

# **SURF**:RESCUE

*In it for life*

ISSUE NUMBER 42  
MAY 2007

## **NZCT SURF LIFE SAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*Mt Maunganui blitzes the competition*

## **RESCUES OF THE MONTH**

Four outstanding rescues

## **NZ OCEAN ATHLETES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Papamoa show prowess





DHL continues to proudly support Surf Life Saving New Zealand, and we would like to recognise the valuable contribution that New Zealand's lifeguards make to our communities each summer.

Thanks for your dedication, from the DHL New Zealand team.

Delivering Safer Beaches



**SURF LIFE SAVING**  
NEW ZEALAND





from the editor's desk  
disclaimer / staff list

# record breaking



## from the editor's desk

It's hard to believe that another season has come and gone, but as the days get shorter and winter sets in we can look back on another action packed summer on New Zealand beaches.

Although colder than normal temperatures, especially at the beginning of summer, meant patrol statistics have been down on previous years, the continual expansion of our service has meant that Lifeguards around the country have still been very busy.

The NIVEA SUN Rescue of the Month articles (pages 14 and 15) highlight the extraordinary ability of our members to deal with all sorts of incidents and rescues, many of them beyond the flags. Surf sports has enjoyed a record breaking season with more events than ever before and increased participation in a number of events. The increase in numbers signals a very positive future for the sport in both the North and South Islands.

As we look toward the World Championships next year, surf sports in New Zealand is in a very positive position. This was highlighted by the success of a number of our athletes at the Australian Championships in March, in particular Chelsea Maples and Paul Cracroft-Wilson who taught the Aussies that Kiwis can in fact fly.

This issue of Surf Rescue profiles a number of our members both young and old and recognises the passing of one of our most esteemed Life Members. Murray Haxton was a much loved and influential member who epitomised what it meant to be in it for life.

Have a safe and happy winter and enjoy the read.



## Surf Life Saving is grateful for the support from our principal funder

Over the last ten years the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board has, through their annual grants process, allocated over \$20m to Surf Life Saving throughout New Zealand.

In 2006 / 2007 the Outdoor Safety Committee allocated \$2.5m to Surf Life Saving. Without these funds we would struggle to sustain the level of service currently provided by Surf Lifeguards throughout New Zealand.

Thank you.

## DISCLAIMER

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**SURF LIFE SAVING**  
NEW ZEALAND

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surf rescue  
Issue 42 May 2007

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Cover Photo: Mark Dwyer

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A total of 170 competitors entered



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# heads up...

## the warehouse support

In 2000/01 SLSNZ received support from The Warehouse's own fundraising activities. Once again this year Surf Life Saving is a recipient. In February, sales of SLSNZ's Scratch and Win through stores nationwide raised over \$140,000. Following this success, in April The Warehouse announced SLSNZ is the charity that will be the recipient of the funds raised from their annual charity dinner, expected to raise over \$300,000.

## drownings up

By the end of February, 29 people had drowned in New Zealand this year, up from 22 at the same time last year. Ten of these drownings were at beaches compared to four last summer. During the same period, seven people have drowned in Auckland, the highest number in three years.

## 75th Jubilee

Surf Life Saving Taranaki celebrated its 75th Jubilee in February. Surf Life Saving Northern Region will celebrate its 75th year during the 2007/08 summer.

## surf boat series

The inaugural NZ Surf Boat Series proved a success with 27 crews entering the series, in addition to the crews who entered the individual events. Overall winners were Titahi Bay, with Paekakariki second and Piha Club third.

## piha rescue

Piha Rescue will begin a new series in October. Once again Surf Life Saving New Zealand is the programme's sponsor and together with a film crew from TVNZ, have been travelling to other parts of the country to ensure the viewers recognise Piha Beach is just one of 70 Clubs Surf Lifeguards patrol. Look out for Taranaki, Otago and Bay of Plenty beaches featuring.



# nz champs

While the location of the NZ Championships has some impact on entry numbers each year, over the last seven years the total number of entries at the NZ Championships has steadily increased from 2439 in 2001 to 3049 this year. This is the highest to date and reflects an increase of 25% over this seven year period. Under 19 events, particularly women's, showed the most significant increase this year compared with 2006.



## coldest on record

With December being the coldest on record in many parts of the country summer was a long time coming. Lifeguards were still on the beach though with patrol statistics still counting a possible record number of patrol hours, but fewer incidents.

## inquest

The inquest into the drowning at the Auckland Harbour Swim on 5 November 2005 was held in Auckland late in February. The final report will not be available for some time but the members involved and the quality of the service provided by both the Mairangi Bay Lifeguards involved with this specific event and all those throughout New Zealand received appreciative comments from the Coroner. See page 12.

## National Surf Life Saving Appeal

Surf Life Saving New Zealand is organising a national appeal to start the 2007/08 season off with a bang. The appeal will strengthen our position as a charitable organisation in the eyes of the New Zealand public, promote key safety messages, and raise valuable income for our organisation.

## order of merit

Brian Heron of Red Beach SLS Club was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Year's Honours list. Brian has been a long time supporter of the Club. See page 36.

# summer wrap



## Slow start

During December many areas experienced temperatures more closely associated with July rather than those of our peak summer holiday times. Wellington recorded its coldest December in more than 70 years, while New Plymouth, Wanganui, and Blenheim had their coldest December in at least 60 years. Auckland had its second coldest since 1950.

Rainfall was about twice the normal level throughout much of Canterbury. Rainfall was also above normal in parts of Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, and East Otago. Sea level pressures were below average northeast of the Chatham Islands. As a result, cold southerlies were more frequent than average over New Zealand and as Lifeguards, didn't we know it!

Despite the weather, patrol hours in most regions increased, an indication of the dedication of our members and the relevance of the service we provide.

## Lifesaving summary

Across the country Surf Lifeguards saved 1,604 lives [1,810 in 2005/06], undertook 1,788 first aid treatments and completed 303 searches. However,

despite the slow start at the beginning of summer we provided an almost record 167,313 hours on patrol.

## A snap shot look at parts of the country

Searches for children younger than 10 years old seemed a frequent occurrence in Hawke's Bay.

In most cases the children were found safe on another part of the beach; however Ocean Beach Kiwi Lifeguards could not successfully return one child to his family. After searching a lagoon in a grid pattern near Ocean Beach a young boy was found submerged and could not be revived.

Six days earlier Lifeguards at Ocean Beach, readying themselves for New Year's Eve, rescued a stranded couple in near dark conditions. The pair had become isolated on the wrong side of Whakapou Point due to high seas and the incoming tide. Hawke's Bay Lifeguards performed 44 Rescues this year, similar to last year's total of 41.

Wellington's Oriental Beach continues to grab the headlines, despite the perception it's a beach that offers little or no risk because it is calm. As an

# up

Much of Surf Life Saving's activity is dictated by the weather, and this season was no exception.



inner harbour beach it carries the common misconception that no waves mean no risk.

Two people in two separate incidents at Oriental Beach have broken their necks in the last 18 months, diving into the shallow water. A number of swimmers have also been rescued, the most serious this summer on January 16 with one exhausted swimmer requiring an ambulance.

The most common cause for people getting into trouble at Oriental Beach is overestimating their ability when attempting to swim to the raft ... moored approximately 200m offshore. Also in Wellington, the District has undertaken a significant amount of event Lifeguarding, supporting the local Council's event programme. Rescue numbers are up from 81 to 145 this year.

Auckland's West Coast icon, Piha Beach, had a very quiet summer with few of the traditional 'west coast swells' taking their toll on unsuspecting swimmers. Volunteer Surf Lifeguards performed 'just' 49 rescues this summer compared to 132 last summer.

Across on the East Coast, with the support of the North Shore City Council, Mairangi Bay Surf Life Saving Club embarked on a positive initiative and extended its Lifesaving service to neighbouring beaches which in the past

have been unpatrolled. For the first time the Club patrolled four of the city's most popular beaches: Browns Bay, Long Bay, and Takapuna Beach as well as its own Mairangi Bay. Towers were erected on the three beaches and public response to the towers and presence of Surf Lifeguards was positive.

The North Shore City Council contributed \$45,000 to Mairangi Bay Surf Life Saving Club to support its ambitious plan.

## Looking ahead, a saviour to this year's slow summer start - New Zealanders will soon be able to enjoy more summer days!

Government has decided to extend daylight saving another three weeks, to a 27-week period. Not only does that give Surf Life Saving a longer summer but importantly a later summer.

Clocks will go forward an hour, a week earlier than usual - on the last Sunday in September - and will go back an hour on the first Sunday of April, instead of the third Sunday in March. Perhaps the chance to record another cold summer is resigned to the history books.



ocean athletes hits the south  
south brighton prove they are top junior club

# ocean athletes hit the



South Brighton Surf Life Saving Club proved they are the top junior Club in the south at the Southern Regional Ocean Athlete Championships in early February.

The host Club finished the competition on 141 points, 48 ahead of second placed Lyall Bay. While the New Zealand Ocean Athlete Championships, which is held at Mount Maunganui, is now into its seventh year this was the first time the South Island event had been held. An exciting development for surf sports in the southern region.

"The Ocean Athletes is a fantastic event for our young athletes and to be able to bring it to the South Island this year was really exciting," said Surf Life Saving New Zealand's Sport Manager Mark Weatherall.

"The fundamental concept behind the Ocean Athletes is that everyone is a winner by competing, however, it's also about recognising champions with medals for first, second and third."

"Our team did well over the weekend," said South Brighton's Team Manager Dennis Trembath. "Their results were very promising."

While South Brighton had a team of 31, Lyall Bay's team consisted of only 10 athletes making their second placing and high point score extraordinary.

# south



“Judging by the results over the weekend Surf Life Saving has a very strong future in the south,” said Weatherall.



A. Hayley Cox from Lyall Bay in the Board Race  
B. Waimairi's Maia Smith starts the board leg of the Diamond Lady  
C. Former NZ champion, Malcom McDonald explains the course for the Surf Race.

“Our team is extremely happy with how they raced,” said Lyall Bay’s Team Manager Walter Maxwell. “This result is the culmination of three years of work by a dedicated team at Lyall Bay as well as many hours of training from our athletes.”

Challenging conditions at the beach over the weekend tested the athletes especially in the craft events where the wind and prevailing drift caused havoc with competitor’s equipment. “The athletes showed extraordinary determination and really rose to the occasion,” said Surf Life Saving New Zealand’s Sport Manager Mark Weatherall. “The conditions were quite rough with some bigger swells coming through however they coped with it really well and all came out smiling.”

The event was made possible by support from Telecommunications company CallSouth. CallSouth’s support also assisted with the travel costs for Clubs, ensuring that Clubs such as Rarangi Surf Life Saving Club from Blenheim were able to compete for the first time in a number of years.

