



SURF LIFE SAVING®
NEW ZEALAND

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

2023 WINNERS





SURF LIFE SAVING®
NEW ZEALAND

PATROL STATISTICS

Season
**2022/
2023**



4,396



74



92



225,766

Despite challenging conditions around the country, there were zero reported drownings between the flags during the 2022/2023 season. Hot weather in the South Island attracted big crowds, while the North Island was battered by large swells, further compounded by extreme conditions and demanding rescues during the Auckland floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. The dedication and hard work of volunteer surf lifeguards paid off as they played a crucial role in keeping their communities safe.

SURF LIFEGUARDS COMPLETED

1,524

ASSISTS to safety



30,954

PREVENTATIVE actions



249

SEARCHES at Aotearoa beaches



1,777

FIRST AID treatments



LIVES SAVED
1,499



It is important to remember that every person who loses their life on our coastline is someone with a whānau and a community who loves them and misses them ♥



INTRODUCTION

The Surf Life Saving National Awards of Excellence honours our amazing members from around the country for their achievements and contributions during the 2022/2023 season.

Throughout the season, SLSNZ members faced huge challenges, displaying courage and teamwork that exemplified the finest aspects of the volunteer spirit. They also showcased their versatility and demonstrated their indispensable role as an emergency service.

Congratulations to every one of you. Your work in making sure beachgoers return home safe and sound to their whānau and friends is an inspiration to us all.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Marilyn Moffatt MNZM
SLSNZ President

Congratulations to the award nominees and winners for the 2023 SLSNZ awards.

It is always with great pride that I hear about the achievements of our members, both on and off the water, knowing how much time and effort goes into training and organising to achieve the results and build a capable surf lifeguard team. The public also truly appreciates what you do, and I receive many accolades on your behalf regarding your generous commitment.

Let's enjoy celebrating those achievements and commitments tonight.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
Paul Carlyon
SLSNZ Chair

Surf lifesaving is a noble pursuit that is essential to, and valued by, our communities. Our members are, of course, in it for life!

At the heart of our collective efforts are individuals who go above and beyond, offering an outstanding level of commitment and service. Recognising those who stood up, and those who will be acknowledged this evening, fills us with pride. Your excellence sets a higher standard for us all.

The SLSNZ Board extends its recognition, gratitude, and congratulations to all award winners and finalists for their incredible contributions and achievements.

Thank you and go well as we kick off the season ahead.

MEDIA & RESCUE AWARDS



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This year marks our 55th Year of partnership with bp, making it Aotearoa's longest-running commercial partnership. We are deeply thankful for bp's unwavering support and the dedicated efforts of their team, who work alongside us and bring this enduring relationship to life.

bp continues to make every day brighter for SLSNZ through their support of the highly successful bp Leaders for Life programme. They generously provide \$500 worth of bp gift cards to every single club, assisting with fuel costs for our rescue vehicles. They also recognise the heroic efforts of our surf lifeguards on a monthly and annual basis through bp's Rescue of the Month and Year Awards.



Matt Elliot
Head of Country
bp New Zealand Ltd

Our bp team is hugely proud of bp's long standing partnership with SLSNZ, which began in 1968.

Surf Life Saving clubs and surf lifeguards work tirelessly on and around our beaches nationwide to help make our kiwi beaches safer. We also want to acknowledge the efforts of the Surf Life Saving community during and after the severe weather events earlier this year.

Congratulations to all of this year's SLSNZ Awards of Excellence winners and nominees on behalf of all our bp team. Keep up the awesome work, we appreciate it.



MEDIA AWARD



'Surf's up for national life saving champs after cyclone chaos'

Journalist: Jordan Oppert





The 2022/2023 season was incredibly busy, with the work of surf lifeguards widely reported in the media. All areas of the organisation were covered, from our work during extreme weather events to the importance of our education programme, the research we conduct to help keep our coastlines safe, and the remarkable sporting events.

All of these stories created a positive impact for SLSNZ and showcased the impact surf lifeguards have on communities throughout New Zealand. However, one story stood out - 1News' coverage of the TSB New Zealand Surf Life Saving Championships.



After a few years of disruptions, the Championships, held in Christchurch, were a huge success and also served as a wonderful opportunity to connect following the devastating flooding events in the North Island.

Journalist Jordan Oppert interviewed several surf lifeguards who had been involved in the emergency responses. They explained some of the complex rescues they had to undertake and stressed the importance of national championships not only as a way to compete but also to unite as a movement.

SLSNZ would like to thank 1News for the engaging story that reached thousands of viewers and showed the incredible versatility, athleticism, and team spirit of SLSNZ.



RESCUE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hawke's Bay Search and Rescue Squad

Bertie Bassett-Foss, Bella Bassett-Foss, Jess Bennett, Nathan Berry, Jimmy Bowden, Liam Bowden, Sarnia Brewer, Tarsh Brewer, Adrienne Brewer, Aidan Callaghan, Andrew Callinicos, John Callinicos, George Charteris, Mike Connor, Jacob Crawley, Ben Cross, Taylor Dick, Mike Finlayson, Jared Fritchley, Ryan Gordon, Brendan Hamilton-Gibbs, Phil Harman, Mike Harman, Rhys Harman, Ian Horsefield, Helen Jackson, Mitch Jackson, Callum Joll, Luke Kay, Ken Laurie, Keira Laurie, James Laver, Will Laver, Jarrod Lowe, Harry Machiela, Adrian Machiela, Adam Moffitt, Ben Morgan, Tony Pattison, Michael Peterson, John Sanko, Calum Sutherland, Nick Swain, Chris Swain, Taine Williams, Alfie Wilson, Olly Wood

