



Commonwealth Lifesaving
The Royal Life Saving Society

The Royal Life Saving Society *Becoming Part of the Commonwealth*

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World Collaboration Theme

WCDP - November 2013

Presentation Overview

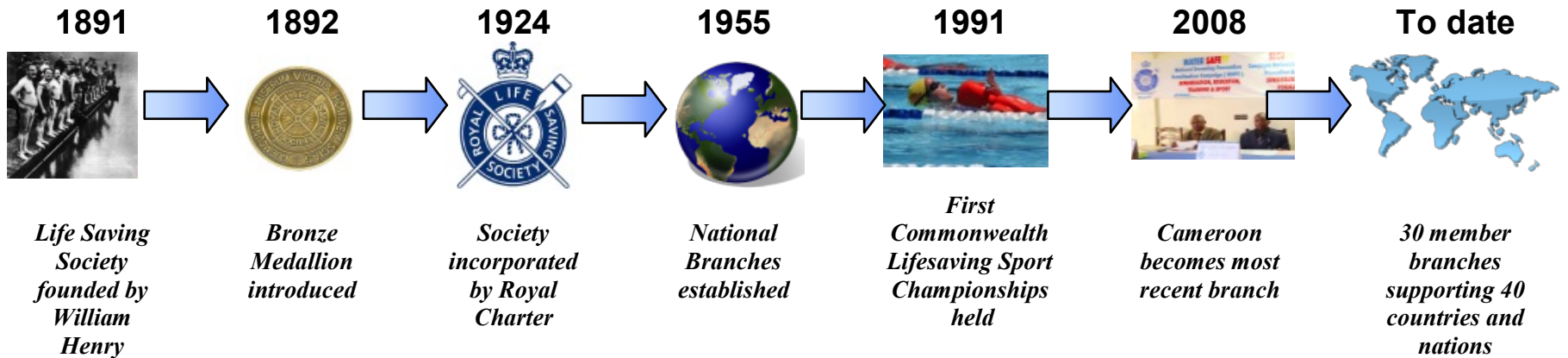
- RLSS – Who we are
- The Commonwealth & Civil Society
- A broader international network,
a broader international agenda

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An Historical Snapshot

Historical Snapshot



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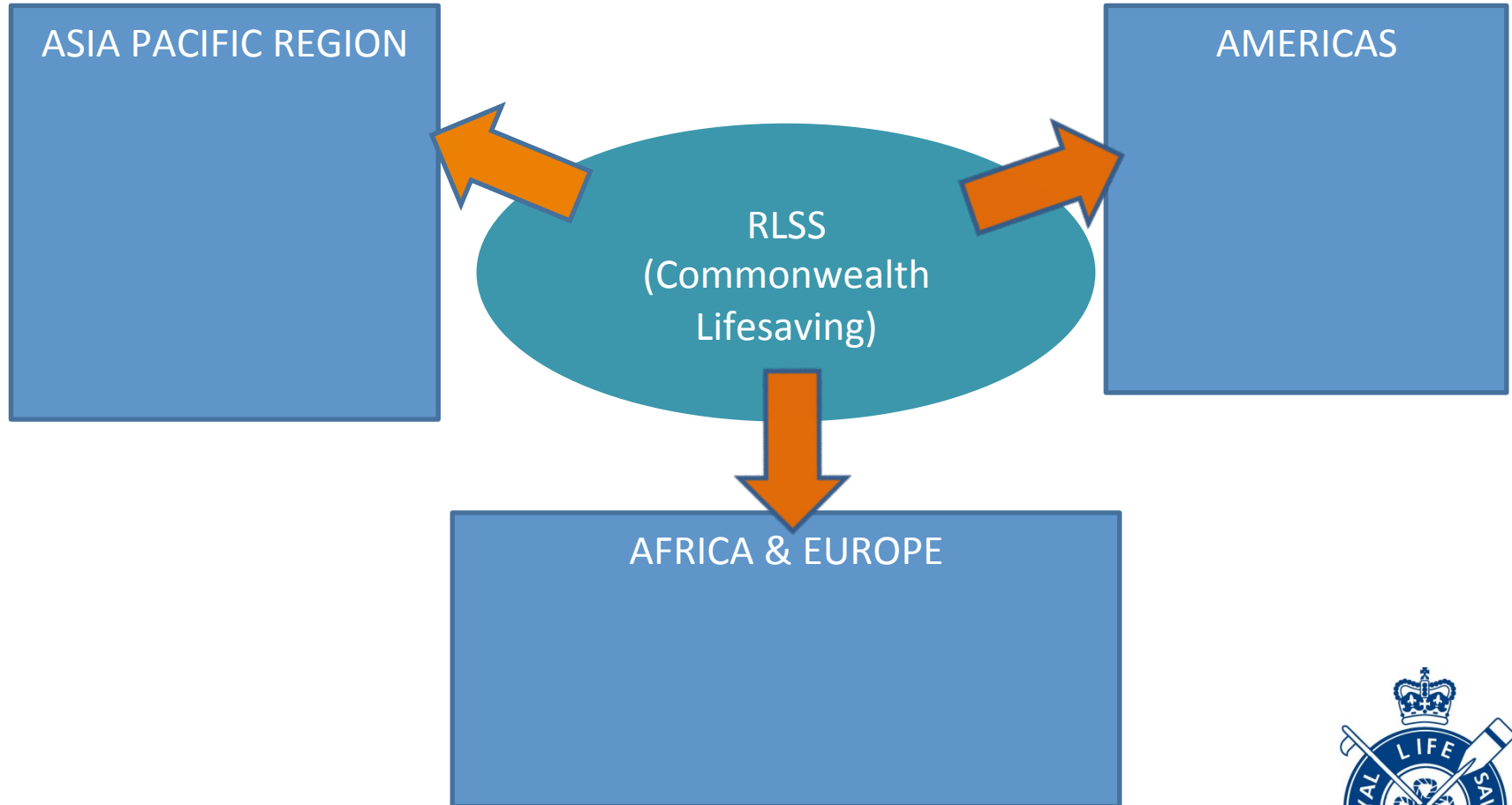
THE RLSS CHARTER

