



COMMONWEALTH  
DROWNING  
PREVENTION

# Annual Report and Accounts 2021

Registered Charity (Charity Commission for England and Wales,  
Charity Number 306094)

Accredited Commonwealth Organisation

Incorporated by Royal Charter

Registered with the Fundraising Regulator

# Drowning

The process of experiencing respiratory impairment from immersion/submersion in liquid

**The World Health Organization estimates that there are 235,000 global drowning deaths per year**



**Which equates to  
650 deaths a day**



**Which equates to  
26 deaths an hour**

**Over the last decade  
2.5 million people lost their lives through  
drowning**



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## COMMONWEALTH DROWNING PREVENTION

In preparing this annual report it surprised me how much we, as a Society, were able to achieve given that we were in the middle of global pandemic in 2021. Although there were still delays on delivering face to face training, we adapted several of our activities to ensure they could go ahead, albeit some of it virtually.

Details of the activities we undertook in 2021 are included later in this Annual Report but member engagement has remained one of key priorities for our Headquarters function, ensuring our members are kept up to date and supported on local, regional and international matters.

One of our projects for 2021 was to mark the anniversary of the Mountbatten Medal by producing a commemorative book. This project was a bigger task than any of us envisaged but it is extremely satisfying to know that we now have an excellent reference document for our archive. Although we must always look forward as an organisation, it is also wonderful to unearth pieces of history. Speaking with the five recipients on their recollections of the award was a real bonus and gaining an understanding on how the award impacted on them. We were delighted to be able to share a copy of this book with the Mountbatten family and received their thanks and appreciation that we continue to award this medal.

It makes me immensely proud to see the amount of work we have been able to undertake during the pandemic and this could not have been achieved without the dedication of our volunteers. There are too many to mention personally so I send my sincere thanks to those of you who have helped the Headquarters function over the last year.

Looking ahead to 2022, there will still be challenges as we emerge from the pandemic but believe we are in a good position to be able to advocate and deliver our drowning prevention activities.

**Clive Holland**  
**Deputy Commonwealth President**

# Charity Information and Overview

Registered Name:	The Royal Life Saving Society
Working Names:	RLSS, RLSS Commonwealth, Commonwealth Drowning Prevention, Commonwealth Lifesaving
Registered Charity:	Charity Commission England and Wales, Charity Number 306094
Accredited Commonwealth Organisation	
Registered with the Fundraising Regulator	
Registered Address:	Red Hill House, 227 London Road, Worcester, WR5 2JG, United Kingdom
Patron:	HM Queen Elizabeth II
Commonwealth President:	HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO
Deputy Commonwealth President:	Clive Holland
Treasurer:	Clive Patrickson PhD
Portfolio Directors:	Norman Farmer AM ESM <i>Executive Director</i> Anne-Maree Gardiner AM <i>Director of Lifesaving Sport Development</i> Dr Amiur Rahman DCM PhD <i>Director for Drowning Prevention</i> Dr Shayne Baker OAM DProf <i>Director of Organisational Development</i> Becky Lehman <i>Director of Lifeguard Programmes</i>
Operations Manager:	Emma Harrison
Operations Assistant:	Jo Hepburn
Society Bankers:	Lloyds Bank, PO Box 1000, BX1 1LT
Independent Financial Examiner:	Richard Oddy FCA
Honorary Legal Advisor:	Alastair Collett

