



COUNCIL OF LIFESAVING OPERATIONS 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORT



The Council of Lifesaving Operations would like to acknowledge the support of the following sponsors:



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CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Membership data has been extracted from SurfGuard Membership database, this year's figures would indicate that compared to last season's data, and overall membership has increased from 23,343 up to 25,266 which is a total of 1,923 additional members. Patrolling membership (Cadet Active (13-15 years), Junior Active (15-18 years) and Senior Active (18 years & over) age groups) has also shown an overall increase for the 2009-10 season.

Table 1. 2009-10 / 2008-09 membership comparison by category

Membership type	YTD 2009-10 Membership	2008-09 Membership
Probationary	705	292
Nipper Member (5-13 years)	8,305	7,784
Cadet Active (13-15 years)	1,643	1,590
Junior Active (15-18 yrs)	2,212	1,990
Senior Active (18yrs and over)	3,155	2,800
Award Active Member	130	128
Reserve Active	174	174
Long Service Active	156	152
Past Active*	18	N/A
Associate	6,846	6,738
Life Member	657	617
General	1,208	1,024
Honorary	44	53
Academy (Non-Members)	13	1
Total	25,266	23,343

Director – Lifesaving Services

Mark Scott**Overview**

This season saw over 2.1 million visitations at patrolled beaches, 627 rescues and more than 46,500 preventative actions taking place. Our Lifesavers and Lifeguards also responded to over 2,800 First Aid incidents, including 112 Major First Aid incidents that required further medical treatment keeping our patrolling and Lifeguard services extremely busy.

Lifesaving Services

Our clubs and lifesaving services continued to respond to increasing community and government expectations. Though not facing the temperatures of last season's heatwave, patrols continue to record and increase in numbers of visitations to beaches this also saw an increase in rescues and first aid cases season. This season also saw a reduction in coastal drowning down to ten compared to the 14 of last season.

Pain Management

This year saw the continuation of Methoxyflurane commonly known as Penthrane or the 'green whistle' as a pain management tool at several of our high incident Lifeguard sites over the summer season. This proved to be a successful addition to the first aid treatment of injured patients at these sites.

Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter Service

We also saw the Reintroduction of the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter Service thanks to the generous financial support of Westpac Bank. I would like to thank the massive work done by Greg Scott and Paula Butler in bringing this service to life in the short time we had to meet the start of the season deadline. I would also like to acknowledge the hardwork and assistance of Bob Woods and the volunteer Helicopter Crews that have made it possible for us to supply this needed community rescue service. Due to their work along with the support of Microflite, Life Saving Victoria's Air services has not only met and exceeded our own expectations but that of other emergency services, a big thanks to these people involved.

Following the successes of the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter in the 2009-10 patrol season, this service is now undergoing a significant expansion. Fully funded by the generous support of Westpac, from 1 September 2010 the service will recommence operations, and continue with 12 months a year availability.

In addition to this, we will operate a second helicopter over the Patrol Season.

This will see LSV operating two single engine helicopter services.

Lifesaver 6 – Operational 12 months of the year

Lifesaver 7 – Operational during the Patrol Season only

During the Patrol Season, one aircraft will be based at an outpost helicopter base on a daily basis during the peak season and on patrol days, giving us two aircraft located at separate locations from which to respond. This outpost location is still to be finalised and will be announced shortly.

In addition to the benefits already realised in the transition from fixed wing services to a single engine helicopter, the service expansion will see a significant increase in the hours available for helicopter patrols and a greater ability to engage in club events. A further intake of volunteer crew is currently underway in recognition of the extra service requirements..

Offshore Rescue craft

This season saw further growth and requests for our offshore, RWC and out of hours response teams. As we face more and more rescues and responses outside our traditional patrolled areas and times. Currently our AMSAR group is working on developing a new CERT I – Maritime Operations - Offshore rescue boat crews

With funding support of Westpac Bank a relaunch and expansion of the RNLI Offshore Rescues Craft based at Pier 35 is being undertaken and will be operating and patrolling this season.

