Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club (BSBLSC)

Member Handbook

2026-2027 Season

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Welcome!

Thanks for being part of Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club — the first surf lifesaving club in the world and home to around a quarter of all rescues in Sydney. It's a legacy we're proud of, and one that's only possible because of the commitment and care of our members.

This Handbook is here to help you get the most out of your time at the Club — how things work, what to expect, and where to go if you need help. If you spot something missing or have ideas for future versions, we'd love to hear from you.

Our Club runs on volunteer energy, and every bit of effort from our members helps keep us strong. If there's something you think we could be doing better, let us know — it's that shared responsibility that keeps us moving forward.

Liz Webb
President

Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club Mission

"No Lives Lost" - This mission was embedded in the minutes of the first meeting of the Club on 21st February 1907.

We endeavor to ensure no lives are lost at Bondi by having well trained and equipped patrols, with lifesaving skills honed by competition and by being compliant with the best practices of Surf Life Saving. Our Nippers program builds key surf awareness skills and creates Junior Lifesavers who become our highly capable Cadets.

Additionally, our community outreach programs ensure surf safety skills are widely known, assist people access the beach, and promote a diverse community that enjoys all that Bondi has to offer.

Bondi Surf Club History – How BSBLSC Came to Be

By the late 1800s, surf bathing had become increasingly popular, but laws at the time restricted swimming on NSW beaches between 6am and 9pm. As public interest grew, so too did calls for access to the beach during daylight hours — and with more people in the surf came a greater risk of accidents and drownings.

In response, local bathers began to organise themselves to look out for one another and assist those in trouble. One such group formally came together at the Royal Hotel in Bondi in February 1907, establishing what would become the Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club.

Bondi's first patrol roster was created in 1908, and two years later, the Bronze Medallion — now the standard lifesaving qualification — was introduced. The first Bronze squad was assessed at Bondi Beach on 2 January 1910, with participants from both Bondi and the Coogee Life Saving Brigade.

While Bondi has long played a role in the growth of surf life saving, it has been shaped by a broader collective effort — a national movement built on volunteerism, community spirit, and a shared commitment to keeping beachgoers safe.

About Being a Surf Lifesaver

Becoming a surf lifesaver takes commitment and above-average fitness. With tens of thousands of visitors on busy summer days, Bondi is one of Australia's most demanding patrol environments accounting for around 10% of all national surf rescues each year.

Our patrols operate under the charter of Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) and a formal agreement with Waverley Council. This is a responsibility we take seriously, and we ask all lifesavers to meet the following commitments:

Patrol Attendance – Attend all rostered patrols. If you are unable to attend, notify your Patrol Captain as soon as possible, request a substitute, and take another patrol from the "Substitutes Needed" section of the Patrol page in the SLS Hub.

Annual Skills Proficiency – All lifesavers must complete their annual skills proficiency by 31 December, as required by SLSA.

Dues and Renewals – You must complete the online membership renewal process and pay your membership fees via the SLS Hub. This requirement ensures you are covered by Club insurance.

Contact Information – Keep your contact and personal details up to date in the SLS Hub.

Service Hours – Once you have obtained your Bronze Medallion or Surf Rescue Certificate, you are expected to complete the minimum hours assigned to your patrol. Speak to your Patrol Captain to confirm the requirement for your patrol. The average is 44 hours per season but may vary depending on your roster and will change each season.

Key Contacts at Bondi SBLSC

- Club President: president@bondisurfclub.com
- Deputy President: deputypresident@bondisurfclub.com
- Director Administration: secretary@bondisurfclub.com
- Finance Director: treasurer@bondisurfclub.com
- Director of Lifesaving: clubcaptain@bondisurfclub.com
- Director Competition: competition@bondisurfclub.com
- Director Education: education@bondisurfclub.com
- Director of Juniors: nippersdirector@bondisurfclub.com
- Director of Marketing: marketing@bondisurfclub.com
- Captain of Lifesaving: lifesaving@bondisurfclub.com
- IRB Captain: irbcaptain@bondisurfclub.com
- The Scenic Lounge: events@bondisurfclub.com

