

MEDIA RELEASE

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Title : Lifesavers Double Effort Over the Christmas Holidays
Issued : Monday, 5 January 2009.
Status : Available for Immediate Release.



FAR NORTH COAST SURF LIFESAVERS DOUBLE EFFORT OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Volunteer Surf Lifesavers from Yamba to Fingal Head in northern New South Wales were kept busy over the Christmas New Year holiday period with a major influx of tourist numbers populating the beaches to date.

With the four days of public holidays, lifesavers undertook extended patrols and expanded their operations to cope with the increases in beach population. Besides the normal flagged swimming areas, lifesavers patrolled other areas of their beach with additional roving patrols, IRB and Jet Ski patrols.

The lack of rain, this year when compared to last year has kept more people on the beach, with beach numbers significantly up from last year, said Michael Gibbs, Far North Coast Media Liaison.

Volunteer lifesaver statistics over this period include 33 Rescues, 171 First Aid cases and 1411 Preventative Actions.

The Surf Life Saving Communications Centre, Surfcom Ballina handled over 15,000 individual communications over this period and when combined with the Australian Lifeguard Service, this number jumps to 26,000. Almost double the radio traffic of the previous year for the same period.

With the school holidays still underway this is a timely reminder to heed the advice of Surf Life Savers or Lifeguards when swimming at the beach. The message is simple ; SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS.

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For further information please contact :

Michael Gibbs

Marketing and Public Relations Liaison
Surfcom Far North Coast
Surf Life Saving Far North Coast Branch

T : **0416 320 123**

E : baywatch@mac.com

E : tvoaustralia@mac.com

W: www.slsfnc.com.au