



Friday, 17 September 2021

## **SURFS UP, FLAGS UP! SURF LIFE SAVING PATROLS KICK OFF FOR THE SEASON**

### **Hunter Surf Life Saving marks 40 years of partnership with Newcastle Permanent**

From Hawks Nest to Catherine Hill Bay, surf life saving patrols will kick off tomorrow, with almost 6500 volunteer lifesavers enlisted to help protect beachgoers this summer.

Rhonda Scruton, CEO of Hunter Surf Life Saving said thanks to the ongoing support from Newcastle Permanent, the team is equipped and ready for the coming summer months.

“Spending time at the beach is a quintessential part of summer in Australia, and after a rough year of lockdowns and restrictions, we know Novocastrians are looking forward to the warmer weather and hitting their local beach.

“We’ve worked hard to ensure the necessary COVID-19 plans are in place, and that our volunteers have the equipment and training they need, for our beaches to stay open and safe this summer. In one of our most challenging years, this would not have been possible without the help of our long-term partner, Newcastle Permanent.

“This year, we’re celebrating 40 years of collaboration with Newcastle Permanent, an incredible milestone for two homegrown institutions. And we’re delighted this will continue, with Newcastle Permanent committing to continuing their Major Partner support for another three years,” said Ms Scruton.

Newcastle Permanent CEO, Bernadette Inglis, said the organisation was proud to continue its long-standing partnership with Hunter Surf Life Saving.

“As a customer-owned organisation, we’re passionate about supporting local community groups, and forty years of partnership with Hunter Surf Life Saving is testament to that.

“Over that time both of our organisations have changed and evolved, but we’ve continued to share the same values and commitment to our local community that brought us together all those years ago.

“Along with the equipment and training they need, we’re continuing to providing for the recruitment, training and retention of junior Hunter surf lifesavers, ensuring a pipeline of volunteers into the future.

“I would like to acknowledge all the amazing volunteer surf life savers, who together last year completed 80 rescues on our beaches. You are doing an amazing service for our community and we feel privileged to work with you” she said.

Last year, Hunter Surf Live Saving completed 80 rescues and more than 9,000 preventative actions across 13 beaches.

Every year, Newcastle Permanent invests almost \$1.5 million through its community partnerships, employee donations, volunteering and fundraising programs. This includes its support of the six regional Surf Life Saving branches, reaching from the Central Coast to the Queensland border.

-ENDS-