



**SURF LIFE SAVING  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# surf LIFE

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The Official Newsletter of Surf Life Saving NSW



## THE DAWN OF THE SECOND CENTURY

Surf lifesavers, clubs and branches are ready to launch the start of the 2007/08 surf season with volunteer patrols beginning throughout most of the state on the first day of the NSW spring school holidays, Saturday 29 September 2007.

The NSW Season Launch will take place on Friday 28 September, while various club and branch launches will be held up and down the coast the following day. Patrols will continue each weekend and public holiday through to Sunday 27 April 2008.

The upcoming season is one which is being approached with much anticipation as the movement moves into its second century of service to the beach-going community. Celebrations will continue to take place around NSW and across the country in the last few months of the Year of the Surf Lifesaver which has provided the movement with great awareness and great rewards in its centenary year.

"The 2007/08 surf patrol season will build on the success that we have already seen during the Year of the Surf Lifesaver and take us into our second century of service in our strongest ever position," said Surf Life Saving NSW CEO Phillip Vanny. "The outstanding recognition the movement has received in the media and the wider community over the past twelve months

has been truly amazing, and it is not surprising that we once again saw an increase in membership which now stands at over 60,000 in NSW."

Surf Life Saving NSW will once again be striving for record membership in 2007/08 with growth in not only new membership, but maintaining a high rate of member retention at all clubs throughout the state, across all demographics.

"One aspect of the movement that we are getting across to more and more people is that Surf Life Saving is largely about our red-and-yellow-capped volunteers who patrol the beach every weekend and public holiday during the season, but they are not the entirety of the organisation," said Mr Vanny. "Thousands of our members work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure equipment is maintained, radio communications are effective, patrolling lifesavers have everything they need to do their job and to ensure the 129 surf clubs in the state continue to operate in a professional manner.

"These people are certainly the quiet achievers of the movement and without them Surf Life Saving simply couldn't survive. It really goes to show that there is a place for everyone within the surf lifesaving movement."

### Who?

Surf Life Saving NSW is the state's major water safety and rescue organisation, and with almost 60,000 members is one of the largest volunteer movements in the state.

### Why?

With almost 5,000 people rescued last year and around 100,000 protective actions performed, the role of surf lifesavers in NSW is essential to saving lives.

### What?

The primary role of Surf Life Saving NSW is the commitment to saving lives on our beaches, while other activities include member development, surf sports and education.

### Where?

There are 129 surf clubs in the state which are affiliated with Surf Life Saving NSW. The northernmost club is Fingal Rovers SLSC near Duranbah, while the club furthest south is at Pambula.



Support Operations personnel with the Westpac Life Saver Helicopter

## SUPPORT OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

In recent years Support Operations, which include Duty Officers, Rescue Water Craft (waverunners), Offshore and Jet Rescue Boats, SurfComs and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, have become a major part of the Total Service Plan of Surf Life Saving. Working in with Lifesavers and Lifeguards, Support Operations are a vital element in keeping the NSW coast safe.

In August more than 40 Support Operations personnel from across Australia and New Zealand were hosted by Surf Life Saving NSW at the Department of Sport & Recreation's Milson

Island facility in the north of Sydney for the most comprehensive Support Operations conference conducted in the state.

"The conference was extremely interactive, and concluded on the final day with a Search and Rescue Exercise in the Hawkesbury River which was completed with great professionalism," said NSW Lifesaving Services Manager, Craig Roberts. "Support Operations continue to move forward with great success across NSW and Australia and are one of the most important elements in keeping people on our coastline as safe as possible."

### LIFEGUARD SUPERVISORS' CONFERENCE

In the leadup to the beginning of the 2007/08 surf patrol season, Lifeguard Supervisors and Senior Lifeguards from Australian Lifeguard Services (NSW) came together from around the state for a conference at the Sydney Academy of Sport at Narrabeen. The conference was an opportunity for the state's top lifeguards to share ideas and reinforce the strategies being undertaken this season to help keep the public safe on NSW beaches.

While volunteer lifesavers patrol at 129 surf clubs on weekends and public holidays between the Spring and Easter school holidays each year, local councils, national parks and even resorts employ lifeguard services to patrol the beaches on weekdays. Australian Lifeguard Services (NSW) employs more than 250 lifeguards over 15 local government areas, two national parks and three private resorts.

# YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU COULD BE A LIFESAVER

**Surf Life Saving NSW offers accredited courses in:**

- Senior First Aid
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Advanced Resuscitation
- Childcare Essentials
- Emergency Care
- Defibrillation, and more

Top of the range First Aid gear and Equipment is also available



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[www.surflifesaving.com.au](http://www.surflifesaving.com.au)





## SURF PATROL DOMINATES THE SMALL SCREEN

Surf lifesavers are now starring in prime time following the July premiere of Surf Patrol, the exciting new observational documentary which takes viewers to the frontline of the fun, daring and often dangerous work carried out by Australia's lifeguards and lifesavers.

Screening on the Seven Network across Australia (and on Prime or Southern Cross in regional areas), Surf Patrol was filmed throughout the 2006/07 season at beaches throughout Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. The program is made by the creator of successful observational documentary series The Force and Border Security: Australia's Front Line.

"Using the techniques that have made such series as Border Security and The Force a success, we've been able to apply that same winning formula to one of our most treasured resources – our volunteer lifesavers," said Dan Meehan, executive producer of Surf Patrol.

"The show is a tribute to the volunteer lifesavers around the country.

"It showcases their incredible heroism and athleticism. It's a show that has everything – drama, action, humour as well as tragedy."

Meehan says the show could not have come to fruition without the support of the surf lifesaving movement, and praised the clubs and lifesavers involved in the filming for making the series the rating success it has been in the first two months on air. "The surf lifesavers on the beach deserve the greatest thanks; they've let us into their lives and have shown us lifesaving in a way that hasn't been shown before on Australian television."

The impact the program is having on surf lifesaving in New South Wales is already evident with interest in the movement at an all-time high. Enquiries regarding nippers, becoming a lifesaver, surf sports and donations have taken a palpable rise since the show's premiere screening.

Surf Patrol has regularly won its Monday 8:00pm timeslot despite being billed against popular programs such as Australian Story, Big Brother and Australian Idol, averaging around 1.3m viewers during the first half of the 13-part series.

"Getting the surf safety message to the general public is the biggest challenge in educating beachgoers about the dangers of the surf and the need to swim between the flags on patrolled beaches each summer," said Brett Harrod, President of Surf Life Saving NSW. "Surf Patrol is providing a 30-minute prime time educational message to the general public which not only showcases the vital role our lifesavers play, but also how volatile surf conditions can be along the coastline.

"With so many people tuning in to Surf Patrol, and with Surf Life Saving NSW looking to continue educating the public throughout the summer, hopefully we will see one of our safest seasons on the state's coastline."





Avoca's lifesavers received a rapturous welcome

## AVOCA LIFESAVERS LEAVE THEIR MARK ON PHUKET

The Boxing Day 2004 tsunami which claimed 300,000 lives in south-east Asia is still fresh in the minds of everyone within the region. Many tourists tragically lost their lives in the catastrophic event, including a young Sydney woman named Kathy Glinsky who was claimed by the disaster while holidaying in Thailand.

At the time, Kathy had been organising with her employer – Australand – to donate a set of oars to Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club, however following the tragedy Australand substantially increased the donation to include a surf boat, trailer and oars.

The sweep of the 'Kathy Glinsky' surf boat, John Mitchell, Life Member and keen supporter of surf lifesaving in the Avoca Beach community, is constantly reminded of the tragic circumstances that arose from the Boxing Day Tsunami when he takes his crews out for training and competition on the water. The loss of life that occurred on that fateful day and the ongoing drownings that continue to take lives in Thailand inspired John and the Club to start a program to introduce surf awareness and the culture of surf lifesaving to the communities of Phuket and Phi Phi.

Alistair 'Slim' Peebles, Life Member of Avoca Beach Surf Club investigated the feasibility of taking the concept of surf lifesaving and surf awareness to Thailand and through his tireless efforts secured a grant from the Australia-Thai Institute

to assist members of the club to introduce, upskill and train the Thai people in first aid, surf awareness and water safety.

In July the fruits of John and Slim's hard work came to fruition when twelve club members from Avoca Beach visited the south-east Asian nation to work with members of the Thai marine police, lifeguards, school children, tour operators and the Thai people to introduce the concept of surf life saving to their community.

While impressed with lifeguard operations at some resorts, it was clear that lifesaving standards in Phuket are far inferior to those which are enjoyed by the Australian beachgoing community. In essence, this made the trip even more special, with the Avoca Beach club members having a marked impact on lifesaving authorities in the region who have vowed to keep learning and keep improving thanks to the advice and expertise bestowed upon them by the team from Avoca.

