

JANUARY TWENTY EIGHTEEN

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A Word from the President

With 2018 now in full swing, and most students returning to school across the State, it's hard to imagine that in a few short months, the World will be watching the XXI Commonwealth Games, hosted in our back yard.

It's so pleasing that every corner of the State will be showcased with events conducted from the NSW border all the way up to Cairns. The event's economic benefit is estimated to be around \$2Billion, with around 6,600 athletes and 15,000 volunteers involved.

Like many of you, I will be volunteering for the Games, and we would love to record your stories. So please, keep us posted and send heaps of stories and photos.

I must congratulate many volunteers and staff, who have worked so tirelessly during the first half of this summer. Paul Barry has stepped up from where Michael Darben left off as Executive Director, and RLSSQ will continue to foster under his leadership.

Although we were pipped at the post and finished second at the National Championships held in Adelaide during early January 2018, our team management, coaches and athletes all flew the Queensland flag, with pride.

As we brace ourselves for another potential cyclone season, I urge everyone to take care, and lookout for a fellow neighbour who may seek your assistance in time of need. It was almost a year ago now, when Cyclone Debbie ripped apart the east coast of Queensland, and in some parts, the recovery is still underway.

Regards always

Les Mole
President

Executive Directors Report

I trust all members had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. On Christmas Day I volunteered my time to patrol Bulcock Beach in Caloundra (which I do with my family most years) and following Christmas I did a nine day cruise to the South Pacific.

As many members may have noticed our website has had some changes. Much of the content is the same, however we have moved from HTML frames technology to a php driven engine which is a more modern platform. I have been conscious of controlling the cost of our website, so whilst we presently do not have the most impressive platform, this platform does achieve most of the features we are seeking at a very reasonable cost. Our website platform and capability will be reviewed later in the year as part of our continual improvement process.

We have a new staff member Ms Sarah Boettcher who has joined us as a Training Officer and comes from outside the Royal Life Saving network. Sarah will be facilitating much of the courses that we are conducting. With Sarah now on board, I am pleased to advise that we are able to conduct regular courses at Burpengary, which have now been scheduled. This means we are now running regular courses in Life Saving and First Aid in two locations which is a key strategy and a fantastic outcome.

On the subject of training, whilst we thought we completed the update of first aid training workbooks, unfortunately during our final compliance check prior to release we identified a few gaps that we have had to rectify. I apologise that this has occurred and we are working hard to bring these to our trainers. On a positive note, we have refined our Bronze Medallion and Pool Lifeguard re-accreditation workbooks, which will significantly reduce the workload for course participants when undertaking a re-accreditation. These will be available in about a week.

Another new staff member I would also like to announce is Miss Melissa (Mel) Robbins who has commenced as a Project Officer looking after the Love-2-Swim project. Mel will be working closely with our Love-2-Swim partners and her role will be to support those partners who deliver the Love-2-Swim program.

The Society is seeking nominations for various volunteer roles that lead and drive various aspects of our organisation and we are calling for nominations from suitably experienced people for the following roles:

- **Club Liaison Officer**
- **Member of the building committee**
- **State Sport Coordinator**
- **State Team Manager**
- **State Team Coach**

Nominees will need to consider how they can build and increase facilities, participation and services of the Society products and programs.

Nomination can be made at this link: <https://www.rlssq.com.au/index2.php?show=Form-Nomination>

Regards

Paul Barry,
Executive Director





2018 Australian Pool Life Saving Championships

The Queensland Team competed in the 2018 Australian Pool Life Saving Championships, which were held on 11 – 13 January 2018 in Adelaide at the South Australia Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Queensland had a large contingent attend the championships with 33 Athletes, 2 individual competitors, 5 team management (2 were also athletes) and 9 officials.

The team held six full squad training sessions in the months leading up to the championships including sessions in October (Brisbane), November (Nambour), December (Gold Coast – Weekend Camp), January (Brisbane), and a further two in January (Adelaide). Regular regional sessions were also held at the Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. Each session incorporated a number of events (e.g. SERC, CPR, speed events, relay events, rope throwing) and skills components.

