

Vision: Everyone will have the water safe skills and behaviours necessary to use and enjoy the water safely

Mission: Through water safety education, prevent injury and drowning

Purpose: To lead water safety education in the Southland region

Context

The Regional Water Safety Education Plans are a strategic approach to drowning prevention in regional New Zealand. They are aligned to the Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ) strategies:

1. Leadership
 - a. To be the recognised leader in the effective advocacy of water safety education to the community
 - b. WSNZ Members are leaders in their own areas of water safety education
2. Education
 - a. The WSNZ Collective to be respected leaders in the coordination and provision of quality water safety education
3. Collaboration
 - a. To develop and maintain strong collaborative relationships within WSNZ to enhance the development, delivery and experience of water safety education
 - b. To develop and maintain strong collaborative relationships between WSNZ and government and community leaders to support water safety education outcomes

Each Regional Water Safety Education Strategy will be developed specific to the geographic area that represents it.

Each Regional Water Safety Education Strategy will be developed by water safety and community leaders and organisations with an interest and involvement in water safety education.

The utilisation of forums, workshops and seminars etc along with timely communication and promotions will ultimately engage the stakeholders responsible for developing and implementing the Regional Water Safety Education Strategy.

The Regional Water Safety Education Strategy acknowledges that education is the preferred means for reducing drowning over a long term and sustained period. There is a need for education initiatives to be aligned and coordinated at a regional level to ensure consistency with National objectives.

The Drowning Prevention Strategy

A Water Safe New Zealand, Free From Drowning

Specific to the Regional Water Safety Education Strategy's are the following Goals and Objectives from the Drowning Prevention Strategy (DPS). It is considered relevant that the Regional Water Safety Education Strategy's should also have alignment with these Goals and Objectives.

Goal 1: Leadership

Objective 1: To provide strategic direction and effective coordination by and for the water safety sector

Goal 2: Delivery of Exceptional Water Safety Services

Objective 6: To provide quality water safety education and awareness

Objective 8: To enhance community and sector engagement in water safety initiatives

Implementation

The Regional Water Safety Education Strategy will be implemented via an Action Plan.

The Action Plan will consider and be representative of the collaborative efforts of all parties through the region that are involved in water safety education.

Guiding Principles

The Action Plan should be regional *specific* i.e. reflective of the demographic and geographic variables that exist within the region.

The Strategy shall reflect the *shared vision* aspired to by stakeholders along with the *collaborative* approach. It also acknowledges that duplication of effort or resources is counter productive in achieving success.

Advocacy is an important tool in promoting the objectives of the regional strategy, more so if it forms an important part of an *efficient* communications framework that includes; WSNZ Member Organisations, Educational Institutes and Schools, Territorial Authorities, Regional Councils, Injury Prevention Networks and the water safety/aquatics sector.

Regional Issues

Drowning and hospitalisation statistical analysis indicates that all regions are unique and specific, be it demographically or geographically.

The context of a Regional Water Safety Education Plan is important to all regions regardless of the number of drowning incidents in each area as not all New Zealanders will spend a lifetime living in or confined to one region.

A Risk Assessment shall be carried out on each region. This will consider drowning and hospitalisation data to determine the risk areas and any interactions between them for the region within:

1. Demographic Groups
2. Water Related Activities
3. Environments

Activity

The activity developed for each region shall consider the current offering of water safety education along with the needs of the region. The Action Plan should include advocacy, education and promotion and primarily be focused around children developing swim and survival skills.

Budget

A limited budget is available for selected activity.

The primary function of the Regional Water Safety Education Plan is the coordination of regional initiatives to be aligned under a strategic plan.

Organisations/Roles

Organisations and individuals central to the success of the Regional Water Safety Education Plans will vary from region to region. Where WSNZ Members have regional offices or administrators, it is considered that they will play an important role in the development and implementation of the Action Plan.

Territorial Authorities, Regional Councils and Injury Prevention groups are an important network to liaise and communicate with.

The role of WSNZ is to engage, facilitate, participate and disseminate.

The role of stakeholders is to participate, communicate and disseminate.

Review Process

The Regional Water Safety Plan shall be reviewed annually by WSNZ and the regional organisations supporting it. Review outcomes or recommendations should be implemented accordingly for the following year.

Updated July 2009

The following is a Risk Assessment – this is the drowning statistics for the Southland region (2003 – 2007), presented into the following categories:

- I. Environment
- II. Activity
- III. Demographic

From 2003 to 2007 there have been 30 drowning deaths in the Southland Region

- **Environment**
 - 37% Rivers
 - 37% Offshore
- **Water Related Activity**
 - 30% Recreational - Boating
 - 23% Other - Other Activities
- **Demographic**
 1. **Age**
 - 23% 15-24 years of age
 - 17% 55-64
 2. **Gender**
 - 80% Male
 - 20% Female
 3. **Ethnicity**
 - 63% NZ European
 - 30% Maori

** Note - % figures are shown for the two highest variables.*

The following is a stock take of Current Education Initiatives in the Southland region.

