



Eastern Region Update – December 2016

Hi Eastern Region clubbies,

With Christmas just around the corner and warmer water temperatures hitting the Eastern Region beaches this generally signals the start of the Regional Lifeguard season. For those that haven't caught up, we now provide 28 patrolled areas across the region which is four up on last year, the new locations are: Cathedral Cove, Hahei, Pauanui South and Papamoa East. All of these areas involve a significant investment from the adjacent clubs, our council partners and the Eastern Region staff and will go a long way to keeping the Eastern Region beaches safer over the peak period.

Secondly, in this update we need to remind all clubs that lifeguard and IRB refreshers plus patrol and incident data should be a high priority to be completed at this time of the year. Please don't leave these to the last minute as club support funding payments won't be made until both these areas are up to date. I will be giving each club that isn't up to date a friendly reminder over the next week or so. A thank you must also go to those clubs that are already up to date.

Lastly, at this time of the year just a reminder that the Eastern Region office will be closed from Friday 23rd December 2016 through until Wednesday 4th January 2017. Some staff will be working from time to time however we can't guarantee that someone will be there. Leigh Sefton will be the Duty Manager during this time, so please call him if you have an emergency situation happening.

From all of the Eastern Region Team, we hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in Surf....

Chris Emmett

Eastern Region Manager

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Upcoming courses and events

The Mount Monster presented by Dexion

Date: Sat 17th Dec

Location: Mt Maunganui Main Beach

Time: 10am start

Registrations: Online entries only (now closed)

2017 BOP Junior Championships

Date: Sunday 18th December 2016

Location: Whakatane SLSC – Ohope Beach

Time: 9am start

Registrations: Online entries only (now closed)

Pauanui Junior Surf Carnival

Date: Friday 6th January 2017

Location: Pauanui Beach

Time: 9.00 am

Whiritoa Junior Surf Carnival

Date: Sunday 8th January 2017

Location: Whiritoa Beach

Time: 9.00am

Registration due: On day

Surf Lifeguard Award Exam 2 – BOP

Date: Sunday 8th January 2017

Location: Maketu

Time: 9.00 am

Whangamata Junior Surf Carnival – Coro Cup

Date: Saturday 14th January 2017

Location: Whangamata

Time: 9.00 am

Surf Lifeguard Award Exam 2 – Gisborne/Tairāwhiti

Date: Friday 13th & Saturday 14th January 2017

Location: TBC

Time: 5:30pm Friday

Registrations: Monday 9th January 2017

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Wainui Junior Surf Carnival

Date: Saturday 14th January 2017

Location: Wainui SLSC

Time: 8:30am start

Registrations: On the day

Coromandel IRB Exam

Date: Saturday 14th January 2017

Location: TBC

Time: 9.00 am

Surf Lifeguard Award Exam 2 – Coromandel

Date: Saturday 17th January 2017

Location: Whangamata

Time: 9.30am

Surf Lifeguard Award Exam 3 – Coromandel

Date: Sunday 18th January 2017

Location: Waihi Beach

Time: 9.00am

Papamoa Junior Surf Carnival

Date: Saturday 21st January 2017

Location: Papamoa Beach

Time: 8am

Sunset Series #1

Date: Thursday 26th January 2017

Location: Midway SLSC

Time: TBC

Registrations: Monday 23rd January 2016 via enter now system

Omanu Day of Champions

Date: Sunday 22 January 2017

Location: Omanu Beach

Time: 8.30

Eastern Region Championships

Date: Saturday 28th – Sunday 29th January 2017

Location: Mt Maunganui Main Beach

Time: 8am

Registration due: On Line entries – Closing at 5pm 11th January – Cost \$60 per competitor

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News feed

Halberg Water Sports to help a group of Kiwis enjoy water sports around the country this summer

Ngāti Porou surf lifesaving were among some of the helpers that helped people with disabilities to enjoy a day out in the ocean, read more [here](#)



Support those bravely serving between the flags

Every summer, Surf Life Saving New Zealand's volunteer lifeguards put themselves in potentially dangerous situations to help keep Kiwis safe while enjoying the beach. In fact, over the past 10 years, lifeguards have spent over two million hours on patrol, saving over 13,700 lives. [Read More here](#)

