



NOTICE & AGENDA

FOR

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (SGM)

AVOCA BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club Inc. will be held on Sunday, 13 September 2026 commencing at 10am at Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

Business:

1. To elect Director positions for the 2026/2027 season - *detail for nominees on pages 2-5*

Nominees:

- President
 - Stuart Harvey
- Vice President Sponsors
 - Trent McRae
- Director of Finance
 - Caroline (Caz) Ayres
 - Rowena Bull
- Director of Competition
 - Gordon (Gordo) Jones

Voting Eligibility

As per the club's constitution under 8.3 and 16.1, the following members are eligible to vote:

- Active (with current award and proficiency)
- Active Reserve (with current award and proficiency)
- Award Member (with current award and proficiency)
- Long Service
- Past Active
- Life Member
- Associate member with seven (7) years active service

Members who fit the categories above, are 18 years of age, and had a current 2026/27 membership on 9 August 2026 are entitled to vote at the SGM.

It has been confirmed by SLSCC and SLSNSW Legal Counsel that **"only those persons who were members at the time of the AGM can vote at the recalled election"**.

Voting will be by secret ballot for all positions.

Proxy Votes

If you cannot attend the SGM and wish to appoint a proxy, the SGM Proxy form (available on the website) must be completed and lodged with the Director of Administration BEFORE 10am on Sunday



13 September 2026. Proxy forms must be signed and dated by both the member and proxy and completed in full to be valid. Proxy forms can be emailed to diradmin@avocabeachslsc.asn.au up to 5pm Saturday 12 September, or handed in on the morning of the SGM. Forms received after 10am will not be accepted. Meeting registrations will begin at 9am Sunday 13 September.

NOMINEE BACKGROUND DETAILS

Vice President - Sponsor Nominee - Trent McRae

Dear Members,

I am writing to seek your support for my nomination as Vice President – Sponsors and to continue serving as a committed board member of Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

My connection to surf lifesaving began long before I joined Avoca. I grew up around the beach, starting as a nipper at South Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club, where I developed a lifelong appreciation for the values of service, teamwork and community that define our movement. Since completing my Bronze Medallion at Avoca Beach SLSC in 2005 alongside two of our Life Members, Mick Kendal and Andy Hoban, the club has become an important part of my life. Their passion, commitment and love for our club were infectious and inspired me to become actively involved.

Outside the club, I have proudly served as a firefighter with Fire & Rescue NSW for the past 22 years. Throughout my career I have learned the importance of teamwork, leadership and making critical decisions under pressure. These are qualities I bring to every role I undertake and believe are equally valuable in helping guide and strengthen our club as a board member.

The club is not just where I volunteer—it is where my family belongs. We are all active lifesaving members, and together we help keep Avoca Beach safe. Being able to serve alongside my family has strengthened our connection to the club and reinforced the importance of ensuring Avoca Beach SLSC remains strong for future generations.

I have served the club in a variety of roles, including patrolling member, master's competitor, boat crew manager, trainer, facilitator and, most recently, Director of Lifesaving for the past three seasons. Throughout each of these roles, my focus has always been on putting members first while strengthening our connection with the wider community.

As Director of Lifesaving, I introduced several initiatives designed to support our members and improve the club experience. These included establishing post-patrol tables in the restaurant to encourage connection and camaraderie, providing two \$250 appreciation vouchers to every patrol each season, installing 24-hour rescue equipment beneath the tower, securing free gym memberships for active members, ensuring the club pays State and Australian Championship entry fees, assisting with coaches' accommodation costs for these carnivals, and always looking for practical ways to recognise the commitment of our volunteers.

I also established the annual Gotcha4Life 24-Hour Row, which has raised more than \$3,000 for charity over the past two years while bringing members and the community together for an important cause.



I believe sponsorship is about building genuine, long-term partnerships that benefit both our sponsors and our club. I am passionate about our community, have strong local connections, and have developed solid relationships with many of our existing sponsors. If elected, I will work to strengthen those relationships while seeking new sponsorship opportunities that provide sustainable support for our members, our programs and the future of Avoca Beach SLSC.

Avoca Beach SLSC has given so much to me and my family, and I am committed to giving back. I would be honoured to continue serving the club as a board member and as your Vice President – Sponsors. I respectfully ask for your support and the opportunity to help lead our club into the future.

Kind regards,

Trent McRae

Director of Finance Nominee - Caroline Ayres

As is the case with many Members who find their way into the Surf Club through their children, this has been my entry pathway into the ABSLSC. Both my daughters were Nippers from the U7 age group and are still involved as young adults, as both patrolling members and competitors in the senior squad.

Over the years I have taken on the roles of Nippers Registrar, Point Score recorder and the SRC Convenor during the time that Holly and Bronte were in Nippers. As we now travel to all the senior carnivals and WOS events, I assist with accommodation bookings, trailer towing and give support wherever we can to assist the Open Squad.

I have previously been a director on the Avoca Kayak Club Board for several years, at a time when the girls were transitioning to the Senior Squad and developing their Ski skills.

I have a strong understanding of the governance requirements within community clubs and a greater insight into the workings and requirements of the not-for-profit sector. During my working career I have performed secretariat duties for many sub-committees within mid-sized Community Sports organisations.

As the club has evolved into the hospitality sector, I have been a regular patron and have enjoyed watching the development of this aspect of our club, which has helped create financial sustainability and is now allowing the club to invest more heavily back into the membership.

