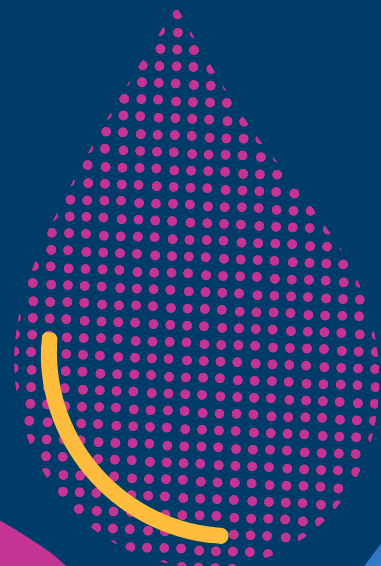


Significant Patrols

Handbook

Resource Guide



Suggested citation

Life Saving Victoria – LSV

Report prepared by: Kate McLauchlan

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Life Saving Victoria respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways in which we swim, explore, play and meet. We pay our respect to Elders past and present.

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Document Management

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What are significant patrols?

Life Saving Clubs around the state have initiated patrols with significance to celebrate, acknowledge and/or encourage action.

Clubs, Life Saving Victoria (LSV) and the aquatic industry have supported local and state-wide patrols acknowledging gender, LGBTQIA+, environment, and mental health. We are excited to build on the great work of our clubs as we look to embed these initiatives into highlights for our lifesaving season over the coming years.

LSV encourages and support clubs in hosting some or all the designated significant patrols. We welcome and encourage our clubs to promote and participate in, on or around the designated date, noting that these dates may vary for clubs.

Significant patrols include:



Pink Patrol

Celebrating girls and women participating in lifesaving



Blue Patrol

Promoting wellbeing and mental health in lifesaving



Pride Patrol

Celebrating and empowering LGBTQIA+ communities in lifesaving



Green Patrol

Promoting environment and sustainability in lifesaving

Pink Patrol

What is Pink Patrol?

Pink Patrol is a celebration of the contribution of girls and women in shaping the lifesaving movement and in doing so, making the opportunities and pathways in lifesaving more visible.

It consists of women who are active patrolling members and champions, celebrating the contribution of girls and women to lifesaving through a designated patrol at your club.

Why we do Pink Patrol?

The aim of **Pink Patrol** is to acknowledge and celebrate the many contributions women past and present have played in lifesaving. It's hoped the positive role modelling will inspire and empower future generations of women and girls to confidently pursue opportunities in lifesaving and aquatics.

The powerful visual of leaders and champions forming a full patrol, is symbolic of the growth and capability of our members; illustrating that women are competent lifesavers and building the diversity of lifesavers in active lifesaving roles and leadership.

The introduction of women into active roles within lifesaving, varied historically between Royal Life Saving (RLS) and Surf Life Saving (SLS), with the first RLS women acquiring their Proficiency Certificate in 1907 and the first women obtaining their Bronze Medallion in 1911, whilst in SLS the first Bronze Medallion holder who was a woman was recorded in 1980. There was a long-term view amongst some, that women didn't have the strength to preform rescues in treacherous surf conditions.

40 years on, lifesavers who are women play an important role within the lifesaving movement, with 50/50 membership. Women, over the journey, have pushed boundaries to be recognised, to be included in events, patrolling and leadership roles, and have done so with many outstanding achievements.



"Woolamai's Pink Zinc Day is a fun way to celebrate and empower our female members whilst raising money for women's charities. It is an opportunity for female members from across the club to get to know each other and develop their lifesaving skills in a supportive environment" –

Georgie Wettenhall – Woolamai Beach SLSC

Pink Patrol Objectives

- To support the promotion of gender equity
- To promote inclusion and diversity
- Provide positive role models for future generations – you can't be what you can't see!
- To recognise current and past contributions of women in lifesaving
- Recognise the contribution of our champions
- Increase the number of women that patrol
- Promote opportunities for women to train and develop operational skills
- To provide opportunities to develop skills in different pathways of lifesaving
- Create broader visibility of leadership opportunities for women in lifesaving
- Inspire women to acquire new skills and lifesaving awards
- Create an environment that encourages networking and positive, supportive relationships

Pink Patrol Key Messages

Pink Patrol Mission

To acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of girls and women in shaping the lifesaving movement, and in doing so, make the opportunities and pathways in lifesaving more visible.

Pink Patrol Key Messaging

- Pink Patrol is a day of celebration, an opportunity to recognise the contribution of females, past and present.
- Pink Patrol is a strong visual reminder that females in lifesaving are capable and competent and can fulfil all roles in lifesaving.
- The event helps to promote gender equality.
- The event provides strong female role models for the next generation of lifesavers.
- Promote the importance of collaboration and working together.
- Acknowledge your clubs' champions and the important role they play.
- Use positive hashtags to propose our key objectives.

Ideas for Pink Patrol

Each **Pink Patrol** will be unique to the club and should be reflective of its membership and the surrounding community.

Things that you may consider including in your clubs **Pink Patrol** include:

- Host an event - a breakfast, morning tea or lunch
- Bring in a keynote speaker, fellow members or ambassadors to inspire
- Use social media, education with key statistics, promote and run competitions
- Highlight the first females who patrolled, first female Patrol/Club Captain, first female President/Vice-President, women who have been recipients of major awards or who are life members
- Add a splash of pink to your patrol uniforms and use pink zinc
- Include a come and try element
- Partner with other clubs in the area
- Make sure you take plenty of photos and promote your patrol



Pink Patrol Resources

Resources can be found on the **Pink Patrol** page on the [Club Gateway](#). This includes a comprehensive **Pink Patrol Guide**.

Register your Pink Patrol!

Register your **Pink Patrol** with [here](#).

Pink Patrol was established to celebrate the active female lifesavers at Fairhaven and to empower and inspire them to know that anything is possible.

Across Australia only 39% of our active lifesavers are female. Pink Patrol raises awareness of the inequality that exists in our organisation and takes away the barriers that challenge our ability to fully participate in leadership roles in SLS.

Pink Patrol provides a deliberate focus to support the development of our active female lifesavers and increases our sense of belonging and self-confidence.

