 30 Oct 1986) showed no adverse effects on the environment, car parking or public use of the beach. The building proposed was small in size and low in impact and would adequately serve the needs of the Club in the immediate future.



Elizabeth Beach over Boomerang Beach: The main advantages in locating a building at Elizabeth Beach over Boomerang Beach were determined to be as follows:

- It was the most popular family beach
- Boat access (in the case of a rescue) was more easily gained
- Access to the water at Boomerang Beach could at times be impossible having regard to the type of seas that can sometimes be encountered
- Public usage of the beach and car parking would not be affected
- Any building would have little, if any, impact on the surrounds.

Summary: The Elizabeth Beach site which was referred to in detail in the Environmental Impact Study was the preferred option of the Club and was, on investigation, found to be the most suitable. There was no objections to the site from:

- (i) The Surf Life Saving Association
- (ii) Great Lakes Shire Council
- (iii) Department of Public Works.

OUR CLUB HOUSE – A DIFFICULT START (McQueen, 2007)

Any Club needs somewhere to call home, and our home is our Club house which has a history of its own.

The Club house was a necessity and for the PPSLSC to be successful it needed to happen. Unfortunately, the building process nearly pulled the Club apart.

Before and during the Club house building, surf gear and equipment was being stored in a number of places around the Pacific Palms area. Some of this was on private property, specifically in many of the original Club members' sheds and garages. Obviously, these were not suitable long-term solutions especially given the tight hours for patrolling the beach when equipment was required in a hurry. Somebody always had to make endless trips to storage spots to pick-up required materials for the beach. You did not have to be an Einstein to realise that the Club was in a desperate need of a central building.

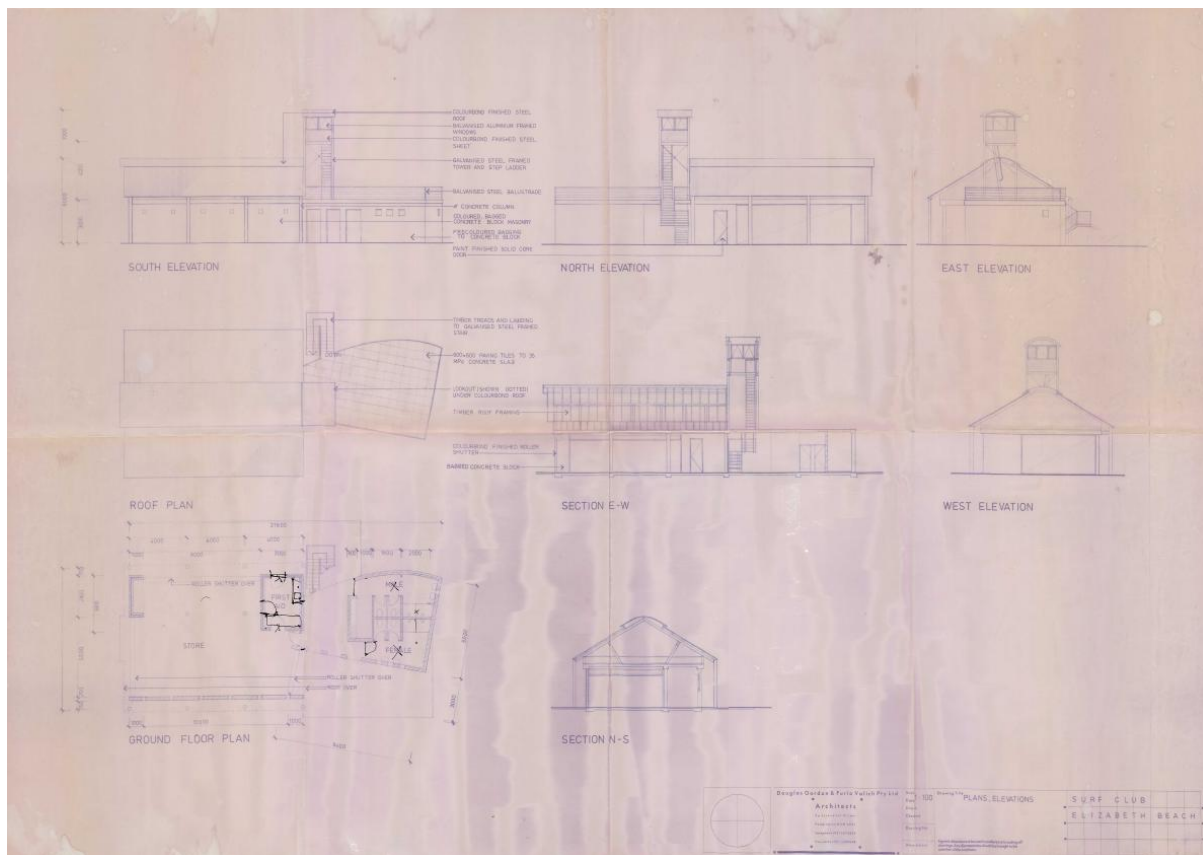
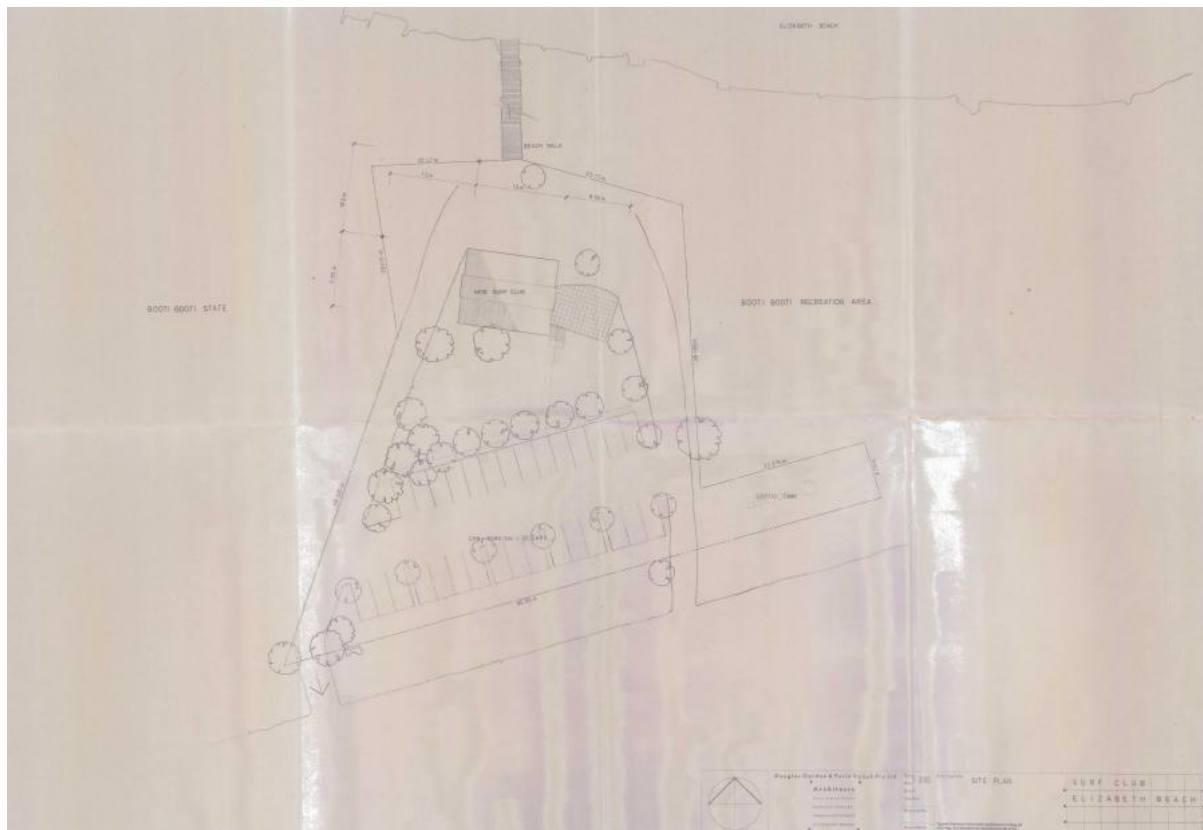
Stage 1 - Initial building

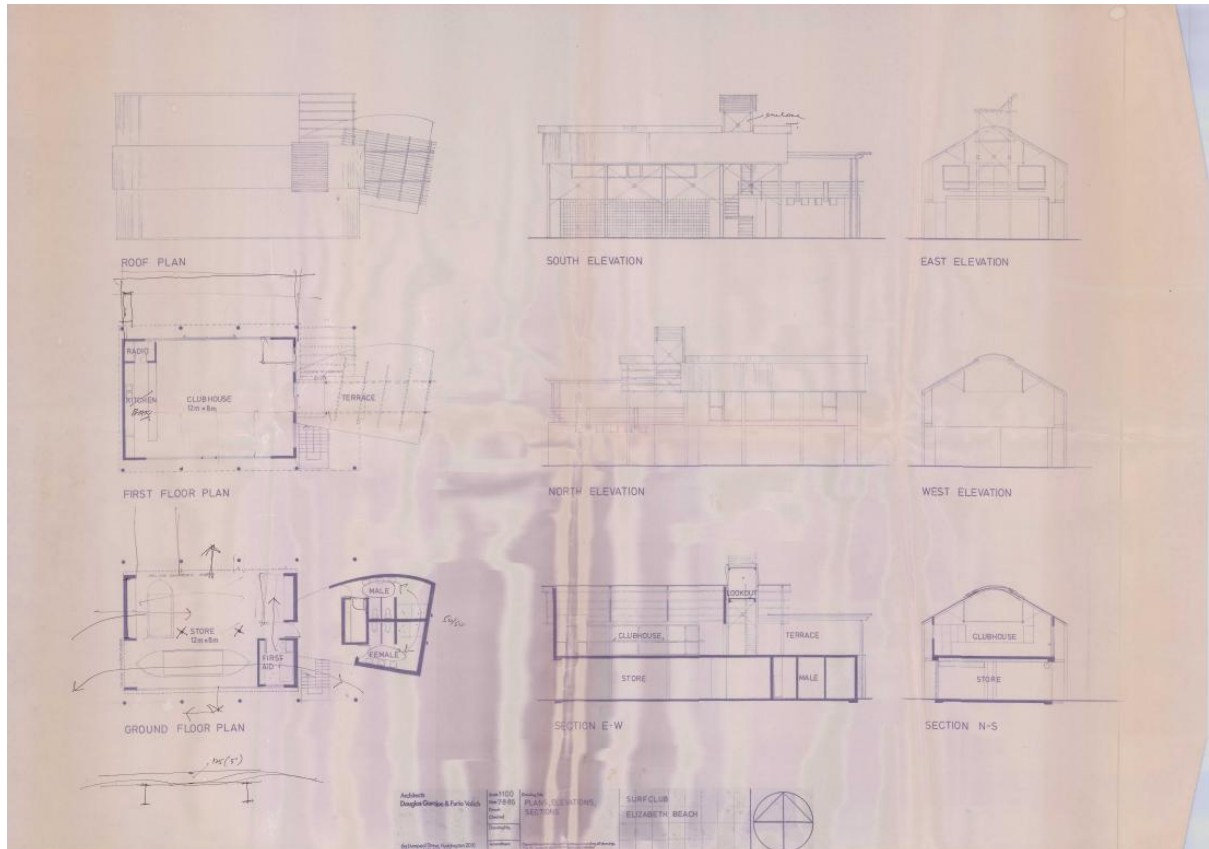
In 1986 meetings were arranged, locals approached and submissions were made to the Booti Booti Trust, Council, local builders and State Ministers for approval. The building proposed (as detailed in the 11th April, 1987 Trust submission) was of masonry block and measuring approximately 23.8 meters x 8 metres overall dimension. Roof material was to be Colorbond metal. The maximum height was not to exceed 4.5 metres and with selective and careful landscape management would be barely visible from the road. As will be noted from the attached, limited facilities are provided in the design however, these will cater for the needs of the Club.

The 1986 Environmental Impact Statement (Turner, 30 Oct 1986) detailed that the building would consist of;

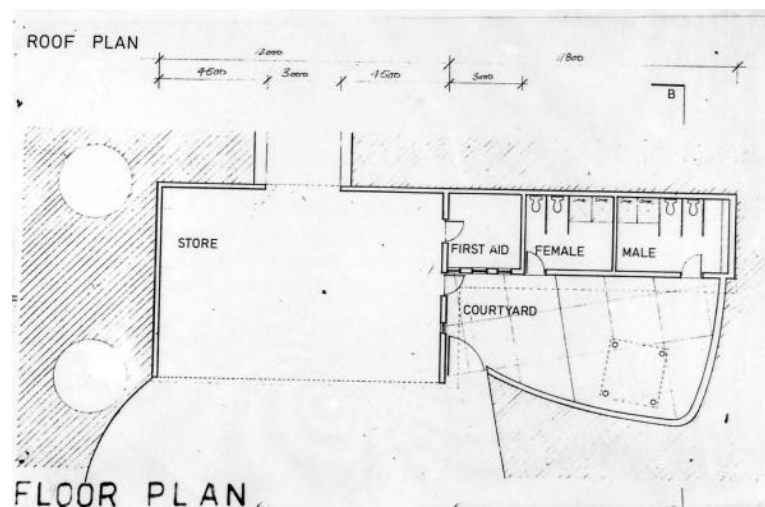
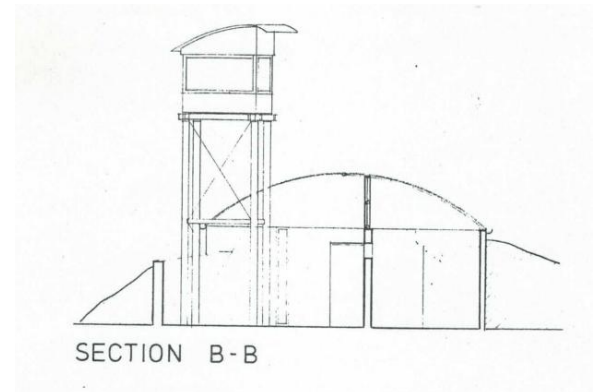
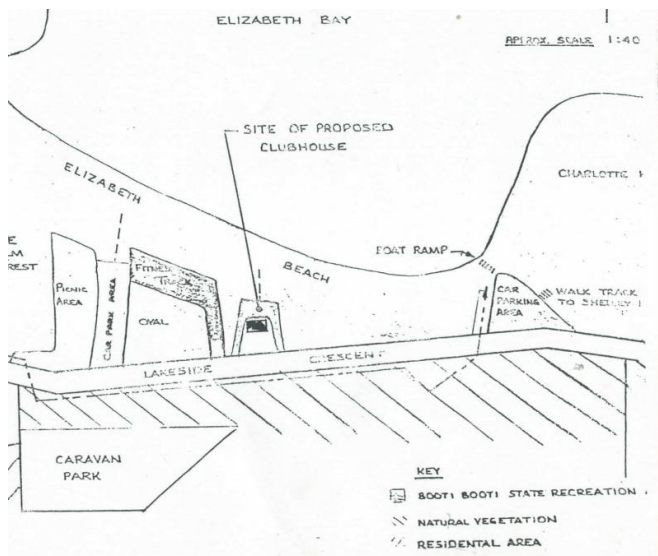
- i. Ground floor: concrete slab and Block walls. Access into the storage area will be via roller shutter doors, providing a 'drive through' capability. The storage area will be large enough for the storage of up to 2 surf boards and other equipment, such as an inflatable rubber boat and motor. An amenities block, for use by Club members only, and a first aid room, will also be included at this level.
- ii. First Floor: This will be a large open room with Kitchen facilities and will be the centre of all Club activities. Limited views of the beach will be available at this level, from within the room and from the verandas on top of the amenities block and in front of the room.
- iii. Observation tower: To provide an unimpeded view of the beach plus weather protection for observers, an observation tower has been included. Access to the tower will be via the first floor *(there is no documented explanation as to why this was not constructed. The only explanation would be that there was insufficient funding to complete this work).*

The most complete set of proposed drawings found were dated 7th Aug 1986.



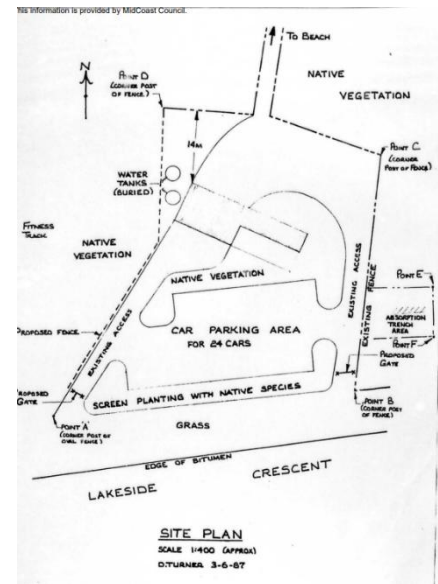
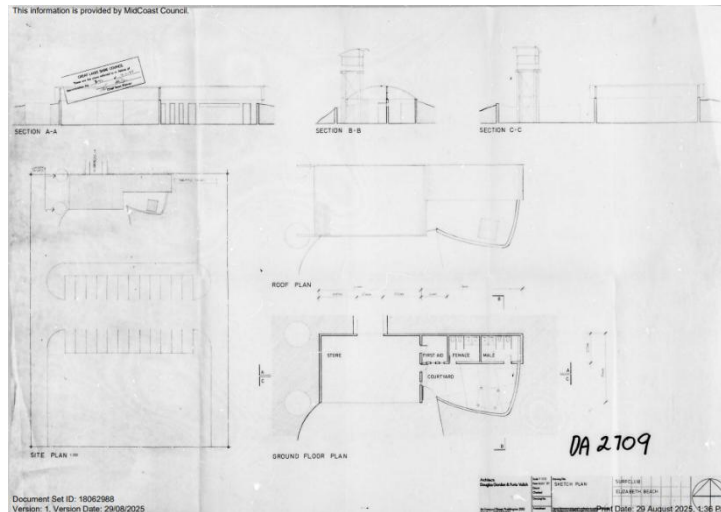


The following drawings were contained within the 'Pacific Palms Surf Club Statement on Proposed Club Building' that was submitted by David Wylie to The Trustees of the Booti-Booti Recreational Area on 18th May 1987. As can be seen, plans had changed and there is no recorded explanation as to why the changes were made.

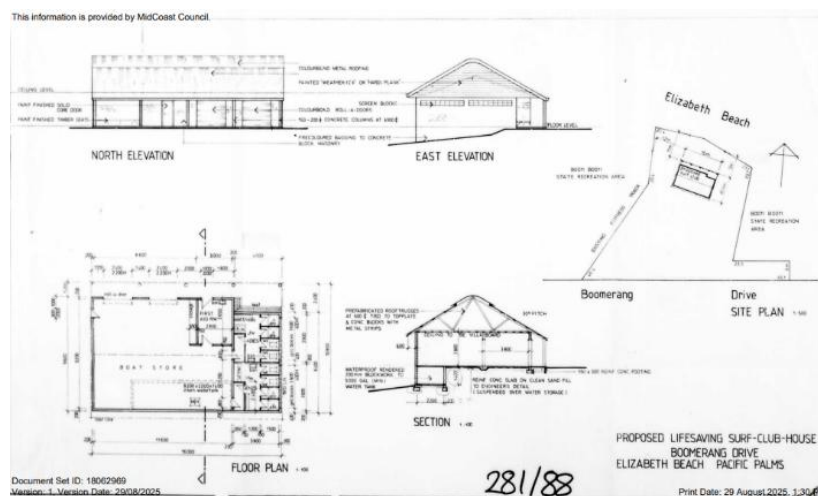


The site plan dated June 1987 (right) was post the initial Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") and again showed changes.

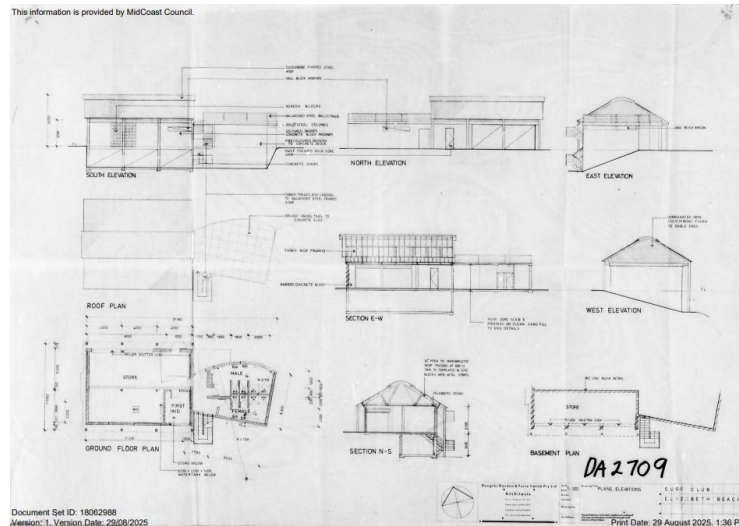
Council records show that the original site plans in the EIS again changed prior to the DA submission (DA2709).



Further council records also show that the building plans had changed again in early 1988.



Plans dated 17th Feb 1988

Plans dated 28th April 1988

Between 1987 and 1988 the Club house plans seem to be subject to significant changes. There is no documented explanation as to why there was such a change in plans that took place between DA2709 and what was built. Council correspondence dated 9th May 1988 indicated that Council had no objection to the following changes:

1. Underground water tank deleted
2. Underground space being enlarged to measure approx. 11.6 m x 4.2 m high
3. Two toilets being located in the above area as a temporary measure
4. A roller door installed to the above area on the southern elevation
5. Water supply being provided by a 5,000 litre galvanised concrete tank located at or near the south eastern corner.

Correspondence from NPWS (Raymond Terrace) dated 27th May 1988 approved the following changes:

1. Deletion of the toilet area from Stage 1
2. Provision of underfloor storage area with roller shutter access and the installation of two toilets
3. Approved a precast or galvanised steel tank as an above ground rainwater tank

The above correspondence from NPWS indicates that NPWS had overall control but the Booti Booti SRA had input and on site approval.

Building Application 281/88 was granted subject to development consent 3143 (granted 4th Feb 1988). Council records do not contain plans that accurately represent what was actually built at the time nor the development consent.



Toilet block used for storage pre-club house



What we do know is that the initial building looked like this:



Original building

Stage 2 – Toilet block

The next stage of building (**Stage 2** - toilet block) included an amenities block. DA281/88 from MidCoast Council (MCC) records shows what seems to be a correct floor and site plan for the original building (Stage 1) along with a toilet block. Receiving a Commonwealth Government Capital Works Grant during 1988-1989 allowed Stage 2, the toilet block, to be completed the following year (1990). No more agony and having crossed legs, running out of meetings to pee on Tea Trees and Cabbage Palms or duck walking down to the ocean for a swim.

Again it seems that the **Stage 2** plans changed as what we have in place today varies from the original DA submission.



Stage 2 - Toilet block added

Stage 3 - Carpark and Landscaping

This took place and was completed in 1991.

Stage 4 – Additional level and facelift (Start circa July 1993, protracted ending approx. 1996 with member efforts)

GL ADVOCATE
17.4.91



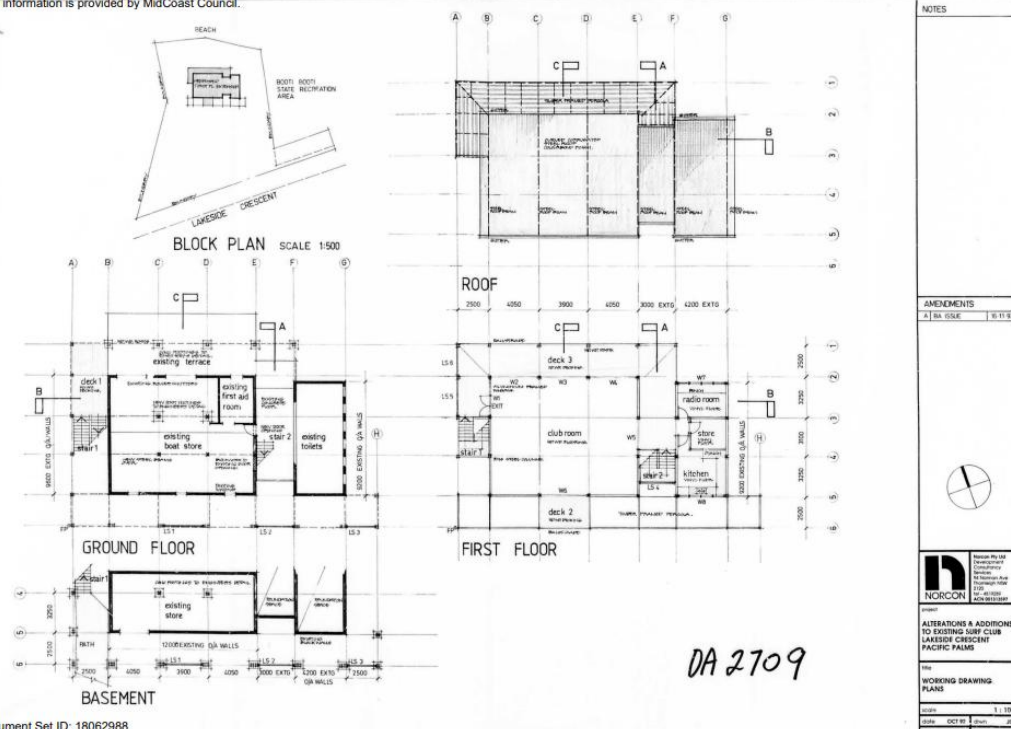
The building then went through a major change with the addition of an extra level and a major facelift to the existing building exterior (DA cost estimate was \$60,000). Plans for the construction of Stage 4 were submitted to the Booti Booti State Recreational Area Trust in 1990. The idea was to remove the then existing roofline and extend upwards without impacting further on the immediate land around the building. The original concept for stage 4 was a radio room, kitchen, records and storage rooms for gym equipment. The main auditorium was to be used for Surf Life Saving Australia award training, fitness programs, meetings, the display of Club trophies, memorabilia, sponsorship and honour boards, giving the Club a focal point for social activities.

Efforts for building approval of Stage 4 continued during 1990 to 1992. This turned out to be a long and convoluted process as permission granted from the Booti Booti State Recreation

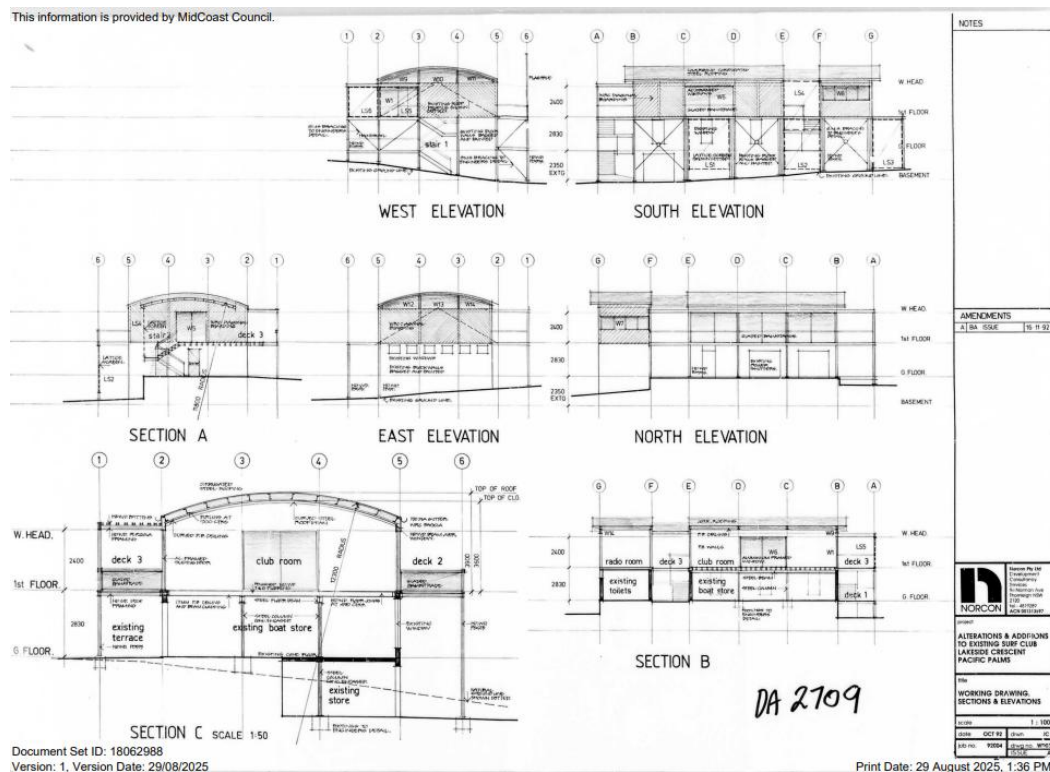
Authority came with a proviso that the roofline reached at the end of Stage 1 was not exceeded. This generated another problem when it was realised that an extra 650mm in roof height was required to accommodate the next level. After extensive negotiations with Great Lakes Shire Council and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS took over BBSRAT in 1992) the building stalemate was overcome when GLSC gave their agreement to NPWS (who were the consenting party) on 9th Oct 1992 and Stage 4 construction was ready to be put into action. During 1991- 1993, the building sub committee was still under the leadership of the Club's chief patron Ron Pritchard who at this stage negotiated and coordinated all building matters.

As Council were not the consenting party, it seems that all MCC supplied historical material is marked with DA2709 as that is the original DA approval granted by GLSC.

This information is provided by MidCoast Council.



Document Set ID: 18062988



At the Great Lakes Council general meeting on the 28th June 1994 the letter from the PPSLSC requesting further financial assistance to finish the Club extensions was considered. It was clear that the original cost estimate and funding available was not enough to complete all the planned work. It was decided to carry out essential work to ensure that the Clubroom and veranda can be safely utilised (Clubroom floor, access and escape stairs, veranda decking, balustrade and handrails, fire ceiling in boat store and gyprock linings) and other work be delayed.

Stage 4 (Clubroom, Kitchen, radio room, storeroom, verandas and access stairs) was the point where much of the discontent of the period occurred. It was a blending of factors with the Club house construction turning out to be one of the main issues. These factors all added up to a major turning point in the Club's then short history.

As you no doubt know, building is one of the most stressful ventures a person can ever experience. You can imagine the potential for turmoil if thrown into this melting pot are a multitude of members with numerous opinions and the majority frustrated to the point of screaming due to the drawn out approval granting process they had all witnessed. During the 1993 to 1994 season Club members operated the patrols under considerable inconvenience due to the building extensions. Even though everyone involved worked extremely hard to prevent problems, they arose, as one would expect.

Access to most areas was at one or more times very difficult and in some cases dangerous. Nippers, Cadets and their respective family members going about their casual business could find themselves in the wrong place and in the middle of heated exchanges. It was a difficult time as David Wylie suffered a stroke in October 1993 and due to ill health advised the Club accordingly of his intention to leave office at the end of the 1993-1994 season (McQueen, 2007).



Stage 4 construction Aug 1993



Aerial view showing Club and oval next door.



Looking back it seems like a classic case of burn out for everyone involved. The problems and stresses people were enduring seemed endless at the time. No blame needs to be placed on anybody, it was how things happen during building. Just a culmination of factors, which came to a head with tensions needing to be released.

While everything was above board and every cent was accounted for financially, a number of members felt the transparency and explanation was not adequate. A better job of cascading information throughout the membership may have lead to better outcomes.

Around this time the project manager (Ron Pritchard) asked to have the final say on building cost expenditure however the members (largely a new group consisting of Nipper parents), voted to keep the final say with the Committee. It is reported that Ron resigned and a new era began.

In August 1994 the Pacific Palms SLSC Building Sub Committee was formed, which was initially chaired by Michael Evans. A Building Sub-Committee was formed because it appeared that the Club house building work was becoming bogged down with one thing after another. All remaining work was carried out by a voluntary group of labourers that finished off the Club house building, then continued with the maintenance of the building and grounds. Finishing the Club house required a hardwood floor to be laid, pergola joists installed, and the complete exterior painted. The grounds on the roadside of the Club house had to be turned from a lunar landscape to something resembling a lawn, and a garden with palms planted. Side gates were also erected to restrict access by unauthorised vehicles. Many people contributed to the building of the Club house with Tony Moran

doing most of the work along with Brian Reeves, Mark Martin, Scott Brassey and Stephen Lavis with other members assisting when able.

'The Silly Buggers Who Work for Nothing Club' would recognise Tony Moran, Brian Reeves, Phil Spicer and Scott Brassey for the hours of labour they gave.

During the 2004-2005 season, the committee sought professional advice to fix a long-standing acoustic problem in the auditorium. A number of options to baffle the noise were investigated but most turned out to be very expensive. Finally, the matter was resolved and in early 2007 a new internal lining was installed.



Stage 5 – Progressive alterations (circa 2007 to 2011)

Stage 5 comprised of what could best be described as 'progressive building renovations'. During 2006/7 a grant application was submitted under the Surf Club Facility Program for part one of the works - extension to ladies amenities, installation of a disabled lift and construction of a bar. Funds for the remainder of the works (storage areas, training room and kitchen extensions) were sought in the 2007/8 season.



Extensions commence 2007/2008

The 2008/9 Annual report stated that renovations had progressed well with facilities introduced this season including new ladies showers and bar.

Next step renovations (2009/10) included a training/conference room, storage room and covered deck area off the auditorium, kitchen extension, addition of a disabled toilet/shower and extension of men's amenities, storage area, gym extensions, lifesaving equipment/workshop area and ground floor storage extended areas.



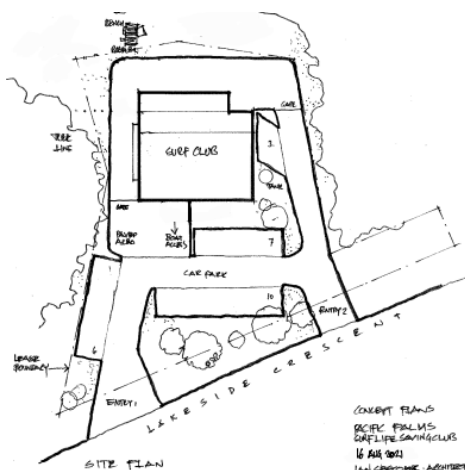
Circa March 2020 - Pat Powell supervising

Auditorium deck



Stage 6 – Major alterations (New deck and patrol storage from June 2021)

During 2020 and 2021 the Club decided to embark on a major renovation to the Club and Ian Sercombe (Architect) put some concept designs together (Aug 2021) which were the basis of a major grant request.



