Knights and Dame in the Order of Lifesaving

In this Newsletter you find the latest lifesaving news from around the world.

In September the ILS Board of Directors met in the ILS Headquarters in Leuven, Belgium. At the occasion of the meeting the Awards of Knight - Dame in the Order of Lifesaving were presented to Joan Duncan (Canada), B. Chris Brewster (USA) and Rob Bradley (Australia – Royal) for their outstanding contributions to lifesaving.

Joan Duncan is a long time member of Lifesaving Society Canada. She became member of the ILS Board of Directors since 1996 and took over numerous functions in ILS Commissions and Committees.

Robert Bradley became member of the ILS Board of Directors in 1996, Chair of the ILS Development Committee (1996-1998), Chair of the Finance and Marketing Committee (1999-2004) and Vice-President of ILS and President for the Asia-Pacific Region since 2000.

B. Chris Brewster is Member of the ILS Board of Director since 1995, Vice-President of ILS and President for the Americas since 1995 and Commissioner of the Lifesaving Commission since 2004.

ILS Drowning Committee meets with WHO

The ILS Drowning Report Committee, along with Lifesaving Commissioner B. Chris Brewster and Medical Committee Chair Steve Beerman M.D., met in Geneva on 12 October with representatives of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Their goal was to fully understand the WHO reporting system for unintentional injuries and to determine, based on that information, how best to proceed in issuing the ILS World Drowning Report. Present at the meeting were Drowning Report Committee Chair Ortwin Kreft, as well as Committee members Peter Agnew, Barbara Byers, Stuart Bailey and Alessandro Sabatini.

The ILS representatives were received by Dr. Margie Peden, PhD., Coordinator of the WHO Unintentional Injuries Prevention section and Technical Officer Ian Scott. They were provided a detailed presentation on WHO statistics gathering
by Dr. Colin Mathers, PhD. After a very informative presentation and discussion, the Committee convened two days of meetings to finalise their strategies. Implicit in this discussion was a goal of finalising a report for the review of the Lifesaving Commission by 1 June 2007.

ILS thanks the members of the Committee for their continued dedication to this important project. It is now anticipated that the first World Drowning Report will be issued in 2007.

Dr. Anthony Handley MD FRCP has given a lifetime of sterling service to the Royal Life Saving Society, both in the United Kingdom and around the Commonwealth. He served for six years as National President of the United Kingdom Branch, and has been its Honorary Chief Medical Adviser for more than 20 years. He has been involved at national and international level in the production of many resuscitation training programmes and publications. He has carried out resuscitation training as a volunteer for many of the Society's Branches around the world, in places as distant as Hong Kong and St. Lucia.

He served on the Board of Directors of the International Life Saving Federation (ILS) for several years, and is still Honorary Medical Adviser to the European Region. In 2004, ILS rightly acknowledged Dr Handley's outstanding contribution to lifesaving worldwide with the honour of Grand Knight in the Order of Lifesaving.

Dr Handley is an Honorary Physician and Cardiologist in Essex Rivers Healthcare Trust, and a past Chairman of the Resuscitation Council (UK); he continues as a Member of the Council’s Executive Committee. He is one of the world's leading authorities on cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the Royal Life Saving Society is very honoured to have such an eminent physician so deeply involved as an adviser to the organisation.

For a lifetime of outstanding service to the Royal Life Saving Society Dr Anthony Handley MD FRCP was awarded with the 2006 King Edward VII Cup.

The King Edward VII Cup is the Royal Life Saving Society's highest honour and is presented every five years to a member of the Society who has given a lifetime of service to the cause of lifesaving. The award was presented to Dr. Handley by the Her Majesty The Queen.

Royal Life Saving Australia’s current Chief Referee, Barbara Morgan recently visited Taipei where she conducted a Level One RLSSA coaching and officiating course. 130 participants from all over Taiwan attended the course gaining valuable knowledge to help with officiating of Lifesaving events in the region.
“It was an extremely successful course with 129 participants completing RLSSA qualification” said Barbara Morgan. With the World Games coming up in 2009 the National Water Life Saving Association, Republic of China wanted to provide their members with the appropriate qualifications to conduct the International competition.

Yi-Fu Fang, Secretary General of the Association explained “the participants achieved a very high level of understanding of information through the theory and practical sessions” and the course had “given confidence and better understanding to our coaches and officials”.

Iran reports on lifesaving activities

The Iranian Lifesaving and Diving Federation held a lifesaving instructor course in Tehran from 7 until 10 September 2006. The purpose of this course was to improve the knowledge and abilities of the Iranian lifesaving instructors. 30 men and 30 women took part in this instructor course.

