



# Lifeguard activity report

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Cottesloe Beach

2012/2013

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## Background

The Town of Cottesloe has contracted its paid lifeguard services at Cottesloe Beach to Surf Life Saving Western Australia (SLSWA) for over a decade. The service is operational between 6am and 6pm, Monday to Friday from October 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 to April 30<sup>th</sup> 2013.

The Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club provides volunteer surf lifesaving services over the weekends and public holidays during the peak summer period.

The Wesfarmers Lifesaver Jet ski Team (formally Emergency Response Team) provides Jet Ski support to both the volunteer lifesavers as well as the paid lifeguards at Cottesloe Beach.

There has been one (1) coastal drowning death within the Town of Cottesloe since September 2008. The drowning deaths occurred at Cottesloe Beach.

Drowning can be significantly reduced due to the increased presence of lifeguards and lifesavers. Also, major injuries such as shark attacks, cardiac arrest etc., have an increased rate of survival by having a First Responder attending. Both the paid lifeguards and volunteers are registered as a St John Ambulance First Responders and can respond within seconds to an incident along the coast.

The following report provides a snapshot of the activity that occurred during the lifeguard service for the 2012/2013 season. This report provides the statistics recorded by the lifeguard service, and does not include the statistics for the volunteer lifesaving patrols from Cottesloe SLSC and the Wesfarmers Lifesaver Jet ski team.

This report provides the baseline from which to make future comparisons and will also provide service recommendations for future lifeguarding requirements.



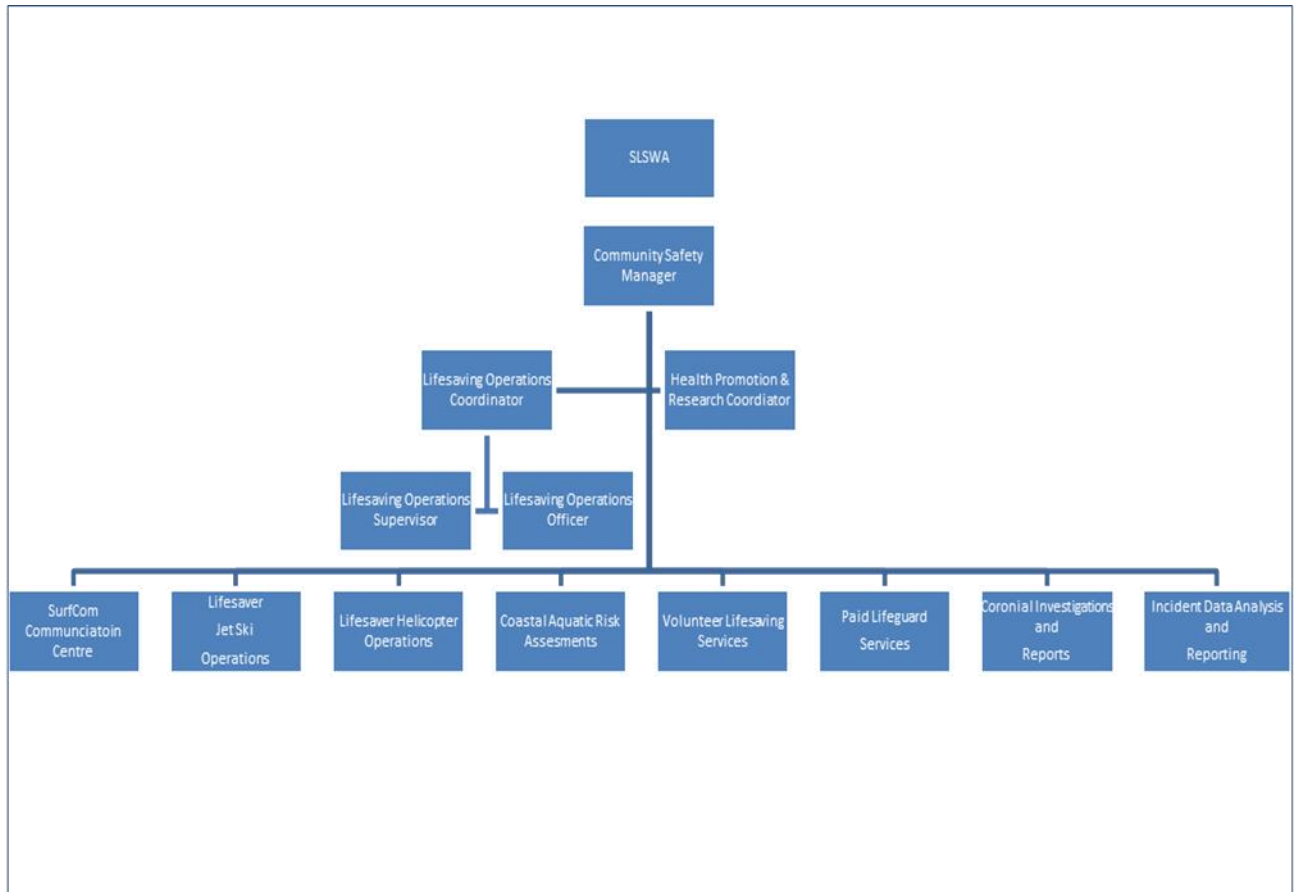
*Lifeguard SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard) trial at Cottesloe Beach*



*Lifeguard early morning SUP training – various beaches*

# Australian Lifeguard Service Overview

## Coastal Safety Operational Structure



## Service Profile Summary:

The table below represents the service profile of all services delivered under contract by SLSWA.

