



**THE WAIKUKU BEACH SURF LIFESAVING • NEWSLETTER**

March 2010

**Coming Up:**

- NZCT Surf Nationals
- Family BBQ
- Closing Day
- Club Trip to Rarangi

**Waikuku Beach SLSC Committee 2009/10**

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## **President**

Hasn't it been great to finally get some Summer weather? Then on one of the hottest days we have to close the beach for a tsunami. While some may not have thought it was a big deal, the pictures of the surges in Lyttelton and the estuary and watching the power of the big sets of waves as late as 4pm on Sunday makes us respect the sea even more. Well done to the patrol team on the day, who had to deal with some difficult conditions and keep an eye on the public, many of whom were determined to take a swim.

Congratulations to our Patrol Competition team who stunned many of the city clubs by claiming 2nd position at Waikuku recently. This is extra special since we got the wooden spoon last year. Thanks to Aaron for managing the team and coping with a bit of controversy with a disqualification and subsequent appeal.

A small team of seniors from Rarangi stayed in the clubhouse recently during Canterbury Champs. We had an enjoyable evening with a social get together on the Saturday night. It's good to continue to build these relationships. We look forward to our trip to Rarangi in Easter.

Our patrols finished on Sunday 7th March. While the season has been relatively quiet due to poor weather, we have still had plenty to occupy ourselves with rescues, first aid, vehicles on the beach and tsunami watch. Thanks to all those lifeguards and rookies who have put in the hours to keep our beach safe. Our patrol efficiency results were very good with only 3 points dropped in 4 tests.

Last newsletter I mistakenly said that Nick Guyan has been working towards achieving his Lifeguard Instructors Award. He has actually been working towards his Examiners Award. Well done Nick. It will be great to have another Examiner in the district.

Well that just about winds up another season. Thanks to everyone who has helped run our great club. There are several Committee Members planning on stepping down this season. Please seriously consider helping out on the Committee. Meetings are only once a month and there are some good systems in place to maintain the good work that has been done to date, however we do need fresh ideas and plenty of enthusiasm.

**Brett Bailey**

## **Vice-President**

The Tsunami warning last Sunday was quite dramatic on the TV and surreal for those of us on patrol. If you are interested in what it is like to be standing in a Tsunami surge as it hits the beach ask Aidan Duffy, Erica Paynter, Tess O'Reilly or Sarah McRae because we were in it.

The Tsunami warning was for a wave at 9:30am, but long after the alert was scaled down we had a surge at 3:27pm so it just shows how prudent it is to exercise caution when it comes to the water.

On this subject Surf Life Saving president and Waitakere mayor Bob Harvey is reported to have said that lifeguards needed the power to arrest those who disregarded warnings. I trust common sense prevails and this does not come about. We worked closely with the Police and Civil Defence and as volunteers I think our current roll in the community is enough.

**Cheers, Cam**

## Junior Surf

This weekend we had 28 under 14's competing at Canterbury Champs. This is easily the largest team so far in a carnival. We had 2 x 7yr olds competing for the first time and 6 x 14year olds competing for the last time as a junior. It was great to see the orange worn proudly and well represented in the medals at the end of the weekend. Full results are still being collated. The future of competition is looking very bright at Waikuku.

A team of 18 juniors competed in Southern Ocean Athletes (South Is U16) at South Brighton over Waitangi Weekend. Waikuku finished in 8th place out of the 12 clubs with a very young team. Congratulations to individual placegetters Hosea Watson, Erika Dickson, Teagan Duffy, Ben Duffy Rebecca Bailey and Sian Moore. Our U14 Girls Board Rescue, U14 Mixed Beach Relay and U11 Mixed Beach Relay teams all won medals.

Club sessions are still going well with plenty of people showing up each week. There are some families who have stopped coming to club, I would like to hear from them to see why. It might not have been for you and that is fine, but if it is anything we have done or not done please let me know confidentially and we can maybe improve in whatever the problem was.

