



LIFESAVING SA

LIFESAVING SOUTH AFRICA SALUTES LIFESAVER FOR BRAVERY

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Welcome to our August 06 Lifesaving South Africa Newsletter.

Well done to our Lifesaving Team who performed extremely well in Japan. We are hoping that this Championship, the Sanyo Bussan Challenge, will become an annual event on our lifesaving sporting Calendar.

Our thanks go to Brian Jones who ran a very successful Winter Championships, in July this year. The support we received from local Clubs was very encouraging. Our objective is to make this Winter Carnival an annual event.

The Director of Competitions ran an excellent Competitions Workshop, in early August, which resulted in much vibrant discussion and debate; and also set the groundwork for the future of lifesaving competitions.

On the cards at present is a Resuscitation Workshop, primarily for KZN, as funds were accessed from the Department of Sports and Recreation-KZN. We are grateful to the Department of Sports & Recreation-KZN, for their continued support towards Sports Development.

I am keen to develop partnerships with provinces and clubs in order to get projects of the ground and demonstrate impact. I am aware that there is a lot of good work that gets done by provinces and clubs, but is not widely reported. I am looking for success stories, training programmes that have been hosted. Co-operation by Provinces and Clubs in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

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Lifesaving South Africa salutes the bravery and heroic action of fellow lifesaver Achmat Hassiem, trained lifeguard of False Bay Surf Lifesaving Club when he courageously battled a Great White during a Lifesaving training exercise on the Sunday morning of 13 August 2006.

Achmat Hassiem together with his brother Taariq was involved in a lifesaving rescue exercise 200m from shore when the attack occurred. Achmat had spotted the shark first and warned Taariq who immediately got out of harms way; this is when the Great White turned on Achmat. After some struggle Achmat managed to pull himself clear of the shark and with the help of Taariq and fellow lifeguard, Nic Pemberton, was safely pulled onto the boat. Unfortunately though, the Great White had already severed his foot. He was immediately taken to shore where the quick action of False Bay lifesavers performing first aid treatment on him, saved his life.

Mark Dotchin, Western Province Lifesaving Chairperson complimented False Bay lifeguards for an excellent job in administering first aid to Achmat. 'A chance of Achmat surviving in any other situation would have been very slim'. He also went on to say that a shark attack like this is a very rare occurrence. Western Province Lifesaving has a very strong infrastructure of well-manned, safe beaches guarded by well-trained Lifesavers.

Mr. Graham Lewis, Chairman of False Bay Surf confirmed that this attack on one of their members has deeply saddened members of False Bay Surf. 'We realize that this type of incident can take place due to the nature of our mission of saving lives. We would like to congratulate not only this young man but all members of the lifesaving movement for their unselfish commitment in the saving of lives of our beach going community.'

Lifesaving South Africa's President, Mr. Dhaya Sewduth, also praised Achmat and the other False Bay Lifeguards for their courage and the dedicated service that they give to the community through their voluntary lifeguard duties in the face of dangers such as these. 'Our lifesavers are aware of the typical dangers that they are apt to face in the water and are trained to handle these situations but it still takes a rare strength of spirit and great valour to look danger in the face and not give up,' said Mr. Sewduth.

Lifesaving South Africa acknowledges Achmat for his bravery and wishes him a speedy recovery.

VODACOM NETCARE911 SURF RESCUE HELICOPTER

The Netcare911 control room provides state of the art technology with satellite tracking of all helicopters and ambulances as well as the ability to locate the GPS coordinates of callers to speed up rescue crew's response.

In addition, Netcare911 has negotiated much faster and more powerful B2 Squirrel helicopters for Durban and Cape Town over the December period from Helimax. This has raised the Surf Rescue service to a higher level of efficiency.

In Cape Town, George, PE, and Margate, the crew consists of a LSA rescue swimmer, an NSRI crewman, and a Netcare911 medic. In Durban, Lifesaving SA assists the NSRI in staffing the crewman position as the NSRI have fewer crew in KZN. Each region is managed by a regional co-ordinating committee made up of a representative from each organization. These Regional Co-ordinating Committees (RCC's) then report to a National Co-ordinating Committee (NCC) with the same representation.

In Cape Town the Lifesaving crew there has an established working relationship with experienced NSRI helicopter crew. Lifesaving South Africa has assisted the NSRI in KZN to train their crew in helicopter operations with the NSRI providing monthly training for LSA and Netcare staff in swift water and sea rescue techniques. A consequence of the transition is that the LSA heli crew stalwarts in Durban have retired. However there is still plenty interest from new crew members.