Australian Lifeguard Service							
Location	Dates		Days	Times		Notes	
	Start	Finish		Start	Finish		
Middleton Beach	17-Dec	3-Feb	Mon - Fri	8:00	16:00		
Smiths Beach	27-Dec	3-Feb	Mon - Sun	10:00	17:00		
Meelup Beach	26-Nov	3-Feb	Mon - Sun	9:00	17:00		
Bunker Bay	26-Nov	3-Feb	Mon - Sun	9:00	17:00		
Yallingup Beach	27-Dec	3-Feb	Mon - Sun	10:00	17:00		
Secret Harbour	1-Nov	30-Nov	Mon - Fri	6:00	11:00		
	1-Dec	31-Jan	Mon - Fri	6:00	16:00		
	1-Feb	31-Mar	Mon - Fri	6:00	11:00		
	1-Apr	30-Apr	Mon - Sun	6:00	11:00		
Penguin Island	27-Dec	3-Feb	Mon - Sun	10:00	17:00	SLSWA Funded	
Cottesloe Beach	1-Oct	31-Mar	Mon - Fri	6:00	18:00		
	1-Apr	30-Apr	Mon - Sun	6:00	18:00		
City Beach	1-Oct	31-Oct	Mon - Fri	10:00	17:00		
	1-Nov	31-Mar	Mon - Fri	6:00	18:00		
	1-Nov	31-Mar	Sat/Sun/PH	6:00	12:00	Roving LG	
	1-Dec	3-Feb	Mon - Fri	7:00	15:00	Roving LG School Hols	
	1-Apr	30-Apr	Mon - Sun	6:00	18:00	Club does 11 - 6 wkends	
	1-May	30-Sep	Mon - Sun	7:00	15:00	Roving Lifeguard	
Floreat Beach	1-Dec	28-Feb	Mon - Fri	10:00	16:00		
Sorrento Beach	1-Nov	30-Nov	Mon - Fri	6:00	11:00		
	1-Dec	28-Feb	Mon - Fri	6:00	17:00		
	1-Mar	31-Mar	Mon - Fri	6:00	11:00		
	1-Apr	30-Apr	Mon - Sun	6:00	11:00		
Hillarys Boat Harbour	1-Dec	28-Feb	Mon - Fri	9:00	17:00		
Mullaloo Beach	1-Nov	30-Nov	Mon - Fri	6:00	11:00		
	1-Dec	28-Feb	Mon - Fri	6:00	17:00		
	1-Mar	31-Mar	Mon - Fri	6:00	11:00		
	1-Apr	30-Apr	Mon - Sun	6:00	11:00		
Quinns Beach	1-Dec	31-Mar	Mon - Fri	8:00	13:00	Plus Christmas Day	
Yanchep Beach	1-Dec	28-Mar	Mon - Sat	9:00	16:00	Including Phols	
			Sun	12:00	16:00		
Geraldton - Mahomet's Beach	1-Dec	3-Feb	Mon - Fri	7:00	13:00		
Rottnest Island Authority	26-Nov	3-Feb	Mon - Sun	8:00	16:00		
Volunteers	Cottesloe SLSC	29-Sep	31-Oct	Sat/Sun/Ph	10:00	16:00	Christmas and Easter is not contracted and therefore cant guarantee beach will be patrolled for full day
		1-Nov	28-Feb	Sat/Sun/Ph	9:00	17:00	
		1-Mar	31-Mar	Sat/Sun/Ph	10:00	16:00	
Support Ops	SurfCom	1-Oct	30-Apr	Mon - Sun	6:00	18:00	
	Wesfarmers Lifesaver Jetskis	All year		On Call			
	Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter (Metro)	1-Sep	30-Sep	Sat/Sun/PH	6:30	16:30	
		1-Oct	30-Apr	Mon - Sun	6:30	16:30	

## Definitions

**Volunteer Surf Lifesaving Services** are people who volunteer their time to patrol WA beaches over weekends and public holidays of summer through affiliated community based volunteer clubs. Surf Lifesavers wear the internationally recognized red and yellow patrol uniforms and patrol cap.

**Lifeguards** are committed to the provision of proactive patrol and rescue services on WA beaches. Lifeguards are paid services to local government and land managers in selected locations in WA and operate at different times of the year based on need.

**Wesfarmers Lifesaver Jet skis (WLJ)** are rapid, motorized units which are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are a rapid response search and rescue resource for assistance to the WA Police Service.

**Westpac Lifesaver Helicopters (WLS)** are committed to provide surveillance and undertake search and rescue missions in marine and coastal environments along the WA coastline. The service provides support to Police, Ambulance and Emergency Services.