Club Development

A huge effort was undertaken on developing the capacity and strength of the smaller and struggling clubs this season to assist them in undertaking patrols and club management activities. Staff, with assistance from key volunteers directly assisted with the delivery and the facilitation of hundreds of core qualifications across these clubs and spent many hours building the capacity of the clubs to manage their members and expand the capabilities of these clubs thanks to Bernadene Hanson extensive work and her team of volunteers.

Awards and qualifications are still a bit of a concern to the development of clubs and I would like to thank Andy Doyle, Director of Training and Assessment and his team of State Officers and all our club assessors for their hard work and dedication as they continue to develop and process the massive and continual changes and challenges presented to us with all the RTO and SLSA requirements to our awards and qualifications.

Communication System

This season also saw the continued broadening and development of our radio communication system across the state with the introduction and upgrade of new radio links at various locations as we continually improve communications at our patrolled locations and our lifesaving service sites. This season will see the complete reprogramming of all communications systems. A huge thank you to Chris Stevens our State Communications officer for his work in this area and all the volunteer operators that diligently manned LSV Comms over the season.

Club Grants

Though generally the club grant situation has improved over the last 5-6 years with over \$1 million of grants being delivered to clubs this year, the demand and the desperate need for funding still easily outweighs the available funding making all current grants greatly contended especially in the area of maintenance and repairing Clubhouse and Facilities. We still look to every opportunity to pursue any and all funding for the clubs and I would like to especially thank the staff and volunteers for their hard work in helping to secure this vital funding.

As I look back over the year again and realise that the amount of increased activity undertaken could now fill several novels we need to pause and acknowledge our reliance on and the dedication of our hard working and dedicated operational volunteers and staff whom we could not manage without let alone deliver the amount of activity that we undertake in this organisation.

As we transition in to the 2010 – 11 season we now face some new and ongoing challenges such as aligning our patrols and rescue services to better match the changing beach usage from the traditional weekend and public holidays to a flexible and varied patrols, greater expectation of local communities, governments and emergency services to respond to incidents outside our traditional patrolled area along with the continual changes in the area of volunteer training and qualifications and expansion of lifeguard and marine rescue services.

In closing I would like to extend my unreserved thank you to all the LSOC Regional and State Officers, executive members, various volunteers, Paula Butler and her Operational staff that worked with and assist me tirelessly over the season to achieve so much and look forward to continuing that working relationship in what will be a continually and exciting 2010-2011 season.

On behalf of Lifesaving Operations Council I would like to extend our thanks and admiration to the dedication and incredible service that all our patrolling clubs, their members, lifesavers, lifeguards, Regional and Duty Officers, Staff and Operational personnel commit whilst attending to their roles in lifesaving Operations.

Mark Scott

Director - Lifesaving Services

Chair Lifesaving Operations Council

State Training & Assessment Supervisor

Scott Yeomans

Report not available at time of print

State Resource Research & Development Officer

Stuart Wall

The last twelve months have seen this role embedded its self with the fabric of Life Saving Victoria. The gap between training and lifesaving operations is closing with the development and review of resources utilising the Specialist Interest Groups and the newly formed State Training Development Group. Unlike the Specialist Interest Groups, who focus on resource review, the State Training Development Group was formed to support the develop of new training resources.

Under the guidance of the Lifesaving Operations Executive the State Training Development Group has started work on a number of projects that will support Lifesaving Operations at both Club and Support Services levels. These projects include the development of the Critical Incident Stress Management protocols, Psychological First Aid, peer support, the Cert I in ORB Deckhand and the list goes on.

Highlights:

- Working with the AMSAR Group to develop the Cert I in ORB Deckhand
- Working with Lifesaving Operations to develop Critical Incident Stress Management Protocols
- Working with ACPTMH to provide Psychological First Aid training to State Officers
- Development of Defibrillation Awareness You tube video
- Development of the Life Saving Victoria Bronze Medallion workbook

All up we have had a busy year with fantastic outcomes. Moreover I must thank both volunteer and paid staff who have supported these projects. Without their assist none of the above achievements would have been possible, Thank you.

