



Star of Peace

St. Patrick's Marist College School Newsletter

August 17th, 2020

STUDENTS BE AWARE: What we all need to know about water and road safety!

"Dangers in the Water and on the Road"

The water and road can be a very dangerous place. Many factors can come into play when it comes to making the water and road an unsafe place. Many people aren't educated enough about the dangers and risks of the water and road.

ROAD SAFETY:

Did you know that there were a total of 78 deaths on the road in June 2020? The current figure is 16.7% lower than the average for June over the 5 previous years. Comparing April, May and June 2020 with the average over the previous 5 years, deaths in people ages between 26 and 64-year-olds decreased by -1%. In younger ages, 0-25 years old, deaths decreased by 28%. In the age group 65 and older, deaths decreased by 45%. This is good news, but we can do better by following all the road rules and laws put in place to prevent fatality.

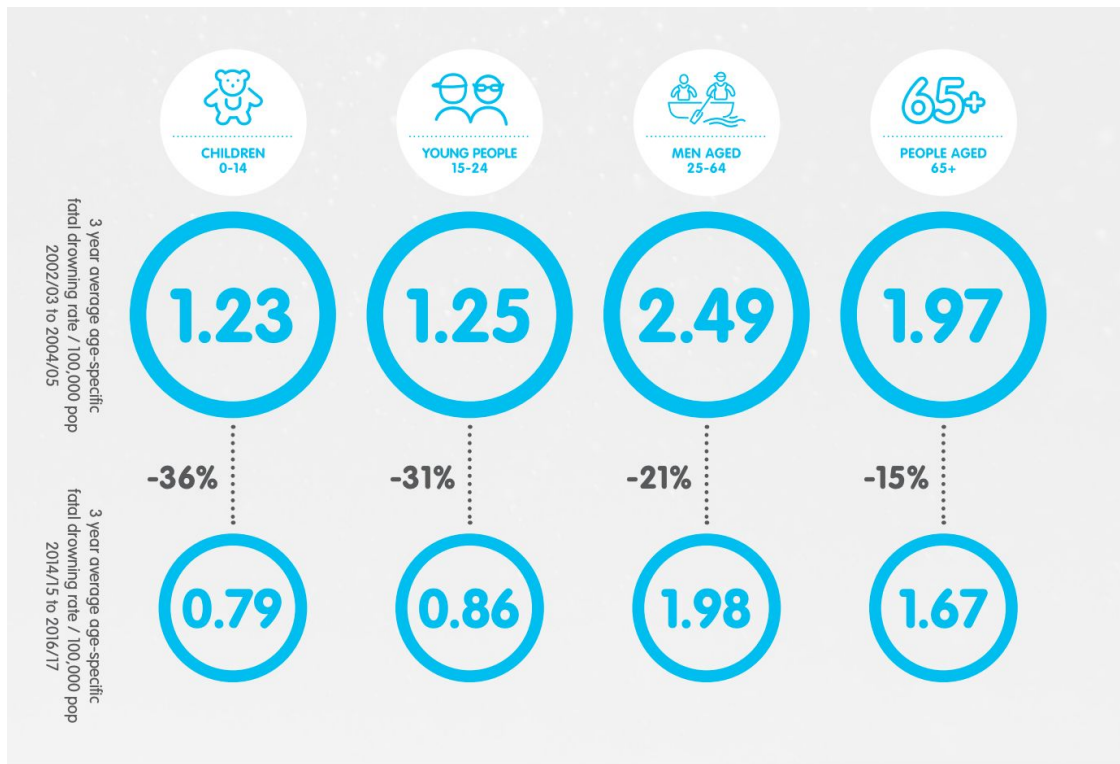
The same comparison of deaths by road user type shows the greatest reduction occurred in passenger deaths, which decreased by -27%. Driver deaths decreased by -23%, and pedestrian deaths decreased by -20%. On the other hand, deaths of motorcyclists increased by +2% and deaths of pedal cyclists increased by +83%.

