

FSC LIFESAVING

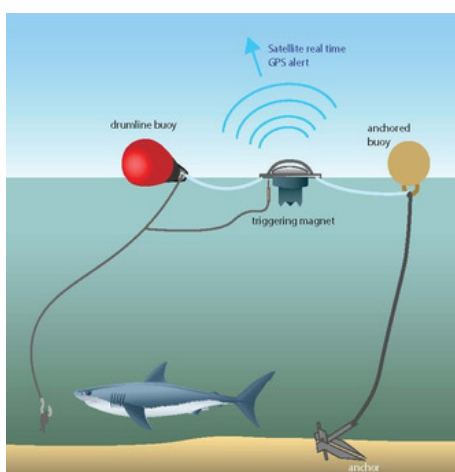
MONTHLY UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2018



Have your say ...

The Department of Primary Industries is proposing a 2-month trial of SMART Drumlines in Tathra and Merimbula-Pambula starting in January 2019 as part of the NSW Government's Shark Management Strategy.

SMART drumlines differ greatly from traditional drumlines as they allow sharks to be caught, tagged, relocated 1km offshore and released alive. It's a topic that generates strong opinions on both sides and expect that our patrollers might face some questions from beach visitors over the summer.



WHAT'S INSIDE

PROFILE OF THE MONTH

ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS FSC BRANCH ...

I'd encourage everyone to take a look at the following link to learn more about the technology and the proposal:

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/sharks/management>

You can also have your say by visiting:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z72T9KT>

PROFILE OF THE MONTH

Pambula Call Out Team

Pambula SLSC Call Out Team responded on 29 November to reports of a swimmer in distress approximately 400m off shore. Initial reports suggested the location was at the south end of Merimbula beach in front of the surf club.

Don Hay took the lead as Duty Officer and headed to the club. While on the way a location update changed the response to 400m off Short Point which was a 20 minute RWC trip away.

Don was first to arrive and got the RWC ready for launch. The Duty Officer role was passed on to Andrew Holt who was only minutes away and Don hit the water. In the meantime, 2 other Call Out Team members responded directly to Short Point with a tube and surf ski which happened to be on their car.

NSW Police, NSW Ambulance, Lifesaver 23 and even a public drone operator were involved in the response. When Pambula's Dave Prowse reached the swimmer he found he was on an extended ocean swim and didn't require assistance and the assets were stood down.

However, it didn't end there for the team as those who had arrived at the clubhouse provided an assist for a young visitor to the beach who had broken his shoulder. Busy day at Pambula!

The team responded well to the logistical challenges of the change in location. Surfcom operators commended the team on their quick and professional response and my thanks go to all involved.

The Pambula Call Out Team has debriefed on the response and we'll make sure we get any good ideas for improvements out to all Call Out Teams.

CALL OUTS FOR NOVEMBER

A switch to the northern clubs for this month

Other than yesterday, the southern clubs had a rest from call outs this month with Batemans Bay and Broulee picking up the ball.

5th November saw a search mounted at Surf Beach in Batemans Bay after wet clothing, wallet and keys were reported on the beach for several hours. Lifesaver 23 was in the area and quickly on scene while the Batemans Bay call out mobilised to join the search.

Anthony Bellette took the lead as Duty Officer and had a local join him on the beach about 30 minutes into the search. He identified the POI as his grandson who had fortunately made it home several hours earlier (yes, without the clothing) and was currently sleeping off a big night. Good outcome all around and thanks to the Batemans Bay team for the initial call in and getting organised quickly.

Anthony was in the mix again on 22nd November taking the lead as Duty Officer for reports of a surfer in distress approximately 750m off Tomakin.

Broulee Call Out Team was tasked but was stood down fairly quickly as the surfer managed to make his own way to shore.

The visiting surfer was grateful for the response and was a little shaken by the experience. Hampered by a shoulder injury he got caught in the outgoing tide and was picked up by the strong north westerly winds blowing that day.

A good example of how quickly things can get out of hand on days with strong winds. Thanks to Anthony for the quick response and for debriefing with the surfer afterwards.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS FSC BRANCH ...

FSC first to hit 100% app usage

Thanks to all clubs for supporting the usage of the Patrol Operations App. Last Saturday we were the first Branch in the State to hit 100% of clubs on patrol using the app.

Thanks also to Batemans Bay, Moruya, Bermagui and Tathra who've used the app for every patrol so far this season. The other clubs aren't far behind and we appreciate the willingness to give it a try. We know there will be some glitches along the way but please let me know as they come up and we'll work on getting them sorted.

UAV Update

Our first crop of UAV pilots are taking their training on 8/9 December in Tathra. The first group to go through is focusing on members of Tathra and Pambula as they're rolling out UAVs on patrols starting on 22 December.

There will be future courses that will be open to everyone else across the Branch who's interested so we'll keep you posted.

FSC features at ALBERT, Garie

Four FSC patrollers made the trek to Garie SLSC last weekend for the latest ALBERT program. Well done to Andrew Curven and Jai Curven from Bermagui as well as Mel Meaker and Anthony Nagle from Tathra. Not only did they learn new skills but they helped out the coaching team as well.

Big congrats to Jai Curven who came away from the weekend with his UAV Pilot certification!



Call Out Incident Reports

We'll be implementing a new process moving forward for verifying the details of Incident Reports for out of hours call outs where our teams hit the water. Incident Reports for these calls are completed by the Surfcom operators in the State Operations Centre. Being so far away they rely on radio traffic and phone conversations with Duty Officers to complete the reports and this can lead to obvious challenges with the small details. It's our responsibility to make sure the official Incident Report is accurate so I'll be emailing reports to Club Captains, Presidents and Call Out Team leads right after the incident.

We've had situations in our Branch where we've been called on to verify responses for investigations, sometimes 12 months or more after the incident. It's important that we make sure everyone's on the same page while the incident and the response are still fresh in people's minds. Any Incident Reports that need verifying will come with a maximum 7 day turnaround so I appreciate you all getting them squared away quickly.

RWC Proficiency

For those who haven't already completed their RWC Proficiency we have 3 options. If you haven't booked your date already please email me at surflifesavingfarsouthcoast@gmail.com asap:

Broulee: Saturday, 1st December at 8:30 am
Bermagui: Sunday, 9th December at 2:00 pm
Pambula: Saturday, 15th December at 9:00 am

Upcoming Courses

Please contact Sue Hunt at fsceducation@gmail.com for more details.

Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue

8 & 9 December 2018 at Bermagui SLSC

Need numbers by Monday for course to go ahead

IRB Crew course – 15-18 year olds only

02 February 2019 at Moruya SLSC