



President's Report

As I travel the State of Queensland, it is extremely pleasing to note the exemplary work of our volunteers and staff. The Royal Life Saving Society "Up Here" is alive and well, and certainly prepared for another busy swim season.

Our friends in the bush have certainly had a tough time of late. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and hopefully drenching rain is on the way.

The recent Annual General Meeting was another extra-ordinary celebration of the year behind us, and I would like to congratulate all of the worthy recipients and award winners. The meeting's resounding acknowledgement and endorsement of the Life Membership bestowed on Sue Mole, highlights again the contributions that our volunteers make.

Paul Barry and his committed staff have been hustling during the recent intense weeks as our trainers ramp up their programs in preparation for summer. Aquafutures 2019 will soon be back on the agenda. Stay tuned for the proposed date and venue.

With the footy finals just about over, it's time to put the winter woollies away and prepare for a warm summer ahead.

Best wishes always.
Les Mole

Executive Directors Report

Department of Education: School Swimming

You may be aware of the Save our School Kids campaign run by the Courier Mail resulted in a series of water safety round table meetings hosted by the Hon Grace Grace MP Minister for Education. The round table meetings were attended by leaders from peak industry groups, and considered the current position with respect to school swimming in Queensland and how improvements can be made.

As part of the round table a survey of all State Government schools was completed which revealed that 98% of schools had some form of swimming and water safety program. Royal Life Saving has been working with the department to help close the gap and deliver programs to the remaining 2%. Royal Life Saving has committed to deliver a number of programs to some schools for no fee as part of our community service.

The outcome of the round table meetings is that the Queensland State Government has the highest participation rates in Australia with respect to school swimming and water safety programs and now has a documented policy to maintain this strong position.

Trainers Workshop

I accompanied Training Officer Sarah Boettcher in August who toured the state to release our updated training materials. It was great to receive such positive feedback from trainers about the updated materials. Sarah is working hard to update our online assessment with the new materials, and is planning on having trials for CPR shortly before we update the remaining courses to the new online system. Please let Sarah know if you are interested in being involved in the trials.

Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Tuesday 28 August 2018. At the AGM the Annual Report is presented and society awards announced and presented. Many long term and life members attended the meeting, which allowed me, as the Executive Director an opportunity to speak to members and let you know about our successes, and some of our plans. I was very pleased that four long term members (two trainers and two life members) asked to speak to the meeting and gave really positive feedback about their recent experiences with the Society.

Please let us know if you would like a copy of the annual reports mailed to you, or alternatively you can download a copy of the annual report at the link below.

Download link: <https://www.rlssq.com.au/Downloads/RLSSQ-Annual-Report-2017-18.pdf>

Aquafutures Conference

The Aquafutures conference has been held every two years over the last six years (three conferences). The feedback has been that these conferences have been valued by members and the industry, and for this reason we are presently considering holding another conference in August/September 2019. At this stage I am seeking expression of interest from anyone that is interesting in being involved on an organising committee. People with experience and skills should contact me to express interest. Please note that these roles are volunteer roles with no payment for services rendered.

I expect to be in a position to be able to confirm soon if Aquafutures is proceeding in 2019 and the venue.

Sport

I am pleased to announce that the following people have been appointed to the following roles:

State Team Manager: Mr Les Mole
State Team Coach: Mrs Jeannie Baxter-Reid

I would like thank both of the above named who have considerable experience that they bring to the roles.

Paul Barry
Executive Director



Education & Training Report

We have recently launched two new programs, In-Service Training and We Have Your Back. Our In-Service Training program starts this month, and we are already receiving calls from facilities and managers about their excitement and support of this great service. This service is also open to trainers that wish to maintain their skills and comes with two (2) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points.

