



Overview

Ryde Beach Lifeguards can be proud of the service they gave to visitors to Ryde Beach this summer.

During the season, Ryde Beach Lifeguards performed over 147 preventative actions and assisted over 115 people through everything from rescue to casualty care to searches for missing persons. Some incidents of which without this invaluable service and the quick response of the beach lifeguards, would have most certainly resulted in lives lost.

Ryde Beach Lifeguards delivery for Ryde Town Council has developed over the years and as such we have adopted five key areas that we now focus on each season.

These are:

1. Community Lifesaving
2. Personnel
3. Lifesaving Performance
4. Equipment
5. The next generation



Our team:

Todd Miller
Beach Lifeguard Manager

Erin Lovely
Beach Lifeguard

Max Bigg
Operations Manager

Robbie Jones
Beach Lifeguard

Jacob Jenner
Head Lifeguard

Annie Caddick
Head Lifeguard

Community Lifesaving

In 2020, Ryde Beach Lifeguards were unable to deliver their usual School talks as well their other drowning prevention initiatives, such as Swim Safe.

This is undoubtedly linked to the increase in rescues this year, with the team performing 84% rescues from the sea this season.

We hope to develop our drowning prevention initiatives, such as school talks in 2021 with the addition of external funding to reach as many local children as possible.



Personnel & Training

The lifeguards themselves are at the core of the Ryde Beach Lifeguard service and each year there is a challenge of recruiting and training lifeguards who will be at the frontline of service delivery.

Recruitment starts in January, with the training for the team taking place later this year, in June. This year we were fortunate to have the majority of the 2019 team return, meaning that it was only required to hire 1 additional lifeguard for the season. Robbie the new recruit attended daily ocean training with the Beach Manager as soon as government guidance allowed it, with his formal training with the rest of the team in June.

The lifeguards are all trained in house by an RLSS Trainer Assessor, all achieving their RLSS NVBLQ, First Aid at Work, Defibrillator specialism, RYA VHF and SLSW IRB training.

Throughout the season the lifeguards undergo regular training and their performance on duty is regularly monitored by spot checks from the Beach Manager. During the midseason scenario this year, the lifeguards noticed and retrieved a drowning casualty approximately 200m out and brought them back to the shore, all in less than 4 minutes. Which is very impressive and a testament to their high standard of training.



| Type | Total |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Beach Visitors | 36042 |
| Lives saved | 22 |
| Rescue | 22 |
| Assistance | 6 |
| Rescue due to inflatables | 20 |
| First Aid | 21 |
| Search | 2 |
| Missing/Found | 5 |
| Aquatic | 22 |
| False alarm | 2 |
| Animals | 5 |
| Prevention | 147 |
| Other | 25 |
| Total incidents | 299 |

Lifesaving Performance

In 2020, there were over 36,000 recorded visitors to Ryde Beach whilst Ryde Beach Lifeguards were on duty with August being particularly busy with 21,293 (69%) visitors in this month alone.

As a result, there were a total of 299 incidents that required the lifeguards assistance.

The start of the season started off fairly quiet, with many still uneasy about visiting the beach with Covid-19 in mind. However the opposite can be said for August, where the team saw a record number of visitors to the beach, with many being tourists. This had a knock on effect to their demand, with some days the team being stretched to capacity with completing multiple water rescues, first aids and relentless prevention actions.

73% of all aquatic rescues were performed outside the flagged lifeguard zone and instead occurred by L3, located by Ryde Harbour. This was exacerbated by the lack harbour master at Ryde Harbour for the majority of the summer season, which meant that the team had to liaise with QHM and the Maritime Police in effectively dealing with numerous vessel issues, anti social behaviour from PWC users and drownings as result which on busy days, was a challenge to say the least.

*The number of beach visitors is assessed by recording the number of beach users within the lifeguard patrol areas, those in the water between the red and yellow flags.

