

# Impact Report

## PORTSEA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

December 2025

**PORTSEA S.L.S.C.**

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# Part One Introduction

## We exist to save lives...

Since the first patrol held at Mount Levy Beach in 1949, the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club has primarily existed to save lives. In the 2024/25 patrolling season alone, our patrolling members dedicated 8,934 patrol hours to keep the beach going public safe – undertaking 52 rescues, providing major and minor first aid support and being directly involved in 5,704 preventative actions. Whilst protecting the beach going public will always be our primary objective, our contribution to the Mornington Peninsula community extends well beyond the confines of the beach.

Whilst we exist to save lives, equally important to us is our role in developing our people. We are incredibly proud of the development opportunities the club provides its members - it remains a critical part of who we are. In recent years, we have extended this opportunity to school and community groups, which is presented further later in this report.

Our first Impact Report (released in 2022/23) set a new benchmark in Australian surf life saving club transparency and impact reporting and we are pleased to present our second report to our members and our key stakeholders

Our Impact Report shines a light on what we do and how we impact the communities in which we operate. Importantly, this report also highlights the many extraordinary efforts of our talented and valued members – and transparently sets out our strategy as an organisation.

Development of our Impact Report builds on our continuing commitment to strong governance, sustainable growth and responsible leadership. We hope that it provides you with further insight into what we do and why this is so important.

We look forward to discussing this report further with you and as always, we greatly appreciate your continued support for all that we do.



**Matthew Mahon**  
President



**Brett Croft**  
ESG Report Sponsor



**Holly Hart**  
Emissions Profiler

# Portsea Surf Life Saving Club

Season 2024/25 by the numbers...



**8,934** ↑

Patrol Hours  
(2022/23 - 9,000, 2023/24 - 6,900)



**52** ↑

IRB Drivers/Crew  
(2022/23 - 62, 2023/24 - 38)



**152** ↑

Ressuscitation / Pain management  
qualifications / Requalifications  
(2022/23 - 51, 2023/24 - 127)



**5,943** ↑

Valued members  
(2022/23 - 5,633, 2023/24 - 5,739)



**5,704** ↑

Preventative actions  
(2022/23 - 2,987, 2023/24 - 2,842)



**52** ↑

Rescue actions  
(2022/23 - 30, 2023/24 - 17)



**2** ↑

Major first aid incidents  
(2022/23 - 14, 2023/24 - 1)



**12** ↑

Minor first aid incidents  
(2022/23 - 148, 2023/24 - 8)



**490** ↓

Patrolling members  
(2022/23 - 526, 2023/24 - 500)



Over **900** ↑

Primary aged school children  
educated  
(2022/23 - 300, 2023/24 - 500)



**650** —

Nippers/Starfish Nippers  
(2022/23 - 650, 2023/24 - 650)



**181** ↑

SRC & Cadet participants  
(2022/23 - 101, 2023/24 - 135)



**126** ↑

Full-Time/Part-Time Bronze  
Medallion participants  
(2022/23 - 106, 2023/24 - 93)



**50** ↑

Silver Medallion participants  
(2022/23 - 22, 2023/24 - 26)



**3** ↑

Gold Medallion Participants  
(2022/23 - 11, 2023/24 - 1)

# Our values

Defining who we are and what we do...

Everything that we do as a club is guided by our values.

Everything that we do as a club should be guided by our values. Refined in previous years in response to a need to greater reflect what is important to us and how we want to interact with each other (and the broader community), our values support the delivery of our purpose, are lived through our actions and most importantly, set the boundaries for the behaviours expected of our members - in and outside of the club:

## How we make a difference



### RESPECT AND TEAMWORK

- ✓ Reflects how we operate – as one club – working together across social/ economic demographics and age profiles
- ✓ Reflects our need to treat each other with mutual respect – valuing diversity of backgrounds/cultures and diversity of thought
- ✓ Reflects our need to work together to deliver positive outcomes for the club Reflects our respect of the club and all those who have come before us



### PROTECT THE COMMUNITY

- ✓ Reflects our primary purpose to ensure the safety of the community (“vigilance and service”)
- ✓ Reflects how our community sees us – professional, diligent and enthusiastic to serve
- ✓ Reflects how we need to interact with the community



### EMPOWER STRONG & RESILIENT LEADERS

- ✓ Reflects our need to act as stewards and to develop future leaders
- ✓ Reflects the need for experienced members of the club to share knowledge and experience to develop the younger members of the club
- ✓ Reflects the need for all of us to share responsibilities (and accountabilities) across all areas of our operations
- ✓ Reflects the need for the club to provide ongoing learning and development opportunities.

# Aligning our actions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals...

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint to seek to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030, all people enjoy peace and prosperity – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests<sup>1</sup>. At its heart of this goal are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which represent the urgent call for action and are widely recognised as the way forward to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Government, private enterprise and not for profits such as the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club all have a role to play in activating the call for action.

In considering what we do, how we operate and how we might best contribute to our community, we identified 9 of the 17 SDGs that we saw were best aligned to our contribution to the call to action. Throughout this report, we have referenced them as relevant into the initiatives we are conducting. Whilst not all elements of the 9 SDGs are relevant to us, we feel that they do provide a framework for us to consider in how we operate.



