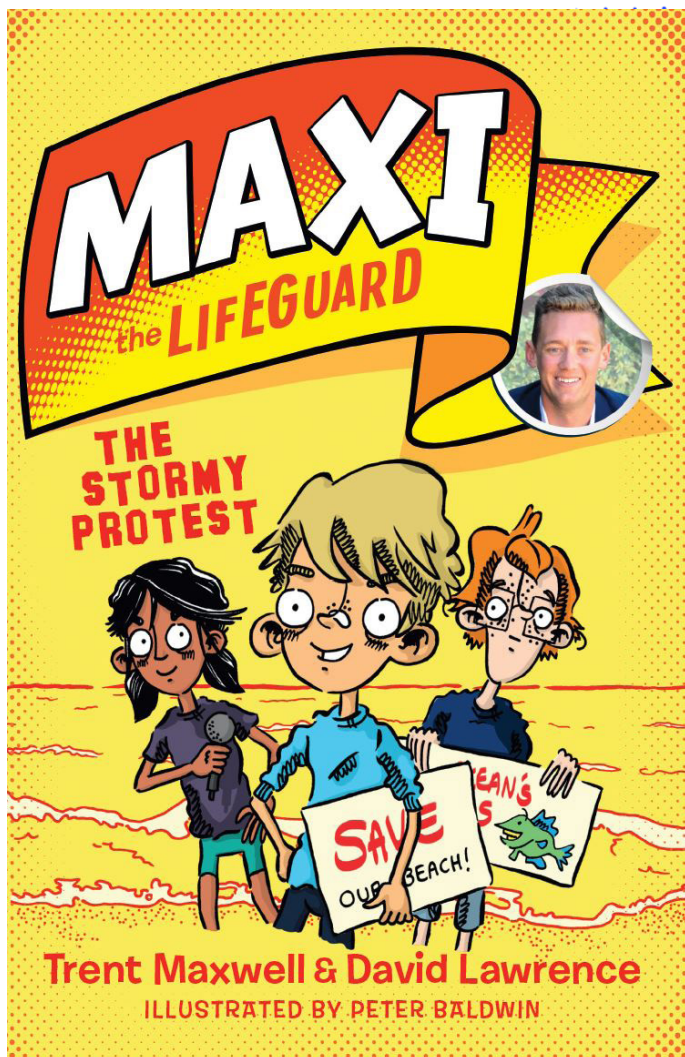
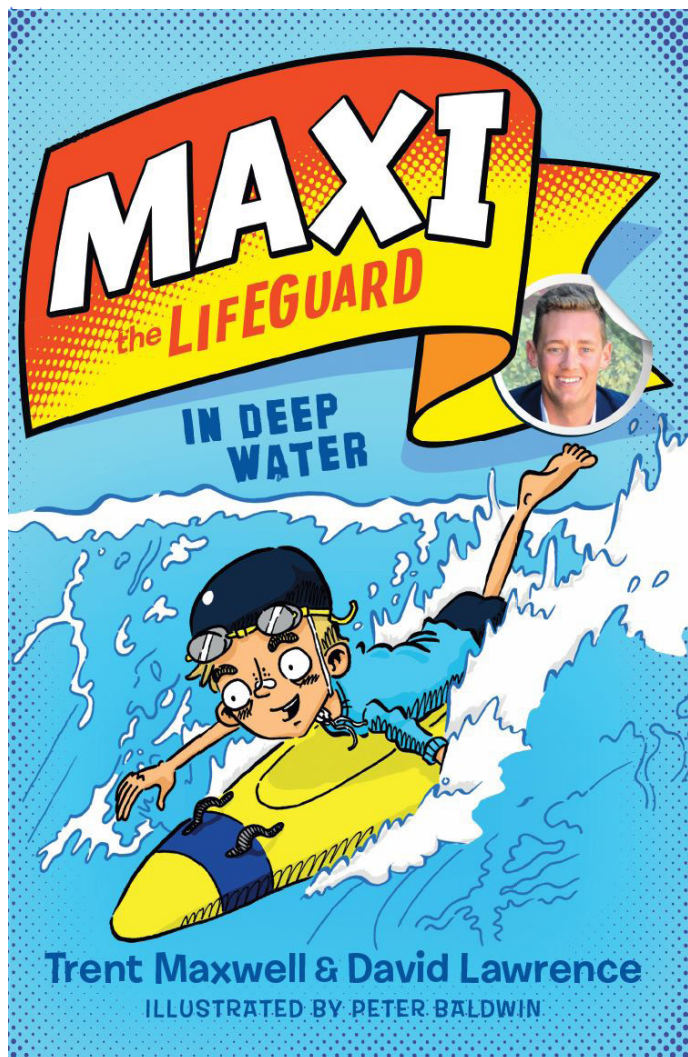