# RLSS Board of Trustees



Chair  
Clive Holland



Treasurer  
Clive Patrickson PhD

## Elected Trustees

### Asia Pacific



Pene Snashall  
Australia



Lim Chien Ch'eng  
Malaysia



Sanath Wijayarathne  
Sri Lanka

### Europe & Africa



Cavell Burchell  
United Kingdom



Dylan Tommy  
South Africa



Job Kania  
Kenya

### Canada & Caribbean



Robert Clark  
Canada



John MacFarlane  
Jamaica



John Bruce  
St Lucia

## Appointed Trustees



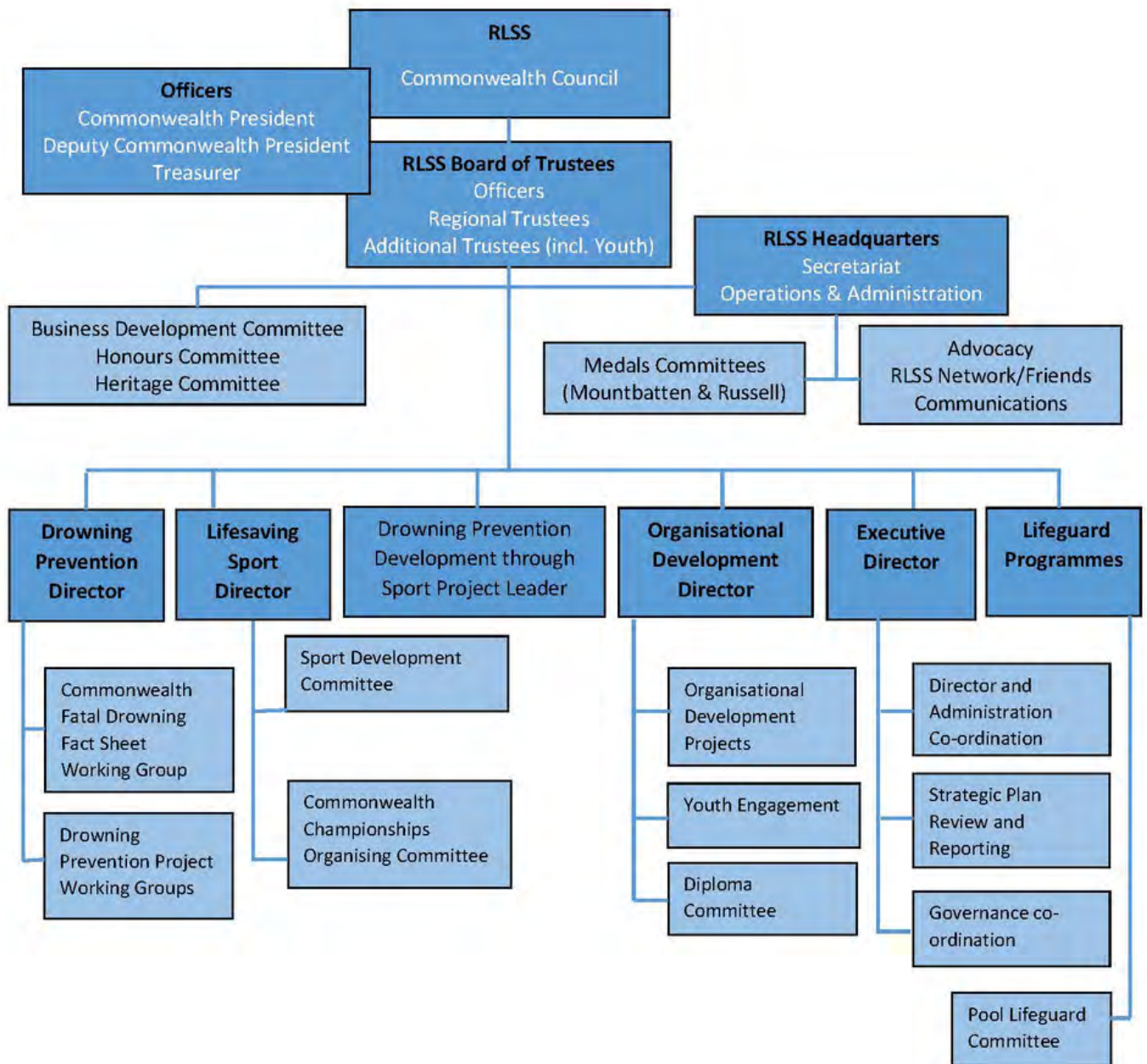
Dr Stephen Beerman  
Canada



Motlatsi Mokala  
Lesotho

Trustees are appointed or elected in accordance with our Regulations to be representative of the range of our network. All Trustees have participated in an induction programme to acquaint them with the responsibilities of trustees and update them on current aspects of our work

# Governance



# Our Members





# Our Charitable Purpose

The Royal Life Saving Society provides public benefit as a charity through reducing drownings and the impact of drownings in the community across the Commonwealth.

Our Trustees have complied with their duty in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 to follow the Charity Commission's guidance on the operations of this public benefit

## Our Mission

Commonwealth Drowning Prevention

## Our Vision

No person in the Commonwealth should drown

## Our Motto

**Whomsoever you see in distress, recognise in them a fellow human being**  
*Quemcunque Miserum Videris Hominem Scias*

## Our Scope

### "Drowning Prevention"

All activities that contribute to the saving of life in, on and near water

### "Commonwealth"

All nations that are recognised at any given time by the Commonwealth Secretariat including overseas territories, protectorates and dependencies that are recognised at any given time by the Commonwealth Games Federation



## Our Values

### Family

We are a Family with common heritage and values that works to achieve our mission through a common drowning prevention bond



### Working Together

The Society is 'Our' organisation, and our strength comes from sharing and working together

### Mutual Respect

We will embark on our tasks with honesty and mutual respect for the skills, knowledge and experience that we all bring



