

SURF:RESCUE

RECORD NUMBER OF LIVES SAVED

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPS

Rising stars shine
at Mt Maunganui

SURF LEAGUE

Back 2 back win for Auckland

INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

NZ Crew win title



* In it for life



DHL continues to proudly support Surf Life Saving New Zealand, and we would like to recognise the valuable contribution that New Zealand's lifeguards have made to our communities this summer, with over 2,000 lives saved.

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

Proudly sponsored by DHL



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW ZEALAND



endless summer

From the Editor's Desk

Another record season.

Patrols have finished and this summer the number of lives saved is the highest ever, 2,037 as we went to print and significantly higher than last year. The previous record was the summer of 1993/94.

In the last edition of Surf Rescue we reported on the New Zealand Team's second placing at the World Champs in Italy. This edition we report on the New Zealand Team's success at another international competition.

We highlight Auckland winning the Surf League, Midway Club's (Gisborne) win at the New Zealand Champs, Westshore Club (Hawkes Bay) winning the New Zealand U14 Ocean Athlete Champs and Sumner Club (Canterbury) winning the New Zealand BP Surf Rescue Champs. A good spread of strength across the country.

We also celebrate our members contribution to the community by profiling Neil Reid, our latest New Zealand Honours recipient and profile Rescue of the Month awards.

Another season 'preventing death and injury on New Zealand beaches'.




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Minister for Community and Voluntary Sector

7 March 2005

Geoff Barry
Chief Executive
Surf Lifesaving NZ
PO Box 9205
Wellington

Dear Geoff

March 7-13 is Volunteer Awareness Week. The week is set aside to recognise and acknowledge the thousands of volunteers that make a huge contribution to the wellbeing and happiness of our community.

As the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector I write to thank you and your agency's volunteers for the huge contribution made to water and beach safety, and the numerous lives your volunteers have saved. I am aware that you have your National Championships this weekend in Mt Maunganui and wish you all the best for that occasion.

I recognise that volunteers work every facet of our community - from meals on wheels and home services, to sports clubs and community safety such as neighbourhood support, volunteer fire fighters and of course surf lifesavers, to the running of marae. More recently volunteers have assisted our Asian and Pacific neighbours to rebuild their communities devastated by natural disasters. Volunteering is seen as a key part of the way Kiwis live life.

I want to convey to you that the Government is serious about supporting the voluntary sector; it adopted a formal policy on volunteering in 2002. Our vision is of a society with a high level of volunteering, where the many contributions people make to the common good through volunteering and fulfilment of cultural obligations are actively supported and valued.

The policy was developed in recognition of your work. I would like to thank you again for your passion, enthusiasm and unfailing support to others. Without this contribution our communities would be much poorer in wealth and spirit.

Yours sincerely
Rick Barker

Hon Rick Barker
Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector

FROM THE TOP

surf life saving integral to our community

'Week of the Volunteer'

The NZ government paid tribute to the volunteer sector on the week of March 7. During press material released by the Minister for Community and Volunteer Sector Hon. Rick Barker, frequently used Surf Lifeguards as an example of the valuable volunteer sector within New Zealand.

A moments silence

On 17 January, out of respect for the Asian Tsunami tragedy New Zealand held a minutes silence at noon. Given the crowds expected to be on New Zealand beaches on a Sunday afternoon in January, Surf Life Saving New Zealand encouraged Clubs to participate and take a lead role.

Surf Lifeguards around the country rallied to the moment leading the public to join them at the waters edge at noon. As one newspaper reported, 'standing at the waters edge looking out to sea was a poignant way to reflect upon the power of the ocean', which the world had witnessed after the Boxing Day earthquake.

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Cover Photo supplied by Harvie Allison www.harvpix.com

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heads up...

refreshed lifeguards rise

Total refreshed lifeguard numbers enjoyed an increase this year. Refreshed lifeguard numbers were up 10% to 2,323. For the last five years that number has consistently hovered around 2,100. Northern Region numbers were up 11% on last year, with Wellington and Gisborne showing increases of nearly 20%.



lifeguards getting smaller

In the last two seasons 7,000 lifeguard uniform sets have been supplied to Clubs by SLSNZ. Despite SLSNZ carrying three times the stock level of four years ago, small sizes were all out of stock by mid December. SLSNZ has also distributed over 5,500 towels for District Champs and other events in the last two years.

equipment rolls out

Like uniforms, Lifesaving equipment continues to be replaced at great rates. This season 26 IRB Motors, 23 IRB Hulls and 35 Fuel Bladders have gone into service. 289 new Rescue Tubes have also been distributed, together with new patrol flags given to every Club. Compared to five years ago the supply of new equipment is approximately one third more, ensuring the average piece of equipment is newer and in the case of IRB engines, more reliable.

rescue stats bigger than last

Despite a slow start to summer, patrol stats took off in January as Surf Lifeguards reported large crowds. Total hours patrolled are down slightly on last summer reflecting the poor weather, however, the number of rescues that took place is up nearly 20% on last year to a little over 2,000 lives saved. The number of searches and first aid treatments remain similar to other years.



beach education

Nearly 46,000 children from 447 primary schools attended BeachEd at the end of the school year in December and the beginning of this year in February.

new comms manager

Julia McFadzien has been appointed Communications Manager of SLSNZ. Julia will be responsible for managing SLSNZs communications plan ensuring all stakeholders are engaged.

irb refreshers down

Refreshed IRB driver numbers are at their lowest in 5 years, down 25% on last year. Highest drops recorded in Bay of Plenty, Northern Region and Otago, while Gisborne, Western Districts and Canterbury are similar to last year. Total refreshed IRB drivers is 458.

nz champs top honours

NZCT BEST OVERALL FEMALE Nikki Cox
NZCT BEST OVERALL MALE Cameron Pocock
NZCT BEST TEAM Mt Maunganui Open Boat Crew

photos available

Photos of the NZ Champs, NZ U14 Champs & the NZ Masters are available to buy through www.kenbakerphotography.com

lottery underway

In this Surf Rescue you will find a flyer for the national Surf Life Saving Lottery. This year SLSNZ is in partnership with the Bruce McLaren Trust. Many Clubs have picked up the opportunity to sell tickets. Clubs are paid a direct amount per ticket sold.

auckland takes double

Auckland's open team won the NZ Surf League title for the second year. A well oiled team claimed a clear margin on day one securing victory by building their lead in day two. Auckland's U19 team also won their division followed closely by Wellington.

television stars

The Lion Foundation Surf League offered TV viewers three consecutive weeks of Surf Life Saving action in March/April. Piha Rescue will commence again late April offering over ten weeks of regular surf lifesaving activity during prime time.



halberg finalist

World Surf Race Champion Rachael Anderson was named one of four finalists of the 2005 Halberg Sports Woman of the Year.

entries all live

Entries to the NZCT Surf Life Saving Champs were undertaken 'live' this year with each Club completing their entries through the SLS database. This avoided the need to collate entries, refresher, membership numbers and DOB's from separate sources.

award winning ad

Surf Life Saving New Zealand has won an ORCA (Outstanding Radio Creative Award) for one of two radio ads played this summer. The ads, part of Surf Life Saving's Beach Safety Campaign were aired during January and February. ORCA's are judged on four criteria; originality of approach and style of the creative idea; excellent use of the radio medium in executing the creative idea; effectiveness and impact.



new manuals top seller

This season SLSNZ rolled out the new Lifeguard and IRB manual's, almost hitting best seller ratings. In the first year 1,800 copies of the Lifeguard manual and 640 copies of the IRB manual have been distributed.



vo2 max

After two editions the new Sport Magazine has proven to be a success. The December edition carried features of Dean Kent, Rachael Anderson and the Goodwill Surf Boat event. March/Aprils edition featured articles on the Lion Foundation Surf League, Northern Region Champs and profiled New Years Honours recipient Neil Reid.

inter districts

Surf Life Saving Gisborne enjoyed a strong victory in the U16 inter District Championships held in Taranaki on 19/20 February. The team from Gisborne beat the two largest Districts Bay of Plenty and Northern Region who were placed second and third respectively. The U14 age group was won by Bay of Plenty followed by Northern and Canterbury in third place.

east end slsc members swim cook strait

On the 4th March, 2005 Cara Sibtsen and Tania Hockings, Surf Lifeguards and members of the East End SLSC in Taranaki, completed the crossing of Cook Strait. This was the first ever crossing of two people together and the feat was completed in 5 hours 48 minutes which is the third fastest time recorded for this crossing.



coach dvd a hit

Over 200 copies of Surf Life Saving New Zealand's Coach DVD, released in December, have been provided to coaches throughout New Zealand.

life members all present

As preparations for our centenary begin SLSNZ Life Members and partners are being brought to Wellington by SLSNZ in September to attend the Awards of Excellence. This time will also be used to film and capture the stories and memoirs of the group and their record of Surf Life Saving's history.

surf life saving calendar

Retailers throughout New Zealand will be selling the official Surf Life Saving calendar later this year. Clubs can purchase copies at 20% of the Recommended Retail Price for their own use or fundraising. Contact communications@surflifesaving.org.nz

contribution recognised

Neil Reid's contribution to surf life saving was recognised in the New Years Honours. Originally a St Clair member Neil has been with Muriwai Club for many years. In 1990 he won Rescue of the Year and was NZ President from the 1996-98.

100 years young

Surf Life Saving will celebrate its centenary in 2010. In terms of planning that is just 4 seasons away. The SLSNZ Board have appointed a 100 Year Committee – headed by the SLSNZ President to plan for the centenary.



rescue 2006

The 2006 World Championships will place pressure on New Zealand's traditional event dates. A large number of New Zealand members are anticipated to travel to the Champs held in the third week of February in Melbourne. This places pressure on the NZ U14 Champs, NZ Surf League and District Champs' dates which traditionally fall in February.

ceo report state of the nation

Chief Executive Officer, Geoff Barry

Much of the commentary within this edition of *Surf Rescue* will reflect on another great season for Surf Life Saving. You will read about:

- Outstanding rescues by our members
- Over 2,000 lives saved
- Another successful surfsports season
- Members receiving recognition

It is also important to communicate that SLSNZ is well advanced in its planning for 2005 / 2006.

While much of the management planning focuses around 'business as usual' the SLSNZ Board have identified key initiatives that will be advanced to move Surf Life Saving in New Zealand toward achieving its purpose of 'Preventing death and injury at New Zealand beaches'. The organisation will focus on four goals over the next twelve months:

SLSNZ will:

- be recognised by all stakeholders as being professional and a provider of excellent service.
- develop and enhance surf life saving by working closely with Districts to improve the regional delivery of services.
- through the alignment of our membership and programmes, be identifiable as a united and cohesive organisation.
- develop and enhance its partnerships with organisations, both international and domestic, that will further enhance the development of surf lifesaving services in New Zealand.

Many of our 'business as usual' programmes and projects will contribute to achieving these goals but the Board is also looking at a small number of new initiatives to ensure these goals are achieved.

Some of these new initiatives include:

- Completion of a member and external stakeholder 'satisfaction' review
- Implementation of a District Capability Assessment 'tool' across all Districts
- Increased staff resources to support District development
- Implementation of the National Lifesaving Plan
- A review of the current consultative framework with members
- Implementation of a revised Communication Strategy
- Closer international relationships, especially with Australia

The focus of these goals and initiatives is the development of regional and local capability to ensure that our essential service is sustainable in an ever changing social, commercial and political environment. The SLSNZ Board is committed to the volunteer principles that started Surf

Life Saving almost 100 years ago but fully appreciate the organisation must respond to change or we will not be able to meet community and political expectations in the future.

One of the many challenges the Board has will be working with the membership (Members, Clubs and Districts) to make the necessary changes to 'future proof' the service.

During the International Challenge at Kurrawa Beach Graeme Cullen [SLSNZ Chairman] and I met with Ron Rankin (President) and Greg Nance (CEO) from Surf Life Saving Australia. The purpose of that meeting was to further enhance relationships as well as develop a list of key projects that the two countries will collaborate on over the next season. To conclude these discussions the Board has invited (and Australia accepted) the Australian Board and key staff members to a meeting which will be held in Wellington in late June.

TRAGEDY

It was with much sadness that we learnt of the passing away of DAVID PARTINGTON, a member of Waitara SLSC in Taranaki. David joined, as a 'nipper', Waitara as part of a long time family commitment to surf life saving. He recently joined the army and was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident near Queenstown.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SURF LIFE SAVING

The 100 year centenary of Surf Life Saving in New Zealand will be celebrated in 2010. The SLSNZ Board has taken the pro active step of forming a committee to begin planning for this milestone.