What Can We Do?

We can follow all the road rules, and drive responsibly. Pay attention to road signs, and obey by road rules. Drive at the speed limit, not above or below it. Do not use your mobile phone while driving as this is a distraction, even if you just look at it for a few seconds. Don't drive if you are drunk or under the influence of drugs. Even being sleepy can affect your driving.

WATER SAFETY:

Sadly in 2017, 291 people drowned. 74% of people that drowned were males, and 26% were females. The graph below shows drowning deaths by population:



Where/How do They Occur?

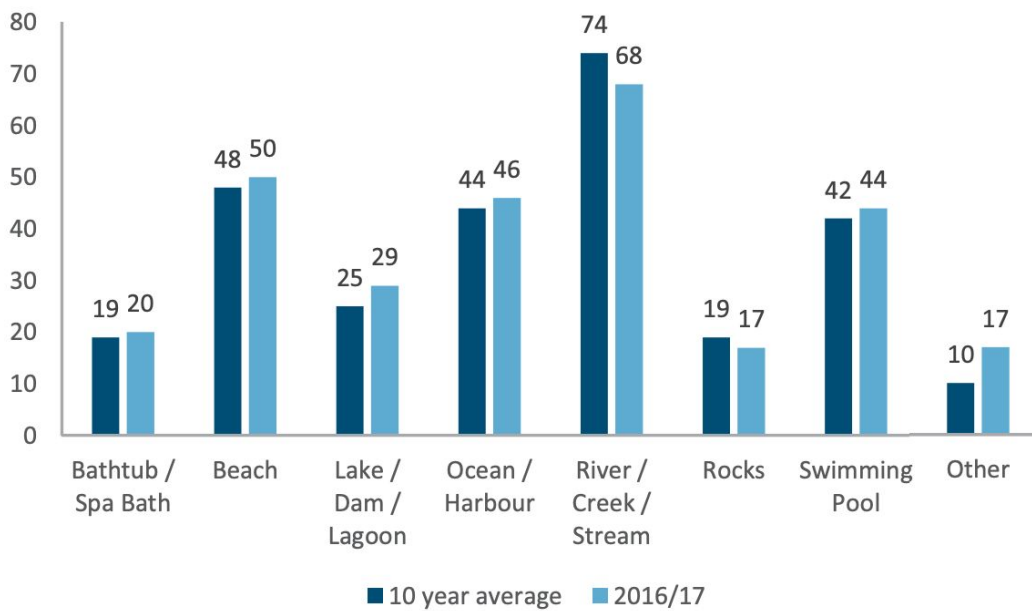
The top 3 locations where people drown are:

River/creek/stream: 23%

Beaches: 17%

Ocean/harbour: 16%

Drowning deaths in rivers, creeks and streams have decreased by 8% against the 10 year average



