



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

*Waihi Beach*  
LIFEGUARD SERVICES INC



**SURF LIFE SAVING**  
NEW ZEALAND

Photo taken by Alan Gibson

# THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My President's Report is in reference to the 2022 - 2023 season. Despite the very average summer and high rainfall the Club continued to provide the same standard of lifeguarding and patrolling. Guards utilised the wet days to build more capability by undertaking regular training sessions.

This resulted in more lifeguards qualified in Level 3 (PHEC) first aid and pain module, so pain relief can be administered in serious rescues. The Club qualified more Rescue Water Craft (RWC -jetski) drivers which provides the community with more water-based patrols along the peninsula and coastline.

I had the opportunity to take the summer off from the NZ Police to work as a Regional Lifeguard. It was a privilege to see first hand how capable and resilient our top tier lifeguards are. We all spent several days in a small lifeguard tower whilst it rained all day. Despite this, these lifeguards continued to be there for the people of Waihi Beach and visitors to the region. At all times the lifeguards remaining on patrol and ever vigilant.

Our Search & Rescue Squad continued to train hard and the team were involved in some significant incidents during the summer. This also included assisting other SAR's teams in the Coromandel areas of Whangamata and Opoutere.

The stand out event for me was receiving the Club award at the Eastern Region Awards of Excellence. Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services was presented with the Coromandel Club of the Year 2022-23. It was a such a privilege to represent the club.

The Board continued to work on the plans to build a second location at the Bowentown end of the peninsula. The Bowentown Hub will provide facilities and resources for the guards patrol at this end of the long 10km stretch. The very active Search and Rescue squad will also have rescue gear stored there for a quick response.

After 10 years in the role as President I have handed the reins over to another great role model in our Club, Neil Harray. During my time as President I have achieved what I set out to do to, ultimately build a strong Club spirit, develop leaders and build capacity in our movement.

The culture of the Club is one of health and where members have a strong connection with the members, the Club and the local community. As a Board we have seen the growth in membership, investment in rescue equipment and other resources and a commitment to training so guards are fit for purpose. Many of the skills they learn are transferable to many workplaces, universities and other training institutes.

Ultimately we are all Kaitiaki (guardians) in our roles and protectors of our environment. I will always remain strongly connected to the Club as it runs deep in my blood. It will continue to be a part of me even as my next chapter takes me overseas.

In it for life

***Dave Litton (Dunny)***

# DIRECTOR OF LIFEGUARDING REPORT

We faced unique challenges due to the weather including the flooding of the entire downstairs of our club, but our members pulled through, supported each other, and we adapted our patrolling strategies accordingly, ensuring safety remained our top priority.

Despite the challenging patrol conditions our team showcased their outstanding rescue ready skills, executing a total of 26 rescues and providing assistance to 15 individuals in distress. Additionally, they conducted nine searches and completed 773 preventive actions.

A huge thank you to our Patrol Captains, Vice PCs, lifeguards, patrol support, call out squad members and rookies whose collective efforts were instrumental in ensuring all these community members were brought back home.

Our Development Team had an exceptional year, recruiting, training and qualifying 15 new Surf Lifeguards, 11 IRB Drivers, and 15 Crew persons. Thank you again to our fantastic instructing and examining team for their efforts in ensuring the sustainability of our service.

This season, 13 members obtained their Surf First Aid award, while 11 achieved the Advanced First Aid qualification, further enhancing our team's readiness to respond to emergencies. Thank you again to our Development team for their work organising these opportunities and to our Board for ensuring funding is available for our members to undertake these vital courses.

This season we had a total of 78 members refresh their lifeguard or patrol support award plus our new members joining us brought our active membership to a total of 93 for the 2022/23 season.

Our Rookies enjoyed another extremely successful season, clinching the Eastern Region Rookie Championship once again and alongside Liam May taking out Top Male Rookie of the Year 2022/23.