The committee will be chaired by the current President and Life Member, Mr John Honnor. He will be joined on the committee by past SLSNZ President's, Mr Graeme Matheson, Mr Dick Glover and Mr Murray Haxton. Mr Bob Harvey, Life Member of SLSNZ will also be on the committee.

Future SLSNZ President's will join the Committee as they are elected. I am sure that there will be opportunity for other members to contribute to the planning of the centenary celebrations.

DROWNING PREVENTION STRATEGY

The final round of public consultation on the draft strategy is being concluded in early April. The strategy will then go to Government for cabinet adoption.

Surf Life Saving continues to play a lead role in the development of the strategy which will be an important catalyst for change within the water safety sector and increased government recognition and

resourcing of the sector.

Once the strategy is adopted by Government then efforts will be re-directed to the development of an 'Implementation Plan'.

LIFESAVING UP-DATE

The summer was slow to start but, if our statistics are anything to go by, it certainly improved in early 2005. While all output from surf lifeguards is fantastic there have been some outstanding rescues that have been identified through the 'in it for life' awards. Some of these rescues are summarised within this edition of Surf Rescue while others can be read on the web page.

STATS TO APRIL 5 2005

- 2,037 Lives Saved
- 1,396 First Aids
- 314 Searches
- 80,259 Preventatives
- 145,601 Hours of Patrol Provided

SURFSPORTS UP-DATE

Another big season of surfsports activity. Two successive weekends of activity at Mount Maunganui saw:

- 700 members compete at the NZ U14 Ocean Athlete Championships
- 170 members compete in the New Zealand Masters Championships
- 1,200 members take part in the New Zealand Championships

Add these numbers to all the parents, supporters, coaches and managers and we can see just how important opportunities to meet, mix and compete are to Surf Life Saving in New Zealand.

Congratulations to Westshore for winning top Club at the NZ U14 Ocean Athlete Champs and to Midway for their convincing win at the NZ Championships. Well done to Sumner winning the NZ BP Surf Rescue Championships. Congratulations also to all participants, medal winners and the hard workers who make our events possible.

Following the New Zealand Championships over 100 members competed in the Australian Championships – some for their Australian Club but many for their New Zealand Club. In challenging conditions there were many outstanding results. Highlight for the kiwis was Matt Sutton's effort in being part of the Kawana Waters Team that won the Open Men's Board Relay. Other medallists included Paul Cracroft

Wilson and Morgan Foster getting second and third respectively in the Open Men's Beach Flags and Holly Moczydlowski's third place in the Open Women's Beach Sprint.

The International Surf Challenge was held on the Tuesday and Wednesday following the Australian Championships. Teams from Australia, United States, Japan and Great Britain competed against New Zealand in a two test series. Idyllic conditions led to two days of exciting and high quality racing. There were many outstanding efforts from the kiwis but highlights for me were:

- the clean sweep of the Women's Beach Sprint and Men's Beach Flags by Holly Moczydlowski and Morgan Foster;
- the quality efforts of three new members of the team – Holly Moczydlowski, Nikki Cox and Lucy Pengelly;
- the dominance of the Surf Boat series by the New Zealand crew from Titahi Bay.

As we look towards the 2005 / 2006 sport season we note that it is going to be a very busy season. Not only is there an expectation that all events, as with this past season, will be held again we also have to fit into the programme the 2006 World Championships in Victoria, Australia. Many members from a wide range of interests including competitors, officials and masters have indicated they plan to be in Victoria for this event. We will need to make allowances in our own event scheduling to ensure there are no clashes, at least with New Zealand events.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

We have yet to measure the 'effectiveness' of our communication initiatives (such as this publication) but have made a significant investment in making our web page more visually appealing, easier to use and current in terms of the information available to you.

I hope that you have made the time to have a look at the web page and, as a result of the experience, have gone back to find out more current information, looked at results or browsed the picture gallery.

It is our intention to continue to develop the web page. If you have any ideas then please make contact with Julia McFadzien our Communications Manager, email: julia.mcfadzien@surflifesaving.org.nz





what lies beneath?

BY SUMMER'S END, Fitzroy Club member Emma Crofskey will be as familiar with the North Taranaki seafloor, as she is with the back of her paddle board.

She has seen a fair bit of her paddle board while training as a member of the Taranaki Surf League Team, but her view of the seafloor comes courtesy of some top technology and long hours spent on the water. The former Inglewood High School student traces her fascination with what lives beneath the waves she rides for fun, back to a class room guest speaker.

"Dr Bill Ballantyne came and talked to us about setting up the Leigh Marine Reserve," Crofskey (24) recalled, "I was really pumped up after that and decided I was going to be a marine scientist."

Easy said – her first step was spending five years at Otago University in Dunedin, to earn a bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Science. A lot of that time was spent in the waters around the Otago Peninsula and at the Portobello Marine laboratory. But her holidays were spent at home in Taranaki, working for ASR, a marine consulting and research company. And on the beach at Fitzroy.

"I came to realise that there wasn't a lot known about the subtidal ecology between Cape Egmont and Waitara," she said, "Pete [ASR's Dr Peter McComb] had been thinking about it for a while and suggested I make a proposal to the Auckland University of Technology for a masters degree research project on it."

“Other studies have found the area to be generally species poor in comparison with the rest of New Zealand. They attribute this to a combination of physical factors; intense wave action, high silt load from the region’s rivers (coupled with higher than average rainfall), and the rapidly eroding soft sandstone cliffs and boulder reefs.”

“The information we’re gathering with this study, can be used to resolve resource consent issues, for land use practice studies, sustainable management of the marine environment, conservation and marine biodiversity issues,” she added.

Crofskey began planning the study last year; plotting lines (called transects) on a map, one kilometre apart and angling out to seaward from the coastline. The lines are drawn at right angles to the 10 metre depth contour which skirts the North Taranaki shoreline.

“That gave us 60 lines....then I plotted 20 positions on each line – at every 200m - as sites to drop a digital camera on, out to about 50 metres depth,” she explained.

“That’s 1200 locations to lower and retrieve the camera at.”

The Department of Conservation was the first sponsor to come on board Crofskey’s project, with the offer of summer employment, the use of their 6m aluminium workboat and her experienced skipper Bryan Williams. The drop camera also belongs to the department.

ASR Ltd are also backing the study, along with the Taranaki Regional Council and the George Mason Trust. The trust was established to financially support Taranaki marine research projects in perpetuity and has been used for studies backing marine reserve applications. Some of Crofskey’s data will be available on the TRC’s new website.

The survey vessel, Orca, is equipped with Nobeltec digital chart technology which takes the 1:150,000 scale marine charts used by most mariners and zooms in to large scales for very accurate positioning. Global Positioning System receivers pinpoint the boat on the spot.”



“I was really pumped up after that and decided I was going to be a marine scientist.”

The \$5500 camera weighs about two kilograms, has a pressure resistant casing the diameter of a beer can and scrutinises an area of sea floor about two metres in radius through it’s beady glass eye. The images are then saved in a video recorder on board for more intensive study later.

“If we’re on a sandy bottom, we only leave the camera down for about 10 seconds at a time – but some of the rock patches are teeming with life, so we take images of them for 30 seconds or more,” she said.

Her first estimation was that the project would take 30 days at sea but bad weather in December/ January delayed things a bit and Crofskey, Williams and crewman Heath Priest have been putting in long hours to catch up.

At regular intervals, a Secchi disc – the 30cm diameter black and white disc used to assess visibility in the water column, is dropped and the results recorded. “We’ve had some amazing results in the fine weather lately; 18 – 20m vis,” Crofskey said.

“Oh yeah – and we get all the jokes about finding out where the best fishing spots are so we can come back later,” she laughed.

In fact, one target species is the unassuming brown algae, *Ecklonia radiata*, which she grades on a density scale from 1 – 10. Its presence is used as an indicator for water quality. “A lot of the information we’re gathering will be used as a benchmark if things change in the future – at least we’ll have a base line to work from.

Crofskey is not the only homegrown marine scientist at work in the province. Dan Govier, the son of New Plymouth charter boat owner/skipper Barry, is marine ecologist at the Taranaki Regional Council and his brother Joe is a marine scientist at ASR.

Williams, Crofskey and Priest are a familiar sight at the lee breakwater launching ramp, a practised team heading out fishing for information

“The more we know about the sea, the better decisions we can make to safeguard it for future generations,” Crofskey said.

shore break cranks at surf league 05

Mount Maunganui's shore break and strong surf provided a spectacle at this year's Lion Foundation Surf League. Thankfully the heavy seas of the NRC's just one week before had abated but the surf was still stronger than the Surf League has had for many years.

A star studded field assembled including three Olympians, two World Champions and Australian and French title holders.

The canoe races offered spectators the greatest entertainment. The heavy surf took its toll on teams on Saturday, with Taranaki and Hawkes Bay canoes both breaking beyond repair. Canterbury and Otago's canoes were also damaged.



Blair 'Toa' Dunn of Canterbury watching Otago's Canoe crew handle the shore break.

auckland dominate

Auckland retained the Open Surf League Trophy in emphatic fashion by a record margin at the Lion Foundation Surf League at Mt Maunganui.

After two days of provincial competition in very powerful surf Auckland defended the title for the second year ahead of arch rivals Gisborne. At the end of Saturday Auckland's margin over Gisborne was only 12 points. On Sunday the 12 point margin exploded to 44 points by the end of the Surf League.

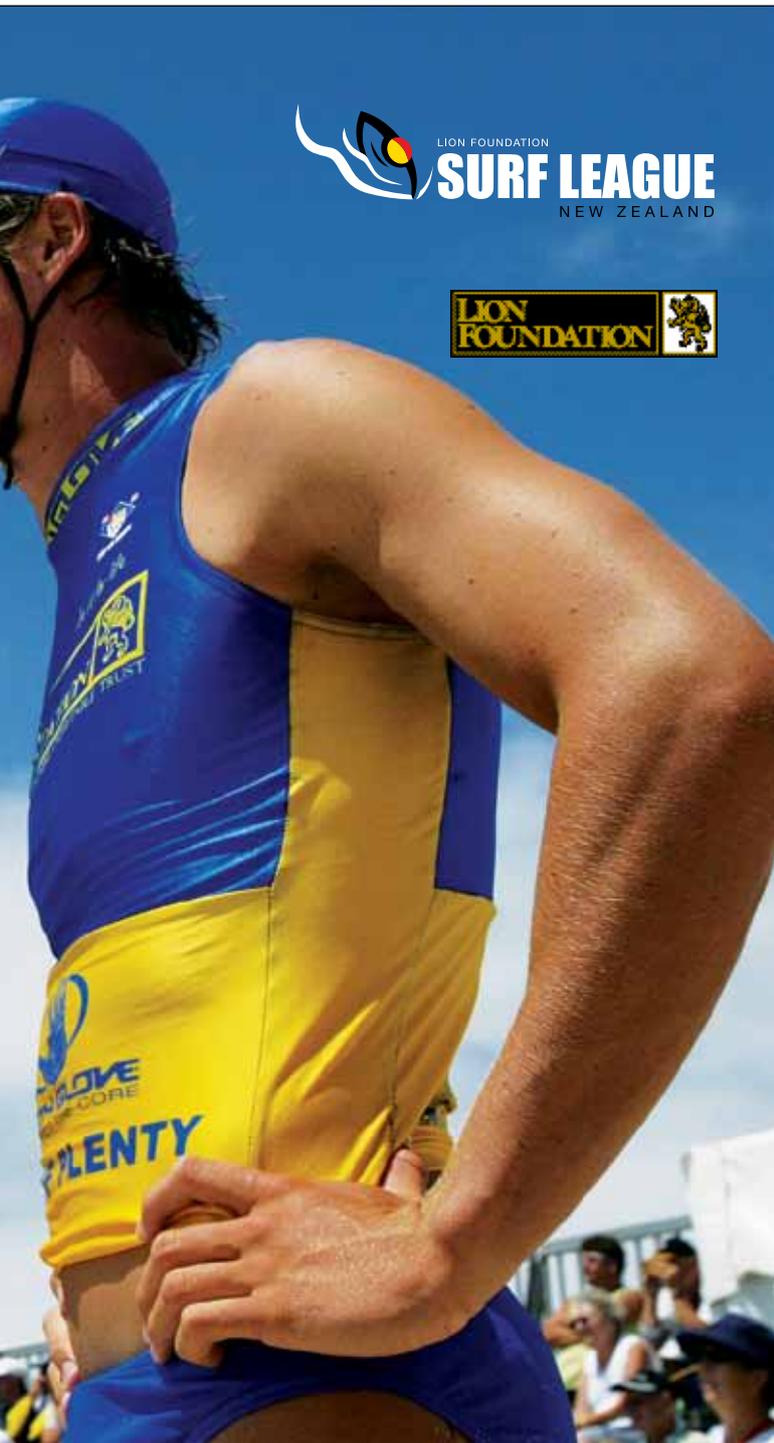
The previous record winning margin was 29 points in 1999. Not since Canterbury's domination in the late 1990's has then been such an

emphatic win by one District across both the Open & U19 Divisions.

