



ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Waihi Beach
LIFEGUARD SERVICES INC



SURF LIFE SAVING®
NEW ZEALAND

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - DAVID LITTON

During the 2021-22 season, the Club continued to have interruptions to SLSNZ events and competitions, plus several people at the Beach with a COVID legacy. What stood out during these challenging times was how the Club's spirit remained strong. At every patrol, we all came together to provide lifesaving services and the volunteers stayed connected with members, other guards and our supporters.

Again our three flagged summer patrols were in place along the 10km peninsula. Our RWC (rescue water craft – jetski) roaming patrol supported these sites along the coastline. Both Regional and volunteer patrolling guards had to endure interruption and a change to the rules of operation following beaches being opened up again for this 2020/21 summer. The lifeguards demonstrated an ability to be adaptable and showed resilience to the changes. The guards provided over 6500 patrol hours this season.

I would also like to acknowledge the behind the scene work undertaken by lifeguards, parents and supporters of the Club. Despite the interruptions, our senior lifeguards and Committees continued to be committed to training and skill development, organised events and ensured the Club had the resources to function. In addition, parents and senior lifeguards have dedicated countless hours to ensure our younger members can attend training, they have helped to set up events and worked behind the scenes to deliver successful outcomes.

The Search and Rescue (SAR) squad continued to train most months to ensure our lifeguards were fit for purpose. This year we have focused on securing additional equipment to ensure the SAR team is ready for any incidents and the members are safe while on the water. Thanks to our Chair and the generous support of sponsors, the SAR Squad members are now kitted out with wet gear and safety equipment. The SAR squad was involved in five searches during the 2020/21 year and continues to perform at a high level. I want to acknowledge the hours provided and the professionalism of this volunteer group of thirteen lifeguards from our Club.

During the year, three members passed who had very strong ties to the Club. These members were Wray Clark, Reece Mead and Heather Robinson. They have all left a rich legacy at the Club and forged a path that a new generation of lifeguards will prosper.

Lastly, I am very proud of the Club's drive to become the best we can be. At the Eastern Region Lifesaving Awards of Excellence, Waihi Beach had a strong representation in the finals. Many members of the Club were recognised for their talent and commitment to lifeguarding and/or sport. These awards exemplify how our guards and volunteers are forging a path for others to follow. All of our leaders are helping to drive the Club's overall performance and support new member development.



DIRECTOR OF LIFESAVING REPORT -

LUCY SCOWN

2021/22 was another great but challenging season for lifeguarding at Waihi Beach. COVID-19 changed how we fundamentally patrolled, but our lifeguards still delivered a high-quality service for the entire season. Due to COVID-19, our lifeguarding practices changed, including reduced numbers of lifeguards on patrol. Despite this, our lifeguards still had a busy season putting in a considerable number of hours and performing multiple rescues, searches and first aid treatments.

Despite the restrictions, our instructing and development team were adaptable and qualified 14 lifeguards and 2 patrol support people. They also managed to qualify 8 new IRB drivers, 11 new IRB Crewpersons, 1 RWC operator and 2 IRB examiners. Upskilling our team in powercraft is particularly important to ensure our team are rescue ready and that we can open patrol. Building capability also ensures the continuation of our services by qualified people training and examining the next cohort of lifeguards coming through.

The lifesaving committee focused on providing regular first aid training. As a result, we funded 50 lifeguards and patrol support guards this season to gain a first aid qualification. A big thank you to the Board for their continued support in securing funding for these courses to upskill our lifeguards continually.

The Club's new initiative Fit For Purpose program, had a strong second season training lifeguards to be fitter and faster so lives can be saved. Fit for Purpose sessions focused on developing lifeguard specific skills. The program supports our drive to provide professional services, and many lifeguards are attending a range of sessions.

