

*W. G. MARSHALL*

**SURF LIFE SAVING  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

**SYDNEY BRANCH  
SURF LIFE SAVING  
BOARD OF CONTROL**



**36th ANNUAL REPORT**



SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY BRANCH

SURF LIFE SAVING BOARD OF CONTROL

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SEASON 1984-85

Notice is hereby given that the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Sydney Branch Surf Life Saving Board of Control will be held at the Malabar RSL Club, corner Ireton St and Victoria Lane, Malabar, on Wednesday, June 26, 1985, at 7.30pm.

Business:

1. Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting, held June 27, 1984.
2. Apologies and Leave.
3. Welcome.
4. Correspondence.
5. Presentation of 36th Annual Report for the season 1984-85.
6. Election of Officers and Committees, for the season 1985-86.
7. Confirmation of Radio Officer, IRB Supervisor, JRB Supervisor and Helicopter Director.
8. Motions of which due notice has been given.
9. General Business.

Glenn Thomson

Honorary Secretary  
Sydney Branch  
Surf Life Saving Board of Control.



## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES, 1984-85

Honorary Superintendent . . . . .	Trevor Elliott
Deputy Superintendent . . . . .	Ron Howells
Honorary Secretary . . . . .	Glenn Thomson
Examination and Instruction Supervisor . . . . .	Bernard Kelly
Carnival and Competition Supervisor . . . . .	Ken English
Emergency Services Co-ordinator . . . . .	Ian Badham

### Sectional Supervisors

IRB Supervisor . . . . .	Graham Bruce, res. August M.(Bill) Singleton, elect. Nov.
JRB Supervisor . . . . .	Ken Blakie
Helicopter Director . . . . .	Peter MacCormick
Radio Officer . . . . .	John Wardall

### District Supervisors

Royal National Park Clubs . . . . .	Frank Osborne
Cronulla-Sutherland District . . . . .	Bruce Breadner
Randwick District . . . . .	Keith Rowswell
Waverley District . . . . .	Stewart Bailey

### Assistant District Supervisors

Royal National Park Clubs . . . . .	Glenn Thomson
Cronulla-Sutherland District . . . . .	Mick DeLuca
Randwick District . . . . .	Sheryl Sporle
Waverley District . . . . .	Trevor Perrin

Board Gear Steward . . . . .	Percy Ainsworth
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## BOARD COMMITTEES -

### Gear Inspection Committee

Nick Dixon (convener), Stewart Bailey, Dennis Dick, Ken English, Bob Davison, Keith Midson, Neil Miller, Albert Moseley, John Oldham, Frank Osborne, Alf Smith, Grahame Smith, Peter Steenson, John Vaughan, Ross Williams, Greg Hewett; representatives from IRB, JRB and Radio Panels.

### Meritorious Awards Committee

Bill Gray (convener), Bruce Breadner, Ron Howells, Neil Miller, Alan Morris, Albert Moseley, Steve Strange.

### Resuscitation, Research, Development, Instruction and Medical Panel

Frank Osborne (convener), Bruce Breadner, Peter Davis, Mick DeLuca, Peter Quartly, Ernie Stephens, Bob Ford.

### Manual Revision Committee

Ron Howells (convener), Peter Davis, Ernie Stephens.

### Patrol Competition Committee

Bruce Breadner (convener), Four District Supervisors, Four Assistant District Supervisors.



# MEMBERSHIP, 1984-85

## Life Members (18)

P.Ainsworth	J.Dewey	R.Michaelis (decd)	E.Stephens
K.Andrews (decd)	N.Dixon	A.Moseley	J.Switzer
V.Besomo	R.Howells	F.Osborne	J.Vaughan
H.Brown	K.Messenger	A.Purcell	J.Wardall
L.Buck	L.McDonald	E.Sier	J.Young

## Long Service Members (21)

R.Avery	B.Crisp	L.Johnson	J.Minahan
R.Bridges	J.Donohoe	A.Jordan	V.Mulcahy
E.Brooker	H.Hodge	K.Manton	R.Sargeant
J.Casey	R.Horton	D.Medlin	H.Spurway
C.Christiansen	N.Jamieson	K.Midson	T.Wheeler
R.Craig			

## Members (180)

A.Ainsworth	G	D.Dick	I	M.Lucas	E	K.Rowswell	E
M.Alvos	P	W.Dobrow	I	P.MacCormick	H	R.Russell	P
M.Andrews	G	P.Doolan	C	R.Macpherson	E	R.Sandstrom	E
M.Andrews	P	G.Dovey	P	W.Marshall	C	M.Sargeant	G
I.Badham	HR	D.Duddleston	E	G.Martin	E	P.Sargeant	E
S.Bailey	ER	P.Easson	P	M.Martin	P	W.Sawyer	P
F.Bailey	E	T.Elliott	EAIR	C.Matthews	EA	K.Schenk	E
J.Baker	E	K.English	E	J.May	E	J.Seddon	E
G.Bennett	E	D.Falkiner	E	R.McCormack	E	G.Sewell	JR
M.Berger	E	R.Ford	EHAR	D.McGroder	J	J.Shaw	L
E.Biram	A	B.Fraser	E	P.McGuinn	E	G.Shailes	E
C.Bissell	E	J.Fraser	E	D.McHugh	E	G.Shiels	E
D.Blackler	R	R.Freer	I	K.McKeachie	E	R.Sheldon	E
K.Blakie	JR	B.Gardiner	I	G.McMah	X	R.Silcock	E
R.Bransdon	A	A.Gately	XA	C.Melvey	EA	M.Sinclair	P
B.Breadner	EA	R.Gillroy	E	P.Melvey	E	M.Singleton	I
F.Breene	E	M.Gladstone	E	A.Menzies	C	P.Singleton	G
S.Brooksby	R	R.Goodall	E	K.Metcalf	J	A.Smith	E
G.Bruce	EI	W.Gray	E	N.Miller	E	D.Smith	E
G.Burton	P	R.Green	J	R.Miller	E	F.Smith	EI
E.Cahill	E	R.Griffin	E	A.Morris	HJ	G.Smith	E
P.Calder	E	K.Grima	EAI	L.Mulhall	P	L.Smith	P
R.Camilleri	I	J.Hall	X	P.Murphy	E	J.Solomon	L
R.Cane	P	W.Halpin	E	D.Murray	L	K.Solomonson	E
P.Carney	EAR	J.Hammond	E	M.Murtagh	P	D.Sorensen	J
M.Clancy	E	R.Hammond	E	S.Newman	L	S.Spencer	P
R.Colman	P	L.Harris	C	Y.Noon	E	S.Sporle	E
K.Connell	E	G.Harte	I	R.O'Malley	E	J.Stansell	C
J.Connolly	L	G.Hewett	E	J.Oldham	E	P.Steenson	E
P.Cooper	E	G.Howells	G	D.Pacey	EI	S.Strange	E
D.Cooper	I	D.Iredale	E	J.Park	EA	R.Taylor	CI
R.Cotter	EA	D.Jagoe	P	P.Pearce	I	B.Taylor	ER
J.Cox	E	R.Johnson	X	R.Pears	E	B.Thompson	E
D.Cross	P	F.Jordan	C	K.Pennell	E	G.Thomson	EA
L.Curtis	P	W.Josland	E	T.Perrin	E	D.Tindall	P
G.Daly	P	P.Julian	E	L.Platt	E	I.Toll	E
K.Davis	E	B.Kelly	EAIR	D.Popplewell	ER	B.Tually	E
P.Davis	EA	M.Kelly	I	L.Potapof	EI	P.Vanny	EA
R.Davison	E	B.King	EA	J.Poulos	C	G.Wardrop	P
P.Davison	P	E.Kirkman	I	P.Quartly	EAI	A.White	P
P.Day	A	G.Kitzler	P	L.Raper	C	A.White	I
R.Day	C	M.Lawther	E	W.Rennie	E	D.Wiggins	EA
M.DeLuca	XA	R.Lippmann	R	F.Ridley	P	R.Williams	E
M.Densmore	P	J.Lloyd	P	G.Rosen	P	D.Wilson	I
C.Dick	G	L.Love	E	A.Ross	ER	H.Wytenburg	P

Code: E = Examiner  
H = Helicopter Examiner  
J = JRB Examiner  
I = IRB Examiner  
A = ARC Examiner  
R = Radio Examiner

X = Examiner (exams only)  
G = Attached Member  
C = Competition Member  
L = Country Member  
P = Probationary Member



# FOREWORD

Another successful season has concluded for the Sydney Branch Board of Control and my thanks go to the hard working members, under the leadership of Trevor Elliott.

This report gives details of these extensive activities and it is commended to you for perusal.

It is with sincere regret that we record the passing of Rupert Michaelis, on December 10, 1984, and Kevin Andrews on March 31, 1985, both Life Members.

The total number of Awards over all categories shows an increase on last season, but close scrutiny reveals some areas where increased efforts are required to reverse negative growth strengths, particularly - Bronze Medallions, Advanced Resuscitation Certificates, IRB Crewmen, JRB Crewmen, JRB Drivers and all Helicopter Awards.

The statistics also clearly show the Clubs where greater effort is required if they expect to provide a continuing satisfactory level of patrol strengths for next and future seasons.

Special mention is due to the District Supervisors who have the thankless task of ensuring our patrols are satisfactory and having the fortitude to instigate remedial action where they are not.

The Board should be commended for its efforts in fund-raising for the proposed educational tour of the United States of America, particularly the outstanding display at the Royal Easter Show.

It was unfortunate that the tour was postponed until next season, but this will allow more time for planning, fund-raising and, hopefully, a rise in the Australian dollar.

The Board members were again very active in all facets of examinations, carnivals at all levels, and Branch life saving competitions.

