

The California Lifeguards need your help securing the necessary funding to send a 15 person team Down Under for the 21<sup>st</sup> Wieland Shield Surf Life Saving Competition and Educational Tour.

Plans are underway to return to Victoria, Australia in January 2010 to compete for the 21<sup>st</sup> Wieland Shield, which was last contested in 2008 at Hermosa Beach during the International Surf Festival and won by the Victorian Team.

The Wieland Shield competition consists of two days of surf racing, in which seven men and four women from each state (California and Victoria) compete for the coveted Shield. The traveling team's tour also serves as an educational exchange between the Los Angeles County Lifeguard Association and Life Saving Victoria. The Shield itself is a perpetual trophy named in 1967 in honor of Mr. William A. Wieland a US Consul General to Australia who enthusiastically sponsored and encouraged the competitive and educational exchange. The 2010 competition will be held at Bancoora and Ocean Grove beaches, just west of Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay entrance on January 16 & 17, 2010.

The seven men and four women selected to compete are essentially a California Lifeguard all-star team. The lifeguard-athletes will be competing in swimming, paddleboard, surfski, and various surf rescue relay races versus the Victorian all-star lifesaving team.

The Lifeguards travelling are responsible for their fitness and training, while team management plans the trip and develops relationships with donors and sponsors to help offset the financial obligations of the tour. The 2010 California lifeguard team is seeking your support to help assemble and send the strongest team possible to represent the state of California, and the United States of America. The two-week tour budget includes airfares, rescue equipment, freight, car rentals, hotel accommodations, uniforms, and awards.

The LA County Lifeguard Association Trust Fund is a registered non profit tax exempt organization. State Reg. Tax ID #CT19146, Emp. ID # 95-3095931.

Any and all donations, inquiries, and assistance are greatly appreciated. Product Donations can be sent to: LACOLA Trust Fund, 2010 Wieland Shield, Attn: Mike Murphy, Southern Section Headquarters, 1201 Strand, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. Financial Donations can be sent to: LACOLA Trust Fund, Attn. Dave Story, 524 Garnet St. #b, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

For more information please contact: Jay Butki (310) 849-5955 [aquamoose@aol.com](mailto:aquamoose@aol.com), Mike Murphy (310) 991-1837 [mjmurf999@hotmail.com](mailto:mjmurf999@hotmail.com), Buddy Bohn (310) 270-8957, or Dave Story (310) 619-4291

Thank you for your consideration and support.

### **Brief Wieland Shield History**

When Melbourne, Australia was chosen to host the 1956 summer Olympics, surf life savers decided to hold an invitational lifesaving competition to be known as the Australian Olympic International Surf Championships at Torquay Beach, outside Melbourne, Victoria. The Honorable Judge Adrian Curlewis of Australia appointed Arthur Parkens, an Australian lifesaving instructor, to solicit participation from the United States. California lifeguards and a contingent from the Territory of Hawaii decided to participate. Both teams were trained and awarded, "The Australian Surf Lifesavers Medallion," so as to meet the international competition standards required for the event.

The California lifeguards organized themselves under the banner of the Surf Life Saving Association of America (SLSA), although they were solely from the Los Angeles County and Los Angeles City lifeguard agencies. This was the first American lifeguard association of its kind, even if its name was a bit grand considering its narrow scope.

Team members from the SLSA included Team Captain Rusty Williams of Los Angeles County (LACO), Team Coach Kirby Temple (LACO), Team Manager Herb Barthels, Sr. of Los Angeles City (LA City), Tad Devine (Santa Monica City), Bob Burnside (LACO), Mike Bright (LACO), Greg Noll (LACO), Dave Ballinger (LACO), Chick McIlroy (LACO), Paul McIlroy (LACO), Sheridan Byerly (LACO), and Roger Jensen (LACO). The Hawaiian lifeguard team included Dr. Don Gustufson, Team Manager Harry Shaeffer, Team Coach Tom Shaeffer, Tom Moore, Shaky Felez, Dan Durego, Tim Guard, L. Honka, Peter Balding, and Tom Zahn.

