

# Annual Report

## 2022 Annual General Meeting

<b>Date</b>	15 April 2023
<b>Name</b>	Ray Hall, President Adam Traugott, Director of Lifesaving Alison Snowden, Director of Education Susan Barnes, Director
<b>Strategic Intent</b>	3. Ensure a growing and relevant movement
<b>Strategy / KPI</b>	3.1 Contemporary governance, policy and procedures

## 2022 SLSNT Board

Position	Name	Term Started	Term Ends
President	Ray Hall	22 April 2022	AGM 2024
Director of Lifesaving	Adam Traugott	14 July 2021	15 April 2023 (AGM)
Director of Education	Alison Snowden	9 April 2022	AGM 2024
Director of Surf Sport	Vacant		
Director	Susan Barnes	28 July 2021	1 May 2023
Director	Jade Creek	14 July 2021	14 August 2022
Director	Vacant		

\*President Grant Barnett, resigned 22 April 2022.

## 2022 Partners

### Major National Partners




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**NT Partners**

*Gold*

 <p>Proudly supported by <b>Northern Territory Government</b></p>	
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*Silver*

**Supporters**

## Presidents Report

Hello to all SLSNT members and supporters, it is with much pleasure I present my first annual report for the 2022 season.

From the outset I would like to send out a huge thank you to our CEO, Samantha Farrow and all of the SLSNT staff for their excellent efforts as our world dominated by COVID has subsided and some form of normality has returned. We as an organisation have navigated these waters very well and that hard work over the past 3 years is paying dividends now as we easily return to something like business as usual.

As members you can be very proud of the achievements that your SLSNT Board has been able to complete throughout the past season. Whilst you may not hear much from them, I can assure you they are all working towards a common interest and that is making the life of a volunteer easier. Please join me in thanking and congratulating Adam Traugott, Ali Snowden, Sue Barnes, and Jade Creek who unfortunately moved interstate during the year.

To all our sponsors and supporters thank you, we simply cannot do this without your help. In these times when it is so hard to get the support of the corporate world to come onboard, your ongoing support is so vital to our volunteer organisation surviving and thriving.

I want to thank our patrolling, and back of beach volunteers and their families who every year continue to choose to provide a service to their local communities. Thank you, you are the heart and soul of our movement, please don't forget that. Please ensure your clubs and SLSNT are providing you with the resources to help you happily perform these roles.

2022 has been a year of returning to normal and life on the beach reminds us of what normal is as we get to enjoy the pleasant outdoors during the dry season.

We again held the SLSNT Championships at the Darwin SLSC which turned out to be a great weekend. Thank you to all the Officials that put their hands up, the staff who gave up their weekend to help out and keep our members safe throughout the weekend. Most importantly thank you to the members who chose to compete, I trust you had a great weekend whilst honing your rescue ready skills.

This was unfortunately a very Darwin Club dominated event as both of our other clubs are having a more difficult time recovering from the disruptions of the last 2 years. Gove Club is now on a solid path to recovery and Mindil is very much in a rebuilding phase, one which SLSNT is offering as much support as required to help them regain their status as a fully functional club.

This season saw us come together again for the AGM and the Awards of Excellence. I was unfortunately unable to attend but congratulations to all the award winners on the night, we appreciate everything you do to help make our organisation so awesome.

Surf Lifesaver of the Year	David McLean	Mindil Beach SLSC
Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year	Indee Grace	Darwin SLSC
Volunteer of the Year	Tania Sloane	Darwin SLSC
Youth Volunteer of the Year	Dominic Sloane	Darwin SLSC
Athlete of the Year	Lee Harrop	Mindil Beach SLSC

Educator of the Year  
 Coach of the Year  
 Official of the Year  
 Lifeguard of the Year

Sharon Stewart  
 Anne-Marie Schofield  
 Grant Barnett  
 Joshua Spera

Darwin SLSC  
 Darwin SLSC  
 Gove Peninsula SLSC  
 ALS NT

I attended the SLSA Awards of Excellence evening on the Gold Coast where the NT winners nominated for national awards attended. We celebrated their nominations and felt somewhat aggrieved when our nominees such as Lee Harrop were pipped at the post by athletes like Ali Day!