The commitment to improving lifesaving in this region will continue into the future, with programs already in place to raise the standard. Six lifeguards employed by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation will travel to Avoca during the 2007/08 season to not only improve their skills, but also be trained in the equivalent SLSA Awards. They will also be trained as instructors so they can continue teaching their colleagues in Thailand, while Avoca is planning a demonstration surf carnival on Patong Beach in April 2008.

The Thais quickly took to board paddling



CPR training with manikins was a new experience for the locals



A tight Squeeze getting rescue boards to Phuket





## AUSTRALIAN LIFESAVING CONFERENCE

The 2007 National Lifesaving Conference (incorporating the Australian Lifesaving Academy Workshop) was held on 7-9 September at Tallebudgera on the Gold Coast with a key focus on lifesaving and education.

Key personnel from Surf Life Saving NSW and the clubs and branches across the state attended the conference which highlighted a number of strategic initiatives undertaken by SLSA, including the introduction of the Australian Lifesaving Academy (incorporating the implementation of the Beach Management Training Program), the launch of the Australian Coastal Public Safety Guidelines along with other topical lifesaving issues.

The conference was split into the two key areas of lifesaving and education, with a clear focus dedicated to each specific field. Lifesaving personnel from all levels attended the lifesaving section of the conference, while the Education stream saw those responsible for education programs from a branch level upwards involved in a workshop on the Australian Lifesaving Academy.

"The National Lifesaving Conference is an extremely important event which ultimately enables Surf Life Saving to provide the safest possible beach environment for the public who choose to spend their summers on the coastline," said NSW Director of Lifesaving, John Restuccia. "The collective expertise of key lifesaving and education personnel from across the country highlighted the standards we have already achieved as an organisation and the goals we are setting ourselves for the future."

## WORLD LIFESAVING CONFERENCE

Craig Roberts, Surf Life Saving NSW Lifesaving Services Manager, will take the state's lifesaving expertise to an international audience in late September when he attends World Water Safety 2007 in Porto, Portugal.

WWS 2007 is a global conference offered by the International Life Saving Federation which follows on the resounding success of the World Congress on Drowning that was organised in 2002 and the ILS International Medical and Rescue Conferences in 1997 in San Diego USA and in 2001 on the Gold Coast.

The purpose of World Water Safety 2007, held from 27-29 September 2007, is to bring together the world's foremost experts, systems and information for exchange, debate and further development that will lead to reduction of death and injury in all aquatic environments worldwide.

WWS 2007 will feature two major events; one being the Conference, while the other is the International Water Safety Exhibition of lifesaving products, services and information.

## SURF SAFETY & THE LAW SUMMIT

While Australian surf lifesavers are an international icon associated with the beach, there are many other stakeholders from all levels of government, legal industry and the business sector that share critical roles and responsibilities for safety on our beaches.

The inaugural National Summit on Beach Safety and the Law seeks to clarify the existing law as it applies to topics of public liability, tourism, the roles and responsibilities of local government councils and other statutory authorities, developers and those charged with protecting beach users – our volunteer lifesavers and salaried lifeguards.

Expert legal speakers and panellists will summarise the law as it stands and challenge the movement with future initiatives to safeguard our beaches and beach users.

Guest speakers at the conference which takes place on the Gold Coast on 8-9 November 2007, include former Queensland Premier Hon. Peter Beattie, SLSA CEO Brett Williamson OAM, Judges from the NSW and Queensland Supreme Courts and a host of other experts.

## 2007 NSW IRB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hunter surf lifesaving club Caves Beach once again proved they are the strongest IRB racing club in the state with victory at the 2007 NSW IRB Championships at South West Rocks on Saturday 7 July.

Caves Beach (113 points) won seven and placed in 15 of the 16 events contested at the carnival, proving depth to be the key to winning the State Championships. South Maroubra (67 pts) placed second overall on the back of five victories, while South Coast club Kiama Downs scored three victories to help them to third overall (48 pts). Thirroul (31 pts) and Soldiers Beach (27 pts) placed consistently throughout the event to finish fourth and fifth respectively, while Avalon Beach (12 pts) were the only other team to take away gold with one victory seeing the Sydney Northern Beaches club place sixth.

The State Championships also doubled as the fifth and final round of the NSW IRB Premiership, with Kiama Downs claiming top spot from South Maroubra and Caves Beach.



## 2007 AUSTRALIAN IRB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Gold Coast powerhouse North Burleigh SLSC has defeated an impressive field to win the 2007 Australian IRB Championships at South West Rocks on 27-29 July.