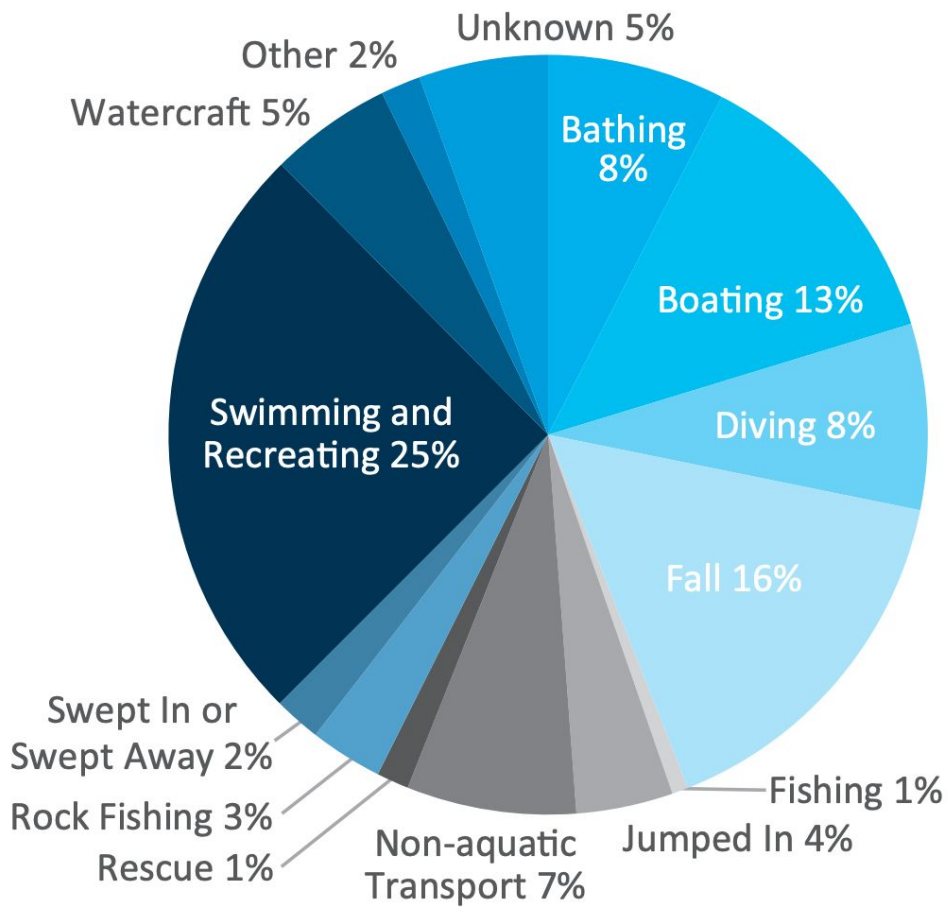
The top 3 activities where drownings occurred were:

