



AUGUST 2026

PRE-SEASON BRIEFING LIFESAVING & RESCUE SERVICES



Welcome & housekeeping

- Questions via chat and Q & A at the end of the presentation
- Meeting will be recorded and provided next week with a copy of this presentation



Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions – Simon Smith, Director Lifesaving & Rescue Services
2. UAV Presentation – Brent Manieri, SLSNSW
3. Lifesaving – Alexandra Scott, Manager Lifesaving
4. Rescue Services – Charlie Hort, Manager Rescue Services
5. Q & A Session
6. Meeting End



UAV DISCUSSION – Brent Manieri



Season priorities

- Helping and supporting clubs with patrol
- Supporting members, with engagement and retention, including youth
- Working together, sharing across clubs



Lifesaving & Rescue Services Management



Simon Smith
Director
**Lifesaving &
Rescue Services**



Alexandra Scott
Manager
Lifesaving



Charlie Hort
Manager
Rescue Services





AUGUST 2026

LIFESAVING Alexandra Scott



Lifesaving – Area Lifesaving Coordinators

The Team - Your first point of contact



Emma Askham
Randwick



Amy Hanna
Waverley



Rob Short
Sutherland



Mark Wood
Royal National Park

Their role

- LSRSC representative at Club meetings
- Your voice at LSRSC meetings
- Your first point of contact for issues or feedback
- Conduct Patrol Audits once per month as per SLSNSW SOPs October - April
- Mentor, encourage and engage with Patrols and Patrol Captains



Lifesaving – Pre-season

Two gear inspection groups:

- Eastern Beaches, starting at South Maroubra, 8am
- Southerland and RNP, starting at North Cronulla (Kurnell) at 8am followed by Elouera.

To note:

- evidence of annual oxygen regulators servicing should be presented (does not include INHALO bottles)
- IRB hulls and motors scrutineered at Aussies in July 2026 will not need to be inspected. Evidence of scrutineering does need to be presented

Radios

- Thank you to the Sutherland and RNP for engaging in the radio re-programming.
- SLSNSW still working on Eastern Beaches programming dates

To Note: Channel 4/Scan has been removed/disabled



Lifesaving – Pre-season

Patrol Uniforms

Orders due Monday 17 August

Garie



Lifesaving/Lifeguard meetings

- **Bate Bay:** scheduled for 5 September 2026 at Elouera
- **Waverly:** Amy Hanna is coordinating dates
- **Randwick:** Emma Askham is coordinating dates



Lifesaving – Patrolling

Operations App

- New app coming
- SLISA will release a web-based app for the 2026-27 season until the new app is finalised.

Lifesaving Service Agreement (LSA)

- New LSAs issued for 2025 - 2027
- Simplified
 - Minimum requirements as per SLSNSW SOP PSS 3.3 Club Patrol Operations
 - Flexible patrolling – focus on **risk based patrolling**

Flexible Patrolling

- SLSNSW utilises five patrol types
- All patrol types and minimum requirements are covered in: SOP PSS 3.3 Club Patrol Operations

<https://www.manula.com/manuals/slsnsw/pssops/jul.2023/en/topic/introduction>



The five patrol types are:

Core Patrols

1. Full Patrol
2. Partial Patrol
3. Low Patronage Patrol
4. Surveillance / Inclement Weather Patrol
5. Lifeguard Joint Patrol