### Learning

We will foster a commitment to curiosity and continual learning to help us in achieving our tasks

### Inclusion

We will include and embrace organisations and personnel throughout the Commonwealth in achieving our missions



## RLSS Positioning Statement

RLSS will facilitate drowning prevention, lifesaving and lifesaving sport activity under the brand of The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS). The RLSS will also foster and facilitate exchanges and sharing between RLSS Members and Companion Organisations

# Strategic Priorities 2020-2023

## Active Membership

### *Member Relations*

We will coordinate information and data on the activities of all member organisations  
We will facilitate the building of capacity in those member organisations seeking assistance  
We will facilitate engagement with youth from all RLSS member organisations

### *Drowning Prevention Development through Sport*

We will implement a lifesaving “sport for all” programme which facilitates broad participation for all Commonwealth nations. This will be a pathway towards Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships participation.

### *Virtual International Lifesaving Sport for Development*

We will implement a sustainable lifesaving sport opportunity that focuses on inter-organisational level pool competitions held locally and with international comparability of results.

## Pool Lifeguarding

We will implement a Commonwealth wide qualification reciprocity program for pool lifeguards in enrolled Commonwealth countries. This program will provide a membership program of benefits for lifeguards that comes as standard with pool lifeguard qualifications

## Advocacy, Partnerships & Collaboration

### *Drowning Prevention Advocacy*

With a clear consistent message, we will position drowning prevention to a range of decision makers throughout the Commonwealth, including the Commonwealth Secretariat, governments and international organisations.

### *Drowning Data, Information and Evidence*

We will understand drowning burden in the Commonwealth as the foundation for our advocacy and capacity building actions.

## Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships

We will organize Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships biennially that enables inclusiveness and engagement.

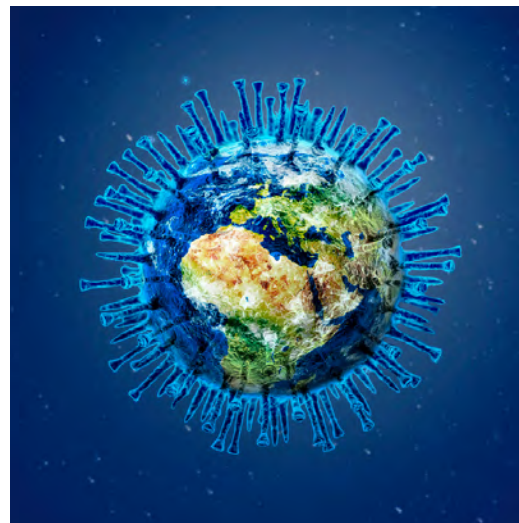
# Our Achievements 2021

## Impact of COVID-19 on the RLSS and its Member Organisations

As we entered the second year of the pandemic, the work of the Society and our Member Organisations remained impacted. For the early part of 2021, our staff worked from home in accordance with UK Government Directives and enabled our administration operations to be disrupted as little as possible. We continued to closely monitor the financial impact on the Society and our Member Organisations and offered a reduced membership fee for 2021 for those whose finances had been impacted by the pandemic.

It was still difficult to deliver project work, although one project in Malaysia did take place (details of which are below), albeit in a very different format that originally envisaged.

Given that some countries during 2021 lifted restrictions, some of our members continue to deliver online content for their courses and will continue this practice going forward on the elements that can be delivered easily online.



### Teacher of Survival Swimming and Water Safety training in Malaysia



Between 21 and 25 November 2021 a Teacher of Survival Swimming and Water Safety blended learning training programme was delivered to 37 teachers from across 16 States and Territories in Malaysia. This was a valuable partnership between RLSS, Life Saving Society Malaysia (LSSM), Malaysia Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Water Activities Safety Council of Malaysia (MKAA) and supported by Speedo International.

The five day programme included theory and practice in all aspects of teaching survival swimming and water safety delivered in person and also online and remotely from Australia

With ongoing support of the Ministry of Education and the Life Saving Society Malaysia the number of trained teachers delivering survival swimming to students will increase each year and contribute to drowning prevention and reduction across Malaysia.

### 48 hour CPR Challenge

The first RLSS Commonwealth 48 hr CPR Challenge took place on 29th September to mark World Heart Day. Twelve member organisations took part in the Challenge over the two days in a relay style event. Each member organisation taking part organised CPR activities during their allotted times over the two days. The activity was promoted on social media channels and was seen as an awareness raising project rather than fund generating. This will become an annual event and plans for the 2022 CPR Challenge are being made.





## UN Resolution on Global Drowning Prevention and World Drowning Prevention Day (WDPD)

At the 75th session of the United National General Assembly on Wednesday 28 April 2021, the Draft UN Resolution on Global Drowning Prevention (A/75/L.76) was approved.

