



BERMAGUI SLSC COMMUNITY NEWS

Visiting Adventurers have a lucky escape

Bermagui Blue Pool visit doesn't go to plan

Four adventuring young visitors to Bermagui got more attention than they planned for earlier this week when a trek exploring around the Blue Pool found them beaten by the tide with no way to return.

Caught on rocks at the bottom of the cliff face, Andrew Curven and Vikki Marshall tried to reach the kids in the IRB but were turned back by unsafe conditions close to the rocks. The Lifesaver23 Rescue Helicopter was quickly on the scene and Euan McKenzie scrambled down the cliff to the kids to make sure they stayed safe while a plan was made to winch them out.

Within an hour all four had been winched to safety and reunited with their understandably anxious parents.

There were several other members of the team involved on the day including Steve O'Sullivan and Ian Bailey who remained at the cliff top to assist with communications, and Robert Johnson who held the fort at the clubhouse making sure additional equipment was ready to be launched as needed.

Off duty patrollers Graham Day and Eric Hills also jumped in to lend a hand and Ben Bate from Narooma quickly made his way down to Bermagui to take on the Duty Officer role. ALS Lifeguards, Will Vaughan-Smith and Liam Russell, were quick to close Horseshoe Bay and go to assist and their help was much appreciated with initial assessment of the scene and assisting police with ensuring a safe landing zone for the helicopter.

Incidents like these can be challenging at the best of times but particularly so when kids are involved. We're proud of how everyone from Bermagui SLSC, ALS, Lifesaver23 and NSW Police worked together professionally and smoothly to ensure the best possible outcome.

It's not often you see a town of less than 2,000 people with what seems like 5,000 people on the headland. Maybe we'll have to tell visitors that it was just your regular old Tuesday in Bermagui!

Thanks to Chris Richard-Preston for the bottom two pictures



Think Line

Stop, Look and Plan before swimming at the beach

SLSA recently unveiled a new public safety campaign called "The Think Line," encouraging beachgoers to draw a line in the sand to STOP, LOOK and PLAN before swimming at the beach.

"Our message to beachgoers is please, swim between the red and yellow flags, it is the area supervised by surf lifesavers and lifeguards who can assist you should something go wrong," said Shane Daw, National Coastal Risk & Safety Manager SLSA.

"But if you choose to swim out of hours or on unpatrolled beaches use the Think Line to "Stop, Look and have a Plan."

With three in four Australians unable to spot a rip, Daw says swimmers need to exercise caution. "Rip related drownings and rescues are the number one hazard at the Australian coast. On average, at least 19 people drown per year as a result of rip currents, which is a tragedy as rip-related drownings are largely preventable," he said.

Lets all encourage our friends and family to spread the word.



THE SUNKEN ANCHOR QUIZ

1. What was Vanuatu known as before it became independent in 1980?
2. Which is the only chess piece that can jump over other pieces
3. Who was the first explorer to reach the South Pole?
4. Which city is the capital of Canada?
5. What colour light is on a boat's starboard side?
6. Who was Australia's longest-serving Prime Minister?
7. Who was the Beatles drummer before Ringo Starr joined the group in 1962?
8. Which city was abandoned as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986?
9. Where were the first modern Olympic Games held?
10. What was the name of the dog that orbited the earth in Sputnik II in 1957?
11. How many vowels are on the top row of letters on a keyboard?
12. Who designed the Sydney Opera House?

Same Wave is back

February and March

Bermagui SLSC's Same Wave program is starting up in a couple of weeks. This year we'll be running every Saturday morning in February and March from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.

Same Wave is a program for people with additional needs which may include physical or intellectual disabilities and is open to participants of all ages and abilities. Some may never have been in the ocean before while others will be seasoned swimmers. It's our way of making sure that everyone gets to learn about the beach and the surf.

You don't need your Bronze Medallion to volunteer, just a big smile and a willingness to have some fun!

Rachel Wallbank is leading the program this year and has some great new ideas and equipment. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating or volunteering just email us at bermisurfclub@gmail.com.



AROUND THE CLUB

Congratulations Sue Hunt SLSNSW is now officially an Emergency services organisation

Bermagui Patrol Captain, Sue Hunt, also has a second life as one of our State's busiest official. We have no idea where Sue finds the time but she officiated at over 40 surfboat and IRB events throughout the state last season.

This incredible commitment has been recognised with Sue being asked to provide the Officials Oath at this weekend's Best of the Best Interbranch Surfboat Carnival at Queenscliff in Sydney.

Congratulations Sue, it's a great honour and well deserved.

Welcome to the team

Over the past couple of months we've welcomed a number of new Bronze and SRC members to the team. Congratulations to:

Kathryn Brown
Emma Bunney
Yannis Gantner
Jamie Gunnell
Jonathan Harkins-McMahon
Tasman McKenzie
Bohdi Moffat-Turner
Bill Porter
Heidi Osgood
Jake Puglisi
Dan Scollay
Ellie Theodorakis
Cindy Turner
Claire Wheaton

5 more are also close to finishing their training.

While not new to Surf Life Saving, we're also fortunate to welcome another new member to the team. Stuart Massey has over 30 years experience in SLS in a range of volunteer roles from Patrol Captain to Branch Duty Officer to RWC, IRB and Bronze facilitator among a host of other skills. Welcome Stu, it's great to have you on the team.

In December 2018 legislation took effect officially recognising Surf Life Saving NSW as an emergency services organisation within the NSW State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 (the act).

In a letter to members SLSNSW President David Murray says "This recognition is a result of the NSW Government acknowledging the very significant and vital role our lifesavers and lifeguards play as the lead organisation for coastal emergency response and rescue.

There is no other organisation that has the capability, skill and training to protect the public along the NSW coastline, a role that our lifesavers have been providing for more than 110 years. It is entirely appropriate that our members and the organisation be recognised for what we do and we have been working towards gaining this recognition for many years.

This aligns with many other states which already recognise Surf Life Saving as an Emergency Service organisation.

As the majority of drownings occur away from patrolled locations or outside patrol hours, SLSNSW has developed a strong Support Operations capability to respond to these incidents. This is an area that we will continue to expand and resource to ensure additional support is available both to our patrolling members, the community and other emergency services. The recognition as an emergency service provides many advantages and opportunities for us now, and importantly into our future. It enhances our relevance as a key lifesaving organisation moving into the future and ensures our sustainability with greater support from government and the public."

Congrats Eric Hills

Congratulations to Eric Hills who has completed the Silver Medallion Beach Management course. Eric's now a Patrol Captain in training and will be taking the reins of a patrol or two during the season. Great work Eric!

You'll also see Eric around our beaches during the week over the summer as he, Liam Russell and William Vaughan-Smith are all working with Australian Lifeguard Service to keep our beach visitors safe during the week as well!

Patrol Uniform Survey

SLSA is conducting a review on the current design and practicality of our patrol uniforms. Our feedback will help shape future designs and modifications of the patrol uniform so it's definitely worth having your say. The survey only takes a few minutes and is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/patroluniform>

THE SUNKEN ANCHOR

To submit information and/or photos for an upcoming newsletter email Cheryl at bermisurfclub@gmail.com

1. New Hebrides, 2. Knight
3. Roald Amundsen, 4. Ottawa, 5. Green,
6. Sir Robert Menzies, 7. Pete Best
8. Pripyat, 9. Athens, Greece, 10. Lalka,
11. Four (e, i, o, u) 12. Joern Utzon.