Mr. Afshin Kasir Moallem, one of the best Iranian lifeguards and instructors, who is studying Sport Medicine in Canada, was the instructor of this course.

From 14 until 21 September 2006 lifesaving competitions of the Middle East were held in Bandar-e-Anzali. Iranian lifesaving teams along with the national lifesaving teams of U.A.E., Afghanistan and Iraq took part in this competition.

Governor-General launches ‘Between The Flags’

More than 112,000 surf lifesaving volunteers across Australia took a well-earned bow on November 3, with the launch of ‘2007 Year of the Surf Lifesaver’ at Sydney’s Bondi Beach, where Australia’s surf lifesaving movement began almost 100 years ago.

The official recognition – representative of Australia’s great love affair with the beach and the coastal environment – also celebrates the 520,000 people who have been rescued by surf lifesavers over the past 100 years, with many more being warned of potential dangers before they get into trouble.

The book is a stunning new history of the surf lifesaving movement, which has already stirred controversy by finding conclusively that Bondi SLSC was the first surf club, dashing the claims of a number of other contenders.

One of Australia’s oldest surf lifesavers, John Stroud, was on hand with one of the youngest nippers to officially present the 260 page book to the Governor-General.

“The Year of the Surf Lifesaver will provide a unique platform to touch all Australians in a meaningful way. Almost everyone has had a beach experience whether it be living near the coast or visiting the beach for their annual holidays. Our confidence on the beach can be in part attributed to the more than 1.4 million patrol hours which our volunteer surf lifesavers spend each year to provide safer beaches for the Australian community,” he said.

Since the formation of the first clubs in 1907, the movement has grown to now consist of 305 clubs and 112,000 members, 37,400 of whom actively patrol the country’s beaches and 38,000 of whom are ‘nippers’ (or junior surf lifesavers).

“People from all corners of Australia can get involved in the Year of the Surf Lifesaver by attending an event, making a donation, following the surf safety messages when visiting the beach or play a more significant role by becoming a member of a surf life saving club.” Information, key dates and activities for the Year of the Surf Lifesaver can be found on the SLSA website.

Source: http://www.slsa.com.au
**2006 Lifesaving South Africa awards**

Lifesaving South Africa presented the 2006 lifesaving awards. Keith Matthews from Mnandi Surf Lifesaving Club and Barjo van Niekerk from Hartbeespoort Lifesaving Club are the winners of the Lifesaver of the year awards.

Besides having served at National level for many years, for both SASLU and Lifesaving SA, Keith found the time (and the love of lifesaving) to work as head of a Beach Department for the City of Cape Town, and also perform 89 voluntary patrol hours.

Barjo is one of the National Team Competitors. During the 2005/6 season he represented South Africa at the World Games in Germany, as well as Rescue 2006 in Australia where he won medals. At SA Champs he again won many medals and broke 2 SA Records. He did 31 hours voluntary duty and also served on both his club and Province Committee’s as an Assistant Coach and Team Captain.

**German Red Cross accepted as Associate Member**

The German Red Cross was accepted as an Associate member of ILS at the Board Meeting in September.

**German Red Cross** (GRC) is the National Red Cross Society of the Federal Republic of Germany. It was founded at national level in 1920. The first Red Cross Society in Germany was founded in 1870 in Baden-Württemberg.

The activities of the GRC are various. It works at different fields like rescue services, first aid, disaster preparedness, social- and welfare services. It runs hospitals and blood-donation-centres. Since 1883 the German Red Cross is involved in lifesaving at water and built up water rescue-units at that time. In 1945, after 2nd World War the units were renamed in “Wasserwacht” (waterguard).

Today the Wasserwacht of the German Red Cross has approximately 130.000 Members, nearly half of that is acting actively as volunteers. The Wasserwacht is active in educating swimming, rescue boat services, rescue swimming, diving, first aid, sanitary services and nature protection. The Wasserwacht serves at public pools, at seashore and lakes especially in season.

In case of emergencies and disaster the Wasserwacht runs special units called water rescue units.

Website: [www.drk.de](http://www.drk.de) and [www.wasserwacht-online.de](http://www.wasserwacht-online.de)

**Peruvian Red Cross is Corresponding member**

The Asociacion de Salvavidas del Peru/the Peruvian Red Cross was accepted as a Corresponding Member of ILS at the Board Meeting.

