



FINGAL BEACH
SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report

2025 / 26

Presented to Members at the **61st Annual General Meeting**
Sunday 12 July 2026 · Fingal Beach Clubhouse

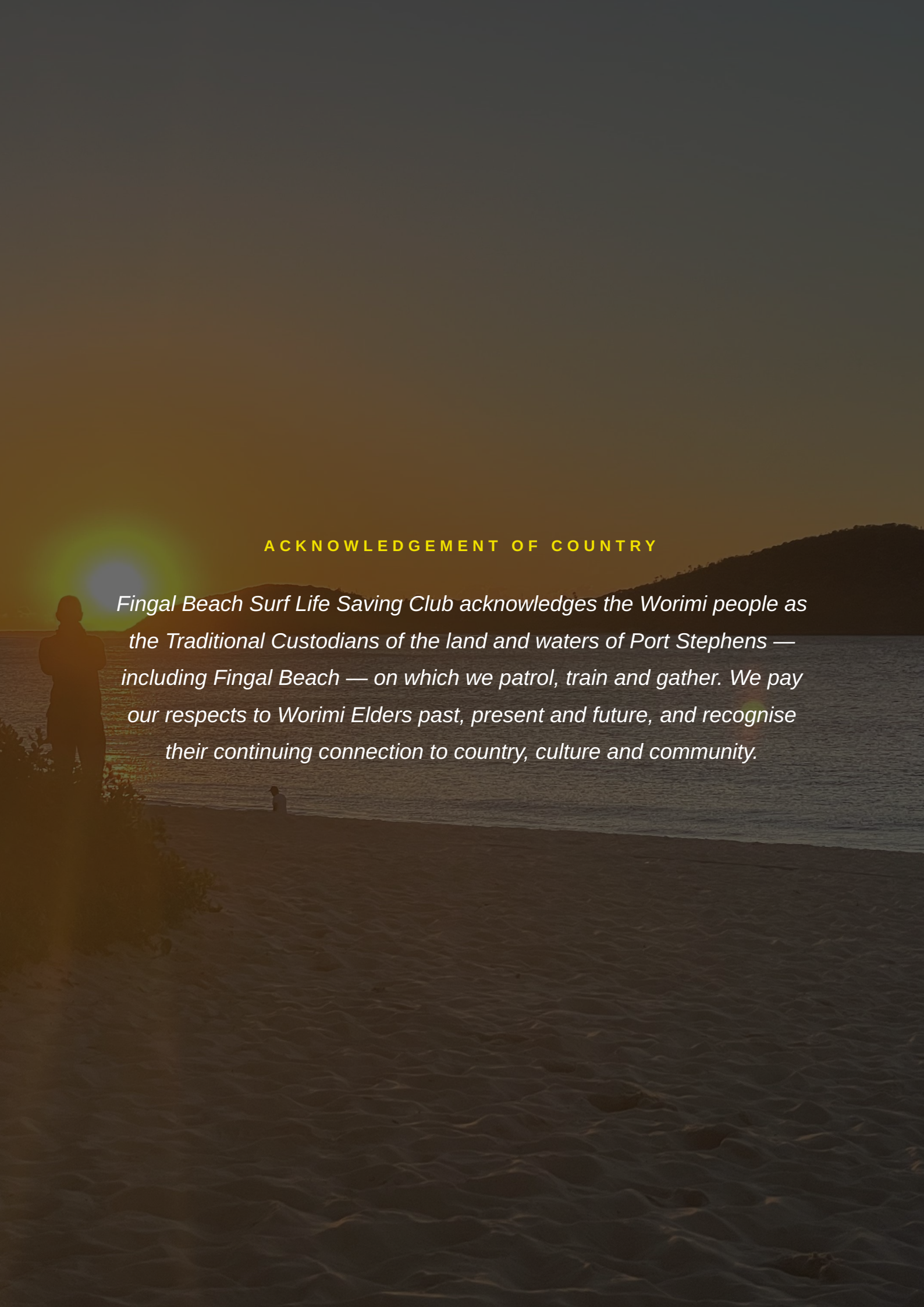
Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 61st Annual General Meeting of Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated will be held on Sunday 12 July 2026 at the Fingal Beach SLSC Clubhouse, immediately following the Special General Meeting that opens at 2:00pm (members are asked to arrive from 1:30pm to confirm attendance).

This Annual General Meeting follows a Special General Meeting held the same day to consider adoption of an updated Constitution. The Special General Meeting is documented separately in the SGM notice pack issued to members on 19 June 2026.

Agenda

- 1 Opening of the Annual General Meeting
- 2 Attendance and apologies
- 3 In Memoriam — a minute's silence for surf lifesavers no longer with us
- 4 Confirmation of the minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting (22 June 2025)
- 5 Receipt of the Board's report on the Club's activities for 2025/26, including Director portfolio reports and a walkthrough of the Strategic Plan 2026–2030
- 6 Receipt of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 and any auditor's or reviewer's report
- 7 Election of Directors
- 8 Motion for affiliation with Hunter Surf Life Saving (HSLS) and Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW)
- 9 Appointment of an auditor or reviewer, if required (the Club is Tier 2 — none required)
- 10 Consideration of Life and Honorary Life Membership nominations (none brought forward)
- 11 Any other business notified under Rule 15.2(b) (none received)
- 12 Post-AGM actions and close

A sunset scene over a beach. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with the sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, a person stands on the left, silhouetted against the bright light. The beach is sandy and textured. In the distance, another person is visible near the water's edge. The background shows a dark, silhouetted coastline.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club acknowledges the Worimi people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of Port Stephens — including Fingal Beach — on which we patrol, train and gather. We pay our respects to Worimi Elders past, present and future, and recognise their continuing connection to country, culture and community.

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By the numbers — 2025/26

A safe beach, a growing club and a restored financial footing.

0

Lives lost at Fingal Beach this season

Our most important result — every season.

556

Members

up from 545 last season

148

Active patrolling members

delivering the service all season

5,612

Patrol hours delivered

across the 2025/26 season

9,000

Preventative actions

stopping trouble before it starts

109,562

Beach visits kept safe

peaking around 1:00pm

16

Rescues

plus 51 first-aid treatments

231

Nippers registered

including 7 Starfish

15

Bronze Medallions

new lifesavers qualified

Board & Officers

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
Jo Cooper

**DIRECTOR OF
ADMINISTRATION**
Caroline Deane

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
Lachlan Gorrie

**DIRECTOR OF CLUB
SERVICES**
Nicholas Angelos

DIRECTOR OF LIFESAVING
Adrian Futterleib

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
James Worrall

**DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR
ACTIVITIES**
Alan McTernan

DIRECTOR OF SURF SPORTS
Andrew Dart

Sectional Officers

ADMINISTRATION

Public Officer
Stephen Leahy OAM

Registrar
James Worrall

Social Media & Publicity
Madelyn Tonks

Website Officer
Zac Thompson

Member Protection Officers
James Worrall
Tanya Squires

LIFESAVING

Lifesaving Coordinator
Charlie Dunkley

IRB Captain
Peter Linz

Lifesaving Equipment Coordinator
Greg Turner

SURF SPORTS

Competition Coordinator
James Worrall

Surf Boat Captain
Eddy Bergsma OAM

Board & Ski Captain
Marguerite White

FINANCE

Grants Coordinator
Nicholas Angelos

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Junior Administrator
Susie Anderson

CLUB SERVICES

Caretaker
Warwick Deane

HONOUR ROLL

Life Members

The Club proudly recognises those who have been granted Life Membership in honour of their distinguished and sustained service to Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

George Bergsma
1970

Norm Carlson
1970

Gordon Symonds
1970

Eddy Bergsma
1970

Lionel Fines
1975

Carol Bergsma
1992

Jim McGarry
1992

Bill Armstrong
1992

Tom Spence
1999

Graham West
1999

Glen Dunkley
2011

Charlie Dunkley
2012

Steve Westcott
2017

Denis Jones
2018

Tanya Squires
2020

Peter Linz
2024



The Fingal Island lighthouse.