Professionally, I am an experienced Bookkeeper and registered BAS Agent, I have managed the full spectrum of accounting and bookkeeping functions for a diverse range of businesses including hospitality, enviro-consulting, pastoral and disability sectors. I am a highly organised and results-driven finance and administration professional with extensive experience in bookkeeping, BAS preparation and lodgement, payroll & financial reporting.

I have a proven ability to manage multiple priorities while maintaining attention to detail & ensuring financial and organisational compliance. As I am an advanced user of various accounting software packages, it enables me to interpret financial data to support informed business decisions and develop realistic budgets that align with organisational goals.



My analytical skills, accuracy, and commitment to confidentiality have enabled me to build strong, trusted relationships with clients, stakeholders, and external service providers and government regulators.

My strengths also include project management, stakeholder engagement, contract negotiation, problem-solving, and the ability to coordinate multiple projects simultaneously while meeting strict deadlines and budget requirements. These skills have been developed through previous roles in my career across major Event Management, Hospitality Management and Senior Executive Assistant roles.

To remain active in a volunteering capacity, I have nominated for the position of Director of Finance on the Board. Having been associated with the ABSLSC for over 16 years, I have a deep passion for the ongoing success of the Club and its pursuit to become one of the leading clubs in NSW.

The Club today, is in wonderful health, it is a central part of my family's life, we "live" at the club and I have a great interest in the success due to my long involvement.

Director of Finance Nominee - Prof Rowena Bull

I have been an active patrolling member since 2003 and with ABSLSC since 2010. I have been involved in many aspects of club life, including representing the club in surf boats, where I won three Aussie medals, a World Title and numerous State medals. More recently I have competed in Masters, supported Nippers as a water safety officer and official across multiple age groups since 2018, and assisted with the Rookie Program in 2025. Giving back and supporting the next generation has always been important to me.

Professionally, I bring extensive experience in financial management, governance, strategic planning and organisational leadership that I believe is well suited to the Director of Finance role.

I currently serve as Treasurer of the Australian Centre for Hepatitis Virology, a registered charity, where I oversee budgeting, financial reporting, BAS preparation and compliance with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) requirements. I also serve as Treasurer of the International HCV-Flavi Conference Organising Committee, managing sponsorship income and financial reporting for a major scientific conference. I am experienced in many financial management systems including Xero, Calumo and Concur.

At the University of NSW I am Professor of Medicine, Deputy Director of Industry and Engagement and Head of the Viral Immunology Systems Program in the Faculty of Medicine.

Throughout my career I have secured >\$46 million in competitive funding from government, industry and philanthropic organisations, requiring strong financial stewardship and longterm planning. I manage an annual operating budget of ~\$2 million and lead a team of more than 30 staff and students. I am responsible for strategic financial planning, budget forecasting and reporting to both the University and external funding bodies.

I also bring extensive governance experience through leadership positions on national and international boards. These include Policy advisor for the World Health Organisation, Immediate Past President of the Australasian Virology Society and Expert Advisor for several Commonwealth Government committees and Hepatitis Australia, and Chair of the Health and Safety Committee at



UNSW, where I led implementation of the NSW Work Health and Safety legislative reforms. These roles have strengthened my understanding of governance, compliance and transparent decision-making.

I am also a highly awarded educator, having received UNSW's highest award, the ViceChancellor's Award for Excellence and the student-nominated ARC Award among others.

I believe my combination of long-standing commitment to ABSLSC, proven financial stewardship of multi-million-dollar budgets, governance experience and collaborative leadership style will help ensure ABSLSC remains financially sustainable while continuing to support our members.

Director of Surf Sports Nominee - Gordon Jones

Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club has been my second home since I was three years old. I'm nominating for Director of Competition because I want the next generation to experience what Avoca gave me.

I've been fortunate to receive so much from this club. As I've got older, I've come to believe we all have a responsibility to ensure future generations have the same opportunities that shaped our own lives.

For over four decades, I've had the privilege of serving Avoca as an athlete, coach, Director of Competition, volunteer and Life Member. Those experiences have taught me that Surf Sports programs don't just produce great athletes—they help develop great people, create opportunities and build a club where everyone feels they belong.

I was fortunate to grow up surrounded by people who quietly showed me the value of service. My parents, Spike and Nan, never looked for recognition, but gave hours to the club because they loved it and wanted to make it better for others. Another was Bobby Dorrell. Working with Bobby as Assistant Gear Steward, I quickly realised I learnt far more than I contributed. He taught me that great clubs aren't built by the people in the spotlight, but by ordinary people who quietly make the club better for everyone else.

For over twenty years, I've coached and volunteered with athletes from their first days in the surf through to Australian Champions. But the achievements I'm proudest of aren't measured in medals. Success isn't measured by how many champions a club produces. It's measured by how many good people choose to stay, serve and inspire the next generation. That's the kind of club I want Avoca to continue to be.

Professionally, as a Station Officer with Fire and Rescue NSW, I lead teams in high-pressure environments where communication, decision-making, accountability and teamwork are essential. That experience has reinforced my belief that the best decisions are made when people with different skills come together, listen and work towards a common goal. As Director, I'd focus on supporting our coaches and volunteers, strengthening athlete pathways and creating more opportunities for members to contribute their skills and experience—because the strongest clubs are built by people, not podiums.

Years from now, few people will remember who won the race. They'll remember the friendships they built and the people who helped shape them.

That's what Avoca gave me. It's now our responsibility to ensure the next generation has the same opportunity.