

INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION

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ILS NEWS



2007/3

Congratulations to the ILS President



The ILS President was awarded the Honour of Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) for “distinguished service to Australia and humanity” in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list.

In the Australian honours system appointments to the Order of Australia confer recognition for outstanding achievement and distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or humanity at large. Recipients of the Order of Australia are from many fields of endeavour and all walks of life.

The ILS President received the Honour for his service to the community, particularly through the promotion of surf lifesaving at state, national and international levels, and as an administrator in a range of roles related to sport.

The Order of Australia is the pre-eminent way Australians recognise the achievements and service of their fellow citizens. The nominations to the Order of Australia come directly from the community.

The Order of Australia has four levels:

- Companion of the Order (AC).
- Officer of the Order (AO).
- Member of the Order (AM).
- Medal of the Order (OAM).

Once a nomination has been submitted, the Australian Honours Secretariat at Government House in Canberra conducts further research and contacts referees. The 19-member Council for the Order of Australia then considers the nominations. The Council makes its recommendations, independent of government, direct to the Governor-General.

Awards in the Order of Australia are publicly announced on Australia Day (26 January) and the Queen’s Birthday public holiday (June).

The ILS family congratulates Alan in being awarded this Honour of Officer in the Order of Australia (AO).

WWS 2007 highlight speaker announcement



The 2007 World Water Safety Conference that is held in Portugal next September has confirmed some high profile speakers. The Scientific Committee invited 138 presentations. This will include Keynote, Workshop, Oral and Poster Presentations that highlight the science of lifesaving. Over 60 presenters have confirmed.

We are pleased to confirm Dr. Aminur Rahman, the Technical Director at the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB), Dhaka Bangladesh. He has been active for more than fourteen years in public health. His current research activities are focused on injury prevention. He was one of the principal investigators of Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey, 2005, which at the moment is the only available study that provides detailed information on different types of injuries in Bangladesh.

He has a keen interest in preventing childhood drowning in developing countries. He has been involved in developing a model programme for community-based childhood drowning prevention in Bangladesh, which will have an implication for low-income countries as well. He has published a good number of scientific articles and reports on injuries and other public health issues.

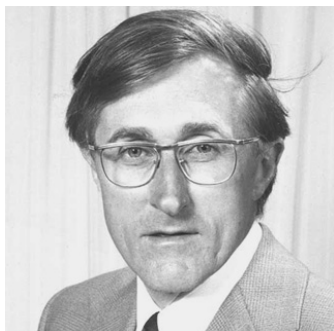
He is also providing technical support to conduct injury research in various countries in South and South East Asia. He is one of the co-authors of drowning chapter of WHO-UNICEF World Report on Child and Adolescent Injury which is supposed to be published in 2008. Dr. Rahman is a doctoral fellow at the Karolinska Institute, Sweden.

Other confirmed speakers include:

- Dr. Joost Bierens, Professor in Emergency Medicine, VU University Medical Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- Dr Linda Quan, Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, Seattle, Washington, USA.
- Dr. David Markenson, Co-Chair National First Aid Science Advisory Board; Chair, Advisory Council on First Aid, Aquatics, Safety and Preparedness; American National Red Cross; New York Medical College School of Public Health, USA.
- Dr Kevin Moran, Principal Lecturer in Health and Physical Education, Faculty of Education, University of Auckland, New Zealand.
- Dr. David Szpilman. Medical Staff of Drowning Resuscitation Centre and Aeromedical Helicopter - Fire Department of Rio de Janeiro (CBMERJ) - GMAR; Head of Adult Intensive Care Unit - Hospital Municipal Miguel Couto; Member of Brazilian National Resuscitation Council; Founder, Former President and Medical Director of Brazilian Life Saving Society - SOBRASA; BOD Member and Medical Committee of International Life-Saving Federation; BOD Member of Sports Medical Council, Brazil.
- Dr. Tony Handley, Chief Medical Adviser, Royal Life Saving Society, Honorary Medical Adviser ILSE; Immediate Past Co-Chairman, ILCOR BLS Task Force; Chairman, International BLS Course Committee, European Resuscitation Council; Chairman, BLS/AED Subcommittee, Resuscitation Council UK, United Kingdom.
- Dr. Peter Wernicki, Medical advisor and on executive board US Lifesaving Association; Member of the ILS Medical Committee; Member ILS anti-doping committee; Member of the American Red Cross Advisory Council on First Aid and Safety, USA.
- Dr. Arthur Clarke, Water Safety Supervisor, New Jersey State Park Service, Northern Region Office, USA.
- Dr. Bo Lofgren, Department of Cardiology B, Aarhus University Hospital, Skejby, Denmark.
- Dr. Christine Branche, Director, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention, National Centre for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

