

Details Overview

Three key achievements from the current season	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fulfilled all patrols with modified roster allocation of one bronze and 2 SRC• Celebrated what makes our club special - our members - with current, life, and special guests from SLSQ with a fun beach party and other social events• Engaged with the community through Regional events, volunteer service and support of our movement at a branch level whilst recognising the individual pathways of our members and supporting them.

Essential Criteria

The purpose of the SLSQ Club of the Year is to encourage and recognise outstanding achievements in club development that results in SLSQ clubs providing safer beaches and aquatic environments for the community. SLSQ acknowledges that clubs achieve many outstanding achievements through their members during each season, and that many of these initiatives are inspirational and different to our core business. The process to select the Club of the Year relies on two major elements that provides the critical information for the selection panel.

- Evidence that the club is a current affiliated club of Surf Life Saving Australia
- Australian Business Number
- details for the member who is submitting the nominations
- A copy of the clubs strategic and/or operational business plan

Selection Criteria

Please answer the selection criteria under the following headings for the preceding 12 months

1. Clubs will demonstrate how they have accessed and implemented a continuous improvement program such as the ASC Club Development Resources, State Department of Sport and Recreation club improvement program, an SLS improvement program or another identified improvement program and demonstrate how that program has delivered strategic direction for the club.

The Club focused on a number of improvement programs throughout the year - and as a small grassroots club, it was the passion of our members that allowed us to do this. We did this across all areas of our movement - service, safety, sports and pathways.

One of our greatest successes this year was to make major improvements to our Junior activities. Firstly we worked diligently with all levels of government to secure a site on the beach side of the highway to keep all junior equipment and serve coffee, water and refreshments from for Sunday training. This was to increase the safety of our members, particularly juniors, as they no longer need to cross the road during Sunday training to obtain equipment.

Secondly we introduced a varied training model based on skills level and interest as well as age group. This allowed all members regardless of age to focus on improving techniques of various disciplines with a cohort of peers at similar abilities - so each child enjoyed a level of personal success and individual best as part of a team.

In addition we made small but significant steps to acknowledge the support and service of our Branch Executive, Regional Staff and SLSQ management by having them present and part of our End of Year celebrations; as guest speakers and award presenters.

2. Clubs will further demonstrate how their implemented continuous improvement program has delivered a range of sustainability measures in a minimum of two of the areas of: Governance, Leadership, Development, Engagement, and delivery of core business.

Recognising and developing our partnership and affiliation with NQB and SLSQ has been a focused area of improvement this season which has seen a re-connection with our members to the overarching brand and core beliefs of surf lifesaving.

Participating at various events attended by our Branch and Regional staff and volunteer Executive, improving communication through these channels and considering these factors in our planning has improved our relationship and outcomes.

In recognition of their service and contribution last season each member received a 2016/2017 badge that showcased the iconic SLS logo and identified them as an Ellis Beach member - this blending of the 2 brands symbolised the idea of being part of a greater movement of like-minded people. This resulted in greater involvement in club activities, training program and award obtainment to deliver our core business.

In preparation for this season we implemented a number of strategies that we gained from our involvement with Sports and Recreation seminars combined with the Resources kits supplied by SLSQ including:

- Asking members how they want their club to develop and how we can meet their needs and those of the broader community;
- Engaging a broader cross-section of members in an active, engaged and transparent management committee;
- Offering various and flexible options for training and skills improvement to meet with member needs and expectations;
- committing to using funds for members and continuing to run the club solely by volunteers - core to the movement; and
- Working with other clubs for the benefit of all members, such as combined training days, combined social functions and sharing of best practices.

3.Clubs will provide evidence of achievements that support SLS 2020

The Club is involved in extended lifesaving coverage such as special events and negotiated the special conditions to ensure the club was able to satisfy our patrol obligations to meet community needs and utilise the enthusiasm and skills of the club members in beach patrolling. Our passionate and skilled volunteers offer a diverse range of training, award, sports and pathways opportunities to develop our people. Our volunteering program and media match people to roles and allow members to develop existing interests or new skills.

the club is constantly evolving, reviewing and consulting with existing, past and potential members to cater services, events and programs to ensure the movement's long term sustainability.

