

INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION

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ILS NEWS



2007/2

World Water Safety Conference 2007



World Water Safety 2007 is a global conference offered by the International Life Saving Federation. This conference follows on the resounding success of the World Congress on Drowning that was organised in 2002 and the ILS International Medical and Rescue Conferences in 1997 in San Diego USA and in 2001 on the Gold Coast Australia.

The purpose of World Water Safety 2007 (WWS 2007) is to bring together the world's foremost experts, systems and information for exchange, debate and further development that will lead to reduction of death and injury in all aquatic environments worldwide.

WWS 2007 Conference objectives are:

§ To gather the world's drowning experts in research, education and action to find the best new approaches, techniques and quality technologies to reduce the global drowning burden.

§ To explore the evidence in child and adolescent drowning prevention.

§ To expand global participation in aquatic lifesaving, including among youth.

This event, which will take place in September in Porto, Portugal, occurs every four to five years. Participation of experts and global representatives of drowning prevention organisations is viewed as critical to bring about reductions in the global incidence of drowning and advances in the science of lifesaving, expanding the fund of knowledge from which all can draw. All people engaged in this effort, whether locally, regionally, nationally or globally should plan to attend.

The hosts of World Water Safety 2007 are the Instituto de Socorros a Náufragos (ISN) and the Associação de Nadadores Salvadores (ASNASA), both ILS members.

The International Life Saving Federation is pleased to announce that over 80 experts from more than 20 countries have submitted expressions of interest to present information on a broad range of topics related to lifesaving and drowning prevention at World Water Safety 2007.

The proposed speakers' related organisations include many ILS Member Federations, which oversee lifesaving in their countries, as well as organisations such as the US Centres for Disease

Control and Prevention, The Alliance for Safe Children, the University of Auckland, the European Child Safety Alliance, and many others.

Just a few examples of proposed topics include:

- § New International Resuscitation Guidelines – What's new and why?
- § Bathtub Drowning Deaths. New twists on an old problem.
- § Rock Fishers' Practices and Perception of Rock Fishing Water Safety.
- § Spinal Cord Immobilisation in the Aquatic Environment.
- § Lifesaving in Third World Countries; India as a case study.
- § Nonfatal and Fatal Drownings in Recreational Water Sites – US 2001-2002.
- § Decompression Illness, Diving Fatalities and Project Dive Exploration.
- § State of Hawaii Beach Hazard Information Website.
- § A Preliminary Report of the US Lifeguard Standards Coalition.
- § Vision Standards for Beach Lifeguards Utilising the Sport of Lifesaving to Establish a "Community Base" Within Lifesaving Organisations.

WWS 2007 will have two major events associated and simultaneous, one is the Conference and the other is the International Water Safety Exhibition of lifesaving products, services and information.

Website of the WWS 2007 Conference:
www.worldwatersafety.org

ILS made a difference in Bolivia



This is a short story about a small development initiative in South America that seems to have been surprisingly effective on a small scale.

In early 2001, ILS received a request for lifesaving aid from a Canadian citizen, who was working in Bolivia on behalf of a non-profit organisation. This request was forwarded to the ILS Americas

Region, which worked with the American Red Cross (an ILS member) to fund and send a group of volunteers.

This team provided basic lifesaving training to 33 volunteer rescuers and within a short period of time after the trainers had left, several rescues were affected by the newly trained lifesavers.

While in Bolivia, the trainers learned that a different type of lifesaving training was even more badly needed. Serious flooding problems plague Bolivia at certain times of year, causing major problems. In fact, in 2002 in La Paz hundreds of people were injured or killed in a devastating flood.

For this reason, in 2003 the Americas Region decided to send a second team of trainers to Bolivia to provide flood rescue training. These trainers were volunteers and part of the highly experienced San Diego Lifeguard Service River Rescue Team. (This team more recently responded to the Katrina Hurricane disaster.) Besides taking care of the transportation costs ILS-A purchased also rescue equipment for the amount of \$2,000. CMC Rescue of Santa Barbara, California donated over \$6,000 in rope, helmets, gloves, and other rescue gear. Kawasaki Motor Corporation donated personal flotation devices. The San Diego Lifeguard Service donated some surplus equipment.

