



2009 Beach Management Plan

(Nightcliff Beach)



The life of the beach.

Darwin Surf Life Saving Club

Nightcliff Beach Management Plan

Season 2009/2010

Introduction

It is the responsibility of every Surf Life Saving Club to formulate a Beach Management Plan to outline how the Club is going to coordinate its' resources to provide a safe aquatic environment to the public at Nightcliff Beach (refer Patrol Position). This information is required to be available so that surrounding Clubs, services and the governing body of a region, are aware of the levels of service provided by a club and how they will be implemented. This may in turn affect the way a neighbouring service will operate.

The method that Darwin Surf Life Saving Club will coordinate its' resources, with in its' area of responsibility, is outlined in this Beach Management Plan. This Plan is only valid until the end of April 2010

This Plan was derived from the guidelines set out in Surf Life Saving Australia's Club Operational Manual, Lifesaving and Beach Management section. Reference to the current edition of the Surf Life Saving Training Manual is recommended.

Objectives

1. To supply a service that minimises danger and the loss of life or injury at the Casuarina and Nightcliff Beach coastal areas and at requested events.
2. To educate and raise community awareness in beach and aquatic safety through pro-active patrolling.
3. To be recognised by the community as the authority and provider on matters related to beach and aquatic safety and management.

Beach Management

Patrol Date & Times:

Saturday 6th June – Sunday 27th September

Ⓢ Saturday, 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Ⓢ Sunday, 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Patrol Type

The Darwin Surf Life Saving Clubs' Nightcliff Beach patrol adopts the **Open Beach Patrol for ALL of its Rostered Patrol times.**

On these occasions **ONE Red/Yellow Flags** will be erected when the beach is 'Open' or 'Cautionary' during the patrolling season.

Authorities recommend no swimming between October and May inclusive.

The beach will be patrolled from Saturday 6th June 2009

When the tide is at a level determined high enough by the Patrol Captain (due to rocks) a minimum of 1 (one) stinger drag is to be conducted during all Patrols between June and September at the commencement of the patrol.

Stinger suits (or a rash vest as minimum) should be worn when conducting stinger drags.

During the patrolling months, if ONE or MORE stingers are netted then the beach is '**Closed**' and the **single RED FLAG** is hoisted for the remainder of that Patrol, and the RED/YELLOW FLAG is taken down.

During the patrolling months, if no stingers are caught in the 'net drags' the beach is '**Open**' and the **RED & YELLOW FLAG is hoisted, along with the YELLOW FLAG**, centred between the RED/YELLOW FLAG.

The beach will be 'Closed' (refer to SLSA Training Manual for procedure) for the duration/remainder of a Patrol if a stinger/s is found in the drag preceding or during a patrol and pro-active advice by Patrol members to the beach-going public will follow.

Patrol Position

The Nightcliff Beach patrol will position its RED/YELLOW FLAG in a location and spacing determined by the duty Patrol Captain. This will be in a position determined 'safe' and in the area bounded between the Rocks situated to the east of Nightcliff Beach and the water drain located on the west of the beach.

Patrol Flag/s Location

North / South

In the traditional Beach Patrol scenario the Patrol Flag/s will be placed on the beach in a position that, depending on tide height, all beach users will be able to see the relative location of the Duty Patrol.

Ideally, Patrol Flags should be placed by the water's edge, but this is dependent on tide.

If the tide is high enough to cut beach access off to the area east of, and including the rocks, then visual display of the Patrol's presence will be limited.

East / West

Generally, this will be directly in front of the access ramp, BUT ultimately will be in a position determined 'safe' by the duty Patrol Captain. Whilst staying within the constraints of the eastern rocks and the western water drain.

Patrol Base / Shelter Location

The Patrol Base (Shelter) will be erected within the flagged area and;

- ⓐ On the beach on Saturday afternoons and/or patrols where club or beach activities are conducted
- ⓐ On the beach, when the tide permits
- ⓐ On occasions of high tides ONLY, the location of the Patrol base may be at the top of the rocky outcrop

A minimum of 1 Patrol member will be stationed at or within close proximity to the Patrol Base, along with the minimum Patrol equipment, including one radio.

The Patrol Shelter is to be erected during all patrols to provide sun shelter for patrolling members.

The Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) will be launched when the tide permits from the Darwin Surf Life Saving Club at Casuarina Beach. Reasonable launching of the IRB is defined as - the IRB can be employed without impedance from the sea floor within 50m of the water's edge.

The IRB will be considered an available resource for the Nightcliff Beach patrol whilst a patrol is active. The IRB can be requested at anytime by the 'duty' patrol captain.

Nightcliff Beach Patrol

The Patrols will be rostered with a minimum of 3-person strength 2 being BM holders. Each Patrol, where possible, will contain an Advanced Resuscitation Certificate (ARC) holder, a BM holder and one other with the min. qualification of Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC).

The following equipment is the minimum to be ready for use on all patrols:

1. 1x Rescue Tube
2. 1 x Rescue Board
3. 1 x First Aid Kit
4. 1 x Stinger Kit
5. 1 x Patrol Shelter
6. 2 x Radios
7. 1 x Patrol Log Book and Incident Report Log

Where possible / appropriate the following equipment is to be available if serviceable:

1. 1 x IRB (supplied from Casuarina Beach Patrol)

Roving Patrols

The IRB is required to travel to the Nightcliff beach patrol at least 1 (one) time during each patrol. The IRB is not required to land on the Nightcliff Beach, but may do so if tides permit or assistance is required.

Roving Patrols are to maintain contact with the Nightcliff and Casuarina Patrol Bases via radio at all times.

The Casuarina Beach Patrol Captain will have full control over any IRB activities, **unless** conducting a Roving Patrol or any water safety activities for the Nightcliff Patrol.

The **Casuarina Beach Patrol Captain can at anytime resume full control of the IRB** if necessary.

Stinger Netting

If the tide permits (tide is not too high cutting beach access), a stinger drag is to be performed at the start of every patrol.

Marine Stinger Netting Forms

These forms are to be completed by EVERY Rostered Patrol after the net drags, and signed off by the Patrol Captain.

The results of these drags are forwarded to the SLSA National Medical Officer for the study of Marine Stingers in tropical locations around the country.

Conclusion

Through the Plan outlined in this document the Darwin Surf life Saving Club will endeavour to use the resources available to provide a safe Nightcliff Coastal Reserve (restricted) aquatic environment.

Through pro-active patrolling we will educate and raise awareness of local and visiting users of the Reserve in the areas of beach and aquatic safety.

As a result of the Club's activities the community will see the Surf Lifesavers as the authority and provider of matters related to beach and aquatic safety and management.

Helen Gould
President

Club Captain, Lifesaving