Administration

Club Facilities & Office

- **Club Opening Hours** - 5am - 9pm daily unless otherwise advertised
- **Club Office Hours** - office hours are seasonal, keep an eye on The Surfer or email info@bondisurfclub.com to confirm.
- **Lockers** – Lockers are limited and in high demand, you may need to wait until one becomes available. Once assigned, a locker is yours as long as the annual fee is paid with your membership renewal. Please don't leave valuables unsecured in the changerooms, as the Club can't guarantee their safety. Report any theft to the Office.
- **Use of the Gym** –Gym membership is separate to Club membership and must be applied for and paid through the SLS Hub. See Gym Rules for full details.
- **Club calendar** - individual patrol dates and Club events on TeamUp:
  * Visit teamup.com
  * Create an account
  * Add the Bondi Surf Club calendar
- **Updates** - The *Bondi Surfer* is our monthly newsletter, we also send out a Bondi Surfer Brief weekly with updates of key events and dates. Subscribe to the Surfer here: The Bondi Surfer Newsletter

Contact Club Office

Email: info@bondisurfclub.com

Phone: 02 9300 9279

Address: Queen Elizabeth Drive, Bondi Beach NSW 2026

Types of Membership

Please refer to the Bondi SBLSC Club Rules and Constitution for Membership types.

Key Rules

This is a list of some key Club rules - you should also review the Bondi SBLSC Club Rules and Constitution which are available on the website & noticeboard.

Personal effects

Surfboards, bikes and other belongings must not be stored or left anywhere in the Club.

Equipment

- Members shall immediately report any loss or damage of Club equipment to info@bondisurfclub.com
- No person other than a Member of the Club who is a proficient Bronze Medallion or SRC holder or probationary candidate undertaking a Bronze Medallion or SRC training shall be allowed the use of any Club equipment.
- The boards held in the beach tunnel are for patrol activities only.
- Rescue boards may only be used in the surf craft area, except in the case of a rescue.

Wet Cossies/Clothing/Wetsuits/Bodies

- A Member shall not wear wet clothing in the Clubhouse except in the wet entrance, the change rooms, the boatshed, craft shed or the gear room.
- Members returning to the Clubhouse from the beach wet or sandy must use the wet entrance at the southern side of the building.

Change Rooms and Steam Room

Change rooms and hot showers are available for all Cadets, Active, Long Service and Associate Members and steam room access is permitted for those aged 15 yrs and above.

To support environmental sustainability and help manage Club operating costs, members are asked to keep showers to a maximum of 3 minutes.

Please note that access to the Surf Club and specifically change rooms and steam room is a **Members only benefit.** Any Members found to be allowing non-Members to access the change rooms, gym and/or steam room may have their Club access deactivated for a penalty period.

Cleanliness

Each Member shall take all reasonable care to preserve the cleanliness of the Clubhouse, including ensuring rubbish is placed in bins.

Visitors

A Member may invite a visitor into the Clubhouse, but the Member will be responsible to ensure that the visitor conforms to the Club rules as if they were a Member.

Conduct

A Member in the Clubhouse shall not engage in unseemly conduct such as bad language, bullying, harassment or any behaviour likely to interfere with the comfort of other Members.

Club Access

- A Member shall be supplied with electronic access to the Clubhouse.
- It is the Member's responsibility to notify the office immediately of a lost/missing access pass. These will be replaced for a fee of $30.
- Club access is for the sole use of the Member to whom it is issued and is not transferable.
- Members are only given access to doors for which they are authorised.
- The boat shed roller doors are only to be used for the removal and return of craft. Members are not permitted to use these roller doors as an alternate entrance to the main hall, or wet entrance.

Club Property

No Member shall remove, or use for any purpose other than that for which it is intended, any lifesaving, competition gear or property of the Club without approval of the Board of Management, or a designated representative.

Member Responsibility

Any Member who violates the Club Rules or who misconducts themselves on Club premises, or who acts contrary to the general policy of the Club or so as to bring the Club into disrepute, may be suspended or expelled from the Club by the Judiciary Committee or may otherwise be dealt with as the Judiciary Committee deems fit.

Parking and Parking Compliance

The 8 parking spaces directly in front of the Clubhouse are primarily for use by Members who are on patrol.