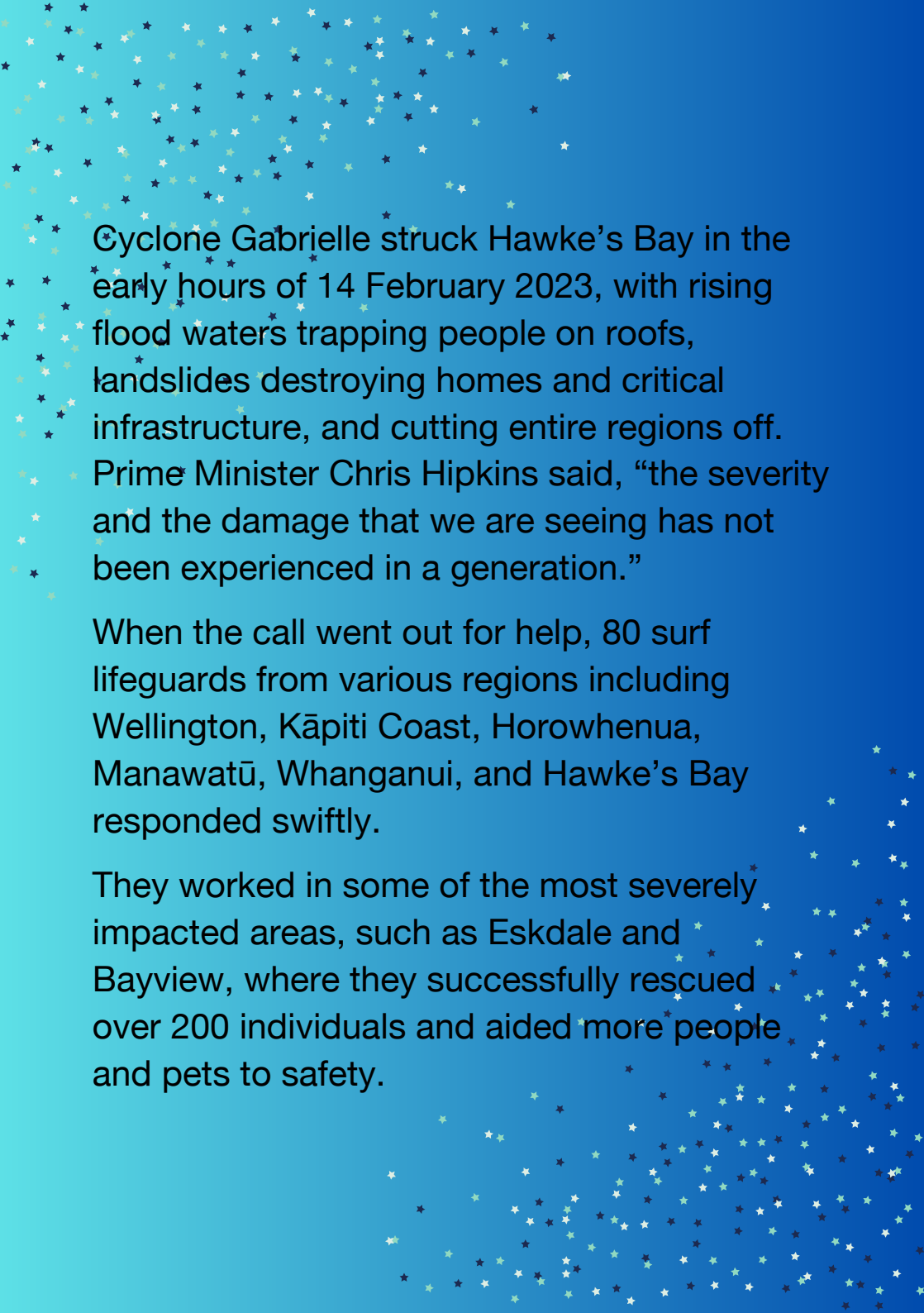


RESCUE OF THE YEAR AWARD

With support from the following clubs:

Brighton SLSC, Foxton SLSC, Levin-Waitārere SLSC, Lyall Bay SLSC, North Beach SLSC, Ōtaki SLSC, Paekākāriki SL, Palmerston North SLSC, South Brighton SLSC, St Clair SLSC, Taylors Mistake SLSC, Tītahi Bay SLSC, Whangamatā SLSC, Worser Bay LSC





Cyclone Gabrielle struck Hawke's Bay in the early hours of 14 February 2023, with rising flood waters trapping people on roofs, landslides destroying homes and critical infrastructure, and cutting entire regions off.

Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said, "the severity and the damage that we are seeing has not been experienced in a generation."

When the call went out for help, 80 surf lifeguards from various regions including Wellington, Kāpiti Coast, Horowhenua, Manawatū, Whanganui, and Hawke's Bay responded swiftly.

They worked in some of the most severely impacted areas, such as Eskdale and Bayview, where they successfully rescued over 200 individuals and aided more people and pets to safety.

For crews in inflatable rescue boats (IRB), the conditions on the water were nothing like anyone had experienced before, with surf lifeguards having to duck under power lines and navigate hazards and debris to retrieve people from rooftops and return them safely to land.

It was a demanding time for all those involved as they carried out complex rescues, many leaving their worried friends and whānau behind, but they did it with courage and determination, and with the care and safety of people always front-of-mind.



Lifesaving Sport Awards



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This year, TSB marked eight years of partnership with SLSNZ, and we hope our support has made a huge impact in raising public awareness about water safety and supporting the vital work of surf lifeguards.

This season, surf lifeguards around the motu were tested as they responded to emergencies away from the red and yellow flags. TSB was proud to see the work SLSNZ carried out during flooding in Auckland and Northland and when Cyclone Gabrielle hit the eastern regions. Volunteers from around the motu stood up and helped their communities when they were at their lowest.

We'd like to applaud all the finalists here tonight. You're an inspiration to us and your fellow volunteers. Ka nui te mihi for helping keep beachgoers safe, and all the best for the season ahead.



Surf Official of the Year



Bruce Matheson
Omanu Beach SLSC

Bruce has had an incredible year contributing to numerous successful Lifesaving Sport events, not just within the Eastern Region but also on a national scale.

One of Bruce's notable achievements was the creation and distribution of a Surf Officials survey. This survey helped establish the availability of core Surf Officials for all Eastern Region and National events.

Bruce also served as an Event Referee at the inaugural Eastern Regional IRB Championships and also at the Eastern Regional Championships. During the latter event, Bruce and his team faced significant weather challenges.

Bruce then went on to lead the TSB New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championships as the Event Referee, ensuring the successful delivery of all events and the uninterrupted flow of races. Bruce was also instrumental in the planning and execution of the North Island Surf Boats and Trans-Tasman event at Waihi Beach.



Coach of the Year



John Bryant
Mount Maunganui LS



As Head Coach of the Mount Maunganui Lifeguard Service, he has achieved outstanding success over the past 12 months. Notably, the club won its 10th consecutive Allan Gardner Trophy at the TSB New Zealand Surf Life Saving Championships and won the New Zealand Pool Rescue Championships.

In addition to his club responsibilities, John has been an ardent supporter of Surf Life Saving clubs across the country, offering guidance to other coaches and athletes. His efforts have been instrumental in the development of Lifesaving Sport and fostering a positive sporting community. He also has a keen eye for identifying areas of improvement and opportunity within the club.

As Katrina Madill, Mount Maunganui Board Member, said, “John is the backbone of our club and membership. There is no one with more experience, as hard working, or as selfless as he is.”



**International Sport
Performance of the Year**



Danielle McKenzie

Mairangi Bay SLSC

&

Cory Taylor

Midway SLSC

SLSNZ athletes once again made their mark during the 2022/2023 season and leading the charge were Danielle McKenzie and Cory Taylor. They delivered impressive performances across the Tasman with consistency proving to be key for both in the six-event Nutri-Grain Iron Series. Danielle secured an impressive 3rd place finish, while Cory claimed 4th place.

Danielle had another outstanding Aussies, where she won Gold in the Board Relay, Ski Relay and Mixed Double Ski. She also won Silver in the Iron and Taplin, as well as a Bronze in the Double Ski. Her outstanding form carried over to the World Championships, where she won six medals for New Zealand, including Gold in the Ski.

Cory was named captain of the Black Fins for the 2022 World Championships and led from the front. He showcased his versatility and stamina by securing five medals across multiple disciplines including Gold in the Tube Rescue, Board Race, and Ironman.



TOYOTA

Financial Services





TOYOTA

Financial Services

Toyota Financial Services (TFS) is SLSNZ's exclusive vehicle partner, providing sponsored vehicles to support regional surf lifesaving delivery. Vehicles are a necessity within our field or work, and without this partnership, as a charity, this expense would be a huge financial burden to our bottom line.

Thank you, TFS, for not only providing us with access to a high quality, reliable fleet of vehicles but also connecting us to our network of nationwide clubs.

50 Year Badges



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50 Year Badges



Ricky Butt
Muriwai VLS



Peter Brown
Piha SLSC



Warren Edwards
Sunset Beach LS



Peter Housiaux QSM
Ōtaki SLSC



Shelley Kerr
Mt Maunganui LS

50 Year Badges



Mark McCarthy
Ōrewa SLSC



Alan Kindred
Muriwai VLS



Dr Kevin Moran ONZM
Muriwai VLS



George Thomson
Piha SLSC



Terry Wyllie
Sunset Beach LS

Instructor and Volunteer Awards



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Sarah Yarrall
Area Sales Manager
DHL Express New Zealand

This year holds great significance for DHL Express and SLSNZ as we celebrate an impressive 20-year partnership!

Our commitment to supporting SLSNZ in their vital mission to educate Kiwis about beach safety remains of utmost importance to us. We deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication of all SLSNZ members who strive to ensure the safety of our beaches every single day.

To mark the 20-year milestone, we are producing a short film that will showcase the partnership by highlighting the incredible achievements of SLSNZ over the past two decades.





With 4 million patrol hours delivered nationwide, over 20,000 lives saved, and nearly 2 million preventative actions taken by our SLSNZ surf lifeguards in 20 years, we think these statistics are truly phenomenal and demonstrate the dedication our SLSNZ volunteers have in keeping Kiwis safe in the water.

