

# Central Coast Clubs Thrive at Surf Life Saving Australia Awards of *Excellence*



Australia's top surf lifesavers were recognised on Saturday 9 November, 2024 for their dedication and commitment to their communities on Surf Life Saving Australia's night of nights, the National Awards of Excellence. Surf Life Saving Central Coast clubs have taken home two of the biggest awards on the evening with Terrigal Surf Club winning 'Club of the Year' and Mollie Murphy from Umina SLSC winning 'Surf Lifesaver of the Year'.

Mollie Murphy, has been a passionate lifesaver and Umina SLSC member since she joined as a nipper. Patrolling since 2012, she has logged an impressive 781 hours, including 147.5 hours this season alone, serving in various roles such as Director of Lifesaving and Patrol Captain..

Mollie's hands-on approach ensures beach safety across all twelve patrol teams, while her leadership has led to over 68,000 preventative actions and 300 rescues. Beyond her operational duties, Mollie is committed to youth development, spearheading initiatives including U15 Leadership Development Program and youth patrol trips.



## Her efforts have empowered young women within the club

Mollie's resilience was particularly evident during a challenging incident on Christmas Day, where she provided support to her patrol team following a tragic event. Her proactive approach to learning from this experience has improved safety protocols and team cohesion. Her innovative programs, including the Patrol of the Year process and Pink and Rainbow Patrols, have transformed member engagement, fostering a sense of belonging and motivation. Mollie's impact extends to enhancing the club's community presence, making Umina SLSC a vibrant and inclusive environment.



**Fostering leadership and participation in programs like the Women's Patrol.**

Terrigal SLSC were successful in winning the Club of the Year award, a first for a Central Coast Club. Terrigal SLSC has undergone enormous positive change across three interconnected strategic initiatives. A new constitution and policies with improvements in Life Membership nomination process, voting rights, documentation and communication, experienced Board Directors mentoring inexperienced members to refocus on strategy, governance, risk prevention and management and going paperless.

The club has adopted a 'Something For Everyone' philosophy.



Maximising member engagement, retention and enjoyment by expanding opportunities within and beyond surf lifesaving such as recognising lifesaving achievement, offering free first aid courses, as well as drone and RWC training. Placed a larger focus on Nipper and Youth programs to make them fun with various family fun events.

Community Leadership and Partnerships. Initiatives include:

- Ocean Swim and Cancer Council Daffodil Dip: \$34,000 was raised for the Terrigal Club and \$40,000 for the NSW Cancer Council.
- Clontarf Foundation: A group of 15 Indigenous men attended a camp at Terrigal where these young men learned about surf safety and experienced the power of community philanthropy.
- Legacy: Children and families attended to learn about surf safety as well as a chance to swim, play and paddle a board.

## The club has adopted a 'Something For Everyone' philosophy

"Saturday evening was a remarkable occasion for the Central Coast, with both Mollie and Terrigal earning well-deserved recognition in their respective categories. Mollie embodies the qualities of an exemplary Surf Lifesaver, and our branch is fortunate to have individuals like Mollie leading at both the club and branch levels.

Terrigal has long been a cornerstone of the Central Coast, and it is rewarding to see the club receive the recognition it truly deserves." Michael Hyslop - Surf Life Saving Central Coast Chief Executive Officer.



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