



LIFESAVER

SPRING 2011 | EDITION NO. 24

SUPPORTER
UPDATE

KEEPING YOU SAFE BETWEEN THE FLAGS | www.slsfoundation.com.au

Australia's beaches are in safe hands.



Dear Guardian,

It's almost time to hit the beach!

I'm sure you can't wait – and neither can we. Right now, volunteer surf lifesavers are preparing for another demanding season, rescue training is in high gear and we're making sure all the necessary equipment is beach-ready.

As you read through the stories in this edition of Lifesaver, you can feel proud that you are behind every rescue made and every life saved.

Thank you for your support as we look forward to another safe summer between the red and yellow flags. We can't do it without you!

Steve Francia
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Saving lives on or off duty

Dicky Beach, QLD

One sunny day this past February, 37-year-old Sue Sandfort was swimming with her husband Larry on Dicky Beach when she suddenly became caught up in an extremely strong rip.

"I struggled to keep my head above water and every time I would come back up for air, another wave would crash down on top of me," said Sue, recalling her near-drowning incident. "I was screaming for help and could see my husband in the distance swimming back toward me. I honestly thought that was the end."

Fortunately lifesavers Josh Elmslie 14, and Lachlan Lansdown 15, were just finishing up on the beach not far from where Sue was in the water struggling for her life.

"We had finished for the day when we heard Sue calling out for help," Lachlan said. Trained surf lifesavers, Lachlan and Josh rushed to Sue's rescue – pulling her on to a board and taking her to shore and safety. Josh said it was just instinct to save her. "That's just what we've been trained for," he said.

Sue thinks her young saviours deserves all the recognition in the world. "I have always been appreciative for what lifesavers do, but I have honestly never realized how much at risk they put their own lives to save others."

Story adapted from the Sunshine Coast Daily, March 32, 2011

Australian for life.



Some of our achievements in the past year:

Through the support of the community, in particular our individual supporters, grant makers and sponsors, Surf Life Saving has achieved much over this past season:

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Developed new indigenous lifesavers in Yirrkala, East Arnhem Land

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Surf Life Saving welcomed Australia's 310th Surf Life Saving Club, Smiths Beach SLSC in WA. Located in Yallingup, the club will begin operations at the start of the 2011 patrolling season

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CALD) Program 'On the Same Wave' including surf safety and award training reaching over 2500 participants, with 25 participants joined clubs and trained to become surf lifesavers, enhance our school based new arrival and migrant education programs and improve stakeholder relationships.

QUEENSLAND

In January 2011, Surf Life Saving QLD staff and volunteers assisted with the flood response. Over 200 volunteers were on 24hr shifts performing rescues and evacuations in and around Brisbane flood sites.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The 24hr Emergency Response System responded to a record number of 250 callouts to coastal accidents and emergencies

VICTORIA

Life Saving Victoria successfully educated 130,000 school children in water safety and 26,000 community members on CPR and First Aid

nearly
12,000
rescues made
around Australia

over
1 Million
patrol
hours

over
660,000
preventative
actions

there are over
400
beaches patrolled
around Australia

our
THANKS

Taking the time to thank the volunteers

Volunteer surf lifesavers make heroic efforts to save lives every day but we often don't get the chance to thank them. Today we'd like to share with you some heart felt thank you messages from supporters all around the country who have taken the time to write in when making their donation to Surf Life Saving.

"Although we live far from the beach, knowing that my money may save a life and keep someone on patrol is all worth it!"

- K. Winter

"To all you brave volunteers who keep our beaches safe for us to enjoy, thank you. You make Australia the best place to live!"

- L. Wentworth

"Thanks for performing such a valuable role in our beach culture. You are heroes in our eyes."

- C. Dunleavy

"Thanks to you all for volunteering your time, skills and genuine commitment to beach communities. And thanks also to all the lifesavers that give your time passing on your skill to our youth in our beach communities. You give them skills for life. That's a valuable thing."

- P. Hegarty

Extended patrol saves a life.