Being part of the national Board for Surf Life Saving Australia has been an interesting component of the role. Despite being an absolute minnow, we are respected and valued as an important part of the national movement. It also reinforces the fact that surf lifesaving is a community and despite the lack of surf in the NT we still belong to the community and can easily re-join that community elsewhere in the nation, whether visiting or relocating there.

As you all know we are a small organisation that punches well above our weight here in the NT and we remain relevant in the broader NT community. We unfortunately lost the Lifeguarding contract at the Waterfront (purely on price), but the red and yellow professional Lifeguards can be seen at the Leanyer and Palmerston Waterparks and we are also now providing Lifeguard Services to every Defence establishment in Darwin. These commercial services provide job opportunities within our community, valuable income to run our operations and better support our Clubs and their lifesaving services. Being a member of the SLSNT board is a privilege and joining the board of a state body who represents Australia's largest volunteer engagement organisation looks good on any resume, so I urge anybody who can spare a little time to put you hand up and nominate for an SLSNT Board position. This is particularly relevant this year as we have lost a valuable member from an already small team. There isn't a huge commitment but the organisation does need to remain well governed and the skills and experience you can gain from this involvement often outweighs what you have to give.

In closing I would like to thank Barney for his 6 years of SLSNT presidency prior to my election in 2022. Barney brought a wealth of experience to the organisation and our movement here in the NT and remains heavily involved with the re-emerging Gove Peninsula Surf Lifesaving Club.

Lets hope 2023 sees our NT clubs continue to rebuild so that Territorians continue to value surf lifesaving as an integral part of our community. Surf lifesaving is a safe, active and healthy community organisation for all ages and for people with a wide range of different interests and skills to offer.

See you on the beach this dry season.

**Ray Hall**  
**President SLSNT**

# Lifesaving Report

## Key Stats

Volunteer Patrol Hours	1,876
Rescue (lives saved)	11
First Aid Treatments	12

2022 saw restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic start to ease across Australia and the season ended up being a reasonable season for lifesaving.

## Search and Rescue (SAR) Team

The SAR Team contributed 318 volunteer patrol hours, performing 3 rescues and 40 preventative actions.

The partnership with Careflight is continuing well, with members being offered three scenario training opportunities. SLSNT also ran First Aid and Advanced Resuscitation training to bring members up to date with the new course content and codes.

Our Offshore Rescue Boat, Lifesaver 1, was again quiet in 2022. In September 2022, SLSNT met with the Officer in Charge of the Water Police to remind them of our assets, training and availability. This did have a positive affect with two callouts occurring after this meeting. The main use of Lifesaver 1 was as water safety support for events in Darwin Harbour.

### *Wet Season Lifesaving Patrol*

The SAR Team provided the Wet Season Lifesaving Patrol between the 12 February to 10 April, 2022. Nine patrols were completed in this time by eight members, contributing 46 volunteer patrol hours.

### *Drones*

SLSNT was not successful in gaining sponsorship for the continuation of the Lifesaver Rescue Drone Program. This meant that flying through the season was ad-hoc with services offered at the Darwin Ocean Swim and NT Championships only.

Chief Pilot, Steve Goat is in place in a voluntary role and pilots are still engaged occasionally. SLSNT has maintained its ReOC, which authorises SLSNT to conduct included drone operations for commercial purposes, and CASA area approvals for all of our Darwin beaches, so as long as we follow procedure SLSNT can fly patrols.

Without ongoing funding, it is hard to see the future of this program.

## Club Lifesaving

In 2022 our clubs patrolled beaches in Darwin and Nhulunbuy, with no lives lost during patrols. Personnel shortages continue to be an ongoing problem for the Clubs and SLSNT needs to provide better support for this in 2023.

A large part of providing a professional service is having suitable equipment for the job, and it was very pleasing to see the Federal Government continue their Beach Safety Equipment Fund which saw each club receive \$10,000 to go towards the purchase of rescue equipment.

During the 2022 season SLSNT provided support to club events through the provision of personnel or equipment including the Darwin Ocean Swim and Beer Can Regatta. These events have received longstanding support from SLSNT, and SLSNT looks forward to continuing this support.

### **Lifeguard Service**

The Australian Lifeguard Service NT (ALSNT) had a successful year in 2022 as there were zero drowning deaths in any of our contractual areas. In addition, lifeguards supervised nearly 600,000 visitors across nine locations, rescuing 13 and performing 262 first aid treatments.

