HELIICOPTER SURF RESCUE SERVICE

sponsored by ..............

THE BANK OF NSW
The following details are set out as general information guide lines on the operation of the Helicopter Rescue Service - intended to be functional in the near future.

SPONSOR

THE BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES has accepted an invitation to sponsor a Sydney metropolitan HELICOPTER SURF RESCUE SERVICE, initially for the 1973-74 season.

The Bank's grant - involving expenditure in excess of $25,000.00 this season - will provide a specially equipped helicopter to serve metropolitan beaches.

OPERATION

The addition of a helicopter to the resources of lifesavers in the metropolitan area marks another advance in lifesaving efficiency.

The BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES helicopter is to operate every SATURDAY, SUNDAY and PUBLIC HOLIDAY, from the long weekend in October to Easter - and seven days per week during the seven peak summer weeks.

The helicopter will be on call to assist SYDNEY METROPOLITAN SURF CLUBS. It will also be available to assist BEACH INSPECTORS, POLICE, AMBULANCE AND COASTAL PATROL OPERATIONS in coastal regions.

The helicopter service will be provided free of cost and without obligation to all users under the Bank's grant. SITUATIONS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME A MATTER OF 'LIFE AND DEATH' BEFORE THE SERVICE IS CALLED UPON FOR ASSISTANCE.

When on standby, the aircraft will be located at a number of coastal 'pad' sites. Subject to local council and DCA approval, most beaches will have a MARKED LANDING PAD which can be cleared when needed.
TO CALL THE HELICOPTER

The aim is to have the rescue service linked to all surf clubs in the COMMON RADIO NETWORK currently being established under Surf Life Saving Association National Council guidelines.

Eventually it is hoped individual clubs will be able to call the helicopter direct by radio.

HOWEVER - while the radio network is being established - calls to the helicopter will be made by telephone to a central point for transmission.

The advantage of being able to call in Power Boats - a helicopter - and also neighbouring Clubs - through a radio network should make suitable donation relatively easy to obtain from Sponsors or Appeal Drives.

SURF CLUB IMAGE.

The addition of a helicopter to the existing Surf Life Saving Association advanced rescue equipment (jet boats, inshore rescue craft, rescue tubes) will be a further boost to the PROGRESSIVE IMAGE OF SURF CLUB OPERATIONS.

POWER BOATS and HELICOPTER PATROLS provide a GREAT INCENTIVE for club members to stay in the movement. Clubs are always seeking new members, and these facilities assist recruitment.

While somewhat reducing the risks the 'Man-on-the-beach' must take in rescues, power boat and helicopter co-ordinated operations in difficult seas (a test for crews) will result in even more news media coverage for Surf Life Saving.

NEW ZEALAND SERVICE

THE BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES HELICOPTER SAFETY PATROL will be similar to a Surf Life Saving Association helicopter rescue service which has operated in NEW ZEALAND for three seasons.
The patrol, on Auckland's west coast, has made 90 surf rescues and assisted in many others.

The pilot who helped establish the New Zealand service, GEORGE SOBIECKI, has assisted the development of the Sydney service, and will do much of the local flying.

CREW SELECTION.

APPLICATIONS are now being called for the lifesaver crew to patrol with the helicopter. See Application Form enclosed.

A 30-man team is to be selected from metropolitan surf clubs, giving each member about six whole day flight shifts in a season.

Qualifications sought are: active member (patrolling or reserve), Bronze Medallion, and an undertaking to gain the Advanced Resuscitation Certificate this season. A MAJORITY OF SELECTED CREW WILL BE FROM POWER BOAT TEAMS.

The helicopter service offers Surf Clubs another advance in Lifesaving facilities. It will assist in serious rescues, routine operations and training, also accidents such as fishermen swept off rocks, boats in danger and transportation of injured to hospital.

But the helicopter cannot – and will not – replace any existing life saving operation. It is simply a valuable addition to the resources currently employed in rescue work – through the BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

For further information contact: Ian. Badham – Phone: 523.5012.
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