WHO WE ARE

Our Purpose, Vision & Values

Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club is a charitable, volunteer-based community service organisation dedicated to protecting life at Fingal Beach and developing capable, engaged members.

OUR VISION

To be a leading surf lifesaving club recognised for excellence in lifesaving, strong community engagement, and a unified and high-performing club culture.

OUR MISSION

To work towards zero preventable deaths at Fingal Beach and in the Fingal Bay area, while maintaining a safe, supportive and inclusive environment in which every member can develop and progress throughout their surf lifesaving journey.

Integrity · Safety · Education · Respect · Unity · Family · Diversity · Environmental Stewardship

OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFE PRACTICES

Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club is committed to being a Child Safe organisation. We uphold the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and are dedicated to the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children and young people in our care. Surf Life Saving's Codes of Conduct set the minimum standards of behaviour expected of every member and must be complied with at all times; these are set out in the SLSC Member Protection Policy. Any concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child may be raised with the Club's Member Protection Information Officers, James Worrall and Tanya Squires, who provide confidential support and guidance.



Beach safety starts young — surf education in the community.

A Message from our President



Jo Cooper

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A massive thank you to every member who put up their hand at the last minute — your dedication is what makes this club great.

As the flags come down on the 2025/26 season, it feels like the months have flown by. The season ended on an unusual note with a “mad scramble” following the NSW Government’s announcement of a surprise long weekend. A massive thank you to every member who put up their hand at the last minute to ensure we could field those two extra patrols—your dedication is what makes this club great.

I am proud to report zero lives lost at our beach this year. This success is backed by the incredible work of our volunteers:

- ▶ 5,612 Patrol Hours completed
- ▶ 16 Rescues performed
- ▶ 9,000 Preventative actions taken

It was also another year of significant growth for our skills base. Congratulations to our newest award holders:

- ▶ 8 Surf Rescue Certificates (SRC)
- ▶ 15 Bronze Medallions
- ▶ 4 IRB Drivers & 9 IRB Crew
- ▶ 19 Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART)
- ▶ 10 Silver Medallion Patrol Captain (SMPC)

This season was not without its hurdles. Our clubhouse remained closed for most of the summer due to a serious mould infestation. While the testing and removal process faced several frustrating delays, I am pleased to say the doors are finally open.



Members on patrol at Fingal Beach.

On the sand, our Masters competitors faced a setback when their event was cancelled due to a fierce East Coast Low. However, we did find glory in January! A huge congratulations to our Masters Boaties, who secured a Silver Medal at the Hunter Branch Championships, held here at Fingal as part of the Stevens Series Boat Carnival.

IRB State Championships: In July, Fingal Bay proudly hosted a round of the SLSNSW IRB State Championships — a fantastic event for the club and a great showcase for our local IRB team.

Senior Club Champs: Under the guidance of Andrew (Darty) Dart, Club Champs returned to a regular schedule this season. We hope to see even more members hitting the water for this next year.

Starfish Nippers: A special thanks to Michael Johnston and Wayne Forbes for stepping up to lead the Starfish program this year. Your commitment to inclusive lifesaving is inspiring.

We now bid a heartfelt thank you to our departing Board members: Alan McTernan (Director of Junior Activities) and his assistant Susie Anderson. Caroline Deane (Director of Administration). Thank you for your tireless work behind the scenes; the club is in a better place because of your service.

As President, I would also like to thank the Board for their support during my three years, along with all of our members. Finally, our thanks go to the Fingal Bay Sports Club for their support through the Friday Night Raffles, as well as the Hunter Branch and Port Stephens Council for their unwavering annual support.

And to all of our 2025/26 sponsors. I am also delighted to hand over the presidency to Adrian Futterleib. I know our club is in great hands, and I wish Adrian and the incoming Board every success for the seasons ahead. See you on the beach in 2026/27!

CLUB HONOURS

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Warwick Deane

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

James Worrall

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Noah Worrall

Director of Finance Report



Lachlan Gorrie

INVESTING IN THE CLUB

\$96k re-invested into our building, plant and equipment, including a major upgrade to security and access.

With a changeover in the role from the prior 3 years with Sarah Jones doing an amazing job of filling this role, I must admit there was more to the role than I first anticipated, and I thank the rest of the board for their patience and guidance on any queries I've had since coming on board in roughly August / September 2025.

Over the past 12 months of our financial year, there has been a significant change in some of the financial operations, whereby Council and the rental tenants have largely changed how this has been managed. Even though it was finalised prior to me coming on board, I feel it has been a pivotal step in moving forward, putting this in the hands of PSSC to manage as landlords of the premises.

Fixed Asset Expenditure

The club has re-invested \$96k back into our building, plant and equipment since October 2025, with significant upgrades to our security and club access systems. Approximately \$66k was spent on this upgrade, offset by a healthy grant of \$26k from the Department of Communities & Justice — providing a much-needed and improved system to carry us forward for a significant period. Initial estimates were that the worst-case scenario would be 10 years, and even then only ever needing minor upgrades. From a cost-benefit perspective this broke down to about \$4k per year, which the board agreed was a great investment in keeping access to our rooms and equipment secure and easily accessible into the future.

FUNDING AT A GLANCE

\$54,927

Received in grants this season

\$26k

NSW Govt (DCJ) — security & access

\$96k

Reinvested in plant & equipment

A further \$5k was spent on new outboards for the IRB race team to keep them performing at their best, while also providing usage for our patrol teams; \$8k on upgraded gazebo tents for use at club carnivals; and a further \$7k on an upgraded box trailer for storage and cartage of club equipment for Nippers at the beach, or to take equipment to carnivals.

Donations, Sponsorship & Grant Funding

A total of \$54,927 was received in grants during the 2026 season. The largest was the \$26k contribution from the NSW Government (Department of Communities & Justice) towards our new security and access system, described above. The club also secured a grant from Port Stephens Council to purchase a chilled water fountain for the patrol shed, which was installed for the start of the 2025/26 season, and a NSW Government grant towards our new Nippers' beach trailer, which can be seen on the beach every week during Nippers. A number of other grant applications were made during the season, without success.

A further \$14k of fundraising and advertising funds were received during the season to help meet the fixed-asset costs, reducing the club's overall out-of-pocket spend significantly, and \$11,901 was received from the community through donations — a real testament to our strong community involvement.

The club is extremely lucky to have benefited from the support of generous donors and sponsors. During the season the Club has continued to be supported by the Fingal Bay Sports Club (monthly raffles), Blooms Chemist at Salamander (sunscreen) and numerous members of the local community and the club who have sponsored Nipper boards and the IRB team.

