



Northern
Territory
Government



Newsplash

March 2009

OUR VISION

To reduce
the rate of
drowning, near
drowning and water
related injuries in the
Northern Territory.



Safety Message - Flood Water

Swimming in flooded waterways is extremely dangerous due to the unpredictable speed of water and what lies under the surface. Risks may include dislodged debris, sewage, chemical contamination, deadly bacteria or even roaming crocodiles.

Driving across water covered bridges and roads also presents a high level of risk to personal safety. It can be very difficult to know how deep the water is - it can rise rapidly or parts of the road could be washed away.

According to the Pacific Disaster Centre, for each 30cm of flood water, 680kg of a vehicle's weight is displaced. The Townsville City Council says that 30cm of water moving at 16km per hour has approximately 230kg of lateral force. Therefore, as little as 60cm of water will send most vehicles afloat down stream.

Once a vehicle is afloat, escaping it is difficult as doors and windows become hard to open due to the constant water pressure. The current and undertow make a simple swim to the riverbank a marathon task.



The message is simple, stay away from flooded water ways.

Dates for your diary - 2009

- 21-23 March - Easter Family Fishing Competition, Dundee Beach
- 28 March - 5 April - National Youth Week
- 9-17 May - Arafura Games
- 11-12 July - National Aquatic Education Conference, QLD
- 18 July - Darwin to Ambon Yacht Race
- 22 August - Henly-on-Todd Regatta, Alice Springs
- 2-4 October - Barra Bash, Roper River
- 17-18 October - Darwin Boat and Leisure Show.

SNIPPIT

The Water Safety Branch in conjunction with the Department of Education and Training are developing a water safety resource for middle school students.

The lesson plans will focus on risk taking behaviour and challenge students to assess their own decisions in and around water. The plans will be fully resourced with teachers' notes and student activities and will be available in early April 2009.

Call 1300 301 059 for more information.



Royal Life Saving Society

Did you know that Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) was founded in England in 1891 to combat high drowning rates?

In Australia the RLSS was originally established in New South Wales in 1894. RLSS now has a branch operating in every state in Australia.

Some 30 years after the organisation was launched in Australia a dual system of lifesaving was introduced, with ocean beaches being the responsibility of Surf Life Saving and still water environments and other waterways the responsibility of Royal Life Saving Society.



406MHz Frequency beacons operational

Boaters should now be aware that 406MHz frequency beacons are fully operational. 121.5MHz frequency is no longer being monitored by Search and Rescue (SAR) alert facilities and should be replaced immediately.

Changes to the operating systems aim to improve services through greater accuracy in the dispatch of rescue teams, ease in determining alert legitimacy, and reduce the SAR response time. The older model beacon is no longer a reliable emergency aid with only some high flying aircraft still able to detect the signal.



Skippers of pleasure craft that plan to operate outside of sheltered waters, more than 2 nautical miles from the coast are reminded that it is mandatory to carry emergency equipment, including a fully functioning beacon. Failure to carry the correct emergency equipment may result in severe penalties, including an appearance in the Darwin Magistrates Court.

Position Vacant

Surf Life Saving is seeking suitably qualified people to become casual or part time trainers for the Australian Lifesaving Academy NT. Please email Julie Snelling at julie.snelling@lifesavingnt.com.au or telephone 8985 6588.

Snippit

Leah Cullen has been appointed Executive Officer for Swimming NT.

Leah brings many years of experience in aquatic environments, having previously been a valued member of the Royal Life Saving Society NT team.

Leah can be contact on 8981 5483.

School visits

It can be a tight fit for Boof on the plane, but he is ready to travel!

The Water Safety Branch in conjunction with the Department of Education and Training aim to take water safety lessons to remote communities over the next few months. The water safety lessons will be conducted at schools at Alyangula, Umbakumba, Angurugu and Milyakburra, Daly River, Peppimenarti, Port Keats, Nauiyu, Wooliana, Palumpa and the Katherine region. These lessons are planned from March to June.



