Have you ever been looking for a word or a key phrase to describe something, but just couldn’t quite grab the right terminology from your memory banks or creative thinking to “tick the box”?

Here is my definition of what Blended Lifeguarding means:

Blended Lifeguarding is a technique which combines the traditional methods of pool supervision, safety and rescue with technology driven drowning detection and prevention systems. This creates a working practice which harmonises the best capabilities of each to produce a safer swimming environment for all.

It really does not take much imagination to realise that we mustn’t separate the two resources that we can have on poolside i.e. well trained lifeguards and drowning prevention technology. There is a good marriage to be had there!

Gary Johnson of ‘See Clearly Now’ in Australia commented: “Doing CPR is a lottery. You can do everything right and still lose a life, you could do everything wrong and save a life. The one thing we do know is that the sooner we start CPR, the more likely it is that the person will make a recovery. So while ever we rely on bare human detection, we’ll have fatal and non-fatal drowning at public swimming facilities. If we’re serious about protecting swimmers, protecting lifeguards and protecting industry professionals then blended lifeguarding needs to be a consideration. The more affordable these technologies become the more difficult it will be to demonstrate due diligence without them.”

Pool supervision and the safety of swimmers is not about a choice between Lifeguards OR Technology, it is simply not an either/or question but rather a “how”?

**PAUL BROWN - DIRECTOR**

With over 30 years experience in the leisure industry within the field of pool construction and refurbishment, Paul will project manage your installation and ensure that it occurs safely, on time, in budget and to our own high quality standards.

**CHRIS DAY - DIRECTOR**

Chris has over 20 years experience in the field of electronics and has been at the forefront of developing, manufacturing and installing underwater camera systems over the last decade. Currently driving forward the technological development of our Poolview system whilst maintaining the ethos that the Lifeguard is central and an essential element within the system.

**ROBIN McGLOUGHLIN - DIRECTOR**

Entering the Leisure Industry in 1983, Robin experienced many of the trials and tribulations encountered when managing busy leisure facilities and leisure departments. Now a recognised contributor and industry expert within the field of Drowning Prevention Technology and Safer Swimming Systems. Robin is your first point of call for any queries.

Robin McGloughlin

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**How can we make best use of our Lifeguards abilities?**

**How can we make best use of the technology available?**

**How can we best integrate our Lifeguards and Technology?**

My hope is that we can promote the concept of ‘Blended Lifeguarding’ and that it will become an accepted working terminology and methodology from now and into the future.

Robin McGloughlin
Poolview is an above water and below water camera system which relays real-time digital video images to any lifeguard monitoring station.

- The display gives Lifeguards an un-compromised view of below water swimmer activity and behaviour.
- Lifeguards view these images as part of their 10:20 scan to help with early identification of an incident developing or abnormal events occurring.
- Full below water coverage can be achieved in every pool.
- Poolview can “see” below surface glare and reflections, disturbed moving water, play structures and movable booms.
- It provides essential additional vision for lifeguards and further offers a full observation ability for blind spot areas.

Poolview Plus+™ powered by SwimEye™ is a Computer vision system which detects possible drowning incidents in swimming pools.

- Using our tried and tested Poolview architecture, the lifeguards still have a monitor attached to their chair which displays the images from the eight carefully positioned underwater cameras, providing 100% below water coverage.
- The Lifeguard will as normal observe the swimmers pool using 10/20 Protection Rule including their monitors.
- Our “Blended Lifeguarding™” developed software operates in the background and supports the fully trained Lifeguard with their responsibilities.
- The computers will “track” each swimmer and continuously monitor their activity until such time as it detects a “possible incident” developing.
- At this point the Lifeguard receive a “Yellow Alert” which draws their attention to particular swimmer behaviour. Should the Lifeguard fail to acknowledge this a Red Alert is given.
- Poolview Plus+ becomes a fully automatic detection system if the Lifeguard fails to cancel any alerts.
- Technology cannot totally replace lifeguards but will increase their capability and help reduce risk.

Wireless Emergency Alarm

The system comprises of an alphabetic central control panel, call buttons and signal repeaters.

- The call buttons can be situated anywhere within or external to your facility including saunas and steam-rooms.
- When a call button is activated the central monitor alarm alerts staff that assistance is required at the displayed location. The system is entirely modular which allows for easy expansion to the network as requirements change or grow!

“Prevent a drowning and prepare for a drowning;
Do everything in your power to prevent it,
Then prepare your team like it is inevitable.”