

COASTCOM

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015



FROM THE HELM

It's hard to believe it's already June and we are at the end of our national Mayday Rescue Appeal month which has been a frantic time for everyone involved. I'd like to thank those who have put so much of their own time, effort and energy into raising funds and awareness for Coastguard.

Mayday gives us the opportunity to raise the profile of our people and get our stories heard. I'd especially like to thank Steve, Terry and Colin, the three men who were rescued by Coastguard Thames in January, for helping us tell their story and bring the work we do to the forefront of communities right around the country. You can read about their ordeal further on in this issue.

May also saw a star studded line up for Coastguard with Sir Graham Henry, the face of Mayday, again this year and a visit from Prince Harry which saw two of our crew get up close and personal with His Royal Highness at a Government House reception for young SAR personnel. Coastguard Wanganui acted as the safety boat while the Prince paddled his waka down the Whanganui river. And if that wasn't enough three of our outstanding volunteers were recognised at the NZSAR Awards in Wellington, receiving certificates from Governor General Sir Jerry Mataparae.

The CNZ board has reviewed the viability of holding a three day conference this year and made the call to reduce the conference to one day. This decision has not been made lightly and reflects the financial impact of a number of very significant projects which CNZ is required to deliver in the coming year. I realise many volunteers may be disappointed by this decision; however we must act in the best interests of Coastguard and be financially responsible. More details are mentioned below and we will be in touch

with further information shortly, we do apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment this may have caused.

Well winter is well and truly upon us and for some of us this doesn't provide too much respite in our busy lives, however, I hope it does provide you with an opportunity to spend some valuable time with friends and family before we ramp up again for summer.

From all the team here at CNZ, we wish you good health and happiness for the winter ahead.

*Patrick Holmes
Chief Executive Officer
Coastguard New Zealand*

STORIES FROM THE BOATSHED

SIR GRAHAM HENRY FRONTS MAYDAY RESCUE APPEAL

Sir Graham Henry has been the face of Mayday again this year. He's generously given his time to support our cause resulting in some great media stories right around the country. Sir Graham loves boating and successfully completed his Day Skipper course in April along with his son, so he's a very genuine supporter of ours. Thanks Ted!





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ABOVE: TERRY LEECH AND STEVE MCQUARTERS SHAKE HANDS WITH THE COASTGUARD THAMES CREW

SURVIVORS THANK COASTGUARD AND TELL OF TERROR AT SEA

The seventh of January 2015 turned out to be a day that would change the lives of three fishermen forever. Steve, Terry and Colin were experienced fishermen, however, the Firth of Thames is very often unpredictable and the men's burley pot line became tangled around the propeller. While attempting to untangle the line the 16-foot-tinny capsized flipping the men into the churning sea, leaving them clinging to the slippery aluminium hull in complete shock.

Treading water to stay afloat, Skipper Steve grabbed some rope he found floating next to him and told Terry and Colin they'd all be best to tie themselves to the boat and stay together. Although he didn't say it aloud at the time, he thought to himself if worst comes to worst, at least they'll find all three bodies with the boat.

The situation was grim, the three men were lost at sea and their only hope was that someone would come searching for them.

"We all feared the worst. We can't explain the feelings of utter frustration knowing that although we were in a lot of trouble, we had no way of letting our families know that we were still alive. The thought of them, not knowing if we were alive or dead was unbearable. We were utterly helpless," said Terry.

Their wives were expecting the men home for dinner and when they didn't arrive worry turned to panic and they called Coastguard.

By this time the men were in total darkness and freezing. They were engulfed in their thoughts, envisioning what their fate might be – absolutely terrified.

Nine hours had passed before they were spotted by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter and Coastguard Thames crew Allan Benson (skipper), Jonathan Lee, Chris Benson, Steve Mansell and Doug Clark were deployed at 12.30am to rescue the missing men. The crew pulled all three men to safety, they were in shock but grateful to be alive.

"We can't find the words to describe the gratitude and thanks we feel for our rescuers and our wives who raised the alarm. We would not have been here if it wasn't for them. No one ever expects it to happen to them. We are lucky to be alive and we have been eternally thankful every single day since the accident." said Terry.



RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH ROYALTY

Coastguard rubbed shoulders with royalty at an Emergency Services & Disaster Relief Reception. Timaru volunteer Reuben Mitchell and Coastguard Northern Region's Georgie Smith mixed and mingled with Prince Harry at Government House. While Coastguard Wanganui was also the support boat for Prince Harry's trip down the Whanganui River earlier in the month.

Timaru coastguard volunteer rubs shoulders with royalty

ESTHER ASHBY-COVENTRY

A Timaru coastguard volunteer was only a little nervous when he met Prince Harry and Prime Minister John Key on Friday night.

Reuben Mitchell was nominated from the southern region to attend the intimate reception at Government House in Auckland and spent the evening chatting with the royal and the politician. One person from the Coastguard was selected from each region, as well as members of other emergency services and disaster response teams. About 80 people attended the tribute evening, including media.

Mitchell, a commercial fisherman, said he was chauffeured from Auckland Airport.

"The traffic was pretty slow so we made it with 10 minutes to spare."

At the Epsom venue Mitchell was introduced to Prince Harry and Key. The prince had to be addressed as Your Royal Highness at first, and from then on as Sir.

"Prince Harry asked me if I was paid (for coastguard). I told him I was a volunteer but had a pager 24/7."

The Timaru 21-year-old was then asked what he would do if he was paged while on a date with his girlfriend.

"I told him that if I hadn't been drinking I would have to go. And he was really impressed."

Mitchell found the fourth in line to the throne, "a cool guy to talk to".

He was not allowed to take a selfie but has been promised an official photographer in attendance will send him a shot of him with the prince.

Later in the evening Mitchell had the opportunity to talk with Key about being the leader of the country. "He said his job was very busy."



Reuben Mitchell of Timaru got up close and personal with Prince Harry on Friday. Photo: JOHN BESSETT/FAIRFAX NZ



ABOVE: GEORGIE SMITH AND PRINCE HARRY

RIGHT: COASTGUARD WANGANUI ACCOMPANY PRINCE HARRY'S TRIP IN THE WAKA



COASTGUARD - I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!

We received a letter of thanks at CNZ and contacted the writer to find out more about his ordeal – here is his story.

Conditions were calm when Connell Couchman steered his new yacht out of Tauranga harbour toward Wellington. The 'Celtic Dawn' was to become home for Connell and his wife and normally Connell would have sailed with a mate or two, but as no one was available he waited for a weather window and headed off alone. He struck trouble as he neared the East Cape as he was experiencing difficulties with his sails. To make matters worse his autohelm blew and the engine started blowing excessive fumes. He contacted Coastguard for assistance.

Coastguard Gisborne skipper Adrian Brown took the call and navigated Connell to a safe anchor point at Tokomaru Bay, where he could inspect the damage and commence repairs. After spending a night at anchor Connell set off the following morning and somewhere between Tokomaru and Tologa his engine died. Unfortunately he was stranded feeling weary, worried and stressed. Connell contacted Coastguard again and the Gisborne crew of Adrian Brown, Andrew Shelton and Tony Watson were deployed to locate Celtic Dawn keeping in touch with Connell throughout.

"The communication from Coastguard was great and kept me going. I was absolutely exhausted prior to being rescued and overcome by fumes. I felt absolute relief and joy when I saw Coastguard approaching, it was awesome to see the guys. They managed to tow me back to Gisborne which was no mean feat as the vessel I was in, Celtic Dawn, is an 11m 9 tonne sloop."

"I wish to convey my sincere thanks to the members of Gisborne Coastguard and also commend them on their high levels of professionalism, I am truly indebted to these volunteers. They are truly a credit to the organisation."

NZSAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Coastguard was well represented at the NZSAR Awards at Government House earlier this month. Sumner Lifeboat's Heather McDonald, Northern Region Communications Geoff Wilkie and Coastguard Hohoura and Coastguard Northland Air patrol's Murray Miskelly were proudly flying the Coastguard flag.



