

President's Summer Wrap Up

With the flags packed away for another year, the quieter months give us a chance to look back on a season we can all be proud of, and to look ahead to what is coming next.

The 2025/26 season was one of strong patrols, record training and genuine community connection. Our patrol season ran from 22 November through to the packing up of the flags on 19 April, and across those months our members gave an extraordinary amount of time to keeping our beach safe.

A heartfelt thank you to our Co-Club Captains Sunday Doddrell and Tempest Clarke, Vice Club Captain Jack Kennedy, and Director of Lifesaving Sarah Seddon, along with Amber and Alex who stepped into Patrol Captain roles for the first time and led with real confidence.

Behind them stood the whole club: our Actives Committee, trainers, water safety crews, Nipper leaders, the bar and kitchen teams, the grants and maintenance volunteers, and the Board. From the busy summer crowds to the cold April weekends with 105 kilometre winds, our people simply showed up.

It was a big year off the beach too. We installed solar and battery storage so the clubhouse can now run independently of the grid 365 days a year, refurbished the flat to accommodate teachers and trainers, refreshed our strategic plan through to 2030, and welcomed a new ute, IRB, Nipper board and trailer. Our grants and sponsorships team secured more than \$167,000 across the year.

To everyone who gave their time, energy and good humour this season, thank you. We cannot wait to do it all again.

Natalie Wischer OAM
President

Bronze and SRC 2026/27



Bronze Camps (ages 15 and above)

- December Camp: commencing Monday 14 December 2026
- January Camp: commencing Monday 4 January 2027

More info:

<https://waratahbeach.com.au/lifesaving/bronze-camp/>

SRC Camp (ages 13 to 15)

Commencing Saturday 27 December 2026.

More info:

<https://waratahbeach.com.au/lifesaving/src-camp/>

Nippers 2026/27



It might be winter, but next season is already taking shape and we want you to be part of it.

Here are the dates to lock in now.

Nippers 2026/27

- Session 1: Sunday 27 December 2026
- Session 2: Monday 28 December 2026
- Session 3: Wednesday 30 December 2026
- Session 4: Saturday 2 January 2027
- Session 5: Monday 4 January 2027
- Session 6: Wednesday 6 January 2027
- Nippers Club Carnival: Friday 8 January 2027

All sessions run 9:30am to 11:30am, with sign-in from 9:15am.

More info:

<https://waratahbeach.com.au/lifesaving/nippers/>

Grants Team - Club Facilities Getting a Major Upgrade!

We're thrilled to share that some exciting improvements have been happening behind the scenes at Waratah Beach SLSC!

Our hardworking grants team has been busy, and the results are already making a real difference to our club. The clubhouse flat refurbishment is now complete, and our brand-new solar panel and battery backup system is live — meaning we're saving energy and keeping the lights on for our club community long into the future.

The good news doesn't stop there! Thanks to a fantastic grant from Bendigo Bank, we're also upgrading our back turf area with a shade sail and new equipment. A pressure washer is already installed and ready to go — a small but mighty addition that will make a big difference to our volunteers and members day to day.

None of this happens without the dedication of our incredible grants team, who work tirelessly to secure funding and bring these projects to life. If you'd love to get involved and help strengthen our club for future generations, we'd love to hear from you! Reach out to the grants team at grants@waratahbeach.com.au — every helping hand makes a difference.



THANKS TO OUR
SEASON PARTNERS



Events & Activities

Presentation Night Awards

What a night! Congratulations to every member recognised at this year's Presentation Night — every award is a reflection of the incredible dedication, effort, and community spirit that makes Waratah Beach SLSC such a special place.

Major Awards

Lance Findlay Patroller of the Year

Polly Barnes

Recruit of the Year

Sophie Milton

Trainer of the Year

Tempest Clarke

Club Captain's Award

Amber Dulhunty

Patrol of the Year: Patrol 1 - The Pirates, led by Alex, Polly, Mitch.