Other definitions used in this report include:

- A **preventative action** is any action that may have prevented an injury or incident to others e.g. Moving bathers to a designated area, shark alarm or lost child.
- A **first aid** can be classified as *major* or *minor* and includes incidents such as cuts, abrasions, stings or cases which are more serious and may require follow up medical treatment.
- A **rescue** is when a person is provided assistance to return to shore or place of safety and who without rescue would have suffered serious injury or drowning.

## Cottesloe Statistics

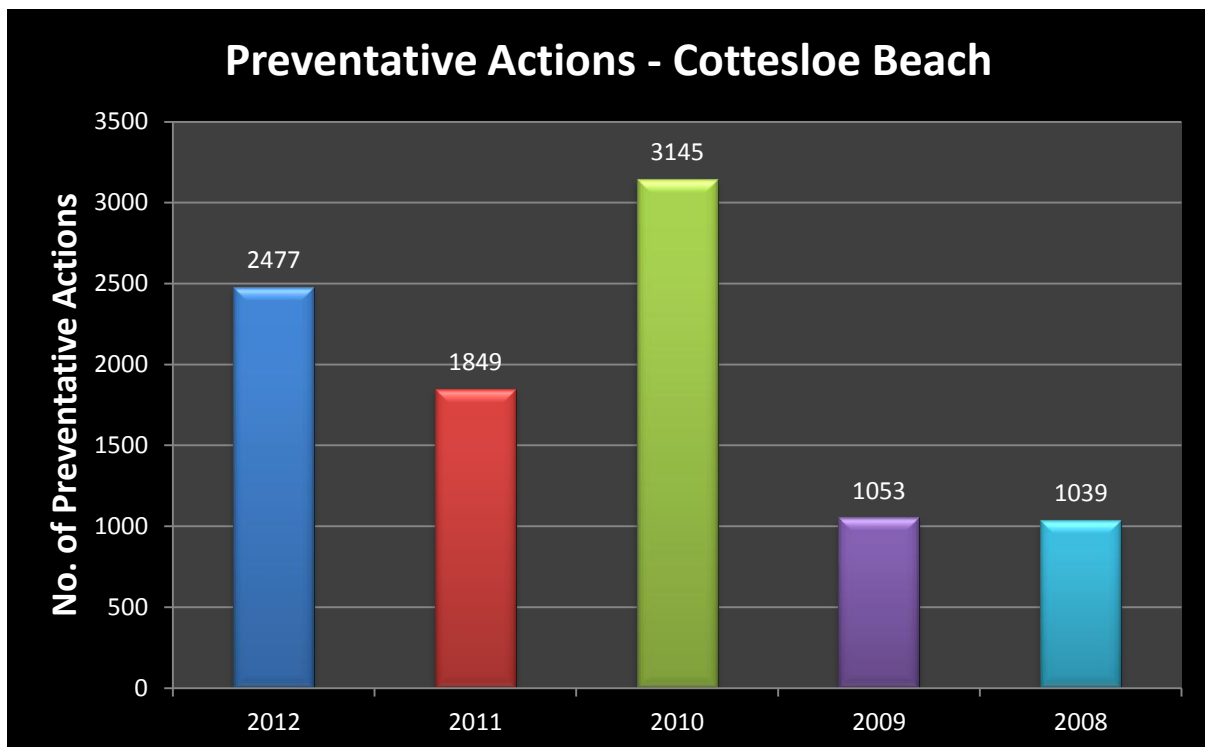
### Preventative actions

#### *Preventative action definition*

A **preventative action** is any action that may have prevented an injury or incident to others e.g. Moving bathers to a designated area, shark alarm or lost child.

Figure 1.0 shows the busiest seasons for preventative actions are 2010 (3145) and 2012 (2477). The 2012 season correlate with the high number of rescues that were conducted in 2012. It is likely that the surf conditions were more dangerous that season. A higher than average numbers of swimmers were warned in 2012, as well as a high number of spinal/fractures, which in turn, backs up the notion that the conditions were not favourable for swimmers.