Members must clearly display either a current Bondi Member or Patrolling Member parking sticker on their vehicles when parked in this area otherwise they risk a parking infringement notice from the Council.

Please do not park in these spaces on days when patrols are rostered unless you are on-duty at the time.

Parking in front of the Surf Club is not an entitlement and comes with the following conditions:

- The parking is not to be used from 7.30am - 6.00pm on days there is a patrol rostered unless you are actively patrolling that day and your parking sticker reads PATROLLING MEMBER.
- If requested to move your car at any time, you must do so immediately.

Parking stickers can be purchased via the SLS Hub when renewing your membership at a cost of $15 for patrolling Members and $50 for non-patrolling Members per season. The sticker can be collected from the Office during the advertised office hours. You will be required to provide your car registration number on receipt of the parking sticker.

Waverley Council Beach Parking Permit

Active patrolling members are eligible for discounted unlimited parking on Queen Elizabeth Drive. The office needs to sign your application form before you can submit it.
Waverley Council Beach Parking

Lifesaving

Patrol Dates

You will find all patrol dates and everything that's going on at the Club in the TeamUp calendar. Using it means you'll always have all the information you need about Club activities available via the app on your phone.

Obligations

As an Active Member of Bondi Surf Club, your primary responsibility is to fulfil your patrol duties. We value your time and commitment as a volunteer, and understand that circumstances can sometimes make it difficult to meet these obligations. If you're experiencing challenges, please reach out to the Club Captain or Captain of Lifesaving to discuss your options or arrange an alternative.

Patrol Times

Please arrive on time for your patrol. The times listed in the patrol roster are the times patrol members must be at the Club and ready for set-up and/or to be briefed on the coming patrol.

Each day is divided into a morning and afternoon patrol. We have Peak (Daylight Savings) and Shoulder season which determine the times the patrols start and end.

Shoulder:
Saturday: 8:30am-12:45pm & 12:15pm-4:30pm
Sunday (no Nippers): 8:30am-12:45pm & 12:15 4:30 pm
Sunday (with Nippers): 7:30am-12:45pm & 12:15-4:30 pm

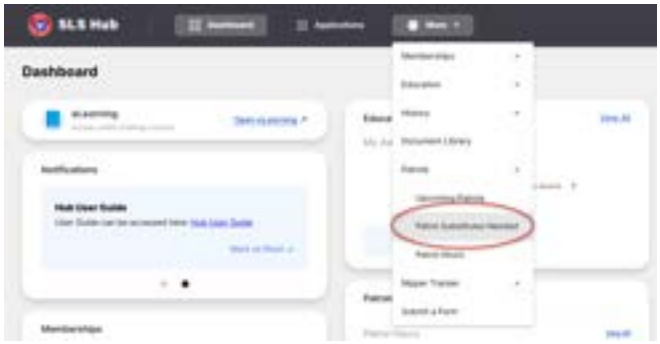
Peak:
Saturday: 8:30am-1:15pm & 12:45 pm-6:30pm
Sunday (no Nippers): 7:30-13:15 and 12:45- 6:30pm
Sunday (with Nippers): 7:30am-1:15pm & 12:45-6:30pm

Patrols Substitute

All rostered patrolling members are required to request a substitute for any patrol they cannot attend. Members requesting a substitute must pick up one extra make up patrol from the substitution page on the members portal at the time they submit their own substitution request. Member hours are monitored by the Lifesaving team and any members not meeting their rostered patrolling hours by the end of the season may be required to provide an explanation before a patrol judiciary and/or face disciplinary action.

How to get a substitute:

1. Log into the SLS Hub and select More > Patrols > Patrol Substitutes Needed



2. You will see all available swaps - choose one to take from the list and accept that patrol, then put your request on the portal as well
3. Notify your Patrol Captain (by phone, email or Facebook)
4. If you are sick on the day or cannot attend Patrol due to circumstances beyond your control please notify your Patrol Captain and you may be excused.

Special Patrol Categories

Special Duties Patrol Members

If your schedule does not permit you to join a rostered patrol and commit to regular patrols, you may request Special Duties from the Lifesaving Team. Special Duties Members have the flexibility of attending any patrol and are required to meet the following requirements:

- A minimum of the average rostered patrol hours for the season, usually around 44 hours. 22 hours of these must be completed before December 31st, with the remainder completed after this.
- Must complete full patrol.
- Must wear the full uniform.