I would like to thank the sponsors of our new Nippers trailer: Skyhook Helicopters, Your Local, Raine & Horne Port Stephens, Haddad Baker, Coolwater Constructions, Rotary Club Nelson Bay, Cellar Cafe, Fair Dinkum Builds and Nelson Plaza Clinic. The sponsorship means we now have a clearly branded, road registered trailer to support a Fingal team when travelling to carnivals and other events, as well as serving all our Nippers on our beach each Sunday.

Tailor Allied Health, Camplify, Zac Thompson Electrical and Sharkskin also made significant contributions to the club and I urge members to personally support all our sponsors. Membership fees of \$32k were on par with the prior season, and up almost \$5k on the season before that. No significant growth, but at the very least we have maintained a good membership base within our club. Unfortunately, one income source the club would normally benefit from was bar sales, with closures from our mould issue closing off the boardroom for the majority of the season.

Liabilities / Overhead Expenditure

These expenses did not increase by any significant amount on the prior season. Carnival fees increased as the club made a concerted effort to lift its activity in club competitions, with the board actively deciding to promote this by funding some of the expenses for teams to compete — both to get back on the competitive scene as in prior years and to encourage younger members' interest in competition. These increased by only \$1.2k on the prior season (\$4k in 2026 vs \$2.8k in 2025).

Other significant expenditure included repairs and maintenance, namely \$4k on repairs and inspections for our mould issue through the clubhouse. A further \$4.5k was spent on the CanAm during the season, with unfortunate issues from it being inappropriately used and potentially not being built to specifications best suited to our club usage and beachside conditions.

Overall, our club cash position dropped \$9,190 on the prior year, from \$171,401 to \$162,211. A new report has been included with this year's annual report — a Cash Summary — providing a snapshot of the club's cash movements and categorisation during the 2026 season.

Financial Summary 2025/26

The Cash Summary below provides a snapshot of the Club's cash movements for the season, with 2025 and 2024 comparatives. It is a summary view only — the Club's audited financial statements for 2025/26 had not been received at the time of publication and will be presented to members separately.

Cash Summary

FINGAL BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INCORPORATED For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025	2024
Income			
Carnival Income	409	1,768	180
Council Contributions			
Contributions to FBSLSC Services	48,223	133,182	-
Reimbursement to Council	-	-	(96,578)
Rent Payable / Receivable - PSSC	-	(246,743)	119,009
Total Council Contributions	48,223	(113,562)	22,431
Donations & Grants			
Donations	11,902	24,625	6,078
Grants	54,697	43,642	38,867
Total Donations & Grants	66,599	68,268	44,945
Hire & Storage - Board & Ski	-	336	522
Insurance Claim Income	-	50,491	-
Interest	4,418	11,549	846
Fundraising Event	-	6,933	-
Membership Fees	32,170	32,374	27,923
Patrol Uniform Subsidy	-	-	847
Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Equipment	-	(9,896)	-
Rent Received			
Rent - Cafe	-	22,348	41,503
Rent - Restaurant	-	33,333	91,667
Total Rent Received	-	55,681	133,170
Bar			
Sales - Bar	831	1,127	-
Bar Purchases	(380)	(1,357)	-
Bar Expenses	-	(47)	(16)
Total Bar	451	(276)	(16)
BBQ			
Sales - BBQ	9,478	9,274	11,918
BBQ Purchases	(8,445)	(6,413)	(7,633)
Total BBQ	1,032	2,861	4,285
Sales - First Aid Training	-	-	450
Merchandise			
Sales - Merchandise	10,801	10,429	14,667
Merchandise Purchases	(21,107)	(15,025)	(13,673)
Closing Stock	35,286	40,954	36,046
Opening Stock	(40,954)	(36,046)	(36,619)
Total Merchandise	(15,974)	313	420
Sponsorship	14,745	7,527	2,182

Cash Summary

	2026	2025	2024
Surf Life Saving Foundation Lottery Commission	15	15	-
Total Income	152,089	114,382	238,184
Less Expenses			
Accounting & Bookkeeping	1,327	1,264	1,209
Advertising	2,731	4,806	1,153
Bank & Merchant Fees	751	1,198	806
Carnival Entry Fees	4,037	2,897	399
Cleaning Expenses	2,173	1,826	1,556
Depreciation Expense	-	31,304	27,175
Donation	-	(2)	-
Dues & Subscriptions	1,908	3,889	3,005
Electricity & Gas	7,705	7,512	6,005
Equipment			
Equipment - IRB Team	4,901	1,084	-
Equipment - Nippers	2,409	9,239	1,913
Equipment - Patrol	1,119	-	3,540
Equipment - Starfish	-	154	2,196
Total Equipment	8,429	10,477	7,649
Filing Fees	-	-	235
First Aid Supplies	6,827	4,417	6,818
Freight	58	2,793	445
Fuel Expenses	2,759	2,348	3,971
Functions			
Function - Carnival Hosting (Net Income/Expense)	(508)	(7,059)	1,110
Function - Members Presentation (Net Income/Expense)	1,663	1,068	4,730
Function - Members Xmas Party (Net Income/Expense)	-	-	16
Function - Nippers Presentation (Net Income/Expense)	446	654	20
Function - Nippers Xmas Party (Net Income/Expense)	101	234	477
Total Functions	1,702	(5,103)	6,354
Insurance	20,764	17,714	20,239
Internet	-	-	68
Kitchen Supplies	-	37	11
License Fees	173	153	-
Office Expenses	1,286	173	1,149
Repairs & Maintenance	22,704	84,715	14,095
Patrol Expenses & Uniforms	3,647	3,089	4,191
Rates Expenses	(21,007)	10,624	14,748
Rent Expenses	3,057	34,383	-
Security	-	165	21
Telephone & Internet	1,796	1,532	1,266
Training Fees	1,225	788	1,161
Travel & Entertainment	7	55	-
Trophies & Awards	6,155	5,211	7,545

Cash Summary

	2026	2025	2024
Volunteer Appreciation Expenses	3,155	3,703	14,996
Total Expenses	83,370	231,966	146,270
Surplus (Deficit)	68,719	(117,585)	91,915
Plus Other Cash Movements			
Fixed Assets	(94,634)	(10,386)	(5,507)
Stock on Hand	5,668	(4,909)	573
Total Other Cash Movements	(88,966)	(15,294)	(4,934)
Plus GST Movements			
GST Collected	60,201	63,523	41,748
GST Paid	(49,144)	(56,352)	(64,179)
Net GST Movements	11,057	7,171	(22,431)
Net Cash Movement	(9,190)	(125,708)	64,550
Summary			
Opening Balance	171,401	297,108	232,559
Plus Net Cash Movement	(9,190)	(125,708)	64,550
Cash Balance	162,211	171,401	297,108

Director of Administration Report



Caroline Deane

FIND YOUR PASSION

Don't wait to be asked — ask how you can help, or what you can learn, and dive in.



There's a place for everyone at Fingal Beach SLSC.

As another successful season on our beautiful Fingal Beach comes to a close it's hard to believe I have been in this role for 3 years and strange to think I will be handing it over. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the committee and thank Jo for asking me if I would consider the role as she embarked on the Presidency, it's been my honour and privilege to work alongside her and all at FBSLSC.

A special thank you goes to James Worrall who over my tenancy has been my go-to person on the Admin side, such a wealth of knowledge you made my role so much easier and such a pleasure – thank you! So too with Zac Thompson and Madelyn Tonks looking

after our website and social media, Fingal Beach is definitely the place to be!

