

Departure of Paul Oldfield, Lifesaving Development Officer, in February 2020 and departure of Rob Lund, Aerial Surveillance Officer, in May 2020. Recruitment will occur soon but in the interim, please contact the Lifesaving team for any helicopter, drone or general lifesaving enquires via 9207 6688 or via lifesaving@slnswa.com.au.

AERIAL SURVEILLANCE

2019/20 Review

Helicopters

- 17% increase in number of flight hours compared to 2018/19 season (over 1000hrs flown between both services).
- Increase in the number of shark sightings in line with the increased number of flight hours.
- 40% improvement in the number of people adhering the warnings issued by the South West helicopter.
- 100% increase in the number of Search and Rescue taskings for the South West helicopter. Most notable tasking was the rescue of a fisherman swept off rocks near Contos in April. One life saved but unfortunately one life was lost with South West helicopter assisting in the recovery.

Drone Patrol

- Continued focus on three key objectives:
 1. Provide localised aerial surveillance
 2. Increase opportunities for member participation
 3. Identification of marine hazards
- 2006 flights achieved resulting in over 598hrs of surveillance (approximately 50% increase compared to the 2018/2019 season).
 - Includes flights for planned operations, training, location scoping and specific events
- 9 active Clubs
 - Swanbourne Nedlands SLSC integrated into the program in mid February 2020
 - Operations within the South-West not realised with challenges being worked through in consultation with Smiths Beach SLSC
 - Operations at Sorrento Beach scoped / trialled in consultation with Sorrento SLSC
 - Operations at Town Beach requiring further scoping in consultation with Mandurah SLSC
 - Operations at other locations based on Club interest requiring further scoping and consultation
- 6 members underwent a 'Train the Trainer' course in order to transition drone training 'in house' to SLSWA. Qualified SLSWA Drone Patrol Facilitators led a number of training courses through the season as well as successfully implemented a refined skills maintenance / requalification program involving theory refresher and short practical assessment on beach.
- 73 members held the new SLSWA Drone Patrol Operator award within Surfward during the season following requalification or training of new operators.

LIFESAVING

OPERATIONS

2019/20 Review

Key Statistics

Patrol statistics to be confirmed following club updates to outstanding patrol logs but indicative statistics for the season are:

- Approximately 18% reduction in number of preventative actions performed
- First aids slightly up compared to 2018/19 season but in line with 5 year rolling average
- Approximately 50% increase in number of rescues compared to 2018/19 season

Water Safety

The SLSWA Lifesaving team continues to facilitate opportunities for clubs to deliver commercial water safety services. In 2019/20, twelve enquiries from event organisers were directed to relevant clubs with a remaining twelve delivered by SLSWA staff.

- 2015/16 – 36
- 2016/17 – 47
- 2017/18 – 40
- 2018/19 – 9
- 2019/20 – 12 (slightly up compared to previous)

In 2019/20, clubs provided water safety for 64 events following completion of event sanctioning. This is approximately a 30% reduction in the number of events compared to the previous season but this was heavily influenced by COVID-19 restrictions.

- 2015/16 – 52
- 2016/17 – 60
- 2017/18 – 71
- 2018/19 – 82
- 2019/20 – 64

Operations Control

- Over 350 handheld radios were serviced between July and August 2019 via Radlink with logistics achieved via AusPost. A similar process will kick off again in July 2020.
- The Operations Control team enabled the despatch of over 400 ambulances throughout the season following requests from frontline services. These were despatched accurately and efficiently through the use of BEN signs that continue to be rolled-out by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and respective Local Government Authorities. Clubs are encouraged to integrate BEN signs into their local operating procedures and Lifesaving Service Agreements.
- 106 13SURF calls were received by SurfCom during the season which is a 70% increase compared to the previous season. 13SURF is used by St Johns and WAPOL to request first responder assistance along the coastline where SLSWA resources may be available.
 - Watch 'Operations Controller at SurfCom'



LIFESAVING

OPERATIONS (cont.)

2019/20 Review

Wesfarmers Jet Ski Program

- Trigg Island SLSC were integrated into the program following successful completion of training prior to the start of the main season.
- Thirteen (13) call-outs occurred between May 2019 to April 2020 between Geraldton and Esperance. This is a 15% increase compared to 2018/19 season.
- The Wesfarmers Jet Ski Team – Support Operations provided a high level of support for Abalone Patrol during the season as well as providing roving patrols between City Beach and Fremantle during weekends throughout April 2020 when on beach patrols reduced as a result of COVID-19.

Support Operations – Abalone Patrol

- Abalone Patrol actively contributed to another fatality free season in 2019/20.
- Approximately 12km of coastline were patrolled in each of the four one-hour fishing sessions.
- 16 Clubs were involved in delivering patrols which is a 25% increase in involvement compared to the 2018/19 season.
- Frontline services required per session, on average, were:
 - 125 Lifesavers
 - 9 IRBs
 - 14 RWCs
 - 2 Drones
- Over the four sessions, services performed:
 - 1019 preventative actions
 - 35 first aids
 - 15 rescues
- SLSWA was successful in obtaining a three year grant via the Recreational Fishing Initiative Fund going into the 2019/2020 season. This grant recognises the value of services delivered for this unique fishing activity within the state. The grant is valued at approximately \$100k per year and will ensure each and every club involved receives recognition for services provided. Funding will also enable role specific training and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

LIFESAVING

LIFESAVING DEVELOPMENT

2019/20 Review

Knowledge Base

- Clubs are encouraged to access the Members Area for information and resources to aid in lifesaving service delivery; both on and off the beach.
- SLSWA Club News, distributed via email to Club Committees on Thursdays, will continue to be used for communicating key information and Circulars .
- Please keep an eye out for updates to the Members Area for more 'dynamic' operational updates. Updates will be posted in News and Events as well as documents uploaded into the Document Library.

