



■ LIFESAVING

SA juniors see off France and Canada for gold

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TEAM South Africa's juniors struck gold on the opening day of the Lifesaving World Championships in Adelaide, Australia.

The teenage quartet of Kira Bester, Tamryn McKie, Alice Edward and Milan Erasmus triumphed in the mixed Simulated Emergency Rescue Competition (SERC).

South Africa, in claiming gold, beat off the strong challenge of France and Canada.

The senior quartet of Carmel Billson, Bianca von Bergen, Sasha-Lee Corris Nordengen and Johan Lourens had to be content with fourth place in the mixed SERC. France won gold, with Norway and New Zealand also in the medals.

This year's World Championships, which combines the Pool and Surf

events, is the biggest in the sport's history.

Today's action sees the youth teams take to the ocean for the surf and beach disciplines and the Open teams battle for supremacy in the pool.

Hectic tides and wind will make for the most testing of conditions.

There will be expectation on KZN's Martin Binnedal to medal in the pool. Binnedal, of the Marine Lifesaving Club, also represented South Africa in swimming at the Commonwealth Games in Australia earlier this year.

Carmel Billson is among the South African senior contingent who has starred in the pool and surf competitions.

Billson, since 2016, has dominated the sport in South Africa. Now she will look to translate that



form into international glory.

South Africa's Youth Team Surf Challenge will be led by the very talented 16-year-old Connor Botha.

Umhlanga's Botha was the outstanding male teenager in all South Africa's national, provincial and club competitions in 2018.

He is the son of the sport's iconic Dylan Botha, who represented South Africa at the World Championships in Australia in 1982.

The younger Botha was impressive for the Under-19 South

African Youth Team in New Zealand in 2017 and placed second on two occasions. He (Connor Botha) is also the current Under-19 interprovincial surf swim champion and last year he won eight national under-15 and Nipper titles.

Sulinke van den Berg, who captains the youth women, was also an imposing presence at all the 2018 competitions.

New Zealand are the defending champions but hosts Australia have been the most impressive in all international competitions since the 2016 World Championships.

The Australians will be favourites to win the overall title.

● Visit www.lifesaving2018.com for all the daily news from the Lifesaving Rescue World Championships in Adelaide, Australia.

Team South Africa squads

Senior women: Sasha-Lee Corris Nordengen (captain), Keyta Purchase, Carmel Billson, Bianca von Bergen, Kristin Bellingham and Mandi Maritz (all Marine).

Senior men: Ryle de Morny (captain, False Bay), Josh Saunders (Marine), Martin Binnedal (Marine), Johan Lourens (Tuks), Nick Notten, Dominic Notten (Fish Hoek).

Youth women: Sulinke van den Berg (captain, Manguang), Alice Edward, Ally Chislett (both Pirates), Tamryn Mckie (Marine), Paige Horn (Umhlanga), Kira Bester (Strand).

Youth men: Milan Erasmus (captain, Durban Surf), Juan Pierre van Zyl (Harties Reflections), Connor Botha (Umhlanga), Matthew Fenn (East London), Daniel Jacobs (Fish Hoek), Calvin Coetzee (Pirates).