The proposed buildings works in 2021 were primarily driven by the need for maintenance and remediation work. The timber deck was found to have a lot of rot, particularly at the junctions with the columns, and was condemned by a structural engineer. Immediate work was done to secure the structure while plans for a new deck were developed.

The western fire stairs were also rotting and being made of pine were also non-compliant.

The deck was replaced with an off-form concrete structure. This was expected to last significantly longer than the timber deck, as well as provide an impervious surface preventing sand and water landing on people standing under the deck.



There were also functional issues at the bar, due to that area being exposed to the elements. The new plan enclosed the area to the top of the stairs and in front of the bar, creating a weather and vermin proof space. The location of the stair was also adjusted to ensure its compliance with the National Construction Code.

Other adjustments were to remove the three pairs of sliding doors from the auditorium to the deck and replace them with stacking doors. This opened the auditorium up to the deck truly integrating the two spaces proving to be more functional when events are on.

To the street side, hoods were installed around the small windows to provide weather protection. Between each window the wall was painted red and yellow (surf life saving colours), thus signifying to passing cars the nature of the building.

Another area that was addressed was the entry. The entry door was recessed back and not at all obvious to visitors to the Club. Additionally, as you entered the Club there was a perfect vista into the gents change rooms! The new plan moved the entry forward, making it more pronounced, and introduced an angled wall to mitigate the direct view into the gents change room.

At the same time the building committee reviewed the ongoing maintenance schedule for the Club. Painting seemed to be a continual chore so alternatives were investigated, resulting in the Colorbond cladding we see in 2026.

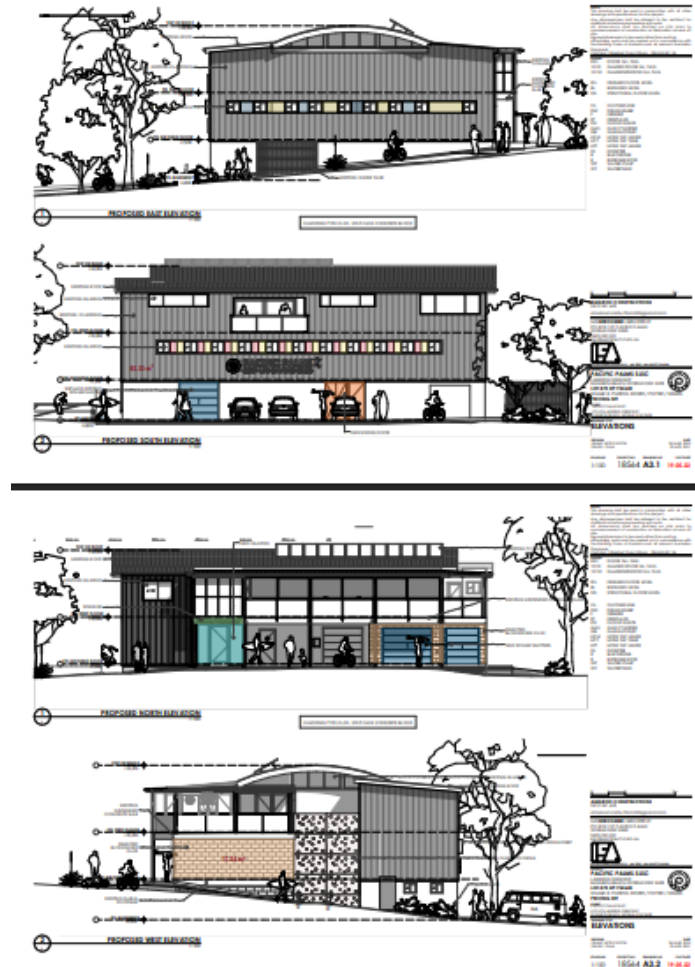
Thanks largely to Pat Powell, a number of grants were secured. Things were going along well until the unprecedented price increase of all materials due to the COVID pandemic. This very rapidly reduced the scope of what could be delivered under the grant funding.

A decision was made to focus on the deck and cladding of the building and apply for a new grant to address the stairs and entry. Fortunately the grants body in the NSW government understood this with the Club subsequently applying for (and receiving) a further grant to complete the works.

The initial grant for the deck replacement and cladding was Surf Club Facility Program SCFP2019/20 for \$282,750 (total project cost was \$377,000).

The grant for the Patrol Store and Foyer was Stronger Country Communities SCCF4-0146 for \$138,458 (total project cost was \$140,958 with the Club providing \$2,500 in kind). This was the one where costs rose dramatically and the Club had to get a variation as it could do only the patrol store for the amount of the grant.

Then the Club received the Surf Club Facility Program grant SCFP22/23-00020 for the foyer and staircase, raising level of the upstairs floor near the lift and blocking the view into the men's change rooms. This was worth \$60,456 (total project cost \$65,304).



Stage 6 Deck and storage

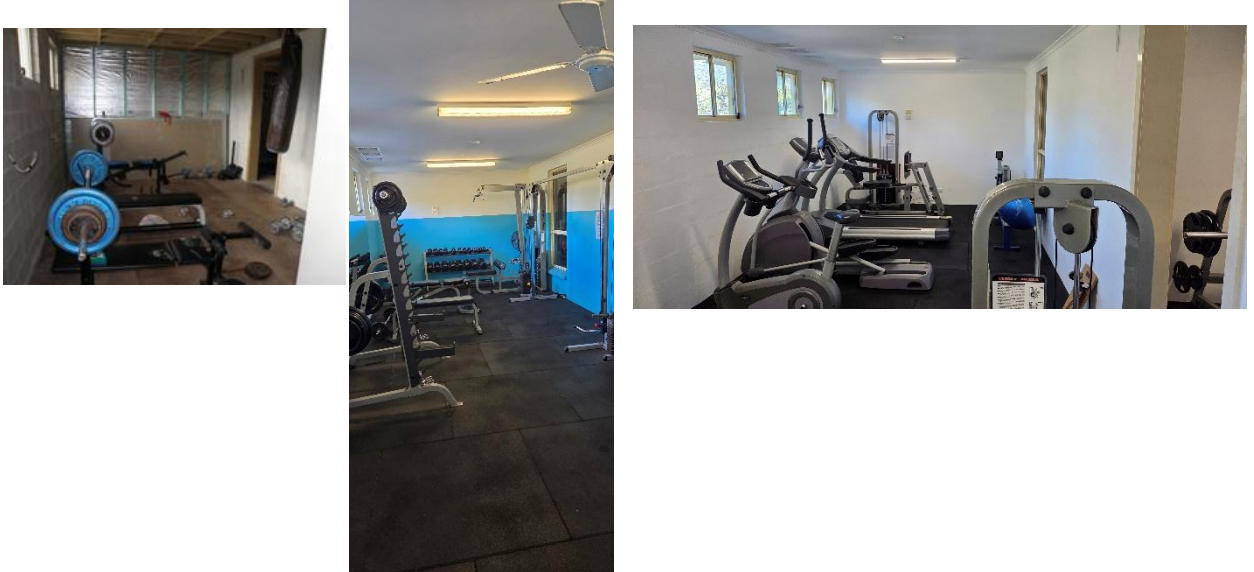
Ongoing works

Ongoing building and site works continue as grants are made available. In 2025 there were a couple of outstanding items that the Club was keen to address such as the roofing iron rust. The deck, due

to its original construction, leaked after southerly rains. Via more grant funding we were able to enclose the existing deck on the street side of the building and repair the rusted areas around the roof perimeter. These works essentially capped off about 5 years of major renovations and remedial works to the Club building, setting it up for the future.

Additional works include:

- Dish drain and driveway entrance at front of site (2024)
- Roofing iron replacement (2025)
- Enclosing of street side verandah (2026)
- Maintenance related (mens shower leaks, concrete slab replacement)
- A gym re-fresh in 2026 (continuing the evolution of the gym)



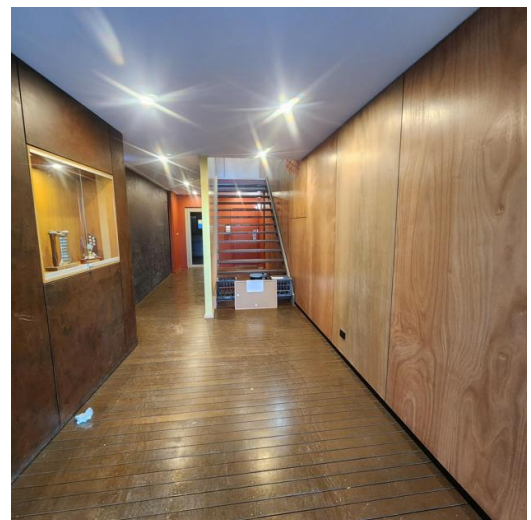
Gym evolution over the years



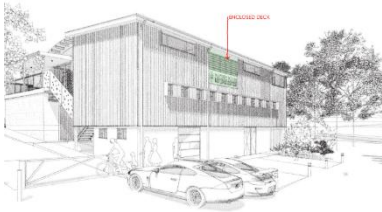
Street dish drain
(2024)



Concrete slab replacement (2026)



Entrance refurbishment (2023)

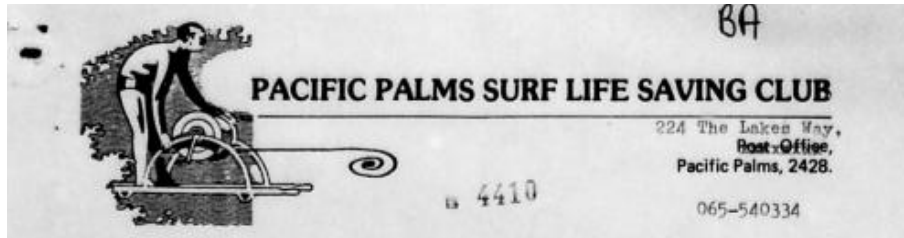


Enclosing the deck (2025)

Apart from ongoing maintenance works we anticipate there will be a point where a building replacement will be required. Apart from the building ageing, surf lifesaving demands will change which will likely require building changes. There is also the matter of coastal inundation to consider into the future. Our largest source of income is venue bookings so there will be a need to ensure that the building continues to look good and has the functionality to attract weddings and functions into the future.

OUR LOGO

A logo is an important part of a club's identity however in the initial years Surf Life Saving logos were used and the Club simply added the Club's name to the SLS artwork.



**PACIFIC PALMS SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB
INCORPORATED**
Established 1986

Lakeside Crescent,
Pacific Palms, 2428
Phone: (065) 54 0468 (Clubhouse)



VIGILANCE AND SERVICE

Address all Correspondence to
Honorary Secretary: PO Box 80
PACIFIC PALMS NSW 2428

**PACIFIC PALMS SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB
INCORPORATED**
Established 1986

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Doc. type	1	File	1
Subject/s	1200 368	File	1
Follow up	1200 368	File	1
28 JAN 1998			
RECEIVED GREAT LAKES COUNCIL			



There is no clear record of how our Club's logo evolved over time and there may have been logos created that were not formally approved but used. This image appeared in an article in the Great Lakes Advocate in 1986 however this image cannot be found on any formal Club documentation.

Assuming that the Annual Reports would use our Club's formal logo it seems that there have been three variations over the years. The Club's logos are very simple and try to depict the area and surf life saving.



Logo 1



Logo 2



Logo 3

Logo 1 first appeared on the Club's 2000-2001 Annual Report. Prior to that, it seems that the Surf Life Saving Australia logo was used.

Logo 2 first appeared on the Club's 2012-2013 Annual Report following its design that year.

Logo 3 first appeared on the Club's 2013-2014 Annual Report. Keira Wheatley of Keira Wheatley Graphic Design designed this logo and the design was put to a Notice of a Special Extra Ordinary general meeting (Sunday November 17th 12pm) at Club House. to consider changes to the club's badge /logo as per section 49 of PPSLSC's constitution.

MEMBERSHIP AND THE COMMUNITY

The Club is very fortunate to have had an amazing membership over 40 years and when one looks at the achievements over this time for what is a very small Club, we have punched well above our weight. The backbone of any Club is its people and this 40 year history has hopefully highlighted the people that have contributed so much.

While membership categories have largely remained the same, they have evolved over the years so when you look at our membership it is best to look at total numbers to remove the underlying changes in membership categories that took place. The major factors impacting our membership numbers are:

- a) Demographics in the area – the majority of homes in the Elizabeth Beach/Pacific Palms area are holiday homes and remain vacant for the majority of the year.
- b) Age of population and membership – we are faced with having older members as a result of the area being a popular retirement spot.
- c) Changing social factors:
 - i. Volunteering seems to be on the decline. Volunteering Australia statistics (March 2024) indicate that formal volunteering rates have gone from 36.2% in 2010 to 28.8% in 2019.
 - ii. The limited time people have and the number of activities available to them
- d) The effect of Nipper numbers year to year – they tend to swing year on year. It is also noteworthy that throughout our 40 years there have been very few nippers that have gone

on to be long term and/or active members. What has been of value is that Nipper parents have become active members in our Club.

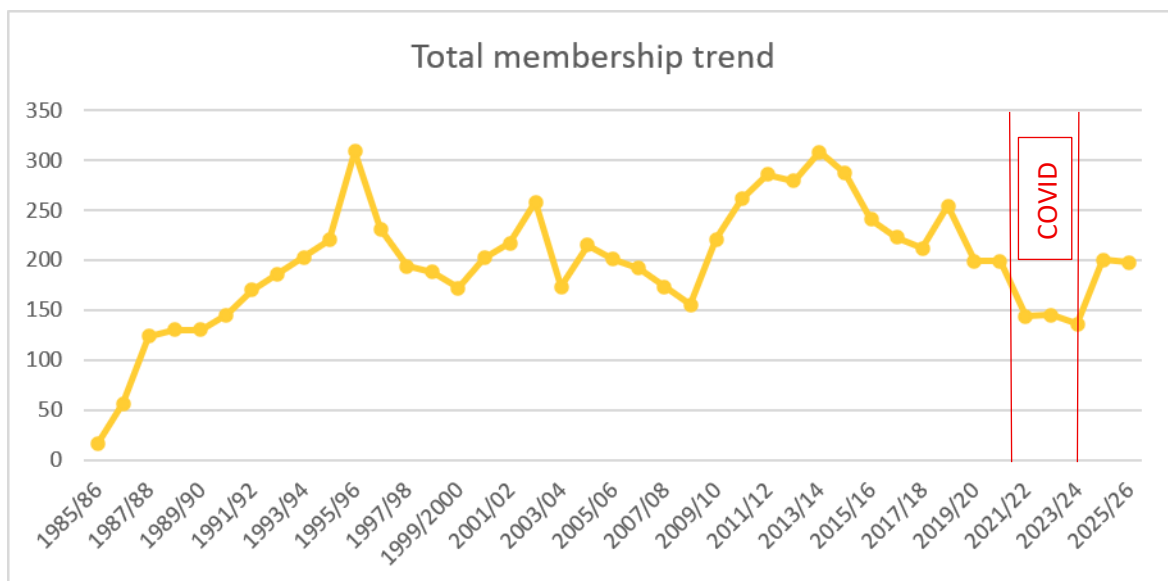
- e) Limited land development and population growth. National Parks, limited land and council zoning have meant the area has not seen large increases in the population to draw members from.
- f) COVID

As can be seen in the graph below COVID has had a major impact on our membership, and even after 3 years we have not recovered to the pre-COVID membership numbers.

There have been times where there have been challenges. This is to be expected in a volunteer organisation with people from a multitude of different backgrounds. Running of nippers and the disagreements involved in building works (covered previously) are two examples that highlight the need to constructively resolve issues and do what is in the best interest of the Club.

There have also been a number of the years in the Club's history when there have been too few nominations for Committee and official positions affecting the ongoing viability of the Club, which remains a challenge today.

At the AGM on 8th August 1993, the LNC president Peter Squire remarked *"that the senior Club and JAC should pull together better than they have. Discussions have been out in the open and we look forward to assisting you. This situation happens in all Clubs and there should be no embarrassment or anything like that. I look forward to being part of the discussions in formalising the best way to resolve the matter and offer assistance in any way possible"*. Peter's advice is still relevant today.



Note: The numbers used for graphs come from annual reports and where no numbers were available an average across prior and next year were used. Trying to validate against SLS Surfguard data proved to be unsuccessful.

What is not visible in the graph is the number of active members we have. Of the listed members, we see about 20% that are active in patrols or helping out with Club activities. Since 2024 our Club has been listed as a Club on the SLSNSW Club Capability Program as it is recognised that our Club has too few active (patrolling) members to guarantee our long term viability. Despite this, we continue

to achieve our SLS goals and are grateful for the assistance other Clubs offer in patrolling the Christmas and New Year period.

We are part of a community and it has always been front of mind that we participate in activities that contribute to the community we live in. Apart from patrolling Elizabeth Beach there are a number of things that we do. While this is not a complete list, it highlights the things that PPSLSC engages in to be a valued community member:

- ✓ Year round emergency call out team (including flood assistance)
- ✓ Community defibrillator program
- ✓ Hosting community events at our Club
- ✓ Providing first aid assistance at events
- ✓ Education and awareness programs to various groups – board riders, community, schools

In return, we are very grateful for the assistance that the community offers the PPSLSC to help us remain a viable organisation.

The Club has also hosted a number of Community Service Workers over the years. Under the direction of Kel McCredie, these people completed their community service obligations with our Club, providing a valued service by undertaking tasks including grounds and building maintenance.

PATROLS AND OUR LIFESAVING SERVICE AGREEMENT (LSA) OBLIGATIONS

All our records regarding patrols can be summarised as having met all our obligations even when faced with limited resources. There has not been a year where the Club has had an oversupply of patrolling members, and in some years we have had to rely on a few members to do more than their fair share.

In addition to not having adequate patrolling members, having members with the right skills/awards for patrols has needed management.

We are fortunate that the original selection of Elizabeth Beach as the location of our Club was made. It has proven to be a safe beach over 40 years although at times it can be dangerous, particularly with its shorebreak which has caused numerous injuries over the years.

Patrolling Elizabeth Beach is not all our Club does. Even from the early days our Club members were called upon to carry out rescues away from Elizabeth Beach. A State Recreation Area (SRA) Ranger called on Saturday night the 26th July 1986 for us to assist in the search for a missing surfer. Fortunately the surfer returned safely but our members responded promptly which was very much appreciated as has been the case over many years.

In 2003 national recognition was received by young members Chris Gagg, Chris Taylor and Daniel Moran, who were awarded a Group Citation of Merit for Bravery for their rescue of schoolchildren in April 2001.

We have been very fortunate to be supported by a number of Clubs. From the original association with Cooks Hill, other clubs donating equipment and the years of visiting Clubs who patrol over weekends, we have been very fortunate. Visiting clubs that have contributed to our patrol success include:

- Avoca SLSC
- Bondi surf bathers club
- Cooks Hill
- Central Coast Youth Group
- Freshwater
- Long Reef SLSC
- MacMasters SLSC
- North Bondi SLSC
- Ocean Beach
- Terrigal SLSC
- Visting individuals from multiple Clubs



Bondi 2021/22 season

RESCUES AND EMERGENCY CALL OUT TEAM



Flood assistance 2021

Over the previous 40 years our patrolling members and call out team have been involved in many rescues. Our Club's activities have evolved from the ad-hoc requests for assistance in 1986 through to where we are in 2026. The Club has a call out team that deals with incidents from Seal Rocks to Janies Corner, across lakes and in more recent years floods. In recent years surf life saving has evolved into a formally recognised emergency service agency. For PPSLSC that means that our scope of operations now extends far beyond patrolling Elizabeth Beach.

Some of our notable callouts are documented below.

January 2010 – Pacific Palms SLSC. Lifesavers involved: Nathan Ware and Kel McCredie.

On 9th January 2010, Elizabeth Beach was overcome by swarming bluebottles that had blown in on the ocean winds. Patrol 1 had been kept extremely busy treating bluebottle stings.

The beach was busy and the patrol members were also keeping a watchful eye on ten paragliders making the most of the thermal updrafts at the northern end of the beach.

A member of the patrol noticed one of the gliders had landed 100m offshore. Nathan Ware, a patrol member who had just obtained his Bronze in December 2008, was instructed to take a rescue board and get out to the pilot of the submerged equipment. He quickly collected a board and commenced a 400m sprint to the northern end of the beach.

Once there he paddled out through bluebottle infested waters and on approach to the distressed woman realised the lines were entangled in rocks.

Nathan asked a nearby spear fisherman if he had a knife to cut the female paraglider free, however at the thought of damaging her expensive equipment the woman became more panicked. With this in mind Nathan began duck diving to free the tangled lines from the rocks. At this point Kel McCredie arrived on the scene and between the pair of them they paddled the woman to shore.

On the beach over 200 onlookers had gathered and when the trio reached the beach the crowd began clapping.

This event showed excellent monitoring, incident management and response, to the credit of all involved.

March 2010 – Pacific Palms SLSC. Lifesavers involved: Lennon Fisher, Kel McCredie, Mark Martin, Sue Martin and Brooke McCredie

On Tuesday March 23, 2010 at 4:30pm Kel McCredie received a phone call from his daughter, Brooke, to say a surfer was in difficulty at the northern end of Blueys Beach. The surfer was on his

board and was being assisted by two friends who were also on boards. The three had now drifted 250 metres offshore and were about half way down the length of the beach.

A call to 000 Police immediately activated the Surf Rescue Emergency Response system. PPSLSC emergency callout contact, Lennon Fisher, was tasked and met Mark and Sue Martin at the Club to launch the surf rescue jetski. Oxygen and a defibrillator were also taken to the scene, although Ambulance and Police had arrived.

The jetski was launched from Elizabeth Beach and Lennon sped around the headland to Blueys Beach where Mark, Sue and Kel arrived soon after. The surfer was located, hauled onto the jetski sled and was held secure by Mark during the trip back to shore. Back on dry land the exhausted surfer was carried, still on the sled, up the beach.

The surfer was attended by Ambulance officers, transferred to a spinal board and then into the ambulance. His friend explained to the rescuers that the patient had collapsed while out surfing and at one stage was unconscious. He was transferred to Manning Base Hospital and made a full recovery.

Lennon, Kel, Mark, Sue and Brooke's brave actions on this day saved a life.

December 2011. Pacific Palms SLSC. Lifesavers involved: Leon Fisher, Andy Staniland, Kel McCredie and Annette Sanders.

On Saturday 31 December 2011 a call was taken by PPSLSC from Police to say that three people were in difficulty of the South Boomerang Beach headland.

The conditions on the day were extremely dangerous with 2.5m surf and a deep gutter running along the beach towards the headland.

A 10 year old boy had been swept 300m along a deep gutter. Two family members attempted to assist the boy but suddenly found themselves in trouble as well, all clutching the boy's boogie board for flotation. They were all taken out by a strong rip through wild 2.5m surf, before becoming separated from the boogie board near the South Boomerang headland.

A surfer who had spotted the incident unfolding immediately began to try and paddle out to assist but the conditions meant that it was extremely difficult and took a long time to negotiate the break zone. Eventually the surfer was able to make it to the swimmers and offered his board as buoyance to the three patients.

The LNC Support 1 RWC was launched from Elizabeth Beach, driven by Club member Lennon Fisher. Lennon quickly located the now distressed trio, then proceeded to bring the three back to South Boomerang Beach, one at a time, before also picking up the board rider.

Pacific Palms IRB driver Andy Staniland and trainee IRB crewperson Warren Martin negotiated the difficult surf conditions to assist as back up, while Kel McCredie brought first aid equipment to the scene.

The actions of the lifesavers and surfer on this day prevented a likely tragedy from occurring.

October 2013 – Pacific Palms SLSC. Lifesavers involved: Lennon Fisher, Kel McCredie and Jerrad Allen

On Saturday 12th October 2013 at around 4:52pm, Allan Davis (Lower North Coast Duty Officer) was advised by the Surf Rescue Emergency Response System that a surfer had been washed up onto rocks at south Booti Booti near the Ruins camping ground.

David immediately tasked the PPSLSC call out team to respond. Kel McCredie and Lennon Fisher launched the Rescue Water Craft (RWC) into a wild, wind-swept swell on Elizabeth Beach over two kilometres from the incident location. Jerrad Allen was on scene to provide back up.

Operating the RWC solo, Fisher navigated despite poor visibility and 6ft swell, to search South Booti Booti and located two exhausted men (one surfer and one board rider) just off the rocks. In extremely challenging conditions affected by “backwash” from the rocks, large breaking waves and strong winds, Fisher rescued the surfers on their boards. Both patients were delivered back safely to Elizabeth Beach tired but unharmed.

During this incident, which lasted 45 minutes from tasking to completion, McCredie and Allen provided constant communication and backup to Fisher as the RWC operator. The courage and most importantly the skill demonstrated by Fisher in challenging conditions resulted in a great outcome from the rescue effort.

March 2014 – Pacific Palms SLSC and LNC Support Operations – Brian Wilcox, Richard Ellery, David Ellis, Kel McCredie, Julie Wilcox (DO)

On Tuesday 11th March 2014 at 5:18pm, Duty Officer Julie Wilcox was tasked by the Surf Emergency Response System advising of a patient 600m from shore at the north end of Seven Mile Beach, Forster.

Julie immediately tasked lifesavers Brian Wilcox and Richard Ellery to attend the scene. Brian and Richard quickly picked up the RWC based at Cape Hawke SLSC and made their way to the north end of Seven Mile Beach where Brian launched the RWC into choppy, one and a half metre swell.

Following a report that the patient was clinging to a small boat half way along the beach, Julie requested lifesavers David Ellis and Kel McCredie (Pacific Palms SLSC) to assist. Instantly the pair launched the IRB into the messy surf at the southern end of Seven Mile Beach and commenced a search pattern heading north. Whilst the IRB was making its way north, Brian searched southward on the RWC.

At approximately 6:30pm Brian identified a patient clinging to the upturned hull of a Hobie Catamaran. Brian rescued the exhausted and dehydrated patient and brought him back to shore. Once safely on the shore and in the care of local fisherman Phil Dunk, Brian proceeded further up the beach to advise police. The RWC and IRB then proceeded out to the upturned vessel and liaised with Marine Rescue to try to recover it. As light faded fast the recovery was abandoned and both SLS vessels proceeded to PPSLSC before dark.

Lifesavers provided water and warmth and the patient was deemed by local police not to require further medical attention. The patient advised he overturned at approximately 11am in a sudden squall and had been clinging to the overturned vessel since then.

After a coordinated and professional response lifesavers rescued a patient who had spent over 6 hours clinging to his upturned vessel.

June 2014 National Rescue of the Month. Club: Pacific Palms. Lifesavers involved: Lennon Fisher, John Gray, Kel McCredie, Brian and Julie Wilcox and Ben Atkinson.

On Wednesday 7th May 2014, Julie Wilcox was notified that an unknown number of rock fishermen, were washed into the surf at Seal Rocks. Julie notified the Pacific Palms SLSC callout team and surf lifesaver Lennon Fisher was able to respond. John Gray and Brian Wilcox were tasked whilst Kel McCredie was organised as backup. In a jet ski, Fisher conducted a search in extreme surf conditions and rescued a fisherman on the rocks before returning to Boat Beach, whilst the Westpac Life Saver Helicopter winched another man to safety. The actions and quick response of this lifesaving team resulted in the fisherman's life being saved. **SLSA Meritorious Award, Group certificate of Merit** presented to PPSLSC for the outstanding and brave rescue of rock fishermen in extreme conditions on 7th May 2014.

May/June 2019 Club: LNC/Pacific Palms. Lifesavers involved: Richard Ellery, Kel McCredie, Jerrad Allen, Jeanette Allen and Daniel Morgan. National Rescue of the Month.

On Saturday 22 June 2019, Duty Officer Richard Ellery received a call from Surfcom that two patients had been swept from shore after falling from rocks at Boomerang Beach. It was a cold day with a large swell. Kel McCredie launched a Rescue Water Craft (RWC) from the Pacific Palms SLSC with the assistance of a former member Alex Martin, Richard arrived, boarded the RWC and was directed by ambulance officers 1.5km south to the location, where he found the two patients 100m offshore.

Both patients appeared hypothermic and had severe injuries. Richard moved the patients onto the RWC sled and then headed to the Pacific Palms SLSC, where they were met en route and escorted by the Pacific Palms SLSC Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB). When arriving at the club, Kel, Jerrad Allen, Jeanette Allen and Daniel Morhgan began administering advanced first aid to the patients while awaiting arrival of the ambulance.

The difficulty of the rescue and complexity of administering the advanced first aid was increased significantly by the serious injuries to the patients and adverse weather conditions. The rescue demonstrated how the diversity of life saving skills can be used to prevent more serious outcomes.

October 2020 Club: Lower North Coast Operations. Lifesavers and lifeguards involved: Jerrad Allen

At 10:30am, 3rd October 2020, Lower North Coast Duty Manager Jerrad Allen, noticed a large group swimming at South Bluey's Beach. Only upon arrival did Jerrad realise that all 11 swimmers were caught in a rip and in trouble.

Whilst this was a mass rescue, Jerrad calmly and professionally assisted each person, returning them to shore, before collecting the others.

After single-handedly returning all 11 swimmers safely, Jerrad evaluated all patients and deemed that first aid was not required.

Jerrad then spoke to the group and advised them on better swimming locations, and educated the group on how to identify a rip, and the best way to get out of one.

Without the skill, training and calm manner demonstrated by Jerrad, a day at the beach could have ended in tragedy for a large group of swimmers.

September 2022 Club: LNC RWC Team/Pacific Palms SLSC Callout team. Lifesavers and lifeguards involved: Jeanette Allen, Jerrad Allen, Michelle Ellis, Barry Jones.

On the afternoon of Tuesday 6th September 2022, Jerrad and Jeanette Allen, Michelle Ellis and Barry Jones of the PPSLSC call out team were tasked to a report of multiple men in distress off the rocks at Boot Booti National Park.

The two men, aged 22 and 20, were part of a group of four who had travelled north from Maitland before being swept off the rocks at 3:30pm in what was described as 3 to 3.5 metre surf.

Lower North Coast Support Ski 3 launched from Pacific Palms SLSC and navigated the tricky conditions to retrieve the two men, who were found floating on an esky.

Both men were in very poor condition, suffering from hypothermia, scratches and bruises and could not get themselves onto the ski so Jeanette single-handedly pulled both onto the sled and returned them to waiting paramedics at Elizabeth Beach.

The Inflatable Rescue Boat was launched to conduct a welfare check on two remaining men on the rocks at Charlotte Head, but no further action was required and the vessel returned to shore.

While the rescue was successful, it's a sage reminder that the proper safety equipment can ultimately save lives and to check conditions before participating in activities like rock fishing.

At the time, a Bureau of Meteorology warning was in place for hazardous surf, making the rescue all the more impressive.



June 2025 Rescue of the month. Club: Pacific Palms SLSC and other LNC members. Lifesavers and lifeguards involved: David Ellis, Michelle Ellis, Jerrad Allen, Jeanette Allen, Elana Knight, Neal Lyons, Michael Patroni, Benjamin Forrester, Patrick Moses, Luke Murray, Kevin Watt, Callum Docherty

In recognition of an extraordinary 19 person rescue team performed at Seagull Point, near Pacific Palms in the early hours of Sunday 1 June 2025.

A local rock fisherman was pushed off a rock by a wave, landed on other rocks and suffered a number of broken bones and fractures. PPSLSC members were in training at the club house and responded to a member of the public advising of the incident. All agencies on site assisted the injured person and the decision was made that the person had to be carried via a stretcher to the beach, then via an ATV to the road.

Had it not been for the presence of the skilled members, the outcome for patient could have been catastrophic.

NIPPERS AND JUNIORS

Nippers had a rocky start at the Club. At the 22nd December 1985 committee meeting the matter of nippers was brought up and it was decided that a lawyer be engaged to write a letter regarding insurance. It was noted that a completely separate committee had to be formed and that no chances should be taken in relation to nippers as the Club was not affiliated at that stage. It was also indicated that a very small percentage of nippers go on in later years to compete or patrol. It was therefore determined that Nippers should not be considered at that point in time.

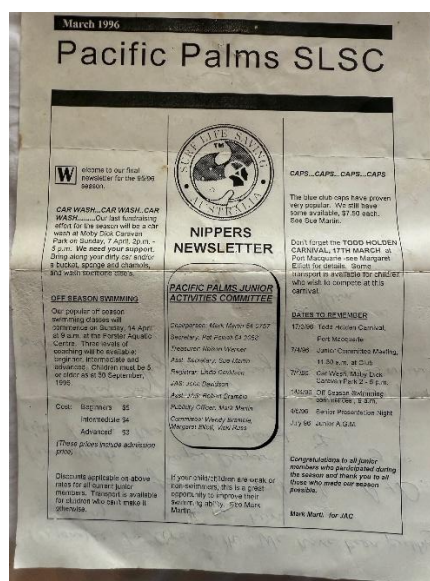
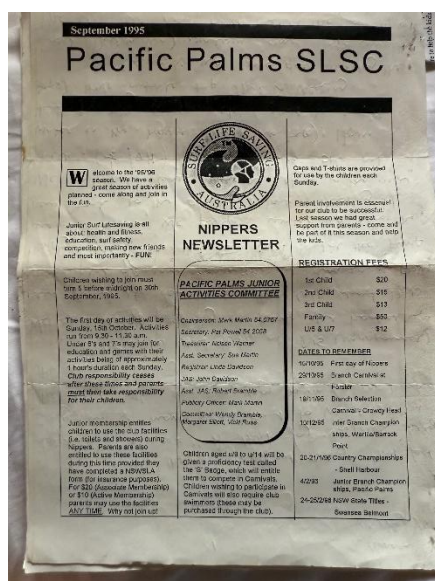
In the initial years the President and Committee did not encourage Nippers and actively sought to have a Club that was 'Nipper Free'. Eventually local community pressure forced the Committee's hand and PPSLSC Nippers came into being. An enthusiastic group of Nippers and Nipper parents drove the Nippers program at the Club and would go on to be the backbone of the Club for many years. Back in 1992 the senior Committee begrudgingly tolerated the Junior Committee and the Junior Committee ran their own bank account and would present the Club with a cheque each year.