Patrol Captains' Awards

The Pirates - Mitchell Clark

Neisha's Knights — Angus Habersberger

The Crusaders — Lewis

Ginger Ninjas — Imogen Clarke

The Vikings — Eva

Encouragement Awards

Molly Jenney, Kieran Meinshausen, Colin McHenry, Lachlan

Cook and Tayla Goode.

Patrol Milestones

100% Patrol Attendance: Alex Lazzarotto, Tempest Clarke,

Sunday Doddrell

100+ Patrol Hours:

Polly Barnes, Sophie Milton, Sunday Doddrell, Tempest

Clarke, Alex Lazzarotto, Amber Dulhunty, Cam Browne,

Lachlan Cook, Luca Chiefari

Club Championships

Division Results - Ironman/woman

U15 Women 1st Tayla Goode - Ironwomen Tayla Goode

U17 Men 1st Henry Lewis, 2nd Lachlan Cook, 3rd Fletcher Brown

- Ironman Fletcher Brown

U17 Women 1st Sophie Waters - Ironwomen Sophie Waters

U19 Men 1st Hamish McWilliam

U19 Women 1st Polly Barnes

Open Men

1st Jackson Pavanello, 2nd Ben Makowski, 3rd Oscar Pavanello

- Ironman Ben Makowski

Open Women

1st Issy Tremewen, 2nd Sunday Doddrell, 3rd Tikki Swain

- Ironwomen Sunday Doddrell

Dell Board Paddle: Oscar Pavanello

Cope Ski Paddle: Ben Makowski

Watermelon Eating Competition: Luca Chiefari



Current Crusier 2027

Mark your calendars. Our flagship community swim, the WIN Current Cruiser, returns on **New Year's Day, Friday 1 January 2027, at Sandy Point.**

This New Year's Day just gone, our eighth consecutive Current Cruiser welcomed 147 swimmers in the 1,500 metre event, 67 in the 500 metre event and 49 in the Family Float, together raising \$24,418 for the club. It was another sunny, current-carried morning on the crystal-clear water of Shallow Inlet, and we cannot wait to do it again.

Sponsorship and support opportunities for Current Cruiser 2027 will open soon. If your business or family would like to get behind the event, keep an eye on our channels for details, or register your interest at grants@waratahbeach.com.au.

Join the WARABAR Team

Our bar and social operations are central to club life and to keeping the club financially strong. The WARABAR team runs the bar, hot food and our social functions, and it is one of the easiest and most enjoyable ways to get involved. You do not need any previous experience, just a willingness to help, and current team members are always happy to show you the ropes.

Any amount of time is welcome, whether you can lend a hand occasionally or more regularly. Every shift makes a real difference.

Free RSA training for volunteers

To say thank you and to make volunteering easier, we are offering free Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training in late December. It is free for anyone who commits to volunteering two or more bar shifts across December and January. This is a nationally recognised qualification that is yours to keep.

Register your interest for RSA training here: [Responsible Serving of Alcohol \(RSA\) training Expression of Interest - Fill in form](#)

To join the WARABAR team or find out more, email info@waratahbeach.com.au.



IRB Bass Coast Racing Team-Go Waratah !

What a season it has been! From big surf at Anglesea to a historic weekend at Ocean Grove and a strong finish at the Port Fairy State Championships, our IRB racing squad showed up week after week with skill, determination, and heart. Highlights included three podium finishes at Ocean Grove, five finals appearances at Anglesea, and competitors giving everything they had right through to the final race of the year. This squad made Waratah Beach incredibly proud.

None of it would have been possible without the amazing people behind the scenes. To our drivers, crewpersons, coaches, team managers, and volunteers — thank you. To the families and supporters who travelled to every event and cheered from the beach — you are very much part of this team. Every early morning, every training session, and every race-day effort made a difference, and it does not go unnoticed.

As we close out season 2026, our excitement is already building for what comes next. This squad is young, growing, and hungry for more — and the best is absolutely still to come. If you've ever thought about getting involved in IRB racing, there has never been a better time to put your hand up. Come and be part of something special. Go Waratah!