**Figure 1.0** Number of lifeguard preventative actions by season at Cottesloe Beach.



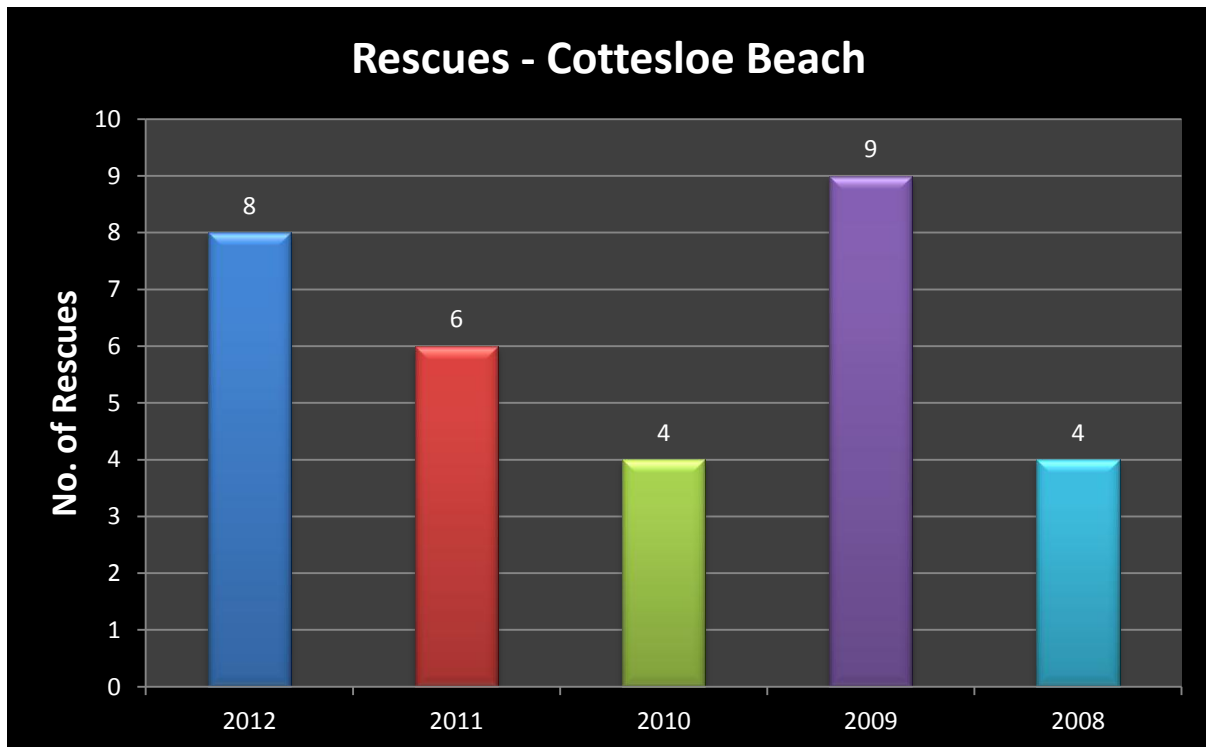
## Rescues

### *Rescue definition*

A **rescue** is when a person is provided assistance to return to shore or place of safety and who without rescue would have suffered serious injury or drowning.

Figure 2.0 shows most rescues occurred over the 2009 (9) season with 2012 (8) following close behind. It is likely that the surf conditions were more dangerous during these seasons thus resulting in the higher number of rescues.

**Figure 2.0 Number of lifeguard rescues by season at Cottesloe Beach.**





## First aids

### First aid definition

A **first aid** can be classified as major or minor and includes incidents such as cuts, abrasions, blisters, stings or cases which are more serious and may require follow up medical treatment.

Figure 3.1 shows the Fractures and Spinals at Cottesloe Beach were the most common Major First Aid this season. This is likely due to the surf conditions (shore dump). There were a total of 8 cases required for further medical treatment at a hospital.