The initial year of nippers was largely due to the efforts of John Davidson, Vicki Russ and Tony Russ with Peter Fisher, Tony Moran and Janne Moran assisting. There was an expectation that some 40 children would turn up however about 80 presented themselves.

Eventually a Junior Activity Coordinator (JAC) was established (believed to be in 1991/92 season) however it seemed to be managed as its own entity and became conflicted with the senior surf Club. In Nov 1992 the Treasurer drew to the attention of the Committee that no membership fees had been received from the JAC since its formation and it was in breach of SLSC Club regulations. A motion was passed that the JAC was a sub-committee of the surf Club and that JAC members pay annual fees to the surf Club. Parents were to join as Associates of the surf Club and there was no provision for family memberships.

Nippers has historically run quite independently from the main club, with one person generally reporting to monthly board meetings.

The 'Nipper News' was a monthly newsletter informing members of events and activities. Unfortunately it only ran for a limited period (unknown duration).

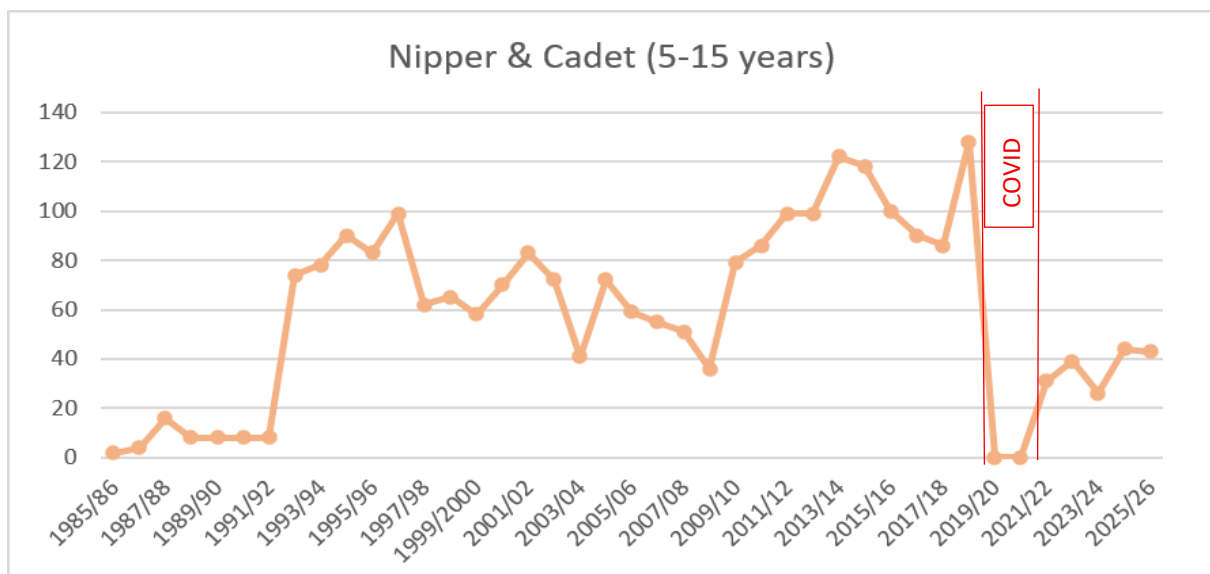


Despite the rocky start the Club has educated thousands of nippers and while the nippers may not always go on to be long term nor active Club members, a number of the parents do. Water safety has always played a big part of nippers and juniors and a special thanks must go to all the members who have sacrificed their time to ensure the safety of our next generation.

Nipper participation in surf sports and competitions has varied over the past 40 years and determined by parent/member driving and supporting the nippers in competing as well as the nippers themselves wanting to do it. These dynamics seem interlinked as the more structured and active the nippers program is, the more children want to be a part of it.

Nippers numbers have historically been good when a good junior committee provided a well-structured program and dynamic leadership on the beach.

COVID again has had a major impact on nipper numbers which have not come close to achieving the pre-COVID numbers.



Note: The numbers used for graphs come from annual reports and where no numbers were available an average across prior and next year were used. Trying to validate against SLS Surfguard data proved to be unsuccessful.

EVENTS

Excluding AGM and Awards nights the Club established and run many events that have been major draw cards.

- **Battle of the Boats** - A well known surfboat rower and coach (Steve Scott) approached the Club and wanted to know if we wanted to row boats at the Club. We had previously had surfboats at the Club however this was a whole new approach. Steve brought knowhow and enthusiasm to the Club and PPSLSC soon became a powerhouse of Surfboats. Steve, Dave Ellis and Mark Martin met in 1998/99 and Steve put forward the idea of a surfboat only carnival at Elizabeth Beach. David Ellis came up with the name, and “Battle of the Boats” was born. The carnival ran over 2 days in February and was a lead up event to State and Australian Championships. Visiting crews loved the format with lots of racing over 2 days, plenty of knowledgeable officials (who were well looked after) and first class water safety under the control of Club member Rod Williams. Prizemoney was on offer with the community, businesses, and tourism getting behind the event. The event was The Recky’s biggest night of the year for many years with crews coming from Victoria, Queensland and one from Holland!
- **Rock to Rock Ocean Swim** - Former Club President (Steve Lavis - formerly of Stockton SLSC) approached the Committee with the idea of an Easter Sunday Ocean swim. The Pacific Palms Real Estate Rock to Rock Ocean Swim commenced in 2000 and continues to be held annually. The main swim is 1.5km and a 600m swim commenced in 2016. The swim has been very popular with locals and many visitors ever since.
- **Blueys Cellars Masters Carnival**
- **Fundraiser and auction nights.** These events focused on raising funds via auctioning off donated items (that varied greatly) and in later years had a band for entertainment.
- **Trivia nights** - The Club ran many successful Trivia Nights – usually over the Christmas to New year period. These nights were extremely well patronised with just about full houses each time. In addition to questions there were games, challenges and bags of fun. Probably the most famous game was for each table to make the longest chain of clothes from what the table were wearing. An absolute eye opener!
- **IRB Premiership**
- **PPSLSC Champion Life Saver Carnival (established Dec 2024)**
- **Ad-hoc events**



Battle of the Boats 2008



SLS NSW Rounds 3 and 4 IRB Premiership 23 and 24 June 2007.



Rock to Rock 2025



Fundraiser and auction night 2024



Trivia night 2023

WOMEN IN PPSLSC

Fortunately by the time the PPSLSC came into operation during the mid 1980's female predecessors had challenged the Surf Life Saving Australia policy of no-women and much of the 'blokiess' of surf life saving had been replaced with a much more open culture that included women. As such, PPSLSC benefited from much of the change that had taken place in surf life saving.

"SLSA debated the issue of active female members in the second half of the 1970's against a background of declining memberships, a women's movement more conscious of gender relations, and parliamentary debates over gender discrimination. Some SLSA officials belatedly recognised the potential of women to assist the association. In 1980 SLSA allowed Clubs to admit women as active members, although the debate continued with some Clubs such as Palm Beach convinced that women surf lifesavers would destroy their most precious asset, mateship and transform the character of the Club. But even Palm Beach could not escape the inevitable and the first active women members walked into the Club in 1985-86 season." Ed Jaggard, 2006.

It was from this history that PPSLSC women started their journey in our Club's surf life saving movement. It would have been easy for any Club, including the Palms, to shift silently into an unofficial 'No Women' Club, but luckily this did not happen, women were admitted as members and it was not long before certificates were being awarded to our female members. This was to happen even during the inaugural year, the 1986-87 season, when Carol Byrne and Heather Craig receive their Instructor's Certificates.



Pink Patrol 2026

And so it goes on throughout the following 40 years, women have played a paramount part in the running of the Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club. All aspects of Club activity have been influenced by our female members with their presence from administration to fundraising to serving as Club and Patrol Captains and active members on our call out team. Female membership (including nippers) has varied between 36 to 55% over the 40 years. Over the years, Women have had successes at all levels of competition and have carried the Club forward at the highest Surf Life Saving events - State, Australian and World titles.

In the 2020-2021 Season PPSLSC received recognition in NSW Parliament for our Women's Pink Patrol.

Congratulations to all women within the membership ranks of the Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club, you are a cornerstone of this organisation positioned side by side in equal partnership with your male counterparts.

While the Club has some awesome women members, a special mention needs to be given to Pat Powell who needs to be recognised for her competition at world, national and state level and her

tireless work applying for all our grants and the many roles, including Club Secretary, that she has held over decades. Pat is a role model for all members and was the club's first Life Member.

TRAINING, EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTORS

PPSLSC grew from humble beginnings in early 1986, with a lack of equipment and training facilities, so much so that Cape Hawke SLSC supported our member training and allowed access to their equipment (although our Club did pay for insurance). Glenn Miller obtained his bronze medallion and became the Club's Surf Survival Chief Instructor (our first) which enabled him to train new members with surf life saving skills during our inaugural year of service. Glenn was a very busy man when you look at the medals the Club gained that year: Bronze Medallions, 10; Surf Certificates, 7; Instructors Certificates, 4; and Proficiency Certificates, 4.

Training nights commenced at the Pacific Palms Primary School – First Aid, CPR and general resuscitation as well as team building. When the club house was built and facilities became available the Club became self sufficient in most training.

There are various levels of training and coaching in the Club over our history and while the majority is inhouse training, the Club participates with other clubs or groups as required

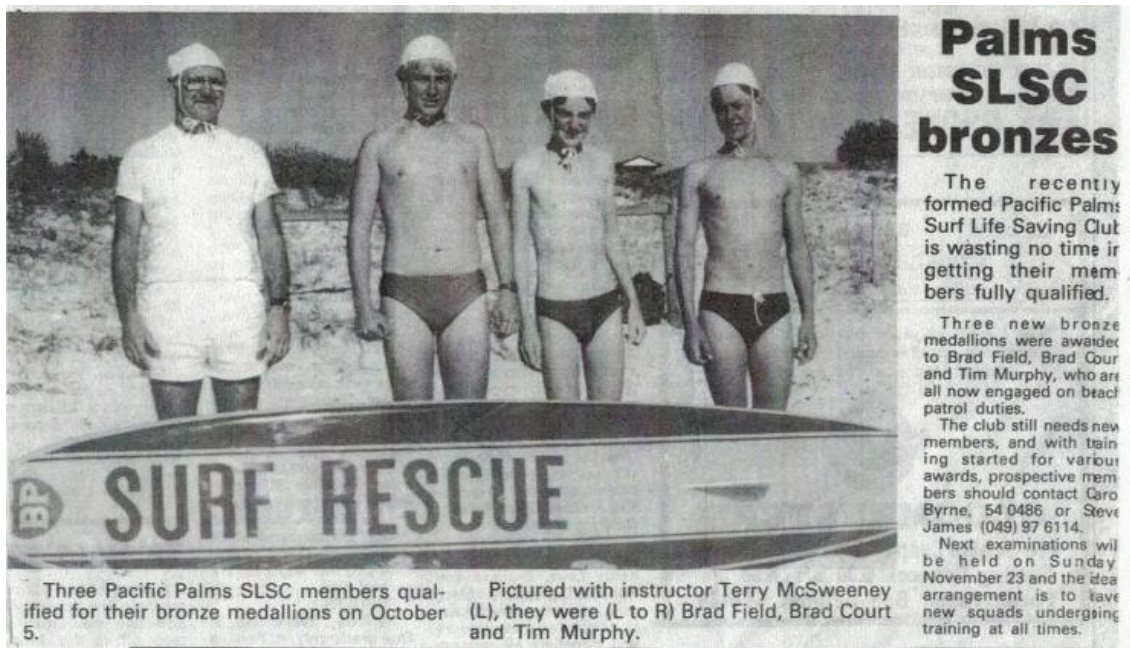
Like all teaching activities, Instructors spend many hours preparing notes and presentations before face-to-face contact with their students. Over the years the high turnover rate is an indication of the intensity of this role within the Club. Our Club has been fortunate to have some amazing trainers, assessors and facilitators (TAFs) who must be thanked for their commitment and professionalism.

There has always been a massive challenge of having trainers, assessors and facilitators which is further complicated by the diversity in training needed – aquatic rescue (Bronze/SRC/silver medallion), first aid, IRB, RWC, drones, advanced resuscitation, patrol captains. Unfortunately we have seen a decrease in TAFs which makes training members all that much harder and therefore increasing the need for clubs to work together and share training programs.

SLSA has played a large part in laying the foundation for education and certifications and there has been a massive transformation in the type of courses and how they have been delivered. As technology has improved and access to it has become common place, there has been a shift in delivering more on-line training. Having said that, the most valuable training will be delivered by people both formally and informally.

Apart from the SLS mandated training and skills maintenance (proficiencies), the Club has had to run specific training programs driven by events and community demands. A tragic drowning of a young surfer at Tiona Beach in late 1997 drove Pacific Palms SLSC members to launch a series of educational sessions aimed at educating holiday visitors in "Surf Awareness". It had been realised for a long time that many visitors coming to the region had little experience of swimming in the surf, let alone how to read surf conditions in our area. Talks/training such as those held at The Ruins campground of Booti Booti National Park during the first week of January 1998 have been delivered by the Club on an ad-hoc basis.

Over the years a number of community based education programs have taken place such as first aid, use of a tourniquet and resuscitation. Unfortunately time and available trainers has been a limitation on running community training regularly.



Advocate Sport section, 1986



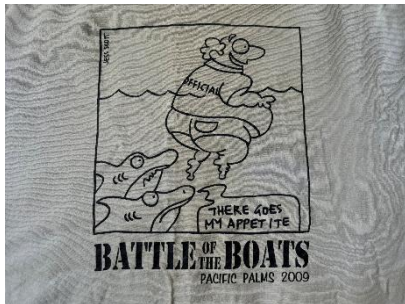
Janne Moran (R) - seven years Education Director and Life Member
(with Sharon Hope)

SPORTING PASSION

Over the past 40 years the Club has maintained a very high level of enthusiasm for sporting events.

Pacific Palms has always been an area where people have shown an interest in sports and with the introduction of Sunday morning handicap beach events around 1995 the Club attracted members from other sports and commenced a 20 year golden era of success at state, Australian and world titles which put Pacific Palms on the map.

Sport and competitions are not only valuable for individuals, they also go a long way to establishing



Club culture and our identity. As an example, our surf boat teams and supporting members have played a major part in making the public (local and across Australia) aware of who we are. Our surf boat teams ensured we went from a club nobody knew (our travelling shirts had across the back "Where the hell is Pacific Palms?") to being one of the best known surf boat club in Australia. The Battle of the Boats (BOB) was regarded as the best surf boat club carnival in Australia. There was enormous

commitment by the rowers and the Club to achieve this and it is doubtful if another surf life saving club in Australia has come close to our achievement.



Beyond the competition itself, it must be mentioned that there were millions of dollars that BOB contributed to Pacific Palms. The BOB was a main driver in our Club becoming a much sought after function centre with many that visited over nearly 20 years holding their weddings in our club house.

Over the years we have had some exceptionally passionate people and teams compete, including:

- Terry Brooker competed from 1995 for 20 years in many countries including South Africa, New Zealand, USA, Italy, Egypt and France, achieving 29 state medals, 19 Aussies and 24 world medals. Terry Brooker earned himself a place in Pacific Palms history with the first Australian Medal for our Club
- Our surf boat crews are arguably the greatest achievers, including:
 - The under 18 crew that won our first State title 2 years in a row.
 - U18 crew came second in the U21 National Titles and went on to represent Tasmania in the Nutri Grain series (using the refurbished yellow surf boat)
 - Reserve Crew (Bandits) that won the National ASRL and 3rd in in the SLSA Nationals (using the Club's first new boat (yellow))
 - Women's Open crew (with new yellow surf boat) that won the ASRL Open , several BOB's and made State and Australian finals
 - U19's (CLOWNS) won National ASRL and 2006 Australian Champions (Woodstock surf boat) and several BOBs
 - Open men's crew ASRL National Champs (Ego surf boat)



Australian Delegation to 1988 World Life Saving Championships, Gold Coast Qld



Masters Team (State and Australian Championships) Kel McCredie, Pat Powell, Terry Brooker Wendy McCredie 2009_10



Pat Powell Aussies



Hugh Jamieson SLSNSW Championships 2024



1999 Junior Boat Crew competition
Matt Murphy, Brad Verdich, Michael Currie, Steve Knight, Steve Scott



Peter Allison and Terry Brooker



1999 U21 Boat Crew competition L-R
Steve Scott, Matt Murphy, Michael Currie, Steve Knight, Brad Verdich



1999 Reserve Boat Crew L-R Kayne Lyle, Mick Evans, Tim Knight, Dave Ellis, Steve Scott



The 'Clowns' U19 Australian Surf Boat Champions. LtoR Bryce Collins, Nathan Turner, Simon Nicholas, Steve Scott, Rob Scott and Alex Martin.



2001 Aussie Gold U16 Board rescue. Lee Davidson and Dane Williams



2007 Boat Crews after winning double gold at ASRL champs at Lorne



PPSLSC Champion Life Saver Carnival 2025



Jan 1998 – Club's first Gold Medal at the NSW Junior Country Championships held at Tathra. Jay Davidson won a Gold Medal in the U/9 swim and a silver medal in the U/9 Board events

SURF BOATS

PPSLSC has a long tradition in surf boats and associated competitions with the Battle of the Boats being a major event at Elizabeth Beach for a long time (and occasionally run in Wallis Lake when we were faced with huge surf). The Club has had a number of Surf Boats including:

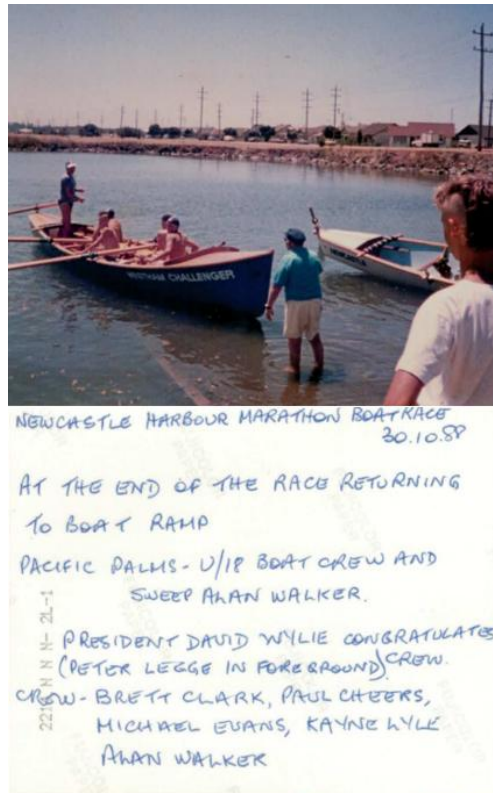
1. State Centre SLSC organised a surf boat located at the Duntroon Military College to be delivered by the SLSC trailer in September 1986. The Club Surf Boat trailer was being built in August 1986 with surf boat training running during the season with the boat being christened at the Exhibition Carnival on 22nd Nov 1986.



Smiths Lake surf boat practice Sept 1986

2. The Stockton Beach SLSC donated boat. This was a Blue coloured timber ribbed boat. Club photos include a number of blue hulled boats. The first two photos are the same boat (Cooks Hill/Frank d'Arcy) which is believed to be a loaned boat and the the 3rd photo is unconfirmed as a PPSLSC boat at the time of publication.





3. The Freshwater SLSC donated boat. This was a white fibreglass boat that was originally branded with BorgWarner sponsorship.
4. The Dr Joan Redshaw donated boat. This was a second hand white coloured boat and was our first boat to have a formal launch.



5. The Nobby's Beach boat purchased for \$500 and was a red boat sponsored by Frothy Coffee. This boat won the Junior state gold medal with timber oars - great job.



6. The Palm Beach SLSC 2nd hand boat that went to Newcastle
7. The Narrabeen SLSC 2nd hand boat (with trailer). This was refurbished by Clymer boats and a new tank was inserted (first boat which was an internal insert design). This boat (UTAG COASTAL TRAVEL and WONDOOR) went on to win many races and it was our first really good boat. It is the boat that was taken to Victoria to contest the ASRL (estimated in 2002) and in the warm up in big seas the rowlock mounting broke and the Club had to borrow a boat. Because of the big seas the only boat anyone would lend the Club was an old boat from Torquay that was not being raced. Our Club went on to win the Open Women and reserve grade finals in this loan boat. That is when Steve Scott decided that PPSLSC needed a new boat, which is the second yellow boat the Club bought new. Possibly this was the M and FJ constructions boat (see next boat).



8. The first brand new boat purchased by Club which had a yellow fibreglass hull with insert.



9. The next boat was the Woodstock boat. Steve Scott ran the National Woodstock Year and Roger Smith (the CEO of Independent Distillers) was sponsoring the Battle of the Boats. The Woodstock boat was won by Bilgola as the best boat Club in Australia but was unable to race it due to prior sponsorship commitments, so Steve Scott arranged to buy it for a good price for PPSLSC. This boat won its first National boat title for the Club in 2006 when the U19's won at Kurawa.

The Woodstock boat was borrowed by Avoca SLSC due to damage to theirs and they won the open men's at the Aussies.



2008 same boat, different livery.

10. Roger Smith then bought us the next boat (a Perry surf boat sponsored by EGO batteries) which was named after Steve Scott. This boat won the Open and U19 National titles on the same day in Lorne (transferred to a nearby beach due to conditions), as well as the MacMasters 23 ladies crew that Steve Scott swept that day in our boat. This boat was sold to Dee Why SLSC some time after 2009.



11. The Mona vale second hand boat that is located in the Club as at 2026.



The following photo (dated Oct 1989) shows a surf boat at Wallis Lake however its ownership and background could not be confirmed.



In the 1993/94 Annual Report there is mention that a second hand surf boat from Ulladulla was approved for purchase however this was not able to be validated. This was post a surf boat fund that commenced on the 18th June 1993 and raised \$4,000. It is possible that Zenith Developments was Ron Pritchard's company and may have sponsored the boat.

VEHICLES

Patrol vehicles play a large part in our Club's operations and over the years we have had a few that have done the hard yards for our Club. Grants, donations and personal efforts of Club members have maintained the fleet of vehicles that have served us well.



Thomas the truck – our first



No name #1 funded by NSW Gov grants in the 1999/2000 season



Pearl – Donated by Sandbar Caravan Park also owners of Paspaley Pearls.



Wayne



No name #2 – via Building Partnership Prog 2025 grant



Can AM Commander
800R



2012/13 ATV



ATV 2016/17



ATV 2023

IRB (Inflatable Rescue Boats)

There have been a large number of IRBs over the years with two to three being used in a season.



1st IRB donated by NSW
State Centre Nov 1986

RWC (Jetskis)

A number of RWC have been at the Club however their history and associated photos are few and far between.



Morgan Melish ski 2007/8



Circa 2009

PUBLICITY and COMMUNICATION

"Publicity is not the responsibility of one person. All members should remember that whether on the beach, on the roads, or in their own neighbourhood, they are at all times an advertisement for the surf life saving movement and should behave in a manner which will reflect credit on the organisation in general, and our Club in particular. This is the best publicity of all." Owen James (1987)

The Newsletter Before the Huey came into operation, most information was distributed by letter, small news sheet or word of mouth. Email was not existent or in its infancy during the second half of the 1980's. For the most part of our 40 years, the Club has received excellent co-operation from the written press, radio and television (less so in recent years). These outlets have been used to advertise our activities and progress resulting in very favourable attitudes from the community towards the surf Club.

The Club newsletter was a spasmodic affair in the beginning (records suggest it first started in the 1993/94 season) with no set dates for issues which remains the same today due to the volunteer nature of the publication and available articles to include in an issue. Still Publicity Officers/Editors do their best collecting information, compiling this material into the final copy before issuing.

The Club's newsletter has gone through a number of name changes:

- September 1994 the Club "Newsletter" started to be catalogued.
- Became the "Palms Surf News" (Jan 1996),
- Then called the "Pacific Palms SLSC Newsletter" (September 1996),
- Then the "Unnamed Newsletter" (November 1996)
- "The Huey" in Feb 1997.

The initial news sheet was not delivered to members by post but was available from a set collection point. It proved an excellent way of getting important information out to members as quickly as possible. Terry Brooker and Lindsay Guy were responsible for the "phantom" section of the

newsletter so any grievances could be forwarded to someone other than the editor. Original Club publicity was via the Advocate as the Club had a weekly page covering activities and Pat Powell was the main driver of The Phantom.

Peter Gagg Realty sponsored the Club newsletter by covering printing costs in the early times. Originally called the Pacific Palms SLSC Newsletter it quickly evolved into the Palms Surf News in January 1996 before making a transformation to the Pacific Palms SLSC by September that same year. When Pat Powell took over as secretary (1996) she wanted to make it more formal and have it posted out to members every 2 months. The Club was having its 10 years celebration in 1997 so what better time to give the newsletter a face-lift. The first edition of this new look information sheet had the uninviting name of the Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club Unnamed Newsletter for the November 1996 number 1 issue. Clearly our little 'mag' was looking for a suitable name so Pat arranged a Christmas 'name the magazine' competition which saw many members submitting suggestions. Issue No 2 in February 1997 sported "The HUEY". Steve Lavis, who became the proud owner of a Surf Life Saving towel for his efforts, submitted this name. The newsletter has been for the most published every second month since its formation and goes to every member of the Club. There have been a number of editors, and each editor's efforts have been quite different so we've had a lot of variety.

Over the years technology has changed and today the Club distributes The HUEY via email to a member distribution list which is manually kept up to date and sent whenever there is enough material gathered for a publication which is typically every 2 months.

Our **Club website** has undergone a number of releases over the years and it is only as a result of our members investing time that we manage to keep the website relevant and updated.

- 2003-2004 – first **Website** went live hosted by Golden Age Media
- 2013/14 annual report listed website as www.pacificpalmssurfclub.com
- 2014/15 listed website as www.pacificpalmsslsc.org.au
- 2023 – new release with forms and document download capability

The web site release in 2023 included forms and the Club now receives a steady flow of emails from the forms primarily enquiring about venue/wedding bookings. Given venue bookings are our largest source of income, the website remains a very valuable tool despite the various forms of social media having increased. The website also provides Club related information and contact details.

The Club has moved with the times with social media (Facebook, Instagram etc) and although The Huey and our website have a purpose, the Club has had to adapt to Facebook and Instagram to get its messages out there. Social Media management has become the major focus of the Publicity Officer as we try to get our messages out there amongst the massive volume of competing posts and messages. We also need to manage posts on our pages to ensure their suitability in a world where anyone can say anything.

GRANTS, SPONSORSHIP and FUNDRAISING

Raising funds started in late 1985 with a Chocolate wheel at the Community Centre Market Day which did not go as well as anticipated. Fortunately organisations, businesses, Club members and community people have given unselfishly of their monies, time and energy to assist the Club over the past 40 years. All facets of the Club have benefited from this assistance.

Hall hire, door knocks, auction nights, raffles, car washes, quoits days by the Friends of Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club based at Pacific Palms Caravan Park, Theatre - Dinner Nights, trivia nights, SIPS @ The Booti Bar, Club Social events are just some of the fundraisers organised by the Club and the broader community over the years.

Lions Club contributions, especially in the early years for funds and equipment made a significant contribution to keeping our Club afloat.

The Recky and auction nights

The association with the Pacific Palms Recreation Club (now called The Recky) started with the 1986 Anzac day two-up proceeds which were donated to PPSLSC.

Pacific Palms Recreation Club permitted us to run auction nights at the Club which started during the 1987-1988 season and has continued for many years (excluding some years where our Club has not been able to organise the event). Up until 2022 Auction nights were focused on auctioning off items to raise funds, however post 2022 entertainment was included typically in the form of a band.

The Recky has been very generous in hosting the event and even paying for the bands that played in recent years. All have been a great success because of many Club and community members getting out and becoming involved in this fundraising event. Many businesses from the Palms to other areas of the Great Lakes have been doggedly prevailed upon to donate goods and services to the cause. Local residents have also given goods freely to the night.

For many years The Recky allowed the Club to run raffles at the Club which were based on an allotted date and time. Unfortunately this ceased happening as our Club could not get enough members to organise and sell the tickets at The Recky.

For many years The Recky has also donated funds annually for worthy purchases such as Nipper Boards and maintains a Gold Sponsorship in 2026.

Caravan Parks

There were four Caravan parks in the area that supported the PPSLSC – Palms Oasis, Moby Dick's, Pacific Palms and Sandbar/Bushland Caravan Park. Club committee minutes reflect that raffles started at the Pacific Palms Caravan park at the end of 1985.

Enormous amounts of money have been raised by canvassing the local caravan parks. Christmas and Easter raffles have targeted the four local caravan parks from our first year of operation. In addition, the caravan parks have sponsored the Club and donated funds to help purchase needed items.

Moby Dick's Caravan Park was built in the 1960s and in 2004/05 it transformed into a luxury resort of 75 beach houses spread over 3.2 hectares. It had been a sponsor of our Club for a number of years however the relationship changed after it transformed.

Sandbar Caravan Park was also active over the years in helping our club and during the 1999 to 2000 season they donated the Club a patrol vehicle which we named 'Pearl' after Paspaley Peals who owned the caravan park at the time.

The Palms Oasis Caravan Park (who allowed us to sell raffle tickets) was acquired in November 2016 by Ingenia and it closed in 2018.

It would be negligent to not print a few words on the Pacific Palms Caravan Park and its residents who have stood the test of time.

Pacific Palms Caravan Park

The close proximity of the park has resulted in a very close relationship between the park residents and our Club. Over decades the park has raised significant funds and helped out in events that the Club has run and it has played a major role in the ongoing survival of our Club.



Caravan Park kids donate in 2026



Darin and Karen Godwin donate in 2025



Rebekah and Allan Mowatt donate park raised funds



PP Caravan Park Board donation 1995/96

Quoits

Wayne and Cathy Tindall (Pacific Palms Caravan Park residents) have played a large part in the relationship with our Club and in particular the fundraising event known as 'Quoits Day'. Quoits day started with someone donating a raffle prize and the \$80 raised was donated to our Club and the Quoits day grew from there. The Morley family mowed and cleared an area that allowed four quoits games to be played simultaneously.

Children under 15 were excited to become scorers using clothes pegs and string line. Many helpers volunteered their time beforehand arranging Tombala prizes, quoits day draws, front desk scorers, marshals, umpires and assistants. Another lovely family put together a BBQ to feed the troops and very generous donations were received from the residents of the caravan park. Anyone over 15 was encouraged to participate in the games, all vying for a trophy at the end of a very long day with all awards presented by the current park "Governor General" and "Lord Mayor".

Every 2nd January, no matter how busy, a group of Surf Life Saving representatives would always drop over to mingle and present awards with every park resident appreciating the gesture.

The day became an icon in the park with everyone looking forward to the day with heat and rain never stopping the games. There has never been an official count of how much was donated but in some years it was over \$10,000.

Unfortunately COVID meant no games for one year and then Wayne and Cathy Tindall retired. There is hope that an enthusiastic individual may take on the challenge to rebirth the great day to support the PPSLSC and its volunteers.

Over \$100,000 has been raised over the years for the PPSLSC from this amazing event.



Wayne and Cathy Tindall



Circa 2010 Quoits day

Lizzy Ladies



Lizzy Ladies 2026 Mexican theme

Once COVID ended a group of ladies from the Pacific Palms Caravan Park (referred to as the Lizzy Ladies) have run an annual event in May at the PPSLSC auditorium to get together and have some fun and raise valuable funds for the PPSLSC. Michelle Muddle has been the chief organiser for the event and sets a theme (Mexican in 2026) with attendees coming dressed in the appropriate attire and having some fun. Apart from enjoying themselves the games and festivities result in significant funds being raised across the bar, from donations and game fees. It is such a pleasure hosting the Lizzy Ladies annually and the Club is grateful for the funds being raised.

Booti Bar (now Sunday SIPS @ Booti Bar)



The 2008-2009 season launched the Booti Bar and as well as its social contribution (members and the public at large) it has generated significant funding for the Club. Being volunteer staffed, the Club is able to raise significant funds for the Club's operation with minimal costs.

To the many members who have acted as staff, the Club owes you many thanks for all the time and effort put into the Booti Bar. Events such as Battle of the Boats, Rock to Rock, Australia Day and many other occasions are only possible through the generosity of the many who have served on the bar.



(L to R) Leisa Roe, Heike Carmichael, Mark Lawson, Michael Patroni, Ian Carmichael



(L to R) Annette James, Heike and Ian Carmichael



There was a period (2020/21) where people were invited to play live music which ran for a few weeks.

Left - Jerry Edwards and Caravan Park visitor

Right - Sage Sercombe McLean



BBQ AND KITCHEN

Every event, be it small or large requires food and without all the volunteers events would not be successful so thanks to the hundreds, if not thousands of people who have served on the Club BBQ or in the kitchen over the years.



THE FUTURE

People will determine how the PPSLSC performs in the future. Our Club, like so many others is dependent on people to be active members and others to be active supporters (financial and other).

The area is undergoing change, as are the people. We have seen two of the nearby caravan parks close and be re-developed. The re-development of Moby's and The Oasis (into an over 55s living community (2026)), has changed how the residents have interacted with our Club and we have lost the engagement that we had with the caravan park residents/visitors who seemed more engaged with the Club and happy to help out when they were in town. The changing use of Caravan Parks and their residents will no doubt lead to the Club receiving different support.

At the time of writing there are two local large residential area developments (Lot 23, Boomerang Drive [72 lots] and 238 Boomerang Drive [77 lots]), and along with Ingenia's Kokomo (Oasis development) they will bring in an influx of people which will be an opportunity for the PPSLSC to attract new and engaged members. Only time will tell if this increase, along with other developments in the nearby area, will help the Club maintain and grow its active membership.

Community. We have been very fortunate that the area has some wealthy and generous owners who have contributed to the Club with financial support. For a small Club, having financial support makes a big difference to what we can do for the community.



The **Community AED (defibrillator) Program** the Club runs was established in the 2017/18 season with Janne Moran, Pat Powell and David Ellis were the drivers that put the program together and it continues to grow. Over the years we have had a number of lives that have been saved through the use of the AEDs and this program is probably the most valuable community program that has stood the test of time with AEDs located at:

1. Our Surf Club (on the wall at ground level) via a grant
2. Coomba Park Pollard's Shop- purchased by PPSLSC
3. Smiths Lake Friendly Grocer - purchased by PPSLSC
4. Pacific Palms Pharmacy purchased by PPSLSC
5. North Boomerang car park – donated by Stryker (the manufacturer of AEDs) and Graham and Elizabeth Johnson

We need to thank all our members (past and current) that check and maintain the AEDs for our community to use. At the time of writing, plans are being developed for another AED to be deployed at Bluey's beach.