What	Who	Why
ACC RiverSafe programme (WSNZ)	Years 7 & 8 (web based)	RiverSafe Education specifically for year 7 & 8 students, teachers and parents
Lifejacket Campaigns (Maritime NZ) (Regional Councils)	General Public	Generic awareness campaign to recreational boaties and the general public
Be Waterwise - Safer Play With Water (WSNZ)	ECE – English & Te Reo	Generic Water Safety Education for ECE and Parents
Swim For Life (DLE) booklet (WSNZ)	All	The importance of learning to swim and survive – key water safety messages
ACC RiverSafe programme (WSNZ)	Years 9 & 10 (web based)	RiverSafe Education specifically for year 9 & 10 students, teachers and parents
Safe Boating DVD (Maritime NZ)	All	Generic awareness campaign to recreational boaties and the general public
Be Waterwise – be safe near water (WSNZ)	Years 1 & 2	Water Safety Education specifically for year 1 & 2 students, teachers and parents
Assistant Swim Teacher Award (Swimming New Zealand) and ASTA	16 years +	Education pathway for learn to swim instructors
Stay on Top (TVC) (Maritime NZ)	All	Generic awareness campaign to recreational boaties and the general public
Learn to Swim / Water Safety Instruction (Swim Schools within the Southland region for details check: www.swimforlife.org.nz/regions/southland.htm)	All	Learn to Swim / Water Safety education from 6mths to adults
Be Waterwise – think before you act (WSNZ)	Years 5 & 6 (web based)	Water Safety Education specifically for year 5 & 6 students, teachers and parents

What	Who	Why
Beach Education (Oreti Surf Life Saving Club)	Years 0-8	Practical and theoretical based programme teaching children how to enjoy the beach environment safely
Be Waterwise – make safe decisions (WSNZ)	Years 7 & 8 (web based)	Water Safety Education specifically for year 7 & 8 students, teachers and parents
Junior Surf programme (Oreti Surf Life Saving Club)	7 years – 14 years	Practical based programme teaching children how to enjoy the beach environment safely
AquaSafe (Royal Life Saving Society)	0 – 13 yr olds	Sequential 6 level swim and survive programme
Day Skipper (Coastguard Boating Education)	General Public	Introductory course for all, including those new to boating. Applies to a wide range of vessels/craft
Active Movement in Water (Swimming New Zealand)	0 – 5 age group	Bath time resource for parents to promote aquatic development
Boatmaster (Coastguard Boating Education)	Boaties with existing knowledge and experience	A comprehensive boating course. Applies to a wide range of vessels
Marine VHF Radio (Coastguard Boating Education)	For all who use VHF Marine Radio	The minimum requirement for all users of Marine VHF Radio
Safe Boating Programme (Coastguard Boating Education)	Years 5-8	Preparation for EOTC boating experiences i.e. kayaking, yachting, power boating and waka
Day Skipper Experience (Coastguard Boating Education)	Year 8-13	Half day learning experience surrounding boating
Thriving Under 5 booklet (Plunket)	All	Education for new parents
Scouting New Zealand	Boys aged 7 years +	Boating activities as well as certification
Active Movement (Sport Southland)	0 – 5 Age Group	Education for parents. Resources and building confidence and competence
Active Schools (Sport Southland)	Year 0 - 8	Promoting health and physical activity
Bronze Star (RLSSNZ)	Years 9 - 13	To develop skills and knowledge of safe water rescue and survival
Bronze Medallion (RLSSNZ)	Years 10 - 13	To develop the level of knowledge, judgement, technique and physical ability required to carry out safe water rescues

Areas of ongoing focus

1. Learn to Swim
2. Rivers
3. Beaches
4. Domestic

Topical Issues:

- Increase the collaboration in Southland
- Bluff - The community pool is facing closure and is in need of an upgrade. Currently council are seeking a community based solution to maintain its operation.
- Life-jackets being made compulsory
- Importance of appropriate supervision by parents at public pools and beaches
- Bluff, issues with youth harbour jumping in dangerous locations
- Bluff schools – transport issues for LTS, time away from classroom
- Southland Aquatic Centre – Lifeguard shortage
- Adopt an aligned and targeted approach to water safety education in the school education system
- Learn to swim is experiencing a shortage of qualified teachers across all levels
- Time constraints to work with schools, with need to raise awareness of water safety education
- Financial viable programmes for schools
- Develop a package/resource/event to assist with teachers learning and facilitation of water safety education
- Westland Southland Community Pools – tired and need maintenance, cost of repairs
- Lack of appropriate River Safety education in the Gore District for the schools
- Alcohol on the water in and around Invercargill
- Increase the level of water safety related education to the Under 5's via Plunket and nursery schools
- Following the 2008 Swim For Life Event series, concern has been heightened at the number of children who were unable to achieve the 200m outcome
- Out of date learn to swim programmes being taught by school teachers
- Highlighted special needs programme required
- Time to now give more thought to the under 5 programme in the Southland area with desire to strengthen relationships between Regional Sports Trusts/Aquatic Providers and Plunket

Appendix 4 Southland Water Safety Action Plan

Month		What	Who	Why	Contact
Jan		Swimming NZ ASTA education course	Course candidates 16+	Service the region for teacher training	arjun@swimmingnz.org.nz
		Coastguard Boating Education Courses	Course Candidates 16+	Preventative education developing more responsible attitudes and behaviour among boat users.	www.cbes.org.nz
Feb		Swimming NZ ASTA education course	Course candidates 16+	Service the region for teacher training	chris@swimmingnz.org.nz
		Coastguard Boating Education Courses	Course Candidates 16+	Preventative education developing more responsible attitudes and behaviour among boat users.	www.cbes.org.nz
	25 TH	Southland Water Safety Forum	Water safety related educators, providers and organisations	To lead water safety education in the Southland region	pip@watersafety.org.nz
March		Swimming NZ education courses	Course candidates 16+	Service the region for teacher training	chris@swimmingnz.org.nz
		Coastguard Boating Education Courses	Course Candidates 16+	Preventative education developing more responsible attitudes and behaviour among boat users.	www.cbes.org.nz
April		Swimming NZ education courses	Course candidates 16+	Service the region for teacher training	chris@swimmingnz.org.nz
		Coastguard Boating Education Courses	Course Candidates 16+	Preventative education developing more responsible attitudes and behaviour among boat users.	www.cbes.org.nz
May		Swimming NZ education courses	Course candidates 16+	Service the region for teacher training	chris@swimmingnz.org.nz
		Coastguard Boating Education Courses	Course Candidates 16+	Preventative education developing more responsible attitudes and behaviour among boat users.	www.cbes.org.nz
	13 th	Southland Water Safety Forum	Water safety related educators, providers and organisations	To lead water safety education in the Southland region	pip@watersafety.org.nz
	25 th	South Island Injury Prevention forum (CHCH)	Regional members involved in falls/suicide and Drowning	To hear from the lead agencies on initiatives and outcomes	pip@watersafety.org.nz sandra.james@wmk.govt.nz
June		Swimming NZ education courses	Course candidates 16+	Service the region for teacher training	chris@swimmingnz.org.nz
		Coastguard Boating Education Courses	Course Candidates 16+	Preventative education developing more responsible attitudes and behaviour among boat users.	www.cbes.org.nz

	4 – 7 th	NZSCAT Conference	Swim Coaches and Teachers of NZ	Professional development opportunities, and networking and relationship building for those in the aquatic sector	www.nzscat.org.nz
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N.B Please contact Pip Savage pip@watersafety.org.nz if you wish to list your water safety related course, events and community news on this page.

Vision: Through water safety education prevent death and injury in Southland

ACTION	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DUE	STATUS	OUTPUTS
Key Strategic Priority Strategy	Leadership			
▶ Communicate evidence/data supporting priority of water safety education and advocacy	To lead and coordinate the effective advocacy of water safety education to the community Water safety related information is delivered in an appropriate and timely manner	Jun 2009	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is Water Safety Still a Priority – 24 July 2008 ▪ Akona te Kauhoe – Swim For Life, WSNZ supporting Maori Language Week through its Maori Water Safety campaign by endorsing a Maori language version of ‘Swim For Life’ – 25 July 2008 ▪ Five Drown in Storms – 18 August 2008 ▪ Failure to Supervise Continues to Cost Lives! – 10 Sept • Pacific Peoples Water Safety Strategy Launched – 19 Sep • Joint Media Release with Plunket – Sep 08 • Drownings Forecast to Soar as Swimming Ability Sinks – Dec 08 ▪ Water Safety New Zealand Warns Against a Repeat of History – Dec 08 • Year in review 2008 – Jan 09 ▪ Summer Fun ends in Tragedy – Feb 09 ▪ February_Summer Drowning2009 ▪ Summers dangerous waters_Mar 09 ▪ Age impacts on Autumn drowning toll_Apr 09 ▪ Swim Industry survey generates more concern_ May 09 ▪ Boating incidents contribute to winter drowning deaths_ June 09

