



Lifesaving South Africa May 2006

Newsletter

Strategic Partnering Agreement

A milestone in Lifesaving South Africa's history has been the signing of the strategic partnering agreement with Surf Lifesaving Australia. This strategic agreement aims to provide a framework for the development of a stronger and more vibrant partnership between Lifesaving South Africa and Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA). The outcomes of the partnership will be:

- Improved Communication
- Sharing of best practice
- Development of new initiatives on a joint venture basis
- Membership exchanges increased
- Business development partnerships
- Shared Research and Development

Strategy for Improving National Championships

Lifesaving South Africa has hosted many national Lifesaving Championships and we feel that the time has come to reflect on the quality and standards of these Championships. Our new Director of Competition, Mrs. Helen Herbert, will drive the process. A National Strategic Competitions Workshop will be held on the 4th to the 6th of August 2006. Our primary objectives are:

- To raise the standard and quality of national championships.
- To revisit the rules and guidelines and improve on them
- To develop a strategy for talent identification and national squads
- To develop an action plan for the formation of leagues that will feed into our transformation and development plans.

National Team Scoops Top Honours Down Under!

The National Lifesaving Team made us proud by being placed third in the prestigious international competition, Rescue 2006 that was held from 10th to 26th February in Melbourne, Australia this year.

The Team that flew down consisted of 6 Men and 6 Women. They were:

Men: Gareth Fowler (Team Captain), Ryan Brennan, Paul Dias, Shaun Dias, Barjo van Niekerk, Nkululeko Mthiyane. **Women:** Kendal Artz, Kristy Kuhlmeier, Nicole O' Driscoll, Tamara Thomas, Eloise van Gysen, Erna Wedemeyer.

Our South African team scooped a total of eight medals overall: five team medals and 3 individual medals. In the Team events the Men's Team succeeded in bringing home Gold for the Tube Rescue Event, a Silver for the 25m Manikin Relay and 3 Bronze for the Line Throw Event, the Simulated Emergency Response (SERC) Event and the Beach Relay consecutively. In the individual events, Erna Wedemeyer won silver in the Women's 100m Manikin Carry, Ryan Brennan scooped a Silver in the Board Race whilst Barjo van Niekerk received a Bronze for the 100m Rescue Medley. The Men's Team has won the Rescue Tube for the last four consecutive World Championships.

The National Team Results were as follows:

South Africa was placed 3rd with 508 points. Australia, the host country won the championship with 770 points overall. New Zealand came 2nd with 657 points. The team countries participated in Pool, Beach/Surf and Serc (Simulated Emergency Response) Events. The SA Team was placed 3rd for both the Beach and Serc (Simulated Emergency Response) Events with 277 and 16 points successively. In the pool events the national team was placed 7th. Australia won both the Beach and SERC Events and Italy was overall winner for the Pool category.

CONTENTS:

Tribute to VODACOM	2
SA Stillwater Commonwealth Team	2
Report from Wild Coast Lifesaving Association	2
Success at Water Safety Workshops for 2006	3
Orientation Day at Addington Beach	3
Western Cape Water Safety Day	3
Inanda Dam Open Day	3

8 Years Saving Lives-A Tribute To Vodacom SA

Lifesaving South Africa would like to pay tribute to Vodacom South Africa for their vital sponsorship to the lifesaving initiative in SA and expresses our deep-felt appreciation for their valued support over the years.

Vodacom South Africa's sponsorship has been in the region of 1.2 million rand per year. Vodacom South Africa has assisted in financing the operational expenses required for the effective running of Lifesaving South Africa, the provision of duty clothing for the voluntary lifeguards across the country and Lifesaving South Africa's national and international competitions. Through Vodacom's financial support we have made 16344 rescues and successfully handled 27006 first aid cases.

Lifesaving South Africa thanks Vodacom South Africa for helping us keep our country's major tourist attractions, our beautiful beaches, drown-free zones over the last eight years.

SA Stillwater Commonwealth Lifesaving Team

The Lifesaving National Teams will represent South Africa at the Commonwealth Stillwater Lifesaving Championships in Bath, England in September this year. They are as follows:

The Stillwater Protea Team:

Women: Tracy Martheze (Captain-Western Province), Eloise van Gysen (Western Province), Jade Antunes (Western Province), Kim van Deventer (Easterns), Zenobia Mans (Easterns).

Men: Craig Dingle (Captain-Easterns), Barjo van Niekerk (Gauteng North), Paul Dias (KZN), Devon Daniels (Gauteng), Robin Saggars (Gauteng).

The President's Team:

Girls: Jane Broderick (Captain-Easterns), Samantha Plumb (Easterns), Yolize du Plessis (Easterns), Sarah Baillie (KZN), Nastassja Alexander (WP).

Boys: Mark Dingle (Captain-Easterns), Brian Keevy (Easterns), Werner Bosman (Gauteng North), Armand Marais (Gauteng North), Thomas Khumalo (Gauteng).

