

From: Jotform noreply@jotform.com
Subject: We have received your response for 2024/25 HSLs Awards of Excellence
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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	Eric Gatehouse
Award	Trainer of the Year
Type of Nomination being submitted:	Full Entry Nomination (continue to criteria below)
Nominee Photo	IMG_4147.jpeg

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

Eric Gatehouse's commitment to surf lifesaving spans over decades, marking 20 years of National Service in this vital movement. His dedication is not just personal—it is woven into his family's legacy, with his wife Joan, his three daughters, and his grandchildren all embracing surf lifesaving as an integral part of their lives. While Eric plays a pivotal role as a patrol member, trainer, and assessor at Birubi Point SLSC. He also volunteers at Fingal SLSC as Nippers water safety, supporting his grandchildren. His passion for collaboration extends beyond a single club—he actively rows with Fingal SLSC and fosters strong interclub connections, reinforcing a united lifesaving network. As Patrol Captain at Birubi Point SLSC, he leads by example while imparting his depth of knowledge. His love for training, his hands-on approach, and his instinct for lifesaving make him invaluable.

Eric is a dedicated and highly skilled lifesaving trainer whose commitment to mentoring new trainers and delivering high-quality education has strengthened the future of Birubi Point SLSC. His approach to training extends beyond the standard curriculum, ensuring that candidates not only achieve their qualifications but also develop the confidence, resilience, and practical knowledge required for lifesaving at our often quiet

treacherous beach.

Eric understands that effective surf lifesaving training must go beyond theory, focusing on real surf conditions and fitness development. While he delivers structured courses in SRC Bronze Medallion qualifications, his approach is more holistic. He incorporates hands-on experience, dynamic problem-solving, and open-water swim training to build endurance, confidence, and adaptability in candidates. Eric leads regular open-water training at Shoal Bay, helping trainees and patrol members improve their stamina and surf awareness. His presence ensures that members develop the strength required for active patrol work while gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges they may face in rescues.

Eric has been instrumental in mentoring new trainers, ensuring that Birubi Point SLSC has a sustainable education program for the future. His mentorship follows a structured approach starting with hands-on guidance before gradually stepping back while remaining a supportive figure. This method allows new trainers to gain confidence in their teaching abilities while knowing they have a trusted mentor to turn to when needed. One young trainer credits his commitment to the training to Eric's ongoing mentorship. By fostering a team of young educators, Eric has strengthened the connection between trainers and younger trainees, ensuring a more engaging learning experience.

Q2. What has been achieved?

Eric's contributions have significantly improved the training programme at Birubi Point SLSC, ensuring candidates are prepared for their assessments and actively supported throughout their training. His approach to instruction and mentorship has strengthened both trainee engagement and the long-term sustainability of the education team.

One of Eric's most notable achievements has been his work recruiting and mentoring new trainers. By identifying potential educators and guiding them through structured development, he has ensured that Birubi Point SLSC continues to have a strong and capable training team. His ability to provide hands-on support, then gradually step back while offering ongoing guidance, allows trainers to gain confidence and independence in their roles. Brad, a trainer he mentored, attributes his success in completing the course to Eric's encouragement and support and now actively contributes to the club's education programme.

Eric's open-water swim training sessions have had a direct impact on improving candidates' swimming endurance and ocean confidence. His initiative ensures lifesavers develop essential physical skills that enhance their ability to perform rescues in surf conditions. These sessions have also strengthened the overall competency of patrolling members, creating a more prepared and capable team.

Beyond structured training, Eric has played a key role in improving communication and engagement within the education team.

programme. His implementation of dedicated communication channels, such as social media updates, ensures trainees remain informed about changes to their training schedule, assessments, and key learning points. This has made training more accessible and easier to manage, particularly for young members balancing multiple commitments.

Eric is highly effective in identifying the strengths and areas for improvement in his trainees. He ensures those who require additional support receive targeted coaching, whether in rescue techniques, swimming skills, or assessment readiness. His approach ensures candidates graduate with a genuine understanding of lifesaving principles rather than simply meeting assessment criteria.

Through his mentorship of trainers, improvement of lifesaving education, and commitment to surf competency, Eric has played a key role in shaping the future of lifesaving instruction at B Point SLSC. His nomination for Trainer of the Year acknowledges his ability to educate, support, and inspire both trainees and fellow trainers alike.

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

Eric's dedication to lifesaving education has had a meaningful and lasting impact on trainees, patrollers, and trainers at B Point SLSC. His mentorship and structured training improvements have strengthened engagement, boosted confidence, and ensured that all members feel supported as they progress through their qualifications.

His guidance of new trainers has reinforced the sustainability of the club's education team, ensuring future generations of lifesaving instructors receive structured and supportive mentorship. One of the trainers he mentored, found his role within the club thanks to Eric's encouragement, highlighting the impact of his approach. Eric also recruited a young female trainer, ensuring a more diverse and representative education team that connects with younger trainees.

His emphasis on surf competency has improved the skill level of patrollers and trainees alike. By leading open-water swim training at Shoal Bay, he has strengthened the water confidence of members, ensuring they are well-prepared for unpredictable rescue conditions. His encouragement during SMAR proficiency swims has helped patrollers meet assessment standards while building stamina and self-assurance in the water.

Eric has refined training delivery, improving both engagement and accessibility. By implementing effective communication strategies, he ensures trainees remain informed and connected throughout their learning journey. His efforts have resulted in higher retention rates, ensuring trainees transition smoothly from SRC to Bronze Medallion and become active members of patrol teams.

Eric is a collaborative team member whose exceptional communication skills are essential to the success of the education team. He coordinates training sessions with

precision, ensuring alignment between trainers, candidates and branch representatives. His ability to provide timely updates, share knowledge freely, and foster engagement keeps the training process seamless, allowing the team to deliver structured and effective lifesaving education.

Eric's nomination acknowledges the wide-reaching influence of his work, from supporting educators, new trainers and trainees to strengthening their skills and confidence. His contributions have created a structured, engaging, and supportive educational environment. Eric's commitment to education, mentorship, and skill development is making a profound impact on shaping the future of lifesaving instruction at Birubi Point SLSC.

Eric's nomination for Trainer of the Year is a recognition of his outstanding efforts in the Birubi Point SLSC Education team. His leadership, dedication to successful lifesaving skill development, and positive impact on both candidates and trainers are truly amazing.