

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020



President: Mr Les Mole
Deputy President: Mr Rod Welford
Secretary: Mrs Carolyn Asher

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Treasurer: Mr Stephen Kay
Directors: Mr Colin Harris, Mr Russell Green
& Mr James McClelland

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 2019/2020 summer is almost over, however it will be solemnly remembered as one of the most catastrophic for our island nation.

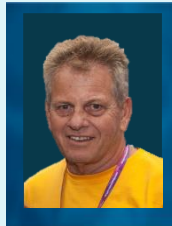
Bushfires have scared millions of hectares of land, destroyed thousands of properties, and taken many innocent lives.

Since August, thirty-two (32) lives have been lost in the inferno, including three members of an American firefighting crew, who were killed when a C130 air tanker crashed to the west of Cooma, on Thursday 23 January 2020.

During that week, the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia released another staggering statistic. The summer national drowning toll had reached fifty-eight (58). This extraordinary record of loss of community life, by accidental death by drowning, was beyond belief. Still some areas of the state are experiencing drought, and now the coronavirus is making its mark on the community. Seems as though we are living from one tragedy to the next.

Amongst all of this, I really do hope that the year ahead provides moments of joy and happiness for all of our members, as we continue to strive to get the great programs of the Royal Life Saving Society to all Queensland communities.

My best wishes to all.
Les Mole



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The training and aquatic industry is challenged by change, with more change impacting the industry over the last twelve months, than has probably occurred over the preceding ten years. The main changes that are impacting us including at the present time are:

The [Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation](#) with a new Aquatic Supervision guideline which has had significant change to the former guideline. The Low Patronage policy has been removed with all aquatic facility's now required to prepare a Supervision Plan. At our Aquafutures conference (August 2019) we provided an [example supervision plan](#). The feedback from most operators that have prepared a plan, tell us that considerable work is involved and it seems to take two weeks to prepare an initial plan.

Queensland Health have issued a revised [Water Quality Guidelines for Public Aquatic Facilities](#). The purpose of this guideline is to reduce risk to public health and the focus is on water quality associated risks. Following the release of this guideline, Royal Life Saving has released a [Position Statement](#) in respect to operator training and operators of high risk aquatic centre are strongly advised to hold a [Cert IV in Swimming Pool & Spa Service \(CPP41319\)](#). This course is by no means a small or simple course and will take most participants six months to fully complete. Royal Life Saving has the first course commencing on Monday 20 April 2020.

Australia Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) have issued two important documents:

- A [Direction on Third Party Arrangements](#): This has caused us to look at our operating model for trainers as some of our processes may no longer comply with the direction. This is primarily in respect to registration of participants for courses and payment for courses.
- A [Fact sheet on Marketing](#) which impacts all trainers and how trainers communicate with students. We subsequently issued a [Guideline for Trainers](#) to assist trainers comply with the ASQA requirements.

Lastly a number of units of competence are being revised and updated. The main changes for Royal Life Saving are:

- Low Voltage Rescue Unit of Competence has been re-issued to a new unit (UETDRRF06 Perform Rescue from a Live LV Panel).
- All health units (i.e. CPR & First Aid) are about to be re-issued with some minor changes. All units in the health package will have new unit codes.
- The Oxygen Units (PUAEME001B Provide Emergency Care and PUAEME003C Administer Oxygen in an Emergency Situation) are being reissued and include training for Suction Device which will be rolled out very soon. The Pool Lifeguard Re-accreditation will be amended to a Pool Lifeguard Update which will include the new units.

This year looks like it will be a very busy year for Royal Life Saving and the aquatic industry and the changes will bring challenges for us all. Royal Life Saving as a peak body will continue to support and lead the industry as we proceed through the changes so that we can work towards reducing drowning in Queensland.

