

INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION

Gemeenteplein 26 - 3010 Leuven - Belgium
Tel: (32.16) 35.35.00 - Fax: (32.16) 35.01.02
E-mail: ils.hq@pandora.be
Web: <http://www.ilsf.org>

ILS NEWS



2004/03

Introduction

The count down had started. We are only 13 weeks away from our next Rescue Series, when the ILS family will move towards Italy for the ILS meetings and competitions.

The Principe di Piemonte Congress Centre and adjacent plaza will be the central place: the conference, meetings, accreditation centre, shop, lifesaving village, lifesaving night club, cocktail bar, etc... are all within 100 m walking distance.

Viareggio is dressing up for ILS

The 2004 ILS Lifesaving World Championships will be held in the beautiful and sunny city of Viareggio at the coast of Tuscany. The city is dressing up to welcome ILS.



Viareggio - the place to be

The city of Viareggio and its adjacent cities have ample hotel accommodation at the most diversified rates. The ILS Board of Directors will be accommodated in the Principe di Piemonte Hotel and the ILS Delegates in other 4 star hotels.

Pool events

The Italian Federation informed ILS that the environmentalists of Viareggio as well as the concession holders did not approve the construction of a temporary pool on the beach. Consequently the Italian Federation was forced to move the pool events to the 50 m Olympic Swimming pool of Livorno. The ILS Secretary General and the ILS Sports Commission Secretary inspected the pool, which fully complies with the ILS technical requirements. Livorno is at 45 minutes drive from central Viareggio.

Places to visit

While being in Viareggio it is a must to visit the following places:

In Viareggio

- Harbour of Viareggio: place where most luxury yachts are built.
- Lake of Viareggio: the Puccini Centre.
- Carnival City: Major halls where the Carnival are constructed.

In Tuscany

- Pisa (15 km): famous for its inclining tower.
- Carrara (30 km): the most beautiful marble of the world.
- Vinci: the birth city of Leonardo da Vinci.

In the south

- Rome (350 km): unique city with over 300 places to visit.
- Vatican City: the capital of the Christians and seat of the Pope.
- Naples (450 km): located between the sea and the Vesuvius Volcano with unique breathtaking views.
- Pompeii: the legendary city that was destroyed by the eruption of the Vesuvius.

In the north

- Turin: the host city of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.
- Milan: the heart of the business of the North.
- Modena: Ferrari City.

Book Fast

We advise all participants to book fast, reduced hotel rates can only be guaranteed until 30 June 2004.

Learn Italian

Yes, the city is dressing up to welcome ILS and the lifesavers worldwide. Some 1,500 people have already settled their accommodation and more are to come. It is also time to start learning some Italian. Ciao!

IOC recognition for Lifesaving



The ILS Secretary General attended the meetings of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) and International Olympic Committee (IOC) held in Lausanne (Switzerland) from 14 to 20 May. Besides these meetings, he also

participated in the meetings of the Association of IOC Recognised Sports Federations (ARISF) and the International World Games Association (IWGA) the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF).

At the occasion he met with Jacques Rogge (IOC President) as well as with Kelly Fairweather (new IOC Sports Director), Gilbert Felli (previous Sports Director and now Olympic Games Co-ordinator), Ron Fröhlich (IWGA President and member of the programme commission) and Phill Coles (IOC Member).

The International Olympic Committee informed us that ILS complies with all the current criteria, enabling the Executive Board of the IOC to propose to the IOC Session (which is the IOC General Assembly) which will convene in August 2004 (before the Athens Olympic Games), to confirm our status as a Recognised Federation.

Congratulations to all that actively participated in the lobby work.

For all those lifesaving organisations that are not yet recognised by their National Olympic Committee, we urge you to start the procedure as soon as possible.

ILS in Figures

The International Life Saving Federation (ILS) was constituted in 1994 by an amalgamation of the Fédération Internationale de Sauvetage Aquatique (FIS) founded in 1910 on the one hand and the World Life Saving (WLS) founded in 1974 on the other hand.

Facts and figures

Number of countries member: 131 (from which 42 % are affiliated to a National Olympic Committee).

Number of organisations member: 143.

Number of clubs: 34,320.

Number of Individual members: 33,004,621.

Number of members practising lifesaving sports: 883,175

Membership

ILS is member of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), of the Association of IOC Recognised Sports Federations (ARISF), of the International World Games Association (IWGA), of the World Health Organisation (IWHO), etc...

Commitments

ILS strives for a drug free sport; ILS signed the World Anti-Doping Code and implements the recommendations of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

ILS signed the Brighton Declaration for Women Equality and ILS respects the Windhoek and Montreal declarations.

