



FINGAL BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

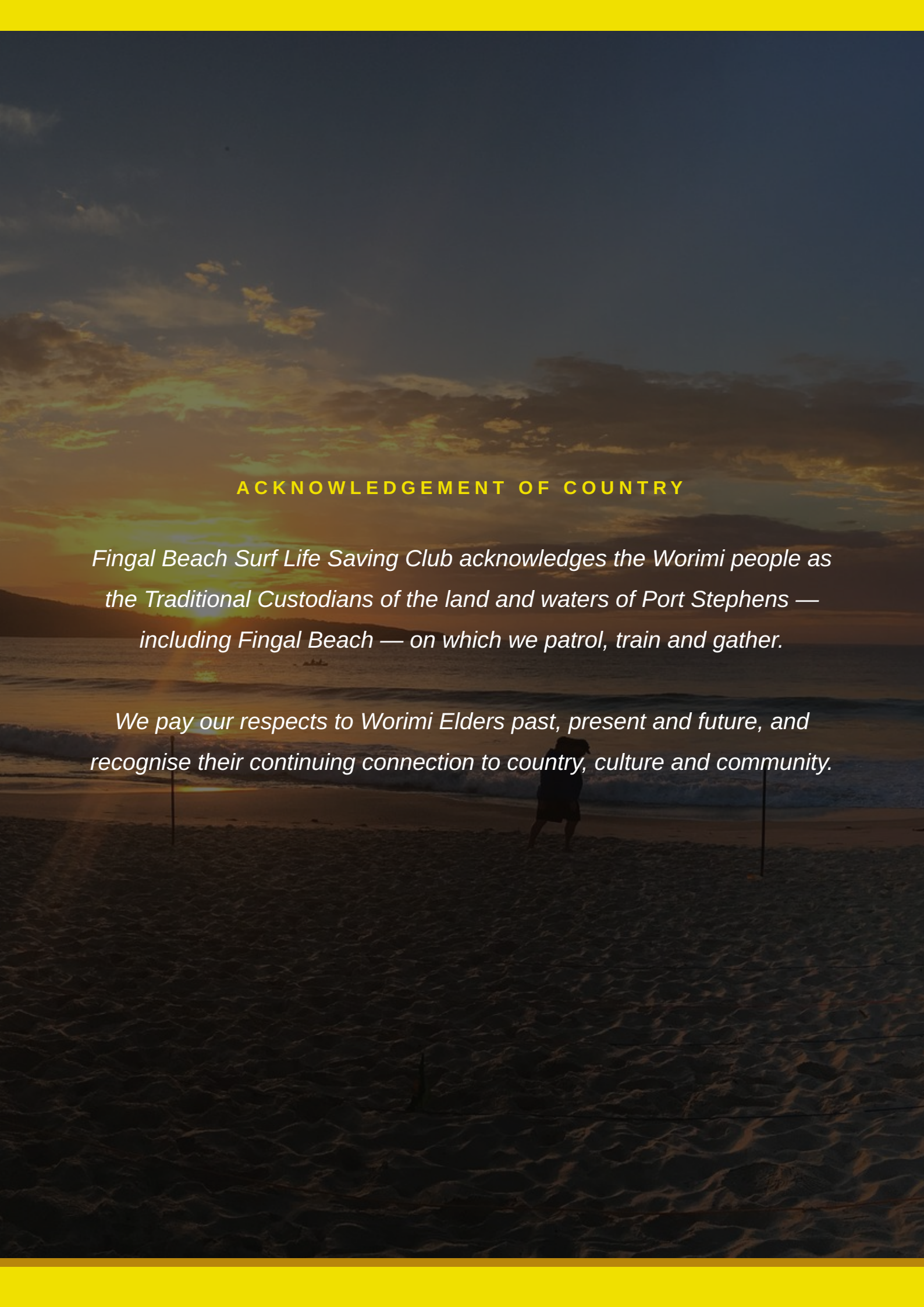
Strategic Plan

2026 – 2030

“One Club, One Future”

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD · 16 JUNE 2026



A full-page background image showing a sunset over a beach. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon. In the foreground, a person is silhouetted against the beach, looking out towards the ocean. The beach is dark and textured with sand.

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.

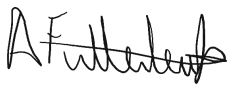
We pay our respects to Worimi Elders past, present and future, and recognise their continuing connection to country, culture and community.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board, I am proud to present Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club's Strategic Plan for 2026–2030. With thanks to all who have served and guided our club to this point, this plan looks to the future — setting a clear and shared direction to renew our focus, strengthen our foundations and chart a confident course for the years ahead.

It builds on a genuinely strong year: a growing membership, a financial position restored to surplus, and a lifesaving service delivered by more than 140 dedicated patrolling members. This plan has been developed by your Board as a starting point. In the years ahead we are committed to bringing our members into the conversation through full consultation and engagement, so that “One Club, One Future” is shaped by all of us. Member feedback will help shape the companion Action Plan and our annual priorities.

I thank everyone who gives their time to keep Fingal Beach safe, and I look forward to delivering this plan together.



Adrian Futterleib
President, Fingal Beach SLSC



WHO WE ARE

A legacy of community, safety and excellence

Established on 23 August 1964, Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club was founded on a shared community vision — to protect lives and promote surf safety as Fingal Bay grew as a residential and tourism destination. More than sixty years on, that purpose is unchanged.

