

Details Overview

Name	
Club	
Branch	
Three key achievements from the current season	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 102 patrolling hours, including one major resuscitation event (successful). Patrolling hours – rostered, volunteer hours on Christmas, Easter and other Public Holidays. 2. Facilitation of a number of training initiatives at Bilinga SLSC including the commencement of a Champion Lifesaving training squad. 3. Officiating at a third World Lifesaving Championships in Netherlands for 14 days, amongst numerous other carnivals at Club, Branch, State and National – in excess of 850 volunteered hours.

Essential Criteria

This award will recognise an individual's contribution that has enhanced the development of SLS throughout the past year. The demonstrated achievements may be in a range of different areas of a club or surf lifesaving service organisation, or who has shown demonstrated outstanding service to the organisation at large.

A nominee may be a volunteer in any area of surf lifesaving including but not limited to:

- Club activities
- Carnivals
- Coaching
- Administrating
- Junior activities
- Branch/state/ national activities
- Training/assessing
- Active patrolling
- Officiating

Please supply evidence, where appropriate, via either a printout from Surfguard or equivalent:

- Current financial member of Surf Life Saving Australia
- Surf Life Saving Australia awards/certificates held
- Community awards/certificates held

Evidence scanned with Nomination.

Selection Criteria

1. Describe the nominees contribution to our organisation, at any level in one or more areas (past 3 Seasons)

He holds many positions and roles within the organisation including, President (Bilinga), CTO (Bilinga), State Grievance Officer (SLSQ), Director of Surf Sports (Bilinga), Carnival Official and Commentator (at Branch, State, National and International levels).

1. Club administration

He has coordinated the refurbishment of the club deck by obtaining grants to the value of \$190,000.00, and initiated improvements to the bar area and toilet amenities. These are all upgrades that were both well overdue and necessary for the club to continue earning incoming through functions and have a space all members are proud off.

2. Lifesaving

At a lifesaving level he has been a patrol captain at Bilinga SLSC from 2012-2016/17, and has accrued 258 patrol hours over the last three seasons (102 hours in 2016/17 season). Not only does he currently hold 73 Surf Life Saving awards himself, but he has been Bilinga's CTO (2015 to present) facilitating the learning of many SLSQ members.

3. Officiating

He has been a level 1 Official for the past 10 years (Branch, State, National and International). He holds an ILS Bronze medal and has attended 3 World Lifesaving Titles in 2016, 2014, and 2012. He has been appointed an Announcer/Commentator at a number of events including QLD titles, 'Aussies' and Australian and QLD Pool Rescue and IRB Championships. He has officiated at the International Lifesaving Championships (Netherlands, 2016), Interstate Championships (NSW, Victoria and Queensland), Point Danger Branch and Club Carnivals.

2. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated commitment to surf lifesaving across the organisation.

He has been an active patrolling member of SLSQ since 2000 at both Yeppoon SLSC in Wide Bay Branch and later Bilinga SLSC after relocating for work to the Gold Coast. Through these years he has been a Patrol Captain (2002- present), Club President (Yeppoon 2006-2011; Bilinga 2013 to present, Branch President (Wide Bay Capricorn 2006-2011), and Yeppoon SLSC Team Manager and JAC for 10 years. He is a life member of the Yeppoon SLSC.

He was the Queensland Country Team Manager from 2008-2011 which competed in the Interbranch Championships.

Apart from being President of his club, one of his biggest commitments is his role of Chief Training Officer, where in the last two seasons he has initiated and coordinated a surf sports program, facilitated a live-in Bronze course at Bilinga SLSC, facilitated an IRB crew course, proficiencies and other awards for many of Bilinga's members. He is very much committed to club involvement in club activities, club carnivals and social interaction of all members.

He has been involved in two rescues in the 2016/17 season where he played a fundamental role in saving an elderly male swimmer and resuscitating an elderly male who was found unconscious near the clubhouse. In both situations he took a leadership role, and held his composure to assist his fellow patrol members.

Since retiring from the Police in 2016, and along with many more hours on the beach as an Official (excess of 850 hours), he has committed 102 patrol hours to the swimmers at Bilinga beach.

3. Describe the nominee's major achievements and positions, held at Club, Branch and State level (Current Season)

1. Club

Above the \$190,000.00 deck refurbishment discussed already, he has obtained \$50,000 in grants to improve the bar and toilet amenities, formulated up to date Strategic Plans (2016-2021), coordinated a Club Surf Sports Program (Handicap Event Competition), promoted club involvement in Branch and State competition and forming a Champion Lifesaving Training Squad for 2017/18. He has also played an integral role in enhancing the governance of Bilinga SLSC by promoting stability, confidence, communication and professionalism of the Committee.

2. Branch

At a Branch level he is a Point Danger Branch Council member and Surf Sports Representative. He has also officiated at Branch carnivals and represented Point Danger Branch at State and International. Further to Point Danger Branch, he still assists his previous Branch Wide Bay Capricorn by Officiating at North Australian Titles in Mackay every year.

