



Kia Ora Whanga Fam,

As Easter is upon us, we draw to the close of another special season here in Whangamata. In line with the past two seasons, this season has had its fair share of disruptions due to COVID-19. With the cancellation and postponement of many key items on the Surf Lifesaving calendar it is fair to say our members have stood tall in the face of adversity. Through thick and thin the club has managed to have flags on the beach, athletes on the water and nippers in the sand, all with the smiles and enthusiasm we have come to know and love.

Surf Sport:

I first wish to state how proud both myself and the club are of our surf sport athletes this season. From oceans to seniors, the hard work and dedication these individuals put into their craft is truly admirable. The unfortunate cancellation of both Oceans and Senior Nationals meant this hard work and dedication couldn't be transferred onto the big stage, however there were still some special results to come out of the altered competitions our athletes attended throughout the summer. In particular I wish to congratulate Jack Dufaur, Nate Allen, Hunter Robinson, Brylie Adams, Jono Allen and Ben Riordan who competed at this year's Mount Monster. Madi Kidd who has made a mark with her performances in the pool of late. Maggi Robinson, Izzy Milne and the U17 Boys crew who cleaned up at the Central Region Champs earlier in the season. A great display of performance from our athletes this season showcased the ever-growing success of the programme here at Whangamata.

The Whangamata Motor-boaters also had a disrupted season with a number of competitions cancelled due to COVID-19. This however didn't stop the crew from once again dominating their field with an overall first placing in the Wellington competition and a second overall placing at the Napier competition. Hats off to the boys for sticking out another year. We look forward to having you back in the boat ready for another NZ title shot next season.

Junior-Surf:

The junior surf programme once again flourished throughout the summer. The effects of COVID-19 saw a shortened season with sessions occurring throughout the peak weeks of summer until the end of February. The adaptability and innovation of the Junior surf committee, coaches and helpers meant the programme was able to function successfully throughout these times. This season we saw great numbers of nippers, cadets and rookies with a total of 182 subscriptions to the programme. The rearrangement of the cadet and rookie programmes saw great success with 45 cadets joining sessions throughout the year, this as well as 25 rookie lifeguards turning out to patrol alongside our lifeguards. Our junior surf family will look forward to their final meet and prize-giving this Easter Sunday.

Regional Lifeguarding:

The regional lifeguard team had another bumper season! With six new members to the regional lifeguarding space the team stood up and displayed extremely high levels of professionalism when carrying out their work. The implementation of paid lifeguards to weekends was seen as a great success, bolstering the ability for the volunteer teams to carry out their patrols throughout the peak weeks of summer. The patrolling statistics for this season speak for themselves, a mix of hot weather, large swell and thousands of beachgoers meant the team had their work cut out for themselves, leaving their mark on the beach with a summer like no other.

Volunteer Lifeguarding:

The volunteer lifeguard service was extremely well managed this season, with the expertise and incredible planning skills of the committee, chaired by Dominic Sutton, patrols were loaded with volunteers all summer long. From the very first patrol way back in October, right up until this weekend we have seen a total of 106 lifeguards don the 'red and yellows' giving their time to the club and the community. The commitment shown from these individuals has highlighted the perseverance and dedication of the team, with lockdowns plaguing the first half of the season and isolations the second half, the strength of the team was truly shown. A special mention should be made to Ben Sutherland and Julius Bell who have given their time each weekend for the past eight weeks patrolling the beach as our PC's.

General Thanks:

I want to finish in stating my thanks to the club. Without the generous donation of time and effort from the countless number of volunteers, the entire operation here at Whangamata Surf Lifesaving Club cannot function. From board and committee members to shopkeepers and management staff the effort you put in allows us as lifeguards, athletes and nippers to do what we love. Once again thank you and we will see you all next season for another stunner in Whangamata.

Yours in Surf,

Matthew Millward

WSLSC Club Captain 2021/2022

*Patrol Statistics 2021/2022 *as of 8 April 2022*

Lifeguard Hours:	5717
Number of people rescued:	32
Number of people assisted to safety:	109
Number of major first aid incidents:	7
Number of minor first aid incidents:	81
Number of searches:	11
Number of preventative actions:	2576
Number of people involved in preventative actions:	14,383