

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT:
MR LES MOLE

DEPUTY PRESIDENT:
MR JOHN MCCLELLAND

SECRETARY:
MRS CAROLYN ASHER

TREASURER:
MR STEPHEN KAY

DIRECTOR:
MR COLIN HARRIS

DIRECTOR:
MR SEAN KELLY

DIRECTOR:
DR SHAYNE BAKER OAM



Message from the President

It was an absolute pleasure to share the evening with the members of the Neptune Royal Life Saving Club in celebration of the club's 90th year of service.

The Neptune RLSC is based at the mouth of the dangerous Tallebudgera Creek, and at the dinner the club had quite an enormous support base of ex-members. The active members are currently patrolling Tallebudgera Creek, with a full complement of patrols.

Congratulations Neptunes, for your dedication and commitment to water safety in our rivers and estuaries.

*Les Mole
President*

Executive Directors Report

Members will be aware of the widely circulated media campaign spearheaded by the Courier Mail suggesting a compulsory swimming program which resulted in the Water Safety Roundtable that was chaired by the Minister for Education & Industrial Relations the Hon Grace Grace. You will be pleased to know that Royal Life Saving was a key participant in this roundtable and we are working with the Department of Education on how to address the issue of swimming lessons for school aged children. Whilst compulsory swimming lessons seems an easy solution, implementation of such a program has difficulties and may not achieve an outcome better than what is presently in place. Some facts that have been brought out at the roundtable are:

- **Qld is performing better than the national average for drowning of school aged children**
- **96% of state run Schools already have a form of swimming and/or survival program**
- **The state government has increased funding to schools for these programs (to \$1.5M this year)**
- **A key characteristic of schools is the decentralised model with many decisions being made by the local communities. This allows many schools to widen swimming programs to cover more students, rather than focus on one particular age group during a specific week.**

However, it was acknowledged that there may be some gaps in existing programs. The gaps seem to be around remote schools, overseas immigration and cultural issues, all of which will likely remain gaps if a compulsory program was implemented. The roundtable will be meeting again in April to develop a strategy to address the gaps. Royal Life Saving is pleased that the government is working with us on this matter and is approaching the issue on a factual evidence based approach.

Competency Based Training – Support and Service for Existing Trainers

We have competency based trainers in our network that come from different sectors and are trainers with us for a variety of reasons including those that work as a trainer for commercial reasons, those from the educational sector, those who are trainers to support community groups and clubs, and those who work in the aquatic industry as a trainer of lifeguards. Trainers from each of the above groups have different needs and the service & support that Royal Life Saving needs to provide to each is different. I have also found that our trainers have a variety of skills.

To help us design appropriate training for our competency based trainers I will soon be circulating a self-assessment for each trainer to complete. Trainers will be asked a number of questions around the type of training they deliver and their own skills which will assist us design future training workshops for you.

Accreditation of new Competency Based Trainers

I am pleased to announce a new process for accreditation of new competency-based trainers. The new process is an auditable process and designed to ensure new trainers are properly trained, resourced and have sufficient skills to deliver training to the standards required of Royal Life Saving and industry requirements. Over the next few weeks we will be contacting those that have expressed interest in becoming a trainer to work through the accreditation process.

Volunteer Roles

In the January newsletter I called for nominations for various roles. The role for member of the building committee has now closed and I am pleased to announce that Mr Shaun Glastobury has been appointed to that role. Mr Glastobury has been a member of the Society for a number of years and works in the education industry as a facility manager and has had experience on a number of committees of the society.

The roles of Club Liaison Officer, Sport Coordinator, and State Team Manager & Coach will close on 9 March 2018, please nominate for role at the following link: <https://www.rlssq.com.au/index2.php?show=Form-Nomination>

*Regards
Paul Barry
Executive Director*



Neptune Royal Life Saving Club turns 90!