Apply here: Application to change Patrol Category

Youth Special Duties

If you are aged between 15-27 years old and your study or work commitments do not permit you to commit to regular patrols, you may request Youth Special Duties from the Captain of Lifesaving. Youth Special Duties Members are allocated to a specific patrol and are required to meet the following requirements:

- A minimum of 16 patrol hours must be accumulated over the season.
- A minimum of 25 hours must be accumulated between January to December in order to compete for the Club.
- Must wear the full uniform.

Apply here: Application to change Patrol Category

Leave/Restricted

Members who are not able to patrol due to sickness, long term injury or need parental leave can apply for leave, this will need supporting documents and will enable the Member to remain involved in the Club but with no patrol obligations.

Apply here: Application to change Patrol Category

Part-time

If you are unable to commit to a regular rostered patrol due to work, study, or parental commitments, you may apply for Part-time Patrol status. Part-time Members are not assigned to a specific patrol team and have the flexibility of completing their patrol hours at any time during the season. Part-time Members are required to meet the following conditions:

- A minimum of 22 patrol hours must be completed over the course of the season.
- All patrols must be completed in full uniform and for the full duration of the patrol.
- Part-time Members must apply in writing each season, outlining their reason for being unable to commit to a full patrol roster.

The lifesaving team will confirm each member's required hours prior to the start of the season.

Long Service

Members may be eligible for Long Service status after:

- 10 years as an Active Member, or
- 8 years as an Active Member plus 4 years as a Reserve Active Member, or
- Service at another affiliated SLSA Club (subject to Board approval)

For the purposes of calculating years of service for Long Service Award, an Active Member must have completed all rostered hours (or at the discretion of DoL a minimum 30 patrol hours service, as per SLSA National Medal criteria) per patrol season.

Long Service Members are not required to perform patrol duties.

If you've met the criteria, you can request a change to Long Service membership via this link.

Patrol Uniform

As Bondi Lifesavers, we take pride in wearing the patrol uniform. To maintain a professional standard and meet OH&S requirements, full official patrol uniform is compulsory and must be worn while on duty. This includes:

- SLSA-issued patrol cap (skull cap), shirt, and shorts
- Swimming costume (Club swimmers preferred)
- Wide-brim hat or peaked cap (SLSA-issued)
- Sunglasses (your choice)

Casual clothing and non-official hats or headwear must not be worn over or instead of the patrol cap. Your initial uniform is supplied by the Club. Additional or replacement items can be purchased from the Club office.

Other SLSA Patrol Uniform items

Other patrol uniform items such as jackets and rashies can be purchased via the SLS Hub.

Conduct while on Patrol

The Bondi Lifesaver is a recognised Australian icon, representing comradeship, loyalty, and a commitment to helping others. As highly visible members of the community, how we present ourselves matters.

While on patrol and in uniform, members are expected to maintain a professional standard. This means avoiding inappropriate language, smoking, or any behaviour that could be seen as careless or unprofessional. Always uphold a strong duty of care and represent the Club with pride.

Patrol Questions

Can I have time off /holiday from patrols?

Members may have three weeks continuous leave from Club commitments, any patrols during this time need not have a substitute. Application in writing should be addressed to Captain of Lifesaving, lifesaving@bondisurfclub.com

What happens if I miss a patrol?

You need to make up that patrol. If you miss more than two patrols, you may be asked to attend the Club judiciary. Suspension from the Club is the maximum penalty.

Education

Basic Awards

All new active members are expected to complete their Bronze Medallion (BM), First Aid (FA), and Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate (ARTC) within their first two years at the Club. These qualifications are essential for patrolling Australia's busiest beach.

Dates for upcoming Bronze and SRC courses are listed here.

Skills Maintenance - Annual Proficiency

Skills maintenance is essential to:

- Ensure members remain competent in their lifesaving qualifications
- Maintain and update knowledge and standards
- Meet legal and compliance requirements
- Uphold our commitment to public safety on the beach

The Bronze Medallion proficiency is valid until 31 December each year. If you are not proficient by this date, you:

- Cannot patrol or operate rescue craft
- Cannot compete in any SLSA-sanctioned competition
- Will have your Club access revoked until you regain proficiency or change membership categories

If you haven't completed a skills maintenance check in three years, you'll be required to complete an Extended Proficiency to requalify.