North Burleigh won two events and medalled in two more to run out victors (26 pts) Alexandra Headland (21 pts) with Victoria's Williamstown grabbing third place (17 pts). Bribie Island was the only other club to win two events, while the best placed NSW clubs were Caves Beach (4th, 16 pts), South Maroubra (6th, 13 pts) and Kiama Downs (8th, 11 pts).

SLSA General Manager for Surf Sports, Grant Baldock said the flat and fast conditions allowed for a tight contest, with clubs from NSW and Victoria closing the gap on their more fancied Queensland opponents for the first time in years. "There were gold medals given out to clubs from all three states that competed and that shows how much effort clubs are now putting into this event," he said.



The best in the business line up at South West Rocks



Darren Mercer heads to victory at the 1992 Coolangatta Gold

## MERCER JOINS LEGENDS

Former-Thirroul Ironman Darren Mercer may have hung up the Speedos for the best part of a decade however his achievements have not stopped coming with his induction into the NSW Hall of Champions in July.

The NSW Hall of Champions is the state's premier hall of fame and sport museum which celebrates the outstanding achievements of our athletes. Mercer was the 320th inductee to the elite group, joining the likes of Sir Donald Bradman, Dawn Fraser, David Campese and Dally Messenger. Mercer was inducted alongside Olympic gold medallists Petria Thomas (swimming) and Debbie Watson (water polo) and former Australian hockey captain Ken Wark.

Mercer, who received an OAM for services to the movement in 1992, is only the 13th surf lifesaving athlete to be inducted into the NSW Hall of Champions, following Terry Buck, Phil Coles, Jon Donohoe, Dennis Green, Dennis Huessner, Brian Hutchings, Wal Mackney, Ken Murray, Bob Newbiggin, Barry Rodgers, Noel Ryan and Steve Warren.

### Darren Mercer – a stellar career

- **2-time** Australian Captain
- **6-time** Australian Representative
- **2-time** NSW Captain
- **6-time** NSW Representative
- **2** World Championship Gold Medals
- **6** World Championship Medals
- **7** Australian Championships Gold Medals
- **23** Australian Championships Medals
- **24** Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Grand Prix wins; including a three-year undefeated streak involving 12 victories
- **5-time** Kellogg's Nutri Grain Grand Prix Series Champion; won every Series he contested
- **18** NSW Championship Gold Medals
- **33** NSW Championship Medals

## 2007 POOL RESCUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Elouera Surf Life Saving Club unearthed a new host of stars on its way to taking out the NSW and Australian Pool Rescue Championships in August.

With only six clubs sending teams to the 2006 NSW Championships, this year's event at Caringbah Leisure Centre on 4 August saw more than double the number of entries and more than double the number of clubs involved.

Andrew Bowden, Jane Cooper, Felysia Konakoff, Andrew Fisher and Jemma Aziz each took home at least four gold medals and spearheaded Elouera's victory. They claimed the overall pointscore title on 265 points to finish well clear of neighbours Cronulla (130 pts) and North Cronulla (81 pts) in a Sutherland Shire 1-2-3.

A week later the Australian Championships took place at the famous Homebush Bay pool used for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, with all athletes looking to impress selectors ahead of next year's World Championships in Germany.

Former Australian Swimming and Lifesaving Team member Sarah Windsor joined the strong Elouera squad for the event and spearheaded the club's charge towards the overall pointscore title on 248 points ahead of Maroochydore (137), Cronulla (88), Alexandra Headland (84), Sunshine Beach (76) and Northcliffe (69).

Windsor claimed four gold and two silver medals, while 17-year-old clubmate Mitchell Parkes was arguably the athlete of the meet, taking home 4 gold, six silver and one bronze medal. Other standout performers for Elouera were Jane Cooper, Andrew Fisher, Andrew Bowden (three golds each), Felysia Konakoff and Keira Roberts (two gold each).

Fifteen-year-old Manly star Tom Fraser-Holmes also performed strongly claiming two golds and two bronze, including a top-three performance in the Open 200m Obstacle Race. Also just 15, South Maroubra's Kailah Elliott impressed selectors so much she earned national selection for the Trans Tasman Challenge against New Zealand.



Yamba's international star, Jacob Lollback

## NSW STARS EXCEL IN JAPAN

NSW athletes Melissa Howard (Mollymook), Jacob Lollback (Yamba) and Chris Allum (Cronulla) were part of an all-star Australian team which took out the Sanyo Bussan International Lifesaving Cup on 1 September in Tokyo, Japan.