# TEACHERS NOTES



## MAXI THE LIFEGUARD SERIES

Get ready to hit the beach in this action-packed series from *Bondi Rescue's* Lifeguard Maxi and Australian comedy writer David Lawrence.

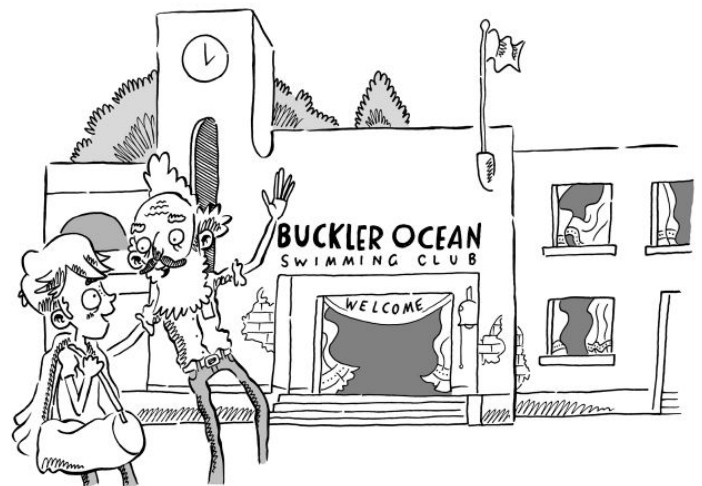


## THEMES

- Water safety
- Family and friendship
- Goal setting
- Decision making
- Community engagement
- The environment
- Making a difference
- Dealing with bullies

## SUITABLE FOR

Age 8-11: Grades 3-5



## IN DEEP WATER

Maxi joins Buckler Ocean Swimming Club to have a bit of fun with his mates. But then a big prize for the Junior Ocean Challenge is announced. The winner will get money for their club and a day with legendary lifeguard Mick Hawk! Maxi would do anything to win. Especially as it might help save Buckler. Will his hard work and determination pay off, or will Maxi's arch-enemy ruin his chances?

## THE STORMY PROTEST

When Maxi and his friends discover that someone has been dumping rubbish into the ocean near Bondi, they are furious. Who would do such a thing, and why won't anyone take them seriously when they report it? Luckily, Maxi has a plan – but exposing the polluter will hurt someone he cares about. Can Maxi find a way out of this messy situation?



## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Trent Maxwell is better known as Lifeguard Maxi from *Bondi Rescue*, the youngest ever professional lifeguard to patrol Australia's world-famous Bondi Beach. Not only beloved by Aussies, *Bondi Rescue* is broadcast in close to 100 countries – including via Netflix US – and as one of *Bondi Rescue*'s most popular characters Maxi has gained a global profile. He is an ambassador for Tourism Australia, Headspace and Royal Life Saving Society United Kingdom. Maxi is also a firefighter for NSW Fire and Rescue.

David Lawrence left a serious corporate job for a not so serious career in comedy. He has performed at five Melbourne International Comedy Festivals, written for numerous TV shows including *Hamish & Andy*, *Comedy Inc.*, and *Talkin' About Your Generation*, and accidentally became a children's author in 2008. His books include *Anna Flowers*, the three Fox Swift books and the four Ball Stars stories. David is also an ambassador for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Peter Baldwin has been drawing cartoons for as long as he can remember. He has published a diverse range of works including posters, comic strips, character design, pamphlets, logos and educational resources. Maxi the Lifeguard is one of his first book series.