**Figure 3.1 Number of Major First aids by category at Cottesloe Beach.**

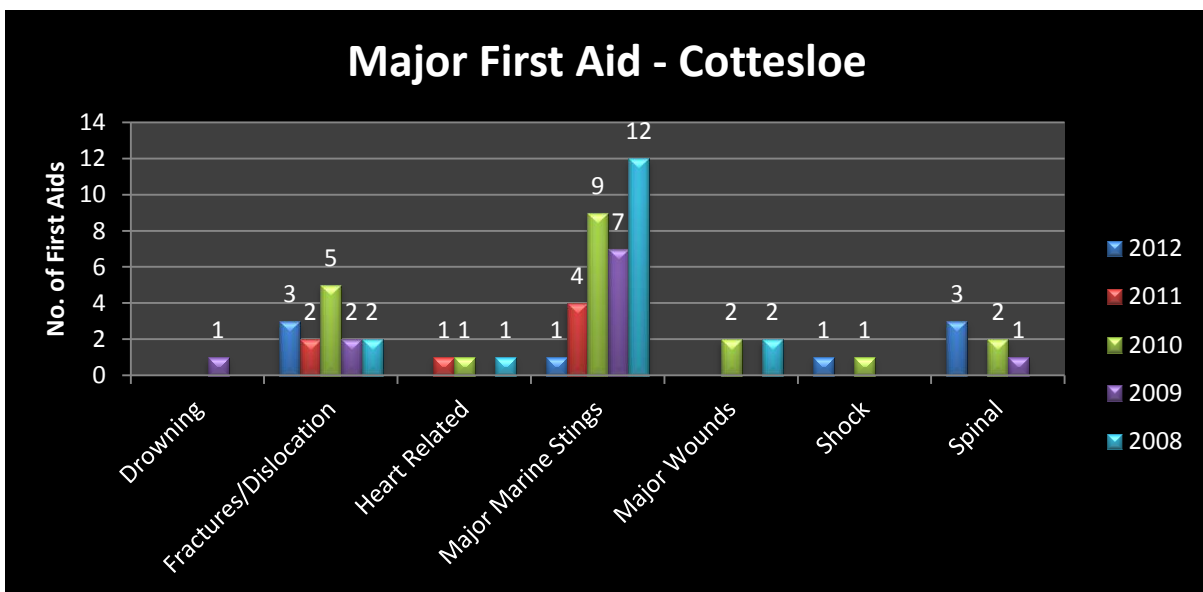
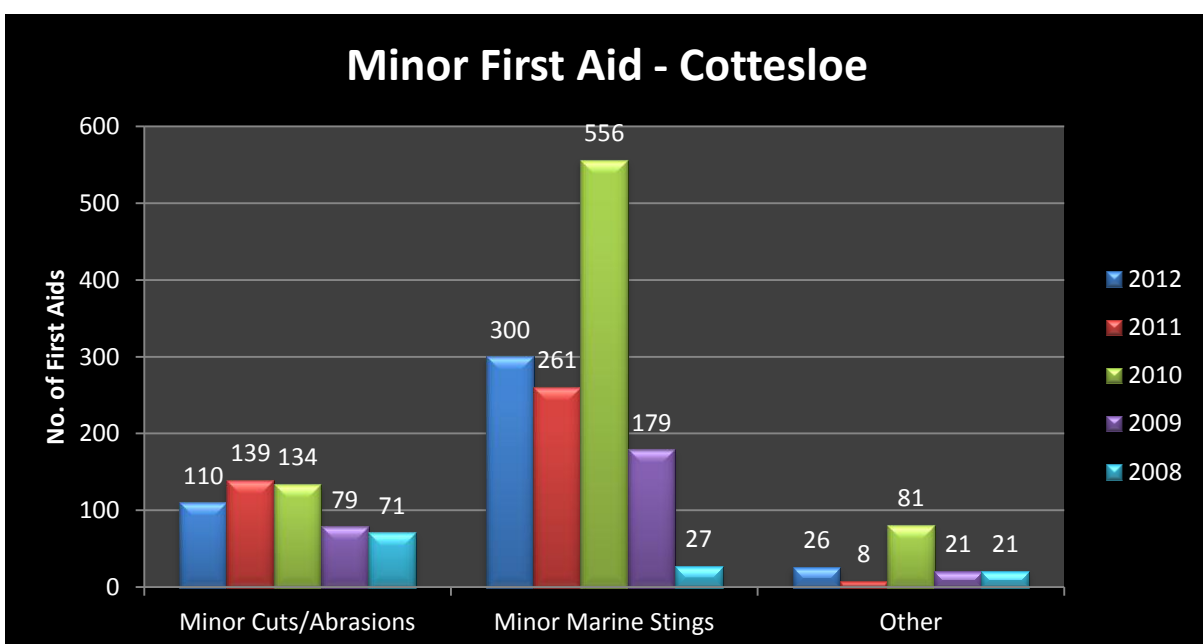


Figure 3.2 shows the most minor first aid treatments conducted at Cottesloe Beach were caused by marine stings.

**Figure 3.2 Number of Minor First aids by category at Cottesloe Beach.**



## Attendance

Figure 4.0 shows the Beach Usage Trend recorded by the lifeguard service at Cottesloe Beach. The December/January school holidays was considerably busy while Easter weekend had the highest recorded average for the season, this can be contributed to the unseasonal high temperatures recorded over the weekend.

**Figure 4.0 Beach Usage Trend recorded by the lifeguards at Cottesloe Beach 2012/2013 season.**

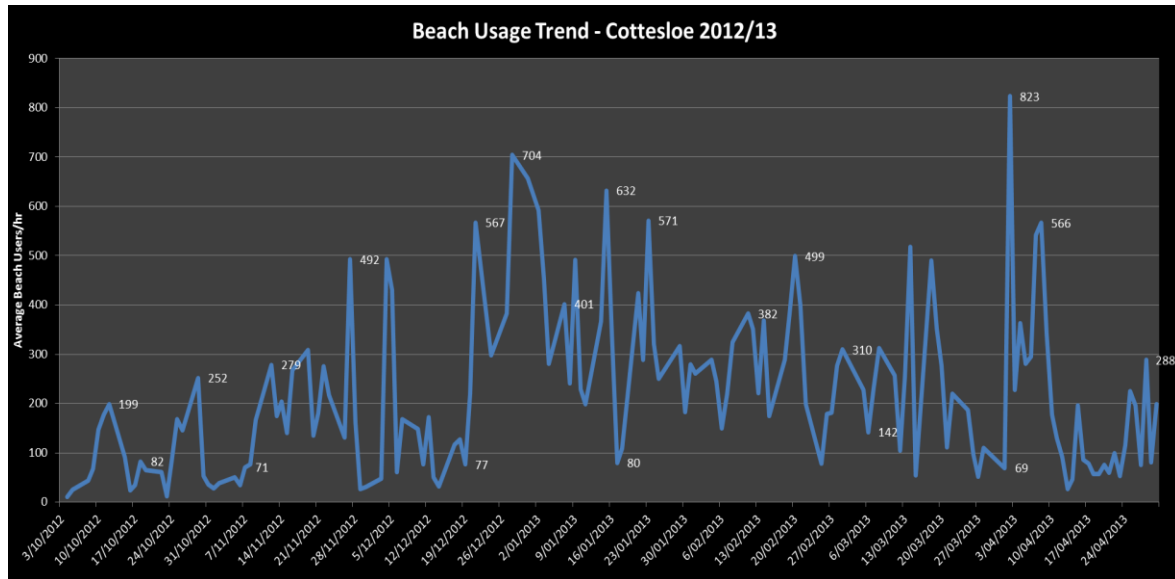


Figure 5.0 shows the average number of persons on the beach at **any given time**. Mondays and Fridays are the busiest days.