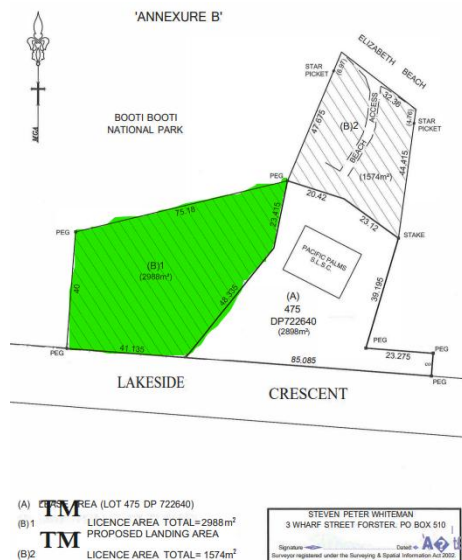
As surf life saving moves towards being an emergency services organisation it is possible that the Club will progress the proposed helicopter landing area adjacent to the Club which would again change the profile of PPSLSC (see picture below).

People are our most valuable asset and having the right culture and engagement with members and the community will determine whether we continue to be a successful Club.

As can be read in many research papers, it seems that **volunteering is decreasing** so it is vital that our Club, and surf life saving works hard at maintaining and growing its membership. Increasing competition from a growing number of not-for-profits and a shift from "career volunteering" to "shorter-term volunteering" will no doubt impact our membership.

We also need to engage and leverage the other clubs in our Branch and continue to attract much stronger clubs in NSW to visit and patrol.

COVID had a major impact and after some four years we still have not returned to the same level of membership that we enjoyed pre-COVID. Hopefully the future does not include a similar event as it could have a crippling effect on our small Club.



Proposed helicopter landing area contained within NPWS lease.

reach out to people.

We are dependent on **Surf Life Saving (NSW and Australia)** to set our overall strategy and it is clear that we are moving towards more of an emergency service capability. Where our emergency call out team fits into this overall plan remains an unknown however the evolution of surf life saving will continue and we are in the hands of the Association.

The one aspect that needs to be understood is that the Club's financial well being is primarily associated with **our venue hire business**. For decades the revenue associated with venue rental (primarily weddings) has been the backbone to our fiscal survival (excluding grants which facilitate capital items). Our Club house is aging and will no doubt need replacement in years to come, and a new building will not only ensure our operational performance, it will help guarantee our financial health. It will not be too far in the future that planning for a new Club house will need to take place.

Technology will change. We have seen the line and reel surf lifesaving method pioneered by Lyster Ormsby in 1906 no longer used and in similar ways what we do today will no longer be done tomorrow. Drones will no doubt change how we deliver life saving, and with other technical changes we will need to adapt. We will need to change how we train and support our members and the public as we take on new ways of delivering our services.

Technical change is not just associated with how we deliver our services, it is also about communications. Keeping our members informed as well as reaching out to the community is critical. Using websites, social media and now artificial intelligence (AI) has become a vital aspect in making the Club a success in communicating with people. Drawing more members, seeking funds, training and informing people will only be done through effective communication and using the associated technical tools to

OUR PRESIDENTS (McQueen, 2007)

It is important to keep in mind that the information presented for each President is a summary of achievements occurring during their term. It does not necessarily indicate that they came up with the ideas or actually did the hands on work as there has been many members who have contributed to the activity within any Presidents period.

With a myriad of people's involvement in the setting up and running of the Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club over the past 40 years it is impossible to name every one.



8 presidents at 21st anniversary. L to R –Mick Evans, Dave Wylie, Mark Martin, Rob Bramble, Dan Brauer, Dave Collins, Dave Ellis, Steve Lavis

Dave Wylie (1986 to 1994)



In 1994, Dave was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for 50 years involvement in the surf life saving movement of Australia. Simple maths, which even I can perform, states that in 1983 when Dave and his wife Betty were approached to form a surf Club in the Pacific Palms area Dave had been involved with surf life saving for 39 years. Dave had been a member of Cooks Hill, Newcastle receiving a good grounding in his main love, surf boats. Although the official PPSLSC record shows 8 years as President, David spent a number of years establishing the Club prior to his Presidency. In Dave's case service to the PPSLSC amounted to a total of 11 years.

During the inaugural president many firsts occurred, the most important was the formation of the Club. Associated with this was developing a concrete relationship with the many surf life saving bodies e.g. Lower North Coast Branch that would carry the Club into the future. Other institutions such as the Great Lakes Council, State and Federal Governments, National Parks and Wildlife required extensive negotiations for materials such as a land package and land usage. Fundraising was, as with all presidents, a key issue during Dave's time especially as the Club was starting from scratch.

The major project undertaken during his leadership was building a number of stages of the Club house. Many hours were spent lobbying individuals and organisations, fundraising and obtaining grants. It was during this period that \$10,000 was made available by Ron Pritchard from Zenith Development Corporation, Castlecrag, NSW for the Club house building. It is important to state that the Club is indebted to this single donation as it started the ball rolling for the Club house construction. This money was invested and realised \$12,000 by the time we were ready to build. Over the next 9 years Ron made funds available at each stage of the building while awaiting grants from various bodies. These monies were paid back in full to Ron in latter years but the memory of this generous assistance is recognised by the membership with special thanks for his actions and confidence. Other fundraising activities included:

- The President's Building Appeal, which went into full swing during this period
- The 'Auction Night' started and was to become a major fundraising activity of the Club
- Christmas and Easter raffles targeting the four local caravan parks
- Theatre-dinner functions held in the community centre
- Sponsorship drives for surf rescue equipment including surf boats and oars, surf rescue boards, surf skis,ambu-manikins, radios, first aid equipment, IRBs and motors, patrol enclosure

The Junior Activities Committee was formed during the 'Wylie' time to oversee the activities of our junior Club members and to make sure that their activities were conducted in a safe and protected fashion. Dave coached boat crews who were successful at Branch and Country Championships which was an outstanding achievement for inexperienced crews from a newly formed club. Finally, Dave with his wife Betty hold a distinctive position within Surf Life Saving Australia. They played a pivotal role in the formation of a surf club. Both would be the first to say they did not form the Club, they were given an idea, asked to run with it, and along the way were assisted by a multitude of people. They did however play a key role in maintaining impetus, direction and faith in the outcome. Looking back it was worth the trials and tribulations and the Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club reflects the vision of the Wylie times.

Mick Evans (1994 to 13th March 1995)



Michael (Mick or Mic) has been a member of the PPSLSC since its formation, as a cadet and then a senior member of the organisation. Mick was one of two nominees for the position of President at the 1993-1994 AGM. The ensuing secret ballot between Mick and the second nominee, Steve Lavis, resulted in a tie. The acting Chairperson Lyle Rees cast his vote in favour of Mick. Mick would have had the most unenviable task of taking on the presidency after the retirement of our founding President who had served for a long time. As was detailed earlier in this history, the building of the club house had caused discontent within the membership ranks and given that half the membership had favoured someone else for the Presidency meant that Mick had some work to do

from day one. The Club needs to recognise the efforts Mick went to during this period.

Mick's Presidency provided an opportunity for the younger Club members to have a voice in its future direction. Unfortunately, Mick's term as president was a very short eight months.

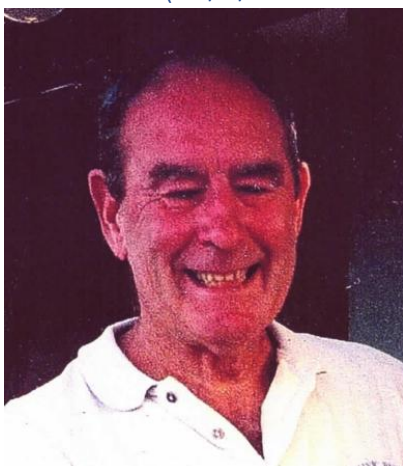
During Mick's presidency the patrol competition was introduced as an in-house inspection with each patrol being inspected four times during the season. What a task! During these inspections each patrol was given points on attendance, uniform, equipment and a situational rescue. Annette Sanders, Paul Cheers and Phil Spicer ran these competitions and it had a positive impact on the capability of our patrols.

Mick continued to raise funds for the Club and activities included:

- The caravan park seafood raffles
- IRB donation bucket at the Recreation Club
- Seafood raffle at Bluey's shopping centre
- Car wash at Moby Dick's Holiday Park caravan park

Mick stood down from the President's role as he did not agree with the way that our major benefactor (Ron Pritchard) was being treated with a loan that he had made to the Club during major building works.

Steve Lavis (13/3/1995 to 1996)



In 1991, Denise and Steve Lavis moved permanently to Pacific Palms after spending many years holidaying at Moby Dick Caravan Park while building a vacation home. It was during one of these holiday stays that the inaugural meeting for the formation of the surf Club took place and Steve attended this community meeting. He was unable to join the Club at that point. Steve says "This was because the fledgling Club did not want Reserve Active members at that time." In 1991, Steve received a visit from Andrew Thom, the PPSLSC Captain. According to Steve, Andrew had heard that he was an old Clubbie and asked if Steve would give due consideration to joining the Club as they were experiencing trouble filling patrols.

Steve had just finished a stint working in Darwin and had been a member of the Darwin SLSC for that period. During this time, he had trained their marathon ski paddling team so Andrew's request enabled him to hop straight back into surf lifesaving. It also allowed the PPSLSC Club to benefit from

his experience, something that was in short supply at that time. Again, Steve came to office in a time of transition and would have had difficulties getting many things moving during this period. Steve was in office for one year and four months. During his presidency Steve, like all our presidents, worked hard to make our Club a better place. Much of the activities Steve was involved in completing many of the things that had been underway such as finishing off the Club house. Other activities included fundraising and competition events.

When asked about those early days of his membership Steve Lavis says, "It was a pleasure to become a member and to be able to contribute to the Club's development. I must say that although I attended the inaugural meeting I have no first hand knowledge of events that took place during the 1986 to 1991 period. Joining the Committee in the first year of my membership enabled me to have a say when I felt it was appropriate. My initial position was as Publicity Officer, the following years as Vice President, Sports Secretary, Chief BBQer and Social Grub Master - I eventually made the transition to butterfly and President."

David Ellis (1996 to 2000 with a 9 month break between 13/10/1997 to 31/7/1998)



When you first meet Dave, you are generally bowled over with this dynamic man and his enthusiasm for life. Watching Dave in action at any function, carnival or meeting you appreciate his mission in life; Dave is an ideas man and an arbitrator. As President, Dave headed a dynamic team and at the top of this list was Pat Powell who was able to take Dave's ideas and channel them into the appropriate avenues to reach their true potential.

The reconciliation process of this period in the Club's history is indebted to Dave's understanding all viewpoints and he took the time to address every issue that the various membership factions presented. With the assistance of others Dave resolved problems by having the tough discussions, compromising and moving forward.

During his Presidency Dave worked tirelessly for the well being of the Club and achieved a number of outcomes including:

- Increasing Active and Associate membership numbers
- Club house improvements
- Constitutional amendments
- Lifeguards paid by Great Lakes Council on our beach during holiday periods
- Competition excellence
 - NSW Junior Country Gold medal by Jay Davidson, our first
 - Continued winning of the Lower North Coast Branch Patrol Shield
 - Continued successes for our veterans
 - Boat crews (with Steve Scott's efforts) continued to represent the Club far and wide achieving results nothing short of outstanding from a small Club; NSW Country Championships, Masters Carnival, Coffs Craft Carnivals, State, Australian and Worlds events and qualifying for the Nutri-Grain Series. Crews during this period continued to set standards for others to follow in the years to come
- Battle of the Boats was awarded "Country Event of The Year" at the NSW Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence.
- A new budget system for each section of the Club

- Sponsorship, fundraising and funding from many generous locals and governing bodies
- Patrolling strength increased to 11 patrols
- Updating the Annual Report to make it more polished and professional in format.

Robert Bramble (13/10/1997 to 31/7/1998)



Rob took over from Dave who resigned from the President's position for a short period due to personal reasons. Rob was a more reserved President and feels that although it was a good experience stepping into the President role, in reality he preferred being Club Captain - the role where he felt he excelled. Talking with him about the President's position, the first thing he admits is that he hated the pomp and ceremony associated with the job. He says that Annette Sanders, Mark Martin and many others helped him during this period, some assisting with presentation speeches, others at special Club evenings such as sponsor's night and acting as compere. For all his self-doubt about his ability for the job, Rob did a good job carrying out presidential duties. Firstly, his door was always open to any member and he was willing to discuss at length their issues. Secondly, he was well aware of the important part the Active Members played in the Club and was willing to act on their behalf. Thirdly, he dealt with issues swiftly and in a polite manner. He carried these attributes with him while

undertaking a number of Club activities, the mark of the true Club diplomat.

Robert stated in 2005 - "I can remember when the Battle of the Boats and the Rock to Rock Swim were just ideas. Seeing them grow into the major fund raising events that they are today has been amazing. It fills you with pride to witness the good will they bring into the Club".

Mark Martin (2000 to 2005, 2012 and 2013)



Mark's first senior position in the Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club was Junior Activities Committee Chairman from 1993 to 1997. After this, he served one year (1997-1998) as a Management Committee member, as the Club's Vice President for two seasons (1998-2000). These could be seen as stepping-stones to the Presidency of the Senior Club from 2000 through to 2005.

Mark was Vice President from 2005 through to 2012 and again President in 2012 to 2013. Mark exemplifies the SLSC motto 'Yours in Vigilance and Service'. He also believes that a

President is only one person on a committee and that decisions need to be made in a democratic fashion by the whole group, not just one person. Mark says, "If democracy does not rule, anarchy and faction fighting results in the destruction of the organisation."

During his presidency, Mark worked tirelessly for the betterment of the Club. Briefly, Mark's Presidency was marked by:

- Continued success in competition, including rebuilding and broadening the Club's competition base

- The Club continued to stage and improve many events including Masters Carnivals, LNC Junior Branch Championships, LNC Senior Branch Championships, Battle of the Boats, Pacific Palms Real Estate Rock to Rock Ocean Swims, and NSW Country IRB Championships
- Our Club profile was boosted locally, nationally and in the international arena
- Patrolling members continued to gain recognition winning the Saxby Schweppes Patrol Shield conducted by the Lower North Branch
- Success with various grants provided improved facilities and equipment for members' use
- Fundraising events were very successful bringing much needed monies into the Club. With such fantastic support, the Club was able to achieve a great deal in surf life saving

Finally, a solid and dedicated membership base continued to prevail with all members having a common goal of a safe beach for locals and visitors. Mark sees his major achievements as completion of the major building works including the gym, the lift, the commercial kitchen and bar.

Mark was always looking for a successor as he felt strongly that new blood freshened the Club and Mark made way several times to bring a successor through.

Daniel Brauer (2005 to 2006)



Daniel charmed any wrong doer, fiend, or bully right out of their mission and had them wrapped around his little finger. He had great personal characteristics given he was our second youngest President. Education was a focus for Daniel's term and as a result we had many more members proficient in surf safety and surf skills by the end of the season. Our Chief Instructor Rob Bramble, Club Captain Paul Martin, and all training officers (especially Phil Spicer) spent many hours in the 2005- 2006 season preparing and presenting workshops for the Club. Further, the Club's Nipper educators continued to do an excellent job of teaching our younger members; Dan mentioned that it was always a blast to see parents and educators in action and how very important their work is with the younger

members of our Club. Safeguarding Elizabeth Beach continued with no loss of life throughout the 2000 patrol hours for that season. The diligence displayed by our patrolling members was commended by many local residents and holiday makers and once again recognised by the Lower North Coast Branch Patrol Award - an accolade that our members continue to receive with pride. The PPSLSC Nipper movement continued to provide great entertainment and education for our younger members. Dan welcomed new families to our Club, most of them assisting with the activities at our Nippers Beach Carnival. The success of this event and every Sunday morning activity throughout the season was once again a credit to the devoted and innovative Junior Activities Committee.

David Collins (2006 to 2007)



Dave stepped into the limelight shortly after Dan resigned from the President position. Dave was thrown into the deep end and with the help and co-operation of many Club members was operating at full speed. Dave filled the Presidency with confidence and put his own style into the role. Full of enthusiasm and with a hands-on personality, he was seen in full swing setting up carnivals and during other weekly Club activities. Meetings in general were conducted swiftly and kept on track in his own distinctive style. Management Committee members were dumbfounded when the first meeting he chaired finished by 9.15pm.

Kel McCredie (2008-2010, 2013-2014)



Kel became President at a time when membership numbers were stable but the Club lacked strategies for enhancing volunteer involvement and retention.

Kel was a member of the competition Touring Team, competing at all levels, coaching Nippers, the beach Interbranch team, Masters Pacific Palms and contributed to the Bronze training. Fitness was the right starting point to focus on a retention plan for the Club.

The Club gym was reborn, gym equipment sourced and fit out completed (managed and operating under original guidelines of “no sand no outside shoes permitted”). Free gym membership for Patrolling Club members was instituted as a way of rewarding our patrolling members while facilitating fit

for purpose life savers and encouraging new patrolling members to our Club. We also trialled free gym membership to members who agreed to take on a “task” for agreed hours; at the time it equated to 450 volunteer hours distributed throughout the Club for the year.

The Corrective Services initiative was also a positive step for the Club. Kel became an Agent and worked alongside individuals performing community service work to carry out Club activities such as ground maintenance; work that would otherwise not be done. This partnership had a positive impact on both the individual learning new skills and the presentation of the Club benefited. It supported the Club with hundreds of no cost hours and was inline with Kel’s “ready for business” vision. A clean out of the Club was implemented and maintenance programs were introduced (including vehicles).

During Kel’s presidency he was always approachable, listened to what members wanted, was willing to try different approaches and reduced barriers to volunteering.

Memorable milestones and contributions include;

- Honoured Pat Powell as the Club’s first Life Member
- He received the LNC Branch President’s Award

- He was awarded the Senior Person of the Year for Community Services Great Lakes (community service to Life Saving)
- Represented the Club at Parliament House for a National Rescue of the month
- Member of the Emergency Call Out Team
- Member of the Building Sub Committee
- Awarded the Branch Beach Coach of the year multiple years running
- Medalled at all levels of competition including National Gold Medal Beach Flags and Silver World Medal Beach Flags
- Introduced Vitamensea Training, a tailored fitness program for all members

During Kel's time we continued running a number of events at our Beach:

- BOB Battle of the Boats
- Pacific Palms Real Estate Rock to Rock Swim
- Masters Carnival (over 30's)
- Beach only Nippers Carnival
- Rounds of the NSW IRB Championships

Dan Morgan (2018 to 2020)



Dan grew up in the country so his introduction to surf life saving was a little unconventional. He was 45 and freshly residing in Forster with plans to build and live in the Palms when a good mate of his excitedly told him he had just tried out surf boat rowing, and said it was type three fun. Dan knew that meant it was adrenaline inducing and a bit dangerous! Naturally Dan was curious and had to give it a try. The experience was definitely type three fun and Dan was hooked as the new bowman. Of course, this meant he had to join the Club and commence patrolling. Dan's children had wanted to try nippers as well so he felt that the patrolling commitment was a fair enough trade. Well we all know how that ends up!

Dan was fortunate enough to have the support of long standing Club members and the broader community whilst Club President and this made all the difference. Dan had been the Club Vice President the year before and had learnt a lot in a short period of time. The board was under a lot of pressure and were facing dwindling member numbers and the compliance workload was increasing. Whilst Dan was Club President the board voted to focus on the following:

- Raising community awareness that the Club was a community asset that could provide a venue for community activities
- Promoting grass roots SLS and broader community engagement through the Nippers Program
- Providing quality training to members
- Increasing member numbers in non traditional SLS roles
- Engaging other community organisations and Clubs to help each other out
- Establishing public accessible AED's in Blueys Beach, Smiths Lake, Coomba Park and Elizabeth Beach

- Engaging young adult community members that were achieving high levels of success in sporting fields as mentors for the Nippers program
- Providing paid roles in hospitality for Club members and Nipper mentors
- Providing a paid role in event management for revenue income
- Maximising our exposure to government funded grants
- Promoting the Battle of the Boats event as a community event with community engagement

With a high level of support from his wife and children, longtime Club members and many others in the community who just turned up and put in week after week, Dan would like to think that, collectively, they all achieved the outcomes experienced. A lifesaving rescue of a fishing couple from the water near Shelly Beach Rocks (Charlotte's Head), record nipper enrolments, an outdoor movie night, and a ground breaking small community AED program, being among his personal highlights.

Dan would say that in his experience, Volunteer organisations like surf life saving clubs require a lot of energy to administer and remain compliant before they can even start to deliver their core services. When the Club is in a small town it demands a lot of the those residing there to survive and provide the services that they are now essentially contracted to provide. Simultaneously they also form an integral part of the business framework (particularly tourism) of the surrounding communities.

Dan believes that the working environment of larger volunteer organisations is being forced to change through the ever-increasing need for government funding, compliance requirements and legislated accountability, and as such those organisations need to adjust to the resulting paradigm shift in how they are run and governed. It is essential that the assets and management remain local, but he believes that there is an ever-increasing need for professional career roles to be created and funded by the state body, state government, and through revenue raised by the Club. Permanent paid positions for some integral roles could secure additional revenue for the Club and ensure essential services are guaranteed, for example:

- Patrol Captains, supported by casually paid patrollers with a surge capacity pool of volunteers
- SLISA endorsed professional RTO (CPR and First Aid training) roles into the broader community
- Paid Venue Coordinator Roles
- Treasurer and Secretary roles.

These are just suggestions but ones that Dan believes are worthy of serious discussion and consideration.

Jerrad Allen (2020 to 2025)



Jerrad took on the role of PPSLSC Club President in August 2020. With the first COVID-19 case in Australia reported in January 2020 Jerrad was faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances in trying to manage the Club and maintain our patrols. Fortunately Jerrad's previous role as Director of Lifesaving (2015/16 and 2016/17 seasons) and other experiences helped him through that difficult period.

There have been many achievements during Jerrad's presidency that he can be proud of, including:

- Multiple patrol seasons (meeting our Lifesaving Service Agreement (LSA) obligations)
- Enhancing patrols including the initial Pink Patrol/Ladies weekend, the Club celebrating 40yrs of Women in Surf (which started with a smoking ceremony) and introducing the Men's Mental Health weekend
- Being the backbone in training our members
- Developing and growing the Nipper program and parent involvement
- Emergency Call Out Team (ECOT) leadership and associated rescues
- Supporting fundraising - annual fundraiser event, annual Rock to Rock Ocean Swim, sponsorship, pop-up restaurant and open mic night
- Community engagement - PPCA, Boomerang Beach Boardriders, Member's Hub, Nipper of the year wreath laying at Anzac Day memorial
- Building for the future
 - establishing the inaugural Champion Lifesaver Event (winner of the 2025 Innovation of the Year award at the Branch awards)
 - using social media, website and traditional media to improve communications with members, the local community, and visitors
- Surf Life Saving engagement – NSW, Australia, our Branch and visiting Clubs whose assistance is instrumental in helping us maintain high standards of safety and service on Elizabeth Beach
- Grants and financial management
- Multiple awards of recognition:
 - Rescues of the month
 - Volunteer of the year
 - Branch Club of the Year 2025

Paul Martin (2015, 2016, 2025 to present)



Paul started off in the Club as a nipper in 1993. From there he obtained his Surf Rescue Certificate in 1997, his Bronze Medallion in 1999, and took on the role of Club Captain in 2002. Paul has been deeply involved in all aspects of the Club including holding multiple Board and Committee positions, running events, and competing in numerous events including surf boats.

After some time away in Canberra for work, Paul returned to the area in 2014 and put his hand up for the role of President in 2015 and 2016.

These were challenging years as the Board was very lean and the focus was on survival and also setting the club up for the future. This included developing a strategic plan, implementing a paid admin position and formalising the venue coordinator role into a paid role. Both of these steps were taken to reduce the burden on volunteers.

After a number of years serving as Treasurer and then Vice President, Paul stepped into the role again in 2025. At the time of writing this, the club had a strong Board in place and big plans for the 2026-27 season.

Throughout all of his years with PPSLSC a few things really stand out:

1. The positive impact the club had on his development
2. The contribution the club has made to the local community, and visitors to it
3. The support provided by his family, mum and dad (Mark and Sue Martin), for getting him involved in Nippers and for their contributions to the club, and then his wife Stacey (and kids Anabelle and Rachael) for tolerating all of the evenings and weekends he was at the club instead of at home.

YEAR BY YEAR SUMMARY

Pre-1986 season – The unofficial year

A reminder that the years are based on May to April which is the Clubs annual reporting period.

Steering committee - via public meeting Nov 26, 1985 at 7:30pm	
President	David Wylie
Vice President	
Secretary	Linda Miller
Assistant Secretary	
Treasurer	Bob King
Club Captain	Glenn Miller
Vice Club Captain	Chris Corrigan
Sports Secretary	
Chief Instructor	Glenn Miller
Public Officer	
IRB Captain	
Boat Captain	
Gear Steward	
Committee	
Junior Committee	
LNC SLSC Delegate	Betty Wylie Doug Whitton

Prior to the official season starting there were a number of ex-surf Club members who already had a team of boys and girls attending instructions and beach events during the previous summer – these were organised by Terry McSweeney and were unofficial events that helped indicate the need for a surf life saving club.

Application for Membership forms were handed out at the November 26th, 1985 meeting.

There were 29 paid members as at the end of December 1985.

The Pilot Committee had committed that people take part in the “Save the Whales” campaign that was taking place at the time.

Nipper discussions took place but the committee decided not to proceed however Bronze training was undertaken through Cape Hawke with PPSLSC paying for insurances. 3 Bronze and 2 SRC candidates were successfully trained. Winter resuscitation training also took place.

Site discussions with Booti Booti State Recreation Area Trust took place.

1986-1987 – The first official year

Office Bearers	
President	David Wylie
Vice President	Ken Atkinson
Secretary	Betty Wylie
Assistant Secretary	To be elected
Treasurer	Bob King
Club Captain	Chris Corrigan 2/11/86R Stephen James 5/11/86E
Vice Club Captain	Glenn Miller
Sports Secretary	To be elected
Chief Instructor	Glenn Miller
Publicity Officer	Owen James
IRB Captain	To be elected
Boat Captain	Bradley Field
Gear Steward	Erin Bryant
Committee	Errol Atkinson Stephen James Carol Byrne Heather Craig Terry McSweeney Dick Murphy
Junior Committee (focused on youth)	Wayne Miller Jodene Whitton Brad Field
LNC SLSCA Delegate	Doug Whitton Brian Reeves



October 5th, 1986. Instructor Terry McSweeney, Brad Field, Brad Court and Tim Murphy. Bronze medallion qualification.

Note: Up until 1992 the Junior Committee was for the youth and young adults. A genuine Junior Committee did not exist until 1992.

The committee meeting on the 18th May 1986 included a proposal to delay affiliation until 1987 due to doubts on numbers of necessary patrol members. This was overturned on a show of hands and a letter of affiliation was drafted and submitted.

The meeting was advertised in the press, radio and TV building up to the inaugural General Meeting held at the Pacific Palms Community Centre – 10am, Sunday 29 June 1986.

- Membership stood at 54
- NSW SLS Association advised a 2 year trial period
- Draft constitution was read and accepted for 12 months.

The Great Lakes Advocate 3rd July 1986 reported:

"Pacific Palms SLSC Opens. Over 100 guests and residents turned out to see the official opening of the PPSLSC. It is hoped a storage shed will be erected and the Club will be in operation on at least one Pacific Palms beach by October. Special guests were Wendy Machin, Great Lakes President Bruce Parsons, Booto Booti SRA President, John Zeitch. NSW Field officer for SLSC, Andrew May and treasurer Ken Priest. Ms Machin showed interest in becoming an associated member or even a senior active member."

REPORT ON PACIFIC PALMS SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB SEASON 1986-87 W.H.Eady LNC Branch Superintendent 1st April 1987 said:

"With the conclusion of the first season of operation of Pacific Balms SLSC. I am of the opinion that they will be a successful Club but I would like to make the following observations."

1. Membership. *A continual drive for new members in all categories must go on and active members must be given the necessary training for award as soon as they join to keep up their enthusiasm. To enable this training to take place a suitable Club building is essential.*

Patrols. *The first Club patrol season was 1986/87 with 13 bronze active and 6 certified active members. Records show that patrols commenced in the first weekend in October 1986 however records also show Saturday patrols commenced 20th December 1986 and ceased 26th Feb 1987 with the exception of Easter Saturday, 18th April. Weekends and public holidays with at least 3 qualified personnel, IRB and first aid equipment.*

Patrols were adequately maintained this year but due to the Club's membership there were predominantly young members on patrol who I feel were lacking in surf skills and surf knowledge and I would recommend that more emphasis by the older experienced members, should be placed on the teaching surf skills like catching waves, getting out through the break and dealing with rips.

4. **Beach.** *The selection of Elizabeth Beach as the main Patrol area and the siting of the Club Building in this area is a wise choice. This was evident this year by the large crowds using*
5. *it in comparison to the two other beaches. Also the direction this beach faces makes it a lot safer for the surfing public, due to winds and currents, as well as the easy access to it from the car parks etc make it the most popular beach and in my opinion the only beach at this stage where a Club should be established.*

4. Building. *It is essential that a Club building be erected in the Elizabeth Beach area as soon as possible not only because the Club needs storage space, training facilities and a base to work from but to make the public aware that Elizabeth Beach is the one being patrolled by a surf club.*

With consideration of these points I feel Pacific Palms SLSC will progress and establish itself as an essential facility in the Pacific Palms area."

Community and Equipment

Early membership totalled 124 across all categories. The Club secured substantial equipment (mostly donated), including:

- A 5-man surf boat + trailer
- An inflatable rescue boat + 2 x 25hp outboards
- 7 rescue boards, rescue ski, 2 reels
- 4 hand radios, first aid kits, and beach flags

Most items were stored off-site or in a small area of the Booti Booti Trust's amenities building at Elizabeth Beach.

At the AGM, SLSA NSW Treasurer John Fraser praised the Club's progress: "Starting a new surf Club is tough—but what I've seen today is impressive. The funds and awards achieved would make many existing Clubs envious."

The first season showed what was possible with community spirit, determination, and a shared vision for safety and surf awareness. Other key items for the year were:

- The first meeting with the architect regarding the design plans for the club building was held Sunday, 3rd August 1986

- The surf boat
 - The Surf Craft advisor at NSW State Centre SLSCA phoned our President and offered a surf boat, 6 oars, 1 sweep oar and rowlocks which were at the time located at the Duntroon Military College. It was to be delivered by the SLSCA trailer in September. A further two oars held at the State Centre and would be delivered as well
 - The Club Surf Boat trailer was being built in August 1986 from materials supplied by Paul Herbert Timbers, Hardes Auto House and Tuncurry Trailers. Material was also donated to make a surf boat cover
 - Work commenced in repairing and equipping the surf boat that was delivered from State Centre in September
 - Surf boat training began running during the season
 - The surf boat was put in the water sometime in September and the boat was christened at the Exhibition Carnival 22nd Nov 1986
- The first Sunday training program at Elizabeth Beach (31 people) was held in August however numbers dropped off in subsequent Sundays. Inter Club competitions at 9am on Sundays also began in October



- 13 bronze active and 6 certified active members were to begin patrols in the first weekend in October 1986
- The Surf Reel was in use and some repairs carried out
- A 12 x 12 patrol tent on loan (from Stephen James) in November was utilised with permission needed from the Booti Booti Park Manager to use the tent on the beach
- 11/12 Oct 1986 an IRB was collected from Dee Why. This was later sent back to Sydney for inspection and deemed unsuitable for repairs. 30th November 1986 the State Centre delivered an IRB, 2 x 25hp motors, a petrol tank, 4 wetsuits and a pump at the Blackhead IRB training day with our gratitude
- The exhibition Carnival Day was held at Elizabeth Beach on 26th October 1986
- The first competition caps were received late 1986 (Oct/Nov)
- Involvement in Camp Quality and Triathlon (March 28, 1987) events
- Saturday patrols commenced 20th December 1986 and ceased 26th Feb 1987 with the exception of Easter Saturday, 18th April
- The 14th January 1987 meeting included a motion that a letter be sent to the SLS State Centre asking if they would approve the Club highlighting to the media/public the difficulties being experienced in establishing our Club
- The Club's first competitors were Erin Bryant, Jason Mauger, Cye Parmenter and Paul Cheers who represented our Club at the Cape Hawke SLSC Carnival on Sunday 1st Feb 1987.
- Bronze squad trained in winter months
- The Club received help from the Rotary Club and Lions Club (survey funding, donations, events etc) which helped get the Club up and running
- The Club participated in the Oyster Festival Procession.

1987-1988 (undated AGM notes)

Office Bearers	
President	David Wylie
Vice President	Owen James
Secretary	Betty Wylie
Assistant Secretary	Betty James
Treasurer	Brian Parker
Club Captain	Stephen James
Vice Club Captain	Terry McSweeney
Sports Secretary	Erin Bryant
Chief Instructor	Carol Byrne
Public Officer	Brian Parker
IRB Captain	Bradley Field
Boat Captain	Bradley Field
Gear Steward	EVO
Committee	Les Cheers Brian Reeves Ray Eagling Ross Field Jeff Coates
Junior Committee (focused on youth)	Kayne Lyle Jodene Whitton Michael Evans
LNC SLSC Delegate	Dave Wylie Betty Wylie



From limited notes and financial statements available, indications are that apart from patrolling within the limitations that existed, the focus was on getting a Club house built with a heavy reliance on donations.

May 1987 discussion included a new approach to patrol hours. Club members were on duty depending on the volume of public on the beaches – and patrol hours were flexible.

Apparently a second surf boat was disposed of however it is not clear where this came from nor the background of what happened.

26th July 1987 committee meeting minutes state in correspondence that a letter confirming that a Club house building will be erected on Elizabeth Beach was received from the Booti Booti trustees.

A sign indicating the proposed Club site was erected and a survey carried out. Focus for Stage 1 was storage.

