

APOLA 2025 Surf Coach Training Dates

The following **NSW** training dates are for coaches seeking to gain or re-certify for the **Ocean Safety Surf Coach Award (OSSCA), Provide first aid and Provide CPR qualifications**. Other non-listed training dates will also become available with **APOLA Regional Trainers** located in regional **NSW, QLD, VIC and WA**. Contact John Andrews (M 0408 855 267 E info@apola.com.au) to book a 2025 Scheduled Date or contact an APOLA Regional Trainer near you to organize training at a preferred time and place - see the **APOLA Regional Trainer Contact List** below.

NSW 2025 Scheduled Dates and Locations

Date	Time	Program	Time	Program	Location
Friday 7 February	8am	OSSCA	10am	CPR/First Aid	North Cronulla NSW
Saturday 8 March	8am	OSSCA	10am	CPR/First Aid	Woolgoolga NSW
Saturday 12 April	8am	OSSCA			North Broulee NSW
Saturday 13 Sep	8am	OSSCA	10am	CPR/First Aid	Newcastle NSW
Saturday 27 Sep	8am	OSSCA	10am	CPR/First Aid	Woolgoolga NSW
Friday 17 October	8am	OSSCA			Bulli NSW
Friday 24 October	8am	OSSCA	10am	CPR/First Aid	Lennox Head NSW
Friday 7 November	8am	OSSCA	10am	CPR/First Aid	North Cronulla NSW
Tuesday 18 November	2pm	OSSCA			Ulladulla NSW
Thursday 20 November	1pm	OSSCA			Tathra NSW
Tuesday 25 November	8am	OSSCA	10am	CPR/First Aid	The Entrance NSW
Friday 5 December	8am	OSSCA	10am	CPR/First Aid	Woolgoolga NSW

APOLA Regional Trainer Contact List

QLD

Sunshine Coast Matt Hadland M 0449 008 047 E oceanguardservices@gmail.com
Gold Coast Steve Sharpe M 0418 757 896 E aquaticsharpy@hotmail.com

NSW

North Coast Katie Hookings M 0421 003 059 E info@australianrescuefirstaid.com.au
Newcastle Noel Burns M 0437 048 185 E noelburns@live.com.au
Central Coast Ian Vaughan M 0403 502 757 E ihv2009@gmail.com
Sydney north Beau Mitchell M 0421 061 219 E beauym@gmail.com
Sydney central Dean Dunstone M 0430 496 058 E info@wavessurfschool.com.au
Sydney south Jon Lavers M 0425 290 661 E jonsurf2001@yahoo.com.au
Wollongong Terry Hagan M 0421 818 973 E terryhagen38@gmail.com
South Coast Paul Andrews M 0438 697 855 E sabrepaul8@gmail.com

WA

Perth/Broome Kevin Emery M 0418 909 935 E kevin@wcws.com.au

VIC

Surf Coast/Melbourne Kelvin Benson M 0458 701 482 E kelvin@trainupnow.com.au
Surf Coast/Melbourne David Nankervis M 0416 023 652 E blsts.australia@gmail.com

Training Prices

The price for training at the scheduled NSW training dates are as follows, **however the cost of training for non-scheduled dates with APOLA Regional Trainers may be higher with groups of less than 8.**

NSW scheduled training day rates:

Surf coach OSSCA Annual Proficiency Certificate \$99 (or \$77 recertification)
Provide First Aid (currency for 3 years) \$154 (or \$143 at package rate)
Provide CPR (currency for 1 year) \$66

Discount package rates:

OSSCA and Provide First Aid \$220
OSSCA and Provide CPR \$143

Provide first aid and Provide CPR courses are aligned to the National Vocational Framework and are delivered by assessor and workplace trainers from a nominated registered training organization (RTO).

Additional training days can be arranged for groups of 8 or more. For information about other APOLA aquatic safety supervision training for specific groups including **lifeguards, school teachers, outdoor activity leaders and guides** please check the APOLA website or contact the APOLA Office.

Australian Pool and Ocean Lifeguard Association Incorporated (APOLA Inc.)