Bass Region

Clubs: *Cape Paterson, Inverloch, Venus Bay, Waratah Beach, Wonthaggi and Woolamai Beach*

Regional Officer

Scott Cameron

The past season was another productive time, heatwaves and bushfires both of these times taking its toll on many members and families.

As always the start of the season saw the traditional gear inspections take place, to make it easier on clubs and inspectors this time I introduced direct e-mail re-inspections, this worked by having an initial inspection and any equipment that was missing or unsatisfactory which needed a second visit was confirmed using e-mails and photographs putting work on the clubs to finish the gear with a pass and easing the pressure on inspectors for follow up onsite inspections.

I have continued to have access to the local municipalities in regard to emergency planning and have gained a strong working relationship with the South Gippsland shire.

There were a few incidents that I'm sure many would want not to happen but with our excellent training and dedicated volunteers these times were dealt with absolute top grade service and were conducted extremely well, a special pat on the back for the Cape Paterson members.

Highlights -

- Working closer with the Bass clubs.
- Achieving certificates within emergency management
- Gaining direct access into the South Gippsland shire, emergency management committee.

Thank you from all the clubs in the past season for their help and feedback, look forward to working with you all in the future.

Bellarine Region

Clubs: *Anglesea, Bancoora, Barwon Heads/13th Beach, Jan Juc, Ocean Grove, Point Lonsdale and Torquay*

Regional Officer

Matthew Ponsford

Volunteer Surf Lifesavers and Paid Lifeguards are to be congratulated for their efforts during Season 2009 / 2010 in keeping Bellarine and Surfcoast beaches safe and continuing the record of no drownings between the red and yellow flags.

Highlights -

- Establishment of a new radio repeater at Anglesea and plans for new repeaters across the Region in Season 2010 / 2011
- Ability for all LERTs and Clubs to respond to requests for out of hours response
- 13th Beach and Point Lonsdale providing regular RWC patrols
- All Clubs successfully passing Gear Inspections
- Ocean Grove hosting the Victorian IRB Championships

The area of critical incident support for our members received a big focus during the Season across the State and rightly so. I was pleased to be involved with the design of posters and brochures which were rolled out prior to Summer. Stu Wall is to be congratulated for his role in ensuring that training in psychological first aid has commenced and for the positive developments that are occurring in this important area.

Thanks to all Club Captains / Lifesaving Services Managers and Patrol Captains for your individual efforts at your Club.

Many thanks to Tony Hodder for his support as the Assistance Regional Officer and his willingness to continue this for Season 2010 / 2011.

Gippsland Region

Clubs: *Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Seaspray and Woodside Beach*

Regional Officer

Barrie Smith

Report not available at time of print

Kingston Region

Clubs: *Aspendale, Bonbeach, Carrum, Chelsea Longbeach, Edithvale, Frankston, Mentone, Mordialloc and Seaford*

Regional Officer

Kerry Bell

1. This season there was no fatality in the Kingston zone which I feel is a great reward for the clubs in this zone.
2. Clubs in the region are starting to work closer with each other and are willing to support each other.
3. We have held regional meetings that were well attended by all clubs and, all clubs actively participated in these meetings.
4. The CALD programme continuing in the zone and more clubs becoming involved in this programme.
5. The welcoming that I received from each club that I attended no matter what reason I was visiting for e.g. gear inspection, patrol audits or just a chat.

This season was my 1st as Regional Officer, I have enjoyed the duties that I have undertaken. I have visited each club in the zone as I completed gear inspections and patrol audits, I accompanied volunteers that also attended to the clubs in the zone and I thank them each for their valuable time given to helping myself and the Kingston zone to become a strong and close zone.

This season our aim will be to try and help those clubs that are defaulting with their patrols and with the assistance of the district officer and the LSV support officer I feel we can try to overcome the problem for the clubs.

I look forward to this next season.