The AGM and other meetings were held in the Pacific Palms Community Centre as no Club house existed. Minutes of the AGM indicate that fundraising was well underway with building appeal cheques starting to arrive:

- A golf day was planned for Sunday 24th July at Bulahdelah Gold Club.
- A fund raising auction night Friday 20th November took place.
- A theatre Dinner was held on 4th December 1987.
- An Australia Day wood chop fundraiser organised by the Lions Club was held on 23rd January 1988 at Elizabeth Beach council recreation area.

The Club also contributed in helping to care for teenage cancer patients at Camp Canteen

11th to 15th January 1988 and again participated in the Oyster festival.

Equipment purchases represented 43% of total costs indicating that apart from the items that other Clubs donated, PPSLSC had to spend heavily to establish the equipment needed to patrol. There was a very strong relationship with Cooks Hill SLSC in the early days given that members such as David Wylie were long time members at Cooks Hill and they were very generous in helping to set PPSLSC up, supplying equipment and advice.

The Annual General Meeting was held Sunday 10th July 1988 at 10am at the Pacific Palms Community Centre.

A Twilight Club carnival was held however the date is unclear.

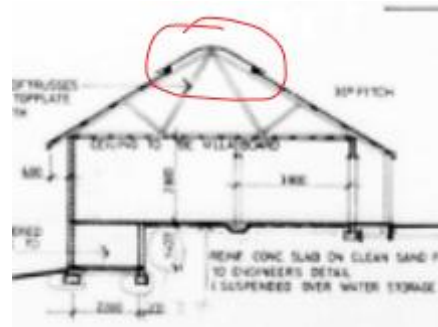


1988-1989 (derived from Finances 5 Jul 1989)

Office Bearers	
President	David Wylie
Vice President	Owen James
Secretary	Betty Wylie
Assistant Secretary	Betty James
Treasurer	Brian Parker 8/12/88R Heather Craig 11/12/88E Lyle Rees 19/2/89E
Public Officer	Lyle Rees
Club Captain	Stephen James
Vice Club Captain	Terry McSweeney
Sports Secretary	Kayne Lyle
Chief Instructor	Mary-Ann Dimmock
Publicity Officer	Brian Reeves
IRB Captain	Gavin Edenborough
Boat Captain	Paul Cheers
Vice Boat Captain	Brett Clark
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Michael Evans
Committee	Bob King Ray Eagling Les Cheers Bruce Thomas
Junior Committee (focused on youth)	Vacant
LNC SLSC Delegate	Dave Wylie Betty Wylie

(Very few records were found for this period)

The building of the Club house was well underway. Records show that an insurance claim was made following a storm where the roof capping had been blown off and landed on the beach. This resulted in a re-design of the roof.



Financial records show that the cost of building for the period was \$38,747. This in part contributed to a large loss (\$9,785.05) for the year. Continuation of equipment purchases (surfski etc) were offset by donations (\$10,505.65) and functions/competitions (\$8,947.31).

A vaccination program (details unclear) was carried out in the year resulting in monies collected for vaccinations coming in at \$1,470.00.



4th October 1988

1989-1990

Office Bearers	
President	David Wylie
Vice President	Heather Craig
Secretary	Betty Wylie
Assistant Secretary	Lorraine Lawson
Treasurer	Lyle Rees
Public Officer	Lyle Rees
Club Captain	Terry McSweeney
Vice Club Captain	Kayne Lyle
Sports Secretary	Kayne Lyle
Chief Instructor	Stephen James
Publicity Officer	Brian Reeves
IRB Captain	Gavin Edenborough
Boat Captain	Michael Evans
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Peter Legge
Radio Officer	Peter Williams
Committee	Barry Stone Jim Byrnes Mary Webster
Junior Committee (focused on youth)	Vacant
LNC SLSC Delegate	Stephen James



1990



(Very few records were found for this period)

As at 30th April 1990 the club house building cost to date was \$70,382 and assistance came from:

- SLSC loan of \$3,000
- Commonwealth Government Capital Works Grant \$9,292
- Great Lakes Shire Council \$5,500
- Functions and competition \$7,911

1990-1991 (AGM notes 18/8/1991)

Office Bearers	
President	David Wylie
Deputy President	Heather Craig
Secretary	Betty Wylie
Assistant Secretary	Bradley Field
Treasurer	Lyle Rees
Public Officer	Lyle Rees
Club Captain	Andrew Tom
Vice Club Captain	Michael Evans
Sports Secretary	Brian Reeves
Chief Instructor	Heather Craig
Publicity Officer	Stephen James
IRB Captain	Andrew Tom
Boat Captain	Cye Parmenter
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Kayne Lyle
Radio Officer	Warick Williams
Social Organiser	Heather Craig
Committee	Brett Clark Terry McSweeney Mary Webster
Junior Committee (focused on youth)	Vacant
LNC SLSA Delegate	Sharon Tom

(Very few records were found for this period)

Commendation to Andrew Tom and Peter Legge for their outstanding efforts in a recent Blueys Beach fatality in extremely difficult sea conditions.

1991-1992

Office Bearers	
President	David Wylie
Deputy President	Heather Craig
Secretary	Betty Wylie
Assistant Secretary	Heather Craig
Treasurer	Lyle Rees
Public Officer	Lyle Rees
Club Captain	Andrew Tom
Vice Club Captain	Michael Evans
Sports Secretary	Mary Webster
Chief Instructor	Heather Craig
Publicity Officer	Brian Reeves
IRB Captain	Andrew Tom
Boat Captain	Michael Evans
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	James Reeves 8/1/92R John Davidson 4/2/92E
Radio Officer	Anna Reeves
Social Organiser	John McLean
Committee	Jim Byrnes Terry McSweeney
Junior Committee (focused on youth)	Vacant
LNC SLSC Delegate	Heather Craig Mary Webster

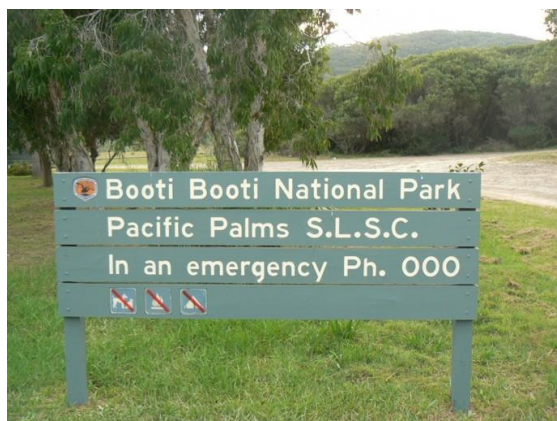
No details available.



Joyce Spurr selling raffle tickets at Blueys shops 7th March 1992



Nipper exhibition carnival Lizzy 8th March 1992



1992 Now a National Park

1992-1993

Office Bearers	
President	David Wylie
Deputy President	Steve Lavis
Secretary	Betty Wylie
Assistant Secretary	Heather Craig
Treasurer	Brian Reeves
Public Officer	Lyle Rees
Club Captain	Alan Lancaster
Vice Club Captain	Mary Webster
Sports Secretary	Mary Webster
Chief Instructor	Annette Sanders
Publicity Officer	Stephen Lavis
IRB Captain	Andrew Tom
Boat Captain	Brett Clark
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Philip Judge
Radio Officer	Carmen Greber
Social Organiser	Carmen Greber
Committee	Alan Lancaster HL Byrnes John McLean Terry Walkley Webster
JAC Chairman	John Davidson
JAC Delegate	Annette Sanders Alan Lancaster
LNC SLSA Delegate	Heather Craig



Building works July 1993

The season saw the Club take giant strides in its development. Apart from an increase in membership with the formation of the Junior Activities, our lifesavers gained SLSA awards and took their expertise into the junior ranks and the community at large.

At the same time we were successful in lobbying for a Capital Works Grant from the Great Lakes Shire Council of \$20 000, and with the assistance from Council staff have received further funds from the President's Building Appeal. This gave the Club the means to proceed with the building to at least lock-up. The shortfall still remained at approximately \$15,000 but further efforts would be made to overcome this deficit.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service agreed to reduce our annual lease rental from \$50 per annum to \$1, and extended the lease for another twenty (20) years.

Meanwhile the building sub-committee was established under the leadership of our Chief Patron Ron Pritchard who negotiated and co-ordinated all building matters. The program set September as the target for lock-up stage (weather dependent).

Fund raising was conducted each Christmas and Easter holidays in the local caravan parks (new owners of the Pacific Palms Caravan Park pledged continued support for the surf Club) and we conveyed our sincere appreciation to the proprietors for allowing us to do so. The Pacific Palms Recreation Club and the Palms Bowling Club also supported us with their raffle rosters, golf day, socials and barbecues. The Club also held another successful Auction Night ably conducted by our local real estate agents, Richard Harris of L. J. Hooker Pty. Ltd., Peter Gagg of First National Real Estate, and Mark and Sue Currie of Raine Horne Pacific Palms. Many thanks to them.

The surf life saving movement is concerned with public health and the health of our lifesavers. Consequently through the Department of Health our organisation supported the "Me No Fry" campaign which encouraged us all to "Cover-up" on the beaches. We also conducted a Hepatitis "B" clinic and urge everyone to consider taking advantage of the program.



Ron Pritchard and Betty Wylie - two individuals who had a major role in helping to establish the Club and club house

A member advised of the presence of a large bronze whaler shark off Elizabeth Beach on a weekend. It was alleged that a professional fisherman was bullying and catching sharks for marketing. This dangerous practice was investigated and a hand held siren alarm was purchased to warn swimmers.

In the January 1993 Committee meeting, a motion was passed in support of the Club Captain. At the AGM no-one nominated for the role so Alan Lancaster volunteered on the basis that experienced people assist. The Clubs records show that there was some dissent between members and the Club Captain. The Deputy President reminded the Committee that the two worst types of members of a surf Club are:

- (a) The person who constantly fails his patrol obligations and
- (b) The member who white ants the officials of the Club.

There is nothing wrong with criticism as long as it is constructive and not destructive and that criticism is aired at the correct time and place.

Major issues were discussed such as answering phone calls made to the Club house while no-one was there. Solutions discussed included an amplification line to the beach or the use of a portable phone. Porta Phones were priced (\$90-130) and rejected.

There was a January search for a missing person involving police, SES and surf life savers using the Club house as headquarters over the two day period.

The Nipper Branch Carnival took place at Elizabeth Beach.

JAC and JAC membership caused considerable issues within the Club relating to (a) JAC membership and fees not being included as a part of the Club and (b) what parent and children membership entitled them to.

Discussions took place on the use of the reel line and belt equipment and its relevancy to modern day procedures. Reference was SLSC Circular 21/92-93.

It was difficult time as David Wylie suffered a stroke in October 1993 and due to ill health and advised at the AGM (Sunday 8th August 1993) that he and Betty would leave their Club roles at the end of the 1993-1994 season (having served 35 years on surf club committees and 50 years in the surf life saving association).

A motion was passed that "affiliation be sought for the season 1993-94 with the Lower North Coast Branch and further that the Articles, Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations and Resolution together with the Awards and Equipment of the Surf Life Saving Australia Limited be accepted without reservation."

Proposed Constitution changes were raised at the AGM (8/8/1993) regarding "(By-law 42) That the Club include the additional categories of

- a. Parent or Guardian of Junior Member
- b. Junior Members 7-13 years of age in the Constitution."

Item (a) was held over for a special meeting on 10am Sunday 15th August 1993 and it was agreed to at that meeting and put to a Special General Meeting on Sunday 10th October 1993. Addition of new clauses included:

(j) Junior membership – junior members 7-13 years of age. Such members shall not be entitled to vote.

(k) Junior Activities Membership. A Junior Activities Member shall be a Parent or Guardian of a Junior Member. Such members (i) shall be entitled to use of the facilities of the Club only during bona fide junior activities and (ii) shall not be entitled to vote at Club meetings.

1993-1994

Office Bearers	
President	David Wylie
Deputy President	Michael Evans
Secretary	Betty Wylie
Assistant Secretary	Heather Craig
Treasurer	Brian Reeves
Public Officer	Lyle Rees
Club Captain	Alan Lancaster 29/11/93R Michael Evans 29/11/93
Vice Club Captain	Scott Brassey
Sports Secretary	Scott Brassey
Chief Instructor	Scott Brassey
Publicity Officer	Tony Russ 16/12/93R Tony Moran 11/1/94E
IRB Captain	Jamie Cheers 11/1/94R Gary Franklin 11/1/94E
Boat Captain	Brett Clark
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Sam Dyktynski
Radio Officer	Karl Hinks
Social Organiser	Carmen Greber
Committee	Harold Byrnes John McLean
JAC Chairman	Vacant
JAC Delegate	Philip Spicer
LNC SLISA Delegate	Heather Craig Michael Evans



Building works 11th Aug 1993

During the 1993 to 1994 season Club members operated the patrols under considerable inconvenience due to the building extensions.

Money was difficult to raise in the recession and Branch was advised that there would be no Government dollar for dollar allocation in this year due to the recession and government cut backs. Fuel subsidies were also withdrawn. Despite that, it was the best ever fund raising year.

The lease with National Parks and Wildlife Service was changed whereby it allowed for an equity position as the Council was prepared to pay money for capital expenditure. First time and a breakthrough.

Club house extensions in July 1993 meant meetings were held at Pacific Palms Recreation Club.

The issue of JAC being run as a separate group caused friction in the Club including how they were managing their finances.

The treasurer recommended that an Associate membership drive should be undertaken (done) to boost finances and in light of the controversy over the membership categories of the constitution that the Club solicitor be advised and consulted to resolve the matter.

Special event – Pacific Palms Biggest BBQ held on 25th September 1993.

The Surf Boat fund was commenced 18th June 1993 and \$4,000 was raised. Ulladulla surf boat was approved for purchase.

A golf day was held.

LNC were considering using mobile phones in lieu of radios.

The decision was made not to participate in the Great Lakes Oyster Festival parade.

The 10th October 1993 AGM amended Rule 22 of the Constitution to allow for the Club's registration under the Charitable Collections Act, 1934. The clause also was amended to state that if the LNC branch was not a registered charity, at the time of dissolution, then all surplus funds and assets would be handed over to some other registered or exempted charity or charities. Amendments also included that no member of the Management Committee shall be appointed to any salaried office of the organisation or receive any benefit other than out-of-pocket expenses.

The President's Building Fund Appeal raised over \$13,000.

The Club competed in the AAA Terrigal carnival (30th October 1993).

The shark alarm sounded on 26th December.

JAC car wash fundraiser, auction night, golf day, raffles all took place during the season.

A rat infestation needed to be dealt with.

Interest was expressed in producing a newsletter for Club members – Committee meeting 8th Feb 1994.

The phone bill was very high so the phone was locked and STD calls were barred.

In March 1994 funds for building had run out and work was voluntary or not done. This caused considerable issues. Adding to the issues was the poor installation of windows that had a major impact on work progressing. The level of autonomy that the Project Manager (Ron Pritchard) had was brought into question along with amounts outstanding for work and a loan agreement.

Members were asked to fund their awards to ease the financial burden the Club faced.

Garbage disposal was also an issue.

1994-1995 - A time of change and achievement

Office Bearers	
President	Michael Evans 13/3/95P Stephen Lavis 13/3/95E
Deputy President	Gregg Sanders 11/12/94 John Davidson 11/12/94
Secretary	Judith Spicer
Assistant Secretary	Pat Powell
Treasurer	Brian Reeves
Public Officer	Lyle Rees
Club Captain	Annette Sanders
Vice Club Captain	Paul Cheers Scott Brassey 13/3/95 A
Sports Secretary	Philip Spicer
Training and First Aid Officer	David Ellis
Publicity Officer	Janne Moran
IRB Captain	Gary Franklin
Boat Captain	Brett Clark
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Robert Bramble
Radio Officer	Karl Hinks David Ellis 10/4/95A
Social Secretary	Vicki Russ 10/10/94R
Committee	Heather Craig Gaye Franklin Scott Brassey
JAC Chairman	Mark Martin
JAC Delegate	David Ellis Michael Evans
LNC SLSCA Delegate	Tony Moran Gregg Sanders 11/12/94 Stephen Lavis 11/12/94



State 1995 Annette Sanders, Terry Brooker, Wendy Bramble

Leadership Transition

The Club experienced a significant transition as both the long-serving President and Secretary stood down. After some eight years at the helm, Dave Wylie passed the baton to Michael Evans. At the AGM the vote was tied for President between Michael Evans and Steve Lavis and the acting Chairman (Lyle Rees) cast his vote in favour of Michael. AGM was very political, so much so that the first executive meeting post AGM heard from the LNC Branch about their concerns and a motion was passed to recommend that letter be circulated that the Annual General Meeting election of officers was run as in previous years and all elected officers were willing to work for the betterment of the Club.

Life Membership and Constitution Review

A Constitution Sub-Committee was formed during the year mainly to seek ways and means of achieving a position whereby Dave and Betty Wylie could be constitutionally nominated for Life Membership and also to review the Constitution. The Constitution Sub Committee met and recommended that the Constitution be changed to reduce the years of service to qualify be reduced to 8 years from 15 years. This would mean Dave and Betty would qualify.

This motion was taken to a Special General meeting. The members voted to leave the Constitution requiring a minimum of 15 years of service.

As a result, David and Betty did not receive Life Membership.

Club house Improvements

Since the formation of the Building Sub-Committee in August 1994, all construction and maintenance work was completed by volunteers. Thanks to the efforts of Tony Moran, Brian Reeves, Mark Martin, and

Stephen Lavis, among others, the Club house was significantly improved. Upgrades included:

- Laying of a new mixed hardwood floor
- Pergola installation and full exterior repaint
- Roadside landscaping and gates

Social Events and Fundraising

The social side remained the heart of our Club. Without a full-time Social Secretary, we still held regular BBQs, raffles, and presentations, all while raising vital funds. A highlight was the Auction Night at the Pacific Palms Recreation Club, raising over \$3,000. Special thanks to the Recreation Club, Richard Harris, and Jim Sparke for their support.

Patrols and Equipment

This year, patrol efficiency improved with the purchase of:

- A third radio
- New binoculars for surveillance
- A paediatric-size “stiffneck” collar

The introduction of rescue scenarios to patrol competitions helped keep skills sharp and reinforced real-world rescue readiness.

President’s Building Appeal

On 26 May, the “President’s Building Appeal” was launched with 3,200 letters sent to the community. The response was enthusiastic. Thank you to all who supported the appeal.

Competition and Championships

Club enthusiasm fuelled strong participation in Sunday competitions, especially board events, with 50% of active members regularly involved. Our Club Championships were hotly contested. The year saw outstanding competition results:

- First-ever medals at State and Australian Championships
- Strong performances at three carnivals hosted at Elizabeth Beach
- Praise from Branch officials for event organisation

Training continued throughout winter with board and boat sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and junior swim training at the Aquatic Centre.

Junior Club Highlights

The Junior Club thrived in 1994–95 with 82 members from Pacific Palms, Bulahdelah, Bungwahl, and Coomba Park. Highlights included:

- Competition at six carnivals: Blackhead, Forster (twice), Port Macquarie, Wollongong, and Pacific Palms
- Four members selected for the Branch Team
- Three championship days and eight handicap days at Elizabeth Beach
- Attendance at two coaching clinics and the Youth Development Camp
- Several Nipper parents achieved Level 1 Officials Accreditation

Purchased IRB from Forster Club.

Honour Boards ready.

‘House sub-committee’ recommended by Betty Wylie to ensure that the Club house be maintained.

Resuscitation Anne Manikin arrived from SLSA through the Aust Govt Club Development Funding.

1995-1996

Office Bearers	
President	Stephen Lavis
Deputy President	David Ellis
Secretary	Judith Spicer
Assistant Secretary	Pat Powell
Treasurer	Brian Reeves
Public Officer	Lyle Rees 15/1/96R Brian Reeves 15/1/96A
Club Captain	Annette Sanders
Vice Club Captain	Robert Bramble
Sports Secretary	Philip Spicer
Training Officer	David Ellis
Publicity Officer	Terry Brooker
IRB Captain	Peter Fisher
Boat Captain	Brett Clark
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Sam Dyktynski
Radio Officer	Anita Ellis
Social Secretary	Wendy Bramble
Committee	Brian Spicer Margaret Elliott Danielle Delaney
JAC Chairman	Mark Martin
JAC Delegate	John Davidson
First Aid Officer	Wayne Halpin
LNC SLSA Delegate	Tony Moran Philip Spicer

(Limited information available)

During this season:

- A cake and craft stall ran at Blueys shops
- Seafood raffles were conducted around the local caravan park on Sundays
- Hepatitis B and Tetanus vaccinations were offered via our medical officer, Dr Wayne Halpin



Christening new IRB -L-R Annette Sanders, David Ellis and Peter Fisher

1996-1997 - 10 years a Club

Office Bearers	
President	David Ellis
Deputy President	Scott Brassey
Secretary	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Brian Reeves
Public Officer	Brian Reeves
Club Captain	Robert Bramble
Vice Club Captain	Tony Moran
Sports Secretary	Scott Brassey
Chief Instructor	John Davidson
Publicity Officer	Terry Brooker
IRB Captain	Tony Moran
Boat Captain	Stephen Scott
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Mick Hall
Radio Officer	Jenni Ashton
Social Secretary	Maryanne Ellis
Committee	John Morley 13/1/97R Margaret Elliott Wendy Bramble
JAC Chairman	Mark Martin
JAC Delegate	Mark Martin
First Aid Officer	Wayne Halpin
LNC SLSC Delegate	David Ellis



Branch Carnival 1996

This season marked a major milestone—**our 10th anniversary**—and it gave us all a chance to reflect on just how far we’ve come. Many of the founding members at the anniversary dinner were amazed at the transformation from a humble toilet block to the new fully equipped and vibrant surf Club.

Milestones and Resolutions

At last year’s AGM, two significant issues were raised:

- A long-standing debt dispute was successfully resolved and paid (believed to be related to Ron Pritchard)
- A legal dispute over upstairs windows and doors concluded in our favour, with the Club receiving a court settlement

Club house Completion

With the help of a **Department of Sport and Recreation grant**, our Club house was virtually complete—just minor painting remained. It stands as a proud symbol of the community effort over the previous decade.

Lifeguards on Patrol

Following strong lobbying by the Club and the LNC Branch, **Great Lakes Shire Council approved professional lifeguards** for holiday patrols at Elizabeth Beach for the first time—a major win for public safety and local tourism.

Final Year of the President’s Building Appeal

The season also saw the final round of the **President’s Building Appeal**, which received excellent community support. With building works nearly complete, we offered our sincere thanks to the Great Lakes Shire Council and to everyone who supported the Club over the years.

10th Anniversary Celebrations

Held on **26 April**, our Anniversary and Presentation Night welcomed around

130 guests (members past and present, supporters and friends). It was a wonderful celebration of a decade of progress and camaraderie.

Fundraising and Community Engagement

This season featured a wide array of fundraising activities, including:

- Donation day at Forster Shopping Village
- BBQ and meat/seafood raffles
- Rotary Community Chest
- Car wash at Moby Dick Caravan Park
- The ever-popular “Posh Night”
- Wedgie’s Café support
- Annual Club Auction

Together, these events boosted our finances and strengthened community ties.

We also relaunched our bi-monthly Club newsletter, **The Huey**, ensuring every member stays informed and connected.

Patrols and IRB Operations

Every patrol team this year included a proficient IRB driver, and for the first time, the IRB was used by **paid holiday lifeguards**. Our IRBs were called into action for **two rescues at Seven Mile Beach**, highlighting their speed and effectiveness. The expanded **Branch call-out system** also proved highly effective in emergency response.

IRB and Surfboat Competition

The Club attended an **IRB carnival at Blackhead** and proudly returned to **surfboat training and racing**.

Although wild weather cancelled our first Veterans Carnival race at home, we showed up ready to row—while other crews opted out.

Our first official start was at **Blackhead Vets Carnival**, earning **a win and a second-place finish**—a terrific result for a new crew.

At **Branch Championships**, our junior crew—despite being the only one in the Branch—rowed up into the Colts division and impressed with their performance, later finishing fourth in the senior Reserves. Well done to all!

Junior Achievements

The Junior program continued to thrive, with enthusiastic participation and strong community support.

Thanks to fundraising efforts including a **Kmart collection, car wash, and Rotary raffle**, the juniors acquired:

- A new **galvanised trailer**
- Two **fibreglass racing boards**

A huge thank you to the **Pacific Palms Rugby League Football Club** for their generous donation, which further boosted our junior resources.

1997-1998

Office Bearers	
President	David Ellis 13/10/97R Robert Bramble 13/10/97
Vice President	Lindsay Guy
Secretary	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Margaret Elliott
Treasurer	Clyde Palmer
Public Officer	Clyde Palmer
Club Captain	Robert Bramble
Vice Club Captain	Scott Brassey
Sports Secretary	Sharon Hope
Chief Instructor	Philip Spicer
Publicity Officer	Lindsay Guy
IRB Captain	Tony Moran 12/1/98/E
Boat Captain	Stephen Scott
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Michael Currie
Radio Officer	Judith Spicer
Social Secretary	Maryanne Ellis 13/10/97R Tree Beckerleg 8/12/98E
Committee	Mark Martin Stephen Lavis Wendy Bramble
JAC Chairman	Janne Moran
JAC Delegate	John Davidson
First Aid Officer	Wayne Halpin
LNC SLSC Delegate	Michael Evans Robert Bramble Steve Scott 13/10/98E

Robert Bramble took over as president at short notice and also maintained his role as Club Captain. Rob also found time to become the Branch, Country and State champion in the over 40s men's flags.

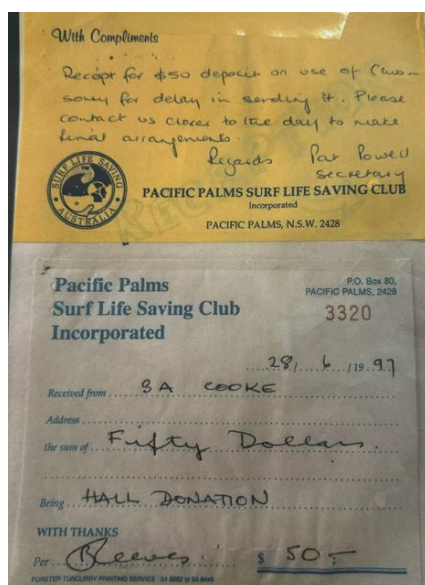
This was a relatively quiet season with 3 rescues, 106 first aid cases and 153 preventable actions. Bluebottles were the major issue however there were a number of shark sightings which was very unusual. Given the quiet nature of our beach, complacency appeared the biggest danger.

For the first time in our history a patrol on Seven Mile Beach was deployed. This one-off patrol was for Camp Quality and a most enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

The Club's equipment was slowly growing with the purchase of a second hand surf boat, a second hand jet ski, a new racing rescue board, a rowing machine, IRB trailer and a set of new carbon fibre oars. The BP Surf Rescue fund (dollar for dollar) enabled the purchase of a new IRB and motor (we now have 3 IRBs and 3 motors). With the Club supplying patrol equipment for the paid lifeguards on Elizabeth Beach, and the likelihood of paid lifeguards on Boomerang Beach next Christmas holidays for 2 weeks, there will be a need for two sets of patrol equipment.

The Club had two emergency call outs, one to south Seven Mile Beach for a search and rescue of a missing teenage boy and the other to South Sandbar Beach when a plane spotted an object in the water (nothing was found).

We finished the gyprock walls and ceilings in the Club house which allowed the venue to be booked.



Our first venue booking (a wedding)

1998-1999 - Five years of patrol excellence award

Office Bearers	
President	David Ellis
Vice President	Mark Martin
Secretary/Registrar	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Margaret Elliott
Treasurer	Chrisanya Martin
Public Officer	Clyde Palmer
Club Captain	Michael Evans
Vice Club Captain	Steven Nicholas
Sports Secretary	Stephen Lavis
Chief Instructor	Philip Spicer
Publicity Officer	Sue Martin
IRB Captain	Tony Moran 12/1/98/E
Boat Captain	Stephen Scott
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Michael Currie
Radio Officer	Christian Fieldhouse
Social Secretary	Tree Beckerleg 10/12/98R
Committee	Mark Martin Stephen Lavis Wendy Bramble
JAC Chairman	Janne Moran
JAC Delegate	John Davidson
First Aid Officer	Wayne Halpin
LNC SLISA Delegate	Sharon Hope Jessica Scott



1998 World titles, Auckland NZ

This season goes down as one of the most successful and memorable in the Club's history—with major milestones on the beach, in competition, and behind the scenes.

Congratulations to all our patrolling members on winning the **Saxby's Schweppes Patrol Competition Shield** for the **fifth consecutive year!** This outstanding achievement reflects the strength, consistency, and dedication of our patrol teams—well recognised by our peers across the Lower North Coast.

Sadly, the season also reminded us of the risks of the ocean, with **three lives lost at Sandbar Beach** (15th Dec 1998) and further fatalities at other local beaches. While none occurred on our patrols, it reinforces the importance of our lifesaving work.

Patrolling Strength at an All-Time High

Thanks to a surge in new members, our patrolling capacity expanded to **11 patrol teams**—the highest in Club history. Every patrol included qualified IRB drivers, and Boomerang Beach was also successfully patrolled at key times. Paid lifeguards worked alongside us during school holidays, further enhancing coverage.

It was an incredible year in the surf for competitors of all ages:

- **Jay Davidson** brought home our **first-ever NSW Country Gold Medal**, with his brother **Lee** not far behind
- Our **Veterans Team** of Terry Brooker, Pat Powell, and Robert Bramble once again brought home a haul of medals from **State and Australian Titles**—adding to their growing legacy
- The **IRB Team** showed strong form at **Branch and Country Titles**, holding their own against more established teams
- The return of **surfboat racing** saw major growth, thanks to years of

groundwork by **Steve Scott**, culminating in Pacific Palms winning its first **Australian medal**. Steve's medal presentation by **Dawn Fraser** was a proud moment for all.

1999 Battle of the Boats – Country Event of the Year

The absolute highlight of the season was the **Saxby's Battle of the Boats**—a spectacular two-day surfboat carnival that drew crews from up and down the coast. The event was a huge success and earned the title of **"Country Event of the Year"** at the **NSW Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence**.

Our **Annual Auction** again led the way, thanks to the tireless efforts of **Steve Lavis**. Other standout fundraisers included:

- Donation day at Forster Shopping Village
- Kids' Trivia Night
- Under-18 and Nippers' Discos (with the Boardriders Club)
- Carols by Candlelight
- Raffles at the Pacific Palms Recreation Club and local caravan parks
- Door knock appeal
- Participation in the Rotary Club Community Chest

On the social front, the Club hosted:

- Post-carnival functions
- Christmas BBQ
- Presentation Night
- Sponsors' Day
- Battle of the Boats afterparty

These events kept our Club spirit strong and brought members together in celebration and fun.

Ongoing improvements to the Club house included:

- External brickwork painting
- Beautified entry
- Installation of new honour boards recognising **World, Australian, State and Country medal winners**

A weekly competition ran from 11 October 1998 to 17 April 1999, with events held over 19 Sundays. The average participation was 19 members, peaking at 32 competitors - numbers many larger Clubs would envy! Despite some large surf days, only two events were cancelled.

The junior program continued to grow, and thanks to strong participation and fundraising, the Club believed it was well placed to support our youth into the next millennium.

1999-2000 - Year of the Rock to Rock

Office Bearers	
President	David Ellis
Vice President	Mark Martin
Secretary/Registrar	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Sue Martin
Treasurer	Linda Davidson
Public Officer	Clyde Palmer
Club Captain	Sharon Hope
Vice Club Captain	Clyde Palmer
Sports Secretary	Stephen Lavis
Chief Instructor	Vacant
Publicity Officer	Sue Martin
IRB Captain	Vacant
Boat Captain	Stephen Scott
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Brad Verdich 8/11/99R Michael Powell 8/11/99E; 30/1/00R
Radio Officer	Christian Fieldhouse
Social Secretary	Judie Palmer
Committee	Brad Nichols Chris Martin 30/11/99R
JAC Chairman	John Davidson
JAC Delegate	John Davidson
First Aid Officer	Sue Currie
LNC SLISA Delegate	Brad Verdich Elana Williams



IRB Country Championships 2000

Rock to Rock Swim Launched

Easter Sunday saw the launch of our first ever *Rock to Rock* swim at Elizabeth Beach. With 44 swimmers tackling the 1.5 km course, it was a huge success—fun, friendly, well-run, and financially viable.

Outstanding Competition Season

This season marked our **best competitive year yet**. From dominating the Country Senior Carnival to strong performances at the Coffs Craft Carnival, State, Aussies and the World Championships (*Rescue 2000* in Sydney), our small Club punched well above its weight.

Our *Ladies Boat Crew* were standouts, winning almost everything: Branch, Country, and the Australian Open in Victoria. In the World Championships final, they were leading with 20 strokes to go but narrowly missed a medal, finishing 4th. Still, their consistent form saw them achieve 2nd in the NSW Premiership and 4th in the National Grand Prix. For a crew with just two years of top-level rowing, this was a phenomenal result.

Our First New Surf Boat

A milestone moment—our Club purchased and christened its **first brand new surfboat**. A proud step forward for our growing boat section, which continues to shine on the national stage.

Junior Success

Our juniors again impressed at Branch, Country and State levels. Not only did they grow in skill, but they showed maturity in managing surf, swim and beach events—bringing plenty of energy and smiles each week.

Patrol Excellence

Another lifesaving season done with pride. Members remained committed to training and patrols, ensuring beachgoers' safety and

reinforcing our Club's high standard of service.

New **Silver Medallion** awards were to be introduced next season for Patrol Captains and Life Support.

The **Handicap Swim Trophy** was reinvented and was held across 12 Sundays: it was hotly contested, with the top three places all going to women: Sharon Hope (1st), Janne Moran (2nd), and Tree Beckerleg (3rd).

Club Championships and Handicap events saw high participation and spirited competition.

Security Upgrade

A new lock system was installed to improve building security, especially considering the hiring of the venue for private functions.

