

NORTH AVOCA SPECIAL EDITION NEWS



20/06/2024

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

On Saturday 15th June, Surf Life Saving Central Coast (SLSCC) hosted their Awards of Excellence (AOE) evening. The AOE is an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the tremendous work volunteers do across all 15 surf clubs on the Coast.

We all know them – members who care, give up their time and want to make a difference in the organisation. The AOE celebrates the incredible people in our organisation and the impact they have on their club, members and their local communities and recognises members achievements in the following areas of club life.

- Lifesaving
- Surf Sports
- Members Services
- Education
- Administration



Our Members and Award Nominees celebrating at the AOE

Our very deserving North Avoca award nominees were:

Volunteer of the Year – Chris Bowden
Life Saver of the Year – Brodie Drake
Patrol Captain of the Year – Jackie Sproll
Youth Life Saver of the Year – Emma Duggan
Youth Volunteer of the Year – Bailey Green
Youth Athlete of the Year – Ella Kemble
Rookie of the Year – Remy Avis
Junior LifeSaver of the Year - Remy Avis
Administrator of the Year – Scott Green
Trainer of the Year – Chris Bowden
Assessor/Facilitator of the Year – Jodie Walker
Coach of the Year – Kim Findlay
Official of the Year – Josh Duggan
Masters Athlete of the Year – Kim Findlay
Team of the Year – U23 Female IRB Team (Ella Kemble, Taylor Crowther, Emma Duggan, Kara Cannon, Brodie Drake, Lachlan Duggan)
Service Team of the Year – Member Services Summer SIPs and community engagement (Cara Portese)
Community Program – Kids Empowerment Workshop (Evelyn Dwyer)
Innovation of the Year – GUNS - Grown Up Nippers (Peta Quinn)

We are excited to announce that North Avoca won 5 awards:



Patrol Captain of the Year – Jackie Sproll
Administrator of the Year - Scott Green
Youth Volunteer of the Year - Bailey Green
Junior LifeSaver of the Year - Remy Avis (announced at Branch carnival)
Service Team of the Year – Member Services for Summer SIPs and community engagement program - Cara Portese

North Avoca SLSC is proudly Supported by:

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Patrol Captain of the Year - Jackie Sproll



Jackie has been a member of North Avoca SLSC since joining as a nipper. She has 24 years of recognised active patrolling service. With 100% attendance each and every season. Over her many years of service to NASLSC Jackie has held many roles within the club and on the management committee, including Director of Administration (2016-2020) and Director of Member Services (2021-22), IRB racing team, Subject Matter Expert (SME) assisting with training the BM Courses, she is a current Age Manager, Surf Sports and March Past coach, Patrol Captain and our first female Life Member, being recognised in 2021 for her many years and countless hours of service to our Club.

Jackie was the Club's first female Patrol Captain and has been in this role since 2010. Coming from many years of involvement with our Club and Surf Lifesaving, Jackie displays incredible knowledge of not only our Club but the Lifesaving movement in general. Jackie is an excellent Patrol Captain, excelling in all the qualities of a great leader and role model. She has actively undertaken many additional awards to improve her knowledge and skills over the years.

Jackie has been awarded the National Medal and an Australia Day Medal and many other awards over, including Patrol Person of the Year, Patrol of the Year under her captaincy and Club Person of the Year (to name a few). She has also received the SLSCC Service Team of the Year award.

Over and above her patrol hours Jackie has been involved in many more additional activities, involving many more hours of her volunteer time, which shows her commitment to the club. These include;

- Facilitating the interview skills and resume writing workshops for Rookies & Youth (at both Club and Branch levels)
- Age manager, coach and official
- Age Manager Mentor
- Lead Coordinator of the Club's major fundraiser - Easter Door Knock Appeal
- Club's Complaints Manager
- Sits on the Clubs selection panel for both the JLOTY and Junior Club Captain
- New Constitution sub-committee
- New Membership Fee structure Sub-committee

Jackie is one of our senior Patrol Captains. She is very committed to the development of her team and has been identified as a Patrol Captain where our Club DOL can assign new BM members and Cadets, knowing they will be fully supported, and the development of their skills will be a high priority.

