

YOUR IMPACT 2019/2020



This report is all about you.

As you read through the following pages, you'll see how much difference your generous support makes on the beach.

How your gifts help to save precious lives and keep West Aussies safer on the beach and in the water (even when the icons in red and yellow aren't there to watch over them).

But there's much more to saving lives than patrolling. For every daring beach rescue, dedicated surf lifesavers spend hours on and off the beach, gaining the special skills they need to face any emergency. And you're with them every step of the way.

Of course, there's the essential first aid and surf rescue training you help to provide for every volunteer.

But there are also the competitive surf sports events, where volunteers hone and challenge their lifesaving skills.

Leadership training sessions, to develop promising young lifesavers into skilled and confident patrol leaders and club managers.

And specialised training in equipment, like jet skis and surveillance drones, that are now an integral part of our lifesaving services thanks to the generous support of our community.

It's all possible because of you.

Thank you!



Craig Smith-Gander
President



BECAUSE OF YOU...

This year, with your support,
volunteer surf lifesavers performed:



787
RESCUES



14,545
PREVENTATIVE
ACTIONS



2,800
FIRST AIDS



100,853
PATROL HOURS





SKILL & KNOWLEDGE

Saving more lives every hour, thanks to you

Sunday 27th October 2019 was the hottest October day in Perth in six years, with temperatures reaching 37°C.

Between 10am and 2pm, as many as 6,000 people visited the two-kilometre stretch of coastline between Scarborough Beach and Trigg Beach.

At any one time over those four intense hours, 60 volunteer surf lifesavers were patrolling the two packed beaches. A large swell and onshore winds kept them very busy.

Most of the beachgoers were swimming outside the flags, so patrols were constantly kept on their toes, keeping people safe both on the beach and in the water. They put up signs, talked to members of the public, and conducted roving patrols to prevent people from getting in the water close to the rips.

Even with all that preventative work, the two patrols rescued 55 people in just four hours. Most were swimmers who got fatigued fighting rips or found themselves struggling in the large swell. Thankfully, only two patients needed oxygen treatment, and all recovered.

That's a lot of lives saved, thanks to the skill and knowledge our lifesavers have because of your generous support.

... THESE ICONS ARE ON THE BEACH...

Every summer season, from October to April, you'll find volunteer surf lifesavers on beaches up and down our vast WA coastline. They are there, trained and equipped to face any situation, because of your wonderful support.

Last year, dedicated volunteers put in a staggering 100,853 hours protecting West Aussies in the surf and on the sand. And many, many more hours gaining the skills and knowledge they needed to save lives.

Every one of those hours meant more people went home safely to their loved ones after a trip to one of our glorious beaches.

During the 2019/20 season, you supported members receiving:



5

GOLD MEDALLION ADVANCED
LIFESAVER AWARDS



177

IRB CREW CERTIFICATES



103

RADIO OPERATOR ACCREDITATIONS



QUICK ACTION

Always ready to save lives, thanks to you

"About 3 years ago, my son was doing the Surf Grom program with the local surf club. One of his coaches, Lisa – who was very young herself – happened to be part of the Port Bouvard Surf Life Saving Club.

All of a sudden, my son started coughing. His coach saw he was having difficulty breathing, so she got him straight out of the water and kept him calm while she administered first aid.

He needed his inhaler, and I didn't have it. It just so happened the surf lifesaving club was doing IRB training nearby. One of the surf lifesavers saw what was happening and rushed over to help. Thankfully they were able to retrieve the oxygen therapy kit from their first aid room and administer that to my son.

He quickly recovered, rested, and actually got back in the water to finish his surf lesson! **I was so impressed with the quick action, skill, and compassion of his surf coach, who clearly had been taught so well as a surf lifesaver in beach safety and first aid.**

The Surf Life Saving family is an incredible community. I'm so thankful for the effort they all put in to keep us safe."

– JENNIFER

...PROVIDING CRUCIAL FIRST AID...

Thanks to you, our volunteer surf lifesavers are trained and ready for any first aid emergency. Last year, they provided first aid to 2,800 people on our glorious West Aussie beaches.