2000-2001 - A Season of Community, Commitment and Competition

Office Bearers	
President	Mark Martin
Vice President	Brad Verdich
Secretary/Registrar	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Sue Martin
Treasurer	Linda Davidson
Public Officer	Clyde Palmer
Club Captain	Robert Bramble
Vice Club Captain	Mick Evans
Sports Secretary	Stephen Lavis
Chief Instructor	Philip Spicer
Publicity Officer	Mark Currie
IRB Captain	Brad Verdich
Boat Captain	Stephen Scott
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Tony Moran
Radio Officer	Judy Spicer
Social Secretary	Deb Verdich
Committee	Judie Palmer Sue Williams Chloe Beckerleg
JAC Chairman	Gaye Franklin
JAC Delegate	John Davidson
First Aid Officer	Sue Currie
LNC SLSA Delegate	Dave Ellis

This year was one of the Club's busiest, with seven major events successfully staged, including:

- Equity Conveyancing Masters Carnival
- LNC Junior and Senior Branch Championships
- Saxby/Schweppes Battle of the Boats
- Raine and Horne Rock to Rock Ocean Swim
- Frothy Coffee LNC Branch IRB Championships
- North Power NSW Country IRB Championships

The sheer volume and quality of these carnivals stretched our members to the limit—but as always, they rose to the challenge with dedication and pride.

One of the major wins of the season was the abolition of park entry fees at Elizabeth Beach by NPWS, a great outcome for the local community and beachgoers.

A proud moment came when cadets Chris Gagg, Chris Taylor and Daniel Moran, during surf lifesaving school sport supervised by Terry Brooker and Tony Moran, stopped a mass drowning by rescuing a group of schoolchildren caught in heavy surf at Lizzie.

Cadets took initiative this season, fundraising for a new pool table—matched by Club funds—which was a hit with both teens and the young at heart. Our Sunday afternoon BBQs were a social highlight again, with Steve's gourmet pickled chillis and Sharon's barbecued tofu earning rave reviews.

After two outstanding seasons, the boat section entered a rebuilding phase, still remaining highly competitive. A highlight was the formation of a Newcastle-based rowing group by coach Michael Evans, allowing relocated members to continue rowing under the Palms flag.

The second annual Rock to Rock Ocean Swim on Easter Sunday doubled its turnout, attracting 88 swimmers and solidifying its place on the local sporting calendar. Thanks to Rick Vaser of Raine and Horne for making prize money possible.

Nippers, Cadets and Vets—it was all in for fundraising from car washes and raffles to UTAG ticket sales and the always successful Auction and Door Knock Appeal, every section of the Club pitched in to raise funds. Vets even hosted novelty dinners to support their upcoming trip to Daytona for world-level competition.

The Club house got a fresh coat of paint and long-overdue repairs, along with the completion of office fit-outs. A much-needed computer upgrade introduced MYOB and GST accounting, streamlining financial reporting and enabling monthly budget analysis.

Junior attendance was strong at the Country Championships in Forster, and fundraising supported the purchase of a much-needed shelter tent for Nippers.

2001-2002 - State Support for Surf Life Saving

Office Bearers	
President	Mark Martin
Vice President	Dave Ellis
Secretary/Registrar	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Sue Martin
Treasurer	Mike Williams
Public Officer	Mike Williams
Club Captain	Sharon Hope
Vice Club Captain	Daniel Moran
Sports Secretary	Stephen Lavis
Chief Instructor	Janne Moran
Publicity Officer	Mark Currie
IRB Captain	Tony Moran
Boat Captain	Stephen Scott
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Christopher Gagg
Radio Officer	Peter Quartermain
Social Secretary	Deb Verdich
Committee	Linda Davidson Hayley Beckerleg Rod Williams
JAC Chairman	Heather Clark
JAC Delegate	Wendy Bramble
First Aid Officer	Sue Currie
LNC SLSA Delegate	Chris Taylor

For the **seventh time in eight years**, Pacific Palms SLSC was awarded the **Saxby Schweppes Patrol Shield** for the most efficient patrolling Club in the Lower North Coast Branch. A huge credit to our dedicated lifesavers!

The season launched on 16 September with a **free Open Day BBQ**, made possible by an **International Year of Volunteers grant**, which also funded our new **Members' Handbook**.

In a major boost, the NSW Government delivered **\$1.14 million worth of lifesaving equipment** across the state. Pacific Palms received a fully equipped **IRB** and **two-way radio**, presented at a Bondi Beach ceremony in October.

We hosted several successful events:

- **Equity Conveyancing Masters Carnival**
- **Pepsi Saxbys Battle of the Boats** – our biggest ever, with **113 crews**
- **Raine and Horne Rock to Rock Ocean Swim** – with record entries, including Olympian **John Konrads**

Our **Door Knock Appeal** raised \$2,000 in just two hours, and the **Annual Auction** brought in over \$6,000.

Outstanding Competitive Achievements

- **Lee Davidson and Dane Williams** (age 14) won **U16 Board Rescue** at the **Australian Championships** in Kurrawa.
- Our **Masters team** shone at the **World Life Saving Titles in Florida**, bringing home **5 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze** medals.

- The **Open women's crew** made a sensational comeback—qualifying for both **State and National finals**.
- Our **U19 men's crew** won the **State and National VB Cup Series**, only missing the final at the Aussies.

We also travelled far and wide, competing in **22 carnivals**, from Mollymook to Kurrawa. The season opened memorably with a trip to **Brewarrina for the Outback Classic**.

A **bi-monthly Nipper BBQ** brought families together in a relaxed, fun setting. In March, Junior and Senior reps attended a **Child Protection seminar**, leading to the formal adoption of our **Child Protection Policy** on 13 May 2002.

Grants Summary

- *Successful:* Volunteer grant (BBQ and handbook), Great Lakes Tourism (Battle of the Boats)

Social Scene Highlights

- Catering for the **Forster Tuncurry Evening View Club**
- A classy **Black and White Night** with the Schwinging Schuberts
- A **Traditional 3-Course Christmas Dinner** for the Sandbar Golf Club
- The **Best Ever Club Christmas Party** (we're still recovering!)
- The ever-popular **Masters Carnival, Battle of the Boats, Rock to Rock Swim, Rubik's Cube Night**, and **Presentation Night** (where the boys won the dance floor battle!)

2002-2003 - Saxbys Patrol Champions - Again!

Office Bearers	
President	Mark Martin
Vice President	Dave Ellis
Secretary/Registrar	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Sue Martin
Treasurer	Sandra Wilson
Public Officer	Sandra Wilson
Club Captain	Paul Martin
Vice Club Captain	Sue Martin
Sports Secretary	Bob Beckerleg
Chief Instructor	Brad Verdich 13/1/03R Dave Ellis 13/1/03A
Publicity Officer	Deb Verdich
IRB Captain	Rod Williams
Boat Captain	Stephen Scott
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Christopher Taylor 11/11/02R
Radio Officer	Christian Fieldhouse
Social Secretary	Janet Hanson
Committee	Chris Gagg Tree Beckerleg Chloe Beckerleg
JAC Chairman	Wendy Bramble
JAC Delegate	Linda Davidson
First Aid Officer	Sue Currie
LNC SLSA Delegate	Chris Taylor

We proudly claimed the **Saxbys Patrol Shield** once more, making it **eight wins in the past nine seasons**—a testament to the strength of our **nine dedicated patrol teams**.

Battle of the Boats—Weathering the Storm
Despite **gale-force winds, incessant rain, and huge surf**, our flagship **Battle of the Boats** event powered on—with Sunday finals relocated to **Wallis Lake**. Huge thanks to sponsors **Woodstock, Pacific Palms Recreation Club, Great Lakes Tourism, and Saxbys Soft Drinks** for helping us pull it off.

A team of our younger members visited **Pacific Palms and Bulahdelah schools** in September to run surf safety sessions. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive—well done to **Chris Gagg, Chris Taylor, Chloe and Hayley Beckerleg, and Paul and Mark Martin** for taking the initiative.

A major new **Training Manual** was rolled out—the first significant update in 30 years—including defibrillator training, jet ski use, and possible changes to resuscitation techniques. The coming year's proficiencies were deemed to be our most important yet, despite having one of the **lowest numbers of Examiners** in the Branch.

IRB racing remained suspended this season due to insurance and compliance issues, with a resolution now underway - pending **new sealed motors, approved gear, and specific race training**.

Jet Skis Join the Rescue Fleet

Two new **Rescue Water Craft** (jet skis) were introduced to the Branch thanks to **Tuncurry Bowling Club sponsorship**. A great addition to our rescue arsenal.



Open Women's surf boat winners 2002/3

IRB Crew Shortage – A Call for Help

The removal of IRB requirements from Bronze proficiencies has led to a shortage of trained **drivers and crew** on patrols, with the risk of losing IRB capability altogether.

Despite a lean year for boat crews, highlights included:

- **Back-to-back gold** at the **NSW Country Champs**
- **2nd place** at the **State Selection Carnival** (a Branch best)
- **3rd at the Woodstock Umina Carnival**
- We had the only crew to launch through massive surf on Battle of the Boats Sunday!

The Club remained active socially and financially, thanks to:

- **Open Day, Sponsors' Day, Door Knock, Auction**
 - **Masters Carnival, Rock to Rock Swim**
 - Catering for **Sandbar Ladies Golf** and **Great Lakes Council Christmas Party**
- We're also grateful for ongoing fundraising opportunities via **Pacific Palms Recreation Club raffles**.

We welcomed **69 Nippers** (down slightly from last year) from across Pacific Palms, Seal Rocks, Bungwahl, Coomba, Wootton, and Bulahdelah. Our junior athletes brought home medals from local carnivals at Old Bar, and our home beach.

Sadly, two radios and a charger were stolen during the Battle of the Boats weekend.

2003-2004

Office Bearers	
President	Mark Martin
Vice President	Dave Ellis
Secretary/Registrar	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Judy Gagg
Treasurer	Sandra Wilson
Public Officer	Sandra Wilson
Club Captain	Sue Martin
Vice Club Captain	Paul Martin
Sports Secretary	Bob Beckerleg 10/11/0 Megan Newell 8/3/04A
Chief Instructor	Dave Ellis
Publicity Officer	Paul McQueen
IRB Captain	Rod Williams
Boat Captain	Mick Evans
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	John Davidson
Radio Officer	Christian Fieldhouse
Social Secretary	Vacant
Committee	Bryan Davies Mark Zieren Kel McCredie
JAC Chairman	Wendy Bramble
JAC Delegate	Tree Beckerleg 10/11/0 Chris Gagg 10/11/03 A
First Aid Officer	Sue Currie
LNC SLISA Delegate	Chris Taylor 13/10/04A; 12/1/04R



BOB 2004

Despite operating with only seven large patrols due to a shortage of IRB drivers and crew, the Club maintained a strong presence on the beach.

A highlight was the national recognition received by Chris Gagg, Chris Taylor and Daniel Moran, who were awarded a Group Citation of Merit for Bravery for their rescue of schoolchildren in April 2001—an incredible achievement.

Club Highlights

- Major events included:
 - Annual Open and Sponsors Days
 - Forster Pacific Real Estate Masters Carnival
 - Annual Auction (raising over \$10,000)
 - Woodstock Battle of the Boats (120+ crews from NSW and QLD)
 - Raine and Horne Rock to Rock swim (a record 140 participants)
 - Hosting 800 cyclists during the RTA Big Ride
- Junior and senior competitions were held every Sunday, fostering both fun and fitness. The Club was well represented at Branch, Country, State and National levels, with Jay Davidson taking gold in the U/14 swim at the State Championships.

Despite a drop in overall Nipper numbers—due to the removal of the U6 and U7 groups—participation from across Pacific Palms, Seal Rocks, Bulahdelah and Coomba Park continued strongly.

Infrastructure and Grants

- A new Yamaha quad bike was donated by Tracey and Lee Turner and our National Sponsor Yamaha Australia
- A new sound system was installed and proved valuable for functions and presentations
- A back-to-base alarm was added for extra security
- Grant applications were submitted for new IRB equipment, rescue boards, blinds and noticeboards, with some successes
- The Club's deck blinds project progressed, aiming to be completed over winter

Online and Community

- Our new website (thanks to Sue Martin) went live – www.mypage.tsn.cc/ppslsc
- Longstanding community support included raffles run with the Pacific Palms Recreation Club and incredible fundraising by the Pacific Palms Caravan Park, who helped fund two rescue body boards and a Kracka racing board
- The season ended with a well-earned getaway for 50 adults and 25 children at Wallamba Waterfront Lodges

The internal patrol competition was revived, rewarding teams for professionalism, teamwork and rescue efforts. Thanks to Smiths Lake Bottle Shop for sponsoring this initiative.

Training and Competition

- Spinal boards were introduced into Bronze training, with the award now recognised as a Certificate III in Water Safety. Defibrillator training and VTAB accreditation were also rolled out
- The Rescue Water Vehicle (Jet Ski) program expanded, rotating patrols across the Branch
- The men's Open "A" surf boat crew shone again - winning the Branch Title, achieving a third consecutive NSW Country Championship gold, and placing strongly in the Peters Series and State Final

2004-2005 - Big Numbers, Big Events, Bigger Spirit

Office Bearers	
President	Mark Martin
Vice President	Phil Spicer
Secretary	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Judy Gagg
Treasurer	Sandra Wilson
Public Officer	Sandra Wilson
Club Captain	Rob Bramble
Vice Club Captain	Vacant
Sports Secretary	Megan Newell 13/9/04A; 10/1/05R
Chief Instructor	Dan Brauer
Publicity Officer	Sue Martin
IRB Captain	Rod Williams
Boat Captain	Steve Scott
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	John Davidson
Radio Officer	Paul McQueen
Social Secretary	Megan Newell 10/1/05R
Committee	Mark Zieren Dave Ellis
JAC Chairman	Sharon Hope
JAC Delegate	Kel McCredie
First Aid Officer	Philip Spicer
LNC SLSA Delegate	Chris Taylor
Registrar	Chris Taylor



Painted with deck blinds.

It was a season defined by record participation, renewed community energy, and continued Club success—on and off the beach.

Major Events and Achievements

- **Battle of the Boats** (sponsored by Woodstock) was our biggest yet, with **151 surfboat crews** enjoying near-perfect conditions at Elizabeth Beach (19th and 20th Feb 2005)
- The **Pacific Palms Real Estate Rock to Rock Swim** hit another high with **184 ocean swimmers** testing themselves over 1.5km
- The **Forster Pacific Real Estate Masters Carnival** again proved a hit with veteran competitors across NSW
- A **Nippers Branch Carnival** was also hosted successfully on our beach

We also had strong representation at:

- **Branch Champs** (Blackhead)
- **State Titles** (Umina)
- **Aussies** (Kurrawa, Gold Coast)
- **World Titles** (Viareggio, Italy)
- **Pan Pacific Games** (Gold Coast – track and field)

While we didn't attend the Country Champs at Pambula, the Palms were still well represented at home and abroad.

Nipper numbers increased dramatically, thanks to a dedicated Junior Activities Committee. A beach-only Nipper carnival and ongoing Sunday activities kept our youngest members active and engaged.

We also welcomed a group of **Cooks Hill cadets** in December for a weekend of fun, fitness and surf skills, including belt and reel practice and shore-break board work. Their enthusiasm and support during the Battle of the Boats was much appreciated.

Club Culture and Community

- **Sponsors' Day** (Nov), **Christmas Party** (Dec), and the **Annual Presentation Night** (May 21) were all highlights
- **Annual Club Getaway** at Wallamba Lodges closed the season on a high
- The **Auction**, again held at the Recky Club, raised vital funds
- The **Door Knock**—despite low volunteer turnout—raised an impressive amount. Special thanks to the residents of **Pacific Palms Caravan Park**, who raised **\$2,700 in one afternoon**

Successful grant outcomes included:

- **SLSA Gear Grant** – funded a new outboard motor
- **NRMA Club Help** – funded a defibrillator and two-way radios
- **CDSE Funding** – partial success for more radios

The **Powercraft Training Camp** at Crowdy Head was another key success, boosting members' rescue skills and confidence.

The Building Sub-Committee sought professional acoustic advice for the Club house auditorium. With the engineer's report now in hand, costings for improvements were initiated.

SLSA also raised training standards this year in line with the **Australian Qualification Training Framework (AQTF)**, formalising our place as a Registered Training Organisation. This will continue to raise the bar for our education and proficiency programs.

2005-2006 - Year of the Clowns

Office Bearers	
President	Daniel Brauer
Vice President	Mark Martin
Secretary	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Maxine Cook
Treasurer	Sandra Wilson
Public Officer	Sandra Wilson
Club Captain	Paul Martin
Vice Club Captain	Stuart Small
Sports Secretary	Kel McCredie
Chief Instructor	Rob Bramble
Publicity Officer	Paul McQueen
IRB Captain	Rod Williams
Boat Captain	Steve Scott
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	John Davidson
Radio Officer	Bryan Davies
Social Secretary	Carol Richards
Committee	Sue Martin Dave Ellis
JAC Chairman	Sharon Hope
JAC Delegate	Sharon Hope
First Aid Officer	Philip Spicer
LNC SLSA Delegate	Chris Taylor
Registrar	Chris Taylor



New acoustic ceiling

The season began with a fun afternoon of beach activities for Pacific Palms School students at Boomerang Beach—an early reminder of the community spirit that defines our Club.

Our Club shone across all levels this season—from Club and Branch carnivals to the World Lifesaving Championships. A standout highlight was our Under 19 surfboat crew, “The Clowns”, who won Gold at the Australian Championships and the Battle of the Boats. Their rise from local lads to national champions is a tribute to their determination—and perhaps a few laughs along the way.

Other impressive achievements include:

1st: Australian Championships, Battle of the Boats, NSW Premiership (Round 4), Branch Open Boat

2nd: Country Championships

3rd: Peters Boat Series, ASRL National Champs (Coffs Harbour)

4th: State Championships

Thanks to coach Steve Scott—voted “Coach of the Year”—and to the Clowns, who were named U/19 Competitors of the Year at the Branch Dinner.

We also competed in the inaugural Ocean Thunder Series—Australia’s elite professional surfboat league—broadcast on Fox Sports and Channel 9. Our Woodstock-sponsored crew finished 4th overall.

Events and Community Engagement

We hosted a full calendar of successful events including:

- Nippers Carnival
- Kramer Winchester Roofing Masters Carnival

- Battle of the Boats (161 crews, up 10 from previous year)
- Rock to Rock Ocean Swim (227 entries vs. 180 from previous year)
- Annual Club Auction, Trivia Night, and Presentation Night
- Black Tie Ball—a season highlight
- Card Night—wet, cold and still a hit
- Easter Sand Modelling Competition—a fun new tradition

Our incredible volunteers, the Lower North Coast Branch, and members from neighbouring Clubs helped make these events a success.

Surf safety sessions held on Elizabeth Beach were well received by holidaymakers.

Successful grant applications included:

- SLSA Gear Grant (stretcher, IRB vests, megaphone)
- Yamaha Surf Rescue Program (outboard motor)
- Additional funding applications were pending for radios, rescue signage, and tech equipment.



PACIFIC PALMS
Surf Life Saving Club

Masters Carnival

Saturday 3 December 2005
At Elizabeth Beach, Pacific Palms

The Friendly Carnival™

9.30am sign on for 10am start

Male & Female Events for:

30 – 34; 35 – 39; 40 – 44; 45 – 49; 50 – 54; 55 – 59; 60+

Events include:

Surf & Teams, board, board rescue,
board relay, single ski, ski relay, flags,
beach sprint, relay & 2km beach run

Team events must include 1 female.

*If you have insufficient members to
form a team but would like to compete in
team events, composite teams will be formed
on the day by draw from the hat*



Lunch will be available at a small cost for spectators & supporters.

*Entries on SLSNSW Carnival entry form. To assist with catering, please advise
approximate numbers attending by 30 November 2005*

**For further information contact Kel McCredie 6554 4122 or
Pat Powell 6554 2058(ah) or email the club at pplscl@tsn.cc**

Proudly sponsored by
Kramer Winchester Roofing Pty Ltd
25 Boomerang Drive, Boomerang Beach 2428
02 6554 0411

2006-2007 - 21 Years Young

Office Bearers	
President	Daniel Brauer (11/9/06 R) David Collins (16/10/06 E)
Vice President	Mark Martin
Secretary	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Karma Fisher (12/2/07 E)
Treasurer	Sandra Wilson
Public Officer	Sandra Wilson
Club Captain	Paul Martin
Vice Club Captain	Robert Bramble
Sports Secretary	Kel McCredie
Chief Instructor	Paul Martin (8/1/07 R) Daniel Brauer (8/1/07 E)
Publicity Officer	Sue Martin
IRB Captain	Rod Williams
Boat Captain	Steve Scott
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	John Davidson
Radio Officer	Kelsey Cook
Social Secretary	Carol Richards (16/10/06 E)
Committee	Paul McQueen Mark Zieren
JAC Chairman	Kim Neate
JAC Delegate	Kelsey Cook
First Aid Officer	Philip Spicer
LNC SLSC Delegate	Chris Taylor (16/10/06 R) Steve Scott (16/10/06 E)
Registrar	Chris Taylor (16/10/06 R) Sue Williams (12/3/07 E)



21st Birthday weekend breakfast

We celebrated our 21st Anniversary in style, hosting several major events including the Branch Dinner and our Club Presentation Night. A highlight was the launch of *Where the Hell's Pacific Palms? – 21 Years of Pacific Palms SLSC*, compiled by Paul McQueen after countless hours of research. It's a brilliant and entertaining tribute to our history. A copy is available on the Club's website.

Club Development and Grants: We kicked off the Surf Life Saving Club Development Program with Andrew Jones, aiming to strengthen our operations and future. We also saw success with a number of grants:

- SLSC Gear Grant (photocopier, rescue tubes), Small Equipment Grant (microwave, kitchen appliances), CDSE Funding (radios), NRMA Club Help (laptop, projector, storage cabinet)

After years of echo complaints, we finally fixed the Club house acoustics—thanks to the new ceiling and lighting in the auditorium. Our Building Subcommittee continues to push ahead with extensions, with Stage 1 focused on new ladies' amenities, disabled lift, and a bar.

Vale Clyde Palmer: We sadly farewelled Clyde Palmer, a well-loved figure in our Club's early years. Our deepest sympathies to Judie, Natalie, Gavin and their families.

We upgraded our Tohatsu motors and look to refresh our ageing IRBs next. A "Restricted Use" policy was introduced for boards to ensure safety and care of equipment—only Bronze Medallion holders were able to use Club boards or skis.

Surf Boats and Ocean Thunder: A brand-new Perry surf boat was delivered thanks to sponsor Roger Smith and e2GO Ltd. With new oars and gear, our crews hit the season hard. Despite being geographically scattered (some 300 km apart – Sydney and Pacific Palms), our teams performed strongly—U19s finished 4th and Opens 7th at Nationals in Perth.

Special thanks to Paul Booth for managing our team and helping us win “Most Professional Team” at the Ocean Thunder series. The dedication of our crews, and unflagging support behind the scenes (logistics, food, and fundraising), was invaluable.

“The Clowns” Crew: A standout year! Their season featured road trips, laughs, and gritty wins in challenging surf, especially at Lorne for the Australian Boat Rowers Championship. They brought home finals victories in atrocious conditions.

Battle of the Boats: The year’s event was bigger than ever, with 180 crews and new Clubs including Rainbow Bay QLD. BOB was now a premier fixture on the surf boat calendar. Huge thanks to IDA Woodstock Bourbon and Cola, Saxbys, and our local sponsors for supporting such a high-calibre carnival that boosts our region’s economy and pride.

To help ease the burden of travelling to Nationals in WA, the Club funded boat transport and supported competitors with fundraising and committee assistance—especially for our juniors.

Parent involvement at Nipper BBQs continued to grow, helping bond the Club. We ran our third successful Juniors Beach-Only Carnival, an Open Club Championship, and another well-attended Rock to Rock Swim (190 entries).

Training and Inclusion: This season saw 18 women and 34 men on patrol—reflecting our commitment to diversity. 28 members (13 women, 15 men) also braved the elements in Sunday morning training and handicap events.



Open Boat crew in action in the new eGO surf boat

2007-2008 - Big surf over Christmas

Office Bearers	
President	David Collins
Vice President	Mark Martin
Secretary	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Sandra Wilson
Public Officer	Sandra Wilson
Club Captain	Paul Martin (11/2/08 R) John Davidson (11/2/08 E)
Vice Club Captain	John Davidson
Sports Secretary	Vacant
Chief Instructor	Daniel Brauer
Publicity Officer	Sue Martin
IRB Captain	Rod Williams
Boat Captain	Steve Scott
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	John Davidson
Radio Officer	Matt Harrington (10/10/08 A)
Social Secretary	Carol Richards
Committee	Kel McCredie Dave Ellis
JAC Chairman	Karma Fisher
JAC Delegate	Carole Agar
First Aid Officer	Sue Martin
LNC SLISA Delegate	Vacant
Registrar	Sue Williams



IRB racing

Thanks to the generosity of **John Gowing** and the **Morgan Mellish Trust**, we upgraded our rescue gear with a new IRB and a jet ski—named in Morgan’s memory. The Trust also contributed to a new 4WD rescue vehicle co-funded by Great Lakes Shire Council. These additions significantly boost our rescue capabilities.

Club house Upgrades: After years of planning, our Club house renovations are underway. This included upgraded women’s amenities, a bar, and a lift for disabled access. Pending funding future expansion included the kitchen, men's toilets, disabled toilets/showers, more storage, a training room, and a gym.

Grants and Support: Special thanks to **Stuart Agar** for donating a new computer, streamlining Club admin.

Club Events and Community: Despite wet weather, our **Open Day** attracted many visitors. The **Sponsors’ Dinner**, **Trivia Night**, and **Christmas Party** were well attended. The annual **Auction**, was another highlight.

Door Knock donations raised ~\$1,400.

Alex Martin designed “LEO,” a storage system for the 4WD as part of his HSC project—an impressive and practical addition to our patrol setup that is still in operation in 2026 (thanks Alex).

IRB and Rescue Operations: Our IRB and jet ski crews responded to multiple emergency callouts, always delivering professional and timely support. The Club hosted a successful **Powercraft Training Camp**, and IRB competition continued to thrive in its fourth season.

Surf Boats: This season saw only the 'A' Crew in action, based in Sydney - a less-than-ideal setup.

Surf Sports: Despite some rough weather, 31 members took part in Sunday handicap events across 20 sessions, covering runs, swims, sprints, and flags.



Branch championships 2007

Competitions included:

- Forster's "Weekend of Surf"
- Pacific Palms Juniors' Beach Carnival
- Masters Carnival
- Branch, State, and Aussie Titles
- Rock to Rock Swim (212 competitors)
- Battle of the Boats (180 crews)

A special congratulations to our Branch Awards of Excellence nominees:

- **Brooke McCredie** – U14 Competitor of the Year
- **Kel McCredie** – Coach of the Year
- **Pat Powell** – Masters Competitor
- **Paul Martin** – Open Competitor

Training and Fitness: Year-round training sessions continued: board, ski, ocean swims, pool training, and gym workouts. Members also competed in:

- Gold Coast Marathon
- Gloria Jean's Fun Run
- Anaconda Adventure Race

Nippers: Although numbers were down, our Nippers looked sharp in their Seal Rocks Camping Reserve rashies and were well supported by sponsors. Events like the Beach Only Carnival, Santa's visit, Easter Sandcastle Comp, and the Presentation Disco made for a fun and engaging season.

The Club's biggest fundraising success was still **hall hire**, with continued revenue from the Annual Auction, trivia night, BBQs and raffles.

Radio Communications: This season saw challenges with the new repeater system, which unfortunately reduced our ability to contact Coastal Patrol. A short-term fix was pursued while awaiting Surf Life Saving NSW's strategic review of radio operations.

First Aid and Safety: The Club adopted the latest bluebottle sting treatment guidelines, with mixed results—sometimes heat, sometimes ice worked best.

We were also fortunate to have a defibrillator and trained users on hand. Thanks to **St John Ambulance**, who supported Battle of the Boats again—especially appreciated given the conditions.

2008-2009

Office Bearers	
President	Kel McCredie
Vice President	Mark Martin
Secretary	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Carole Agar
Treasurer	Sandra Wilson
Public Officer	Sandra Wilson
Club Captain	Sue Martin
Vice Club Captain	Dominic Martin (18/8/08 A)
Sports Secretary	Andrew Staniland (8/9/08 A)
Chief Instructor	David Ellis
Publicity Officer	Vacant
IRB Captain	Rod Williams (appointed 18/8/08)
Boat Captain	Vacant
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Tracey Turner
Radio Officer	Matt Harrington
Social Secretary	Vacant
Committee	Dave Collins Carol Richards (8/9/08 A)
JAC Chairman	Courtney O'Byrne
JAC Delegate	Carole Agar
First Aid Officer	Wendy McCredie
LNC SLISA Delegate	Pat Powell
Registrar	Sue Williams (18/8/08 A)

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)



Pat Powell First Life Member

Club house Developments and Social Engagement

The introduction of the Booti Bar marked a significant step in fostering community spirit at the Club. Open every Friday night (outside the winter months), to offer members a relaxed space to enjoy a drink, a game of table tennis or pool, or simply good company. With the acquisition of an On Premises liquor licence, we now enjoy extended trading hours and the flexibility to open to the public.

Renovations also progressed steadily. The gym extensions were underway, and Stage 2 priorities included a disabled toilet/shower, an upgraded kitchen, expanded men's amenities, a new training room, and improved storage. New ladies' showers were installed, and a disabled lift fitted, along with additional ground floor and auditorium storage.

Free fitness classes coordinated by Andy Staniland and trainer Daniel Lawton were offered to 15–25-year-olds and were well attended. Revised gym memberships will soon allow broader access to Club facilities.

Grants, Equipment, and Sponsorship

We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors whose generosity continued to support our lifesaving and competition efforts. A special thank you to John Gowing, Pacific Palms Caravan Park, and Telstra for sponsoring our new Rhino.

Grant Successes This Season

- Yamaha Club Rescue Program (outboard motor)
- Dept of Sport and Rec dollar for dollar Gear Grant (defibrillator, spinal collars)
- Dept of Sport and Rec dollar for dollar Grant from last season (soft rescue board, fuel cell, defibrillator trainer, patrol gear)
- CDSE Funding (soft rescue board, first aid kit) — \$500 received
- Telstra Life Saving Assistance Fund (Quad Bike)

We continue to actively pursue grant funding and appreciate the ongoing support from community donors to our Building Fund.

Public Engagement and Events

Due to renovations, Open Day was relocated to the Pacific Palms Community Centre in September and held alongside the *Small Footprints Festival*. In March, we ran another community outreach at the Palms Markets, showcasing surf safety, CPR demos, and information displays.

The Annual Sponsors' Dinner on 19 October included the launch of our new IRB and a delicious smorgasbord meal in appreciation of our supporters.

Successful fundraising events this season included:

- Annual Door Knock (December)
- Forster Film Festival screenings at the Club house (January)
- Trivia Night (January – excellent turnout)
- Raffles, including seafood trays donated by Pacific Palms Seafoods
- Annual Auction at Pacific Palms Recreation Club, led by Richard Harris
- Nippers' BBQs
- Black Tie Ball – 1 August
- Hall hire was our biggest single fundraiser

Patrols and Lifesaving

The Club operated with only six patrol teams this season, each covering Sundays and public holidays from September through April. These teams met the demanding requirements for IRB operators, First Aiders, and Bronze Medallion holders — often doubling up on responsibilities due to limited numbers. Despite this, our members showed outstanding commitment.

At the time the Club was pleased to receive a new Davenport patrol tower to improving beach surveillance however it did not prove to be a long term success.

Competitions and Club Activities

While competitor numbers declined slightly, many members continued training in board, ski, and surf boat disciplines. Key events included:

- **NSW IRB Premiership Round 2:** Hosted at Pacific Palms in ideal conditions. Over 200 competitors took part in 90+ events. Our after-carnival dinner was a great success — even during a blackout!
- **World Titles (Germany):** Pat Powell, Joy Godwin, and Peter Allison proudly represented the Club, returning with multiple medals.
- **Battle of the Boats:** Held in February with 180 crews. Sadly, no Pacific Palms boats competed this year.
- **Rock to Rock Swim (Easter Sunday):** Attracted 220 swimmers. Timing bands and staggered starts improved efficiency.
- **Blueys Cellars Masters Carnival (December):** Largest turnout yet, with 95 competitors.
- **Sunday Morning Handicapped Activities:** Despite challenging conditions, the format continued successfully with many members helping out with Nippers afterward.
- **Club Championships (April):** Surf conditions forced the event to stretch across two weekends.

Final Thoughts

Membership numbers were down again this year, in line with trends among smaller surf Clubs. The committee is exploring new strategies to attract and retain members, especially juniors — the future of our Club and lifesaving more broadly.

We've achieved a great deal this season: launched the Booti Bar, made major strides in our building upgrades, and continued to deliver outstanding lifesaving services and community events. Thank you to all who made it possible.



Round 2 of the NSW IRB premiership



L-R Kel McCredie, Pat Powell, Nathan and Andy at the Palms Markets

2009-2010

Office Bearers	
President	Kel McCredie
Vice President	Mark Martin
Secretary	Vacant
Assistant Secretary	Carole Agar
Treasurer	Sandra Wilson
Public Officer	Sandra Wilson
Club Captain	Sue Martin
Vice Club Captain	Mark Martin
Sports Secretary	Kel McCredie
Chief Instructor	David Ellis
Publicity Officer	Pat Powell
IRB Captain	Rod Williams
Boat Captain	Vacant
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Tracey Turner
Radio Officer	Matt Harrington
Social Secretary	Nathan Ware
Committee	Kylie di Battista Sharon Hope
JAC Chairman	Courtney O'Byrne
JAC Delegate	Carole Agar
First Aid Officer	Jo Carp
LNC SLSCA Delegate	Julie Yates
Registrar	Sue Williams
Member Protection Information Officer	Wendy McCredie

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)



New extensions almost complete.

Season Overview

The season began with another successful Open Day held at both the Pacific Palms Community Centre and the Club house.

With only seven patrol teams this season, and additional obligations under our Patrol Agreement with Surf Life Saving NSW, our members once again rose to the challenge. Support was provided by Jet Ski Operators from other Clubs, but our own Jet Ski team has been reduced to just three members. Discussions with the Lower North Coast Branch are ongoing to reinstate this vital service.

The infamous bluebottles made their usual appearance. Hot water proved helpful for some stings, but many found relief the old-fashioned way — with ice.

This season also introduced Saturday patrols outside school holiday periods — a Surf Life Saving NSW initiative to standardise patrol operations across the state.