Paul Barry
Executive Director



KEY DATES

18 February 2020
Final Trainers Workshop (6pm to 9pm)

29 March 2020
Club Beach Championships, Caloundra.

26 April 2020
Primary & Secondary School Pool Lifesaving Championships (To Be Confirmed)

22 August 2020
Pro-Am & QLD State Team Selection Trials

LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

2020 is a new year, a new decade and a new opportunity for us to deliver the important message of water safety across Queensland. In the first term of the year we will be delivering an eight week water safety education program to international students at Kedron State High School. This program will follow the Swim & Survive framework and focus on equipping students with important water safety and CPR knowledge and skills.

We have been fortunate enough to receive funding from the Department of Home Affairs to design and deliver our latest project, the Swimming for Integration series. This project has been specifically designed to target females and children and will aim to engage migrants in an aquatic program that will ensure they have the opportunity to integrate into the life of their local community. Across Queensland we will be running these programs in Townsville, Cairns and as a part of the Toowoomba Multicultural Youth Program and Women's Learn to Swim Program.

The Swimming for Integration series has a heavy focus on promotion of social wellbeing and inclusion in community life. This will be encouraged through the provision of Learn to Swim lessons and access to a variety of aquatic programs. The intention is for the local aquatic centre to become a focal point of social interaction which will in turn increase the access of migrants to community life. The series will also work to develop the cultural competency of the aquatic industry by creating awareness and understanding of the social and civic needs of migrants. In turn, educating the aquatic industry as to how they can meet and exceed these needs. Finally, the program should develop awareness and understanding within the settlement sector of the role that aquatics can undertake in integrating migrants into Australian life.

The diverse and encompassing goals of the program have encouraged us to select a range of strategies. Specialised swimming lessons will be offered by a qualified Swimming and Water Safety Instructor.



These lessons will focus specifically on adult women and young people, the target group of the project. A total of 10 lessons will be offered to each participant, as well as allocated recreation and practice time. At the finish of the program, a graduation event will be conducted with family and friends.

We will also be delivering the Move It Australia program over 10 weeks in Townsville. This program will target inexperienced swimmers of all ages by giving them the opportunity to learn and practice skills that will enable them to safely participate in a range of physical activities. Finally, Uncle Tobys has generously funded the Swim My Way program to run in Rockhampton. The short intensive program has been designed to engage children in the broader community in learning and practicing water safety skills.

Accompanying these major projects will be a range of smaller projects across the state. We have an exciting year ahead of us and are looking forward to the immense and positive impact that we will be able to have on our community.

Kate Forrester
Projects & Operations Manager

QUEENSLAND STATE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The [Queensland State President's Award](#) is a new Award that has been developed to recognise exceptional contributions or service by organisations for continued and sustained significant contributions or service to the activities or operations of the Society. This award is not available to individuals.

Details of the contribution or service made to the Society must be provided on a suitable [nomination form](#) (bullet points are acceptable). This honour may be awarded more than once to organisations that maintain the required level of contribution or service to the Society. Please lodge your nominations by 15 March 2020.

CALLING FOR HONOURS NOMINATIONS

Royal Life Saving Society Australia is committed to recognising the efforts of dedicated members, volunteers and outstanding members of the community who attempt to save the lives of others by volunteer service, carrying out rescues or performing CPR.

Information regarding the criteria for each award can be found [here](#) and nomination forms below. Further information can be found on our website.

[Australian Honours](#)
[Commonwealth Bravery](#)

[Commonwealth Honours](#)
[Commonwealth Service](#)

We are now accepting nominations for Honours and Awards. Nominations should be sent to admin@rlssq.com.au . Please note that nominations close on Sunday 15 March at 5:00pm.



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Each month we recognise an employee for their continued outstanding work and efforts to reach and exceed our core values of safety, respect, integrity and teamwork.

December

For the month of December our employee of the month is Ben Jimmieson – Projects Officer and Administration Officer.



January

For the month of January our employee of the month is Adam McMillan – Lifeguard Supervisor.



Nominate

We highly value your feedback on our employees. If you believe an employee has given you exceptional service or is deserving of recognition of their continued work in the Society, please contact us on (07) 3823 2823 during regular business hours. Alternatively, please fill out the Online Nomination which can be found at the following [link](#).

