

Kia ora koutou

I hope this update finds you enjoying warmer weather and anticipating a great surf season ahead. The Board has met twice, in June and August 2023, since my last update and there have been a number of exciting developments within our movement during that time.

New CEO

Our new CEO, Steve Fisher, joined SLSNZ in July. Steve has made an impressive start at the helm of our complex organization during a busy phase in its development. It will be great for Steve to get to meet many of you at our leadership forum and AGM in September. The Board and CEO are working closely together to ensure priorities are clarified for the short- and long-term. The Board would like to thank Chris Emmett and the entire Senior Leadership Team for their steady hands and hard work during the CEO transition period.

Northern Region Consolidation

On 21 June 2023, the Northern Region clubs voted unanimously to consolidate SLSNR with SLSNZ. This historic decision is a milestone for surf lifesaving and fulfils the Board's long-term goal of *one movement*. Thanks are due to all those who have got us to this point at club, management, and governance levels in both organisations but a special thank you to the 18 clubs of the Northern Region who have engaged in a lengthy period of consultation and additional work. Management will continue to work on the finer details of consolidation, and by now you will have received some constitutional changes for your approval at the AGMs. These changes will provide the legal framework for the process to continue.

Strategy and Charter Changes

We have finalised the changes to our strategic plan which will inform and shape the direction of the movement over the next three years. These changes place clubs and volunteers at the centre of all that we do. We also want to refresh the values that will underpin our strategic vision and we look forward to developing these with you at the leadership forum later this month. The Board Charter has also been updated to reflect the new relationship that will exist with SLSNR.

Recreational Safety and Search and Rescue Review

A Governmental review of the sector in which we perform the key role of drowning prevention on New Zealand beaches has been underway for some time. Adam Wooler provided the Board with an overview of the draft recommendations. One of the major findings of the review is the need for continued support of our volunteers. It's pleasing to note that this aligns well with our own recently refreshed strategy. The Board and management will continue to work with central government to achieve the best outcomes for our clubs and members.

Financial Results and Annual Accounts

The organisation finished the 2022-23 year with a modest surplus of \$41k, which was a pleasing result against a forecast deficit. The accounts have now been audited and a full report has been received by our Audit Finance and Risk Committee, and noted by the full Board. The audit report had no recommendations, which is a great result for the organisation. The Board extends its thanks to our Finance Manager, Susan Macdonald, for her work on the audit preparations and her sound financial management. Central Government Funding annual OPEX and CAPEX distributions were confirmed by the Board at the August 2023 meeting and have been shared with clubs.

That's all from the Board for this update. These past months have been a period of significant and positive change for SLSNZ, members and clubs. We continue to work on your behalf and towards the betterment of an organisation we all hold close. By the time I write the next update, flags will be out, and clubs will be well warmed up for the season ahead. Go well, take care of one another and your communities, and continue to give your best.

Yours in surf,

Paul Carlyon
SLSNZ Board Chair