

Membership Form

Annual membership = \$20 (excludes t-shirt)

Membership Type (please tick one) New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name:	
Address:	
State:	Postcode:
Home Telephone:	
Work Telephone:	
Mobile:	
Email Address:	
Date of Birth:	
Type of Disability (if any):	
Parent/Guardian Permission (if under 16):	
Doctor's Permission:	
NB: Please enclose doctors certificate if disability is not apparent.	
Type of surf craft (if any)	
T-Shirt if required (\$15 per t-shirt)	
S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:	
Signature:	
Date:	

The Disabled Surfers Association of Australia Inc.



SURFERS Helping SURFERS



Printed by Nova Press,
9 Leda Drive, Burleigh Heads, Queensland 4220
Phone 07 5520 2254 www.novapress.com.au



Monies to be made payable to: **Disabled Surfers Association of Australia Inc** and sent with completed form to:

Disabled Surfers Association of Australia Inc,
PO Box 345, The Entrance, NSW, Australia, 2261

For a local contact in your region please see
website for details

www.disabledsurfers.org

www.disabledsurfers.org

A Brief History

The DSA (Disabled Surfers Association of Australia Inc.) was founded in Sydney in 1986 by Gary Blaschke, who was badly injured in a motorbike accident. Told he would not surf again, Gary was still keen to get back in the ocean. Necessity being the mother of invention Gary got a few mates together and formed a disabled persons support group specifically related to the surf. Initially set up for injured surfers, within 12 months the DSA had dramatically widened its target group to cater for all disabled, whether they were originally surfers or not.

The DSA has grown enormously from such humble beginnings over the past two decades. The Sydney 'Hands on Day', held at Collaroy annually, open to everyone, attracts between 75-150 disabled and upwards of 200 able bodied helpers on a fine day.

Currently we have 13 branches in 5 states – WA: Perth, Far South Coast WA and Adelaide; QLD: Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast; NSW: Sydney, Central Coast, Hunter, Hastings (Port Macquarie), Mid North Coast (Coffs Harbour), Far North Coast (Byron Bay) & South Coast (Wollongong); VIC: Barwon Heads; and soon to be international in New Zealand.

We are a totally voluntary organisation, existing purely on the support of our members and the local communities together with occasional government help.

The DSA is also quickly evolving into becoming an expert in the field of accessibility when it applies to beachside locations, offering advice and solutions to local government over the challenge of opening up Australia's greatest icon – the beach – to our disabled.

The DSA is truly unique to Australia with nothing like it (yet) anywhere else in the world.

We are setting world's best practice for Disability Surfing.



Who We Help

Over the past two decades of the DSA's existence, we have seen every type and degree of disability. In that time we have taken thousands for a safe surfing experience who may otherwise have never had the opportunity to do so.

The degree of disability that we cater for is literally unlimited.

Sydney's Kelly McCann, who suffers from full quadriplegia requiring breathing assistance through a tracheotomy, is a regular DSA surfer both at Collaroy and on the South Coast. Kel is resuscitated the whole time she is in the water – inspirational, and proving just what can be done.

Each DSA branch holds 'Hands On Days' open to everyone several times a summer season. Additionally there can be several 'members only' events held throughout the year as well as catering for special groups when helper power is available.

Remember that having a disability is not necessarily the same as having a handicap. None of our participants are handicapped – they are out there surfing!

How a 'Hands On Day' Works

The secret to our success in running a safe and happy surfing experience is the result of many years of refinement and ongoing evaluation of our activities.

Our prime emphasis is on safety. Apart from being well trained, (see next section under 'Volunteers'), the DSA utilises a unique colour coding system for all participants, carers and helpers to ensure event organisers know the 'state of play' at any one time; we have a very high helper to participant ratio, from a minimum of 6 to 1 up to as high as 30 to 1 with challenging participants, such as in Kelly's case above, and we only surf in broken waves, in waist depth water.

Our motto is "It's all about the participants". For a better visual idea of what we do, check out our website.



How You Can Help

The secret to the success of the DSA is the enormous good will generated by all parties involved, together with the use of modern surf technologies such as soft malibu surfboards and wetsuits, since so many of our participants suffer from poor circulation. The last half decade has seen the introduction of amphibious wheelchairs and surf socks which have overcome OH&S concerns in transporting participants, with dignity and safety, across rocky and sandy locations, to gain entry to the adjacent surf.

The DSA seeks three specific kinds of help:

Volunteers: Any person with a good heart can help at a DSA event but if you are a water-oriented type, you are additionally welcome. Each branch regularly runs our specifically designed 'Train The Trainer' for new recruits – it's free.

Equipment Donations: Each branch is required to establish and maintain a gear trailer with an impressive inventory of gear. We are always looking to improve on what we've got while at the same time salt, sand and surf take a toll on what we already have.

Monetary Donations: This falls into two categories, individual donations and sponsorship from local, state and national businesses.

The DSA offers any business an opportunity for great exposure in that the DSA is such a highly visible and praiseworthy organisation, apart from offering an avenue for fulfilling any stated corporate community commitments.

Additionally, we are a recognised charity attracting significant tax deduction benefits to commercial entities.



www.disabledsurfers.org