TSB Bank and Surf Life Saving announce new major partnership

The new surf lifesaving season has brought about a new major partnership for this essential rescue service. Surf Life Saving New Zealand, together with TSB Bank, is proud to announce a three year agreement which will see TSB supporting the national body and its 74 clubs nationwide. The partnership is a natural fit for the two organisations whose values are closely aligned by putting people first - protecting individuals' and families' futures. [Read more here](#)

Otaki Lifeguard named top candidate at National Lifeguard School

Eighteen Surf Lifeguards were put through their paces last weekend as they aimed to achieve the highest qualification when it comes to lifesaving in New Zealand. Whangamata turned on the weather for the 2016 National Lifeguard School with the club hosting and assisting at the school with the support of Surf Life Saving instructors and mentors.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand member development manager Belinda Slement says across the weekend the candidates developed their skills and knowledge in patrol operations, advanced first aid, helicopter operations, search and rescue, Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) skills, rock navigations and rock rescues in an effort to gain their Advanced Lifeguard Award.

"It was a jam-packed weekend with all candidates giving 100% effort and commitment to the camp," she says.

The honour of top candidate was awarded to Sophrose London from Otaki Surf Life Saving Club.

[Read more here](#)

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Club and Membership Development

Gisborne/Tairāwhiti SLA Exam One

22 new surf life guards completed their Surf Life Guard Award on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th November. Congratulations to all the Gisborne/Tairāwhiti club members who sat their SLA exam and passed, it was a huge exam to begin the season with, and we can now add 22 surf lifeguards to our beaches keeping the public safe over summer. A huge thank you to Zespri International for their support to get these exams and education programmes all running. Also, to all the examiners, instructors, club reps, helpers and safety crew you're all amazing! Thanks for helping to put on a great exam.



Gisborne/Tairāwhiti IRB Development Group

Gisborne IRB Training Squad officially kicked into gear at the end of October 2016 with members of Midway and Waikanae guards willing and eager to up skill during the coming patrol season. Since the start of the squad it has expanded to members of Wainui Surf club joining in on sessions. The overall aim of the co-run squad by Connor Mitchell and Andrew Shelton, is to see more IRB drivers on patrols in the Tairāwhiti/Gisborne Area. With an overall goal by 2017 to form an Inter-club IRB Academy, with focus on lifeguard development in IRB operations, patrol ability, gaining qualifications, as well as advanced patrolling techniques with advanced scenario work. While promoting and encouraging lifeguards to attend Senior Lifeguard School.

On average the squad is 23 members strong with Members from advanced guard, IRB drivers and crew right down to first year lifeguards willing to up skill. Gisborne/Tairāwhiti is unique where it has a variety of places to train, from flat water, river, medium surf, heavy surf and rock work, the candidates are always faced with new challenges, with no set duration the squad trains until an outcome has been achieved while making it fun.

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Instructors and Examiners have been busy across the region putting members through their Surf Lifeguard or Patrol Support awards – 114 in total so far! Huge thanks to all these volunteers for giving up their time to get these young keen buggers through their awards and onto our beaches.



Left – Candidates from Mt Maunganui LGS and Whakatane SLSC completing their Run-Swim-Run as part of their Lifeguard Exam

Right – Coromandel Examiners surveying the beach in their new Examiner T-Shirts



Left – Candidates from Wainui SLSC, Waikanae SLSC and Midway SLSC posing for a team photo

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As well as Examiners, our wonderful facilitators have been busy around the Bay running Instructor and Patrol Captain Workshops. We will be looking to run a few more of these courses in the Coromandel and Eastern Bay of Plenty as we get into the Season. Keep an eye out on our website and facebook for further details.

Left: Danielle Shepherd taking the Instructor Workshop. Below: Aidan Ward leading an outdoor session for



2017 Eastern Region Rookie Championships

The 2017 Eastern Region Rookie Championships are a joint Rookie Teams and Top Rookie Competition.

This enables our top U/14 Rookies to test their skills against the best in the Eastern Region.

Date: Sunday 22nd January 2017

Time: 9am

Entries Close: Monday 2nd January, 2017

Venue : TBC BOP



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We have also been busy planning the next Intermediate Lifeguard School, applications have now opened for Candidates, Mentors & Instructors.

The Intermediate Lifeguard School is designed to provide junior lifeguards with skill development, knowledge and further understanding to develop as a lifeguard. The school is a dynamic combination of theory and practical based sessions to enhance the candidate's learning through a variety of situations.

The Intermediate Lifeguard School is delivered via a two day camp and is a great opportunity for junior lifeguards to become more confident and capable lifeguards.

