

# 2015-16 SLSA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

## AWARDS & HONOURS



### **DHL SURF LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR**

**WILLIAM JACKSON**  
Brighton SLSC, SA

William has completed 215 patrol hours, leading to 60 new and upskilled surf lifesavers patrolling South Australia's beaches. He successfully trained two Bronze medallion squads, one SRC group and one IRB crew group at Brighton SLSC. He is dedicated to Surf Life Saving, contributing not only to his main club but also to Goolwa SLSC.



### **DHL LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR**

**LUKE PLANT**  
Australian Lifeguard Service VIC

Luke, in the role of Chief Lifeguard at Phillip Island, is dedicated to his lifeguard duties. He has restructured the lifeguard service at Phillip Island to ensure that the beach can remain open and patrolled while a successful search and rescue is being undertaken. Luke has also been accepted onto the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter team.



### **DHL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

**WARICK REDWOOD**  
Sunshine Beach SLSC, QLD

Warick's leadership and engagement at Sunshine Beach SLSC is evident in the development and maintenance of the largest contingent of Y&C members in the club's history through the club and community-based activities. Warick has also actively engaged new members to undertake SRC and BM courses, achieving a 75 per cent increase in active patrolling members.



### **TRAINER OF THE YEAR**

**BELINDA KUSTER**  
Scarboro SLSC, WA

In her role as the Education Officer at Scarboro SLSC, Belinda has shown dedication to delivering courses in all surf disciplines, as well as assisting other clubs with training and assessing needs. During the course of the year she also mentored probationary assessors to enable them to become competent assessors. Belinda was awarded the State and Club Trainer of the Year for 2014-15.



### **ASSESSOR OF THE YEAR**

**KATRINA ANTONY**  
Portland SLSC, VIC

Katrina has been dedicated to building capability within lifesaving clubs in Victoria so that they are sustainable into the future. This work earned her the 2014 Member of Parliament's National Volunteer Award. She has helped build a stronger relationship between Portland Surf Life Saving Club and its principal sponsor by providing opportunities for workers to gain their Resuscitation Award through the club.



### **COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM OF THE YEAR**

**PROJECT 291**  
Bellambi SLSC

Bellambi Surf Life Saving Club is providing a Surf Education Program, free of charge, to more than 140 children from one of the most socially disadvantaged suburbs in the Illawarra. The core purpose of the program is to provide essential surf education. The surf club is achieving this by conducting a water safety education and leadership program for beginner surf lifesavers. The Surf Education Program has also joined with a local swimming school to provide its students with some basic swimming skills.



---

**SURF SPORTS OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR**

CAROL GIBBS  
Trigg Island SLSC, WA

Carol is an accredited Level 3 Surf Sport Official who has officiated at club, state, national and international events and was awarded the Surf Life Saving Western Australia 2015 Official of the Year award for her efforts. In 2014–15 Carol had a major impact in the accreditation of new officials in Western Australia.



---

**SURF SPORTS COACH OF THE YEAR**

ANDREW CHANDLER  
Seacliff SLSC, SA

Andrew's coaching expertise and skills have been a driving force behind the success of his athletes. All athletes under Andrew's guidance reached the team goals set at the beginning of the season. To top this off, four of his athletes were selected to represent South Australia in both the state team and the junior development teams. One of Andrew's athletes also won their first Australian medal.



---

**SURF SPORTS ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

ELIZABETH PLUIMERS  
North Burleigh SLSC, QLD

Liz is a high-performing and talented athlete. In 2014–15 she came first in the Coolangatta Gold, won the overall Nutri-Grain Series in 2014–15 as well as winning the IronWoman title at the Australian Championships. Liz is the first woman to win the IronWoman triple crown and is an exceptional role model to younger surf lifesavers, especially young women.



---

**DHL CLUB OF THE YEAR**

Mermaid Beach SLSC, QLD

Mermaid Beach SLSC has improved its lifesaving services and contribution to aquatic safety on the Gold Coast by expanding patrol footprint and timings, provision and surplus patrolling members. The club has also increased morale, retention and membership for the fourth consecutive year, with a 6 per cent membership growth over the 2015–16 season.



---

**SURF SPORTS YOUTH ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

LIZZIE WELBORN  
North Bondi SLSC, NSW

Due to a plethora of achievements Lizzie was awarded the U17 Female Athlete of the Year and was nominated for Open Female Athlete of the Year at the Sydney Branch Awards of Excellence in 2015. In 2014–15 she won four gold medals and one silver medal at The Aussies in 2015 and was recently selected into the International Youth Team Surf Rescue.