Defending the title after a comprehensive victory in 2006, the NSW trio formed part of a 10-man Australian team which also featured former NSW athletes Matt Poole (Northcliffe, ex-Queenscliff), Allira Richardson (Maroochydore, ex-Forster), Kristy Harris (Northcliffe, ex-The Lakes, Wamberal, North Entrance), Simon Harris (Northcliffe, ex-Helensburgh-Stanwell Park) and Courtney Hancock (Northcliffe, ex-Sawtell).

Australia continued their international stronghold in surf lifesaving, finishing on top with 309 points to South Africa (256 points) and Japan (204 points).

"The whole team put in fantastic performances and the increase in points we received this year is a direct reflection of everyone's efforts," said Australian coach Brett Dowker. "Considering our athletes are still in the middle of their off-season, whilst other countries are at the peak of their summer season, we did exceptionally well."

"One of Australia's rising stars, Jacob Lollback, was a real stand out throughout the competition. The 2006 International Cup was his first time competing for Australia and you certainly saw a boost in confidence with his performance this time round."

## 2007 MANTRA SALT SURF CLASSIC

Surf Life Saving NSW is supporting Australia's newest surf club, Salt SLSC, in hosting the inaugural Mantra Salt Surf Classic.

The Mantra Salt Surf Classic enables competitors to compete for cash prizes in events developed from core lifesaving skills and techniques including the signature event, the Salt Surf Classic (Pentathlon). Other events include Ironman/woman, Run-Swim-Run, Board, Ski, Sprint and Flags, while traditional events such as the Pillow Fight, Chariot Race and Tug-of-War are certain to bring a sense of nostalgia to this unique and new event.

More than \$45,000 in cash and prizes are up for grabs at the event which features events from Under-12s right through to the Masters, and also features some events which are open to the general public. "It is great that Surf Life Saving NSW can support Salt SLSC in hosting the original Mantra Salt Surf Classic," said NSW Surf Sports Manager Craig Andrews. "It is sure to attract members from all over NSW and Queensland, and is certain to become one of the feature events on the NSW Surf Sports Calendar for years to come."

# GOOD WILL WEEK 2007

Good Will Week will be held from 14-20 October this year, and is an annual community education campaign organised by the Public Trustee of NSW to encourage everyone over the age of 18 to make sure they have a professionally drafted Will to protect their loved ones if the unthinkable happens.

For the past ten years Good Will Week has encouraged people to make or update their Will and educated them on the importance of appointing a professional to take care of Will-making and estates, and to carry out the role of executor. Whilst there has been an increase in the number of Wills written with the Public Trustee, research indicates that almost half the adult population in NSW still don't have a Will, and this climbs to around 60 per cent of parents with children under 18 years of age.

In a partnership which is sure to reap fantastic rewards for the surf lifesaving movement over the coming year, the Public Trustee will give \$1 to Surf Life Saving NSW for every Will written with the Public Trustee NSW over the next 12 months.

Keep your loved ones safe and make a legally binding Will this year. For more information visit [www.goodwillweek.com.au](http://www.goodwillweek.com.au) or call 1300 14 24 34.



## SLSNSW WINS IN CITY-TO-SURF

While Tanzanian Dickson Marwa may have held aloft the trophy for finishing first in the 2007 City-to-Surf, Surf Life Saving NSW is one of the real winners having benefited from the generosity of a number of runners who took part in the event.

For the first time ever, participants in the City-to-Surf could choose to run for a variety of charities, with around 20 runners choosing to raise funds for Surf Life Saving NSW. More than \$1 million was raised for more than 100 charities registered, with more than \$10,000 heading the way of Surf Life Saving NSW.

Scott Duncombe was one of the top ten fundraisers in the entire 63,000 City-to-Surf field, sourcing \$10,000 in donations for Surf Life Saving NSW all by himself.

Surf Life Saving NSW presented Scott with a limited edition patrol flag featuring the signatures of 100 iconic Australians in appreciation of his efforts and the impact these funds will have to surf safety in NSW.

## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

With 2007 being the Year of the Surf Lifesaver, it was only apt that more members than ever received recognition in the Queen's Birthday Honour's List announced on the June long weekend.

Alan Whelpton AO received an upgrade from his AM (Member) to become an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia, while a number of other members received Order of Australia Medals.

Alan has been an icon of the international lifesaving and Australian sporting movements for decades, the impact of his tenures in the highest positions still having a marked effect today.