This culminated in a massive team effort which produced some outstanding results; after a three day competition and 80 events. We fell short by just 22 points to NSW. Queensland should be very proud of their results, they took out the CPR, SERC, Women’s Overall and Open Overall Age Group Championships. Queensland had 12 athletes successfully selected in one of the Australian Royal Life Saving Teams (Barras – Open, Silver Barras – Under 19 or Junior Barras – Under 16 Teams).

Full result can be obtained at this link: <https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/sport/australian-pool-life-saving-championships>

The team organisers would like to acknowledge Mr Les Mole, the Board and Staff of RLSSQ, and VICI for their continued support for sport of Pool Life Saving.

Jeannie Baxter-Reid



RLSS Life Membership (Australia)

Dr Shayne Baker OAM has been awarded Life Membership of Royal Life Saving Society Australia in January 2018. Dr Baker has been a long term member of the Queensland branch, and served in many honorary roles, including State Secretary.

Dr Baker has also served as National President and a representative for Royal Life Saving on various boards of the International Life Saving Federation (ILS). In all, Dr Baker has volunteered his services as a board member, for close to 30 years.

Dr Bakers’ is currently involved in a program known as Toowoomba Little Life Savers, which is a program conducted in the regional town of Toowoomba, aimed at educating youth water safety and life saving skills.

Qld Member Receives RLSS Diploma (a second time)

Society member Mr James (Jim) McClelland has been awarded a Diploma of the Royal Life Saving Society for the second time. Jim was one of only five 2017 Diplomas awarded in December 2017 by the RLSS Commonwealth Honours Committee. James is the only Australian to have received the RLSS Diploma a second time.

The Diploma instituted in 1896, after the Bronze Medallion in 1892, is still the highest lifesaving award of the Society throughout the world, and is available to 27 Commonwealth member countries of the Society.



James’ first RLSS Diploma was awarded in 1993 and required completion of theory and practical examinations over six modules. From 2004 the RLSS Diploma requirement is the successful completion of a research project. James project was an historical thesis of the Royal Life Saving Society, titled The Bronze Medallion & Lifesaving Story, which was published in December 2016, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of The Royal Life Saving Society in 2016.

Mr McClelland said past history books presented limited information on the early history of the Society. “After a year of intense full time research, it was an honour to have my book published, which was dedicated to all past and present Royal Life Savers,” he said.

A copy of James’ book can be downloaded at this link: <https://www.rlssq.com.au/Downloads/The-Bronze-Medallion-and-Life-Saving-Story.pdf>

Society Member Receives recognition at the Australia Day Awards

Society member Tess Pemble has received recognition at the Australia Day Awards for coordinating a Swim & Survive workshop for children in the Charters Towers community. The workshop was held on 4 & 5 March 2017 and was attended by 88 children. The two day workshop focussed on children aged 4 to 12 years and swimming and survival skills. Tess said the barrier in regional Queensland is funding and finding qualified staff; she said the workshop was so successful she had a waiting list of children to attend.

Tess received a nomination for the award for organising the workshop and is pictured with her certificate she received on Australia Day under the category of ‘events’.

Life Saving on Keppel Bay Island

Joy Symons, trainer from Rockhampton, recently ran a Bronze Medallion Course on North Keppel Island (just 12.2km from Great Keppel Island). The staff at North Keppel Island Environmental Education Centre enjoyed their annual Bronze medallion course on 23 January 2018. The crew of six men do an amazing job of educating local school students, corporate groups, foreign doctors and other groups on the wildlife and fauna in Australia, our waterways and the Great Barrier Reef.

Joining the group was a teacher from Moura High School who enjoyed a change from mining landscapes, being coastal for the day. The day started on the boat, Gundoo Spirit, out to the North Keppel Island, theory in their dining hall followed by a few hours on the beach. The group then headed to 3m deep water to finalise practical competencies and run initiatives that challenged them.

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