



The life of the beach.

# Casuarina Beach Management Plan 2011





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# **Darwin Surf Life Saving Club**

## ***Casuarina Beach Management Plan***

### ***Season 2010/2011***

#### **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 Casuarina 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**

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ To educate and raise community awareness in beach and aquatic safety through pro-active patrolling.
- ❖ To be recognised by the community as the authority and provider on matters related to beach and aquatic safety and management.

#### **Beach Management**

**Patrol Dates & Type: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2011**  
**(Surveillance patrol)**

- ❖ Sunday, 8.30am to 11:30am
- ❖ Sunday, 3.00pm to 6:00pm

**Patrol Dates & Type: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011**  
**(Traditional patrol)**

- ❖ Sunday, 8.30am to 11:30am
- ❖ Sunday, 3.00pm to 6:00pm



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**Patrol Dates & Type: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011**  
**(Nipper water safety patrol)**

❖ Sunday, 8:30am to 11.00am

**Patrol Dates & Type: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2011**  
**(Surveillance patrol)**

❖ Sunday, 8.30am to 11:30am

❖ Sunday, 3.00pm to 6:00pm

Darwin Surf Life Saving Club Casuarina Beach patrol adopts the **Traditional Beach Patrol for ALL of its three Rostered Patrol times** between the dates of **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

On these occasions **BOTH Red/Yellow Flags** will be erected when the beach is 'Open' or 'Cautionary' during the patrolling season except for the months of May and October.

**During the months of May and October SLSNT advises that a single RED 'Danger' Flag is hoisted to identify that the beach is considered unsafe due to a high risk of marine stingers. The RED/YELLOW FLAGS should not be used during this time.**

**Authorities recommend no swimming between October and May inclusive.**

For ALL other months the **Traditional Beach Patrol** Type will be used on Saturday (afternoon) and Sunday (morning and afternoon), except where the beach has been closed by the Patrol Captain on duty in which case a RED Danger will be raised instead of the Red/Yellow flags

*Please refer to the Surf Life Saving Australia Training manual 32<sup>nd</sup> Edition for clarification of a "Traditional Patrol"*

Two patrols will be rostered on Sunday mornings, one patrol will conduct patrolling duties for the community and the other patrol will be actively involved in the water safety only of the Club's Nipper/Junior Activities.

The water safety patrol will run when the Nippers/Juniors have water activities scheduled and will work closely with the Captain of the rostered community patrol.

An extra patrol will also run for the annual Special Event hosted by the Club, these being:

Long Distance Paddle 05.07.2011 (TBC)

Beer Can Regatta -Mindil Beach: 27.07.2011 (9.00am – 4.30pm)

Darwin Fannie Bay Swim - Fannie Bay: 24.07.2011 (8.30am – 11.30pm)

Darwin to Mandorah Ski Paddle – 27.08.2011 (TBC)

Casuarina to Mindil Ski Paddle – 25.09.2011 (TBC)



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### Minimum Patrol Duties:

**A minimum of 1 (one) stinger drag is to be conducted at the start of all Patrols between May and October.** Stinger suits (or a rash vest as minimum) must be worn when conducting stinger drags.

During the patrolling months, if ONE or MORE stingers are netted then the beach is considered dangerous and **'Closed' with the single RED FLAG** hoisted for the remainder of that Patrol, and the RED/YELLOW FLAGS are taken down, as per the 33<sup>rd</sup> Edition Surf Life Saving Australia training manual.

Patrol members cannot stop the public from bathing whilst the beach is 'Closed' but should advise the public not to swim as it has been considered dangerous by the Patrol Captain.

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

Patrol Captains are to place particular emphasis on roving patrols in the months of May and October due to the higher risk of Marine Stingers.

*Refer to the "Roving Patrol Section" on page 4/5 for more details*

Roving patrols should be equipped with a minimum of 2 patrol members with the following equipment:

- ❖ 1 x rescue tube
- ❖ 1 x radio
- ❖ 1 x SLSA approved first aid bum bag.
- ❖ 1 x Bottle of vinegar

*Note: Roving patrol on the ATV can also carry ice packs & a full First Aid Kit*

### Patrol Position:

Darwin Surf Life Saving Club will position its RED/YELLOW FLAGS in a location and spacing determined by the duty Patrol Captain.

This will be in a position determined the 'safest' and in the area bounded between the North side of the Dripstone Cliffs to the small Creek/old Gun Turret to the North of the Club House.