The benefits of Pink Patrol are enormous. Our female lifesavers feel encouraged and empowered, knowing that together we can fill all the required patrol positions and provide an outstanding patrol service. The smiles and feeling of accomplishment amongst the group is inspiring and heartwarming.

There have been many amazing females at Fairhaven who have paved the way as active lifesavers, and this is a great initiative to build on their legacy.

Nancy Joseph - Fairhaven Pink Patrol Founder and SLSA Life Member

The Pink Zinc Patrol has had, in my opinion, a profound effect on both the Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale SLSC community. Whether through its promotion of female leadership, or the awareness it has brought to ensuring equality within our club, it has been humbling to see the positive influence one initiative (like Pink Zinc) can have on a community.

From a leadership perspective, the most wonderful part has been to see the younger girls feel able and supported to take on more leadership roles. Whether these have been formal or informal, we've seen many of our young girls take on roles in Surf Ed, coaching Surf Sports, IRB crew and drivers, Training and Assessment, and even roles on the committee.

We have seen huge growth in the number of women and Mums who have not only completed their Bronze Medallion but have gone on to help out with patrol, water safety, coaching Surf Ed, and also competing in Surf Sports.

Rebecca Sampson – Ocean Grove SLSC Patrol Captain 2015-16

Blue Patrol

What is Blue Patrol?

Blue Patrol is about highlighting mental health and wellbeing, belonging and connection through a designated patrol. It's about encouraging mental wellbeing champions, other club members, as well as the local community to join the patrol embracing mental health and wellbeing.

As part of our commitment to positive well-being and mental health within LSV, our clubs, and the community, the **Blue Patrol** focuses on promoting wellbeing and mental health across all levels of lifesaving. Through this initiative, we will increase awareness of wellbeing and mental health concerns, focus on reducing stigma, educate, connect with, and improve the wellbeing of our people.

Why we do Blue Patrol?

Lifesavers' mental health can be impacted due to the nature of our work - this patrol is to provide a space where we can raise awareness, reduce stigma and connect with other patrolling, team and club members in a positive environment. It's so important to look out for your mates and others in and around our clubs and teams. The **Blue Patrol** is here to ensure we can support each other.

Mental wellbeing is about feeling good, having positive relationships, functioning well, and feeling that you have purpose and meaning in your life. Through lifesaving we can create space, activity, and connection to enable our mental wellbeing to thrive.



Blue Patrol Objectives

The objectives for **Blue Patrol** are based off the LSV Wellbeing and Mental Health strategy. ***“Mental Health and Wellbeing - Together we will Promote, Protect, Respond and Recover”***. Below is each focus area:

Promote - We will focus on promoting wellbeing and mental health across all levels of LSV.

We will do this by raising awareness of the importance of wellbeing and mental health, continuing to cultivate a positive culture around mental health, and developing greater understanding of our people and their wellbeing needs. We will seek to fortify our people through preventive initiatives, education, building resilience and better inform them about availability and accessibility of supports.

Protect - We will focus on protecting the mental health of our people across the career lifecycle.

We know our people may be exposed to psychosocial risks while performing their roles and commit to identifying, monitoring, and managing these risks. We also aim to prepare our people for these risks by increasing role readiness across the lifecycle. This will include psychological preparation and skill building including training in mental health awareness and leadership capability.

Respond - We will focus on responding to the mental health needs of our people.

We commit to providing evidence-informed responses to critical incidents, and early intervention and a stepped care approach to other wellbeing and mental health events and issues, documented in clear, simple, and consistent policies and procedures.

Recovery - We will focus on supporting our people with their recovery and return to role.

We commit to providing specialist care to support recovery, return to work, or return to role for members requiring leave of absence following a critical incident or for other mental health reasons. We will establish clear and evidence-informed pathways to care, and a whole of organisation response for our people’s healing, growth, and renewal. We also seek to maintain connection with members between seasons and will continue to support their return to role and role readiness during pre-season.

The Apollo Bay SLSC is proud to partake in the Blue Patrol. The Blue Patrol recognises the significance of mental health in our lifesaving community, and creates a space to foster discussion about mental well-being. In the 2023-24 season, we hosted a blue patrol with blue decorations and a gratitude board, where lifesavers and members of the public were able to recognise the things they are thankful for. Given the serious nature of lifesaving, we must ensure that our members are prepared to deal with mental challenges, both on and off the beach.

The Blue Patrol creates a more open space, where club members can feel supported, valued, and safe.

James Whelan – Apollo Bay SLSC, Sustainability Coordinator



Blue Patrol Key Messages

Blue Patrol Mission

To increase awareness and acknowledge wellbeing and mental health concerns while providing a platform for education, connection and improving the wellbeing of members and the community.

Blue Patrol Key Messaging

- Blue Patrol highlights mental health and wellbeing concerns, and provides a platform to encourage conversations.
- The Blue Patrol initiative was created off the back of the LSV Wellbeing and Mental Health strategy. ***"Mental Health and Wellbeing - Together we will Promote, Protect, Respond and Recover"***.
- Mental wellbeing is not just about feeling good, having fun and just 'cheering up'; it's about building positive relationships and support systems and feeling that you have purpose and meaning in your life.
- The event acknowledges and encourages mental health champions and the important role that they play improving the wellbeing of our people.
- Blue Patrol highlights the need for proactive self-care and early identification of mental health concerns among our lifesavers.
- Blue Patrol encourages proactive self-care and early identification of mental health concerns and promotes early help-seeking. This extends to our families, too.



Blue Patrol was established to acknowledge the importance of raising awareness regarding mental health and wellbeing in our lifesaving community. As the work we do is extremely demanding and can heavily impact our members it is important to provide a safe space where mental health is a focus and create a positive environment.

Although we should be looking out for our club members and teams right through, Blue Patrol allows a day to specifically focus on this by raising awareness, reducing stigma, and connecting. It is crucial for our clubs' members to feel safe and supported where they volunteer and allow them to have that feeling of purpose and meaning in our lifesaving community.

At Venus Bay, we believe having that sense of belonging is valuable for our members and assists in establishing a safe space. We wish to continue to grow our involvement in Blue Patrol and evolve our participation.