CallSouth has been supporting Surf Life Saving for over four years now, predominantly through SLSNZ’s education programmes. “We are extremely proud to be part of an event which develops New Zealand’s future Surf Lifeguards. We look forward to being involved in the ongoing support of it in the future,” said CallSouth’s General Manager Brent Matthews.

The Ocean Athlete concept has proven to be a very successful tool in the development of young Surf Lifeguards in the northern part of the country and Weatherall believes the southern region event will have a similar effect.

“A number of our up and coming athletes, including our current National Ironman title holder, have come through the ranks at the National Ocean Athlete Championships so it really gives our young members something to aspire to.”

“The number of Lifeguards competing in the senior divisions in the South Island is dwindling. We are hoping that the Southern Regional Ocean Athletes will become a regular fixture on our calendar giving our young southern competitors something to aim for. Ultimately we hope it keeps them involved in Surf Life Saving for a longer period of time.”

While the competition proved to be a learning curve for a number of Clubs it also exposed them to a new level of competition which the athletes responded positively to. “It was a very exciting competition to be part of,” said Weatherall. “Judging by the results over the weekend Surf Life Saving has a very strong future in the south.”

# nz ocean athletes papamoa prowess

The New Zealand Under 14 Ocean Athlete Championships are always a special event and this year was no exception with a record number of entries and a record point score by the top Club Papamoa.

More than 800 Junior Lifeguards travelled to Mount Maunganui from around New Zealand for the event, over 200 more than last year.

Thirty-nine clubs, from as far south as Christchurch and as far north as Waipu Cove, were represented over the three day event, with some athletes as young as ten years competing.

This was the seventh year in which the Ocean Athletes have been run and the popularity continues to grow, with the event recognised as the NZ Junior Surf Life Saving Championships and as a Tauranga City Flagship event.

Such is the success of the event that this year for the first time 20 children from Bronte Surf Life Saving Club in Australia travelled to New Zealand to race against their Kiwi counterparts. They were impressed with what they saw.

"This would be the best-run event for kids I've ever been involved with in 30 years," said Team Manager Lindsay Cotterill, shaking his head in disbelief. "Our state events are pretty messy in terms of mechanics, they're 100 years behind this. There's also more spirit at this carnival than I've seen at our events and there's a lot of things that Australia can learn from."

The Bronte competitors were generally in the leading packs but didn't always get their own way, and Cotterill was impressed with the New Zealand talent. "The quality is pretty good here – maybe the sheer depth at our state level would give the top kids an advantage but the skills are certainly here."

Local Club Papamoa proved they definitely had the necessary skills winning the competition by a record margin. The Bay of Plenty club won by a massive 37 points, heading home close rivals and championship hosts Mount Maunganui, who finished on 59 points. Gisborne's Waikanae finished the three-day carnival strongly in third on 43 points, ahead of surprise packages Lyall Bay (35) and defending champions Westshore (27).

Papamoa thrived in the fluky shore-break on the last day, extending their 12-point overnight lead by dominating the Beach Sprint and 2km Relay events. It was the first time the club had won the overall points title, leaving long-time team manager Paul Kayes delighted. "You don't get this overnight - we've been improving over the seven years we've been coming here and we upped the ante this year by bringing Kurt Wilson on board as our professional coach," Kayes said.

"The support from the committee, from the team management and the parents has been fantastic but we're already planning for next year."

The Ocean Athletes is one of only a handful of sporting events in New Zealand which creates the opportunity for competitors who are under 14 years to win national titles.



NEW ZEALAND UNDER 14  
**OCEAN ATHLETE**  
 CHAMPIONSHIPS



A. Competitors start the 2km Beach Relay  
 B. An East End competitor from Taranaki negotiates the difficult conditions  
 C. Papamoa showing their dominance in the boys sprint  
 D. A Waikanae competitor gets toppled by the big surf  
 E. Big smiles from a Whakatane competitor  
 F. Korbin Hutchings running to third place in the 10 year old Beach Sprint.

# event lifeguarding

Our thoughts  
are with Mrs  
Moors, Fraser's  
family and  
friends, some  
of whom have  
a history in Surf  
Life Saving.

On the 15th of November 2005 Mr Fraser Moors died while swimming in the Auckland Harbour Swim. The autopsy of Mr Moors indicated the cause of death as drowning. Significant to Surf Life Saving was that Mairangi Bay SLSC had provided event safety services to this event.

In the case of Mr Moors, Mairangi Bay Club and Lifeguards met the highest possible standard of duty and care. They had established a relationship with the 'Event Promoter', worked with the promoter to develop a 'best practice' Event Safety Plan, had ensured that trained Lifeguards and equipment (IRB's, skis and boards) were available on the day and held two Lifeguard briefing sessions prior to the race. During the incident, the three Lifeguards specifically involved in the rescue demonstrated a very high standard of decision making, rescue response and first aid treatment to Mr Moors.

But Mr Moors still drowned.

This initiated a long investigation into how a relatively fit and healthy young man could drown in an event that had extensive Lifeguard services. The investigation over the last 15 months which came to its final stage with two days in the Coroners Court was difficult for all, both Mr Moors family and friends, but also the Lifeguards involved. The incident still awaits closure as we await the Coroner's report.

There are some important lessons to be learnt by Surf Life Saving.

Many Clubs and a number of Districts undertake event safety services for a range of 'public' events like open water swims, triathlons and dragon boats. In making a decision to provide such services the members concerned undertake a significant responsibility over and above our 'normal' service provision. With this comes the absolute responsibility to provide the service to the highest possible standard.

The seven main steps in this process are:

1. That the Club/District enters into a formal relationship with any person/group seeking Lifeguard services. SLSNZ provides templates for such situations.
2. That the Club/District develops a relevant Event Safety Plan for the event.
3. That the Club provides the services agreed upon in 1. and 2. above.
4. Members who provide services on the day are appropriately qualified and refreshed.
5. That the 'Head Lifeguard' provides a comprehensive briefing to all members involved with providing Lifeguard services.
6. That if there are any incidents (rescues or first aids) during the event these are recorded on the appropriate SLSNZ forms.
7. That following any event where services are provided a de-brief is held.

I am aware of instances where services have been provided by Clubs/Districts where none of the above steps have been followed. This is irresponsible on the part of the leadership involved allowing such activity to take place and a significant risk for all the members involved.

In this case, Surf Life Saving New Zealand was pleased to be able to demonstrate its commitment to membership protection, providing support and legal counsel to the Lifeguards.

If you are going to provide such services do it properly or don't do it at all.

## Reflection

Our thoughts are with Mrs Moors, Fraser's family and friends, some of whom have a history in Surf Life Saving. My thoughts are also with the three Lifeguards who did a fantastic job on the day and who have sustained a commitment to the service and each other over a very trying 15 months. Andy Kent, Samantha Josephson and Ian Parker are simply fantastic examples of why our members are so special.

Geoff Barry CEO Surf Life Saving New Zealand



# titahi bay - top nz surf boat crew

Titahi Bay proved they are the best Surf Boat crew in the country in February by taking out top points in the Trillian Trust Surf Boat Series.

The Surf Boat series was new to the event calendar this year, but the events which made up the four rounds were all well established. The series was designed to package the Wellington Surf Boat Champs, Whangamata Boat Event, North Island Boat Champs and the Piha Big Wave Classic into one overall series.

The series was an outcome of the commitment of a number of passionate Surf Boat Rowers working with SLSNZ's Sport Manager Mark Weatherall and Mark Bourneville (Horse) of Piha Club playing a significant part in making the series a reality.

Titahi Bay started out the series strongly, winning the Wellington event with consistently good results. The second round was held at Whangamata where a slight wave gave competitors a much needed lift on the row home.

Again Titahi Bay proved too strong. The conditions meant the final was extremely close and Titahi Bay fought hard to take the win ahead of the Red Beach crew who had recently returned from the Ocean Thunder professional Surf Boat Series in Australia.

The women's field was dominated by Karekare, also competing off the back of the Ocean Thunder Series. They were pushed hard throughout the five race points series by the Orewa crew and the Paekakariki crew who won the first round.

The age group divisions saw some close tussles between Piha and Waihi with Piha's Under 21 crew taking top points. Second place was an exceptional finish for the Waihi crew who were still all under 19 years.

Overall, 28 crews competed at the second round of the series, more than twice as many as last year. The third round was held early in February at Waihi Beach. In almost dead flat conditions the final came down to pure fitness, stamina and sheer boat speed as crews were made to work extremely hard all day in the gruelling long course format.

Red Beach showed they had what it took, crossing the line first with Piha, Mount Maunganui Yellow, Titahi Bay and Palmerston North all within a boat length of each other at the finish.

The much anticipated fourth and final round of the series doubled as the Big Wave Classic at Piha and as expected the surf stepped up to the challenge.

While the surf conditions were what the crowd had been hoping for, the expected clash in the final between Titahi Bay and national champions Red Beach did not eventuate when the Auckland crew were eliminated in the semifinal.

Red Beach, hammered by several waves on the outward journey, fought back to be in contention for third place and a place in the final but finally finished fourth. In the end however, it was Titahi Bay's race ensuring they took out the top points for the series.

Across all categories the final was a Wellington affair with Titahi Bay also taking out the Women's race and Paekakariki finishing strong to win the Under 21 grade.

Overall the series proved to be a great concept with a noticeable increase in crews competing at each of the rounds and a renewed passion for surf boat rowing amongst Clubs throughout the country.

A. Titahi Bay competing at the Fresh Up Trans Tasman Challenge, Piha Big Wave Classic  
 B. Titahi Bay C. Orewa D. Paekakariki

# Rescues of the Month



Last year Surf Lifeguards saved 1810 lives on our beaches, but as an organisation we tend to think of it as “another day on patrol” or “just another call out”. Some of these rescues are even more outstanding because of the extraordinary team work or conditions on the day. Too often the efforts of Surf Lifeguards go unnoticed.

As proud sponsors of Surf Life Saving New Zealand, NIVEA SUN is delighted to be supporting the SLSNZ “Rescue of the Month” initiative, helping to ensure that the outstanding work of Surf Lifeguards all over the country gets the recognition it deserves. Together with SLSNZ, NIVEA hope to make the beach a safer place- NIVEA through safe skin protection and SLSNZ through their pro active approach to preventing drowning and injury in New Zealand. All Rescue of the Month winners become finalists for the BP Surf Rescue of the Year Award presented at the BP Surf Rescue Awards in Wellington in September.

## November

**Lifeguards involved:** Leon Batten, Keith MacLeod, Amanda Gentil, Kurt Gentil, Liana Bennett, Natalie Price, Rory Taylor, Chad Cahalane, Ryan Hulse.