<sup>1</sup>THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development (un.org)

# Part Two Social

# Our people are our greatest asset...

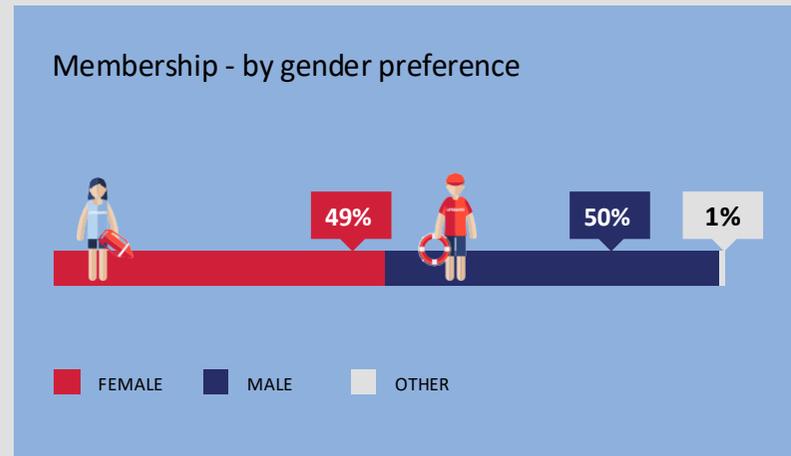
Our club is represented by 5,943 proud and passionate members, of which around 490 are defined as patrolling members<sup>2</sup>. The club's membership has grown exponentially since the redevelopment of our clubhouse completed in the 2019/20 season and we are the largest surf life saving club operating in Australia. Our members hail from a variety of metropolitan and non-metropolitan locations across Victoria, including a large component from the local Mornington Peninsula community. We also have members residing outside of Victoria and also outside of Australia. Member engagement activities seek to promote our purpose, develop future leaders, build our life saving capability, increase our life saving capacity and offer the opportunity for networking and social interaction.



## Membership Diversity



Our 5,943 members are generally evenly split between male and female members (with 1% not identifying a gender preference):



Source: Portsea Surf Life Saving Club membership database

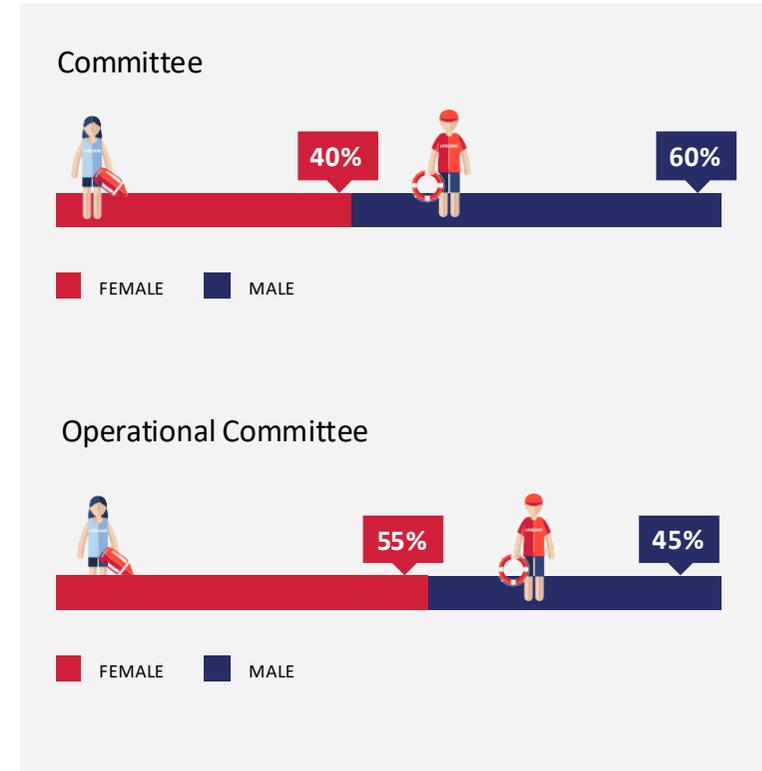
<sup>2</sup> Members who undertook at least 15 patrol hours in the 2024/25 patrol season.

We are continually working towards ensuring that we have an inclusive and diverse membership – reflecting the community which we represent. Our membership and club leadership gender statistics illustrate our efforts and dedication to this goal. However, we acknowledge that we have more to do to ensure gender parity at all levels of the club. We also acknowledge that gender equality is only one aspect of creating a diverse and inclusive club. As illustrated later in this report, we are also striving to become a more inclusive and welcoming community. Programs such as the Starfish Nippers Program, the Frankston High School Bronze Medallion Program and the Schools Program have all been implemented in recent years with this objective in mind. We will also continue to focus on our cultural diversity – particularly given the findings of Life Saving Victoria’s Drowning Report<sup>3</sup> that highlighted those from a culturally and linguistically diverse community represented 35% of all drowning deaths, making them twice as likely to drown than people born in Australia.

We see a greater role for us in the community promoting water safety / awareness and we have taken positive steps to engage with government and other interested stakeholders to promote improved signage at the highest risk beaches on the Mornington Peninsula.



The gender balance reflected in the governance and operational/ leadership roles within the club is as follows:



Source: Portsea Surf Life Saving Club membership database

<sup>3</sup> [Members.LSV-Drowning-Report-2020-2021-FINAL.pdf](#)

# Developing the future leaders of our Club

Whilst we exist to save lives, we see that we have an equally important role – developing the future leaders of both our club and the broader community. Our members have a variety of opportunities to take on leadership roles, through participation in committee/sub-committees (a large percentage of our operational committee are aged 25 years old or younger), running educational programs, patrolling the beach and making new connections through club activities. Our progress towards this goal is best evidenced through the journey of Jack Morris who was recognised by us for having undertaken over 200 patrol hours in the 2024/25 patrol season. Jack is a product of our education programs having done Cadets in 2024/25. After completing his SRC in the previous year, Jack will be undertaking his Bronze Medallion this year.



# Building greater capability and awareness

Critical to the ongoing development of our people is improving capability through our education programs and leveraging external programs run by Life Saving Victoria.

These programs focus on developing leadership, communication, and mentoring skills whilst broadening participants understanding of lifesaving.

## Building greater female leadership participation/Representation

To build greater female participation/representation, the club to date has developed a number of programs<sup>6</sup> that have been implemented or expanded in the current season:



## Female Network



The club hosted a session where a panel of club members comprising of Caroline Wilson, Corrie Perkin, Dr. Jess Lamb and Priscilla Brown, discussed gender equality issues from their own career experiences including discussion on empowerment, equity, barriers/overcoming the challenges they had encountered, the use of mentors and provision of insight and advice for the audience. A light lunch was provided after panel discussion to enable networking and the sharing of lived experience.

