

Swim fun day pushes water safety word

WHILE the children splashed in the water, lifesavers were trying to pass on an important message - water can be dangerous.

The Pioneer Swim Centre, Royal Life Saving organised a big fundraising initiative on Saturday to help raise money to educate people about the dangers of pool, ocean and other swimming areas.

More than 700 people gathered at the Mackay pool to help try and reduce child drowning across the nation by funding

both swimming lessons for disadvantaged families and charity projects.

With entry to the Swimathon by gold coin donation, once patrons were in they had the chance to compete in swim races, treasure dives, inflatable raft race, pool party, sausage sizzle and giant mission inflatable.

Mackay Regional Council's Pioneer Swim Centre in North Mackay and Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal are working together with Royal Life Saving

Society, Australia, to host an Uncle Toby's Big Splash Swimathon to raise funds to give more Australian children access to the skills and knowledge that will help them "Swim and Survive".

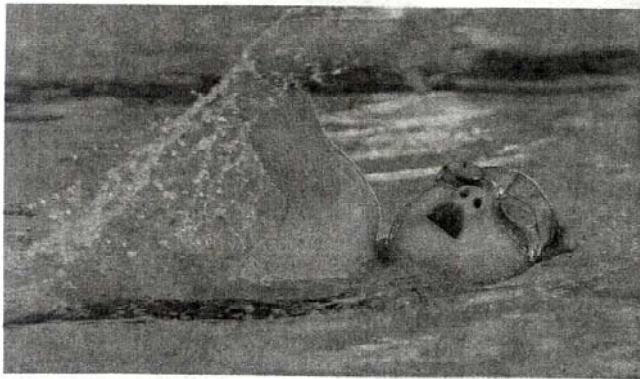
Since Christmas 41 people have drowned across Australia in backyard pools and at beaches and other waterways.

For people wanting to organise their own fundraisers please contact Free Call 1300 876 706 or visit www.bigsplashswimathon.com.au.



Jonathan Grech, 13, Mark Frazer and Jordan Chapman, 12, take part in the 50m boat race at the Big Splash Swimathon.

PHOTOS: AMANDA BALMER 230110/204



Nikki Willmore, 6, competes in the 50m freestyle at the Big Splash Swimathon.

PHOTO: 230110/086



ABOVE: Tom Richards, 13, Jordan Chapman, 12, Mikaella Mallet, 13, and Jonathan Grech, 13, took part in the 50m freestyle and the relay races at the Big Splash Swimathon on Saturday.

PHOTO: 230110/075



Tasha Hall, 4, has fun in the 50m noodle race at the Pioneer Pool on Saturday.

PHOTO: 230110/128



RIGHT: Jordyn Hughes, 11, shows how it's done as he takes on the 50m freestyle race at the Big Splash Swimathon

PHOTO: 230110/099