**PARTY:** We are planning a party for the 20th March for all the families of surf club. This will start at 5.30pm with a BYO BBQ and carry on for as long as people want to stay. We will have prizes for the best dressed in orange and the weirdest orange vegetable or fruit. As you have guessed the theme of the party is **PROUD TO BE ORANGE!** Entry fee for this party will be an Easter treat (ie Easter egg) which will then be put into a hamper basket and raffled the following day at the Dudley Park family day.

Our website is up and running. It is [waikukubeachslsc.co.nz](http://waikukubeachslsc.co.nz) (check it out). If you have anything to put on it please email it to Daniel Evans ([the\\_green\\_tailed\\_elephant@hotmail.com](mailto:the_green_tailed_elephant@hotmail.com))

This includes any photos you may have taken through the season.

Next weekend (13th March) we will be doing the last of the club champs events which will be the board races and diamond races. The rookies still need to do their swim races as well.

**CLUB TRIP TO RARANGI (Easter Weekend - 2nd to 5th April):** I would like to finalise numbers with the Rarangi club so could you please put your name on the list in the clubhouse. If there are any of the Rookies or lifeguards wanting to come but their families can't, please let us know and we can arrange transport. This club is in Blenheim and should be a fun weekend. We will take some surf skiis, boards and a kayak.

As this will be my last newsletter for the season, I am letting you know I will be standing down as Junior Co-Ordinator at the end of this season. I have held this position for 4 years now so it is time for someone else to take over. I will still be on the committee hopefully in another position and I will probably take on a coaching role next season. If you are interested in finding out more about what I do then please talk to me at the club or phone me on 3100638.

See you on the beach.

**Tania**

## **Building**

Our big garage tilt doors have been repaired with hinges, rollers and latches replaced and realigned. The doors are now running smoothly. Please be careful when moving the trailer in and out of the clubhouse as the door stays can be easily damaged by the trailer board racks.

The weather station has been reconditioned after it seized-up recently. This is a great tool for monitoring wind speed/direction and air temperature.

We also replaced our fire extinguishers last month. The old ones were showing signs of age especially due to the harsh conditions.

## **Competition**

Pania is off to NZCT Surf Championships at Ohope this weekend. We wish her all the best. She has been very busy training and travelling around the country attending several Canterbury carnivals and Regional and National competitions. She has placed in both U19 and Open Grade Beach Flags and Sprint events at several major competitions.

## **Lifeguards**

Nick Guyan and Cameron Brown travelled to Dunedin recently to take part in a Lifeguard Incentive Weekend. Lifeguards get to meet and mix with our Southern cousins.

Lifeguards have been busy with two rescues and a major first aid in one day. One rescue made the front page of the Northern Outlook with the person lucky to be brought back to dry land right on patrol closing time.

Our Rookie Team will be competing in a Rookie Patrol Competition on 20th March at Waimairi. This is similar to the Senior Patrol Team Competition in which we came 2nd as mentioned above.

## **Craft**

Please take more care of the fibreglass paddle boards. We have spent hundreds of dollars on repairs this season and some of the junior glass boards are repeatedly being damaged. If you aren't able to handle a glass board, especially in big surf, then use one of the soft boards until your skills or the water conditions improve. Also be very careful when you put the boards back on the racks. We are looking at altering the board racks over the winter and this should help reduce damage when moving boards in and out of the gearshed.

If you are walking back up the beach, please pick up a boogie board or tube if it looks like it has been left behind.

## Closing Day

Closing Day will be on 27th March at 10.30am sharp. The kids do not need to wear togs and wetsuits for this but if they want to swim afterwards they can with parent supervision. This is the day for prizegiving and a few speeches. Please bring a plate of finger food for a shared light lunch.

