

APRIL TWENTY EIGHTEEN

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Executive Directors Report

The Commonwealth Games seemed to proceed very quickly and smoothly. Like Royal Life Saving, the Commonwealth Games has royal patronage with Prince Charles attending as representative of Her Majesty the Queen. Her Majesty is patron of Royal Life Saving and her cousin, Prince Michael of Kent GCVO CD, is Commonwealth President of the Society. Her Majesty completed her Bronze Medallion at age 13 (pictured) whilst Prince Michael attends and chairs Commonwealth meetings and functions.

A number of society members volunteered at the Commonwealth Games and attached is a pictorial of pictures submitted by members. Pictures show Society President Mr Les Mole, also Secretary Mrs Carolyn Asher and Director Dr Shayne Baker OAM; also pictured are members Karen Gilcrest, Peter Eickenloff, and Elizabeth Chapman.

Society Honours

I would like to remind everyone to nominate worthy people for Society Honours. The forms to do this are located on our website home page. I would encourage members to nominate people who have volunteered their time towards drowning prevention. Please note that Society staff are unable to make nominations, and that all nominations should be submitted with brief details as to what the person has done or achieved.

First Aid Trainers Workshops

In last month's newsletter we announced some trainers workshop, and I am pleased to announce more trainers workshops as indicated below:

- **Gold Coast – Saturday 5 May 2018**
- **Sunshine Coast – Saturday 12 May 2018**
- **Toowoomba – Saturday 19 May 2018**
- **Brisbane (Gumdale) Monday 21 May 2018 (evening session)**
- **Cairns – Thursday 31 May 2018**
- **Townsville – Friday 1 June 2018**

These workshops will focus on a society update, some skills development and the new first aid workbooks. The cost of the workshop is very reasonably priced at \$100 and trainers are being provided some resources in this price.

It would be nice to run a workshop in a regional area, however we can not run a workshop for one or two people; however we can combine workshops with a Swim & Survive workshop, so I would encourage trainers to get together and contact us if you are interested in a workshop in your region.

Link to Register: <https://www.rlssq.com.au/?show=Form-Workshop-Trainer>

Trainer Professional Development

I have had a few trainers contact me to ask about RLSSQ requirements for trainer professional development for competency-based trainers. RLSSQ policy is that trainers must participate in 6 points of professional development per season and attend at least one RLSSQ trainers conference or workshop every two years. This means that if a trainer attended Aquafutures (which was in August 2017), it is not compulsory to attend trainers workshop.

However, the current series of trainer's workshop are cheap (\$100) and very short (4 hours) and are being conducted in a number of locations with a number of different times available. The First Aid workshops are worth 4 professional development points and are covering a number of changes within the society such as staff, processes and procedures, and given trainers will need some professional development anyway, I strongly encourage trainers to attend.

Workbooks – First Aid & Bronze Medallion

The new First Aid workbooks (which is version 18.2) are now available and positive feedback has been received. We are asking for trainers to provide feedback over the next month about these workbooks, and once that has been received we will amend the books as version 18.3. It is intended that moodle (online) will be updated to align with version 18.3 workbook.

I am pleased to announce that we are now commencing a re-write of the Bronze Medallion workbooks which will be followed by Pool Lifeguard. Once these are completed, trainers workshop will be announced for trainers that specialise in these fields.

Online System – Front End Student Login Page

The student log in page of our online system is a system written by a software company known as Vortilla, whereas the student management system is written by a software company known as Axcelerate. In conjunction with other Royal Life Saving states, we have decided to switch our student log in page to a new system which will be written by software company Axcelerate, thereby aligning the two systems to one supplier. This project has commenced and the actual switch over will occur in about two months time. This new page will be quite different to the existing system, but similar capability.

Paul Barry
Executive Director

Sport – Club Beach Carnival

The three beach patrolling life saving clubs (Ithaca – Caloundra City Life Saving Club, Neptune Royal Life Saving Club and Whitsunday Coast Life Saving Club) which are all affiliated with Royal Life Saving, came together for the clubs carnival on Sunday 15 April 2018. The carnival was held on Bulcock beach Caloundra, which is a white sand beach and a popular location on the southern most city of the Sunshine Coast. The beach is surrounded by cafes and restaurants and has been beautified over the last few years with modern building construction, directly opposite is the northern point of Bribie Island which still remains a National Park. The Carnival commenced with the traditional march past and members competed in beach flags, rescue race, run swim run and beach sprints. The day concluded in a friendly tug of war event, and award presentation. The carnival is entirely run by volunteers who proudly deliver a professional event. Each club has posted photos and videos of the day on their individual facebook pages which are worth taking a few minutes to look at.