At the Regional Awards of Excellence, our club enjoyed significant success, with 11 members named finalists across various categories. Special congratulations to Georgia Eldridge, Liam May, Rian Butler, and Sharlene Manukau for taking out their categories and to Jack Sewell, an adopted Waihi Beach guard, for clinching Volunteer Lifeguard of the Year.

Lastly, we proudly announce our club's recognition as the Coromandel Club of the Year 2022/23, a testament to our collective dedication and accomplishments.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our Board, Lifesaving Committee and all our members for their perseverance and resilience this season.

Ngā Mihi,

**Lucy Scown**

# THE CHAIR'S REPORT

This season for the Board, the lifeguards, members, and the community was a challenge. It started raining soon after opening weekend, and it never stopped. The region experienced high rainfall, then cyclone Gabrielle, followed by two tornadoes. These adverse weather conditions forced us to cancel many Junior Surf Sunday sessions, the annual fun run, sand-making competition, beach collections and other events that help us raise the necessary funds to provide our services.

Lifeguards on duty still attended to the public, but visitor numbers to the region were much lower than the previous summer. Guards remained on duty and weathered the storm, rescuing 26 people and assisting 15 others to safety.

We significantly reduced clientele through The Deck Kitchen and Bar and were forced to close on days when it was so wet that people did not venture out. This reduction in traffic flow through the Club impacted our social memberships, and donations.

Just before winter 2023, a major storm significantly damaged the club's downstairs infrastructure and rescue equipment. Storm and black water inundation resulted in unusable areas of the Club, damage to lifejackets, helmets, the beach patrol tower, and junior surf sports equipment.

Much of the end of the season was dedicated to cleaning up, removing wall linings, purchasing new equipment, and preparing the Club for the coming patrol season. We have sought help from professionals to design flood mitigation strategies to protect the club in the future.

The Board has continued to work tirelessly to support the delivery of lifeguarding services and build resilience within our own and local communities. Even though we have been faced with some challenging situations, everyone maintained a business-as-usual attitude. We are so grateful for the energy and commitment everyone has shown during some unusual times.

The Board has focused on cost containment with the reduced cash flow over the summer period. The Financial Performance Accounts confirm that this strategy has resulted in an acceptable bottom line.

Under the guidance of our Administrator Manager, the office has streamlined many systems and processes to reduce labour costs and increase output.

The 2022/23 season proved to be a wet and rainy yet successful period for our club at Waihi Beach. Despite challenging weather conditions, our dedicated lifeguards and members delivered exceptional service throughout the season.

# THE CHAIR'S REPORT CONTINUED

Central Government Funding is in its third year of contributing to operational costs and has removed significant pressure from the Board to raise money to 'turn the lights on'. This leaves time for energy devoted to providing patrol and Search and Rescue services, lifeguard development, upgrading rescue equipment, and keeping the club in good health.

We see the demand for our services increasing each season so this year the Board has focused on developing a strong, well-trained, and equipped Search and Rescue (SAR). More extensive training on swift and black water rescue has been high on the agenda.

Both junior and senior sports have grown during the season. The blue and white club colours have been well-represented at numerous competitions. To all of the coaches, co-ordinators, team managers, and parent supporters, it has been a rewarding year. Many athletes have achieved final status and stood on the podium, but it is also the smiles on everyone's faces, and the comradeship that is most rewarding.


The season ended on a high with three lifeguards and one rookie recognised for contributing to the movement. The Club was also presented with the Coromandel Club of the Year 2022/23 at the SLSNZ Awards of Excellence.

We want to express our appreciation to all our volunteers, members, sponsors, grant donors, and Surf Lifesaving NZ, and the Eastern Region. We could not deliver our services and programmes without you. This community is more resilient with guards on patrol!


**Donna Pfefferle**




 **4488**  
volunteer hours

 **15**  
assisted to safety

 **26**  
rescues

 **71**  
first aid incidents

 **9**  
searches

 **773**  
preventative actions

- 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)



## May 2023 Flooding

The Board would like to thank all of our members, their whanau, the local community and everyone who came to our rescue when we needed help. *Thank you.*

## A big thank you to all of our supporters

