

Play it safe at the beach

LIFE'S not a beach for lifesavers — it's when their work really starts.

Life Saving Victoria general manager Paul Shannon said volunteers had hit the beaches earlier than previous years, after a successful trial in 2010.

"We had a safe start to the season last year and with another hot summer predicted, we have again decided to start the patrol season early for Port Phillip Bay," he said.

Port Phillip Mayor Rachel Powning said beachgoers should remember glass and smoking were no longer allowed on local beaches.

"The No Cuts, No Butts campaign continues," Cr Powning said.

"Both elements pose a serious threat to people, marine wildlife and our environment.

"Glass-free means cut-free, and no butts means people can enjoy unpolluted water for swimming."

Children need to be actively supervised at all times and those under five kept within arm's reach.

"Our key messages . . . are to play it safe by the water, and never to swim alone," Mr Shannon said.

Anyone heading to the beach should always swim at a patrolled one, and between the flags, he said.



Lifesavers Kane Treloar and Rachel Dohnt are preparing for a busy summer on our beaches.

Picture: MARK WILSON N03HT109