

President's Autumn Wrap Up

I don't often slow down enough to stop and smell the roses, let alone celebrate the wins, but getting the heels out and a frock on for a night with fellow club members at the LSV Awards of Excellence was one of those moments. To be named one of five finalists for Club of the Year is something every member should feel part of. Whether you gave a thousand hours or one, it added up to what we do on and off the water. We didn't take the top spot, but we came away with real recognition for the work that goes on daily, often quietly behind the scenes, to make this club what it is.

You might think the off-season would be quieter. We may not be on the beach or visible around the club, but the work does not slow down. Between updating a constitution more than ten years old, organising an SGM, laying turf in the backyard, renewing liquor licences, updating vehicles, competing in IRB racing and preparing for the season ahead, there is not much downtime for our core team. The dedication is nothing short of inspirational, and my thanks go to everyone involved. The passion and energy our members bring to the club never stop impressing me.

Looking to next season, and hopefully warmer weather, we are gearing up to run more Bronze Medallion, Surf Rescue Certificate and Development Camp programs, and another Adult Bronze camp if there is enough interest. Details are in this newsletter.

We can't wait to see everyone back on the beach and around the club over the warmer months. Please get involved. Have a drink at the bar, serve one from behind it, patrol our shores or train our energetic nippers. Every minute you spend in and around the club counts for more than you would think.

Our club is about many things, but supporting and training our young people sits at the centre of it: keeping them engaged, teaching them the value of community and giving. Let's all lead by example.

Natalie Wischer OAM
President

Training Camps 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/>

Leadership Search and Rescue & Bass District Lifesaving Development Camp

- Commencing Sunday 10 January 2027 to the 16th January

Adult Bronze Expression of Interest

Grants Team – Club Facilities Major Upgrade – DONE!

What was once a patch of dirt and weeds is now an all-weather, multi-purpose space – and it's all thanks to our amazing Grants team and the Bendigo Community Bank. The grant funded a brand new shade sail, which the club then matched and extended to include synthetic grass for the back turf. The same grant also brought us a new pressure washer, with IRB motor wash-out tanks hopefully on the way soon. We can't wait to put this space to good use this season!



Nippers 2026/27

Nippers Enrolments are opening soon
So here are the dates to lock in now.

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

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



Gazanias Be Gone!



Big thanks to the hard workers from the Sandy Point Community Group who rolled up their sleeves and pulled out the invasive gazania weed from our front entrance. This noxious weed is being cleared from around the Surf Club to make way for a variety of native indigenous plants come spring, and we can't wait to watch them take over the space. The club is so grateful for

your time and energy!

Want to learn more about local invasive weeds?
Visit www.sandypoint.vic.au/weeds

Club of the Year Finalist



Waratah Beach SLSC was proud to be a finalist for the Lifesaving Victoria Club of the Year at the Awards of Excellence this year.

Being recognised among the 5 best clubs in the state is a testament to the incredible work of our members, volunteers and community both in and out of the water.

While we didn't take home the title this time (Portsea SLSC got the gold), the nomination alone speaks volumes about what we are achieving at the Club

Current Cruiser is BACK in 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 year's eighth consecutive Current Cruiser was one for the books. 147 swimmers tackled the 1,500 metre event, 67 took on the 500 metres, and 49 families joined in the Float all together, raising an incredible \$24,418 for the club. Another sunny, current-carried morning on the crystal-clear waters of Shallow Inlet. We can't wait to do it all again.

Sponsorship and support opportunities for 2027 will be opening soon. If your business or family wants to get behind one of Sandy Point's most loved events, keep an eye on our channels, or get in early at grants@waratahbeach.com.au

WARABAR Team – Needs You

Get Behind the Bar!

The WARABAR team keeps the club buzzing – running the bar, hot food and social functions. No experience or RSA needed, just a willingness to pitch in. Whether you can help once or every week, every shift makes a real difference.

Free RSA training for volunteers

Commit to two or more bar shifts across December and January and we'll shout you a free RSA course in late December. It's a nationally recognised qualification – yours to keep.

Register your interest:

forms.cloud.microsoft/r/vpVhPdLa2T

To join the team, email info@waratahbeach.com.au



Waratah's most successful IRB Competition season ever!

Waratah Beach SLSC had our most successful IRB season in the club's 13-year racing history, earning our first-ever medal in the state championships by coming second, only to an Australian champion, in the women's Mass event. We also made nearly 30 finals across the season, which is an unbelievable achievement for a club of our size.

This year, we joined forces with our neighbours, Inverloch and Woolamai Beach SLSCs, which worked so well, and it was fantastic to see our 3 clubs race together as Waratah Beach and achieve great success.

A testament to the club, team management and the coaching team for getting us to where we are. One of Waratah's IRB hull was even used at the Australian championships as a part of the Victorian state team campaign! Hard work pays off!