Competitions

Over 850,000 people practise lifesaving sports, from which some 400 people with a professional status. ILS and its members organise over 2,000 competitions each year, from which the national championships from Australia attract over 8,000 competitors. Every two years ILS organises its World Championships with between 4,500 to 5,000 participants. Lifesaving competitions are gender equal and receive both equal media attention.

Members per IOC continent

Member countries from Africa: 26

Algeria, Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Member countries from the America's: 24

Antigua, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grand Cayman Islands, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, St-Kitts & Nevis, St-Lucia, St-Vincent, Surinam, Trinidad & Tobago, United States, USA - Red Cross, USA – YMCA, Venezuela.

Member countries from Asia: 26

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Hong Kong – China, India (Rashtrya), India, (Lifesaving), Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea Republic, Kuwait, Macau – China, Malaysia, Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria (Swimming), Syria (Diving), Taiwan (National), Taiwan (Surf), Thailand, United Arab Emirates.

Member countries from Oceania: 13

Australia (Royal), Australia (Surf), Cook Islands (NZL), Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand (Royal), New Zealand (Surf), New Zealand (Water Safety), Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

Member countries from Europe: 42

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece (Red Cross), Greece (HLA), Greece (ENAK), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Netherlands (KNBRD), Netherlands (KMRD), Norway, Poland, Portugal (ISN), Portugal (Asnasa), Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey (National), Turkey (Diving), Ukraine,

United Kingdom (Royal), United Kingdom (Surf), Yugoslavia.

For more info about ILS: www.ilsf.org

Rescue 2006 on the move

Rescue 2006 will be organised in in the State of Victoria, located in the South of Australia just above the Island of Tasmania. Melbourne is the capital city.



Melbourne is very well known for its excellent organisation of sports events. Each year Melbourne is the host of the F1 Grand Prix and the Tennis Tournament. Melbourne was also selected to organise the 2002 Masters Games with over 20,000 participants and will organise the 2006 Commonwealth Games several weeks before Rescue 2006 will be held.

On the invitation of Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA), the ILS President and Secretary General made an on-site inspection visit to Melbourne, Geelong and Lorne. They were given a complete briefing and update on the organisation of the 2006 Lifesaving World Championships.

The delegation first met in Kurrawa Beach (Queensland) with the Members of the Rescue 2006 Board of Directors. Ron Ranking, President of SLSA and of the 2006 Board welcomed the President and Secretary General to the inspection visit and was happy to confirm that the Rescue 2006 has appointed Nick Jordan as the Event Manager of Rescue 2006. He can be reached at: nick.jordan@rescue2006.com.

After travelling to Melbourne the delegation was welcomed by Mike Martin (President of Surf Life Saving Victoria) and Norman Farmer (CEO RLSS Victoria).

On 23 and 24 March, visits to Lorne and Geelong were planned. Nigel Taylor (CEO SLS Victoria) and Nick Jordan organised these visits which included on-site visits to the beach venue, the accommodations in Lorne, the surroundings, the pool in Geelong, the accommodation in Geelong and the beach in Geelong.

In Geelong the delegation met with the Municipality and the Tourism Board. In Melbourne, they met with Peter Abraam (CEO Victoria Major Events Company) and his team.

Conclusions of the ILS President and Secretary General:

- The Victoria Major Events Company is very much supportive.
- Geelong will construct a new 50 m swimming pool besides the existing 50 m pool.
- The main hotels are very satisfactory.
- The Beach in Lorne is superb and the surroundings are ideal for the organisation of the World Championships.

ILS meets with International Signage Organisation (ISO)

Rick Wright, Chair of the ILS Rescue and Education Commission reported that the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) Working Group on Signage approved a large number of the ILS General Water Safety Signs, which are included on the Rescue and Education short list. These Standards were approved by the Board of Directors on 20 February 2004.

These international standards have been developed by the International Lifesaving Federation by adopting and adapting the 'best practise' exercised by member federations from throughout the world.

The following flags approved were:

- Red/yellow, (halved red over yellow): The area is protected by lifeguards.



These flags may be used in pairs spaced apart to indicate a designated area or zone along a beach or waterfront that is most closely supervised or patrolled by qualified lifeguards, and where swimming and/or body surfing is permitted.

These flags may be used singly to indicate that swimming is permitted in front of the area where the flag is flown and that the area is under the supervision of a qualified person.

