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Eastern Region Update – April 2016

Hi Eastern Region Clubbies,

With Easter now behind us, this signals the traditional end of the summer season for Surf lifesaving in the Eastern Region. Some clubs will continue on for another few weeks, while others take a well-deserved breather. Looking at some of the activity, other than club AGM's over the Easter Weekend, it will probably go down as one of our busiest 4 day periods on record with over 100 rescues taking place across the Eastern Region, these were mainly centred in the Coromandel & BOP Areas.

With the end of the lifesaving and sport season imminent, clubs are generally focusing on recognising those members that have gone above and beyond with their own club award ceremonies. It is important that these outstanding people and efforts are also recognised at the right level. The Zespri Coromandel/Bay of Plenty & Gisborne Awards of Excellence nominations are set to open up as of the 11th of April we are looking to continue to grow the nominations this year, so please let's get the right people nominated and recognised at the right level.

Most of you would have caught up with the news that Zespri have come on-board as the Primary Partner of the Eastern Region. A large part of the Zespri sponsorship is targeted at support of our membership with lifesaving focused education and training opportunities that help build the capability of the region, an in-depth summary will be provided at the April/May round of the local area Club Chairs meetings.

On the sports front, congratulations must go to Whakatane Surf Lifesaving Club for hosting the Eastern Bay Energy Trust Surf Lifesaving Nationals at Ohope Beach. The last couple of days proved to be challenging, however, 6 of the top 10 clubs were from within the Eastern Region with Mt Maunganui again taking overall honours. This weekend coming, Papamoa host the BP Surf Rescue New Zealand IRB Championships, this event sees strong representation from across the Eastern Region.

Yours in Surf....

Chris Emmett

Eastern Region Manager

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Surf Life Saving New Zealand – Eastern Region

2 Boeing Place, Mount Maunganui 3116. PO Box 4667, Mt Maunganui 3149. www.surflifesaving.org.nz

In this edition

- **Upcoming Courses & Events**
- **News Feed**
- **Club and Membership development**
- **Lifesaving and Education Update**
- **Sports Update**

Upcoming Courses & Events

Rookie Championships

When: Saturday 9th April

Venue: Waihi Beach

Time: 9am

Gisborne SLA exam

When: Sunday 3rd April

Venue: Tolaga Bay SLSC

Time: 8am

BOP IRB Long Haul

When: Saturday 7th May

Venue: Ohope Beach (Whakatane Surf Club) to Main Beach Mount Maunganui

Time: 11am [view event information here](#)

Eastern Region Pool Championships

When: Weekend 6/7th August

Venue: Waterworld Te Rapa

[view event information here](#)

News Feed

- **Papamoa set to host national IRB champs:** Over 300 athletes from 27 Surf Life Saving Clubs are ready to take on the national Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) championships in the Bay of Plenty this weekend. [Read more here](#)
- **High Performance squads named:** Surf Life Saving New Zealand is pleased to announce its High Performance Squads for the 2016/17 season, including the team to represent New Zealand at the 2016 Sanyo Cup in Japan. [Read more here](#)

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Club and Membership Development

Lifeguard exams have almost come to an end and a huge thanks must go out to all the examiners who committed their time on numerous occasions to make these exams happen. Also to all the instructors for your hard work in getting your candidates ready and assisting the examiners at the exams.

The final Gisborne/Tairāwhiti SLA exam will be held in Tolaga on Sunday 3rd April.

The 2016 Rookie Championships will be held in Waihi on Saturday 9th April and will see the regions top rookie teams and individuals battle it out for the top spot.

Over the next few months we will be planning IRB development camps in the Coromandel, Bay of Plenty and Tairāwhiti/East Coast area so look out for more information on those.

More training on the new PAM database has been undertaken concerning reporting and I am keen to share this knowledge, if there are any administrators in need of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me directly, Chaz Gibbons 5742061 ext 701

Last month the Zespri Intermediate Surf lifeguard school was held at Waihi Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, with 23 candidates from across the region taking part. Overall the course was a great success and the instructors were really impressed with the high standard of candidates. After a closely contested weekend, Georgia Eldridge from Waihi Beach was named as the top candidate. Many thanks to the instructors, mentors and parent helpers who helped make this weekend a success as well as Waihi SLSC for allowing us to host this lifeguard school at their club.



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Lifesaving & Education Update

Beach Education



Our Beach Education season has just come to an end. We have been busy over the past month with schools making booking for part of their camps. Low decile schools, a special needs school and quite a few groups from various international student centres.

The international students have loved the opportunity to come to the surf clubs and have a look around, while learning how they can keep themselves safe at the beach. Often for some, it is their first time at a beach.

The low decile schools such as Merivale School in Tauranga, Awapuni School in Gisborne, Strathmore School in Tokoroa and Kaitao Intermediate in Rotorua, have been really grateful to be able to bring up to 50 students per school to Beach Education for free. These students would not have otherwise had the chance to come along to Beach Education. This is thanks to some extra funding we received from Water Safety New Zealand to enable these low decile schools the chance to come to Beach Education. We have been able to offer this to over 1000 students in the Eastern Region this summer.

I'd like to say a big thank you to all of the clubs who have hosted us for Beach Education this summer: Midway, Whakatane, Papamoa, Omanu, Mount Maunganui, Waihi and Whangamata. We are hopeful that we may be able to offer Beach Education at a few more clubs for next summer. We have so many schools wanting to come to Beach Education; it would be good to have more surf clubs available to book.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and helped with Beach Education this summer. I hope you have a great winter season.