ABOVE: CONNELL COUCHMAN ONBOARD CELTIC DAWN IN HAPPIER TIMES

RIGHT TOP: COASTGUARD SUMNER LIFEBOAT'S HEATHER MCDONALD WITH GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR JERRY MATEPARAE

RIGHT MIDDLE: COASTGUARD NORTHERN REGION COMMUNICATION GEOFF WILKIE WITH THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

RIGHT BOTTOM: COASTGUARD NORTHLAND AIR PATROL'S MURRAY MISKELLY WITH THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

OUT AND ABOUT WITH COASTGUARD

TEAM COASTGUARD RUNS THE ASB AUCKLAND MARATHON

Coastguard has signed up for Golden Charity places for ASB Auckland Marathon. We are looking for runners to raise a minimum sponsorship of \$1,000 to \$1,500 depending on the distance. We will support our runners every step of the way with t-shirts, training guides and tips to encourage their fundraising success.

You don't have to be a golden runner though - anyone can run for Team Coastguard! It would be great to see loads of runners in Coastguard t-shirts, check out this link to find out more:

www.aucklandmarathon.co.nz/. Please encourage your friends and family to join the team. Visit Team Coastguard on fundraise online to support our runners: www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/TeamCoastguard/.

Cheer on our fantastic runners - join the support crew on the day or get in touch to find out how you can help email marathon@coastguard.org.nz

View our Golden Charity microsite: microsites.realbuzz.com/microsites/coastguard-nz/index.html



PRIDE OF NZ AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Pride of NZ Awards are underway and nominations are now being called for. Entries close on 14th June 2015 and it would be great to see some Coastguard volunteers nominated. Do you know someone who deserves national recognition for the work they do? Nominate them here www.prideofnzawards.co.nz

MAYDAY RESCUE APPEAL 2015

Coastguard's fifth annual Mayday Rescue Appeal launched on 1 May and many units have been out in the community shaking buckets, holding open days and setting up Givealittle pages among other things. A huge thank-you to all units and crew involved who have worked so hard to raise funds and awareness!



TOP: ASB BRANCHES IN TAURANGA AND MT MAUNGANUI ARE SUPPORTIVE AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT GIVING A HAND WITH MAYDAY DISPLAYS AND DONATION BOXES," SAID TANIA WILLIAMSON FROM COASTGUARD TAURANGA.

BOTTOM: COASTGUARD AUCKLAND'S OPEN DAY ON SATURDAY, 9 MAY, WAS POPULAR AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION.



TOP: COASTGUARD NELSON CREW HARRY AND EMMETT COLLECT DONATIONS.

BOTTOM: COASTGUARD TARANAKI VOLUNTEERS TURNED OUT EN MASSE AT NEW WORLD IN NEW PLYMOUTH TO PACK GROCERIES FOR CUSTOMERS IN EXCHANGE FOR DONATIONS.

BIG CHANGES TO CNZ CONFERENCE

The CNZ Board recently had its 2016 budget tabled for consideration and the organisation faces some significant costs over the next year or so. Projects such as VHF Marine Radio Rechanneling (an estimated cost of over \$500k), the development of a new consolidated chart of accounts required by changes in accounting standards for all not for profit organisations, as well as considerable investment in Health and Safety and MOSS have put considerable pressure on the budget.

These are projects we are required to undertake, but were not of our making and the Board has had to look at areas where we have some ability to cut costs. The CNZ conference is one of those areas and traditionally generates a big loss for CNZ, despite the subsidised costs met by delegates (increasing delegate costs was not seen as a reasonable option). Accordingly, this year the conference will be reduced to a single day which will allow one unit delegate to attend the AGM and have some interface with the CNZ Board. CNZ will fund a return air ticket (if required) for one unit delegate, though others may attend if they wish at their own cost. Final details and timelines will be released shortly by CNZ national office. This is a decision the board has not taken lightly but it is a prudent one - the CNZ board apologise for any inconvenience caused.