- Yellow: Medium hazard. Moderate surf and/or currents are present. Weak swimmers are discouraged from entering the water. For others, enhanced care and caution should be exercised.
- Red: High hazard. Rough conditions such as strong surf and/or currents are present. All swimmers are discouraged from entering the water. Those entering the water should take great care.
- Quartered (black/white): These flags may be used in pairs spaced apart to indicate a designated area or zone along a beach or waterfront that is used by those with surfboards and other non-powered watercraft.
- Orange windsock: This cone shaped device is used to indicate the direction of offshore winds and to show that it is unsafe for inflatable objects to be used in the water.

ILS managed to get the red and white quartered flag approved to indicate Sharks etc.

The ILS flags were also approved, with the exception of the 'Red over Red' and the 'Purple' for marine pests, the Yellow with Black Ball.

International standardisation of beach safety flags can be expected to greatly improve understanding of water users with respect to beach conditions and rules, particularly when visiting countries other than their own. It will reduce language barriers. This standardisation can therefore be expected to reduce the likelihood of death and injury, furthering the primary goal of ILS: world water safety ©.

The meeting with ISO was ground breaking, as this field was totally new to ISO and through the persistence of ILS it has finally paid off.

The Working group has planned a meeting in Viareggio, Italy from 8-10th September prior to ILS meetings. This meeting will further discuss water safety signage and confirm the words and guidelines for signs and flag use etc and start the long process of getting the world standard in place, which will take about 18 months for full approval and sign off by ISO countries and publication.

News from our members

2007 confirmed as Year of the Surf Lifesaver



Surf Life Saving Australia has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that 2007 will be known as the Year of the Surf Lifesaver, and that funding will be provided to ensure a lasting legacy for all Australians in the form of safer beaches.

The Government confirmed funding over three years to assist Surf Life Saving around Australia mark the centenary of the formation of the first surf lifesaving association – the Surf Bathing Association of New South Wales in 1907.

Ron Rankin AM, President of Surf Life Saving Australia, said the Government's announcement meant that work can now start planning for a fitting commemoration to the Australian surf lifesaving movement, already responsible for almost half a million rescues since 1907.

As well as celebrating Surf Life Saving's rich history, we will use the platform provided by the Year of the Surf Lifesaver to ensure our services to the community remain relevant as we move into our second century, Mr Rankin said.

We look to 2007 as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to attract new members, improve the long-term financial viability of our clubs, and consequently provide safer beaches for the community.

This announcement is yet further demonstration of the Federal Government's strong support for the surf lifesaving movement and we look forward to working closely with the Government and our other partners as we move towards 2007.

The audience for our message in 2007 will be all Australians, not only people living in coastal communities, as the image of the surf lifesaver and our motto – Vigilance and Service - has come to represent much of what is good about this country.

Speaking after the Budget was handed down, Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator the Hon Rod Kemp said surf lifesavers are a national icon and intrinsic to the Australian identity.

SLSA is one of the largest volunteer organisations in the world and these volunteers have been on our beaches, keeping swimmers and beach-goers safe for nearly 100 years, Senator Kemp said.

While full details of planned commemorations are yet to be finalized, they include international lifesaving conferences, an authoritative history of the movement, coins, stamps and community events.

The Federal Budget also confirmed ongoing funding to Surf Life Saving Australia through the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DoCITA) and the Australian Sports Commission, making the Federal Government one of SLSA's largest partners.

Lifeguards receive Russell Medal

The Russell Medal is awarded to a young person (18 years or younger) who, during the previous year carried out the most outstanding resuscitation or attempted rescue throughout the Commonwealth.



The Patron of the Medal, John Russell flew to New Zealand to present the medals to Michael Collins and Tracey Metekingi, two young lifeguards from Wanganui, New Zealand at a special ceremony hosted by Mr. Chas Poynter, Mayor of Wanganui, on Friday 5 December 2003. On 25 January 2002 Michael Collins 18 years and Tracey Metekingi 15 years were on lifeguard duty at Castlecliff Beach, Wanganui when they were alerted by a man on a quad bike who raised the alarm of a man collapsed further along the beach.

The two young lifeguards quickly launched the inflatable rubber boat and went to investigate. Two further lifeguards, Phil Gilmore and Riki Mitchell followed in the Club's patrol vehicle. Someway along the Beach, Michael and Tracey came upon Bruce Raupita aged 43 years who had fallen off a surf ski and was unconscious. The two lifeguards immediately commenced CPR. The patrol vehicle arrived and summoned an ambulance. Michael returned to the patrol tower to retrieve the oxygen pack whilst Tracey continued to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. On Michael's return the oxygen equipment was assembled and he then recommenced cardiac compressions whilst Tracey used the bag mask.

