

FSC LIFESAVING

MONTHLY UPDATE - MARCH/APRIL 2019



FLAGS COME DOWN

The flags came down across Far South Coast clubs last weekend and I'd like to extend my thanks to all of the members across the Branch who've spent so many hours keeping beachgoers safe over the past several months.

It takes a whole team to keep things running smoothly year round and we know there's also lots of work in the background done by those who don't patrol.

While you're down at the beach looking after the families of others, you're often taking time away from your own families. My sincere thanks to all for your time, skill and expertise over the past year, you do great work!

As you communicate with your own club members and community over the off season please remind people that if they're visiting unpatrolled beaches:

STOP: Don't just rush in, check the area for rips

LOOK: Are there other hazards, is it safe?

PLAN: Understand where you are going and the risks. Have a plan in case something goes wrong.

WHAT'S INSIDE

FSC CALL OUTS

WHAT'S GOING ON IN FSC



CALL OUTS FOR MARCH/APRIL

Batemans Bay and Pambula Share the Load

Yallungo Cove, Eden: 9th March

A male snorkeller in his 20's was reported missing in Yallungo Cove at Eden. The Pambula call out team was tasked but were fortunately stood down before they got too far. The missing man had spent the afternoon drinking before entering the water and Police located him in a cave nearby where he was apparently sleeping it off. Very lucky man!

Middle Beach, Merimbula: 10th March

The Pambula team was called up again early the following morning for reports of a swimmer in distress off Middle Beach near the Short Point Headland. The team split up with some responding directly from home to Middle Beach with rescue tubes and a board while others prepped the powercraft at the clubhouse. As the RWC was hitting the water the team was stood down when the swimmer in distress was confirmed to be one of the new SMART Drum Lines. Yep, I know :)

Lilli Pilli, Batemans Bay: 16th April

The Batemans Bay team were called out to reports of a missing scuba diver in Lilli Pilli. The team was stood down before the IRB arrived when the diver was found nearby. They had been chased out of the water onto rocks by a shark.

Pambula River Mouth: 21st April

Pambula call out team was tasked around 3:20 pm with reports of two 12 year old kayakers in trouble about 200m off the Pambula River Mouth. They were wearing lifejackets but had come off their kayaks and unable to get back on in the tricky conditions. Their father had swum out to help them and was tiring quickly.

Kiaran Harris was on the spot having just finished cleaning equipment from an earlier rescue late in the patrol. The IRB with Kiaran and Troy onboard was on scene less than 10 minutes from the original call coming in and all three were picked up and brought to shore. Although shaken, all three were unharmed.

Corrigans Beach, Batemans Bay: 23rd April

Around 3:45 pm the Batemans Bay call out team was tasked to assist a jet ski which had broken down around 200 m off Corrigans Beach and was drifting towards shore. The Branch IRB staged north of the bridge was called up but stood down before hitting the water after another jet ski operator went to assist.

Welcome Emma Prowse

We have a great team of Duty Officers in FSC with 9 spread out across the Branch and we've recently welcomed one more to the ranks.

Emma Prowse from Pambula has joined the team and will be training over the next few months to get up to speed before next season. Emma has some great skills and is really well suited to the role. Welcome, Emma, it's great to have you on the team.

Hopefully by the next Monthly Update we'll have another new recruit as well to round out the team looking after the southern clubs in the Branch. Will keep you posted.

Our Thoughts with Port Campbell

Today is the funeral service for Ross and Andy Powell from Port Campbell SLSC who lost their lives on a rescue call out on Easter Sunday.

It's a harsh reminder that the work our call out teams do is often dangerous and conditions can get the best of even the most highly trained lifesavers.

Ross and Andy, we thank you for your service and for your sacrifice and our hearts go out to your family and our friends at Lifesaving Victoria.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN FSC

Drones feature in Eden search

Nine FSC Duty Officers and drone pilots participated in a second search in Eden in March for missing man, Craig Evans. The search was run by the NSW Police Rescue Squad and involved SES, RFS and SLS drone assets.

The search was the first time any Branch in NSW has been asked to support a land search in this way and it was a great learning experience for all of us. The team did an amazing job of working through the inevitable challenges presented by the new environment and the skills and contribution of our team members have been widely recognised in regional emergency management circles since.



I had the pleasure of assisting the team as a runner and support crew on both days. Thanks to Duty Officer, Bruce McAslan, for being the SLS representative in the search HQ on both days. Thanks also to the following UAV Pilots for their skill, adaptability and professionalism:

Matthew Alterator (Tathra)
Warren Purnell (Tathra)
Connor Leayr (Pambula)
Greg Leayr (Pambula)
Kelly Grady (Pambula)
Matthew Nolan (Pambula)
Jason Matterson (Pambula)



24 Complete SMAR Course

On the 2nd and 3rd March, 24 lifesavers representing every club in FSC Branch came together in Bermagui to hone their skills as part of the Silver Medallion Aquatics Rescue course.

The intense weekend saw the team learning and working on a number of skills including search patterns, water entries from rocks, underwater patient retrieval, deep water entries from the Bermagui bridge. The course also involved a night time land search around the Bermagui oval, headland and clubhouse.

A big thanks to Sue Hunt for organising the weekend and to our trainer Tony Vella.



SAREX with Marine Rescue

Marine Rescue has invited us to join them on a Search and Rescue Exercise in early June. The exercise will be run out of Narooma and all club call out teams are welcome to join in.

We'll be using IRBs and RWCs along with drones. We need to get an idea of numbers so we can refine the exercise plan so please let me know at fsclifesaving@gmail.com if your club is interested in participating and how many powercraft you have.

The dates are weather dependent of course but we're aiming to run the SAREX on the long weekend of 8/9/10 June.

This is a great opportunity to get people involved who haven't had a lot of experience in searches and it would be great to team them up with some of the more experienced members.