



26 March 2020

Dear Fingal Members,

We wish to advise that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Port Stephens Council have made the decision to close the local beaches, and volunteer lifesaving patrols are to cease until further notice. With only a month of patrols left, this decision has unfortunately brought our 2019/20 surf lifesaving season to an end.

As has already been communicated to you, the gym is closed, however, we have now been directed by Hunter Branch to close all surf club facilities. This includes the bathrooms, club room, first aid room, board, boat and patrol shed and the public toilets in the corridor to the patrol tower (the Longboat staff will still have use of these whilst they are still trading). Saltwater Restaurant has also closed until further notice.

On Saturday evening, we will be changing the coded locks to restrict entry to the main building and padlocking the board shed. In the meantime, if you wish to collect any privately-owned surf craft you will need to do it asap. However, your items will be safe in the shed until these restrictions are lifted – it is better for your health if you stay at home.

The committee met on Tuesday to discuss upcoming events and how/if they will proceed, the outcome of these discussions were:

- Senior presentation night has been postponed (indefinitely for the moment, but we would like to have it as our season launch instead)
- All scheduled surf lifesaving education and training has been cancelled
- The Annual General Meeting will also need to be postponed

We as a committee are so disappointed that the season had to end like this and would like to congratulate you for all your achievements and thank all of you for your participation, help and support throughout. Hopefully, we will see all of you again in October (or maybe sooner!) so that we can build on what we achieved this season.

Our surf club is a tight knit community and as we approach these uncertain times we encourage you all to stay in touch and support each other. A phone call, email or a text message could be enough to brighten another person's bad day - don't underestimate the power you have to offer another person hope.

If you are feeling worried, anxious and overwhelmed by the constantly changing alerts and media coverage of COVID-19, Lifeline have some great tips and strategies to manage your mental health and wellbeing on their webpage there are also contact numbers if you need additional support <https://www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/topics/mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>



Please contact myself at secretary@fingalbeachslsc.com or Rod Limn on president@fingalbeachslsc.com if you have any further queries.

In the meantime, we wish you and your families good health.

Warm Regards,

Angela Freeman | Director of Administration
On behalf of FBSLSC Executive Committee