



Photo courtesy of Queensland Times

International star saved

Teenage volunteer surf lifesaver, Sam Doonan, will never forget the day of his first lifesaving rescue.

For Sam and his brother Joe, Sunday, October 21 was supposed to be a day for a leisurely swim at Kings Beach, Caloundra QLD but this shortly turned into a dramatic surf rescue.

For New Orleans singer/songwriter Jon Cleary, his plan for this Sunday morning was also a swim at Kings Beach, before performing as a major act at the Caloundra Music Festival later that night. However, Jon's enjoyable swim at the beach turned into fear when he became caught in a major rip.

It wasn't too long until the force of the rip became too much & the exhausted swimmer had gone under the water twice.

Luckily, Sam Doonan, an off duty lifesaver with Metropolitan Caloundra SLSC spotted Jon signalling for desperate help and quickly came to the rescue on his surf board, towing him safely to shore.

Little did Sam know, he had just rescued a famous patient, and was equally just as happy to have saved a life!

"I didn't have a clue. He was just another bloke

out there," Sam said. "It was really special. It was worth it, definitely"

Sam's rescue skills, acquired through his lifesaver training, paid off on this Sunday.

"My dad wanted me to get into surf lifesaving because he wanted me to get a better understanding of the surf," he said.

And thanks to Sam's quick actions, Mr Cleary was given oxygen by fellow patrolling lifesavers before being taken to Caloundra Hospital.

The famous blues singer described the experience of getting caught in a rip as terribly frightening.

"I started swimming back and I realised as hard as I was swimming, I wasn't getting anywhere," Mr Cleary said.

Luckily, Jon recovered from his near drowning experience and went ahead with his performance on the Sunday evening where he payed tribute to his rescuer.

Ironically, Metropolitan Caloundra SLSC was a major beneficiary from the performance.

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Surf Life Saving Foundation Welcomes New Executive Director

In this edition of *Lifesaver*, we are very pleased to welcome Steve Francia to the Surf Life Saving Foundation team as the new Executive Director.

Steve is enthusiastic about his new role and eager to make a difference in the lifesaving work he believes in so strongly. His personal goal is to ensure the Foundation continues to move forward and to recognise every single supporter who helps save lives on our beaches.

“Surf Life Saving has come a long way since it began in 1907, growing from a tiny organisation into a proud movement,” says Steve. “Our supporters have made it possible. Year after year, their generosity is what keeps our volunteers out there, patrolling our beaches, trained, equipped and ready to save lives.”

Steve realises he has some big shoes to fill. Late last year, after 10 dedicated years as Executive Director, Andrew Thomas decided it was time to make a change. He may have passed the torch, but Andrew will always stand behind the important mission of Surf Life Saving and continues to be a familiar face within the organisation. As a patrolling member, Andrew still strives towards making our beaches safe. In his years as Executive Director, Andrew was constantly amazed by the incredible passion and support the community showed for Surf Life Saving.

And before departing from his position, he left a message for a very special group of people, supporters like you...

“I’d like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our supporters for your generous donations. Please be proud of the fact that your support has made such a crucial difference to beach safety and to the volunteer lifesavers that provide this amazing service.”

With Steve at our helm, we look forward to partnering with you again this year. Together, we will aim to keep our beautiful beaches safe for fellow Australian’s and visitors from around the world to enjoy.



Mrs Beryl Wright, loyal supporter of Surf Life Saving wrote this poem in honour of our surf lifesavers.

In Celebration of the Year of the Surf Lifesaver

My grandfather had a house at the beach,
And there was the ocean all within reach.
We grandchildren thought this was great,
To hear all that water at the front gate.

Down to the beach each morning at six,
Sand, sea and surf, what a great mix!
We body surfed and with rubber float,
We even had our own surf boat.

But we were always glad to see,
Those proud bronzed boys of the sea.

At first there were flags at our beach,
But help was always within reach.
The “boys” came along the mile,
With their reel and line, and a great big smile.

Bathe between the flags they later said,
And do try to use your head.
If caught in a tidal rip,
Put up your hand and tread water instead.

Today the boys and now girls of all the clubs,
Are helping many of us duds.
To have a safe day at the beach,
And pay attention to all safely rules they teach.

Swim between the flags of red and gold,
And help our surf lifesavers bronzed and bold.

Defibrillators – helping to save lives

When a person has suffered a cardiac arrest, it’s vital to have a defibrillator close at hand. Each one costs \$5,000 and must be replaced approximately every six years due to constant upgrading of technology. Once available to only doctors, defibrillators are now used safely and successfully by volunteer surf lifesavers. In fact, July 26, 1997, was the first successful use of a defibrillator anywhere in the world by a volunteer lifesaver at Noosa, Queensland.

All 18 Surf Life Saving Clubs in South Australia were recently delighted, when Mitsubishi Motors Canteen Society generously provided a defibrillator to each SLSC.

Thanks to such an outstanding contribution, our volunteers in South Australia are better equipped than ever before to treat patients who suffer cardiac arrests – and provide quality care to their communities.