Course Pre-requisites:

- Current SLSNZ Member
- Surf Lifeguard Award (refreshed)
- 15 years old or above
- At least one full season of active patrolling
- Current First Aid Level 1
- 400m pool swim in under 8 minutes
- Club endorsement to attend the school
- IRB Crewman's Module (recommended)

More information regarding the Intermediate Lifeguard School can be found on the Surf Lifesaving [website](#).



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Lifesaving Update

Regional Weekly Patrol Dates: 2016-17

Cathedral Cove - 24th Dec - 15th Jan
Hahei - 24th Dec - 15th Jan 2017
Hot Water Beach 12th Dec - 28th Apr
Tairua - 19th Dec - 27th Jan 2017
Pauanui - 19th Dec - 27th Jan 2017
Pauanui South - 24th Dec - 8th Jan 2017
 (including weekends)
Onemana - 26th Dec - 20th Jan 2017
Whangamata - 12th Dec - 27th Jan 2017
Whangamata South - 24th Dec - 8th Jan 2017
 (including weekends)
Whiritoa - 19th Dec - 20th Jan 2017
Waihi Beach - 19th Dec - 27th Jan 2017
Bowentown - 19th Dec - 22nd Jan 2017
 (including weekends)
Mt Maunganui - 12th Dec - 3rd Feb 2017
Tay Street - 24th Dec - 22nd Jan 2017
 (including weekends)
Omanu Beach - 12th Dec - 3rd Feb 2017
Papamoa - 12th Dec - 3rd Feb 2017
Papamoa East - 24th Dec 2016 - 8th Jan 2017
 (including weekends)
Maketu - 19th Dec 2016 - 6th Jan 2017
Pukehina - 19th Dec 2016 - 20th Jan 2017
Thornton Beach - 24th Dec - 3rd Jan 2017
 (including weekends)
Whakatane - 19th Dec - 20th Jan 2017
Ohope Motor Camp - 19th Dec - 22nd Jan 2017
 (including weekends)
Opotiki - 26th Dec - 13th Jan 2017
Tolaga Bay - 19th Dec - 13th Jan 2017
Tolaga Bay Wharf - 19th Dec - 13th Jan 2017
Wainui - 19th Dec - 20th Jan 2017
Waikanae - 19th Dec - 20th Jan 2017
Midway - 19th Dec - 20th Jan 2017



Volunteer Weekend Patrols have started up around the region and Regional Weekly Patrols are due to kick off at some of our busier beaches come Monday 12th December. Check out findabeach.co.nz for information on beach locations and keep an eye out for the Red & Yellow

RLS Club Liason person

Hot Water Beach	Sandi Lowe
Tairua	Matt Kerr
Pauanui	Steph Peploe
Onemana	Kevin Thorburn
Whangamata	Rachelle Bright
Whiritoa	Alex Polglase
Waihi	Christiaan Maarhuis
Mt Maunganui	Glenn Bradley
Omanu Beach	Jason Carswell
Papamoa	Shaun Smith
Maketu	Mike Hickson
Pukehina	Kevin Barugh
Whakatane	Harina Warbrick
Opotiki	Hamish McKenzie
Midway	Rocky Hall
Waikanae	Gary Stevens
Wainui	Salvatore Zame
Tolaga Bay	Kerehama Blackman

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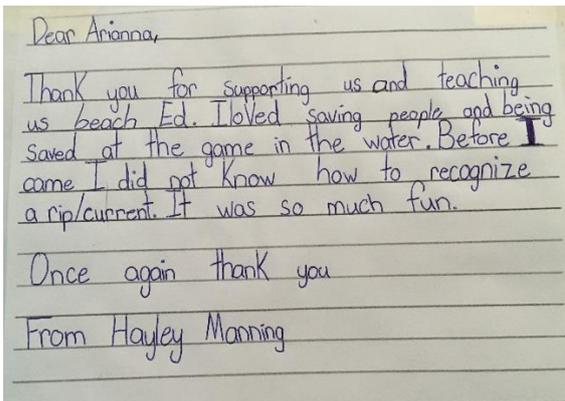
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Education Update

We have had an incredibly successful term four of beach education. We had a shaky start with our first two days being cancelled due to the tsunami warning after the Kaikoura earthquake. But once we began we have had a very busy five weeks. In term four last summer we put 3613 kids through beach education and this term we have put 4700 through. Our numbers are up for next term in February and March as well with schools still making bookings.