If it has been more than 10 years, you must complete the full Bronze Medallion course again.

Annual proficiencies must be completed for the following awards:

Aquatic Rescue Awards

- Surf Rescue Certificate
- Bronze Medallion
- Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue
- Gold Medallion

Emergency Care Awards

- Resuscitation Certificate
- Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate (ARTC)

Powercraft Awards

- IRB Crew Certificate
- Silver Medallion IRB Driver
- Surf Rescue 30 (Offshore Rescue Boat)
- RWC (Jetski) Operator
- SSV Operator

Training and Assessment Awards

- Training Officer
- Assessor
- Facilitator

Higher Awards

Once you've earned your Bronze Medallion, there are many opportunities to continue building your skills. We encourage all members to pursue further qualifications. Available higher awards include:

- Powercraft - IRB Crew / Driver (or RWC - Jetski, Offshore, Helicopter)
- Silver Medallion Patrol Captain
- Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue
- First Aid - Advanced First Aid, Spinal management, Pain management
- Radio Operator, SurfCom Operator
- Drone Operator
- Training Officer, Assessor, Facilitator or Official
- Gold Medallion

More details are available on awards is available here

Become a Training Officer

SLSA offers the Training Officer Certificate, which qualifies you to help deliver courses like the Bronze Medallion. To gain this award, you'll complete a short course and then assist in delivering two Bronze courses as part of the training team. If you have existing training qualifications, you may be eligible for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

We're always looking for more Training Officers and Assessors—if you're interested, please contact education@bondisurfclub.com

Surf Sports

Bondi Surf Club has a proud tradition in surf sports, with the first Australian Championships held right here at Bondi Beach on March 20, 1915.

Our mission is to deliver an inclusive and supportive surf sports program that helps members of all ages build skills for both lifesaving and competition. The program caters to all levels of ability and across all disciplines, supporting members to achieve their individual goals—whether social, fitness-based, or competitive.

Surf Sports Information Updates

Join the WhatsApp Training group for updates on training (board, ski, swim, beach).

Information is also published on the following Facebook groups.

- Training Group Facebook - join this group to stay up to date with training activities
- Surf Sports team – competition and training

More information regarding competition can be found in the Surf Sports Handbook.

Areas of Competition

Bondi's Surf Sports program actively promotes the following activities for our competitors:

- Water Events--surf race, board, ski, ironperson, taplin relay
- Beach Events--Sprints, flags, 2km run
- Surf Board Riding
- Surf Boats
- Pool Rescue
- Lifesaving events--champion lifesaver, patrol and first aid competition
- R&R
- IRB
- March Past

If you wish to compete in any of the following areas please email the Director of Surf Sports, competition@bondisurfclub.com

Training and Coaching

Bondi Surf Sports is committed to providing opportunities for improving the fitness and skill levels for all Members, whether they compete or not. The Surf Sports captains and other Club Members run a variety of training sessions throughout the year. Sessions include boards, ski, surf, boat, pool rescue, soft sand running, and sprint training.

Bondi Surf Club has a Competition Coach to develop the skills of competitors. The Coach runs several training sessions a week throughout the season (October – April). These sessions are for Members of any level of competency from Under 15 to Masters who are actively competing for Bondi Surf Club.

Participants must have a bronze proficiency for board and ski sessions if using Club craft. Beginner ski paddlers must be assessed before joining the Intermediate/Advanced group.

Surf Boat training: Each boat crew follows a training program set by their sweep that usually involves work on Rose Bay, in surf and in the gym- in preparation for racing Nov- April. Contact the Boat Captain for more information.

Craft

To support surf sports competition, the Club owns and makes available to members craft (boards and skis), equipment and storage space. We are not able to provide craft and equipment for everyone. The craft room also has limited spaces for private craft.

Craft and Equipment Policies

Craft room access

Only members who have been granted permission to store their personal craft or are authorised to use Club-owned craft will be given access to the craft room. Please contact Surf Sports Admin if you need access.