All speakers and all interested lifesavers, aquatic policymakers, non-government organisations, and government representatives need to get Registered for this conference:
www.worldwatersafety.org

Dr. Ian Mackie Medical Fellowship 2008-2010



ILS established a Medical Fellowship in honour of Dr. Ian Mackie in order to continue his contribution to the international lifesaving community.

The Dr. Ian Mackie Medical Fellowship

is designed to provide young lifesavers and lifeguards with a link to the ILS Medical Committee continuing Dr. Mackie's belief in the importance of the link between medical issues and their practical application by lifesavers and lifeguards.

Dr. Ian Mackie was a world renowned water safety expert who died in 2002. He served as the National Medical Advisor to Surf Life Saving Australia from 1976 to 1996 and was a member of the Australian Resuscitation Council for 14 years representing both Surf Life Saving Australia and the Royal Life Saving Society. Dr. Mackie was the first chair of the ILS Medical Committee and published scholarly lifesaving materials for over four decades. He received many awards for his contribution and was well known for his welcoming and inclusive manner.

Purpose

The fellowship allows an active lifesaver or lifeguard to travel to and participate in Medical Committee meetings in order to foster input and dissemination of Medical Committee matters at the critical working lifesaver/lifeguard level.

The previous Recipient (2006/2007) was Angela Lawson, nominated by Surf Life Saving New Zealand.

To be considered, applicants must:

- Be an active lifesaver or lifeguard in good standing.
- Be active in lifesaving, lifeguarding, competition, teaching, research, developing or managing activities relevant to lifesaving.
- Have a strong interest in medical/health care issues related to lifesaving as demonstrated through scholarly activity or educational achievement.

- Be able to participate in e-mail and telephone communication (preferably in English) to allow effective participation.
- Be under than 30 years old at the start of the fellowship.
- Be nominated by an ILS member organisation.
- Submit two letters of reference from nominating ILS member organisation.

Terms

- The Fellowship will be granted for a period of two years.
- The Fellowship will entitle the recipient to participate in all e-mail, conference call and other deliberations of the Medical Committee. The Fellowship recipient will be entitled to raise issues and speak at Medical Committee meetings, but will be a non-voting participant.
- The Fellowship recipient is encouraged, facilitated and expected to be a lead author or co-author of an ILS Position Statement on an issue mutually agreed upon.
- The Fellowship will involve one international meeting each year of the two year term to allow participation in ILS Medical Committee Meetings, World Water Safety Conferences, Aquatic Medical/Rescue Conferences and/or participation in a meeting, conference, self-directed learning or activity helpful to the development of medical issues in lifesaving.
- All application materials must be submitted by email and all requested documents listed under Selection Criteria must be received for candidate consideration. It is preferred that all requested documents are sent as one file. A reply will be sent on receipt of application advising if the application is incomplete or complete.

Application form available upon request at ILS HQ: ils.hq@pandora.be

Application deadline is 31 August 2007.

The Fellowship Selection Committee will make a decision on 31 October 2007.

SLSA surf lifesaving skills to India



Australian surf lifesavers are transforming global surf rescue standards by sharing their unique skills with developing nations throughout the Asia Pacific thanks to the support of DHL, SLSA's major corporate partner.

