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Treasury Casino and Hotel provides a timely boost to lifesavers

Volunteer surf lifesavers at six Queensland surf life saving clubs have received a timely boost to their patrol capabilities for the peak summer months thanks to Treasury Casino and Hotel's donation of a rescue board to each club as part of the 2012 Surf Safe Appeal Corporate Donations.

Treasury Casino and Hotel is very supportive of Surf Life Saving Queensland clubs and the generous donation will assist Point Lookout, Met Caloundra, Mackay, Tannum Sands, Marcoola and Mermaid Beach SLSCs volunteer surf lifesavers patrol their beaches.

SLSQ's CEO, John Brennan said the support would significantly enhance each area's patrolling and lifesaving capabilities.

"Every year our volunteer surf lifesavers, and there are nearly 8,000 in Queensland, perform a vital service for the local community, giving up countless hours of their own time to watch over swimmers and ensure that residents and tourists alike can enjoy our beautiful beaches safely," Mr Brennan said.

"Surf Life Saving Queensland relies heavily on the ongoing support and generosity of people and organisations such as Treasury Casino and Hotel to ensure that we have the resources in place to provide this service for many years to come.

"The generous donation will assist the volunteer surf lifesavers at each club patrol the stretch of beaches and associated ocean."

Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) CEO John Brennan explains how important the Surf Safe Appeal is for the organisation.

"When you go to the beach we are always there. Like the tides and the waves, the red and yellow is a constant, keeping watch and keeping Queenslanders safe."

"People forget that we are an organisation that relies on donations and grants, every day we are responsible for the lives of thousands yet we depend wholly on the generosity of the general public. This appeal, coordinated by the Surf Life Saving Foundation, is one of our main chances to actively say – help."

Last season, Queensland's lifesavers spent more than 300,000 hours on patrol, performing 346,008 preventative actions and, most importantly, saving 2,866 lives in the process.

Behind the scenes, SLSQ educated more than 300,000 people on surf safety through its various community awareness initiatives.

"Our volunteers put in so many of their own hours on patrol, and we are relied upon to make sure they have the right equipment and support to carry out the job properly. Even a simple rescue tube costs \$120, yet it is priceless when it comes to a rescue."

It costs over \$2,000 to train a young lifesaver, over \$10,000 a year to maintain an active patrol and a Surf Life Saving Club must be provided with over \$60,000 worth of equipment (including inflatable rescue boats, surf rescue boards, rescue tubes and defibrillators).

“Even though the 2012 Surf Safe Appeal is over, you can still donate, in fact you can donate 24/7, just follow the link on our website at <http://www.lifesaving.com.au/default.asp?contentID=829> to support this great cause,” Mr Brennan said.

“The rescue boards will play an important role in assisting volunteer surf lifesavers prevent potential water incidents as well as reach victims faster.

“On behalf of Point Lookout, Met Caloundra, Mackay, Tannum Sands, Marcoola and Mermaid Beach SLSCs, and Surf Life Saving Queensland, I would like to thank Treasury Casino and Hotel for their generous support in helping to keep our beaches safe,” Mr Brennan said.

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