Craft Storage

The ski and board racks in the Club's craft room are a valuable resource. With the growth of the Surf Sports team and craft competitors within the Club, these spaces are in high demand and there is currently not enough storage to meet this demand.

The Storage Policy for Craft outlines the process for members to request and be assigned storage space for private equipment in the craft room.

If you would like to store your board or ski at the Club, please complete the Craft Storage Application

Club craft hire

The Club owns a limited number of boards and skis available for hire for competitors exclusive use throughout the season for training and competition. This allows competitors to develop a level of confidence and competence in craft events before investing in personal equipment.

The Club has a limited amount of craft/equipment for competitors to use and competitors are encouraged to purchase their own. Ski hire does not include a paddle.

The boards and skis owned by the Club are graded – 1, 2 or 3 – based on the brand, age and condition of the board. New craft or craft in better condition will be assigned grade 1. With age and wear and tear, the craft will become grade 2 then grade 3. The availability of craft in each grade depends on the Club's current inventory.

Boards or skis will be matched to competitors based on their approximate size, weight and/or skill level. Competitors who regularly attend training and race have priority for grade 1 boards or skis.

If you would like to hire a board or ski, please complete the Application for Craft Hire

Temporary use of Club craft

If a competitor would like to use a Club board or ski while their craft is being repaired, they must contact surfsports@bondisurfclub.com before using Club craft.

Damage to Club craft and equipment

If a Club member damages Club craft beyond repair, the member will be responsible for reimbursing the Club for the value of the written off craft.

Surf Sports fees

Any member wishing to attend Club training and compete for the Club, in any discipline will be required to pay the Surf Sports fee.

Competitors may be asked to also pay additional fees such as carnival entries and transport fees.

Competition fees are to be paid at the start of each membership year.

- Members will not be entered in carnivals until they have paid the Surf Sports fee.
- Members who are new to competition are welcome to attend one local carnival before joining the competition team and paying the Surf Sports fee.
- Craft allocation and craft storage fees are to be paid upon successful acceptance of application. If payment is not received within one month of the approval, the allocated space will be re-allocated to another pending member.
- Fees will not be refunded if a member leaves the Club, transfers their competition rights or is non-compliant and has their privileges revoked at any time during the season.
- Special consideration or exemption may be given upon request by the Director of Surf Sports for extenuating circumstances.

Competition payments

Where the Club has paid carnival and championship entry fees for nominated competitors, the competitor will be charged the entry fee if they fail to attend.

Reimbursement must be made before nominating at the next carnival. An exemption for extenuating circumstances will be determined by the Board of Surf Sports.

Competition eligibility

To be eligible to compete for the Club in any SLSA competition, Members must:

- Be a registered and current financial Member of BSBLSC
- Hold the appropriate SLSA Award (Bronze or SRC)
- Have completed skills maintenance before 31 December of each year
- Be eligible under the appropriate age category
- Have carried out the minimum annual patrol hour requirements as defined in SLSA Policy 5.04
- Have met their patrol commitments as required by the Cub
- Not be in default with their Club, Branch, State Centre or SLSA in relation to their service, financial or discipline obligations
- Have met any other competition eligibility qualification requirements for specific events e.g. IRB, Surf Boat (sweep), Patrol Competition, First Aid.

Those Members who do not complete the minimum patrol hours (25 hours) by 31 December will not be eligible for interclub or championship competition and will not be entered in carnivals (unless a valid reason is accepted by SLSA). Any other competition benefits will also be reviewed.

For further information, please refer to Policy 5.04: Proficiency and Patrol Hour Requirements for Competition Eligibility.

Nippers - Junior Lifesavers

Our Nipper program has been running since 1965 and thousands of children have enjoyed the benefits of this amazing program at the world famous Bondi Beach. The Nippers program focuses on fun, friendship, growing confidence, teaching surf safety and surf skills and emphasising the importance of community.

Nippers is a fun way for children aged 5 to Under 14 to enjoy the beach in a safe environment. The Junior Development Program is designed to ensure children have fun at the beach while participating in lessons that will give them a pathway to becoming a qualified surf lifesaver and a junior competitor.