It's the first-class training they receive, thanks to your wonderful support, that gives them the knowledge and confidence to act fast and save lives, again and again.

During the 2019/20 season,
you supported members achieving:



240 ADVANCED RESUSCITATION CERTIFICATES



514 FIRST AID CERTIFICATES



60 SPINAL MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATES



73 PAIN MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATES



Skilled and equipped for any situation, thanks to you

“We had a big swell that day and the beach was busy. There were two bodyboarders about 400m away when one got into trouble and was dumped by a wave.

By the time I got to him, he was face down on the shoreline with the waves lapping close to him, unable to move. I immediately saw he had all the signs of spinal injury.

Another patrol member and I administered first aid, oxygen and pain relief, and carefully moved the injured man onto a spinal board. Then the paramedics arrived, and we worked together to get him safely up the beach to the ambulance.

Several weeks later, he came back to Secret Harbour to thank us. He was wearing a back brace and told us he’d injured his spine and broken several ribs.

Then he said he’d suffered a partial stroke from a blood clot on the way to the hospital. The paramedics had told him it would likely have been a full stroke if we hadn’t taken action to stabilise him and prevent movement.

He could have died or been impacted for the rest of his life. Instead, he was expected to make a full recovery.”

– DANIEL, Surf Lifesaver, Secret Harbour

... PERFORMING LIFE-SAVING RESCUES...

It's because of gifts like yours that volunteer surf lifesavers can get the world-class training and equipment they need to provide expert help when lives are at risk on our beaches.

Last year, they performed 787 life-saving rescues on our West Aussie beaches – all thanks to your wonderful generosity.

Thanks to the wonderful support of our community over the past few years, drone patrols now provide life-saving surveillance on several of our busiest beaches. They provide crucial back up to beach patrols, identifying potential dangers and spotting people in trouble in time for our courageous surf lifesavers to spring into action.

During the 2019/20 season,
you supported the delivery of:



1,000+ HOURS OF ON-WATER TIME BY
MEMBERS TRAINED TO OPERATE JET
SKIS



1,977 DRONE PATROL FLIGHTS AND 591
SURVEILLANCE HOURS BY 74 TRAINED
OPERATORS



1,350 SURF LIFESAVERS TRAINED IN FIRST AID
EACH YEAR IN WA



PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS

Finding new ways to keep West Aussies safe, thanks to you

Preventative actions take many forms and vary from beach to beach. This year, volunteer surf lifesavers on Broome's popular Cable Beach began an exciting new prevention initiative, thanks to your incredible support.

Marine stingers like Irukandji and Box Jellyfish can threaten lives at Cable Beach. So from November to May each year, the SLSWA Lifeguard service conducts Marine Stinger Net Drags every Monday to Saturday, to identify what types of marine stingers are in the water.

On Sunday 5th May, Surf Life Saving WA's Regional Operations Supervisor showed enthusiastic surf lifesavers how to use the Marine Stinger Net, and how to identify the different types of stingers caught in the drag.

This is the first time in Broome Surf Life Saving Club's history that volunteer lifesavers have added Marine Stinger Net Drags to their Sunday patrols.

They'll now be able to warn beachgoers if they find dangerous stingers in the surf.

... AND KEEPING WEST AUSSIES SAFE.

The best way to save West Aussie lives on our beaches is to prevent emergencies before they occur.

Last year, thanks to your generosity, our volunteers were able to perform 14,545 potentially life-saving preventative actions on West Aussie beaches.

Throughout the season, surf lifesavers patrolled beaches, watching for hazards, putting up signs, and educating beachgoers about the dangers and how to avoid them. Making sure people are safer on our beaches **all year round**, even when the icons in red and yellow aren't there to watch over them.

Thanks to you, surf lifesavers can pass on their crucial knowledge to the broader community through training, education, and public awareness campaigns.



Thank you so much for all the lives you've helped to save this year. With your support, we look forward to another wonderful season this year, keeping West Aussies safe on our glorious beaches.