## A NOTE FROM MAXI

*Growing up in Sydney, I was lucky enough to spend my weekends at the beach. As a teenager, this led me to dream of becoming a lifeguard. I love being a lifeguard because it mixes my passion for the sand and surf and my desire to help people. I can't wait for you to read my series, written with children's book author David Lawrence. You'll discover many stories about my childhood, and learn all about respecting the water. I am excited to be able to pass on these skills to you so you too can stay safe at the beach. I hope you love this adventure with little Maxi!*



## THEMES

### *Water safety*

The main theme of these books is encouraging young beach-goers to be safe in and around the water. Through well-integrated rescue scenes and informative endmatter, these books allow the reader to learn in a fun and non-confronting way all the dangers of the beach, and how to manage them.

### *Family and friendship*

Maxi is very loyal to his friends and family, and they play an important role in each of these stories. In *In Deep Water*, Maxi goes against his father's wishes and joins Buckler Ocean Swimming Club, encouraged by his Grandpa Bill. The tension between Maxi and his dad is a key feature of the story. Maxi's friends are also a huge part of his life, and are greatly influential. These stories show how having a strong support network can help you to overcome any obstacle, and how everything is more fun with a great group of people around you.

### *Goal setting*

When Maxi first joins Buckler, he is terrible at all the events in Juniors. He swallows water when swimming, he falls off his board, and he even gets puffed out running. But Maxi wants to win the Junior Ocean Challenge, so with help from Grandpa Bill, he slowly works on improving his skills, testing himself each week in the practice race. Maxi works towards an end goal by increasing his training over time, showing that success is not something that happens overnight and that hard work is integral to any achievement.

### *Decision making*

In *The Stormy Protest*, Maxi has to choose to expose the polluter and risk his father's job, or keep quiet about what he knows, disappointing his friends and leaving an environmental vandal on the loose. Maxi has to work out the right thing to do, and if he will stick to his convictions even when faced with challenges.



## Community engagement

The first two books in the Maxi the Lifeguard series have a strong focus on community. In *In Deep Water*, one reason Maxi wants to win the Junior Ocean Challenge is to help Buckler pay for repairs with the prize money. Maxi grows to care deeply about Buckler because of the space it gives him to be with his friends and family, and to learn new skills. In *The Stormy Protest*, Maxi has to work with his friends to get the community interested in his protest against dumping rubbish. He works hard to get the word out to the Bondi Beach inhabitants and to get them engaged in his idea.

## The environment

*The Stormy Protest* follows Maxi and his friends as they search for the person who is dumping rubbish into a stormwater drain near Bondi, as well as raising awareness of this issue to the public. Maxi, Felix and Rachel each have their own ways of contributing to this cause. Rachel takes photos and writes an article; Felix uses his science skills to try to discover the origin of the materials; and Maxi uses his connection with the Bondi lifeguards to raise awareness. This shows that there is always a way to contribute to the wellbeing of the environment, and that every contribution is valid.



## Making a difference

In both *In Deep Water* and *The Stormy Protest*, Maxi, Rachel and Felix make a difference within the Bondi community. In *In Deep Water*, Rachel gets the money to make improvements to Buckler. Maxi uses his skills to help Felix when he is in trouble. And Felix helps Maxi to improve his public-speaking skills. In *The Stormy Protest*, all three of them work together to stop pollution and raise awareness. These books show that doing the right thing can make a difference, on a variety of scales.

## Dealing with bullies

Maxi's nemesis, Josh, is a bully. He trips Maxi up, steals things and is nasty to Maxi whenever he has the opportunity. Maxi and his friends show maturity by never retaliating, and by calmly overcoming whatever obstacle Josh and his friend Ed put in their way.

# ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION POINTS

- What did you think of these books? Write a review of both or one of the books. What things did you like? What parts didn't you like?
- Design a new cover for each of the books using your own illustrations.
- These books are made-up stories about a real-life person. What kind of stories do you think you could make up about your life now, when you're an adult? Write a story taking something true from your life and adding some exciting details.
- Hold a beach safety session in class. Discuss the common dangers found at the beach and in the water and how you manage them. Breaking into groups, each group should make a brochure for newcomers to the beach, instructing them on what to look out for and how to be safe. Use the safety tips at the end of the two Maxi the Lifeguard books as a jumping-off point for your own research about the best ways to spot a rip, decide where to swim safely, and anything else you think a beach visitor might need to know.
- Grandpa Bill says, 'Always swim between the red and yellow flags. It's not rocket science!' But who puts out the flags? Research the history of patrolled beaches in Australia and make a timeline.
- Do you have a local beach? Who patrols it? Are there always people there, or only sometimes? Is there a surf club there, like Buckler? Is anyone in the class a member, and can they tell you a bit about it?
- Who is in your support network? Draw a mind map featuring all the people you can rely on to help you out when you need them.
- Who encourages you? Discuss in groups the person who inspires you and helps you to reach your potential.





- Has there been a time when you have been bad at something to start with? Write about your experience, and what you did to overcome this.

- Think of a goal you would like to achieve. It can be anything – reading more books, improving your sporting skills, learning to paint . . . whatever you like!

Using Grandpa Bill's training schedules as inspiration, write a four-week 'training program' on how you could reach your goal. At the end of the four weeks, write a reflection. Did you stick to your schedule? Why or why not? Was your plan realistic? Did you achieve your goal?

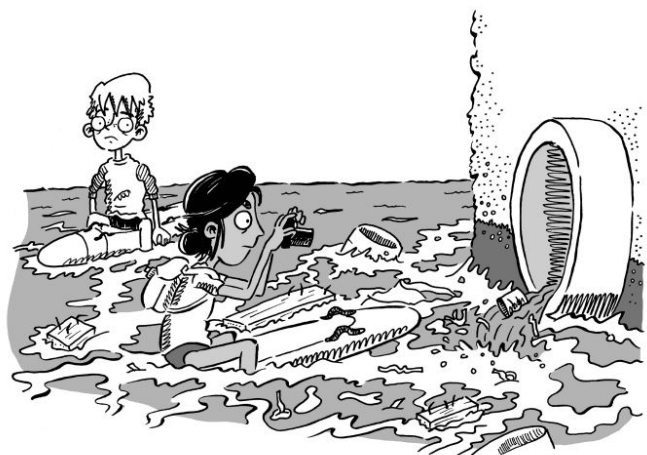
- What is a community? As a class, come up with a definition before looking the word up in a dictionary. Do your definitions match?

- Talk about all the different kinds of communities, and brainstorm a few examples of communities you might see in your everyday life.

- Individually, pick one of the communities you are a part of and write a paragraph about why it is important to you, and what you like about it. Are there any ways you would like to improve your community? How would you go about it?

- Investigate your school's environmental policies. Where does the rubbish go? Where does the recycling go? Is there much litter around your school? What is your school's energy use like? Do you have solar panels? After you finish your investigation, write a plan about how your school could improve its environmental impact.

- Research all the different risks to our waterways, and pick one to focus on. In groups, come up with inventive ways to keep pollutants like plastic bags, straws, building materials and hazardous chemicals out of our waterways – the more creative the better!



- Have you ever had to make a tough decision? Discuss as a class the difficulties of making decisions that could hurt other people, and come up with a good plan you could follow if you were ever in the same situation as Maxi in *The Stormy Protest!*
- How can you help others? Felix and Rachel both use their particular skills to help Maxi when he needs them. What skills do you have to offer to others? How can you help your friends, and are there ways you can contribute to the wider community? Think as a class about potential avenues for volunteering, or helping in other ways.
- Look at how Maxi and his friends react when Josh bullies them. Do you think they responded in the best way? Is there anything else they should have done?
- Have you ever had to deal with bullies? How did you handle the situation? Who can you turn to for help if you are being bullied?