- **We have your Back: This is our commitment to any candidate of our Bronze Medallion and Pool Lifeguard Courses, that we will provide free support and advice if an incident occurs. We have produced brochures to support this initiative which are being distributed with course pack to course participants.**
- **Free In-Service Training: Commencing September 2018 we are offer free in-service training session for anybody with a Royal Life Saving Bronze Medallion or Pool Lifeguard Certificate. This is an industry leading initiative and helps solve the problems facility managers are faced running in-service training for staff.**

Link to register for in-service training: <https://www.rlsq.com.au/?show=Form-Workshop-IST>

Training Clarification: Two minutes of uninterrupted CPR

In our courses we refer to "two minutes uninterrupted CPR", what does this mean?

The intent of the statement "two minutes uninterrupted CPR" is for each candidate to demonstrate a sustained duration of compressions and ventilations for at least five (5) cycles (each cycle is a group of 30 compressions to two breaths as outlined by the ARC). The candidate needs to be assessed performing the normal pre-resuscitation checks, performing CPR, and then handing over to another rescuer.

Sarah Boettcher
Training Officer

Another Grey Medallion Community Course

Another Grey medallion course run by Ithaca – Caloundra City Life Saving Club in two events held in July and August 2018. 70 Seniors completed the course which the Club was able to offer free to the local community thanks to funding as part of Seniors Week by the Council of the Ageing and support by Break Free Resorts and Accountants United. The Club has been running these courses for ten years and since then, it has grown in such popularity among the locals that now two events annually need to be held to meet the demand.

Feedback from one participant said: "I have participated in CPR and First Aid every year for the past 25 years at my workplace and without doubt the two days I spent doing the Grey Medallion have been much more valuable and left me considerably more confident. The hands-on activities using the defibrillators, baby, child and adult dummies with attached technical gauges were especially valuable as we were guided to improve our skills. The trainers made the two days fly past quickly without a hint of boredom. That is saying something for two precious weekend days for myself, a fulltime worker. We have had our first grandchildren... so much of what we covered on the weekend will be of enormous value when we have them stay with us."



Employee of the Month (August 2018)

I would like to announce the employee of the month for August 2018 is Mrs Alison Bogicevic. Alison works as a learn to swim teacher at The Plantation Swim School, having been with us for about three years. Alison was nominated for this award due to her consistent support of students, the team and feedback from parents.

Congratulations Alison.

Paul Barry
Executive Director

Sport Update

We are pleased to advise the appointment of the following people:

State Team Manager: Mr Les Mole
State Team Coach: Mrs Jeannie Baxter-Reid

We are planning on holding the State Team Selection Trails (and short course Pro-Am Championships) on Sunday 21 October 2018 at Burpengary Aquatics (12.30pm onwards). Full details and registration forms will be available on our website soon.

Following the selection trials, a selection committee will be formed to select a 16 person team to attend the Australian Pool Life Saving Championships (APLSC) at Pymble Ladies College, Sydney from Friday 11 January to Sunday 13 January 2019.

To be eligible to compete, athletes will need to be a member of Royal Life Saving Queensland (or an affiliated club), and hold a current RLSS Bronze Medallion.

National Drowning Report (released on 12 September 2018)

Every year, since 1995 Royal Life Saving produces a National Drowning Report. This report examines the factors that contribute to drowning deaths in Australia by examining who, where, when and how people have drowned in Australian waterways over the last year.

The Queensland Extract indicates 60 people drowned in Queensland waterways. The breakdown of these drownings are shown below.

- **8 drownings occurred in the age group under 5 years**
- **2 drownings occurred in the age group 5 to 9 years**
- **1 drowning occurred the age group 10 to 17 years**
- **14 drownings occurred in the age group 18 to 35 years**
- **15 drownings occurred in the age group 35 to 55 years**
- **19 drowning occurred in the age groups 55 years and over**

You can download a copy of the National Drowning Report at this link: https://www.rlsq.com.au/Downloads/RLSS_NDR2018.pdf



Announcing a new Life Member: Mrs Sue Mole

Life membership of the Society is a very prestigious award and the constitution requires that any person considered must have been actively engaged in promoting the society for at least 15 years. The previous life member approved was Emeritus Professor John Pearn AO in 2005.

