

INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION

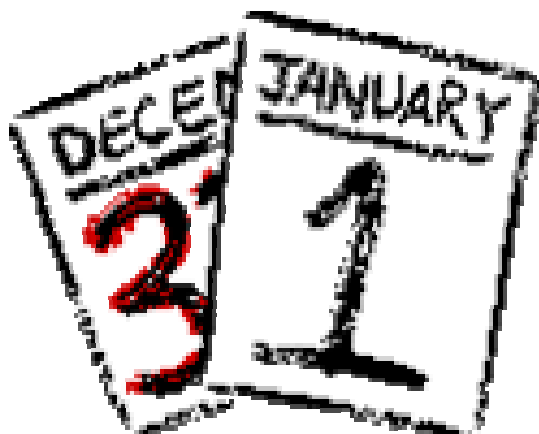
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ILS NEWS



2004/05

Happy New Year



The ILS President, Secretary General and staff wish all ILS members and lifesavers a happy and safe 2005.

We hope the coming year will bring a lot of friendship through lifesaving around the world.

NOC Support To The World Games 2005

Dr. Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee, follows up earlier correspondence to the 202 National Olympic Committees (NOC) with a letter calling for their support to the national delegations in "The World Games 2005 Duisburg".

"The World Games play an important role in the framework of the Olympic Movement, providing an invaluable opportunity for athletes from a variety of sports not currently on the program of the Games of the Olympiad to compete in their own elite multi-sport event and represent their countries as members of a national delegation," Rogge writes in the November 29 letter.

In the same letter, the IOC President acknowledges the many efforts made by NOCs already in providing The World Games with their support.

He refers to the multi-sports games history by pointing out that The World Games have enjoyed an exceptional development since their inception in 1981.

The "6th World Games 2001 Akita in particular were an outstanding success by every standard". "I am convinced that The 7th World Games 2005, with good collaboration between the International World Games Association (IWGA), the

2005 Duisburg organisers, the 3,000 athletes, and the National Olympic Committees involved, will again be a great success," Rogge expresses his optimism.

"I am confident that The World Games will continue to prosper and encourage all NOCs to support this important multi-sport event in Germany next year," Rogge concludes the letter.

IWGA President Ron Froehlich met with the IOC President on Monday, November 29, at the

Chateau de Vidy in Lausanne, Switzerland. Dr. Jacques Rogge confirmed that he will personally attend the Opening Ceremony of The World Games 2005 Duisburg.

The World Games 2005 Duisburg take place from July 14 through 24, feature 32 official and 6 invitational sports, and involve more than 4,000 athletes and officials from 100 nations.



Website: www.worldgames2005.de

Antidoping tests Rescue 2004

We have the honour and the pleasure of informing the ILS Membership that all the results of all doping control tests that were carried out at the World Lifesaving Championships, Rescue 2004, in Viareggio/Italy, were negative.

We sincerely thank the Italian Swimming Federation - Lifesaving Section for having conducted anti-doping tests in Viareggio and for having done their utmost that WADA procedures and regulations were followed.

Furthermore we thank the FIN-S for having taken care of the costs of all doping tests. Their collaboration is very much appreciated in the aim of ILS to have a drug free sporting environment.

We wish to thank you and to congratulate your competitors for their contribution to the positive image of the Lifesaving Sport. We are proud that they are part of the International Life Saving Federation and wish them all the best in their further sports career.

Italy takes home the 16th German Cup

From 18-20 November, two months after the World Championships in Italy, 250 athletes from 15 countries and 17 German teams met in Warendorf (Germany) to compete for the 16th International German Cup. This competition is considered to be one of the best competitions held in Europe each year. The competition was held over 3 days at the German Military school.

The women's individual ranking was won by Elena Prella closely followed by Marcella Prandi, both from Italy. Katja Popke from Germany took

the third place. Marcella Prandi (Italy) won the 100 meters saving a manikin with fins in a fantastic time of 0'57"50.



In the men's individual ranking the top 2 places were taken by the Germans Lutz Heimann and Sören Borch. Barjo van Niekerk from South Africa finished third. Already on the first day Lutz Heimann from Germany broke a world record in the event 200 m Superlifesaver in a fantastic time of 2'09"29.

In the last day of the competition it came to a close duel between Italy and Germany. The Italian Team took revenge for their defeat at Rescue 2004 and won the overall nation's classification, with Germany in second and Spain in third place.

News from our members

Australian Youth Ambassadors to Fiji and China

RLSS Australia have been successful in gaining two Australian Youth Ambassador positions. As a result two young Australian Lifesavers will be going one to Fiji and one to China to assist with the development of lifesaving there.

The Australian Youth Ambassador programme is an initiative of the Australian Commonwealth Government to place skilled young Australians, aged 18 - 30 years, on short term assignments of between 3 and 12 months in developing countries throughout the Asia Pacific Region.

Youth Ambassadors work with Australian organisations and their overseas counterparts in a broad range of areas that include health, environment, rural development, gender, governance, justice, education and infrastructure development.

ILS congratulates RLSS Australia on gaining these two placements.

During the past year RLSS Australia have also allocated some 300 manuals to China, Fiji, India and Vietnam.

USLA 40th Anniversary



The United States Lifesaving Association celebrated its 40th anniversary in Galveston, Texas with an appearance by Surgeon General Richard Carmona, MD (former lifeguard) and USLA's founding president, Bob Burnside. Carmona, himself a former beach lifeguard in Huntington Beach, California and on New York's Long Island, was presented an honorary membership by USLA President B. Chris Brewster. Brewster asked Carmona to try to have a USLA "Lifeguards for Life" bumper sticker affixed to Air Force One.