Alice Webb – Co-Club Captain, Venus Bay SLSC

Ideas for Blue Patrol

Each **Blue Patrol** will be unique to the club and should be reflective of its membership and the surrounding community. Things that you may consider including in your clubs **Blue Patrol** include:

- Host an event - a breakfast, morning tea, lunch
- Bring in a keynote speaker, fellow members or ambassadors to inspire
- Use social media, education with key statistics, promote and run competitions
- Raise awareness through trivia and other fun activities
- Add a splash of blue to you patrol uniforms, use blue zinc and other references
- Make sure you take plenty of photos and promote your patrol
- Pledge to be a champion of mental health and wellbeing
- Partner with other clubs in the area
- Include a come and try element
- Combined with training and awareness of support available, make resources available.
- Showcase your support networks or resources available.



Gunnamatta proudly participates in hosting a Blue Patrol to promote the importance of looking after our mental health and wellbeing within surf lifesaving as well as our everyday lives. As a club, we value creating environments where people feel confident, comfortable and supported enough to share their experiences, voice their concerns and seek further assistance where required. Particularly within surf lifesaving, we are likely to come across scenarios that challenge us both physically and mentally, therefore it's important our members know that they are safe and supported at our club. This patrol has significance in expressing how we value these environments, to members of the club and the wider community.

Last season's Blue Patrol was planned to coincide with Movember, raising awareness around Men's Mental Health. The day involved a morning run and swim, followed by a group breakfast and a presentation by Dr Geoff Toogood, a BeyondBlue Ambassador and GSLSC member, all before the commencement of the patrol. Patrolling and non-patrolling members of all ages came down to get involved throughout the day. Whilst many of us are at different stages of life, it was fulfilling to be a part of a group that showed up to express their shared values around positive mental health and wellbeing, and leave knowing you have a community that will support you if/when you may need it.

Gemma Cox– Gunnamatta SLSC, Chief Instructor

Blue Patrol Resources

Resources for the day can be found on the **Blue Patrol** page on the [Club Gateway](#).

These include posters, flyers, factsheets, conversation starters and social media tiles.

Important Pathways for Wellbeing Support:

☎ 1300 360 364: LSV Employee Assistance Provider for counselling or coaching services.

☎ 000: Call emergency services for immediate assistance if you are in crisis.

☎ You can contact LSV Comms for further information and to direct your call.

@ Email: welfare@lsv.com.au for more information.

Register your Blue Patrol!

Register your **Blue Patrol** [here](#).



We took on Blue patrol at Lakes Entrance as an opportunity to provide our members with the resources to adequately care for their own mental health, look out for each other and recognise when action should be taken.

By decorating our beach signs, patrol, patrollers and food in blue we found we were not only raising awareness within the club but the public were interested and started engaging in communications about mental health in SLS.

By bringing up these topics in discussion at our blue patrol around the commencement of the peak season, the patrollers were able to utilise this throughout the season. The success of Blue Patrol was evident post-incidents where we were able to refer back to the skills they learnt at blue patrol, as well as the resources provided. Making for better overall wellbeing and therefore for more sustainable patrol teams post.

Eden McMillan – SLS Lakes Entrance, Club Captain

Pride Patrol

What is Pride Patrol?

Pride Patrol is about celebrating, acknowledging and empowering the diversity and inclusion within lifesaving and the community through a designated patrol. It is an opportunity to honour our LGBTQIA+ communities and to engage, educate and encourage action.

Pride Patrol is a day where you can transform your beach into a vibrant and colourful patrol and club to showcase the visibility of the LGBTQIA+ community. It's a day of engagement, education, fun, and embracing and celebrating the diversity of all members within lifesaving.

LSV will promote the state-wide Pride Patrol to coincide with the launch of the annual Midsumma Festival and [Midsumma Pride March](#) in February each year.

Why we do Pride Patrol

LSV is a proud ally to the LGBTQIA+ community and encourages everyone to be their authentic selves while participating in lifesaving activities and enjoying our waterways.

Pride Patrol is an excellent way for your club to support and empower the LGBTQIA+ community and highlight to your members, and the local community that your club is a safe, welcoming, progressive, and inclusive place for all the community.

During **Pride Patrol**, and every day, it is important that we embrace and celebrate our differences and show with our words and actions that everyone is welcome in lifesaving.

Mount Martha Life Saving Club is thrilled to participate in Pride Patrol and March, initiatives that resonate deeply with our core values of inclusivity and community spirit. We believe that the beach is for everyone, and by joining these events, we proudly celebrate the LGBTQ+ community.

It's an affirmation that our club is a welcoming space for all, where every individual is valued for who they are, without exception. Embracing the spectrum of identities enriches our club culture, making us stronger and more united. Our participation is MMLSC's way of saying to all members, "We belong here, and we are all an integral part of our lifesaving community."

**Natasha Hartley-Jackson – Mount Martha LSC previous Director of Inclusion, and
Jeremy Fultheim – Mount Martha LSC current Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator**

Pride Patrol Objectives

- To promote, celebrate and embrace diversity and inclusion
- To support and acknowledge the LGBTQIA+ community
- To educate and encourage action around inclusive practices
- Showcase a safe, welcoming, progressive and welcoming place for members and the local community
- Encourage all members to be their authentic selves
- Create an environment that encourages positive and supportive relationships

Pride Patrol Key Messages

Pride Patrol Mission

To celebrate, acknowledge and empower diversity and inclusion within lifesaving and showcase the visibility of the LGBTQIA+ community, while promoting clubs as a safe, welcoming and inclusive place for members and community.

Pride Patrol Key Messaging

- Pride Patrol supports and celebrates diversity and inclusion within lifesaving and the community.
- Pride Patrol is a vibrant visual representation celebrating and acknowledging the LGBTQIA+ community in lifesaving.
- The event highlights that lifesaving is a proud ally to the LGBTQIA+ community and encourages everyone to be their authentic selves while participating in lifesaving activities.
- The event promotes lifesaving clubs as a safe, welcoming, progressive and welcoming place for members and the local community.
- The event helps to educate and encourage action around inclusive practices.
- The state-wide pride patrol coincides with the annual Midsumma pride festival and pride March.