22

LIVES SAVED

48

RESCUES

21

FIRST AID

5

MISSING/
FOUND

13

ANTI-SOCIAL
BEHAVIOUR

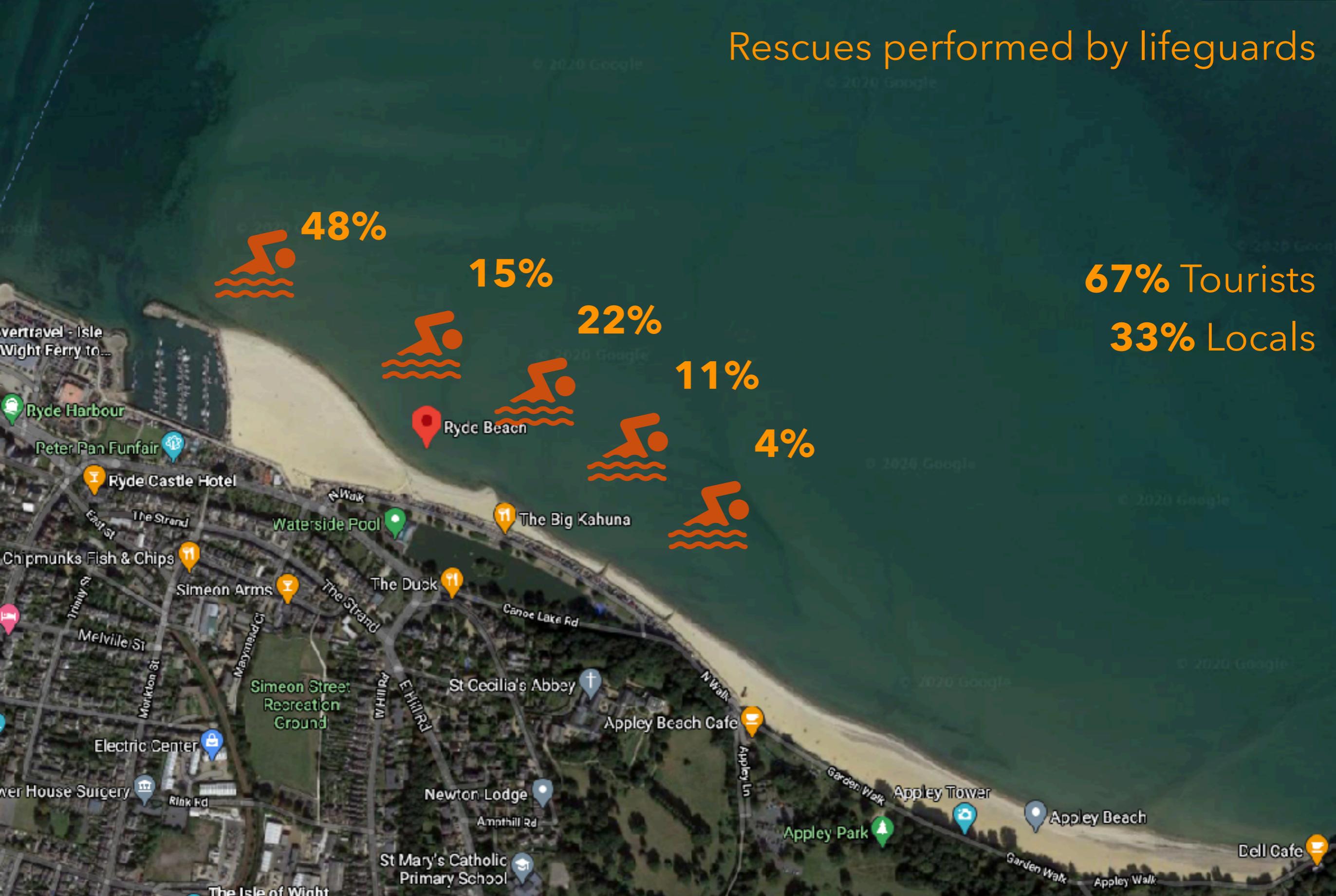
147

PREVENTATIVE
ACTIONS

299

TOTAL
ACTIONS

Rescues performed by lifeguards



67% Tourists
33% Locals

The next generation

It was with great regret that we had to cancel our Rookie Lifeguard Programme this year due to Covid-19.

We will look to run the programme again in 2021 and promote this opportunity in the delivery of our school talks and drowning prevention initiatives.

Equipment

Ryde Beach Lifeguards constantly reviews and adapts its rescue service to the evolving demands of lifesaving to ensure the lifeguards have the facilities and equipment they need and deserve.

The lifeguard team are provided with high quality uniform suitable for all weather conditions, and have the BLGHQ for protection from the elements on breaks and running water. Additionally the team have an IRB, two rescue boards, a kayak, first aid equipment and various other rescue equipment.



Equipment (Cont)

Thanks to a successful grant application towards the end of 2019, the team were able to purchase an Inshore Rescue Boat. The IRB was bespoke built for RBLG's with all the safety equipment required to perform effective rescues. The IRB was highlighted as a piece of equipment that the service required due to a rescue of multiple casualties in 2019, which proved difficult with a rescue board and kayak.