Patrol Uniforms

- Patrol uniforms were distributed to clubs in October 2019 with club orders fulfilled to greater than 90% across all uniform items. Uniform design (fit, material, etc.) has improved over previous seasons based on a survey completed by SLSA which collected input from WA Clubs. Feedback from members during the season has been positive.
- Clubs are reminded that patrol uniforms (shirt, shorts, hats and rash vests) are provided free to members based on the Woodside sponsorship.
- Clubs are strongly encouraged to ensure older uniforms with Telstra or Westpac branding is phased out.
- Clubs are encouraged to contact SLSWA should they have any gaps in stock holdings at any time. Surplus sizes following distribution are held by SLSWA.

Member Wellbeing – Mental Health

- In March 2020, the Lifesaving team released a range of governance documentation associated with the mental health strategies that had been implemented to date. These are all accessible via the Members Area with links / information sent directly to Directors of Lifesaving at each Club.
- This documentation can be accessed via the following links:
 - [SLSWA Policy – Mental Health](#)
 - [SLSWA Procedure – Mental Health](#)
 - [SLSWA FAQ – Peer Support Program \(All Members\)](#)
 - [SLSWA FAQ – Peer Support Program \(Peer Supporters\)](#)
- Further information and promotion material will be distributed prior to the upcoming season.
- Between October 2019 and January 2020, 43 Peer Supporters were trained bringing the total number in the State to 59.
- SLSWA continues to target three (3) Peer Supporters per club with training (including a recognition of prior learning pathway) to continue in coming seasons.
- During the 2019/20 season, the Lifesaver Assistance Program was activated on a number of occasions following critical incidents; ensuring each member involved had easy access to professional support services.

LIFESAVING

LIFESAVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2019/20 Review

- The 2019/20 Committee consisted of (Chair) Liam Burke (Fremantle SLSC), Angus McMillan (Scarboro SLSC), Elise Stallard (Coogee Beach SLSC) and Liam Gould (Mandurah SLSC).
- The Committee did some great work throughout the year completing or progressing each of the following actions including obtaining feedback from the membership via surveys, interviews, etc.
 1. *Participate in Awards of Excellence selection and interviews of finalists*
 - Completed a review of criteria for Patrol Club, Lifesaver and Youth Lifesaver of the Year awards to ensure relevance and are currently reviewing award nominations / interviewing finalists.
 2. *Consider strategies and initiatives that will support Clubs to recruit IRBD and Drone Operators with a focus toward youth and young adults.*
 - Sought feedback from the membership via an open survey which identified a lack of consistency and hearsay in the way opportunities are communicated. A number of recommendations were identified to improve the way IRBD and Drone Operator opportunities are promoted in a consistent and informative manner.
 3. *Consider and draft a framework that articulate the minimum lifesaving obligations affiliated Clubs should achieve for beach patrols.*
 - The Committee completed a review of all Lifesaving Service Agreements within the State and began brainstorming methods to articulate minimum lifesaving obligations that can be applied Clubs; no matter their size and location. Progress in this action was hampered by COVID-19 but the lessons learned from modified patrol methods being implemented during this time were captured and incorporated into findings for this action.
 4. *Review, in line with SLSA policies, the minimum lifesaving service capabilities (competency and equipment) each Club must provide when delivering beach patrols.*
 - As per Action 3, the Committee completed a review of all Lifesaving Service Agreements within the State and conducted a deep dive in their own and neighbouring clubs. Progress in this action was hampered by COVID-19 but the lessons learned from modified patrol methods being implemented during this time were captured and incorporated into findings for this action.

2019/20 Review

- Expressions of Interest to participate in the 2020/21 Committee closed on 29 May 2019. Committee appointments to be announced soon.
- The actions for the 2020/21 Committee are:
 1. Awards of Excellence- Selection of Lifesaver of the Year, Youth Lifesaver of the Year and Patrol Club of the Year and any other lifesaving awards as required
 2. Develop a framework that articulates strategies affiliated Clubs can apply to increase / maximise the flexibility for patrolling members to complete patrol requirements / attend rostered patrols.
 3. Assist with the development of a structure for a proposed program to be held annually at the new SLSWA Development Centre in Margaret River. Ideally the program will facilitate the growth of Support Operations and Emergency Response Teams within the Lifesaving pillar. Achieving interoperability between these teams and with external agencies must be considered. The capacity of the Development Centre allows for a holistic approach to developing lifesaving in WA.
 4. Consolidate and finalise a framework that articulates the minimum obligations and capabilities affiliated Clubs should achieve and provide for lifesaving services (continuation and consolidation of Action 3 and Action 4 from 2019/20)
- Opportunities to engage with the broader membership (i.e. surveys, interviews, deep dives, etc.) will be maximised during each 2020/2021 action.