Ideas for Pride Patrol

Pride Patrol is a day of vibrant colour, celebration, and acceptance. Each patrol will be unique to the club and reflect your membership and local community. Things that you may consider including in your clubs **Pride Patrol** include:

- Use of coloured zinc, Pride lanyards, sweatbands and whistles
- Showcase and use your Pride Surf Rescue board
- Link to a club function
- Engage with local community groups and events
- Host Pride beach activities (chalk art, themed races, best dressed or ocean paddles/swims)
- Display rainbow flags and bunting
- Add a splash of colour to your ATV
- Be sure to take plenty of photos and promote your patrol on socials and tag LSV
- Include a come and try element
- Combine with training and awareness of the support available and make resources available to all your members
- Link in with other local clubs or organisations

The Pride Patrol is an easy and positive way for clubs to show their members and local community that we are welcoming to everyone in the LGBTI+ community. At Hampton LSC some of our members have made laminated PRIDE signs with inclusive messages and we decorated the club, our ATV and patrol shelter with rainbow bunting and Pride flags.

I have also participated in the Pride March as part of the LSV contingent over the last 4 years and it is an incredible event to be in. Everyone who marches whether they are LGBTI+ or an ally, from different community groups, religious groups, big corporates and of course all the emergency services are so friendly and happy to be there! The crowds cheering along the route are fantastic.

Yvette Costello – Hampton LSC

Pride Patrol Resources

Resources for the day can be found on the **Pride Patrol** page on the [Club Gateway](#).

Life Saving Victoria is a Pride in Sport member. Pride in Sport is Australia's first and only sporting inclusion program specifically designed to assist National and State sporting organisations (NSO/SSO's) and clubs with the inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTIQ) employees, players, volunteers and spectators.

The following websites provide useful tools and links to resources that can support your **Pride** **Patrol** day and inclusive initiatives:

- [Pride in sport](#)
- [Language and Terminology – Pride and Sport](#)
- [Lifesavers with Pride](#)
- [Minus18](#)
- [Proud 2 Play](#)

Register your Pride Patrol!

Register your **Pride Patrol** [here](#).



Green Patrol

What is Green Patrol?

Green Patrol is about promoting the environment and sustainability practices through a designated patrol. This initiative aims to educate members and the community about the importance of being green, starting conversations and building lasting connections.

Why we do Green Patrol

Green Patrol is designed to highlight the strong connection between the waterways we patrol as lifesavers and the importance of looking after the environment for future generations.

The day is about providing opportunities for education, cleaning up our waterways and connecting with local partners. Through this, we will be raising environmental and sustainability awareness and better understand and protect the ecosystem we live, work and play.

The impact of litter on the marine environment is well documented and we experience this every weekend when we turn up to patrol and set up the beach for nipper activities. So, the concept of Green Patrol was created to see what actions we could take to make a difference at Hampton. With the success of our event, we hope that other life saving clubs will dedicate a patrol to raising environmental awareness at their beaches in the future.

To get Green Patrol off the ground our team reached out to local organisations including the Marine Mammal Foundation, Clean Up Australia and the Bayside Climate Crisis Action Group to get buy in from a wide range of stakeholders. This allowed us to run several concurrent activities on the beach during Green Patrol, involving our members and the local community. We were very pleased to have representatives from Life Saving Victoria and local politicians join in.

In the week running up to Green Patrol we encouraged all Hampton Members to do a litter pick in their local streets, so that we could extend the event beyond the beach. To mark the occasion on the day we gave prizes for nippers who came dressed in green. The Marine Mammal Foundation ran a series of educational sessions for our nippers, showing us the importance of advancing our knowledge of local marine mammals and their environment. As well as conducting a beach clean during the afternoon with many community volunteers, we also had a group of snorkelers take to the water for a litter pick.

Carol Lawrence – Hampton LSC



Green Patrol Objectives

- Highlight the strong connection between the waterways we patrol and the importance of looking after the environment for future generations
- Educate and raise awareness around the local environment and sustainability with members and the local community
- Encourage action to clean up and protect our beaches and waterways
- To start conversations

Green Patrol Key Messages

Green Patrol Mission

To promote and raise environmental awareness around sustainability to members and local community, while highlighting the strong connection between the waterways we patrol as lifesavers and the importance of looking after the environment for future generations.

Green Patrol Key Messaging

- Green Patrol is about celebrating our connection to the waterways we protect and taking action for a healthier environment.
- Green patrol provides a platform to educate members and the local community around environmental awareness and sustainability.
- Green Patrol provides a platform to educate the next generation of lifesavers through nipper activities.
- The event offers the opportunity to collaborate with local community partners and align with larger environment and sustainability initiatives, to clean up and protect our beaches and waterways.
- The event promotes the importance of recycling and sustainability practices.
- The event acknowledges and supports sustainability champions and the important role that they play protecting our beautiful waterways and environment.



Ideas for Green Patrol

Each **Green Patrol** will be unique to the club and should be reflective of its membership and the surrounding community. Things that you may consider including in your clubs **Green Patrol** include:

- Incorporate environmental and sustainability activities into your clubs nippers program
- Undertake a snorkel patrol and challenge members to find rubbish in the water and surrounding areas
- Add a splash of sustainable green to your patrol uniforms and use green environmentally safe zinc
- Associate/partner with other larger events
- Host a celebratory lunch and include key note speakers
- Host a clean up the beach challenge.
- Hold a [trivia challenge](#) with an environmental theme.
- Hold a [recycle challenge](#), providing items where people must decide what can be recycled and not
- Hold an education session and engage an organisation or speaker to educate members, such as Marine Mammals foundation
- Use sustainable products such as chalk on footpaths to promote
- Tell the local stories and acknowledge and embrace Traditional Owners

Green Patrol Resources

Resources for the day can be found on the **Green Patrol** page on the [Club Gateway](#).

The following websites provide useful tools and resources that can support your **Green Patrol Day** and inclusive initiatives:

- [Green Patrol Day Nipper Lesson Plans](#)
- [Marine Mammal Society - Beach Litter Audit](#)
- [Take 3 for the Sea – Program Guide](#)
- [Clean up Australia](#)
- [Traditional Owner resources](#)
- [Marine Mammal Foundation](#)
- [Take 3 for the Sea](#)

Register your Green Patrol!