LIFESAVING DURBAN AFRICA WINTER CARNIVAL MAKES A BIG SPLASH

The first Lifesaving Winter Carnival in partnership with Durban Africa that was held on Sunday, 9 July at Addington Beach was hailed as a great success by the organisers.

Featuring grueling displays of skill, speed and heroism, from Nipper and Senior Lifesavers, the exciting activities included several beach sprints, flag and crafts races.

From the many Clubs that participated the Gotcha Durban Surf competitors won most of the events.

Results of competitors from Berea, mainly Durban Surf Members, are as follows:

- **Sarah Baillie, from Berea**, came 2nd in the Females Open division for the Swim event
- **Greg Tidboald, Berea**, was placed 2nd for the Men's Open Swim event
- **Kendall Artz, Westville**, was Victor Ludoram and the Overall Winner of the Women's Open Events
- **Blane Wood** was Victor Ludorum and Overall winner of the Men's Open Events

The Winter Carnival was intended to be a fun event and meant to coincide with the Vodacom Beach Africa Festival in order to access a broader public to participate in the event.

The idea was to create greater awareness around lifesaving. Furthermore, we aimed to provide a level of sport that allowed a broader array of people to compete in a recreational event.

LIFESAVING SA SCOOPS 2ND PLACE IN PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL LIFESAVING CHAMPS IN JAPAN

Lifesaving South Africa has continued to keep the South African flag flying high. We came out 2nd Overall in the recent International **LIFESAVING SANYO BUSSAN CHALLENGE** which was held on 17th July 2006 at Onjyuku Beach, Chiba in Japan.

Our Lifesaving SA national team performed outstandingly by being placed 2nd with 205 points and obtaining 5 medals: 1 Gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze. Australia came first with 278 points and Japan, the host country, came third with 185 points.

The Lifesaving South Africa team, managed by Andrew Crook, included the following competitors: **Women:** Jade Antunes (Fish Hoek); Kim Brugman (Fish Hoek); Chantelle Godfrey (Durban Surf); Eloise van Gysen (Fish Hoek); Kendall Loots (Fish Hoek). **Men:** Donald Brierley (Umhlanga Rocks); Ridhaa Damon (Fish Hoek); Ryle De Morny (False Bay); Shaun Dias (Durban Surf); Jasper Mocke (Fish Hoek).

In the Team Events, the Women's Team received Gold in the Tube Rescue and a bronze in the Board Rescue. The Men's Team received Silver in the Tube Rescue and a Bronze in the Board Rescue. In the Individual events, Kendal Lootz came 3rd in the Iron Lady.

This Lifesaving Championship, a first for Japan, was intended to commemorate the conclusion of a praiseworthy sponsorship from SANYO BUSSAN LIMITED, and to provide an opportunity to display spectacular, world-class Lifesaving Sports, to the Japanese public. Due to the great success of the Competition, Japan has made a commitment to make this an annual event and add it to the International Lifesaving Sports Calendar. Lifesaving SA will definitely be aiming for first position next year that's for sure.

COMPETITIONS WORKSHOP - 4TH TO 6TH AUG 06

Lifesaving SA in the past has not had the resources to address the Sport of Lifesaving and this concern was what gave rise to the Competitions Workshop that was held in Durban, from 4th to 6th August 2006. Together with discussing the way forward and the future of Lifesaving Sport in South Africa the following integral issues were brainstormed and outcomes decided upon.

One of the most important issues addressed was the task of proving transformation in a most accountable level of competition. Even though Lifesaving SA has enforced a PDI quota on their Branch, Provincial and International Competition Teams, we have still not focused any attention on the Base of the sport. Creation of an entry level competition, a "Development" level of competition, mass participation, and taking competition up through to elite, is required by SASCO. Secondly, increasing the number of participants at Interclub National or Interprovincial level was also discussed. The inclusion of events on the Lifesaving SA calendar, the restructure of the current events and inevitable rule changes were the some of the outcomes of this Workshop.

The subject of training and officials was also addressed. Lifesaving SA does not currently have a program recognizing officials, Management or administrators. With our registration to SASCO, we are required to upskill our members and create opportunities for all to participate equally in all areas of the movement.

These concerns were discussed at the Competitions Workshop and the following Training Programmes are being planned in order to achieve the above deliverables:

1. Transformation Workshop
2. Train the Trainer to Upskill presenters
3. Officials Training
4. Team Management training
5. Coaches Forum to be set up

Areas still needing input are: Talent Identification and competition levels; Selection Criteria & Selection process; Junior International Teams and Rule Book amended and put on the Web.

Although the Competitions Workshop covered many areas co-operation from all regions is what is required for us to move forward successfully.

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