

## New Executive Director

I wish to announce Mr Paul Barry as the new Executive Director of the Society. Paul has been involved with the Society for many years and has a long life saving background including experience in lifeguarding, training, sport, and clubs. Many members will know Paul as being the Society's Treasurer and Club Representative.

Paul's recruitment followed an extensive recruitment process headed by the Society's honorary solicitor, Mr Ross Williams, assisted by members of the Board of Directors. The position was advertised broadly and received a strong response from members of the Society and other talented individuals. The Board wishes to thank all of the candidates and those involved with the process.

Early in the recruitment, the interviewing panel considered the short, medium and long term needs of the organisation, particularly to support and grow the financial strength of the Society, and ensure that the Society is supported by the funding, systems, processes and leadership to enable it to perform effectively. Paul brings with him the skills and experience to achieve this.

Professionally, Paul is an accountant, holding a Bachelors of Business (Accounting) Degree [QUT] and has worked in a number of senior corporate roles for public companies. His most recent roles include as a Senior Manager for Westpac in its Brisbane Head Office, and Manager Legal for the public company Silver Chef.

Paul brings strong finance, business management and advisory skills from his prior roles which, when combined with his life saving experience, will place him in a unique position for the challenges that lay ahead.

Paul said 'It is an incredible honour for me to lead and serve this great organisation of ours. I am excited about the opportunities for Royal Life Saving in Queensland, we have a strong history and some great products which gives us a fantastic grounding for opportunities to grow and achieve our goals, which is ultimately drowning prevention.'

The Board will shortly commence its search to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors and I look forward to updating you all on those developments.

Les Mole  
President

## A word from the Executive Director

The Society has had many successes over the last few years, particularly pleasing is our increasing program participation numbers, however we have had challenges in other areas and we may not have always achieved the outcomes we wanted. This is normal for any organisation, and every few years it is timely to look at ourselves and review where we are and our desired direction.

Coming in as the new Executive Director allows me the opportunity to review the entire organisation, to help determine how we can improve. Some things we have done very well, but member feedback tells us we could improve in some areas. With this in mind I have developed a ten-point plan for our immediate future, which is outlined to the right:

Strategy	Examples of what this means
Revisit who we are	Creating values and codes of conduct for ourselves. Communicate these to stakeholders and ensure we adhere to our codes.
Improve member communication	Re-issue newsletters, however consider if newsletters are the best way to communicate to stakeholders and look at the various alternative ways of communicating. Also reviewing our internet site.
Improve member and community trust	Being open to feedback and being accountable to our members. Hold regular Audit Committee meetings and communicate these to members.
Review our capability	Undertake a review of all the Society's products, services and programs to determine what is working well and what potential we have to improve. Seek options for improved delivery of our services and review our service delivery model.
Improve our governance	Develop channels for stakeholders to give feedback. Reviewing our policies and procedures and make these available to stakeholders. Commence a formal review of our constitution and governing policies.
Strengthen our organisation	Review our financial and operational risks and outcomes and drive for a stronger return.
Prepare for growth	Build a scalable customer centric model that will enable us to grow in our key delivery product.
Increase stakeholder engagement	Proactively engage with all stakeholders to gain a better understanding of our industry's issues and concerns, so that we can support the industry as a trusted advisor and advocate.
Build a service culture	Support a service and solution focused team to support our products and services. Consider what benefits we can give to our members and participants.
Prepare for our future	Develop a long-term strategy linked to clear short term goals and regularly review our strategy as changes in the industry occur.

I fully appreciate that some members may have concerns about the organisation or around what changes will occur. No doubt the outcome of this review will lead to many internal changes and new strategies, however it will build a stronger and more resilient organisation, with improved performance and a culture of accountability, we will be better placed to meet challenges now and into the future.



Some of the above actions will be completed very quickly, however others will take some time to be achieved and will need to be carefully considered, giving stakeholders the opportunity to provide input into the decision making process.

I plan to engage with key stakeholders over the coming months and I do also want to hear members' feedback. I will shortly arrange for the ability to provide feedback via our website and I encourage members to use this feature as soon as it becomes available.

I am looking forward to working with you over the months and years ahead as we develop and grow. We have many opportunities and an exciting time ahead as we build what is already a strong organisation into a fantastic institution.

Best regards  
Paul Barry

### Camp Cobbold 2017

Camp Cobbold is a social development program run by Scripture Union Queensland in partnership with eleven different community organisations. Cobbold Gorge Tours has hosted the Camp Cobbold since 2010. The camp provides families from remote properties in Far North Queensland with a unique opportunity to experience support, personal development, life-skill training, social interaction and mental and allied health services for both adults and children.

The event is held annually during the September school holidays and caters for children in years 5–12 and their families. Families participate in a five day coordinated camp facilitated by volunteers from all over Queensland.

Volunteers from Royal Life Saving have been attending this program for seven (7) years teaching children about Water Safety and Rescues in the infinity pool.

Ms Carolyn Asher, Ms Helen Horner and her daughter Miss Sam Horner attend representing Royal Life Saving and between them they delivered 'Western Waves Swimming Instruction' and 'Life Saving and Canoe at the Waterhole' sessions. The sessions were designed to improve water safety for children in and around rural waterways.

As well as Water Safety in the dam, the children were taught the Swim and Survive program in the swimming pool with participants from babies to 14 year olds. Feedback from the program is that there has been improvement from year to year and the confidence that they have is achieved is a very proud moment that Royal Life has been able to bestowed upon the community.

### Training Update

#### New First Aid Assessment Book

We are pleased to announce that following feedback from our trainers and course participants, we have reviewed and restructured the First Aid Assessment Booklets. These booklets will be available for trainers to use in a few weeks time. We are presently conducting live trials with the booklets so that we have confidence in them. The focus has been to enhancing the user experience

And simplifying the structure of the booklets. The resultant booklets have significantly less questions and less ambiguity.

We will contract trainers directly when these booklets are available for distribution and we will distribute a trainers guide at the appropriate time. Existing booklets can continue to be used.

### National Drowning Report

The newly released Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2017 shows 291 people died as a result of drowning in Australia in the 2016/17 financial year. This is a 3% increase on the 282 drowning deaths in 2015/16. Of these, 73 occurred in Queensland, which is a concerning increase of 7% on the 10 year average.

The highest number of deaths occurred in young children aged 0–4 years (18%). Swimming pools were the leading location for drowning (27%) and people commonly drowned as a result of swimming and recreating (28%).

The nation's inland waterways continue to be the leading location for fatal drowning, accounting for 97 deaths in 2016/17, almost one third of the total. This included 68 at rivers and creeks, and 29 at lakes and dams.

Drowning in children under five increased last year. Tragically 29 children aged 0–4 years drowned in 2016/17, a 38% increase on the previous year, serving as a sobering reminder to parents and pool owners of the need to constantly Keep Watch around water.

Please contact us to obtain a copy of the National Drowning Report.

#### Key Drowning Facts

- 291 people drowned in Australian waterways between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017
- 73 (25%) of these occurred in Queensland
- 74% of all drowning deaths were male
- 24% drowning deaths occurred in people aged 65 years and over
- 15% drowning deaths occurred in people aged 25–34 years
- 10% drowning deaths occurred in children aged 0–4 years
- 4% drowning deaths occurred in children aged 5–14 years
- 23% drowning deaths occurred at rivers, creeks and streams
- 17% drowning deaths occurred at beaches
- 16% drowning deaths occurred in ocean / harbour locations