The aim of the female networking event was to increase the level of engagement of both women and girls within the club as well as to foster greater participation in club activities and make new connections. The value created from this event will be measured through our ability to reconnect non-active females to the club and fostering relationships that lead to leadership opportunities. Feedback received from the attendees at the session was highly positive.

<sup>6</sup> The Female Networking Event and Female Upskilling Sessions were both enabled through the support of the Victorian Government's "Change our Game" grant. The "Change our Game" grant was a Victorian Government initiative that aimed to increase the number of women and girls participating in sport and active recreation and taking up leadership roles.



## Female Upskilling Sessions



During the 2024/25 season, a female upskilling program for women across the Mornington Peninsula was run with the assistance of the State Government "Change our Game" grant. The program was aimed at improving the skills of female participants. In each session, qualified female coaches and a female lifeguard were present to guide participants through a number of activities designed to increase confidence and upskill capability. Activities included surf skills and IRB crewing.

## Pink Patrol



Aligned with Life Saving Victoria's statewide Pink Patrol program (forming part of 'International Women's Day celebrations'), over 30 female active members (along with a number of male Champions of Change) attended this beach patrol during the current season. Pink Patrol celebrates the contribution that females have made to surf lifesaving and in particular for us, our club. These contributions were reinforced at a social networking function in the club rooms after the patrol.

## Inaugural Pommery Women's Lunch



During the 2024/25 season, the inaugural Portsea SLSC Pommery Women's Lunch was launched with the objective of:

1. Creating a sense of community amongst our female members; and
2. Creating awareness of the benefits of and to raise funds to expand the Portsea SLSC Centre of Excellence "Schools Program"

The lunch was a success – attracting over 135 women and leveraging over \$15,000 towards the ongoing growth of our Schools Program.



## Building pride in our membership...

### Pride Patrol



The 2024/25 season saw the club hold its annual Pride Patrol. The Pride Patrol seeks to recognise the contribution to life saving activities by our club’s LGBTI members as well as being a vehicle to promote and celebrate the diversity of our club. Pride Patrol was attended by over 25 active members.

## A Club for people of all abilities...

### Starfish Nippers



The Starfish Nippers program is one demonstration of our club’s commitment to inclusion and diversity in our education programs. The Starfish Nippers program <sup>7</sup> involves a dedicated team of members executing a modified nippers program for children (aged 6 years and above) with either physical or intellectual disabilities. The Starfish Nippers program is an inherent part of our broader Nippers Program - all aspects of the program are consistent, other than certain activities which are modified to suit an individual participant’s needs - ensuring everyone can be included.

The Starfish Nippers program has a profound and positive impact on everyone who gets involved. The benefits flow to not only our Starfish Nippers and their families, but also to our member volunteers/trainers, our broader Nipper Program participants and their families and the broader community. Our Starfish Nippers and their parents/carers are a valued part of our club and help us be better in creating a club for people of all abilities.



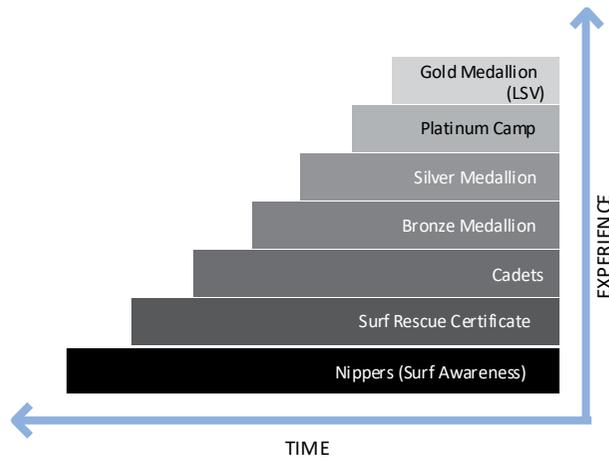
<sup>7</sup> Starfish Nippers was started in 2011 by volunteers from Anglesea SLSC and has now been adopted by over 20 surf life saving clubs across Australia.

Investing in our future...

## Building life saving capability and increasing Active Member capacity



Our education programs are centred on the development of life saving capability - with the ultimate goal of increasing our capacity to effectively patrol the beach. Our education programs take a building block approach – building capability (and leadership) as experience permits. Our programs are the largest operating in Victoria and follow Life Saving Victoria’s competency development framework. Our education programs in 2024/25 comprised:



NB: In the 2025/26 patrol season, we intend to delay participation in the Surf Rescue Certificate for one year (replacing the current Cadet program) and introduce a new surf skills program to build skills between Nippers and the Surf Rescue Certificate program. We feel that this better meets the practical and emotional needs of our future Surf Rescue Certificate program participants.

A summary of season 2024/25 education program participants and competencies developed included:

**Nippers (Surf Awareness)** – 650 participants (including Starfish Nippers) – building the experience and resilience of our youngest members. Program operates from Under 7 – 9 (Point Nepean) to Under 10 – 13 (Portsea Back Beach). Skills developed include both beach-based activities (beach games, sprint, long run and beach flags), water-based activities (wade, swim, boards) and theory.

**Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC)** – 121 participants – builds upon skills developed in nippers such as advanced rescue techniques (tube and board), CPR and basic first aid. Importantly, the SRC certification allows monitored participation in patrols.

**Cadets** – 60 participants – reinforces skills learnt through the SRC program and provides additional leadership development activities.

**Bronze Medallion (Full-Time and Part-Time)** – 126 participants – intensive live-in camp or evening part-time workshops building upon skills learnt through SRC/Cadets and includes open water rescues, reading and navigating surf conditions as well as first aid certification.

**Silver Medallion** – 50 participants – intensive live-in camp building on the Bronze Medallion program and incorporating IRB Crew as well as advanced resuscitation and advanced first aid certifications.

