

Our member profile this fortnight is Kylie Ryder. Kylie originally hails from the Gold Coast before moving to Sydney and joining the association through North Steyne SLSC in 2011. Seeing the value of joining a small surf club, she was coaxed to South Narrabeen SLSC in 2016. She is our Lifesaver of the Month for October, a new initiative for our patrolling Lifesavers to recognise our valuable members.

Kylie holds a slew of Surf Life Saving qualifications including her Bronze Medallion, First Aid Certificate and Advanced Resuscitation Certificate. She is a natural born leader and has taken on the task of training our Under 14 members through their Surf Rescue Certificate with the help of Wayne Nolan.



Kylie is pictured above (on the right) on patrol

When did you join South Narrabeen SLSC and why?

I have some good friends at South Narra who have been talking about how great it is to be a Jaffa and additionally my boat crew is rowing here!

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

Over my whole time here, I have learnt that whilst it is a small club, everybody is very happy to pitch in and get things happening and done. A lot of people have a variety of skills and it is great to see that when you ask for help, people put their hand up and do it.

What's it like being on patrol and what do you enjoy about it?

What is there not to like about patrol?! The people I have patrolled with have been welcoming and really great to be on the beach with (they cover off a variety of experience both with their awards and experience), the beach is beautiful and we have a buggy to get our stuff on and off.

You've been a member at South Narrabeen SLSC for over 2 patrols, how have things changed?

I don't know if I have been here long enough to comment on how things have changed given I joined this year but I am really excited about what this season will bring both on the beach and in the boat. It also has a really good feel for building into the future – there is something around the club, driven by our members' that makes it a great place. I am really looking forward to where we are going.

How are preparations for the 2016-2017 season going?

I think the season is off to a great start, having knocked off my first few patrols already. Everybody I have met has been great and the patrols have been fun and varied. The surfboat training and racing has been really great as well!

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

I have a few goals at South Narra. I am helping train our future Lifesavers through their SRC, so we want everybody here to pass (especially so we can do water safety at Wet and Wild!). I also want to get my IRB Drivers so I can get my Silver Medallion qualification and I am also focused on building up over the next couple of seasons to get my Gold Medallion. Surf Life Saving has been great in providing training courses both in format and time ensuring that the skills that I have learnt are transferrable to real life situations.

What has been your best memory as a surf lifesaver?

I have quite a few but the common theme through all of them is working together with the people on patrol and either saving a life or preventing a serious tragedy from happening. It is amazing how people pull together and work to get it done when faced with emergency. Also, I have been on TV twice this year promoting the message of Surf Life Saving and what we do as well as talking about how great it is that SLS allows me to row!

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

There are a few people; one is Natalie Gartner who was one of the first female surfboat rowers. In saying this though, I admire the people that show up and participate in surf lifesaving on patrols. It is amazing what we all do and what we give as volunteers (last year members of SLS saved over 12,900 and performed over 1 million in preventative actions), especially in a club like South Narra where it's a little bit smaller.

Anything else you would like to add...

I haven't been at South Narra for a long time and everybody I have met has been really welcoming and encouraging from Sunday morning Nippers through to jumping onto a patrol. Thanks for having me around.