Auckland was quietly confident with a team, which although counted a number of international athletes in their ranks, placed more importance on a self belief and team support from within.

"Our success started five years ago when we promoted internally within the Auckland region, when we put some 15 and 16 year old athletes into our open team," said coach, Scott Pritchard. "We are seeing the fruits of that today."

Pritchard was not 100 percent confident of victory until half way through the second day.



“You never know in a surf – you really don’t – but half way through the Sunday I had a pretty good feeling that things were going well for us.”

“None of the other teams were getting into our leading margin,” he said. Pritchard could not pin point any one or two competitors that stood out during both days of competition.

“It was an unbelievable team performance,” he said. “I’m staggered that we put on such a clinical display, because that’s what it was – clinical.”

POINTS	215	Auckland
	169	Gisborne
	161	Hawkes Bay =
	161	Canterbury =
	156	Wellington
	152	Bay of Plenty
	142	Taranaki
	115	Otago

surf league 05



auckland win **U19 league**

After the first day the Under 19 team points were very close. Like the Open team, Auckland were sitting in the lead but just two points separated the next three teams.

Auckland led with 87 points followed by Canterbury in second place on 76 points with last years winner Bay of Plenty third on 74.

Surprise performers Wellington were tied with Hawkes Bay for fourth.

Time limits were introduced to events as competitors battled the heavy surf.

Consistent performances on Sunday saw the overall positions change little, however, the points difference for the seven top teams was the smallest in many years.

The close points spread between second and seventh placings indicate as these athletes move into the Open teams, competition in future years is set to be very close.

POINTS	186	Auckland
	168	Wellington
	163	Bay of Plenty
	159	Gisborne
	154	Canterbury
	152	Hawkes Bay
	150	Taranaki
	122	Western Districts
	79	Otago

hot shots

- 01** Race start
- 02** Danny & Jason celebrate their IRB win
- 03** Miah Thorpe competitor negotiates tricky shore break
- 04** Auckland's U19 team celebrate victory
- 05** Difficult start in shore break for irb race
- 06** True blue fans

draft delivers

This years draft process for the Open teams allowed only the final four teams from 2004 to draft in athletes to bolster their team strength. The first four teams from 2004 were restricted to selecting teams from members within their own District.

"It worked to plan" says SLSNZ Sport Manager Mark Weatherall. "Allowing only some teams to draft could have delivered some upset results, but the first four teams had no drafted athletes, with the exception of the tied third place Hawkes Bay, so we got it pretty much spot on, particularly given the wild card the heavy surf threw into the mix."

"We strengthened Otago, Wellington, Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay which gave them the athletes they needed to be competitive, without upsetting the non drafted teams likely performance."

While the controlled draft applied only to the Open team, several Districts elected to draft athletes to also bolster their U19 teams, an area historically seen as an integral part of Districts own athlete development programme. Certainly a different approach to that of the winning team outlined in Scott Pritchard's comments on page 10.

hot shots



tv coverage

With Lion Foundation replacing Kellogg as the principal sponsor, the TV programme also underwent change. This years TV programme increased from one two hour show to three weeks of programming.

"We were keen to create greater synergy between the event and our core business Surf Lifesaving," says Geoff Barry, SLSNZ CEO. "Research showed us the NZ public draw very little linkage between SurfSport and Surf Life Saving so we believed the previous sports programme was of limited value to the surf lifesaving brand."

"After last years Piha Rescue programme, which enjoyed phenomenal ratings over the ten weeks it was on air, we wanted this years Surf League programme to be more than just a sports show. TVNZ showed their support by extending our air time."

rescues of the month

Although the patrolling season of 2004/05 started off slowly, rough conditions and strong winds have been the cause of some major rescues around the country calling for quick thinking and heroic actions from our lifeguards...

november



LIFEGUARDS Mark Woodward, Adam Fraser, Kent Fraser, Zhaine Northcroft, Murray Chong

CLUB Taranaki Call-out Squad

DATE 17th November

On the 17th of November at 7.30pm the Surf Life Saving Taranaki (SLST) 24 hour volunteer callout squad were paged by the local SAR arm of the Police to rescue a kite surfer. According to reports the kite surfer had been drifting in the water one kilometre off the Waitara coast for approximately three hours.

Five members answered the pagers and assembled at the SLST headquarters where two IRB's were prepared for the rescue and then driven to Waitara. The IRB's were launched from the Waitara boat ramp where a plane was overhead determining the position of the victim. There was a strong southerly wind blowing with big surf and as night was falling it was becoming more and more difficult to see the patient in the fading light.

The two IRB's took part in a patterned GPS grid search for approximately an hour until they found the patient, a man in his 40's. One of the IRB's brought him safely to shore. He was suffering from mild hypothermia and severe exhaustion and if he had remained in the water for much longer there may have been a very different result.

The patient was so relieved to get safely to shore that on arrival back to dry land he dropped to his hands and knees and kissed the ground. To thank the lifeguards for his rescue and safe return he gave a generous donation to Surf Life Saving Taranaki, a much appreciated gesture.

As they were picking up the last couple of patients, they saw another float out from under one of the boats, head down and unconscious.

Surf Club Travis Slattery, Mark Bennett and Johnny Clough noticed an object moving out of the harbour mouth in the out going tide.

After a quick look through the binoculars it was discovered that the object was a kite surfer moving out to sea in a 15 knot current and in great difficulty.

Raglan Coastguard rang the Club saying they had received a 111 call regarding the same person. From that point on all communications were switched to VHF 4 so that the rescue could be coordinated. As Travis, Mark and Jason took the IRB into the water Mark stepped in a hole and twisted his ankle, a quick decision had to be made, take out an injured lifeguard or a bronze candidate. With no other choice Jason jumped in the boat. The patient was in great difficulty with 3 metre waves dumping on him while trying to free himself from the kite which he was tangled

in. Travis and Jason went in for the pick up which had to be fast but cautious due to the tangled lines from the kite. Jason pulled the patient into the IRB and Travis cut the lines from the now sinking kite.

They took the patient back to the beach and while he was undergoing a medical examination they went back and retrieved the kite which still posed a threat to others. By this time the Coastguard jetski had arrived and assisted with the pick up of the kite.

Thanks to the efforts of the lifeguards and Coastguard and after a bit of clubbie hospitality the patient was given the all clear, greatly relieved to be safely back on land.

january



LIFEGUARDS Travis Slattery, Robin Bigwood and Alex Bass

CLUB Raglan

DATE 16th January

On the 16th of January at Raglan Surf Life Saving Club patrol kicked off at 10am with lifeguards, Travis Slattery (PC), Robin Bigwood and Alex Bass, Bronze candidates, Brett Richards and Michelle Burton

december



LIFEGUARDS Travis Slattery, Mark Bennett, Johnny Clough, Jason McQuin

CLUB Raglan

DATE 3rd December

At approximately 6.45pm on Friday the 3rd of December at Raglan

and Rookie Guards Elizabeth Andrews, Niki Edwards and Komako Silver.

There were big swells coming into the beach and at the start of the patrol the decision was made to close the beach due to the dangerous conditions. At approximately 10.20 a boat was noticed sitting in the harbour mouth possibly checking the bar for a crossing, which was definitely not recommended in the conditions. A little while later two boats were spotted in the harbour one possibly towing another, however, when the lifeguards turned back they saw one of the boats was capsized while the other was not visible due to the large swells. Travis and Rob raced down to the IRB leaving Alex, the two trainee candidates and three Rookies to look after the immediate beach, with the beach still closed.

Upon arrival at the harbour mouth Travis and Rob found two upturned boats with seven visible patients. At this point in time, due to the conditions, contact with all forms of emergency response units and the patrol back at the beach was lost. Travis and Rob picked up the majority of the patients dropping them at a nearby civilian boat which had seen a flare and was standing by. As they were picking up the last couple of patients, they saw another float out from under one of the boats, head down and unconscious. Travis, told Rob he was exiting the boat. Rob then took over the drivers position with two patients on board and attempted to remain stationary in large seas while Travis retrieved the unconscious patient. Just as Travis was reaching the IRB they were hit by another large set of waves which sucked out the two patients and Rob, forcing Travis to let go of the unconscious patient to regain control of the boat. Rob immediately grabbed the unconscious patient and the two other patients and pulled them into the IRB.



Photography courtesy of Lucy Eglington

they were hit by another large set of waves which sucked out the two patients and Rob, forcing Travis to let go of the unconscious patient

rescues of the month

Travis and Rob made their way back to shore assessing the patients while calling Westpac Rescue Helicopter and an ambulance for back up. Upon reaching the shore Travis was met by Michelle who had oxygen and a defib kit. Travis began CPR with no breathing or pulse present. After a number of cycles the unconscious patient had regained a pulse, weak and rapid but still no breathing. After another two minutes weak breathing began.

The unconscious patient was flown to Waikato hospital but had been without oxygen for too long and unfortunately died 3 days later. The semi conscious patients improved at the scene, one taken by ambulance to hospital, the other taken home by a family member. All the other patients were treated for mild hypothermia at the scene and made their way home.

In the two hour time period in which Travis and Rob were dealing with the incident Alex, Michelle, Brett, Elizabeth, Niki ,Komako and their parents along with two lifeguards from the call out list performed over 700 preventative actions on 1300 people, Successfully ensuring a safe beach environment was maintained.

february



LIFEGUARDS Brent Phillips, Jono Robson, Kris O'Neil, Daniel Lacy

CLUB Piha

DATE 18th February.

With the sun out to play and beach goers looking to refresh and relax, there were many who over looked the dangerous conditions. For one young man, his ignorance nearly cost him his life.

It was going to be a hard day for the lifeguards. An outgoing tide, Pakiti rip to the south, a hole in the middle of the beach and the Lion Rock rip working at the north end. The only safe place to put the red and yellow flags marking the safest place to swim was 60m south of Lion Rock, just north of the inshore hole.

While on duty at the waters edge, lifeguard Daniel Lacy noticed a group of young adults entering the water near Lion Rock, outside the flags, at 1415hrs. Despite warning them of the dangers the group continued to ignore him. Daniel made sure the lifeguards in the tower kept their eyes on the group.

Then at 1425hrs, the inevitable happened. One of the group had strayed too deep and was now getting pulled out to sea. Daniel, who was about to go and prevent another person getting into difficulty saw the person in trouble at the same time the lifeguards in the tower raised the alarm. Daniel started swimming out with a rescue tube and

fins. Meanwhile lifeguards Brent and Kris ran to the IRB.

When Daniel reached the patient he was drowning. His head bobbed up and down in the water, as he struggled to breathe. Once the patient was secured in the rescue tube Daniel began swimming parallel to shore in order to get away from the rocks so the IRB could pick the patient up.

Meanwhile Kris and Brent had launched the IRB and negotiated the surf between Lion Rock and the patient in order to pick him up. However, after managing to get along side the patient, with the boat just meters from Lion Rock, the patient proved too exhausted to help get himself into the boat. As a wave crashed over them, their grip broke, leaving Daniel to once again secure the patient with his tube. By this time the patient was panicking.

With the patient drifting ever closer to the rocks, Kris again managed to get between the patient and Lion Rock. This time was more successful and they managed to drag the patient into the IRB and take him back to shore, while Daniel swam back.

Without the actions of lifeguards Jono, Brent, Kris and Daniel, the outcome may have been a fatal tragedy of more than one. However with good teamwork, communication and good Lifeguarding, Piha didn't claim another life and the rescue was a success.

bp rescue of the year

Each of the monthly winners are finalists in the bp rescue of the year to be awarded in Wellington in September.



revving it up at irb nationals

Christchurch Clubs proved they had the best Rescue Boat crews in New Zealand at the New Zealand BP Surf Rescue National Championships on the 2nd and 3rd of April. 73 teams competed in extremely flat and fast conditions at Omaha beach, although most of the petrol heads would have liked a bigger swell, the conditions meant that the races were fair and at times very closely contested.

With the retirement of last years top premier crew Jaron Mumby and Chris Scott of Opunake and Kate Bonner and Kirsten O'Regan of Brighton, titles were up for grabs this year. The first day of competition closed with Spencer Park leading the points table on 25 points just two points clear of Fitzroy and Sumner.

Sunday's competition was dominated by Sumner who established themselves as not only the top South Island crew but national crew as well cleaning up three out of the four racing categories. Leisha Fleming and Sarah Williams from Sumner were named the top female crew of the competition. Blair Quane and Scott Couzins of Sumner were the top premiere crew while Justin Martin and Nathan Teutenberg from Wainui in Gisborne won the prestigious premier single rescue.