ABN 40 537 467 685

PO Box 6700, COFFS HARBOUR PLAZA NSW 2450

Web www.apola.com.au Email info@apola.com.au Mobile 0408 855 267

Ocean Safety Surf Coach Award (OSSCA) Annual Proficiency Assessment

Introduction

The **Ocean Safety Surf Coach Award (OSSCA)** was developed in the mid 1990s in consultation with **Surfing Australia** to enable surf coaches access to best practice skills in **rescue and emergency care** as an essential component required for attaining accredited Surf Coach qualifications. The OSSCA Annual Proficiency Assessment provides surf coaches an opportunity to retain currency in knowledge, skills and understandings for effective safe practice in the delivery of open water and surf programs.

The **OSSCA has a currency of 12 months** and annual recertification includes completing a timed pool swim, ocean mission, simulated in-water rescues and a written paper. Surf coaches successfully completing the following shall be issued with an **Ocean Safety Surf Coach Award Annual Proficiency Certificate**.

OSSCA Annual Proficiency Requirements

- Current **Provide First Aid** certificate
- Proficiency in **surfcraft riding** (either surfboard, bodyboard, wave ski, stand-up paddle)
- Completion of the surf coach instruction program or participation in an annual assessment day involving in-water practical and written theory component

OSSCA Competencies Assessment

- APOLA Assessor and Workplace Trainers have extensive professional ocean lifeguard and/or surf coach experience and reserve the right to prevent prospective candidates commencing the practical activity if prospective candidates present themselves as incapable of meeting fitness demands.

Practical

- **Swim 500m** in a pool in a time less than 10 minutes (in a pool minimum length of 25m)
- Complete an **Ocean Mission** over a set course commencing with 300m swim, followed by 300m beach run, followed by 300m surfcraft paddle and concluding with a 300m beach run. Performance indicators include demonstrated skill in negotiating and riding the surf, continuous (no stopping) activity and a recorded time for comparison with other candidates
- Demonstrate **surfcraft rescues** in small to moderate surf using personal surfcraft including paddle to rescue an unconscious and/or conscious patient demonstrating **patient approach, side-by-side, rollover, duck-dive** and **leg-hook** patient pick-up techniques as well as **patient return** with care including DRSABCD assessment.

The **board rescue techniques** can be viewed at the **APOLA website** or on **YouTube - APOLA Surfboard Rescue** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPxwjorGmHs>).

Theory

- Participate in an **audio-visual presentation and/or interactive discussion** and complete a **written paper** on knowledge, skills and understandings about the role of surf coaches including content on aspects of fitness, beach and ocean environments including weather, ocean rescue techniques, risk management, responsibilities and regulations to do with delivering instruction programs in public open space and meeting student safety, learning and medical needs, and as well understanding of the role of ocean lifeguards, other water safety personnel and strategies for effective emergency management.

Resources and References

Safe Surf DVD by Chris Bishop, APOLA Inc Revised Edition 2017

Dr Rip's Essential Beach Book – everything you need to know about surf, sand and rips, UNSW Press, 2010

The Surfer's Code – a beginners guide to staying safe in the surf, NSW Dpt Sport & Rec., (Brochure) 2006

Rip Current Heroes, National Geographic/Australian teachers of Media, (Video and Study Guide) 2020

Rips – Float to Survive, Surf Educators International, (Poster) 2022

Backpack Beach Survival Guide, APOLA Inc and NSW Government, (Multilingual Pamphlets) 2014

Stay Safe on Australian Beaches, APOLA Inc and NSW Government, (Multilingual Videos) 2016

SharkSmart, NSW Dpt Primary Industry, (Pamphlet) 2009

Safe Surfing Workbook, Surfing Australia, 2001.



Australian Pool and Ocean Lifeguard Association Incorporated (APOLA Inc.)

ABN 40 537 467 685

PO Box 6700, COFFS HARBOUR PLAZA NSW 2450

Web www.apola.com.au Email info@apola.com.au Mobile 0408 855 267