It was particularly disappointing to find some large Sydney Branch Clubs missing from the important Branch Patrol Competition and an appeal is made to the Club Presidents concerned to ensure we have full representation next year.

Rex Sargeant,  
Sydney Branch President.



SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY BRANCH

SURF LIFE SAVING BOARD OF CONTROL

36th ANNUAL REPORT

SEASON 1984-1985

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Honorary Superintendent, Trevor Elliott, and the Officers of the Board, it is my pleasure to present to you the 36th Annual Report of the Sydney Branch Surf Life Saving Board of Control, covering our activities in the 1984-85 season.

In retrospect, 1984-85 was a season of further success; building on previously laid foundations, effectively confronting the issues as they arose, doing the job as we see it and seriously planning for the future.

The major challenges confronted came firstly from a completely unexpected quarter, when it became necessary for the Hon. Superintendent to take extended leave of absence early in the season.

Our Deputy Superintendent, Ron Howells, ably assumed the Chairmanship of the Board, in addition to his other responsibilities and continued the pressure on Officers and members to ensure that the required job was done in the manner required and that the Board, as a whole, looked to the future and not the past.

The second challenge, whilst not entirely unexpected, occurred when the Board had no option, other than to refer one Club to the Branch Judiciary Committee for discipline and another for investigation and suitable action over patrol matters.

Awards.

This season, the numbers are excellent, up yet again on last season's figures, with radio awards up by over 200%.

The award totals are tabulated in the Examination and Instruction Supervisor's Report and indicate a 12% increase in Surf Life Saving Certificates, a 2% decrease in Bronze Medallions and a 90% increase in Resuscitation Certificates.

Bernie Kelly, in his report, raises a number of issues which need to be thought through - again if needs be - by the Branch, Board and Clubs, in order to ensure that the job of Examination and Instruction Supervisor is not a completely onerous task. The point is made quite clearly that Bronze Medallion numbers reflect the future strength of Clubs and are an early warning sign to problems.

Last season, the Branch reported an Active strength of 1,678 members; our records show that we have averaged 411 Bronze Medallions per season over the last five years, indicating that the average member stays four years - or the need to replace 25% of the membership annually to maintain the status quo.

Considering the number of members in their fifth or subsequent season of Active service, it is quite apparent that the attrition rate of new members is enormous, but yet it is doubtful that any Club, let alone the Branch, can estimate what proportion of this season's new Active members will be around in five years let alone explain why the others left.

We do not know why members join a Club, nor do we know what causes them to leave - perhaps an area for thought by all.



There is an apparent decline in Advanced Resuscitation Certificates; this is the lowest season since 1980-81. It is very obvious that the update system is not working satisfactorily, as many new ARC's are not updated, which is going to cause Clubs and individuals some embarrassment when lists of current valid ARC holders are issued this winter.

#### Examiners and Examinations.

There have been some heroic efforts this season - it is obvious the nomination sheet circulated at the start of each season works, particularly when three Examiners face ten squads at a scheduled examination.

Examiners seem to forget that the substitute rules used for Club patrols also apply to them on the Board.

How long the Clubs will continue to suffer such affronts before they force changes on us, may depend on whether their own examiner members are involved - but it does the image and prestige of the Board no good. It would be a sad day if it became necessary to send out "Please explain" letters and follow through constitutionally to unseat members from the Board. Unless the situation is corrected, we may have this type of action forced upon us.

Your Examiner's Certificate is not "just another award", to be collected on behalf of your Club's annual award tally - it is your personal commitment to the ideals and the Instructional and Examination methods of the Surf Life Saving Association.

For that reason, you, as an Examiner, are an Association Official and are entitled to wear Association insignia and blazer without election to office or selection in a competitive or touring team.

It is time some of us thought about this commitment and whether we are honouring it or just using it as a badge when it suits us.

#### Carnivals and Competition.

Our Supervisor, Ken English, has a comprehensive report enclosed and I will just note a few points; trips away were to the Metropolitan Championships (Collaroy); State Championships (Byron Bay) with 41 members officiating; the Australian Championships (Pt. Leo, Victoria) with 22 members officiating and to the State IRB Championships (Wamberal) with 22 members receiving appointments.

There is currently a lot of grumbling about carnivals, both from Board members and the Clubs, which we all hope is being input to the Carnivals Review now under way.

Decisions already taken include - a separate Board Riding area under its own officials; continuation of the appointment of Deputy Carnival Referees; the appointment of Deputy Sectional Referees and imposition of penalties on competitors who withdraw during the course of an event without good reason.

Proposals still under consideration include an R&R Judging Field Day, an Open R&R Carnival, major revisions to carnival timetables, review of the First-Aid competition, a training school for carnival officials and so on.

The old thorn of which events to be run has again surfaced and it needs to be thought through carefully. The Branch policy is that Clubs may run the events they wish, but must expect some persuasion in order to achieve balanced competition.

The situation arose last season where only two 6-man R&R competitions were held at Club carnivals, which is interesting when one considers that at least five of the top teams are in this Branch. This is a situation where a Branch did not provide adequate competition for its own teams, forcing them to travel to other Branches to prepare for the Championship round.

Members should remember that 4-man R&R was brought in specifically to aid R&R competition where Clubs were unable to field a 6-man team - not as a substitute for it and that in Sydney, at least, the 6-man competition should take precedence over the 4-man event when drawing up a carnival programme.



On the subject of judging and, in particular, R&R, members might like to reflect that the combined ages of our six senior judges tallies 300 or so years. They cannot go on forever and although we have many of Australia's top teams in the Branch, it was necessary for us to bring members out of retirement to field a respectable judging panel at the Branch Championships.

It's a pretty pass - the largest Board in Australia - 199 members last season, and we can't even field a full, experienced R&R Panel - let alone a full March Past Panel.

Some years ago the system was different - new members went first to the Beach area, R&R and March Past in their first season at carnivals. Then, after at least a season, plus gaining their Examiner's Certificate (with three satisfactory R&R and March Past cards), they were able to apply for a Judge's position in another area (often Judge in Boat), if one was available.

The system was scrapped as too restrictive because it discouraged Competition members with specialist experience joining the Board - but at least we had judges who could mark an R&R or March Past card. Perhaps we should again look to training generalist judges before letting them specialise?

The coming seasons are big ones - we have the Metropolitan Championships and the State Championships next season and could be hosts to the Australian Championships in the 1987-88 season.

We need to get our act together to ensure that all members who apply for appointments at these carnivals have the best chance to get them.

The NSW State Centre again sponsored an R&R Field Day, at Swansea-Belmont, early in the season, which was attended by some of our members, but unfortunately not new members.

Perhaps members feel that it is unfair to learn the ropes on teams in competition. These field days are designed to allow you to learn and practise away from competition by working alongside experienced judges and getting a look at their cards as they mark them - something that can't be done in competition.

#### Helicopter Rescue Service.

The Helicopter Rescue Service has had an interesting year. Aerospatiale, the builder of our current machine, found themselves overstocked with twin-engined "Squirrels" at the same time as the currency exchange rate was in our favour and we were attempting to buy a twin-engined machine locally.

The Director of the Helicopter Rescue Service, Peter MacCormick, bit the bullet and, as a result, we now have a new twin-engined machine at a discount of some \$000,000's on its current price.

The original Squirrel is to be rebased at Cooma Hospital, from where it can cover the Far South Coast Branch and the snow-fields effectively and avail itself of the excellent facilities at Royal Canberra Hospital for major cases.

With the increasing complexity of the Helicopter Rescue Service operation and the limits of Peter MacCormick's time, it was felt that the Board Executive would be better served by replacing him with the Crew Chief, being the person responsible for the efficiency and effectiveness of the crews, at the meetings of the Board Executive.

Bob Ford has, as a result, joined the Board Executive, and in his usual style, made his presence felt and brought the weight of his experience to bear on some of the problems facing us.

#### JRB Panel.

Ken Blakie's JRB Panel has had a chequered career this season - both boats have had major, expensive failures, which have kept them out of the water for long periods.

As a result of this and the increasing age and maintenance expense of the boats, a major rethink of the role of Jet Boats and their value, in the face of the Club IRB, is underway.



Closely allied with this rethink is the justifiable reluctance of the Police to call out a single-engined craft for night rescue operations.

The current position is that the Branch has endorsed the general concept of a rethink of the role of JRB's within the patrol structure and is now waiting on this document so it can be circulated to Clubs for comment and ultimate adoption as policy.

Until this is done, in a manner which lays out to the Branch the way in which the revised operation will fit in, and to each boat's major sponsor the added benefits they will gain from the revised operation - and agreed to by all parties - no expenditure designed for the new structure will be authorised.

In other words, the Branch and sponsors need to know about the revised operation's interface with Clubs and the Helicopter Rescue Service; but particularly about the role it sees for itself, regarding other emergency services groups, such as the Water Police, Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol and the Australian Coastguard, to enable it to decide whether it can justify the commitment of over \$30,000 per boat and how it is to be financed.

#### IRB Panel.

In the face of increasing work commitments which were preventing him doing the job as he saw it, Graham Bruce advised the Board that he felt unable to continue as Supervisor.

M.(Bill) Singleton was elected Supervisor in his place by the Panel and has continued the work begun by Harry Brown and Graham Bruce, to ensure that Clubs recognise the IRB as mainstream life saving and not just another special interest group.

Continued experiment with hull types, boat manufacturers and engines seems to be the order of the day, with all Clubs attempting to settle on a combination which they feel is right for their particular conditions.

During the season, the Board, in the light of comment on the resuscitation standards being displayed at IRB exams, recommended that an ARC be mandatory for drivers in Sydney Branch.