POINTS	69	Sumner
	48	Wainui
	45	SP

BP TROPHY, TOP NEW ZEALAND CLUB

Sumner

FOXENG TOP WOMEN TEAM

Leisha Fleming/Sarah Williams (Sumner)

ARANCIA TOP PREMIER TEAM

Scott Couzins/Blair Quane (Sumner)

OPUNAKE CUP SENIOR TEAM

Simon Williams/Mark Bacon (Sumner)

HICKET CUP TOP UNDER 21 TEAM

Dane Halliwell/Kiel Hovell (Wainui)

Results on www.surflifesaving.org.nz

new zealand team wins trans tasman **surf boat trophy**



Photos on this spread supplied by Harvie Allison www.harvpix.com

New Zealand can arguably claim to be the best Surf Boat crew in the world after edging out Australia to win the Trans Tasman Surf Boat Trophy. While Surf Boats are not contested at the World Championships, winning the Trans Tasman Trophy over World Lifesaving Champions Australia is as close as we can get to claiming a Surf Boat 'World Title'.

The Trans Tasman Surf Boat Trophy was contested as part of the International Challenge held on Australia's Gold Coast on March 22 and 23. The Surf Boat Crew of Paul McVicar, Adrian Walding, Chris Martin, Brent Healy and Tim Marsden won four out of six races to ensure the trophy was New Zealand's.

Despite Surf Boat competition in New Zealand being considerably smaller than in Australia, the New Zealand team showed superior skills and strength during the test series. New Zealand had just 25 Open crews compete in the NZ Championships while across the Tasman over 400 crews compete in the equivalent Australian Championships.

Womens Ski Race



Micheal Buck



New Zealand placed second at the International Challenge

The International Challenge was held on Australia's Gold Coast immediately following the Australian Championships on 22/23 March. Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Japan and USA fielded teams of 12 members, 6 Male and 6 female. The New Zealand team was named at the Lion Foundation Surf League in February.

Day One 22 March

Day one saw outstanding performances by individuals ensuring New Zealand finished in a position to challenge World Champions Australia for the overall title.

Individual performances included Nikki Cox winning the Ski Race, Holly Moczydlowski winning the Beach Relay and Morgan Foster winning the Beach Flags. Lucy Pengelly and Johanna O'Connor also had strong performances. Team performances were outstanding, winning the Taplin Relay, Beach Relay and Surf Teams race.

Points after day one: Australia 102, New Zealand 91, Great Britain 50, USA 48, Japan 38.

Day Two 23 March

New Zealand's success was maintained on day two amassing just 4 points less than day one. Holly Moczydlowski and Morgan Foster repeated their successes of day one winning the Beach Sprint and Beach Flags respectively.

Henderson, Buck, Pritchard and Sutton won the Tube Rescue after being placed second on day one. Jo O'Connor was placed second in the Surf Race after being placed third on day one. Similarly Nathan Henderson had the same improvement in the Board Race.

The Beach Relay team repeated their previous days performance.

NZ Team

BOAT CREW - TITAHI BAY

Paul McVicar, Adrian Walding, Chris Martin, Brent Healy, Tim Marsden

MEN

Glenn Anderson - Midway

Michael Buck - Mairangi Bay

Matt Sutton - Midway

Morgan Foster - South Brighton

Scott Pritchard - Red Beach

Nathan Henderson - Currumbin, Aus

WOMEN

Rachael Anderson - Midway

Johanna O'Connor - Mount Maunganui

Rochelle Creighton - South Brighton

Holly Moczydlowski - Mount Maunganui

Nikki Cox - Westshore

Lucy Pengelly - Muriwai

COACH John Bryant **MANAGER** Jim Warwick.



Glenn Anderson & Matt Sutton, Board Rescue



New Zealand Team



Holly Moczydlowski taking out the Beach Sprint

	day 1	day 2	total	team
POINTS	102	106	206	Australia
	91	87	178	New Zealand
	50	51	101	Great Britain
	48	43	91	USA
	38	42	80	Japan



mt turns on perfect conditions for new zealand champ

midway defends

Midway may well be considering a name change after winning the Alen Gardner Trophy for top overall Club at the New Zealand Community Trust Surf Life Saving Championships.

Any name that suggests middle of the road performance is far from deserving for the Gisborne Club.

With nearly double the points of second place Mairangi Bay, nobody else had a look in to Midway's domination of the three days of the Championships. With changes to the programme over recent years we can't talk of record points, however, their convincing win will be etched in the minds of many for years to come. Midway had a team of stars such as Glenn and Rachael Anderson, but history should also record that deducting Glenn and sister Rachael's points from Midway's tally still left them in the front of the points tally for top overall Club, such is the depth of Midway's talent.

close contest for top clubs

Mairangi Bay celebrated its best performance in many years taking second place behind Midway. The Club also won the Taplin Relay for the third successive year in convincing style.

Other stand out performances by Clubs included Mt Maunganui in third place and Whakatane in fourth. Both Clubs have shown marked improvements in recent years, particularly Whakatane.

Westshore, placed eighth, showed they will be a force in the future if this year's outstanding performance in the NZ Under 14 Champs and the NZ Pool Champs are considered. Westshore has a large group of younger members that will offer a real challenge in the next few years.

Two stalwart Clubs, Canterbury's South Brighton and Taranaki's New Plymouth Old Boys have slipped in their rankings. South Brighton, who has dominated the New Zealand Champs over the last decade, finished on 5th with little more than half the points they amassed two years ago. Equally New Plymouth Old Boys also lost ground on its ranking after steadily maintaining a place in the top half dozen Clubs over the same period. NPOB won in 2000. This year they were placed 14th.



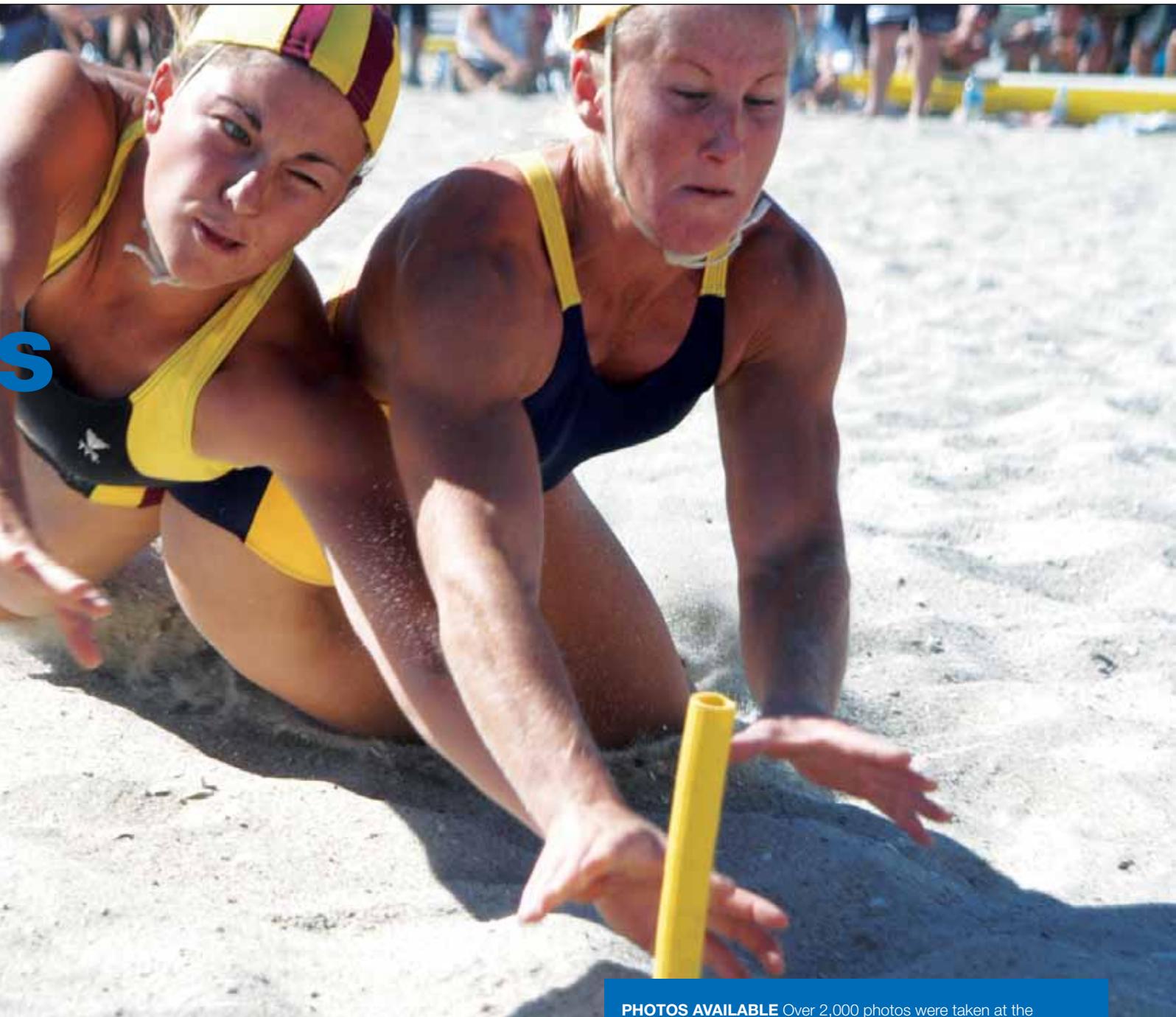
stand out performers

Cameron Pocock of Mairangi Bay, won the New Zealand Community Trust 'Best Male Performance' award. Pocock won the highly prized Open Ski Race. He also won Gold in the Double Ski, Ski Relay, Taplin and Silver in the Canoe.

Best Female performance was awarded to Nikki Cox, who won the Open Ski and Board Race, a silver in the IronWoman, and a bronze in the Double Ski Race.

Best team performance was won by the Mt Maunganui Open Surf Boat crew winning both the short and long course Surf Boat races.

Jonelle Foster of Sumner won the Women's Tube Rescue & Run Swim Run. A performance of note was Otago's Oreti Club. Absent from the NZ Champs for many years Oreti's Simon Cook won Silver in the



PHOTOS AVAILABLE Over 2,000 photos were taken at the Championships by photographer Ken Baker. These photos are available to view and purchase. [see www.kenbakerphotography.com](http://www.kenbakerphotography.com) Results are available on www.surflifesaving.org.nz

Under 16 Surf Race. Oreti also had members compete in the NZ Pool Champs held in September at Wellington. Well done Oreti.

feedback

Thanks to the Officials who ran the event over the three days

CHIEF REFEREE Dave Price

DEPUTY John Hook

ARENA REFEREE'S Patsy Horne, Don Dring, Denis Cooksley, Warren Clow

Remember your feedback on this years programme & event is valuable as the Officials look to the 2006 NZ Champs programme & event itself. Please forward comments to mark.weatherall@surflifesaving.org.nz for Mark to forward to the key officials group.



changes for nationals 2006

A number of new events this year made the programme even larger than before. The surf and weather at Mt Maunganui was kind this year. Had weather conditions made it less pleasant or the surf more challenging some of Sunday's finals may not have been completed.

The time taken to conduct the event programme in near perfect weather conditions this year signals that unless changes are made, then next year competitors will face cancelled events as Officials try to deliver the programme within day light hours. This year the prize giving was completed at 8.10pm on Sunday night. Fortunately the NZ Champs were held prior to daylight saving ending this year. Not the case for 2006.

Suggestions have been made of a move to gender arenas – 2 male/2 female. Gender arenas would work through each discipline simultaneously. For example all Board heats and semis for all ages on Friday, Ski on Saturday. The Boat Arena would be maintained separately.

SLSNZ CEO Geoff Barry says "It's fair to say there has been a lot of criticism about how the event was run, both from competitors and managers. There is a very real demand from the membership that we make changes to address the difficulties experienced on the beach this year."

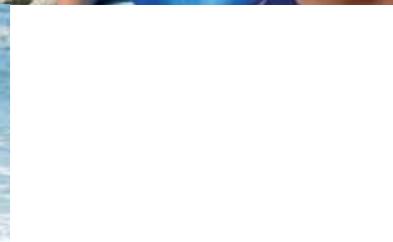
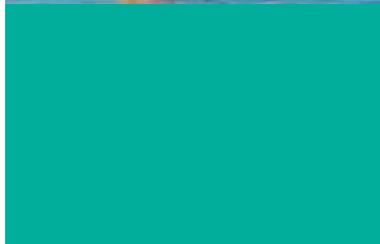
"Many of the changes called for relate to the capability of the decision making and programme delivery once the event starts on Friday morning. While much of the criticism about the championships delivery may be justified it is worth noting the significant gains made in the event management in the last few years under the direction of SLSNZ sport manager Mark Weatherall," says Barry.