On 14 August 2022, ALSNT provided its last Lifeguard patrol at the Darwin Waterfront Recreation and Wave Lagoon. Whilst disappointing to finish as we have been lifeguarding here since it opened in 2009, we supported the new provider coming in. The YMCA is the new Lifeguard Contractor on site and has a 2+2year contract.

ALSNT was sought out by Ventia, who were looking for a lifeguard service to service five Darwin defence base pools and potentially Katherine. By September 2022, ALSNT was in place at all Darwin locations lifeguarding from 6am to 9.00pm daily.

Despite the loss of the Waterfront, at the end of 2022, ALSNT had a workforce of 60 staff working across three contracts and eight locations – Leanyer Recreation Park, Palmerston Water Park, Defence Base pools and Mindil Beach.

ALSNT continues to expand its presence, and reputation as a reliable First Aid Service, within the community. These events provide Lifeguards with the opportunity to develop their skills and adapt to new working environments, interacting with diverse crowds and placement in sometimes-complex situations that puts their knowledge and skills to the test.

During 2022, ALS NT was engaged to provide First Aid Services at a number of events including Triathlon NT and Swimming NT events, Territory Day @ Mindil Beach, Holi Festival @ Lake Alexander, Territory Family Day @ Lake Alexander and Barry Plant Group visit to the Top End.

# Education Report

## Key Stats

Participants in SLS training	1,270
Units of Competency delivered	3,422
Courses run	127

SLSNT continued to deliver education and training in both formal and informal settings to its' members and the wider community. Education of the wider community is a vital strategy in achieving our organisational vision of zero preventable deaths in NT coastal waters.

SLSNT through auspicing arrangements with Surf Life Saving SA (RTO 40110), delivers nationally recognised, accredited lifesaving education to the NT community, members, emergency services and local schools. SLSNT continued to hold its reputable name across the NT for its training and education by delivering a diverse range of accredited courses over the year. As an organisation we aim to continue delivering this level of high-quality services into the future.

## Commercial Education

Surf lifesaving has a strong and proud history of saving lives in Australia, and SLSNT believes our lifesaving skills can be applied to many different environments and circumstances. SLSNT delivers a range of emergency care and aquatic rescue training courses across a range of industries including sport, education, medical, government and administration.

In 2022, 1,110 members of the public learnt valuable lifesaving skills through First Aid, CPR and Advanced Resuscitation courses.

Our commercial education continues to have only positive outcomes for raising the profile of SLSNT within the community. Partnerships with other organisations like Careflight and Northern Territory Water Police directly drove increased community awareness as well as provide further valuable opportunities to share resources and run collaborative training sessions. Developing and maintaining these interorganisational relationships provides great benefit to the wider NT community and to the SLSNT brand that cannot be underestimated.

## Member Education

Our three surf lifesaving clubs regularly deliver training for members and in 2022, successfully delivered 3 courses, Bronze Medallion and Surf Rescue Certificates resulting in 16 people obtaining their Bronze Medallion or Surf Rescue Certificate. Clubs also completed a 4 junior awards.

SLSNT, with the support of the clubs, ran a combined skills maintenance day open to all members. This year skills maintenance was run down at the Darwin Waterfront and attendance was lower compared to previous years. We appreciate and thank assessors that continue to volunteer their time to make this day run smoothly every year.

SLSNT ran a total of 12 courses for 113 participants, showing a substantial increase in member participation from previous years. This included a broad range of courses inclusive of multiple advanced resuscitation courses, two powercraft operators, an offshore rescue boat operator and a beach

management course. Our Search and Rescue (SAR) team also completed numerous training days in collaboration with Careflight to continue to build on their lifesaving skills in real life scenarios. Well done to all our club members who completed training and courses throughout 2022.

Continuing to develop quality trainers and assessors is crucial to continued success at both a club level and for SLSNT. Over the course of 2022 our current trainers and assessors underwent extensive upskilling via workshops with Darwin SLSC Director of Education, Sharon Stewart and our RTO, SLSSA to ensure they were up to date with the latest delivery techniques and course work.



