Water Safety Week makes a splash around the state

Water Safety Week made a splash around Victoria last year, 1 – 7 December, educating people about the importance of water safety in a range of aquatic environments.

A number of events were delivered during Water Safety Week, including water safety activities over 200 aquatic centres across the state; Surfing Victoria's Surfing for Girls program; Life Saving Victoria's (LSV) Open Water Learning Experience and Beach Programs; Aquatics and Recreation Victoria's Water Safety Fun Day at Bendigo Mall and Federation Square, and much more.

In regional Victoria three lucky schools were chosen for LSV's Water Safety Wednesday, resulting in a visit from the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service.

Ararat Primary School, Hamilton North Primary School and St Augustine's Primary School in Maryborough each received a special visit on Wednesday 3 December.

Helicopter crew members Greg Scott and Isaak Newcombe and pilot Adam Lantz talked to the students about the important role the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service plays in patrolling Victoria's busy coastline and supporting other emergency services.

They also showed the students some of the equipment carried on board, including demonstrating the harness and rescue strop with two student volunteers.

Crew member Isaak Newscombe says that with Water Safety Week coinciding with the start of summer, there is no better time for Victorian children to learn how to be safe on our beaches, rivers, lakes, dams and other waterways.

“We are letting the kids know about the service we provide along the coast and around Victoria, including inland waterways and in support of floods and fires,” he said.

“We are especially talking about safety around inland waterways, with the most important safety messages being to never swim alone, check the depth and look before you leap, and to always wear a lifejacket when boating.”

Save the date and start planning NOW for this year’s Water Safety Week, 30 November – 6 December 2015.

LSV has a wide range of resources to support schools to conduct water safe activities in their classrooms. Lesson plans are available at www.lsv-from-anywhere.com.au/education.

Water Safety Week is an initiative of the Play it Safe by the Water campaign, which has been running in Victoria since 1998.