



**Merry Christmas** and thank you  
for saving lives at sea

**soos**

**Coastguard Supporter Newsletter** | Summer 2017



Liam and Terry Sampson,  
Coastguard Wellington volunteers.

# Thank you for keeping this **father and son rescue team** on the water this Christmas

Terry and Liam Sampson are father and son, and both are search and rescue volunteers with Coastguard Wellington. They're just two of the many volunteers you support with

your generous donations to Coastguard. Through their years with Coastguard, Terry and Liam have experienced the many highs and lows of volunteering together. *(Continued over)*



**Your gift will train new lifesavers**

**THANK YOU!**



# Father and son rescue team on the water this Christmas

(Continued) One incident will always stick in Terry's mind:

"There was one rescue that we were involved in where there were some divers missing in the Cook Strait," says Terry. "It was a full on massive call out – there would have been seven boats out there and the helicopter."

Terry, Liam and the rest of the Coastguard Wellington crew scoured the vast channel to try and find the divers. They managed to find one and haul him into the vessel to safety – but the other diver was still in danger.

"We saw the other one and he was face down in the water," says Terry. "Liam leaned over and grabbed hold of him and dragged him into the boat – he was in a particularly bad way but started to come right."

**"Just watching Liam reach in and drag that guy out of the water was a pretty amazing thing to see. Not just because he's my son but because he'd just saved someone's life."**

**"To be part of that is incredible. There's been some pretty cold and miserable days, but being able to do that, it stays with you."**

When Liam joined the Coastguard Wellington crew at 16,



The 'Spirit of Wellington' – like all of our rescue boats – was funded by generous donations, grants, sponsors and requests.

his dad Terry became his mentor and taught him everything he knew.

"I was part of the senior crew when Liam started, so I did a lot of the teaching," says Terry. "But it didn't take very long before I found myself learning from him."

The two are both Masters on their rescue vessel – one of the highest positions you can reach at Coastguard. It's their way of giving back, and chance to do something meaningful together where

they know they're helping people.

**"It's great volunteering and giving back to the community," says Liam. "But it's when you actually save someone's life that it becomes really meaningful. It makes it all worth it."**

"There's been a few occasions when we've rocked up to the scene and someone's in trouble, and the relief they feel when they're saved is really something."

While Terry and Liam dedicate their lives to helping others at sea, they couldn't do it without your support. You bring people home safely and for many families that will be the best Christmas present in the world.

**Thank you so much for saving lives at sea.**

***"Just watching Liam reach in and drag that guy out of the water was a pretty amazing thing to see. Not just because he's my son but because he'd just saved someone's life."***

Thanks to you, father and son rescue team Terry and Liam will be able to save lives at sea this Christmas.





# Singing to keep their spirits up - how two fisherman survived an 11 hour ordeal

**After enduring 11 hours on their upturned boat, two fishermen were incredibly lucky to be rescued by Coastguard Nelson.**

Thanks to your support, the volunteer crew had the training behind them to ensure they could locate the men before disaster struck.

The two men had left at around 8am that morning for what was supposed to be an enjoyable day fishing. The plan was for the men, who were in a 4-metre aluminium dinghy, to return between 1pm and 2pm.

At around 6pm, a friend alerted Coastguard Nelson when he became extremely concerned that they hadn't returned. The Coastguard crew kicked into action, notifying the Police and quickly launching their vessel into choppy waters.

The friend gave the crew a pretty good idea of a possible search area, so equipped with radar and lights, they headed off into the gloomy evening.

They spent four long hours searching until, just before 10pm, they were elated and relieved to find the men.

**"They were sitting on top of their semi-submerged boat, it had been overturned by a big wave at around 11am,"** said Coastguard Nelson volunteer Wayne Harrison. **"They'd been there for about 11 hours we reckon.**

**"They said the song list was getting a bit rubbish – they were singing to each other to keep their spirits up and were getting desperate,"** added Harrison. **"I think they were pretty glad to see us."**

The Coastguard crew got the men off the boat, anchoring the vessel for salvage at a later time. Other than one of the

men suffering from mild hypothermia, miraculously the pair were fine.

**"The fact they were wearing lifejackets and had told someone where they were going helped immensely,"** said Wayne. **"It certainly made the search a lot easier as their friend gave us some extremely useful information as to where they were going – he helped us out no end."**

The countless hours of rigorous training that the Coastguard volunteers complete every month ensured the rescue was a success.

**"We train twice a week for this sort of scenario,"** said Wayne. **"So when it happens in real time we just kick into gear – it's an amazing feeling knowing that you're going to get these guys home after they've been missing for so long."**

Though they endured 11 hours in freezing and heavy seas clinging desperately to their boat, thanks to Coastguard Nelson's heroic efforts they were rescued and able to see their families again.

It was a fantastic outcome for all involved, and made possible by your support. It takes \$60 a week to train a volunteer and equip them with the lifesaving skills needed in an emergency. Thanks for saving lives at sea.

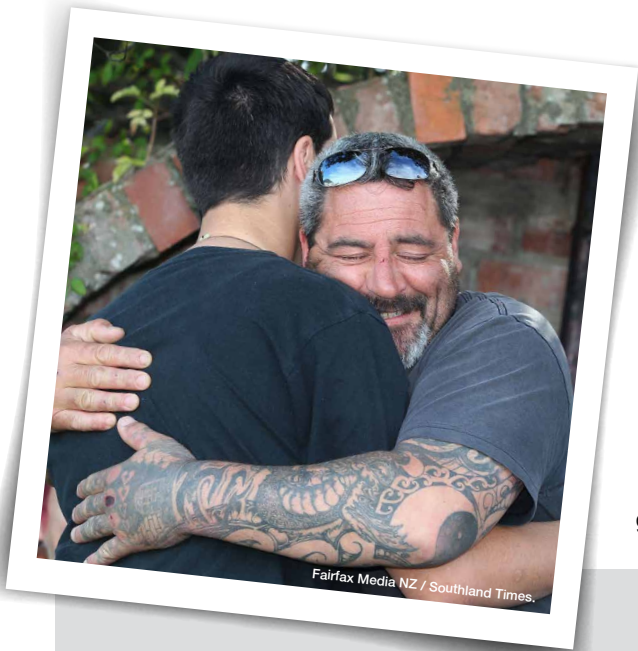
***"It's an amazing feeling to get them home after they've been missing for so long."***

Wayne Harrison, Volunteer, Coastguard Nelson.



