

# COASTCOM

FEBRUARY 2015



## FROM THE HELM

**It's been a long, hot summer so far and as temperatures have soared we've seen record numbers of boaties out on our waterways. With increased aquatic activity we often see increased incidents and this year is no different.**

As New Zealand's primary marine search and rescue agency we're constantly working to reduce incidents and drum those safety messages home. The work we do to inform and educate the boating public is so important and in a perfect world we'd prevent the need to ever be rescued. However we know this is not the reality and our feature story this month highlights the importance of getting these messages through.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing to be a Coastguard volunteer and helping to spread these messages. It's the work you do that is vital to our island nation and as a volunteer you should feel extremely proud to know that if it weren't for you and your fellow volunteers the numbers of rescues and incidents would be a lot higher.

It's also the 'everyday' things you do, going above and beyond what is expected, that makes Coastguard a highly respected organisation. It's the actions you choose and the choices you make that makes a Coastguard volunteer stand out above the rest.

Our story from Coastguard Howick unit demonstrates just this. We spoke to the crew who went the extra mile because they believed it was the right thing to do.

This attitude is representative of so many of our volunteers and it is this ethos that makes me proud to be a part of this great organisation.

*Patrick Holmes  
Chief Executive Officer  
Coastguard New Zealand*

## STORIES FROM THE BOATSHED

### ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

**Going the extra mile is all in a day's work for a Coastguard volunteer. But sometimes it's the little things we do that really make a big difference to the lives of the people we rescue. We often underestimate the impact that a 'small gesture' can have on those rescued and their families.**



JENNY ROWSELL, DAVID STEWARD AND MIKE KITCHIN OF COASTGUARD HOWICK



In this case, returning the vehicle and kayak of a rescued man to his family provided the perfect opportunity to talk to a family about some vital safety messages that could prevent them from getting into trouble on the water again.

It was 7pm on the evening of New Year's Day 2015 and twilight was setting in with an off-shore breeze blowing at Eastern Beach on Auckland's East Coast. Coastguard Howick Skipper Jenny Rowsell and her crew David Steward, Greg Noble and Mike Kitchin were on board Howick Rescue 1. They were returning from a routine training exercise and were in transit from Browns Island to Howick Beach when they were alerted to an overturned kayak enroute to their destination.

A member of the public had spotted a person desperately clinging to an upturned kayak approximately 600 metres off shore being blown out to sea and called Coastguard to help. At the same time another member of the public spotted the kayaker and quickly launched his Sealegs vessel, making his way to the upturned kayaker and pulling him out of the sea. Howick Rescue 1 arrived shortly after the man had been dragged out of the water and he was transferred onto the vessel. It was bordering on dusk, the temperature was dropping and the 63-year-old man was moderately hypothermic and in need of medical attention. The crew arranged to meet an ambulance back at the wharf where they handed the shivering man over to paramedics for treatment. They treated the man for hypothermia at the scene and after a couple of hours decided to drive him home.

Normally this is where the story ends for Coastguard volunteers who perform rescues just like this on a daily basis and often don't hear the outcome of the rescued person. However on this occasion Jenny Rowsell and David Steward did not want to leave the man's vehicle parked overnight in the car park and followed the ambulance to the man's home. The man, his vehicle and kayak were delivered back to his bewildered family who had no idea of the ordeal their father had been through. Jenny and David sat down with the family to explain what had happened as the man was too shaken to talk.

"It gave us a really good opportunity to talk to the family about the safety precautions that should have been taken to prevent their father from very nearly drowning that day. You could see the disbelief and gratitude in their eyes when they learned how lucky they were to have their father and husband brought home that night."

"The opportunity to actually sit down and stress the importance of safety and preparation was invaluable – they will never let him get into that situation again and that's really rewarding for us," she said.

By choosing to become a Coastguard volunteer we make a conscious decision to help people – no matter how big or small the gesture may be. This story is a big shout out to every single volunteer who goes the extra mile displaying the humility and compassion that Coastguard volunteers are renowned for – thank you.

## OFF TO WORK AT THE RNLI



ABOVE: A FEW OF THE TRAINING ASSETS

LEFT: TONY SMITH ON BOARD  
A TRAINING VESSEL AT RNLI

### **Tony Smith from Coastguard Clyde tells us about his trip to RNLI in Poole, England after being awarded Operational Volunteer of the Year in 2013.**

“I was honoured to attend a trip to Poole, England to train for five days with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) after being awarded the Coastguard Operational Volunteer of the Year in 2013 - to say this was a trip of a lifetime would be an understatement.

“With more than a year of anticipation, planning and saving, I embarked on my journey with my wife in tow beginning with three weeks of ‘playing tourists’ in places we’d only ever read about.