25%: Swimming/recreational activities

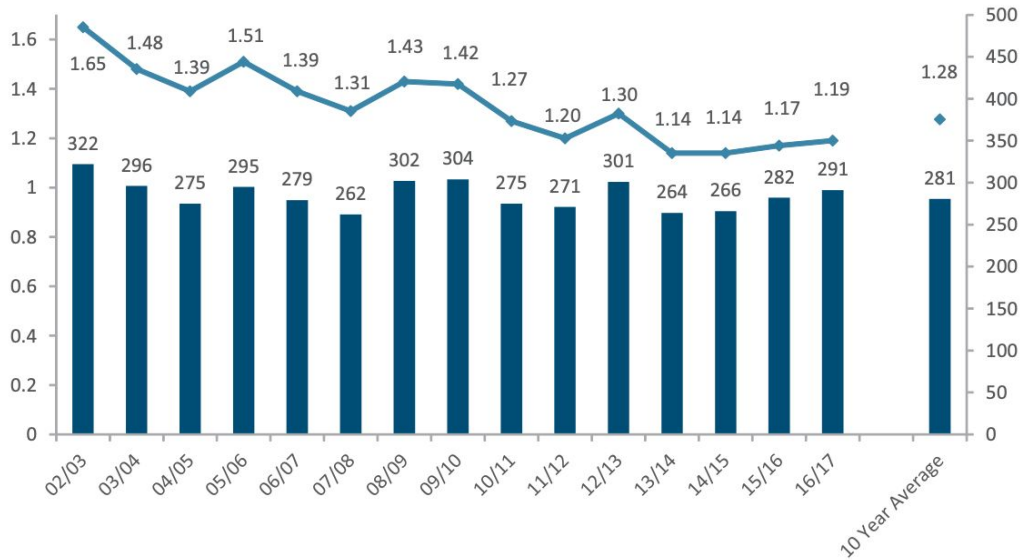
16% Fallen into the water

13%: Boating

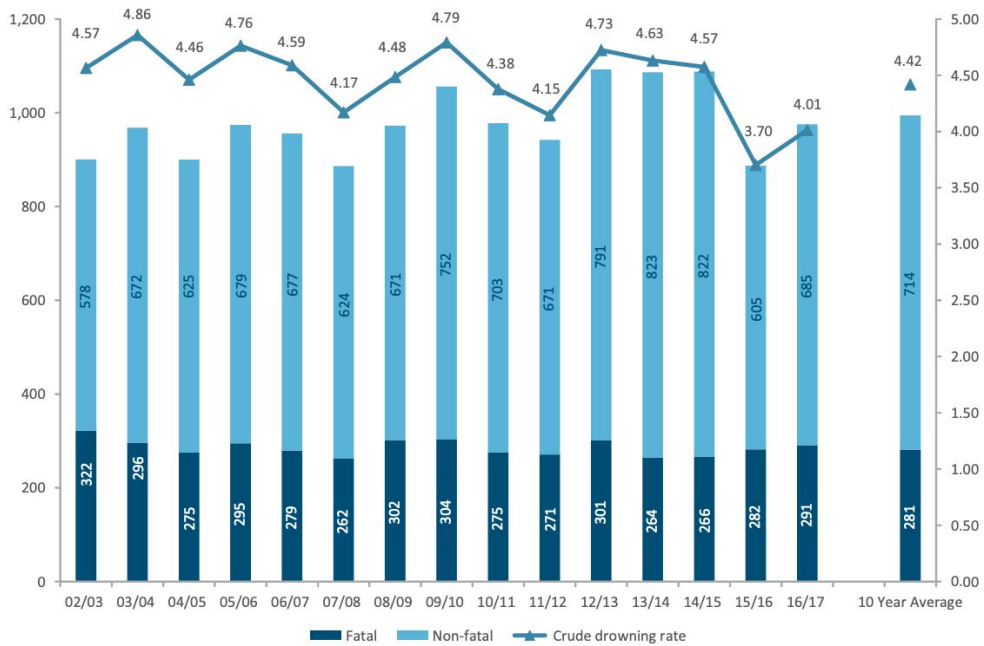
Swimming and recreating leads a diverse range of activities prior to drowning in Australia



Trends over time: Fatal drowning in Australia



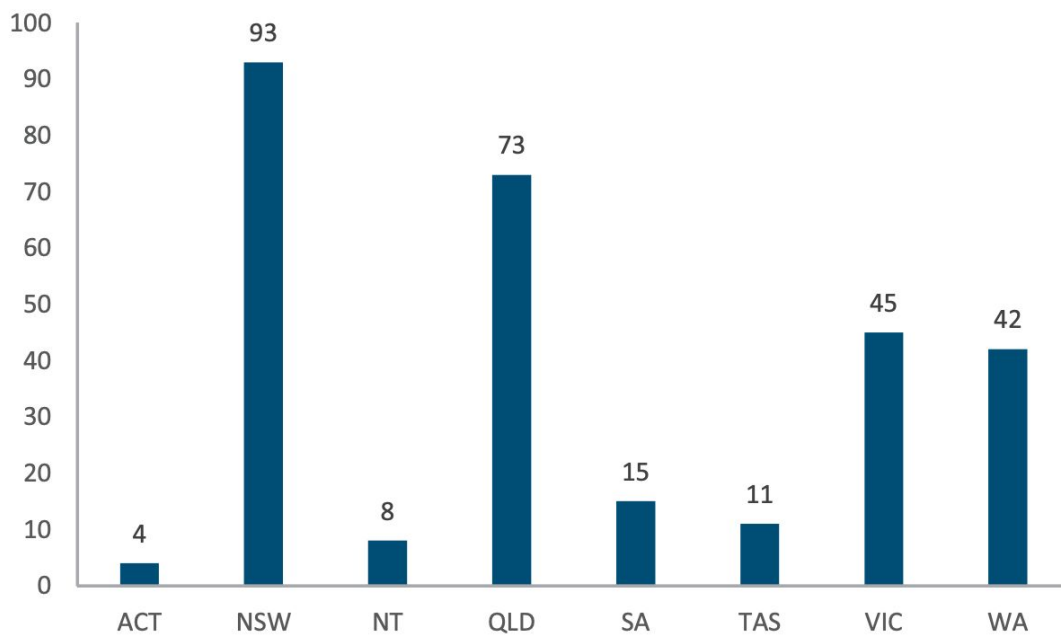
The impact of fatal and non-fatal drowning in Australia: trends over time



