

2023 - 2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Waihi Beach
LIFEGUARD SERVICES INC



SURF LIFE SAVING®
NEW ZEALAND

LIFESAVING REPORT



The 2023/24 season was another exceptional one for the Waihi Beach Lifeguard Service. With a notable drop in rainfall compared to previous years, we enjoyed a consistently busy summer, providing a full and active patrol season across our three locations. Our four patrol teams—led by Christiaan, Tammy, Leo, Maddie, and Chloe, alongside their dedicated Vice Captains—showed tremendous leadership and commitment. Thank you all for your time, effort, and energy in keeping our community safe.

This season, 84 active volunteer members contributed a total of 2,917 volunteer hours, in addition to 3,001 paid hours from our Regional Paid Lifeguard team—bringing us to an impressive 5,989 patrol hours. This is a testament to the dedication and strength of our lifeguard community. Our volunteer lifeguards achieved their goal of zero rescues this season, a testament to the high level of service and vigilance maintained across all patrols. Through proactive patrolling, our teams carried out 8,498 safety interventions, 219 preventative actions, 9 assists, 8 searches, 22 minor first aids, and 6 major first aids.

Our Paid Lifeguard Service also delivered a high standard of care and professionalism across our three locations, responding to a range of incidents with confidence and efficiency. Across their patrols, the team performed 6,019 safety interventions and 319 preventative actions, with 1 rescue, 1 assist, 3 searches, 26 minor first aids, and 1 major first aid.

It was a fantastic season for development, with lifeguards earning a wide range of qualifications to strengthen both individual capability and team readiness.



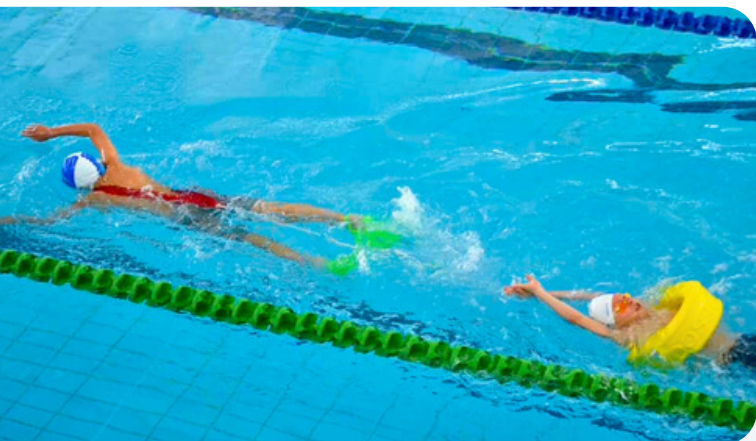
Awards achieved this season include:

- 13 Surf Lifeguard Awards
- 8 IRB Drivers Awards
- 16 Rock Rescue Awards
- 3 Rock Rescue Instructors
- 2 RWC Operators
- 3 Advanced Surf First Aid
- 2 Intermediate Lifeguard Awards
- 1 BP Leaders for Life candidate

This growth would not be possible without the incredible mahi of our instructors, examiners, and wider lifeguarding team. Thank you for your continued passion and commitment to helping our lifeguards stay rescue-ready.



LIFESAVING REPORT CONT.



It was an outstanding season for Waihi Beach in the surf sports arena, with strong performances across all disciplines and age groups. Highlights included a 3rd place finish at the Eastern Region Pool Rescue Champs, medal wins for our surf boat crews at North Islands, and national silver for our IRB team, the Coast Busters.

Across Oceans and Senior Nationals, our athletes brought home a combined 21 medals! –an incredible testament to the hard work of our competitors and coaches.

Our Rookie Program continues to go from strength to strength, led by the talented Zarah Higgins, Chiara Woodford, and Rosie Swain. This season saw our Rookies take out overall team Gold, with several individual medals as well—a clear indicator of the exciting future we have ahead.



This season, we focused on our Club Service Awards, celebrating the dedication of our members. Thirteen members received Club Service Awards, seven were honoured with Distinguished Service Awards, and a special congratulations goes to our newest Life Members—Andrew Cochrane and Christiaan Maarhuis—for their decades of leadership and commitment. In addition, our members were recognised beyond the club, with five receiving Regional Service Awards, two earning Distinguished Regional Service Awards, and five honoured with National Service Awards. Congratulations and thank you to all award recipients for your outstanding contributions.



From patrols and development to sports and celebrations (with a Barbie-themed prizegiving), this season was a true reflection of the strength and heart of our Waihi Beach Lifeguard community. We've built something really special here—thanks to the ongoing effort, energy, and support of our members, instructors, lifesaving committee, and Board.

