

**Monday 7 April 2008**

## **There's a science to how the surf works and understanding that could help save your life.**

**The presentations are free to the public and will take place on Friday April 11 at North Entrance Surf Club from 6.30 to 8pm and again on Saturday April 12 at the Terrigal Surf Club from 2.30 to 4pm**

This visually powerful presentation shows you all the things you need to know about how to have a good time at the beach – and that means staying safe.

Dr Rob Brander from the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at The University of New South Wales developed the program and he will travel to Newcastle to share it with local beachgoers.

The Science of the Surf program has been widely acclaimed - winning several awards and featured on various television programs including Catalyst, The 7:30 Report, A Current Affair, Totally Wild and Sunrise.

And as the name suggests there's plenty of science behind the concept with Dr Brander using some interesting techniques to find out more about rips for example which represent one of the major hazards to beach swimmers with approximately 50 rip-related drownings every year in Australia alone.

To learn more about these dangerous currents Dr Brander released harmless dye into the rip at Tamarama in Sydney in 2002 giving a much clearer view of how they work. The SOS presentations are being conducted in the Newcastle region as part of the Marine Discovery Series initiated by the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) with the support of both the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie City councils.

The series of presentations have covered a broad range of topics from the reproductive habits of marine animals to the biology of Port Jackson Sharks. All have featured scientists with extensive knowledge and a shared passion for preserving our marine resources for future generations.

The CMA has initiated this series as part of their overall strategy to improve awareness about our marine environments that, unfortunately, we know so little about.

'Most people don't explore the underwater world like they do other environments so this is our way of helping them do that – even if it is on dry land,' CMA Chairman, Dr WEJ Paradise said.

'These presentations are unique and informative and it is surprising to see the amazing marine life living just off the New South Wales coastline,' he said.

People of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to come along to the Nobby's Beach Surf Lifesaving Club on April 10 at 6.30pm to experience this award-winning presentation. Bookings are not required.

For more information on the Discovery Series please call Joel Tyndall on 0428 117 914.

**ENDS**

**For more information contact:**

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