Surf Lifeguards from the Ruakaka Surf Lifesaving Patrol were awarded the November NIVEA SUN Rescue of the Month by Surf Life Saving New Zealand. The rescue took place during the first weekend of patrols in the Northern Region. At mid-morning the patrol at Ruakaka overheard a radio call for assistance from a runabout located off the beach. Two recreational scuba divers from the boat had not been seen since they began their dive almost two hours earlier.

The Patrol Captain, Leon Batten radioed through to Maritime radio informing them that Ruakaka Lifeguards were available to assist with a search. The boat was spotted by the Lifeguards in the patrol tower and other members of the patrol took an Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) out to talk to the skipper.

It became pretty clear upon reaching the boat that the skipper had moved a fair distance from the original dive spot. The Lifeguards asked her to turn off the engine and anchor the boat while they gathered further information about the divers.

The patrol launched another two IRB's to begin a grid search for the pair as well as a quad bike and truck to check the shore in case the divers had already got to land. As the search continued and nothing was found, Leon requested the use of the Northland Rescue Helicopter for an aerial search as well as additional IRB support from neighbouring beaches Waipu Cove and Whangarei Heads. Half an hour later and with still no sign of the divers, three other members of the Ruakaka Surf Life Saving Patrol joined the search in a private boat. They were asked to head further south toward Waipu and also out to sea as a large inshore area had been covered with no results.

After nearly two hours of searching in the choppy conditions, the divers were finally found and brought to shore by the IRB both in good health. Back at the beach they were assessed by waiting St John's paramedics and were given the all clear.

## December

**Lifeguards involved:** Duncan Clarke, Daniel Lacy, Ian Weaver, Scott Douglas, Kris O'Neill, Mitchell Johnson, Rob Pidgeon, Jamie Piggins.

Lifeguards from Auckland's Climatech Regional Lifeguard Service rescued two people after they were caught in heavy surf and washed onto rocks at Piha Beach. The rescue took place on December 28, a day of very large surf conditions at Piha.

By chance, Surf Lifeguards Dan Lacy and Ian Weaver were assisting surfers caught in a rip when they saw a man lying face down on the rocks. Lacy tried unsuccessfully to swim from their Inflatable Rescue Boat to the rocks, with the heavy surf proving too dangerous. Two other Lifeguards, Kris O'Neill and Mitchell Johnson, arrived with Kris also trying to swim to the man.

Trying a different route the Lifeguards swam through the 'key hole' where the water was calmer. O'Neil was successful, managing to get to the patient who was extremely distressed and had been on the rocks for sometime.

While the Lifeguards treated the man, they were alerted to his companion who was also in serious difficulty and in danger of being swept out to sea.

In the treacherous conditions and with the lack of a safe area to winch the patients off the rocks the Lifeguards decided to swim the patients out to the waiting IRB, rather than attempt a helicopter winch rescue.

The pair were taken back to Piha Surf Life Saving Club for medical attention, with multiple cuts and abrasions from the rocks, but otherwise in good health.



**WHERE PROTECTION MEETS CARE**

*Proud sponsors of Surf Life Saving New Zealand*



“Too often the efforts of Surf Lifeguards go unnoticed.”

## January

**Lifeguards involved:** Lilah Foote, Rebekah Gee, Briar Macken.

On January 11 Lifeguards Lilah, Rebekah and Briar from Pukehina SLSC were having a relatively quiet day on patrol when they were suddenly called into action. Head guard Lilah who was on tower duty spotted a 6.1m scorpion vessel attempting to cross the notorious Pukehina Bar at the northern end of the beach.

As she watched, a wave caught the boat from behind, turned it sideways and rolled it over. At this point Lilah and Rebekah raced from the tower to the flagged area where Briar was supervising the swimmers and dropped the flags, closing the beach.

Lilah and Rebekah quickly launched the IRB. As they approached the boat they could see one man in a lifejacket clinging desperately to the side of it. No other people were visible in the water.

The Lifeguards quickly found out that there were four people trapped under the boat and started diving to see if anyone could be reached. Due to the rough conditions this proved quite difficult.

Lilah, Rebekah and the driver attempted to turn the boat side on to the waves to make it easier to raise the edge. Lilah then called to the bystanders for anyone who was a strong swimmer to come into the water to assist.

Once the two members of the public arrived at the vessel, Rebekah took the knife and cut the anchor line, freeing the boat. Everyone worked together to spin the boat and after a few attempts in the difficult conditions were able to lift the boat and drag the fear stricken patients clear.

With the help of the Pukehina fire brigade everyone was taken safely back to shore with only minor injuries. However they were sent to Tauranga Hospital for a precautionary check given the amount of time they spent under the boat and in the water.

## February

**Lifeguards involved:** Shelley Kemp, Kurt Neustroski, Matt File, Myles Nikora, Ryan Jarvis, Max Nuestroski, Murray Kemp, Peter Ellingham, Rocky Hall.

The rescue happened on Friday February 2 when 14 year old Luke Jarvis and a group of his friends, all Waikanae Surf Life Saving Club members, were jumping off the rocks at Butlers Wall in Gisborne.

Diving off the wall Luke hit the bottom, as he came to the surface he was struggling to move his head and breathe. Realising he was in serious trouble, his friends dived into the water, carefully moving him onto the rocks, out of the water and into a stable position.

Two of his friends, Max Neustroski and Myles Nikora, quickly returned to the Surf Club to raise the alarm. Fortunately senior members Rocky Hall (also a Surf Life Saving New Zealand Life Member) and Peter Thorpe were at the Club and responded immediately by transporting the spinal board and calling an ambulance.

Waikanae Club member and Chief Senior Instructor Shelley Kemp also paddled over to the rocks to assist Luke “I just tried to keep him as still as possible, comfort him and let him know that help was on its way.”

When the Lifeguards reached Luke they worked together to roll him onto the spinal board whilst trying to keep him as still as possible. This was made all the more difficult by the fact the Lifeguards were in neck deep water.

Once on the spinal board an IRB took Luke to shore where he was taken to Gisborne Hospital and later flown to Auckland’s Starship Hospital. He suffered several fractures to his vertebrae and avoided a tetraplegic condition by a fraction of a millimetre.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand’s Chief Executive Geoff Barry commended the group on their efforts “It is great to see members from different Surf Life Saving Clubs working together towards achieving such an outstanding rescue. The team work and skills used certainly saved a young boy’s life that day.”

For every bottle of NIVEA SUN sold 25 cents is donated to Surf Life Saving New Zealand



**SURF LIFE SAVING**  
NEW ZEALAND

# rising star ryan cox

“Cox starred at the Ocean Athletes Under-14 Championships at the weekend, winning the overall 13-year boys title”



Several hours after the NZ Ocean Athletes Championships finished Ryan Cox was still out in the Mount Maunganui waves on his paddle-board, catching rides in the balmy late-summer dusk.

To say the 13-year-old Wellington College student likes the water would be something of an understatement – there are several species of amphibians that spend less time immersed in the briny than he does. No sooner had Cox starred at the Ocean Athletes Under-14 Championships at the weekend, winning the overall 13-year boys title, than he was heading for Hamilton where the National Age-Group Swimming Championships began later in the week.

“I started swimming to get fit for surf but now the swimming is almost taking over,” Cox admitted. “I’m really enjoying it and hoping to do pretty well again at the Nationals.”

Cox had set himself high standards – last year he won national swimming titles in the 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle, 200m medley and 50m butterfly. At the Ocean Athletes carnival, he took out the Run-Swim-Run, Board Rescue and prestigious Diamond event, finished an agonising second in the Board Race and was third in the Surf Race.

His efforts helped Lyall Bay, eighth last year, to an impressive fourth this year and his Club team manager Walter Maxwell was hoping he’d left enough in the tank. “There’s pressure not only to perform but also to keep his energy going for two big events, pretty much back-to-back,” Maxwell said. “But he’s an exceptional athlete and hopefully we’ve managed him well enough here for him to do well at the age-groups.”

Lyall Bay clubbies are at a disadvantage in that the freezing Cook Strait waters keep them on dry land for much of the year. Cox spends hours in the pool with the Capital Swim Club, training under Gary Hurring, and switched from the Worsler Bay Surf Club last year to get more competition.

Ironically, most of his competition comes from club and schoolmates Tyler Maxwell and Sam Mulcahy – though the only competition the speedo-clad teenagers were having at the conclusion of the Ocean Athlete Championships was who could catch the best wave in the warm Mount Maunganui waters.

**A. Ryan Cox competing at the NZ Under 14 Ocean Athlete Championships**



**SURF LIFE SAVING**

*Keep Safe in the Sun...*

The beach can be a dangerous place.

Every summer Surf Lifeguards around the country provide lifesaving patrols on our beaches... and save around 2,000 lives. But Surf Lifeguards need to be careful at the beach too... and Coaches, Instructors, Examiners, Parents.

#### **Safe Sun tips**

- For complete protection always apply sunscreen 30 minutes prior to going out in the sun.
- Apply sunscreen thickly and reapply frequently – at least every hour
- Always reapply sunscreen after swimming
- Remember that rubbing skin with a towel after swimming will inevitably rub away sunscreen, and with it protection
- You can still get burnt in the water
- The SPF factor is important. The higher the number the longer the protection it provides
- For every bottle of NIVEA Sun sold this summer, 25 cents goes to SLSNZ

The Surf Lifeguard uniform is designed to offer practical sun protection while on patrol, but remember the best sun protection is in the shade.

*... and in the Surf*



where protection meets care  
PROUD SPONSORS OF SURF LIFE SAVING NEW ZEALAND



# mt maunganui blitzes the competition



A



B



C

A. Paul Cracraft-Wilson (right)  
B. Katie Pocock  
C. Rebecca Lockwood  
D. Competitors admire an aerobatics display  
E. Big waves for competitors in the Ski Race  
F. Dan Moodie  
G. Chelsea Maples

Gisborne's Midway Beach proved to be an ideal location for the NZCT Surf Life Saving Championships this year. The large surf on Saturday proved tricky for competitors but created some great spectator viewing while Sunday's flat conditions had a few athletes groaning, it meant finals day was all about training and fitness rather than luck.

The Beach Flags arena provided the first finals of Saturday's competition at the NZCT Surf Life Saving Championships. Taranaki sprinter Paul Cracraft-Wilson ended Morgan Foster's long reign as National Beach Flags Champion and proclaimed himself the fastest man on sand in New Zealand.

Foster, a three-time world champion, was vying for an extraordinary 10th national title in the spectacular discipline, but Fitzroy's Cracraft-Wilson and a fiery posse of younger sprinters conspired to knock Foster out early in the final.

"It's a massive relief more than anything," 26-year-old Cracraft-Wilson said. "I'd been trying for so many years to knock Morgan off and I'm so stoked to have finally done it." Cracraft-Wilson also collected the Beach Sprint title on Friday, becoming the first man since Foster in 2002 to hold both titles simultaneously. He'd waited eight long seasons to capture his first flags crown, although the sprint crown was his third in succession.