- 1924 Original Charter
- Supplemental Charter

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RLSS Members



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RLSS Across the Commonwealth

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Society Mission

To eliminate drowning in the
Commonwealth

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Society Values

Consistent with the Society's Motto and Commonwealth Principles

RLSS believes in:

- Respect for human life
- Equity, diversity, inclusiveness
- Friendship

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Society Vision

- We empower people and communities to prevent drowning.
- We use lifesaving sport to engage youth in the drowning prevention mission.
- We are a valued partner and significant contributor to drowning prevention, lifesaving and lifesaving sport.
- We contribute to the achievement of Commonwealth Priorities.

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Society Goals

- Financial resources to achieve the Society's strategic goals
- Community based drowning prevention a priority in every Commonwealth country
- A Development Model to guide capacity building across RLSS in place
- A mutually valued partnership and an effective, collaborative working relationship with ILS
- The link between lifesaving and sport is evident to participants, the public and media as evidenced by research.

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Civil Society & the Commonwealth

- The Commonwealth
- Civil Society
- Civil Society Recognition
- RLSS as a CSO

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The Commonwealth

- A voluntary association of 74 independent states
- Promotes international understanding and world peace
- A living demonstration of unity in diversity, it is held together by shared principles for governance and a commitment by all members to creating a peaceful, equal, just and prosperous global community.
- Built on a foundation of values and principles that respect the liberty of the individual.
- Commonwealth countries believe that international peace and order are essential to the security and prosperity of mankind; that racial prejudice is a dangerous sickness that must be obliterated; that no form of colonial domination and racial oppression can be tolerated; that wide disparities in wealth can not be accepted; and finally, that international cooperation is essential to remove the causes of war, promote tolerance, combat injustice and secure development among all peoples of the world. Guided by these beliefs, the Commonwealth influences the international community for the benefit of all peoples.

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Civil Society

- The term **civil society** goes back to Aristotle's phrase *koinōnía politikḗ* , where it refers to a 'community
- The term **civil society** has a range of meanings in contemporary usage. It is sometimes considered to include the family and the private sphere, and referred to as the "third sector" of society, distinct from government and business.
- In the context of The Commonwealth, **Civil Society** refers to a group of non-government organisations, officially recognised by The Commonwealth, who are working at an international level, across the Commonwealth, to support Commonwealth communities.

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Achieving Civil Society Recognition

- RLSS achieved Civil Society Recognition from The Commonwealth in March 2011.
- Civil Society status provides us with the opportunity to further engage with the Commonwealth through informal and formal mechanisms
- Formal mechanisms include:
 - Commonwealth People's Forum @ CHOGM
 - Consultation Events
 - Ministerials
 - Commonwealth Secretariat Divisions
 - Sport for Development Program

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RLSS as a CSO

- Civil Society Statement
- Quarterly Civil Society consultations
- Commonwealth Liaison Volunteer
- Sport for Development
- Commonwealth Games Federation

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*A broader international network,
A broader international agenda*

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RLSS – A Commonwealth Partner

- Lifesaving internationally community – a shared common goal
- Within the Commonwealth – a small agenda within a broader community

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Drowning within the Commonwealth

Agenda

How does Drowning fit in with the broader Commonwealth Agenda?

- Education
- Health
- Climate Change
- Youth
- Human Rights
- Economic Development
- Gender

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The Commonwealth - Opportunities

- Make a meaningful contribution to the Commonwealth network
- Raising the profile of child drowning
- Ministerial Opportunities
- Partnerships and shared events

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The Commonwealth - Challenges

- A small agenda in a large global network
- Finding shared areas and interest and opportunities
- Synchronised message from all RLSS Members across the Commonwealth

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Where to from here.....

- Building the network
- Building the capacity of our Member Branches
- Capitalising on opportunities

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