**WAYNE AHRENS**

**HERVEY BAY SURF-LIFESAVING CLUB**

**2018-19 season**

**LIFE MEMBER #12**

He started his surf-lifesaving journey at Fingal Rovers SLSC, NSW at age 15.

He did his Bronze Medallion and commenced his first patrol in the 1979-80 season. Then proficient in IRB crew and driver 1981 which he is currently the IRB & Craft captain at HBSLSC 37 years later.

At 22, he left the Tweed region for his adventure around Australia and got as far as Canberra, where he worked on the new Parliament House. He spent the next 12 years there

He (and his darling Deb) moved from Canberra to Sydney in 1998. They had two young children in tow, so he didn't re-join surf lifesaving until about 2002 they started their kids in nippers at the Mona Vale club where he was a member for 4 years.  

They moved to Hervey Bay at the end of 2005 and he got straight involved with our little Club.

Wayne has been a continuous member ever since in various capacities starting as Age Manger ,and a Patrol Member, Competitor, Wave Runner 30 patrol member (jet ski) ,IRB Drivers and crew competed in IRB racing and has competed in Club, Masters and Branch, with success in a range of beach events, his strength is that he is nimble and quick off the mark , he currently is Patrol Captain last 3 yrs. (team 8) and has won best patrol team for the wide bay in 2018 , Age Manager now for 11 yrs., is well known in the bay as the big kid as the longest serving Green Cappers Manager now 8 yrs., he has won numerous medals as a Competitor and held Committee Member in several positions over many years..

Wayne was instrumental in getting the Club’s major extensions done including the new deck in 2011-12, which is enjoyed by both club members and the public across many club events and private functions. Expansion of the Gear rooms at each end of the club More recently in 2016/17, he committed significant time and management skills in negotiating with 5 different government departments and building our new amazing patrol tower from a Federal government grant.

In both instances, he (and his family and business) made significant financial and in-kind contributions to ensure the projects remained viable, resulting in the least financial impact on the club’s reserves and resources.

He holds 42 SLSQ awards and various HBSLSC club awards and many medals over the years became an official in 2010 which he has assisted the club over 3 years to 2014 but with his business commitments and travelling all over the state he had to let some things go. But managed to fly home nearly every weekend and complete his commitments to the club and then gone again for another week this went on for 2yrs, but you could be assured he would be on the beach whenever he was home.

He is a highly regarded as a friend, member and first up a lifesaver and has delivered some 960 volunteer patrol hours over his time in Hervey bay which is in the top 5 % of all club members over the life of HBSLSC. He has completed 3 rescues and certainly in one instance saved a life He also completed vital water safety generously supporting our junior development and assisting fellow clubs with water safety for Hervey Bay triathlon club and varies fund raising Beach swims and other community water events.