The team members donated as well. They had to be inoculated against anticipated maladies, at no small personal cost. They had to pay for the incidental costs inevitably involved in travel. And while in Bolivia, they often chose to reach into their pockets to pay the cost of meals and other necessities, despite the unflagging generosity of their students. When in a developing country, one quickly comes to understand the relative cost of living and how much easier it can be for those more fortunate to afford these things.

The team trained members of the Bolivian Air Force Search and Rescue Team and a local volunteer flood rescue group. While those of us in the developed world may sometimes worry over lack of equipment and training, the resources in Bolivia pose far greater challenges. Nevertheless, a five day training session was commenced involving sixteen members of the Air Force, two police officers, and two civil defence members. None of the agencies had any rescue equipment to speak of, so the equipment the team had brought was invaluable. By the end of the trip, some highly condensed training had been provided that was much less than would be normally provided in the US, but much more than was available locally. After the training and

equipment had been provided, the Americas Region could only hope that it would be effectively used.

In this regard, in February 2007 Americas Region President B. Chris Brewster received the following message from their initial contact in Bolivia:

"I've been meaning to write you for several months to tell you about some of the participants from the swift water rescue course you organised in Bolivia a couple of years ago. I was in Bermejo, a place about 6 hours south of Tarija, doing a course for swimming instructors. In the course there were two people who had participated in the Swift water Rescue Course with the folks from San Diego. One of them is the head of the local search and rescue team. He spoke about the course like it was one of the best things he'd ever done. He said since then his group has incorporated all the techniques they were taught. They live in a region right along a large river that floods regularly and during the summer months are out at least a couple of times a week doing rescues of fisherman, and community members living along the border of the river. The equipment from the course stayed in Tarija with SAR, so the folks in Bermejo created home-made versions of all the equipment they used in the course – really quite ingenious. Shows what people can do when they are provided with the foundational knowledge that they need."

For those who may wonder if ILS can truly make a difference, perhaps this is one example.

Received by: B. Chris Brewster

Congratulations to Peter Davis

Peter Davis, acting Chair of the ILS Development Committee, has been promoted to Chief of the Galveston Beach Patrol (USA).



The Galveston Beach Patrol has moved from dual oversight by the Galveston Sheriff's Department and the Galveston Park Board of Trustees to the sole oversight of the Park Board of Trustees. After retirement of Major Vic Maceo, Peter Davis has been promoted to Chief of the Beach Patrol.

Peter advises that there will be a new design for the trucks that includes a "USLA certified" reference and logo, and the new Beach Patrol logo design and colours (red and yellow in accordance with international standards). There will also now be a Park Board Police Department,

so those lifeguards who were previously Sheriff's deputies will remain armed peace officers.

The ILS Vice President of the Americas, B. Chris Brewster, commented that Peter contributes extensively and generously of his time to the United States Lifesaving Association and the International Life Saving Federation. He just returned from a lifeguard development trip in Mexico with some great outcomes

ILS congratulates Peter with his promotion and thanks him for his continuing support to the lifesaving movement.

Floodwaters a drowning threat



With large parts of Australia seeing heavy rain and more expected Royal Life Saving Australia is urging caution around all waterways to

prevent drowning tragedies from occurring.

"Whilst the heavy deluge brings long overdue rain to farmers in drought stricken parts of Australia, it can also present a very real drowning threat to people," said Richard Franklin Royal Life Saving's National Health Promotion and Research Manager. "Last year ten people drowned while attempting to transverse flooded roadways".

From the heavy deluge we have seen localised flooding, water across roads and new water sources emerging which all pose a potential drowning threat. "People driving through flood waters must take care with the changed conditions of the road, now presenting drowning hazards. You may think it is ok and want to save time by driving over a flooded road or causeway but you run the risk of being trapped in rising waters or swept away in your car" added Franklin.

