



## **Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated**

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### **PROFESSIONAL LIFEGUARDS HAVE CONCLUDED PATROLS ON LOCAL BEACHES, BUT VOLUNTEER SURF LIFESAVERS TO CONTINUE AT POINT LONSDALE UNTIL EASTER MONDAY**

Professional Lifeguards have concluded their 'summer school holiday' beach patrols at both the Point Lonsdale Back Beach and at Queenscliff's Santa Casa Beach.

Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club Secretary, Mr. Matthew Ponsford announced that "during the period over 15 000 people (up from over 13 000 last year) visited the Back Beach, where Professional Lifeguards maintained a close watch, at a beach that can be very dangerous". "Professional Lifeguards issued 772 surf warnings (up from 645 last year), where professional advice and safety directions were given and this helped to reduce the number of rescues to only 1 (a reduction from 8 the year before), while 14 (an increase from 6 the year before) people required first aid attention at the beach".

Mr. Ponsford went on to say that "during the same period over 20 000 (a reduction from 23 000 the year before) people visited the Santa Casa Beach and the Professional Lifeguards kept a watchful eye on them there". "Professional Lifeguards issued 304 surf warnings (up from 265 last year), there were no rescues performed (down from 1 the year before) and 9 (a decrease from 13 the year before) people required first aid attention at the beach".

"We are most fortunate to have Professional Lifeguards employed at two popular local beaches to maintain 7 day a week coverage during what is the busiest time on our beaches". "The Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club is grateful to DHL, the State Government and the Borough of Queenscliffe who assist to make this possible".

Volunteer Surf Lifesavers will continue to provide a patrolled beach at the Point Lonsdale Back Beach until Easter Monday at the following times:

Saturdays 1:00pm to 4:00pm and Sundays / Public Holidays 10:30am to 4:00pm.

"I would advise all beach goers to 'Play It Safe By The Water', to never swim alone and to swim between the red and yellow flags".

For further information please contact the Secretary / Media Liaison Officer - Matthew Ponsford on 0419 52 52 58

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**Media Release**