Until 1940 the Peruvian Red Cross has been in charge of Lifesaving in Peru and it was done by volunteer groups. Since 1941 the National Police has been in charge of lifesaving. With 600 lifeguards they covered about 40% of the Peruvian beaches, concentrating on the beaches alongside Lima. There has been a general lack of not only personnel, but of equipment.

With the idea of helping the National Police Lifeguarding programme and using personnel from the Voluntary Civilian Lifeguarding programme, the Peruvian Lifesaving Association was formed on August 15th, 1988, with Captain Luis Hermoza Alvarez, who served as a lifeguard during his career. He began to train some 25 volunteers, comprised of firemen, swimmers, surfers and others, the techniques of lifesaving and rescue. They gave out handbooks during community and school talks that focused on what to do to prevent accidents in the ocean and the pools.

In 2003 the Peruvian Government passed regulations which made it obligatory that all pools have a lifeguard on duty. Towards this end they began a year round programme to train lifeguards and made the Peruvian Lifeguard School.

They are now organising the second Seminar and International Lifesaving Tournament to be held in from 15-17 December in Lima, Peru, and are hoping that they will have the participation and attendance of lifesaving organisations from around the world.

They are very thankful for the contact they have received from all the different organisations that are interested in participating and staying in communication.
New Zealand International Pool Challenge

The Surf Life Saving New Zealand Team made history at the International Pool Challenge in early October by beating Australia for the first time in eight years.

New Zealand Team member Johanna O'Connor

With pride on the line, Trans-Tasman rivalry was fierce in Christchurch with both teams pushing each other to national records.

At the end of competition the New Zealand Team were on 74 points, 12 ahead of the Australian team. That points score along with over 10 New Zealand records over the three day competition made for extremely exciting racing.

Both nations had teams of 12 swimmers, six female and six male competitors that competed in everything from simulated rescue situations to manikin tows over the three days of competition. Out of the team of 12 four of the athletes were development athletes.

New Zealand’s strongest component was their relays. “The results of our relay teams were very encouraging,” said Weatherall. “They were indicative of the overall strength and depth within the team.”

Although this was the first year the International Challenge was held, it is set to become a permanent fixture on the international Surf Life Saving competition calendar.

Website: www.surflifesaving.org.nz

European Junior Lifesaving Championships

This year’s European Junior Lifesaving Championships were run by the Italian Federation (FINS) near the city of Rome.

The Pool Events took place in Anzio, 12th to 13th September whereas the Beach Events were held in Lido di Ostia, 14 to 15th September. 12 national teams from all over Europe joined this competition: Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungaria, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, and Switzerland.

This year’s winner is the team from Italy, followed by Spain and Germany. ILSE was represented by the Secretary General, Dr. Dirk Bissinger (Germany). The Lifesaving family spent a nice time in Italy and is looking forward to the next European Junior Lifesaving Championships in 2007.

Lifesaving Challenge in Doha

The first ever open lifesaving challenge organised in Doha took place on Monday 13 November 2006 on the magnificent beaches of the Doha Five Star Intercontinental Hotel in the state of Qatar.

Teams members originated from Malaysia, India, South Africa, Australia, United Kingdom and Belgium. The event included surf race, rescue tube rescue race, beach sprint, beach relay and beach flags. The event was sponsored by POCARI SWEAT drinks and the Bay Club Beach of the Intercontinental Hotel of Doha.
The gold medal went to the Lifeguard teams of the Four Seasons Hotel and the Intercontinental Hotel. The Bronze medal went to the South Africa team.

The competition was organised by Dr. Paul Saffigna, a Surf Life Saving Lifesaver from Australia residing temporary in Doha together with the Lifeguard team of The Bay Club Beach of the Intercontinental Hotel. The ILS Secretary General witnessed the championship and thanked the organisers for a wonderful event.

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness to inform you that Dr. Henry Fok Ying-Tung, Patron of the Hong Kong Life Saving Society and Patron of ILS passed away on 28 October 2006 at the age of 83.

Dr. Fok has been a member of Royal Life Saving Society – Hong Kong Branch (RLSS-HKB) and the HKLSS over 36 years. He has served in various capacities as the Chairman of Examiners Panel, Annual Governor and Vice Patron of the RLSS-HKB and HKLSS respectively. He became Patron of International Life Saving in 2003.

He helped the HKLSS in organizing the Asia Pacific Life Saving Conference and Championships. He also promotes the interest of the Life Saving Examiners by arranging for all Examiners to visit Macau for vacation annually. His death is a great loss to the Society.

The ILS family conveys its deepest condolences to his family.