Midway's Rebecca Wright won the women's title on her home beach to cap an intriguing second day of the competition and to keep her club in the hunt for the overall title, just 10 points behind first-day leaders Mount Maunganui.

Off the beach, a steady two metre swell caused carnage in some of the early ski and boat races but it couldn't stop New Plymouth Old Boys' Jamie-Lee Reynolds continuing her rampage through the Open Women's events.

Reynolds, the defending Open Ironman champion, collected Tube-Rescue and Ski Relay titles to go with her Run-Swim-Run success on the first day. The 20-year-old also made finals in the Board Race, Ski Race and Surf Race, with her specialist Ironman culminating a hectic schedule for the Australian-based Lifeguard on the second day of competition.

Hawke's Bay teenager Daniel Moodie added more lustre to his growing reputation by winning his second Open Ironman title on Sunday. The Westshore Club member proved his historic double last year – in the under-19 and Open Ironman races – was no fluke. He blitzed his age-group rivals, winning the Surf Race, Run-Swim-Run and Ironman - and then swept aside some of the best seniors in the country to win the Open Ironman, despite treating the event as a 'bonus'.

"It definitely wasn't my main focus this weekend," Moodie, 19, revealed. "A few people took me aside and told me I'd never get the chance to race the age-group again so I've just been concentrating on those races. The Open races were just going to be a bit of a bonus, although I'm pretty pleased to win the Ironman title back."

Despite his hectic schedule, Moodie clung on to leaders Chris Moors (Red Beach) and Midway local Matt Sutton during the board and ski legs, and surged into the lead on the swim, before out sprinting Sutton and Mairangi Bay's Michael Buck up the beach.

Australian-based Muriwai Lifeguard Lucy Pengelly, 22, collected her second



Open Women's title, beating Westshore rival Nikki Cox in a repeat of the 2005 final, with Titahi Bay 17-year-old Madison Boon third.

Mount Maunganui claimed their first overall Club points title and were awarded the Alan Gardner Trophy, finishing 14 points clear of hosts Midway, who needed the last event of the day – the Men's Taplin Relay – to pull clear of third-placed Mairangi Bay.

The North Shore Club had a strong last day, led by victories from their Open Ski paddlers Travis Mitchell and Katie Pocock, and board racer Kevin Morrison. Pocock collected her first Open Women's Ski title since 2001, gaining revenge on young Red Beach rival Erin Taylor, who beat Pocock at the recent National Kayaking Championships.

The teenage success in the Open division continued with Australian-raised Boon finishing third in the Open Surf Race after winning the Under-19 event, and another 17-year-old, Mount's Chelsea Maples, collecting bronze in the Women's Board Race. Maples had earlier dethroned World Beach Sprint Champion and clubmate Holly Moczydlowski in her specialist event.

The Women's Surf Race was won by another Australian-raised competitor, Mount Maunganui's Rebecca Lockwood, who headed home New Plymouth's Ayla Dunlop-Barrett and Westshore's Chantelle Cowrick.

Glenn Anderson won his fifth Men's Surf Race title, pulling ahead of Cory Hutchings (4) and drawing level with Red Beach's Reg Harker who won five titles between 1957 and 1970. Anderson led home two other Midway swimmers on their home beach, Mike Janes and Matt Sutton, to fill out the top three.

Red Beach won the Open Men's Long Course Boat title from arch-rivals Titahi Bay, who won the short course crown the day before.



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**NZCT**  
NZ COMMUNITY TRUST

SWIM SAFE DRIVE SAFE

# HOLDEN NZ

## CONTINUES TO EXTEND SUPPORT



**HOLDEN**

The Holden New Zealand – Surf Life Saving NZ partnership is now well into its second season. Starting initially with ten vehicles, Holden has increased its support over the past eighteen months. The Holden fleet now totals twenty-two vehicles, nineteen of which are directly through Holden New Zealand and a further three purchased through dealers.

Twelve of these vehicles come to Surf Life Saving free of charge as part of Holden New Zealand's Community Support Program and enable Surf Life Saving NZ to provide support to clubs and districts around the country. Holden New Zealand also generously takes care of all maintenance costs.

Not only has this achieved a significant reduction in capital tied up or lease costs, but in the last 18 months collectively the twelve vehicles have covered over 400,000km's - significantly reducing operating costs. Even at just half of the AA's calculated running costs for motor vehicles, Holden New Zealand's support has saved Surf Life Saving well over \$100,000 in 18 months.

Holden New Zealand Corporate Affairs Manager, Brodie McClellan said Holden is incredibly proud of the partnership with Surf Life Saving. "The beach is indelibly linked to the psyche of all Kiwi's and Surf Lifeguards provide a critical service in communities all over New Zealand - we are proud to be able to assist in making their jobs easier."

"Community safety is a key priority area of Holden's community support program, so the fit between the two organisations was obvious."

The 12 vehicles are utilized in the busiest areas of the country, 7 in Auckland, 3 in Bay of Plenty, 1 in both Wellington and Canterbury.

**Reducing capital and maintenance costs – racked up 400,000 km's in 18 months.**



Holden Rodeo, Diesel



Holden Captiva



Holden Viva

## CONSISTENT LOOK

The Holden NZ relationship has enabled the roll out of consistent Surf Life Saving branding on vehicles across the country. While initially starting with just ten vehicles in the last 18 months this has been extended to 22 vehicles which includes the Holden Viva's leased by SLSNZ and three Club vehicles. Awareness and the presence of Surf Life Saving is ever increasing.



## SUPPORTING THE LION FOUNDATION SURF LEAGUE

Increasing the TV programming of the NZ Surf League to 6 weeks and captivating a repeat audience was an important strategy this year. Holden supported the TV programme with a text to win competition and V8 Supercar driver Jason Richards giving away apparel each show. Surprisingly all the winners were female!



## BUILDING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

Blackwell Holden in Christchurch worked with Surf Life Saving Canterbury to supply a Holden Commodore for the District. Through the local Dealer and District working together, during the last two summers Blackwells' have also provided an additional Holden Adventra AWD vehicle free to the District over the summer.



West City Holden sourced a Holden Rodeo for Muriwai Club and over the winter Muriwai will complete the fitment of the vehicle ready for use as a rescue vehicle on the long stretch of west coast beach. The vehicle has already been put to good use and was used in the Rescue that won the Club the Northern Region Rescue of the Month in March.

Above: Greg Murphy with an IRB.  
Below: Holden at the Santa Parade on Queen Street, Auckland.



Schofields Holden of Newmarket in Auckland has now supplied numerous HSV vehicles for Surf Life Saving's national lottery.



# lion foundation surf league gisborne back on top



Having won the Lion Foundation Surf League for the past three years Auckland were outclassed this year by a dominant Gisborne Team, who won their first Lion Foundation Surf League title since 2003.

Led by Ironman Glenn Anderson and Team Captain Matt Sutton, Gisborne overcame a spirited Auckland side to snatch the Lion Foundation Trophy by 13 points. The change of guard was one of many upsets over the exciting weekend of Surf Sports action at its best.

The venue proved the first casualty on Saturday as organisers pulled the event off Mount Maunganui's Main Beach because of a heavy ground swell.

Gisborne Ironman star Glenn Anderson tested the conditions and said even he was relieved when the competition arena was shifted to the relatively sheltered Shark Alley section of the beach.

"There might have been two or three of us who made it out there but it was the right decision," Anderson said. "It was fun out there but you wouldn't have wanted to see anyone get hurt, and they would have in those conditions."

Anderson was upset by 19-year-old Hawke's Bay prodigy Daniel Moodie in his specialist event, but pronounced himself happy after an abbreviated build-up.

Another upset came in the Women's Beach Sprint, where Bay of Plenty's world champion Holly Moczydlowski suffered her first loss on New Zealand sand in almost four years. Ironically her vanquisher was 16-year-old Mount Maunganui clubmate Chelsea Maples, who was drafted into the Otago team for the Surf League.

Australian-based Lucy Pengelly took out the Ironwoman event, heading home Taranaki's Jamie-Lee Reynolds, while the crack Taranaki IRB crew of Jaron Mumby and Chris Scott bounced back from an early loss in the Single Rescue event to win the Assembly Rescue.



C



G



While Gisborne finished the first day of competition ahead, Auckland weren't far behind. They started and finished the second day flying, winning the IRB Single Rescue and the Double Ski but came unstuck in the Beach Flags and IRB Assembly events.

The Ironman race proved to be the real turning point for Gisborne with Team Captain Matt Sutton second to Dan Moodie and team mate Anderson also finishing in the top-five to secure the Gisborne combined victory. Gisborne had nominated the gruelling event as their power play event and by winning, jumped ahead of Auckland into a lead they never relinquished.

Gisborne's title was secured with one race left when Rebecca Wright scorched across the hot Mount Maunganui sand to win the Women's Beach Sprint and Daniel Harris finished third in the men's event.

Their team score of 206 included final-day wins in the combined Ironman, Mixed Tube Rescue and IRB Assembly. Auckland finished on 193 while Bay of Plenty, despite a disastrous last in the event-ending Dearlove Relay, scraped home in third on 188, two points ahead of Hawke's Bay.

The individual star of the event was 19-year-old Moodie, who won all four Ironman titles over the weekend. He cleaned up in the under-19 division on both days, leading his Hawke's Bay team to an historic first title, and stepped up on both afternoons to claim the Open Ironman. It was an outstanding display of endurance, matching his efforts at last year's national championships where

he won both divisions within twenty minutes of each other. "I didn't go out there to come second," Moodie said. "I felt pretty shattered by the end of today but I've been training hard and it paid off."

His Hawke's Bay team mate Nikki Cox won the Ironwoman on Sunday, out sprinting Wellington teenager Madison Boon up the beach. Australian-raised Boon, 16, also finished third in the Ironwoman on Saturday.

World Beach Flags champion Morgan Foster (Canterbury) avenged his upset loss on Saturday to win the next day, while Wellington's Ben Willis recorded the Beach Sprint double winning on both days. "I wanted to step it up and show (Foster) where I was at," Willis, who has been training in Australia with former national sprint champion Callum Taylor, said. "It might cause me a bit of grief when he comes back at me at the New Zealand Champs in March, you've got to beat the best to be the best though."

- A. The Gisborne Open team
- B. Ben Willis, Wellington and Daniel Harris, Gisborne
- C. Bay of Plenty Under 19 IRB crew
- D. Amy Vaughan, Wellington
- E. Start of the Open Ironwoman
- F. IRB Single Rescue
- G. The winning Hawke's Bay Under 19 team.

# bp surf rescue champs fitzroy finish first



Fitzroy Surf Life Saving Club proved they are the strongest Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) Club in New Zealand at the BP Surf Rescue Championships in late March.

