



Venue Hire Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What types of events can the venue host?

A:

We love sharing our club with the community and are delighted to host a wide range of events. These include weddings, corporate functions, staff celebrations, Christmas parties, and other private gatherings.

To ensure the venue remains the right fit for everyone, we're unable to host hen or stag parties, or 21st birthday celebrations. However, we're very happy to consider other birthday events — just get in touch and we can talk it through.

Q: Can I hire the whole venue or just part of it?

A:

Absolutely. Depending on your guest numbers and the type of event you're planning, you can choose to hire the full venue or just one or more specific spaces. We're always happy to help you find the best setup.

Below is a guide to the areas available for hire:

Annex

A versatile space ideal for training sessions such as first aid courses. It has its own kitchenette and toilet facilities and offers great indoor–outdoor flow. The Annex can also be booked separately as breakout space for multi-day events.

Board Room

A smaller, quiet space that's perfect for meetings of 6–8 people.

The Hall

This space is included when a bar service is required and works well for larger gatherings. This comfortable seats 80 guests, with the additional deck area flow out comfortably hosting 50.

Lifeguard Lounge

This area is included if you require access to the kitchen and offers a relaxed, communal setting.

Accommodation Block

The accommodation block sleeps up to 36 people across two dormitories with configurable bunks. There are separate male and female bathrooms, with one shower available.

Overnight bookings

Ideal for school groups, yoga retreats, family reunions, and multi-day events. This option includes the Hall, Lifeguard Lounge, accommodation block, downstairs changing facilities, and kitchen.

Please note: The Lifeguard Lounge and accommodation block are regularly used by our club members during peak periods — from Labour Weekend through to Easter, including school holidays. Bookings during these times are still welcome but may be limited. We recommend getting in touch early so we can explore the best options with you.

Q: Is there an onsite kitchen or catering available?

A:

Yes, we have a non-commercial kitchen available for use. This is suitable for your chosen caterer to heat and serve food, or for guests staying overnight to prepare simple meals.

Please note that we don't provide catering ourselves, but we're happy to share a list of recommended local caterers and suppliers.

Q: Do you supply Tables and Chairs and Crockery and Cutlery?

A:

Yes, we hire tables and chairs. We do NOT hire Crockery and Cutlery, however these can be hired and brought in by your catering services.

Q: Can we bring our own alcohol?

A:

No, BYO alcohol isn't permitted. Any event serving alcohol must use our fully licensed bar service, which includes a bar manager and trained bar staff. We can work with you to order what beverages you prefer.

Q: What are the requirements for the bar service?

A:

Bar service must be booked at least four weeks in advance to allow time for licensing. Events with a bar service must also include substantial catering, such as a full meal or buffet. We can provide a list of recommended caterers to help with planning.

Q: Are there any blackout dates when the venue cannot be hired?

A:

Yes. Full venue hire isn't available during our peak season from mid-December through to mid-February. However, the Annex, Board Room, and Hall may still be available for daytime bookings during this period.

Q: Can we view the venue before booking?

A:

Of course — we'd love to show you around. Viewings are by appointment only, so please contact us to arrange a time via admin@whangamatasurf.co.nz or call 07 865 8401.

Q: Can I use Blu-Tack, sticky tape, pins, or confetti when decorating?

A:

To help us keep the club in great condition, decorations can't be attached to walls, doors, or windows using Blu-Tack, sticky tape, or pins. Confetti is also not permitted anywhere in or around the building.

Q: Are fireworks, candles or open flames allowed?

A:

For safety reasons, fireworks, candles and any type of open flame are not permitted at the venue.

Q: Can you provide examples of event layouts?

A:

Yes — you can view a range of layout ideas in our Venue Gallery. Our Event Co-ordinator will also work with you to tailor the setup to suit your group size, catering, and event style.

Q: Do we need security guards for events?

A:

Depending on the event that you are hosting, we may be required to arrange security guards to meet local council requirements.

Given our beachfront location and council regulations, security guards may be necessary to ensure everyone's safety and compliance:

Beach alcohol restrictions: Local bylaws prohibit alcohol on beaches and reserves during peak holiday periods, meaning alcohol can't be taken outside the venue.

Venue access control: As a public-facing club, security helps prevent unauthorised entry and protects the privacy of your event.

Q: Where does the money from venue hire go?

A:

We're a volunteer-based charitable organisation, and all funds raised through venue hire go directly back into beach safety and surf life saving patrols at Whangamatā Beach.

If you have any questions or would like to chat about venue hire, please contact us at admin@whangamatasurf.co.nz or call 07 865 8401 — we're always happy to help.