The recent heavy rains also pose a threat to children. "Young children are inquisitive and love to go out and play when it is raining. However, puddles of water can quickly change into fast flowing water and before you know it a young child can be swept away", said Franklin. Parents and carers must constantly supervise children whenever there is water around, this includes post holes filled with water and newly flooded irrigation channels, creeks and drains.

Royal Life Saving recommends the following when driving in areas with water over the road:

- § Avoid roads prone to flooding.
- § Be mindful of flood warning signs and flood level indicators.

- § Where there is water across the road, check the level and speed of the water before entry. Also check that the road has not been washed away.
- § Crossing flooded bridges and causeways is dangerous and should not be attempted.
- § Check with Police and Emergency services about road conditions before you set out.
- § Listen to the local radio station for reports about localised flooding.

Royal Life Saving drowning statistics are primarily collected from the National Coroners Information System (NCIS)

Importance of CPR rescue breaths

Recent media report have questioned the importance of rescue breathing in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) but Royal Life Saving is urging Australians that rescue breathing is a vital part of CPR.

A Japanese study recently reported that heart massage alone gave cardiac arrest patients a higher chance of survival. While this may be the case in cardiac arrests Royal Life Saving would like to remind Australians that in drowning cases it is important to get oxygen to the vital organs as soon as possible. The best way to ensure adequate breathing in a victim is to undertake CPR including the initial rescue breaths.

“Drowning victims have often been without oxygen to the vital organs for some minutes and it is imperative that oxygen flow is resumed as soon as possible to the victim to lessen the chance of death or brain damage” says Rob Bradley, CEO, Royal Life Saving Australia.

Last year the Australian Resuscitation Council updated its guidelines and now recommends 30 chest compressions followed by two mouth to mouth rescue breaths as the most effective way to deliver CPR. This information is based on the best evidence available and brings Australia in-line with American and European CPR standards.



Royal Life Saving encourages all adults to participate in a CPR course. The prompt application of resuscitation to someone in danger can mean the difference between life and death; rescue breaths are an important part of CPR. “In most cases, a family member is the first on the scene in an emergency and having the skills to react is vital” added Mr Bradley.

Last year 265 people drowned in Australia and without the numerous successful resuscitation actions by the public and lifesavers, this number would be far higher. Organisations such as Royal Life Saving regularly conduct resuscitation and first aid training courses across Australia and encourage all Australians to ensure their CPR skills are up to date by participating in a course.

Royal Life Saving drowning statistics are primarily collected from the National Coroners Information System (NCIS).

Naiyu aquatic recreation project wins award



The Naiyu Aquatic Recreation Project, Swim for Life, has won an Australia Day Council Local Government Award for Community Event of the Year in the Northern Territory.

Launched in mid 2006 Swim for Life is a partnership between the community of Naiyu and Royal Life Saving. Swim for Life is an innovative approach to building local capacities by engaging the local community in the planning of structured programmes, recreational activities and community events in and around the community swimming pool. All with the view to building a healthy community with the skills to maximise the long term health benefits of the community swimming pool.

In presenting the award Northern Territory Minister for Local Government, Elliott McAdam MLA, said “the Australia Day Local Government Awards recognise these people who work hard to make a difference and improve our community. I congratulate and thank the winners of this year’s awards”.

Naiyu Community Clinic Nurse and Community Recreation Committee member Janet Fletcher said “one of the reasons the project is working so well is it is inclusive of all aspects of the community. Involving the School, Clinic and the Local Council along with Sport and Recreation

and this has helped build a cohesive and comprehensive programme”.

The Nauiyu based Project Officer Betty Sullivan has been strongly encouraging locals to participate in the programmes on offer and this is helping to develop a healthier lifestyle. ‘Swim for Life’ is the project’s aim and already community members are “showing signs of increased fitness and improved physical health” said Sullivan. Ms Sullivan also went on to say “the community is excited to have won the award and are proud of what they have achieved already”.

