

GIRL LIFESAVERS LEAVE THE SURF HULKS RED-FACED

Julie and Yvette to the rescue

Rescuing strapping, embarrassed men is only part of the job for Brisbane girls Julie Skinner, 14, and Yvette Barry, 17, who are members of one of Queensland's finest lifesaving clubs.



Pretty JULIE SKINNER has a rosy smile for surfers as she takes her turn at patrol duty.

Julie, of Rosalie, and Yvette, of The Gap, are the only girls in the 12-member Ithaca, Bulcock Lifesaving Club at Caloundra.

Julie joined because she wanted to help people and had always been found lifesaving interesting, having trained in pools.

And she was also talked into joining by her brother Stephen, the club captain.

Yvette came from England two and half years ago and wished to continue the lifesaving she had done there. Two months later she joined the club.

Ribbing

Both girls stress that the club is only small but Julie is quick to point out it has its uses.

The Metropolitan Caloundra Club, around the corner from us, is much bigger and members often rib us because of our size," she said.

"We got our own back the day they called us asking to be rescued because the engines on their boat had broken down."

By
**ADRIENNE
BROWN**

Julie said that many of the men she had saved became embarrassed, particularly because a girl had performed the rescue.

Late last year Julie saved a windsurfer who had been dragged out past the bar.

He was a novice but had gone out with an experienced friend.

"When we tried to rescue him he wouldn't let go of the windsurfer because it had cost him so much," Julie said.

"We had to wait until his friend sailed back in. Then we took him back out and he sailed the second board back in."

"Coming back the boat ran out of petrol and the man we had rescued tried to jump out of the boat."

Yvette said that she didn't know why more women weren't lifesavers.

"I think one of the reasons could be that they imagine the lifesaver to be a tall, broadened Aussie, but that's really not true," she said.



JULIE SKINNER paddles back to the beach after voluntary board practice