**Figure 5.0 Weekly Trend recorded by the lifeguards at Cottesloe Beach 2012/2013 season.**

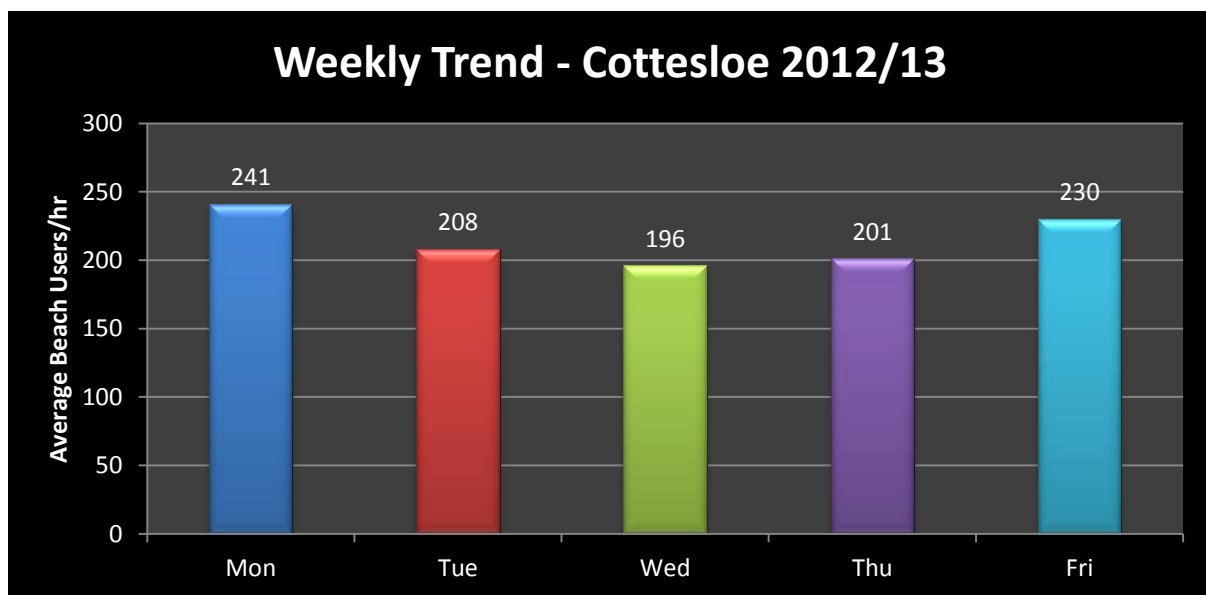


Figure 6.0 shows the Yearly Beach Usage Trend for Cottesloe Beach. There has been a slight decrease in beach users. Over the last few years, it has been noticed that public are now spreading out across the beaches and do not always go to where the patrolled areas are located. The 2012/13 season has an estimated 160,000 beach users below the 5 year average .