Huge thanks to Nicholas Angelos our Director of Club Services and Grants Coordinator extraordinaire who has been so vigilant and highly successful in sourcing grants and funding to improve our facilities. Your behind the scenes work and quiet achievements make such a difference to all our members and now our upgraded security monitoring system and door entry with just a swipe (thanks Zac!) is ready to take us well into the future.

Thank you especially to James Worrall and Tanya Squires in their roles of Member Protection Officers, and to Pete and Greg the miracle workers of the Patrol shed - the club is a better place because of your care and passion. Our annual presentation night held on May 23rd was a fabulous evening, made all the more special with our venue upstairs at Saltwater Restaurant. Such a wonderful opportunity to spend some time together and see so many achievements... what will yours be this coming season? A new award... or highest patrolling hours... helping out at Nippers, or perhaps trying a new surfsport... it's all there for you to have a go and you are so very welcome to come try.

So this season don't wait to be asked... ask how you can help (I know we are in need of a new First Aid Officer) or what you can do or learn – dive in and enjoy all that Surf Life Saving has to offer... find your passion! To all FBSLSC committee members past and present, thank you for all you do and have done in making our club a wonderful place to be, as we head into this next chapter I know our club is in good hands.

Finally, to all at Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club thank you for your friendship.

Director of Club Services Report



Nicholas Angelos

FACILITIES

A year of frustration but real improvement — the Club has come through it in good shape and well set up for the season ahead.

For Club Services, the 2025/26 season was very much a year about our facilities — frustrating at times, but also one of real improvement, and I'm pleased to report the club has come through it in good shape and well set up for the season ahead.

The most significant improvement was the installation of a new electronic security and access-control system across the main building, the boat shed and the patrol shed. The new system does away with the old reliance on keys and access codes, replacing them with secure swipe access, and over the coming months all members will be issued with their own access passes. As well as making everyday access much easier, it has materially improved our site security and greatly reduces the chance of a repeat of last season's out-of-hours break-in, which occurred through a door secured only by an access code. The grant that funded this work is covered in the Director of Finance report.



The Fingal Beach clubhouse.

Less welcome was the water leak in the ceiling of the gym, which kept much of the main building out of action for a large part of the season. The leak damaged the ceilings of both the gym and the training room and led to mould forming in both areas. Throughout this period we relocated training and other activities off-site or outdoors and made alternative arrangements to support the events the club hosted, and I thank everyone for their patience and flexibility. Resolving the problem took longer than we would have liked, but we continue to value the positive, long-standing relationship we have with Council and the Mayor, and the support they provide the club.

Remedial work was carried out to address the water damage and leak, the affected areas were professionally cleaned to remove the mould, and the repairs were completed in March, allowing the gym and club rooms to reopen for the final few weeks of the season. The underlying leak, however, is not yet fully resolved. Even after the cleaning works, we are continuing to work with Council on better ways to mitigate and prevent the mould returning, and with the upgrades and renovations now happening to the restaurant, we are hopeful Council will keep working with us to finally fix the ongoing leak in the gym for good.

With the building back in our hands, our attention is now turning to the future. We have lodged a grant application to upgrade and update the gym equipment, and we are also looking to repair and update the bar equipment. After such a long closure, we are keen to make much greater use of the bar in the coming season — including starting a regular monthly Sunday drinks and food event for members, families and their guests.

A couple of other site issues remain on our radar. We are aware of ongoing water leak and maintenance problems in the patrol shed, and of the persistent drainage issues and build-up of sand in the drains around the site. We are working with Council on both, looking for better, longer-term strategies to put them right.

I would also like to call out and thank all the members of the board and other active club members for the endless work they perform to make the club 'happen'. In particular, Jo Cooper, who has worked tirelessly as President and spent many hours negotiating with the Council to resolve our building issues. Behind the scenes, Caroline and Lachlan have seamlessly managed our administration and financial responsibilities.

The significant growth in patrolling members and participants in each Nipper age group is testament to the work of James, Adrian, Andrew and Al, and the broader training team. In closing I would like to thank Warwick, our caretaker. Some of the pride we all feel for the Fingal club comes from Warwick's endless work to keep the club's buildings and the surrounding area neat, clean and tidy.



The Fingal Beach SLSC clubhouse and grounds.

Director of Lifesaving Report



Adrian Futterleib

MOST IMPORTANTLY

There was no loss of life at Fingal Beach this season.



Advising beachgoers on conditions — among more than 9,000 preventative actions this season.

It is with appreciation and pride that I present the Lifesaving Report for the 2025/26 season at Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club. This season has been characterised by strong operational performance, a committed volunteer base, and a continued focus on safety, professionalism, and positive club culture. Our members upheld the values of Surf Life Saving with consistency and integrity, ensuring that Fingal Beach remained a safe and welcoming environment for all beach users. Most importantly, there was no loss of life at Fingal Beach this season.

A full breakdown of our patrol effort, rescues, first aid and preventative actions for the season appears

in the Patrol & Rescue Statistics that follow this report. Patrol operations throughout the season were conducted to a high standard. Attendance across the roster remained strong, with the majority of patrols meeting or exceeding award requirements. Where gaps emerged—particularly during peak holiday periods—members demonstrated flexibility and a willingness to support neighbouring patrols, ensuring full coverage at all times. Patrol Captains provided effective leadership, delivering clear briefings, maintaining thorough documentation, and ensuring hazard identification and risk management processes were consistently applied. Their professionalism contributed significantly to the smooth running of patrol days and the safety outcomes achieved.

While the number of rescues this season was modest, each was performed safely and in accordance with SLSNSW operational standards. The high volume of preventative actions undertaken by patrol teams highlights the proactive approach taken to managing beach conditions, particularly during periods of shifting sandbanks, strong lateral currents, and increased visitor numbers. First aid incidents were managed with confidence and care, with members demonstrating strong patient assessment skills, appropriate escalation when required, and accurate record-keeping. These outcomes reflect the depth of training and preparedness within our patrol teams.

IRB operations remained a cornerstone of our lifesaving capability. Both hulls and engines were maintained in excellent working order thanks to regular checks, timely servicing, and the diligence of our IRB team. The

reliability of our IRB assets contributed directly to the safe execution of rescues and patrol duties. The IRB Crew and Driver training program was a highlight of the season, with strong participation, consistent attendance, and steady skill development resulting in several new awards being achieved. Additional training sessions supported both operational readiness and the growth of our IRB racing team, with communication, launch and land procedures, and teamwork within the section being exemplary.

Member development continued to be a strength of the club. This season saw successful delivery of Bronze Medallion, IRB Crew, IRB Driver, First Aid, and Advanced Resuscitation courses. The willingness of members to upskill and take on new responsibilities has strengthened patrol depth and enhanced operational resilience. Our trainers and assessors deserve particular recognition for their commitment to delivering high-quality education and for supporting members through their award pathways.

Beyond standard patrol duties, several Fingal Beach SLSC members contributed to extended lifesaving operations across the Branch and State. Their service reflects the professionalism and capability of our club and demonstrates our commitment to supporting the wider Surf Life Saving community. These contributions included Rescue Water Craft operators supporting rapid-response capability across the coastline, Duty Officers providing incident coordination and after-hours response, members participating in dusk patrols to extend coverage during high-risk periods, UAV operators assisting with aerial surveillance and search operations, and members deployed to natural disasters under SLSNSW activation, supporting flood response, community evacuations, and inter-agency operations. These roles require advanced training, significant personal commitment, and a willingness to respond at short notice. The club acknowledges and thanks all members who undertook these responsibilities, as their contribution enhances public safety well beyond Fingal Beach and reflects great credit on our organisation.

