

Our member profile this fortnight is Stephen (Steve) Martin. Steve joined South Narrabeen SLSC in 2002 as a Nipper Parent and within months completed his Bronze Medallion. He is still an active patrolling Lifesaver on our beach and is also our Club Historian, an important role in the lead up to our centenary in 2022.

Steve's contribution to South Narrabeen SLSC has been significant. His volunteer patrol hours are more than 600 hours and he is a Long Service member of the Club.

He currently sits on our History Sub-Committee who are responsible for the organisation of our 95th Anniversary Dinner on October 21, 2017.



Steve is pictured at the 2017 Sponsors and Honours Brunch

When did you join South Narrabeen SLSC and why?

Joined South Narrabeen around 2000, bringing my two sons to Nippers. We'd heard that the club was 'family friendly' and not too big, so that the boys would enjoy the activities more.

What are the key lessons that you've learnt from your time as a member of South Narrabeen SLSC?

I think I was 50 when I joined, but I learned a lot, not just about first aid and rescue techniques, but also about the depth and continuity of friendships here. Researching the club history has revealed how story can act as a unifying force in the club. I have learnt here that the more you put into the club, the more you get out.

You have been patrolling our beach for 14 seasons, what's it like being on patrol and what do you enjoy about it?

I've been patrolling for 14 seasons now. It's satisfying to do beach protection and to help people in trouble, but my patrol buddies maintain a firm bond between ourselves through fun and lunches – we're not called gourmet patrol for nothing.

You've been a member at South Narrabeen SLSC for over 15 years, how have things changed?

I've been associated with the Club for about 15 years. The beach has come and gone and personalities changed, but the general spirit and aims of the Club are pretty stable. I guess the main changes are some first aid techniques. It's great to watch the kids go through the Nippers program and go out into the wider world with the support of the Club members.

What are your goals within Surf Life Saving, in particular South Narrabeen SLSC?

Goals are pretty straight forward. I want to contribute to Surf Life Saving and the Club as an active patrolling member and as Historian. I wrote chapters for the history of surf life saving in New South Wales a few years ago and am currently writing the Club history to mark our upcoming centenary.

What has been your best memory as a member of South Narrabeen SLSC?

This one is hard. I have so many good memories and I hope more will come. A strong memory is of the Club at work in a rescue of a boy caught in a rip. We worked as a team. We knew that our training was good; that we were competent and that we could trust one another.

Who is someone you admire in the Surf Life Saving movement and why?

Surf Life Saving history is full of skilled individuals who knew the value of training, teamwork and enjoyment. I admire those who have contributed to Surf Life Saving for most of their lives – working in administration or training after finishing up with active patrolling.

If I had to pick someone from the Club, my current favourite is Dorothy Hughes, who in the 1920s, despite a severe bout of asthma, continued working for the Club and hospitals as part of the Queen of the Beach program.

Anything else you would like to add...

I can't leave this profile without a mention of the Bush to Beach program. Running for over a decade this straight forward, supportive program helping the Bre kids is having a lasting impact on their lives. It's a project that achieves results through decency, care and hard work.