The event was held on November 26, 1956 and drew an immense crowd of 115,000 spectators. The legendary "Duke" Paoa Kahanamoku of Hawaii served as the honorary event Chairman. In addition to the American and Australian teams, lifeguard teams from South Africa, Great Britain, Ceylon, and New Zealand participated. As for the Americans, the Hawaiian Territory placed first in the Beach Relay. Tad Devine of California placed second in the swim. Bob Burnside of California placed third in the belt race. Perhaps more importantly than the competition itself, lifelong relationships were built around this historic event and both countries were to benefit tremendously. The American rescue tube and rescue buoy were first introduced to Australia on this tour, later to become staples of Australian lifesaving gear as they were in the US. Tom Zahn, Tom Moore, and Bob Burnside brought Malibu Balsa Surfboards with them, the first total Australian exposure to the Malibu Surfboard. When they departed Australia, the boards were left behind, which revolutionized the sport of surfing in Australia.

Los Angeles County Lifeguards hosted the first Australian SLSA team to tour the USA in 1965 and presented the team before the LA County Board of Supervisors.

In 1967 LA Lifeguards were invited to an educational and competition tour of Australia and New Zealand. The tour included a return to Melbourne from Feb. 21 to 28, 1967 and competitions were staged at Portsea and Ocean Grove. The Australian responsible for hosting the Americans was George Nutbeam. The manager of the USA team was LA County Lifeguard and Surf Lifesaving Association of America President Bob Burnside.

As a result of the 1967 tour, George Nutbeam established a biannual exchange where one country would tour the other every two years. A perpetual trophy sponsored and named for Mr. William A. Wieland, the US Consul General to Australia would commemorate the biannual competition.

The Wieland Shield represents a long-standing relationship between the Los Angeles County Lifeguard Association (LACOLA) and Surf Life Saving Association Victoria (LSV). The 43 year exchange of ocean lifesaving knowledge, skills, and techniques has continued unbroken for the past five decades. The educational exchange has fostered many new and improved ocean rescue techniques, and equipment. Beach management and funding have also benefited. The ongoing relationship developed between the states of Victoria, Australia and California, USA continues to serve the public these Lifeguards so heroically protect. When hosted in Los Angeles, the Wieland Shield is held in conjunction with the International Surf Festival held in the South Bay Beach Cities. The Life Saving Victoria team has plans to tour Southern California in August 2012.

**2010 21st Wieland Shield educational tour and competition team**

Manager: Jay Butki - Rescue Boat Captain, LACoFD Lifeguard Division.

Coach: Scott Diederich - Lieutenant, Laguna Beach Marine Safety

Educational Officer: Rich Hidalgo - Sergeant, Imperial Beach Lifeguard Service

Jamie Orr- Ocean Lifeguard Specialist- LACoFD Lifeguard Division-Central

Women

1. Micha Burden - Swim-Seasonal Lifeguard-Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division
2. Maggie Hogan - Ironwoman-Seasonal Lifeguard-San Diego Lifeguard Service
3. Renee Locarnini -Ironwoman- Ocean Lifeguard, LACoFD Lifeguard Division-So. Bay
4. Alison Riddle -Swim/Board- Ocean Lifeguard, LACoFD Lifeguard Division-So. Bay

Men

1. Micah Carlson -Ironman- Ocean Lifeguard, LACoFD Lifeguard Division-So. Bay
2. Pat Cary -Swim- Ocean Lifeguard, San Clemente City & LACoFD Lifeguard Division-Central
3. Chad Carvin -Swim/Board- Ocean Lifeguard, LACoFD Lifeguard Division-Central
4. Danny Ching -Surfski- Ocean Lifeguard, LACoFD Lifeguard Division-So. Bay
5. Mike Murphy -Ironman- Ocean Lifeguard, LACoFD Lifeguard Division-So. Bay
6. Shane Scoggins -Paddleboard-Ocean Lifeguard, LACoFD Lifeguard Division-Zuma
7. Kicker Vencill -Swim-Ocean Lifeguard, LACoFD Lifeguard Division-Central

**Photo: Original California Team, Melbourne, Australia, 1956**



**Photo: 1st Wieland Shield California Team, Melbourne, Australia, 1967**



**Photo: 19<sup>th</sup> Wieland Shield California Team, Torquay, Australia, Jan 2007**