It invites countries to take voluntary action on drowning prevention appropriate to national contexts (in line with World Health Organisation recommendations), and encourages collaboration amongst key UN Agencies, to advance awareness and actions to reduce drowning.

This first-ever UN Resolution on Global Drowning Prevention was proposed by the Governments of Bangladesh and Ireland. More than 50 nations (represented by the Government Missions to the UN in New York) participated in the negotiations of this document, including from nations where there an RLSS member.

### The Resolution:

- Recognises drowning has been the cause of over 2.5 million preventable deaths in the past decade but has been largely unrecognised relative to its impact.
- Recognises drowning is inequitable, with over 90 per cent of deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries, with Asia carrying the highest burden of drowning deaths by number.
- Notes drowning disproportionately affects children and young people, especially in rural areas, with many countries reporting drowning as the leading cause of childhood mortality.
- Clarifies the official global estimate of 235,000 deaths per annum (WHO Global Health Estimates, 2020) and excludes drownings attributable to flood-related climatic events and water transport incidents, resulting in the underrepresentation of drowning deaths by up to 50 per cent in some countries
- Sets out a range of voluntary actions countries can take on drowning prevention, relevant to their national context and inline with WHO recommendations
- Establishes a UN day on international drowning prevention, to be observed annually on 25th July.

The RLSS is well-placed to support international cooperation by sharing lessons learned, and best practices, within and among regions. RLSS already contributed to such work through collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO), International Life Saving Federation (ILS), via drowning prevention and resuscitation projects in many Commonwealth countries

The lifesaving community owes thanks to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) for their highly skilled and effective leadership to bring this UN Resolution on Global Drowning Prevention to reality.

Sunday 25th July 2021 saw the first World Drowning Prevention Day. World Drowning Prevention Day serves two purposes. It acknowledges and commemorates the thousands of lives lost to the water every year; and accelerates and celebrates life-saving solutions that we can all take to prevent drowning locally, nationally, regionally and globally.

The Royal Life Saving Society ran a social media campaign on the run up to and during the first World Drowning Prevention Day. Communications were also sent to all Commonwealth organisations and High Commissions in London as an advocacy piece and we were delighted that the Commonwealth Hub of the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office acknowledged the day by retweeting posts from the World Health Organisation.



Anyone can drown,  
no one should.



## Pool Lifeguard Project

In 2020 we commenced the work to see if we could offer a Commonwealth Pool Lifeguard reciprocity programme. This programme seeks to assist lifeguards to move from being a qualified lifeguard in their current country to being eligible for employment in a chosen destination country by removing or minimising barrier to gaining the necessary qualifications for employment.

The initial stages that commenced in late 2020 and continued into 2021, involving four of our larger branches, Australia, Canada, South Africa and the UK. The project was completed in a series of steps and included in-depth comparisons of curriculums of each country and documents competency gaps to ensure appropriate resources could be developed.

Some work is still to be completed on the final recommendations and this will be completed in early 2022.

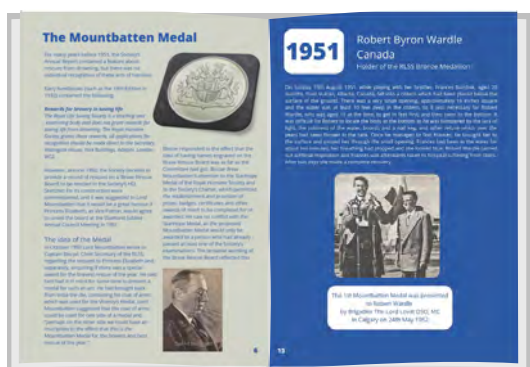


## Mountbatten Medal

2021 marked the 70th Anniversary of the Mountbatten medal and to mark this occasion the Mountbatten Medal book was published.

The Mountbatten medal is awarded annually for the most gallant rescue or rescue attempt undertaken in the previous year by an individual who has taken RLSS training or holds or has held a lifesaving award delivered by a RLSS Member Organisation.

The book contains information on the History of the Society, details on the involvement of Lord Mountbatten with the RLSS, how the Mountbatten Medal came about, it's criteria, production and awarding details. There are citations, many with pictures, of all recipients since 1951. The final section of the book contains personal reflections of 5 of the recipients of the Mountbatten Medal. It was humbling for those who conducted the interviews to get an understanding on how the awarding the Mountbatten Medal had impacted on the lives of the recipients. The Mountbatten Medal book will become part of the Society's archive and is available for purchase



## King Edward VII Cup Presentation

The Society was honoured to have our Patron, HM The Queen present, virtually, the 2020 King Edward VII Cup to Dr Stephen Beerman from Canada. The virtual call took place on 6th May as was attended by Dr Stephen Beerman, Deputy Commonwealth President, Mr Clive Holland and two previous Russell Medal recipients, Sarah Downes (UK) and Tanner Gorille (South Africa). During the call, Her Majesty recalled her RLSS achievements particularly her Artificial Respiratory Award which she took 80 years ago. The King Edward VII Cup is awarded each two years, in even numbered years, to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to lifesaving.