The Club finished the competition on 67 points, nine ahead of St Clair from Dunedin. The Fitzroy women's crew of Katie Watts and Emma Crofskey showed their dominance by winning the Tube, Single, Mass and Assembly races making it four wins from four races for the talented New Plymouth pair.

"It's unbelievable really," said Crofskey. "We've had a great couple of days of racing with a lot of luck on our side."

The wins saw the pair named as the top women's crew for the second year in a row. The accolade topped off an incredible season for Watts which

had seen her represent Taranaki at the Lion Foundation Surf League- Surf Life Saving New Zealand's Premier event and take out the Under 19 Beach Flags title at the New Zealand Surf Life Saving Championships in Gisborne.

However it wasn't all plain sailing for Fitzroy. Their Premier crew of Chris Scott and Jaron Mumby had to withdraw from the competition after Chris fell at the end of the Assembly semi final, dislocating his shoulder.

Last year the pair came out of retirement to claim back the title of New Zealand Champions but they had an unlucky season this year, plagued with injury.

"Jaron sustained a pretty nasty back injury at the Lion Foundation Surf League in February," said Surf Life Saving New Zealand Sport Manager Mark Weatherall. "But he had come right for the New Zealand Champs. They were looking very strong going into that Assembly race. No doubt the final was going to be a

close battle so it was disappointing to see their campaign cut short."

Both the Assembly and fast paced Single Rescues were won by the East End crew of Andrew Cronin and Rory O'Connor. The pair has been one of the top crews in the country for the last couple of seasons and they raced extremely well in the tricky conditions. The double win meant the pair took out the trophy for the top Premier crew of the competition.

The conditions at the beach on Sunday were in stark contrast to the flat waters of the estuary where the first day of races were held because of large surf. The choppy 2m waves tested the crews' strength and skills, with a few crews coming off second best. One crew who felt right at home were the Muriwai senior crew of Ash Matuschka and Andrew Lancaster. The pair thrived in the conditions taking out both the Assembly and Single Rescue events.

- A. Flat water starts at the estuary
- B. Chris Scott and Jaron Mumby, Fitzroy
- C. Ash Matuschka and Andrew Lancaster, Muriwai
- D. Brighton Senior crew
- E. Katie Watts and Emma Crofskey, Taranaki
- F. Tim Hunt and Peter Ryan, St Clair

# aussie titles kiwis fly on perth beach

This year saw the Australian National Championships, commonly known as the “Aussies” move to Western Australia and the city of Perth. It was the first time in 16 years that the competition, which is bigger than the Commonwealth Games, was not at Kurrawa Beach in Queensland. While the extra distance and cost meant a reduced New Zealand contingent this year, what they lacked in numbers they made up for in results.

Fitzroy's Paul Cracraft-Wilson was the first Kiwi medal capping a remarkable week by winning the Beach Flags title. The 26-year-old, competing for Queensland's Northcliffe Club, trumped his win the previous week at the NZCT Surf Life Saving Championships in Gisborne with a dramatic victory on Scarborough Beach in Western Australia.

He beat reigning world champion and clubmate Simon Harris in the final, to become the first New Zealander since Morgan Foster in 2002 to hold the Australian title. Japan's Masato Ueki was third.

“It was the closest final I've ever been involved in,” Cracraft-Wilson said. “Simon would be close to the best beach flags competitor ever – and we both turned pretty even. But he seemed to stumble a bit and from there it was a straight run in.”

Cracraft-Wilson, from New Plymouth's Fitzroy Club, said training with Harris on a regular basis had made a huge difference to his racing. “You've got to train with the best to be able to beat the best. I'm absolutely over the moon with this win.”

However his win wasn't without controversy. He false-started in the final round and recovered from a bump after the restart to prevent Harris

from collecting his fifth consecutive title. “I've never been so nervous in my life,” he said of the restart. “We came together and I just came out a little bit better than him. When you get a touch in front it's hard to get back.”

The golden sprinting run continued the following day with 17-year-old Chelsea Maples winning the Under-17 Beach Sprint title and finishing a dramatic first-equal in the Open Women's race. The Mount Maunganui teenager, who won her first New Zealand title the week before, scorched to her Under-17 title a metre clear of Cronulla's Elly Graf, and then jogged back across Scarborough Beach for the start of the Open event.

Less than 10 minutes later, Maples and Graf stunned their older rivals by crossing the line together, unable to be separated by video replays. “I recovered really well between races and everything went to plan,” a jubilant Maples said. “I'm a bit overwhelmed by it all because it was such a huge occasion – the competition is so much tougher over here and there really wasn't anything between first and last.” Included in the Open field was former World Champion Katy Whear, who could only manage fourth.

Cracraft-Wilson couldn't repeat his winning form in the Beach Sprint, finishing fourth. However 20-year-old Wellington rival Ben Willis made the podium with an outstanding race for third.

Willis narrowly lost to Cracraft-Wilson at the national championships, but had his revenge amid the white-hot cauldron of the Australian Championships, where 6200 athletes gathered for the three-day carnival. Home-town heroics saw City of Perth sprinter Dean Scarff beat Fremantle's Thomas Nolan ahead of Willis.

Other New Zealand results saw Mount Maunganui swimmer Johanna O'Connor finish eighth in the Open Surf Race final, Hawke's Bay's Nikki Cox finish 15th in the Ironwoman final and Auckland competitor Cameron Pocock finish 6th in the Double Ski final.



A. Paul Cracraft-Wilson winning his Australian Beach Flags Title  
B. Chelsea Maples at the NZCT Surf Champs



# 2007-2008

## major sports events calendar

### Southern Region Swim Championships

8 - 9 September  
QE2 Pool, Christchurch

### New Zealand Swim Championships

28 - 30 September  
WRAC, Wellington

### New Zealand Surf Boat Series Round One

8-9 December  
Wellington

### North Island BP Surf Rescue Championships

8 December  
Oakura, New Plymouth



### New Zealand Surf Boat Series Round Two

2 January  
Whangamata

### CRC's (Central Regional Championships)

12 - 13 January  
Lyll Bay, Wellington

### NRC's (Northern Regional Championships)

26 - 27 January  
Mt Maunganui

### Lion Foundation Surf League

1 - 3 February  
Mt Maunganui



### New Zealand Surf Boat Series Round Three

9 February\*  
Waihi

### Southern Region U16 Ocean Athlete Championships

16 - 17 February\*  
South Brighton, Christchurch



### New Zealand Surf Boat Series Round Four

22 - 23 February  
Piha

### New Zealand U14 Ocean Athlete Championships

29 Feb - 2 March  
Mt Maunganui



### Southern Region BP Surf Rescue Championships

9 March  
Christchurch



### NZCT Surf Life Saving Championships

13 - 16 March  
Ohope Beach, Whakatane



### New Zealand BP Surf Rescue Championships

29 - 30 March  
Warrington Beach, Dunedin



### NZ Patrol Championships

12 April  
Wellington



## international

(NZ Team events)

### International Swim Challenge

August 2007  
Sydney, Australia

### Germany Cup

November 2007  
Hamburg, Germany

### International Surf Challenge

9 Nov - 1 Dec 2007  
Bondi, Australia

### World Championships

July 2008  
Berlin, Germany

\* dates not confirmed at time of print

# brendon ferguson dedication pays off



**A. Brendon Ferguson**  
*Photograph and article courtesy of  
the Marlborough Express and are  
subject to copyright.*

Surf Life Saving isn't just sun, fun, sand and sea for Marlborough boy Brendon Ferguson. The Rarangi Surf Life Saving Club member headed to Piha in January, one of the country's busiest beaches.

While there the 16 year old participated in a Canterbury life guard incentive weekend, which allowed him to supervise the beach and those using it.

Piha Beach most recently rose to fame as a TV series, Piha Rescue, which shows highlights of a day in the life of Surf Lifeguards. The incentive weekend was a first for Brendon, who was the only Marlburian to take part.

He was nominated by members of the Rarangi Surf Lifesaving Club to participate in the event and was more than happy to accept the offer. "I was a bit surprised that they wanted me to go."

Various Canterbury lifesaving Clubs were each represented at the event by a nominated lifeguard.

Nicole Evans, of the Rarangi Lifesaving Club committee, said Brendon's dedication to the Club made their decision easy. Brendon joined the committee this year and has been teaching Lifeguarding skills to a group of swimmers this season.

The numerous hours Brendon has spent patrolling the beach at Whites Bay also made him a perfect candidate, Nicole, who is Surf Life Saving New Zealand's Volunteer of the Year said.

Nicole attended the event last year and loved every minute of it. "It was great fun. It really opens your eyes up to how dangerous the beaches can be," she said.

Brendon began Surf Life Saving two seasons ago, learning the ropes alongside three others. "It meant a lot that I was selected out of those four. I must have done something right."

He joined about 30 other young lifeguards from Canterbury's beaches at the two day event,

which required participants to perform rescues and watch for dangerous spots on the beach.

Saving a life is something Brendon has not yet had to do, but it is something he wants to be prepared for just in case.

"You have heaps of fun out there. It's all good, it's all fun and it's helping the community," he said.

When Brendon isn't caring for the needs of swimmers at Whites Bay he can be found sitting pool-side at Stadium 2000 in Marlborough where he works as a life guard and swim teacher.

Swimming has been his life since a young age, and for the past four years he has been swimming competitively in backstroke and freestyle events.

Brendon has already participated in a number of events, including South Island competitions and the New Zealand spring meet. He is now in training for the New Zealand Youth and Open Championships to be held in Christchurch over Easter.



# surf lifeguards and local authorities

The average lifeguard can turn up at the beach, patrol for a day and go home without giving much thought to their relevant local authorities (territorial or regional councils) – but, increasingly, anybody running or managing a Surf Life Saving Club needs to be aware of the various policies and plans of their local authorities.

Each local authority is responsible for representing and making decisions about local or regional issues and services. Local authorities make these decisions based on their understanding of the needs and priorities of their communities. Surf Life Saving Clubs are often affected by these decisions, from big issues such as how much funding they're eligible for and what facilities they can build on their land, to smaller but sometimes significant things like the colour of the paint they can use on their club and how much advertising they can have on the outside of their building.

The smart approach then, for surf lifesaving clubs is to make their needs and priorities known to local authorities – become an active part of the decision-making process instead of waiting to see what happens.

**Outlined below is a quick introduction to some of the more 'important' territorial and regional council plans and policies that may have an impact on surf clubs:**

## At Territorial Council Level

### LTCCP/Annual Plans

Councils are required [by the Local Government Act 2002] to develop Long Term Council Community Plans (LTCCPs) and Annual Plans – these are strategic planning documents that set out what projects each council will undertake and the funding associated with each project. LTCCPs are for a 10-year period and reviewed every three years, while Annual Plans are updated every year. It is in these documents that funding for annual programmes such as Regional Guards is allocated each year.