Peninsula Region

Clubs: *Dromana Bay, Gunnamatta, Mornington, Mount Martha, Point Leo, Portsea, Rosebud and Sorrento*

Regional Officer

Adam Greig

This was my first year in the role and it has been great meeting so many committed and talented lifesavers and committee members of clubs across the Mornington Peninsula. The only issue with gear inspections conducted were related to powercraft at 2 clubs, which were soon rectified.

There was one drowning in the region which occurred at a non-patrolled beach (Cape Schanck) on Christmas Day. A near drowning also occurred at non-patrolled beaches within Port Phillip Bay such as Safety Beach and Rye.

The experience has been a steep learning curve and I look forward to continuing improving lifesaving on the Peninsula.

Highlights -

- Working with new equipment. Mount Martha launched an RWC service and both Portsea and Sorrento are now participating in the Pain Management tool trial of Penthrane.
- Working with the community. Mornington provided water safety for the Mornington Triathlon Club Grand 1200 swim. Mornington also continued its partnership with Mornington Secondary College, utilising their club rooms as a class room. The Australian Lifeguard Service expanded its service to cover the duration of the “schoolies” period at Sorrento. Portsea provided water safety for 2 inaugural events; Hot Barbeque (immediately after the Portsea Swim Classic) and the Great Peninsula Paddle.
- Working together. As well as the usual sharing of IRBs for fundraising swims across the region, clubs also worked well with each other and with the Australian Lifeguard Service. On one occasion at Point Leo paid lifeguards and volunteers worked hand in hand to rescue people from a sinking vessel. On other occasions Portsea and Sorrento were able to support each other when resources were stretched.
- Saving lives. Gunnamatta had 28 rescues in one day and Portsea had 34 on another single day. Both had small dedicated teams on these demanding and challenging days who were willing and able to save so many lives. Dromana Bay saved a 2 year old from drowning who was subsequently air lifted to the Royal Children’s Hospital.
- Demonstrating excellence. Gunnamatta and Dromana Bay both had zero defaults and Dromana Bay again achieved near perfect results during Patrol Inspections. Portsea’s Dave Rowell was awarded LSV Male Athlete of the Year and Portsea starred in the opening scene of the Vital, Valued Victorians Program.

The prevailing weather conditions meant the season was not as hot a summer as 08/09. Following the high number of rescues at Gunnamatta patrols were relocated to a safer stretch of the beach further from the club house and subsequently the number of rescues reduced significantly. Portsea also performed similar beach analysis and within the geographical limitations relocated patrols when possible. The majority of clubs held annual swims which were generally quite well attended. All clubs, especially Rosebud and McRae have made an active effort to reduce defaults and improve lifesaving standards.

Port Phillip Region

Clubs: *Altona, Beaumaris, Black Rock, Brighton, Elwood, Half Moon Bay, Hampton, Port Melbourne, Sandridge, Sandringham, South Melbourne, St Kilda and Williamstown*

Regional Officer

William Boyd

This season began with the usual gear inspection with only a couple of clubs requiring follow up, this was much better than the previous years. While the defaults continue to be a problem they have reduced greatly after conducting some more advanced courses with the help of the District trainers.

This season also saw 2 major incidents within the region, both outside of patrol hours. Praise needs to be given to the members involved for their professional approach to these extremely difficult incidents.

I was also given the chance to assist in the coordination of a search involving Lifesaving personnel, police personnel, the police air wing and Lifesaver 6. While the search was eventually called off due to the lack of a person reported missing, this was a highlight for me personally as a introduction to the inner working of a search coordination team.

Highlights -

- Presenting at a regional Basic Beach Management course
- Assisting in the search at Black Rock
- The announcement of the relaunch of Off Shore 7

Surfcoast Region

Clubs: *Apollo Bay, Fairhaven, Kennett River, Lorne, Wye River*

Regional Officer

Paul Lunny

Report not available at time of print

Western Region

Clubs: *Mildura, Port Campbell, Port Fairy, Portland, Warrnambool*

Regional Officer

Rebel Noter

This season I wasn't required to attend any emergencies but the district was involved in a few cases. Portland attend a couple of rescues as did Port Campbell being called out on a few occasions. This year the clubs were a lot more prepared which showed with their gear inspections. Being "Rescue Ready" is always a benefit in emergencies. Port Fairy Marine Rescue has been involved with training exercises with the Rescue Helicopter based at Warrnambool. Overall a good season from the West.