UNIFORM REVIEW

The current Coastguard uniform has been around since 2009 and a number of issues have been raised regarding various garments. As a result, a review of each item has been carried out in consultation with representative volunteers and staff throughout New Zealand. A number of amendments have been recommended, mainly around logo placement, as well as the quality, fit and pricing of some items. As a result the Coastguard logo on the polo shirts will now be relocated onto the chest, instead of the sleeve. This decision was unanimous and in a bid to provide consistency going forward, all polo's ordered from now on will display the logo on the chest. We have consolidated the feedback and put the supply of the uniform out to tender.

The aim of the tender process is to contract the supply of our uniform, address the agreed issues, improve quality where applicable, and of course get the best possible price for all. It is very important to note that we intend there to be little or no discernible difference to the current uniform, so no replacement will be necessary. Once secured, we will notify everybody of any changes including amendments, purchase information, process and apparel brand guidelines.

If you have any questions please contact:
jodi.preston-thomas@coastguard.co.nz

WINTER LOTTERY KICKS OFF IN JUNE

The national winter lottery starts in earnest in June, with the prize draw on 26 August. Mailing packs will be sent to the Coastguard lottery database, and its worth reminding volunteers that when someone from your unit buys a winter lottery ticket from the mailout, \$3 comes back to the unit. Up for grabs are twenty awesome prizes including a Haines Hunter SF600, Ford Ranger Double Cab, a luxury cruise in the Greek Islands, and Sony home theatres, smartphones and tablets. It's worth reminding It is tracked through the database of previous buyers, and the income is paid out by CNZ after the audit has been completed which is usually November/December. It is a fantastic source of passive income for units. So, when the mailing lands, or when you're talking to your lottery 'regulars', do encourage them to buy a ticket in the Winter Lottery – it's a win-win!

Day Skipper Online wins international award

One month after its launch, Day Skipper Online has won the Silver Award at the international LearnX Impact Awards 2015. This is great news and acknowledges the high quality of this new online course. For a free sample module and/or to enroll visit:

www.boatingeducation.org.nz

LEAVING A LEGACY - A GIFT IN DESMOND'S WILL

Pauline Sheddan has been tasked with heading up Coastguard's bequest programme. Very much in its infancy, this long term project has the potential to let supporters funds carry on saving lives long after they've gone. Below is one example of how this has already happened:

Des was one of his three brothers who grew up in Bayswater Auckland on a section that ran down to the beach. Building yachts and rafts on the beach as boys was a big pastime and boating rivalry with neighbourhood boys (including Peter Blake and his brother) was intense.

As an adult Des moved to Wellington with his job working with the early very large computers. He spent his leisure time volunteering in Mountain rescue and especially enjoyed being a volunteer with St John Ambulance, spending many hours on the side line of rugby games. He was also a committed Ham radio man and would listen to his radio most nights. He always knew what was happening, and where, before anyone else and followed Coastguard activity closely.

This is a brief biography of a man who we knew nothing of until he left us a gift in his Will. His generosity highlights the many lives touched by the work of Coastguard volunteers.

For more information or any queries please contact:

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Community Liaison & Bequests Manager
09 905 4763 or pauline.sheddan@coastguard.co.nz



Z- GOOD IN THE HOOD

You may have seen Coastguard on Z's Good in the Hood ads on TV. Coastguard proved to be a popular charity to support in our community and the following units have been selected as recipients for their areas; North Shore, Auckland, Maraeti, Wellington, Papakura, Mana, Hibiscus Coast, Maraetai, Maketu, Howick, Waiuku, Hibiscus and Kawau. Congratulations!

COASTGUARD BOATING EDUCATION

Rebates now available to subsidise volunteer training costs

By allowing members of the public to join in-house courses, CBE can now offer a financial rebate to subsidise training costs. A memo and accompanying fee schedule has been circulated to all via your regional Operations Managers. For further detail please contact Sue Tucker, National Education Coordinator:
sue.tucker@boatingeducation.org.nz



SUPPORT COASTGUARD WITH VODAFONE

If you have a Vodafone home line, you can easily support Coastguard without it costing you a cent! Simply register as a Friend of Coastguard and every month Vodafone will make a donation to Coastguard of 3% of your monthly account total. Please spread the word and encourage your friends and family to become a Friend of Coastguard too. The more people who register the more Vodafone helps Coastguard! Visit coastguard.co.nz/vodafone or call **0800 438 448** to sign up.