### District Plan

This plan is primarily going to affect your club when it goes to rebuild/extend or develop a new building, or significantly change the way it uses your current building. Each local council is required to prepare a District Plan under the Resource Management Act 1991. The District Plan is the primary document that manages land use and development within the Council's territorial boundaries. It contains rules stating what activities or developments can be undertaken where – and, crucially, whether or not resource consents will be required.

It should be noted that resource consents are not just for buildings and structures, they can also control certain activities related to the use of buildings. For example, opening up the club's private bar to the general public or hiring it out to the public for large gatherings may be "changes of use" that require resource consents, based on the scale of the activities and the nature of the affects on the neighbours – also clubs need to take into account

the repercussion for their liquor licensing under the Sale of Liquor Act (which local councils also administer). Even after a consent has been secured, clubs should carefully check the 'conditions of consent' to ensure they cover all intended activities – ie ensure that conditions state the building can be used for all surf club purposes that it is intended to be used for, 'patrolling' is quite different to 'training purposes'. If the neighbours get tetchy, and you're not properly covered by your consents, you could be in trouble. The opposite also applies - clubs need to be vigilant about adjacent developments – to avoid reverse sensitivity issues – the new neighbours might not be impressed with IRB engines being started early on a Sunday morning

Surf Clubs need to be particularly aware of new provisions that local councils are beginning to include in district plans relating to coastal hazard planning. Councils are starting to put greater weight on the potential threat of coastal erosion and coastal inundation (resulting from sea level rise) and as a result are becoming more risk averse and placing new restrictions on development within "coastal hazard zones". Clubs should ensure that new district and regional plan rules provide for activities (ie surf club buildings) that need to be located within coastal hazard zones. And that the rules for developing new buildings are not too onerous.

## Leasing Policies

Chances are your surf club is on Council land, and that you lease the land you are on – perhaps for an historical 'pepper-corn' rental amount of \$1 a year. Now this may have stood you in good stead to date but when does the lease expire? What will the rental amount be then? Most councils are currently developing leasing policy (the financial management requirements of the LTCCP outline a need for an appropriate financial return on assets) to determine how they set the rentals, and the duration of lease. Clubs need to be aware that unless they seek favourable lease conditions now, while the lease policies are being developed or when they are public notified for submissions, they could find themselves in a position where the lease term may only be for three years, with rent being reviewed annually, and the club being forced to pay a 'market' rental – as has already happened to several clubs around the country! There are very serious knock-on effects of this – charitable funders are often very unwilling to contribute to capital works projects where the recipient may not be there to benefit from the funding in 2-3 years time, and they commonly want you to show that you will have tenure over the building for at least 20 years ... so be sure to include a few "right of renewal" clauses too.

## Rates and Rates Remission Policies

If you own the land you are on, or if it is a condition of lease, your club is likely to be paying rates to the Council. An important question to ask is: what is the club paying rates on? Reserve land has either no rateable value or reduced rateable value, which will mean that your rates should be significantly lower than the rates for a beachfront residential property that other clubs may occupy.

Got your rates bill and they still seem high – do not despair, you may not have to pay your rates under the council's rates remittance policy. However, under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 your Council is only able to offer to remit rates if it has a policy to do so ... (which is actually developed and notified under the LGA 2002) so you will need to check that they have one or get involved in helping them develop one.

## Reserve Management Plans

All reserve areas subject to the Reserves Act 1977 are required to have a Reserve Management Plan. The plan sets out how the reserve is to be used and by whom. A number of district plans state that anything in a Reserve Management Plan is a permitted activity – meaning that RM plans can be

used as a bit of a back door to avoid district plan controls and the need for resource consents, provided sufficient scope is included in the Reserve Management plan to cover your proposed activity/development. A number of Reserve Management Plans have never been developed – and if surf clubs are proactive in starting the process to get these developed they will likely be considered a key stake holder throughout the entire process. The plans are a useful tool for signalling the need for upgrades to reserve areas, including such things as new carparking areas, access ways or public amenities, which can all be of benefit to surf clubs.

# At Regional Council Level

## Regional Plans

Regional plans like district plans set out how certain areas can be used and under what circumstances various activities can be undertaken. Of interest to surf clubs will be regional coastal plans – which set out how coastal areas can be used. While most surf club activities are generally permitted, those planning new buildings or alterations need to be aware that regional councils are also starting to include coastal hazard zones (which often extend as far as the first prominent ridgeline) in their plans accompanied by development restrictions – which will mean that resource consents will be required for new developments in coastal hazard zones.

## Dealing with the bureaucracy of Council

Councils are bureaucracies – you cannot easily fight the system – work with it. Get involved in the processes of council. Front up and talk to elected officials or meet with officers to set out your needs and see what they can do to help you. Remember councils are statutorily required to consult on most of their plans and policies – get involved and see if you can influence the policy development at an early stage. If a plan or policy has been developed and you are making comments on it – do not just say a plan or policy is bad and council should get rid of it (because that seldom happens) suggest reasonable changes that will make the plan work for you. Include in your submission your reasoning so they understand where you are coming from – this is politics after all and to get to a win-win situation an understanding of all positions is required.

Do not operate in a vacuum – talk to council – talk some more (they quite like doing this) – the sooner you talk to councils the sooner you will get a 'steer' as to whether you are likely to be successful or how hard a process might be and what it is likely to involve. Surf Life Saving carries with it a lot of good will – harness this. Most council officers should be willing to help guide you through these various processes and may often be willing to provide advice that will make your task easier.

Use the politicians – they represent the community and most communities are supportive of their surf clubs and therefore so are the politicians. Politicians often just need a 'mandate' (ie a large number of people to tell them to support a proposal). It's a numbers game – so get out there and get your community to support your submission.

Remember things take time, incremental increases/changes are often easier to achieve than rapid increases or radical changes in direction, and in the long run they result in the same thing. One thing you can guarantee is that the more knowledgeable you and your club are about the processes and plans that impact your community, the more power you have to change the decisions that affect you, your members and the public you serve.

- David Boersen



nz team selected  
athletes selected for international competition

# nz team selected



A trio of teenaged tyros forced their way into the New Zealand Surf Life Saving team after outstanding performances at the NZCT Surf Life Saving Championships in Gisborne.

Ironman star Dan Moodie, beach sprinter Chelsea Maples and ski paddler Erin Taylor are among the new faces in a 12-strong New Zealand team to compete at the International Surf Teams Challenge in Bondi at the end of the year.

17 year old Mount Maunganui Lifeguard Chelsea Maples stunned seasoned observers at the NZ Champs when she won the Open Women's Beach Sprint on Friday, before snatching the bronze in a thrilling Open Women's Board Race on Sunday to underline her versatility.

New Zealand head coach John Bryant has watched Maples develop over recent years in his dual role as Mount Maunganui and New Zealand coach, and doesn't believe she's too young.

"We've been holding her back a little bit but I think she's now ready to push forward," Bryant said. "It was an easy call really - she proved herself here in Gisborne with her sprinting and board paddling ability. We'll work on her flags through winter but I reckon if they're ready for it, then pick them."

Westshore's Moodie, 19, repeated his Under-19 and Open Ironman double of last year, heading off seasoned champions like Matt Sutton and Glenn Anderson, while Taylor finished second in the Open Women's Ski after dominating the national kayaking championships at the beginning of March.

They're joined in the New Zealand team by new cap Kevin Morrison, who came within inches of snatching an historic Board and Ski Race double, defending his Board Race title and only losing the Ski Race on the line to Mairangi Bay teammate Travis Mitchell.

Specialist sprinters Paul Cracroft-Wilson (Fitzroy) and Midway's Rebecca Wright have also made the national team for the first time, after both won the Flags title on Saturday and Cracroft-Wilson added his third Beach Sprint crown.

He replaces triple world champion Morgan Foster. The 31-year-old South Brighton and national team veteran suffered from a disrupted buildup, after he went through Fire Service recruitment training at the end of last year.

Cracroft-Wilson, meanwhile, has been training at the Northcliffe Club in Australia for the last six months, alongside Australian champion Simon Harris. Selectors also named a 26-strong squad to prepare for next year's World Championships in Germany

## NZ Team for the International Surf Team Challenge from November 29 - December 1 2007.

Men: Daniel Moodie (Westshore), Kevin Morrison, Michael Buck (Mairangi Bay), Nathan Henderson (Mount Maunganui), Paul Cracroft-Wilson (Fitzroy), Glenn Anderson (Midway).

Women: Nikki Cox (Westshore), Erin Taylor (Red Beach), Lucy Pengelly (Muriwai), Chelsea Maples, Johanna O'Connor (Mount Maunganui), Rebecca Wright (Midway).

## Boat crew

Titahi Bay (Ben Ashby, Deane Ellis, Tim Marsden, Adrian Walding, Paul McVicar).

## NZ Squad for 2008 World Lifesaving Championships

Men: Daniel Moodie, Callum Joll (Westshore), Nathan Henderson (Mount Maunganui), Paul Cracroft-Wilson (Fitzroy), Kevin Morrison, Michael Buck (Mairangi Bay), Andrew McMillan (St Clair), Steve Kent (Titahi Bay), Ben Willis (New Plymouth), Glenn Anderson, Mike Janes, Matt Sutton (Midway).

Women: Nikki Cox (Westshore), Erin Taylor (Red Beach), Lucy Pengelly (Muriwai), Chelsea Maples, Johanna O'Connor, Holly Moczylowski (Mount Maunganui), Rebecca Wright (Midway), Ayla Dunlop-Barrett, Jamie-Lee Reynolds (New Plymouth), Natasha Hind, Bella Franks (Lyal Bay), Julia Toomey, Georgina Toomey (Sumner), Madison Boon (Titahi Bay).



A



B



C



D



E

- A. Chelsea Maples
- B. Erin Taylor
- C. Rebecca Wright
- D. Kevin Morrison
- E. Dan Moodie





# southern events

The concept of developing a Southern Region event programme continued to gain momentum this summer following the success of the Southern Region Swim Champs delivered by SLSNZ in October.

## Southern Region Surf League 14 January, New Brighton

The Southern Region Surf League, a forerunner for the Canterbury and Otago teams preparing for the national surf league, was held in near perfect conditions at New Brighton on Sunday 14 January. An off-shore breeze and one and a half metre surf provided for a great days entertainment.

The team make up allows for Clubs to enter teams as well as an All Stars team. The action was hot from the start with South Brighton's team and the Canterbury All Stars setting the early pace through the 16 events. The lead see-sawed with All Stars Captain Jonelle Foster (Sumner SLSC) making a major contribution to the team points. However, South Brighton were steady, picking up good points in most events. They ran out the eventual winners, beating the All Stars by 5 points.