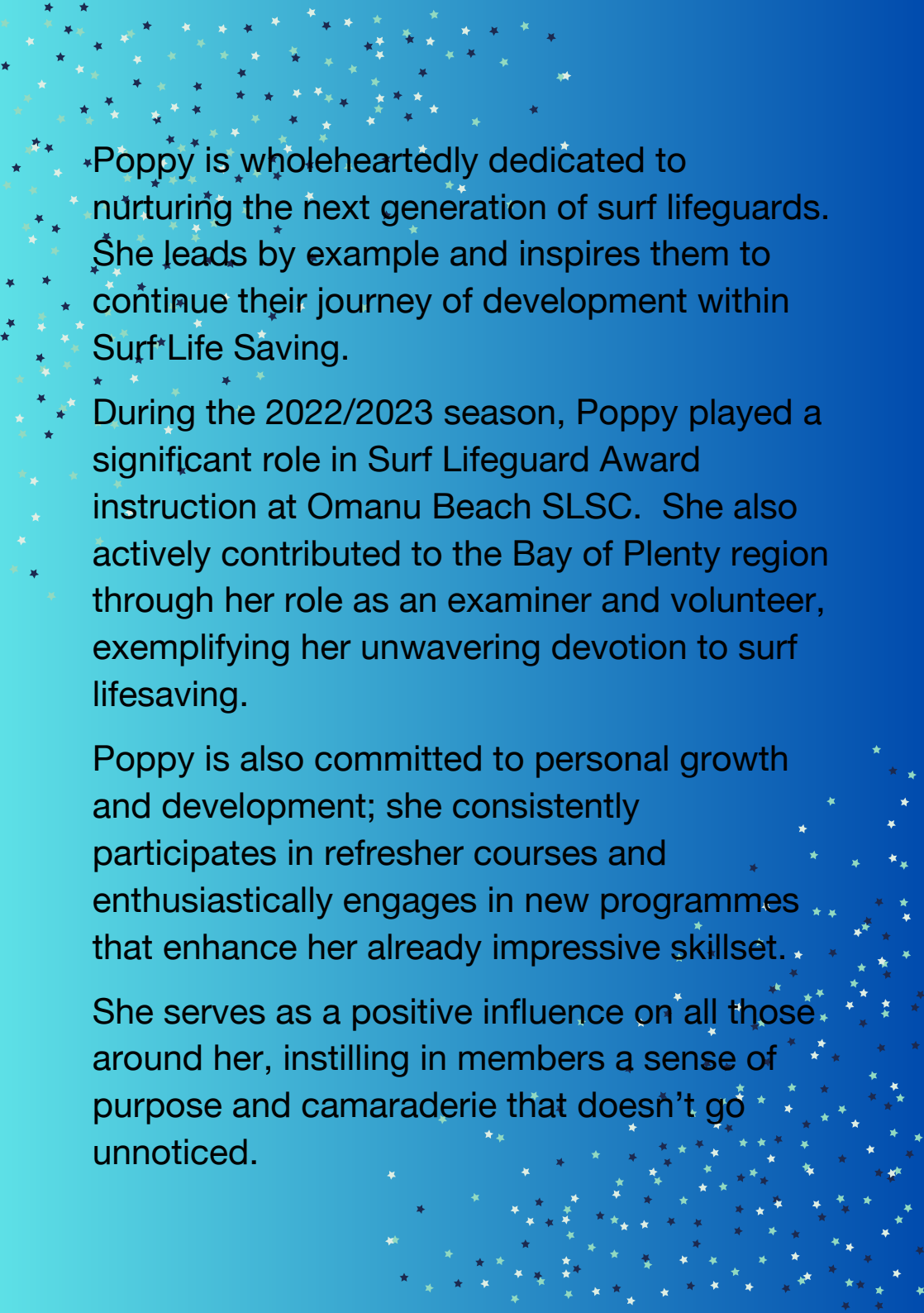
We are thrilled to commemorate this remarkable 20-year partnership in New Zealand and on behalf of DHL, we extend our congratulations to all the winners of the 2023 Awards of Excellence!



Instructor of the Year



Poppy Crouch
Omanu Beach SLSC



Poppy is wholeheartedly dedicated to nurturing the next generation of surf lifeguards. She leads by example and inspires them to continue their journey of development within Surf Life Saving.

During the 2022/2023 season, Poppy played a significant role in Surf Lifeguard Award instruction at Omanu Beach SLSC. She also actively contributed to the Bay of Plenty region through her role as an examiner and volunteer, exemplifying her unwavering devotion to surf lifesaving.

Poppy is also committed to personal growth and development; she consistently participates in refresher courses and enthusiastically engages in new programmes that enhance her already impressive skillset.

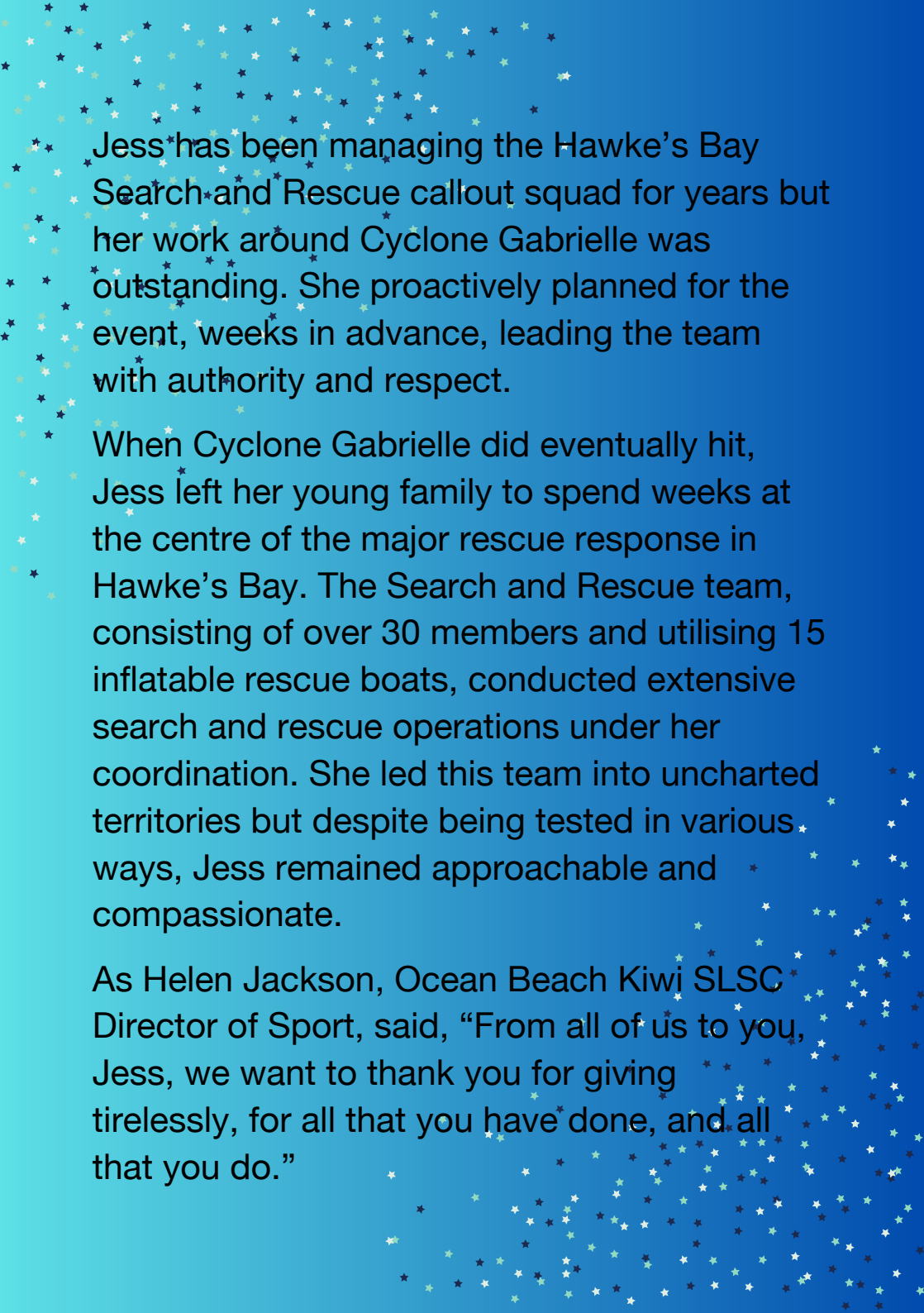
She serves as a positive influence on all those around her, instilling in members a sense of purpose and camaraderie that doesn't go unnoticed.



Volunteer of the Year



Jess Bennett
Ocean Beach Kiwi SLSC



Jess has been managing the Hawke's Bay Search and Rescue callout squad for years but her work around Cyclone Gabrielle was outstanding. She proactively planned for the event, weeks in advance, leading the team with authority and respect.