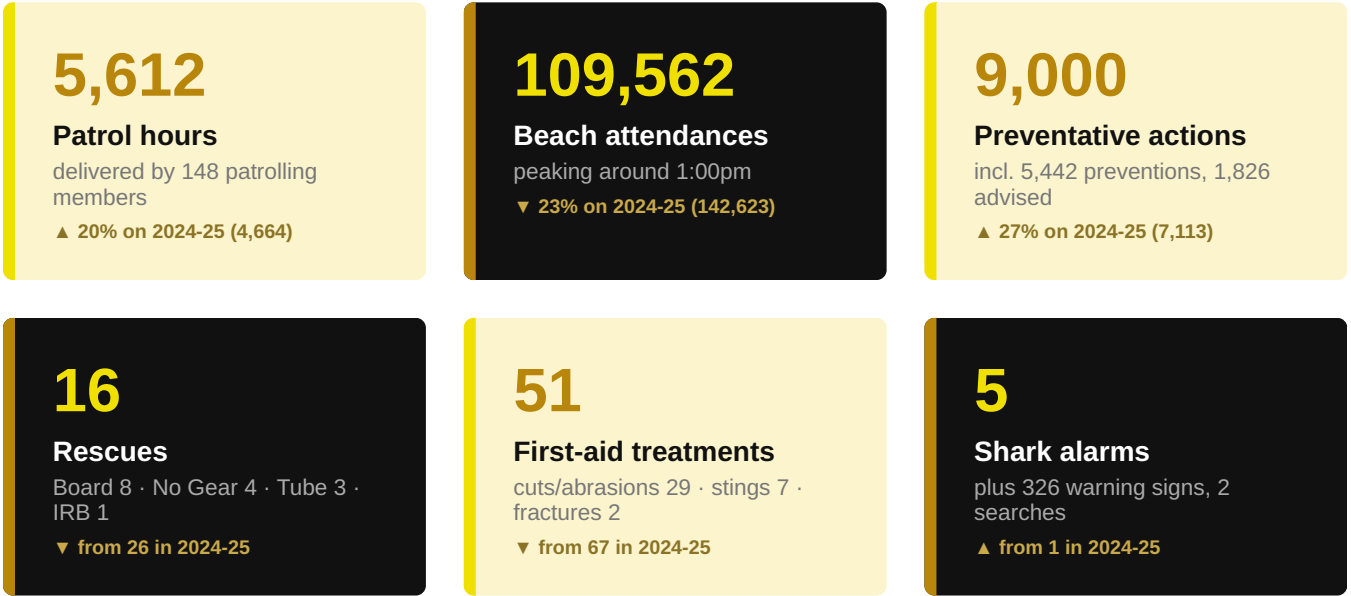
A notable achievement this season has been the continued strengthening of club culture. Members demonstrated respect for shared spaces, supported one another across patrol and training commitments, and contributed to a positive and inclusive environment. This cultural shift has been reflected in improved communication, stronger teamwork, and a visible sense of pride in representing Fingal Beach SLSC.

As with any season, challenges were present. Peak-period rostering required additional coordination, and variable surf conditions demanded heightened vigilance. Balancing patrol duties with training, racing, and personal commitments remains an ongoing consideration. Despite these challenges, the adaptability and dedication of our members ensured that service delivery remained uninterrupted and of a high standard.

I extend sincere thanks to all patrolling members, Patrol Captains, trainers, assessors, committee members, and supporters. Your dedication, professionalism, and generosity of time underpin the success of our lifesaving operations. The achievements of this season are a direct reflection of your commitment to the safety of our community and the values of Surf Life Saving. Thank you for your service and contribution to another successful season at Fingal Beach SLSC.

Patrol & Rescue Statistics 2025/26

The following summarises the Club's patrol effort and operational activity across the 2025/26 season. Compared with 2024-25, the Club patrolled more hours and took more preventative actions across a quieter year.



LIFE SAVING AWARDS

LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR Caroline Deane	JUNIOR LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR Nyna Foster
PATROL CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR Lachlan Gorrie	PATROL OF THE YEAR Christmas Patrol
HIGHEST PATROLLING HOURS Female — Nyna Foster Male — Andrew Dart	
100 CLUB RECOGNITION	
Andrew Dart Caroline Deane	Nyna Foster James Worrall Kian Worrall

PATROL 100% ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION

Susie Anderson	Gavin Edwards	Tanya Lawson	Zoe Stewart
Nicholas Angelos	Justin Enright	Thomas Lescoffit	Nicola Street
Eddy Bergsma	Andrew Farrell	Melinda Limn	Finlay Taylor
Anita Boltjes	Nyna Foster	Rodney Limn	Mia Taylor
James Bradley	Charmaine Foster	Mark Lyons	Zac Thompson
Luke Brennan	Glen Freeman	Declan Mccaffrey	Madelyn Tonks
Dylan Bryant	Angela Freeman	Michelle O'Shea	Damien Wake
Allan Budziarski	Adrian Futterleib	Ryan Pietraszek	Steve Westcott
Craig Burrows	Mikayla Futterleib	Andrew Reeves	Marguerite White
Shaun Cleary	Lachlan Gorrie	Laurice Richards	Addison Wilks
Jo Cooper	Jessica Gregory	Griffin Ross	David Wiseman
Bridie Cornally	Kyle Gregory	Michelle Ross	Glenn Withell
Andrew Dart	Susanna Hall-Cain	Ian Ryan	George Withell
Caroline Deane	Phil Hetherington	Alison Sargeant	Brett Woods
Warwick Deane	Steve Howell	Tanya Squires	James Worrall
Jye Doherty	Carlo Labra	Matthew Staff	Kian Worrall
Charlie Dunkley	Karen Lange	Dimity Stewart	Noah Worrall
Dougal Eadie	Michelle Larkin	Jason Stewart	
Dylan Edwards	Peter Larkin	Logan Stewart	

DUTY OFFICERS 2025/26

Glen Dunkley	Stephen Leahy	Steve Westcott
Adrian Futterleib	Zac Thompson	James Worrall



An IRB on the water at sunrise.

Director of Junior Activities Report



Alan McTernan

OUR NIPPERS

Our primary aim was to have fun and develop surf awareness — building confidence, knowledge, friendships and camaraderie.

We started the season with two proficiency swim days (20th & 21st Sept) at Tomaree Pool. Our first beach day was Sunday 19th October and with the weather on our side, we managed to fit in 9 successful Nipper Sundays before the Christmas break. We returned on Sunday 8th February for 5 weeks before presentation day on the 15th of March. We had 231 registered Nippers (including 7 Starfish).

Whilst competition and fitness are an important element of surf lifesaving, our primary aim was to have fun and develop surf education/awareness to keep children safe around the water, building confidence, knowledge, friendships and camaraderie.

The Age Managers and Water Safety did an amazing job as always.



Nippers on the beach at Fingal.

Carnivals

Fingal Beach was well represented this year, the best since before COVID.