Photo courtesy of Post Newspapers, WA

Waitress rescues swimmer

In between serving meals and coffee in North Cottesloe WA on a weekend in August last year, Victoria Coleclough managed to squeeze a lifesaving rescue into her shift.

When the waitress saw a man struggling in the water on Saturday afternoon, she ran down to the beach, ditched her apron and shoes, grabbed a rescue board and ran into the water.

“I was upstairs working on the balcony at Barchetta and two women I had been serving alerted me to the man caught in the rip,” the 18 year old said.

When Victoria arrived at the beach, the drowning man’s wife and children, who were tourists from England, were standing on the beach highly distressed knowing they could soon lose their husband and father right in front of their eyes.

With little time to think or hesitate, Victoria spotted a surf rescue board and sprinted towards the water with the board in hand.

Ms Coleclough, who completed her Bronze Medallion at Cottesloe SLSC last year, said she realised rescuing the 37 year old man was becoming harder than she had originally anticipated.

“He was on the reef, there was a big swell and he was getting dumped,” she said.

“He had been caught for about 10 minutes and

Waitress Victoria Coleclough swapped her apron for a surfboard to rescue a man caught in a rip on north Cottesloe Beach, WA.

was so exhausted that he was finding it hard to get out.”

However, with strong persistence and the rescue techniques she had learned during the training in her bronze course, Victoria successfully manoeuvred through the strong waves and managed to get to the man just in time.

“I pulled him into the shore and a doctor, who had been walking by, was there to help.”

The rescued man was treated for hypothermia and shock and was taken to Fremantle Hospital where he recovered completely and was reunited with his grateful family.

Reflecting back on the rescue, Victoria said she didn’t have time to think about what she was doing.

“It just came naturally. I didn’t notice how cold the water was, I had so much adrenalin,” she said.

“Afterwards, it hit me and I was quite emotional about it. I had just saved a life and prevented an awful tragedy.”

Ms Coleclough has been inspired to get back into her lifesaving training for summer.

“You do these things, but you never really think you will use the skills you learn,” she said. “I never thought I’d ever do something like this. It feels good.”

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SURF LIFE SAVING'S 100th BIRTHDAY: A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

For our fellow members and Australian's across the country, 2007 was a year of celebration. After all, a respected and beloved organisation like Surf Life Saving doesn't turn 100 every day. The celebrations may be over, but it is with pride that we recap some of the highlights of this fantastic year.

Everyone from school kids to firefighters and even some of the Qantas ground crew got caught up in the birthday festivities. More than 130,000 people arrived at their workplace or school dressed in their colourful boardies and beach gear for Surf Life Saving's annual Boardies Day on October 19. This fun-filled event raised over \$100,000 for Surf Life Saving Clubs around the country.

The Royal Australian Mint did their bit to honour the Year of the Surf Lifesaver. They released two unique coin sets featuring surf lifesavers in action. Australia Post also played their part with an official launch of Surf Life Saving collector stamps.

Even tourists joined us in marking our 100th birthday. Along with Australians, they flocked to the exhibition "Between the Flags: 100 years of Surf Lifesaving" to see the showcasing of historical rescue equipment, surf boards, trophies and other memorabilia.

We will always proudly honour our first 100 years. By paying tribute to our impressive history, we fostered strong community support, increased our national volunteer membership levels by 15% and reached more people than ever before with crucial surf safety education messages.

But with a new year upon us, we must also look forward. Currently our lifesavers are working hard to patrol hectic beaches throughout the school holidays and Easter period. They're administering First Aid and carrying out preventative actions to save beachgoers from danger.

The work of Surf Life Saving never ends and neither do the costs associated with keeping our beaches safe. There is the cost of training more lifesavers, repairing and replacing vital lifesaving equipment and making sure we have the resources for continued safety education programs.

Today, we are so grateful to our supporters. If people like you didn't care, countless lives would be lost on our beaches every year.

And so, the need for your generosity continues. Supporters like you have given us many reasons to celebrate in the past. It is you we want by our side as we move into the future – the next 100 years and beyond.



SURF LIFE SAVING FOUNDATION



The life of the beach.

The Surf Life Saving Foundation aims to strengthen the role, protect the image and maintain the tradition of volunteer surf lifesavers serving local communities throughout Australia since 1907.

Surf Rescue House
GPO Box 9950 In Your Capital City
Phone: 1800 642 925 Fax: 1800 782 020
Email: foundation@lifesaving.com.au

Yes! I want to support beach safety today!

Here's my single gift of: \$30 \$50 \$100 or \$_____

I've enclosed a cheque/money order payable to "Surf Life Saving Foundation". OR

Please debit my: Visa MasterCard Amex Diners club

Credit Card # Expiry Date -

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

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Postcode _____

Email _____ Phone () _____



Please mail your completed form to:

Surf Life Saving Foundation
GPO BOX 9950 IN YOUR CAPITAL CITY
TEL: 1800 642 925 FAX: 1800 782 020

All donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. www.lifesavingfoundation.com.au