# Surf Sport Report

## Key Stats

Participants in Surf Sports activities	4,312
Accredited Coaches	12
Accredited Officials	14

It was a harder year for Surf Sports with general attendance to SLSNT events, including our annual NT Championships, substantially lower than usual. There were highlights throughout the season from both new and season favourite events.

SLSNT continued to run the series of Beach & Paddle events. This consisted of three events across three different courses along iconic territory coastlines. Across the series there were 33 competitors, from a variety of craft: surf ski, outriggers, ocean skull, SUPS and surf boat crews. It would be great to see that variety of craft and attendance continue to thrive and grow. The last of the dates fell on a cold and dreary dry season morning so this resulted in our lowest attendance but generally another great year for the series.

Surf Sports is a great outlet and opportunity for surf lifesaving members to participate in unique activities, whilst improving their essential skills required to be a lifesaver. SLSNT plans to manage and run an active Surf Sport into 2023 because of the positive impact it can have on member recruitment and retention. We extend a warm thank you to those that continue to support these events and encourage all lifesavers to get involved in the future.

## New Events trialled

Throughout the season SLSNT trialled some new events under our 'Come and Try' umbrella open to members and non-members. This has been an effective way to recruit new club members in the past. The first event, the Surf Taplin Relay in May, saw 6 teams of 3 competed in a relay including a range of surf disciplines. The energy and the comradery at this event was incredible to see prior to patrol season even beginning.

Another new event that SLSNT ran was the IGA Zuccoli Beach Sprint that saw 18 participants hit the beach for a series of sprints and 2km race. This attracted a mainly younger demographic and moving forward there is opportunity to build connections with other sporting organisations to ensure further success of the event. A huge thank you to IGA Zuccoli who partnered with SLSNT on the Beach Sprint and provided prizes on the day.

SLSNT has taken on member feedback from both the new events, but overall it was encouraging to see both members and non-members in attendance at both these events. Heading into 2023 SLSNT will continue to offer engaging Surf Sport events that appeal to both audiences.

## Sea Swift NT Surf Life Saving Championships

The Sea Swift NT Surf Life Saving Championships were run on the 2 & 4 September at Darwin Surf life Saving Club on Casuarina Beach. Unfortunately, Darwin Surf Life Saving Club, were the only club that entered competitors. Entries were extremely low with 56 competitors in total. Nipper numbers continued to be steady with 27 competing, 10 youth and 19 open (master and veterans).

The program ran with a revised format of 108 contests over 2 days. Competition started on the Friday with sprints and beach flags being held under the lights. It was a picturesque sunset down on Casuarina Beach and a great way to kick off the championships. With the revised format, Saturday saw all beach events from junior and senior competitors undertaken.

Despite the heat on Saturday the 2-day event was a great and we appreciate all who contributed to successfully running the program. SLSNT encourages all members to consider competing as we hope to have a competitive year in 2023.

A huge thank you needs to go to Sea Swift who continue to support surf sports in the NT. The Sea Swift NT Surf Life Saving Championships will return to Gove in 2023.

### **Officials**

Those officials who were trained and guided by interstate officials Dennis Mathison and Mick Lafferty in 2018, continued as the NT core officials. In 2022, we saw 5 new technical officials join the growing team and it is great to see members continuing to put their hand up and help grow the sport and level of competition in the NT. We hope to see this development continue in the future.

A big thankyou to the officials were on the beach to officiate at the 2023 Sea Swift NT Surf Life Saving Championships. Without your assistance the Championships would have been impossible to run.

### **Development Weekends**

There were several developments trips our core officials attended throughout the 2022 year. In February both Beryl and Greg Edwards made their way to the QLD Youth State Championships at Alexandra Headland and Mooloolaba Beach. Unfortunately, due to severe weather conditions the event got cancelled. Beryl and Greg ended up getting caught in the flooding however both made it home safely once Sunshine Highway re-opened a few days later.

In July, Rob Van Wessel and Steven Krohn travelled to Mollymook to gain further officiating experience and knowledge at the IRB National Championships. Both Rob and Krohny enjoyed the trip and were even interviewed by Surf Life Saving Australia about their experience attending. Thank you to Northern Territory Government for helping make this trip possible thanks to the Officials Development Grant.

SLSNT endorsed Grant Barnett to make the the trip from Gove over to the Gold Coast to build knowledge and skills officiating at the National Pool Rescue Championships in August. A great experience for Barney and one that will collectively help the lifesaving movement become more supported in competition endeavours.