- Rescue Helicopter based at Warrnambool
- Port Campbell, Portland and Port Fairy Marine Rescue groups all operational
- Gear Inspections went well

The 2009/2010 Season is one that the Western Region should be happy with because on my travels around the clubs there was always good attendance by club members patrolling. There has been a push to make sure our members not only attend patrols but look professional in their appearance. This has also been noted by members of the public as I also patrol at Warrnambool.

This season I have also attended a psychological first aid course which will be beneficial in my role as Regional Officer. I will also be doing more work with our District Officer.

Director – Training & Assessment

Andrew Doyle

Overview:

Season 2009-10 saw the implementation of a number of procedural and course changes which should see Training and Assessment grow and develop strongly into the future. These changes included a new award processing procedure as a result of a full review and process mapping exercise. To support the new procedure the 'LSV Club Award Processing Guide' was developed and released. The Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate took place in preparation for it taking the place of Advanced Resuscitation Certificate and Defibrillation awards over the coming season. A large number of Trainers and Assessors gained endorsements over the last twelve months including many new Assessors. This influx of newly qualified personnel should position clubs well for sustainable training and assessment into the future.

Club Award Processing Procedures

As part of a change management program at Life Saving Victoria, management consultants were engaged to assist in reviewing a number of processes at Life Saving Victoria. The processing of club awards was high on the agenda. A working group was put together representing LSV staff & volunteers with an SLSA staff representative.

The group participated in a 3 day workshop to assess the current system and design a new process. This was followed by some meetings and phone conferences over the next couple of months as it was developed further and supporting documentation was prepared in time for release in September 2009.

The launch of the new procedures took place at the Life Saving Conference 2009 with further meetings led by District Officers taking place in most districts.

The new procedure represented the most significant change in the way that awards are processed since the introduction of Surfguard.

Work to ensure that all using this process understand their roles and have the training to carry them out consistently is ongoing and should see awards issued reliably and on time to all future award participants.

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate Roll Out

With the release of the Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate workshops were run in a number of Districts through 2009/2010 being organised both by LSV and District Officers. These workshops aimed to 'upskill' Trainers and Assessors to deliver the new award which incorporated the existing Advanced Resuscitation Certificate and Defibrillation Award along with the re-introduction of suction training.

Many of the workshops also offered training in the delivery and assessment of the existing Spinal Management Award.

Through the efforts of the highly skilled workshop facilitators strong numbers of Training and Assessment personnel are now ready to deliver these awards to members.

Trainer / Assessor / Facilitator Endorsements issued in Spinal Management and ART 2009/2010	Total
Training Officer Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	43
Training Officer Spinal Management	25
Assessor Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	58
Assessor Spinal Management	13
Facilitator Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	3
Facilitator Spinal Management	2
Total	268

Going Forward

Managing change appropriately for volunteer training and assessment is a challenge that the State Committee of Training and Assessment continue to work hard to achieve. With ongoing changes to awards a certainty the timing, communication and implementation of these changes are of upmost importance. As we look back on 2009/2010 we can be pleased that we have brought some certainty to the timing of decisions made by SLSA allowing adequate time for communication to clubs of award changes.

It's now up to our Trainers & Assessors and award administrators to actively engage and work with LSV to ensure that we make the Training & Assessment system effective and efficient in serving the needs of our patrolling lifesavers.

Thank you

I would like to thank the great Lifesaving Operations team and the Training & Assessment team for their support

To our Regional Officers, District Officers, Assessors and Trainers and the Lifesaving Operations Executive I would like to thank you for your ongoing efforts to ensure that Training and Assessment moves forward with a bright future.