Each Sunday our Nippers participate in activities tailored to their Age Group, including board paddling, swimming, wading, running and beach flags. They also learn a diverse range of skills which build throughout the program, from learning about the surf environment right through to CPR, water rescues and basic first aid.

Nippers activities are on Sunday mornings from October until March with a break over Christmas/New Year.

For more information, visit the website or contact nippers@bondisurfclub.com

Marketing and Social

Bondi Surf Cam

A live stream view from The Scenic Lounge - know what the Bondi Beach conditions are right now.

Social

Throughout the season, we host “Bottles” — our Sunday afternoon catch-up in The Scenic Lounge upstairs. It’s a relaxed way to wind down the weekend with drinks, food, and good company while enjoying the sunset over the bay. The bar opens at 5pm and usually wraps up around 9pm. Friends, family, and kids are all welcome.

The Club also runs a range of social events during the season (and sometimes in the off-season), including trivia nights, comedy shows, speed dating, Christmas parties, and themed Bottles. There’s something for everyone — so come along, get involved, and make the most of the Bondi Club community.

Bondi Patrol Podcasts

Across Surf Lifesaving, every volunteer has a story — of dedication, courage, and commitment to keeping our beaches safe. These are the voices of people who give their time, energy, and passion without hesitation.

Join us as we share inspiring and uplifting stories from the people behind the red and yellow — the ones who make surf lifesaving what it is.

Bondi Patrol Podcast

The Scenic Lounge

The Scenic Lounge is available for hire for private and corporate events. Visit the website for more information or contact events@bondisurfclub.com.

Member Services

Member Protection

Bondi SBLSC is committed to the health, safety, and wellbeing of all members and aims to provide a safe environment for all surf life saving activities.

Together with Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) and affiliated entities, we uphold the SLSA Member Protection Policy. Every member including those in positions of responsibility such as age managers, coaches, officials, trainers, and leaders has a duty to support the safety and welfare of others.

Any form of abuse, whether by members or external parties, is not tolerated. All incidents must be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities.

Abuse is defined as anything which individuals or organisations do, or fail to do, that directly or indirectly harms people or damages their prospects of a safe and healthy development. This includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, inappropriate training, inappropriate touching, sexual abuse and neglect. (National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, 2000).

Code of Conduct

All Club members are bound by the Bondi SBLSC Code of Conduct

Complaint Resolution

Where possible, members are encouraged to resolve concerns directly with the other party in a respectful and constructive manner. If this isn't appropriate or the issue involves serious misconduct or abuse, members should speak with one of the Club's Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs) or lodge a formal complaint through the Complaints Officer. All concerns will be handled confidentially and in line with the SLSA Member Protection Policy.

The Working with Children Check (WWCC)

The WWCC, managed by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, includes a national criminal history check. It results in either a five-year clearance or a bar from working with children. Cleared individuals are continually monitored, and new records may affect their status.

As part of the Club's ongoing commitment to governance, child safety and compliance obligations, all members aged 18 years and over are required to hold a current Working With Children Check. This is an important responsibility we share as a community organisation working closely with young people and families.

Apply for a WWCC

The Bondi Members behind the Patrol names

Baldock Patrol – Cyril Baldock OAM
Cyril has served the Club for over 60 seasons, twice swam the English Channel, and won Australian titles as both competitor and coach. He has held roles as Club Captain, President and Patron, is a Life Member, been awarded an OAM and is a lifelong contributor to Bondi.

Bassingthwaighte Patrol – Rothe 'Basso' Bassingthwaighte
Known for his power in big surf - said to be the only person ever to catch a wave body surfing from Ben Buckler to the beach - Basso was a much-loved figure who coached and supported the Club for many years. He served as Club Captain and Social Secretary and was an Australian titleholder in Surf Team and R&R and was a true character of Bondi.

Besomo Patrol – Valentine 'Vic' Besomo
Vic joined the Club as a Junior Member in 1931 and went on to represent Australia in both water polo and surf. He held senior leadership roles across all levels of life saving, serving Bondi as Club Secretary, and was awarded Life Membership of SLS Sydney, SLSNSW and SLSA.

