



Kia Ora Whanga Fam,

As Easter is upon us, we draw to the close of another cracking season here in Whangamata. In stark contrast to last summer, the weather gods turned it on in Whangamata this season, with the weather on our side, the club rallied across lifesaving, sport, and junior surf to produce a fully functioning programme for our members to enjoy for the duration of the season.

The 6-month long season has had its fair share of success across all areas of the club, as we head into our off season, we look forward to the progress being made with Project Transform, all going well we will have a nice and shiny new building to operate out of in the early parts of next season!

#### Life Saving Sport:

I first wish to state how proud the club is of our surf sport members this season.

From oceans to seniors, athletes, to parents, friends, caregivers and BBQ hands, the hard work and dedication these individuals put into their craft is truly admirable. Building on the success of a stellar 2022/2023 season, our sport teams worked hard throughout the season training in preparation of their respective pinnacle events - oceans and nationals, both held in Mount Maunganui in February and March.

Our Oceans' team set off for Mount Maunganui in late February, led by Hunter as coach, the team performed exceptionally well over their four days of racing. With many Oceans' members moving up to seniors this season, the squad was somewhat smaller than last years, however, the results still shone bright, this was highlighted by the U12 Girls Board Relay win, amongst numerous other fantastic results within the team. With a smaller squad, the team was kept busy, with athletes running from arena to arena to make events and relays. The close-knit culture of the squad was something to note, such a positive and fun environment amongst all members' ensured fun was had throughout the entirety of the event.

The seniors team also had a bumper season, with many events across the north island serving as preparation for nationals in The Mount. Over the four days of racing the team managed some incredible results, with a total of 22 medals, ending up with 8 gold, 6 silver and 8 bronze.

One of our best ever placings at nationals - an overall 7th place. With such a small squad in comparison to other clubs, our team punched well above our weight, by far the most successful club per capita of athletes.

The success of this team must be attributed to the fun, loving and energetic culture found within the team, from parents and committee members, to athletes, friends and coaches, the entire squad had fun throughout the duration of the season - a true testament to the spirit that has been developed over the past few years, within the WhangaFam sport crew.

Thanks, must be passed onto Nova, her team on the sport committee, and the countless additional helpers within the sport team. Your countless hours of dedication, support and commitment to your athletes allows them to find such great success on the beach and in the water.

One final thanks must be made to Harry and Hunter, this summer these lads stepped up big time, leading their teams with a fun and positive outlook on competition, allowing their teams to be in the best shape possible for Oceans and Nationals, well done lads.

Our stalwart surf boat crew, the Motor-boaters had another strong season in the boat, with wins at various events in races throughout the summer. Although not completing the back-to-back in the surf boat series and national titles, the boys rowed to an extremely high level, with many races coming down to lane and wave placement as the difference in results.

In addition to the Motor-boaters, we had the emergence of a senior female crew this summer, with some members completely new to the boat, the girls set out to gain some experience in the boat whilst having fun and keeping the boys in check throughout the season, great to have you in the boat girls!

#### Junior-Surf:

The junior surf programme once again flourished throughout the summer at Whangamata SLSC. With the season commencing shortly before Christmas and running through to anniversary weekend at the end of January, the J-Surf calendar was packed full of activities throughout the duration of the summer. This season we saw great numbers of nippers, cadets and rookies with just under 200 subscriptions to the programme, The nippers, cadets, rookies and pathways programmes continue to be highly successful, allowing the succession of athletes and lifeguards to occur year on year with graduates of these programmes becoming our new lifeguards and athletes alike.

Big thanks must be shown to our coaches who lead and coach the respective nippers, cadets, rookies and pathways programmes, your tireless effort on the beach and in the classroom sets these kids up for success within the WhangaFam. This continual growth and expansion of our junior surf program showcases the hard work the committee, coaches and other volunteers do, resulting in a programme that is of extreme value to Whangamata SLSC.

Thank you to Shelley and her committee for ensuring the Junior Surf programme at Whangamata SLSC continues to flourish.

#### Regional Lifeguarding:

The regional lifeguard team had another busy season! The season commenced on December 11<sup>th</sup>, the first of 10 grueling weeks on the beach. With Ben Goffin and Isaac Chadwick at the helm, the team was in good hands with great depth throughout the ranks. The depth and ability of this team was shown on multiple occasions throughout the season with some extraordinary work helping numerous members of the public return home safe after their days at the beach. A busy season of spinal injuries and first aid incidents made sure the team's theoretical and practical first aid and patient management skills were in check.

Throughout the Eastern Region, the praises of the Whangamata team were sung, with particular attention being paid to a spinal incident carried out by the team in late December - a top effort!

#### Volunteer Lifeguarding:

The volunteer lifeguard service was also not exempt from a busy season this year, the consistent swell, splendid weather, and busy beach meant each weekend our volunteer lifeguards had their work cut out for them.

From the very first patrol way back in October, right up until this weekend we have seen a total of 121 volunteer lifeguards don the 'red and yellows' giving over 5,700 hours of volunteer service to the club and the community. The commitment to patrols, training and social events has highlighted the perseverance and dedication of the team this season, the re-emergence of the patrol teams' format has ensured our beach is appropriately staffed on every weekend throughout the summer, a true testament to each and every lifeguard who has helped at Whangamata SLSC this summer.

A special mention should be made to our lifesaving committee; Bre Norris, Maggie Lowe, Julius Bell, Jess Marvin, Dominic Sutton, Jaeden Waldron-Lemon, Tom Lowe, Grace Westenberg and Ben Sutherland. These individuals provide so much of their time and effort to allow the giant wheel of volunteer lifeguarding to turn, without them our lifesaving program would be lost.

### BOD Thanks:

I wish to pass on my thanks to the board of directors here at Whangamata SLSC, the unsung heroes who operate in the background ensuring all of the clubs' affairs are in order. Gavin Scott, Lisa Marvin, Mandy Rodger, Jono Morgan, Bryan Black, and Peter Gilbert- thank you all for what you do for the club, the countless hours of work towards the club ensure we have the appropriate foundations to operate successfully throughout the summer.

### Staff Thanks:

I must also pass on my thanks to Dide and Rachel, our two staff members here at Whangamata SLSC. With the addition of Dide to the team in November, Rachel worked tirelessly to ensure the club's financial and operational affairs were in order, allowing Dide time to settle into her role with us. Dides addition to the team saw her face a baptism of fire, falling straight into the peak of summer. Thank you both for your efforts in keeping the club running smoothly.

### General Thanks:

As many of you are aware I have made the move to Brisbane, hence my absence here today, my move means I am stepping down from my role as the club captain here at Whangamata SLSC. The past 3 seasons in this role have been nothing short of amazing, the people I have met, the relationships I have made and the fun I have had cannot be understood in the slightest. It goes back to the old adage in surf, no matter how much I put into this club, the club will always give me more - the members of this club make this a reality, from board and committee members to shopkeepers, management staff, social members and the general beach goer, 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 2023/2024

### ***Patrol Statistics 2023/2024***

Lifeguard Hours:	5,779.75
Number of people rescued:	47
Number of people assisted to safety:	36
Number of major first aid incidents:	10
Number of minor first aid incidents:	13
Number of searches:	2
Preventative actions:	267
Public Involved in Preventative Actions:	11,996

