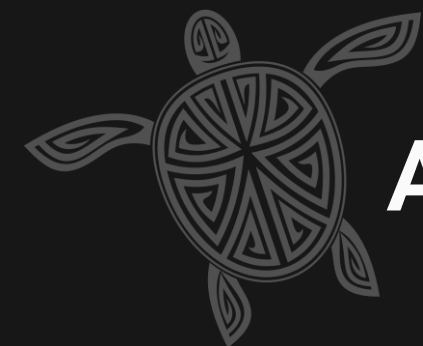




Raising of the Flags



Queensland



As One.

What is Raising of the **Flags**?

Each year we 'Raise the Flags' on our first volunteer patrol of the season; placing the red and yellow in the sand as an iconic symbol of safety, vigilance and service. The significance of this varies between clubs and members.

This season, let us not only recognise the symbolism of the patrolling flags going up, let's extend the recognition and embrace community. We invite clubs to not only raise our iconic red and yellow, but also the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Flags – a powerful demonstration of our commitment to our communities and First Nations recognition and inclusion within the As One Framework adopted by SLSQ; a priority action within our Diversity Equity and Inclusion Strategy and our soon to be developed, Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).



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Why the significance?

Whilst the commencement of the Surf Life Saving Patrol Season has been celebrated previously, a number of clubs and branches wanted to recognise and outwardly acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the beaches and lands on which we deliver our lifesaving services. Clubs are invited to participate in a coming together of members, Traditional Owners and Community Leaders – to recognise the commencement of volunteer patrols and our partnership in beach safety with our Lifeguard Services, and build and strengthen relationships and inclusion with our First Nations communities.

The response from Members, Club Leaders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Leaders and groups, as well as Government, has been overwhelmingly positive and brought us together to reflect on the significance of our place in the community.

Symbolic Gesture: Incorporate the Australian, Aboriginal, and Torres Strait Island flags when the iconic Red and Yellow Flags are raised for the patrol season.

Cultural Acknowledgment: Include a Welcome to Country Ceremony to honour and show respect to the Traditional Owners of the land on which we patrol and deliver our life saving services and recognise the potential in partnerships



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Key activities.

Raising of the Flags:

- Red and yellow patrol flags.
- Australian flag.
- Aboriginal flag.
- Torres Strait Island flag
- Shared Morning Tea

Welcome to Country: Ceremony performed by First Nations elders*

Club Address: Club President and/or Club Captain (or preferred club representative)

Community Engagement: Invite Club Members, First Nations Leaders and peoples, Government representatives, SLSQ Board, Council and Leadership and Community members

Media and Communications:

- Online Information Session conducted – open to clubs
- Invitation Template – Dignitaries and VIPs
- Media – Mainstream and Socials
- Press Release
- Newsletter
- Corflute Signage Template – Recognition of Traditional Ownership for Participating Beaches



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Requirements for Surf Clubs

- Embrace the symbolic gesture by encouraging participation and utilising the provided resources to promote within the club and community.
- Identify VIPS and Dignitaries the club wishes to invite.
- President / Club Captain address
- Members to raise the additional flags
- Hosting of Morning Tea



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Regional Office involvement

Provided Resources – sourced by Regional Offices for each participating club as required:

- Flags (Australian, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Island flags are available from local Federal Members of Parliament offices and/or Federal Senate Representatives)
- Patrol flags existing or new if required.
- Flag Poles – (Timber dowel or broom handles from Bunnings with attachments dependant on flag affixations)
- Corflute signs for A-frame stands (with "Join the Club" and the club/branch's acknowledgment of commitment to reconciliation on the alternate side).
- Evaluation: RO to collect feedback from clubs and communities to measure impact and identify areas for improvement.

Funding for Welcome to Country Ceremonies and flag-raising equipment will be supported by Surf Life Saving Queensland as part of their commitment to Inclusion, Recognition and True Reconciliation



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Media & Communication

Recommend SLSQ Media promotion:

Prior to Date

During Event

Post Event Stories / sharing

Suite of Assets to be provided:

- Invitation Template – Dignitaries and VIPs
- Media – Mainstream and Socials
- Press Release
- Newsletter
- Corflute Signage Template – Recognition of Traditional Ownership for Participating Beaches



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Key Points to help guide **Public Address**



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1.Acknowledgment of Traditional Custodians:

Begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land and waterways where the ceremony is taking place. Recognise their enduring connection to the 13,347km of Queensland's coastline, 1,955 recorded islands and the 1,711 beaches that have been their home for over 65,000 years. You can pay respect to their Elders, past, present and the role they play in preserving the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of these areas. You may wish to extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

2.Shared Values of Respect and Community:

As we embark on our season, highlight the values of Surf Life Saving focusing on safety, trust, respect and community and how these shared values have been upheld by First Nations communities for millennia.

3.Symbolism of the Flags:

Discuss the significance of raising the iconic red and yellow flags, which are a symbol of safety, vigilance, and service on our beaches. Explain the addition of the Australian, Aboriginal, and Torres Strait Island flags as a powerful demonstration of the commitment to community, inclusion, and reconciliation.

4.Commitment to Reconciliation and Inclusion:

You can talk about the importance of building strong relationships with First Nations communities and working together to create safer and more inclusive beach environments that foster a sense of belonging for all Queenslanders.

5.Cultural Recognition and Welcome to Country:

Acknowledge the participation and positive response from members, club leaders, and First Nations Peoples as well as the broader community and how such ceremonies foster a sense of unity and recognition of the rich cultural heritage of the communities we serve. We are proud to stand together.



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This initiative underscores **our commitment to First Nations recognition and inclusion**, enhancing our community engagement and reinforcing **SLSQ's dedication to reconciliation**. We encourage and invite all clubs to actively participate and support this significant step in our journey.



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