<p>➤ Extend water safety education into sectors and communities that have different needs and considerations</p>	<p>Local Government Safe Kids Plunket - water safety seminars to established and delivered to regional nurses Rural community Tertiary institutes Swim clubs</p>	<p>Jun 2009</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gore Multisport Centre discuss with High School re appropriate education for river activity ▪ Plunket PEPE programme to include water safety education session ▪ Interest in “Down the back paddock programme” ▪ Martin MacKereth to initiate ▪ SNZ/Plunket/WSNZ discussion with Dates and number of nurses in the Southland area ▪ PS to arrange communication from Waimakariri District for information on this ▪ RiverSafety Strategy to update ▪ Parent information session 17th July (Gore) ▪ WSNZ resources sent ▪ Chris Morgan to facilitate water session ▪ Emailed Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre and forwarded details on
<p>➤ Develop and maintain strong collaborative relationships in the community</p>	<p>Local Government Safe Kids Plunket Rural community Tertiary institutes Swim clubs</p>	<p>Jun 2009</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication with Oreti swim club around new water safety development officer ▪ Promotion at community events ▪ Distribution of resources at community events – Southland Boat show ▪ Splash Palace working effectively with SIT to provide Lifeguards and teachers ▪ Communication established with Schools to promote employment opportunities Enhance the existing schools links in order to develop a more comprehensive water safety related programme Circulate key water safety sessions Sport Southland/Plunket/Splash Palace to communicate on future initiatives Ongoing ▪ Registration packs for new enrolments ▪ Jenny McPhail to email Huggies for involvement ▪ Coffee groups to be shown DVD on Under 5 – SNZ to assist

Key Strategic Priority

Education

Strategy

To lead and coordinate the effective advocacy of water safety education to the community

<p>➤ Identify and prioritise gaps in the quality and provision of water safety education</p>	<p>Rural schools are contacted and put in touch with appropriate members to aid water safety education (SNZ/CBES/SLSNZ etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools learn to swim programme to be updated ▪ Splash Palace looking to include more boat safety focus in their school programme ▪ Possible Life Jacket testing in the Gore Pool ▪ Southland Navigation By-Laws under review ▪ Bluff pool staff require swim education and training 	<p>Jun 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Edendale school one of those highlighted – Investigate transport of swimming teachers from Splash Palace to visit ▪ SNZ to investigate (Chris Morgan) ▪ Pip Savage to send activities ▪ Kim Peterson to investigate ▪ New Life-jacket regulation to be enforced ▪ Alcohol on the water being managed with Police cooperation ▪ Seeking funding to put staff on courses 	<p>Awaiting initiation from PS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Included in the by-laws ▪ Bluff Fishing Competition cancelled due to insufficient safety control ▪ Chris Morgan (SNZ) to assist with course availability
<p>➤ Develop and/or coordinate the provision of quality water safety education resources</p>	<p>Maintain updated networks within in the region for circulation of resources as and when appropriate</p>	<p>Jun 2009</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Email the database for the southland region to the members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ECE kits sent to regional Plunket ▪ Existing members details confirmed at forum

Key Strategic Priority Strategy

**Collaboration
To develop and maintain strong collaborative relationships to enhance the development, delivery and experience of water safety education
To develop and maintain strong collaborative relationships with community leaders to support water safety education outcomes**

<p>➤ Facilitate regional water safety forums</p>	<p>4 x per year</p>	<p>Jun 2009</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>11 September 2008 - Invercargill 19 November 2008 – BLUFF 25 February 2009 – Gore 13th May 2009 - Invercargill</p>
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➤ Identify key and common issues and develop shared approaches and strategies

- Closure of the Bluff Community Pool Jun 2009
 - Increase school teacher knowledge in order to continue delivering a quality learn to swim programme
 - Expand preschool centre education to utilise the closest water space more effectively (Splash Palace/Gore Multisport Centre)
 - Possibility of community services card holders able to access classes for learn to swim at a discounted rate
- Ongoing
 - Splash Palace working with school teachers to assist training and development
 - Clarify ratios for use of the pool with preschool visit
 - Initiate a 1 hour education session for parents
 - Discussion on only
- letter of endorsement sent to the Southland City Council from WSNZ
 - Forum facilitated to address issues of closure
 - WSNZ submission made 11 May 2009
 - Decision made www.icc.govt.nz
 - Further funding assistance being sought
 - Drowning prevention under 5s
 - promotion and support at community events
 - SPLASH PALACE/GORE POOL TO COMMUNICATE ON
 - SNZ/WSNZ TO INVESTIGATE
-