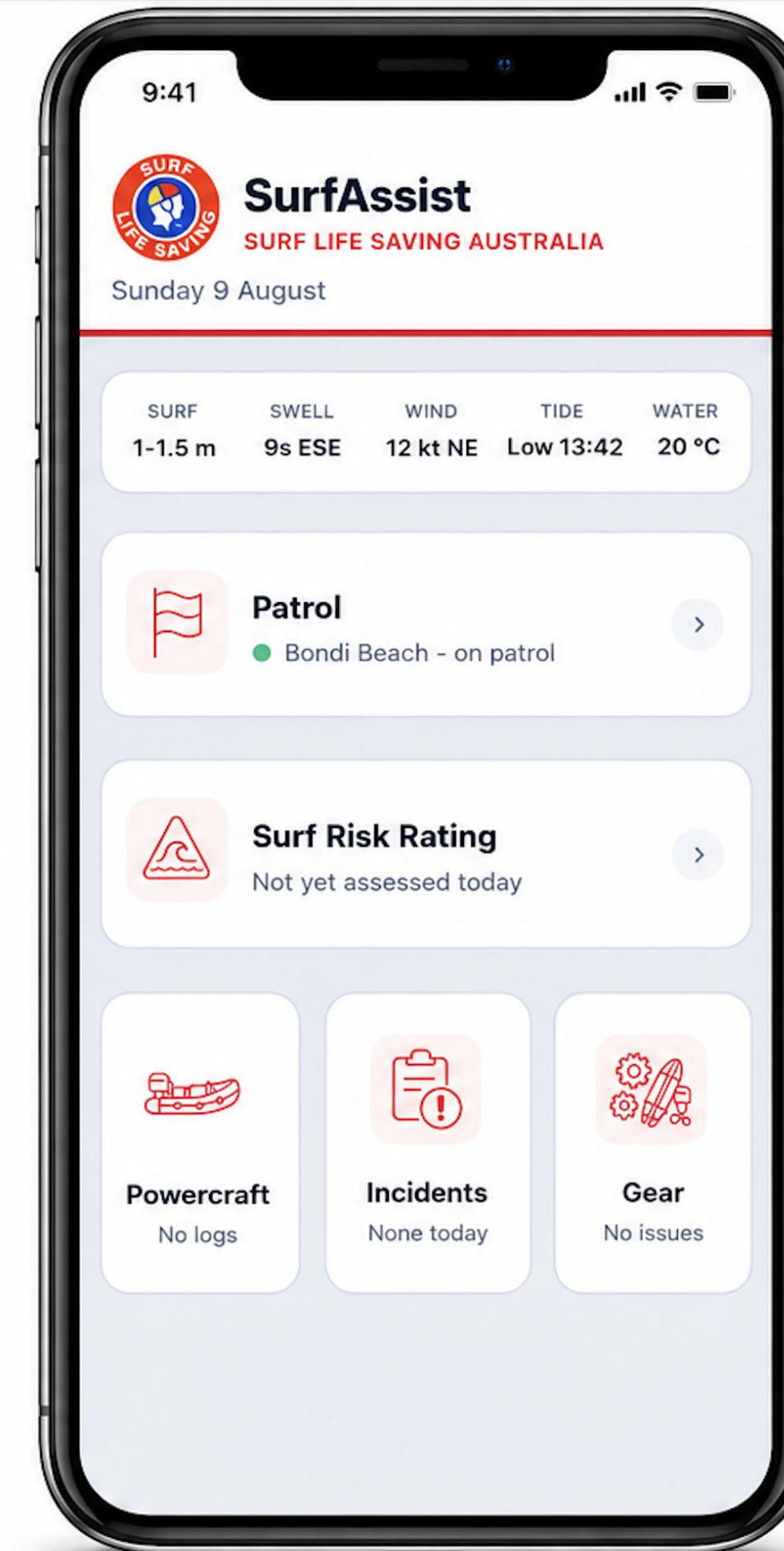
Lifesaving - Patrolling

Sign on/off

- Sign on and off via the "Interim Ops App"
- Don't miss your radio check
 - have a radio dedicated to SurfCom Channel 3

Chain of Command

- PC is in charge of Patrol Operations, as per SLSNSW SOPs
- Escalation:
 - PC to notify Club Captain/President and Area Coordinator of issues
- Major issues to be escalate to Lifesaving Manager or Director of Lifesaving & Rescue Services
- Do not self-task to incidents



Lifesaving - Patrolling

Patrolling members

- Team in full uniform
- Ensure members complete skills maintenance by 31 December
 - Lifesaving CPR
 - Late proficiencies require approval by the Director of Lifesaving and Support Operations via the Branch Office

Inflatable Rescue Boat

- Highly visible craft - **safety is paramount**
- PFD to be worn when in craft
- Only IRB award holders to operate craft
- SLSNSW Advanced IRB Program will run in Sydney Branch
 - Opportunity to upskill existing award holders
 - Date will be advertised once confirmed



Lifesaving - Patrolling

Beach Closures

- Patrol Captains should consider 'closure'
 - at any time that there is an unacceptable/ unmanageable risk to the public or
 - the lifesaving service is unable to effectively and safely perform their duties.
- Procedure in: SOP PSS 8.1 Emergency beach closure & evacuation

Patrol Extension

- Patrol Captains should consider risk to the bathing public ahead of sign off time.
- Advise the Duty Officer and SurfCom
 - As much as possible give sufficient notice of intent to extend



Club Captain Survey Results

Meetings

Summary of responses	Overarching plan of action
Strong preference for meetings at the start, middle and end of season.	Mid-season meetings will be locked in before the start of the season.
Hybrid meetings were the most popular option.	Start and end of season to be online Other meetings that are workshop format will to be in person
Mixed views between area-based forums and whole-branch meetings.	Those in favour of area based forums appear to already have some well functioning arrangements. Focus to not overwhelm will be all Clubs coming together.
Strong support for workshops focused on solving shared operational challenges.	Branch will schedule several workshop style meetings with target topics, e.g. succession planning, youth engagement, member retention, shark management, higher awards and operational updates



Club Captain Survey Results

Biggest Challenges Facing Lifesaving Operations Next Season

Summary of responses	Overarching plan of action
Succession planning were the dominant concerns.	Identified as a workshop topic
Equipment, infrastructure and resource constraints were raised.	This focused on those Clubs that are undergoing renovations. Simon and Alex to catch-up with those Clubs specifically to help understand how Branch may be able to support
Shark surveillance, public confidence and safety management were common concerns	Ongoing coordination within branch and SLSNSW
Training and higher award development were recurring themes.	Referred to SLSS Education
IRB driver/crew shortages and leadership succession featured strongly.	This was noted across several clubs and referred to SLSS education: Note a women's focused crew course is scheduled for October 2026
Recruitment and retention	Referred to SLSS member services