Leeann Bassett

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Search and Rescue (SAR)

In line with the new Health & Safety reforms (April 2016), the New Zealand Police have reviewed SLSNZ's Emergency Call-Out Squads (ECOS). The key points are; the age of squad members, their qualifications, their currency and the training undertaken within the squads. So I will be asking all clubs who have ECOS's to update the names, contacts and qualifications of each of their members. I will check all and endorse all of the squads before passing these to the National Lifesaving Manager, who passes these lists onto the NZ Police with his final endorsement.

The Police have made to very clear to SLSNZ that they cannot, and will not task any squad that does not comply with their requirements as above.

So please work with me to ensure that our squads are up to the required standard for the benefit of all communities in the Eastern Region. If you wish to discuss this further please contact me.



Gisborne/Tairāwhiti ECOS

We are looking to rebuild this squad with existing and new members. The Gisborne/ Tairāwhiti Lifesaving Committee (GTLC) will be discussing this further at the next few meetings. So if you are interested please contact your club GTLC member and express your interest to them.



Surf Lifeguard Examinations

The final SLA Exam for the season is taking place on Sunday 3rd April in Tolaga Bay.

This season we have seen 259 new surf lifeguards across the Eastern Region. A big thanks to all club instructors for the tireless efforts they have put into the training of these surf lifeguards. Also a huge thankyou goes out to all SLA Examiners who have fronted up and run the examinations this season.

IRB Examinations

IRB examinations will continue throughout the winter on an "as and when required basis". If your club is looking to present some new candidates, please ensure that all the required pre-requisites are completed before registration, and the candidates have completed the required amount of training. It is unfair on Examiners to present candidates that have not done the work and are prepared properly.

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Regional Lifeguard Service (RLS)

SLSNZ – Eastern Region is looking to further enhance the professionalism and skills of our RLS.

The 2015/16 season saw a number of new Regional Guards appointed across many beaches and many new Head Guards stepping up for the first time. I would like to personally thank all those lifeguards who were part of the wider RLS team this season. We had plenty of very positive media articles published and the general feedback from clubs and members was great.

We would like all surf lifeguards who are contemplating applying for this service in the coming 2016/17 season to look at upskilling themselves over the winter months in particular.

IRB Qualifications - We will be running IRB Development weekends and the annual Raglan IRB camp over the winter months. Senior Lifeguard IRB Drivers is the preferred qualification for all RLG's. Ask around your club to see who is running training programmes over the winter months. If you are keen but there is no programme within your club, please contact me and I will try and slot you into another clubs wider training group.

First Aid qualifications – PHEC (Level 3) would be the preferred qualification for all RLG's. However, we understand that this is not always possible so a minimum of Level 2 first aid is essential.

Other qualifications - Patrol Captains Course & National Lifeguard School should be on every RLG's radar.

Lifesaving Committee's (Coromandel, BOP and Gisborne)

These Lifesaving Committees provide each area with a balanced view in relation to all Lifesaving matters. Committee members make key decisions in relation to patrolling season dates, lifesaving initiatives, patrol auditing, awards of excellence and much more.

Expressions of interest for these committees will be sent out in May 2016. If you are looking to assist your area/region further please contact Leigh Sefton to discuss.



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Sports Update

As the autumn days grow shorter, most people would be forgiven for thinking that the Surf Sport Season should be winding down, however we still have the BP IRB Nationals being held at Papamoa this coming weekend, and quite a few of the regions surf athletes are still in training for the Aussie Titles 16th -24th April on the Sunshine Coast, we would like to pass on our best wishes to all competitors in both these events.

With a seemingly endless procession of Surf Sport Events, there is no ideal time to stop and reflect on the past season. I think that it is important however to take the time to thank the Officials, Water Safety Crew, Work Parties, and surf club members who contributed to the thousands of volunteer hours so that we may be able to not only run these events, but enable our regions athletes to race in safe and fair competitions. Without these volunteers our events could not be run. I am sure that I can speak for all the Surf Sport Athletes, Coaches, and Parents, when I say that your time and effort in this regard is hugely appreciated.

Saturday the 7th May will see the fourth running of the BOP IRB Long Haul event from Ohope to Mt Maunganui. There will be a few exciting tweaks to the event this year, with the format being changed to a 'Stage Race'. There will be 5 stages, each will start with a Mass Start, and all crews will be racing shoulder to shoulder to the next destination where they will perform both physically and mentally challenging tasks. Times will be taken and time differences accumulated over the 5 stages will determine the overall winner. At the end of each stage challenge, the crews will have 10 minutes to recover and refuel before the next Mass start.



Check out the [Event Page](#), where we will post further race information and the link to the Enter Now registration/entry page (for club administrators).

Eastern Region Pool Championships will be held on the weekend of the 6/7th August at this stage at Waterworld Te Rapa. Waterworld have informed us of a maintenance period for which they are currently in negotiations with contractors and they cannot confirm this start date as yet. There is a small chance it may start in early August and have an impact on the venue for our event. We have a backup reservation the same weekend at the AUT Millennium pool, Rosedale, Auckland. We will send out a confirmation to all Clubs as soon as they let us know.

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