We can all be really proud of the great instructors we have from our clubs and the amazing job they do each day working so energetically with the students, teachers and parent helpers. Along with the changes we have made to the programme over the past two years and our fantastic instructor's delivery of it, we are rebuilding our reputation with schools to be a very positive and worthwhile day out for their schools. The major change we have made to the programme this summer is to differentiate between age groups. In the past the programme has been a rather "one size fits all" approach. But this year we have broken it down with different activities for years 0-2, year 3-4, year 5-6 and year 7-8, plus separating the larger groups into smaller groups. We have had very positive feedback from the schools and the instructors are finding this way much easier and more enjoyable to teach the students.



We have had lots of lovely thank you letters from schools. Here are some of our instructors in their new uniforms and bucket hats.



Perry and Julia had a day at Pyes Pa School in every class teaching the kids about rips and surf safety.

Danielle and Ollie playing Otters and Whales at Induction day held at Omanu



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We have been grateful for the funding we have received from the Bay Trust for lower decile schools in the greater Bay of Plenty. This has allowed us to subsidise or make the day free for schools who may not otherwise have been able to attend.

ECT Trust have also just confirmed their funding for Gisborne schools for beach education. So with this funding available we expect a busy February for Gisborne clubs. We are happy to welcome Tolaga Bay, Wainui and Waikanae surf clubs on board with our programme this year. It is great to have more venues to use in the Gisborne area.

We had three separate induction days this term – two at Omanu and one at Waikanae. They were very full days but the instructors all found them really useful and gained confidence in what they were going to be teaching. For the two days at Omanu we were lucky to have students from Matapihi school come along and be model students for the day. They were real good sorts and didn't mind playing along with the games for younger students so we could show the new instructors what to do. We will do this again next year.

So a very positive start to our beach education season. We will start up again at the beginning of February and have school bookings right through until nationals in March. I'd like to thank all of the clubs who we work with to host beach education and acknowledge the support we receive from them – thank you all 😊... and an extra special thanks to our brilliant team of instructors – you are the best!

Sports Update

We are right into the swing of things as we steamroll toward Christmas.

BOP Junior Carnival – Omanu -4th December.

The first of the BOP Junior Carnivals was held on the 4th of December, in beautiful conditions at Omanu Beach. There were 370 athletes from 7 clubs competing, aged from 7 to 13 Years of age. There was some great racing, and fun times were had by all.

Thank you to Omanu Beach SLSC for hosting this event and providing the much needed support crews to run this event. Thanks also to the Officials and Water Safety crew who did an outstanding job, keeping everything running smoothly and the athletes safe.



BOP Junior Championships– Ohope 18th December We have over 400 entries for the BOP Junior Champs. These entries have come from 11 clubs, some as far afield as Westshore and Foxton

Officials Level 1 course: We have our last course of 2016 running on the 11th December at the Mount Maunganui Lifeguard Service. All tallied, that will result in 32 new Officials in the region this season

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Midway Junior Surf Carnival – 27th November

The junior surf carnival season got off to a roaring start with the Midway Junior Surf Carnival on Sunday 27th November, with competitors from all three of the town clubs it was a great day with some fun competition. Thanks to all the helpers and the Gisborne Junior Surf Committee for putting on an amazing carnival!



Bay Of Plenty Representative teams:

All expressions of interest for the BOP rep teams have closed, it is now up to those athletes who have expressed interest to perform at the Whangamata Classic event, and to show the BOP team selectors your skills.

BDO Gisborne/Tairāwhiti Representative teams:

The Gisborne/Tairāwhiti representative team selectors have been hard at work and will announce the two teams to contest the New Zealand Representative Challenge over the next two weeks. We would like to say a huge thank you to BDO for agreeing to be the major sponsors for both teams again this year.

2017 Eastern Regional Championships – 28th/29th January: The flyers are up [online](#), and the draft programme has been released. There are some exciting new initiatives for 2017 that will hopefully speed up the programme, and result in less conflict with events. We are planning to run a twilight event on the Saturday night 5pm-8:30pm, where we will run all the Beach events: Sprints, Flags, Relays and 2km beach run. We will have music, food trucks and hopefully provide a carnival atmosphere. We look forward your club joining us for what should be one of the largest events on the Surf Lifesaving Calendar.



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