Phillip Cousins (Swansea Belmont), Richard Griffin (Freshwater), Wallace Halpin (Cronulla), Laurence Jennett (Wollongong City), Edward Larsen (Cronulla/North Cronulla), Ross Matthews (Long Reef), Michael Moran (Macksville-Scotts Head), Lindsay Paton (Mona Vale), Ron Pears (Elouera) and Neil Purcell (North Steyne) all received OAMs, with a further four members in other state's also receiving the prestigious honour – Barry Crichton (QLD), Stephen Maitland (QLD), Kevin Moriarty (VIC) and David Swain (SA).



The picturesque 18th hole at Terrey Hills Golf & Country Club

## CLUBS FOR THE CLUBBIES 2007

The inaugural Surf Life Saving NSW Corporate Golf Day – Clubs for the Clubbies – will be held later this year in what is set to become one of the most significant events on the movement's fundraising calendar for years to come.

Held in the closing months of the Year of the Surf Lifesaver, the event will be held on Thursday 22 November 2007 at Terrey Hills Golf & Country Club, a course which has played host to Australasian PGA Tour events, and is one of the most prestigious golf clubs in Sydney. With on-course masseurs, four roaming golf pros and a \$50,000 hole-in-one prize up for grabs, the event is certain to be the highlight of the fundraising year.

Each player will receive a personal golf kit on arrival, including a commemorative shirt, cap and many other golf goodies, and foursomes are already being booked at a strong rate despite only just going on sale.

"Golf days are a great way for charities and sporting clubs to raise funds, however in order to really hit the mark a touch of difference is needed and that's exactly what our golfers will find at the inaugural 'Clubs for the Clubbies' at Terrey Hills," said Surf Life Saving NSW President Brett Harrod. "Never before has a golf course been decked out in as much red and yellow as you will see on Thursday 22 November, with lifesavers patrolling the 18-hole layout ensuring all players are kept safe and comfortable.

"The event is sure to become a regular fixture on the fundraising calendar, and with places quickly selling out it means our 11 branches, 129 clubs and 60,000 members will benefit greatly from 'Clubs for the Clubbies'."

For those wishing to take part in this landmark event, a number of options are available including event sponsorship, hole sponsorship or purchasing a foursome to compete in this new event. More information is available by phoning Surf Life Saving NSW on 02 9984 7188, or visit the Surf Life Saving NSW website [www.surflifesaving.com.au](http://www.surflifesaving.com.au).

## SAFETY IN COLOURS

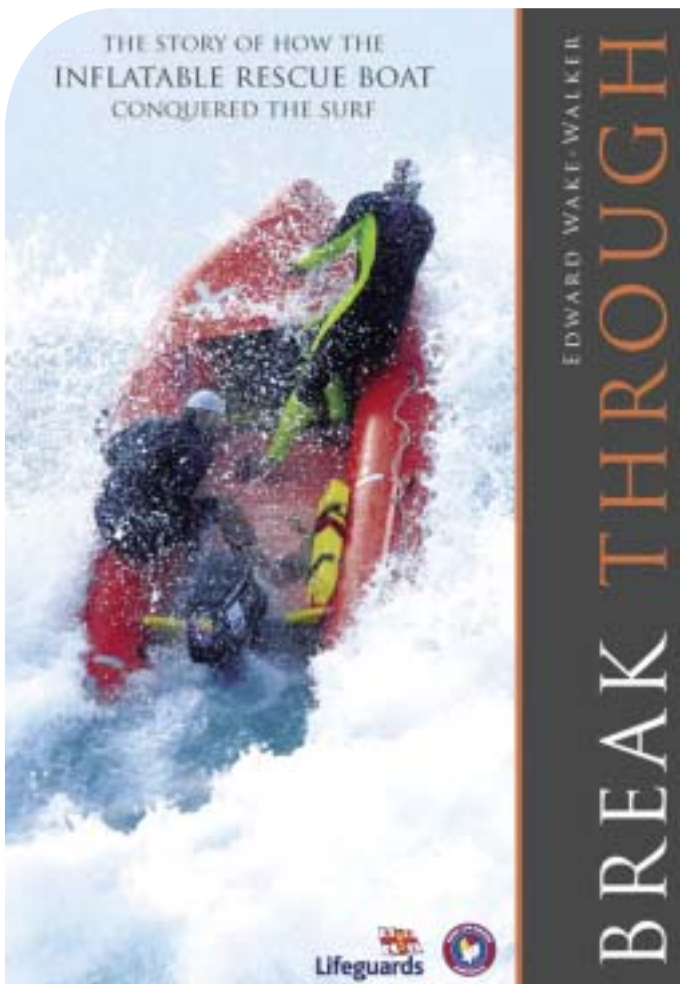
The need for the public to be able to identify a lifeguard or surf lifesaver from region to region, state to state and country to country, while on a crowded beach or at pool, is an increasingly important part of public safety in an aquatic environment. In Australia, market research has consistently shown that red and yellow are the colours that most people would look to in an emergency on a beach, and other countries are increasingly moving towards these colours.

