

Our member profile this fortnight is Zoe Hodges. Zoe joined South Narrabeen SLSC last season as a Nipper Parent to her daughter Kaitlyn. She then ‘bit the bullet’ and went on to complete her Bronze Medallion. She is a patrolling Lifesaver on our beach and has been appointed as the Nippers Water Safety Officer for the 2017/2018 season.

The Bronze Medallion course provides participants with the skills and knowledge of patrolling and surf awareness in order to be able to participate in lifesaving operations. This is the core award to be a surf lifesaver in Australia.

Zoe also forms part of our Social Sub-Committee who are responsible for planning and running social events within the Club.

Zoe is pictured receiving her patrol uniform after completing her Bronze Medallion in 2016



When did you join South Narrabeen SLSC and why?

We joined last year, October 2016. We had just moved back to Narrabeen after a 2-year stint in England. My daughter had done 2 x seasons of nippers before we moved to England at Narrabeen SLSC. But we decided to join South Narrabeen SLSC when we returned as we had bought a place 2 mins from the club and our good friends have always been part of this club and we wanted to hang with them at nippers!!!

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

I really enjoy being a part of this club, there is much more of a community and family feel to it than I can remember feeling when we were part of Narrabeen. Lessons wise, there is always someone to help you out or have your back here at South Narra.

What's it like getting your Bronze Medallion and what did you enjoy about it?

I'm not going to lie; it was absolutely terrifying for me getting my Bronze Medallion. Having grown up in England nowhere near an ocean, and never having taken part in nippers, or learning how to surf, I have not spent a lot of time in the ocean. And she was fierce during our Bronze training. The beach was closed most weeks. So it was a huge challenge for me every time I got in the water...

What I enjoyed however, was meeting the other people on the course. And how everyone looked out for each other. That was nice. And made a difference. And then realising that everyone has different skillsets. Some are strong in the water, some are strong at first aid, some are good in a crisis, etc etc. And that it is all of those skills that make a good team, not a single person being brilliant at all of them.

You've been a member at South Narrabeen SLSC for 1 year, how have things changed?

Hmmmm I'm partly responsible for social events! ;)

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

I think I'll definitely continue to educate myself where I can. I'm interested in doing the IRB Crew Certificate at some point. I'd say my goals are tied in with my daughter and her interests however, so if for example she is keen to get involved in carnivals as she gets older then I'd look at getting involved also, and becoming a carnival official...

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

Definitely passing my Bronze Medallion. That was a very proud day, not just for me but for my daughter as well.

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

There is not a single person. And for me it is always close to home. So to the people around me I know, or can see, who are making our little part of the world a better a place; the parents who give up their Sunday mornings so that their children can be educated and better equipped to play (and be safe) in the ocean; the volunteers who give up their time to help make the beach a safer place for those visiting it; the people who cared enough to sign a petition to help get government funding to make our club accessible for everyone in our community, not just the fit and able. I admire all of these people because in the busy lives we lead, it is easy to look the other way and leave the 'caring' or 'taking action' for someone else to do. We are fortunate that we have so many people who care about making South Narrabeen a great place to belong to.

Anything else you would like to add...

I think that's all ;)