The Nauiyu Aquatic Recreation Project - Swim for Life is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as a part of the Building Healthy Communities in Remote Areas initiative.

ABC surf safety



To coincide with 2007 Year of the Surf Lifesaver, Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) and the Curriculum Corporation have announced a compelling new surf safety programme, called Surf’s Up, which is available to all Australian primary schools.

Packed full of useful information, these teaching aides can be adopted by teachers and integrated into their lesson plans as part of the curriculum. Within the programme there are four key learning areas which raise student awareness of issues relating to beach safety and the coastal environment, as well as enhancing the understanding of the role that surf lifesavers play in the community.

The Surf’s Up curriculum is extremely topical and relevant to young Australians given the high level of beach visitations each year and the potential dangers of the surf on Australia’s coastline. With the support of teachers Australia-wide, SLSA hopes that Surf’s Up will provide children in Australian classrooms with surf safety knowledge that might one day save their lives and help to

reduce the number of coastal rescues on Australia’s beaches which average 10,000 each year.

Brett Williamson OAM, CEO Surf Life Saving Australia says “By investing the time and resources into educating the youth of Australia, we’re creating a generation of surf smart Australians and a strong foundation for an ongoing legacy from the Year of the Surf Lifesaver.”

Susan Mann, CEO Curriculum Corporation says “We are pleased to have been asked by Surf Life Saving Australia to create the Surf’s Up teaching resource to promote awareness about an issue so vital to beach loving Australians.” “The lessons and activities offered are relevant and immediately useful for primary students from 8 to 12 years of age,” she said.

Celebrations are continuing across the nation for 2007 Year of the Surf Lifesaver, marking 100 years of Surf Life Saving in Australia.



Aussies 2007 huge success



Surf lifesaving officials and competitors have declared the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships ‘a huge success’ and are looking forward to returning to Scarborough Beach in 2008 and 2009. At the conclusion of the week long ‘festival of surf lifesaving’ more than 6,300 competitors from nearly 200 clubs had taken part in the Centenary Year Masters and Open Championships at Scarborough Beach in Perth.

SLSA President, Ron Rankin AM said the championships was one of the best in the event's long history and a fitting culmination to the first part of the Year of the Surf Lifesaver. "There is no doubt the facilities at Scarborough Beach were world-class and a great way to showcase the talents of the world's fittest and fastest surf lifesavers," he said. "My congratulations to all who participated, whether as competitor, official, team manager, workforce or spectator. Of course, there is always room for improvement for next year's event and I will be shortly writing to every club which attended asking for any constructive feedback," he said.



SLSA Director of Surf Sports, Dave Thompson, said that all performance measures for the event had been met, and officials were particularly pleased with the strong competitor and spectator numbers.

"The Beach Flags finals held in the amphitheatre on Saturday afternoon, in front of a fantastic crowd has added a whole new dimension to the championships, and today's finals really lifted the roof," he said. "No previous Australian championships have had spectator facilities as good as we have here, demonstrating the wisdom of the City of Stirling's investment in purpose-built facilities. "Although the transition from the previous venue has been virtually seamless, there is always room for improvement and we will now go through a full review of every aspect of the championships to ensure that it is even better next year."

Competitors also gave the venue the thumbs up, with defending champion Shannon Eckstein saying the more consistent conditions allowed for "really tough racing". This sentiment was echoed by Open Ironwoman Champion, Kristy Harris who said that her win today came down to who was the fittest athlete. "The last time I won the Ironwoman title in 2004 there was a lot of luck involved, but the conditions here are very fair," she said.

Carnival Referee, John Brennan praised the facilities, saying they had brought the championships into a new era. "Although the conditions were mild, Scarborough presented a new challenge for the competitors and officials, especially with the closeness of the results," he said. "There is no doubt that Scarborough Beach is a world-class venue and now the challenge is to take it to another level in 2008," he said.

