

Fingal Masters Carnival Cancellation 2025

Greetings fellow lifesavers, fans and followers of the Fingal Masters Carnival. As you are no doubt aware, the Carnival this year had to be cancelled. If you were not aware, I will give you a description of the events that led up to the cancellation.

On the night of 15 Jan 25, Port Stephens was hit with a severe electrical storm that caused a complete electrical blackout of the Port Stephens area. This blackout took, all phases of the electrical grid, down. The only power anywhere in the Port Stephens area was provided by those who had emergency generators.

The blackout also took out all systems including mobile phone and internet connections. We had nothing. It was quite nice actually 😊.

Power slowly came back from 0320 on Friday 17 Jan 25, with limited services etc. Fingal and Shoal Bays started to have electrical resumption about 1500 on Friday 17 Jan 25.

During the night of Thursday 16 Jan 25, the wind was again strong and causing damage around the area.

Driving to work on Friday morning, (Work had emergency generators and some phone services). There was an announcement on the radio, that ALL Port Stephens Beaches were closed until further notice. The closures were due to dangerous conditions, debris and low water quality as the treatment works (Near Fingal), were either not operating, or operating under reduced capacity.

I was contemplating about whether to run the carnival in the far Southern area of Fingal, or move it to Shoal Bay Beach, both options were feasible, right up till the Council/Police closed the beaches. There was no debate required after the announcement. The Carnival had to be cancelled. As days are very tight to reschedule the event at this time of year, there was no feasible option to reschedule, thus the decision to cancel the event for this year.

The next Fingal Masters Carnival, scheduled to run on Saturday 17 Jan 26, or as always the weekend (Saturday), before the Australia Day weekend/Holiday.

The 2026 Carnival will be 20th year since the first event in 2007. To date, there have been 17 actual Carnivals with the 2021 event cancelled due to Covid-19 and the 2025 event cancelled due to water conditions and beach closures.

On the next page, there are photos of the trophy and this year's embellishment.

All going well, we hope to see you in 2026.

Steve Westcott

Fingal Masters Carnival

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The trophy with the two reasons for cancellation of the Fingal Masters Carnival