Notable Rescues and After-Hours Callouts

Two major after-hours rescues were conducted at Blueys Beach:

- The first involved a tragic drowning incident in July, where a holidaymaker from Sydney lost their life. Club members responded swiftly and professionally, performing first response treatment under extreme pressure
- The second involved a tourist found semi-conscious in rough surf. Thanks to a call from local surfers and the fast deployment of our Jet Ski, the individual was rescued and made a full recovery after hospitalisation

Additionally:

- Our team assisted in the **disentanglement of a whale calf** caught in ropes off Boomerang Beach
- A **hang glider and pilot** were rescued after drifting dangerously close to rocks

These incidents highlight the critical role of our after-hours response list and Jet Ski capabilities. In fact, one of these rescues was later named **Surf Life Saving NSW's Rescue of the Month** — an outstanding achievement.

Member Recruitment and Club Facilities

Member recruitment and ongoing Club house renovations were key focuses this season.

The *Booti Bar* completed its first full season under our *On-Premise Liquor Licence*, managed by RSA-accredited members. It has become a valued social space for members.

Building improvements continued with the addition of:

- A training/conference room
- Storage areas
- Covered deck off the auditorium
- Kitchen extension
- Disabled toilet/shower
- Extended men's amenities
- Lifesaving equipment/workshop area
- Access lift (now operational)
- Ground-floor and gym storage areas

Our **free fitness classes** for 15–25-year-olds continued and were again well attended.

Events and Community Engagement

We continued to host major events that are widely recognised across NSW:

- **12th Battle of the Boats Carnival** — record numbers attended
- **11th Pacific Palms Real Estate Rock to Rock Swim** — 282 swimmers participated. This year's event was dedicated to *Saxon Bird*, last year's male winner, who tragically passed away at the Australian Championships
- **Blueys Cellars Masters Carnival** — well attended, drawing competitors from across NSW
- **Sunday Morning Handicap Series** — run by Andy Staniland, involving up to 40 regulars despite challenging surf
- **Club Championships** — held over two days due to limited participation
- **Junior Beach Carnival (November)** — a valuable introduction for new Nippers
- **Tuesday and Friday Training Sessions** — continued throughout the year

The Club's ability to successfully conduct these events was again recognised by Surf Life Saving NSW, who invited us to host **Round 4 of the State IRB Premiership**. Despite wet and unpleasant weather, over **200 competitors from 23 Clubs** took part in 84 races. Lizzy's trademark shore break made for thrilling competition, and our Club's hospitality and professionalism received glowing feedback.

Lifesaving Infrastructure and Communication

This year, a **local radio repeater and aerial** were installed at the Club house — funded by Surf Life Saving NSW. Unfortunately, some of our older radios couldn't be reprogrammed for the new frequencies. While the upgrade was expected to improve communications in our southern patrol areas, some issues remained. The Club continued to advocate for a long-term solution.

Member Recognition and Achievements

- **Four Club members** received the **National Medal**, recognising long and diligent service in organisations that protect life and property at personal risk (see National Medal appendix).
- Pacific Palms was represented by a small team at **Rescue 2010 in Egypt** this October.
- Despite overall low numbers, we produced **two Australian Gold Medallists** this season — an outstanding achievement.

Club Culture and Communication

We proudly launched the *Friends of Pacific Palms Surf Club* this season, an initiative sparked by one of our sponsors. Owners of local holiday accommodation were invited to contribute a small donation in support of lifesaving efforts — a scheme that has already proven beneficial.

We also welcomed the **return of paid lifeguards to Elizabeth Beach**, thanks to Great Lakes Council reversing their earlier decision — a move we fully support.

Our newsletter, *The Huey*, is now distributed via email where addresses are available. This reduces costs and ensures members receive a full-colour version every two months, direct to their inbox.



Sponsors Dinner



Booti Bar



Gym evolves

2010-2011

Office Bearers	
President	Kel McCredie
Vice President	Mark Martin
Secretary	Vacant
Assistant Secretary	Carole Agar
Treasurer	Sandra Wilson
Public Officer	Sandra Wilson
Club Captain	Vacant
Vice Club Captain	Vacant
Sports Secretary	Mark Brown
Chief Instructor	David Ellis
Publicity Officer	Pat Powell
IRB Captain	Rod Williams
Boat Captain	Vacant
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Tracey Turner
Radio Officer	Matt Harrington
Social Secretary	Nathan Ware
Committee	Becky Hunter Sharon Hope
JAC Chairman	Andrew Staniland
JAC Delegate	Carole Agar
First Aid Officer	Sue Martin
LNC SLSA Delegate	Julie Yates
Registrar	Sue Williams
Member Protection Information Officer	Wendy McCredie.

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)



Our new training room.

Patrol Operations and Lifesaving Activity

This season saw six complete patrol teams, supported by two additional patrols operating without their own IRB Drivers or Crew. These patrols relied on a call-out system from other trained IRB operators. Jet Ski Support Operations from other Clubs within the Lower North Coast Branch were also present on their rostered days.

For the first time, our patrols covered **Saturday rosters**, following a state-wide Surf Life Saving NSW initiative.

The Club also responded to multiple call-outs during the season, including:

- A **distress flare** for a swamped runabout at Lindeman Cove
- An **unmanned boat** drifting off the coast

We gratefully acknowledge the continued holiday-season support from **Great Lakes Shire Council** lifeguards at Elizabeth Beach. In addition, **Sydney Northern Beaches Branch** has generously offered to assist Lower North Coast Clubs during the coming Christmas period — an offer we gladly accepted to help ease the patrol burden.

Member Recruitment, Retention and Facilities

A major focus this year was **recruiting and retaining members**, alongside completing long-term **building renovations**.

Significant renovations are now largely complete and include:

- A fully operational **Gymnasium** (mirrors pending)

Training/Conference Room — fitted out via the Emergency Management NSW Volunteer Support Grant

- **Commercial stainless-steel kitchen**
- **Disabled toilet/shower** and expanded men's amenities
- **Covered deck, ground floor storage, and equipment workshop**
- **Access lift** now fully functional

These modern, multipurpose facilities are open to members and the wider community, including those interested in First Aid or CPR training, or simply joining for fitness, social connection, or to support surf lifesaving in a smaller, regional setting.

We also created a new **youth social area** within the Club, known as the *Gen Y-not Area*, providing teens with a dedicated space.

Club Events and Carnivals

Our three flagship events were again a huge success:

- **13th Battle of the Boats** (February) — with record attendance, supported by a newly implemented traffic management plan in coordination with NSW Police, National Parks, Great Lakes Shire Council, and the Club
- **12th Pacific Palms Real Estate Rock to Rock Ocean Swim** (Easter) — 280 competitors
- **Blueys Cellars Masters Carnival** (December) — with strong turnout and broad participation

In May, we also hosted **Round 3 of the 2011 NSW IRB Premiership Series**, receiving great feedback from both competitors and officials.

Our **Sunday handicap events** and **Club Championships** also continued. These sessions remain vital for maintaining fitness and surf awareness.

Communications and Publicity

This season marked the **introduction of Surfcom**, a state-wide radio communication system based on the Central Coast. While teething issues were experienced — including confusion around procedures and equipment compatibility — communication with a Surf Lifesaving-specific radio base has proven beneficial.

The Club remains active in media and communications:

- The full-colour *Huey* newsletter is distributed every two months, primarily via email (printed versions still available)
- Ongoing media coverage from *Great Lakes Advocate*, *ABC*, *NBN*, *Prime*, and *Southern Cross 10*
- *NBN TV* once again offered free advertising for the Battle of the Boats

Grants and Fundraising

The Club was successful in securing several important grants this season:

- **Volunteer Small Equipment Grant** — Patrol tent
- **Telstra Grant** — Two radios

- **Department of Sport and Recreation Lifesaving Grant** – Rescue board and radio harness
- **Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme** – Fit-out of the new Training Room

We also engaged the community directly:

- At the **Palms Markets**, members staffed our Surf Life Saving red trailer at the entrance, offering CPR demonstrations and membership renewals
- We remained part of the **Pacific Palms Recreation Club's community raffle roster**, though volunteer participation in this remained a challenge.



World Championships Alexandria Egypt (Oct) - Pat Powell, Terry Brooker, Joy Goodwin.



Some of the new gym equipment.

2011-2012

Office Bearers	
President	Vacant
Vice President	Mark Martin (12/12/11 A)
Secretary	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Carole Agar
Treasurer	Sandra Wilson (Deceased 8/4/12)
Public Officer	Sandra Wilson (8/4/12 D) Pat Powell (16/4/12 A)
Club Captain	Steve Withers
Vice Club Captain	Vacant
Sports Secretary	Mark Brown
Chief Instructor	David Ellis
Publicity Officer	Sue Martin (9/1/12 R)
IRB Captain	Rod Williams
Boat Captain	Vacant
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Tracey Turner
Radio Officer	Matt Harrington
Social Secretary	Carol Richards
Committee	Becky Hunter Sharon Hope
JAC Chairman	Glenn Gwynne
JAC Delegate	Carole Agar (25/3/12 R) Lianna Koller (25/3/12 A)
First Aid Officer	Sue Martin
LNC SLSA Delegate	Pat Powell
Registrar	Sue Williams
Member Protection Information Officer	Wendy McCredie
OHS Officer	Wendy McCredie
Member Services Officer	Carol Richards

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)



Recently constructed pathways

The 2011/12 season began without a President and Vice President.

The Registration and Information Day was held at the Palms Markets in September. Despite torrential rain, a small band of helpers manned the Surf Life Saving NSW trailer and signed up the intrepid few who braved the weather.

Although we celebrated our **25th anniversary** in October 2011, we decided not to hold a celebration due to work pressures. Hopefully, our 30th anniversary would bring a well-deserved party.

Members competed at all levels throughout the season—from our well-organised Sunday morning junior and senior events right through to the Australian titles. They competed with spirit and integrity and made the Club proud.

The Junior Activities section was as strong as ever and a credit to those involved. It was heartwarming to see families coming together at the beach and later at the Club house. Our children stood to benefit enormously from their involvement.

The building works were all but complete, and were functioning well for members. The Building Subcommittee had consulted again with the membership to ensure the Club house's evolution continued to meet their needs.

The **new gym** proved to be a hit, attracting many new members. Our innovative scheme—offering discounted membership and gym access in exchange for volunteer hours—was a great success.

We were deeply saddened by the **passing of our Treasurer, Sandra Wilson**, on Easter Sunday. Sandra had been everything a Club

could ask for: Treasurer for 10 years, 100% patrol for 10 years, Patrol Captain, Instructor, Official, and friend to all.

Grants and Funding Applications: We received a Department of Sport and Recreation Lifesaving Gear Grant for a soft rescue board, radio, waterproof bag, and swim fins.

Our Community Building Partnership application was partially successful, and we received \$4,000 to fund a new entry door and security system.

We continued to benefit from the Pacific Palms Recreation Club community raffles—thank you to the Recky and to Pacific Palms Seafoods for supplying the seafood trays.

In February, members provided water safety for the movie *The Grandmothers* at Seal Rocks. Though it offered a welcome financial boost, it also meant long days of waiting, last-minute cancellations, and ongoing coordination challenges. Still, we all looked forward to seeing how the area—and maybe even a few locals—featured in the film.

Our members also provided water safety for the swim leg of the inaugural Forster Adventure Race in May, held at Elizabeth Beach.

Bunnings generously supported the Club, sending staff to repaint the gear shed. They came with their BBQ trailer, worked in the morning, cooked lunch for us all, and then worked through the afternoon.

The Club's 2005 Aussies gold medal-winning surf boat was brought back into service and housed in the lifesaving garage, returning to the water for training.

Our **Sunday Handicap Pointscore** events were held again, covering six disciplines: 1200m run, 200m swim, 300m board race, 70m sprint, 15m beach flags, and a 400m long swim.

Club Championships were run over three sessions, with only small numbers in attendance.

A group of eight Club surfers attended the **Branch Board Riding Championships** at Diamond Beach in January. A small number of Seniors and Nippers also attended the Branch Championships at Forster Main Beach in February. No members competed at the Country or State Titles this season.

The **Blueys Cellars Masters Carnival** had fewer competitors than the previous year—55 in total—due to the Hunter Branch hosting their own Masters event on the same day. Avoca won the event, with Pacific Palms placing third.

Battle of the Boats numbers were slightly down at 180. Palms didn't field a team this season, but we hoped that Surf Boat Paddy would have a crew lined up for 2013.

The **Pacific Palms Real Estate Rock to Rock Ocean Swim** had smaller numbers - 240 competitors—likely due to large swells and choppy conditions on Easter Sunday.

Our two **Trivia Nights** during the summer holiday period were once again very successful.

Instead of opening **Booti Bar** every Friday, we trialled once-a-month special nights during October, November, and December.

Sadly, we were short on Age Managers this season as personal commitments changed. Huge thanks went to the parents who stepped up weekly to ensure every age group could participate fully.

2012-2013

Office Bearers	
President	Mark Martin
Vice President	Matt Harrington
Secretary	Pat Powell
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Carol Richards
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Club Captain	Sue Martin
Vice Club Captain	Vacant
Sports Secretary	Jerrad Allen
Chief Instructor	Vacant
Publicity Officer	Vacant
IRB Captain	Vacant
Boat Captain	Mark Brown
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Lee Davidson (11/2/13 R)
Radio Officer	Matt Harrington
Social Secretary	Natasha Hadley (19/4/13 R)
Committee	Becky Hunter Sharon Hope
JAC Chairman	Matt Bannerman
JAC Delegate	Lianna Koller (25/3/12 A)
First Aid Officer	Patrick Cashman
LNC SLISA Delegate	Pat Powell
Registrar	Sue Williams
Member Protection Information Officer	Christian Fieldhouse
OHS Officer	Wendy McCredie
Member Services Officer	Vacant

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)



Lewis Koller and Sage Sercombe McLean test new water refill station.

The Club operated as a multi-faceted organisation. From our fantastic **gym**, **Friday night meals**, and **Thursday members' nights** to **Sunday morning events**, **yoga**, **film nights**, **competition**, **wedding receptions**, **Nippers**, **Sponsors' Night**, **carnivals**, **education**, and **fitness** — everything revolved around our core mission: **lifesaving**.

We ended the season in a strong financial position thanks to excellent administration and the hard work of our members. We also had a loyal group of **sponsors and supporters** — each helping in their own way.

Major Events and Highlights

- **Battle of the Boats** was a real challenge this February. With Elizabeth Beach closed due to dangerous surf, the event was relocated to **Wallis Lake**. Despite the difficult conditions, we pulled it off — a great effort by all involved
- The **Pacific Palms Real Estate Rock to Rock Ocean Swim** was, once again, a resounding success
- The **Blueys Cellars Masters Carnival** in early December struggled with low numbers again this year
- **Nippers** had another fantastic season, with healthy numbers and motivated leaders
- We worked hard to build a culture of action and high standards. At times, this meant we asked too much of members or unintentionally overlooked others' efforts. These are important issues we must remain aware of and address — to retain the wonderful members who make this Club thrive.

Management and Committee: Last year, we encouraged members to take on parts of roles if they couldn't commit to a full position — and many did, helping to spread the workload. President urged more members to get involved. **Your Club needs you — now.**

Grants and Fundraising

- We secured a **BRP Powercraft dollar-for-dollar grant** in 2013 for a new **ATV**
- A **\$5,000 grant** from **Great Lakes Council** helped fund our contribution to the ATV purchase
- Our **new glass entry doors** and **security system** were installed early in the season, funded by a **\$4,000 Community Building Partnership** grant awarded the previous year
- We participated in the **Pacific Palms Recreation Club Community Raffles**, with seafood tray prizes generously donated by **Pacific Palms Seafoods**. Though these raffles have now ceased, we sincerely thank the Recreation Club for providing this valuable fundraising opportunity for so many years

Club Identity and Recognition

- The Committee began reviewing our **Club logo**, with the aim of adopting a more modern, streamlined design
- Congratulations also to **Rod Williams**, the first-ever recipient of the Club's **Honour Service Award**, recognising his many years of dedicated service

Membership and Venue Use



1BRP Can Am Commander 800R ATV

- The Club house was busy throughout the season, with **bookings** including:
 - Weddings
 - Probus Club events
 - Christmas parties
 - Family gatherings
 - Pacific Palms Primary School functions
 - Weekly yoga
 - Business breakfasts
 - Fundraisers
- The hall also hosted numerous **surf Club activities**, including:
 - Training sessions
 - Presentation night
 - Nippers presentation
 - Nippers weekly BBQs
 - Sponsors' dinner
 - Committee meetings and special events
- We trialled **Friday night dinners** over summer, which were a major success — generating over **\$12,200** during the December–April holiday periods, including Easter. Feedback from locals and visitors was overwhelmingly positive.
- Our **Annual Sponsors' Dinner** on 26 May was a chance to thank our generous supporters.

2013-2014

Office Bearers	
President	Kel McCredie
Vice President	Malcolm Hunter
Secretary	Steve Withers (4/10/13 R)
Assistant Secretary	Sharon Hope
Treasurer	Carol Richards (12/12/13 R) Jason Woods (10/2/14 E)
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Club Captain	Petra Richter
Vice Club Captain	Vacant
Sports Secretary	Jerrad Allen
Chief Instructor	Janne Moran
Publicity Officer	Kristyn Shanahan
IRB Captain	John Gray
Boat Captain	Warren Martin
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Ken Prior
Radio Officer	Tony Moran
Social Secretary	Lorraine Wafer (8/12/13 R) Larissa Robinson (10/2/14 E)
Committee	Becky Hunter Sharon Hope
JAC Chairman	Matt Bannerman
JAC Delegate	Malcolm Hunter
First Aid Officer	Patrick Cashman
LNC SLSA Delegate	Carol Richards (12/12/13 E)
Registrar	Sue Williams
Member Protection Information Officer	Christian Fieldhouse
OHS Officer	Wendy McCredie
Member Services Officer	Dave Ellis
Marketing and Sponsor Officer	Bill Wafer (8/12/13 R)

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)



New Jetski

The 2013/14 season began with a dramatic and positive tone, marked by outstanding rescue efforts and operational improvements. Lennon Fisher received a Surf Life Saving NSW Rescue of the Month award for his heroic jet ski rescue at Elizabeth Beach and went on to save over a dozen lives during the season, including a high-risk rescue at Seal Rocks. Lennon, alongside John Gray and Kel McCredie, was also recognised at Branch level. His efforts were highlighted in *Surf Life* magazine, raising awareness of rock fishing dangers.

The Club maintained its leadership in call-out operations across the Lower North Coast (LNC) Branch and **upgraded its rescue capabilities** with a new Yamaha four-stroke jet ski.

Club Captain Petra Richter brought energy to patrols, especially involving Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) youth, fostering engagement through fun and skill development. A strong social focus, championed by the President and Steve Withers, culminated in a successful Presentation Night attended by 85 members.

The final patrol day and clean-up saw a record turnout of 30 people, reinforcing community spirit. Nippers numbers surged to 109, led by Junior Chair Mal Hunter.

Major events included:

- **Branch Championships** and the **16th Battle of the Boats**
- **15th Rock to Rock Ocean Swim**
- **Masters Carnival** and LNC Branch Board Riding Championships
- **Support for the Forster Adventure Race**

Lifeguard services by Great Lakes Council supported 69,000 visitors to Elizabeth Beach.

Lifeguard Warren Keegan conducted a dramatic rescue at North Boomerang.

The **new Club logo** was introduced and the website redevelopment progressed. **Vitamensea fitness training** entered its eighth year, supporting member fitness and Bronze/SRC preparation. **Building renovations** began, improving the north deck and beach access.

Boat section engagement increased with new race and social crews. Highlights included a 2nd place finish at Woolgoolga and collaboration with regional crews. The Club aimed to expand competition and host more events in the 2014/15 season.

Sports competition saw strong early participation, with adjusted formats for Long Run and Long Swim improving involvement. Club Championships ran over two weeks due to weather, and carnivals attracted new competitors and enthusiastic volunteers. The Masters Carnival and Branch Championships were well supported, with Pacific Palms placing second overall after handicapping.

The **Battle of the Boats** was a major success, drawing 150 crews and debuting the Tim Knight Memorial Club Relay. The **Rock 2 Rock swim** enjoyed perfect conditions, with young swimmers dominating the podium.

Two members, Terry Brooker and Wendy Yarnold, competed at the State Championships, bringing home multiple medals.

A generous \$7,000 donation came from the Residents of Pacific Palms Caravan Park following their annual quoits day.

2014-2015

Office Bearers	
President	Kel McCredie
Vice President	Andrew Staniland
Secretary	Sharon Hope
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Paul Martin
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Club Captain	Belinda Gray (8/3/15 R)
Sports Secretary	Jerrad Allen
Chief Instructor	Janne Moran
Publicity Officer	Dominique Vasers
IRB Captain	John Gray (8/3/15 R)
Boat Captain	Warren Martin
Gear Steward	Vacant
Craft Captain	Ken Prior (8/12/14 R) Matt Bannerman (8/12/14 E)
Radio Officer	Tony Moran
Social Secretary	Emma Hickson
Committee	Becky Hunter Sharon Hope
JAC Chairman	Ian Sercombe
JAC Delegate	Stuart Gentle
First Aid Officer	Patrick Cashman
LNC SLISA Delegate	Malcolm Hunter
Registrar	Sally Mullerworth
Member Protection Information Officer	Christian Fieldhouse
OHS Officer	Wendy McCredie
Member Services Officer	Dave Ellis
Marketing and Sponsor Officer	Jochen Stockhausen

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)



Briefing for the water safety for Rock to Rock swim

The Club operated seven patrols between September and April with 65 active members, contributing to the **21 call-outs** managed by the Lower North Coast Branch.

Lennon Fisher received national recognition with a **Meritorious Award** for his rescue at Seal Rocks, leading to the Club being mentioned in Parliament.

Call-out operations remained a vital year-round commitment, supported by skilled members and well-maintained equipment.

The Club was privileged this season to have a broad array of skill sets within its management that extended its expertise into our **IT systems upgrade** thanks to Sal Mullerworth and Rod Dransfield. We overhauled our Club memberships and plan to move to an online payment portal system. **Facebook** was utilised and managed thanks to Jerrad Allen.

The Club hosted major events including the 16th **Rock to Rock Swim**, now featuring a successful new **600m Mini Swim**. The **Blueys Cellars Masters Carnival** was discontinued due to low participation. The Club also supported external events such as triathlons and dragon boat races.

The Club received nearly \$8,000 from Surf Life Saving NSW's fundraising efforts and upgraded key assets including a new patrol vehicle and plastic beach access ramp. Internationally, Pat Powell, Terry Brooker, and Steve Withers represented the Club at **Rescue 2014 in France** with commendable results.

Financially stable and structurally sound, the Club remained focused on its core mission: surf life saving. Appreciation was extended to all volunteers, sponsors, and community supporters who contributed to another successful season.

2015-2016

Office Bearers	
President	Paul Martin
Vice President	Vacant
Dir of Administration	Sal Mullerworth
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Director of Finance	(vacant)/Ian Lewis
Director of Lifesaving	Jerrad Allen
Director of Education	Janne Moran
Director of Youth and Member Services	Dave Ellis
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Powercraft Captain	Jerrad Allen
Club Captain	Vacant
Publicity Officer	Michelle Genovese
Boat Captain	Warren Martin
Gear Steward	Vacant
Radio Officer	Vacant
Social Secretary	Emma Hickson
JAC Chairperson	Ian Sercombe
First Aid Officer	Patrick Cashman
Registrar	Sally Mullerworth
Member Protection Officer	Christian Fieldhouse
WHS Officer	Elisa Fallovolita
Sponsorship Officer	Ian Sercombe
IT Officer	Sal Mullerworth Rod Dransfield
Web page officer	Ian Sercombe
Bar Officer	David Ellis
Gym Manager	Vacant
Sunday Spors Officer	Mark Martin

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)



27th Feb 2016 after Cyclone Wilson and BOB

Pacific Palms SLSC patrolled Elizabeth Beach from September to April and participated in several search and rescue operations. The **call-out team was activated multiple times**, including a challenging three-day search at South Boomerang over Easter, with members (David Ellis, Michelle Genovese, Jeanette Allen, Karma Reeves, Lennon Fisher, Kel McCredie, Mark Martin, Paul Martin, Rod Williams) commended for their professionalism.

Education and development remained strong with numerous new awards gained, and several juniors attending the **Leadership Camp**.

The Club successfully hosted the LNC **Branch Junior Youth Development Camp**.

Key events included the PPRE Rock to Rock Ocean Swim and the Battle of the Boats Carnival—both held despite tough conditions.

The Club also hosted popular social events such as **trivia nights, a Mexican-themed preseason party**, and an inaugural combined **Presentation Night** and **Sponsor Dinner**. Weddings and venue hires were again a major success.

The appointment of a **Venue Coordinator** led to a significant increase in venue-based income (thanks to Andy, Dave, Kel, Mark, Sal and Wendy for their significant efforts).

The Club was active in competition, including at **Branch and Country Championships**.

Grants were successfully secured for equipment including an emergency evacuation alarm, new computer gear, deck blinds, and deck upgrades.

The beach access ramp was severely damaged (May 2016) in storms but underwent repairs and a lot of sand was lost. Building maintenance continued with a repainting

program, safety upgrades, and general upkeep of Club infrastructure.

While membership declined slightly, community engagement remained high, and the Club supported external events like the Great Lakes Dragon Boat Regatta. Plans were in motion to celebrate the Club's 30th anniversary in October 2016.



Leadership Camp



Matt Dransfield, Phoebe Laurie, Zoe Allen, Fern Bannerman, Sage McLean, Charlie Woods, Jack Kemp, Jayden Grey, Feb 2016.

2016-2017 - 30 Years on.

Board of Directors	
President	Paul Martin
Vice President	Matt Bannerman
Dir of Administration	Vacant
Director of Finance	Ian Lewis
Director of Lifesaving	Jerrad Allen
Director of Education	Janne Moran
Director of Youth and Member Services	Matt Bannerman
Director Surf Sports	Vacant
Office Bearers	
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Powercraft Captain	Karma Reeves
Publicity Officer	Pat Powell
Boat Captain	Mick Evans
Gear Steward	Kel McCredie
Radio Officer	Karma Reeves
Social Secretary	Vacant (but undertaken by Emma Hickson)
JAC Chairperson	Ian Sercombe/Selina Brooks
First Aid Officer	Patrick Cashman
Registrar	Vacant (but undertaken by Sally Mullerworth)
Member Protection Officer	Christian Fieldhouse
WHS Officer	Mel Ledgett
Sponsorship Officer	Pat Powell
IT Officer	Sal Mullerworth
Web page officer	Ian Sercombe
Bar Officer	David Ellis
Gym Manager	Kel McCredie
Sunday Spors Officer	Mark Martin
Grants Officer	Pat Powell
Apparel Officer	Vacant
Vehicle upkeep/ Maintenance Officer	Kel McCredie
Building Maintenance	Kel McCredie
Grounds maintenance	Kel McCredie

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)



Community Building Partnership Grant

The 2016–17 season was a milestone year as PPSLSC proudly celebrated its **30th anniversary**. A special celebration was held in October 2016 at the Club house, attended by distinguished guests including the Presidents of SLSNSW and LNC, Federal and State Members of Parliament, and local dignitaries. The event was a great opportunity to reflect on how far the Club has come and to honour both past and present members.

Patrols continued from September to April, largely supported by a small but dedicated group of members, many contributing 50+ hours. Addressing low patrolling numbers remains a key focus, with efforts underway to attract and retain members. The Nipper program remained strong under the leadership of Ian Sercombe, Matt Bannerman and Jay Horvat with new initiatives linking to surfing and school programs.

The Club successfully ran its 19th **Battle of the Boats** and 18th **Rock to Rock** Ocean Swim, supported by members, community volunteers, and other Clubs. Avoca and Ocean Beach SLSCs generously took over patrols during January, giving our members a break. We also held **trivia nights**, our **anniversary celebration**, and our **end-of-season Presentation and Sponsors Night**.

Grant successes included funding for solar hot water and a new ATV. The **call-out team was activated four times**, including two Easter rescues. **Gym usage** remained steady with 33 active members.

While membership overall declined, particularly in the Active 18+ category, the Club focused on adapting and evolving. With limited resources, the emphasis stayed on innovation, efficiency, and ensuring our core lifesaving and education services remain strong.

2017-2018

Board of Directors	
President	David Ellis
Vice President	Dan Morgan
Dir of Administration	Richard Brookes
Director of Finance	Paul Martin
Director of Lifesaving	Kel McCredie
Director of Education	Janne Moran
Director of Youth and Member Services	Barry Jones Dan Morgan
Director Surf Sports	Warren Martin (res 4/3/18)
Office Bearers	
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Powercraft Captain	Vacant
Publicity Officer	Pat Powell
Boat Captain	Warren Martin
Gear Steward	Kel McCredie
Radio Officer	Richard Brookes
Social Secretary	Emma Hickson
JAC Chairperson	Barry Jones and Selina Brooks
First Aid Officer	Patrick Cashman
Registrar	Tracey Morgan
Member Protection Information Officer	Christian Fieldhouse
WHS Officer	Tracey Morgan
Sponsorship Officer	Kylie Podger
IT Officer	Richard Brookes
Website officer	Vacant
Bar Officer	David Ellis
Gym Manager	Kel McCredie
Sunday Spors Officer	Vacant
Grants Officer	Pat Powell
Apparel Officer	Vacant
Vehicle upkeep/ Maintenance Officer	Kel McCredie
Building/Grounds Maintenance	Kel McCredie
Waste Recycling	Dave and Michelle Ellis

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)
Kel McCredie (12 May 2018)



Our new paths and bike racks funded by MidCoast Council

This season, we operated with 8 patrol teams. Thirty members committed to a full patrol roster, supported by 32 SRC and volunteer members. Their dedication was recognised when we were proudly named **Patrolling Club of the Year** by the Lower North Coast Branch.

The Club also hosted the **20th Battle of the Boats** in February 2018, and during the season, we invested in a new (second-hand) Perry surf boat to replace our 18-year-old vessel. We expect this boat will serve us well for the next decade.

This year, we hosted two **trivia nights** and the **Rock to Rock** swim. Nippers was consolidated and strengthened, with strong numbers, new faces, committed Age Managers, and a permanent BBQ coordinator, all contributing to a vibrant beach atmosphere.

Throughout the season, we:

- Met all patrol commitments and conducted several rescues
- Ran training events and safety awareness campaigns
- Participated in the local school fete and community markets
- Launched a community defibrillator initiative
- Upgraded facilities including a concrete path, bike racks, and Club house maintenance
- Renewed our lease and delivered major administrative and compliance tasks
- Secured several important grants

Notably, we applied for three public-access defibrillators via the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation and successfully secured a new Zoll defibrillator for the Club house through the NSW Office of Sport.

The annual **Quoits Day**, hosted by our long-time supporters at Pacific Palms Caravan Park, once again raised significant funds for the Club. We especially thank **Wayne and Cathy Tindall** for their years of leadership in making this event such a success.

This season began with the formation of a full board and strong leadership across our supporting roles. This allowed us to finally tackle some long-outstanding tasks and lay the groundwork for the future direction of the Club.

Jason Woods joined us as our new Administrative Assistant.



2018-2019

Board of Directors	
President	Daniel Morgan
Vice President	Sal Mullerworth
Dir of Administration	Richard Brookes
Director of Finance	Vacant Tasks by Jason Woods
Director of Lifesaving	Kel McCredie
Director of Education	Janne Moran
Director of Youth and Member Services	Paul Martin
Director Surf Sports	Paul Martin
Office Bearers	
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Powercraft Captain	Jerrad Allen
Publicity Officer	Janne Moran
Boat Captain	Vacant
Gear Steward	Kel McCredie
Radio Officer	Richard Brookes
Social Secretary	Vacant
First Aid Officer	Patrick Cashman
Registrar	Tracey Morgan
Member Protection Information Officer	Vacant
WHS Officer	Paul Martin
Sponsorship Officer	Jerry Edwards
IT Officer	Christian Fieldhouse
Website officer	Ian Sercombe
Bar Officer	David Ellis
Gym Manager	Wendy McCredie
Sunday Sports Officer	Vacant
Grants Officer	Pat Powell
Apparel Officer	Sarah Kelly
Vehicle upkeep/ Maintenance Officer	Kel McCredie
Building/Grounds Maintenance	Elana Knight Kel McCredie Jerry Edwards
Waste Recycling	John Washington

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)
Kel McCredie (12 May 2018)

The 2018/19 season was another highly successful year for our small but dynamic Club, delivering outstanding results across lifesaving, community engagement, fundraising, and member development. We **hosted a range of major events**, including two sold-out trivia nights, the Rock to Rock Ocean Swim, the 21st Battle of the Boats carnival, a community music fundraiser, and a popular outdoor movie night. Each event raised much-needed funds and strengthened community ties.

Our Nippers program continued to thrive, with the largest group in years attending the Cape Hawke Branch Carnival and bringing home multiple medals. A handful of Nippers also proudly represented the Club at the State Surf Lifesaving Carnival. This strong participation reflects the culture of support and camaraderie within our junior ranks.

Patrol operations remained a top priority, with seven patrol teams supported by 20 SCR/volunteer members, and assistance from Ocean Beach, Avoca Beach, and Bondi Surf Bathing Life Saving Clubs. We responded to three significant after-hours callouts, including a life-saving rescue at Elizabeth Beach, and fully adopted the SLSA Patrol Ops App for operational reporting.

Membership increased, particularly in Junior Activities, while community fundraising reached new heights. Our long-time supporters, Pacific Palms Caravan Park, once again delivered a record-breaking Quoits Day, raising \$8,545. In addition, the Club secured multiple grants, including \$24,880 from the NSW Community Building Partnership for solar upgrades, \$5,000 for beach safety equipment, and a new IRB outboard motor in recognition of our members' outstanding efforts.

Significant progress was made towards finalising a 20-year lease renewal with National Parks and Wildlife Services NSW, an essential step in securing the Club's future. Meanwhile, important Club house maintenance, bar operations, and venue hire processes were improved, and the gym continued to be a valued facility in its eighth year.

The season was capped off by strong community spirit and generosity, from those attending our events to the parents and volunteers who made them possible. For a small Club, we truly "punched above our weight" – rescuing lives, training future lifesavers, and making a lasting contribution to the Pacific Palms community.