When Cyclone Gabrielle did eventually hit, Jess left her young family to spend weeks at the centre of the major rescue response in Hawke's Bay. The Search and Rescue team, consisting of over 30 members and utilising 15 inflatable rescue boats, conducted extensive search and rescue operations under her coordination. She led this team into uncharted territories but despite being tested in various ways, Jess remained approachable and compassionate.

As Helen Jackson, Ocean Beach Kiwi SLSC Director of Sport, said, "From all of us to you, Jess, we want to thank you for giving tirelessly, for all that you have done, and all that you do."

Patrol Support of the Year



Wade Meads
Maketu SLSC

Wade is a vital asset to SLSNZ. He takes charge of the maintenance of Maketu SLSC equipment, manages patrols, and brings an abundance of knowledge regarding marine craft and beach conditions to the table.

However, Wade's contributions go far beyond the technical aspects of his role. He's a bridge builder with his community, constantly engaging with fellow members and the public. Whether he's discussing the latest beach conditions, fishing prospects, or upcoming club activities, Wade is always approachable and eager to connect.

He also actively participates in decision-making process such as flag placement and hazard identification which makes our beaches safer for everyone.

Wade is indispensable to the Maketu SLSC. His unwavering commitment to safety, proactive approach, and unmatched competence benefit everyone, from the youngest rookies to seasoned surf lifeguards and the broader public.

Distinguished Service Awards




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Distinguished Service Awards




Boyd Harris
Pukehina SR



Boyd is the perfect example of the Surf Life Saving motto 'In It For Life' as his commitment spans many decades.

After first obtaining his Surf Lifeguard Award in 1983, Boyd quickly moved through the ranks by qualifying as an instructor in 1988 and a surf lifeguard and IRB examiner in 1995.

Since then, Boyd has continued to thrive and upskill. His Regional Service includes current Bay of Plenty Chief Surf Lifeguard Examiner and acting Chief IRB Examiner, along with being an instructor for other programmes, such as Rock Rescue and Wāhine on Water. Boyd is currently a SAR call out squad member and sits on the Bay of Plenty Lifeguard and Bay of Plenty Chairs Committee. Boyd's also been a club instructor, cadets coach, and sport coach for 35 years.



At a national level, Boyd is part of the Chief Examiner Committee and is part of the feedback group for all changes to the examination/instruction for surf lifeguards. He is a member of the panel for bp Rescue of the Month, and a mentor for the bp Leaders for Life programme.

In 2022, Boyd was awarded Bay of Plenty Lifeguard of the Year and the pinnacle award, the Lottery Grants Board New Zealand Lifeguard of the Year. His service and commitment was again highlighted in 2023 when he won the Gisborne Paid Lifeguard of the year.

Over the years, Boyd has been honoured for his service by receiving the Taranaki Distinguished Service Award, New Zealand Service Award, and Eastern Region Life Membership.

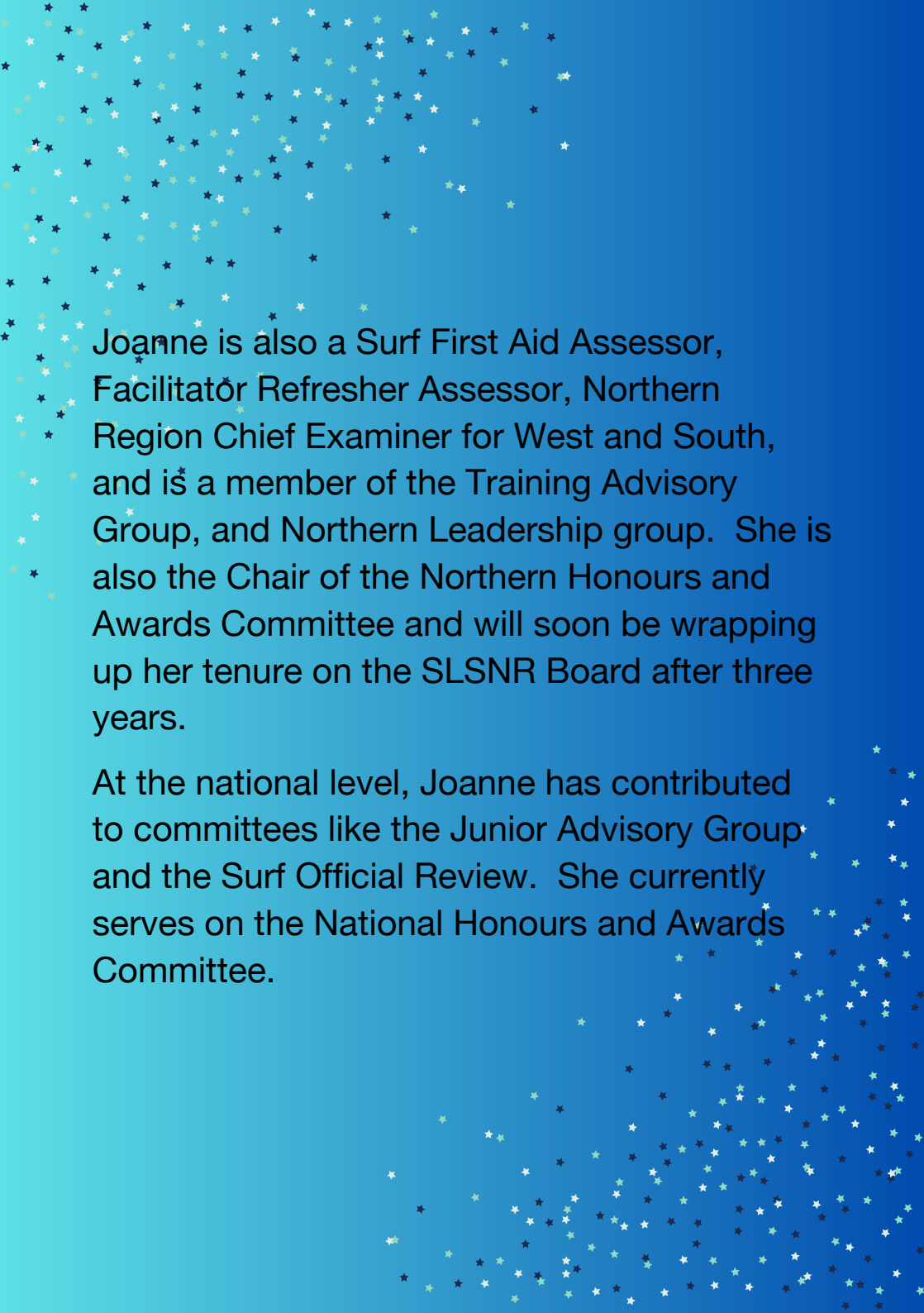
Distinguished Service Awards



Joanne Hobson
Sunset Beach LS

Joanne joined the Sunset Beach SLSC as the Junior and Rookie Co-ordinator and Coach. For 15 years, she carried out these roles, training junior coaches along the way. After becoming a surf lifeguard in 2011, Joanne became an instructor in 2012 and shortly after that, an examiner. She has been the club's Chief Instructor and Club Search and Rescue Co-ordinator since 2020 and has been on the Sunset Beach SLSC Board since 2005. Joanne has also organised the police vetting for club members and was the club delegate to the Northern Region. She has taken on other roles, such as being responsible for the methoxyflurane.

Regionally, Joanne has been involved in various committees and groups, including the Junior Operations Committee, Training Advisory Group, and Northern Operations Committee. She is a surf official, facilitator for the surf official course, and has held roles like Surf Official Liaison Officer and Event Administrator.



