



CRONULLA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

## Board Update – August 2026

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A message from Matt Aitken, President

Hi Everyone,

On 17 August we held the first meeting of your new Cronulla SLSC Board. First as a Board rather than a Management Committee, and first since the AGM. Eight of us sat down together for a full agenda, and I wanted to give you a rundown of what was covered rather than just the highlights.

Going forward we will send a summary after every Board meeting, so you can see what your Board is working on. Let us know what you think, and whether it is useful.



*Your 2026/27 Cronulla SLSC Board, at our first meeting under the new Constitution.*

## A new way of running your club

The AGM saw members vote through a new Board following the approval of a new Constitution at the July SGM. Instead of a Management Committee, the club is now run by a Board of eight, each of us holding a defined portfolio with clear accountability. It is a more structured way of governing the club, and one that should serve Cronulla well as we head toward our 120th year and beyond.

Your Board for 2026/27:

- **Matt Aitken** – President
- **Kieran Day** – Deputy President
- **Chris Barber** – Club Captain / Director of Life Saving
- **Jana Meresova** – Treasurer / Director of Finance
- **Kim Williams** – Hon Secretary / Director of Administration
- **Kasey Diver-Tuck** – Director of Surf Sports
- **Gary Greene** – Director of Junior Activities and Youth
- **Pat Bourke** – Director of Commercial Operations

A full list of officeholders and committee positions nominated at the AGM is being verified and will be confirmed at our next meeting, with letters of thanks going out to everyone who has put their hand up to serve the club this season. If a position is still vacant and you are interested, please reach out to the office.

## Safety first, always

Safety is a standing item at every Board meeting, and the Board will also do a walk-through of the club periodically to check things over in person. This month we picked up a couple of practical issues, including the potential for water pooling near the lift from the accessible toilet/shower, which is now being investigated.

On the beach, patrol members are reminded that a risk assessment must be done before every training session, and that pink rashies need to be worn. The missing person box has also been relocated back into the IRB shed.

## Keeping the club on a sound financial footing

Jana gave the Board a clear picture of where we stand. The loan balance is currently \$220,000, and we continue to put \$50,000 a year into an asset renewal fund so we are properly planning for the future rather than being caught out by it.

On the sponsorship side, three new sponsors have come on board this year and we are in discussions with potential sponsors to support our Worlds Team. Thank you to all our sponsors, old and new, for backing Cronulla SLSC.

## **Modernising how we govern**

Kim (Williams) has put together an ambitious program of work to lift our governance, including a board induction pack, a board charter, clearer role descriptions for every director and officeholder, and a plan to profile each Board member in Capers so you know who we are and how to reach us. We are also working on a code of conduct to make sure everyone, members, volunteers and our office team alike, is treated with the respect they deserve.

The Board also looked at the results of the 2025 SLSNSW Volunteer Satisfaction Survey, in which Cronulla SLSC met or exceeded the state average across every measure. A pleasing result, but not one we are taking for granted. We will do our own member survey during the upcoming season.

Our new club website is on track to launch in September, and each Board member is currently reviewing their section before it goes live.

Separately, work is well advanced on a Strategic Plan for Cronulla SLSC for 2026 to 2030, built around five pillars: saving lives, developing our people, strengthening the club's sustainability, engaging our community, and the governance and funding that underpins it all. This is still a working draft and we will bring it back to members before it is finalised, but it will give the club a clear, shared direction for the next five years.

## **Growing our lifesaving and surf sports pathway**

The Board approved the establishment of the Cronulla SLSC Academy, a structured and funded pathway to support athlete development from Nippers through to elite competition. This is not a pay to play model, it will be funded through the likes of the Australian Sports Foundation, fundraising events and sponsorship, and will help with things like craft subsidies, coaching and competition support. Alongside it, the Board is exploring options for a Cronulla SLSC Foundation to give the club a long term, tax deductible way to raise funds for programs like this.

The Board also approved the 'She Belongs In The Surf' initiative to grow female participation in surf sports, and is exploring the purchase of an additional trailer to keep up with our growing craft transport needs. Kasey ran a Surf Sports Strategy session on 21 August with coaches, athletes and section captains to map out where we go next.

The Board is also looking at appointing an Officials Coordinator to better support and recognise the members who volunteer as officials at carnivals.

## **Nippers season is nearly here**

Enrolments for the 2026/27 Nipper season have opened, and our Learn to Swim program with Cronulla Swim School is booked in – thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the RSL. Proficiency days are locked in for Saturday 6 September, and Sunday 20 and 27 September, with the first day of Nippers on Sunday 11 October. Age Manager positions are filled for almost every age group, a great sign of the volunteer spirit that keeps this program running.

## Looking after our clubhouse

The Ante Room refresh is complete and looking terrific, with a new trophy cabinet, vinyl wraps and photo displays all installed on budget – this initiative was delivered by a small team led by Kieran Day. A big thank you to Pat Bourke for the effort he put into securing donated furniture for the space. Work also continues on updating our honour boards and championship plaques, with a plan for a digital display to come back to the Board shortly.

The Board is also finalising a furniture management plan for the clubhouse, to make sure both Cronulla SLSC and our RSL partners have what they need for events while keeping the club clean, safe and well presented for everyone who uses it.

## Ways to get involved

We are still looking for a convenor for the Shark Island Swim Committee, along with two to three new committee members. If you would like to be part of one of our signature community events, please get in touch with Kieran Day.

The Board also approved the formation of a 120th Anniversary Working Group, to plan a year of celebrations in 2027 built around four themes: celebrate our history, preserve our legacy, connect our community, and leave something lasting for future members. If you would like to be involved in planning this milestone, we would love to hear from you.

## What's next

Our next Board meeting is on 21 September 2026. As always, if you have a question about anything covered here, or something you would like the Board to consider, please reach out to me or any Board member directly, or drop a line to the office.

Thank you for everything you do for this club.

**Matt Aitken**

President