

## Supporting Lifeguards for Safe Summers

South Gippsland Shire Council has supported local lifesavers in Venus Bay and Waratah Bay to keep locals and residents safe this summer.

Council provided funding to Life Saving Victoria to support paid lifeguards that patrolled local South Gippsland beaches.

This season six minor first aid actions, 14 rescues and 1217 preventative actions were undertaken at Venus Bay and Waratah Bay by Council supported lifeguards.

While minor first aid cases were reduced by 70 percent and major first aid by 100 percent there were twice as many rescues performed compared to last season.

Volunteer lifeguards at the same sites also completed two major first aid actions, seven rescues, 13 minor first aid actions and 1263 preventative actions.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor Councillor Ray Argento was pleased that Council could contribute to the safety of residents and visitors to South Gippsland beaches.

"The work of both our contracted and volunteer lifesavers at Venus Bay and Waratah Bay do a fantastic job at keeping our communities safe.

"The increase in rescues performed demonstrates the necessity of their service and is also a reminder for everyone to be mindful when swimming in the ocean.

"It is our pleasure to support Life Saving Victoria to provide these vital services in our region and we hope this will continue in the summers to come," said the Mayor.

LSV General Manager Andrew Foran endorsed Council's comments.

"The work of our volunteer and paid lifesaving services is critical to keeping the community safe and this wouldn't be possible without the ongoing support of the South Gippsland Shire."

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