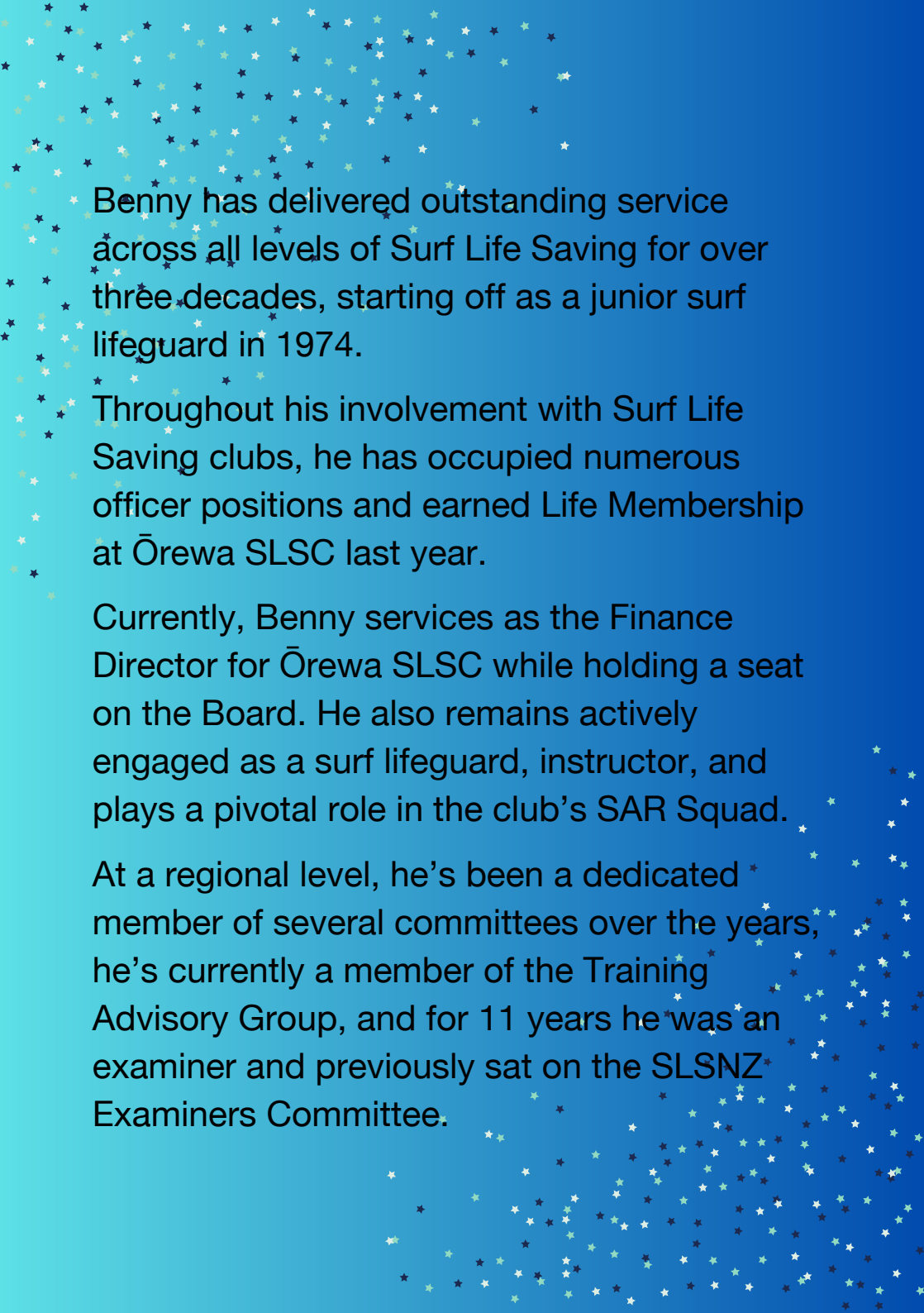
Joanne is also a Surf First Aid Assessor, Facilitator Refresher Assessor, Northern Region Chief Examiner for West and South, and is a member of the Training Advisory Group, and Northern Leadership group. She is also the Chair of the Northern Honours and Awards Committee and will soon be wrapping up her tenure on the SLSNR Board after three years.

At the national level, Joanne has contributed to committees like the Junior Advisory Group and the Surf Official Review. She currently serves on the National Honours and Awards Committee.

Distinguished Service Awards



Benny Larsen
Ōrewa SLSC

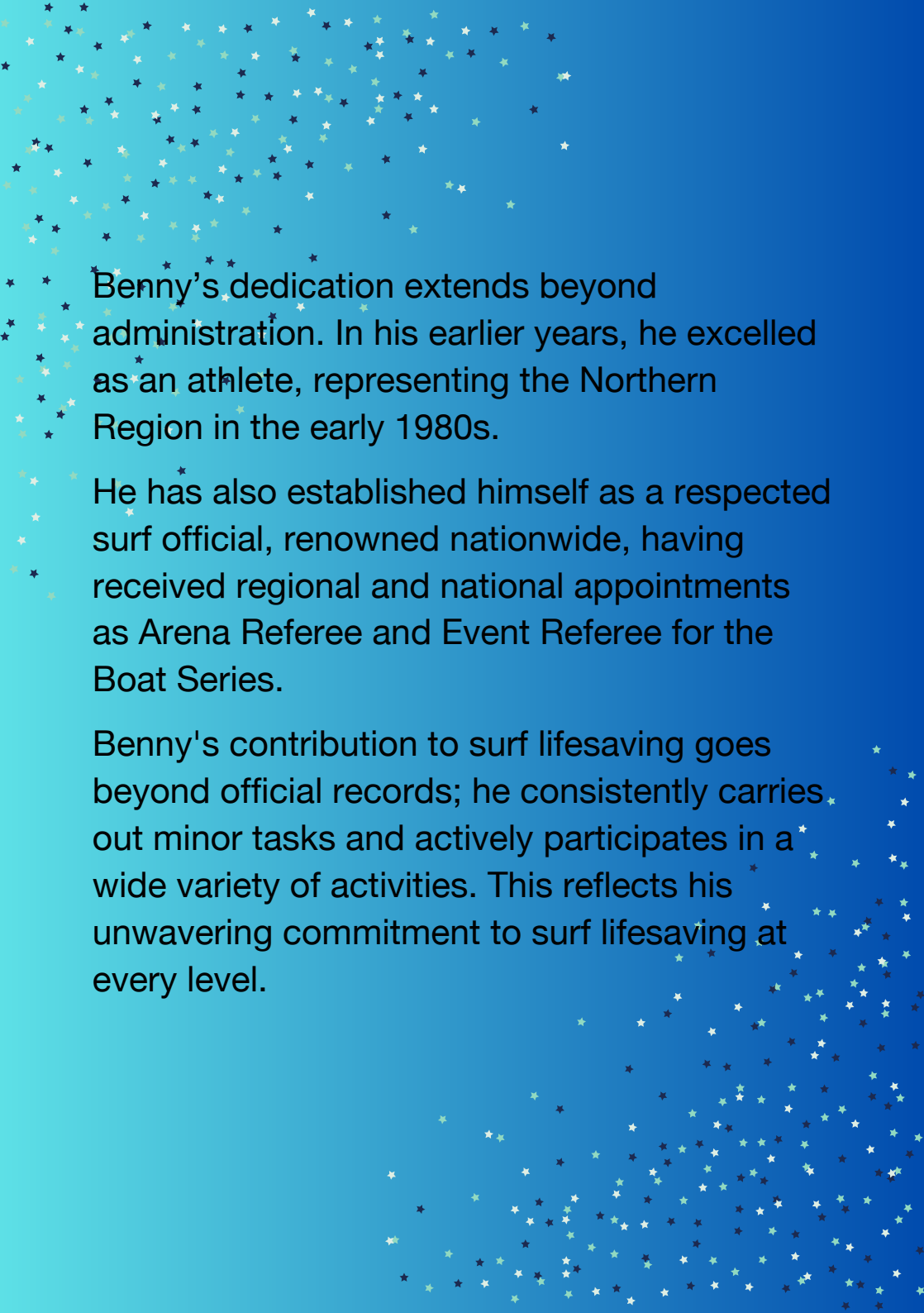


Benny has delivered outstanding service across all levels of Surf Life Saving for over three decades, starting off as a junior surf lifeguard in 1974.

Throughout his involvement with Surf Life Saving clubs, he has occupied numerous officer positions and earned Life Membership at Ōrewa SLSC last year.

Currently, Benny services as the Finance Director for Ōrewa SLSC while holding a seat on the Board. He also remains actively engaged as a surf lifeguard, instructor, and plays a pivotal role in the club's SAR Squad.

At a regional level, he's been a dedicated member of several committees over the years, he's currently a member of the Training Advisory Group, and for 11 years he was an examiner and previously sat on the SLSNZ Examiners Committee.



Benny's dedication extends beyond administration. In his earlier years, he excelled as an athlete, representing the Northern Region in the early 1980s.

He has also established himself as a respected surf official, renowned nationwide, having received regional and national appointments as Arena Referee and Event Referee for the Boat Series.