**Platinum Camp** – 10 participants – intensive live-in camp building on Silver Medallion program incorporating search & rescue techniques and night scenarios. Our club is 1 of only 2 clubs to run a program of this nature in Victoria.

**Gold Medallion** – participants determined by Life Saving Victoria based on capacity and capability.

Our ability to operate these programs is highly dependent on volunteers – which are entirely sourced through our membership. For example, to operate our nipper program, we require up to 100 Age Managers/Parent Helpers and over 70 instructors/water safety personnel each and every session. In addition, we rely upon set-up/pack-down crews, medical personnel and administrative personnel to allow for the efficient and effective running of the program. Our SRC and Cadets programs both require up to 30 volunteers, whilst our Bronze Medallion program requires over 40 volunteers. For our advanced programs, our Silver Medallion program requires 24 volunteers and our Platinum Camp requires 8 volunteers in order to be run safely.

We cannot exist without the efforts of our volunteer personnel. Our club has been built on the efforts of our volunteers and this forms a large part of who we are and what we do.



# Case Study

## The Frankston High School lifesaving program

The program started as part of the Victorian Youth Development Program in 1998. The partnership with Portsea SLSC began in 2020 and the program has evolved to be a stand alone extra-curricular program running every week all year round. This has been driven by the staff at the school who are members of the club and recognise the fantastic personal development opportunities that result from being involved in surf lifesaving. In the 2024/25 season, 22 students earned their Surf Rescue Certificate whilst 30 students earned their Bronze Medallion (with a further 25 students requalifying their awards via the Skills Maintenance system). A further 24 students qualified in Advanced Resuscitation Techniques and First Aid. The aims of the program is to help the students with their personal development in such areas as Fitness, Teamwork, Leadership and Community Service. Many students start with their Surf Rescue Certificate in Year 7 and go onto their Bronze Medallion in Year 9. The year 10 – 12 students take leadership roles in the program coaching the younger students. All students are given the opportunity to also get their First Aid and Advanced Resuscitation Awards and in 6 cases, their IRB Crew award.

The program runs every Tuesday after school at a range of different locations including surfing at Pt Leo, mock rescues and fitness activities at Frankston beach and First Aid/Leadership training scenarios at the school. The school is fortunate to also have a swimming pool and indoor swim activities and scenarios are programmed in every Tuesday during the cooler months. The highlight of the program is the 5-day camp at the clubhouse where the students earn either their Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze Medallion.

In addition to Patrolling, last season volunteers from Frankston High School also ran a Beach Activity Day for 60 Sorrento Primary School Students which involved providing Water Safety for their "Iron Kid" swim/paddle race, instructing DRSABCD, undertaking beach games and educating the students on being safe near the water.





## A Greater Responsibility...

### The United Energy Portsea Centre of Excellence (CoE)



The CoE was born through the idea that we had a greater responsibility to our community. Recent Life Saving Victoria drowning statistics have seen a significant increase in drownings across the state – with the National 2021/22 Drowning Report<sup>9</sup> containing some disturbing figures with an overall increase of 24% in drownings (over the 10-year average period). The two age groups that increased the most by percentage in the report were the 10-14 years (up 75%) and the 65-74 years (up 70%). Anecdotal stories of “near misses” at the Portsea back beach from Grandparents looking after primary aged school kids (when parents have gone back to work over summer) encouraged us to focus on the safe expansion of our Nipper Program and our Schools Program as well as to continue to offer our bespoke Snippers Program (targeting older members) and the Frankston High School Life Saving Education program).

In addition, team members from our COE have been involved in working groups that have sought to reduce drownings and improve signage in the Mornington Peninsula area.



<sup>9</sup> [RLS\\_NationalDrowningReport2022\\_SPG\\_LR.pdf \(royallife.saving.com.au\)](#)

### Schools program



The Schools Program was developed by the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club with the objective of increasing surf awareness of primary aged school children. Working closely with Life Saving Victoria, our aim for the program is to eliminate drownings on the Mornington Peninsula by educating primary aged school children on the risks of the marine environment and using acquired knowledge to make better choices when at the beach. The program involves both theory and practical experiences and is led by club member Henry Kiss and has utilized appropriately qualified club members from a variety of Mornington Peninsula clubs. We see participation in the Schools Program as having a “ripple effect” across families and friendship groups and we expect it to drive increased participation in all Mornington Peninsula based Nipper programs. Over 900 children participated in the 2024/25 season and feedback received has all been extremely positive. Our stated goal is to increase participation in the 2025/26 season to over 1,000 primary school aged children.

The CoE has quickly become a satellite provider of Life Saving Victoria programs focusing on Mornington Peninsula-based schools (and community groups) thereby freeing up Life Saving Victoria resources to concentrate efforts on other regions. This commitment has been recognised with the Schools Program being selected as a finalist in the Life Saving Victoria Awards of Excellence.



## Snippers



Snippers is a senior nippers program developed by the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club and aimed at our senior members such as Nipper Grandparents. Participants learnt practical and valuable skills such as basic first aid techniques, undertaking rescues using “everyday” items and understanding the impact that the weather has on beach conditions.



## Other Community Education programs



With the support of our members, the club has also installed three (3) defibrillators into the community. These defibrillators have been installed near the Portsea Pier, the new campsite at Point Nepean and outside the radio room at the clubhouse. These installations, together with non-accredited CPR awareness increases the ability of the community to respond to situations requiring CPR related first aid.

## Young member Mentor program



During the 2024/25 season, the club launched its young (16 – 20 years old) member mentor program, with approximately 30 young members being matched with 30 experienced member mentors to leverage their lived experience and to offer advice of a variety of aspects of their personal and professional development. The program lasts 12 months and has provided a forum for our young members to set educational and professional goals in sectors including commerce, finance, education, medicine, engineering, building and law amongst others.