The Panel submitted to the Board a number of arguments as to why this should not be implemented and the Board has agreed to reconsider its recommendation. However, it is important to realise that as an integral part of a Club's patrol, the IRB is not just a "rescue taxi" and that, quite often, the difference between life and death will depend on effective patient assessment and immediate action by the crew during the return to shore.

The thinking is that with such a pivotal role in a Club's life saving function, the resuscitation standards and capabilities of IRB crews should be closer to the standard of an Advanced Resuscitation Certificate than to a Bronze Medallion.

#### Gear Inspection Panel.

The Gear Inspection Panel, again led by Nick Dixon, took on the Clubs in the annual event. A surprising number of short lines and bent belt pins were found - particularly in boats. The word is that bent belt pins are ideal for rowlock retainers - but they aren't real good for beltmen!

The overall standard of gear was good; some Clubs got caught with inadequate preparation, but only one Club required re-inspection.

The Board and the Panel are hoping that the Club that has presented the same rescue board three years in a row, and has been docked points each time because even the smallest hand on the Panel cannot fit under the straps, has at last had it rectified.

This year's winner was the Cronulla SLSC; our congratulations to Cronulla for the excellent standard maintained.

Sadly for all of us, Nick Dixon has been transferred to Moruya - the Board will miss his experience and leadership, not only on the Gear Inspection Panel, but at carnivals and Board meetings, where his ability to put the case of an



issue in a no-nonsense way, was appreciated by all.

#### Resuscitation Research and Instruction Panel.

This Panel, under Frank Osborne's leadership, has continued its good work in the Advanced Resuscitation Certificate instruction field with Clubs and outside groups and is waiting on the "go ahead" with the First-Aid course.

The pilot First-Aid course, held at Burning Palms during September, 1984, was extremely successful and a number of Clubs made arrangements to run further courses during the season.

Unfortunately, the Panel's hands were tied by National Council and the State Centre, pending the resolution of a number of nationally important issues. The Panel has, as a result, been criticised by a number of parties for lack of action; the Panel is willing to run courses, but not to ignore a specific request from the State Superintendent - despite what other Branches may be doing.

The point is that either we all go in a similar direction regarding standards and content, as a credible force - or we go our own way as a rabble and joke.

During the season, the Panel and other interested persons met with Dr. Ian Mackie to review the options and problems facing the SLSA, following the introduction of the RM2 self-powered resuscitator head.

Dr. Mackie explained the options available and the problems inherent with some of them and then went on to outline to the meeting the research being undertaken and its probable end result.

The new RM2 head is an excellent machine, but it is too complex to be effective when used by the "occasional user" - it is great for ambulances, hospitals, etc where they often use it daily, but for the average Club member who can expect to see one "real" resuscitation during his or her time on the beach, it presents too many chances for error.

No changes will be made to the resuscitation as laid down in the Manual, until it is reprinted (at least three years off) and Clubs must not purchase Oxy-Vivas fitted with the new RM2 head - National Council is holding a stock of RM1 heads and spares to support the gear we have; Clubs should source their parts from them as needed.

#### Patrol Championship Competition.

The Board regards this competition to be the most important held in Sydney Branch and must admit a sense of disappointment that only seven Clubs share this attitude.

The day dawned bright and sunny with a surf more suitable to an IRB Championship, so a rapid adjournment was made to the sheltered waters of Clovelly. This provided all patrols with problems, particularly the variable water level (as the bay sucks out after a set of waves), which caught a couple of patrols starting the resuscitation on dry land, but ending up with a battle to keep the water out of mouth and nose.

The competition was restructured slightly from previous years; instead of three simultaneous incidents, a single rescue was underway when a member of the public walked up and advised the Patrol Captain of a person at the back of the beach with a badly gashed leg.

The organisers intended that this change would remove any thought that the competition was weighted in favour of large patrols.

Coogee won narrowly from Cronulla, with Maroubra a close third and last season's winners, Wanda, fourth. The Board congratulates all Clubs who competed on the competent manner in which they handled the tasks set.

The fact that a Club considers that it does not have a patrol "good enough" is not necessarily the view of the judges.

Good patrols lost marks for poor organisation and direction; poor patrols were carried by members who knew what they were about and did it. The judging is all about capability displayed, organisational abilities, competence and



practicality - the judges are impressed by a patrol that knows what it is about and gets on with it.

The placed patrols displayed all of these attributes, but, even so, the judges in their post-mortem, pointed out areas where their performance could have been improved.

The essential part of this entire exercise is the post-mortem held between the judges (the District Supervisors and their Assistants) and each patrol at the end of their round, where the patrol's performance is discussed - major errors are pointed out and suggestions are made as to how performance could be improved.

Not only is this a competition, it is an educational field day for patrols and a means used by the Board to survey the overall standard of Clubs' patrols; it highlights to us areas of major weakness in our teaching and, to the Clubs, areas which need attention in their training.

#### Radio Network.

John Wardall, in his report, covers the highlights of the season - the low points are still the same old gripes -

- Cadets and unqualified Juniors on base radios
- Clubs with no telephone in the Radio Room
- IRB radios full of sand and salt water
- Patrol mobile radios used for decorative purposes (i.e., turned off to save batteries)

John and his team have again performed well in rather trying circumstances at times, but the system works effectively.

By the beginning of next season, the UHF repeater network will be completed, allowing the Clubs in the Royal National Park to summon assistance via Sydney Surf, instead of the complex system now used.

Serious investigations have begun to evaluate a suitable waterproof enclosure for UHF radios when used in IRB's. The long run is, of course, to change to UHF, but not before a reliable container for IRB radios is found.

#### Outside Assistance.

In particular, the Board's thanks to the Red Cross V.A.D., for their time, patience and assistance, both at carnivals, in competition and with teaching; without their help, many competitions would not have been run and carnival injuries have been delayed in treatment.

The Board thanks Pier One Pty. Ltd and the Rossfield Corporation for their generous donations.

Full Board meetings have been held at the Maroubra SLSC Clubhouse. Our thanks to them as patient hosts and to the Maroubra Seals Club for the use of the Beach Lounge for our monthly Executive meetings.

#### Seminars.

This year, the Branch Seminar was successfully held at the Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre, with the Board actively involved in its many facets.

Currently, the Board felt the need to have a "Think Tank", to review the year and plan for the seasons ahead - a report on the Think Tank is included with this report.

#### Emergency Services.

Ian Badham, in this role, brought his ability to bear on the Wattamolla problem, the submission to the State Government now being in the final stages of preparation. The role of Emergency Services Officer is deliberately nebulous; it ranges from on-site rescue co-ordination, through policy formulation, to pitching in and helping a Service achieve a goal.

Ian has performed all these tasks and more in his usual quiet efficient manner.



## Membership.

In the table below, members are only counted once, even if they hold multiple certificates -

Classification	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Life Members . . . . .	22	23	23	20	18
Long Service Members . . . . .	19	19	20	20	21
Examiners . . . . .	68	75	81	84	98
JRB Examiners. . . . .	4	4	4	5	5
IRB Examiners. . . . .	3	5	7	14	14
Helicopter Examiners . . . . .	1	1	2	4	4
ARC Examiners. . . . .	1	6	6	1	2
Radio Examiners . . . . .	1	2	1	1	3
Examinations only . . . . .	3	3	7	6	5
Competition members. . . . .	6	7	14	8	9
Attached members. . . . .	-	-	-	4	6
Country members . . . . .	4	3	3	3	5
Probationary Members . . . . .	6	14	11	29	29
	<u>139</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>219</u>

Again the Board continues to grow in strength and is definitely the largest in the SLSA.

We continue to recruit new members; some members are sitting on the sidelines at the moment due to work or family commitments, but the Board's strength is increasing.

The more accurate measure of strength is of the members actively involved in all facets of the Board's activities -

Club	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Bondi . . . . .	7	4	2	5	4
Bronte . . . . .	6	3	1	4	4
Burning Palms. . . . .	5	5	4	5	6
Clovelly . . . . .	3	1	2	2	2
Coogee . . . . .	7	7	6	9	6
Cronulla . . . . .	14	10	9	20	18
Elouera. . . . .	10	8	7	11	7
Era . . . . .	5	4	4	4	6
Garie . . . . .	2	2	2	3	3
Maroubra . . . . .	12	11	11	14	10
North Bondi . . . . .	4	5	5	8	8
North Cronulla . . . . .	11	15	13	25	14
South Maroubra . . . . .	5	6	7	10	7
Tamarama . . . . .	6	4	3	7	6
Wanda . . . . .	10	10	8	16	12
	<u>104</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>113</u>

One of the problems now to be faced by the Board is that it is a "young" Board and, as a result, many active members are still doing Club patrols and competing in carnivals - which leads us back to many of our manpower problems at carnivals and exams.

This is, in itself, a good thing - the brunt of the Board's examination and instruction role is being borne by people who are still active in their Clubs and very close to the patrols, but it can lead to problems and it is important that the more senior Board members keep an eye out for signs of undue influence or hesitancy to maintain standards and provide the moral back-up necessary to ensure that unpleasant tasks are performed when and as required.

## New Members.

During the past season, the following members gained their Examiners Certificates

IRB Examiner...Wal Dobrow, Michael Kelly, Peter Quartly.  
 Radio Examiner...Stewart Bailey, Ken Blakie, Sydney Brooksby, Dean Blacker,  
 Andy Ross, Brad Taylor,  
 ARC Examiner...Pearce Biram, Peter Davis, Bob Bransdon, Barry King, John Park,  
 David Wiggins



Examiners Certificates...Frank Bailey, Felicity Breene, Ted Cahill, Ross Griffin, Philip Julian, Robert Macpherson, Dennis McHugh, John Park, Karen Schenk, Peter Melvey, John Cox, George Shales, Yvette Noon

The Board's thanks to John Vaughan for having chaired the Examining Panel at both New Members Nights this season and for a job well done.

