



21 March 2018

Rosemary Carlin
Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

200 The Boulevard
Port Melbourne VIC 3207
PO Box 353
South Melbourne DC VIC 3205
Tel (03) 9676 6900
Fax (03) 9681 8211
mail@lifesavingvictoria.com.au
www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au
ABN 21 102 927 364

Dear Coroner Carlin,

Investigation into the death of James LIN, Court Ref: 2016 000350

Thank you for providing a copy of the finding referenced above and received on 8 January 2018.

Life Saving Victoria's mission is to prevent aquatic related death and injury in all Victorian communities and has the vision that all Victorians will learn water safety, swimming and resuscitation, and be provided with safe aquatic environments and venues.

Please find below Life Saving Victoria's response to the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: "That Victoria Police liaise with Life Saving Victoria, local lifesaving clubs, and other stakeholders, for the purpose of establishing the Mornington Peninsula surf safety working group."

Life Saving Victoria Response;

The Coroner's recommendation has been implemented, with the Mornington Peninsula Surf Safety Working Group (MPSSWG) holding its first meeting at the Gunnamatta Surf Life Saving Club on Wednesday 28 February 2018.

Identified stakeholders include;

- Life Saving Victoria
- Victoria Police
- Parks Victoria
- Gunnamatta Surf Life Saving Club
- Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club
- Portsea Surf Life Saving Club
- Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
- Peninsula Surfriders Club

Other participants may be requested to attend meetings as identified by the MPSSWG

Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for this group are being circulated for ratification at the next scheduled meeting (Wednesday 28 March 2018). TOR for the MPSSWG will include the groups purpose, scope and governance, composition and term and frequency of meetings.

Minutes of the first meeting are attached.



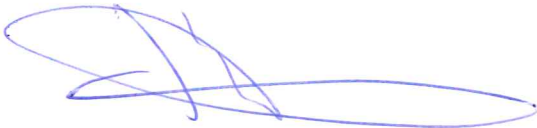
Recommendation 2: “That the surf safety working group give specific consideration to the changes suggested by the President of the Gunnamatta Surf Lifesaving Club set out above in paragraph [24] of my Finding.”

Life Saving Victoria Response;

The Coroner’s recommendation has been implemented, with Gunnamatta Surf Life Saving Club’s suggested changes tabled at the first meeting for consideration and discussion.

Life Saving Victoria is committed to the prevention of aquatic related death and injury and as such we look forward to a continuing collaborative approach with the coroner, all levels of Government, and related organisations to prevent deaths of a similar nature occurring.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Dr Nigel Taylor ESM
Chief Executive Officer

Minutes

Meeting: Mornington Peninsula Surf Safety working group

Date: Wednesday 28 February, 2018

Time: 9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

Location: Gunnamatta Surf Life Saving Club

1. Welcome & apologies

a. Present:

Andrew Foran [AF] (LSV – Chair)
Rob Andronaco [RA] (LSV)
Janene Denton [JD] (Victorian Police)
Kris Rowe [KR] (Parks Victoria)
Greg Goulet [GG] (Gunnamatta SLSC)
Jane Wright [JW] (Sorrento SLSC)

b. Apologies:

John Rankin [JR] (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council)
Libby Jude [LJ] (Parks Victoria)
Stuart Rayner [SR] (Portsea SLSC)

2. Introduction

a. Working group terms of reference

i. Attendance

1. GG – peninsula surf board rider's association
 - a. **ACTION** – invite (AF)
2. GG – if total MP does this include front beach
3. RA – general discussion re drowning data
4. All – discussion re messaging and drowning prevention strategies
5. AF – local tourism board
 - a. **ACTION** – contact and introduce (AF)

ii. Purpose

1. Identify strategies to reduce drowning on the morn pen by;
 - a. Focussed on back beach, with learning to be communicated across MP,
 - b. To address and consider the findings of the coroner's report
 - c. To broadly educate
 - i. Tourists
 - ii. Residents
 - iii. Recreational swimmers
 - d. Identify strategies
 - i. Specific for local locations
 - ii. Broadly for MP

- e. Consider response arrangements
- iii. Meetings
 - 1. Monthly initially to address coroner's findings
 - 2. Ongoing as required based on seasonally and issues based occurrences
- iv. Desired outcomes
- b. **ACTION: AF to draft and circulate TOR for review.**

3. Current Issues

- a. Gunnamatta SLSC
 - i. Our issues as tabled in the coroner's report
 - ii. Alignment of the access road – as recommenced after the Wilsons drowning (1998).
 - ACTION**
 - a. **Review the road alignment issues and consider options to encourage all users to primarily access the beach via main car park**
- iii. Sorrento SLSC
 - i. More about response
 - ii. Tourists are an issue, but people who have been residents for 3-5 years are creating issues for the club
 - ACTION**
 - a. **Consider response arrangements**
- iv. Vic Pol
 - iii. Haven't profiled people at risk/insufficient data
 - iv. MR will have more specific issues
 - ACTION**
 - a. **Review options to capture better data on people at risk on MP (RA)**
- v. Parks Vic
 - v. Adapted the standard coastal risk safety signage
 - vi. Signage and car park alignment has been set up to promote swimming at LSC
 - vii. Locals are not an issue at Gunnamatta, it's visitors
 - viii. Red/yellow flag on tall flag pole to designate patrolling in place at beach
 - ix. Issues;
 - a. Language and ability to read signage
 - b.
 - ACTION**
 - c. **Review the broad messaging strategies to identify opportunities**
 - i. **Local tourism boards**
 - ii. **Hire car companies**
 - iii. **Freeway signage and billboards**
 - iv. **Local messaging**
 - v. **In situ signage -**
- vi. LSV
 - x. Morn Pen Blackspot Project
 - ACTION**
 - a. **Req. Morn Pen and Parks Vic permission to table report findings for consideration of the group**
 - b. **Circulate Blackspot project scope to this group**

4. Business on notice

- i. Technology options

ACTION

- a. Consider technology options, including social media and geographical based messaging to phones.

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Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday 28 March

Time: 9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

Location: Parks Vic Rosebud Office (TBC)

Unconfirmed