Affiliated Club Neptune Royal Life Saving Club celebrated its 90th anniversary in style on the Gold Coast on Saturday 17 February 2018. Over 70 people attended a function highlighting the success of the club, which is an icon on the Gold Coast, and patrols Tallebudgera Creek. The Club is one of the oldest life saving clubs in Australia, and until the 1990's was a women's only club. We are looking forward to ten years times for the 100 anniversary! The Club is looking for people to join it ranks, and enquiries can be made by contacting the club on (07) 5535 7264. People of all ages and abilities can join the club.

Pictured is Society President Mr Les Mole handing a plaque to Club President Mrs Judy Leach and Secretary Mrs Noele Walker.

Link: <http://neptunersc.com.au/>



Australia Day Award – Joy Symons

Society Member Joy Symons received an Australia Day award in the category Community Initiative presented by Deputy Mayor Councillor Cherie Rutherford from Rockhampton Regional Council.

Joy has spent 20 years in the aquatics industry and has created and co-written a water safety play called "Billabong Dreaming". It has been performed for 752 children has been very successful in raising awareness of water safety. Congratulation Joy on your award and for spreading the water safety message in such an interesting manner.

Pictured in Joy with her award on Australia Day 2018.

RLSS Clubs Competition – Caloundra Sun 15 April 2018

The Royal Life Saving Clubs competition is being held on Sunday 15 April 2018 at Bulcock Beach Caloundra. The Clubs competition is a great opportunity for Club members to compete in a friendly manner, and network with other Clubs. The event is a beach based with life savers competing in events such as beach flags, rescue race, run-swim-run, beach sprints. Volunteers are also being sought for officials and marshals to help with the day, which is a fantastic opportunity for those involved in another aspect of the society to volunteer their time.

Any member of RLSSQ or an affiliated Club can compete, with entry forms on our website. Please contact us for more details.

Link: <https://rlssq.com.au/Downloads/Carnival-Brochure-2018.pdf>



RLSS School Life Saving Championships

The Royal Life Saving School Championships for primary and secondary schools is being held on Sunday 29 April 2018 at Somerville House Aquatic Centre. Registrations forms are available on our website and entry is open to any school aged child. Events include Line Throw, Rescue Race & Fin Relay with all events based on the popular swim and survive program. This is a great championship to come along to participate with the focus on having fun and building life saving skills. Entries close 23 April 2018. Contact us for more details.

Link: <https://www.rlssq.com.au/Downloads/Brochure-Schools-Comp-2018.pdf>



Swim & Survive Workshop – Gympie Saturday 3 March 2018

We are holding a Swim and Survive workshop at One Mile State School in Gympie on Saturday 3 March 2018 (9am to 12pm). The workshop is free and suitable for existing trainers and anyone wanting to find out more about the Swim & Survive program. The workshop will cover how to teach the swim and survive program and basic water rescues.

Registration or enquiries can be made using the link below or by contacting us.

Link: <https://www.rlssq.com.au/index.php?show=Form-Workshop>

Get Active Townsville

Trainer Carolyn Asher represented Royal Life Saving at the Get Active Expo in Townsville on 4 February 2018. The event was organised by the Townsville City Council and promoted getting those in the north of the state, into an active and healthy lifestyle. The event was held at the Townsville Stadium and had displays from about 100 organisations. Carolyn assisted by Simone Low, spoke to over 200 people enquiring about Royal Life Saving, water safety, swim & survive and Grey Medallion. All fantastic community courses to help us reduce drowning. Carolyn provided a free CPR awareness session throughout the day as part of a community service offering. Great work Carolyn and Simone.

Social Media – Please like and share our posts

The Royal Life Saving Facebook page has posts on it every week about industry matters and water safety topics. We would like to ask all our members to like and share our social media posts, so that we can get increased exposure and expand our message to a larger community.



Royal Life Saving Society Queensland Inc
1204 New Cleveland Road, Gumdale Qld 4157
PO Box 1093, Capalaba DC Qld 4157

Phone 07 3823 2823
email admin@rlssq.com.au
www.rlssq.com.au