**Figure 6.0 Yearly Beach Usage Trend recorded by the lifeguards at Cottesloe Beach**

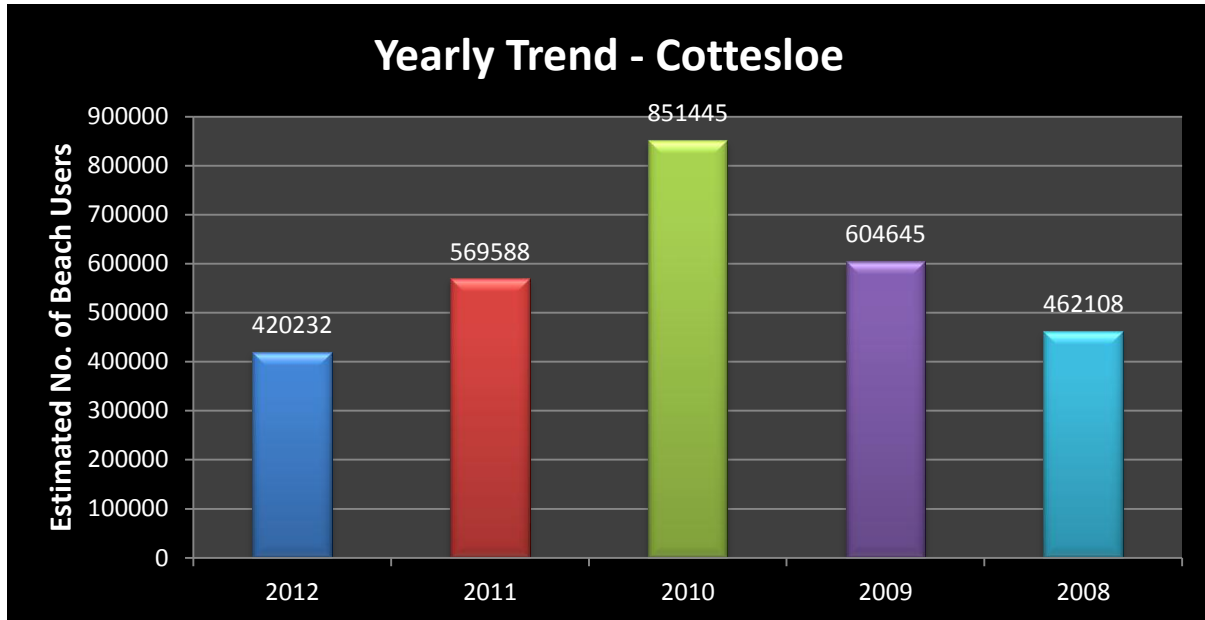
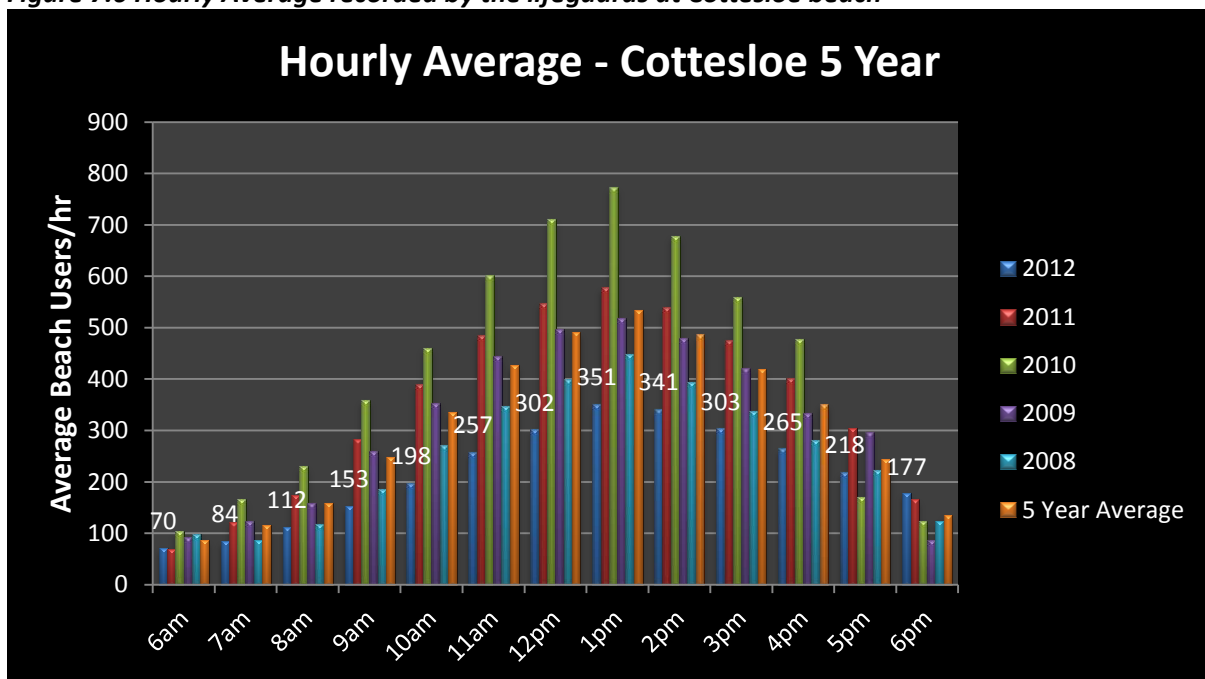


Figure 7.0 shows the Hourly Average Trend. The busiest times are 12pm – 3pm. It then remains constant most of the day. On average, there is an estimated **220** persons using Cottesloe Beach at any given time during the 2012/13 season.

**Figure 7.0 Hourly Average recorded by the lifeguards at Cottesloe beach**



## Recommendations

### Lifeguard Staffing Levels

According to the lifesaving activity report for the 2012/2013 season for the Town of Cottesloe, it is recommended to expand the current service profile of 2 lifeguards at Cottesloe during the December/January school holidays to allow for 3 lifeguards to cover.

This will allow for a team of 3 lifeguards due to the expected high beach usage (following trend) and risks posed. Both the City of Stirling and Town of Cambridge lifeguard services allow for this provision due to the heightened risk.

It is also noted that there is constant beach usage throughout the year and it is recommended that the Town look at covering the weekends and school holiday periods throughout the winter term.

*See "Proposal B and Proposal C" for full price breakdown.*

## Lifeguard Towers

Provision of a permanent or semi-permanent surveillance and observation tower at Cottesloe Beach is likely to improve the surveillance and search and rescue techniques of lifesaving services.

A raised platform allows an increase in the length and breadth of the area under surveillance, without necessarily having to increase lifesaving service level or profiles. Elevated platforms also assist to improve the angle of vision to reduce the limiting affect that surface reflection, glare and sea surface conditions can have on surveillance.

A raised platform installed at Cottesloe Groyne should where possible, provide unimpeded vision of the shoreline and above the wave zone and allow for immediate response.