"Part of the issue is there are greater expectations today. We are now running pretty slick events building up to the nationals such as the Ocean Athletes and the Surf League," says SLSNZ sport manager, Mark Weatherall. "Team managers and competitors expectations are high come the nationals, but we have a large team of officials attempting to deliver a coordinated programme across six arenas over three days. Reality is the traditional nationals structure and the way we deliver the event now falls short of the mark."

"A number of event reruns because of officiating errors were disappointing for competitors. Even in small surf a rerun of an event in surf lifesaving is a whole new race, not a 'rerun' of the previous result."

Gender arenas will result in those that currently compete across two and sometimes three age groups unlikely to be able to continue this practice, in itself a time saving. However, gender arenas are also likely to reduce the number of officials required, significantly making the event more efficient to manage for key officials.

"I'll be working with the officials who run the event over the winter months to see if we can find solutions for some of these problems. The possibility of gender arenas will be explored further before any decision is made" said Weatherall.





NEW ZEALAND UNDER 14
OCEAN ATHLETE
 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Once again Westshore took out the top club points at the Ocean Athlete Championships held at Mount Maunganui in the first weekend of the New Zealand Community Trust Surf Life Saving Championships.

The fifth Ocean Athlete NZ Under 14 Champs were held in challenging conditions. While Fridays' conditions were flat, Saturday and Sunday saw the sun come out and the surf pick up to create demanding conditions for the competitors, some as young as ten.

The younger age group moved to Shark Alley on Sunday, however, the older competitors toughed it out in the challenging conditions. Spectators and organisers alike were in awe of the skills shown by these youngest of Surf Life Saving's competitors.

"The surf skills shown by competitors in the tricky conditions were exceptional which is encouraging for the future of Surf Lifesaving in New Zealand," as Cory Hutchings said, "These are our super stars of tomorrow."

Ocean Athletes was run over three exciting days and gave the Under 14 Junior Surf competitors a chance to race at a top level competition. Close to 850 competitors raced in the 'Junior Surf' champs.

Westshore won the final Grand Cameron Relay in both the 10/11 and 12/13 age groups. Midway also demonstrated that they have strength coming through the ranks to maintain the strong grasp the Club has on the NZ Championships.

Thirty five Clubs took part this year, the highest number yet. To those who haven't attended the event, you don't know what you are missing!



PHOTOS AVAILABLE Over 2,000 photos were taken at the Championships by photographer Ken Baker. These photos are available to view and purchase. [see www.kenbakerphotography.com](http://www.kenbakerphotography.com) Results are available on www.surflifesaving.org.nz

up and coming surf star
daniel moodie

AGE
17

SCHOOL
Napier Boys High School

CLUB
Westshore

BEST EVENT
Ironman

SLSNZ NATIONALS 03
1st U16 Ironman
2nd U16 Surf race

SLSNZ NATIONALS 04
1st U16 Ironman
1st Surf race
2nd U19 Ironman
2nd U16 Board race

SLSA NATIONALS 04
4th U16 Ironman

SLSNZ NATIONALS 05
1st U19 Run Swim Run
2nd U19 Ironman
1st U19 Board race

Dubbed as New Zealand's 'brightest surf athlete of the future', Daniel Moodie impressed many with his outstanding form at Nationals winning two titles and a second place. With a huge amount of talent and determination, the young Hawkes Bay athlete looks set to challenge Cory Hutchings reign as New Zealand's most successful Ironman.

Who are your main rival/rivals?

Everyone who lines up at the start of a race.

Who do you look up to in surf lifesaving?

Cory Hutchings.

What's your main motivation when training and competing?

I'm really lucky to have a great group of people to train with, and I just love the sport.

When did you start surf and why?

I started surf when I was 8 years old as a friend of mine had joined nippers and I thought I'd go along and try it out.

What do you enjoy most about surf lifesaving?

All of the people involved - you meet a lot of neat people and make so many good friends

What has been your highlight in surf lifesaving so far?

Winning the New Zealand Community Trust Top Male Competitor at last year's Nationals.

Is Surf Lifesaving a family sport for the Moodies?

It definitely is my whole family is involved in surf. My younger sister has won medals at Ocean Athletes, my brother made the NZ High Performance Squad last year and my Mum is on the board at Westshore.

What are your other interests?

Swimming, Surfing.

Future goals?

Make the NZ Team, and win a World Ironman Title.

With the way this determined young athlete is going and the exceptional results that he is achieving, there is no doubt that his goals will become a reality.





rescue 2006 world champs

The World Championships are a biennial event and next year it will be a stone throw away from our shores, too good an opportunity to miss. Many Kiwis are expected to fly across the tasman next year. NZ team aside, approximately 20 competitors made the journey to last years World Champs in Italy. Early indications are it's likely this figure could be ten times as high for 2006, particularly given the Commonwealth Games begin soon afterwards, increasing the attraction of travelling to Melbourne.

The Championships begin with the 'Country' challenge. Nearly 30 countries are expected to contest the world title. New Zealand was placed second behind Australia in 2004. The InterClub Champs follow on from the 'InterCountry' Champs.

With less than 10 months to go before Rescue 2006, organisers are confident they are on track to host the 'best-ever' World Lifesaving Championships. "We're confident we will attract the fastest, strongest and most-skilled lifesavers from around the world to Geelong and Lorne, when the celebration of lifesaving begins on 10 February next year," says Rescue 2006 Event Manager Nick Jordan. "The combination of world-class facilities - including a purpose built, FINA approved 50 metre pool at Kardinia Park - spectacular scenery and the world renowned Australian hospitality, means that we will offer them a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

the schedule The International Teams compete from the 14th to 18th with the programme following the traditional format - two days competition in the pool, then two days in the surf. Surf Life Saving New Zealand has named a Rescue 2006 squad with the NZ team to be selected from the squad later this year.

The interclub competition commences on the 22nd to 26th.

geelong, victoria - the host city Geelong is Victoria's second-largest city with a population of more than 210,000 and approximately an hour and half from Melbourne.

Waterfront Geelong is one of Australia's best waterfront redevelopments - an that's official! The transformation includes new restaurants, beautiful landscaped gardens, walking, cycling and skating paths, attractions and public art.

eastern beach Geelong's famous Eastern Beach is just a short walk from the city centre. Built in the 1930s, the park and pools have become City landmarks, drawing crowds for more than 60 years. A recent upgrade of the huge sea bathing complex, surrounding parkland and pavilions and fountain has added to the area's popularity.

kardinia aquatic centre The redeveloped Kardinia Aquatic Centre in central Geelong is the location for all pool events.

Located close to the city centre in Kardinia Park, the Kardinia Aquatic Centre has the capacity for 1000 spectators. A new, AU\$ 4.4m pool is being constructed for Rescue 2006. This state-of-the-art 10-lane pool measures 50 x 25 x 1.8 metres and is FINA compliant.

An adjacent 50-metre training pool as well as access to all council-owned leisure facilities throughout the city are being provided for training purposes, courtesy of the City of Greater Geelong.

melbourne, event capital of Australia

The economic impact of the Championships for local communities is expected to be in the vicinity of \$30 million, and it will leave a legacy of improved sporting facilities and safer beaches through increased local participation in lifesaving.

Rescue 2006 is supported by the Victorian State Government and DHL.

GEELONG - AUSTRALIA - LORNE 10-26 FEBRUARY 2006

for more information www.rescue2006.com for NZ Rescue 2006 squad www.surflifesaving.org.nz





FULL NAME	Scott Colin Weatherall
AGE	25
STAR SIGN	Virgo
NICK NAME(S)	Scottie
FAVOURITE FOOD	Chicken
FAVOURITE MOVIE	Cool Running's
MARITAL STATUS	Partner (Justine)
PRE RACE PHRASE	No one remembers a loser
FAVOURITE SAYING	If goals aren't written down they're only dreams
FAVOURITE ACTOR	Tom Hanks
FAVOURITE ACTRESS	All of the McLeod's Daughters ladies
FAVOURITE BAND	Dennis Henderson (Southern Man)
FAVOURITE SONG	'I'm a Southern man' and 'Highlanders Song'
MENTOR	Mark (my big bro) & Colin Weatherall (My Dad) - [Don't tell me you all play the banjo as well]

HUEY

the god of surf

chats to otago's scott weatherall

COMPETITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Gold Medal '99 BP IRB National Champs; Senior Mens Mass Rescue
2. SLSNZ BP IRB Development Squad (Until Paul Veric chopped us) [Who??? - Ed]
3. Captain of the 2005 Otago Surf League Team (unfortunately, not the best results, but still a huge honour to be part of the 'on beach' entertainment)

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

1. National Certificate in Ambulance 2003/2004
2. NZLGB Surf Lifeguard of the Year - 2003
3. SLSNZ Leadership Group (2001 - 2003)
4. Brighton Surf Life Saving Club President - current
5. SLS Otago Board member - current
6. Community Board member (Dunedin City Council) - current
7. Living life to it's fullest - current!

Last edition of Surf Rescue Huey met a lifeguard guru in cosmopolitan Auckland, a man who plays an important part of SLS Northern Region. This time Huey blows his travel allowance venturing to the other end of the earth to see what a lifeguard guru does in the south.

Scott or Scottie as he is so originally referred to had to schedule me in around his 40 hours of volunteer work he averages a week. Now this bloke should be (like most 25 year olds) partying and thinking about himself. But no. Not Scottie – he is a king of volunteers. He is there for us just like he so diligently is for others.

Scottie pulls up to our rendezvous point in his car. Quickly, he gets out in a gangly, enthusiastic and awkward type fashion with a big grin and eyes as big as saucers... Hand outstretched - ready to shake the bejesus out of it with gusto I imagine.

SW Nice to meet you Huey. You are taller than I imagined.

H Nice to meet you Scott. You are exactly how I imagined.

He was wearing a blue Brighton sweatshirt with yellow block writing, looked like it had been hand painted on by a five year old – shorts (Stubbies I am sure) with a faded 'Formica' screen printed on them.

H You have achieved so much (especially volunteer service) at age 25. What motivates you to give so much to the community?

SW Thanks Huey, I just enjoy helping people and hoping that the community can benefit in some way.

H Others at your age are so selfish in comparison - what do you think about that?

SW Everyone has a different outlook on life. I have grown up in a small but amazing community (Brighton, Dunedin) and my family are committed to assisting the community. It's just been my life and the way I have been brought up.

[All this humble pie is making me hungry – so hungry I could eat the crutch out of a low flying seagull]

H Who do you most admire?

SW I have many people that I admire or utilise as role models/mentors, I pick people from the different community organisations that I am involved in for the different areas. But, to answer your question, my family. They are awesome (Mum - Ann, Dad - Colin, Mark (29) and Tracey (21) my brother and sister).

[I can see that this southern man doesn't just say it – he means it]

H Why?

SW Just because I am so lucky to have an extremely supportive family environment.

H What's your most embarrassing moment?

SW This years Surf League would come extremely close, especially the Dear Love Relay on the Sunday. Thank god for Danny Morrison and the Auckland Boys for their help.

[Yes I suppose it helped when Danny showed you that inflating your IRB orally, was going to take all day]

H What's your most memorable moment?

SW Winning my gold medal with Mark at the 1999 BP IRB Nat's and winning my first ever national medal in 1996. It was the Under 19 Men's Canoe Rescue at Oakura.

H Why?

SW Because both medals were so special.

[Right how silly of me...]

H Why IRB Racing?

SW It was an event that Mark and I thought looked good fun. We looked up to the St Clair Premier IRB Crew, (Anthony Mason (Mace) and Darryl Fairbairn (Goober)) and thought that we would like to be as good as them one day. Both guys were so good to us while racing together and against each other.

H You are the crewman and Mark the driver?

SW Yes

H Is it true Mark couldn't drive a nail into balsa wood let alone an IRB?

SW Mark is one of the most respected and skilled drivers in the country and I will come to blows with anyone who says otherwise.

[I look around as I once again I am sure I can hear banjo's playing...- H]

H If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?

SW s**t Huey you might need to check the ingredients label.

H What do you dislike about Surf Life Saving?

SW Unfortunately I have to say the not so good weather we occasionally have down south.

[Bring out the stocks Otago – the secret is out... and this boy needs a stoning...]

H Did you do boy scouts as a youngster?

SW Yes I did Sea Scouts [I knew it - H] in fact, we had a great rowing team but were s**t at sailing, by the way Mark always started the food fights at the Regattas not me!

[These Weatherall boys sound like absolute terrors – H]

H What your opinion of Paris Hilton?

SW She's quite lovely.