Benny's contribution to surf lifesaving goes beyond official records; he consistently carries out minor tasks and actively participates in a wide variety of activities. This reflects his unwavering commitment to surf lifesaving at every level.

Distinguished Service Awards




Bruce Matheson
Omanu Beach SLSC

Bruce Joined Mairangi Bay SLSC in 1974 and held many roles, including Junior Club Captain, Club Instructor, Boat Captain, Club Captain, and Nipper Co-ordinator. He also served as a surf lifeguard from 1974 through to 1990.

In 2004, Bruce joined Omanu Beach Surf Life Saving Club as an active surf lifeguard. He took on roles such as Competition Director and played a pivotal role in introducing surf boats to Omanu. Bruce even purchased the club's first surf boat with his own money and got surf boats up and running at Omanu.

Bruce has been a Surf Official since 2013 and became a member of the Bay of Plenty Regional Surf Officials Committee in 2015. In these roles he's assisted at multiple surf events across the Bay of Plenty region.



On the national stage, Bruce has held various roles. He served as Chair of the Surf Boat Advisory Group, was appointed as New Zealand Appointed Event Referee, facilitated Surf Official courses, participated in the selection process and took on the responsibilities of Team Manager for Oar Blacks and New Zealand Surf Boats.

He has also attended numerous world surf events and is set to assist at the upcoming world championships in Australia next year. For the last two years, Bruce has been the event referee for Eastern Regional Championships and is the current National Event Referee at Surf Nationals.

Distinguished Service Awards



Sheryl McLay
Mt Maunganui LS

Sheryl first qualified as a surf lifeguard in 1983 and has since been a member of Waimairi, Lyall Bay, United North Piha, South Brighton, and Papamoa Surf Life Saving clubs, with her current membership at Mt Maunganui Lifeguard Service.

During her early years she was an active Patrol Captain and Surf Sport competitor. She has also spent many years as a team manager and volunteer coach.

At a regional level, Sheryl has sat on committees, assisted with officiating, and acted as a team manager for a regional team.

At a national level, Sheryl has held many different roles, including as an Arena Referee and as an appointed New Zealand official for over 10 years.

She currently chairs the Awards and Honours committee, Hall of Fame Committee, and the 21 club.

Sheryl is a true champion for SLSNZ, well-known around every pillar of Surf Life Saving.

Distinguished Service Awards



Spencer Raymond
Pauanui SLSC

Spencer has been involved with Surf Life Saving since 2005. In the early years, he was a member of Tairua SLSC before moving to Rauanui.

Along with being an active member of the Search and Rescue squad, Spencer also instructs and audits. He has been instrumental in keeping the IRB exams rolling and is an avid IRB race competitor himself. He's always had a passion and natural skill in the power craft space, and this is reflected in the time he dedicates to this area.


Club governance and representation have also been a large part of Spencer's commitment to Surf Life Saving, including time as Club Chair. He is always looking out for members and ensuring they have the best experience possible, offering guidance or reaching out a hand if needed.

He has devoted countless hours to both club and region, stepping up into roles when needed. But it's not just others he looks to develop, as he's always searching for opportunities to develop himself.

Distinguished Service Awards



Dion Williams
Wainui SLSC




Dion Williams has been involved in Surf Life Saving his entire life, a passion passed down through generations in his family's long-standing connection with Wainui SLSC.

Starting as a junior at Wainui SLSC, he earned his Surf Lifeguard Award in 1987. He's now an active surf lifeguard, Regional Examiner, club instructor, national surf official, club coach, mentor, and club captain.

He's also an active member of Wainui SLSC Committee and also sits on the Regional and National Sport Committees.

He's coached the Gisborne Representative team and has travelled to Japan as part of the New Zealand coaching team to the Sanyo Cup.

Following these impressive achievements and the level of commitment shown, Dion has been made a Life Member of Wainui SLSC and the Eastern Region.



Dion's influence extends far beyond his roles; he has been instrumental in nurturing the growth of many individuals, consistently offering assistance with a "Good as Gold" attitude.

He embodies the essence of someone who has invested their heart and soul in the Surf Life Saving movement, demonstrating unwavering passion and commitment.

He has been a role model and mentor to so many members over the years and continues to inspire others with a lifetime of service as a volunteer doing what he loves the most.

Life Membership



John Chapman
Ōrewa SLSC

John's incredible 51-year commitment to the Surf Life Saving movement is a testament to his unwavering dedication.

From a family deeply rooted in the Ōrewa SLSC's history, John's extensive involvement within the club spans nearly every leadership, including his current position as Club President, following 16 years as Club Team Manager and seven years as Club Chair. John has also patrolled for around 44 years and is continuing to instruct surf lifeguards.


In recognition of his exceptional service, Ōrewa SLSC awarded John with a Distinguished Service award and Life Membership in 2008.

Regionally, he has been a member of the Northern Region Allocations Committee for the past seven years. He now sits as Chair on the Committee. Additionally, he's a Surf Official at both regional and national levels: from a marshal to a chief judge and arena referee.

Life Membership



Bruce Matheson
Omanu Beach SLSC



Bruce has had an incredible year contributing to numerous successful Lifesaving Sport events, not just within the Eastern Region but also on a national scale.

One of Bruce's notable achievements was the creation and distribution of a Surf Officials survey. This survey helped establish the availability of core Surf Officials for all Eastern Region and National events.

Bruce also played a pivotal role in ensuring the skill development of Surf Officials. He organised opportunities for them to upskill and undertake mentoring on the beach during events.

Among Bruce's key responsibilities this season were his contributions to and leadership in several teams. He served as an Event Referee at the inaugural Eastern Regional IRB Championships at Waihi Beach and also at the Eastern Regional Championships at Mt Maunganui. During the latter event, Bruce and his team faced significant weather challenges. However, they demonstrated adaptability, creativity, and flexibility to ensure the races continued smoothly.

Bruce's dedication didn't stop there. He went on to lead the TSB New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championships as the Event Referee, ensuring the successful delivery of all events and the uninterrupted flow of races. Bruce was also instrumental in the planning and execution of the North Island Surf Boats and Trans-Tasman event at Waihi Beach.

Life Membership



Sheryl McLay
Mt Maunganui LS

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During her early years she was an active Patrol Captain and Surf Sport competitor. She has also spent many years as a team manager and volunteer coach.

At a regional level, Sheryl has sat on committees, assisted with officiating, and acted as a team manager for a regional team.

At a national level, Sheryl has held many different roles, including as an Arena Referee and as an appointed New Zealand official for over 10 years.

She currently chairs the Awards and Honours committee, Hall of Fame Committee, and the 21 club.

Sheryl is a true champion for SLSNZ, well-known around every pillar of Surf Life Saving.

Life Membership



Ross Merrett
Papamoa SLSC

Ross Joined Papamoa SLSC in 2003. At that time, he refreshed his Surf Lifeguard Award, which he had originally obtained in 1977.

During this time, Ross has held many roles within the club, ranging from volunteer coach to chairperson.

In 2011, Ross became an official and earned recognition as Official of the Year. He was also selected to serve as an official for the World Championships in Adelaide.


Currently, Ross is senior member of Papamoa's SAR squad, and his in-depth knowledge of health and safety has been instrumental in shaping the club's procedures, with safety being the top priority.

Furthermore, Ross took on the role of lead project manager and chairperson during the rebuild of the Papamoa SLSC. His dedication and expertise ensured that the final build will effectively cater to the growing club for many years to come.

Life Membership



Dr Kevin Moran ONZM
Muriwai VLS



Kevin has been a frontline surf lifeguard for over 50 years and is still currently patrolling one of New Zealand's rugged west coast beaches at Muriwai, near Auckland, where he has been awarded Life Membership.

In 2010 he was awarded a Distinguished Service Award by SLSNZ and Surf Life Saving Northern. Most recently, in 2023, he was awarded Life Membership and a 50-year Service Badge by Surf Life Saving Northern.

In 2014, he was awarded the Water Safety New Zealand Award for his “outstanding contribution to water safety” and the 2014 Irish Medal by the Lifesaving Foundation in international recognition of “his exceptional contribution to the saving of lives from drowning.” He was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Year's Honours list 2015 for “services to water safety”.



