

FSC LIFESAVING

MONTHLY UPDATE - OCTOBER 2018



Flags are back up Saturday

Flags are back up this Saturday and 4 of our clubs, Moruya, Narooma, Tathra and Pambula, have their first official patrols of the season (with the other 3 clubs having started on the September long weekend).

All clubs now have their Samsung tablets back serviced and ready to go. We all need to make sure we're using the Operations App for logging stats on patrols. There's some great new features in the new app and it's even easier to use than last year's trial version. Using the app will cut down significantly the workload for our Club Captains loading data into SurfGuard. It also gives us a much faster look at what's going on at our beaches.

SLSNSW CEO, Steve Pearce, says "the best way we can demonstrate how great we are, and surf life saving's relevance and value, which attracts both greater government and corporate funding and support in addition to attracting new members, is through the statistics we capture.

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It's crucial that we capture every rescue, every preventative action, every first aid assistance, every hour patrolling, and the attendance figures at our beaches. Can I ask you to please remind every Patrol that we need their assistance here to demonstrate exactly what they did on patrol each and every patrol. Entering this data will only take a few minutes, however the value will be enormous for surf life saving."

PROFILE OF THE MONTH

Bermagui Joint Training Exercise

Last Saturday saw the first in a series of joint exercises planned between Bermagui SLSC call out team and Marine Rescue Bermagui. Tathra SLSC is going to join us for the next one and we're hoping to expand to other clubs too, so stay tuned. The following excerpts are from an article written by Denise Page of Marine Rescue Bermagui:

If you were around the Bermagui Harbour and Horseshoe Bay early this morning, you may have seen Marine Rescue Bermagui lifeboat BG30 undertake an unusual exercise with Bermagui SLSC. The joint exercise involved a trial of loading an IRB on the stern of BG30 and then undertaking a sea leg to check the stability at sea. They also practised transferring people at sea and the exercise went exceedingly well.

Both Units are excited about the possibilities this gives them to work cooperatively over white and blue water. The goal is to enhance the capability of the units to respond to a situation that may require both organisations to work together such as an evacuation of persons from a remote location due to flood or fire. It also enables the IRB to be transported to remote locations to undertake searches in white water and around rocks.



ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

Monster effort by Tathra IRB Captain, Paul Boillat

With ALBERT having done a great job of picking one of the biggest surf days in Tathra for a while it was inevitable that one or more IRBs was going to experience some trouble. I don't think anyone was expecting 5 rollovers in the first hour.

With only 10 IRBs available, getting the ducks back on the water quickly was essential to getting as much practice as possible in the big conditions.

Tathra IRB Captain, Paul Boillat, stepped up to the challenge and spent much of Saturday in the shed rather than on the water making sure all the motors were back in service quickly. Working with Rob from the ALBERT team and our own Jimmy McGrath (in perhaps the best wardrobe choice of the weekend!) Paul says he learned a lot. Not only did he spend most of Saturday in the shed but he was among the last to leave on Sunday too!

With just a couple of years under his belt in SLS, Paul has made a huge impact at Tathra and it's easy to see why he won Patrol Person of the Year last season. "His commitment and attention to detail with the maintenance and operation of the IRB is incredible but he doesn't just hide in the boat shed. Paul is on the bench, in the patrol room, on the rescue boards and in swim drills, every patrol, every time, boots 'n all."

Thanks Paul, you were amazing!



WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS FSC BRANCH ...

ALBERT a great success

Thanks to Tathra SLSC for hosting a great weekend of powercraft training and skill development. The surf certainly threw up some challenges but all the participants learned a lot and gained a lot of confidence in their new skills.

Sue Hunt did an amazing job organising the weekend and we appreciate the ALBERT team coming down to share their skills.



They loved Tathra so much the ALBERT team is planning on being back again next year. In the meantime, we're hoping to pull another Branch training session together towards the end of the season to include new and experienced Bronzies, Drivers and Crew. Watch this space for dates.

Call Outs This Month

We've had two emergency call outs across the Branch in October. One was for Tathra SLSC to assist in transporting an injured hiker across the river at Mogareeka to waiting ambulance officers.

The second was Bermagui SLSC who were called out to assist 5 people aboard a disabled runabout that had drifted too close to rocks at Camel Rock for Marine Rescue to initiate a tow. Fortunately a recreational boat was able to get a line to them and bring them out far enough for Marine Rescue to take over.

Thanks to both crews for their responses.

SLSA Awards of Excellence

Our Branch featured in last week's SLSA Awards of Excellence receiving 2 of the 7 Meritorious Awards for rescues across the country.

Tathra SLSC was recognised for their rescue and first aid response for 5 fisherman washed off rocks in a huge swell on 21st January 2017.

Batemans Bay, Broulee and Moruya lifesavers were recognised for their rescue of 5 people from an overturned boat at the Moruya Bar. The rescuers showed great courage in tough conditions.

Congrats also to the ACT/Broulee Nippers led by Steve Corcoran and Wendy Law for taking out the title of Community Education Program of the Year.

Vale Ron Chesher

Moruya SLSC and the lifesaving community across the country lost a much-loved friend and life member with the passing of Ron Chesher on Tuesday 16th October at the age of 95. Ron's impact on surf lifesaving was felt far and wide and reflected in his additional life memberships of FSC Branch, SLSA and SLSNSW, a feat that few achieve. Ron was president of Moruya SLSC when the club was reformed after the second world war, a position he held until the mid-70's and he was also a Branch President. Our thoughts are with Ron's wife Heather and children Janelle and Peter.

Upcoming Courses

The following courses are being held across FSC Branch. Unless otherwise stated please contact Sue Hunt at fsceducation@gmail.com for more details.

31/10/2018 - Bronze Medallion (MORUYA SLSC) contact Wayne Foster wandsfoster@bigpond.com

10/11/2018 – Surfguard – Pambula

17/11/2018 – ART (need venue + trainers)

24/11/2018 - IRB Driver starts at Moruya SLSC

8 & 9/12/2018 – SM Aquatic Rescue – Bermagui

02/02/2019 – 15-18 Only – IRB Crew course

National Leadership College is open for 18-30 year olds. Contact Andrew at domsfscsls@gmail.com