[I have heard of numerous descriptions and 'lovely' was never one but good on you - gentleman of the south – H]

H How do you secure surf skis on roof racks?

SW Good question, I hear SLSNZ have a Coaching DVD out that includes tying gear down.

H My suggestion is you not only buy it but you go to a knots tying seminar. Losing Brighton's brand new skis off the roof racks after collecting them (because you couldn't tie a knot) perhaps could limit your life expectancy...

H Should Charles marry Camilla?

SW S**t no, silly bugger for ditching Diana, she was so lovely.

[agreed]

H Would you marry Camilla?

SW Bugger off!

[By the way Scottie is looking at the floor and scratching his left eye I can tell he is lying and simply holding back his intense feelings for the 2nd lady – Justine should be well and truly nervous as too should Charles because this lad could charm the pants off a donkey - if he really wanted]

H Would you marry Charles?

SW Would I ever! (not)

[Once again I witness the eye scratch and the glance at the floor. I quickly move onto my next question]

H How did you feel accepting the NZ Lifeguard of the Year award?

SW I was absolutely stoked, it was a real honour but was a tribute to my Club, family and friends for all their support of me.

[Once again the smell of humble pie fills the room...and banjo music. I am waiting for this guy to actually accept a compliment – I think he is actually allergic to credit and fame...]

H If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?

SW Almost got me!

H Have you ever had Mrs McGuinness' Game Pie?

SW No I have not but I sure would like to, I quite enjoy a good old Jimmy's Pie made in Central Otago.

H Thank very much Scott - I know you are a very busy man!

SW The pleasure is all mine.

Hmmmm – As Scott leaves in his car, white suitcase with a red cross on the back seat, boy scout tie on the floor and the banjo loosely rolling around the boot, I am actually struggling to find anything to say about this man. Why - because he is so much to everyone else. In fact I am going to call him the proverbial NZ 'corner dairy' for a number of reasons:

1. He wont take credit – no matter how much you plead with him.
2. Essential part of the community and often taken for granted.
3. Everyone knows him but often never takes the time to acknowledge and thank him, and it's not 'til he's not there will you miss him
4. Less and less of them are around because of the flasher and more egocentric options full of branding hog the limelight.
5. Built around the family unit – everyone working for the one goal
6. Providing everything for the local community – 7 days a week service
7. Reliable and consistent as your mums' Sunday roast dinner

All I know is if we had a Scott Weatherall (and from the sounds of it a Weatherall family) in every suburb of every town in NZ we would be one pretty impressive utopia.(Banjo music would also take off)

Hats off to you SW. No doubt we will all benefit from your contini quiet contribution to our communities in the future.

HUEY



new boat for **whakatane**

Deciding to purchase a new Surf Boat is not an everyday decision for Clubs. New Zealand has just one manufacturer, McKay Boats. Most Clubs are opting for South Coast Surf Boats from Australia, which means an import licence and freight to New Zealand for an all up cost of approximately AUS\$35,000.

This is Whakatane SLSC's account of their new boat's arrival...

Whakatane Surf Life Saving Club took delivery of a new Surf Boat from Australia on January 21 only a week before the NRC's. Many hours were spent on preparing letters regarding sponsorship deals.

To our surprise a local electrician, Mr Peter Christie (Christie Electrics) then offered to help in our plight to obtain a new surf boat, and his words where leave it to me. In a weeks time he had raised a further \$10,000 to be put together with a grant from the Lion Foundation.

So a national firm of J.A.Russell Ltd and international company Clipsal came on board along with Peter's business. The Club is very thankful to these company's and trust for there sponsorship and it can only help our Club by bringing new and retaining members to row Surf Boats, therefore, boosting our patrols.

On Thursday evening, January 27, the Whakatane Club had their new Surf Boat blessed by Mr Graham Turner (Pastor of the Ohope Christian Fellowship) and Mr Ching Tutua, a respected Maori Elder from Whakatane.

The craft was then launched and rowed by the Whakatane Ladies "B" crew of Erin Baker (Bow), Tania Humberston (2nd Bow), Christine Millar (2nd Stroke) and Erica Jolly (Stroke), with the Club's vice-president and P.R.O. Malcolm Rowson as the sweep.

Thanks Sparkies.

Malcolm Rowson

W.S.L.S.C Public Relations Officer

(Whakatane were placed 4th overall at the New Zealand Champs this year - Ed)

surf lifeguard billy doyle

tsunami relief



On 25 January Whiritoa Club President and four medical staff from Middlemore Hospital, headed to Sri Lanka to support the Tsunami relief operation. Surf Life Saving New Zealand donated an IRB to support their efforts and help them reach remote areas.



If you ask any member of the Whiritoa community or any member of TEAM TOA (the local name for Whiritoa Surf Lifeguard Service) "Who is Billy Doyle", chances are they will refer to him affectionately as "Squid" – the name given to him sometime within the past 25 years he has been involved in our local surf life saving club.



Ask any one of the hundreds of people he has treated more through his aid work in Sri Lanka, and I'm sure the answer you will get more around the lines of 'lifeguard'.

In his 'real job' Billy works as a Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Auckland's Department of Anaesthesiology as the Director of Resuscitation and Emergency Programs.

He is also completing postgraduate study and hopes to complete his PhD. Billy is researching how humans react in emergencies so the trip also supports his studies.

The NZ team was sent to the east coast town called Batticaloa. From there they serviced a coastal area of 50-60 Km as far north as Vaharai, a small village of Tamil people. The area was home to approximately 40,000 people prior to the Boxing Day Tsunami disaster. The population now is unknown. It is estimated that possibly one person out of five has been killed; probably five out of five people are affected in some way. Many of these people were fisher folk and lost their livelihood due to the Tsunami.

The NZ team is based in UN compound in Batticaloa and as Billy tells his story it is clear the scale of tragedy in human terms on the East Coast of Sri Lanka is unfathomable and something I pray never happens to New Zealand.

One of the initial challenges that Billy and his team were faced with was the absolute destruction of the local hospital. It had tragically been completed only two weeks prior to the tsunami. The Boxing Day event destroyed most of it and its resources.

"So without the hospital, which had 150,000 people to service in the immediate area, all medical skills and foreign aid teams. By ourselves, we could only establish the most minimal and urgent services as initially there were no water power or sanitation

systems. Once we put these in place better services could be provided," says Billy.

On the first day arriving at the hospital....accessible only by IRB, several hundred people turned up needing serious medical attention. "These people were affected with dysentery, infected wounds and severe lacerations from the flying debris which now required amputation and were in many cases, infested with maggots".

"We saw little evidence of any effective government aid in the area. There didn't seem to be any strategy to the effort, something we tried to influence." The medical teams stayed throughout the night to treat patients who included critically ill children dying from pneumonia, infections and in some cases dehydration due to contaminated water supplies.

"We had to transport these families two hours by road to the nearest hospital with full services. I lost count of how many very ill children we transported this way." Dealing with sick children is always hard I guess.

"What made their conditions even worse was the monsoon seasons had arrived and because the camps grounds were always wet, respiratory tract infections were becoming more common every day". This area had been the scene of some brutal fighting in years gone by and the population was still recovering from this civil war. The fact that this was an LTTE (Tamil rebel forces) controlled area added to the overall difficulty of working in the area.

"We heard shots and explosions, as there was the occasional conflict between various rebel factions the LTTE rebels were in most cases very welcoming and appreciative of the assistance and posed very little threat to aid workers at that time".

There were several thousand people in most displaced person camps and only 2-4 toilet pits in each camp. "What was required were immediate drainage and more toilet facilities to reduce the likelihood of disease outbreak and cross contamination but because the main bridge was washed out, no heavy machinery could be used so it had to be done by hand." Billy did exactly that with the assistance of locals.

"We offered to pay them generously because the digging work and removal of partially decomposed bodies from wells and other water supplies was a very difficult and ugly task. Thirty New Zealand dollars can employ a local person for a week. Paying locals is an important part of aid as it empowers people to have a sense of purpose and independence; it also injects funds into the local economy as people begin trading again."

Billy describes the workers reaction to the work. "These men worked hard, very hard and with a sense of pride and purpose even as we buried partially decomposing bodies of small children, and sometimes entire families clinging together in the debris..." As Billy continues, his voice becomes shaky as he recounts some of the more ugly aspects of this work.

"The lowest point of the whole experience for me would have been pulling out a body of a

decomposing child from a well, who was still clinging on to a teddy bear..." When I ask Billy to describe the environment, he does not delay in saying, "Hell".

"The array of dead bodies everywhere, the squawking and scavenging of crows overhead, and the wild dogs growling and chewing on half decomposing bodies was too much to see. When the wind blew; it brought the most disgusting smell of rotting bodies along with it".

Problems arose for the aid teams with the discovery of landmines and the need to disentangle bodies that had been caught in the heavily razor-wired defences on the coast and the constant company of at least one heavily armed rebel was never far off. "Although the violence and aggression was not directed at aid workers, (they were very appreciative of the aid), there was always the real risk of accidental involvement in any surrounding conflict". In one situation, Billy and an Australian aid worker were confronted by a rebel who held a pistol to his head and demanded money.

Billy has been involved as a leader in surf lifesaving at one level or another for many years and in recent years has been working hard to develop "Team Toa" into a vibrant, exciting and sustainable team.

While listening to Billy it soon becomes apparent to me that working in environments and situations like this is not for the average person. "Every professional bit of training and life skills I have ever undertaken was utilised in this operation, whether it was my medical training, military experiences or Lifeguarding, everything came into play. It highlights to me the value of surf lifesaving in peoples lives because there are many life skills learnt beyond tangible lifesaving skills. Skills like diplomacy, strategic thinking, problem solving, self discipline and decision making. Young people are truly privileged to be part of surf lifesaving in New Zealand."

Billy is back in NZ now, continuing to support operations in Sri Lanka. There have been more teams sent to Sri Lanka from Middlemore Hospital [Auckland] and it is likely more will go. He is back to Whiritoa Beach to lead "Team Toa" however, there is a sense that this event has changed Billy.

"I am not a hero or superhuman because of what I have done. The real heroes in life are living amongst us. The survivors of this event are heroes. It is truly a tremendous privilege to be of service to these people."

When I asked Billy what can the average New Zealander do... "Give money. Give it to a legitimate organisation and one that has a high level of donated cash going direct to aid operations. The New Zealand dollar can go a very long way over there, as we learnt when we employed local people. It may sound repetitive, but every bit really does count, and these people need it more than you could ever imagine"

If you want to assist Billy [New Zealand Sri Lanka Tsunami Medical Aid Team] in the Sri Lanka project please contact him or Dr Peter Vann at work.

**b.doyle@auckland.ac.nz or ph 027 245 7433.
Dr Peter Vannisigham ph. 021337743**

neil reid in it for life

By Tom Mayo

Before I went to meet Neil Reid I phoned Mark Weatherall the sport manager for Surf Life Saving NZ to search his contacts and get a little information.

One thing Mark told me was that Neil has a few stories... and what wonderful stories they are too, from the Baltic coast of Germany to his early days on Bondi, his memories are etched in to his sea weathered face.

I was genuinely disappointed when I had to leave and let him get back to running his company.

The man whom I am speaking about is probably one of the most recognized faces on New Zealand's shores and in the New Years list was honoured for his lifetime of service to Surf Lifesaving. I caught up with Neil at his busy office in Penrose.

It is amazing to see how much the sport has become part of Neil's life. "Everything I have encountered in business and life I had encountered with Surf Lifesaving first." And as the current managing director of Stanley tools he is very appreciative of what the sport has given him back. "The only difference with work is you can boss people around, but at the club everyone is a volunteer and that makes for some interesting challenges." Neil's involvement stretches across the whole spectrum of the sport. From competing, organising and finally patrolling. "I was the competition director for the World Surf Lifesaving championships and it was there that NZ took home the trophy."

"It was a very busy time with work and Surf but I enjoyed it immensely."

Neil is now a member of the Muriwai club and aged 59 looks back fondly to when his association started with the St Clair Surf Club at Dunedin. He won his surf award in 1960 and ever since, the sport has literally taken him all over the world. He has good and bad memories, his first striking memory was when two of his teenage friends were killed in separate shark attacks, a moment in his life he recalls as quite a wake-up to the perils and vulnerability of the ocean.

On the other hand one of Neil's fondest memories goes back to the NZ team

he took along the Californian coast in the early 80's. "We went with a group of very talented youngsters and we were so successful we took every trophy going, it was quite something and a trip I will never forget". The relationship between Surf Lifesaving and California (Huntington beach) continues to this day, the difference being the generation involved.

"The best part of my involvement is the friendships and acquaintances I have made over the years, young and old alike. I think I could go anywhere in the world and meet up with some one. The generosity is wonderful, I was in Germany once and got shown the patrol



beaches of the Baltic coast and more recently I was at the recent Surf Lifesaving Champs in Italy too.”