Educational opportunities



First Aid and Emergency Care sessions are being held by Royal Life Saving Society NT at Darwin Tennis Centre on 21 March and 20 May 2009. These courses provide students with knowledge and practical skills required to administer first aid to a victim of illness or injury. Practical skills learnt include management of complex scenarios and multiple injuries. Contact Royal Life Saving NT on 8981 5036 for more information.

On the 18th April 2009 Royal Life Saving NT will be holding Resuscitation and Bronze Medallion accreditation courses at the Nightcliff Aquatic Centre. Participants will learn a range of survival and rescue skills in preparation for more challenging and riskier rescues. They will also develop stroke efficiency and endurance.

A resuscitation course will also be held at Darwin Tennis Centre 21 March 2009 and 20 May 2009.

For more information visit www.nt.royallifesaving.com.au or call 89815036.

Adult Night Classes are offering Femme Fishing Classes. The classes are designed to lure women into recreational fishing and teaches how to choose tackle, identify rods and reels, tie common knots, attach traces and snap clips and learn to cast.

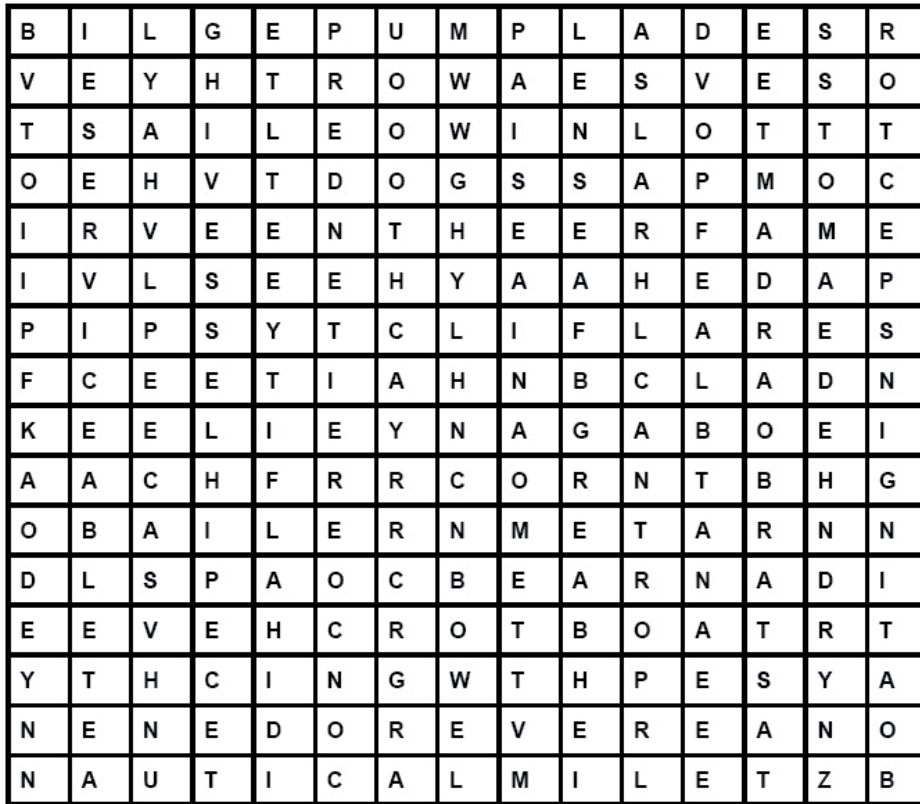
The course includes a trip to the swimming pool to hone techniques, a fishing spot excursion and a visit to the local tackle shop.

Please contact CSC Night Classes on 8920 1200 for more information.



Charles Darwin University is offering an Aqua Instructors Specialisation unit for students with a current Certificate III Fitness qualification. The course will include circuit classes, interval training, deep water, shallow water, water pump and more. For more information please telephone 8946 7525.

Aqua word puzzle



Find the marina words

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Boat | Sea Worthy |
| Boating Inspector | Serviceable |
| Bow | Stern |
| Chart | Starboard |
| Compass | Tender |
| Flares | Torch |
| Keel | Vessel |
| Nautical Mile | V Sheet |
| Port | Yacht |
| Sail | Anchor Cable |
| Sea | Bailer |
| Bilge Pump | |

February's answers