Drowning Deaths by State:

New South Wales (NSW) recorded the highest number of drowning deaths with 93 (32%). This was followed by Queensland (QLD) with 73 (25%) drowning deaths, Victoria (VIC) with 45 (15%) and Western Australia (WA) with 42 (14%). The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) recorded the lowest number of drowning deaths this year with 4.

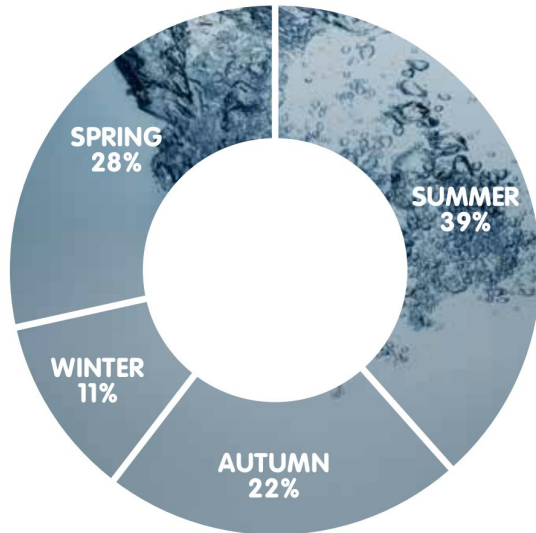
NSW recorded the highest number of drowning deaths in 2016/17



When do they occur?

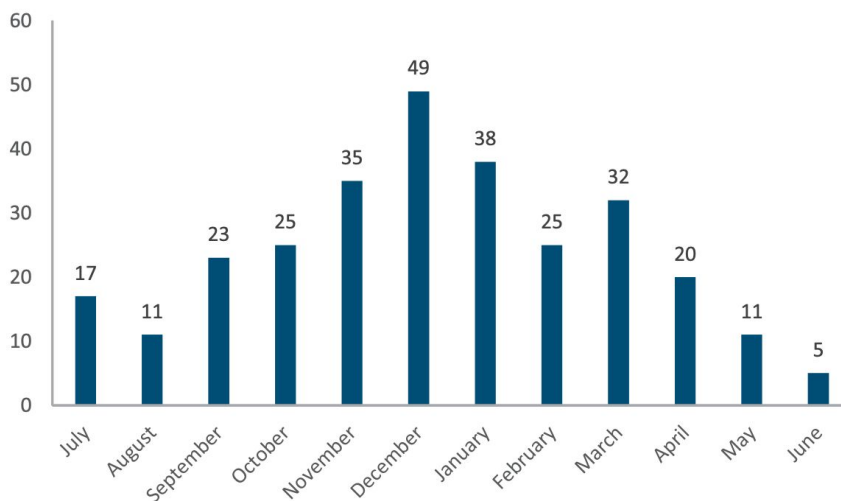
Highest amount of drowning deaths occurred in summer, spring, autumn and least amount in winter

More than a third of drowning deaths occur in summer



December have the highest amount of drowning rates by month. This may be because one of Australia's hottest months is December.