“The RNLI headquarters is a phenomenal place! It contains the Lifeboat Maintenance and Repair Facility, the Lifeboat Support Centre and the RNLI College. It also has multiple fully equipped classrooms, a simulator, wave pool and even a purpose built workshop for building new rescue boats – not to mention the four star hotel, restaurant and bar. Out on the jetty were more rescue boats than I had ever seen in one place and all

for training purposes – the amenities at their disposal are mind blowing!

“I was fortunate to be teamed up with one other crew member and enjoyed the undivided attention of our wonderful instructor Nathan. The first day of drills were in the wave pool with rain, wind, thunder, lightning, and capsize activities – each with different scenarios. This training facility enabled us to test our skills without being in any real danger.

“The rest of the week was a flurry of navigating a busy harbour, search training for mannequins, rough weather handling in the tail of a cyclone and various other drills, some of which we do here in NZ but with a bit of a UK spin on it. Getting my head around the sun being in the wrong place took some getting used to!

“If ever the opportunity arose for me to go back to the RNLI again, I would go in a heartbeat. I had an amazing time, learnt a great deal and made some great friends. Many thanks to Coastguard New Zealand for this fantastic opportunity.”

## OUT AND ABOUT WITH COASTGUARD

### NOWCASTING HAS A NEW VOICE!

If you've been listening to Coastguard's popular NowCasting on the VHF Radio recently you may have heard a new voice. We've re-recorded the voice files thanks to our media sponsor Radio Live, so that all NowCasting channel users throughout the country will get a consistent audio experience. Thanks Radio Live!

**RADIOLIVE**  
ENTERTAINING TALK & NEWS AS IT HAPPENS

### ASB CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Volunteers in the greater Auckland area may have noticed donation boxes in their local ASB branches during December. The boxes were placed there as part of CNZ's principal sponsor relationship with ASB and Coastguard flyers were also inserted into customer statements at the same time. Many of these new supporters will go on to donate to Coastguard for many years, which will ultimately translate into increased financial and operational support for all units. Many thanks to ASB for these opportunities.



### MAYDAY APPEAL: "THE EASIEST MONEY OUR UNIT HAS EVER MADE"

**Coastguard's Annual MayDay Appeal runs throughout the month of May and this year kicks off on Friday 1st of May 2015. Pencil it into your busy schedules now!**

Units raised over \$44,000 last year and one volunteer told me it was the 'easiest money they had ever made.' The MayDay Appeal can provide your unit with valuable funding and you get to meet supportive local people too – friendships that could be worth even more over time.

As in previous years we would encourage your unit to get involved and organise fundraising activities in your local communities. Every dollar you raise is yours.

We'll be putting together a Mayday fundraising guide and a full round-up of what's happening in due course. Also, as per last year, we will have fundraising collateral available for those that want it, and an order form will be sent out with the fundraising guide. Until then, check out our Tips for the Tool Box for some great fundraising ideas.

If there's anything special you'd like us to include this year, or if you have any questions, please email [leah.raviharan@coastguard.co.nz](mailto:leah.raviharan@coastguard.co.nz)

## COASTGUARD SUMMER LOTTERY

The flags, plinths and banners are stowed, the prize boats are gleaming and ready to meet their lucky new owners, and Leah and the lottery office are enjoying a well-earned rest!

A massive thank you to everyone involved in the Summer Lottery this year. Whether you were involved in transferring and displaying a prize boat, managing the money and tickets, or getting out there and selling hard – THANK YOU!

The top five prizes were drawn as follows:

1. 85672 – Masterton
2. 104794 – Whangaparaoa
3. 112755 – Greymouth
4. 137246 – Auckland
5. 88084 – Invercargill

### Summer Lottery 2014/15 facts

- Almost 40,000 tickets were sold by Coastguard units
- The prize boats travelled over 8,700 kilometres, the equivalent of a round trip from Wellington to Scott Base in Antarctica, and stopped at 33 different units on the way
- Winning tickets were sold by Coastguard Wanganui, Canterbury, Whangamata, Raglan, and Manawatu
- It was a great year for photos!



TOP: COASTGUARD NORTH SHORE SANTA PARADE

MIDDLE: COASTGUARD KAPITI COAST SELLING LOTTERY TICKETS

LEFT: COASTGUARD WEST COAST AND ARCHIE THE DOG

## Z - GOOD IN THE HOOD THERE'S ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT TO ENTER!

Every year Z Energy runs a campaign around the country supporting local charities and community groups. Each Z station has \$5,000 to give away during this campaign (and there are over 200 of them). Your neighbourhood Z retailer will choose four local organisations and customers get to vote for which one matters most to them - 'Good in the Hood'. After a month, \$4,000 will be split between the organisations as per the customers' votes and the remaining \$1,000 will be used to support other neighbourhood projects throughout the course of the year.