## Member Relations

We continue to maintain contact with our Member Organisations and have continued with our twice yearly Committee of Presidents meetings. During 2021, we introduced guest speakers for these meetings, Dr Aminur Rahman from our Member Organisation in Bangladesh presented on the Commonwealth Fatal Drowning factsheet and Gemma May, from RNLI presented on the UN Resolution on Drowning Prevention. We also offered several additional benefits to our membership which included the production of a marketing brochure to highlight the members connection to the RLSS and a member presentation that could be used when promoting their activities or any advocacy work.

## Drowning Prevention Development through Sport (aka Lifesaving Sport for All)

The aim of the Drowning Prevention Development through Sport project is to develop and implement a lifesaving "sport for all" programme that introduces lifesaving sport for those who have completed basic swimming and water safety education.

This first year of the project under the leadership of Nathalie Vallieres Martin from Canada included investigation and research into what lifesaving sport programmes were being developed and/or delivered across RLSS member organisations. Towards the end of the year plans were initiated to form a Working Group to consider a draft Programme Guide and to coordinate a number of pilot programmes.





## Other Notable Achievements

We continue our relationship with Speedo International, despite a change in personnel within Speedo. We are developing project plans for the funding already received and hope to roll out projects in Sri Lanka and South Africa during 2022. We continue to promote the Small Grants Programme and in 2021 awarded grants to:

- Royal Lesotho Lifesaving Association for a community lake programme teaching children to float and swim
- Life Saving Society Malaysia - Penang Branch to teach instructors for a community survival swimming and water safety training programme
- Rashtriya Life Saving Society (India) for a Swim to Survive programme delivered in Pune and Nagpure

An Advocacy Steering Group was set up in October 2022 and in December the RLSS Advocacy Plan was approved by the Board of Trustees. The aims of the RLSS Advocacy Plan include to elevate awareness and support by the Commonwealth of Nations leadership for drowning prevention, lifesaving, and youth leadership training through the work of the RLSS and its members, and to strengthen the RLSS contributions within the global drowning prevention effort. The roll out of the Advocacy Plan will commence in 2022

In December, we appointed a volunteer Youth Advocate who will be responsible for working with the RLSS Directors and RLSS Headquarters to support the development and implementation of activity that ensures young people are engaged and involved in the RLSS. This activity is guided by the RLSS Position Statement on Youth Engagement.

We also continued our partnership with the Lifesaving Society of Canada in the design and development of the Commonwealth Virtual Lifesaving Challenge. These are inter-organisation (e.g. club, provincial or national teams) level pool lifesaving competitions held during pre-determined dates at aquatic facilities throughout the year. The performances of competitors are compared with other lifesavers – all without travelling outside their local community. We anticipate launching this in late 2022.

The RLSS Sport Development Committee (SDC) and the Lifesaving Society Canada continued to plan for the 2023 Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships to be held in Windsor, Ontario Canada from 13 to 17 September 2023. The 2023 Championships have been rescheduled from 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The SDC activities included updating the competition rules, developing rules for a dry simulated emergency response competition (SERC), and investigating Commonwealth lifesaving sport records.

The RLSS Diploma recognises significant contributions to our life saving knowledge. It is one of the Society's oldest and most prestigious international awards. The RLSS Diploma is awarded to individuals and teams, who have added to our knowledge in ways that can save lives and prevent drowning.

In 2021 we received 4 Diploma applications on the following subjects:

- Risk Management & Health & Safety Aspects of The Shoreline of Putrajaya (Malaysia) & Recommended Drowning Prevention Initiatives
- Longitudinal Study on the Lifesaving Operations in the New World Harbour Race 2016-2018
- Advancing Community Safety In, On and Around the Water
- 2019/20 Victorian (Australia) Public Pools: State of the Sector Report

The Society has a wide range of Honours to recognise the significant contribution of volunteers. In 2021 we commenced a review of our current handbook and this will be completed by March 2022 and approval from the Board of Trustees will be sought.

