



**SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES**



On Patrol with Community Education - February 2025

Welcome to our **Term 1 School Newsletter** from the Surf Life Saving NSW Community Education team!

In this newsletter, you will find essential tools and resources to teach your class and students about beach and coastal safety. Take advantage of these programs and opportunities to help your students stay informed and safe by the water.



Meet surf lifesaver Olivia!

Hi, my name is Olivia, and I'm the Club Captain and Patrol Captain at Whale Beach Surf Life Saving Club. I lead our patrol team to ensure the beach remains safe while fostering teamwork to create an enjoyable experience for everyone in our community.

Beach to Bush Presenter Experience

The [Beach to Bush program](#) was an incredible experience for me. I was amazed by the enthusiasm of the children—their curiosity and excitement made every session so enjoyable. One of my favourite moments was getting the kids involved in hands-on activities, like learning about rips or practicing beach safety techniques. Their eagerness to participate and ask



thoughtful questions was truly inspiring.

Visiting small country schools was especially rewarding. It felt amazing to bring valuable knowledge to students who might not have easy access to beach education. Seeing their faces light up when they understood the importance of water safety reminded me of why programs like this are so vital.

What stood out the most was how much fun we had together, from sharing stories to laughing as we acted out rescue scenarios. These interactions emphasised the importance of building connections while spreading lifesaving knowledge.

Olivia's Beach Safety Tip

Always swim with another person, no matter your age. Having someone there ensures added safety and creates a shared, enjoyable experience!



Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) has launched the [“Stay, Look, Stay Alive” campaign](#) to reduce coastal drowning incidents. According to the 2024 National Coastal Safety Report, there were over 16 million coastal visits, 258 coastal deaths (150 due to drowning), and nearly 9,000 rescues during the 2023/24 period.

The campaign focuses on three essential steps for beach safety:

STOP: Before you enter the water

LOOK: Check conditions and locate patrolled areas

STAY ALIVE: Make safety a priority, Don't go alone

Let's change this together and achieve zero preventable drownings!

Beach Passport Program

SLSA, in partnership with Qantas, introduces the free online Beach Passport Program to teach essential beach safety knowledge. Participants can prepare for beach visits while earning Qantas Points upon completion.



We're thrilled to announce the return of the Rock Fishing Safety Project in 2025!

Having previously reached over 18,300 people, this initiative aims to minimise risks and prevent accidents during rock fishing activities. Supported by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), local councils, Maritime NSW, NSW Police, surf lifesaving clubs, and rock fishing experts, the project includes:

- Rock fishing safety events at major fishing spots.
- Community and school safety sessions on rock fishing.
- Multicultural resources tailored for diverse audiences.

Stay tuned for official project details coming soon!

[Check out our previous events!](#)



Beach to Bush 2025

Since its launch in 1994, the Beach to Bush Program has become one of Surf Life Saving NSW's most successful initiatives, bringing beach safety education to primary school students in regional NSW. Over the past 30 years, the program has reached nearly 270,000 students.

Designed for students with limited exposure to the coast, the program features 45-minute sessions led by experienced presenters visiting local schools.

This is a great opportunity to teach beach safety to your students before summer starts!

2025 Schedule: 3 - 21 November 2025

Registration is open now!



Big Beach Week 2025

Big Beach Week is a popular program open to all students in NSW, including secondary, primary, preschool, daycare, and homeschooling groups. The program provides teachers with resources and a comprehensive teaching guide to help educate students about beach safety before summer.

Teachers can customise the program to suit their classroom needs and gain full access to engaging learning materials, including the guide.

This program gives you the opportunity to teach your students about beach safety at your school, with a flexible schedule designed to fit in before the summer holidays.

2025 Schedule: 1st - 6th December 2025

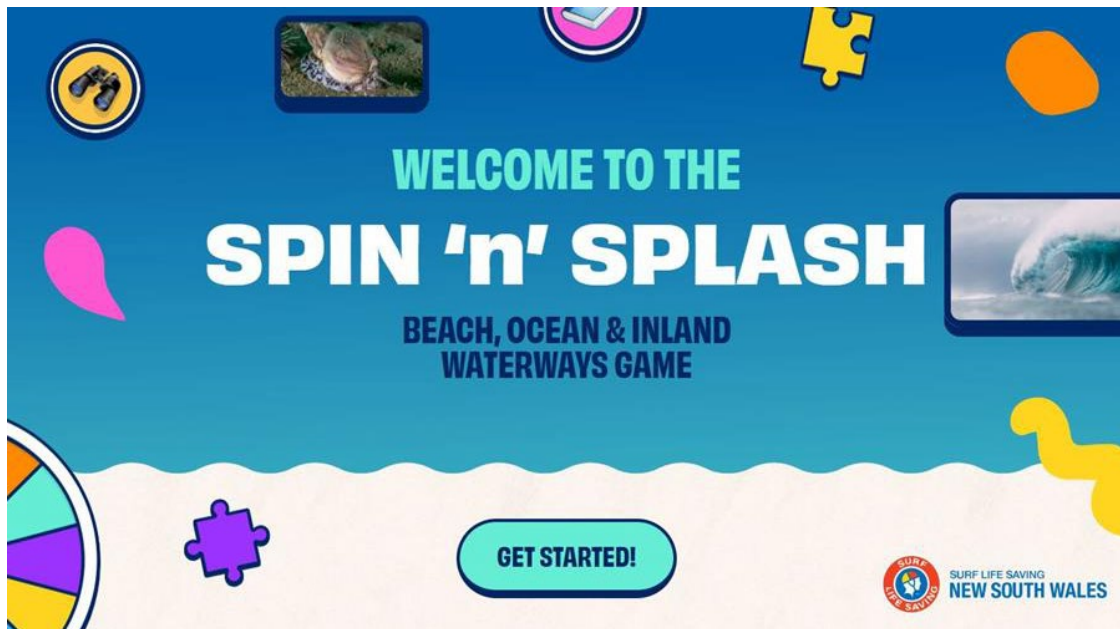
Registration is open now!