### **Appreciation**

SLSNT wishes to thank all coaches and officials for giving up their time all year and our fantastic water safety volunteers who make our events safe for all competitors.

SLSNT would also like to acknowledge the NT Government's Department of Sport & Recreation and our sponsors Sea Swift and Thrifty for their continued support of surf lifesaving sport in the NT.

## Community Programs & Engagement

### Key Stats

Participants in community Programs	2,039
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#### Little Lifesavers

SLSNT, with the support of the clubs, continued to run introductory program Little Lifesavers to increase awareness of SLSNT and the nippers program. Over 3 events at Darwin Waterfront, SLSNT reached 79 children and the feedback from families was great. This annual program is always well supported by the community with many families returning each year.

#### Youth Indigenous Program

SLSNT were recipients of the Youth Vibe Holiday Grant to support an Indigenous Youth Surf Program during school holidays. This supported two half day sessions where recipients learned first aid, CPR and basic water safety skills. The program was well attended and the feedback from parents and carer providers was positive. The sessions help raise our profile in the community and provided some great networking opportunities for SLSNT moving forward. A huge thank you to Northern Territory Families, Housing and Communities for supporting this program.

#### Michael Long Leadership and Learning Centre

2022 saw SLSNT enter a partnership with AFL's Michael Long Leadership and Learning Centre (MLLLC) providing remote indigenous community groups with water safety and first aid/CPR sessions. Over 5 sessions SLSNT reached over 65 youth from Wadeye, Papunya, Elliott, Borroloola and Milikapiti. This program is a great testament to the how important collaboration is for connecting with a wider audience. The partnership is already looking forward at how this partnership can grow and develop heading into the future.

#### The Beach

A new community event SLSNT supported was 'The Beach' run by the Northern Territory initiative, Launch Darwin, who celebrate local youth by providing engaging programs and events. The Beach event was hosted at Darwin Waterfront, comprised of AFL, Corrugated Iron, Touch Football, NRL and Tracks Dance Company and SLSNT targeting the 12–17 year-old age group. Despite being a one-off event, the collaborative nature of all organisations attending resulted in over 100 youth engaging with the surf lifesaving session over 4 hours. SLSNT ran through some interactive activities to encourage youth to be safe around water and then went through some rescue skills. The anecdotal feedback from this session was positive from this age group however it did act as a learning experience for how SLSNT can best tailor and refine our Get Involved messaging to suit this particular demographic.

#### Surf n Sail

The Surf n Sail program continued to run over 3 sessions for the year. This initiative between Australian Sailing NT, Darwin Sailing Club and SLSNT has continued to grow throughout 2022. The two-hour sessions provide children with the opportunity to participate in the Nipper activities such as board paddling, beach and water flags and the opportunity to learn the basics of sailing. It's a great way for the collective group of organisations to come together and really encourage the participation in and around water while also build the profile of surf lifesaving and the sailing in the community. The attendance of this program was 97 across the 3 sessions.

### **Splashfest**

Water Safety Week is an NT Government initiative that focuses on creating awareness about keeping ourselves and others safe in, around and on the water. Splash Fest, a key event during Water Safety Week, is a one-day event at the start of the week and this continues to be a fun and important event on the SLSNT Calendar. Held annually at Darwin Waterfront, over 1,200 members of the public attended to learn about keeping ourselves and others safe in, around and on the water. SLSNT provided a great activity which encouraged children to identify items you SHOULD take on a boat, and items you SHOULDN'T. Great feedback from accompanying parents was received, with the opportunity to have a photo on the jet ski being a highlight.

### **Darwin Harbour Clean Up**

SLSNT continued our participation in the annual Darwin Harbour Clean Up. Lifesaver 1, two TWCS and the IRB were all involved and 9 volunteers took part in the event. Members focused on cleaning the area around the Esplanade between Lameroo Beach and Frances Bay.

We commend all involved, particularly the cadets, who were involved on the day. It was a huge effort but we were able to assist in removing tonnes of rubbish from the Darwin Harbour. We pride ourselves on our involvement and a thank you to Larrakia Nation for continuing to coordinate the management of this great community initiative. SLSNT encourages more volunteers to take part in this unifying event in 2023.