DHL and SLSA have partnered together to develop a programme which assists developing countries in the Asia Pacific region establish their own sustainable surf lifesaving capabilities.

The first successful programme involved four lifeguards from India travelling to Australia in May to receive intensive training from Australian surf lifesavers which included surf rescue techniques, first aid, advanced resuscitation, defibrillation and spinal management.

After two weeks of surf lifesaving 'boot camp' at Narrabeen and Bondi beaches, the four Indian lifeguards received numerous qualifications including their Bronze Medallions, which were presented to them at the Sydney Northern Beaches Awards of Excellence night on Saturday 2 June.

The lifeguards, Tushar Shinde, Gopal Naskar, Sumedh Joshi and Srihari Perla, were thrilled with the training they received.

"It's been amazing", explains team leader Tushar Shinde. "And we don't get to do this in India." The lifeguards plan to take their new skills and experience back to their country in the hope of setting up the first official surf lifesaving club in India, which has about 200 drownings a year.

"Training participants as professional lifesavers enables them to take the skills and knowledge back to their country to train more up and coming lifesavers", said Gary Edstein, Senior Vice-President, Oceania, DHL Express. "For DHL this is an ideal programme to be involved in due to our close relationship with SLSA and our experience as an international facilitator of trade," he said.

With the success of the DHL Indian Lifeguard Exchange, SLSA hopes the programme will continue with the support of DHL, to provide surf

lifesaving training and assistance to Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

For further information, please contact Surf Life Saving Australia: info@slsa.asn.au

Source: SLSA website

RLSSA new website



Royal Life Saving Australia has launched a new and exciting website. With a bright new look and a strong visual presence, this user friendly site has been designed for visitors to find water safety and training information quickly and easily.

With increased functionality and added features including a comprehensive search function and site map, their aim is to continually meet and exceed information needs.

Whether a parent, student, water enthusiast, teacher, examiner, health care practitioner or from the media, their website and resource centre has them covered, 24 hours and 7 days a week with a wealth of Water Safety Information to help keep people and the community safe when in and around the water.

With easy to use navigation tools, whatever information and training requirements there are, countless tips, facts, checklists, useful links, and training information can be found online.

RLSSA looks forward to welcoming all lifesavers to their new website soon at <http://www.royallifesaving.com.au>

If you require further information or would like to see additional information added please be sure to enter your comments by completing the feedback form at the bottom of the screen.

Source: RLSSA website

World Congress Disaster and Emergency Medicine



The World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) hosted the 15th World Congress for Disaster and Emergency Medicine at the RAI Conference Centre in Amsterdam May 13-16, 2007.

Dr Joost Bierens, ILS Medical Committee Member, was the local organisational chairperson. Dr. Steve Beerman submitted an abstract on the ILS Position Statement –Aquatic Disaster. This abstract was accepted for oral presentation and this was delivered. All the abstracts are published in the “Pre-hospital and Disaster Medicine” Volume 22, (2) March-April 2007 and at <http://pdm.medicine.wisc.edu>.

One of the strategic goals stated in the ILS Strategic Framework 2004-2008 is: “To advocate with national government and non-governmental organizations to establish drowning as a public safety issue, to establish ILS, including its member organizations as the world authority in the field of drowning prevention and lifesaving sport.”

The ILS Lifesaving Commission Terms of Reference we have Performance Indicators that are advanced by ILS involvement in this event. These include:

Medical Committee Commission Level Performance Indicators:

- ILS approved medical statements are quoted or referenced.
- ILS medical position topics have been published in recognized medical journals.
- Medical literature search engines cite ILS Medical Position Statements.
- Medical websites have links to ILS medical position statements.

Medical Committee Specific Responsibilities that are advanced include:

- Exchange of information amongst medical experts and lifesavers of the world.
- To identify best medical practices related to the aquatic environment.
- To participate in medical issue conferences to exchange information, gather best practices,

and to position ILS as the world authority on drowning prevention and treatment.

