



Northern
Territory
Government



Newsplash

February 2009



OUR VISION

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

Message from the deck



The monsoonal weather has certainly made its mark on the Territory in 2009, with many roads closed due to severe flooding. The Council is urging Territorians and visitors to obey road signs and not attempt to cross or swim in flooded waterways. Not only can flooded waterways be unpredictable but they often have strong swirling currents that can take you by surprise. Police and Emergency Services close roads because they are deemed unsafe to pass, so in the interest of you and your passenger's safety, obey the signs and warnings.

I would also like to welcome back school students and teachers to the 2009 school year. The Northern Territory Water Safety Advisory Council would like to encourage teachers to put water safety on their list of topics for the year. The Water Safety Branch has developed some great resources for easy use in the classroom and is also available to talk to students.

Daphne Read AO
Chairperson NTWSAC

Dates for your diary

- 21 & 22 February 2009 - International Diving Conference, Malaysia
- 23 February 2009 - AFANT Junior Fishing Clinics, Nhulunbuy
- 1 March 2009 - AFANT Ladies Fishing Clinic, Nhulunbuy
- 2 March 2009 - AFANT Annual General Meeting
- 17-22 March 2009 - Australian Surf Life Saving Championships, Scarborough Beach, WA
- 21-23 March 2009 - Easter Family Fishing Competition, Dundee Beach
- 9-17 May 2009 - Arafura Games
- 11 – 12 July 2009 - National Aquatic Education Conference, QLD.



Water rescue

Knowing how to respond to an emergency in or around the water can mean the difference between life and death.

Unfortunately, in Australia around five people drown each year attempting to rescue someone. According to Royal Life Saving Society Australia, rescuers themselves often need rescuing or drown after leaping into the water to help a struggling friend or family member.

Remember, do not put yourself at risk or you too might also get in trouble. Your safety must be considered, so think about these tips.

- Talk to the person in distress and try to calm them down.
- Ask them to float to conserve energy.
- Observe their distance from you - if they're not too far away throw something to them and pull them in.
- It may be possible for you to wade closer to them or find something to float on like a surfboard or a canoe.
- It is a last resort to swim to a person and attempt to rescue them.



Recreational fishing

The Revised National Code of Practice for Recreational Fishing has now been published.

The code was released in January 2009 and provides recreational fishing guidelines on topics such as

- caring for personal safety and the safety of others when fishing
- taking care when boating and anchoring to avoid damage to wildlife and habitat.

For more information and to view the code visit Recreational Fishing Australia at www.recfish.com.au



Experienced anglers required

Casual interviewers are required for an extensive survey of recreational fishing. The survey of local and visiting anglers will identify the number of people who fish, when and where they visit, identification of fish species, catch rates and the expenditure of the recreational pursuit.

People interested in a position as an interviewer are required to have knowledge of fishing practices, common fish species and local geography.

For more information about the survey contact the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources on 8999 5511.



School visits

Water Safety in conjunction with the Department of Education and Training are preparing a calendar for school based water safety education in 2009. The water safety calendar will include visits to schools in rural, urban and remote areas across the Northern Territory.

If your school is interested in receiving water safety education in 2009, please contact Shaan Myall on 8924 3646 or email shaan.myall@nt.gov.au



Water Safety Lesson Plans

Water Safety lesson plans are now available! There are five lessons in each plan and each lesson is designed to take approximately 40 minutes. Lessons are supported with teacher's notes and include practical, fun and educational activities for students to complete. The lessons are also mapped to the NTG Curriculum Framework so teachers can be confident in knowing that their students are on track!

The lesson plans have recently been updated to include pipe and drain safety and are available for

- Early Childhood
- Middle Primary
- Upper Primary.

Visit www.watersafety.nt.gov.au/publications to download a lesson plan.

Make the Switch to 406

On 1 February 2009, 121.5MHz distress beacons became undetectable by satellites. All boat owners are now required to make the switch to a 406 MHz distress beacon to ensure their emergency beacon is detected.

Once you have made the switch, register your new 406 MHz beacon with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) to assist in search and rescue responses. You can register online at www.beacons.amsa.gov.au for free.

Unwanted or old distress beacons can be disposed of at Battery World stores through out the Northern Territory.



Aqua word puzzle

K	N	E	E	B	O	A	R	D	I	N	G	O	G	T
D	P	S	P	O	W	E	R	B	O	A	T	I	N	G
C	Y	N	G	D	F	T	I	N	G	I	C	K	I	M
P	O	W	E	Y	R	B	I	G	L	E	S	L	L	B
W	A	V	E	S	K	I	I	N	G	E	Y	A	I	G
G	N	G	E	U	H	O	D	I	E	G	L	G	A	N
N	A	I	D	R	Y	E	V	B	I	N	N	E	S	I
I	L	N	E	F	S	L	E	U	Y	I	W	I	A	M
R	A	F	T	I	N	G	L	T	V	K	L	I	R	M
E	A	R	M	N	D	E	D	I	I	A	T	H	A	I
T	A	U	L	G	M	I	D	A	S	Y	Y	D	P	W
S	N	S	E	Y	F	E	V	R	E	A	D	H	O	S
A	D	G	E	V	E	A	U	I	G	K	H	A	N	E
O	R	U	S	R	S	I	A	F	N	R	A	N	C	C
C	L	I	F	F	D	I	V	I	N	G	E	O	R	I

Find the water sports words

Body Surfing
Coastering
Free Diving
Kayaking
Parasailing
Rafting
Tubing

Cliff Diving
Diving
Ice swimming
Knee Boarding
Power Boating
Surfing
Wave Skiing

Last months answers

Across: 1. body surfing, 4. spinal, 6. life saving, 8. waves, 9. hypothermia, 11. pools

Down: 1. box jellyfish, 2. buoys, 3. freshies, 5. anchors, 7. yellow, 10. rip

Water expertise required

- Swimming Northern Territory Incorporated are seeking a Support Officer to assist in the coordination and delivery of swimming programs and events and day to day running of the organisation. Visit www.nt.swimming.org.au for more information.
- Royal Life Saving Society Australia are seeking both a Training Officer and Sport Development Officer to join their dynamic Northern Territory team. For more information on these positions visit www.royallifesaving.com.au or call Liz Cruse on 8981 5036.
- AUSTSWIM are currently looking for qualified Swimming Instructors. Call Jacqui Dobson at Royal Life Saving NT for an information pack on 8981 5036.