## Protecting our members...

### Respectful Relationships Policy



We are committed to ensuring that we operate in an environment where people are treated in a respectful manner at all times. In addition to the refinement of our values, we have developed a Respectful Relationships Policy which states that we will not tolerate bullying, harassment or discrimination under any circumstance. The policy allows for an effective procedure for complaints against any non-adherence with the principles of this policy. Matters will be referred to our appointed Member Protection Officers and, in extreme cases, to the Club Judiciary Panel. During the 2024/25 season, three matters were referred to our Member Protection Officers, resulting in either no action, a formal warning or suspension of membership.

### Child Safe Standards



Our affiliation with Life Saving Victoria includes a provision that we rely upon the policies that are published by Life Saving Victoria<sup>10</sup>. These policies include all relevant Child Safe Standards. This means that all adult, parent and guardian members attending and/or interacting with children in any club activity are required to hold a current Working With Children Check (“WWCC”). This includes age managers or parent helpers for Nippers, instructors and examiners on SRC, Cadets as well as our Bronze Medallion, Silver Medallion & Platinum Programs, re-qualification offerings & training events, volunteers for all club events such as the Pier to Perignon & Portsea Swim Classic, as well as all active patrolling members. The policy extends to all categories of membership. Under Life Saving Victoria Policies, there are no exceptions to the WWCC requirement.

<sup>10</sup> As an affiliated member of Life Saving Victoria (“LSV”), we adhere to a variety of policies published by them (including those originally published by Surf Life Saving Australia (“SLSA”). Such policies include the SLSA Inclusion and Diversity Statement and those designed to manage the way we interact with our members (including member protection, child safe and dispute resolution policies).

## Case Study - Creating a sustainable patrol presence at Point Nepean National Park



Point Nepean National Park is the most westerly point on the Mornington Peninsula and sits on one of the most treacherous coastlines in Victoria. Visitation has grown ten-fold over the past 20 years and has accelerated more recently with the installation by Parks Victoria of 46 permanent “Discovery Tents”, which have attracted over 4,000 campers in the past 18 months. The majority of these campers are people who have never camped before and typically have limited experience in outdoor recreation. Located around 4km from Port Phillip Heads, the beach is subject to strong currents. Parks Victoria and Beachsafe recommend against swimming at this beach. Portsea SLSC identified potential risks associated with people staying at the park and the increase in visitor numbers to the beach. In addition, we have also had several out of hours call-outs for swimmers in trouble. To address the risks identified, in 2023/24 Portsea SLSC trialled a voluntary patrol (the Quarantine Patrol) at this location and based on initial observations, extended this in 2024/25 to a rostered patrol across the peak season (from Boxing Day until the end of the Australia Day weekend).

The primary objective was to reduce the risk of drowning in our local community by adding a second patrolling location where it was most needed. Secondary objectives were to further increase our involvement in the National Park, improving the relationship with Parks Victoria, and to establish a patrol location at which our older members and younger/less experienced members could continue to provide meaningful contributions on patrol or gain valuable experience that would enable them to contribute more when on patrol at the Portsea Back Beach. The key benefits to the Club were enhanced reputation, improved land manager relations, increased member engagement through extending patrol longevity (more forgiving conditions for ageing active members), and use of a training venue to upskill active members. The majority of resources were provided by the club through existing equipment. Mornington Peninsula Shire Council provided a grant of just under \$5000 which was used to purchase first aid and the Club hired and later purchased an additional ATV and trailer to enable safer storage, and movement of equipment. A core working group of 6 people has been responsible for leading the implementation. The most significant outcome is the preservation of life. At 4.30pm on Monday 27 January 2025, a wind swing saw a family of 7 Afghani adults and children blown 900m offshore and into deeper water. A strong outgoing tide saw the group travel around 1.5km west towards the heads before being rescued by patrol members on rescue boards. A further 138 preventative actions were identified and in the 2024/2025 season and many hundreds of beachgoers were educated about the risks of swimming at this beach. Other tangible benefits include an improved relationship with Parks Victoria as well as an engaged membership base. We have demonstrated that it is an appealing patrolling destination, especially for older and younger members. As visitation continues to grow at this beach, the need for the service will only continue to increase.



## Enhancing economic prosperity...



The club seeks to foster economic activity across the Mornington Peninsula area - from providing life saving services both at the Portsea back beach and Point Nepean National Park, through to the running of events that enhance the economic prosperity of retailers and service providers across the region.

## Portsea Swim Classic

The Portsea Swim Classic ("PSC") is Victoria's second largest open water swim. Now in its 39th continuous year (and the only major Victorian open water swim to be uninterrupted by COVID), the PSC saw a record number of 3000 competitors swim in 500m, 1.5km or 2.5km events.



## Portsea Pier to Perignon

The Portsea Pier to Perignon (P2P"), now in its 37<sup>th</sup> year, is a highly contested 4km event which attracted a record 1000 swimmers in the 2024/25 season.



## Portsea Bay to Surf Run

The Portsea Bay to Surf ("B2S") run was held for the 4th time in the 2024/25 season. Quickly building a loyal following, 580 runners competed across the 4.5km or 9km events.



