

Our member profile this fortnight is Charles Longley. He is the current Director of Finance at South Narrabeen SLSC and was recently rewarded for his volunteer hours, taking out the Sydney Northern Beaches Administrator of the Year and also named as a finalist in the same category at the NSW Awards of Excellence.

Charles has an extensive knowledge of running a successful and cohesive Club. He is an ex-President and Life Member of South Curl Curl SLSC and brings his love of spreadsheets each month to the Committee.

Charles is pictured with his Daughter Karla at the 2016 NSW Awards of Excellence



When did you join South Narrabeen SLSC and why?

I've been associated with Southy since 1993, and became an actual member in 2010. Why Southy, my family joined in around 1993 and I did some auditing for Brownie in 95, I was asked to be Treasurer 2010.

What are the key lessons that you've learnt from your time in South Narrabeen SLSC?

Being a small club it needs every bit of assistance it can get and although some people may not like the decisions that are made, they are made with good intent to further the benefit of the Club. Club loyalty is hard to come by.

What's it like being on the Club Committee?

I like it because it's dynamic. Everyone has a role to play, if someone's not pulling their weight then the Committee and Club suffer. I like being a team player and although I may not agree with certain decisions the majority rules and you move on and defend that decision.

You've been a member at South Narrabeen SLSC for 6yrs years, how have things changed?

As a small Club we will always be vulnerable to the migration of people and the skills they bring and this is quite evident at the moment, like a business cycle there are always peaks and troughs. Hence my thing about loyalty. Gear wise we are in a good shape. Financially we survive but we're not investing.. People are time poor.

How are preparations for the 2016-2017 season going?

We're on track, we have had a good planning day and the Committee is committed to delivering the best it can. We just need some sand and more volunteers.

What are your goals within Surf Life Saving?

No lives lost

What has been your best memory as a surf lifesaver?

Winning the Branch Junior Belt in 1967 and then 30 years on coming 2nd in the Branch 200 yr. Master's boat final. Most of all the Mateship and Comradery.

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

Yes, Tony Abbott. During his term in Government, introduced the Beach Safety Equipment Fund which will provide Australian Surf Life Saving clubs with \$8 million of additional funding to purchase vital safety equipment. This funding package equates to an additional \$1.6 million per year until 2018, providing on average approximately \$5,000 per year to each of the nation's 312 surf lifesaving clubs.

Anything else you would like to add...

No, not really, but I will be glad when the day comes, when we have a lift up to the first floor and the Kiosk/Café that is churning out great food, the best coffee in town and we're rich and don't have to beg borrow and go cap in hand to exist.