Andy Doyle

Director – Training & Assessment

STATE OFFICERS

State Training Development Officer

Ned Douglas

Report not available at time of print

Training Strategy & Communication Officer

Bree Ambry

Report not available at time of print

State Emergency Management Officer

Darren McLeod

Well done to all of our response and call out services, which are continuing to expand and are being increasingly called upon by the Rescue Co-ordination Centre.

Excellent work to all involved with the re-introduction of the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service, which was tasked to a number shark sightings, missing swimmers and craft during the season – further expansion of this service is planned for next season

Highlights:

- Continued development of the Psychological First aid and Peer Support programs
- Re-Introduction of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service
- Further development of the AMSAR Group
- Initial development of the CERT I – Maritime Operations - Offshore rescue boat crews
- Further expansion of the LSV Communications radio network

Moving forward, there will be further development of our Lifesaving Emergency Response Teams in strategic locations. We also need to align our patrol services to 'better' cater for the community needs and expectations. I believe we need to review and identify how we can effectively supplement the traditional services being offered on weekends to a strategic approach that provides a service determined by the conditions and beach population.

Once again it has been a very busy year for radio communication planning and implementation. The completion of the LSV Radio Communications Strategic Plan has now set the framework for the future. We are working towards a network of 25 repeaters across the state. This will permit off the beach network coverage for all service locations. LSV was able to secure a sizable grant, from the SLSA Foundation, to assist with these network upgrades. The inclusion of LSV in the Emergency Services Communication Strategic Framework has also paved the way for our long term communication systems. The expanded repeater network has also enabled the Water Police to speak directly to lifesaver/lifeguards as they are undertaking search and rescue activities.

Highlights:

- Completion of the LSV VHF Marine Repeater Network Links System,
- Commissioning of the UHF Lakes Entrance, Anglesea and Mallacoota Repeaters,
- LSV inclusion in the Emergency Services Communication Strategic Framework,
- LSV Radio Communications Strategic Plan, and
- Greater Victorian Water Police Communications Links within the LSV network.

The 2010/11 season will see the commissioning of Phillip Island, Sorrento, Frankston, Geelong, Ocean Grove, Torquay and Warrnambool repeaters, taking the state total to 17. An additional Arthurs Seat repeater will also be commissioned as a dedicated emergency services channel. This will permit external agencies to have a direct feed into our network, permitting them to be linked to operational channels for search and rescue activities. Additionally LSV will be trialling two remote "000" alarms at Punchbowl and Potters Hill Road beach. Both are known for high rock fishing drowning areas.. Our biggest challenge this year will be the re-education of the membership around these network upgrades and new operating procedures.

IRB inspections were much better this year with most of them completed on schedule and the overall standard improving. Clubs need to remember to prepare beforehand and the inspections go much quicker especially if there are a few club members on hand to help.

Thanks to Bernadene Hansen pushing the District IRB Training courses clubs are now beginning to train together in groups. These courses consisting of candidates from several clubs are very beneficial and give a much improved standard of IRB operators. There has been a review and new resources are imminent.

We have had another IRB Maintenance weekend which was extremely well attended with 26 candidates. Each year we are improving and giving a more hands experience for the candidates and several clubs well on the way to preparing their IRB's for the coming season. We look forward to doing another weekend next winter

My challenge is to help coordinate and organise the Patrol Efficiency Competition and Inspections. My first challenge was to update resources with the aim to simplify the competition process. All relevant information was compiled into a more accessible, easy to read, quick reference handbook which includes the inspector's check list. This has enabled clubs to be better educated on the process and to be better prepared for inspections.

Some of the challenges faced now are: to recognise, value and reward high stands, to reassure and encourage the development of skills and maintain service standards and for greater club participation and the management of default contingency plans at a club level to maintain eligibility and lifesaving service. When you compete, you are already a winner.