The IRB has proved an invaluable piece of equipment, particularly in creating a greater presence for the team and being able to patrol a much larger area and enabling them to effectively preventing incidents by getting to bathers swiftly. Additionally the IRB was used to collect 50+ inflatables, which otherwise would have been a job for HM Coastguards and directly rescue 18 casualties, with one occasion with 4 casualties being rescued at once.



Media

RBLG's featured in various articles over the summer, but one article I would like to bring to everyone's attention. This article was featured on the Royal Life Saving Society's website (<https://www.rlss.org.uk/annie-caddick>) and magazine.

Article:

ANNIE CADDICK

We recently heard from Todd Miller, Beach Manager at Ryde Beach about one particular member of his Lifeguarding Team, Annie Caddick. Annie's hard work and determination has already seen her achieve more than medical science believed was possible, and now she has received some very special news that could see her achieve even more! Good Luck Annie. Below, Todd and Annie herself explain her story.

Annie applied to become a Beach Lifeguard for Ryde Beach Lifeguards in 2019, for which she was successful in obtaining the role as well as obtaining a RBLG's fully funded training programme. The training programme included a gruelling week of fitness and lifesaving skills in the sea and pool as well as theory work in the classroom. On completion, the lifeguards undertake external assessments and if they pass, obtain their National Beach Lifeguard Qualification, First Aid at Work, AED and Anaphylaxis specialisms, as well as VHF and Power Boat Training.

Becoming a Beach Lifeguard is not easy, and we see many applicants each year unable to pass the basic fitness tests during our recruitment process. Therefore, when applicants pass their training and become a member of the team, it is generally a very emotional, well-earned celebration.

Through perseverance along with the support of her colleagues, Annie passed her training in 2019. She afterwards completed a summer season. Returning again this year, progressing to a Head Lifeguard position. Annie has always been a strong member of the team, and the team were overjoyed with her recent achievement.

ANNIE CADDICK (Cont)

Annie Caddick:

"Being born with cerebral palsy has meant I have had to overcome a number of challenges that most people don't have to deal with. My parents were told when I was born that I would more than likely be in a wheelchair for the rest of my life and even if I was able to walk, I would never be able to participate in sports.

Despite what medical professionals said, through my mental perseverance and the support of friends and family, I have been able to take part in a number of sports. Water sports being one of them, living by the sea I naturally spent most summers in or around the sea. Therefore, when my parents saw the opportunity to become a Beach Lifeguard on the notice board at our local pool, I applied straight away.

Having been successful in the initial application, I then had to pass the training, which, was challenging to say the least! In particular, the timed swim (400m in less than 8 minutes), which on my first attempt I didn't achieve. However, with the relentless encouragement of the rest of the team and Todd (Beach Manager), as well as my own determination. Each day I brought my time down, and when it came to the assessment I passed!

Following that, I completed a whole summer season in 2019 and returned this year, getting promoted to Head Lifeguard. I love being a Beach Lifeguard - it is so rewarding, and I am known for always being the first to offer to go out on the rescue board, kayak or IRB. Outside of the summer months, I attend university. This is where I discovered rowing. Due to my passion for the sport my coach recommended that I apply for the GB Paralympic Programme, which I did and recently received the news that I classify and have been accepted into the GB Paralympic Training Programme and couldn't be happier!

I am excited about the future and want to thank everyone who has supported me. I hope my journey will inspire others to pursue what they are passionate about!"

Being part of a Beach Lifeguard team isn't just an easy summer job where you top up your tan, which is the general perception from many. It is a challenging, yet extremely rewarding job that certainly never leaves you.

I am extremely proud of Annie and the rest of the team, as it has been a busy summer with many sea rescues, first aids and missing children already under their belts.

Ryde Beach Lifeguards Report 2020

2021

Each year we aim to improve the service we provide to Ryde Town Council, so over the winter we will assess all of the incident data collected from the lifeguards on paper incident report forms and review our procedures if necessary.

All the lifeguard team provided their own feedback during their end of season appraisals with the head lifeguard, which will also be taken into consideration for our 2021 delivery.

Due to the success of the IRB we are looking into the feasibility of an ATV (quad bike) as we believe this would certainly be a great asset to the service. Additionally we will look into red flagging the far end of L3 by the harbour, as well as working with RTC and the IWC to get additional signage by Ryde Harbour to warn visitors of the clear dangers involved with swimming in this part of the beach.

From all of the Beach Lifeguard Team, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Ryde Town Council for their continued support of the service and for of course choosing us to deliver the service.

We look forward to 2021.



Todd Miller
Beach Lifeguard Manager



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