



**For immediate release
10 February 2016**

Wallarrah 2 funds vital equipment upgrade for The Lakes Surf Life Saving Club

The Lakes Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) has received a generous grant from the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation, which has helped to fund a new oxygen and defibrillator (AED) kit to support Surf Club during the busy Summer season.

The Lakes SLSC is operated by a committed group of members who volunteer their time to respond to incidents in their operating area, which spans from Frazer Park to Norah Head boat ramp, including Budgewoi Beach.

The new oxygen and defibrillator kit has replaced the Surf Club's outdated equipment, which was showing signs of significant wear.

Sean Leicester, President of The Lakes SLSC said, "Our lifesavers have endured a busy season so far, having already conducted 33 rescues and prevented many more from getting into difficulty.

"We've used the kit on a few occasions so far this season, including on a suspected spinal injury patient, a dislocated shoulder and a severe allergic reaction to a bluebottle sting.

"Our members have also been tasked to four emergency response call outs that occur outside of standard operating hours. The members who respond to these incidents always ensure that they take the Oxy-Defib kit with them.

"Thankfully, we have not needed to use the defibrillator yet," he added.

Lakes Beach is a hugely popular destination, attracting upwards of 1,000 visitors during a busy Summer day.

"Our lifesavers are committed to ensuring that members of the public can enjoy this public space safely and responsibly. Part of this commitment requires access to cutting edge first aid equipment, to ensure that we can provide the best support possible.

"We would like to thank Wallarah 2 Community Foundation for providing us with the funding to purchase updated equipment, this could truly mean the difference between life and death for some of the people we rescue," added Mr Leicester.

Peter Smith, Community Manager of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project said that the Foundation is proud to support the Surf Club and the essential public service it provides.

"The Central Coast would not be what it is without its picturesque beaches and the area in which The Lakes SLSC operates boasts some of Wyong Shire's best.

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“It’s important to us that the community members that enjoy these beaches remain safe when entering the water and the volunteer life savers at The Lakes SLSC play an essential role in ensuring this,” added Mr Smith.

A total of 14 grants were awarded to community initiatives that benefit the Wyong Shire LGA as part of the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation 2015 grant process. For further information, please visit www.wallarrah.com.au.

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