Individual highlights were Foster winning the Surf Race, Ironwoman and Mixed Ski Relay. Peter Rattray (Taylors Mistake SLSC) won the Ironman, and Donna Lindsay (South Brighton SLSC) dominated the Womens beach events winning the Womens Beach Sprint and Beach Flags. Waimairi were strong in the Canoe event which they won, and this strength also contributed to their win in the final event - the Ironman Relay. Canterbury's Under 19 team edged out the Otago Open team in the final points. Otago entered with two teams and showed strong performances in IRB and Men's beach events.

Final Results: 1st South Brighton 96 points, 2nd All Stars 91, 3rd Taylors Mistake 83, 4th Waimairi 77, 5th Canterbury U19 76.5, 6th North Beach 76, 7th Otago Open 73, 8th Otago U19 52.

## K-Day at Taylors Mistake

An absolutely glorious day at Taylors Mistake for one of the most well established events on the Southern Region calendar made for a great day's racing.

The highlight was the finish to the Kesteven Cup Ironman Relay where, after eight legs of running, swimming, board and ski paddling, South Brighton's Malcolm MacDonald ran down Taylors Mistake's Georgia McGillivray in the shadows of the finish line to give South Brighton the victory.

Taylors Mistake triumphed in the Oliver Turpin Trophy for overall club points with 117 points, ahead of South Brighton (103 points) and North Beach (62 points). There was a large contingent of Masters competitors, with the Belt Race being a highlight, won by Waikuku Beach.

**A. Steve Johnson, Waimairi**  
**B. Mother and daughter**  
**C. Taylors Mistake K-Day**





# HUEY interviews Jess Berridge-Hart ...

It was Sunday afternoon, the Surf League had just finished and I was over the road enjoying a cool drink as the sun set behind the Mt. Everyone doing their thing, teams packing up trailers, no story. There were some obvious heroes but they come and tell me they are.

Last year I would have been packing up the trailer too.

In January I was judged no longer good enough to be picked by my District. After years at the Surf League I was dropped from this years team. I took it hard, they called it their new rotation policy, I was rotated alright. But today I was basking in glory at my teams' result. They needed me, I knew it and now they knew it.

It was a coincidence she walked past. Jess Berridge-Hart, now she was the one I wanted to meet.

**H:** "Jess,"

*[she slowed, turned saw me over the bottles looked at me and....kept going. I realised then she must be short sighted and the salt had probably irritated her contacts.]*

*Later at the Astrolabe I saw her again. The light was dimmer here, better for her eyes.]*

**H:** Good day? I asked. Excuse me *[this time tapping her shoulder. She turned a faint look of recognition.]* It's me, Huey.

**JB:** Yeah, like I haven't heard that one before.

*[She turned away, a disinterested expression in her eyes. I went and sat down. I'd convinced myself Henry's rotation policy was now normal sport practice. I was being rested this year, saved for something special. Now, I think my rotation is only 180 degrees.]*

**JB:** Is it really you?

*[She'd come over and sat down, looking at me like someone she had known long ago, a wondering but slightly sad look.]*

**H:** Of course

**JB:** It's just that you look so...

**H:** Look love, *[I interject]* maybe alcohol makes you depressed but there's nothing wrong with me. Anyway, you know me, what about you, I heard a bit about you today.

**JB:** Yeah right.

*[She got up, grabbed her friends and left. I was stunned. As a District Rep I was everything. The new generation coming through has no understanding of the work of their forbearers, ploughing that path for their victory today. I was the driver of that plough and now it seems so long ago.]*

*Time healed my wounds and I got over that night. Looking back, like the Auckland team, it was just a bad weekend.*

*It was Saturday night at the nationals when I saw her again. I'd had a good day and didn't others know it. She knew it. The scene was different. Rotation was a distant thing.]*

**JB:** You pulled a blinder today. Sorry I was tired at the Mt that night, but I'm free now

*[It was Jess. Huey is back and there is still a day to go. My mate stuck his elbow in my ribs, winks - "Gotta go, see you in the morning for that paddle."]*

**H:** Well Jess, I've heard some good things, but I don't want to hear it from others. *[As she sits*

*down I feel myself slipping into my comfort zone as I see her relax. I smile to myself. I can be half rotated anytime but you can't take away the old Huey magic.]*

**H:** How'd you get started in surf?

**JB:** Think I was about 8 years old. My parents thought it would be good for my step brother to get in to surf - in his teens and getting mixed up and stuff - well, I was dragged along too. Except I went to nippers obviously, which my Dad started running at Westshore. He ran it until I was about 14 or 15 I think - he did a good job too.

**H:** Yeah? *[Wow, getting someone into surf so they don't get mixed up, that's quite a twist.]* So you been in it for about....*[fingers fingers]* 13 or 14 years now? What's kept you in surf during that time?

**JB:** The friends you make, the sport and training.

**H:** Anything else?

**JB:** No

**H:** Right

What about sport then, you've done pretty well - you made the New Zealand Development team in 2003, caused a bit of a stir when you guys started beating the A team. I remember. That's the first time you came in to my....zone. What about national's results - any good?

**JB:** Umm. yeah got quite a few national medals, I can't remember exactly off the top of my head, but could work it out if you want.

*[I could work out how many times I've won, if you like] - now that is a Tui billboard]*

**JB:** I've been in Hawkes Bay teams in um ... *[she looks intently at me...then looks down, her palm outward]* 2007, 2006, 2003 and the Under 19 in 2004, 2003. Oh and in 2004 I was in the Open Otago team.

*[I wonder... when will Otago choose its own members for its District teams?]*

**H:** Your most memorable?

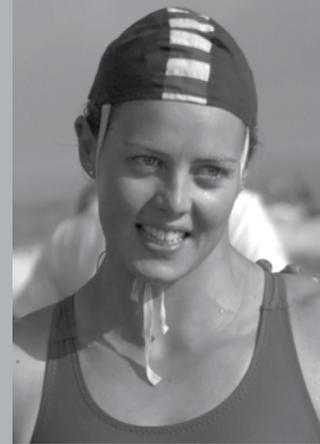
**JB:** Western District Under 19 Team in 2002

**H:** You didn't say that before.

**JB:** No, I forgot.

So how'd you feel about Hawkes Bay at the Surf League this year - you had a blinder winning the Under 19 - a little District beating the Auckland and Bay teams - bet you're proud of the results. *[I look at my watch, time to start making her feel good about me]*

# HAWKES BAY LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR



**JB:** Extremely proud of both teams, everyone did exceptionally well! *[She sparks up, passion obvious]* The best year we've had so far. In terms of performance we had the highest point score we have ever had.

**H:** **Bet that's all a result of you though, [I shift myself around a little, giving her my full attention and conscious of that large mirror...]** **I hear you have been making quite an impression?**

**JB:** What?

*[Damn – too quick, I moved back against my chair]*

**H:** **You're different though aren't you. There were 200 of our best competitors lined up at the Surf League. Like most you're heavily into training and competing, do your patrols. But you're the only one on that start line that's a District Board member, and you're a Club committee member too – and you're a girl – what's that about?**

**JB:** Oh I'm not on a club committee anymore. Yeah I was on the Westshore club board for a bit and club captain.. I've been club coach for Waimarama this year...although, I can't keep doing it after this weekend...cause I'm running out of time for myself and my own training. But that's the only club level thing I've really been doing this year...

**H:** **Was there 200 competitors at Surf League?**

**JB:** I never really thought about me being the only one on the start line on a district board....oh, Ben Flynn also is on his district board – he's from Wellington and in their surf league team too. But yeah, I guess so. I've been on the Hawkes Bay board for 3 years now, not quite sure why I did. Started as Director of Youth Affairs – giving a point of view for the Youth, then last season, no one put their hand up from our district for the Director of Lifeguarding, so obviously that being our most important aspect of Surf Life Saving I stepped into that position and left the Youth Affairs position vacant. Then at the beginning of this season, we decided that promotion and sponsorship was an area that we needed to focus on and I decided that I would be really keen to front in that Directorship, also helps with my business degree.

*[I sit silently, too scared to break the moment. I was warned she doesn't give much away, but she was speaking with passion, from the heart, her hart]*

**JB:** I am a bit different...and I really don't know why I do it. I'm a sucker for punishment. I can't say no when people ask me to do stuff...*[I feel embarrassed and glance at the ceiling]* but the stupid thing is, I quite like doing the stuff I do, and if I don't...I stop doing it. Simple as...

**JB:** I always have an opinion on something...and 'cause other people don't do anything about stuff... I'm the one who always does.

**H:** **Why put your hand up?**

**JB:** Why ...I cause myself a lot of stress and tears over the stuff I do, but I guess I get a lot out of doing stuff for others....Sounds bad eh? I'm beginning to wonder why I continue to do so much stuff.

**H:** **The old saying... What about the best thing you've done lately?**

**JB:** I put my hand up to help at Ocean Athletes, I guess 'cause, I've never been before, wanted to see what it's all about. And I guess 'cause Miah was going. I had a great time. I really enjoy seeing the young guys just loving surf, and getting in amongst it. I can't believe so many can swim that far etc at such a young age...I really don't think I was that able at their age. Although I must say, there are some very pushy parents! But it was cool to be able to encourage the young guys and give them advice.

**H:** **If you were helping the competitors and making sure they enjoyed the day ... [I pause, thinking hard, it dawns...]** **you must have been an Official – see a future there?**

**JB:** Ha ha.....not for a long time yet! Maybe when I turn 50 odd... *[funny, but no, being odd doesn't come into it]*. Thinking that, I'm getting the drinking part down pat...but I've still got a long way to go on that aspect of being a good official! ...a long way... Hicks is one good official in that respect!

**H:** **What about the Clubs in Hawkes Bay. For a little District you punch above your weight. Top Club a number of years at Ocean Athletes, NZ Pool Champs, right up there at nationals - Westshore and Waimarama do alright. Does that create a strong sense of pride in the area?**

**JB:** There is a lot of pride amongst the athletes when we compete as Hawkes Bay.

**H:** **Why does your Club do so well?**

**JB:** Because there was a great district development programme about 5-10 years ago, which developed athletes and coaches. We gained a lot out of the programme, and I think we continue to do so, because we have a really good swim programme that our athletes come from or go to.

**JB:** And Westshore have had some really good Junior Surf programmes throughout the years including the Ocean Athletes training programme, and also our club training programme adds to the success. Consistency of the same coach Weta, I mean Chris Swain and also a lot of knowledge from our other members that have been away on some

NZ development camps.