Nippers enjoying Club's ocean trampoline 2018/19

2019-2020 - Bushfires, rescues and COVID

Board of Directors	
President	Daniel Morgan
Vice President	
Dir of Administration	Richard Brookes
Director of Finance	Daniel Vicary
Director of Lifesaving	Kel McCredie
Director of Education	Janne Moran
Director of Youth and Member Services	Bec Austin
Director Surf Sports	
Office Bearers	
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Powercraft Captain	
Publicity Officer	
Boat Captain	
Gear Steward	
Radio Officer	
Social Secretary	
JAC	
First Aid Officer	
Registrar	
Member Protection Information Officer	
WHS Officer	
Sponsorship Officer	
IT Officer	
Website officer	
Bar Officer	
Gym Manager	
Sunday Spors Officer	
Grants Officer	Pat Powell
Apparel Officer	
Vehicle upkeep/ Maintenance Officer	
Building/Grounds Maintenance	
Waste Recycling	

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)
Kel McCredie (12 May 2018)

No Annual Report was produced this year - only sections.

The 2019/20 season certainly made for a different perspective on surf life saving and Club operations. With a relatively normal start to the season the PPSLSC quickly began paddling through uncharted waters. In the first instance we had to commence seriously urgent, emergency repair work to our extensive timber deck area, which came at a significant cost. We were standing by as an emergency 'water borne evacuation team' for the Seal Rocks, Smiths Lake, Pacific Palms, Whoota and Coomba Park areas during the 2019 **tragic bushfire season**. We were operating under severe water restrictions throughout the summer, struggling to properly maintain and de-service equipment exposed to salt water and sand and could no longer provide showers to our members and patrols. Our patrol, nippers and competitive seasons were then cut short due to **COVID-19** restrictions. The Branch Carnival and Rock to Rock ocean swim had to be cancelled. The virus then took away our revenue streams and left us to console disgruntled customers and members and to deal with regularly changing protocols to operate under. We suffered costly and extensive failures of plant and equipment, including our patrol truck, both our dish and glass washers, a fridge, our hot water system, our sewer drainage and of course our lift.

At a personal level some people lost their employment, businesses suffered, we home schooled, we didn't holiday and greeted our mates at a distance. We worried about loved ones that we could not visit and we hoped that all would be ok. We learned to Skype or Zoom and do things remotely. Despite all this we rallied and endured.

The Emergency Call Out Team performed several life saving rescues, and we buckled down and got stuff done despite the barriers. Our amazing membership, volunteers and sponsors from the community delivered our 22nd Battle of the Boats Carnival. Our Board of Directors continued to meet and carry out their duties. Our Venue Coordinator managed the broken dreams of brides to be. Our Trainers completed essential training and delivered an amazing “Rookie” program. Our Grants Officer has secured several small government grants that will help us into the next season. The 2019/2020 patrol season will be remembered as one of the most unusual on record. Despite the challenges of the devastating NSW bushfires reducing beach attendance and the COVID-19 pandemic cutting the season short, coastal drownings across the state were higher than average. Fortunately, thanks to the vigilance and dedication of our patrol teams, **no lives were lost at Elizabeth Beach.**

We operated with **7 patrol teams** comprising 34 active members, supported by 37 volunteers and SRCs. To help ease the load, four other Clubs assisted with patrols throughout the season. **Paid lifeguards covered patrols on Christmas Day**, using our facilities and equipment during the holiday period.

We delivered four Public Access Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) and free training to our community. AEDs were located at Elizabeth Beach, Blueys Pharmacy, Smiths Lake and Coomba Park. Our Sponsorship Officer updated our sponsorship boards and developed new relationships with local businesses. Our Water Craft Captain kept our extensive list of equipment serviceable and our Director of Surf Life Saving kept our beach patrolled and again delivered innovative plans to ease the strain on our patrols over the holiday season.

The **SLSA Patrol OPS app** remained in use throughout the season however it will be discontinued next year.

Bushfire Emergency Support

Our region, Barrington Coast, was at the centre of one of the worst bushfire seasons in history. During this time, the **Emergency Response System** was activated, placing our Club and members on **permanent standby for three days**. Smoke blanketed the Club house while 11 of our Club call-out team, alongside members from other Clubs and support operations (including jet ski operators), were ready to enter the water to assist in **evacuating townships** if needed. In total, **70 volunteers across the Lower North Coast Branch** made themselves available for this emergency effort. Our deepest thanks go to all who contributed during this crisis, including those actively serving with the **Rural Fire Service (RFS)**.

Rescue of the Year – National Recognition

Our 17-member call-out team was activated several times throughout the season. The most significant incident occurred on Saturday 22 June 2019 when a **couple were swept from the rocks near Boomerang Beach**. Both suffered hypothermia and serious injuries and were successfully rescued and returned to Elizabeth Beach thanks to the coordinated effort of Duty Officer Richard Ellery (RWC operator) and our Club members (Kel McCredie, Jerrad Allen, Jeanette Allen, Daniel Morgan with assistance from ex member Alex Martin to help launch the RWC).

“The difficulty of the rescue and complexity of administering advanced first aid was increased by the serious injuries to the patients and adverse weather conditions. The rescue demonstrated how the diversity of lifesaving skills can be used to prevent more serious outcomes.”

– **Graham Ford, President, Surf Life Saving Australia**

This outstanding effort was awarded the **National Rescue of the Month** (shared between our Club and the LNC Branch) and was formally recognised at **Parliament House, Canberra**.

Building on the significance of this rescue, **SLSNSW produced an educational video** promoting the importance of rock fishers wearing personal flotation devices (PFDs). Club members featured in a re-enactment of the incident, and the video - **“Miraculous Rescue receives State and National Award”**—is available online.



9th Sept 2019 - Kel McCredie and Richard Ellery at Parliament House Canberra receiving their award.

2020-2021

Board of Directors	
President	Jerrad Allen
Vice President	Jerry Edwards (24.9.20 R) Paul Martin (14.12.20 A)
Dir of Administration	Jason Woods
Director of Finance	David Vicary
Director of Lifesaving	Kel McCredie
Director of Education	Janne Moran
Director of Youth and Member Services	Bec Austin
Director Surf Sports	
Office Bearers	
Public Officer	
Powercraft Captain	
Publicity Officer	
Boat Captain	
Gear Steward	
Radio Officer	
Social Secretary	
JAC	
First Aid Officer	
Registrar	
Member Protection Information Officer	
WHS Officer	
Sponsorship Officer	
IT Officer	
Website officer	
Bar Officer	
Gym Manager	
Sunday Spors Officer	
Grants Officer	
Apparel Officer	
Vehicle upkeep/ Maintenance Officer	
Building/Grounds Maintenance	
Waste Recycling	

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)
Kel McCredie (12 May 2018)



OZAddiction perform at fundraising night (Forster Club)

No Annual Report was produced this year.

A difficult year of flood and pandemic, we opened the 2020–21 season in a truly meaningful way—with our **Women's Only Patrol** and a **Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony** by local Worimi Elder, Steve Brereton.

Despite disruptions from **COVID-19**, including postponed functions and event cancellations, our Club continued to grow in strength and spirit.

Our 7 patrol teams watched over an estimated **26,000 beachgoers**.

Our **Club Emergency Call-Out Team** responded to multiple incidents across the region—from **Myall Lakes to Cellito Beach, the Sandbar, and Taree floods**—highlighting our expanding role in supporting **rivers, lakes, and inland water emergencies**.

Several major events were impacted by external factors:

- The **Battle of the Boats** was cancelled due to ASRL date clashes and COVID logistics.
- The **Pacific Palms Real Estate Rock to Rock** was cancelled due to flood-related water quality concerns.

Resignations included the Vice President and several committee members, but were offset by returning and new volunteers such as Sal Mullerworth and Deloris McIntosh (Registrars), and Kate McLean (Gym Manager).

Initiatives undertaken included:

- **Sunday Sippers**, originally a monthly event, evolved into a **weekly Sunday gathering** during summer—helping us connect with new parts of our community and raise valuable funds.

- We launched a **pop-up restaurant**, *Barrio Cocina*, in January led by guest chef **Justin King**, with junior lifesavers volunteering as servers
- We introduced a **membership card system** offering Club-based discounts and future potential partnerships with local businesses
- We installed **COVID-safe QR check-ins** (Service NSW app) and purchased a people counter to help manage venue numbers
- Started fencing and mulch work in partnership with **NPWS** as part of our ongoing **regeneration program**
- Welcomed **Mid Coast Events (Belinda Boyle)** as the new Venue Coordinator
- We began discussions about refining **membership categories** to ensure better value and sustainable insurance costs
- We secured the **BRP Grant** and took delivery of a new **ATV** in May
- Were awarded an additional **RWC (blue Seadoo)** for use by lifeguards and the Club
- Awardees from a previous **major rescue**—Jeanette Allen, Dan Morgan, Kel McCredie, and Jerrad Allen—were honoured with a NSW Police Citation in November



Chris and June Stephenson from the Timing Guys at the Rock to Rock

2021-2022

Board of Directors	
President	Jerrad Allen
Vice President	Paul Martin
Dir of Administration	Matt Bannerman (part year); duties performed by Heike Carmichael
Director of Finance	Vacant - duties performed by Jason Woods)
Director of Lifesaving	Vacant - duties performed by Ian Sercombe, Kel McCredie, Jerrad Allen
Director of Education	Vacant - duties performed by Jerrad Allen
Director of Youth and Member Services	Bec Austin - part year
Director Surf Sports	Vacant
Office Bearers	
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Powercraft Captain	Jeanette Allen
Publicity Officer	Janne Moran Barb Shine (The Huey)
Boat Captain	Vacant
Gear Steward	
Radio Officer	Richard Brookes
Social Secretary	Vacant
JAC	
First Aid Officer	
Registrar	Deloris Macintosh
Member Protection Information Officer	Paul Martin
WHS Officer	Julie Marsh
Sponsorship Officer	Jerry Edwards
IT officer	Richard Brookes
Website officer	Ian Sercombe
Bar Officer	
Gym Manager	Kate McLean
Sunday Spors Officer	Mark Martin
Grants Officer	Pat Powell
Apparel Officer	Vacant
Vehicle Officer	
Building/Grounds Maintenance	Kel McCredie
Admin Assistant	Jason Woods

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)
Kel McCredie (12 May 2018)
Janne Moran (7 May 2022)

The Club operated with a significantly reduced board and no Annual Report was produced — just three members filling executive roles for the majority of the year; key efforts continued across patrols, Nippers, events, and the club house redevelopment.

The renovated building hosted its first wedding, community events, and Sippers (SIPS at the Booti Bar). Entrance plans were submitted, though rising construction costs cast uncertainty on timelines.

Patrols ran safely despite a tight roster and IRB driver shortages. A **Men's Mental Health Patrol Weekend** was a highlight. **COVID** protocols continued to evolve throughout the season, influencing operations, particularly Nippers and training. Nevertheless, Nippers numbers grew modestly, supported by new Age Managers and visiting youth groups, with a few members representing the Club at carnivals.

Events such as **OZAddiction, Restaurant Nights, and Return to Rio** provided crucial fundraising and social opportunities. Sponsorships, bar takings, and a strong community spirit contributed to stable finances. Notably, the Club secured funding through the **Stronger Country Communities Fund** to support further development.

The Club's partnership with Mid Coast Events and Pacific Palms Caravan Park provided valuable funds. **Visiting clubs** from across NSW supported patrol coverage during peak times. Search and rescue exercises (SAREX) showcased the Club's broader role in lifesaving training and community engagement.

Despite the challenges of COVID, volunteer shortages, and funding uncertainty, the season reflected the Club's strong culture of adaptability, collaboration, and service

2022-2023

Board of Directors	
President	Jerrad Allen
Vice President	Paul Martin
Dir of Administration	Vacant (duties performed by Heike Carmichael)
Director of Finance	Vacant (duties performed by Jason Woods)
Director of Lifesaving	Peter Gesling
Director of Education	Michael Patroni
Director of Youth and Member Services	Vacant
Director Surf Sports	Vacant
Office Bearers	
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Powercraft Captain	Jeanette Allen
Publicity Officer	Joseph Patroni / Barb Shine
Boat Captain	Patrick Cashman
Gear Steward	Kel McCredie
Radio Officer	Heike Carmichael
Social Secretary	Vacant
JAC	
First Aid Officer	Patrick Cashman
Registrar	Deloris Macintosh
Member Protection Information Officer	Paul Martin
WHS Officer	Wendy McCredie
Sponsorship Officer	Jerry Edwards
IT and Website officer	Adam Landow
Bar Officer	Jerry Edwards
Gym Manager	Kate McLean
Sunday Sports Officer	Mark Martin
Grants Officer	Pat Powell
Apparel Officer	Vacant
Vehicle Officer	Kel McCredie
Building/Grounds Maintenance	Kel McCredie

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)
Kel McCredie (12 May 2018)
Janne Moran (7 May 2022)



Jerrad Allen and Harlem Towner ANZAC wreath laying.

Our sincere thanks go to all patrolling members, especially Life Member Kel McCredie, who concluded his patrol career this season after decades of dedicated service.

One of the season's most outstanding moments was the rescue off Seagull Point, which earned our team the **Surf Life Saving NSW Rescue of the Month**. Barry Jones, Michelle Ellis, Jeanette Allen, and Jerrad Allen had their efforts recognised with the **President's Medals**, presented by SLSNSW. This incident also highlighted the growing professionalism of our Emergency Call Out Team, who responded to five emergencies throughout the year. New additions also strengthened our call out capacity, including vital support in land-based logistics.

A new partnership with Pacific Palms Real Estate and local accommodation providers introduced giving visitors who rent holiday stays the chance to contribute a small amount to the Club which aims to create a sustainable and ongoing fundraising stream.

Harlem Towner proudly represented the Club at the ANZAC Day service by laying a wreath with the Club's President at the Pacific Palms War Memorial.

Our social and fundraising calendar was full: the **Big Fins fundraiser night**, regular Sippers, bar nights, and events like the **Rock to Rock Swim** kept the community engaged. We also hosted a well-received Men's Mental Health Seminar, underscoring the Club's commitment to wellbeing beyond the beach.

2023-2024

Board of Directors	
President	Jerrad Allen
Vice President	Paul Martin
Dir of Administration	Vacant (performed by Heike Carmichael)
Director of Finance	Michael Patroni (9.10.23 A)
Director of Lifesaving	Peter Gesling
Director of Education	Michael Patroni
Director of Youth and Member Services	Tara Collins (11 December 2023 R)
Director Surf Sports	Vacant
Office Bearers	
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Powercraft Captain	Jeanette Allen
Publicity Officer	Vacant
Boat Captain	Clay 'Harry' Vogelzang
Gear Steward	Kel McCredie
Radio Officer	Heike Carmichael
Social Secretary	Vacant
JAC	Wendy Arnold
First Aid Officer	David and Michelle Ellis
Registrar	Cathy Dodds
Member Protection Information Officer	Paul Martin
WHS Officer	Wendy McCredie
Sponsorship Officer	Jerry Edwards
IT and Website officer	Vacant (performed by Michael Patroni)
Bar Officer	Jerry Edwards
Gym Manager	Kate McLean
Sunday Spors Officer	Vacant
Grants Officer	Pat Powell
Apparel Officer	Vacant
Vehicle Officer	Kel McCredie John Dingle
Building/Grounds Maintenance	Kel McCredie
Editor of The Huey	Barb Shine
Admin Assistant	Jason Woods

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis (27 July 2013)
Awarded Emergency Services Medal 2024
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)
Kel McCredie (12 May 2018)
Janne Moran (7 May 2022)
Paul Martin (18 May 2024)

The 2022–23 season included five patrol teams, supported by two new Patrol Captains. Despite a **shortage of qualified IRB drivers**, members including Paul Martin, Jerrad Allen, and Mark Martin ensured patrols ran smoothly throughout the season. **Visiting Clubs** from Avoca, Bondi, Terrigal, and Central Coast Youth supported us over the Christmas and January periods, while MacMasters Beach assisted during the Easter weekend's successful Pacific Palms Real Estate **Rock to Rock** Ocean Swim event, which attracted 276 swimmers across both the 1.5km and Mini Rock 600m swims.

Our Club responded to **three emergency call-outs** this year, including missing divers at Seal Rocks, an emergency beacon activation at The Ruins, and a capsized catamaran at Smiths Lake.

Fundraising efforts remained strong with the Big Fins Rescue fundraiser raising \$20,000, and the return of Trivia Nights and the SIPS at the Booti Bar operating Sundays throughout the patrol season. Special thanks to the dedicated Nipper BBQ team, whose efforts supported our junior program and community spirit. The Club also hosted a variety of community events and private functions, from weddings and wakes to yoga classes and university activities.

Building works were completed on the foyer and entrance, we purchased new radios, an ATV, and carried out car park/road upgrades all supported by **grants**. The Club launched a new website to improve communication and engagement and became a distribution point for the **SLS Australia Foundation lotteries**, with 50% of ticket sales supporting our Club.

Members received several prestigious awards:

- **David Ellis was acknowledged having received the Emergency Services Medal** and his 30-year Long Service award
- **Jeanette and Jerrad Allen received the SLSNSW Presidents Medal**
- **Paul Martin was granted Life Membership**, becoming the Club's youngest member to do so
- **Lindsay Davis OAM** was also recognized in the King's Birthday Honors.



Award night – nipper awards



Jerry Edwards at our fundraiser night at The Recky

2024-2025

Board of Directors	
President	Jerrad Allen
Vice President	Paul Martin
Dir of Administration	Heike Carmichael
Director of Finance	Michael Patroni
Director of Lifesaving	Peter Gesling
Director of Education	Michael Patroni
Director of Youth and Member Services	Jeanette Allen
Director Surf Sports	Vacant
Office Bearers	
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Powercraft Captain	Jeanette Allen
Publicity Officer	Vacant
Boat Captain	Mick Evans
Gear Steward	Clay "Harry" Vogelzang
Radio Officer	Heike Carmichael
Social Secretary	Julie Marsh
JAC	Wendy Arnold
First Aid Officer	David and Michelle Ellis
Registrar	Annette James
Member Protection Information Officer	Paul Martin
WHS Officer	Wendy McCredie
Sponsorship Officer	Vacant – performed by Michael Patroni
IT and Website officer	Vacant – performed by Michael Patroni
Bar Manager	Michael Patroni
Gym Manager	Kate McLean
Sunday Spors Officer	Vacant
Grants Officer	Pat Powell
Apparel Officer	Vacant
Vehicle Officer	John Dingle
Building/Grounds Maintenance	Kel McCredie
Editor of The Huey	Barb Shine
Admin Assistant	Jason Woods

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis ESM (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)
Kel McCredie (12 May 2018)
Janne Moran (7 May 2022)
Paul Martin (18 May 2024)

This season, Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club continued to deliver a strong program of lifesaving, education, and community engagement. Key priorities included Bronze Medallion training, a **website refresh**, our Nippers program, delivering **major fundraising events**, and meeting all **Lifesaving Service Agreement (LSA)** obligations.

At the **LNC Branch Awards**, the Club was recognised with several major honours, including *Innovation of the Year*, *Community Education Award*, *Service Team of the Year*, *Life Saver of the Year* (Michelle Ellis, joint winner), and *Club of the Year*.

We maintained five patrol teams and responded to **eight emergency call-outs**, including multi-agency rescues at Blueys Beach and Seal Rocks. The Emergency Call Out Team (ECOT) grew with the addition of new members, and some also served in state-level **flood response teams**. Twenty-three members achieved 100% patrol attendance, with strong support from visiting Clubs during peak periods.

Our **Nippers program** remained strong thanks to the dedication of our Junior Activities and Age Manager teams. Weekly Nipper BBQs and growing parent involvement added to the positive atmosphere.

The Club successfully hosted the inaugural **Champion Lifesaver Carnival** and attended key competitions at Forster and Warilla. Juniors like Cooper and Ethan Allen, Hughie Jamieson, and others represented the Club proudly in surf sports.

We **farewelled several dedicated committee and board members**—Kate McLean, Barb Shine, and Jeanette Allen, Jerrad Allen and welcomed **new sponsors**, including KFC (patrol vehicle signage), *The Recky*, and *Raby*

(Gold level) sponsorship. A grant funded the building works to the club house, including roof iron replacement and men's shower repairs.



Jerrad Allen and Nipper of the Year (Hudson Lyon) lay an ANZAC wreath.



Awards night



IRB Training March 2025

2025-2026

Board of Directors	
President	Paul Martin
Vice President	John Dingle
Dir of Administration	Heike Carmichael
Director of Finance	Michael Patroni
Director of Lifesaving	Peter Gesling
Director of Education	Michael Patroni
Director of Youth and Member Services	Vacant
Director Surf Sports	Vacant
Office Bearers	
Public Officer	Pat Powell
Powercraft Captain	Jeanette Allen
Publicity Officer	Martha Behan
Boat Captain	Clay "Harry" Vogelzang
Gear Steward	Clay "Harry" Vogelzang
Radio Officer	Heike Carmichael
Social Officer	Vacant
JAC	Wendy Arnold
First Aid Officer	David and Michelle Ellis
Registrar	Annette James
Member Protection Information Officer	Ian Carmichael
WHS Officer	Wendy McCredie
Sponsorship Officer	Michael Patroni, Simon Truskett
IT and Website officer	Vacant – performed by Michael Patroni
Bar Manager	Michael Patroni
Gym Manager	Brian Munn/Kate McKillop
Sunday Sports Officer	Mark Martin
Grants Officer	Pat Powell
Apparel Officer	Kate McKillop
Vehicle Officer	Brian Munn
Building/Grounds Maintenance	Kel McCredie, Brian Munn
Editor of The Huey	Chantal Patroni
Admin Assistant	Jason Woods

Life Members
Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
Dave Ellis ESM (27 July 2013)
Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
Mark Martin (30 May 2015)
Kel McCredie (12 May 2018)
Janne Moran (7 May 2022)
Paul Martin (18 May 2024)

The 2025–26 season marked the 40th year of operation of Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club (PPSLSC).

Lifesaving remained the Club's primary focus. During the season, members completed 1,929 patrol hours, recorded 261 preventative actions, three rescues, 37 first-aid interventions, and attended seven emergency call-outs. Patrols monitored approximately 26,747 beach visitors, demonstrating the significant role the Club plays in protecting residents and visitors to Elizabeth Beach and surrounding waterways. The Club also maintained a dawn-to-dusk emergency call-out capability for the wider Pacific Palms area.

The Club was supported by visiting surf life saving clubs during busy periods, particularly over the summer holidays and Easter. This assistance provided additional water safety and allowed local volunteers to take breaks while ensuring the Club met its lifesaving obligations. The season also included a significant multi-agency response to a missing hang-glider (who unfortunately drowned off the western end of Elizabeth Beach/Booti Booti National Park).

Education and skills development continued to be a major priority. Although the overall training program was smaller than the previous year, members achieved 49 awards, including Bronze Medallions, Surf Rescue Certificates, IRB qualifications, Patrol Captain qualifications, Advanced Resuscitation and First Aid awards, as well as radio and UAV/drone qualifications.

The Club has identified the need for more members to become trainers, assessors and facilitators so that it can continue developing its lifesaving capability.

PPSLSC remained a volunteer-based organisation with 198 members during 2025–26. This included 43 junior members, 46 active members, 95 associates and 14 honorary/service members. Membership numbers were broadly stable compared with the previous season. The Nippers program continued to perform strongly, with nearly 50 young participants.

Members also participated in surf sports competitions ranging from local and branch events through to the Country, State and Australian Championships. A notable result was Kim Winter's third place in Flags at the Australian Championships, while several junior competitors continued to develop through participation in multiple carnivals.

The Club also recognised outstanding service at its annual awards. Brian Munn was named Club Person of the Year, Chelsie Lyons Junior Club Person of the Year, Elana Knight Surf Lifesaver of the Year and Neal Lyons Patrol Captain of the Year. Patrol 3 was named Patrol of the Year, while Ian Sercombe received an Honour Service Award recognising more than 15 years of substantial contribution to the Club.

The Club continued substantial investment in its assets and Club house. The most significant operational purchase was the replacement of the heavily rusted patrol vehicle. The Beach Safety Equipment Fund grant was used to replace first-aid equipment and life jackets. Building works funded through a NSW Government Community Building Partnership grant included replacement of roof iron, enclosure of the rear balcony, repairs to the men's bathrooms, replacement of a roller door and concrete works at the entrance.

Financially, the Club remains in a reasonable but increasingly challenging position. Venue hire, particularly weddings, remains the largest revenue source, although the broader wedding market has softened and venue revenue fell by approximately \$10,000. At the same time, insurance increased substantially and inflation pushed up operating and maintenance costs. The Club reported that its surplus funds were down approximately 30% compared with the previous year.

The Club nevertheless maintained approximately \$240,000 in current assets after accounting for venue deposits, equivalent to roughly 1.7 years of operating expenses. However, its normal operating profit is insufficient to fund major building and vehicle replacements, leaving the Club reliant on government and other grants for significant capital expenditure.

Nipper Christmas Party December 2025

PPSLSC continued to operate as much more than a surf lifesaving club. Community education included resuscitation and AED training for Coomba Park residents and a new beach-safety education program for approximately 30 preschool children. The Club's major Rock to Rock Ocean Swim attracted around 200 competitors across the 600m Mini Rock and 1,500m Rock to Rock events, supported by a large team of volunteers and community members.

Other community activities included the popular Sunday Sippers at the Booti Bar, Australia Day fundraising and ongoing support from the Lizzy Ladies and Pacific Palms Caravan Park residents, who contributed more than \$4,000 during the year. These activities reinforce the Club's role as a gathering place and community organisation as well as a lifesaving service.

Looking ahead to 2026–27, the Club's priorities include building organisational capability, succession planning, rolling out UAV technology, conducting a major fundraiser, and attracting and retaining members. Patrolling and education activities remain healthy, but maintaining financial sustainability,

developing future leaders and continuing to attract volunteers will be critical to ensuring PPSLSC can continue serving the Pacific Palms community into the future.



Rock to Rock registration – April 2026 L-R (Teena Taylor-Edwards, Chantal Patroni, Jordan’s mum, Heike Carmichael, Jordan Lanholtz)



Rock to Rock April 2026

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Appendix 1: Honour Roll

HONOUR SERVICE AWARDS

2013 Rod Williams
 2015 Sue Martin
 2017 Phil Spicer
 2017 Sandra Wilson
 2020 Janne Moran
 2021 Paul Martin
 2021 Wendy McCredie
 2021 Sharon Hope
 2022 Jerrad Allen
 2026 Ian Sercombe

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

2017 Betty Wylie
 2017 Dave Wylie
 2019 Janne Moran
 2022 Jeanette Allen

NATIONAL MEDAL

2010 Rob Bramble: 15-yr award
 2010 John Davidson 15-yr award
 2010 Pat Powell: 15-yr award
 2010 Annette Sanders: 15-yr award
 2013 Dave Ellis: 15-yr award
 2013 Sharon Hope: 15-yr award
 2014 Mark Martin: 15-yr award
 2018 Kel McCredie 2018: 15-yr award
 2022 Paul Martin: 15-yr award
 2022 Pat Powell: 1st Clasp (25 yrs)
 2023 Dave Ellis: 1st Clasp (25 yrs)
 2023 Michelle Ellis: 15-yr award
 2026 Kim Winter: 15-yr award

LIFE MEMBERS

Pat Powell (20 June 2009)
 Dave Ellis ESM (27 July 2013)
 Annette Sanders (27 July 2013)
 Mark Martin (30 May 2015)
 Kel McCredie (12 May 2018)
 Janne Moran (7 May 2022)
 Paul Martin (18 May 2024)

Appendix 2: Patrol Person of the Year

1994-1995	Tony Moran	2021-2022	Jeanette Allen
1995-1996	Philip Spicer	2022-2023	Simon Truskett
1996-1997	Linda Davidson	2023-2024	Vera Sprothen
1997-1998	Sharon Hope	2024-2025	Michelle Ellis
1998-1999	Tony Moran	2025-2026	Elana Knight
1999-2000	Paul Martin		
2000-2001	Chris Taylor		
2001-2002	Chris Taylor		
2002-2003	Rod Williams		
2003-2004	Dave Ellis		
2004-2005	Bryan Davies		
2005-2006	Kel McCredie		
2006-2007	Sue Martin		
2007-2008	Andrew Staniland		
2008-2009	Lennon Fisher		
2009-2010	Phil Spicer		
2010-2011	Kel McCredie		
2011-2012	Dan Brauer		
2012-2013	Pat Powell		
2013-2014	Emma Hickson		
2014-2015	Jerrad Allen		
2015-2016	Emma Hickson		
2016-2017	Barry Jones		
2017-2018	Christian Fieldhouse		
2018-2019	Jerry Edwards		
2019-2020	Ian Sercombe		
2020-2021	Kim Winter		

Appendix 3: Junior Patrol Person of the Year

2015-2016	Mackenzie Vidal
2016-2017	Mackenzie Vidal
2017-2018	Ruby Staats
2018-2019	Dekan Matic
2019-2020	Charlize Everett
2020-2021	Phoenix Austin
2021-2022	Rhys Munn
2022-2023	
2023-2024	Oscar Lobb-McEwan
2024-2025	Matt Dransfield
2025-2026	Chelsie Lyons

Appendix 4: Club Person of the Year

1998-1999	Tony Moran	2013-2014	Andy Staniland
1999-2000	John Davidson	2014-2015	Ian Sercombe
2000-2001	Judie Palmer	2015-2016	Paul Martin and
2001-2002	Sharon Hope		Jerrad Allen
2002-2003	Tree Beckerleg	2016-2017	Janne Moran
2003-2004	Kel McCredie	2017-2018	Dan Morgan
2004-2005	Mark Martin	2018-2019	Jerrad Allen
2005-2006	Pat Powell	2019-2020	Jeanette Allen
2006-2007	Rod Williams	2020-2021	Ian Sercombe
2007-2008	Sue Martin	2021-2022	Jerry Edwards
2008-2009	Carole Agar	2022-2023	Michael Patroni
2009-2010	Sandra Wilson	2023-2024	Heike Carmichael
2010-2011	Kel McCredie	2024-2025	Jeanette Allen and
2011-2012	Carolyn Richards		Michael Patroni
2012-2013	Lianna Koller	2025-2026	Brian Munn

Appendix 5: Junior Club Person of the Year

1992-1993	Kim Spicer	2019-2020	
1993-1994	Matthew Russ	2020-2021	
1994-1995	Michael Powell	2021-2022	Rhys Munn
1995-1996	Michael Elliot	2022-2023	Ethan Allen
1996-1997	Michael Elliott (LNC award)	2023-2024	Dante Howard
1997-1998	Lee Davidson	2024-2025	Amelia Moore
1998-1999	Chris Gagg	2025-2026	Chelsie Lyons
1999-2000	Nick Gagg		
2000-2001	Jay Davidson		
2001-2002	Libby Jelsman		
2002-2003	Jay Davidson		
2003-2004	Kelsey Cook		
2004-2005	Daley Lemaire		
2005-2006	Brooke McCredie		
2006-2007	Avalon Neate		
2007-2008	Cormac O'Byrne		
2008-2009	Cormac O'Byrne		
2009-2010	Nicholas Stanton		
2010-2011	Tully Church		
2011-2012	Rhianna Allen		
2012-2013	Harry Edwards		
2013-2014	Pepper Bannerman		
2014-2015	Jerrad Allen (Jnr)		
2015-2016	Jessica Gwynne		
2016-2017	Kynan Witherow-Strutt		
2017-2018	Sage Sercombe-McLean		
2018-2019	Phoenix Austin and Lucy Miller		

Appendix 6: Education/Instructors award

1998-1999	Chris Gagg	2013-2014	Jayme Galante and
1999-2000	Kathryn Gall		Brock Ryan
2000-2001	Rod Williams	2014-2015	Karma Reeves
2001-2002		2015-2016	Shannon Notley
2002-2003	Kel McCredie	2016-2017	Tony Hughes
2003-2004	Tracey Turner	2017-2018	Simon Strut
2004-2005	Wendy McCredie	2018-2019	Bec Austin
2005-2006		2019-2020	
2006-2007	Katrina Ashford	2020-2021	Bec Austin
2007-2008		2021-2022	Matt Collins
2008-2009	Jo Carp	2022-2023	Catherine Dodds
2009-2010	Steve Withers	2023-2024	John Dingle
2010-2011	Amelia Cross Muter	2024-2025	Noah Rodger
2011-2012	Jerrad Allen	2025-2026	Shaun Sears
2012-2013	Mel Shoesmith and Bill Wafer		

Appendix 6: PPSLSC Ladies Club Champion

1991-1992	Mary Webster
1992-1993	
1993-1994	Annette Sanders
1994-1995	Kim Spicer
1995-1999	Annette Sanders
1996-1997	Pat Powell
1997-1998	Heather Sheahan
1998-1999	Heidi Sheahan
1999-2000	Pat Powell
2000-2001	Pat Powell
2001-2002	Danielle Watson
2002-2003	Danielle Watson
2003-2004	Ellen Sheahan
2004-2005	Pat Powell
2005-2006	Pat Powell
2006-2007	Michelle Genovese
2007-2008	Kelly Herbert
2008-2009	Tracey Turner
2008-2010	Kylie De Battista

Appendix 7: Darcy Mitchell Shield PPSLSC Champion (mens)

1986-1987	K. Banks	2003-2004	Chris Taylor
1987-1988	K. Banks	2004-2005	Rob Bramble
1988-1989	Paul Cheers	2005-2006	Kyle Lemaire
1989-1990	Paul Cheers	2006-2007	Shane Cornish
1990-1991	Under 21 Boat Crew	2007-2008	Alex Martin
1991-1992	Peter Fisher	2008-2009	Lennon Fisher
1992-1993	Scott Brassey	2009-2010	Nathan Ware
1993-1994	Paul Cheers	2010-2011	Nathan Ware
1994-1995	Robert Bramble	2011-2012	Kirk Owers
1995-1996	David Powell	2012-2013	Terry Brooker
1996-1997	Robert Bramble	2013-2014	
1997-1998	Robert Bramble	2014-2015	Warren Martin
1998-1999	Brad Nichols	2015-2016	Paul Martin
1999-2000	Brad Verdich	2017-2018	Paul Martin and
2000-2001	Brad Nichols		Warren Martin
2001-2002	Robert Bramble		
2002-2003	Lee Davidson		