Higher Society Honours awarded in 2021:

*Honorary Life Member*

Geh Thuan Tek (Malaysia)

*Honorary Life Governor*

Joseph Debono (Malta)

Paul Ellul Bonici (Malta)

Janet Wilson (UK)

*Commonwealth Vice President*

Carol Devaux (St Lucia)

Colin Macdonald (Lesotho)



## RLSS Awards and Medals

The Mountbatten Medal is awarded annually for the most gallant rescue or attempted rescue undertaken in the previous calendar year. In 2019 the recipient was Conor Power from Ireland

On 11th November 2020, 17-year-old Conor Power was at the Northern end of Greystones South Beach, County Wicklow, Ireland, to train for the practical element of his Physical Education Leaving Certificate exam. A quick inspection showed that conditions were too severe (gusty winds, strong current to the north and large waves breaking on to the shore) and the training session was cancelled. A little later, around 3pm, Conor, who holds several RLSS Awards including Survive and Save Bronze (Open Water) was on his way home with a colleague when he became aware of a lady being moved towards the rocks by the sea. A bystander told him she had not been making progress for more than 15 min. She was being carried toward the rocks by the sea.

Conor asked the bystander to contact the emergency services. In the meantime, he got a ring buoy and gave it, with instruction in its use, to his colleague should Conor have to enter the water. Conor then ran some 200 metres to get another ring buoy for use in a rescue, if needed.

As the casualty's situation was not improving Conor decided it necessary to attempt a rescue, so he stripped to his underwear and taking the ring buoy swam the approximate 200 metres distance to the lady. He gave her the buoy and retaining the rope attempted to tow her clear of the dangerous rocks. After much effort he got her clear of the immediate danger of the rocks but the effort, cold water, the wind, and waves effected his strength, and left him exposed to excessive risk. He instructed the lady to not to let go of the ring buoy under any circumstance, that help was on its way. He returned to shore, where initially he was placed in a Garda car and subsequently in an ambulance to warm up and oxygen was administered as his oxygen levels were low due to the effort. Subsequently he was brought to St Vincent's Hospital A&E where he was observed for around 3 hours prior to release.

The casualty was recovered from the sea by Rescue 116, the local Search and Rescue helicopter (SAR), and was, also, evacuated to hospital where she is understood to have made a full recovery.



A Mountbatten Medal Letter of Commendation was also awarded to Andrew Hand-Davis from the UK for rescuing a young girl from the sea near Southampton in June 2020.



Unfortunately, there were no nominations for the Russel Medal in 2020 which is awarded for the most outstanding resuscitation or attempted resuscitation performed by a person under 18 years of age.

# RLSS Headquarters, Governance and Administration

We have continued to develop our internal processes and policies and continually monitor our risk management.

During 2021 the RLSS continued to improve its governance and systems by reviewing and updating our Regulations, reviewing quarterly the Risk Register and a range of policies that has included:

- RLSS012 Voting Outside of a Committee Policy
- RLSS017 Development Assistance Principles Policy
- RLSS019 Financial Procedures Policy
- RLSS003 Ethical Fundraising Policy
- RLSS007 Grievance Policy
- RLSS016 Volunteer Management Policy
- RLSS004 Sport for Development Policy
- RLSS008 Safeguarding
- RLSS009 Anti Harassment
- RLSS023 Code of Ethics

The Board of Trustees also approved the adoption of two new Policies relating to Intellectual Property (IP)

- RLSS024 Recognition and Protection of RLSS Intellectual Property
- RLSS025 Sharing of Intellectual Property Among Approved RLSS Member Branches

Our Board of Trustees have continued to meet quarterly. The term of the current Board will end in May 2022 and we seek nominations for the new Board in early 2022. The Business Development Committee, made up of Chief Executive Officers from our four larger branches have met periodically during 2021 to discuss various matters such as Learning Management System, Advocacy and the Regional Development Fund. Our Membership Committee continued to meet quarterly to review various membership issues and consider new membership applications.

## Collaboration

Drowning is a complex public health problem which goes without recognition or attention in many areas of greatest need. Indeed, it has been called a hidden epidemic. There are more 'at risk' populations in the world needing drowning prevention assistance than there are organisations focused on providing help. The RLSS Commonwealth drowning prevention mission needs collaboration from all national, regional and international organisations and governments to be most effective – cooperating fully for the benefit of people worldwide to reduce the global burden of drowning. Strong partnerships are key to achieving our aim of eliminating drowning in the Commonwealth and have enabled us to support our Member Branches in low resourced settings.

In 2021, key partnerships for RLSS included:

The Commonwealth - the Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent countries that are united by values enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter. Whilst the Commonwealth's roots go back to the days of the British Empire, membership of the Commonwealth today is based on free and equal voluntary co-operation. The Commonwealth Secretariat implements the decisions and plans of Commonwealth leaders.