- ▶ Round 2 at Swansea Belmont on 8 November: Tarran Lailai-Smith U10s
- ▶ We were delighted to see 24 Nippers competing at home in Fingal on 15 November for a water Carnival: Alfred Ferris-Lescoffit U11, Ayana Parker U12, Benjamin Griffiths U13, Boston Whitehouse U11, Charlotte Haecker U10, Eva Wilson U11, Henry Gorrie U11, Indiana McCleer U11, Lachlan Mckee U11, Lawson Jones-Mashman U11, Layla Mickelson U11, Louis Colbert U11, Madeline Griffiths U11, Marlowe Haecker U12, Martha Cornally U12, Oliver Cooper U13, Oscar Whitten U14, Spencer McLeod U12, Tarran Lailai-Smith U10 but at Fingal U11, Thomas Colbert U13, Tilly Diana U13, Will Cornally U12, Zane Sproule U11, Zoe Royle U11
- ▶ Round 4 was a Beach Round at Nobbys on 21 November: Ayana Parker 3rd in Sprints and 4th in Flags, Lawson Jones-Mashman, Tarran Lailai-Smith 5th in flags and beach sprint, 10th in 250m run.

- Junior Carnival U8-U10 at Redhead on 6 December: U10s Tarran Lailai-Smith 6th in the sprint, 3rd in flags. U8s went for the first time to a carnival: Lydia Lailai-Smith 3rd in wade, Ayu Sunni Duncan 2nd in the sprint out of 33, Mason Whitten 6th in the sprint, Jordy Kearney, Ally Urquhart, Everly Jones-Mashman 7th in flags and 8th in wade. U8 girls were 6th in the relay, 3rd in the wade relay, U8s were 5th in mixed relay

Junior Club Captains

Andrew Farrell and Sean Pietraszek who were instrumental in providing support and encouragement to our junior Nippers, particularly in the water safety areas. Emails will be sent after the AGM to next year's U14s to invite applications for Junior Captains 2026/27. There will be interviews for the applicants the first week of Nippers and appointed the following week.

SRC U14s

Congrats to the eight U14s: Andrew Farrell, Angelina Labra Knox, Dylan Edwards, Gavin Edwards, Mia Taylor, Oscar Whitten, George Withell, Sean Pietraszek

Nippers Summer Day Camp

Saturday 7 Feb 2026 Committee: Susie Anderson, Tanya Squires, Neen Morley, Jo Cooper and our Junior club captains, Sean and Andrew. 34 Nippers aged 10 and up enrolled. Sprint and flag trials run by Ryan Pietraszek and Addison Clark. Looking after your skin with Dr Jodie Yapp. The Background of Fingal Island with John "Stinker" Clarke, the Nippers paddled their boards to the spit, where they had a picnic lunch before a visit to the lighthouse and a paddle home for refreshments. Then they were presented with a commemorative t-shirt. Thank you to all our members who provided water safety and thank you to the parents and age managers for your help. Thank you to the patrols that day. Thanks to the mothers who prepared the food for morning tea and lunch. Thank you to Paul Hearfield and Susanna Callaghan for organising the lighthouse visit and everyone who helped with running the day.

StarFish Nippers

The Fingal Beach SLSC Starfish Nippers program has had another successful year. We ranged from 4 to 7 participants each week, which allowed one-to-one instruction and supervision. Wayne and Michael were ably assisted with water safety by Josh and parents Dillon and Andrea. We were grateful for supervision by the Fingal Beach Patrol team each week, especially when using the lily-pad.

As in previous years our Nippers were engaged in a variety of modified activities, which promoted physical activity (flags, obstacle course, tug-of-war, sponge relay, lily-pad), competition in a supported environment, (flags, sponge and obstacle course relays), the importance of team work (relays), social connection (all activities), and most importantly FUN! especially the lily-pad!

Skill development was also a feature of our program, with practising a variety of swimming strokes, getting out beyond the waves, reading the beach, practising surf rescues and board skills. We look forward to another successful season of Starfish Nippers.

Wayne Forbes and Michael Johnston

Last Day Of Nippers

The last day of Nippers was a success with the weather being on our side. We were able to carry out the activities that we had planned, with everyone having a great time. Every Sunday, it takes numerous parent volunteers to assist in various roles supporting Nippers, from BBQ, water safety, beach and water set-up, age managers, merchandise, registrations and administration. Help and assistance is always appreciated, however, more is always required as we look forward to our next season.

We thank you for your support in Nippers this season. We look forward to another successful season in 2026/27. Alan & The Team.

JUNIOR AWARDS

WILL LYNCH COURAGEOUS AWARD

Zoe Royle

KELLY VINCENT ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Emily Leach

JOHN ANDERSON CONTRIBUTION TO JUNIOR SERVICES AWARD

Marc Gattenhof

DENIS JONES AWARD — JUNIOR CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR

James & Sandy McLeod



Nippers race the beach sprint at Fingal Beach.

Director of Education Report



James Worrall

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Strong education outcomes — Bronze Medallions, Silver Medallion Patrol Captains and Advanced Resuscitation across the season.



CPR and first-aid skills training.

The 2025/26 season was a productive year for education at Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club, with the education team delivering training, assessment and skills maintenance across a range of lifesaving, emergency care, powercraft and patrol leadership awards.

The season also presented some challenges, including limited access to the Club's training room for a significant part of the year. This required flexibility with course planning, scheduling and alternative venue arrangements, particularly during peak training periods.

The Club continued to deliver strong education outcomes for members, including:

- ▶ 113 members completing Skills Maintenance.
- ▶ 8 Surf Rescue Certificates.
- ▶ 15 Bronze Medallions, along with 3 returning Bronze members.
- ▶ 11 First Aid Certificates.
- ▶ 19 Advanced Resuscitation Techniques awards, including 9 completed externally.
- ▶ 9 IRB Crew awards.
- ▶ 4 IRB Driver awards.
- ▶ 10 Silver Medallion Patrol Captain awards, including 3 completed through Recognition of Prior Learning.

