



# One day, 11 rescues at Inverloch

RATED one of the safest surf beaches in Victoria, Inverloch's main surf beach nonetheless showed its darker side last Wednesday, December 30 when 11 people needed to be rescued in one day.

Since patrols commenced there on Saturday, November 28, there have only been two other rescues over the summer.

"The combination of a very low tide and a strong current running to the right of the beach produced the problem conditions," captain of the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club, Nick Leman said.

"They started drifting right and got taken further out to sea and couldn't paddle against it."

Mr Leman said nine of the 11 were on boogie boards, the other two were swimmers.

"No one was in any great distress but they were certainly happy to see us."

No one required CPR or medical treatment.

The rescues capped off a busy month for the 150 volunteer surf club patrol members and weekday lifeguards with an additional 21 people requiring first aid attention over that period and eight lost children cared for.

"We've had thousands of people visiting the beach and among the main things we ask is for people to look after their own children.

"Just because they are swimming or playing between the flags doesn't mean they don't need supervision," Mr Leman said.

Other key messages include swimming between the flags, don't swim alone, and if you do find yourself out of your depth, keep calm and raise your hand.

"We will be watching people swimming between the flags who do drift out

and if you raise your hand, we'll be there soon."

## Buy a brick

The Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club is still \$200,000 away from being able to start building its new multi-million dollar clubrooms and calls on visitors and locals to 'buy a brick' for \$50 as part of a major funds drive.

"You can have your name put on the brick and it will be visible in the clubrooms," Captain Leman said.

## Big day

This Saturday, January 9 is one of the biggest days on the Inverloch Surf Beach's calendar with the local surf club hosting a state junior surf carnival, starting at about 8am and running right through until 5pm.

Hundreds of young competitors from east to west will be competing.