You may remember seeing this in your local Z stations last year. Each customer is given a round orange disc to place in the box for their favoured charity from a choice of four.

Applying for Good in the Hood is simple to do.

Here are the steps:

1. Pop into your local Z Station before filling in the online application form.
2. Head to [z.co.nz/GoodYouDo](http://z.co.nz/GoodYouDo) and complete the online application (it'll take about 15 minutes) – **Applications close 28 February.**
3. You will receive an email to confirm that they have received your application.
4. Successful applicants will be contacted in April 2015.
5. Voting runs throughout the month of May.

Check out the website and let Deb know if you need any other help.

[deb.brown@coastguard.co.nz](mailto:deb.brown@coastguard.co.nz)





## OLD4NEW LIFEJACKET UPGRADE CAMPAIGN

Coastguard's latest boating safety initiative the 'Old4New Lifejacket Upgrade' was launched by Coastguard Northern Region in November of last year.

The campaign saw the 'Old4New' van laden with brand new lifejackets travel over 7,000 kilometres, visiting over 35 communities from Cape Reinga to Raglan and across to the Coromandel Peninsula (huge thanks to Coastguard Whangamata and Coastguard Whitianga for your support!) on weekends and throughout the busy summer holiday season.

The initiative received incredible support from volunteers, the public, media and marine industry, and was made possible thanks to the support of our friends at Hutchwilco, marine retailer Burnsco and community partner the Giltrap Group. It is this support that made the initiative a reality and the reason that 2,700 lifejackets were traded in over the three months of the campaign.

Traded lifejackets in good condition that still meet the New Zealand safety standards will be re-distributed to at-risk communities. We are just delighted with how well the campaign has gone and so grateful to everyone who made it possible!

## CHANGE AT THE HELM IN COASTGUARD NORTHERN REGION



**Coastguard Northern Region has welcomed Callum Gillespie to the role of Chief Executive Officer.**

Callum officially took the helm of the Region on the 1st February bringing with him a strong skillset and diverse background. Originally from Scotland, Callum commenced his working life in the Royal Navy – where he progressed through various roles to the rank of Lt. Commander – serving mostly on nuclear submarines in operational and training roles.

Upon leaving the Royal Navy, Callum commenced a commercial career in banking, and has joined Coastguard from his role as Head of Retail Distribution for the Bank of New Zealand.

We are incredibly excited to have Callum on board and as to what he will bring not only to the Region but the wider organisation.

## 2015 - THE START OF A NEW YEAR AND A NEW FOCUS FOR COASTGUARD BOATING EDUCATION

**To achieve full national coverage and consistent pricing for all courses, CBE will now be promoting, administering and managing the delivery of all public CBE courses (except those managed directly by CNR).**

Greater emphasis is now being directed towards a closer relationship with Coastguard units to facilitate the delivery of courses within the units themselves. Courses have so far been scheduled for 2015 at the following Coastguard units: Tauranga, Raglan, Wellington, Whakatane, Whitianga, Taupo, Marlborough, and Nelson with more to be added during the year.

This will enable an even greater interaction between the boating public and Coastguard.



## SAVE THE DATE

**The date for the Coastguard New Zealand Conference 2015 has been set! 16th-18th of October (note the change in month) at Te Papa in Wellington. Information for registration will be available in June, so keep an eye out.**

Our conference also coincides with Safer Boating Week which will be 16-23 October this year so start thinking about how you can support the week and raise profile for your unit.



## NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP IS ON ITS WAY!

**The Membership project is moving along well, with three key areas of focus at the moment:**

### 1. Initial Pilots

We are starting to run trials with units who would like to pilot the new Coastguard Membership Scheme, whether they are transferring from their existing scheme, or starting up. Coastguard Mana unit moved to the new scheme as a pilot to coincide with the launch of their new rescue vessel on 24th January. The team were very happy with the programme launch, including new brochures and application forms, and the first Coastguard Membership signup came in to the Coastguard Central Region office soon afterwards. Please let me know (via Monique Caddy, or email [bruce.waldin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bruce.waldin@xtra.co.nz)) if you would like to look into running a similar pilot.