### Meetings.

This year, the full Board has met five times (the four usual meetings, plus one to conclude the "Think Tank") and the Executive nine times, with a possible further meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Attendance patterns have been -

	<u>1981-82</u>	<u>1982-83</u>	<u>1983-84</u>	<u>1984-85</u>
1st meeting . . . .	34	37	35	53
2nd meeting . . . .	40	53	47	51
3rd meeting . . . .	44	47	38	46
4th meeting . . . .	37	45	40	43
5th meeting . . . .	n/a	n/a	n/a	43

Executive attendance has been as follows -

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Attended</u>	<u>Apology</u>	<u>Leave</u>
Trevor Elliott . . . . .	7	-	2
Ron Howells . . . . .	8	1	-
Glenn Thomson. . . . .	9	-	-
Bernard Kelly. . . . .	8	1	-
Ken English . . . . .	5	1	-
Ian Badham . . . . .	7	-	-
Ken Blakie . . . . .	6	2	-
Graham Bruce . . . . .	1	1 (res.August)	-
M.(Bill) Singleton . . . . .	5	1 (elect.Nov.)	-
John Wardall . . . . .	7	1	-
Bob Ford . . . . .	5	1	-
Frank Osborne. . . . .	7	2	-
Bruce Breadner . . . . .	7	2	-
Keith Rowswell . . . . .	7	1	-
Stewart Bailey . . . . .	7	1	-

The practice of an open invitation to Assistant District Supervisors to attend Board Executive Meetings has been continued and their input to discussion has been beneficial to all concerned.

### CARNIVAL AND COMPETITION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

The past season in the Carnival and Competition arena of the Board has seen major improvements overall. The most important was the inclusion of a Deputy Referee at carnivals conducted. The concept was, of course, to have less experienced Board members educated in the artforms of successfully running an open surf carnival under the guidance of the more expert and experienced within our ranks.

Such appointments have wetted the appetites of those younger members who can now, with confidence, apply for senior posts at each Branch carnival. Such was the success of the programme that it is anticipated appointments of Assistant Sectional Referees will be implemented as a training programme during the 1985-86 season.

The Board successfully conducted eight open carnivals, including the Branch Championships; however, an Open carnival at South Maroubra was postponed, due to poor weather conditions and a lack of competitors. To South Maroubra Club, who accepted the challenge of conducting a carnival between the NSW and Australian Championships, goes sincere thanks and appreciation. It is hoped that next year's State Titles on the South Maroubra beach will be a huge success and profitable to the Club.

Other successful events conducted included a Craft Carnival at Era beach, the Interdistrict Championships at Cronulla, Rossfield Trophy at Bondi and two surf boat marathons, being the Pier One on Sydney Harbour and the Mazda Marathon run by the Cronulla Club.



Members who officiated as Referees, some under difficult conditions, were - Ron Howells (Era, North Bondi and the Branch Championships), Albert "Ike" Moseley (Cronulla), Peter Calder (Garie), Ron Day (Wanda and South Maroubra), Warren Rennie (North Cronulla), Ron Pears (Elouera), John Dewey (Coogee), Ken English (Interdistrict Championships and Rossfield Trophy), Nick Dixon (Mazda Marathon), John "Rooster" Vaughan (Pier One Marathon).

These members were, of course, ably assisted by the Sectional Referees on the day and to all are extended thanks and appreciation on a job well done.

No carnival could be run if it were not for that dedicated band of Board members who officiate at each carnival. To all members who judge, time-keep, record and carry out each vital function, go accolades on your worthwhile efforts.

The following competitions were successfully conducted in the Branch and were the United Permanent March Past Competition over four rounds, the Tooheys Taplin Relay over three rounds and the Mayne Nickless Surf Boat Competition over three rounds, with the final at Coogee.

The Elouera Club conducted a successful State Bank Carnival and, under the scrutineering of Master Recorder Bill Marshall, the Branch's Open and Handicap Pointscore Competitions were contested.

These competitions were again generously sponsored by the aforementioned companies, whose continued support is most reassuring.

Regretfully, the inaugural Sydney Stillwater Championships were cancelled due to Council approval being late to hand. However, this has now been solved and next year promises to see the start of a Championship which could bring consistent revenue to the Board.

Following debate at Branch meetings on the Rossfield Trophy, this year's event ran smoothly and was a total success. Although there were a number of disqualifications, those present on the day agreed the format was a good one. The declining number of beach competitors has caused some concern to officials and next year will see some interesting and competitive changes. To those guests, officials and competitors who made the day an enjoyable one, goes our gratitude and we look forward to a competitive Rossfield Trophy next season.

It would be remiss not to record the efforts of Bill Singleton's dedicated band of IRB drivers who are first to arrive and last to leave at surf carnivals. Their expertise in placing, removing and relaying the buoys ensures a smooth-flowing carnival every time.

On the 'quiet achievers' at surf carnivals is regular First-Aid Referee, Frank Osborne, who carries out a thankless task in the First-Aid arena. Regretfully, on all too many occasions, Frank, who gives freely of his time and indeed, comes up from "down the track" at his beloved Era to officiate, arrives only to find the nominated competitors failing to report. It is hoped that through encouragement, this important aspect of surf life saving will see a strong and consistent competition during future seasons.

The Branch Championships concluded the season's activities on Bondi Beach, under some of the most pitiful conditions seen all season. A large chopped-up surf, coupled with cool windy conditions and broken areas, created some decisive moments for Referee Ron Howells. The craft section did not finish until early evening and both officials and competitors in the area deserve a commendation for seeing all events through to the finish. The Bondi Club and the Carnival Organiser worked well and the Board appreciates their efforts.

Next season, greater pressure will be placed on the Board's shoulders, with the addition of the Metropolitan and State Championships being conducted in the Sydney Branch. I look forward to seeing as many Board members as possible on the beach, to ensure the smooth and efficient running of carnivals and competitions organised within our precinct.

During the season, correspondence was received regarding the lack of 6-man R&R events. Preparatory work is now underway which will hopefully encourage this event in the Branch. It is envisaged that an R&R carnival will be held early in the season, probably October, and will serve two main purposes. The



idea is that all sections of R&R be run and the competition be used as a training programme for prospective R&R judges. It is hoped that by the time this report is received, approval of the concept will have been granted.

In conclusion, it would be remiss not to mention the valued guidance and assistance that was readily available from the Branch Superintendent, Trevor Elliott; the State Superintendent, John Dewey; and the National Superintendent, Warren Rennie. This, coupled with the help of Deputy Superintendent, Ron Howells, and the rest of the Board's Executive, made the position of Carnival and Competition Supervisor workable and enjoyable.

The Board continues to surge forward and I look eagerly to next season's activities. I look forward to again seeing you all on the beach.

Ken English,  
Carnival and Competition Supervisor.

#### EXAMINATION AND INSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

Last season, the Board of Examiners conducted 130 Bronze or Surf Life Saving Certificate examinations and as many preliminary exams. The Board also conducted 42 Advanced Resuscitation Certificate exams on weeknights and examined over 1200 Proficiency candidates.

Examinations were also carried out for IRB and Radio awards. These exams were all co-ordinated through myself or the various Supervisors - Bill Singleton, IRB, John Wardall, Radio, and Frank Osborne, ARC. Thanks for a job well done.

Proficiencies were again handled by District Examiners-in-Charge - Frank Osborne, Royal National Park Clubs; Greg Hewett, Cronulla-Sutherland District; Peter Carney, Randwick District; and Carl Melvey, Waverley District. These men gave a lot of time to improving proficiency standards and the conduct of the exam. Unfortunately, new-style Proficiency Books have made their job harder.

Last season saw the lowest number of failures at first attempt to gain an award. Eleven squads initially failed and all passed on the second attempt. This shows the dedication of the Chief Instructors in our Branch. Unfortunately, the Elouera Club had to complete the season without a Chief Instructor.

The Branch Seminar at Broken Bay and a Chief Instructors Conference at South Maroubra, were also run for Instructors. Out of these meetings, some streamlining procedures were implemented and are working satisfactorily.

Board of Control New Members Nights were conducted in November and May. These nights see new members inducted into the Board and members completing their probationary period, examined. The nights are open to all Board members to attend and it is a very satisfying experience to see keen new members become qualified and so ensure the future of the best Board in Australia. Congratulations to all new Board members.

The award tally for last season was respectful, if not record-making. It shows most Clubs are ensuring their future and taking seriously their role in Life Saving. However, there are some glaring omissions. Bronze Medallion figures are a guide to the, not very distant, future active membership of a Club. I hope the Bondi and Tamarama Clubs heed the early warning!

Advanced Resuscitation Certificates are still decreasing yearly, to the point where some Clubs had few or no awards - Burning Palms, Elouera, Era, Bronte and Tamarama.

Also alarmingly down are JRB and Helicopter awards. Only one JRB Driver's award was gained and no Helicopter Crewman awards. Both services are trying to increase their roles and their equipment - I hope this is not at the expense of training new personnel.

Advanced Resuscitation Updates are required every season by members holding this award. This requalification is not only being neglected by the Clubs, but also by Branch groups. Some Board members are not updated and no Helicopter Crewmen have updated last season. If the hard-working JRB groups can find the time to ensure that all are up to date, then I am sure all other sections of our Association can.



The Branch Information Directory, put out by the Board, is becoming a guide to minimum life saving standards and procedures in the Branch. With a bit more time and effort, this booklet could cover all administrative life saving and award procedures.

We have completed the second year of the Branch restructure. The new system has made being a member of the Board Executive a lot harder. Some of our most important Officers - Examination and Instruction Supervisor, Carnival and Competition Supervisor, District Supervisors and Emergency Service Supervisors now only meet with the Clubs' representatives eight times a year.