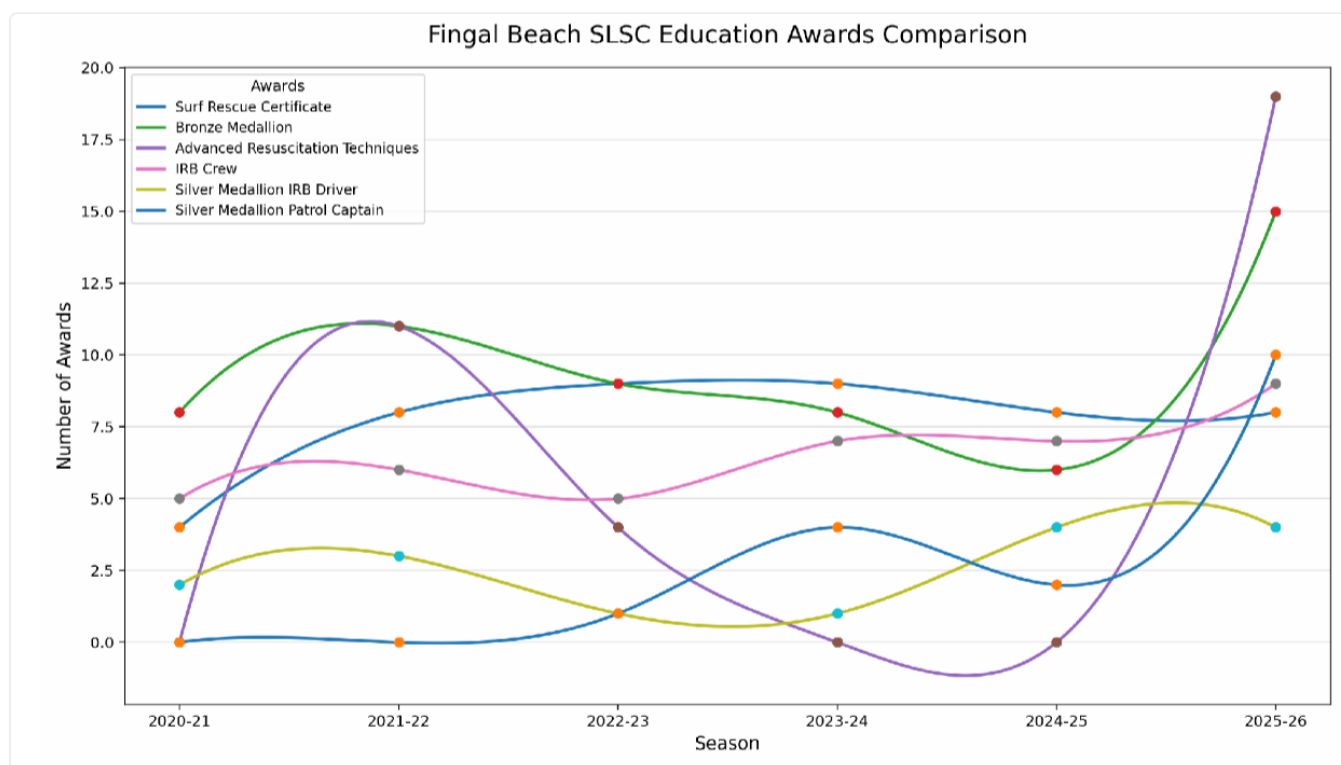
The increase in Bronze Medallion and Silver Medallion Patrol Captain awards was a strong result for the Club. These outcomes support the development of active lifesavers and provide additional depth across patrol leadership roles. The strong result in Advanced Resuscitation Techniques also helped build emergency care capability across the Club.

Surf lifesaving education continues to evolve, with changes to award requirements, delivery methods and assessment processes over recent seasons. This season also included the Lifesaving CPR component as part of Skills Maintenance, which was completed by members undertaking their proficiency. Pleasingly, the Skills Maintenance requirements released for the coming season indicate no major changes, which should assist with planning and delivery next season.

A special thank you is extended to Fingal Bay Sports Club and Fingal Bay Tennis Club for making their facilities available while access to the Club's training room was limited. Their support helped the Club maintain continuity of training and was greatly appreciated.

The success of the education program this season was made possible by the contribution of the Club's education team. Thank you to Adrian, Andrew, Brett, Charmaine, David, Mike, Noah, Nyna, Steve, and everyone else who assisted throughout the season. Their work across training delivery, assessment, administration, member support and course coordination was instrumental in achieving this year's results.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank my wife, Sharna, for her continued support throughout the season, particularly with the many hours committed to education and training. Overall, the 2025/26 season was a positive year for education at Fingal Beach SLSC. The Club delivered important training outcomes, supported member development and continued to build capability across lifesaving, emergency care, powercraft and patrol leadership. With no major Skills Maintenance changes expected for the coming season, the focus now turns to consolidating delivery, building trainer capability and encouraging further member participation.



Education awards across recent seasons.

EDUCATION & PROFICIENCY AWARDS

TRAINER OF THE YEAR

Andrew Dart

ASSESSOR OF THE YEAR

James Worrall

FACILITATOR OF THE YEAR

Brett Woods

SURF RESCUE CERTIFICATE

Dylan Edwards
Gavin Edwards
Andrew Farrell

Angelina Labra Knox
Sean Pietraszek
Mia Taylor

Oscar Whitten
George Withell

BRONZE MEDALLION

Dylan Bryant
Addison Clark
Bernardo Diana
Jonty Dunkley
Justin Enright

Wayne Forbes
Phil Hetherington
Orlando Labra Knox
Daniel Mickelson
Cole Opalenko

Xavier Richards
Finlay Taylor
April Withell
Glenn Withell
Kian Worrall

ADVANCED RESUSCITATION TECHNIQUES

Nicholas Angelos
Andrew Dart
Caroline Deane
Jonty Dunkley
Jorja Dunkley
Charmaine Foster

Nyna Foster
Adrian Futterleib
Mikayla Futterleib
Alison Sargeant
Mark Watson
Marguerite White

Mark Williams
David Wiseman
Bethany Wormald
Matthew Wormald
Kian Worrall
Noah Worrall

IRB CREW CERTIFICATE

Dylan Bryant
Andrew Dart
Declan Mccaffrey

Xavier Richards
Matthew Staff
Lochlan Stewart

April Withell
Glenn Withell
Kian Worrall

SILVER MEDALLION IRB DRIVER

Nicholas Angelos
Andrew Dart

Madelyn Tonks
Matthew Wormald

SILVER MEDALLION PATROL CAPTAIN

Andrew Dart
Caroline Deane
Charmaine Foster
Nyna Foster

Adrian Futterleib
Thomas Lescoffit
Rodney Limn
Griffin Ross

James Worrall
Noah Worrall

FIRST AID

Addison Clark
Amy Clark
Craig Clark
Bridie Cornally
Justin Enright

Orlando Labra Knox
Jesse Morris
Cole Opalenko
Andrew Reeves
Xavier Richards

Dimity Stewart
Nicola Street
Mark Watson
Maddox Whitehouse
Kian Worrall

SPECIALIST ROLES & APPOINTMENTS

Nipper Safety Assistant: Emma Hamilton, Joseph Nicol, Soren Stokbaek

Age Manager: Susie Anderson, Nicholas Angelos, James Bradley, Kelly Burton-Elphick, Mikayla Futterleib, Joseph Nicol, Mark Williams, James Worrall, Sharna Worrall

Emerging Leaders Program: Nyna Foster

Peer Support Officer: Adrian Futterleib

Probationary UAV Instructor: Shaun Cleary, Wayne Forbes, Steve Westcott

Probationary Training Officer: Andrew Dart, Nyna Foster, Kian Worrall

Training Officer: Bronze Medallion — Andrew Dart; IRB — Nyna Foster

Director of Surf Sports Report



Andrew Dart

REAL MOMENTUM

Increasing junior participation and a strong IRB Racing season — there is plenty to look forward to.

The 2025/26 season has been an important year of growth and renewed momentum for Surf Sports at Fingal. After several seasons without a dedicated Director of Surf Sports, a major focus this year was rebuilding participation, strengthening pathways, and re-engaging members across Surf Sports activities.

The Club was represented across IRB Racing, surf boats, junior carnivals, and other Branch and State surf sports activities. It was particularly encouraging to see participation steadily improve throughout the year, especially amongst our junior members and newer competitors.



Fingal's IRB racing crew in action.

One of the most pleasing outcomes this season was the growth in junior carnival participation. Earlier in the season the Club averaged only a small number of competitors attending carnivals, however by the end of the season this had grown to approximately 15 junior competitors regularly attending events. This was fantastic to see and reflects the enthusiasm of our younger members, the support of parents and families, and the efforts of those volunteers helping continue to build a positive surf sports culture within the Club.