Register your **Green Patrol** [here](#).

What's in it for my Club?

Hosting a significant patrol is an opportunity for your club to engage volunteer members and celebrate, acknowledge and/or encourage action. It provides a visual platform for your club to say thank you, whilst illustrating its support and recognition, acknowledging gender, LGBTIQ+, environment, and/or mental health.

Younger members benefit from the increased visibility of positive role models; and your local community, sponsors and stakeholders will recognise your club as one that embraces and values promoting and celebrating gender, LGBTIQ+, environment, and/or mental health amongst its membership.

A significant patrol also provides an opportunity for your club to attract new and/or different sponsors, partner with new community groups and potentially attract new members to lifesaving. It can also aid in retaining members, by providing new inspiration and opening their eyes to pathways and opportunities they may not have been aware of.

Education

This guide has been developed with the intent to support you and your club in delivering a significant patrol.

We encourage clubs to use a significant patrol event, to educate the next generation of members, about the clubs history, gender, LGBTIQ+, environment, and/or mental health.

Where to Start

Each significant patrol will be unique to the club and should be reflective of its membership and the surrounding community.

We know that significant patrols are being delivered by a variety of clubs, in several different ways. For example:

- In partnership with other clubs
- Associated with other large events
- Combined with a training/come try component
- Hosting a celebratory lunch
- Keynote speakers
- Community days

There isn't a right or wrong way to run a significant patrol event, as long as its respectful and welcoming - the main objective is to undertake a patrol, acknowledging and celebrating gender, LGBTIQ+, environment, and/or mental health.

Encouraging members and community to join a significant patrol embraces and acknowledges diversity and the club's commitment to sustainability and/or mental health.

It's a celebration and opportunity to showcase lifesaving, our members and take action!

Get Organised

The following section provides some tips to assist you in delivering a significant patrol.

Working Groups

To share the effort and work required to deliver a significant patrol, we would encourage you to form a working group.

This will reduce the risk of volunteer burnout, provide opportunity to share and develop ideas and give your event greater chance of success!

Create your Significant Patrol team!

Start the conversation and identify people within your club who are like-minded and passionate about your chosen significant patrol theme;

- Be good at helping organise and hosting a significant patrol event (e.g. committee members, mentors, members in a position of authority).
- Benefit from learning how to organise events such as this (e.g. youth leaders, networking and personal leadership development interest).
- Have been involved or delivered major events before; either at the club or professionally.

Network and reach out to neighbouring clubs to see if they're interested in collaborating and sharing ideas for the day.

Setting roles and responsibilities

It's important to clearly communicate the responsibilities associated with each role in the lead up and on the day of the event. Roles and individual tasks should be delegated and agreed upon during the initial project meetings initiated by the project coordinator.

Roles to consider for your significant patrol working group include:

- **Project Coordinator/s:** Sets the pace of the project, oversees project goals and targets, organises project meetings.
- **Event Coordinator/s:** Key contact person on the day (especially for guest speakers). Responsible for organising resources and managing tasks and responsibilities on the day.
- **Significant Patrol Captain:** Manages the patrol team for the day; ensures patrol and training requirements are met.
- **Communications Coordinator:** Responsible for communicating with club and committee members, sponsorship, and key stakeholders (e.g. council members) and relaying information back to the team.
- **Marketing and Promotions Coordinator:** Responsible for social media promotion of event (before, during and after)

- **Lots of Significant Patrol Support Crew:** It will be helpful to have extra hands on the day for decorating, setting up, serving food or taking photos, so embrace volunteers who show interest in the event and ask them to join your team.

Setting timelines

Once a date has been established for when you wish to host your clubs significant patrol you can then determine your timeframe and start to set timelines. A tip for doing this is to start at the date of your event and work backwards.

We also recommend starting to plan as far in advance as you can and meet up with the group, once every couple of weeks in the immediate lead up to the day if possible. Ensure tasks are delegated and deadlines are agreed upon and that notes are taken at each meeting.

Life Saving Victoria encourages clubs to participate in state-wide significant patrol initiatives on the designated dates, please visit [Club Gateway](#) for this year's dates.



Tips for establishing your timeline:

- List major milestones and key targets only (you will have a separate task list)
- Discuss key targets and deadlines and make sure everyone agrees
- Develop your supporting task list, in parallel with your timeline
- Make sure your event goals can be realistically achieved in your timeframe

Plan

Most significant patrol events will be delivered in peak season, often with competing calendar events and demands. As such, having a detailed and carefully executed plan, is going to be essential in ensuring you have a successful significant patrol. We encourage you to consider/have the following;

- Make sure the person responsible for patrol rosters is informed early of the event and it's marked on the patrol calendar
- Promote the event to the wider membership early
- Have a dedicated significant patrol team/working group
- Comprehensive task list – with tasks assigned to individuals
- Timeframe on when tasks need to be completed
- Establish a budget for the event - refer to budget template
- Running sheet for event day
- Event day task list

Budgets

Consider your budget required to host the significant patrol event for things such as merchandise, decorations, food and beverages or any guest speakers. You may wish to consider starting a fundraiser for the event or speak to the club about possible funding/resources for the event.

Ensure you understand the current patrol requirements of your club, such as rostered hours during the time you wish to host the patrol.



Set Goals

We would recommend establishing goals for your club's significant patrol event. This will ensure your team feels connected to the event, understands the direction and your chosen application for the event and is able to reflect on why it is needed. Make sure your goals are **SMART**.

[Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely].

It will also be easier to measure your significant patrol's success in an evaluation process post event, if your goals are clear from the onset (see goal setting/targets and evaluation template).

Examples of some goals;

- Increase the total number of active female patrollers by 5% from Year 1 to Year 2
- Obtain community sponsorship for the event
- Environmental Impact – set a target of how much rubbish / recycling can be collected
- Partner with a local organisation
- Associate with other larger events
- Obtain local media coverage for the event
- Social Impact – set a target of how people you can connect with over social media

Objectives

Once you have your significant patrol working group, it's time to establish your objectives. You may choose to focus on only a few to begin with, which align to your goals (as above) and that are particularly meaningful to your club.



We would recommend discussing your ideas with a member of your club committee to ensure they fit within the club's long-term vision and strategic objectives.