TRAINING UPDATE

Position Statement: Pool Plant Operator Training

With the release of the [Water Quality Guidelines for Public Aquatic Facilities](#) by the [Queensland Government](#), we have released a [Position Statement](#) to outline the qualifications that pool plant operators should gain to remain adherent to the risk level of their facility.



This statement can be found using the QR code below.

If after reading this statement you have any questions or believe that you require further training, please do not hesitate to contact us by:

- Calling (07) 3823 2823 during normal business hours
- Emailing us at admin@rlssq.com.au

Marketing by Trainers

We have recently released a [Guideline](#) for trainers and assessors that outlines how marketing should be completed to remain compliant with Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) Fact Sheet. This guideline can be found using the following QR code.



Cert IV in Swimming Pool & Spa Service

The course, CPP41319 Certificate IV in Swimming Pool and Spa Service, will be run from Monday 20 April 2020 to Friday 1 May 2020 at The Plantation - 1204 New Cleveland Road, Gumdale QLD.

The course will cost \$3,200.00 (including GST).

In relation to our Position Statement: Pool Plant Operator Training, our position is that staff working in high and medium risk facilities should complete this course by 31 December 2020. These Include:

- Learn-to-swim pools
- Artificial lagoons with unrestricted access
- Interactive water features
- Water slides
- Pools used by incontinent people
- Wading pools
- Program pools
- Spas
- Interactive water features
- Water slides
- Wading pools
- Program pools
- Spas
- 25M & 50M pools
- Gym pools
- Holidays Park pools
- Hydrotherapy pools
- School pools
- Resort pools
- Motel pools
- Theme park wave pools

To enrol, please download and complete the [Form](#) using the QR code below.



Course Outlines

We have recently released updated versions of our [Course Outlines](#). This can be found using the QR code.



POOL LIFESAVING SPORT

We are now calling nominations for:

- State Team Coach
- State Team Manager

These individuals will develop and lead a team of young athletes to the Australian Pool Life Saving Championships which will be held at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra in January 2021.

Successful individuals will be provided with:

- Flights
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Reasonable cost reimbursement

If you are interested in either of these volunteer positions and wish to discover more information, this can be found using the following [link](#) or QR code.

To apply for either of these roles please contact the Executive Director, Paul Barry in regular office hours on (07) 3823 2823. Alternatively he can be emailed on paulbarry@rlssq.com.au.



Update to Trainers and Third Party Agreements

As you will be all aware from 1 January 2020 we have commenced [new processes](#) regarding classification and operations of trainers. We have been running Trainers Workshops to explain the changes and the reasons for our changes to all affected.

If you have not attended a workshop yet, our final workshop will be held on 18 February from 6pm to 9pm. If you have not attended a workshop then this is your final opportunity. If you cannot attend in person you can be arranged to Skype in. If you would like to select this option please contact us so that this can be arranged.

By now you should have received information regarding the changes and have read this information to understand how it will affect you.

If you have any questions please read the relevant documentation in the Trainers Area on www.rlssq.com.au. If you still have queries, please do not hesitate to call (07) 3823 2823 in regular office hours and our friendly administration staff will be happy to assist you.

PROJECTS UPDATE

The Spring and Summer period has seen our projects team busy delivering projects all over Queensland. We have been able to reach hundreds of people across the state, have been asked to revisit several of our projects in the coming year and have received some fantastic feedback along the way.

Mount Cotton State School

Mount Cotton State School is a primary school that operates in the centre of a rural community. Over the last school term our projects team travelled to Mount Cotton every Friday to deliver water safety and survival skill sessions to year 4, 5 and 6 students. Our delivery was highly praised by teachers and students. We have been fortunate enough to be asked to return in 2020 and are currently arranging dates with this school. We hope to form an ongoing partnership with this school to enable a continued community education link.