This inspiring conference was attended by more than 1000 experts in this area of interest. Participants included many governmental and non-governmental physicians, disaster managers, pre-hospital care and public health specialists. There was considerable review of evidence from the more recent natural disasters throughout the world. This included a significant post-event assessment of the Indian Ocean Basin Tsunami (Dec 26, 2004) and Hurricane Katrina. There were many other aquatic events reviewed by evidenced based process. There were sessions on research process and ethics during and after disasters. There was considerable attention to psychosocial issues associated with unexpected disaster for victims and rescuers.

The conference had Targeted Agenda Program (TAP) which appointed working groups of experts and conference participants on issues of significance. Dr Steve Beerman was an invited participant for the TAP on Flooding – public health impacts of large-scale floods: Governmental decision-making, and resilience of the citizens.

The reports of the TAP groups will be on the conference website at www.WCDEM2007.org.

Key messages for ILS and ILS Member Organisations:

1. Lifesaving organizations have a key role to provide water safety, swimming and basic first aid knowledge and skills to all citizens of the world. The importance of this empowerment at the local level can not be overstated. When disaster strikes, local immediate response saves lives. The concept of self rescue and the rescue of others in urgent situations is brought into high priority focus during disasters. Distant or expert assistance arrives too late for significant impact and may have no awareness of local geography and culture. In many cases distant and expert assistance creates more problems than assistance.
2. Encouraging a state of knowledge and skill, for lifesaving within local populations at risk, encourages a state of readiness. This prevents drowning deaths and event related trauma. It improves the search and rescue process, contributes to the resilience of the population and reduces the psychosocial stress on the long term recovery of the population.
3. Primary prevention is always the preferred strategy. Preventing the event or moving human and other resources out of danger,

through effective warning and evacuation saves the most lives. Secondary prevention (search and rescue) is much less effective and expensive in terms of risk to victims and rescuers.

4. Medical assistance during and immediately after disasters should be local, with advice on request from outside experts.
5. Post-event evidenced based assessment and "Lessons to be Learned" review is very important and should be done.

The conference discussions validated the need and intent of the ILS Position Statement – Aquatic Disaster.

The next WADEM Conference will be in Victoria, Canada, May 12-15, 2009. ILS should continue to link to this organisation and their conference.

Submitted by Steve Beerman
The PowerPoint presentation may be requested from sbeerman@shaw.ca

Beach Safety and the law national summit 2007



Australians love the beach. With more than 80% of our population living along the coastline and approximately 55 million visits per year, beaches are a central part of the Australian lifestyle.

Keeping beaches safe and providing for sustainable future use is a critical challenge for all of us.

For the past 100 years volunteer surf lifesavers have guarded the beaches - providing education, prevention and rescue services for the public. Recognising this century of commitment, 2007 has been designated the national Year of the Surf Lifesaver by the Commonwealth Government.

While Australian surf lifesavers are an international icon associated with the beach, there are many other stakeholders from all levels of government, the legal industry and the business sector that share critical legal roles and responsibilities for safety on our beaches.

The Queensland Law Society is proud to join Surf Life Saving Australia and the QUT Faculty of Law to convene the inaugural National Summit on Beach Safety and the Law on 8 and 9 November in Surfers Paradise.

The Summit will examine existing law as it applies to topics of public liability, tourism, the roles and responsibilities of local government councils and other statutory authorities, developers and those charged with protecting beach users - our volunteer lifesavers and salaried lifeguards. Expert legal speakers and panellists will summarise the law as it stands and challenge us with future initiatives to safeguard our beaches and beach users.

