

Life Savers, Australian heroes.

One general hero from Australia is a Life-Saver or the Life Savers. They are quite popular in Australia because Australia has a lot of beaches and a long coast line that goes around Australia. People in Australia, all young people in Australia that live close to the beach, they often start their preparation for becoming a life saver quite early. They do things like nippers which means they learn how to surf at the beach and they have races at the beach. And then once they reach the school age, they can take swimming tests and swimming exams that build them up to become a life saver. And then, once they are life savers, they protect Australian citizens or even tourists : if you come to Australia, you'll be protected by a life saver on the beach. And they watch for things like people who go out in rips. Sometimes they get ... people that aren't strong swimmers or even strong swimmers, they get taken up by rips ... in the beach... And sometimes there are sharks, although not as often as here, but there are sharks in Australia and the life savers watch for that. Sometimes they even take on the role as being peace keepers on the beach. So if there aren't police people there, sometimes young people have fights on the beach, or things get stolen at the beach. And so life savers take on that role as well. They have to be very athletic and very fit, and they are always very healthy and friendly people.

*a life saver : un maître-nageur

*a nipper : un enfant ; ici, il s'agit d'une course organisée sur les plages australiennes pour les jeunes entre 5 et 14 ans se destinant à être des maîtres-nageurs

* a **rip** : courant

*healthy : en bonne santé, en bonne condition physique