



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

**ABN 90 650 713 800**

**Registered Number A0016072K**

PO Box 120 Point Lonsdale Victoria 3225

Telephone: (03) 5258 1257 Facsimile: (03) 5258 2823

email: [info@pointlonsdaleslsc.asn.au](mailto:info@pointlonsdaleslsc.asn.au) Website: [www.pointlonsdaleslsc.asn.au](http://www.pointlonsdaleslsc.asn.au)

### **POINT LONSDALE'S VOLUNTEER SURF LIFE SAVERS TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LIFESAVING SERVICES, BUT SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO PROVIDE A COMPLETE SERVICE**

In recent days there have been increasing discussions relating to volunteer surf life savers starting patrols early in response to early hot weather that has occurred in November.

The Point Lonsdale Lifesaving Emergency Response Team (LERT) responded to this and this weekend used our Rescue Water Craft (RWC) (more commonly know as a Jet Ski) to conduct roving patrols in the Bellarine District. During the weekend the RWC supported beach patrol operations at Ocean Grove and beaches that were unpatrolled yesterday and today covered a wide area of beaches that did not have any other lifesaving service provided.

We established our RWC service almost 12 months ago and through Club fundraising efforts, fully paid for our RWC, after several unsuccessful attempts to seek partial funding through various Government Grants programs.

Our plan has always been to have two RWCs and a four wheel drive to deliver a complete service to the public. Having two RWCs working together increases the safety for our volunteers and a four wheel drive is obviously required as a support vehicle to tow these craft and also to access beaches and remote areas.

This year we have again sought partial funding from Government Grants and have been unsuccessful and hope to find a generous Company or donor to enable us to be fully equipped. We have the financial resources (and BP Little River as a generous fuel sponsor) and sufficient numbers of trained personnel to run the program on a day to day basis, but when you are looking at a capital outlay of \$ 25 000 for a fully equipped RWC and \$ 60 000 for a 4WD we simply don't have the funds for that sort of outlay.

Our LERT provides a year round callout service primarily at the request of the Police and Ambulance Victoria. The RWC in particular also provides a mobile and flexible lifesaving services to support the operations of lifesavers and lifeguards at patrolled beaches and can quickly travel to areas where there is an incident or where a lifesaving presence is required.

For further information please contact the LERT Captain – Matthew Ponsford on 0419 52 52 58

Released: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009 for Immediate Release

**Media Release**