



Message from the President



The balmy hot summer days have certainly had a huge impact on the operations of the Royal Life Saving Society Qld (RLSSQ) since the start of 2017.

We began the New Year unsuccessfully defending our National Title at the Life Saving Championships held in Melbourne, however our team performed exceptionally and finished second overall. The Queensland Team was successful in taking out the much coveted, National CPR Championship.

During the summer, we have continued to work on the electronic registration system for course enrolment. There have been some frustrating teething problems, which the Board of Directors are well aware, and we are working with management to find suitable solutions. Trainers and Assessors should note that if the on-line system fails you, then you can still register your courses and buy your packs the way that they were purchased previously.

The Christmas/New Year period recorded some of the worst drowning statistics ever recorded in this country. The ten (10) year drowning deaths average for the period 25 December to 2 January has been twelve (12) deaths nationally, each year. During this last festive season commencing 25 December 2016 to 2 January 2017, a total of twenty-five (25) drowning deaths were recorded nationally. Rivers, creeks, dams and swimming pools have been a major contributor to these tragedies.

This statistic reminds us of the enormous task that still exists in keeping our communities safe, and the important role that RLSSQ plays as a major contributor and delivery agent of water safety programs, state-wide.

During the past few months we have grown our network of volunteers and paid staff and we have initiated a number of new working parties to complement our traditional subcommittees.

The Board of Directors now oversees the following groups:

- State Honors Committee
- State Building Committee
- State Team Selection Committee
- The VET Trainer Feedback Committee
- The Aquafutures Conference Committee
- Industry Liaison Committee

We continue to work tirelessly adhering to the rigorous audit requirements of the Registered Training Organisation Framework and we generously provide support to RLSS Tasmania Branch, so that they can also fulfil their training requirements.

Some dates to remember for 2017:

- 18 – 20 June ARI Conference
- 14 – 15 August LIWA Conference
- 23 – 25 August Aquafutures Conference
- 27 – 28 September AUSTSWIM Nat. Conference
- 16 – 20 October World Conference on Drowning (Canada)

Yours in Life Saving,

Les Mole

BAVE JP Qual

Never Give UP!

•••

Fiona Lash has been an RLSSQ Trainer for many years, and with a sudden illness she had to have a break from training to put her health first.

Fiona found swimming a challenge, she trained hard to practice her 400m swim and various physical components of the course in which she completed recently with us at a Bronze Medallion public course.

We are so proud of your achievements, you have reminded us that with passion, comes commitment and with commitment comes achievement.



*Well done from us all at
RLSSQ*

Making History

As a Lifesaver for over 45 years and a keen historian and author, RLSSQ Life Member, James (Jim) McClelland thought it only fitting that he commemorates the 125th Anniversary of Commonwealth drowning prevention by researching and publishing the history of the award that is symbolic and iconic of Lifesaving across the Commonwealth, the Bronze Medallion.



'The Bronze Medallion & Lifesaving Story' which was published by Jim in December 2016, provides a fascinating chronology of water safety throughout modern history. If you are interested in obtaining a copy please contact Royal Life Saving Society Queensland or download a free copy on www.mcclelland.com.au or www.caloundracity.org.au



Ross Williams chalks up 30 years

Very few people in any organisation can boast thirty (30) years of continued active voluntary service. At the Royal Life Saving Society Queensland (RLSSQ) we are pleased to recognise the extra ordinary contributions of our honorary solicitor Mr Ross Williams, who this month, celebrates thirty years of active service.

Ross has witnessed first-hand the great achievements of the organisation and unselfishly makes himself available for the day to day operations of RLSSQ.

Ross is a senior partner of HWL Ebsworth Lawyers in Brisbane and is a Life Member of RLSSQ.





Training Department

• • •

In the last newsletter, I quoted "Never forget why we do what we do".

So far, this summer in Australia we estimate that there has been 70 drownings with 13 of those occurring in Queensland.

This is a reminder of why water safety and rescue skills are so valuable to all.