For the results of the 2007 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships please visit the championship website:

<http://www.aussies.slsa.asn.au/2007/>

ILS Asia Pacific region lifesaving competition



The ILS Asia Pacific Region Lifesaving Competition in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Lifesaving Conference will be hosted in Singapore by the Singapore Life Saving Society (SLSS) from 3-5 August 2007.

The Singapore Life Saving Society will host the ILS Asia Pacific Regional Assembly in Singapore on 3 August 2007. The Regional Assembly will be held as part of the 40th Anniversary Celebrations of the Singapore Life Saving Society.

The programme will include:

Friday 3 August: ILS Asia Pacific Regional Assembly

Saturday 4 August: Asia-Pacific International Conference on Lifesaving

Sunday 5 August: Asia-Pacific International Lifesaving Competition

Two pre-competition training sessions have also been scheduled: Friday, 3 August 2007 and Saturday, 4 August 2007.

Website of the Singapore Life Saving Society:

<http://www.slss.org.sg/>

OBITUARIES

ILS board member passed away



It is with great sadness that we have to announce that Albert Bas, ILS Board Member and Chairman of the Reddingsbrigades Nederland - KNBRD

(Dutch Lifesaving federation) passed away on Sunday 11 February at the age of 63.

ILS and KNBRD lost a very dedicated board member and great friend, a remarkable person who has put his work for lifesaving as a top priority of his too short life. Throughout the organisation Albert was a very valued and loved person.

For more than 30 Albert had various functions in committees and the board of directors and was active in the education programme of the organisation as tutor as well as examiner. This was his way to keep good contact with the active members performing life saving duties.

In 1985 he became member of the board and in 1995 he was appointed as Secretary General. From 2004 he became chairman. Despite his heart problems, he stayed active as long as he could. Albert was member of the ILS and ILSE board and represented KNBRD in many national organisations.

For all his voluntary work he received a Royal decoration from the Order of Knighthood of Oranje Nassau. Only a few people in the Netherlands qualify for this decoration.

ILS sent its most sincere condolences to his wife and children, his family and friends and colleagues in the KNBRD.

Australian Official passed away



John Robert Phillips passed away early on Monday 5 March 2007 after officiating at the Queensland Championships, aged 59 years, 11 months.

John was a member of the Metropolitan Caloundra Surf Lifesaving Club on Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane and completed his Bronze on Boxing Day 1965. Commonly known as "Fruitcake" or "Fruity" from his youth when his

mother used to bake a fruitcake each week for John and his brother to take to the Surf Club.

In the Surfboat arena John was unique as a specialist check starter. He joined the surfboats when the Surf Boat Rowers' league was stepping out on its own in the early nineties and he made the role of check starter his own. Traditionally the starters take it in turn to wade out to sea and line up the crews. "Fruity" was their saviour. He would do it all day and in all conditions. Hot or cold, rain or shine he was there and taking everything the ocean could throw at him. When lesser men would give it away, "Fruity" would be out there sometimes with little more than the flag above the white water or thrashing his way back onto the bank when a set had washed him 10 metres off the line. Despite the conditions it was the only position he ever wanted to do.

John officiated at the Queensland Championships for over ten years and at the Australian Championships from 2004. He also officiated at the Kurrawa International Challenge in 2005 and the Lorne World Championships in 2006.

Some 400 mourners attended John's funeral and his passing was commemorated at the 2007 Queensland Junior Championships with a minute's silence and with a particularly moving tribute by the Surfboat Rowers at the 2007 Final of the Queensland Cup, which culminated with the open men's final being run without a check starter in his honour.

President of the Trinidad and Tobago

We regret to announce the passing away of the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Lifesaving Society, Mr. Wayne Beddoe.

Mr. Beddoe has been an active member of the TTLSS, for over forty years, holding many positions, both on and off of the Executive Board and has been an inspiration to many.

The Executive Board of the TTLSS, feels honoured, that he chose in his final year, to take the leadership role, leaving behind a legacy of professionalism and service.

He will be truly missed by his fellow colleagues.

News articles and press releases including pictures for publication in the ILS News can be mailed to:
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