I believe this is one of the causes of the deficiencies in some award categories and the difficulty in spotting Clubs with problems and initiating steps to correct those problems.

It has also stopped the flow of information - some Branch Officers did not know the Branch had bought a second helicopter!

Last season saw a Branch handling fee applied to most services by the Office. It appears that a cost of 10% is now charged on manuals and awards. I do not believe this surcharge is right, nor whom the benefactors are. The Board does all the work in the examination of awards and now the Branch will make a profit.

Last season, a lot of people helped me, and I thank them. I also thank all members of the Executive - I have enjoyed working with you.

I have enjoyed my term as Examination and Instruction Supervisor; I have met a lot of people and gained some good friends. I hope all who helped me will help my successor as much.

Bernard Kelly,  
Examination and Instruction Supervisor.

The following tables list the awards gained during the 1984-85 season, compared with the previous three seasons and the total awards gained by each Club in the Branch.

Award	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Qualifying Certificate.....	272	300	78	-
Surf Life Saving Certificate.....	-	-	207	323
Bronze Medallion.....	378	382	451	442
Resuscitation Certificate.....	44	89	62	118
Advanced Resuscitation Certificate...	175	220	221	191
ARC - Instructors Certificate.....	9	18	15	16
Instructor's Certificate.....	49	56	45	60
Examiner's Certificate.....	7	13	8	13
IRB - Crew Certificate.....	39	27	26	17
IRB - Driver's Certificate.....	21	15	30	31
IRB - Instructor's Certificate.....	7	12	4	10
IRB - Examiner's Certificate.....	2	4	4	4
JRB - Crew Certificate.....	-	18	14	-
JRB - Driver's Certificate.....	4	9	7	1
JRB - Instructor's Certificate.....	-	5	1	2
JRB - Examiner's Certificate.....	1	2	2	-
ARC - Examiner's Certificate.....	3	-	-	6
Radio Operator's Certificate.....	59	75	31	110
Radio Instructor's Certificate.....	9	9	6	17
Radio Examiner's Certificate.....	-	2	4	6
Helicopter Crew Certificate.....	-	2	5	-
Helicopter Instructor's Certificate..	-	1	-	-
Helicopter Examiner's Certificate....	-	-	1	-
Helicopter Specialist Certificate....	-	-	20	4
Advanced Life Saving Certificate....	-	1	4	2
International Training Officer's Cert	-	-	-	6
	1079	1270	1246	1379



Club	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Bondi.....	66	67	76	59
Bronte.....	76	52	83	113
Burning Palms.....	28	32	16	14
Clovelly.....	11	37	21	57
Coogee.....	68	90	97	100
Cronulla.....	68	131	137	195
Elouera.....	105	117	84	90
Era.....	14	15	27	14
Garie.....	56	69	39	80
Maroubra.....	68	111	114	100
North Bondi.....	80	63	112	149
North Cronulla.....	179	185	131	139
South Maroubra.....	103	111	83	77
Tamarama.....	21	25	54	25
Wanda.....	96	147	116	141
Helicopter Rescue Service.....	-	-	20	4
Community.....	40	39	36	22

#### SYDNEY BRANCH SLSA HELICOPTER RESCUE SERVICE PTY. LTD.

The last year has proven, without a doubt, that the Westpac SLSA helicopter is truly a community helicopter with the tremendous support we have received, not only from our corporate sponsors - Westpac, Channel 9, 2UE and Esso, but from people in all walks of life.

Recently, the Ladies Committee of the Royal North Shore Hospital donated a Life Pak 5 monitor, while the Retail Traders Association purchased a Night Sun and the St. Leonards Rotary Club, in co-operation with the Royal North Shore Hospital Board, agreed to increase our office and stand-by accommodation. The installation of the new fueling facilities at our helipad by Esso will be a tremendous cost-saving to us in the years to come.

The season saw a continued increase in the Service's call out, with the helicopter being responded to over 513 calls. This, again, would not have been possible without the continued close liaison and support of all the Clubs on the north and south side of the Harbour.

The rapid response of the Service to road accidents in inaccessible areas has been achieved by the close co-operation between the Ambulance Service and ourselves.

I would be remiss in not thanking the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon. Peter Anderson, for his support for such a close working arrangement with the Police.

In April, 1985, the Service took delivery of their second aircraft - a twin-engined 355F1 Squirrel, Australia's first fully-equipped Medical, Search and Rescue twin-engined aircraft.

The formation of the new National Helicopter Operations Board, with the assistance of the National Executive Director, Gus Staunton, will continue to ensure the close co-operation and development of all our helicopters around Australia.

Recently, the Service employed their second full-time rescue crewman, doctor and pilot, making the total of seven full-time employees. This would not have been possible without the continued support of the volunteer rescue crewmen and doctors.

The further development of our training and product research has enabled the Service to introduce their second full-time Service in the Cooma region. This Service will operate in the Snowy Mountains during the winter season and will cover the south coast in summer.

In conclusion, I would like to personally thank our Branch President, Rex Sargeant; our Financial Controller, John Connolly; and Ian Badham, for their support in making this a successful year.

Peter MacCormick,  
Helicopter Director.



#### IRB SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

The 1984-85 season has closed and we can summarise the season's activities with some concern.

The failure of some Clubs to realise the importance of the IRB's in their Club is viewed with concern. The initial cost of the IRB is high, so Clubs should ensure that this valuable asset is adequately maintained; further, that the number of drivers in their Club is adequate to cover all patrol duties. Quite often it is left to the dedicated few to carry the load that the Club Committee should be carrying.

The IRB crews in Sydney Branch carried out 2101 rescues during the season, which represents 24% of rescues performed in the Branch.

The IRB inspection was carried out during the annual Gear Inspection and it is with some dismay that I record that some IRB's were not prepared for inspection on the day, requiring Inspectors to return to Clubs to pass craft and motors. It is the responsibility of Club Committees to ensure that all gear, including IRB's, are ready for inspection.

The laying of buoys at Sydney Branch carnivals was accomplished utilising National Council's "Sanyo" IRB and we are indebted to Harry Brown and his band of helpers. We record our thanks to National Council for their continued support.

The Branch IRB Championships were successfully conducted at a Twilight Carnival on January 30 and 31, 1985, at North Bondi beach. All events were conducted under a new system put forward by the Referee on the night, Harry Brown, which proved to be most efficient and events were completed in the shortest possible time.

However, the most pleasing feature was the co-operation of the competitors - their good humour and assistance and the "get-together" after the events - were the ingredients for surf life saving at its very best.

Our many thanks, once again, go to Buttercup-Vogels for their continued sponsorship of these Championships, and to Bud Mestern, who always seems to enjoy our company at this event.

Co-sponsors this year were Eta-5 Star; our thanks to this new sponsor and we sincerely hope that we will continue to receive their sponsorship.

Thanks also to Outboard Marine, for their assistance by way of technical services during the Championships.

To the North Bondi Club, for the use of their Club and facilities - our many thanks.

The State IRB Championships were held at Wamberal Beach on the Central Coast, in a two to three metre surf - most Sydney Clubs participated, gaining some success. Those clubs who attended found it a great weekend. Congratulations go to those Clubs who were successful and to those Officials who gave their time to attend - thanks.

To IRB Inspectors and Examiners who helped out during the season and to all who participated in IRB activities, Sydney Branch thanks you and hopes for your continued support in the coming season.

M.(Bill) Singleton  
IRB Supervisor.

#### JRB SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

As the saying goes, "Hope springs eternal", and so it is at the commencement of each new season and the start of the 84-85 season was no exception.

During the winter period, every possible piece of maintenance that was considered necessary was carried out by both groups on their boats, prime-movers and equipment, as well as special training and exercises were held for the crews, to ensure that this season was going to be as trouble-free as possible and that every crewperson would be as skilled as possible.



24-hour-call-out rosters were finalised and everyone looked forward to giving their best and to proving again that our JRB's were really special craft and the crews, special life savers, dedicated to their role and cause.

For the first time in a number of seasons, funding didn't appear to be a problem, due to the efforts of the crews and assistance from sponsors and support from Councils, etc.

The season got underway in the manner hoped for and all looked well until "Murphy's Law" took over.

Firstly, the old trailer that had carried JRB since new, gave up the ghost and a new one had to be purchased. This, of course, was a real set-back, but no alternative was available. Then JRB2 started to show signs that all was not well in the primary drive area. This problem continued to develop, despite all-out efforts by the mechanics from Sutherland Shire Council and the crew, eventually leading to the boat having to be taken out of service in early January 85, for a major engine overhaul.

This was carried out and the boat returned to service, only to find the same problem re-occurring. The exercise was repeated and the experts called in to trace the cause. Despite engine X-rays and every type of test possible, it took until early March before the fault could be rectified.

I hasten to add that no blame could be placed on any party and it was only by chance that the fault showed up during a test run by the mechanics.

As if all of that wasn't enough to turn people to sky-diving without parachutes, a similar type of problem appeared to be occurring in the JRB3 in March and it, too, had to be pulled out of service and was found to be in need of a new motor, so we have been without an operating Jet Boat since.

While these events sadden us all, and once again give the critics of JRB's ammunition to use in their arguments, I feel that the following statistics must be taken into account -

	JRB2	JRB3
Rescues . . . . .	9	10
Search and Support. . . . .	2	14
Boat Tows. . . . .	13	4
	(\$296,200)	(\$30,000)
Preventative Actions . . . . .	76	12
First-Aid. . . . .	2	2
Water Safety Demonstrations. . . . .	3	5
Action involving C.P.R. . . . .	-	1
Kilometres patrolled . . . . .	1636	1015
Litres of fuel used . . . . .	4200	4000
Engine hours. . . . .	135	140
Total patrol hours for crew. . . . .	922	

While these factors more than show the worth of our JRB groups, I can only again draw attention to my reports and proposals to the Branch dated Dec.10, 1984 and March 13, 1985. The need for such groups to continue their role as semi-offshore rescue and patrol groups is obvious, but we now need to be preparing for the eventual replacement craft that will give us maximum performance and reliability.