## Our Clubhouse as a community asset



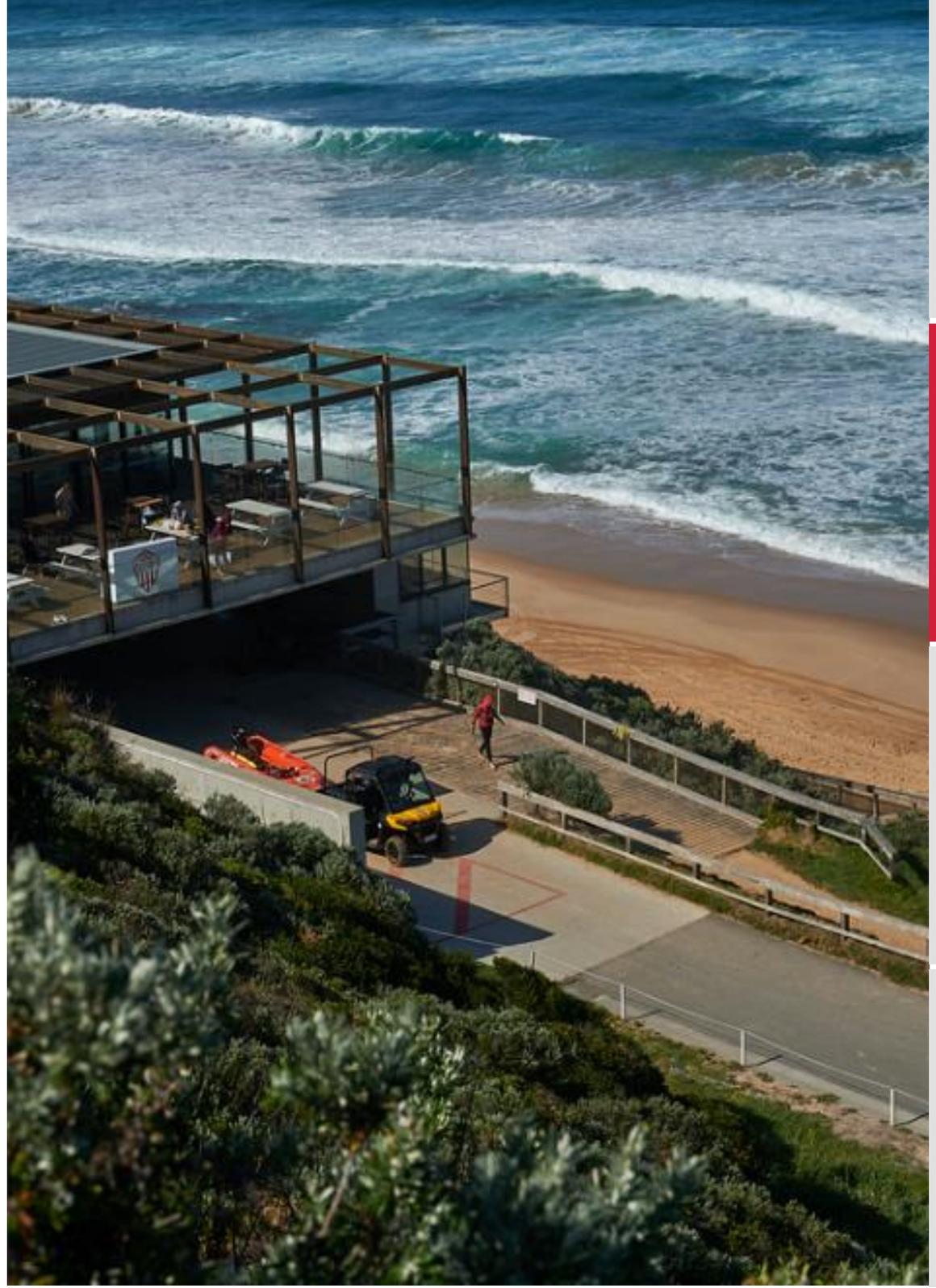
During the 2024/25 season, we were pleased to be able to host a number of community activities:

- Sorrento Writers Festival – our clubhouse hosted the launch of the 2024/25 Sorrento Writers Festival. Held over the Kings Birthday long weekend, we also hosted 3 sessions where numerous writers were able to discuss and debate their works with a combined audience of over 400 people.
- School Camps – we hosted a number of school camps – utilising our clubhouse and bunkrooms.
- Wedding Ceremonies/Receptions – we hosted 18 weddings during the season – with couples and their assembled guests enjoying the spectacular views from the deck before celebrating in style in our clubhouse.

Community groups hosted at our club included:

- Sorrento Writers Festival
- Southern Peninsula Rescue Group
- Sorrento Community Centre
- Sorrento Savvy's
- Sorrento Sharks Football Club
- Sorrento Men's Shed
- St Josephs Primary School
- Frankston High School (Bronze camp)
- Lauriston Girls School
- Portsea Golf Club

Events such as these allow for the year-round use of the clubhouse, enhance its standing as a community asset and generate much needed funds to support our lifesaving activities.



# Part Three Environmental



## Protecting our environment...

### Measuring our carbon footprint

During the 2022/23 season, the club – with the generous support of EY – undertook a project to identify, measure and report the club’s carbon footprint as measured through its Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Portsea SLSC believed that it was important to understand the impact that it has on the environment and reconsider ways in which this impact can be reduced. A project of this nature was a first for surf lifesaving clubs in Australia and provides a template for other clubs to follow.

Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions are defined as:

Scope 1 Emissions – direct emissions from operations owned or controlled by the club.

Scope 2 Emissions – purchased electricity.

- *Location-based method* measures emissions from electricity use based on the average emission intensity of the local power grid.
- *Market-based method* measures emissions from electricity use reflecting the club’s purchasing choices, such as Greenpower contracts.

Scope 3 Emissions - indirect emissions occurring across the club’s value chain, both upstream (e.g., suppliers, purchased goods) and downstream (e.g., investments).

In the 2024/25 season, Portsea SLSC’s Scope 1 and 2 (location-based) emissions have increased when compared with the 2021/22 season due to the significantly greater use of the surf clubs’ facilities during the off season. This under-utilisation in 2021/22 was greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Club’s market-based emissions are significantly less than its location-based emissions reflecting the switch to a 100% Greenpower electricity contract during the season.

We have not calculated our Scope 3 emissions for the 2024/25 season due to the subjectivity of its calculation.

We acknowledge that we can do more to reduce our impact, and in the coming years we will seek to implement initiatives to further reduce the Club’s energy consumption and emissions sources further.

A summary of our 2024/25 season emissions data as calculated by the project team is as follows:

Scope	2021/22 Total kg.CO <sub>2</sub> -e	2024/25 Total kg.CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Scope 1 <sup>11</sup>	25,141	29,424 <sup>12</sup>
Scope 2 Location Based <sup>11</sup>	72,465	94,370
Scope 2 Market Based <sup>11</sup>	Not calculated	7,277
Scope 3	341,685	Not calculated

<sup>11</sup>Calculation guidance and emission factors sourced from National Greenhouse Accounts Factors (2024).