Craven Patrol – William 'Bill' Craven
A tireless instructor and Club stalwart, Bill helped support new clubs along the coast and trained generations of lifesavers. He served as Club Captain and Chief Instructor and is remembered for his deep commitment and generous spirit.

Douglas Patrol – William 'Tiny' Douglas
Joining Bondi SBLSC in 1914, Tiny served in WWI before becoming a respected instructor and Club Captain. He was also a Wallaby, NSW rugby player, and one of SLSA's finest trainers. Tiny Served as Club Captain and Chief Instructor, and was a valued competitor representing Bondi at state and national levels, he was awarded Life Membership in 1928.

Fletcher Patrol – H.B. 'Tibby' Fletcher
A pioneering member since 1912, Tibby was a standout swimmer and dedicated Club leader. He helped shape early life saving education, served on national bodies, and remains the only recipient of the Honour Cap. His bravery was recognised for rescuing a shark attack victim at Coogee in 1922. Tibby held many key roles at the Club including Club Captain and was awarded Life Membership, he represented Bondi in competition across more than a decade.

Fullwood Patrol – Sid Fullwood
A Foundation and Life Member, Sid was the Club's first Treasurer and one of the earliest to earn a Bronze Medallion. He held foundational roles as Club Captain and Treasurer, and helped establish the Club's early structure and standards.

Hutchings Patrol – Brian 'Hutcho' Hutchings
An elite surf competitor, Patrol Captain and Life Member, Hutcho was a multiple national champion in Surf and Surf Belt events, was an SLSA Hall of Fame inductee and raced competitively into his 60s.

Jeppesen Patrol – Carl 'Jeppo' Jeppesen
The Club Captain during Black Sunday and a beloved community leader, Jeppo served in WWII, co-founded the Solomon Islands Surf Club, and was Mayor of Waverley. He held leadership roles including Club Captain, President and Treasurer and is fondly remembered as a unifying force and Club icon.

McDonald Patrol – Stanley and Basil McDonald
Stan was Bondi's first beach inspector and held the highest known rescue count in Club history. His son Basil continued the legacy with over 50 years of service. Stan set the standard as Chief Beach Inspector; Basil was a Life Member, Black Sunday rescuer, and recipient of the Order of Australia. The hotly contested Stan Mac race is an annual 20-person 400m relay between Bondi and North Bondi.

Meagher Patrol – Tom Meagher OBE
A respected leader and decorated lifesaver, Tom helped rescue countless people on Black Sunday and co-founded the Solomon Islands Surf Club. He held multiple senior roles including Club Captain, President and Patron, was the president of SLSNSW, held national champion titles in R&R and Surf Belt events and was honoured with a Coronation Medal by Queen Elizabeth II.

Nightingale Patrol – Harry Nightingale
One of Bondi's great coaches, Harry was a force in R&R and Surf Team competition and helped establish lifesaving in Sri Lanka. He served as Chief Instructor and represented Australia in swimming, coached local, national and international lifesaving teams.

Ormsby Patrol – Lyster Ormsby
A Foundation Member and the Club's first Captain, Ormsby helped form the Surf Bathers' Association of NSW and designed the first surf reel — a major life saving innovation. Ormsby was a true pioneer of lifesaving, served as President and was awarded Life Membership.

Quartly Patrol – Peter 'Doc' Quartly
Bondi's longest-serving active patrolling member, Peter has shaped almost every area of Club life and continues to serve today. He is a Life Member of Bondi and SLSS who has held more than a dozen formal roles including Club Secretary, Patrol Captain and Race Secretary and is the recipient of multiple Club honours.

Santos Patrol – Louise Santos
The first Bondi woman to win an individual Australian Title, Louise was a fierce competitor and trailblazer for women in lifesaving. She held Club leadership roles including Director of Competition and Board Captain; was recognised with Life Membership, Louise was also a multiple Australian Masters medallist and is remembered for her lasting impact on the Club and surf life saving.

Walsh Patrol – Clem Walsh

Among the first in the water on Black Sunday, Clem was known for his fearless rescues and skill in the surf. He coached swimming and lifesaving and competed at the highest level. Clem was awarded Life Membership after representing Bondi with distinction in competition, and contributing as both coach and mentor.