### Patrol Flag/s Location:

East / West

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 south of, and including the Cliffs, then visual display of the Patrol's presence will be limited.

North / South

Generally, this will be halfway between the Darwin SLSC Club boat ramp and the public access/cliffs to the south. BUT ultimately will be in a position determined 'safest' by the duty Patrol Captain.



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### Patrol Base / Shelter Location:

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

On occasions of extreme high or low tides ONLY, the location of the Patrol Base maybe at the observation table on the sand dune, in the vicinity of the Vehicle access ramp.

A minimum of 2 Patrol members 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 First Aid Shelter is to be used at major competitions and events.

The Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) will be launched when the tide permits. 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.

### Patrol Resources and Tools:

The Patrols will be rostered with a minimum of 4-person strength 2 being BM holders.

Each Patrol, where possible, will contain an Advanced Resuscitation Certificate (ARC) holder, an IRB Driver 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:

- ❖ 3 x Rescue Tubes
- ❖ 1 x Rescue Board
- ❖ 1 x Oxy Viva/Modulator
- ❖ 1 x First Aid Kit
- ❖ 1 x Stinger Kit
- ❖ 1 x Spinal Board
- ❖ 1 x Patrol Shelter
- ❖ Patrol Log Book, IRB log and Incident Report Log
- ❖ 3 x Radios (Patrol shelter, roving, IRB)

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

- ❖ 1 x IRB
- ❖ 1 x First Aid Tent (when designated beach activity)

At times the SLSNT Jet Ski service may be launched from the DSLSC boat ramp to assist patrolling of the Casuarina and Nightcliff beach areas. When the Jet Ski service is in use Patrol Captains should ensure that patrol members are available to assist the Jet Ski driver launch and retrieve the craft.

### Roving Patrols:

Roving patrols in the ATV will be conducted as minimum once every patrol after set up and the completion of a stinger drag along the beach in a southerly direction from the club house down the Rapid Creek and in a Northerly direction from the club house to Fly Creek.

Extra roving patrols in the ATV and on foot will be conducted at the discretion of the duty Patrol Captain between June and September.



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When the IRB can be launched a patrol every hour is to be conducted between Nightcliff Jetty and the southern boundary of the Free Beach.

The IRB should be utilised and used 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.

#### Surveillance Patrols:

At the beginning of the season (Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May) and at the end of the season (Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October) the surveillance patrol type will be used.

These patrols are used to ensure there is a lifesaving presence at times when there are few people on the beach and it is also within the period of when the Authorities deem it to be unsafe.

The patrol will utilise the same equipment as per a Roving patrol + the following:

- ❖ Flag – In May & October the **RED** 'danger' flag will be hoisted
- ❖ 1 x Rescue tube
- ❖ 1 x Rescue board
- ❖ First Aid Kit
- ❖ Vinegar
- ❖ Radio for each patrolling member
- ❖ 1 x Stinger suit for each patrolling member
- ❖ Binoculars

On these patrols an observation base is to be made at the table at the top of the sand dune, with duties being as per a roving patrol i.e. the ATV will be conducted as minimum once every patrol after set up and the completion of a stinger drag along the beach in a southerly direction from the club house down the Rapid Creek and in a Northerly direction from the club house to Fly Creek.

Extra roving patrols in the ATV and on foot will be conducted at the discretion of the duty Patrol Captain, paying particular attention along the water line.

A stinger drag is to be conducted at the start of all patrols. Stinger suits must be worn while conducting the drag.



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### Patrol Signage Location :

At the beginning of each patrol **ONE sign** is to be located adjacent to the RED or YELLOW FLAG.

**A SECOND sign** is to be placed on the North side of the Dripstone Cliffs to notify the public that a Patrol is on duty and its general location.

This sign should also be used to communicate with the public when stinger or crocodile warnings are current. The signs are retrieved at the end of patrol or prior to beach access being cut by an incoming tide.

The Club is also to endeavour to remind the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT of its obligation to maintain the warning signs in the car parks and at beach accesses.

### Patrol Signage Content:

The 'variable' content of the Rostered Patrol sign is to include:

- ❖ Hours of Patrol
- ❖ Day
- ❖ Date
- ❖ Water Temperature
- ❖ Tides
- ❖ Lifesavers on Duty
- ❖ General Comments.

### 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 Casuarina 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

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Director of Lifesaving