Club Captain Survey Results

Summary of responses	Overarching plan of action
Concise summaries, email updates, WhatsApp-ready messages and short videos were requested.	Branch develop a strategy for communication that will encompass all formats.
Simpler access, direct links, summary documents and clarification of shark alarm procedures.	Develop resources for Clubs to have on their patrol trailers or easily available to their members to access SOPs.
Patrol team support: . Scenario cards, . briefing notes . training support . Duty Officer visits . IRB initiatives.	• Branch to support with briefing notes or formats to support PC/VCs • Refer training support to education • Work within Lifesaving to explore how we can enhance the DO interface more • IRB initiatives: referred to Education
Inter-club collaboration and higher award training coordination.	Refer higher award training to Education Branch exploring inter-club collaboration opportunities



Club Captain Survey Results

Garie

Summary of responses	Overarching plan of action
Distance is a significant challenge; themed activities and logistical support suggested.	Branch will work towards filling some vacant Garie dates with intra-club opportunities.
Cross Club patrols: Generally supported for knowledge sharing and leadership development.	As above
When asked about food support, most respondents indicated Yes or Maybe.	\$100 per visiting patrol to support food.



ECOT

PRIORITIES

- Ongoing rescue readiness and preparedness
- Closer links between neighbouring clubs to support responses
- Planning for high frequency incidents
- Lessons management based approach

EXERCISES

1. Plan your exercise – Use resources available here: <https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/local-sarex-toolkit/>
2. Complete the [SAREX Notification Form](#) linked on the SLSNSW Page
3. If you are requesting Branch assets, complete the [Branch Request for Rescue Services Assets](#) form on the Branch Website
4. Conduct Exercise and Debrief



Member Welfare / State Welfare Officers

- Duty Officer Team will conduct a Critical OPERATIONAL Incident Debrief after all major incidents.
- Peer Support Officers will be activated by the SOC following critical incidents (Face-face support)
- Most Duty Officers are trained in mental health first aid and understand the member welfare process and can liaise with SLSNSW and the affected member.
- Members can expect to be contacted by SLSNSW following a major incident for a follow-up.
- External EAP provider is available and will be activated for members following a critical incident



Media – Major Lifesaving Incidents

- Only the Rescue Services Manager, Director of Lifesaving & Rescue Service or SLSS President can make statements regarding a major Lifesaving Incident within Sydney Branch.
- **SLNSW Media Manager**
- Deaths / Drowning's / member Injuries / accidents issues / state / national safety and funding issues
- **Branch President/ Branch Dir LSRC/ Rescue Services Manager**
- Branch issues / Stats / programs / Initiatives
- Major Rescues / Incidents
- Local Council Issues / SLS Issues
- **Club Captains**
- Club Stats / Safety Issues / events / programs
- **Patrol Captains**
- Beach Conditions / Activity / General Information



SOC / SurfCom

- Located at Belrose (SLSNSW)

Operational Hours

- Daylight Savings: 0700 – 1900
- Non-DL Savings : 0700 – 1700

Contact

- General: 02 9471 8092
- **Emergency: 02 9471 8091**

Call/Radio SurfCom for

- Requests for assistance
- Training
- Sign on and off
- Emergencies mid-week
- Report all power craft incidents
- Report all member injuries



Rescue Services – Special Event/Asset request



Request for Special Event or Rescue Services Assets

Event Details

Please fill out all required information for your event request

Your Name *

Enter your full name

Email Address *

your.email@example.com

Club *

Enter club name

Event Name *

Enter event name

What are you requesting today?

Choose one. This routes your request and applies the right document rules.

Help me choose

☐ Request approval for a Special Event

☐ Request Rescue Services assets for SLS Core activity (Surf Sports/patrol/Nippers/training)

Event Type *

Choose a an option above to continue

Location *

Enter event location

Event Date *

Pick a date

Start Time *

Select time

End Time *

Select time

Event Description

Provide additional details about your event...

Rescue Services assets

Select any assets you need for this event

☐ Duty Officer

☐ RWC

☐ SR30

☐ UAV

Submit Event Request

Reset Form

- Request for planned events (Oceanswim, Carnival, SLS activity)
- Allocation and booking of RWC, UAV, DO, SR30
- <https://rescueservices.sls.sydney/request/new>



Questions?

On behalf of SLS Sydney we wish our Clubs all the best for season 2026-2027

Contact Details

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- Alexandra Scott lifesavingmanager@sls.sydney
- Charlie Hort manager_rescueservices@sls.sydney

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- Linda Perrin lifesaving@sls.sydney

Meeting Close
Thank you for your attendance