We have, as an overall group, looked at possible alternatives and it is hoped that by late August 1985, a full detailed proposal and costing can be presented to the Branch.

In closing, I wish to record my sincere thanks to the crews of both groups for the seemingly endless hours of work that they put in to fundraising, maintenance and preparation, in addition to their patrols. I know that the satisfaction gained by those who were involved in some of the dramatic rescues, is enough to drive them on toward an even better life saving service and to ensure that their crewmates strive to reach that standard as well.

My thanks must also go out to the sponsors who came forward and supported these groups financially and, of course, to the Randwick Municipal Council and



Sutherland Shire Council, for the funding of so much of these operations. My personal appreciation is extended to the Board of Control for their support and encouragement through some very difficult times.

Ladies and gentlemen - I trust that you, too, can look forward to the 85-86 season with the hope and desire to achieve, that your JRB operators and crews do. Thank you.

Ken Blakie,  
JRB Supervisor.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT.

Efficient communications is the key to search and rescue co-ordination and, to this end, the season marked a milestone in the Sydney Branch's development. The provision of a UHF repeater network - after so many years of promise - during the season, at last allowed metropolitan-wide communication between the SLSA's main rescue groups. This was achieved after Sydney Branch funded the provision of repeater frequencies to existing UHF equipment to allow all groups to come on line.

Early fears by NSW State Centre that the system would be overloaded were put aside and formal permission was granted for the power rescue boats also to use the wider-coverage radio. As soon as Council Lifeguards are permitted to have the repeater frequency installed in their UHF radios, it will be possible for the first time, to effectively co-ordinate major rescue units both mid-week and weekends, around the clock throughout Sydney.

While the surf rescue radio bases co-ordinate activities during weekends over summer, this is not possible at other times. Thanks to the assistance from crew at the Sydney helicopter base, and the nominated duty officers, the SLSA can offer prompt response to rescue calls at all times.

Also awaited is the link to allow the Royal National Park surf club UHF radios to tie into the Sydney repeater network. The State Centre has indicated this may be operational early next season and will bring these isolated Clubs in direct contact for emergencies at all times.

In the meantime, the three Park Clubs have been able to use the UHF radios to make 24-hour contact with the Wollongong Ambulance Service Co-ordination Centre (2KJ Illawarra) and through this, the Westpac-SLSA rescue helicopter was responded to a number of missions.

Detailed study has been carried out into the type of offshore launch best suited to take over duty from the present generation of jet rescue boat. Both the JRB2 (Cronulla) and JRB3 (Randwick/Waverley) are awaiting the Board's approval on craft type, before preparing sponsorship submissions to obtain replacement boats. When the new generation of boat is introduced, it will allow the Association in Sydney to meet the safety requirements of emergency authorities for response to sea and at night.

This will have a dramatic effect on response to near coastal rescues, and provide long-awaited support for Water Police, coastal groups and our own helicopter. With the new boats will come additional training for their crews, and extra demands on the Sydney duty officers.

Before the season started, in September, craft from Sydney and Manly-Warringah Branches combined to stage Operation Shelly, off Shelly Beach. This amply demonstrated to crews the difficulties imposed by search and rescue at night, while allowing interchange between the crews on techniques.

The role of the jet boats, inflatable rescue boats, helicopter and radio - in supporting Club patrol members - was highlighted in a demonstration held for the news media to mark the opening of the surfing season. A number of media attended at Maroubra Beach despite adverse conditions.

Observers from both jet rescue boat groups and the Emergency Services Co-ordinator attended an exercise held in November on Port Hacking by the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard. In a dramatic way, "Operation Naudic Nightmare" displayed the difficulties generated by very long lines of communication using 27MHz radio, a large number of craft and units from many services.



A new checklist has been provided to the Sydney and Warringah Surf Rescue Radio Bases to assist operators respond appropriate SLSC units, and outside support, to situations where persons are missing in the water. With more units now having rescue diving experience, the Association's ability to assist has increased. But the real need to make initial use of snorkel equipment should not be overlooked.

A study which was resumed during the season concerns the capacity of the Sydney Branch to provide a contracted lifeguard service at popular Royal National Park locations during school holidays.

More incidents outside Club patrol hours at Wattamolla and Garie Beach show the community need for such safety patrols. Due to the limited resources of surf clubs in the region, this cannot be provided by rostered volunteer duty. The Board awaits consideration of the proposal by the State Government.

Ian Badham,  
Emergency Services Co-ordinator.

#### RADIO OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Radio Room was operational for a total of 1,291 hours, throughout what could be described as a difficult season.

The 14 men and women who make up our now very experienced team, put up with the boredom of long hours of unseasonal poor weather, equipment breakdowns and malfunctions due to the storm damage in November, with an exhibition of dedication that is a pleasure to record.

The extreme storms damaged both radio systems and I must thank both Motorola (Australia) and Mr. Nat Cohen, for the preferential service they afforded us.

On the subject of equipment failure, the attrition rate of the IRB radio is reaching serious proportions and can be largely traced to damage to the speaker mounting, which, in turn, lets water in. Urgent attention is needed in this area, during the winter.

Whilst our prime function is to control communication and rescue co-ordination, our secondary function of radio instruction is also important. To this end, a number of Club personnel gained instruction and some were examined through the Radio Room during operational patrols.

The list of participating Clubs are stated elsewhere, but it is interesting to note the spread, or lack of it, throughout the Branch. Obviously, Clubs without trained radio personnel or well maintained radio rooms, place an unnecessary burden on the whole rescue chain, as well as neighbouring Clubs, etc.

At the commencement of last season, following some requests, a list of basic radio tools was drawn up by Keith Schreuder and a number of Clubs have been able to reduce their high maintenance costs quite noticeably.

Early in the season, the newly-elected National Radio Officer formed a very functional radio panel, which has regularly met and much information has been dispensed; this will eventually benefit Sydney Branch, particularly if the panel can continue on a regular basis.

I would be remiss if I did not record the high level of co-operation and assistance extended by the JRB and IRB Supervisors and their crews, and our overall Co-ordinator, Ian Badham, throughout the season.

John Wardall,  
Radio Officer.

#### ROYAL NATIONAL PARK CLUBS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

The pilot study of a one weekend First-Aid course at Burning Palms was a great success and we are eagerly awaiting some direction.

At last, Burning Palms SLSC have a Clubhouse which was opened with due ceremony on a beautiful sunny day and the Club members are finally putting the finishing touches to what must have appeared to be an endless dream.



The Clubs have been busy and have trained a record number of awards. However, I would hope that the Clubs will not rest on their laurels, but set about training IRB drivers and crewmen, so that there will be a rostered driver and crewman on each patrol next year.

With the proposed advent of the UHF radio in the coming season, I suggest that Clubs train people for the Radio Operator's Certificate, in order that the District's radio service will be exemplary.

In conjunction with my Assistant, Glenn Thomson, I made an examination of all patrols in Garie Club, with suggestions to each Patrol Captain as to where on this occasion, his patrol could be improved.

The District Carnival was a great success, with beautiful weather and, for a change, a slight sea. It started on time, ran smoothly and the honours were evenly distributed between the Clubs. My thanks to the Board of Control members who helped in running the carnival, the ladies who compiled the results, the Captains for organising the competitors to be on time, the competitors for doing their utmost and the supporters for making the carnival atmosphere real.

Frank Osborne,  
Royal National Park Clubs Supervisor.

#### CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

Although the patrols of all four Clubs in the District ranged from adequate to very good over the season, the general standard was down on last year. The major problem we had to overcome, this season, was patrol strengths. I have no complaints about the life savers who did give of their time and effort to attend patrols; in fact, our record over the season shows they performed very well.

The problems were associated with the people who chose not to attend, the first problem being a greater workload for those who did turn up and the second problem is that the people who were there, were often criticised for things they may or may not have done, because the patrol was short. This resulted in some unfair criticism from myself to some Patrol Captains. However, the fault must be corrected if we are to be fair to all concerned.

Our other major problem has been the programming of the Australian Championship Carnival. Whilst we are basically a surf life saving body, we cannot dismiss the fact that our season appears to revolve around the Australian Championships. Because the carnival was held early in 1985, many members considered that the surfing season was over after the carnival and our patrols suffered accordingly.

This fact, coupled with the early start to the football season and the introduction of compulsory Saturday morning patrols, has placed an additional load on our already weakened patrol strengths.

Many of the patrol members I have spoken to see the Saturday morning patrols as being the cause of our problems. The additional patrol means that the rostered patrols come around too often. Is our season too long and our patrol hours too demanding or is our commitment not strong enough?

Our simulated rescues throughout the season were a good training aid and most patrols handled the rescue situations well. One thing we must remember is that any training of simulated rescues, by the patrols, must always be carried out by patrol members or Club members, wearing distinguishing Club or patrol caps.

The Sutherland Surf Radio was of assistance to all Clubs over the season and much credit must go to Keith Schreuder and all the Club radio officers for their efforts. The same old problem of having Juniors and, in some cases, Cadets on the Sutherland Surf or Club radios was again highlighted and, hopefully, this problem will be overcome as more trained people become available.

The IRB drivers and crewmen proved once again how essential these craft are to our Association, being responsible for a large percentage of the rescues along the beaches. Surveillance patrols to the south and the north of the patrolled beaches were an important part of our life saving facility to the public and I thank the people concerned for their efforts.