Peter Agnew, General Manager Operations for Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) says that all providers of beach and pool aquatic safety should move to internationally recognised standards and incorporate red and yellow as the major colours in their lifeguard uniforms. "People would not expect to have different coloured traffic signals when they drive from one local government area to another, and there should be no difference with lifeguard uniforms," he said.

The red and yellow uniforms and flags have been adopted by the International Life Saving Federation (ILS) as the recognised colours for lifesavers and lifeguards at any aquatic location, and the flags are also being considered by the International Standards Organisation (ISO).

In 2004 a Newspoll survey of 1200 people around Australia conducted found that red and yellow colours are the most widely recognised by beach users. The vast majority of respondents (83 per cent) of those who swim in the surf at least once a summer spontaneously said they would first look for "red and yellow" if there was an emergency at a surf beach. Another six per cent said they would look for either red or yellow.

"From a public safety perspective there can be no doubt that red and yellow are the most recognisable colours in an aquatic environment and it is really up to local governments and the managers of all aquatic centres to consider this issue from a broader risk management perspective," added Mr Agnew.



## HISTORIC BREAKTHROUGH

A new book has provided an insight into the role of a number of Australian surf lifesavers in developing the inflatable rescue boat (IRB), one of the most important pieces of surf rescue equipment of the last century.

'Breakthrough', written by Edward Wake-Walker, is a fascinating history of the IRB and a testament to the ingenuity of the Australian surf lifesavers who adapted it from a British prototype.

President of Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA), Ron Rankin AM, said the IRB is now the rescue 'workhorse' of the Australian surf lifesaving movement, having been used in more than 85,000 recorded rescues, at an average of nearly 3,000 per year.

"The story of the IRB originates in the early 1960s when a young Australian, Warren Mitchell (now OAM), working as a lifeguard on a north Cornish beach, witnessed early trials of inflatable rescue boats, and quickly realised their potential," Mr Rankin said. "He took the concept back to New South Wales and, in the face of enormous scepticism, proved that the IRB was a quicker, safer alternative to the traditional methods that were used to get to people drowning 'beyond the break'."

There are around 780 IRBs across Australia and last season they were involved in 4,200 rescues.

'Breakthrough: the story of how the inflatable rescue boat conquered the surf' is available by contacting SLSA on 02 9300 4000 at a cost of \$29.95 (incl GST).

## BOARDIES DAY 19 OCTOBER 2007

On Friday 19 October 2007 Surf Life Saving will be celebrating its 100th Birthday and is inviting the community of NSW and Australia to have a little bit of fun while raising money to save lives on our beaches, simply by participating in Boardies Day.

Schools and business are being encouraged to organise gold coin donations from students and employees who choose to wear their favourite boardies or beachwear to work or school, raising much needed funds for the surf lifesaving movement – individual surf lifesaving clubs can even be selected to specifically receive the donations from organisations.

Funds raised will help provide our lifesavers with the equipment and training to do what they do best - save lives.

Channel 9 Getaway reporter Natalie Gruzlewski is the national ambassador for Boardies Day and is encouraging the wider community to get behind this key fundraising event and have a bit of fun while doing it.

Every year, volunteer surf lifesavers give up their time to patrol our beaches; they help thousands of people each summer – preventing them from getting into serious trouble in our waters," said Gruzlewski. "Australia's beaches are among the safest in the world – this is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our lifesavers. While lifesavers give their time and effort freely, they can't do it alone. They need your help!

"Money raised will help lifesavers purchase new equipment and make our beaches even safer. In this, the Year of the Surf Lifesaver, please join with me in helping our lifesavers raise these desperately needed funds by supporting this year's Boardies Day at your workplace or school."

For more information on getting involved in Boardies Day, visit [www.boardiesday.com.au](http://www.boardiesday.com.au).