Keynote speakers include:

- The Hon Premier Beattie
- The Hon Justice M A McMurdo, President, Queensland Court of Appeal
- The Hon Justice John Jerrard, Supreme Court, Queensland
- The Hon Justice Whealy, Supreme Court, New South Wales
- Michael Barnes, Queensland State Coroner
- John Witheriff, Partner, Minter Ellison Lawyers
- Rob Davis, Barrister-at-Law
- Brett Williamson, OAM, CEO - SLSA
- Trevor Atherton, Solicitor and author of Tourism, Travel and Hospitality Law
- Professor Brian Fitzgerald, Law Faculty, Queensland University of Technology
- Dr Jeff Wilks, Strategic Director, SLSA
- Susan Rankin, CEO, Redland Shire Council
- Bruce Cantrill, Special Counsel, Torts Team, NSW Crown Solicitor's Office
- Ron Barnes, Divisional Manager – Risk Management, Echelon Australia (subsidiary of Jardine Lloyd Thompson insurers)
- Superintendent Jim Keogh, District Officer, Gold Coast Police District
- Greg Hallam, Executive Director, Local Government Association of Queensland
- Mark Williams, Partner, King and Company, Solicitors

Who should attend?

- Legal practitioners working in local government
- Local government officials
- Insurance law practitioners
- Personal injuries (plaintiff) practitioners
- Parks and recreation authorities
- Maritime safety officials
- Police and emergency services officials
- Tourism operators and destination managers

For details of the Summit please visit www.beachsafety.qut.edu.au

Lifesaving Sport

Arafura Games 2007

The Arafura Games is a leading international sporting competition for emerging champions of the Asia Pacific region. Held every two years in Darwin, the capital of Australia's Northern Territory, the Arafura Games is billed as a meeting of 'Sporting Neighbours' and attracts developing athletes from the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

The 2007 Arafura Games were a great success with good attendances from Australia and some overseas countries.

The spectacular opening ceremony was attended by the Northern Territory Chief Minister, NT Minister for Sport, President of International Paralympics Council, President of ILS, President of Surf Life Saving Australia Ron Rankin etc. The opening featured lifesavers in the Year of the Surf Life Saver and the press the following day gave great credit to The Year of the Surf Life Saver. The events were well run by life saving officials and excellent attendance of over 700 spectators at the opening of the beach events on Mindil Beach.

Hong Kong won the gold medal points score followed by Northern Territory and NSW Indigenous team winning Bronze. There were also teams from China, Singapore universities, Singapore, Hong Kong universities, South Australia, RLSS Australia, etc. The Aussie Junior Barra's team performed extremely well at the Arafura Games winning the pool section of the competition with a total score of 259 points.

The ILS President presented the trophies and medals at the closing ceremony on the beach. All the overseas teams had a great time mixing with the Australian and indigenous teams. The ILS President was invited by the Chief Minister to attend a photo session for Heads of Delegations at the Parliament House on the Wednesday followed by a luncheon at the Parliament House where he was informed that lifesaving was one of the best organised sports but that it needs at least one more overseas country to secure its position for the next Games.

ILS Grand Knight passed away

With great sadness the ILS President informed us on the passing of Paul Smith OAM, who died suddenly at his home on the Sunshine Coast yesterday.



Paul Smith at Rescue 2006 (left) with Jack Dearlove, Warren Rennie and Dr. Klaus Wilkens.

Paul will be well known to many in ILS as a previous Secretary/General of World Life Saving for a 4 year period and a great supporter of ILS. He toured many countries as Australian Team Manager and during his time as Secretary/General visited Portugal, Spain, England and Germany as well as many Countries in the Asia Pacific regions.

Paul was a life member of his Club, Branch, State and Surf Life Saving Australia and last year was inducted into the Australian Surf Life Saving Hall of Fame. He served the Association in many honorary capacities and was also General Manager of NSW Surf Life Saving for a long period.

The ILS President has passed on to his wife Liz and family condolences on behalf of ILS and will attend his memorial service at Kawana Surf Life Saving Club on Monday next, along with Grand Knights Kevin Weldon AM, Warren Rennie OAM, and Australian President Ron Rankin AM.

Paul will always be remembered for his love and devotion to his family and his passion for Lifesaving.

News articles and press releases including pictures for publication in the ILS News can be mailed to:
ils.hq@pandora.be

NEWSLETTER COMPILED BY
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