Carmona remarked on the positive influences life guarding had contributed to his life, particularly self-discipline and responsibility. He mentioned how much he enjoyed going to work each day as a lifeguard, reminiscing over many stories of his service. He suggested that lifeguards can serve as role models, both with respect to physical fitness and the values that stem from a commitment to serve as first responders to those in distress. A group of Galveston's junior lifeguards were in attendance, providing an example of how the positive influence of life guarding can extend across generations.

Burnside, a former Lifeguard Chief at Los Angeles County and inventor of the plastic Burnside buoy that has become an iconic tool of lifeguards, talked about the roots of the formation of USLA, which was begun as the Surf Life Saving Association in 1964. It was then composed of members of only a few California surf lifeguard agencies. Eventually though, after years of work, it would come to encompass the entire US and include aquatic rescuers at beaches both with and without surf.

The 40th anniversary meeting included new initiatives on the part of USLA, including development of national guidelines for the training and use of personal watercraft in aquatic rescue and development of draft guidelines for open water swim event safety. A training course in use of personal watercraft in rescue was provided by members of the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association, pioneers in use of this craft. At the meeting a new association was born. The Mexican Lifesaving Association was formed by representatives of several areas in Mexico, with the support of USLA and its membership.

SLSA National Surf Safety Report released to mark beginning of summer

There was a significant reduction in the number of drowning deaths around the Australian coastline during 2003-2004, with the biggest decrease occurring along the eastern Australian coastline, according to a new report from Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA).



The National Surf Safety Report, released to mark the official beginning of summer, found that 40 people drowned around the coast over the last 12 months, down from the five-year average of 58.

SLSA CEO, Greg Nance, said there were a number of probable reasons for the reduction in coastal drowning deaths, including relatively calm conditions along the eastern Australian seaboard, as well as an increase in patrols and educational programs around the country.

"While the reduction in coastal drowning numbers is welcome, the families and friends of 40 people are no doubt still grieving over what were essentially preventable tragedies," Mr Nance said. "Nevertheless, surf lifesavers around the country are today thanking the Australian public for their part in the overall reduction in coastal drowning deaths.

"Our message today however is that there is no room for complacency, as today marks the beginning of summer and the highest drowning risk period around the Australian coastline. "Despite the efforts of surf lifesavers around the country, there is no substitute for personal responsibility, beginning with the most basic safety message – 'swim between the flags'," Mr Nance said.

Key findings from the SLSA National Surf Safety Report are:

- Males continued to account for the most coastal drowning deaths, while people in the 30-39 years age group were also most at risk.
- Most coastal drowning victims lived between 10 and 50km from the coast, with people living less than 10km from the coast making up 43 per cent.
- Two international tourists drowned, similar to the previous year's result.
- NSW and Queensland both recorded their lowest coastal drowning numbers in five years, the rate in South Australia decreased by half

and in the Northern Territory there were no coastal drowning deaths recorded. However Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania all saw an increase in coastal drowning.

- Summertime weekends, particularly during holidays, were the highest risk period for coastal drowning.
- Most coastal drowning deaths occurred when the person was swimming or wading, riding a surf craft or rock fishing and once again, no coastal drowning deaths occurred between the flags.

Mr Nance said SLSA continued to work towards its goal of zero preventable drowning through the introduction of the new Total Service Plan focusing on four key areas: Education, Prevention, Services and Youth.

For further information: Sean O'Connell, Communications Manager

New Zealand Lifeguards prepare children for safe summer



New Zealand Surf Lifeguards began beach patrols at Labour weekend but Lifeguards have also been doing their part to make sure children are prepared for the beaches.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand's Beach Education programme has been in full swing throughout New Zealand for the last four weeks. During that time nearly 22,000 children have attended. A further 25,000 will attend in February when the new school year commences.

The programme is delivered by Surf Lifeguards at 30 surf life saving clubs around the country. Reaching primary school children from years one to eight it teaches children how to enjoy a fun and safe day at the beach.

A recent survey revealed over half the population visited the beach last summer.

"The nature of our country means most people live near our coastline. Even at our most inland point we are never more than a few hours drive to a beach, says SLSNZ CEO Geoff Barry. " "Last summer Surf Lifeguards rescued 1,709 people on our beaches. 40% of those were aged under 18 years old." Asked whether the programme was effective, Mr Barry replied "when you start to talk of nearly 40,000 children each year, then yes, it is a valuable part of our education programme. Over

the last eleven years nearly 500,000 children have taken part."

About Surf Life Saving New Zealand:

Presently Surf Life Saving patrols keep New Zealand beach-going communities safe at 75 locations from Oreti in the south to Ahipara in the Far North.

There are 4,000 active volunteer lifeguards. Patrols generally begin at Labour weekend and continue to Easter.

Last summer lifeguards:

- Saved 1,709 lives
- Provided 155,507 hours of patrols
- Undertook 100,201 preventative actions

Surf Life Saving New Zealand is a volunteer not for profit community service funded through gaming grants, NZLGB and commercial sponsors.

For further information, please contact:
Geoff Barry, CEO

RLSSA Medical Adviser recognised with National Award

The Royal Life Saving Society Australia informed us that their National Medical Adviser, Professor John Pearn has been selected as Queensland's Senior Australian of the Year.

Professor Pearn is being recognised for a lifetime of achievements, including 34 years (and counting!) of working in Paediatrics at Brisbane's Royal Children's Hospital.



Professor Pearn's numerous achievements also include an eminent teaching career with the University of Queensland, a distinguished military career which saw him as the first reservist appointed as surgeon general of the Australian Defence Force, active service as a physician in Vietnam in 1970 and Rwanda (1974-75) and two years each with the Green Jackets and parachute Regiment in Britain.

Congratulations from the ILS family.

Newsletter compiled by
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