<sup>12</sup> Diesel is excluded from 2024/25 Scope 1 inventory due to data unavailability.



# Moving forward...

We have already begun small scale initiatives to reduce our impact on the environment. Whilst these efforts are important, we do recognise that we still have a lot to do:

## Beach clean up



One of our big focuses for the 2024/25 season was a continued effort to ensure our beach is clean. We undertook several beach clean-ups during the season. The main items of rubbish that were collected were cans and plastic food containers – serving as an important reminder that we need to encourage all beach goers to take all their rubbish home with them (to dispose of correctly) at the end of each beach day.

## Modern slavery



Whilst the Modern Slavery Act does not directly apply to the club, we have committed to ensure that our supply chains are free from modern slavery – whether or not the supply chain activity is undertaken in Australia or overseas.

The club has engaged with its merchandise supply chain providers who have all represented that there are not aware of any instances of modern slavery within their own supply chains which produce goods (or services) for our benefit.

## Reducing waste/recycling



Managing our waste and promoting recycling activities has been a focus of our Operational Committee in recent years. Activities have been implemented to separate waste (and recyclable products) and our waste provider has been contracted to ensure that waste and recyclable materials are appropriately treated post collection. The use of multi-coloured bins throughout the clubhouse is an initiative implemented to drive changes in behaviours.

## Environmentally sensitive fuels



We have implemented the use of fully synthetic bio marine outboard two stroke oil in all our IRBs. This oil is fully biodegradable, has low smoke, clean burning and has less environmental impact than conventional 2 stroke motor oils. We now run this oil in all our IRBs to ensure we act responsibly to protect the marine environment.

# Part Four Governance

# Strong leadership and governance

We are committed to the highest standards of governance within the club. This is reflected through our values based decision-making processes and our continued evaluation of the skills/competencies required in key positions of responsibility. Reinforcing transparency, all Committee positions are subject to approval by active members each year at the Annual General Meeting.

Our aspirations for the club are set out in our strategy, which is updated on an annual basis. This strategy sets our immediate and longer-term goals for the Club and these are actioned through the Committee, the Operational Committee or various sub-committees.

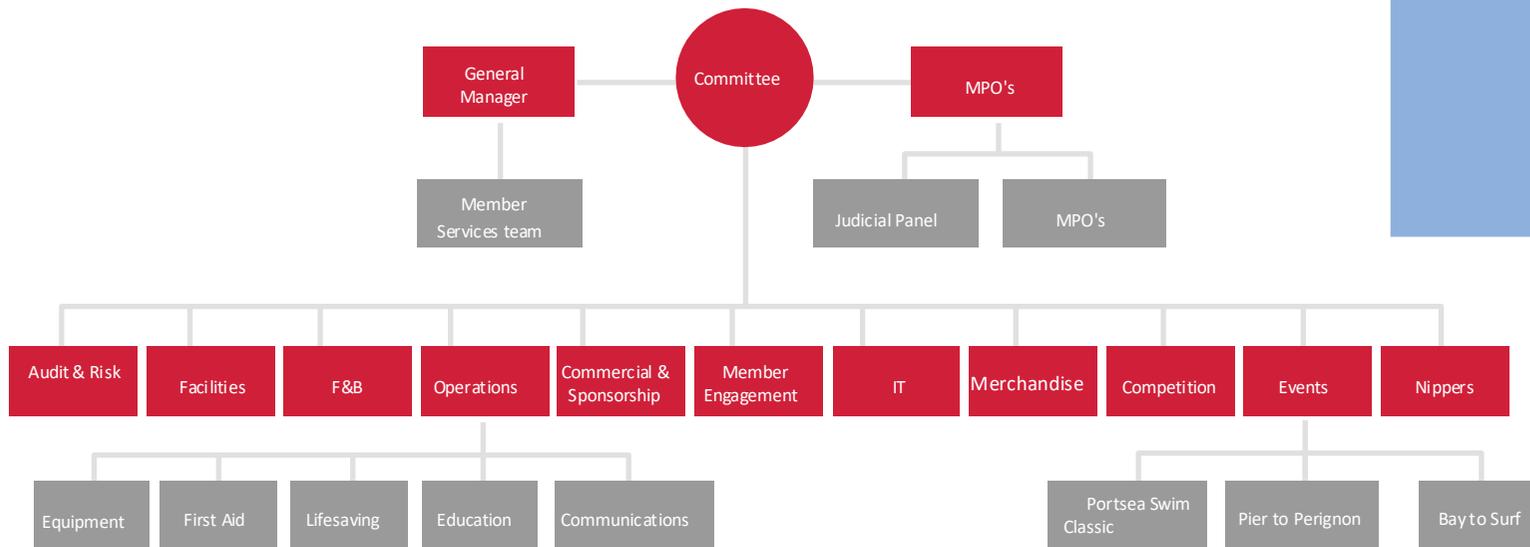
Our leadership structure is set out as follows:

Roles on Committees/ Sub-Committees are purely voluntary. Succession planning is at the heart of our Committee/Sub-Committee structure and seeks to provide experience to club members with the capability and the capacity to assume increased responsibilities within the club.

Our strategy is outlined in more detail in this section of the report.

“The club has grown significantly in recent years and as a result, we have been required to ensure that our governance practices remain appropriate and fit for purpose for a member-based organisation of our size.

We are fortunate to be able to draw upon many talented individuals that exist within our membership to deal with issues as they arise and to also be able to broaden the skills and competencies of the Committee as well as its supporting Sub-Committees. We were built on and remain a volunteer-based club. Whilst we have a number of paid positions in key areas of our club (such as administration and F&B operations) it is the essence of volunteering which drives our club and our objective to continue to make it better.



**Matt Mahon**  
President

# Strong leadership and governance

## Our Strategy guides our decision making

During the 2024/25 season, the club re-energised its strategy – with the clear objective of using this to support our decision making. Guided by our values, our strategy covers six key areas – Lifesaving, Education & Development, Community Engagement, Environment, Governance and Culture & Values. Supporting the execution of the strategy are key priorities and measures and targets to evaluate our performance.