The JRB has been a problem throughout the season, having been virtually un-serviceable since Christmas. Perhaps we should be seriously looking at a replacement boat which has outboard motors which may be transferred over in case of breakdowns. The boat is an essential part of our life saving facility - but only when it is in the water - and operating.

Our monthly meetings between the Club Captains and the Lifeguards have been disappointing, to say the least. The final meeting on April 21, 1985, was attended by the Elouera Club and the Wanda Club and the two meetings prior to the April meeting were not attended by any of the four Clubs. Clubs requested these meetings to discuss life saving matters and I consider that they are a very important part of our communications along the beaches. I consider that we need to show our combined strength at these meetings, or we leave ourselves open to criticism for lack of interest.

Patrol uniforms have again been a problem, however the initiative from this District has resulted in a Branch Committee to investigate the situation, with a view to recommendations for improvements.

The Branch Patrol Competition was conducted on Sunday, April 13, 1985. Rough seas resulted in the competition being transferred from South Maroubra to Clovelly Beach. The standard of our District patrols, who did compete, was very high and the patrol from Cronulla gained second place in a very strong field. My congratulations to the Cronulla Club for their efforts and for the way they motivated their young patrol members.

We had our share of serious accidents towards the end of the season and my sympathy goes to the family of the young patrol member from Cronulla who drowned during a Club ski race. A second serious accident at Cronulla was managed very capably by patrol members, as were similar near-drownings at Elouera, North Cronulla and Wanda. In these situations, the SLSA training was put to the test and, once again, members of the public owe their lives to that training.

My thanks to all the patrols for their assistance during the season, the Club Captains and Vice-Captains for their support and special thanks to the Chief Instructors and their Assistants for maintaining a continuity of members at all Clubs. Thanks also to my deputy, Mick DeLuca, and all members of the Board who assisted with Proficiency Tests and Association awards during the season.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Combined Executive for their support in what has been another busy season on our four beaches.

Bruce Breadner,  
Cronulla-Sutherland District Supervisor.

#### RANDWICK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

The standard this year of Clubs was an improvement on previous years, South Maroubra, Maroubra and Coogee having very strong patrols of between 15 and 20 members. Clovelly improved on last year and did all that was asked of them.

At the District Carnival, Maroubra won the Molloy Shield and, in the Branch Patrol Competition, the honours went to Coogee, with Maroubra, 3rd.

The District did well at all Championships, so congratulations to all place-getters and also to all competitors at all carnivals.

The District Jet Boat patrolled the Waverley and Randwick Districts, so to all No.1's and crewmen, thank you for your efforts and co-operation this season.

Thanks must go to Dave Popplewell and Barry King for their guidance during the season, also the District Executive Committee for their support. Thanks, too, to the Club Captains and Chief Instructors, who made my job a pleasure this season.

Exams this year were very heavy and without the support of my Assistant, Sheryl Sporle and also David Wiggins, they could not have been done. I wish



to acknowledge and thank the Board and Branch Officers for their co-operation throughout the season.

Keith Rowsell,  
Randwick District Supervisor.

#### WAVERLEY DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

The season certainly started with a boom this year, with all Clubs having large numbers of Bronze and Surf Life Saving Certificate squads being presented for examination, but unfortunately, this boom was short-lived. The enthusiasm at the commencement of the season was present in all Clubs in the Waverley District, but in some Clubs, this enthusiasm wained.

The shortage of instructors in our Club became apparent and, in another, it was unfortunately the shortage of keen candidates to fill the squads of the waiting instructors. Hopefully for all Clubs concerned, the problems will be worked on during the winter months.

As mentioned in last year's report, some Clubs still have difficulty in attiring their patrols adequately, even at times with the minimum of a patrol cap. The Branch is currently reviewing the patrol uniform requirement, in view of possible changes.

Regrettably, earlier on in the season, Bronte SLSC was brought before the Branch Judiciary Committee for failing to comply fully with its patrol requirements, but, as a result of this action, the patrol standard of Bronte Club has since greatly improved and I congratulate Alex Menzies and the Bronte Club Executive for that improvement.

During the season, a large number of Bronze Medallion and Surf Life Saving Certificate preliminary and final examinations were held in the District with the assistance of Trevor Perrin, Charlie Matthews, Peter Davis, Carl Melvey and other Board members; without this assistance, the exams would have been impossible to manage.

The Waverley Shield District Carnival was held at North Bondi this year with a small surf and many helpful officials - Charlie Matthews, Merv Gladstone, Peter Doolan, Bob Gillroy, Karen Schenk and Jim Stansell - their assistance made it run very smoothly and quickly, with North Bondi being the eventual winners.

Carnivals were also held at North Bondi for the Egg Corporation and at Bondi, this being the Branch Championships, which were held in a testing surf; both carnivals were very successful. Congratulations to the Clubs and their competitors for successes at the Branch, State and Australian Championships.

During the season, a meeting was held with all the current professional Lifeguards and the Waverley District Executive Committee, with the result of better communications between us all. I hope this continues on in the future seasons.

Over the past season, heavy seas prevailed on a number of patrol days, which meant, for some Clubs, large numbers of rescues. I congratulate all the Clubs in the District for continuing the tradition of "No lives lost".

I would thank Trevor Perrin, my Assistant District Supervisor, for withstanding the pressure placed upon him on a number of occasions, due to the duties of his position, and also for assisting me with the numerous exams and other duties. To the Board Executive, Club Executives and others who assisted me, I thank you for your support.

Stewart Bailey,  
Waverley District Supervisor.

#### BOARD OF CONTROL EDUCATIONAL TEAM.

During the 1984-85 season, an educational team was selected, with the view to undertaking a "look and learn" tour of the United States of America. Arrangements were made to visit various Chapters of the USA Lifeguard Association, to gain ideas of their rescue methods and bring these ideas back to Australia, to implement within our own system where applicable. The tour was planned for July/August, 1985.



The team of 32 set about trying to raise the necessary funds to make the trip possible. Many prospective sponsors were approached but, unfortunately, the well was dry. A shortage of time also made fund-raising a difficult job, given the amount to be raised.

The whole question of funds was brought to a head when the Australian Dollar value collapsed, resulting in an increase in costs of approximately 20%. A team meeting resolved that the tour should be postponed for 12 months, to allow team members more time to raise the funds, as many members were unable to afford the costs this year without outside funding.

Team Manager, Ken Blakie, has reapproached the Lifeguard Association to draw up a new itinerary and the wheels are now in motion for the trip to take place in 1986. Some of the original team members have had to drop out of the team for various reasons and replacements have been found.

Should there be further drop-outs, it must be borne in mind that the team has already raised a certain amount of money; therefore, any replacements must be prepared to submit an equivalent amount to cover what has already been raised.

The Board of Control can see a lot of benefit in undertaking this tour, both for the Branch and the individual team members. Any assistance which can be given will be much appreciated.

Bob Bransdon,  
Hon. Team Secretary.

#### DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The 1984-85 season has concluded with the summary of the year's work illustrating the enormous workload programme successfully achieved by the members of the Board of Control. Almost identical programme conditions have prevailed as in the 1982-83 season, with the problems and pitfalls of an early start and a compact competition season making the end of season's Club patrol activities more acute.

There is growing concern that more Clubs are having difficulties manning full and effective patrols required by the Branch Constitution.

Although congratulations are due to District Supervisors, Examiners and Instructors for the record number of life saving awards gained during the season, it is of serious concern that the number of Bronze Medallion awards gained are once again on the downward trend. This is a major contributing factor with those Clubs experiencing difficulties manning patrols.

Congratulations to the winners and to other Clubs participating in the Patrol Competition. Although the standard is high, more Clubs need to enter patrols. It has been recommended that this competition be upgraded to Branch Championship level. There is also insufficient Clubs entering teams in the First-Aid competitions at Club carnivals prior to the Branch Championships.

The Board has been successful in recruiting a considerable number of new members during the past three seasons, due to the efforts of Bernie Kelly, but there are still insufficient members of the Board participating at carnivals. The new structure of the Board opened up the potential for more specialists, but these people are not coming forward. The workload is heavy for those members continuously participating and it is imperative that both Clubs and competitors take a more responsible view of contributing in this area.

More prospective R&R Judges need to attend the annual State R&R Seminar and be prepared to train at Club Carnivals to build up our judging panel strength to support our Branch Clubs' excellent standard of numerous teams. More judges are also needed to train in March Past, to give our Club teams the benefit of the new judging system.

The inaugural Branch Ladies Team, selected to compete against the visiting Auckland Ladies Team, was highly successful and performed and presented themselves in a first-class manner. Many thanks for a top effort, at such short notice, by Team Coach Ian Goode, Glenn Thomson, Joan Vaughan and to others who contributed.

There is still much to be done by some Clubs to improve their image of ident-



ification of patrols, through better patrol uniform standards. A Board Committee has submitted a report on this subject and is being investigated. It is up to all Board members to set an example and present themselves for examinations, at carnivals and other events, in correct attire.

Most Board Committees have been called upon during the season for a great deal of work; thanks to the respective conveners and members for co-operation and results.

The Emergency Services, co-ordinated through Ian Badham, have once again serviced the Clubs under considerable pressures. With the trials and difficulties during the introduction of the first stages of the repeater network radio system, John Wardall has had teething problems, but Sydney Surf Radio has performed very effectively throughout the season. Congratulations on the high number of Radio Awards.

The Jet Rescue Boats have encountered considerable maintenance problems during the season, resulting in many lost patrol hours. Ken Blakie has had the added role of Tour Team Manager for the proposed Board of Control Overseas Educational Tour. This tour has been postponed for 12 months, due to funding problems. Ken has presented a comprehensive report on proposals for the prospective role of the JRB's. This report is being studied by the JRB groups, the Board and the Branch.

Once again, the expanding contribution of our IRB's to general patrol work is outstanding and a major part of surf life saving. Bill Singleton has had a busy season with a few problems to sort out.

