

## **Kelly Hedderman**

### **Member of Era Surf Life Saving Club**

I started my Life Saving career as a Nipper with Bronte but my heart has always been with Era Surf Club. I grew up holidaying every summer at my shack in the Royal National Park at Era beach. The shack community at Era has always been like one big family and I grew up watching everyone I knew and love become an active part of the Surf Life Saving community.

I couldn't wait to do my part and join the club so at the earliest opportunity, when I was 14, I did my Surf Rescue Certificate and commenced active patrols. This followed with my Bronze medallion in 1990.

I am still doing active patrols today as Vice Patrol Captain. I love mentoring my nieces, Ella and Mia, who have recently joined my patrol and look forward to the day my daughter, Scarlett, will join us as well.

I've always strived to further my skills and have gone on to attain my Advanced Resuscitation, First aid, Spinal, and Beach Management awards. I've also recognised the importance of younger members and have trained several Bronze squads for Era and assessed Bronze exams across the National Parks district.

I've helped with the less glamorous roles at times as the gear steward and assisting regularly with club cleaning and repairs. We do love a good working bee at the club.

I've also been proud to represent my club at the State and Australian titles as a member of our (almost) all female march past team.

A good club needs strong leadership, and Era is a very good club. I am very proud to have been a part of the management committee as the club Secretary for the past 18 years and help play a crucial role in how the club functions for its members and the community.

The club honoured me with the Club Member of the Year award in 2003 and admitted me and my dear friend Petrina Howe as the first two female Life Members of Era in 2018.

I'm so proud to be a member of Era Surf Club where 49% of our active patrol members are female. I recognise and applaud the efforts of all the other female life savers and supporters, current and past whose efforts have made my Life Saving journey not only possible but a joy.