

Warrington Surf Lifesaving Club AGM 2023 - Annual Report

It's that time of the year again where we reflect on Warrington SLSC's journey over the past year. First things first, a big thank you to all of you for being a part of our wonderful club and for making it the awesome community that it is. Your dedication is the reason why we can do what we do. I've grouped this report around our club's strategic priorities so that we can step back a bit from our usual operation perspective and see how we have been progressing in our target areas.

Prevention of Drowning and Injury:

Volunteer hours have seen an increase of around 10% from last season, sitting at 1,145 hours, with a similar number of lifeguards refreshed and patrolling the beach. 19 of our lifeguards qualified or refreshed their first aid awards, with a number of these stepping up to a higher level of qualification this year - the club now has another 5 advanced first aid qualifications within the membership. A further three lifeguards now hold their IRB drivers award, and for the first time, we have a qualified Rescue Water Craft (RWC) operator in the club. 3 people needed to be assisted to safety over the season, and 5 minor first-aid incidents occurred. Adding to this are the 2,664 members of the public who were involved in preventative actions, which builds out the picture of our role in the community over the past season. It is great to see incident numbers remain low, with a large number of people interacted with to encourage safer behaviour before they get to the point of needing assistance.

Over the past season we also supported Dune Intelligence to further research and development of an automated rip detection application, through a grant from TSB Community Trust. This goes towards helping people stay safe outside of the flags and is something we look forward to seeing in action. It is also fantastic to see some of the research we supported be accepted for presentation at the World Conference on Drowning Prevention in Perth this coming December.

Sporting Involvement and Excellence:

Our club's athletes have truly ridden the wave of success this year, with the team winning two medals in Junior Sport Nationals (Oceans '23), 5 medals at Master's Nationals, and 5 medals in Senior Nationals. Senior Nationals in particular was a big wave competition with Warrington teams showing tenacity and drive to bring home those medals. A special mention goes to the canoe team for winning medals in all but one race that they entered, fantastic results!

Member Growth and Retention:

Our membership numbers have been pretty consistent, with 218 members on the database for the season. It has been great to see so many people back from last season and we hope to see everyone again come summer! It has also been good to see members actively stepping up in areas such as organising club events, lifeguarding for nippers trainings, and fundraising events.

Sustainable Finances:

Over the past year Warrington SLSC has solidified a positive financial position, with a healthy surplus reported at the end of financial year. This will stand us in good stead for the future, particularly as we move closer to the A-frame and storage rebuild project. It's also wonderful to have the financial review completed as planned before the AGM this year, big thanks to our treasurer Rebecca for her work in keeping that on track.

Maintaining and Improving Our Assets:

The building committee has been continuing on with the A-frame and storage rebuild project with great success over the past season. This is a key project for us as our main lifeguard building struggles to provide what we need to patrol effectively going forward, and the new plans are looking fantastic. The resource consent application has been lodged and we look forward to working through the remaining requirements. A big thanks goes to Maaike, Wayne, and Mark for how effectively they have managed to work through this project!

We have also been able to improve our equipment this season thanks to the support of several community trusts. This has allowed us to buy training and sport equipment such as boards and skis, which provides our members with opportunities to further their skills. In particular, Kiwi Gaming Foundation, Bendigo Valley Sport & Charity, TAB New Zealand, and Lion Foundation have supported us to do this.

Overall Warrington SLSC has had a fantastic season and I hope everyone has taken away some great memories of their time spent on the beach together. It has been great to see successes both big and small coming from all areas of the club, and I look forward to seeing many more. Writing the annual report always makes me look forward to next summer - bring it on!

Catch you on the beach!

Charlotte Becconsall

On behalf of the Warrington SLSC Committee