Whale Beach, NSW



It was the kind of day that Surf Patrol Captain Mia Leszinsky loves. Hot, sunny and reasonably uneventful. Whale Beach, Mia's turf, was packed with families enjoying the 38°C day. And even though it was time for her team to sign off, Mia had a feeling that they should leave the flags up and extend their patrol hours. Her instincts were right.

Within a short period of time, a male swimmer was dumped onto a shallow sand bank and needed assistance. The volunteer lifesavers rushed to the swimmer's aid and managed to stabilise him. Complicating the rescue was the fact that the young man was deaf. But the team managed to communicate instructions through another member of the group who was familiar with sign language and he was able to communicate critical information.

Mia credits their lifesaving training for not only helping them know exactly what to do in emergency situations, but also how to skillfully and calmly respond to unexpected situations too. It's the kind of training made possible by the generous support of donors like you.

23 pulled from the sea.

Noosa, QLD

A day at the beach for holidaymakers last Easter almost turned tragic as the strong outgoing tide dragged more than 20 swimmers out to sea. Noosa lifesavers, including Patrol Captain Jake Westcott, sprang into action.

"Swimmers started to panic and tried to swim against the tide and were becoming exhausted. A five-year-old boy also got washed away from his dad," said Jake describing the scene.

The surf lifesavers positioned an IRB with a rescue board attached to the back to stop swimmers from being dragged out further. Two jet boats were also on hand to help. "We pulled 23 swimmers out of the water that afternoon," Jake said. "We were very lucky there were no serious injuries but it could have been worse and shows why swimmers should stay between the flags," he stressed.

Story adapted from the Noosa Journal, April 15, 2011



MEET VOLUNTEER LIFESAVER

OLIVIA WILSON



'I love everything about being a Lifesaver'

I was in the surf as soon as I could swim, and I couldn't wait until I was old enough to be a Nipper – a program my Dad actually started at the Broadbeach Surf Life Saving Club. Once I became a fully trained lifesaver, I would get up at 3:30am and head down the coast for the early morning patrol. It was never a sacrifice for me because I was doing what I loved.

Now that I'm a Patrol Captain at Broadie, my passion for lifesaving is as strong as ever. The training I've received has helped me save lives on, and off, the beach.

Having patrolled Australia's beaches for 8 years, I know first-hand how important it is to receive ongoing support from generous donors like you. You're not only helping keep our beaches safe; you're helping build safer communities by helping build better individuals. Thank you.

Give. Get involved. Be safe.

BOARDIES DAY

At this time of the year, right across Australia our volunteer surf lifesavers are commencing preparations for yet another busy season on our beaches.

It's also this time of year when Australians are starting to think about the return of summer and the beach, and going in search of their favourite pair of board shorts so they can do their bit to raise money for Surf Life Saving.

Yes, it's almost time for **Boardies Day** – a fun and easy way for everyone in the community to help our lifesavers raise vital funds to purchase the rescue gear and equipment necessary to keep our beaches safe.

It's fun and it's easy. All you have to do is swap your work wear or school uniform for your favourite pair of board shorts for the day and make a donation in support of Surf Life Saving.



For more information about Boardies Day in your state, register for a Boardies Day kit or make a donation online, go to www.boardiesday.com.au

See you on the beach!



Become a monthly donor today!



“When lives hang in the balance and every second counts, your monthly gift will ensure that volunteer surf lifesavers are ready to take action.”

Grant Hackett
Patron, Guardian of the Surf Program

Surf Life Saving's Monthly Giving program is quick and easy. The amount you choose will be automatically deducted from your credit card or nominated bank account.

Spreading your gift over 12 months is a convenient and manageable way for you to make a real difference on Australia's beaches. Plus, with monthly giving, you're always in complete control with the flexibility to change, pause or cancel your gift at any time by contacting us.



Bronze

○ from \$12 a month



Silver

○ from \$24 a month



Gold

○ from \$48 a month



Platinum

○ from \$96 a month



Custodian

○ from \$210 a month

To become a monthly donor, go to slsfoundation.com.au or call us on 1800 642 925

You can scan this barcode using your mobile phone and be taken directly to the Surf Life Saving Foundation's Monthly Giving page.