Get your next WOF from VTNZ and support Coastguard! 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. With 82 VTNZ testing stations throughout New Zealand there is one near you! To find your nearest VTNZ station call **0800 88 88 69**.

COASTGUARD MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Membership project development is in its final phase, and we are targeting to have the functionality for online sign-up of Coastguard Memberships ready by 1st September.

1. On-water Assistance for Members

Shortly we will be doing a brief survey with Units to understand the level of non-urgent on-water assistance they are able to provide. Currently some Units will be able to deliver more to members than others, and we need to consider this when promoting Coastguard membership nationally. Over time we want to offer service benefits to members that are as aligned as possible across the country.

2. Website and CRM Database

The IT team has been scoping up the website sign-up area and the CRM database functionality. The website piece is ready for development, and the scope for the CRM piece is being finalised. This will enable the administration of member information, communications, Membership reporting to Units, Regions and nationally for funding distribution.

3. Initial Pilots

We are continuing to run pilots with Units who would like to trial the new programme. Coastguard Mana's pilot is progressing well, and a pilot is being planned for the Christchurch area. Coastguard Rotorua will migrate to the new scheme when the CRM system is ready to administer membership information.

OPERATIONS

HEALTH & SAFETY:

Work on VAULT, our H&S Management System software programme is starting to progress now which includes creating a 'Common Hazard Register' which we hope will be modelled on the latest information we have around hazard management and ID.

Some key dates to note around legislation and workshops that are intended to be run in our Regions within the next few months:

- Select Committee to report to Government on the Reform Bill by May 2015 (anytime now)
- Final reading June / July
- Royal assent and enacted by Sept/Oct 2015 (However November is being realistically seen as the date)
- Regulations enacted in Sept/Oct (indicated as far as November) with further regulations coming in 2017.
- The formation of a CNZ Health & Safety Committee to assist with developing standards, policies and procedures – looking to have this in place prior to October 2015.
- Hazard Management and Risk are a high priority under the new act, hence workshops are going to happen at regional level – Due to start in August 2015 and finish off in May 2016.
- Health & Safety Management System (HSMS) VAULT training is due to commence in June/July for Regional Operations Managers followed by Regional Workshops over the several months for key Unit personnel.

MOSS:

On April 15th 2015 our Maritime Transport Operator Plan (MTO) application was delivered by hand to Maritime New Zealand in Wellington by the Director of Maritime Management Services (MMS) Margaret Wind, who delivered it personally to Sharyn Forsyth, General Manager, Maritime Standards. As a result the process has started for MNZ to carry out a number of audits at Unit, Regional and National level to ensure we have a workable MTO that meets all of the requirements set out by MNZ.

An enormous amount of work has gone on in the background at national level and at Coastguard Southern Region who have completed a large amount of extra work with units to ensure that their units MOSS Manuals were in place. A one day MOSS Workshop for Unit Safety Officers was held in Christchurch which introduced them to the new documentation and the processes that we will be expected to be familiar with when MNZ carry out their site visits.

The lessons learnt from this first stage will be shared amongst the rest of Coastguard as we prepare to move the other regions Units into MOSS.

VHF FREQUENCY CHANGE PROJECT:

We have had communications and meetings with various government agencies, private companies and possible funders regarding this project. Phase One which is the onsite audit of all repeater and NowCasting sites is critical in establishing the future needs and costs for the project. As we move forward on Phase One we will keep Unit Management Teams and regions aware of progress. There is also the need for a large communications strategy to support this which is also being developed.

CRV STANDARDISATION PROJECT

Thank you all of those of you who contributed feedback to the last CRV Standardisation Project consultation document. Given the complexities of vessels and the need for subject matter expertise in this area, we are to contract an appropriate 'subject matter expert' to continue to develop this project. When that person has been identified, we will let you know.

KEY SPONSORS AND FUNDERS:



CENTURY YUASA | VODAFONE | INTUIT | ALTEX COATINGS | MITRE 10 | ARCHETYPE PRECISION SYSTEMS

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