## Our Strategy – at a glance

### OUR PURPOSE

We exist to save lives and develop people of all ages.

### OUR VALUES

Respect & Teamwork  
Protect the Community  
Empower Strong & Resilient Leaders

### OUR MISSION

To engage our members by providing innovative and shared experiences through lifesaving, community and club activities.

## OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### Life Saving

To prevent aquatic related death and injury by delivering exceptional lifesaving services to the public, whilst providing an excellent patrolling experience for our members.

### Education & Development

Deliver comprehensive and self-sufficient education programs to upskill, develop and inspire members, and enhance lifesaving skills in the broader community.

### Community Engagement

Be a member of and active contributor to the Portsea SLSC and the broader community.

### Environment

Be mindful of and protect the local environment in which we operate.

### Governance

Manage the club's activities and resources in an optimal and transparent manner to ensure ongoing success and compliance with all requirements.

### Governance

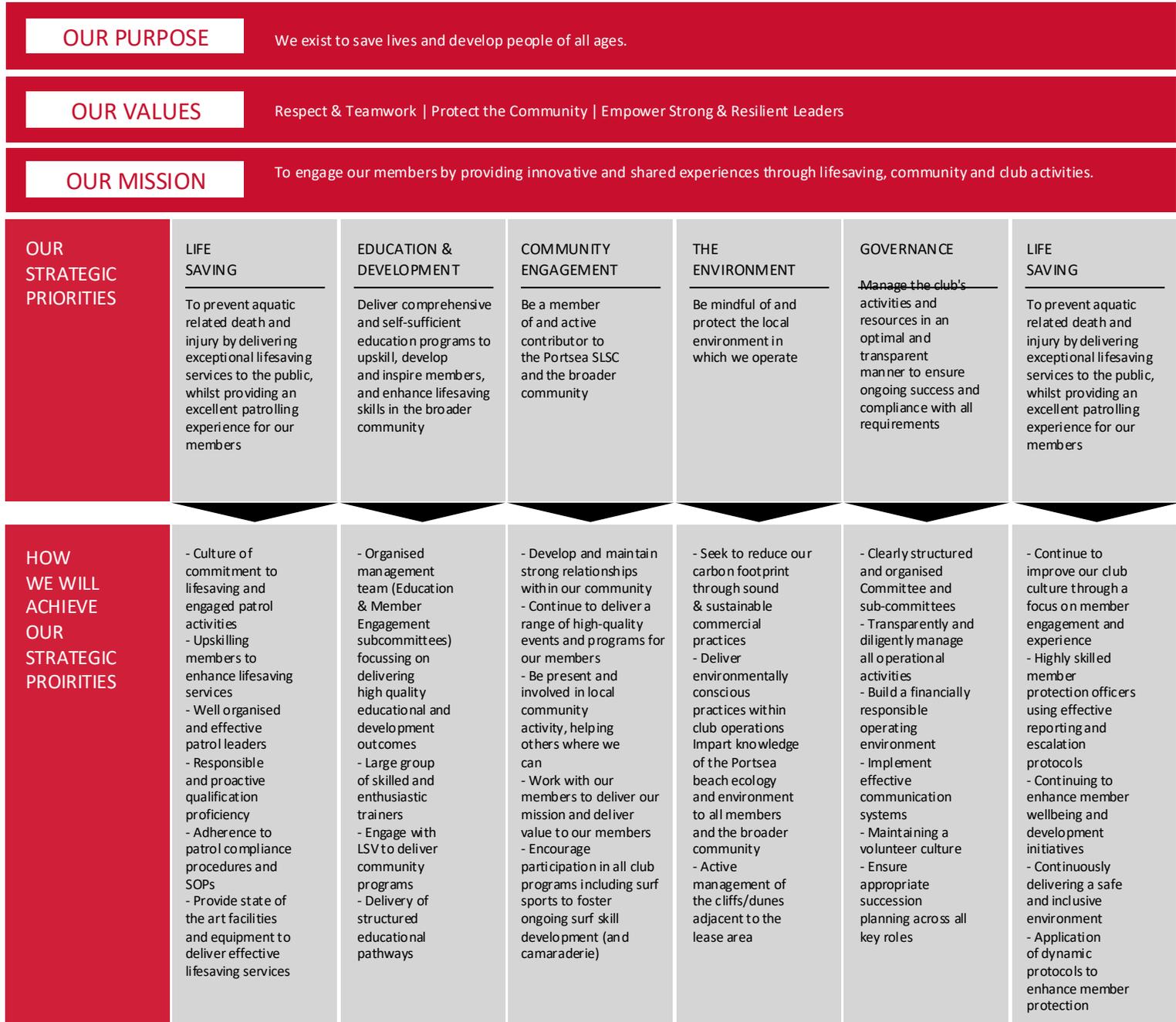
Manage the club's activities and resources in an optimal and transparent manner to ensure ongoing success and compliance with all requirements.



*Leaders in Life Saving, Leaders in Life*

# Our Strategy – the detail

## Strong Leadership and Governance



# Strong leadership and governance

## Financial Stewardship



During the 2024/25 season, the club embarked on a program to maximise the returns we generate from our cash assets. An Investment Committee has been established in the 2025/26 season to assess:

- The terms of reference
- Our tolerance to risk
- The nature and extent of eligible investment categories (considering factors including risk ratings and liquidity)
- Timeframes for investment

The Investment Committee will report to the club's Committee.

## Operational Stewardship



During the 2024/25 season, the club delegated various aspects of its core operations to the Operational Committee. Led by some of our youngest and most energetic members, the Operational Committee has responsibility for:

- Lifesaving
- Equipment
- Education
- First Aid

With a high degree of autonomy, the Operational Committee reports to the club's Committee.



## Contacts

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**LEADERS IN LIFESAVING,  
LEADERS IN LIFE**