Team Managers are Kaltoema Damon and Andrew Crook and National Team Coach is Valencia Walker.

Report from Wild Coast Lifesaving Association

Mike Hales, Development Officer for Wild Coast Lifesaving Association has implemented a **Development Strategy** to combat the very prevalent threat of unemployment in the Wild Coast and provide a better service to the Coast.

Two avenues were explored and are as follows:

1. Municipality Beach Protection Service Provision:

Wild Coast Lifesaving has convinced local municipalities to save money by employing local club members and to support local club development rather than the existing system of beach contracts. They have been successful in this and are now responsible for the following: sourcing of equipment, training of local beach inspectors, monitoring of duties during municipal dates and voluntary dates and facilitating a good relationship between municipality and local club.

2. Tourism

According to Mike, with the correct level of skill and service quality there is enormous potential for local lifesaving clubs to benefit from the involvement in local tourism activities and by building a joint relationship with local tourist establishments. These tourist establishments have assisted in providing storage space for equipment, donations for competitions and the training and monitoring of local club duties. Building on this, sustainable surf based activities are presently being formulated, and these involve rubber duck rides, beach volleyball and soccer.

Other tourism-related opportunities that Mike has been pursuing for Wild Coast Lifesaving are:

- Training 10 of the Wild Coast's top lifesavers with the Durban PRO lifesavers
- Standing in as Training Officer for the National Sea and Rescue Institute with a view to strengthening LSA's boat handling skills
- Filling in the position as Provincial Liaison Officer for Wild Coast and facilitating a SSA instructor's course in Port St. Johns for 20 top Wild Coast Lifesavers.

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Success at Water Safety 2006 Workshops Lifesaving Orientation Day - Addington Beach

The first Lifesaving Orientation Day held at the Marine Lifesaving Club in Addington Beach in January this year, and organized by Lifesaving South Africa, Lifeguard Academy and KZN Department of Sport and Recreation, the major sponsor, was very successful in terms of promoting water safety to the community.

The objective of this programme was to expand on the achievements of the 2005 Water Safety Workshops, promote the development of Lifesaving as a sport as well as provide a community service to the participants. Ten participants, local residents of the Valley of a Thousand Hills, participated in the action-packed programme which included water activities such as beach swims, Sea Kayaking and an Eco Tour.

Sea Kayaking is not a traditional lifesaving activity but lifeguards are becoming familiar with it due to the popularity of the sport which is leading to an increase in rescue situations. UShaka Surf Adventures instructed candidates on the basic paddling of a sea kayak as well as on the standard emergency procedure training. Once skills were mastered the group was taken on an ecology tour of the area; visiting Vetches Pier, Lime Stone Reef and the shark nets.

Participants displayed a keen interest in getting more involved in surf lifesaving and now have a good understanding as to what the physical requirements are, as well as a clearer understanding of the role voluntary lifesaving plays in the community.

Western Cape Water Safety Day

The Western Province Lifesaving Club held their Water Safety Open Day at the Fish Hoek Beach on 25th February 2006. Seventy-five children from the SOS Children's Village and from the ages of 8 to 14 years were invited to participate. Edgar Mokgadi of Sports and Recreation SA was the special guest. The children were informed on water safety tips, how to prevent drowning and on lifesaving in general. Practical activities included swimming, body boards and a boat trip.

Inanda Dam Open Day: 17-19 May

The interactive Water Safety Workshop which was held by Lifesaving SA in partnership with the Department of Sports & Recreation at Inanda Dam from 17 to 19 May06 was greeted with great enthusiasm from the primary schools that attended.

Selected schools from around the immediate Inanda Dam region were invited to participate in this workshop. These schools were Laboure Primary School; Ndlokolo Primary School, Umgeni Primary School; Khanyisalni Primary School and Isihlangusabasha Primary School. Schools were supplied with support material such as Lifesaving Nipper Handbooks, Water Safety Handbooks, posters and worksheets.

The workshop was attended by various dignitaries. They were Mr. Maharaj - KZN Sport & Recreation; Mr. Paul Veseley - KZN Sport & Recreation; Councilor Nkhosa - Ethekwini Municipality; Mr. Desmond Myeza, Manager from the Office of the Speaker; Mr. Stembiso Mkhwanazi and Miss Thanda Mazala - Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism; Mr. Rayner Naguran and Mr. Bongani Mkize of Msinisi Holdings; and Mr. Pravesh Boodhoo - Umgeni Water, Central Area Region.

The objectives of this project were to promote the development of Lifesaving as a sport to the disadvantaged sector of the community and to educate them on water safety techniques, rescue and resuscitation skills. Over 300 learners between the ages of 12 to 14 years benefited from this Open Day.

Planned activities each day included a water safety and lifesaving presentation, basic first aid lecture, land based rescue methods, flags and relays and rescue board paddling.

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