## Northern Ocean Athletes



This year the club sent two young athletes to Mt Maunganui for the Northern Ocean Athletes Competition. This is considered to be the New Zealand U14 Surf Champs and competition is of a very high level. Sian Moore and Rebecca Bailey travelled to “The Mount” accompanied by Tania Bailey. Rebecca reports on the weekend.

### Day 1: 25th February 2010

On Thursday morning Sian, Mum and I got up at 4am and headed for Chch Airport. We left the airport at 5.40am and arrived at Auckland airport at 7am. After we finally got the rental van in Auckland we travelled with North Beach S.L.S.C to Mount Maunganui. We got there at 10.50am. Papamoa S.L.S.C let us share their tent as we prepared for our events:

Beach Flags: Sian got out in 2nd round and Rebecca got out 3rd round.

Beach Relay: We made up a composite team with Pukehina S.L.S.C and got 5th in heats

Run-Swim-Run: Sian 16th, Rebecca 12th. The surf was big and choppy and there was lots of seaweed everywhere.

We got free bags and shirts and we had to wear coloured wrist bands to show what age group we were in. There were a lot of Surf Stars such as Corey Hutchins, Julia Toomey, Morgan Foster, Zane Holmes Glenn Anderson and many other NZ Champions watching events, signing posters and autographs and presenting medals. Some of them came out on their knee boards doing tricks when we were training.

We headed back to the backpackers in Mt Maunganui. Lyall Bay S.L.S.C (Wellington) was also staying there.

### Day 2: 26th February 2010

Board Rescue: Rebecca 4th in heat. 3 went to semis.

Sprints: Sian got 1st in both her heat and semi and qualified for final on Sunday. Rebecca 6th in heat.

Diamond: Rebecca 17th in heat.

Board Relay: 10th in heat ( Sian and Rebecca teamed up with Waimairi Club).

Surf Race: Rebecca qualified for final.

### **Day 3: 27 February 2010**

Tube Rescue: Sian and Rebecca 4th in Heat (54 teams competed in this event). 3 went to semi finals.

Board Race: Rebecca 17th in heat. Sian 15th in heat.

We went to Omanu SLSC for dinner with Spencer Park, Waimairi and North Beach Clubs.

### **Day 4: 28 February 2010**

TSUNAMI WARNING!

We were evacuated from the beach and had to sit up on Mt Maunganui for 3 hours. When we walked off we found out that all the finals had been cancelled. This was a great disappointment after all our training and the time and expense to get to the Mount. So we headed back to Auckland and the plane left at 8pm arriving back in Christchurch at 9.20.

It was a great experience and the water was really warm and clear all the way out to the buoys. The weather was hot all 4 days. We would like to thank the club for their help and all the emails messages and texts of support over the weekend. Thanks also to Mum for looking after us. For those thinking about going next season you need to work hard and train in your events as the competition at The Mount is of a very high level. Thanks also to North Beach SLSC for letting us travel with them.

## **Trophies**

If you still have trophies from last season, please return them to the club immediately so we can get them engraved for closing day/prizegiving.

## **New Board Trailer**

The club took delivery of our new Briford board trailer last week. The new trailer is smaller than the old heavy tandem axle trailer and will be a lot easier to handle with the long drawbar and jockey wheel. Boards are also easier to load and secure. We will still keep the old trailer in the meantime as it may be used to carry other craft the club is hoping to purchase.

## **Sausages**

Thanks to the Stackhouse Family for donating sausages for club days. These always go down well after an hour in the water and also help with club funds.

## **Dudley Pool**

With the new pool officially opened we look forward to trying out the new facilities. We are planning on starting pool training during the 3rd term this year with training sessions on Wednesday and Friday nights.

There is a Family Open Day at Dudley on Sunday March 21st. This coincides with the Dudley Duathlon/Triathlon. Subject to final approval we hope to have a static display of some of our new equipment at the park on the day.

## **Lost Camera**

Has anyone seen the club's digital camera? It is a silver Sony Cybershot and it has gone missing.