Ngā mihi nui and thank you all for being such an integral part of our club.

Lucy Scown
Director of Lifesaving



PRESIDENTS REPORT



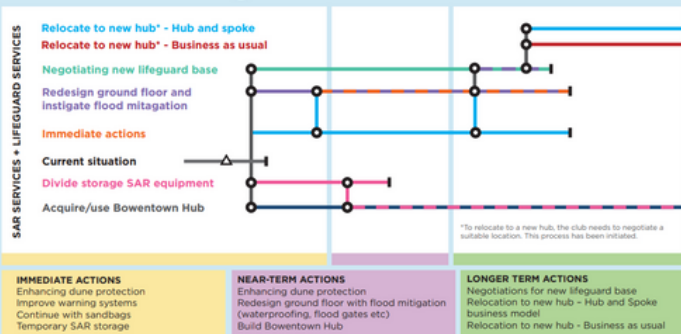
I am proud to present my final report as President of the Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services for the 2023-2024 season. This season presented several challenges, including Cyclone Gabrielle, a tornado, and a flash flood. All three events tested the resilience of the Club, our members, and the greater Waihi Beach community. The Clubhouse was significantly damaged by the flooding in May 2023. On the ground level, dirty water reached a height of 600mm in our rescue equipment shed, lifeguard lounge/kitchen and gear shed.

As a lifeguard club, we are used to environmental challenges, but due to the severity of this situation, we reached out for support. Every challenge presents an opportunity, and it has been rewarding to see members of the Board, namely Andrew and Donna, seek professional guidance to prevent future water/surf-based flooding impacting the Club's operation. With guidance from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, a community-based workgroup involving the Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Surf Lifesaving NZ, local community groups and other stakeholders worked together to develop short, medium, and long-term flood mitigation plans for the club. This work has resulted in several strategies to make the Club less vulnerable to extreme weather events, coastal erosion, and stormwater inundation.



I am very proud of the Club's Search and Rescue Squad and their involvement in several rescues during the season. I have been a squad member for some years and thoroughly enjoyed working alongside Andrew Cochrane to continue building on the team's capability. With support from a generous sponsor, we purchased additional safety equipment to ensure the team is safe in adverse weather or sea conditions. This squad continued to train monthly and is well regarded within the Coromandel area as a fit-for-purpose, well-trained crew. It has been a real highlight for me to be part of this high-performing team and have such strong friendships that we all enjoy having some laughs along the way.

Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services DAPP



[Read more about our adaptation planning here](#)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT).

After ten years as the Club's President and moving to Australia, it was a great time to hand the reins to another strong community leader, Neil Harray. When I was first voted into this role 10 years ago, I was fortunate to have our Chair, Donna Pfefferle, and an active Board to support me and achieve the Club's goals. I know Neil will continue to lead the Club and support the health and well-being of the members in his new role.

Your life can be measured by what you leave behind. Reflecting on my tenure as President, I am honoured to have helped the Board build the Club's resilience in assets procurement, processes, and, importantly, training, leadership, and Club spirit. Surf Lifesaving has always been a good fit for me and something I am passionate about. Being able to serve others, willing to help save lives, and support the local community not only makes a difference to the lives of others but also to my own. As Winston Churchill wisely said, we make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

Thank you to all the members who have supported me and the Club over the past ten years and helped fulfil this role.

In it for life.

Dave (Dunny) Litton



CHAIR'S REPORT



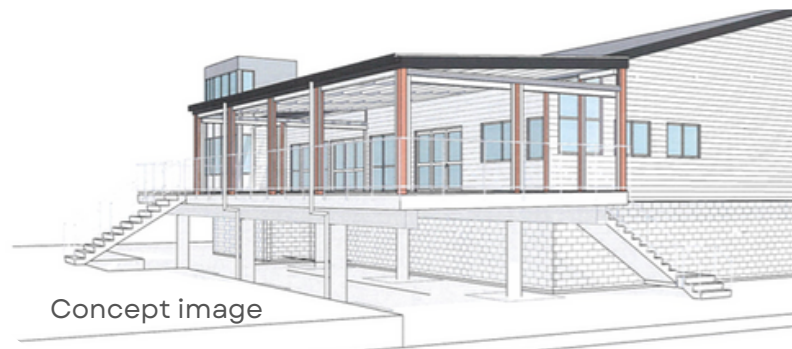
The summer of 2023/24 was significantly better in terms of weather compared to the previous summer, which was marked by constant rain. This change facilitated much more activity around the Club, resulting in strong participation in our community-led events. It was truly a rewarding and enjoyable summer.

