



2 September 2008

## **DROWNING TRAGEDY SPARKS ACTION AT SUNSHINE BEACH**

In February this year local resident Tony Brooks was visiting friends in McAnally Drive, Sunshine Beach when he and his friends witnessed a trio of swimmers swept out in a rip at an unpatrolled section of Sunshine Beach and then watched as one of the trio, an overseas student, drowned before rescuers could reach her.

Member for Noosa Glen Elmes said he could only imagine the horror of watching a scene such as this unfold in front of you, knowing that there's nothing you could do to help other than dial 000 and wait anxiously for emergency services to arrive at the scene.

"As a result of meetings held with Tony Brooks and Warwick Redwood, President of the Sunshine Beach Surf Life Saving Club, a community solution has been put together that enlists the support of all residents with beach views at Sunshine Beach to be the after-hours eyes of the Surf Life Saving movement.

"That solution has taken the form of a laminated card that can be kept near the phone or in a place where it will be easy to find and it outlines a step-by-step guide on what to do if you see anyone in danger.

"The BEACH EMERGENCY RESPONSE card will help activate an emergency response more quickly and reassure those reporting an incident that what they have done by following the instructions on the card is all that is required.

"For my part I was pleased to assist the Club by printing and laminating the cards for distribution to residents at Sunshine Beach.

"The Sunshine Beach Surf Life Saving Club deserves to be congratulated by the entire community for its pro-active approach to saving lives. Hopefully, this initiative can spread to other beaches where local residents have an excellent view of beach conditions.

**Further information: Glen Elmes MP 0400 800 114 or 5449 8988**