

Kia ora koutou katoa,

I'd firstly like to address and acknowledge all of the club members in their adaptability in the final months of our patrol season in response to the impacts of COVID-19. Being able to bring everything from IRB training to Prizegiving and now the AGM online in a short space of time speaks to the ability to be dynamic and adaptable how we conduct our business, even when we can't physically be together in our slice of paradise!

Looking back on the season, I'm proud to again report zero fatal drownings at the beach at Whangamata this Summer. As our risk profile continues to increase with the way in which members of the public are using the beach and the surrounding coastal environment, our combined efforts as a club allow everyone to make sure they have fun time at the beach and go home safely at the end of the day. This season our lifeguards spent 5,595 hours between the flags, conducted 26 Lifesaving rescues and assisted another 56 people back to shore, with a large number of these occurring outside of our immediate patrol area. This included a third place [BP Rescue of the Month](#) in December when after patrol had finished for the day, our guards saved the lives of two Kayakers in a serious predicament off the south beach. On patrol our guards performed nearly 2,500 preventative actions, direct interventions that kept 30,000 people out of harm's way. More of the patrol statistics from the season will be available on the digital copy of this report.

In terms of development this season as a club we collectively achieved 69 individual development opportunities and refreshed 75 Lifeguards including 15 drivers. A big thank you to Dominic Sutton and the Lifesaving Committee for facilitating this development. Please keep seeking these development opportunities, no matter what age and stage of your life or lifeguarding career, there is bound to be something that will be available to benefit you in some way shape or form. As I have always said the club is somewhere where you are able to get so much more out of it from the effort you put in.

I would like to also acknowledge the efforts of the Emergency Call-Out Squad, tasked to a number of after-hours search and rescue operations this season, responding to calls as far away as Tairua and Waihi Beach and in one instance, late into the night in the middle of summer. The East Coast of the Coromandel is very fortunate to have a dedicated team of highly skilled lifeguards on call year-round.

As we move into the off-season in a COVID-19 world, we will require a level of flexibility as we work out our new normal when it comes to lifesaving in both a training space as well as in our ability to run patrols. It is promising to see these changes already being adjusted to already, it is much appreciated.

I was lucky enough to attend a number of Surf Sport events this season and witness first-hand the rewards reaped for a season's worth of training in the pool, the gym, on the beach, in the water and on the boat. Our ability to punch well above our weight year after year in both junior and senior competition makes me extremely

proud, usually being one of the smaller clubs on the beach and equally as often up there on the points table is something that we can all be proud of. It was great to see Madi Kidd back in a Red, Black & White skullcap again this season, with some impressive results across the season providing some great motivation to the younger athletes and securing her place in the 2020 Black Fins Squad. Unfortunately as a result of COVID-19, the Lifesaving World Champs scheduled for September 2020 have been postponed until 2022, despite this, a great achievement for both Madi and the club. As always a big thank you to Tom Lowe for your efforts on the beach with the squad's this year, your dedication to the athletes is reflected in their results and even more importantly their enjoyment of the sport.

Also well deserving of a mention in this report are our U23 Men's Surfboat Crew the Motorboaters. This season saw them travel to Australia to represent New Zealand as the SLSLNZ Development Crew in the Trans-Tasman Surfboat Series, the competition with the Aussies proved tough but a great experience to experience international Surf Sport Competition. The crew also came away from the NZ season with the Overall Series win across the season in the U23 division, extremely impressive for a crew with a few years up their sleeves in this age category.

In the Junior Surf Space we saw 273 U14's through the doors of the club this season, especially positive to see the number of local Whangamata families through the doors increasing as well! A massive thank you to the Marvin Family for their commitment to the Junior Surf Sector of the club, we have one of the best run club programs in the country and without their hard work it would not be possible. The Junior Surf program is the 'base' of our club retention & development pathway and it is vital for our continued success as a Surf Life Saving Club.

Finally I would like to comment on the club social scene this Summer. Seeing the Club Bar busy most days of the week in that peak period was really great to see. I hope you all had the opportunity to come up onto the deck and enjoy a refreshing drink in the sun with friends. This wouldn't have been possible without the contribution from Good George to get it set up properly, so thanks heaps. Another thank you has to be extended to Henry Cunningham and the entire Cunningham/Marvin Clan who kept the bar staffed and patrons well fed and hydrated this summer. With the bar attracting so many people through the doors, we reached an incredible 500 members this season! Much to the delight of Club Manager Andrea...

Speaking of which, I must extend a huge amount of gratitude to Andrea, for her support of me stepping into this role this season and as I look to continue into the coming season. As some of you may know I am currently in the midst of training to become a Police Officer, training that has had a impact on my capacity to perform all of the functions of Club Captain. I immensely appreciate the workload that has been managed by Andrea, Gavin, the rest of the Board of Directors and the Lifesaving Committee, and others within in the past few months. Being able to step back and focus on my studies has been extremely beneficial and will allow me to continue to give back to the club in the long term.

I look forward to seeing you all back at the beach in hopefully the not too distant future.

Ngā mihi nui,
Max Jones
Club Captain

Patrol Statistics 2019/2020	
Total Lifeguard Hours	5,595.50
Number of People Rescued	26
Number of People Assisted to Safety	56
Number of People requiring Major First Aid	5
Number of People requiring Minor First Aid	90
Number of Searches	12
Number of Preventative actions	2,488
Number of People involved in Preventive Actions	29,806
Development Award Statistics 2019/2020	
Surf Lifeguard Award	10
Surf Lifeguard (Refresher)	75
First Aid Level One	6
First Aid Level Two	12
First Aid Level Three (PHEC)	3
SLSNZ First Responder	2
IRB Crewperson's Award	4
VHF Radio Module	2
IRB Driver's Award	1
IRB Driver's (Refreshed)	15
Rescue Water Craft Award	2
Rock Rescue Module	7
Surf Lifeguard Instructor's Award	2
Surf Lifeguard Probationary Examiner	1
Surf Lifeguard Examiner	1
IRB Instructor's Award	1
IRB Probationary Examiner	2
Advanced Lifeguard Award	1