We recognise the unique values, opportunities and people that are involved in our movement and are developing various events such as the All Abilities day to involve all Australians regardless of their background or abilities. We recognise that our members are community service focused, and support them in their various endeavours and pursuits as they make valuable contributions to Australian society across a broad cross-section of our community.

4. Clubs will demonstrate improved lifesaving services and engagement of members in club operations, resulting in engagement and performance.

This year due to reduced numbers of members but high level of commitment and involvement, our club Captain negotiated a suitable arrangement with SLSQ to have our patrol commitments satisfied by rostering a minimum of one BM holder or higher with a minimum of 2 x SRC awardees. This not only brought more active SRC patrolling members into the roster and recognise their valuable contribution to water safety, but engaged a variety of members from the club to participate in lifesaving services and related awards. Further, it encouraged a greater interest in our Bronze Award training program with a further 13 members achieving their Bronze Medallion in readiness for this season. This was in no small part due to the altered format of the training and teaching which was conducted during weekends and weekdays to cater for all candidates.

- Our club boasted quality performances across many of the sports and surf lifesaving competitions and events including: NQB Pool Rescue Champions 2016
- 16 Branch Age Champions across Champion Surf Lifesaver, Junior, Senior, Open and Master Age Champions 3 Age champions North Aussies
- 4 representatives in the Queensland Country Team
- 16 Representatives selected for the NQB Youth Team to compete at State Championships 3 representatives at the Breaka Youth Camp 2016/2017

Increased discipline availability - in order to attract and engage current and new members as well as lift the profile of our club and movement, the wooden boats have again taken to the water. Offering training to other club members with our crews, has also renewed interest across the branch.

Responding to member needs on how training is delivered has seen us develop and continue to develop a well planned and robust training and skills program that covers all disciplines from a young age including basic first aid and resuscitation concepts.

5. Clubs will demonstrate extended partnerships with external stakeholders and/or demonstrate strategies focusing on engaging the local community and what benefit(s) have been derived.

A partnership and negotiation with our local members of both State and Federal Parliament to address road safety issues saw a private sector sponsorship of our shipping container storage facility for our Junior gear and refreshments on the beach side of the highway - a huge benefit and asset for all.

The club actively took the movement into the broader community with our significant contribution to the Festival Cairns Parade.

The club also participated as a group in Clean-up Australia Day & the MS Swimathon.

The club also built a lasting relationship with the local "Mens Shed". A mutual partnership supporting the local community and benefiting both organisations. The Mens Shed assisted at our breakup in the provision of labour and also the manufacture of our award and trophies.

Much planning and strategizing this season has been put into inaugural events to roll-out this season:

- Fastest On Sand - a special event for school and sporting group members as well as Surf Lifesaving members to lift the profile and reach of our movement;
- Fun day for at Risk Children - in conjunction with Department of Communities as well as community based organisations;
- All-abilities Fun day - in conjunction with Cootharinga Society.

6. Clubs should identify plans for future development and continuous improvement

Our Club plans to continue to improve levels of safety for all members with the intended relocation of our club facilities in the future to avoid highway crossings as much as possible at our location.

We also intend to develop our 'special event' program to highlight the benefits of Surf Lifesaving and engage the broader community.

But any further development will maintain the core focus of nurturing a grass-roots, family orientated club that is committed to serving and protecting the community-

7. What would it mean to you to be Club of the Year?

If you ask most members they would say that the club is the best club - it's not that we are biased, but we believe our small, family club that is focused on fun, fitness, inclusion and safety has an enviable culture and reputation that make it the club of choice for those looking for a supportive and friendly experience.

To win Club of the Year would be a formalised recognition that our club reflects and promotes the core values of our great movement and it would give our passionate and committed members a nice 'pat-on-the-back' for a job well done.

It would also be a great asset to take to the broader community to attract and retain members to our wonderful organisation.