Kedron State High School

Kedron State High School is a secondary school which operates an International Student Program in conjunction with Education Queensland International. This program caters for between 45 and 50 students from all over the world. In addition to this, the school has many students who speak English as a second language.

Royal Life Saving Queensland collaborated with the school to develop a sustainable and flexible program which meets the diverse needs of the student group. This program was focused on water awareness, water safety education and survival skills. It entailed pool sessions, open water sessions, a water safety ambassador visit to the school and PD sessions for the teachers who were a part of assisting the delivery of the sessions. We have received positive reviews from Kedron State High School regarding the delivery of this project and have been asked to return in 2020.



Redcliffe Special School

Redcliffe Special School is a secondary school which provides education to students with a suspected or verified disability. Students have a primary intellectual impairment but may also have secondary disabilities such as a physical, hearing or vision impairment.

In December we completed a water safety education day at Redcliffe Special School. On this day we were able to speak to the entire school across three sessions. We took on an interactive approach with students, asking them to point out dangers that they may see at creeks, rivers, pool, beaches and lagoons and then getting them to tell us how they would stay safe at these places. While students loved getting to tell us how they apply water safety, their favourite part of the session was by far getting to meet a Lifeguard. It was fabulous to see the smiling faces of the children and engagement in the sessions.

We have also been working with Redcliffe Special School to create a program which caters to the diverse needs of their students. This program will commence in 2020 and we are excited at the opportunities it holds for the students involved.



ROMA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

On Saturday 21 September 2019, Royal Life Saving partnered with AUSTSWIM to deliver a professional development workshop in Roma. Explaining the opportunities surrounding Swim & Survive, the Junior Lifeguard program, Rescue awards and e-Lifesaving, attendees were enlightened on numerous potential areas of growth to their current programs. The Keep Watch, Respect the River and Don't Let Your Mates Drink and Drown campaigns were also all delivered successfully, enhancing the education of aquatic industry leaders in our rural communities.

NATIONAL AQUATIC INDUSTRY WORKFORCE PROFILE

The National Aquatic Industry Workforce Profile was published by Royal Life Saving in late December 2019. Highlighting key statistics from data collected in the National Aquatic Industry Workforce survey, the document provided a deeper insight into the current makeup of the aquatic industry and how this industry could potentially grow and develop in the coming years.



Currently, the industry is estimated to involve 67,000 workers, with 73% of this population being female. Generally, members of the workforce were found to work casually throughout the year, with many having a second job or completing study simultaneously. A highlight of the profile was the consensus that most workers valued their role due to the knowledge of the positive impact that it has on the lives of the greater community.

If you would like more information about the [National Aquatic Industry Workforce Profile](#), please use the QR code.



SWIM READY

As we age, we become more susceptible to a range of chronic medical conditions including heart diseases, diabetes, mental health and dementia. This increases the likelihood that we require prescription medications to handle our conditions. However, as we age our bodies also begin to process these medications differently which can alter the impacts, both positive and negative, that they have on our body. Further, with more than one condition we may require more than one medication which can lead to multiple drugs interacting and affecting each other.



Extensive research into the drowning data from 2008 to 2018 suggested a correlation between unintentional fatal drownings in the older population and the use of medications or drugs. [Swim Ready](#) aims to educate the older population on how use of medication can increase their risk of drowning.

The Royal Life Saving Society Queensland has actively been involved in spreading the [Swim Ready](#) key messages through a number of platforms. This has included interview for Channel 7 which we hope that you were able to view.



SUMMER DROWNING TOLL

As Summer approaches and the temperature climbs, the appeal of our pools, beautiful beaches, rivers and dams greatly increases. With increased swimming over this Summer period, this can often be the time of the year with the most drowning-related devastation.

How are these drowning deaths distributed across Australia?

