

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Surf patrols to continue

Surf patrols will operate as usual at Middleton Beach this summer despite a busy construction project at the Albany Surf Life Saving Club.

A \$1.3 million upgrade of the club's facilities, including a new second storey training and IT room, is now under way with the help of \$987,800 in Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC).

Club president Rob Lucas said the building program will continue through the summer and until June 2013 but the usual summer surf patrols will begin in December and the club was continuing its training programs.

"Observation posts for beach patrols will be set up at the lookout next to the clubhouse and at the boardwalk," Mr Lucas said.

"The existing function room at the end of the building nearest the lookout is being demolished and will be rebuilt to two storeys to provide the new training room along with expanded changerooms and ablutions.

"Our membership is growing despite the disruption due to the building program, so gaining expanded facilities is certainly going to be beneficial to the club and the community," Mr Lucas said.

GSDC Board Chairman Peter Rundle said the surf club volunteers provided a valuable service.

"Middleton Beach attracts Albany residents, visitors from elsewhere in the Great Southern and tourists from all over, and they all enjoy greater safety because of the Albany Surf Life Saving Club," Mr Rundle said.

"Providing better facilities for the club, particularly for its training programs, is a worthwhile contribution to social infrastructure for the region."

Mr Lucas said the State Government had provided the club with a new all-terrain vehicle and inflatable rescue boat to boost the effectiveness of the summer patrols.

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