Highlights:

Increased participation by members in inspector roles

Changes in competition mindset to one of skills and confidence enhancement in our members

Compilation of competition reference handbook for members

Simplifying inspection process and reducing the volunteer work load

Commendable feedback on member's teamwork, organisation, management, presentation and performance during inspections

Progress is step by step and many hands make light work, so any feedback and ideas to improve the competition is welcome. It is hoped that the new changes for the coming competition will ensure instruction are clearer and a greater consistency across inspections exists for fairness. Every effort will be made to assist you. Thank you to each and every member who has poured out their time and energy into the competition and congratulations to the winners for setting such exemplary standards.

Bass District

Clubs: *Cape Paterson, Inverloch, Venus Bay, Waratah Beach, Wonthaggi and Woolamai Beach,*

District Officer

Russell Stewart

The Bass District once again had a successful season with the highly regarded Lifesaving Development Camp and continuation of District based training and assessment providing a significant contribution to the growth of members' skills, experience and confidence on and off the beach. This huge task was made possible by a few dedicated trainers and assessors who made themselves available on numerous occasions and continue to provide invaluable support to the District.

Highlights -

- A number of positions on this year's Life Saving Development Camp were offered to and taken up by clubs interstate who have since requested those positions to be reserved each year and are in the process of developing their own camp.
- A District requalifications at the end of December allowed members from all clubs to update their proficiencies before they expired at the end of the year.
- The Bass Website continues to provide a calendar and resources for the District.
- There continues to be a steady flow of members gaining their trainer and assessor awards which is vital to award development within the District and across the State.

Thank you to all the chief instructors for the development of the lifesavers within their clubs and for the effort it takes to manage all the paperwork. The ongoing deluge of paperwork continues and we look forward to the day Surfguard is able to handle proficiencies more efficiently. I would also like to see the promotion of the Lifesaving Online website improved as many members are unaware of its existence. Thanks again to all those who support me in this role especially the LSV staff and I look forward to working with you again next season.

Bayside District

Clubs: *Beaumaris, Black Rock, Brighton, Half Moon Bay, Hampton and Sandringham*

District Officer

Scott Yeomans

Report not available at time of print

Bellarine District

Clubs: *Bancoora, Barwon Heads/13th Beach, Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale*

District Officer

Sam Ficarra

Report not available at time of print

Flinders District

Clubs: *Gunnamatta, Point Leo, Portsea and Sorrento*

District Officer

Ren Gargan

Report not available at time of print

Gippsland District

Clubs: *Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Seaspray and Woodside Beach*

District Officer

Peter Ward

Increase the lifesaving capabilities in each of the clubs, that was done through the Gippsland Life-Guard development program, the end result was the obtaining of the following new awards. Bronze Medallion 80, Spinal Awards 30, IRB Driver 10, Basic Beach Mgt 9, L2 1st Aid 51, Defibrillation 19, ARC/ART 45.

Increase the skill and capacity of the clubs in Training. 23 new training officers with 38 training awards obtained in specific areas. Increase the capacity and capability of the district in Assessment, 12 new qualified assessors with 34 Assessing awards obtained in specific areas.

Summary of New Awards Obtained in Gippsland for season 09/10

	Golden Beach	Lakes Entrance	Mallacoota	Seaspray	Woodside Beach	Grand Total
Life Saving	7	274	45	224	66	616
Nippers		111		67	6	184
Training & Assessment		71	2	39	9	121
	7	456	47	330	81	921

I would like to thank my main assessors, Barrie Smith, Graeme Hurrell, Ian Shepherd, David Whelan, Murray Colvin, for their dedication and assistance, without them this would not happen. Additionally I want to thank Nick Bujea, and Ginnie Burgess, without their dedication and flexibility I would not be able to operate, As of 1st Of April, the Gippsland district had no outstanding awards to be processed, this can only be obtained by great teamwork and constructive communication. I also want to make special mention of the fantastic effort put in by Murray (Frog) Colvin, Tara Donegan & David Whelan, these Chief Instructors made my job a lot easier this year.