ACT - 0 (0%)	SA - 3 (6%)
NSW - 25 (47%)	TAS - 1 (2%)
NT - 1 (2%)	VIC - 9 (17%)
QLD - 8 (15%)	WA - 6 (11%)

In the 2018-2019 summer period, 94 drowning deaths were recorded across Australia. As of February 4 2020, the Royal Life Saving Summer Drowning Toll currently sits at 53, with 89% of these deaths being male. We are pleased to see a decrease in this number compared to that of last year. However, our hearts go out to the families, friends and communities who have lost loved ones over this time. We encourage everyone that is swimming or taking part in water activities over the rest of the Summer to stay safe and heed to the messages of our current campaigns.

MAKE THE RIGHT CALL

Royal Life Saving with the Australian Government has launched the 'Make the Right Call' campaign for summer. This campaign aims to target susceptible demographics by giving the simple message to "Make the Right Call". 40% of all drownings occur in inland waterways. Of these, 80% of deaths are male, and 32% involve alcohol. Over the past ten years, 2,855 people have lost their lives to drowning and many more non-fatal drownings have occurred.

We are asking the public to "Make the Right Call" and remember these messages:

- Avoid alcohol around water
- Wear a lifejacket (when boating or on watercraft)
- Never swim alone



SWIM & SURVIVE

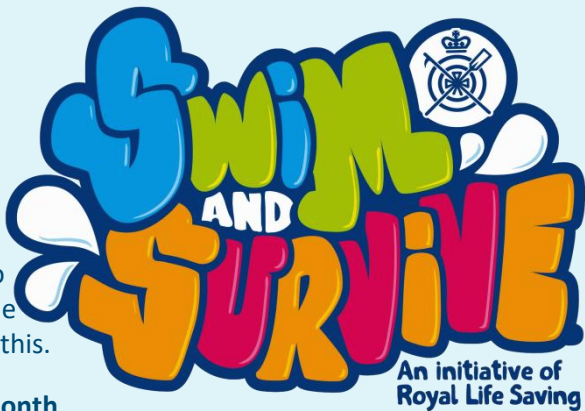
Swim and Survive

Swim and Survive is the only youth swimming and survival program mapped to the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework. Queensland teachers can register to deliver this program. We can provide the programs and certificates to do this.

Swim and Survive Partner of the Month

As a new 2020 initiative we will be awarding programs that complete excellent community work and show outstanding commitment to our values with recognition as Swim and Survive Partner of the Month.

We will be accepting nominations at swimandsurvive@rlssq.com.au so if you feel you know a program that deserves some recognition, please do not hesitate to contact us at the earliest date. Help us share the positive stories of water safety that are happening in your community!



Swim and Survive PD Sessions

Royal Life Saving Society Queensland are offering Swim and Survive PD sessions. We will send a trainer out to your school to cover the material and skills needed to provide the Swim and Survive program. There must be a minimum of 3 people.

If you wish to book or find out more information please email swimandsurvive@rlssq.com.au.

VACANT POSITIONS

We currently have a number of [Vacant Positions](#). These have been listed below for your ease of viewing. If you would like to apply for either of these roles, please complete the expression of interest by using the QR code.



Lifeguard (Casual) Settlement Cove Lagoon, Redcliffe

We are looking for a casual Lifeguard to work at Settlement Cove Lagoon. Some staff supervision may be required. Lifeguards who have worked in a lagoon environment will be well regarded.

Training Officer (Casual) Northside and Southside Locations

We are looking for trainers to join our professional training team and help us deliver quality training. We are seeking casual trainers for immediate start.



USEFUL LINKS

Life Saving Training Website
www.lifesavingtraining.com.au

Learner Portal
admin.axcelerate.com.au/learnerPortal

Life Saving Shop
www.lifesavingshop.com.au

Guideline for Safe Pool Operation (GSPO)
www.guidelines.royallifesaving.com.au



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Royal Life Saving Society Queensland Inc
ABN 60 478 008 791
RTO 5431
T: 07 3823 2823
E: admin@rlssq.com.au

CONNECT WITH US

- facebook.com/RLSSQ/
- youtube.com/RoyalLifeSavingAust
- twitter.com/RoyalLifeSaving
- rlssq.com.au lifesavingtraining.com.au