Today the Club is one of 13 within Hunter Surf Life Saving, affiliated through to Surf Life Saving NSW and Surf Life Saving Australia. Fingal Beach is patrolled by volunteer lifesavers and professional lifeguards throughout the season, with our Emergency Call Out Team (ECOT) providing emergency response capability year-round.



From Nippers through to experienced patrol members, competitors, trainers and leaders, the Club supports people at every stage of their surf lifesaving journey — underpinned by a modern clubhouse that serves as both an operational base and a community hub.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

By the numbers — 2025–26

A growing, well-supported club with a strong safety record and a restored financial footing.

556

Members

up from 458 in 2022 · net membership growth

140

Active patrolling members

delivering the service all season

5,612

Patrol hours delivered

~6,190 incl. water-safety hours

9,000

Preventative actions

stopping trouble before it starts

109,562

Beach visits kept safe

across the 2025–26 season

+\$141k

Operating surplus (2024–25)

up from a \$102k deficit in 2022–23

215

Nippers

the next generation of lifesavers

16

Rescues & 51 first aids

a well-patrolled beach, strong safety record

OUR OPERATING CONTEXT

Like all volunteer surf lifesaving clubs, Fingal Beach SLSC operates in a changing environment. Volunteer time is under growing pressure and patrol effort is carried by a committed core; cost-of-living pressures affect members and fundraising alike; the Club relies significantly on its service contributions and grant income; and our facilities require ongoing investment to remain fit for purpose on a Crown-land site exposed to a changing coastline. This plan is framed with these realities in mind — building resilience, broadening participation, and planning ahead.

OUR VISION

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



OUR VALUES

The principles that guide us

Integrity

Honesty, transparency and accountability in all we do.

Safety

A safe aquatic environment and the wellbeing of every member.

Education

Excellence through continuous learning and development.

Respect

Fairness, empathy and professionalism for all.

Unity

One club, shared purpose, collective responsibility.

Family

A welcoming, supportive home across all generations.

Diversity

Embracing and valuing diversity in all its forms.

Environmental Stewardship

Protecting the coast and waters we serve.

CHILD SAFETY & MEMBER WELLBEING

Fingal Beach SLSC is committed to being a Child Safe organisation, upholding the National Child Safe Standards across every activity involving children and young people — and to the wellbeing, physical and mental, of all our members, on and off the sand.



Delivering “One Club, One Future”

Seven priorities will guide our actions, investment and development to 2030 — deliberately aligned with the Surf Life Saving Australia Strategic Plan 2030 and the Surf Life Saving NSW plan, *Strengthen and Consolidate 2025–2030*.

1

Lifesaving Service Excellence

Keeping our patrols strong, our rescue capability ready and our beach safe — all season and year-round through the ECOT.

2

Making It Easier to Be a Lifesaver

Removing barriers to joining and training, with clear pathways from entry through to leadership.

3

There’s a Place for Everyone

An inclusive, welcoming club for people of all backgrounds, abilities and ages.

4

Competition & Performance

Building talent pathways, quality coaching and team culture across all disciplines.

5

Community Impact & Visibility

Deepening our role through partnerships, outreach and beach-safety education.

6

Facilities & Capability

Fit-for-purpose, accessible and sustainable facilities — planned and funded for the future.

7

Governance, Leadership & Sustainability

Strong governance, leadership succession and lasting financial resilience.

OUR FIRST-YEAR FOCUS

- ▶ Strengthen patrol recruitment and retention to grow our active patrolling base.
- ▶ Build the training pipeline — Bronze, SRC, IRB and patrol-leadership awards.
- ▶ Develop a facilities and asset management plan.
- ▶ Grow community education and beach-safety visibility.
- ▶ Strengthen leadership succession across key roles.
- ▶ Set baselines and a member survey to track our progress.

Each priority is backed by a companion Action Plan with measurable indicators, a responsible Director and milestones — reviewed quarterly by the Board, reported each year at the AGM, with a formal mid-plan review and refresh in 2028.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE BY 2030

- ▶ 100% patrol coverage maintained and an active patrolling base grown beyond 155.
- ▶ A welcoming home for more than 600 members across every stage of the journey.
- ▶ Strong youth progression — more Nippers continuing through to SRC and patrol.
- ▶ A growing base of qualified trainers and assessors to sustain the pipeline.
- ▶ Inclusive participation, with more members taking part across all activities.
- ▶ Fit-for-purpose, accessible facilities delivered against an adopted works plan.
- ▶ Financially resilient, with a healthy operating reserve and diversified income.
- ▶ At least five community education and beach-safety activities each year.
- ▶ Above all, true to our purpose — working towards zero preventable deaths at Fingal Beach.



Together, these priorities position Fingal Beach SLSC to build a strong, inclusive and future-focused club — protecting lives, supporting our members and serving our community.

OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

With thanks to the members, volunteers and partners who make our work possible — and to our 2025–26 sponsors:

Tailor Allied Health · Zac Thompson Electrical · Impact Marine · Sharkskin · Camplify · Totally Workwear Port Stephens · Achilles Inflatable Boats / Sea Legends · Cellar Cafe · Fair Dinkum Builds Port Stephens · Haddad Baker · Nelson Plaza Clinic · Raine & Horne Port Stephens · Rotary Club of Nelson Bay · Skyhook Helicopters · Your Local Property Services



"One Club, One Future"