As I am retiring from Surf lifesaving this year I will take the opportunity to reflect on my 3 years as District Officer in Gippsland. I have enjoyed working with our youth and the clubs, Training Officers and Assessor, the staff at LSV, I have learnt an immense amount for them all. When I took on the job I set a goal to significantly increase the capability and capacity of the district to support itself in 3 key areas:

1. Increase Advanced Life saving skills and competencies of our Life savers, to achieve this I established a winter training program which resulted in 542 advanced life saving awards being achieved, this represents 36% of all life saving awards achieved over the 3 years.
2. Increase the capacity of the district to deliver its own training, to achieve this I established an annual new training officer program which saw 73 Life savers achieve their training officer qualifications with 103 Training Awards obtained.
3. Increase the capacity of the district to conduct assessments effectively, to achieve this I established an assessor's development program which saw 25 new assessors created in the district with 47 Assessors awards obtained. For the previous 10 years there had been no new assessors in the Gippsland district.

Summary of New Awards Obtained in Gippsland from June 2007-May 2010

	Golden Beach	Lakes Entrance	Mallacoota	Seaspray	Woodside Beach	Grand Total
Training & Assessment		141	6	111	33	291
Advanced Life Saving		216	25	231	70	542
Basic Life Saving	7	421	71	358	93	950
Grand Total	7	778	102	700	196	1783

In parting I wish to thank Barrie Smith, Graeme Hurrell, Murray Colvin and Ian Shepherd who have always been there to guide, assist and back me up. I must also thank Nick Bujea from LSV who has been a constant help and guide to me in sorting the quagmire that's associated to the administration of Training and assessment. I hope I leave the district in a good position for the next District Officer to take over and wish you all the best for the future, I'm off sailing.

Kingston District

Clubs: *Aspendale, Bonbeach, Carrum, Chelsea Longbeach, Edithvale, Mentone and Mordialloc*

District Officer

Jim Stott

Report not available at time of print

Mornington District

Clubs: *Dromana Bay, Frankston, Mornington, Mount Martha, Rosebud and Seaford*

District Officer

Bree Ambry

Report not available at time of print

Otway District

Clubs: *Apollo Bay, Fairhaven, Kennett River, Lorne and Wye River*

District Officer

James Carew

Report not available at time of print

Port Phillip District

Clubs: *Altona, Elwood, Port Melbourne, Sandridge, South Melbourne, St Kilda and Williamstown*

District Officer

Sebastian Phoenix

Report not available at time of print

South Barwon District

Clubs: *Anglesea, Jan Juc and Torquay*

District Officer

Rebecca Schot-Guppy

Report not available at time of print

Western District

Clubs: *Mildura, Port Campbell, Port Fairy, Portland and Warrnambool*

District Officer

Katrina Antony

In my first year as Western District Officer I would like to thank Rebel Noter for all his assistance and support during the season. I had some very big shoes to fill with the retirement of David Tapscott. I am also grateful to "Tappy" for his help at the start of the season whilst I found my way.

Training and Assessment ran smoothly in the Western District and I would like to thank all Assessors who give up their time to help with the proficiencies and assessments not only at their clubs but at others as well.

Highlights -

- Assessor's qualifications have risen with three ART, one more IRB and two new Bronze full assessors.
- A lot of members in the district have added new awards to their qualifications including Spinal, Defib and Basic Beach Management. There were also a high number of members who gained their IRB Crew and Driver awards at all Western District Clubs.
- Carrying out of the Basic Beach Management
- Closing the gap between the Bronze Medallion and Cert II in Public Safety at all Western District Clubs

This season has been extremely busy for me as I "learnt the ropes". We will be working towards recruiting more assessors and trainers during the season and also will be encouraging members to up skill their awards.

Continued help and training will be provided to Assessors, Chief Instructors and Trainers in the use of Surfguard and the Assessment process so to improve efficiency in the process of awards.

I am confident that all clubs will move forward in the Western District and we will see in the future, training and assessments done as a District and not only at Club level.

Thanks to all in the Western District for their enthusiasm and passion for Surf Lifesaving and for making our beaches so much safer.