## 2007 / 08 SEASON CALENDAR

<b>23-24 Sept '07</b>	2007 NSW Endurance Championships, Collaroy SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.surflifesaving.com.au">www.surflifesaving.com.au</a>	<b>18-20 Jan '08</b>	2008 Stramit NSW Country Surf Life Saving Championships Tacking Point SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.surflifesaving.com.au">www.surflifesaving.com.au</a>
<b>27-29 Sept '07</b>	World Water Safety 2007, Porto, Portugal More info: <a href="http://www.worldwatersafety.org">www.worldwatersafety.org</a>	<b>2 Feb '08</b>	Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Ironman Series Round 1 Kurrawa SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.slsa.com.au">www.slsa.com.au</a>
<b>29 Sept '07</b>	NSW Surf Patrol Season Begins	<b>3 Feb '08</b>	Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Ironman Series Round 2 Kurrawa SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.slsa.com.au">www.slsa.com.au</a>
<b>6-7 Oct '07</b>	Mantra Salt Surf Classic Salt SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.saltslsc.org.au">www.saltslsc.org.au</a>	<b>16 Feb '08</b>	Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Ironman Series Round 3 Coolum SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.slsa.com.au">www.slsa.com.au</a>
<b>13-14 Oct '07</b>	NIB Coolangatta Gold Gold Coast, QLD More info: <a href="http://www.slsa.com.au">www.slsa.com.au</a>	<b>17 Feb '08</b>	Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Ironman Series Round 4 Coolum SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.slsa.com.au">www.slsa.com.au</a>
<b>19 Oct '07</b>	Boardies Day More info: <a href="http://www.boardiesday.com.au">www.boardiesday.com.au</a>	<b>29 Feb - 2 March '08</b>	Westpac NSW Age Surf Life Saving Championships, Swansea Belmont SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.surflifesaving.com.au">www.surflifesaving.com.au</a>
<b>27 Oct '07</b>	NSW Surf Premiership Round 1 Warilla-Barrack Point SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.surflifesaving.com.au">www.surflifesaving.com.au</a>	<b>29 Feb - 9 March '08</b>	2008 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships (incl. Masters) Swansea Belmont SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.surflifesaving.com.au">www.surflifesaving.com.au</a>
<b>8-9 Nov '07</b>	Beach Safety & The Law National Summit, Surfers Paradise QLD More info: <a href="http://www.beachsafety.qut.edu.au">www.beachsafety.qut.edu.au</a>	<b>1 March '08</b>	Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Ironman Series Round 5 Coogee SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.slsa.com.au">www.slsa.com.au</a>
<b>10 Nov '07</b>	NSW Surf Premiership Round 2 Merewether SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.surflifesaving.com.au">www.surflifesaving.com.au</a>	<b>1-6 April '08</b>	Australian Surf Life Saving Championships (incl. Masters), Scarborough Beach WA More info: <a href="http://aussies.slsa.asn.au">http://aussies.slsa.asn.au</a>
<b>17-18 Nov '07</b>	NSW Interbranch Championships, Umina Beach SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.surflifesaving.com.au">www.surflifesaving.com.au</a>	<b>19 April</b>	Australian Pool Rescue Championships Runaway Bay QLD More info: <a href="http://www.slsa.com.au">www.slsa.com.au</a>
<b>22 Nov '07</b>	'Clubs for the Clubbies' SLSNSW Corporate Gold Day Terrey Hills Golf & Country Club More info: <a href="http://www.surflifesaving.com.au">www.surflifesaving.com.au</a>	<b>27 April '08</b>	NSW Surf Patrol Season Closes
<b>29 Nov - 1 Dec '07</b>	Year of the Surf Lifesaver International Challenge, Bondi Beach More info: <a href="http://www.slsa.com.au">www.slsa.com.au</a>	<b>9 May '08</b>	SLSNSW Awards of Excellence Venue TBC
<b>1 Dec '07</b>	Year of the Surf Lifesaver Interstate Championships, Bondi Beach More info: <a href="http://www.slsa.com.au">www.slsa.com.au</a>	<b>19 July - 2 August</b>	Rescue 2008 World Lifesaving Championships, Warnemünde/Berlin, Germany More information – <a href="http://www.rescue2008.com">www.rescue2008.com</a>
<b>2 Dec '07</b>	Year of the Surf Lifesaver Invitation Carnival, Bondi Beach More info: <a href="http://www.slsa.com.au">www.slsa.com.au</a>		
<b>5 Jan '08</b>	2007/08 NSW Surf Premiership Round 3 Queenscliff SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.surflifesaving.com.au">www.surflifesaving.com.au</a>		
<b>5-6 Jan '08</b>	Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Ironman Series Trial Coolangatta SLSC More info: <a href="http://www.slsa.com.au">www.slsa.com.au</a>		

\* all dates are subject to change





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