Targets

Below is a table for your club to populate, which will assist with measuring your significant patrol's success and overall impact.

	Patrol Numbers (Awards)	Activities Undertaken	Media Coverage	Other
Year One				
Year Two				
Year Five				

Recruit Your Patrol and Event Teams

Your working group will consist of both active patrol members and an event team. It's important that everyone is committed to your agreed goals and objectives and feels valued for their time and contribution. The day provides a great opportunity to learn and explore different lifesaving pathways.

Patrol requirements

! **IMPORTANT.** It is critical that your significant patrol is delivered like any other patrol, meeting all the required patrol standards, roles and responsibilities.

For example, if the event takes place on a Saturday, which is recommended as shorter patrol hours allows time for guest speakers, networking and other training to take place; please remember to sign on at the correct time (if applicable, after the lifeguarding service has completed their patrol) and complete a pre-patrol briefing.

It is mandatory that a '**full**' patrol is organised for the day with at least 4 x "core" proficient members. This includes:

- 3 x Bronze Medallion qualified members
- IRB Driver
- IRB Crew (separate to the holder of the IRB Driver Award)
- First Aid*
- Advance Resuscitation Techniques*
- Silver Medallion Beach Management or Silver Medallion Patrol Captain*
- Side by Side Vehicle Operator Certificate*

*The above qualifications may be held collectively by the 3 x Bronze Medallion holder.

- Clubs are encouraged to ensure that an adult member (over 18 years old is part of every patrol)

It is expected that normal radio communication standards are maintained (in tower, on beach and out in power crafts).

See [LSV's Standard Operating Procedures](#) for more detail about patrol requirements.

Patrol Roles

Roles can be allocated prior to the day to ensure everyone is aware of their patrol responsibilities.

Significant Patrol Captain: Responsible for the coordination of all patrol members and incidents whilst on patrol, manage health and safety of team, assess rescue equipment, conducts risk assessment of conditions and follows standard operating procedures.

Patrol members: Patrols beach, responds to incidents and follows instructions of patrol captain. May have an allocated duty on day based on award proficiency (e.g. ARTC, first aid officer, radio operator).

IRB/RWC Drivers: Responds to incidents and coordinates IRB crew. Qualified drivers proficient in their awards operate the IRB/RWC unless members are operating are under direct supervision of qualified personnel for training purposes (e.g. to upskill members in an operational role as part of the event).

See [LSV's Standard Operating Procedures](#) for more detail about patrol requirements.

Event Day roles

The following list is provided as a guide of what some event day roles may look like. These roles will vary based on your club's plans for the event. Remember to use this day as an opportunity to train and upskill members!

Event Coordinator: Key contact person on the day (especially for guest speakers). Responsible for running sheet, distributing resources and managing tasks and responsibilities on the day.

Marketing and Promotion Coordinator: Captures the event, posting photos and content from the day.

Communication Coordinator: Works closely with the marketing and promotional coordinator in developing the key messages for the day and assists in developing the promotional posters. Manages external media attention.

Lead Trainers and Assessors: Proficient in trainer awards and qualifications (e.g. beach management, ARTC, First Aid) and trains members on the day.

Water Safety Supervisor: Manages the water safety team and identifies water safety ratios needed for the day.

Water Safety: Water safety personnel (and rescue equipment) provide supervision and safety for event day participants for different water-based activities. It is highly recommended that an IRB or RWC is used for water safety where safe and possible.

IRB/RWC Captain: Responsible for coordinating the IRB/RWC drivers and crew during training activities on the day (may include practice rescue scenarios).

Sport and Competition Coordinator: Coordinates beach and water events on the day (e.g. beach sprints, relay and flags; surf, wade, board, ski and tube rescue races)

Significant Patrol Volunteers: Utilise volunteers willing to help support the event on the day; this can include decorating, setting up, serving food or taking photos.



Communication

It's important that a high level of communication is maintained to ensure the event runs smoothly, particularly as there are likely to be many different components and stations running concurrently throughout the day (speaker session, training scenarios and beach patrol).

You may wish to allocate responsibility to a communications coordinator who will feed information from different stations (particularly from the patrol captain) back to the project/event coordinator. Ensure that the person responsible for managing communications, is removed from the direct delivery of the patrol.

Similarly, it is important to acknowledge that whilst this is day of celebration, our core responsibility is to ensure the beach is safe and this cannot be compromised. Consider what extra resources might be needed to assist the patrol team and have a plan in place, if activities need to stop to attend to incidents or a rescue.



Marketing, Media and Promotion

As soon as your club's significant patrol date is locked in, start thinking about different ways you can connect people with your event (both club members and members of the community) and the various ways that you can create a buzz around the club and the local community.

If your club has a strong following on social media, we suggest that you use Facebook, Instagram and Tik Toc, as your key communication channels to promote the event. Think about ways to be creative on social media and what will resonate with your membership.

Make sure you inform LSV about your event, so we can provide social media support and send through your significant patrol event pictures to membershipandleadership@lsv.com.au and media@lsv.com.au.

Get the messaging right! It should be a positive initiative for the club, your members and community.

- Promote the positives
- Celebrate
- Acknowledge
- Reduce stigma
- Collaborate - get people on board

Social Media

Please see template and tips/guide for social media promoting the event. Templates have been set up for each of the significant patrols. Please refer to the appendix for templates.

- **Prior;** this may be a call to action for your active members, looking for support and participation or to promote the event.
- **During;** assign someone to social media/photography and capture key activities over the day.

Important; remember if you are on patrol someone must be watching the water, make sure any photo's send the right message!

- **Post;** make sure you do follow up posts
- **Social Media channels;** use as many social media channels as possible, modify the messaging/photos to suit the particular channel. Keep the hashtags and messaging consistent.



- **Hashtags:** make sure you use consistent hashtags across all your social media. **Please remember to tag @lifesavingvic**

We recommend using;

Significant Patrol	Suggested Hashtags
Pink Patrol	#saveliveslikeagirl #bettertogether #weworkasone #celebratefemales #LSVWIL #neveralone
Blue Patrol	#mentalhealthbetweentheflags #lsvbluepatrol
Pride Patrol	<u>#weprideasone</u> <u>#prideinlifesaving</u>
Green Patrol	#bettertogether #goinggreen #sustainability #environment #marine #KeepAustraliaBeautiful



Remember stories are important, highlight the achievements and identify unique and interesting stories.

