

From: Jotform noreply@jotform.com
Subject: We have received your response for 2024/25 HSLS Awards of Excellence
Date: 4 May 2025 at 10:33 am
To: secretary@birubipointslsc.org.au



2024/25 HSLS Awards of Excellence

Nominator Name	Rohan Fisher
Nominator Email	secretary@birubipointslsc.org.au
Club	Birubi Point
Nominee Name	Callum Mercer
Award	Surf Lifesaver of the Year
Type of Nomination being submitted:	Full Entry Nomination (continue to criteria below)
Nominee Photo	Callum SLS photo.jpeg

Q1. Tell us about the member/individual or program/innovation being nominated.

Callum Mercer is a dedicated working father and influential volunteer surf lifesaver whose impact on Birubi Point SLSC been transformational. His ability to innovate and lead, sup and mentor young members, has strengthened both frontlii lifesaving services and the development of future surf lifesavers, in and beyond our club. As a patrolling member, Youth Activities Coordinator, Age Manager for three age gr and a Board member of Birubi Point SLSC, Callum embody the values of service, leadership, and inclusivity that are ce to surf lifesaving.

Callum's lifesaving qualifications include Age Manager, Bro Medallion, First Aid, and ART (2023/4); IRB Crew and Silver Medallion Patrol Captain (2024/5), demonstrating his commitment to ongoing development. With 86 patrol hours commitment to water safety, especially Supporting Nippers training squads, and community events, Callum is an exceptionally active and reliable member of Birubi Point SLSC. Callum has supported all Patrol teams by liaising with Patrol Captains to set and communicate expectations for trainee U13 and U14 cadet members to successfully be integrated patrol teams. He has revitalized youth engagement through structured programs aimed at retention, leadership, and

mentorship.

Recognising that young members are the foundation of the club's future, Callum led the establishment of Junior Club Captain and Junior Vice Captain, during which U14 members made applications for positions and were formally interviewed by a small panel of the club's Board. All applicants gained valuable leadership experience during the process and will go on to shape the development of their peers and themselves over the coming season. In addition, Callum developed a reward recognition system, providing backpacks for SRC graduates and jackets for new Bronze Medallion holders, that has inspired pride and motivation among our young lifesavers.

Callum fosters a welcoming and inclusive club culture, ensuring youth members feel heard, valued, and engaged. Instigating interclub activities, encouraging involvement in surf and leadership camps has created stronger connections between young lifesavers within and beyond the Branch. Whether attending swim training to provide support and encouragement or stepping in to problem-solving challenges during patrols, Callum's hands-on approach ensures young members develop confidence and skills in a supportive environment.

Callum's nomination for Surf Lifesaver of the Year is a recognition of his selfless commitment, dedication to personal improvement, innovative leadership, retention and development of our youth and encouraging and making lasting contributions towards a positive future for surf lifesaving in and beyond our club.

Q2. What has been achieved?

Callum's contributions to surf lifesaving have significantly strengthened youth engagement and expanded patrolling capabilities within and beyond Birubi Point SLSC. His structured approach to integrating SRC members into patrols has ensured more cadets than ever before have successfully progressed onto active patrol. His ability to recognize operational gaps and implement solutions has directly enhanced retention and strengthened our club's capability.

An active member of the Board of Directors. Through thoughtful planning and presentation Callum has been successful in winning both conceptual and financial support for a wide range of youth initiatives such as; cadets participating in interclub training camps; SLS style boogie boards for cadets to use on patrol; funding for movie nights and BBQ's; incentive gifts for youth members who achieve training goals; and securing our club as a venue for a UAV (drone) outreach program for 53 youth members from across the branch.

His liaison with our CTO led to a program for the U13 and U14 Nipper groups, for which he was age manager. Trainers were allocated so that all the necessary training for the Resuscitation certificate and the SRC could occur as part of their regular Sunday time slot. This made the training both accessible for cadets and manageable for their parents, resulting in all 17 cadets gaining their SRC.

Callum has been an outstanding Director for youth.

Stronger links between Patrols and emerging lifesavers. Callum worked closely with our club captain to ensure that all SRC candidates were successfully integrated into patrol teams. His approach which included attending patrols with cadets before and after they gained their SRC, providing quick action in resolving difficulties, reinforced his dedication and the importance of mentorship. Callum's direct involvement made active lifesaving accessible, allowing new members to develop confidence while feeling ownership over their role in the club and strengthening overall patrol team dynamics.

Beyond a keen and very active lifesaver. Callum has logged hours on patrol, supported numerous water safety events, managed three nipper age groups, contributed to lifesaving development projects, forged links with a Sydney club and completed several awards.

Callum's collaboration with Patrol Captains, his engagement in Branch activities, and his mentorship of our youth and your trainers reflect his ability to inspire and guide future lifesaving leaders. His philosophy for long-term growth and sustainability is embedded in his own skill development and has been embedded in the club's evolving framework for the future.

Q3. What impact has this had, and for whom?

Callum's contributions have a profound and lasting impact on individuals, the club, and the broader surf lifesaving community. His leadership in youth engagement and patrol development has strengthened Birubi Point SLSC's frontline services while fostering a culture of mentorship, teamwork, and inclusion.

A stronger supportive environment. The support and retention of our junior members has encouraged parents to complete lifesaving awards. Callum has created a positive impact on the culture of teamwork and inclusivity that has strengthened the link between the junior and senior club. Together the increased number of junior and senior members bodes well for increasing patrol numbers, enhancing the club's future capability.

Youth development. Callum introduced Junior Club Captain and Junior Vice Captain roles. This provides young members with leadership opportunities, fostering mentorship, responsibility and deeper involvement. His emphasis on youth-led programs has encouraged younger lifesavers to take ownership of their development, ensuring future leaders emerge within the club.

Greater engagement and retention. The retention rate of our U13 and U14 Nippers has been greatly enhanced. With a noticeable improvement in the 2023-24 season, to a massive 100% of SRC candidates graduating in the 2024-25 season, all looking forward to Patrolling in 2025-2026.

Enhanced interaction between clubs. Callum's impact extends beyond Birubi Point SLSC. Interclub partnership with Warriewood SLSC, local, and Branch youth initiatives have

played a vital role in expanding surf lifesaving networks for youth members, encouraging young people to engage with lifesaving early, gain practical experience, and see pathway continued involvement.

Improved personal confidence. Most recently in late April, Callum's commitment to emergency service, prompted him use his advanced skills in CPR. Without hesitation, he confidently responded to a close local emergency that "pinged" on his Responder App. On finding an elderly woman collapsed at her home, he calmly assessed the situation, called 000 and commenced CPR. Callum was praised on his capability by paramedics who assisted him when they arrived on the scene.

Callum has a unique ability to identify opportunities for expansion, mobilize youth engagement, and contribute to lifesaving efficiency. Coupled with his selfless dedication, leadership, and problem-solving abilities, Callum is an amazing asset to our club and surf lifesaving in general. His efforts, especially this season, have left an indelible mark on Birub Point SLSC, ensuring the club will continue to thrive while shaping the next generation of lifesavers.

Callum is exceptional and is our candidate for Surf Lifesaver of the Year.