When the Paramedics arrived they instructed Michael and Tracey to continue CPR and administer oxygen whilst Mr. Raupita was loaded

into the ambulance. Bruce Raupita survived for two days in Wanganui Base Hospital when despite the efforts of Michael and Tracey, Bruce sadly died.

Baltic Conference in Lithuania

With the aim to improve and develop lifesaving activities in the Baltic Area a Conference was organised in Nida/Lithuania from 23 to 25 April 2004.



The preparation and organisation was in the hand of the President of the Lithuanian Member Federation, Mr. Arunas Burksas. Beside five other delegates from Lithuania, the Presidents from Latvia, Dr. Imants Ostrovskis and from Poland, Mr. Jerzy Telak as well as Director Benno Lutz from Estonia participated and were accompanied by their experts.

A representative from the company Beiersdorf /NIVEA – Baltic Branch was present.

The company promised a support of water safety activities in the Baltic area. The meeting started with a reception and a press conference, where also the mayor of Nida was present. The main subjects were an introduction in the activities of ILS-Europe, reports from the delegates about their national situation and a possible cooperation in this areas of rescue service, lifesaving education and lifesaving sport.

Besides the programme the delegates visited the beach of Nida and the rescue- and safety facilities.

Swim across Australia finishes in Sydney

An 80,000 litre pool on the back of a truck complete with water, swimmers, a rhythm band and members of an Aboriginal youth group finished a 19 day trip across the



Nullabor promoting toddler water safety.

AGL Swim Across Australia is a unique event launched by Geraldton City Council to raise funds for Royal Life Saving Australia's toddler drowning prevention campaign, KEEP WATCH and local charities.

After departing Geraldton, in the Mid West of Western Australia on April 3, Swim Across Australia has travelled through towns in Western Australia, Southern Australia, Victoria, Australia Capital Territory and New South Wales, clocking up 6,500 kilometres to arrive at their final destination of Sydney.

Geraldton City Councillor Chris Gabelish came up with the idea of a mobile 7.5 metre swimming pool travelling across Australia while swimmers, secured in a harness, swim in the pool for the length of the journey.

The Swim has been made possible by the generosity of engineers, businesses and communities thinking outside the square and ensuring that in 2004 there are still mad Aussies, trying to put smiles on people's faces and raising awareness and money for something that they are passionate about - the prevention of toddler drownings, Mr Gabelish said.

Travelling with the truck was a 55 strong Swim Across Australia entourage, combining the youth band Cyclone, Indigenous Youth Council swimmers, support crew, medics and technicians. The team named the pool Kaitlin's Pool in memory of Kaitlin Gubanyi who drowned in a backyard pool five years ago. Kaitlin's father Mark Gubanyi is travelling with the truck for the duration of its journey.

Having finished its marathon journey, the pool will now be utilised in remote Aboriginal communities of Western Australia to teach young children aquatic skills.

Rip Current Education Programme in the USA

On 24 May 2004, the United States Lifesaving Association and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US) announced the commencement of a national rip current awareness programme at a press conference covered by CNN and other national media. Speaking at the kick-off event were USLA President B. Chris Brewster (also President for the Americas Region of ILS), NOAA administrator Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, PhD (ret.), and Sandee LaMotte, whose husband CNN founder Larry LaMotte drowned in a rip current in 2003. NOAA includes the National Weather Service and Sea Grant, a research branch of the US government.

USLA has determined that rip currents are the primary cause of over 80% of rescues from drowning at surf beaches. It is therefore postulated that rip currents are the primary cause of death in over 80% of drownings at surf beaches, in the absence of timely rescue. USLA has also estimated that over 100 people die each year due to rip currents in the United States only. This is more deaths than are attributed to lightning, hurricanes, or tornados. Rip currents are the greatest threat to safety at surf beaches in the US.

As a result of the collaboration, USLA and NOAA have developed a brochure for distribution to the public and a sign for posting at surf beaches. The artwork for each is being made available at no cost for use of any community or organisation that wishes to reproduce the materials. In this way, the cost to USLA and NOAA is minimal, but a consistent, joint message on rip currents is made available nationally.

The brochure and sign both include a new, simplified graphic of a rip current, as well as information on rip current avoidance and survival.



Some recommendations from the material:

- Swim near a lifeguard: The chance of drowning at a beach protected by lifeguards is 1 on 18 million.
- Learn to Swim.
- Check with lifeguards before swimming.
- If in doubt, don't go out.

