Now you can 'bank on the Wales' at sea, too!

STAFF NEWS
Life-saving 'copter goes on duty

"You can bank on the Wales, on the sea as well as on the land, in future," the NSW Minister for Education, Mr. Eric Willis, said when he officially launched the Wales Helicopter Rescue Service at Maroubra (Sydney) on the opening day of the surfing season last month.

Mr Willis, who "broke" (he only poured it) the symbolic bottle of champagne on the nose of the craft, boarded the copter for the official launching run along the beach.

He was accompanied by Mr Ron Ruist, president of the Sydney branch of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia.

Mr Willis said that the methods and equipment of the lifesaving movement had been continually improving during recent years, with a resultant rise in the number of lives saved.

"It became apparent that there were only one piece of equipment still needed for this work, and that was a helicopter," he said.

"As with so many other problems in other spheres, the problem here was money.

"So I want to pay a very warm tribute to the Bank of New South Wales for stepping in and 'picking up the tab.'

"The helicopter is a wonderful adjunct to the work of the life-saving movement and will make possible a great improvement in their already very high standards.

"The best wishes and thanks of all of us go to the Wales for making this possible."

Two Wales men will have a very special interest in the new service. Phillip Carter, of Double Bay branch, and John Tucker (Circular Quay East) were among the team of 10 expert life-savers chosen to man the rescue copter.

Rescue from the air naturally involves special techniques — other than just jumping perhaps 20ft into the water.

The Wales' copter will be on duty right through the surfing season — seven days a week during the peak period and at weekends and on public holidays for the rest.

It is already a familiar sight along the beaches. The patrol covers Sydney's metropolitan beaches from Palm Beach in the north to Burning Palms, in National Park.

The official launching ceremony was followed by a demonstration of how the copter can pluck patients from the sea and move them to shore and safety (see picture page 3).
HOLD-UPS ARE 'BY APPOINTMENT ONLY' IN QUEANBEYAN

They're very polite in Queanbeyan. Even a party of bushrangers waited patiently to be let in when they held up our branch there last month. They had to. The door was locked.

Queanbeyan hold-ups are also "by appointment only" but this one was delayed by security-conscious junior John Tuckey, who'd locked away the key to the front door.

As Manager was hustled away in the coach the staff fired a barrage of football money-boxes — to no avail, but to the delight of the children. After the hold-up the...
AN AERIAL rescue begins (naturally) in the air (above left). Here's one of the life-savers leaving the Wales 'copter to pick up the 'patient' (a volunteer for the demonstration). He's out of sight behind that wave.

NOW we have him (above). He's being attached to the second safety belt and will soon be lifted from the water.

TRAPPED surfer, swept-out rock fisherman, wrecked yachtie, or whatever, the "patient" is now on his way to safety (below).

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A FEW DAYS before the official launching we invited life-savers, the water police, ambulance services, coast guard and others concerned with rescues in coastal waters to a meeting at Head Office, where the Wales rescue service was explained in detail. Here we see (from left) Philip Carter (Double Bay), one of our two men who are flying in the patrol, Mr Con Asmussen, president of the NSW branch of the SLSA, John Tucker (Circular Quay East), our other patrol member, and Mr Ron Buist, SLSA Sydney branch president, chatting after the demonstration.

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**Charity drive**

This Mr Hall, however, was engaged in collecting money for the Apex charity, Foundation 41. He's driving a Cobb and Co. coach around the country to raise it.

His Canberra - Queanbeyan foray raised about $1000.

The plan was to kidnap and hold to ransom the Manager, Mr McLennan, but the willing victim (in proper period costume and wig) couldn't be properly kidnapped until the door was unlocked.

More delay, because the custodians of the keys, Lyel Petherbridge and David Levington, had disappeared in the big crowd to take pictures of the hold-up.

But this, of course, couldn't take place until they came back.

Gerlinda Kluger finally "got her men" and the hold-up later went off without a hitch (except the hitch of two around Mr McLennan, who was trusted and driven off by "Ben" and gang).

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**Interested audience**

Bush-walker Bruce Paterson, senior artist with Development and Marketing Division in Sydney, was rather puzzled when he received last month a letter from St Barnabas' vicarage, in Sunnybank, Queensland.

The puzzle was solved when he read it.

The letter came from the Rev. Douglas Laver, the vicar, and was an appreciative reference to Bruce's article in the March, 1973, Eirascan on "Adventure in High Places."

Mr Laver is himself a keen bush-walker and he got the Eirascan from an old friend of his, our Sunnybank Manager, Mr John Elliot.
MASS RESCUE

ABOVE LEFT: Action during the mass rescue off Cronulla Beach on Sunday, March 24. Hidden by the tall swell is John Tucker (see story below right) picking up one of the ten rescued during the day. The Cronulla powerboat in the background stood by the others until the copter could get them ashore.

ABOVE RIGHT: Walking off (at left) rather shame-faced (he'd ignored the "beach closed" sign) is one of the board-riding youngsters after he'd been ferried to safety.

RIGHT: Outside Cremorne, Tony East of the branch, John Tucker talks about his busy day.
We will have added 20 miles of paper to the world's shrunken supplies when the new combined trading and savings bank weekly statements are introduced on May 15, according to the Chief Accountant, Mr Ian Matheson.

The statement combines trading and savings bank figures on one form, which is smaller than the present R55 return.

"The savings bank statement was reduced in frequency from weekly to monthly in October 1972, and now it is to be completely eliminated," Mr Matheson said.

In the days when this was a weekly return, the back of the bank's statutory and management information requirements were 20 branch accountants in the Sydney region about the new system. They began interstate visits thereafter.

Before the statement is in general use, one of the other executives has talked to about 20 branch accountants about its use. It does not extend to New Zealand.