Drowning deaths in Australia occur year round but peak in December



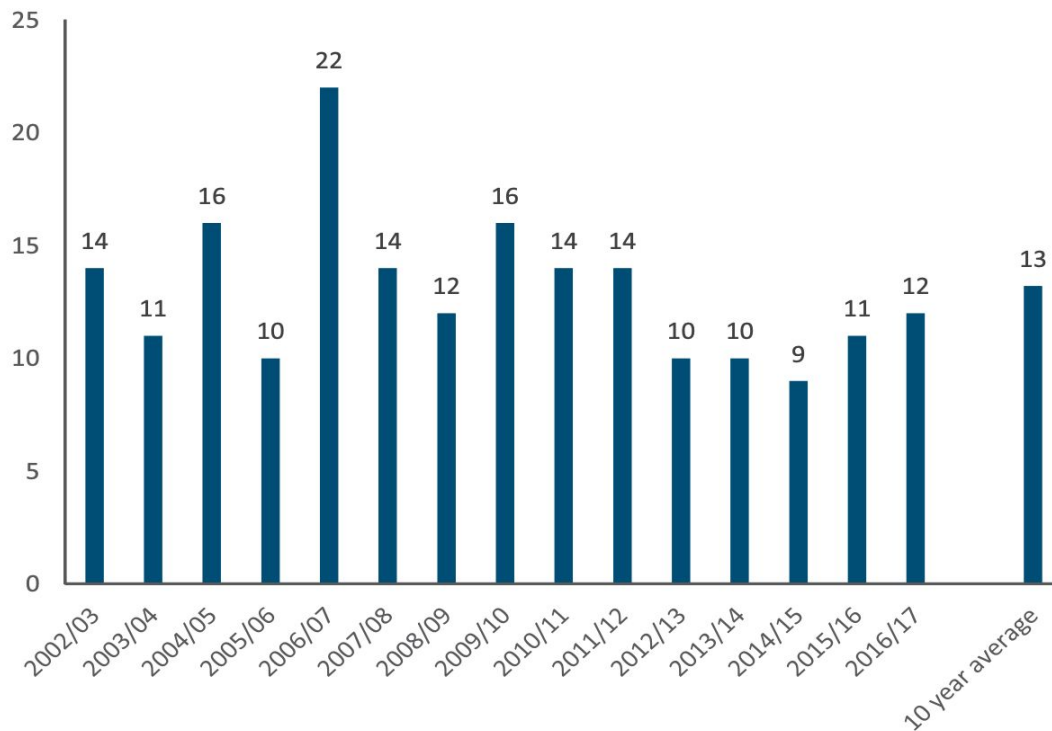
Drowning in Children Ages 5-14 years old:

Drowning deaths in children aged 5-14 years decreased by 8% against the 10-year average.

12 drowning deaths in children aged 5-14 years between 1st July 2016 and 30th of June 2017.

This is a decrease of 1 drowning death (8%) on the 10 year average of 13 deaths.

Drowning deaths in children aged 5-14 years decreased by 8% against the 10 year average



Out of children ages 5-14 years old, 75% were males and 25% were females. Rivers, creeks and streams were the most common location for drowning. There were no deaths in bathtubs in this age group in 2016/2017. Swimming/recreating were the most common activity before drowning (42% of fatalities). This highlights the importance of basic swim level skills and water safety knowledge in children and teenagers. 'Swim and Survive' is a program established to address the lack of water safety knowledge in children. Community groups who are most likely to miss out on formal swimming and water safety education are from a range of backgrounds. This includes children who are: Indigenous, are from a culturally or linguistically diverse background, are from a low socio-economic community, live in a regional or remote area, have newly arrived in Australia, or are living with a disability.

What Can We Do?

We can do many things to prevent deaths in the water. We should only swim where we know we can be safe. Like when driving, don't go into the water when you are drunk or under the influence of drugs. Keep an eye out for friends and family in the water. Follow the rules at the place you are swimming.

In conclusion, be responsible in the water and on the road, and keep an eye out for all your friends and family. Follow all rules and laws, they are put in place to keep you safe.