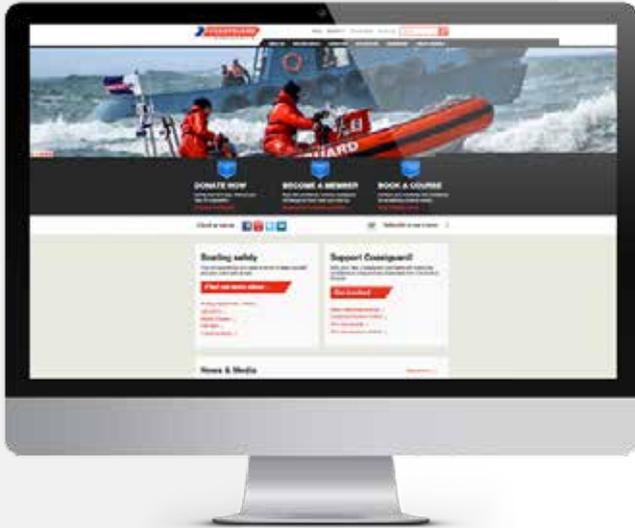
### 2. Website and Database

The IT experts at both Coastguard New Zealand and Coastguard Northern Region are working together to scope up and develop an improved website sign-up area and the CRM database functionality. This will enable us to be able to manage new Coastguard Member details, ongoing member communications, reports to units and regions, and internal funding distribution. We will advise the timeframe expected for all this to be in place once the team has been able to finalise the scoping.

### 3. Partners and Benefits

We are continuing to work with various current and new partners to develop new member benefits and co-promotional opportunities. Discounts with Baileys Insurance and Coastguard Boating Education have been confirmed which together equate to the value of the first year's membership fee. Positive discussions are continuing with AA Smartfuel and ASB Bank, and there are a number of others in the pipeline.

## NEW CNZ WEBSITE HAS LAUNCHED!



It's looking great and now we're working on additional improvements to maximise the websites' capability and future proof for upcoming campaigns and national membership.

Check it out at [coastguard.co.nz](http://coastguard.co.nz) and email Deb Brown if you'd like any changes/amendments to your unit page.

## DRONES FOR GOOD

Coastguard Canterbury CAP were selected as semi-finalists at the international UAE 'Drones for Good' competition in Dubai this month. They have received a lot of national and international media attention and the crew would like to thank everyone who has supported them. This has been exposure for Coastguard and locally developed technology on an international stage.



Team from Canterbury CAP

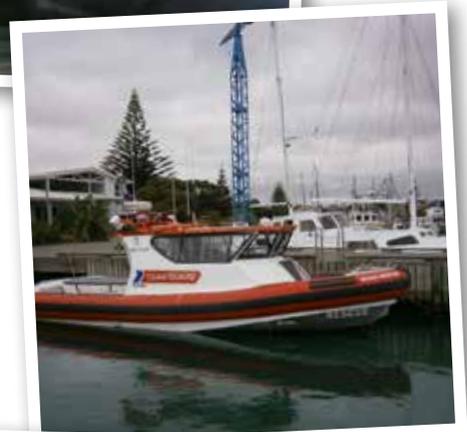
## NEW VESSELS!

Since our last issue of CoastCom there have been a number of vessels launched around the country.

Early November saw the launch of Coastguard Howick's new Naiad 9.5m vessel Howick Rescue 1. Late January saw Coastguard Mana launch their new rescue vessel Mana Rescue 1. And while it has yet to be officially launched, Coastguard Auckland's new rescue vessel Lion Foundation Rescue had its sea trials in Wanganui where it was built, and made its way north to Auckland in early February.



Howick Rescue 1



Mana Rescue 1



Lion Foundation Rescue

## VTNZ DONATIONS

You can now support Coastguard by getting a WoF at any VTNZ site across the country. Simply quote "Coastguard New Zealand" or the account number 308228 next time you're getting your WoF and VTNZ will donate 10% of the fee to Coastguard



## TIPS FOR THE TOOLBOX:

### FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR THE MAYDAY APPEAL

These activities were great fundraisers for MayDay in 2014 – simple ideas that have raised important funds for units, so we thought we'd share them with you to give you some ideas:

- **Shake a bucket at your local supermarket**
- **Street collections at wharves, airports and busy transport hubs**
- **Split volunteers into teams with a prize for the top fundraisers**
- **Asking for donations via an online Give A Little page**
- **Packing bags at supermarkets**
- **Asking for support from local hunting, fishing clubs**

## TELL US YOUR STORIES!

You'll know that along with saving lives and making a difference in our community, our rescues often make great stories. We're always on the lookout these so if you have a story - share it with us!

**Contact your Regional Manager who will pass it on to us to follow up.**



KEY SPONSORS AND FUNDERS:



CENTURY YUASA | VODAFONE | INTUIT | ALTEX COATINGS | MITRE 10 | YUKON OPTICS

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President

### Henry van Tuel

Vice President

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### Jo Cowie

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Boating Education