Waihi Beach lifeguards continued to perform well at a regional level, with our members securing some top awards. Emerging Lifeguard of the Year, Patrol Support Person of the Year, and Examiner of the Year. In addition to those awards, we received two Regional Service Awards and one Regional Distinguished Service Award. These awards highlight our lifeguard's commitment and achievement on the regional stage.

Our future lifeguards (Rookies) had a fantastic season, winning gold at the Eastern Region Rookie Competition in the team's event and gold for one of our female rookies. The rookie program is a critical platform for building young people into highly skilled lifeguards.

Our lifeguards completed a total of 3531 volunteer hours across our two locations (North End and Island View). Further, 3168 paid hours were completed by our Regional Lifeguard team across three locations (North End, Island View and Bowentown). Many of the paid Regional Lifeguards patrolling over the summer months are from our Waihi Beach team. We are very proud to see them in the role of Regional Lifeguard.

I want to thank the Board, the Lifesaving Committee, and our members for their tremendous effort to ensure flags up every weekend and support the community with additional search and rescue services.

CHAIR'S REPORT - DONNA PFEFFERLE

It amazes me how fast twelve month goes by, but the reason is that the Club is so busy both during patrol season and also during the winter months. With the commitment by lifeguards for training and personal development, the focus on building capability in our search and rescue squad and preparing for the new season is a #No Off Switch situation.

With 29 assists to safety, 10 rescues and 13 searches during the 2021/22 season, our presence continues to impact several lives and their families. These statistics remind us of the value of our presence, the dedication of our lifeguards, the passion of our volunteers and the support from our communities. It is this synergy that is the Club's strength.

The Board has continued to be a collection of hard-working and passionate individuals who collaborate to drive the Club's financial health and member's well-being. The goals during the 2021/22 season were to improve our sustainability and focus on areas of cost and risk. As a result, we upgraded to energy-efficient lighting, evaluated our CO2 footprint, worked with a third party to see opportunities to reduce, and worked closely with Western Bay District Council to improve dune resilience.

The BNZ Waikato team dedicated over 50 hours of volunteer labour resulting in several maintenance tasks like painting, cleaning and restoring areas in preparation for the new season. This resulted in the Club looking very professional.

We are very proud to see our membership return to the levels pre-COVID. Junior surf athletes were so pleased to be back on the beach, lifeguards were still offering to patrol, and we could provide regular coaching sessions for senior sport.

IRB squad was formed early in the season, with over five teams regularly training and entering competitions. This group of lifeguards has shown strength and resilience in lifesaving sports and has proudly represented Waihi Beach.

February 2022 saw the delivery of a new surf boat and a boat launching event supported by many retired lifeguards and rowers. The surf boat was named The Dan Harris in recognition of his years of commitment and drive to build strong surf boat teams and continue to improve other club resources.







The Board's goals are to continue to upgrade the facilities, address challenges around flood risks, develop more sustainable practices and secure the funding to progress lifeguarding into the next decade.

Volunteers are the backbone of any lifeguarding club, and at Waihi Beach we have exceptional individuals willing to take on service without any expectations.

Exciting times are ahead for the membership, our community and our supporters. We can't wait.



PATROL STATS

	TOTAL VOLUNTEER & REGIONAL HOURS 6700
	PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS 5400
	FIRST AID TREATMENTS 92
	ASSISTED TO SAFETY 29
	RESCUES 10
	SEARCHES 13

LIFE MEMBERS

JOHN BEESTON*
 BILL BURTON
 DENNIS BUTLER
 JOHN BUTLER
 WRAY CLARK*
 GRAEME CULLEN*
 MARK GODWIN
 DAN HARRIS
 JUSTIN HAWKES
 BEN HEATH
 MICHAEL HICKEY
 BARRY JESNEY
 REECE MEAD*
 MURRAY MUNRO
 JACK PATTILLO
 HENK POSTMAA*
 IAN ROBINSON
 KEVIN STEEL
 BARRY TIMBERS*
 (*DECEASED)

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS

