



National Award Winners 2025

Media link available here: <https://www.surflifesaving.org.nz/news/2025/october/champions-of-surf-life-saving-honoured-at-national-awards>

The dedication and achievements of Surf Life Saving's finest were celebrated at the 2025 Toyota Financial Services Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence, held on 4 October at the Cordis Hotel in Auckland.

Volunteer surf lifeguards, officials, instructors, coaches, and athletes from across New Zealand were recognised for their outstanding contributions to keeping communities safe on the beach. The awards highlight the commitment of thousands of members who dedicate their time and skill to saving lives and supporting their clubs.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand CEO Steve Fisher says the evening was an opportunity to honour the impact of the movement's people.

"Every finalist has made a significant difference for their club, their community, and Surf Life Saving as a whole. Their efforts embody the values of service, teamwork, and dedication that define our organisation."

This year's event also marked the first time Toyota Financial Services took on naming rights for the national awards, building on their long-standing support of Surf Life Saving.

Toyota Financial Services CEO Brent Knight said the partnership reflects a shared commitment to community and safety.

"Supporting Surf Life Saving reflects our belief in giving back in ways that make a real difference. Lifeguards provide an essential service that protects the wellbeing of millions of New Zealanders who enjoy our coastlines.

"Toyota Financial Services was honoured to support the Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence and to celebrate the remarkable winners of the Toyota Financial Services Coach of the Year and Surf Sportsperson of the Year. Their achievements highlight not only exceptional talent and dedication but also the spirit of teamwork and community that defines surf lifesaving in New Zealand. We congratulate the winners on this well-deserved recognition."

The winners of the 2025 Toyota Financial Services Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence are:

Toyota Financial Services Coach of the Year

Joel Meuli, East End SLSC

Toyota Financial Services Sportsperson of the Year

Madison Kidd, Whangamatā SLSC

Aon Official of the Year

Michelle Newton, Red Beach SLSC

Aon Sports Team of the Year

Sunset Beach Open Female IRB Crew, Sunset Beach LS - Taylor Edwards & Abigail Chapman

Aon Event Safety Contribution of the Year

Ashleigh Hurring, Fitzroy SLSC

bp Search and Rescue Contribution of the Year

David Bentley, East End SLSC

bp Powercraft Contribution of the Year

Connor Mitchell, Waikanae SLSC

bp Rescue of the Year

Bethells Beach SLSP

Instructor of the Year

Tasha Harvey, Bethells Beach SLSP

Examiner of the Year

Faron Turner, Ōrewa SLSC

Junior Surf Contribution of the Year

Andrew Friedlieb, Omanu SLSC

DHL Patrol Support of the Year

Hamish Pook, Raglan SLSC

DHL Under 19 Surf Lifeguard of the Year (joint winners)

Toby Low, Tairua SLSC | Sam Salter Palmerston North SLSC

DHL Volunteer Surf Lifeguard of the Year

Daniel Harvey, Bethells Beach SLSP

New Zealand Lottery Grants Board Volunteer of the Year

Michael Barker, Bethells Beach SLSP

London Trophy

Whangārei Heads VLSP

Gudsell Trophy

Mairangi Bay SLSC

Life Memberships

- Paul Carlyon
- Con Fraser
- David Hickey
- Seth McPhee
- Scott Weatherall

50 Year Badges

- Warwick Bell
- Ross Doyle
- Grant Florence
- Patrick Flynn
- Karen Griffiths
- Greg Hall
- Jamie Hall
- John Hook
- Michael Kindred
- Edward Marsh
- Martin Robinson
- Edward (Ted) Taylor
- Peter Thorpe
- Rex Verry
- Errol Verstegen

Distinguished Service Awards

- Scott Barlett
- Ashleigh Hurring
- Gavin Mason
- John Menzies

Service Awards

- Raymond Baillie
- Timothy Ball
- Michael Barker
- Charlotte Beconsall-Ryan
- Radleigh Cairns
- Christopher Coll
- Jan Coll
- Sonia Connon
- Helena Cook
- Caylee Cooke
- Poppy Crouch
- Matthew Davoren
- Nick Devcich
- Imogen Doyle
- Shane Dwyer
- Eti Eves

Service Awards (Cont)

- Valasi Eves
- Brian Forth
- Nikolai Gordon
- Robert Hammond
- Maddison Hare
- Chloe Harris
- Daniel Harvey
- Tasha Harvey
- Wayne Harvey
- Lachlan Hill
- Andrew Hitchfield
- Peter Jones
- Adrian Jull
- Mark Lane
- Belinda Langman
- Brenda Larsen
- Natalie Lloyd
- Andrew Macfarlane
- Kelly McColl
- Alexandra Menzies
- John Menzies
- Connor Mitchell
- Grant Mitchell
- Mike Mulcahy
- David Munro
- Ana Naden
- Kelly O'Dea
- Trent Olliver
- Bryce Pearce
- Jim Pearson
- Mark Peni
- Amy Philip
- Jason Rive
- Scotty Roberts
- Jake Shearstone
- Clyde Strickett
- Wayne Sutton
- Isaac Van der Vossen
- Sam Walters
- Rebecca Walton-Hannay
- Shalema Wanden-Hannay
- Shawn Wanden-Hannay
- Darrel Watt
- Steven Williams
- Conan Willis