3. State

He has been a State Grievance Officer since 2011, assisting the resolution of grievances including several protracted investigations. This is a difficult and time consuming commitment, but one that demonstrates John's passion for communication, stability and member interaction with SLSQ.

He is also a current member of the State Officials and Assessors Finance Committee (since 2011).

4. Describe a challenge that the nominee has overcome that has made a significant difference to their club or the organisation.

He brings a wealth of experience and leadership gained through 40 years in Queensland Police Service in negotiating and mediating difficult situations. Not only has this experience allowed him handle critical incidents with composure and skill, but with a high level of compassion for his fellow patrol members. Following both rescues he was involved in, his first priority (after hearing the patients would be okay), was for the junior and less-experienced members and how they were handling the situation. His focus on debriefing and supporting these members showed incredible empathy, compassion and commitment to everyone in SLSQ and the public. For the members who were involved in these incidents with him would all agree he is the one person you want on the beach (or in the clubhouse) with you before and after the event.

Further to his ability to handle himself on the beach with great ability, he has had to overcome a number of challenges as President. In gaining feedback of disengagement, lack of confidence and strained communications from the general membership prior to the AGM in 2016 which had the effect of postponing the AGM pending investigations. At this point, the club faced a future of a fractured membership; however, over the last season he has focused on enhancing Club Governance by various strategies. Through promoting communication between the management and executive committees with each other and the members he is improving whole of club engagement in all club activities. He has conducted a number of initiatives that have had a positive effect on the club membership including increase in patrolling numbers, stability of the Management Committee and increased club social interactions. He initiated a review and overhaul of the Bilinga SLSC website which has had a promoted a strong communication strategy across the membership.

None of these outcomes would have been achieved without tireless effort on behalf of him, who has put the club above everything else, to get Bilinga SLSC back on track.

5. Describe a key change / improvement that the nominee has bought / made to their club or the organisation in the past three years.

It has already been discussed a number of times but the upgrading of the club amenities including the deck, bar area and male toilets is an incredible improvement that was brought about through many hours of work by him (and others including the Club Treasurer). He Project Managed the refurbishment and had to overcome a few hurdles include time extensions, costs blowouts and design changes.

However, the end result is a fantastic area for the club to use to hold both social events for the members but to earn much needed revenue through functions. As a small club, with no pokies and restaurant, we rely heavily on functions such as weddings and birthday. Now with a modern deck and bar area the club can accommodate more bookings.

Another key change that he as made to his club is communication. He has not only improved communication between the members and the committee but has increased communication with the Branch with a view to better meet our responsibility with the Branch requirements. He is constantly promoting, encouraging and developing relationships within the Club and Branch. He has shown that he is focused on improving Bilinga as a Club at levels within the Organisation.

Due to the issues identified involving patrolling numbers, he initiated engagement with Brisbane Lifesaving Service (BLS) and Point Danger Branch Patrol Team to support the Club's patrolling roster. The relationship has been two fold, BLS and Point Danger Branch Patrol Team have been involved in assisting Bilinga SLSC Patrols for the past three seasons from this commitment the BLS utilize the Club as a training venue for various courses facilitated by the group in addition to their patrolling commitment, without his relationship building and communication with Point Danger Branch Patrol Team and BLS, Bilinga SLSC would have been confronted with a difficult situation to be compliant with the Beach Patrol Agreement.

6. Any relevant additional information.

He started again in surf lifesaving when his young children joined Yeppoon SLSC. It did not take him long to become completely involved and be dedicated to the lifesaving organisation. Since 2000 he has spent many, many weekends (and weekdays) at the beach, be it Yeppoon or Bilinga SLSC in all facets of Surf Lifesaving. In 2001, after only a year in SLSQ, he suffered a stroke in the water during board training with his three children and other junior members of the Yeppoon SLSC. When others would have given up, he pressed on with his passion in Surf Lifesaving. He gained more awards including his Bronze and Silver medallions. He became the JAC, Team Manager and later the Club President. He consistently gained 150+ hours of patrol hours. He attended every carnival his three children attended as nippers, and later started commenting at Club Carnivals (much to his children's embarrassment!).

Once his children, finished nippers and stopped competing competitively, he continued to be involved in the Club, Officiating at carnivals and gaining more awards such as his Training and Assessors Certificate. After transferring from Rockhampton to the Gold Coast for work, he returned to Bilinga SLSC, a club he was a member in throughout his school years around 1971 in Brisbane. Some might say it was the small nature of the Club and it's similarities to Yeppoon SLSC that drew him back to Bilinga. More specifically some would say a club with a deck in dire need of refurbishment!

He continues to volunteer in a wide range of activities including active Patrolling, Officiating, Branch/State/National activities, Administration, Club activities, Training/Assessing and carnivals. Above these roles he mentors anyone in need whether that be on the beach or members entering management positions for the first time. Anyone who has met him would attest to the passion and drive he has for Surf Lifesaving and the endless amount of his time he gives up and volunteers, especially now as he is in retirement, to Bilinga SLSC and SLSQ. In April 2017, he was awarded the McPherson Surf Lifesaving Community Achiever Award for outstanding contribution to the Surf Lifesaving community.