The material also includes tips on identifying rip currents, how to survive rip currents, and how to help others.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has begun an effort to predict the weather conditions that may increase the likelihood of rip currents. Since NWS forecasts are used by news media, these rip current advisories are increasingly becoming a common feature of US television and newspaper reporting.

Artwork for the brochures and signs, which carry both the USLA and NOAA logos, can be found at:

<http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov/>

Drowning tragedy leads new safety guide



A six year campaign following a tragic multiple drowning at Gunnamatta Beach in Victoria (Australia) in 1998 has led to the release of a national guide, which will make Australia's

waterways safer through the standardisation of safety signage.

The Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Guide, jointly released by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia (RLSSA) and Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA), provides the most current water safety signage information and a framework for consistent delivery across the country.

It has been developed following an incident on 8 January 1998 in which four children drowned while swimming at an unpatrolled beach, in the mistaken belief that lifesavers and lifeguards were on duty at the time.

Derek Wilson, the father of Molly and Ben and the uncle of Catherine and Belinda, who all drowned on that day after being caught in a fierce rip, says that lack of signage was a contributing factor in this tragedy.

In a country where swimming and surfing is such an important part of our lifestyle, there is simply no excuse for inadequate water safety signage, he said. We all should be able to visit a beach, pool or other swimming spot anywhere in Australia and be able to tell what the beach or water conditions are, based on standard signage.

SLSA's National Lifesaving Services Manager, Peter Agnew, says there is a desperate need to standardise signage around the country and to eliminate the current hit and miss approach. The Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Guide has been developed through a series of trials and discussions with a broad range of interested parties, with the goal of helping to reduce the rates of injury and death in the water, he said.

The RLSSA's National Operations Manager, Justin Scarr, says the style guide provides best-practice design information for land managers and local government authorities to review and implement their own signage schemes. "The benefit to land managers and local councils will be in avoiding or limiting litigation and also providing stakeholders and the general public with a safer environment in and around waterways and pools, Mr Scarr said.

The guide was first published in Victoria, where extensive trials in a variety of waterways have

been completed over the past three years, leading to the consistent display of water safety signage along the Victorian coast.

11,000 Australian beaches documented

An ambitious project to visit each of Australia's 11,011 beaches and develop a standard map of their vital characteristics has been concluded, with the results soon to be made available to the public and to other organisations who depend on reliable information about the country's coastline.

It is the first time the coast of any continent has been documented to such an extent, and will significantly improve Surf Life Saving Australia's (SLSA's) understanding of the country's coastline and its ability to provide safety services.

SLSA's CEO, Greg Nance, said the Australian Beach Safety and Management Program (ABSAMP) which was undertaken in conjunction with Sydney University's Coastal Studies Unit, was one of a number of research projects currently underway which will make our beaches safer.

The sheer scope of the task to visit each beach in the country and document everything from its distance to the nearest town to its sand type has been quite daunting, however the information now forms the basic building block for delivery of improved beach safety services, he said.

The director of the project and the only man to have visited every beach in Australia, Professor Andrew Short from the University of Sydney, says the programme began in 1987 when Surf Life Saving New South Wales contacted the State government with a proposal to document each of the 721 beaches in that State.

Since then I have visited 1,488 beaches in the Northern Territory, 1,719 in Queensland, 1,788 in South Australia, 1,114 in Tasmania, 692 in Victoria and 3,489 in Western Australia, so I have seen the best and worst of them, he said.

The history and objectives of the ABSAMP project were outlined by SLSA at the Coast to Coast 2004 conference held in Tasmania.

As part of its efforts to build the most accurate picture of what is happening around the Australian coastline, SLSA also collects data on drownings and other incidents such as injuries, rescues and first aid.

Greg Nance says that the provision of accurate data will become even more important as demographic trends put further pressure on the country's coastal regions.

As increased numbers of people use our beaches and coastline, SLSA needs to be smarter about the way we collect and use information, and this program, part of our integrated Information Technology strategy, is one way we are doing this, he said.

The public will be able to view basic information such as the location of the beach, safety services and suitability for swimming, surfing and fishing later in the year with more detailed information available to interested organisations by subscription.

For further information, please contact:
Sean O'Connell, Communications Manager
Surf Life Saving Australia
Tel: 02.9130.7370
www.slsa.asn.au

ILS website

We would like to include all national and international events in the ILS calendar. Please forward the details to the ILS headquarters. Newsitems (including pictures) concerning lifesaving can also be mailed to ils.hq@pandora.be.

Newsletter compiled by
Dr. Harald Vervaecke - Secretary General
Sandra Harthoorn - Executive Assistant