If any reader is interested in joining a club, please refer to www.joinlifesaving.com.au

Link: <http://www.joinlifesaving.com.au/>



Swim & Survive Student Rescues Cousin

Pictured is Geoffrey who is seven years old and participates in a Junior Lifeguard program in Caloundra which focuses on the Swim and Survive program. On Easter Sunday, Geoffrey was with his family at Somerset Dam, and noticed his cousin had fallen out of his kayak and was in difficulty. Geoffrey remembering his swim and survive skills, informed his parents and grabbed a board to help his cousin. After his cousin was secured on the board, he then moved on to the kayak and they both returned to dry land safely. Geoffrey's parents are very proud that whilst he reacted in an emergency, he also remembered his own safety, and put into practice his Royal Life Saving swim & survive and junior lifeguard skills.

Congratulations Geoffrey.



Employee of the Month – April 2018

I wish to announce the employee of the month for April is Miss Milly O'Connor-Comber. Milly works as an administration officer at The Plantation working primarily in training support. She deals with internal clients (trainers) and external clients (course participants), assisting them with training and solving any problems. This is Milly's first real job after completing school about a year ago, and Milly enjoys talking to people and helping them. Milly has taken on learning her role with vigor since joining us in January, and has managed to gain an understanding of the training and life saving knowledge in a short period of time.

Thank you Milly for your dedication and hard work.



School Pool Life Saving Workshops

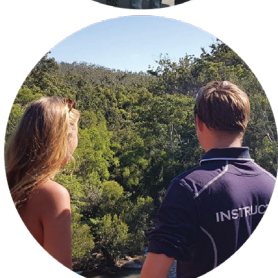
During the 2018 Easter holidays, Pool Life Saving Workshops were held in two locations (Toowoomba and Sandgate) with nine schools taking part. The Toowoomba Workshop was held at the Fairholme College Pool and hosted by Miss Hayley Wolff. The schools that attended were Fairholme College, St Ursula's College, Highfields State Secondary College and Sunshine Coast Grammar School.

The two Sandgate Workshops were held at Sandgate Aquatic Centre and were hosted by facility manager Mr Ryan Chapman. The schools that attended were Southern Cross Catholic College, Albany Creek State High School and Primary School; and Clontarf Beach State High School and Primary School.

The workshops were conducted by sisters Mrs Sue Baxter-Winch and Mrs Jeannie Baxter-Reid. The workshop participants worked through all of the School Pool Life Saving Competition events which include Rope Throw, 50m and 100m non-contact Rescue Race, 100m and 200m Individual Life Saving Medley, 100m Individual Life Saving Race plus the fin relays and survival relays.

All of the events in School's Pool Life Saving sport are based on the Royal Life Saving Society's Swim and Survive Program. The sport events help build student life saving skills in a fun and enjoyable manner, and ultimately make students better life savers.

Royal Life Saving would like to thank all the people involved in putting the workshop together for volunteering their time for the benefit of the students involved.



Inland Water Drowning Prevention

Royal Life Saving Queensland over the next few months is conducting some pro-active water safety projects aiming at raising awareness of water safety at inland waterways and drowning prevention. Some of our recent activities over the last month are show below:

1) White Water World, Gold Coast

Over the Queensland school holidays (weekends between 7 April and 15 April 2018) Royal Life Saving trainers Sarah Boettcher & Mel Robbins attended White Water World on the Gold Coast to engage with the community in the message of water safety. White Water World is a major theme park connected to Dreamworld and partners with Royal Life Saving for lifeguard training and water safety.

Our Royal Life Saving stand at the venue gave any children attending the opportunity to learn some water safety practicing some CPR. The team promoted the keep watch program as well as the inland waterway water safety messages of being safe in the water, not swimming alone and always look out for others. Parents also gained information out of this project. From the feedback the team received most parents were happy to refresh their skills and they were also reminded how important it is for the kids to be able to learn life saving skills. The team completed direct training for around 200 people with many more have exposure to Royal Life Saving and our safety messages.

We look forward to working alongside White Water World to keep promoting water safety messages.

2. Cedar Creek Falls, North Queensland

Members of affiliated club, Whitsunday Coast Life Saving Club Inc completed a weekend of community awareness at Cedar Creek Falls in North Queensland on 21 and 22 April 2018 spreading the water safety message about Inland Waterways and drowning prevention. Club Captain Calum Dochert said 'What an amazing turnout at Cedar Creek falls for our Federal Government funded Water Safety program. We were delighted to have families from Airlie Beach, Hamilton Island, Bowen and even as far out as Mackay joining us to spread the word of Water Safety not to mention WCLSC's very own Junior Lifeguards.'

Many locals and tourists alike were eager to find out more of the dangers of jumping from the top of the falls however some people still refuse to obide by warning signs or accept Life Savers advice.

Local Kerry Vernon of Airlie Beach said "They were fantastic, the sessions they ran were very professional and informative and the kids loved the activities. Best day at Cedar Creek falls."

Royal Life Saving Queensland's activities around Inland Waterways is part of Royal Life Saving Australis Inland Waterways and Respect the River campaign, which is funded by the Australian Government.

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