**H:** **Weta?**

**JB:** Yeah – Weta was on the New Zealand leadership group, but I am now.

**H:** **Is that a good thing...?**

**JB:** What the leadership group??

**H:** **Yeah**

**JB:** The leadership group *[her eyes... light up like jewels...and she has a far away look]* What an AMAZING bunch of people! We have spent a weekend together so far, in theory kind of sessions, mainly run by Surf Life Saving New Zealand staff but have also done some practical stuff too, which yes has been valuable. I think I get lots out of meeting new people, being inspired to be a better person by all of them. I can't say enough about it. I was chosen to go to Aussie as part of something they were doing too.

*[She's leaning forward now, elbow on the table, holding her head up, that alive look in her eyes. Buggar! Something flicked her switch and I missed it. what was it...what was it...not Weta?]*

**H:** **Would you recommend surf to anyone - perhaps friend or family children, or perhaps your own...one day?**

**JB:** OF COURSE!!

**H:** **You'd like to breed – your own children I mean? [the bar is nearly deserted, just a few lingering people]**

**JB:** Eh? I'd still recommend it. Well, what can I say about surf to be honest I really think "In it for life" sums it up. You don't only get out of it how to be a lifeguard and train hard etc...you become a better person in general...and it equips you with life skills that maybe would not be learnt until later in life.... Drinking...in fact if it wasn't for surf I am unsure whether I would have managed my 21 shots! – I didn't do the whole "uni" binge drinking thing

**JB:** Probably not a good idea to include that in the article.

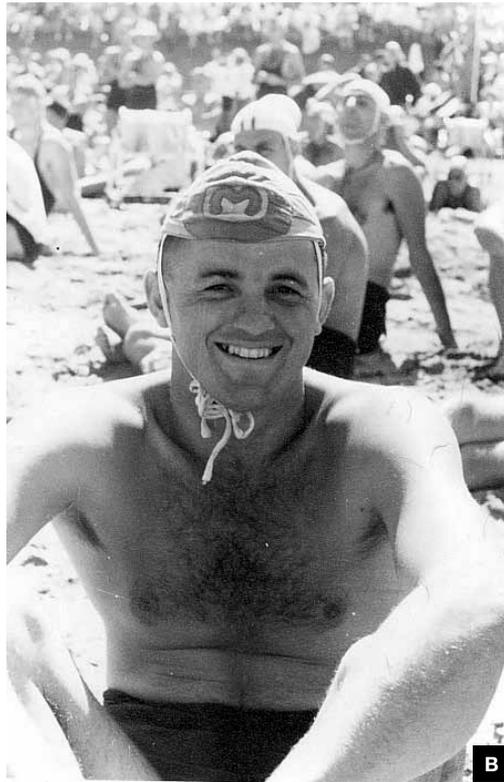
**JB:** You know you didn't make the team this year but thought of being an Official?

*[With that she got up, smiled in a reassuring sort of way, turned and followed her friends out the door. With that parting comment it felt like she had poured the remains of her drink into my lap.]*

**Jess, committed Lifeguard, a competitor with real results, committed to training, committed to putting it back and trying to make a difference. Picked up by SLSNZ as someone who shows a promising future. And just 21 years old. We're lucky, go the future.**

# obituary

# murray haxton QSM



A. Murray Haxton  
B. Murray Haxton in  
his younger years

Life Member Maranui SLSC • Life Member Surf Life Saving New Zealand • Life Member Surf Life Saving Wellington. In February Surf Life Saving in New Zealand lost one of its most loved and influential figures with the death of Murray 'Hacko' Haxton. He was 75.

Born in Masterton in 1931, Haxton received his surf medallion at aged 16 soon after joining the Maranui Club in Wellington in 1947. A huge career followed that saw him recognised as a Life Member of his Club in 1985, Wellington District in 1989 and New Zealand in 1982.

He was a former President of Surf Life Saving New Zealand. He won the Surf Race at the New Zealand Championships from 1952 to 1954, a feat only equalled in recent years by Cory Hutchings from 1999-2001 and Glenn Anderson from 2002-07.

He competed for New Zealand at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics when surf lifesaving was a demonstration sport, winning a bronze and silver medal. A Coastguard rescue skipper, Haxton was also involved in the Wahine disaster in 1968; reportedly plucking survivors of the Wellington ferry capsized out of the

freezing water on his surf ski wearing nothing but shorts and a rugby jersey.

He was inducted into the SLSNZ Hall of Fame in 1992 and two years later left his beloved Maranui Club to move to Whakatane. He settled in Te Puke in 2001.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand Chief Executive Geoff Barry said Haxton's stature within the sport was obvious at the Lion Foundation Surf League in February where the majority of competitors wore black arm-bands and a minute's silence was observed.

"Hacko cast a large shadow over our service and sport for more than half a century and was an unwavering servant to it," Barry said. "He was a passionate supporter of lifesaving and water safety and his passing leaves us all the poorer. A lot of people within Surf Life Saving have been influenced by him and we will sorely miss him."



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# bryan heron mnzm receives order of merit

Long term Surf Life Saving supporter Bryan Heron was recognised earlier this year in the New Year Honour's list.

Bryan, a member of Red Beach SLSC was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his community work with a wide variety of clubs and organisations focusing on youth. A director of B.H. Heron Plumbing, he has been Red Beach's patron for the last 11 years and a sponsor since 1978. It was a great honour to be recognised for doing something he enjoyed he said. He also credited his wife Pat for the achievement, "She is actively involved and without her support I wouldn't have been able to do it. I've teamed up with her so we get to spend plenty of time together," Bryan said.

Although actively supporting a host of sports, including squash and athletics, Surf Life Saving has a special appeal he says. "It's a sport where young people learn discipline through helping others by saving lives and it builds healthy bodies and minds," he said.

His association with Red Beach started when friends from Henderson who belonged to the Club suggested it as a good cause to support. His citation sums up the good work he has done over so many years.

"Since 1961 Bryan Heron has been a major contributor to the wider community offering donations, sponsorship, free goods and services, his personal time, efforts and ideas. This well known supporter of the west tirelessly puts his time and effort into so many different areas at one time, it is hard to keep up with him. He is a man of enormous energy and inspiration for others, not only providing funding and ideas but also putting his organisational skills to the benefit of others."

In addition to his love of sport, Heron has also trained more than 200 apprentice plumbers, many of whom have gone on to own successful businesses.

**A. Bryan Heron with his wife Pat and the Red Beach Crew at Dee Why Beach in Australia**





A. Race start  
B. Worser Bay  
C. Waikanae  
D. Whakatane

# nz masters championships

The NZ Masters Championships are not currently part of the official calendar, but most years they are held on the Thursday preceding the National Champs, hosted and organised by the local District. The 2007 NZ Masters was held at Waikanae Beach this year

A beautiful day dawned but as the morning progressed the wind picked up and competitors were tested all day by a blustery Norwester. The ski races in particular called on a few forgotten skills to negotiate the course as falling off usually meant losing your ski to the wind and chop. (The IRB's came in handy there!)

A total of 170 competitors entered, and with as many supporters and 'Masters Officials' this number is an indicator that there is a significant group of the membership taking part. There were three competitors in the over 70s division including our oldest entrant (and one of the most competitive) Sidney Selak from the Omanu Club.

Competitors enjoyed a full day of events including the traditional 6 and 4 man R&R, which of course the host Club excelled in, together with canoe races, craft, swim and beach events. Despite the usual 4 or 5 hamstring injuries the beach events were among the most competitive while plenty of "names of old" featured in both the swim and craft events.

As usual at the Masters, the socialising during and afterwards was very well supported and the festivities continued long into the small hours. Well done to Grant Bramwell and his team of supporters for all their work putting the event on.



# staff changes

## Ben Fuller

Operations Manager at Surf Life Saving Bay of Plenty has resigned to take up the role of senior teacher managing a new high tech interactive centre at Tauranga Intermediate School.

## Julia McFadzien and Brooke Goldsworthy

will leave Surf Life Saving New Zealand in early June. Julia leaves her role as Communications Manager after two and a half years and Brooke has supported Mark Weatherall as Sport Administrator for the last two seasons. They are both off to Europe to enjoy the beginning of their 'OE'.

## Nathan Hight

will leave his position as District Manager for Surf Life Saving Wellington. Nathan has been Manager for the last three years and resigned to travel overseas. On return he intended to find employment in his native Bay of Plenty / Waikato region. SLSNZ used this opportunity to snap up Nathan's skills and Nathan will commence in a new Lifesaving role for SLSNZ, based in Tauranga on his return in October. Nathan's role will be to support Districts in the development of Regional Lifesaving plans.

## Jo Bailey

will begin a new part-time role at SLSNZ as Information Manager in April. Jo has a wealth of experience working in the UK and will help support the ongoing development of the patrol, member and event management databases as well as develop more robust historical files, particularly as we head toward Surf Life Saving's centenary in 2010/11.

## World Water Safety Conference Portugal 27-29 September 2007

World Water Safety 2007 is a global conference offered by the International Life Saving Federation (ILS).

This conference follows on from the successful World Congress on Drowning, Amsterdam 2002 and the ILS International Medical and Rescue Conferences, San Diego 1997 and the Gold Coast 2001.

The purpose of World Water Safety 2007 is to bring together the world's foremost experts, systems and information for exchange, debate and further development that will lead to a reduction of death and injury in all aquatic environments worldwide.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) will have strong representation in Portugal and will be presenting on a number of areas. This conference is the leading opportunity to learn from renowned experts and share best practice in international lifesaving. It only comes around every few years.

WWS 2007 presents a fantastic learning and professional development opportunity for you to support appropriate members / managers in your region.

**For further detailed information regarding this conference please visit [www.worldwatersafety.org](http://www.worldwatersafety.org)**



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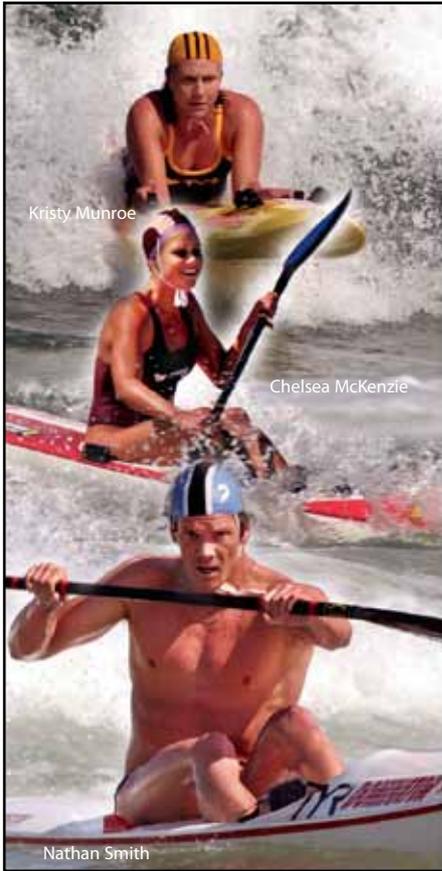
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