Jackie is a decisive, fair and confident leader, prepared to ask or seek advice if required. Jackie recognises that communication is a two-way street and listens and encourages feedback from her team and other members. Jackie motivates others by encouragement, recognising their strengths and rewarding members for their contribution. She leads by example and wouldn't ask a member to do a task she would not be prepared to do herself.

Jackie is a passionate and distinguished volunteer and advocate for NASLSC. Over her many years of service, she has always placed the Club's growth for future generations at the core of her actions. Her advocacy has seen many new club members join us and many new nippers join (and stay) with us. Jackie is an incredible role model to not only our nippers and youth, but also the broader membership base.

Administrator of the Year Scott Green



Scott has been a member of our Club since 2015. Scott's has progressed from being a parent helper to patrolling, to now also being our current Director of Finance.

Scott is exceptionally qualified for the role with 35+ years' senior corporate experience across operations, accounting, finance systems and technology. He is also a qualified accountant. He has brought extensive knowledge & skills to & enhanced professionalism and communication amongst the Management Committee.

Scott has undertaken a complete overhaul of the finance and administration portfolios to ensure the transparency and integrity of the club's financial dealings. Scott has;

- Set up user friendly processes regarding Bookkeeping, BAS, Payroll
- Improved POS system for bar staff & other users
- Introduced & maintains POS Inventory controls
- Reconciliation of the online store via square and improved online payment facilities
- Assisted with annual ACNC & CFA requirements
- Provided IT support for presentation & events
- Increased our financial compliance measures and IT systems including improving our data management and storage and wi-fi accessibility
- Improved finance reporting has provided the board with detailed, yet easy to understand finance reports, accurately addressing each portfolio.
- His help with budgeting across all portfolios has allowed for increased transparency and effective financial decision making.
- Scott has also provided valuable input into review of our Club constitution, a recent registration fee data analysis and subsequent equality overhaul project.

Services Team of the Year – Member and Community Engagement - Cara Portese



One primary goal for our Management Committee was to improve member engagement, retention and acquisition as well as obtaining a shift in our club's culture and standing within the local community.

Cara took on the role of events manager to drive a series of projects to achieve this goal. Cara then transitioned to filling in as our Director Of Member Services over the season.

Cara and her team have been instrumental in the planning and delivery of multiple events including;

- Our celebration of Women in lifesaving event (this event was a huge success featuring pioneers in our movement - Bonnie Hancock, Kerrie Armstrong, Gemma Smith, Jackie Sproll)
- Our new Friday night Summer SIPs program
- Our Bonnie Hancock is back evening
- Off season sport evenings like the Matilda's in the world cup.
- Our first Halloween event for nippers & youth.
- Xmas movie night
- Our first Season launch event
- Facilitating Member recognition programs.
- Member satisfaction surveys and analysis at a club level.

These events featured a coming together of like minded individuals into our community space with a clear message that everyone is welcome.

Cara is also a valuable member of the water safety for nippers, training, carnivals, GUNS, and winter nippers. She participated in masters competition at local and state levels as a medalist and achieved 100% patrol attendance. Cara is also a qualified official and officiated at many local carnivals. She fulfills all her roles within the club to a very high standard and our Club is so much better for all of Cara's efforts.

Youth Volunteer of the Year Nominee

Bailey Green



Bailey commenced his lifesaving career as an U6 nipper. He lives and breathes lifesaving and dedicates much of his time volunteering & working within the movement.

Bailey is Vice Captain and an extremely valuable member of his patrol team. He is a passionate Lifesaver and has actively undertaken many additional awards.

This season Bailey took on an additional role as Youth Development Coordinator on the Club Management Committee. He has proven to be a strong advocate for our nippers and youth and provided valuable input from a youth perspective on many issues and topics.

Over and above his patrol hours he has been involved in many additional activities at both Club & Branch level:

- Supporting Nippers & youth with water safety and coaching
- Training SRCs in tube & board rescues & SLS pathways
- Bailey is an IRB Driver for the IRB racing team and actively encourages our Youth to gain their IRB awards
- He is volunteer bar staff member
- Supporting Club fundraising activities
- Bailey has represented NASLSC at all the SLSCC Youth Leadership Program's from U13s -U17s. He is now a part of the Branch Youth Facilitators program. This season Bailey was a volunteer SLSCC Facilitator at the U13-U14s Rookie Camp, the U15 Leadership Development Program and the U17-U19 Youth Leadership Program.
- Bailey has implemented this season a very successful 2 day NA youth development camp, amongst other initiatives.