We are seeking teachers to join our Big Beach Week Advisory Group. Your insights and support will help us enhance the program for 2025!

[If you are interested, please contact us.](#)

We look forward to hearing from you!





SLSNSW has developed an exciting and fun online gamification for kids aged 4–12 to learn about the ocean and beach safety. This engaging program allows kids to learn anytime, anywhere, using vibrant designs, videos, and audio.

The program includes over 200 questions across 40+ topics. Kids have up to five attempts per question, and they earn a certificate upon completing each topic. Parents are encouraged to join in and learn alongside their children to enhance safety knowledge.

The gamification is also perfect for classrooms from preschool to Year 6. It's flexible enough to fit any schedule, whether for quick activities or extended sessions. Teachers can even use it as a homework tool. Students stay motivated by earning certificates for completed tasks.

[Start playing Spin 'n' Splash now!](#)



Fishy Fact - Blue-Ringed Octopus

Collectively, there are around 10 species known as 'blue-ringed octopuses.' Several of these are found in Australian waters, with *Hapalochlaena fasciata* being the most common species around Sydney.

Blue-ringed octopuses usually appear pale brown in colour and are only identifiable by their iridescent blue markings when they are agitated or hunting.

They are tiny but incredibly venomous sea creatures found along Australia's east coast. Living in rocky reefs, tide pools, and shallow waters up to 30 meters deep, they are just 4.5 cm long and flash bright blue lines when threatened, warning others of their powerful venom. This venom, which contains tetrodotoxin, can cause paralysis, stop breathing, and even be fatal. Fortunately, this small but potent octopus is shy and typically keeps to itself, biting only when provoked or handled.

Did you know?

- Tetrodotoxin is 1,200 times more toxic than cyanide.
- Just 1 milligram of tetrodotoxin can kill an adult human.
- The blue-ringed octopus has enough venom to kill 26 adults within minutes.
- Despite its small size (about a golf ball), its venom is strong enough to incapacitate much larger animals, including predators like sharks.

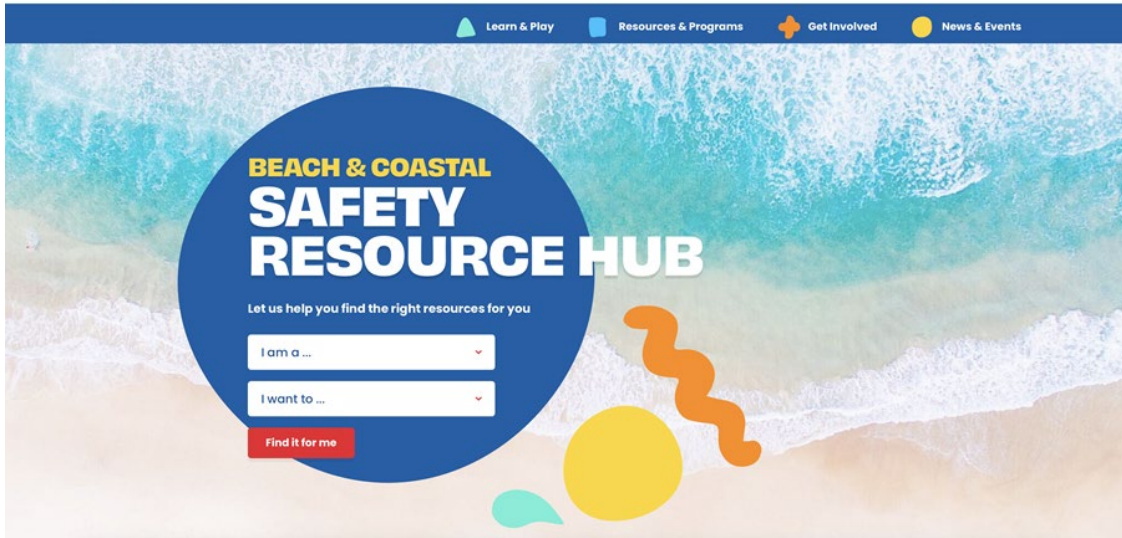
What to Do If You See One

- Don't touch or go near it.
- If someone gets bitten, call 000 straight away, keep them calm, and check their breathing.
- Look but don't touch, and tell an adult if you spot one.



Beach & Coastal Safety Resource Hub

The beach is for everyone to enjoy. Knowing how to stay safe while at the beach is important information that you can share with your students through our programs & resources. Want to learn more? You can easily access and download a vast array of content that supports beach and coastal safety education for your students on our [Beach & Coastal Safety Resource Hub](#).



MISSED ONE OF OUR PREVIOUS SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS? No problem, you can access all the newsletters on our Hub:

NSW Teachers School Newsletter

Next Newsletter

Our next *On Patrol Newsletter* will be sent to you at the start of Term 2 2025.

Stay in the loop

You are welcome to sign up to receive our *On Patrol Newsletter*. We will keep you updated on how to access our free resources, what's new, any exciting programs we have developed and any news items especially for teachers. Please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/SLSSNSWNewsletter>

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."

Contact Us

Want to know more?

Community Education Team
Surf Life Saving NSW

E community@surflifesaving.com.au

W www.beachsafetyhub.org.au/



Surf Life Saving New South Wales
3 Narabang Way Belrose NSW 2085
PO Box 307 Belrose NSW 2085 Australia

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