I asked Neil how the role of Surf Lifesaving has developed over the years. “I think the role has changed a lot with respect to the society we are living in. The society has changed and the sport has had to adapt to it. People used to have a very regimented life back in the 70’s, whereby very few worked on weekends and Saturday and Sunday was for leisure and social time. But our culture has evolved so now we have to evolve with it. It has been a while since the Northern Regional Champs have seen such numbers but they appreciate this and the organization are doing a great job of looking at the way society goes forward, My best asset was forward thinking and sometimes it was a little too radical for them, but on the whole like any organization you have to move with the times.”

As far as the sporting side of Surf Lifesaving is concerned Neil’s competitive days are well and truly over, but acknowledges the valuable role sport plays. “It is about three things, retention of members, building a skill base and improving the fitness levels of lifeguards. I am still involved with the sport although now I try to help the youngsters get organized more often than not finding their boards and making sure they are ready to go.”

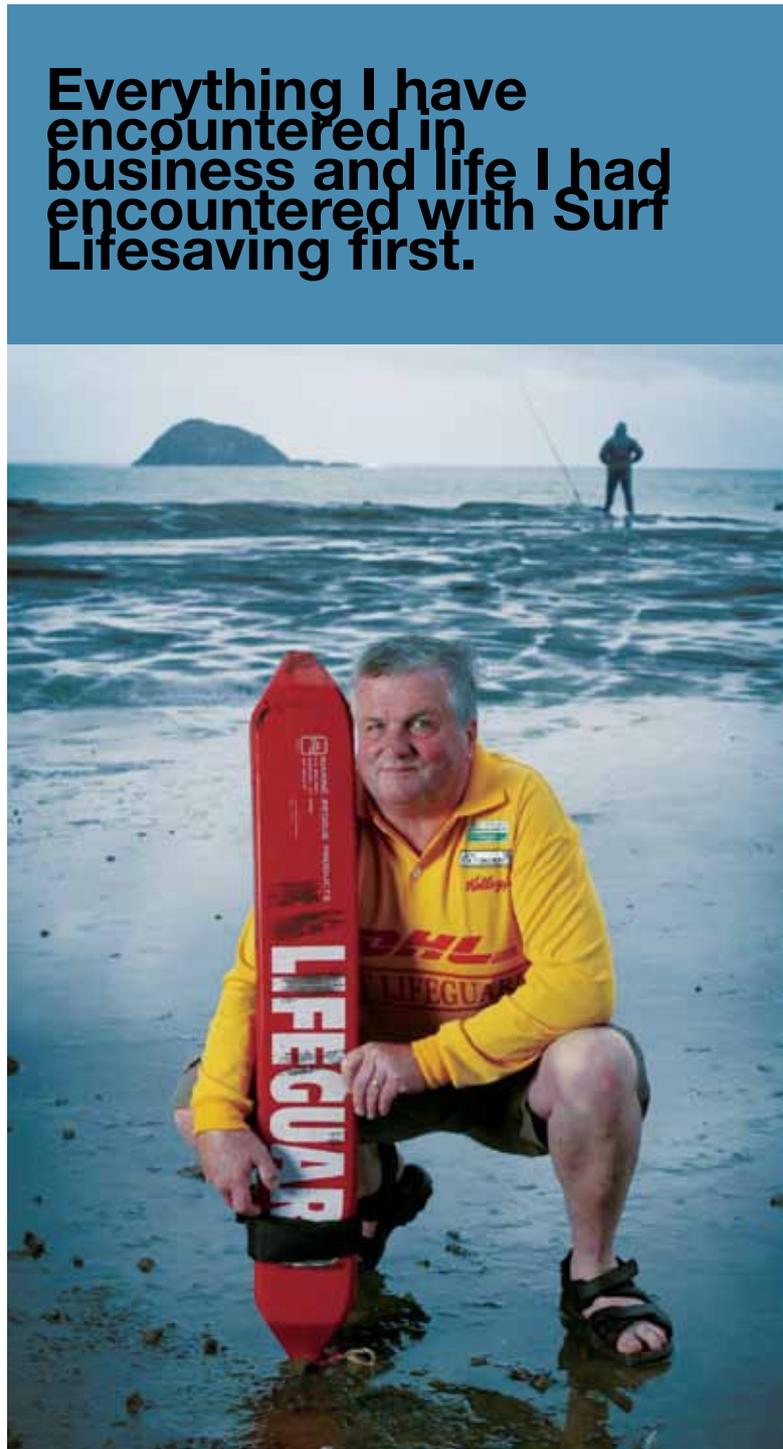
As for the future he reiterated the slogan of that he was ‘in it for life’ and has no plans to slow down. He has already patrolled numerous times since the New Year and during one busy day at Muriwai his patrol made twenty five

rescues in one day.

“Muriwai is a tough old beach, the tide was going out and there was a strong rip on.”

This just goes to show how much he and people like Neil put back into the Surf Lifesaving community.

If one of the aims of the honours list is to ‘credit those who do not seek such credit’ then they chose the right man with Neil. As he like many others, will quietly don their cap this weekend and step out to make sure we are all safe.



Everything I have encountered in business and life I had encountered with Surf Lifesaving first.

lifesaving overview

This season is likely to be recorded as the second busiest. A slow start to summer and poor Christmas holiday weather meant Lifeguards had quiet times, until 15 January. Then in one weekend a months worth of activity took place. 'Surf Rescue' gives a snapshot of summer patrol activity around the country.

BAY OF PLENTY

numbers out of bracket 2004/05 season at time of print. Closed brackets 2003/04 season total.

HOURS	RESCUES	FIRST AIDS	SEARCHES	SAFETY INTERVENTIONS
32615 (30304)	545 (393)	457 (451)	101 (67)	93133

By late January Whangamata lifeguards had rescued nearly twice as many people as last year despite a soggy start to summer.

The Clubs chief lifeguard Dylan Lawrence said that during the holiday period last year the Club carried out 73 rescues. "Since Christmas (up until Tuesday) we've completed about 135 and there's still big crowds on the beaches." (The Waikato Times 21/1/05). That Monday (January 17) had seen an estimated 5000 people visit the beach and again most actions taken were of a precautionary nature.

In other parts of the Bay of Plenty rescues were relatively consistent. The main east coast beaches were closed for small periods due to heavy surf. The most notable was during Anniversary weekend, coinciding with the NRC's (Northern Regional Champs). Mt Maunganui Lifeguards remained on patrol but did not put flags out. A sensible precaution given there was no place the flags could indicate was a safe place to swim.

Hot Water Beach recorded 47 rescues, due largely to the huge tourist numbers that frequent the beach. The Club continues to deliver an outstanding service, particularly given the size of the local community and demand placed upon it.

CANTERBURY

HOURS	RESCUES	FIRST AIDS	SEARCHES	SAFETY INTERVENTIONS
15887 (14629)	215 (80)	134 (115)	37 (25)	10916

When summer belatedly arrived in Canterbury, Surf Lifeguards were kept extremely busy.

The number of lives saved across the District was up 2 1/2 times on the previous season, principally due to one weekend. More than 70 swimmers were rescued on the weekend of 15/16 January. Sumner beach was closed for 90 minutes on the following Monday because of dangerous conditions. Temperatures of 34 degrees certainly added to the numbers on the beach that weekend.

While the District struggled to get sufficient applications from suitably experienced Regional Lifeguards this year, future years look promising with record numbers of people sitting and passing Awards in the District this season.

The Surf Life Saving Canterbury Patrol Teams Competition was a successful event with a record number of clubs participating. This event consisted of a number of traditional races, along with scenario based activities and a written test. The winners travelled to Auckland to compete in the equivalent Northern Region event.

GISBORNE

HOURS	RESCUES	FIRST AIDS	SEARCHES	SAFETY INTERVENTIONS
4319 (4841)	33 (31)	32 (35)	4 (9)	2498

After a long season it is good to reflect on what has been a busy season in Gisborne. Like Canterbury the number of people who sat and passed awards in the District is up double from 2003 / 2004. In the North, Onepoto Club submitted a POM this season and have successfully undertaken two weekend patrols this season.

The Tolaga Bay river mouth again caused some anxious moments with a number of incidents requiring Lifeguards to attend. This highlights the 'out of scope' requirements being placed on members in the District. Members continued to be called upon to do out of hours call outs in the region placing pressure on the Districts capacity.

HAWKES BAY

HOURS	RESCUES	FIRST AIDS	SEARCHES	SAFETY INTERVENTIONS
7670 (8006)	31 (53)	46 (71)	10 (39)	4271

Hitting the headlines more recently because of huge swells Hawkes Bay had several incidents in January. Two men died and two young girls were dragged unconscious from a lagoon in three separate incidents over the weekend of 15/16 January at Hawkes Bay beaches.

The girls' rescue at Ocean Beach came just five hours after a 55-year-old Pirimai suburb man died while snorkelling near the entrance to the Napier inner harbour, between Ahuriri and Westshore, and almost 24 hours after a 69-year-old Havelock North man died in the surf at Ranaika. Westshore Surf Lifeguards were involved in a search for the man along with the coastguard, other emergency services.

In the incident involving the young girls, Lifeguard Jess Berridge-Hart, a Westshore Surf Life Saving Club member, said she was alerted to the drama when a man came to the beach tower and said there was a possible drowning of two children in the lagoon about 500m behind the tower. She alerted other guards and ran to the lagoon where the children, one unconscious and one drifting in and out of consciousness were on the sand where they had been administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation by adults who had dragged the children from the water. The lifeguards administered oxygen to the children before the Rescue Helicopter arrived.

NORTHERN REGION

HOURS	RESCUES	FIRST AIDS	SEARCHES	SAFETY INTERVENTIONS
50672 (66592)	1054 (898)	439 (838)	110 (122)	63109

Surf Life Saving Northern Region had a busy season with a number initiatives taking place. Northern Region reported the weekend of 23/24 January saw one third of the rescues of the entire summer occur in this weekend.

The recently established 'Lifeguard Support Team' expanded its west coast operations to include service provision on the east coast. The team is a 'mobile' resource enabling the District to react to crowd pattern supporting Clubs on busy days and those beaches which may not have Clubs patrolling at them. The teams patrolling range extended from Devonport to Whangaparaoa.

A focus on IRB development saw successful workshops held to increase the numbers and ability levels of drivers in the region. These proved to be both popular and successful. 'Surf Com' took a giant leap towards its goal of becoming a 24/7 service linking to other emergency services. Canterbury and Northern now have their radio networks monitored 24/7.

Far North Surf Rescue took a giant step this season with a defined patrolling season of December – February. They have a commitment to full affiliation in 2005/2006. Piha Club again completed the most rescues, 267 to date compared with 254 for last summers total. You can watch these take place as Piha Rescue screens on TV commencing late April.

OTAGO

HOURS	RESCUES	FIRST AIDS	SEARCHES	SAFETY INTERVENTIONS
8590 (9168)	51 (39)	51 (43)	17 (11)	8927

Otago District stretches from Invercargill's Oreti Club to Warrington north of Dunedin. Like other areas of New Zealand, it was a slow start to the season. When the warm weather did arrive in Otago, lifeguards put in some long hours on the beaches. Beach erosion also continued to be a problem on Dunedin city beaches.

This year Surf Life Saving Otago ran its inaugural Inter-Club Patrol Championships. This event consisted of a number of traditional surf races, along with scenario based activities and a written test. Another new initiative - the 'Become a Lifeguard' programme saw a number of Surf Lifeguards trained and qualified prior to the start of the season.

TARANAKI

HOURS	RESCUES	FIRST AIDS	SEARCHES	SAFETY INTERVENTIONS
8692 (9140)	39 (85)	61 (71)	15 (39)	12077

After a slow start to the warm weather the region enjoyed record temperatures in the second half of January. Surf Life Saving Taranaki once again started the season on a high with 100% of its Surf Lifeguards completing the refresher, ahead of the 31 January requirement.

The numbers of members enrolling and sitting first aid courses 'exploded' this season as Taranaki Lifeguards take full advantage of the opportunity's available in Surf Life Saving. This season Taranaki introduced a 'Club of the Year Award', which has worked well and assisted Clubs ensuring many patrolling necessities were met 'in full and on time'. The Taranaki Rescue Squad had a successful year with one of their rescues recognised as being the most out standing rescue in SLSNZ's November Rescue of the Month.

... continued over

... continued from pg 33

WELLINGTON

HOURS	RESCUES	FIRST AIDS	SEARCHES	SAFETY INTERVENTIONS
5774 (6047)	60 (85)	123 (58)	4 (9)	7977

Surf Life Saving Wellington had an epic season. A number of new development programmes and workshops attracted record numbers and laid a sound platform for next season.

