

Kicking Back 2008



Edition 1 February 2008

Proudly brought to you by
the NT Branch Inc

Executive Directors Report

Congratulations to the NT Pool Life Saving Team who competed at the Australian Pool Life Saving championships in Caboolture, 17th -20th January 2008. Thanks to Alister Lear, coach, and Kim Clark, team manager, who contributed to individual and team success.

A highlight of 2007 was the continuation of the Northern Territory Government funded Water Safety Awareness Program, W.S.A.P. The Acting Minister for Local Government, Kon Vatskalis, officially announced the Government's ongoing support of the program at the Nightcliff Aquatic centre on the 28th December 2007. The program has received recognition across Australia for both industry best practice and a pro-active approach to drowning prevention for toddlers.

The Remote Pools Project has been operating since 2005 and, under the leadership of Corrine Warhurst, pools in remote communities are creating a lifestyle difference for indigenous people. We all know Corrine as "Queenie" and I would like to share the email she sent me regarding her work goals for 2008

"My goal for 08 is that we become a community of pools in stead of a pool on a community. To achieve this I will be planning visits to each community, gathering as much information as I can regarding how I can service their needs whether this is via training, resources or joint service delivery. Where possible as a community of pools we can have mini swim carnivals and link into the NT Governments Shire Amalgamation plan. I want to reduce the National statistic that indigenous people are four times more likely to drown."

Our most valuable resource is our people and I am blessed with the best staff in the Northern Territory . These wonderful people are Aroha Jennings, Jill Dowd, Bec Pierce, Leah Cullen, Jacqui Dobson, Wayne Van Sambeek, Melz Johnson, Queenie Warhurst and Courtney Stephenson. Check out their profile www.nt.royallifesaving.com.au
I look forward to working with them to achieve the mission and vision of the society in 2008.

Mission: *To prevent loss of life and injury in the community with an emphasis on the aquatic environment.*

Vision: *To build healthy, happy and a safe aquatic community through access to water safety education and training.*

Sports Corner

2008 is going to be a fantastic year for Pool life Saving, with the year already off to a great start with the Pool Life Saving Nationals in Queensland. Northern Territory was represented by Alex Rofe, Denise Clark, Zoe Clark, Sarah Dowd, Jack Dowd, Amanda Riley, Clodagh McKechnie and Georgia McQueen.



Thank-you to Coach Alister Lear and Team Manager Kim Clark for their hard work over the past year; and their results show that this has paid off.



Congratulations to the whole team for the fantastic effort that you all put in over the competition days. For all the results check out our website.

Wednesday Night Life Saving will **recommence on the 6th Feb** at Casuarina pool at 6pm. Don't forget to make sure your membership is up to date and we will also have 10 visit cards on sale for \$25.00, these can be purchase from Jill at the pool.

Australia Day Carnival



“Have a Go” Australia Day Swimming and Life Saving Carnival was held at the Casuarina Swimming Pool. Over 40 kids participated in the 4 events over the afternoon. The 8 x 50 meter club fin relay challenge was won by Darwin Swimming Club, a big congratulations to them.



Water Safety Program

This year the Water Safety Program has had 87 new enrolments since the beginning of 2008. The program has now expanded with online enrolments which are done by logging onto the Water Safety Branch website and following the links. <http://www.watersafety.nt.gov.au>

The team for the Water Safety Program has been working hard to get more enrolments by being at the FREEPS (Free Entertainment in the Parks) which is run by Darwin City Council. FREEPS has really encouraged mums and dads to have their children take part in the Water Safety Program.

Training

RLSSA has just released a new series of resources for the Pool Lifeguard. The new manual was completed at the end of last year with the rest of the resources due to arrive this month.

The main changes that have come about are with suspected spinal injuries to make it much quicker for the lifeguards and the casualty as well as cutting down the number of hand signals to remember.

Our first of the new Pool Lifeguard course will start on the 29th of February and should prove to be an exciting time for all of our Pool Lifeguard trainers and candidates alike.

Remote Pools

It has been a very exciting 3 months for the Remote Pools Project including community visits, training and meeting lots of new people. Many more community visits are planned for the upcoming months and I look forward to coming to your community.

2008 will see the NT Government Local Government Shire Amalgamation become reality and this will put some of us all in the one shire. What an exciting thought. Where possible within our shires we can have swim carnivals and come together as community.

As Manager of this project I will be actively working with the new shires to make this happen. I know the new shire where I live (Jabiru) come 01.07.08 in my new shire will be 3 pools very exciting times ahead.

Community Visits

Maningrida



Ron is achieving amazing results across all areas of his facility including swim club, recreation swimming, aqua aerobics, and water safety with the child care centre and learns to swim in partnership with the school.



Ron has a Milo and Fruit incentive for his swim squad which donated by the local store, at the end of the swim session the kids have a cold Milo and a piece of fruit before going home. This is 100% due to Ron and I applaud Ron for such a great idea.

Melz and Bec traveled to Maningrida in November to deliver 3 programs, Bronze Medallion, Pool Life Saving and Swim and Survive. The community embraced the programs and it was a great success.

Santa Teresa

What a fantastic community just 90km from Alice Springs, the pool is a lovely 20 metre L shape. My visit to Santa Teresa included a Swim and Survive afternoon with the school children.

The teachers of Santa Teresa were most helpful and the children are great, the afternoon was a great success. Hopefully I can do it all again before the desert get cold.

Yuendumu

After many years of hard work and planning the community of Yuendumu is going to get their pool.

The plans are finished and the organizing committees are happy with the design and the facility plan, work on the pool is due to begin in April 2008. The first day of recreation swimming should be in June.

The Yuendumu pool teams has under gone training in Alice Springs and are finishing off training in March ready for June. Congratulations to Sue Low and her fantastic team. We are all looking forward to your opening day.

SantaTeresa



Maningrida



Water Safety Reminder:

Please remember to always watch your children in and around all water sources, these include dog water bowls, inflatable pools and bathtubs, Please remember to Keep Watch.

Swim and Survive

2008 kicked off with the RLSSA NT Branch's Vacation Swim Program held at Casuarina Pool from 14th Jan – 25th January. We trialed a new format this year with 2 hour classes for our higher levels, 1 hour for our beginners with a total of 45 participants. This year we also had specialized classes to suit, which included a special needs class instructed by Lisa Bush, holder of Teacher of Aquatics to People with Disabilities AUSTSWIM Extension Certificate and Volunteer assistant Jann Goodworth. Thank you to all who produced another excellent program.



Lisa, Jann, Igen and Omri



Sarah and Jess's group



Cliffs group

The Melaleuca Refugee Centre attended swimming and water safety lessons with 48 participants from a variety of backgrounds. This program was made possible by the huge effort put in from Matthew Bakunowicz from Dept. of Sport and Recreation, Shaan Myall from Water Safety Branch, Savanna Holloway from Newly Arrived Youth Support Services and the 3 dedicated Instructors from Royal Life Saving.

Sunday lifesaving starts 24th February at Nightcliff Pool, enrolment forms available now. Infant classes will also be on offer on these Sunday mornings, however spots are limited so please register your interest by contacting the RLSSA Branch for your enrollment form.

Another important date for your diaries is Friday 15th February where an instructor In-service will be held at Nightcliff Aquatic Centre. All available AUSTSWIM teachers are invited to attend. A time to meet and plan another exciting season of Swim and Survive.

See you then, Jacqui Dobson.

January Snapshots



Melalueca Refugees having fun at Casuarina pool.



Australia Day Carnival, Boof and the Pool Life Saving kids.