Our 33 RLSS Member Branches who continue to work at the national and community level to reduce drowning through:

- Researching drowning and aquatic emergencies to inform practice.
- Targeted community-based Drowning Prevention projects.
- Training the community and professionals in lifesaving skills for prevention & emergency response.
- Engaging young people in lifesaving and drowning prevention.
- Using the sport of lifesaving to further develop skills and techniques for rescue.
- Monitoring and risk assessing aquatic environments to guarantee safe participation in safe aquatic environments.
- Several of our Members carry out outreach work in nearby countries which widens the impact of our organisation



The International Life Saving Federation (ILS). Both RLSS and RLSS Member Branches are represented on the ILS Board and on the ILS Commissions and Committees, strengthening opportunities for effective collaboration.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). We continue to collaborate with the RNLI and maintain regular dialogue on matters of mutual interest.



Having signed a two-year agreement in late 2019 with Speedo International, we continue to work closely with them delivering our Small Grants Programme and a larger annual project. COVID-19 has had an impact on the delivery of this work, but we remain in regular communication with the team at Speedo although there has been a change of personnel at Speedo and their parent company Pentland during 2021.

## Acknowledgements

The Society's achievements would not have been possible without the support of and contribution from the following persons who gave of their time and experience.

### Portfolio Directors

- Norman Farmer AM ESM – Executive Director
- Anne-Maree Gardiner AM – Director of Lifesaving Sport Development
- Dr Aminur Rahman DCM PhD – Director for Drowning Prevention
- Dr Shayne Baker OAM DProf – Director of Organisational Development
- Becky Lehman – Director of Lifeguard Programmes

### Committee and Working Group Chairs

- Clive Patrickson PhD – Business Development Committee
- Robert Clark – Heritage Committee
- Colleen Saunders – Diploma Committee
- Christopher Love – Honours Committee
- Dr Stephen Beerman – Advocacy Steering Group

Our Committees and Working Groups are composed of members from Australia, Canada, India, Lesotho, Malaysia, Malta, South Africa, St Lucia and the UK and we are extremely grateful to all the members for their valuable contributions.



# Our Plans for 2022

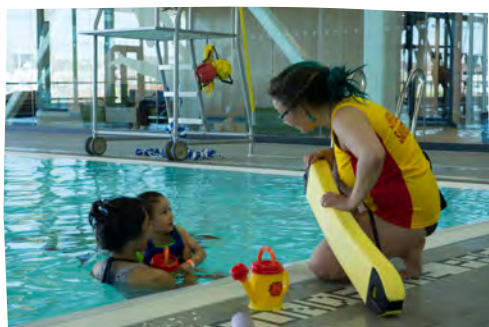
We will have effective and efficient administrative systems that support the Society's operations and activities.

This will be achieved through:

- Operating a Headquarters with good practice business systems and staffing within our means and supported by volunteers and others to ensure the Strategic Action Plan is implemented.
- Having a system of honours, used in all Member organisations, to recognise the valuable contribution by the volunteers.
- Administering and supporting the committees and working groups that the Board considers necessary from time to time including Heritage, Diploma and provision of awards.
- Exploring multiple ways of working together as a family, embracing large, medium and small member organisations.
- Reviewing and implementing a communications strategy that is linked to the advocacy strategy, which identifies new/improved channels that use real time and online technology for internal communications between RLSS member organisations.

Specific plans for 2022 are:

- Deliver Speedo International funded projects in Sri Lanka and South Africa
- Pilot the Drowning Prevention Development through Sport (Lifesaving Sport for All) programme
- Launch the Commonwealth Virtual Lifesaving Challenge
- Carry out the election of the Board of Trustees for the term 2022-2024
- Tribute to our Patron, HM the Queen in Platinum Jubilee year
- Investigate common standards for education and training across the network
- Commence projects that will be funded by our Regional Development Plan





# Financial Summary

## Income

2021 Total Income  
£52,232

2020 Total Income  
£87,094

Down  
by  
£34,862

As with previous years, much of the RLSS's income is member payments from the three largest members branches (Australia, Canada and the UK). Our income was down due partly to us offering members a reduced or zeroed membership fee for 2021. We have also stopped receiving an annual donation from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh which has slightly impacted our income.

We will continue to look at diversifying income streams and funding opportunities.

Our largest branches have made commitments to continue to support the administration of the Society, allowing any raised funds to be spent on programmatic activity.

## Expenditure

Most RLSS expenditure finances the valuable work of RLSS Headquarters (staff and running costs). With the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, our expenditure has been relatively low as much of our activity has been postponed. We did however, fund the Teacher of Survival Swimming and Water Safety project in Malaysia.