Working with the Wellington City Council the District establishing an Event Lifeguard squad to support the City's strategic positioning as the 'Events Capital'. With the regular call on Clubs to fill event guarding roles, the District squad has removed the pressure on Clubs, while achieving a consistent level of service to the community through dedicated equipment and personnel.

The Regional Lifeguard season was extended and a number of beaches were covered with mobile patrols according to demand. BeachEd was also run in Wellington city for the first time in several years.

WESTERN DISTRICTS

HOURS	RESCUES	FIRST AIDS	SEARCHES	SAFETY INTERVENTIONS
6546 (6781)	56 (77)	20 (62)	9 (19)	8916

In January, a year to the day, Himotangi beach recorded another tragedy in similar circumstances to the tragic death 12 months ago. Unfortunately another victim of swimming outside the flags.

A drive to remove the sea wall at Foxton beach saw the Club on national news as locals fought against the removal. Another challenge was drivers on the beach continuing to make things difficult this season. Not only was there the hazard of cars driving close to beach-goers at speed, many carloads would travel to remote areas of the coastline and swim unsupervised.

This season saw a number of incidents where Clubs and Lifeguards were called upon to assist in call outs. This often saw them working side by side with other emergency services, enjoying good media coverage as a result.

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leadership group

Surf Life Saving New Zealand's leadership strategy is to:

"Provide a structured and integrated Leadership Development model incorporating and utilising the organisational cascade to deliver and provide pathways."

In essence, future leaders have been identified and are being provided with professional development, rewarded through opportunities and ultimately provide the organisation with sustainable long term leadership succession planning.

For a volunteer organisation, the Leadership Strategy is a modern concept and is being recognised by Sport and Recreation NZ (SPARC) as well as other national sporting

value to the organisation and its members.

The inaugural leadership group (2001/03) ran the 2003 Surf Summit as their project which brought together a broad base of members, identified for their leadership ability to ensure the future direction was discussed and progressed according to need. The theme was appropriately titled 'A better future together'.

The current leadership group met for a weekend in January which provided them with both personal development opportunities as well the first chance to discuss a group led project. In addition to the group members, two members of SLS Australia were also invited to participate in the weekend as part of the sharing and integration between the two national bodies and its members.

The weekend was very full and included sessions such as 'project management', 'Influencing the decision makers' and 'interview techniques from both sides of the table'. There was also a brainstorming session to kick start the group thinking on project ideas and concepts. The group narrowed these down to a few 'probables' which were then moulded and presented to a SLSNZ panel the following day.

Given that this was the first cut of the proposed project, the presentations were an excellent result from the group that showed it is focused on achieving success. No decisions were made or signed off at the January session, however this wasn't necessary the intention, what it did achieve was a starting point for the group to continue to work through to an agreed proposal.

Since then the group have been communicating weekly through various forms and have themselves created a 'management structure' within the group to allow for decisions on the project to be made more effectively and efficiently. At the time of going to print the group were not in a position to announce the project. However you can be assured that the group has set itself some high goals and outcomes which it looks forward to achieving through the success of the project to be completed by the end of 2005.

The completion of the project also sees the end of the two years for the 2003/05 group and the invitation and selection of a third intake to the 2005/07 group. However the groups that have gone through the programme are not lost, indeed many go on to greater things within Surf Lifesaving within their clubs, Districts or at a national level and they will be continually 'tracked' so we keep up with them in their ongoing leadership development.

The group is comprised of clubbies from throughout New Zealand

organisations as a good practice solution to the issue of retention and succession planning within an organisation.

In addition to the national leadership strategy, districts are running their own leadership groups developing more members nationwide which 'feeds up' to the national strategy.

Currently in its second intake and fourth year of operation the present Leadership Group (2003/05) were selected back in Oct 2003. The group comprises of clubbies from throughout New Zealand and have worked together for the past 17 months on both personal development and organisational literacy development to improve and grow their potential as young leaders.

The group stays together for a period of two years which ensures they have the time to develop as individuals as well as plan and implement a key project which adds

surf life saving database

The Surf Life Saving database continues to evolve. Just three years ago the single biggest issue was ensuring stability for the web based database. Today as we look toward 2005/06 season the focus is on refinement of the report templates and tidying the data's accuracy.

The advances made with membership records in the last two years has enabled the likes of entries for the New Zealand Champs to be completed on the database by the 44 clubs that entered. A big step forward given four years ago there were no membership records of any significance.

However, like any system, the database will continue to evolve and improve. This winter will focus on tidying the various existing reports and adding additional reports frequently requested. Also to be investigated is an online membership form to avoid double handling member's details and create a far simpler system for all. The following questions are often asked:

Can a Club have multiple members who have access to the database?

Yes, Clubs have their own policy on who and how many members have access to their membership records. Access to the database is no different. A Club can only see their own members details when logged on, therefore, who and how many people in the Club have access is determined by the Club. Some have up to ten, some only one.

What if a person is a member of multiple Clubs?

The database design mirrors the organisations structure. A club member is also a member of SLSNZ so the person has only one Surf Life Saving membership entry in the database identified by a unique membership number. They may have multiple Club memberships recorded against that number. An example; Johnny is in the database once, but may be recorded as a member of three Clubs. This way his awards and refresher details are recorded against his membership and are current and available for any Club he may join or transfer to. The same information is available to each Club he is a member of.

So if Johnny transfers to another Club?

The new Club cannot 'see' Johnny until he becomes a member of that new Club. The District office can 'see' all members within the District so they can add the new Club membership to Johnny's details. All his historical information is retained and can now be viewed by his new Club – no loss of Johnny's award details. (If Johnny is from outside the District, the District simply asks SLSNZ to add the new Club membership). It is important Johnny is not entered as a 'new' member, as he is already a member of Surf Life Saving.

But the database doesn't record some of our specific Club information.

No, because a piece of string isn't long enough to meet 75 Clubs different needs BUT, the membership list can be downloaded into an Excel file at any time so the list can be used for a multitude of smaller one off needs – Patrol rosters, training rosters, equipment records, mass emails and mail merge etc. Creating the Excel option offers flexibility without turning the database into a complicated beast.

Can I see what awards each of our members have?

Currently a Club can list all the Awards and see which of their members has them but not the other way – list their membership to see what Awards there are. This will be amended over the winter.

So who enters the Awards?

In most cases the District manages the examination and, therefore, records awards in the database (some higher level awards are awarded directly by SLSNZ). Typically historical records of award holders have not been maintained with a membership data list so the historical records prior to 2001 are not robust enough to put onto the membership database. Awards information is generally from 2002 onwards.

We can see our patrol statistics at any time?

Yes, click on the report option to view a running total

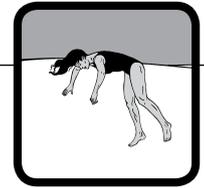
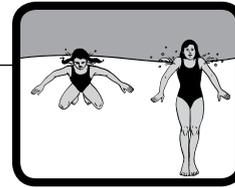
It takes a lot of time to enter all the detail from the patrol form, why do you need it all?

The database highlights (in yellow) minimum information required. The Club name, date, total number of lifeguards and total hours, rescues and first aid numbers. The rest of the fields, for example, patrol members, head counts, weather and equipment etc need only be entered if the Club want to record the data for its own use. SLSNZ does not require the bulk of the data on the patrol forms to be entered into the database.

Wrap Up

The database holds both member and patrol details. From a membership perspective it is used to communicate with members, record qualifications, confirm eligibility for course and sport event entry. It is hosted on the www so all Clubs can use the database. There is only ONE database (but every Club can access it) and there is no special software requirements and associated costs. It can be accessed from virtually any computer, anywhere. However to be effective as a membership tool, it is only as good as the accuracy of the Clubs membership data stored on it.... and maintained.

database@surflifesaving.org.nz for any questions.



drowning not what it used to be

Brett Sullivan, Lifesaving Manager.

In 2002 there was a world congress on drowning held in the Netherlands, involving a broad group of experts (500 delegates) in the fields of water safety, lifesaving (ILS), resuscitation, basic and advanced life support (both pre and in-hospital).

This group aimed to develop an international consensus on a whole lot of issues around the management of drowning. Before now there was no real agreement on terminology between countries or organisations, making it difficult to make comparisons and to interpret research.

The first of the 13 major recommendations of this group was that there was a worldwide adoption of a single definition for drowning (a major breakthrough!).

This recommendation has been adopted by the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (to which the New Zealand Resuscitation Council contributes) and in October 2003 a glossary of terms for drowning was published.

I know that this may seem like splitting hairs and unnecessary to some of you, however, as lifeguards, we are experts in the field of resuscitation from drowning and we should project this to the public, both in our practice on the beaches and in how we talk to the public on the beach and through the media.

Part of this is demonstrating that we are up to date with current international thinking about the management of drowning. This will also go a long way towards improving the quality of the data we collect about drowning and our ability to contribute to improvements in resuscitation techniques.

I strongly encourage you to start using the new terminology from now so that it becomes part of our culture as lifeguards.

new terminology

DROWNING

The process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion/ immersion in liquid. The drowning process can be interrupted at any point and survival occur.

DROWNED

Death from drowning.

SUBMERSION

The whole body is under water.

IMMERSION

Part of the body is covered in water (for drowning to occur the face and airway would have to be immersed).

WITNESSED

Drowning episode is observed from the onset of immersion or submersion.

UNWITNESSED

Victim found in water, no-one saw the event.

old terminology

DRY AND WET DROWNING

As all drownings occur in liquid, they are by definition wet. It is impossible to tell at the scene whether water has been aspirated into the lungs (and in most drowning incidents it has anyway), these terms are redundant.

ACTIVE OR PASSIVE DROWNING

These have been replaced by Witnessed or Unwitnessed.

SECONDARY DROWNING

This has been used to describe both events precipitating a drowning episode and the development of post drowning effects on the lung. Now, descriptions of such events are to be explicit and this term has become redundant.

NEAR DROWNING

This term has been used for both survivors of drowning and for those that died after initial resuscitation was successful. This term should not be used, as people either survive the drowning episode or they do not.

sonic oceanstyle

**Cory Hutchings
is involved
with design
and future
development**

Today I am the sole owner of Sonic, but Cory remains involved with design and development. Sonic is still true to its roots and we're still based in Gisborne.

Bringing my own experience in Surf Life Saving, together with Cory's input in design means Sonic will continue to offer a great product.

My own involvement in surf lifesaving goes back many years. In 1992 I won the World Ski Title and I've been a member of numerous NZ Teams. Competing at the highest level provides me with a vast knowledge of the sport and, importantly, the equipment involved.

Since taking over Sonic at the end of September 2004 I've spent time listening to Clubs to make sure I've got a firm grasp on problems they encounter when purchasing equipment. It's important if Sonic are going to continue to be a popular brand.

Over the last season working with Club's orders, I have come across Clubs who are committed to trying to get the best equipment, but not always aware of the options available to them. Clubs frequently purchase a racing board in the hope that will meet competitor's needs but also cater for 'beginners'. In many cases Clubs should be looking at purchasing 'pop-outs' or 'Club weight' boards if they are

going to be used by a number of people. These boards are harder and stronger and will last longer. Race boards should be used for racing; they are lightweight equipment and are not suitable for everyday use by multiple members. Inevitably trying to make a race board suit all occasions means it will be forever a compromise, and more expensive in the long run. We are now also making skis with a full Kevlar lay up and I know this will give clubs a much stronger and longer lasting ski and eliminate potential seam problems.

Last season a lot of orders were received from Clubs after the season had started and we had difficulty making and supplying in an acceptable time frame. Plan now. Advise us of your likely requirements well before the season begins so we can deliver when you need it. Don't place an order for it to be made when you actually need it on the beach.

We continue to aim to produce top quality gear. I'm available on mobile at 0274 455 342; phone me, I welcome all enquiries and am happy to discuss what options you have that might be best suited to you.

DAVID TAYLOR

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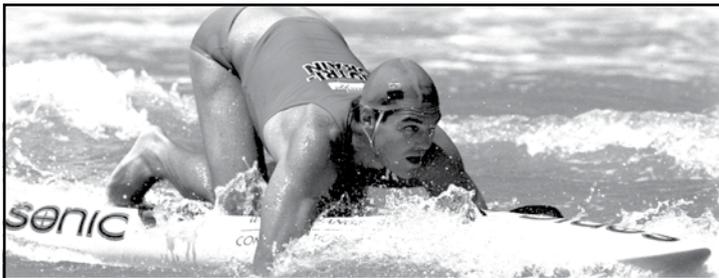


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Surf Life Saving's sport programme offers a prime training ground for the physical and psychological demands of saving lives in the surf.