The Training Department is currently working on an ongoing community engagement plan to ensure we deliver these skills to a range of demographics.

This is an exciting plan which we believe can contribute to the continuous efforts for reducing the drowning tolls in Australia.

In the past couple of months RLSSQ has been to a variety of areas already including Longreach, Charters Towers, Toowoomba and North Keppell Island.

I would like to thank the trainers involved for delivering high quality training and always ensuring an enjoyable and engaging course. The feedback I receive is exceptional and you all lead by example.

The VET Trainer Committee has been established with our first meeting to take place in March. The members are:

- Shayne Baker
- Tamara Price
- Shaun Glastonbury
- Jason Somerville-Kimlin
- Andrew Chan
- Paul Barry

The committee members have experiences from various backgrounds and I believe this is a step forward for all RLSSQ Trainers.

The Training Department will continue to provide support and assistance to all RLSSQ trainers, we are all in this together.

If you love your job, you'll never work a day in your life.

Susan Devlin - Training & Programs Manager

Recreational Training

• • •

Over the December Holidays, Clem Jones Aquatic Centre, held a Junior Lifeguard Course and Water Safety Week. They had around 40 in the Water Safety Week and over 20 in the Junior Lifeguard Program. The Centre also runs Swim and Survive Lessons through the term, and for their school swimming.

As a centre they order around 8,000 certificates per year!

The Water Safety Week, facilitated by Kym Wood, is a great initiative and is growing every time they put it on. The kids are presented with different obstacles, shaving cream challenge, relays and more – all while learning how to have fun and be safe around the water! Children from as young as 4 were involved in the recent program.

RTO

We would like to welcome to our new staff member the lovely Cathy. We have been busy with the introduction of the Flexible Active Learning resources and our Trainers now have the option of conducting online courses, which has both been well received.

2017 is shaping up to be a fantastic year for RLSSQ.

Jo & Cindy

Swim & Survive

We now have 126 Swim and Survive Partners!

During the course of the year, we will be looking at putting on workshops for Swim & Survive Centres to go over the updated Junior Lifeguard Program.

If you would like us to look at hosting a workshop in your area, please contact Tamara via email on watersafety@rlssq.com.au

Whilst the Junior Lifeguard roll out will be a main focus, we can also host workshops on anything you require – Swim & Survive, rescues, initiatives, teaching Bronze strands, stroke correction and development.

We can also have the workshops endorsed by AUSTSWIM giving your staff the opportunity to upskill and get renewal points at the same time!

Keep an eye out for our upcoming survey for swim schools and recreational trainers!

Tamara Price



Be prepared for the new experience!

With the phenomenal success of Aquafutures 2013 and 2015, Royal Life Saving Society Queensland (RLSSQ) will host the Aquafutures International Conference 2017.

This year Aquafutures will be held at Peppers Noosa Resort & Villas from the 23rd to 25th August. Save the dates and be part of the new experience!

Aquafutures is a three-day conference that will bring together an eclectic range of industry leaders focusing on three key areas:

- Programs and Training**
- Facility Management**
- Water Quality Management**

Who should attend?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facility Managers• Trainers• Pool Safety Inspectors• Pool Service Technicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lifeguards• Swim School Managers• Swimming Pool Lessees• Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lifeguard Supervisors• Swim Teachers• Pool Shop Owners• Water Quality Staff
--	--	--

Upcoming Events

Royal Life Saving Society Queensland are conducting the 2017 Queensland Primary & Secondary School Championships.

Sunday 7th May 2017 at Somerville House Aquatic Centre.

This event is open to all Queensland Schools and is an extension of the Bronze and Swim & Survive Strands of Lifesaving currently presented in the School system. Any Teachers, Swim Instructors, parents or students requiring further information on this event please contact sport@rlssq.com.au



[Follow us on Facebook](#)



Royal Life Saving Society Queensland Inc.
1204 New Cleveland Road, Gumdale 4154

P: (07) 3823 2823 | Web: <http://www.rlssq.com.au>