



Above: Sweep Matt Collins with the current crew in the surf boat named after Stephen Reilly. Below: The Bungan Beach crew hit the beach.

Main picture: BRADEN FASTIER - PP42799

Life of Reilly honoured

Andrew Prentice
surf boats

STEVE Reilly's passion for surf boats isn't easy to put in words.

His association in the sport stretches back to the mid-1960s, when he was looking for a physical pursuit in the summer months to match his training workload with the Sea Eagles.

"A bloke by the name of Brian Mason was coaching (Manly) junior teams at the time and thought I would be handy in a boat," he recalled.

"I was an active kid and viewed it as a new challenge.

"So I joined Freshwater



SLSC with blokes like Kenny Bucknall and Kim Marsh... it didn't take long for it (surf boats) to become a big part of my life."

After winning an Australian

championship with Freshie's junior crew at Southport over in Adelaide in the 1966/67 season, he altered his focus to the greatest game of all.

He quickly earned plaudits for

his fearless displays as a prop forward with South Sydney and Manly, playing first grade from 1973 onwards.

Stints in Queensland and on the Central Coast followed, before it was time for more racing in the ocean.

He linked up with Bilgola SLSC (twice) before jumping ship and representing Bungan Beach SLSC from 1999 to the present.

"I also worked as an undercover policeman in my league days before I got into my current business (Reilly and Sons Food Services) full-time," he said.

"I have been fortunate to

meet some great people and also enjoyed my fair degree of success in the sport.

"Bungan is a great club, it is how a club should be run.

"I plan to stay involved until I stop kicking."

Reilly was recently recognised by his fellow members for his tireless work behind the scenes.

After purchasing "at least" a dozen boats and equipment over the years out of his own pocket, having one named in his honour meant a lot.

"I love the sport, it was nice to be recognised," he said.