Ken English has set out during the season to encourage and develop judges and carnival officials by appointing Assistant Sectional Referees and other training appointments, which has been received with some successes with more to come.

My appreciation to the hard working Board of Control Executive and co-operation from Trevor Elliott. Sincere thanks for the full support and co-operation of our District Supervisors - Stewart Bailey, Keith Rowswell, Bruce Breadner and Frank Osborne - and their Deputies; and to Glenn Thomson, Joan Vaughan, Ken English and Bernie Kelly, during the period that the Superintendent was on leave of absence.

Ron Howells,  
Deputy Superintendent.

#### THE YEAR'S WORKLOAD.

- \* 130 Bronze and Surf Life Saving Examinations and Trials
- \* 42 ARC examinations
- \* Over 1200 Proficiency Examinations
- \* A total of 1379 awards in all categories
- \* The Branch Seminar
- \* Open Carnivals, Rossfield and Interdistrict Carnivals
- \* Pier One and Mazda Marathon Surf Boat Races
- \* Branch Championships at Bondi Beach
- \* Branch IRB Championships at North Bondi Beach
- \* Branch Patrol Competition
- \* Gear Inspection of Clubs' equipment
- \* New Members Nights
- \* Participation at Metropolitan, State and Australian Championships
- \* Participation at State IRB Championships
- \* State R&R Field Weekend
- \* State March Past Field Weekend
- \* Pilot First-Aid Course
- \* Instruction of outside organisations by the ARC Group
- \* Lectures and demonstrations by the Helicopter Rescue Service
- \* Training and examination of squads on behalf of National Council
- \* District Interclub Carnivals.



### REMEMBRANCE.

It is with regret that we record the passing of two Life Members of the Branch, Kevin Andrews and Rupert Michaelis.

Kevin, a member of the Tamarama SLSC, was an example to all the younger members of the Board in his commitment to Surf Life Saving. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Mary.

Rupert was a member of the Cronulla Surf Club and although he retired from active membership of the Board some years ago, he is remembered for the many years he gave to the work of the Board and Surf Life Saving.

### CONCLUSION.

Some of us feel that an Annual Report should only hit the high spots of a year; others, of which I am one, feel that the Annual Report should not gloss over problems and difficulties that arose during a season, but should attempt to record them honestly, along with our achievements.

Ours is the largest and strongest Board in the Association; it has had a good year - we've built on our strengths, rectified some of our weaknesses and faced up to our problems; the warts mentioned in this report are real issues and, talking with other Superintendents, are not confined to Sydney alone.

The "Think Tank" is over and a report is being prepared; as you will see from the topics discussed, it was wide-ranging and raised some of the issues and problems facing the Board. Members present were often quite frank in their criticisms, a fact not recorded in the report, but the report in general reflects the tone and range of the discussions.

From it seems to arise the issues of Image, Training of Members, "professional" attitude of members, relationship with Branch and Clubs, and, most crucially, that of financing what needs to be done.

All in all, a very worthwhile day.

On a personal note, my thanks to Trevor Elliott, Ron Howells and the Board Executive for their help and assistance during the past season, particularly with the provision of written reports or notes at meetings, which has enabled me, most of the time, to get the Board's Management Meeting report to the Branch Office in time to be circulated to members of the Branch Management Committee prior to the meeting.

Without the active assistance, advice and occasional criticisms offered by Joan Vaughan, none of this would be possible; my thanks for considerable patience and forbearance during the season, which has allowed the job to be done.

To all Board members, congratulations on the completion of yet another successful season and the Executive's thanks for your individual effort and assistance in maintaining the standards and leadership of the Sydney Branch Board of Surf Life Saving Control.

Glenn Thomson,  
Hon. Secretary.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S ADDENDUM.

Fellow Board Members -

This full and detailed report records the efforts of the Board of Control of Sydney Branch and provides valuable information on the status of Clubs in the Branch.

The reading of the Officer's reports will give insight into the scope and activities of our members and we find recorded the initiatives and thanks of the season, as well as sobering criticisms for future action.

The Board of Control Executive functioned as a cohesive unit and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts. Particular thanks



go to Ron Howells, the Deputy Superintendent, for taking over during the period from October to December when I was forced to apply for leave from my duties.

The District Supervisors, Frank Osborne, Bruce Breadner, Keith Rowsell and Stewart Bailey, and their Deputies, have been most actively involved and provided sound assessment of the Clubs in their areas.

Some Clubs have been identified as having problems and these have been signalled for action. The main concern with these Clubs is that they are not performing - not quite failing but causing continued concern - only having minimum numbers on patrol, not effectively training new members, having problems with gear inspections, not attending meetings or seminars, failing to support the Association with minimum involvement as Examiners or Carnival Officials. All or any of these symptoms indicate that a Club should be seriously examining its priorities and looking at its "grass roots" level of life saving.

The new technology and planning of the '80's will not help Clubs in the '90's that can't identify existing problems, support viable patrols and train and hold members who can take the Club into the future.

The Branch Patrol Competition, specifically designed to involve all Clubs and provide incentive for the patrol member - "the backbone of the Association" - saw only seven Clubs participate. Congratulations to the winning Coogee patrol and the other six patrols that performed so creditably. Thanks to Bruce Breadner and the officials who conducted the assessments.

What of the other eight Clubs? We should wonder what they are doing at the "grass roots"; what commitment their leaders have to their members; what motivation they are using for the future?

In the broad field of "Emergency Services", I would like to thank Ian Badham; Ken Blakie - JRB Supervisor; Graham Bruce, then Bill Singleton, as IRB Supervisor; John Wardall, Radio Officer; Peter MacCormick and Bob Ford of the Helicopter Rescue Service; for their leadership and the dedication and service of their various groups. These groups have identified particular challenges and are actively pursuing solutions. This area is unlimited in its potential, particularly when we see -

- ..The second helicopter in service with the Helicopter Group and the increased recognition gained with Ambulance and Police.
- ..The Jet Rescue Groups identifying a need for more capable twin-engined craft for offshore work and pursuing this line.
- ..The final commissioning of the repeater radio network, bringing all Clubs into direct communication in the Branch.
- ..Initiatives being taken to set up a life saving system at Wattamolla and provide midweek life saving at Garie during school summer vacation.

To Bernie Kelly and the band of Examiners who undertook the mammoth task of conducting the various Proficiency and Association examinations - thanks and congratulations on a job well done.

The number of exams speak for the amount of work carried out and we can only admire those who shouldered this load and did more than their share.

Some criticism has been levelled at a minority of examiners for not turning up after nominating for an exam and it must be said that the image of the Board suffers on these occasions. Our "professionalism" is judged on our attendance, punctuality, appearance and general presentation. On most occasions we achieve this standard, but members must realise that in nominating for a task, a responsibility also exists to carry it out and not let the team down.

Thanks to Ken English, the Carnival and Competition Supervisor, and the Referees, Officials, Judges and workers, another successful competitive season has been completed. Ken's appointments to carnivals ensured that experience was blended with the enthusiasm of our newer officials and the Branch now has a pool of personnel to ensure the efficient running of our competitions. Additional support and encouragement in the R&R and Beach arenas will complete our team of judges and guarantee the running of our carnivals is second to none.



The Branch's carnival gear was again improved and maintained by John Dewey and his team, while Perc Ainsworth was always on hand with starting guns, timing watches and needed stationery. These, along with the dedicated IRB Group, who put in long sessions laying/adjusting buoys and often judging, must be thanked separately for their contribution to carnivals.

The support of Sydney Branch and its Officers has been welcomed during the year. However, the Branch's financial position has limited in many areas the role and direction the Board can take.

All Board members are already members of Surf Clubs who have taken on extra duties and it would be unrealistic to expect further major fund-raising. However, a major effort needs to be made to obtain sponsorship.

I feel that until we have sensible control of our own funds, many valuable plans and schemes aimed to improve Clubs and provide incentive and efficiency in our members, will go untried.

It has been a pleasure to see the strength of our newer members and the continued interest in joining the Board. Programmes are underway to provide effective training and supervision for new members during their probationary period, which will fully equip them to join our ranks as full members.

To these people, I hope the Board gives them everything they expect and I hope they can fully share the enthusiasm and dedication so apparent in our members over a long and rewarding term of service.

An Educational Team to tour overseas and investigate different methods and techniques for introduction into the Branch, finally gained form this year. The talented and enthusiastic party assembled under Ken Blakie and keenly began fund-raising.

A major effort was reserved for the Royal Easter Show and although valuable publicity and public relations were gained, the financial reward to match the effort didn't accrue.

This set-back, along with an unstable Dollar at the time, forced a reconsideration of fund-raising goals and a rescheduling of the tour to next year. This wise, although disappointing, decision will allow more time to prepare and therefore produce a more productive tour.

A highlight of this report is to record that the Executive has voted to recognise Bill Gray as the outstanding member of the year. Bill carried out full Board duties and made an exceptional effort in the examination area, to become a worthy recipient of this Award.

To all members of the Board of Control, I again say thank you for a job well done; your efforts have been recorded in the preceding pages.

It is noted that Sydney Branch, in the Board sphere, is larger than most State Centres in our organisation and it is a credit to the Honorary Officers that they have been able to complete their tasks, working out of briefcases and car boots. A central office with areas to work and plan, where information is readily accessible is surely a priority that should be pursued to the fullest.

In closing my report, I would like to thank Glenn Thomson for his efforts during the year and congratulate him on this report and again thank Ron Howells, my Deputy.

Every year is a challenge and indications for the coming season show keen interest by members to hold office, a healthy sign for our future.

If everyone continues to pull together, we will keep Sydney Branch Board of Control in the fore.

Trevor Elliott,  
Superintendent.



