

THE WESTSIDE NEWS

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Nicola to the rescue

Nicola Cox of The Gap is the Ithaca Royal Lifesaving Club captain.

Bulcock Beach, like so many other beaches in and around Caloundra, is a popular spot. Again like other beaches, those using Bulcock Beach have the added assurance of it being patrolled by lifesavers.

Unlike other beaches, Bulcock is defined as a still water beach, as distinct from a surf beach which brings it under control of a lifesaving group which differs slightly from the surf lifesaving organisation.

Ithaca Royal Lifesaving Club is responsible for the safety of bathers and users of Bulcock Beach have a long and proud history. The Brisbane-based club has existed 33 years and has been actively associated with Bulcock Beach for 25 years.

Originally the safety patrols were all female who operated until about 1966. Until 1971 men and women patrolled in consecutive weeks. Since 1971, the patrols have been conducted by male and female club members.

While the membership is made

up mostly of Brisbane people there are some Caloundra members.

Bulcock Beach is classified as still water, however it is not without its dangers.

"There are excessively bad currents at the beach at times and this keeps us busy," Nicola said.

The club patrols the beach every weekend from November until Easter. While different from the surf lifesaving association Royal Lifesavers retain a harmonious relationship which began back in 1891.

All lifesaving was under the "Royal" banner until 1924 when the surf beaches were given separate patrols. The Royal lifesavers are responsible for seven stillwater beaches in Queensland, lakes and swimming pools.

The association is the largest teaching body in the world for lifesaving, water safety and resuscitation techniques.

Any person interested can contact Nicola on 30 1907 or write to her at 31 Woodside Street, The Gap.