The board was busy this season ensuring the Club's health, which focuses on three pillars: financial health, quality and fit-for-purpose assets, and member well-being. The board aims to make the Club a destination for lifeguards, members, and visitors.

The Board focused on developing flood mitigation strategies to enhance the resilience of the services we provide, protect our assets, and ensure the longevity of the Club. The Bowentown Hub will be an asset to both the Club and the community. This asset will provide lifeguards and search and rescue with a base, facilitating a quicker response time to call-outs at the end of the 10km peninsula. The Hub supports the Club's flood mitigation plan by offering a second location to operate from in case the north end faces significant adverse weather events, coastal erosion, or inundation.

The hub project has required many hours from the Board and members for planning, fundraising, meeting regulatory requirements, and fostering community collaboration. Unfortunately, the project did not start by the end of the 2023/24 season, but it is progressing well to become a reality.

Past weather effects have shown how challenging it can be to host major events; the impact on bar and kitchen turnover, the effects on member enjoyment levels and limiting the potential for renting out a larger footprint of the Club. To address this, we investigated the options of covering the deck. After talking with the experts, it was concluded that a custom-built structure would be necessary, as other systems would not endure this environment.



Concept image

At the grassroots level, lifeguard contributions, volunteer support, junior surf, and lifesaving sports are in a strong position, which is demonstrated by the club's positive and healthy culture. Since the delivery of our programmes relies on volunteer energy and commitment, it is essential to retain our existing members while focusing on growth to meet future needs.



Bowentown Hub concept images



CHAIR'S REPORT CONT.

Dave Litton, affectionately known as Dunny, has served as the Club President and has been an active member of the search and rescue squad since 2014. His police career has taken him to Australia, and sadly, he will be leaving the Board.

Dave has made significant contributions over the past ten years to the Club's progress and the development of its members. He has served as a progressive lifeguard and a talented call-out squad member. We wish Dave, Colleen, and the girls all the best in their new adventure.



Heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers for the hours spent on the beach, the time dedicated by committees and the board to planning, event support and hospitality, instructing, coaching, examining, and many other forms of support. We could never have done it without all of you.

To our amazing sponsors, grant providers, service providers, the local community, and Surf Lifesaving NZ for their contributions to delivering our services; your support ensures we have the right rescue gear in the right condition and lifeguards with the right training to perform rescues, first aid, searches and many other services.

Donna Pfefferle
Chair

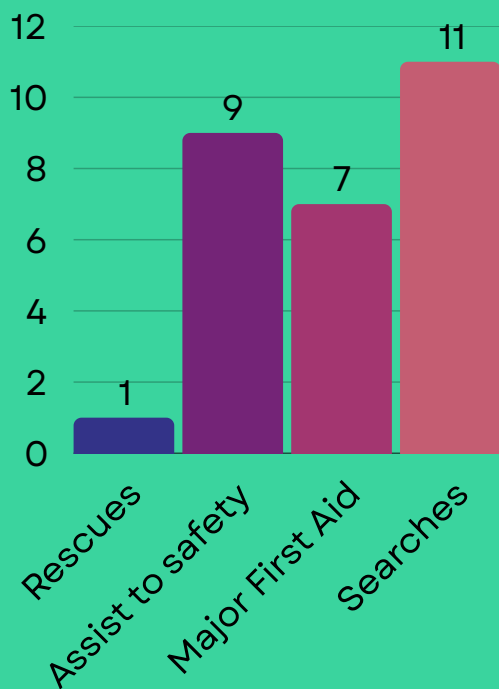


Save the Date!
7-9 November 2025

Plans are underway for the 90th anniversary of the Club's incorporation. Celebrations will coincide with 8 November 1935, beginning with events scheduled for 7-9 November 2025. We are reaching out to former lifeguards and members to send invitations, as the Club's forebears have infused significant energy and passion into the resources and functional clubhouse from which we operate.



A YEAR IN REVIEW



5,989 Patrol Hours

14,517 safety interventions
538 preventative actions
48 minor first aid



LIFE MEMBERS

John Beeston*	Michael Hickey
Bill Burton	Barry Jesney*
Dennis Butler	Christiaan Maarhuis
John Butler*	Reece Mead*
Wray Clark*	Murray Munro
Andrew Cochrane	Jack Pattillo*
Graeme Cullen*	Henk Postmaa*
Mark Godwin	Ian Robinson
Dan Harris	Kevin Steel*
Justin Hawkes	Barry Timbers*
Ben Heath	(*deceased)