Kevin is a retired Principal Lecturer and honorary academic in Physical Education at the University of Auckland's Faculty of Education. Some of his other professional positions include member of the International Advisory Committee for the WHO 2014 Drowning Report, member of the International Lifesaving Federation (ILS) Research and Information Committee, co-chair of the International Task Force on Open Water Drowning Prevention, foundation member of the New Zealand Drowning Prevention Council, and Foundation Chairman of WaterSafe Auckland Inc (WAI) from 1994-2012.

Kevin has had a lifelong commitment to drowning prevention as a surf lifeguard, researcher, and educator.

Life Membership



Michelle Newton
Red Beach SLSC



Michelle's journey in Surf Life Saving began in 1987 when she joined Red Beach SLSC and earned her Surf Medallion. The following year she became an instructor and later served on the club's Surf Committee.

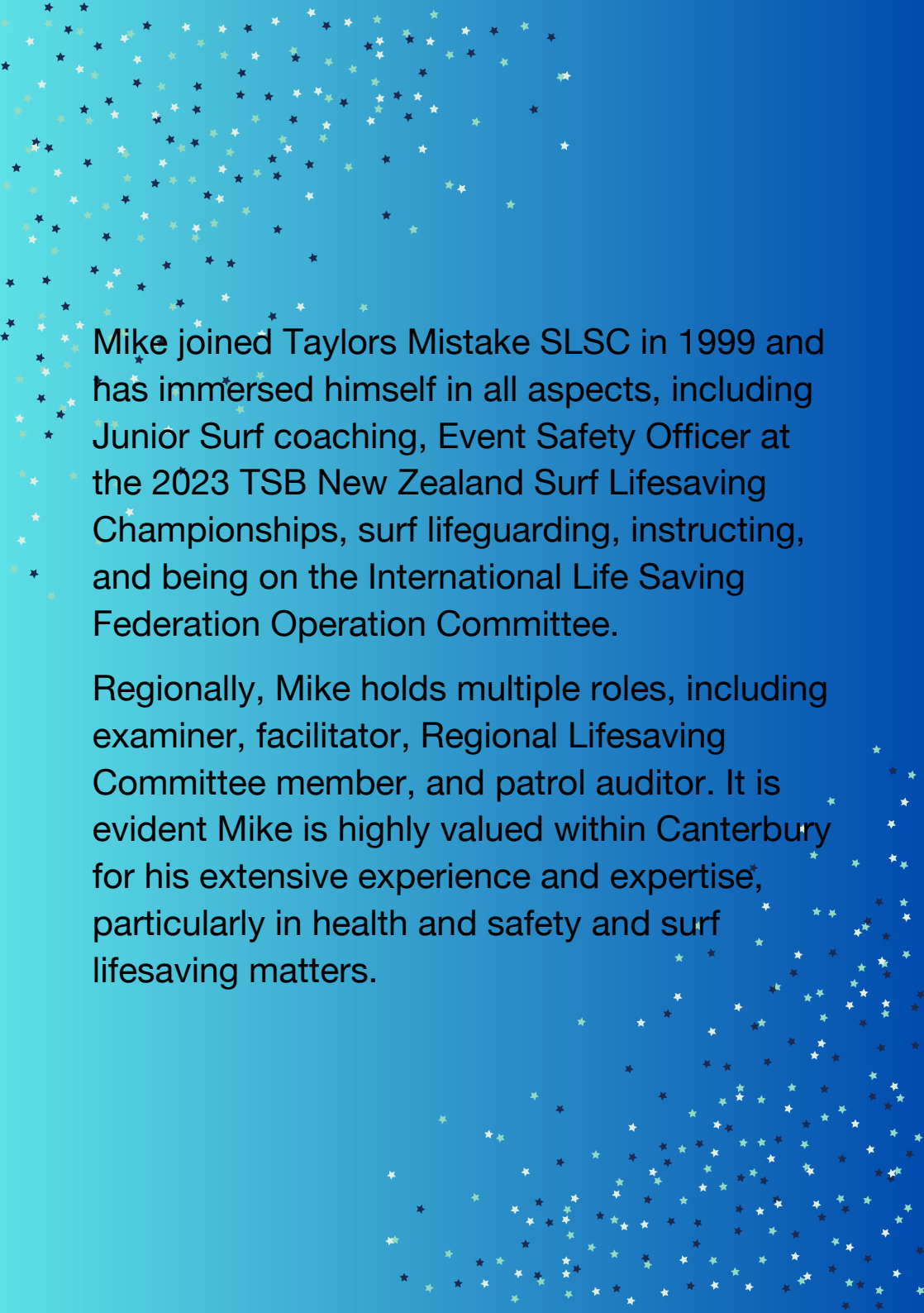
During her three years as Chief Instructor, Michelle put through an impressive 91 Surf Lifeguard Awards. In 1994, she joined the Auckland Surf Lifesaving Board of Judges and has been officiating at a number of regional, national and international events including 29 consecutive seasons as a surf carnival official, and 27 years as a National Official. Michelle has also served on a number of committees including the SLSNR Honours and Awards Committee and has chaired the Surf Official Appointment Panel for the Northern Region and the Red Beach Surf Club Committee.

In 2009, Michelle was inducted into the 21 Club, and was made a Life Member of both the Red Beach SLSC (2020) and Surf Life Saving Northern Region (2021).

Life Membership

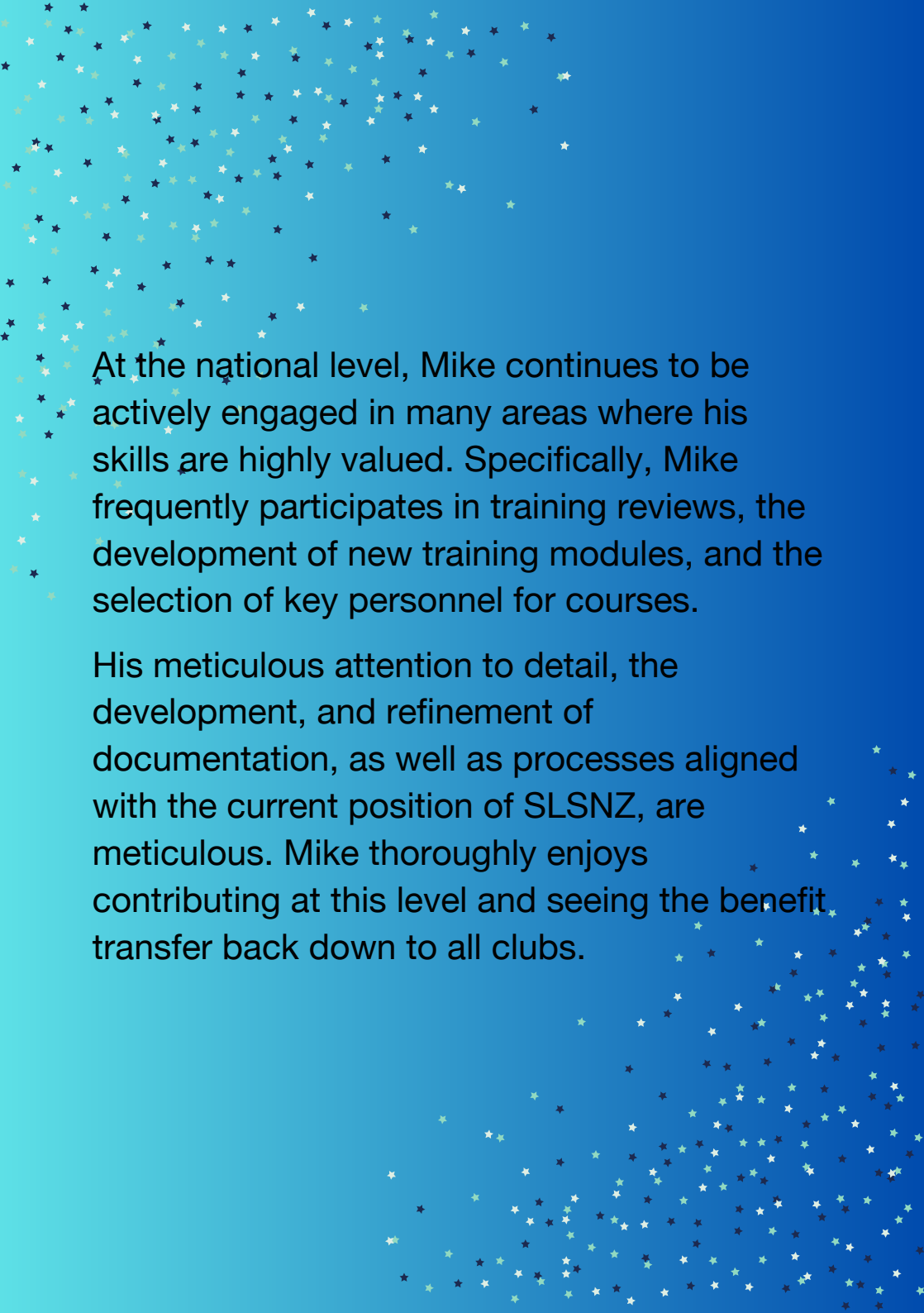


Mike Smith
Taylors Mistake SLSC



Mike joined Taylors Mistake SLSC in 1999 and has immersed himself in all aspects, including Junior Surf coaching, Event Safety Officer at the 2023 TSB New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championships, surf lifeguarding, instructing, and being on the International Life Saving Federation Operation Committee.

Regionally, Mike holds multiple roles, including examiner, facilitator, Regional Lifesaving Committee member, and patrol auditor. It is evident Mike is highly valued within Canterbury for his extensive experience and expertise, particularly in health and safety and surf lifesaving matters.




At the national level, Mike continues to be actively engaged in many areas where his skills are highly valued. Specifically, Mike frequently participates in training reviews, the development of new training modules, and the selection of key personnel for courses.

His meticulous attention to detail, the development, and refinement of documentation, as well as processes aligned with the current position of SLSNZ, are meticulous. Mike thoroughly enjoys contributing at this level and seeing the benefit transfer back down to all clubs.

Life Membership




Mark Weatherall
Omanu SLSC



Mark became a member of the Surf Life Saving movement in 1983 when he joined the Brighton SLSC in Otago. His dedication and unwavering commitment to this club earned him the esteemed status of Life Member in 2002. Subsequently, Mark embarked on a significant journey within SLSNZ where he served in various roles for several years. This journey led him from Wellington to Mount Maunganui.

Upon relocating to Mount Maunganui, Mark extended his exceptional service and steadfast commitment to the movement by joining Omanu Beach SLSC.



His continued dedication to this club, in addition to his ongoing contributions to his prior club, exemplifies a lifelong commitment to the principles of Surf Life Saving.

In addition to his remarkable service at club level and his employment at SLSNZ, Mark assumed the role of Black Fins Team Manager, guiding the team to achieve three world championship titles. Mark's unparalleled devotion and unwavering passion for Surf Life Saving set an exemplary standard within the community.

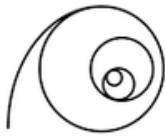
Surf Lifesaving Awards



SURF LIFE SAVING®
NEW ZEALAND

London Trophy

The London Trophy is awarded to the club that qualifies the most surf lifeguard and instructor awards per capita of refreshed members.



WANGANUI
SURF LIFEGUARD SERVICES

Wanganui SLSC

Gudsell Trophy

The Gudsell Trophy is awarded to the club that qualifies the most surf lifeguards in one season.




Mairangi Bay SLSC

Lifeguard of the Year

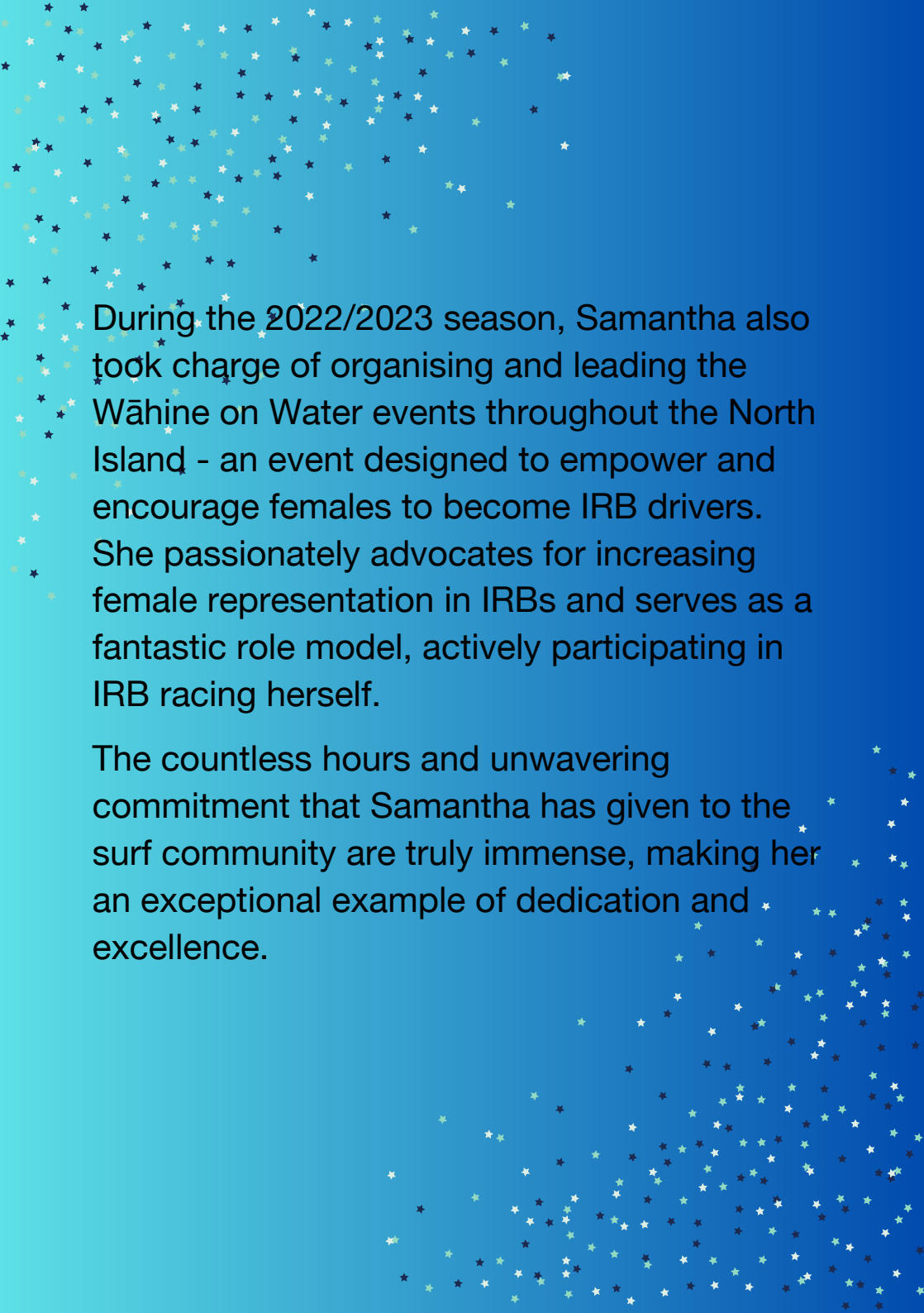


Samantha Larson
SLS Kariaotahi



During the 2022/2023 season, Samantha demonstrated remarkable dedication and expertise in just about all aspects of surf lifesaving. She dedicated over 100 hours to club-level patrolling and assumed a pivotal role as the primary facilitator of Kariaotahi Surf Club's Surf Lifeguard Award programme. She played a crucial role in certifying 12 new surf lifeguards, investing time and effort into training, and enhancing the skills of these candidates while also travelling to other beaches within the region to help with examinations.

Samantha was also a member of the Membership Development Committee and served as a facilitator for all Surf Life Saving Northern development camps. Despite her demanding responsibilities, she recognised the importance of upskilling young members.



During the 2022/2023 season, Samantha also took charge of organising and leading the Wāhine on Water events throughout the North Island - an event designed to empower and encourage females to become IRB drivers. She passionately advocates for increasing female representation in IRBs and serves as a fantastic role model, actively participating in IRB racing herself.

The countless hours and unwavering commitment that Samantha has given to the surf community are truly immense, making her an exceptional example of dedication and excellence.

OUR PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



BRONZE PARTNERS





SURF LIFE SAVING®
NEW ZEALAND