2021 Total Expenditure  
£40,973

2020 Total Expenditure  
£32,537

Up by  
£8,436  
from  
2020

## Donors & Funders 2021

The Royal Life Saving Society wishes to thank the following individuals and organisations for their most generous donations, sponsorships and grants during 2021

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
The Lifesaving Society Canada  
Royal Life Saving Society Australia  
Royal Life Saving Society UK

Laerdal Medical  
Clive Holland  
James McClelland BM  
Shayne Baker

## Reserves Policy & Regional Development Fund

RLSS has a Reserves Policy aimed at ensuring the financial sustainability of the Society. As at the end of 2021, we had £70,225 of general reserves

Over recent years RLSS has managed to increase its financial reserves through the continued contributions from major branches, increased contributions from member organisations, grants and sponsorships and good fiscal management. This allowed us to offer reduced membership fees to our members who were struggling financially during the pandemic.

Several member organisations were able to contribute the full membership amount but requested that 50% of their fee was ringfenced for development work. We also had several designated funds that had small amounts of funding in them. The Board of Trustees approved that we should merge these designated funds, the additional membership payments and some of our reserves to create one Regional Development Fund.

The Regional Development Fund is for multi-year term-based projects in each of the three Regions (Africa-Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Canada and the Caribbean) consistent with the RLSS Strategic Action Plan. RLSS will provide financial support for two- or three-year regional development projects, each of which would have a plan with some specific outcomes, run in partnership with major Branches.

## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

### In relation to the following financial statements of the Royal Life Saving Society to year end 31 December 2021

In accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have prepared the following Financial Statements which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year 2021 and of its financial position as at 31 December 2021. In preparing these Financial Statements, best practice has been followed and suitable accounting policies have been consistently applied.

Applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" 2005 have been followed.

The Financial Statements have been independently examined by Richard Oddy FCA after he was given access to all relevant financial documents, general correspondence and Minutes of all Society Committee meetings.

Signed on behalf of the Society Trustees



**Clive Holland**  
**Deputy Commonwealth President**  
June 2022



**Clive Patrickson PhD**  
**Treasurer**  
June 2022



COMMONWEALTH  
DROWNING  
PREVENTION

# Financial Statements

For the year ended  
31st December 2021

# **Report to the trustees of The Royal Life Saving Society and to the Commonwealth Council**

## **On accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2021 as set out on pages 3 and 4.

**Responsibilities and basis of report** As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement** I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Richard Oddy FCA

Date: 07 June 2022



# Royal Life Saving Society

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/01/2021	To	31/12/2021
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Membership	37,002	-	-	37,002	43,726
Sponsorship	12,000	-	-	12,000	12,500
Donations and Legacies	2,310	-	-	2,310	4,044
Resource Income	733	-	-	733	284
Reimbursable expense	-	-	-	-	3,191
Speedo Small Grants	-	-	-	-	3,180
Project Sponsorship Speedo	-	-	-	-	20,000
Dividends/Interest	187	-	-	187	170
<i>Sub total (Income for AR)</i>	52,232	-	-	52,232	87,094
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	52,232	-	-	52,232	87,094
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Charitable Activities	21,895	-	-	21,895	23,344
Commonwealth Development	926	11,605	-	12,531	4,418
Commonwealth Headquarter Costs	3,746	-	-	3,746	4,320
Membership Development	2,367	-	-	2,367	173
Support Services	260	-	-	260	120
Finance Charges	175	-	-	175	161
Speedo small grants	-	-	-	-	1,026
Africa Workshop	-	-	-	-	5,000
<i>Sub total</i>	29,368	11,605	-	40,973	38,563
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	29,368	11,605	-	40,973	38,563
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	22,863	(11,605)	-	11,258	48,532
A5 Transfers between funds	4,588	(4,588)	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	86,158	30,351	-	116,509	67,978
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	113,609	14,158	-	127,768	116,509

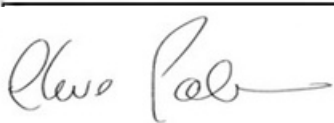

# Royal Life Saving Society

For the period from	01/01/2021	To	31/12/2021
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## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	113,609	14,158	-
	<i>Total cash funds</i>	113,609	14,158	-
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	None	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Quoted investments			
	Royal Life Saving Society Fund	Unrestricted	-	3,937
	Russell Medal Fund	Restricted	-	10,051
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None	Unrestricted		
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Payroll liability	-	-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Clive Patrickson	15th June 2022
	Clive Holland	15th June 2022







**COMMONWEALTH  
DROWNING  
PREVENTION**

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