Tip:: has someone come into lifesaving as a mature age bronze medallion holder, is there a group that came through a school program, has someone come through nippers, has someone achieved a local, state or national achievement, does the patrol have two or three generations from one family?

Key Messaging

Life Saving Victoria's Significant Patrol missions (as outlined above) and your clubs significant patrol objectives will help establish what your key messages for you event are.

Promoting to Club

Your marketing and promotions coordinator should take pride in being the first person to promote the event to the club and the broader membership. It's important that members of your club feel connected to the significant patrol and understand the purpose and importance of the event.

Be creative with your promotional posters, make them fun and appealing to the eye, so people want to read about your event and find out more information. This may also prove to be helpful in recruiting a few extra people to your significant patrol working group.

List your objectives for your significant patrol on the club noticeboard and make sure you have the event listed on all of the clubs communication channels – TeamApp, newsletter and your clubs various social media platforms.

Promoting to Community

Visit local shop owners and community groups and ask if they would be happy to promote your event in their window or on the community/club noticeboard.

Inform them of your event and ask if they would like to attend or be part of the event – extra hands on event day, will always be helpful.

Promoting to Media



Local media outlets are always keen to hear of new and interesting initiatives and a significant patrol ticks a lot of their boxes. For example; the event celebrates gender equality, unites the community, highlights positive female role models, promotes lifesaving and will provide great photo opportunities.

Contact the editor early, to ensure that the event has been recorded and that they have plenty of time to meet their print deadline.

Merchandise

Your event merchandise will be determined by the type and size of your significant patrol event.

You may also want to have specific merchandise made – drink bottles, hats, whistles, pens etc.

Life Saving Victoria has merchandise to purchase for significant patrols via the [LSV online shop](#).

LSV has significant patrol merchandise that can be ordered via the [LSV online shop](#).

Pictures of the merchandise can be found by viewing the online shop and selecting the relevant significant patrol.

Spokespeople

Your significant patrol spokesperson should be someone that's had experience or feels comfortable speaking to the local media, community groups or sponsors about your clubs event. This could be the event communication coordinator, or alternatively, your clubs president or vice president might be best equipped to do this.

Setting timelines

Developing a separate timeline for marketing and promotion, will prove to be beneficial in making sure you hit your communication targets. This will help compliment your project timeline, whilst ensuring key things aren't missed. This should be achieved using the same method we outlined above and remember work backwards from your event date.



Game Day

A significant patrol is an opportunity to demonstrate to members of your club and the wider community that the clubs committed to celebrating and recognising the contribution of your members.

We encourage you to embrace the event, and everything that goes with hosting a significant patrol. This can be achieved through a touch of colour throughout your event. Examples include; plates, cups, whistles, caps, zinc, drink bottles and banners.

Visibility

Your clubs significant patrol should be delivered with the same professionalism as any other patrol. All patrolling members should be easy to identify by community members. As such, all patrolling members, should wear their SLSA approved patrol uniform. You may wish to add a touch of colour relevant to the day through hats, zinc, whistle, swim cap and/or drink bottle.

Remember water safety!

- Activity participants should wear high visibility rash vests and swimming caps for easy identification above the water surface.
- Personal protective equipment including helmets and lifejackets are to be worn at all times when operating power crafts.

Atmosphere

Creating a fun and engaging event that everyone feels connected and part of, should be a major priority when planning your event. Having a lunch, keynote speaker, or come try element associated with the event, will enable people outside of the direct significant patrol team to feel part of the day. It also provides another avenue to promote and discuss the importance of the day and what it symbolises.

Make the significant patrol an event that everyone will embrace and remember.

Equipment

It is expected that the minimum standard equipment is visible on the beach during patrol (including signs, rescue and first aid equipment, operational equipment).

See [LSV's Standard Operating Procedures](#) for more detail about patrol requirements

Some examples of other event equipment to consider including;

- Pull banners and feather flags
- Equipment needed for come try activities/demonstrations
- Presentation/IT equipment – microphone, projector/screen, computer and relevant cables, speakers
- Additional tables and chairs
- Event signage

Pre-Patrol Events

Opening event:

The size of your significant patrol working group will play a key part in determining your capacity to deliver or provide extra services outside of the patrol itself. It might be as simple as having the club president open the event and make a speech prior to the commencement of the patrol and inviting all members to the official opening of the clubs significant patrol.

Regardless of the size or nature of the event, the significant patrol will be unique and special to your club, embrace the connection, discussion and buzz that is created by the event.

Some examples of pre and post activities could include:

- Official opening
- A guest speaker
- Celebratory lunch or high tea
- Presentation from leaders in the club
- Patrol briefing
- Recognition of significant members/special achievements
- Fundraising for applicable charities

During the Patrol

Communication is going to be vital in ensuring that the significant patrol is delivered successfully, and that safety always remains a key priority.

As such, it's important that your significant patrol team understands the plan for the day and how it's going to be executed. Things you need to consider discussing include; roles and expectations, any other planned activities; such as training, demonstrations or special guest visitors. It's important that everyone is aware of any extra activities in the event of an emergency.

Once your clubs significant patrol has commenced, make sure you stick to your run sheet and consider what other elements you may need to do. Encourage everyone to get involved, share stories; you may want to play some ice breaker games.

Take plenty of photos! What better way to remember the day then getting a few snaps of everyone on patrol wearing their touch of colour.

Whilst a significant patrol is a day of celebrations and promotion, we must remember our core responsibility of patrolling the beach. You must ensure the beach is always being patrolled during your rostered hours.

Post Event

After successfully delivery your clubs significant patrol; it's time to debrief and begin your post event analysis. We encourage you to approach this task, with the same enthusiasm you had to deliver the event; remembering this will only make delivering your next significant patrol more straightforward and hopefully more successful.

Take the time to have conversations with all the key people involved in delivering the event, including both your significant patrol team and working group. This is an opportunity to take note of anything you would like to do different, could improve, introduce next time, what didn't work, took more time than you anticipated, etc. Make sure you also talk to people that attended the event and ask for any feedback (what they observed, what they liked/disliked).