Junior LifeSaver of the Year

Remy Avis



Remy is a committed and passionate young member of North Avoca SLSC. Remy joined our nipper program at the U6s, with 100% attendance for every year she has been at nippers and has attended every carnival since the U8's, including Branch and State.

Remy has grown into a very capable young lifesaver whose skills, knowledge and confidence have grown enormously over the years. Remy has completed all of her surf education at each age group, completing her SRC this season. Remy fosters our club ethos, focusing on participation at all levels and active involvement in Rookie team activities. She has attended all of the rookie events, such as the Rookie Challenge, Rookie Disco, the U13-U14s Rookie Program and leadership days. She has participated in all fund raising activities.

Remy has attended 100% of her rostered patrols this season, including Christmas Day patrol.

Remy was selected by a panel of Club members to be the Junior Club Captain in the 2023/24 Season and again for the 2024/25 season. Remy was awarded Junior Club person of the year for 2023/24.

Following an application and interview process, Remy was selected to represent our Club at the SLSCC Junior LifeSaver of the Year. Remy was extremely motivated and committed to this process. She spent many hours during her school holidays studying and speaking with our experienced members to further her skills, interview techniques and knowledge, not only of Surf Life Saving but also our Club culture and operations. Remy was very proud to have been announced the winner of SLSCC Junior LifeSaver of the Year. And we are extremely proud of Remy's achievements and the commitment she has shown.

As a Club:

The management committee this season, planned and delivered a series of initiatives, improvements and policy enhancements to strengthen our Club, engage our members, support community connection and recognise the diverse contributions and achievements our people make to our organisation. As a committee we made a commitment to embrace the ideals of equity and inclusivity.

Our club has delivered in a range of areas to build the sustainability of our Club including:

- We have built sustainability in our membership base by engaging them and staying connected to them through various platforms and activities, valuing member recognition initiatives and opportunities. We have listened to our members through surveys and then have delivered many functions and events designed to engage with our members and the wider community.
- We have built financial sustainability through improving our financial and administrative processes including our financial reporting, online store and point of sales systems, data management, improving our financial controls and transparency and updated our data security and payment platforms. We have also built our sponsorship with acquiring 3 new gold sponsors.
- We continue to build our lifesaving sustainability, growing patrolling members, upskilling members including IRB Crew and Drivers throughout the season, making enhancements to the communication systems with our Patrol Captains and enhancing patrol equipment to better meet our needs.
- NASLSC has been a leader in the development of our Youth Programs. We have contributed facilitators at the SLSCC U13-U14s Rookie Camp, U15 Leadership Development Program and U17-U19 Youth Leadership Program, Rookie Disco, Rookie Challenge and Raising of the Flags. NASLSC held a 2 day youth development camp with the goals of building relationships, improving and developing new surf life saving skills, improving communication and confidence amongst our youth.
- At the 2023 state conference, youth development and retention was identified as an area of crucial need for the future of SLS. Our JAC leadership team have been proactive in this space for the last 2 years in particular. As a result our new nipper registration and retention numbers have been amongst the highest on the central coast.

Quality improvement will continue regardless across all aspects of our movement. We believe that we do most things very well, but at the same stage we can always do better and must foster a dynamic outlook. Some of our upcoming projects include;

- Upgrading our club's Constitution to bring it in line with current NSW constitution
- Registration fee equality and inclusivity project
- Member value proposition project
- Building development project
- Beach accessibility project
- Education team building project to facilitate increased awards obtained by our members.

Over the last 12 months we have seen numerous new initiatives that were developed from our SLS aligned strategic plan. These are all programs that we are extremely proud of and have included but no limited to the following;

- Winter nippers program
- Grown up nippers, "GUNS program"
- Child protection (Kids Empowerment) workshop
- Multiple Member services team events detailed in our services team of the year nomination.
- Rookie fundraisers for charities
- Finance and governance enhancements
- Youth development programs
- Nipper program quality improvement projects

A surf club needs to be a place where people feel connected, safe, and useful so they want to come back year after year. A place where they feel they belong and want to bring their friends and family. We will continue to ensure our club has a culture of acceptance and inclusion - a place for all.

Importantly we can confidently say that our members are proud to be connected to our club.

Kim Findlay
President NASLSC