During the preceding year a nomination was made for a worthy candidate, which was considered and approved by the honours committee and also the Board of Directors. At the Annual General Meeting held on 28 August 2018, the nomination was presented to members for consideration and the nomination was approved.

Sue Mole has been involved in life saving for over thirty-five (35) years. For the past twenty-three (23) years, Sue has been a member of Royal Life Saving Queensland, and has been involved in the organisation, at just about every level. During the early 1990's, RLSSQ was struggling for finances, membership, government recognition and support. Sue was instrumental in gathering a group of supporters, who set about changing all of that. The idea to help solve this was the Black-Tie Life Saver's Ball which was a total success. This was followed by a Ball every year at Parliament House, for the following ten years. Many Government Ministers, Premiers, Deputy Premiers, opposition leaders and MPs attended year in year out.

All of the Black-Tie Balls were run at a profit, with Sue selling tickets as well as raising money through raffles, on the night. Sue's final ball was the Centenary Ball, held at Custom's House Brisbane during 2005. This massive gala event was in celebration of the 100 years of Royal Life Saving in Queensland. Most people who have been around the organisation for fifty (50) or so years, would probably acknowledge, that this was one of the biggest celebrations of RLSSQ, in its 100-year history. Over 300 guests toasting the Societies 100th birthday.

Another credit to Sue was taking on the learn-to-swim school at The Plantation, where she grew this activity from eighty-five (85) lessons per week to around six hundred (600) lessons per week.

For many summer patrol periods, the Neptune Royal Life Saving Club was struggling for active members. Club stalwart, Gwen Welford asked the RLSSQ Board if they would patrol one weekend every month. Sue was instrumental in bringing families from outside of the organisation, to volunteer and assist. These patrols continued for approximately three years until the Neptune Club membership regained momentum.

In 2004, Sue and her husband started the Vici swimwear brand. For the past thirteen (13) years, Sue has totally outfitted the Queensland Life Saving Team, for the National Life Saving Championships. In 2012, Sue and Vici outfitted forty-six (46) members of two (2) Queensland state teams, at no cost to the Society.

Some of Sue's other voluntary contributions included:

- **State Team Manager**
- **Organising State Planning Meetings**
- **Providing catering for volunteers and officials at the 1996 National Life Saving Championships in Townsville**
- **Providing catering for volunteers and officials at the 2001 Noosa National Life Saving Championships**
- **Catering to numerous meetings, conferences and workshops**

Congratulations Sue in obtaining Life Membership in Royal Life Saving Society Queensland.

New Board Member: Mr Russell Green

Every year a number of members of the board of directors retire and members are able to nominate and elect replacement board members. This year a new board member, Mr Russell Green has been elected to the board replacing Mr Sean Kelly.

Russell has 16 years' experience as a local Councillor, he is widely respected by government and community groups and have an outstanding reputation providing technical advice, advocacy and support for planning, development, tourism, events and other major projects. Russell is passionate about delivering sustainable outcomes for businesses and communities while managing growth of well-designed urban facilities, and ensuring protection of environmental assets.

As Councillor, he chaired the planning portfolios for local councils and sat on several state-wide planning committees and boards. He now runs RG Strategic to provide organisations with support and guidance to achieve diverse development, tourism, major event, and other strategic and business focused outcomes. Russell has extensive experience working with small to medium sized business as well as large multi-national corporations in Australia and internationally.

He has been sought after as a conference speaker presenting recently at the Queensland Planning Institute of Australia State Conference on Engaging with Elected Officials and the Creativity and Innovation Conference in Townsville where he presented on the Lost Opportunities in Social Connection through poor Land Use and Urban Planning.

Russell has proven experience in both strategic and operational planning with an understanding of budgeting, financial management and experience assessing economic benefit, commercial viability and ROI for major events and development projects.

Russell is a member of the Planning Institute of Australia and recently was recognised for his significant contributions to planning by being announced runner up in the category of Planning Champion at the National Planning Awards.

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