Ensure that you send individual thank you letters to your significant patrol working group, members, volunteers, sponsors; anyone that contributed to your event. You may wish to share some pictures or positive feedback in the letters.

After you have completed the post event analysis, enjoy the celebration and make sure you build on the momentum and buzz that your clubs significant patrol has created. Post pictures on your clubs website, feature an article in the clubs newsletter and connect people with your event using social media. LSV would also love to promote your significant patrol, so please send through photos to membershipandleadership@lsv.com.au.

Get planning for next year!

We understand that delivery this event can be timely. It is expected in the first year, more time will be required to develop resources and ensure you have a strong plan. As a result of your detailed preparation, it should mean less work in the lead up to the event in following years to come. You can build on your foundations from the first year and continue to review your club's goals and apply this to future events.

Training and Inclusion

Significant patrol days presents a fantastic opportunity to discuss with your members, the many possibilities and pathways available in lifesaving, as well as encouraging members to practice and expand their existing skills.

Having a practical element or training session on the day in areas such as first aid, rescues, board paddling, IRBs, patrol scenarios, etc. Use this time to get people involved and give things a go in an encouraging an inclusive environment.

It is important to ensure these events run in parallel with main patrol. The patrol remains the priority.

Remember members overseeing come try and/or training sessions must hold the relevant training qualifications and proficiencies.

If you do not have the capacity to train others, then consider some practical demonstrations from qualified members in your club or ask additional qualified members from other clubs to come along and assist, it could be a great opportunity to get new members involved.

Policies and Standard Operating Procedures

Associated documents for reference;

Organisation	Document number	Document Title	Release Date
LSV	SOP 1.01	Volunteer Patrol Roles and Responsibilities	Nov, 2022
LSV	SOP 1.02	Patrol Captain Duties	Dec, 2020
LSV	SOP 1.03	Patrol Member Duties	Dec, 2020
LSV	SOP 1.04	Patrol Equipment Requirements	Nov, 2022
LSV	SOP 2.01	Inflatable Rescue Boat Operations	Dec, 2020
LSV	SOP 8.02	Patrol Uniforms	Dec, 2020
LSV	SOP 8.03	Water Safety Procedures	Dec, 2020
SLSA	Policy 1.01	Water Safety Policy	June 2023
SLSA	Policy 1.05	Patrol Uniforms Policy	June, 2023
SLSA	Policy 6.05	Member Protection Policy	Aug, 2021
LSV		Full list of LSV SOP's - Club Gateway	

Club Engagement



Get your club behind you!

Take the plan to your committee to get their support assistance and input.

Be mindful of other club event clashes such as carnivals or nippers and if the significant patrol can run alongside this.

Your committee may also be the best people to spread the word in your club regarding the event.

It's also suggested that you make your significant patrol as inclusive as possible by inviting all members, life members, past members and parents.

Be patient, get your messaging right and sell the positives! Listen and acknowledge feedback, this is an opportunity to collaborate and get your influencers on board!

Where to get help

There's lots to consider when preparing to host a significant patrol event. Life Saving Victoria are here to help!

LSV

If you're interested in hosting a significant patrol event, email membership and leadership development team membershipandleadership@lsv.com.au. We're here to help if you need any questions answered about the day!

Clubs

Reach out to neighbouring clubs that have hosted a significant patrol event previously to get helpful tips.

Appendix

1. Logos and Branding Guides

Logo	Branding Guidelines
	Significant patrol badges can be co-branded with the club's logo and applied to communications (emails, letters and guides, merchandise and presentations). We ask you to register your significant patrol via membershipandleadership@lsv.com.au
	
	
	
	The Women in Lifesaving logo can be co-branded with the club logo for club events that are aligned to the LSV Women in Lifesaving Network objective and mission. We ask you to seek approval to use via womeninlifesaving@lsv.com.au
	The LSV logo can be co-branded with the club logo for club events that are aligned to the LSV mission. We ask you to seek approval to use via media@lsv.com.au

2. Checklist

Use the below checklist as a guide to see if you're on the right track when hosting your significant patrol.

Pre-Significant Patrol Day

- ☐ Download the significant patrol guide
- ☐ Form significant patrol working group
- ☐ Gain club approval to host a significant patrol
- ☐ Establish objectives, event plan and timelines, budget and key messages
- ☐ Touch base with LSV and register your significant patrol
membershipandleadership@lsv.com.au
- ☐ Have your first planning meeting with your organising committee
- ☐ Order merchandise via the [LSV online shop](#)
- ☐ Recruit patrol members and event team for pre-event and event day activities
- ☐ Contact local businesses and organisations to see if they will support your patrol
- ☐ Look for local government grants that could be applied for
- ☐ Organise a marketing plan and contact your local paper and media outlets
- ☐ Invite guests to attend your on-day event
- ☐ Invite local businesses, government, sport and emergency service agencies to come to your patrol
- ☐ Plan your significant patrol set up for the game day
- ☐ Distribute flyers
- ☐ Create an 'on day' run sheet with actions and who's responsible

Post Significant Patrol Day

- ☐ Host a post patrol celebration to celebrate the event and community (or pre patrol)
- ☐ Conduct an evaluation and gain committee feedback
- ☐ Start planning for your significant patrol event for next year
- ☐ Send thankyou letters to your volunteers, sponsors and guest speakers

3. Social Media Assets

You can use the social media assets to promote your significant patrols.

If adding photos to the transparent overlay, it's recommended to use these assets in Canva, however they also work in paint by copying and pasting over the photo. When using, please make sure that all logos are not stretched or cropped. If you need assistance, please reach out to membershipandleadership@lsv.com.au.

Click on the links below to access the assets:

- [Pink Patrol](#)
- [Pride Patrol](#)
- [Green Patrol](#)
- [Blue Patrol](#)



4. Social Media Templates

The social media templates can help you with your social media copy to promote your clubs significant patrol.

Click on the links below to access the templates for each of the significant patrols:

- [Pink Patrol](#)
- [Pride Patrol](#)
- [Green Patrol](#)
- [Blue Patrol](#)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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