

Media Release – Shellharbour Junior named South Coast Branch Junior Surf Lifesaver of the Year 2011

Shellharbour Surf Life Saving Club has continued a long tradition of success in the South Coast Branch Junior Lifesaver of the Year competition. Following an interview and selection process at Club Level, 13 year old Jemma Oldroyd from the Shellharbour Surf Life Saving Club was announced as the female winner of the South Coast Branch title. The male winner was Wyatt Hampstead from the Shoalhaven Heads Surf Life Saving Club.

Both Jemma and Wyatt then proceeded to the NSW Junior Surf Lifesaver of the Year selection process, which culminated in a Development Camp in conjunction with the NSW State Age Surf Life Saving Championships held at Kingscliff from 11th to 13th March 2011.

The camp was held over three days at the Gold Coast Hinterland resort of Binna Burra Lodge, where candidates from each Surf Life Saving Branch in NSW (from the Far North Coast to the Far South Coast) were put through their paces in personal development and team activities, as well as gaining greater awareness about branch and state surf life saving activities. Candidates also got to meet fellow junior life savers of the year from across the state.

A panel of experienced surf lifesavers conducted interviews with all candidates and assessed individuals on the following criteria:

- Contribution to Surf Life Saving
- Demonstration of leadership roles in club activities
- Contribution made to the surf club
- Awards received in Surf Life Saving and the community
- Involvement in community events outside of Surf Life Saving
- Awareness of club events and current affairs
- Initiative applied to club and community activities
- Promotion of Surf Life Saving to the community
- Attendance record at club activities
- Encouragement of new members
- Demonstration of surf lifesaving knowledge and skills

Candidates also had to have completed their Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC), and therefore, be eligible to do surf patrols, to be considered.

Jemma, from Shellharbour Village, is a Year 8 student at Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts, and does regular surf patrols at Shellharbour North Beach for the Shellharbour Surf Life Saving Club. She has been a Nipper since the age of 5 and patrols with both her parents and older brother and sister (herself a former South Coast Junior Life Saver of the Year).

The Shellharbour club is proud to have Jemma patrolling it's beach and is celebrating a proud tradition of success in developing well-rounded lifesavers of the future, who have regularly placed well in this annual assessment of our State's best Junior Life Savers.

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Jemma Oldroyd, South Coast Branch Junior Lifesaver of the Year, leads the NSW nominees in the March Past at last weekend's NSW State Age Surf Life Saving Championships at Kingscliff Beach on the Far North Coast.