**Due to the lifeguards covering 72% of the patrols (Cottesloe SLSC cover the remaining 28%) at Cottesloe Beach and the expertise of the Australian Lifeguard Service (ALS) management staff, it is crucial that SLSWA is consulted throughout the design process and the final sign off of the design is agreed to by all parties involved.**

The recent Coronial inquest (Bryn Martin shark fatality) has recommended a Tower to be placed at Cottesloe beach due to the lack of adequate surveillance.



*Tower examples*

## Service Delivery Costs

### Current 2012 – 2013 Season

Beach	Start Date	End Date	Patrol Times	Days Patrolled	Cost Exc GST
Cottesloe	1 Oct	31 Mar	8am – 6pm	Mon – Fri *	\$170,678.56
	1 Apr	30 Apr	8am – 6pm	Mon - Sun **	
	1 Oct	31 Oct	6am – 8am	Mon – Fri *	SLSWA ***
	1 Nov	31 Mar	6am – 8am	Mon – Fri *	State Gov. ***
	1 Apr	30 Apr	6am – 8am	Mon – Sun **	

\* Excluding all public holidays \*\* Including all Public Holidays \*\*\* SLSWA/State covered costs

### Proposal A

The costs will be increased with a 4% increase based on the current contract dates and times and the Town of Cottesloe covering October early mornings instead of SLSWA.

Beach	Start Date	End Date	Patrol Times	Days Patrolled	Costs Excluding GST		
					2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
Cottesloe	1-Oct	31-Oct	6am – 6pm	Mon – Fri *	\$176,416.50	\$183,473.16	\$190,812.08
	1-Nov	31-Mar	8am – 6pm	Mon – Fri *			
	1-Apr	30-Apr	8am – 6pm	Mon - Sun **	State Gov. ***	State Gov. ***	State Gov. ***
	1-Nov	31-Mar	6am – 8am	Mon – Fri *			
	1-Apr	30-Apr	6am – 8am	Mon – Sun **			

\* Excluding all public holidays

\*\* Including all Public Holidays

\*\*\* State covered costs

Once adequate storage is provided, SLSWA will be introducing 1 x Jet Ski and related equipment/training into the service at no additional cost to the City. The value of this is approximately \$40,000.00 over 3 years (which equates to just over \$13,300.00 a season).

### Proposal B

This is proposal is for the additional lifeguard for the December school holidays. The lifeguard will work from 10am – 6pm during the period. This will also allow for jet ski patrols throughout the busy holidays.

Beach	Start Date	End Date	Patrol Times	Days Patrolled	Costs Excluding GST		
					2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
Cottesloe	1-Oct	31-Oct	6am – 6pm	Mon – Fri *	\$185,688.11	\$193,115.63	\$200,840.25
	1-Nov	31-Mar	8am – 6pm	Mon – Fri *			
	1-Apr	30-Apr	8am – 6pm	Mon - Sun **			
	20-Dec	2-Feb	10am – 6pm	Mon – Fri * #	State Gov. ***	State Gov. ***	State Gov. ***
	1-Nov	31-Mar	6am – 8am	Mon – Fri *			
	1-Apr	30-Apr	6am – 8am	Mon – Sun **			

\* Excluding all public holidays

\*\* Including all Public Holidays

\*\*\* State covered costs

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Lifeguard

Once adequate storage is provided, SLSWA will be introducing 1 x Jet Ski and related equipment/training into the service at no additional cost to the City. The value of this is approximately \$40,000.00 over 3 years (which equates to just over \$13,300.00 a season).

### Proposal C

This proposal is for the additional lifeguard for the December school holidays. The lifeguard will work from 10am – 6pm during the period. This will also allow for Jet Ski patrols throughout the busy holidays.

The proposal will allow for lifeguards to work the weekends and school holidays from May - September due to the constant beach use. Cottesloe is one of the most iconic and popular beaches on the coastline and there is constant beach usage throughout the year.

Beach	Start Date	End Date	Patrol Times	Days Patrolled	Costs Excluding GST		
					2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
Cottesloe	1-Oct	31-Oct	6am – 6pm	Mon – Fri *	\$222,350.07	\$231,244.08	\$240,493.84
	1-Nov	31-Mar	8am – 6pm	Mon – Fri *			
	1-Apr	30-Apr	8am – 6pm	Mon - Sun **			
	20-Dec	2-Feb	10am – 6pm	Mon – Fri * #			
	1-May	30-Sep	8am – 4pm	Wkends/Phols/School Hols	State Gov. ***	State Gov. ***	State Gov. ***
	1-Nov	31-Mar	6am – 8am	Mon – Fri *			
	1-Apr	30-Apr	6am – 8am	Mon – Sun **			

\* Excluding all public holidays

\*\* Including all Public Holidays

\*\*\* State covered costs

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Lifeguard

Once adequate storage is provided, SLSWA will be introducing 1 x Jet Ski and related equipment/training into the service at no additional cost to the City. The value of this is approximately **\$40,000.00 over 3 years** (which equates to just over \$13,300.00 a season).