



*Bluewater Bay*  
surf lifesaving



# **DROWING PREVENTION PROGRAMME 2012/2013**





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## Holders of the trophy

Following the introduction of its **Drowning Prevention Programme** that was put into place in November 2011, Bluewater Bay Surf Lifesaving Club became the inaugural winners of the Bavo Verheyden trophy in 2012.

Given that the club has always placed lifesaving firmly ahead of the sporting side of the movement, it was the *one* award the club had set its mind on winning. The trophy was taken down to the club and handed over to the lifeguards at a special ceremony who immediately pledged that they would strive to retain the trophy in 2013.

Having set the standard, the club resolved that it would not only maintain that standard but also raise the bar. The club's **DPP** had five major sections: **Duty Patrolling, Beach Patrolling, Signage, Advertising and Education**. The first priority was to see how each of these could be improved.





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**Holders of the trophy**







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## Duty Patrolling



Patrolling had already been extended along the entire length of the beach plus up the banks of the Swartkops River (about 2km) to ensure that bathers were not bathing in unsafe areas. The main vehicle used is the side-by-side quad (DPV) which is kitted out with rescue board, spinal board, torpedo buoys, first aid kit and shark attack kit. The jet ski ,sled combination is used to patrol the surf zone. Special permission was obtained from our local Environmental Department to do water patrols in the Swartkops Estuary .



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## DUTY PATROLLING



## Additional Lifeguards

A strong drive to attract more lifeguards resulted in numbers on duty rising from an average of four per duty to nine, albeit that the additional members were trainees.







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## DUTY PATROLLING



### Torpedo Buoys

Torpedo Buoy holders were manufactured from stainless steel with two placed at the water's edge to ensure there were more flotation devices on the beach than usual.





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## DUTY PATROLLING



### Tower

The tower was deployed every time our lifeguards were on duty







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## DUTY PATROLLING



### Craft

An additional IRB was obtained which is able to handle rougher sea conditions than the standard craft can. This, together with the DPV, two quad bikes and a jet ski, makes Bluewater Bay one of the best equipped clubs in the country.







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## BEACH PATROLLING



The DPV not only assisted with help-outs at duty beach but was also kept exceptionally busy moving numerous bathers from unguarded areas along the beach and in the river mouth.

This is backed up by the two quad bikes if required.





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## BEACH PATROLLING



Bluewater Bay Surf Lifesaving Club in conjunction with Sector Policing implemented a highly successful Beach Patrol unit with three powerful 4X4s to assist in the **Drowning Prevention Programme**.

Bluewater Bay Lifeguards on duty can concentrate on their jobs and not have to deal with crime and alcohol abuse on the beach. As a result of this operational plan Bluewater Bay beach was again hailed as the safest beach in the Nelson Mandela Metropola during the festive season.





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## BEACH PATROLLING



Bluewater Bay Surf Lifesaving Club in conjunction with the Nelson Mandela Metro Municipal Departments, NSRI and Coastal Rescue joined forces in a training exercise to assist in the **Drowning Prevention Programme**.

This operational plan also assisted Bluewater Bay being hailed as the safest beach in the Nelson Mandela Metropol despite the generally more dangerous sea conditions.



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## SIGNAGE



The Club replaced stolen and damaged signage and continued with its additional signage at various points along the beach and the club with its mobile signs placed at dangerous parts of the beach. The mobile signs are put out in the mornings of every duty day and taken back to the club-house in the evenings.







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## SIGNAGE



**“Dangerous Currents”**  
mobile boards that are placed on the beach front area in four different locations



**“Swim between flags”**  
notice boards are displayed on the beach indicating the safe swimming area.





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## SIGNAGE



**“Dangerous Currents”**  
mobile boards that are placed on the beach front area in four different locations



**“Dangerous Currents”**  
permanent information boards indicating NO SWIMMING



**“No Swimming”**  
permanent information boards indicating the dangerous sea conditions



# ADVERTISING



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The club again took out a full page advertisement in the local newspaper to warn about rip currents and supplied an article on its services notifying residents of numbers to call after hours and out of season.

Warnings about rip currents were also again put on to the web pages of various websites and the club's own facebook page.

**RIP CURRENTS**  
**Break the Grip of the Rip!**

ESCAPE ESCAPE ESCAPE ESCAPE

CURRENT RIP CURRENT CURRENT

Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.

**IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT**

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

**SAFETY**

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

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The poster is a safety guide for rip currents. It features a diagram of a rip current with arrows showing water flowing away from the shore and back towards the shore. The word 'ESCAPE' is written above the arrows pointing away from the shore, and 'CURRENT' is written below the arrows pointing towards the shore. The central area where the water flows away is labeled 'RIP CURRENT'. Below the diagram, there is a red banner with white text that reads 'IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT'. Underneath this banner is a list of four safety instructions, each preceded by a diamond symbol. At the bottom of the poster, there is another red banner with white text that reads 'SAFETY', followed by another list of three safety instructions, each preceded by a diamond symbol. The Bluewater Bay Surf Lifesaving Club logo is located in the bottom right corner of the poster.



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Warnings about rip currents were also put on to the web pages of various websites.







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## EDUCATION



The message of the dangers of the ocean was once again taken to the schools by participation at their annual fetes. Pamphlets were handed out to children and adults alike. The club also distributed pamphlets obtained from Safe Coastal Tourism to various B&B's in the suburb.



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Educating bathers when they swim in dangerous areas

QAPHELA UKUBA ILIFEGUARDS ZIKUBONISA IMIBALN EBOMVU NEMTHUBI KUFUNEKA IQUBHELE PHAKATHI KWAZO



Pamphlets in isiXhosa were distributed in townships



Educating scholars at school fetes





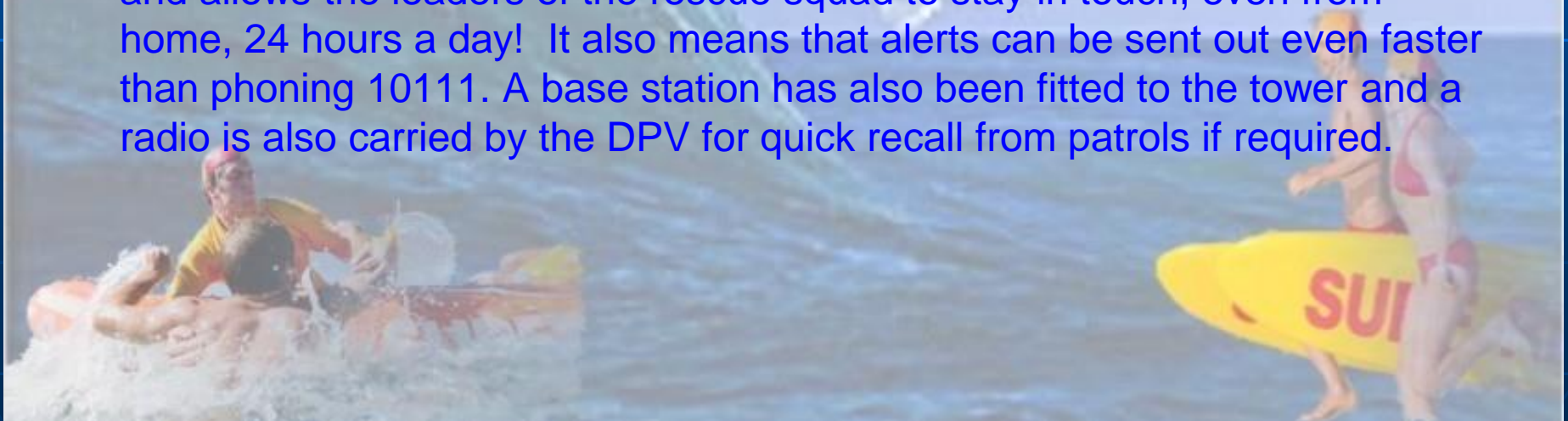


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## Radio Communications

- The main new development was the establishment of the club's own radio network. The club acquired its own radio frequency and purchased six radios. The network has been linked to various emergency service channels and allows the leaders of the rescue squad to stay in touch, even from home, 24 hours a day! It also means that alerts can be sent out even faster than phoning 10111. A base station has also been fitted to the tower and a radio is also carried by the DPV for quick recall from patrols if required.





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**The bar has been raised!**

**Bluewater Bay Surf Lifesaving Club not only met the standards it set last year but also believe we have significantly raised the bar**







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## But the best news for last

We are pleased to report that following the tragedy of the mass drowning last year when six bathers lost their lives, there were no fatalities during the past season. This was the 44<sup>th</sup> year out of 45 that no drownings have taken place while our lifeguards have been on duty





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The finest thing a man can do is  
to save the life of a fellow  
human being

**THANK YOU**