The Club successfully hosted three major surf sports events throughout the season:

- ▶ HSLs Newcastle Permanent Series Round 3 Water Carnival;
- ▶ SLSCC Hunter Stevens Boat Series Round 6 Carnival, which also incorporated the Hunter Branch Boat Carnival; and
- ▶ Round 2 of the Sharkskin NSW IRB Premiership Series.

Events like these simply do not happen without the huge amount of work put in by volunteers across setup, water safety, officiating, administration, catering, and pack up. Hosting these events showcased the strength and commitment of Fingal members both on and off the beach, and everyone involved should be proud of what was achieved throughout the season.

The IRB Racing section continued to be a major strength for the Club this year. Fingal members competed across the Sharkskin NSW IRB Premiership Series, the NSW IRB State Championships at Cape Hawke, and the Australian IRB Championships at South West Rocks. Across the season the team represented the Club with commitment, determination, and a strong competitive spirit in a variety of surf conditions and competitive environments.

A major highlight for the season was successfully hosting Round 2 of the Sharkskin NSW IRB Premiership Series at Fingal Beach. The event was extremely well received by competitors, officials, and Surf Life Saving New South Wales and showcased the Club's ability to deliver high-quality state-level events. This achievement was reinforced by Fingal hosting the SLSNSW IRB State Championships in 2026, with the Club selected to host again in 2027 — significant recognition of the work being done within the Club and the strength of our volunteer base.

It was also great to see a number of new IRB competitors and rookies develop throughout the season. Their enthusiasm, willingness to learn, and commitment to training helped build depth within the team and contributed to a strong and supportive culture moving forward.

The Club also achieved representation at a state level away from competition. Adrian Futterleib was appointed as an NSW Assistant IRB Coach, reflecting both his commitment to athlete development and the growing reputation of Fingal's IRB programme within the wider surf sports community. Fingal members also contributed throughout the season within officiating and competitor liaison roles.

In surf boats, the Club's Masters crew achieved an excellent result at the Hunter Branch Championships, bringing home a silver medal for the Club. While we did not have members competing in board and ski events this season, it remains an area we would like to continue developing into the future.

This season also saw the return of regular Sunday morning pointscore activities and internal competition opportunities. Participation steadily increased throughout the season and helped strengthen engagement within surf sports activities at the Club. Club Championships were conducted in difficult surf conditions, with those members who competed doing so with determination, resilience, and strong club spirit despite the challenging conditions.

None of the season's achievements would have been possible without the support of our volunteers, officials, coaches, parents, patrol members, water safety personnel, age managers, and supporters who continue to contribute significant time behind the scenes. I would particularly like to acknowledge all members who assisted in running our carnivals and events throughout the year, our officials who enable competitors to attend carnivals, and those members who commenced coaching and officiating courses throughout the season to help continue building coaching and officiating capability within the Club.

While there is still work ahead, this season has created real momentum for Surf Sports at Fingal. Increasing junior participation, continued development within IRB Racing, members commencing coaching and officiating pathways, and having hosted the SLSNSW IRB State Championships in 2026, with the 2027 event still to come, there is plenty to look forward to heading into next season.

SURF SPORTS AWARDS

TEAM OF THE YEAR
IRB Rookie Mass ZAP

COACH OF THE YEAR
Adrian Futterleib

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR
Charmaine Foster

SURF BOAT TEAM OF THE YEAR
Matt Staff, Eric Gatehouse, Peter Larkin,
Scuba Steve Howell and Eddy Bergsma
OAM

IRB PERSON OF THE YEAR
Madelyn Tonks

U17 CLUB CHAMPION
Male — Kian Worrall

U19 CLUB CHAMPION
Female — Nyna Foster

OPEN CLUB CHAMPION
Female — Logan Stewart
Male — Kian Worrall & Tom Lescoffit

MASTERS CLUB CHAMPION
Female — Michelle O'Shea
Male — Tom Lescoffit

GRAND MASTERS CLUB CHAMPION
Female — Dimity Stewart

TECHNICAL OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION

Andrew Dart

Adrian Futterleib

Michelle Ross



Officials at a Surf Sports carnival.



Surf boats lined up for the carnival at Fingal Beach.

RECOGNISING SERVICE

Service & Long Service Awards

The Club proudly recognises members reaching national patrol service and long service milestones this season — years of turning up, season after season, to keep Fingal Beach safe.

NATIONAL PATROL & LONG SERVICE

NATIONAL PATROL SERVICE AWARD — 5 YEARS

Nyna Foster
Angela Freeman

Jessica Gregory
Grace Hewitt

Alan McTernan
Alison Sargeant

NATIONAL PATROL SERVICE AWARD — 10 YEARS

Carlo Labra
Rodney Limn

Jason Ross
Marguerite White

NATIONAL PATROL SERVICE AWARD — 20 YEARS

James Worrall

NATIONAL LONG SERVICE AWARD — 25 YEARS

Jo Cooper

SERVICE CERTIFICATES

Training Service Certificate: 5 Years — David Wiseman;
10 Years — David Wiseman

Assessing Service Certificate — 10 Years: James
Worrall

Facilitating Service Certificate — 10 Years: Brett Woods

Support Operations Certificate: 10 Years — Stephen
Leahy, James Worrall; 15 Years — Glen Dunkley



Jo Cooper, recognised this season for 25 years of National Long Service.

OUR CLUB

Membership

556 members in 2025/26 (295 male, 261 female) — up from 545 the previous season and 458 in 2022, a 21% rise over four seasons. Overall retention was 102%.

Members by category

215 Junior Activity (5–13)	147 Associate	107 Active (18+)	29 Cadet (13–15)
22 Active (15–18)	15 Probationary	10 Life Members	4 Reserve Active
3 Long Service	2 Nipper Parent	1 Award	1 General



A growing Fingal Beach SLSC.

WITH THANKS

Our Local Sponsors

Fingal Beach SLSC is proudly supported by these local businesses and community organisations. We urge all members to support the businesses that support our Club.



WITH THANKS

Our State & National Partners

Surf Life Saving across New South Wales and Australia is also proudly supported by these State and National partners.

State partners



National partners



Government & Foundation Support

Fingal Beach SLSC also gratefully acknowledges the governments and organisations whose support underpins surf lifesaving across New South Wales and Australia.

NSW Government — Emergency Services. For ongoing funding of statewide lifesaving operations and programs that benefit our members, our Club and the wider community.

NSW Government — Office of Sport. For ongoing support to increase participation, safety and facility usage in surf lifesaving, including the Surf Club Facilities Grant Program.

NSW Community Building Partnership. For funding toward the Club's security and access upgrade — with thanks to the Premier, the Hon. Chris Minns MP, and our Member for Port Stephens, the Hon. Kate Washington MP.

Federal Government — Beach Safety Equipment Funding. Providing \$10,000 to every Surf Life Saving Club for essential rescue equipment, first aid supplies and medical resources.

Federal Government — Vocational Education & Training (VET). Strengthening training capability so our members can gain the skills and qualifications to perform their lifesaving roles safely and confidently.

Surf Life Saving Foundation. For coordinating fundraising on behalf of clubs and branches, allowing our members to spend less time fundraising and more time delivering lifesaving services.

General public & donors. Whose generosity helps fund the rescue equipment, training and facilities that keep Fingal Beach safe.



FINGAL BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

One Club, One Future