Coastguard Nelson's heroic efforts meant the two fishermen were saved – an outcome only made possible thanks to your support.





# Thanks to you, lives will be saved this summer.

Dallas Reedy thought he'd never see his wife and young sons again. He fought the freezing sea, a distant shore, an endless night, pain and fear. He'd just about resigned himself to his fate when he heard the engine on the approaching rescue boat, and words from a young Coastguard volunteer that he'll never forget: "Survivor in the water!"

Eight people lost their lives that night. Dallas was the sole survivor. He only made it back **because of you**. As a charity, we rely totally on good people like you to be able to offer a 24/7 search and rescue service.

Your recent donation will train new Coastguard volunteers.  
Thank you so much for saving lives at sea.

“Good work people!  
Thank you for giving  
up your time.  
Have a great  
Christmas.”

Coastguard supporter  
Jean from Auckland.

Our volunteers love to  
read your messages of  
support. Why not send  
your own message in a bottle  
this Christmas? Simply return  
in the envelope provided.



ContactID

## Yes, I would like to donate to Coastguard heroes today!

### Please accept my gift of:

- ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100  
☐ \$20 each month (Credit card only)

### Please charge my:

- ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard  
☐ AMEX ☐ Diners

Card number

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Expiry

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Name on Card:

Signature:

- ☐ I enclose a cheque, made payable to Coastguard New Zealand
- ☐ I have donated online at [www.coastguard.nz](http://www.coastguard.nz)  
Donations \$5 and over are tax deductible

- ☐ I have made a donation using online banking:  
**Royal New Zealand Coastguard Inc**  
ACC. No: 12-3209-0434030-01  
Particulars: Surname  
Reference: SummerSOS  
Code: ContactID

**Please return this form to:**  
COASTGUARD NEW ZEALAND  
PO Box 33559, Takapuna  
Auckland 0740, New Zealand  
T: (09) 489 1510  
F: (09) 337 0765

Please write or update your name and address

Sample

- ☐ Please send me information about leaving a gift  
in my Will to Coastguard.



# Ready for anything – whatever the weather

**An exceptionally cold and demanding week in August saw the Coastguard Maketu volunteer crew give over 40 hours of their own time to help others in need.**

It was 1pm on Tuesday 22 August when Coastguard Maketu received a call from a trawler rapidly heading towards them after a serious incident had occurred onboard. The volunteer crew from Coastguard Maketu quickly responded and in minutes were out on the water.

A fisherman on board had been hit by a stingray barb, slicing open his right arm and leaving a very deep and serious wound.

“He was extremely lucky,” said Coastguard volunteer skipper Roger Hintz. “The cut was very deep and only narrowly missed a major artery, any deeper and the outcome could have been much worse.”

The volunteers gave the fisherman immediate first aid and the Coastguard crew took him off the trawler and to the Kaituna jetty where St John Ambulance staff were standing by.

The rescue ended with the man being taken to Tauranga Hospital for treatment... but for the Coastguard crew, the day was far from over!

At 8.30pm they were tasked to help search for a missing man. He'd gone fishing that morning and had not returned as planned.

In heavy seas and very wet and cold conditions, the crew began to methodically search on the western side of Motiti Island, across to Omanu and back. Using their night vision goggles and radar, the crew searched for over four hours until around 12.30am when, with low tide fast approaching, they had to return back to base cold and wet.

“The decision to call off a search is never an easy one,” said Hintz. “But conditions, tides and the welfare of the crew have to be considered – we're not much use to anyone if the crew isn't in good shape themselves.”

The crew believe the night vision goggles and radar equipment made all the difference in the search, despite the outcome not being the one they all hoped for.

**“Having the right equipment (made possible thanks to your donations) can make the difference between life and death when undertaking night searches,” says Coastguard Maketu volunteer Shane Beech.**

Tuesday night wasn't the end of the call-outs that week for the Coastguard Maketu crew, on Saturday morning they were tasked to assist a vessel that had broken down in open water. The boat had three passengers, including a very young child onboard, which meant the call was quickly escalated to urgent.

The crew took to the water again, taking an adult and child off the boat then towing it back over the Kaituna Bar to safety.

**The outcome for this rescue and many others that Coastguard Maketu undertake could be far worse if it wasn't for the dedication and skill of the volunteer crew. Thanks to your generous support, Coastguard Maketu are able to train for all eventualities and have the equipment to enable them to do the best possible job.**



Your donations provide Coastguard rescue crews with the right equipment – which often means the difference between life and death.



There's no time to rest for this dedicated crew when lives are at stake.



# “It was almost as if I was his angel.”

Coastguard volunteer Laurent Pioch reflects on one of his first lifesaving missions.

Two young kayakers were out in Kawakawa Bay when they suddenly capsized. With only one lifejacket between them, the two struggled to stay afloat as the ocean got colder and colder around them.

Coastguard Maraetai were dealing with a busy day when the urgent call for help came in from the Coastguard Communications team. The crew leapt into action and rushed to the scene. On board the vessel was Laurent Pioch, a trainee volunteer very new to Coastguard, but excited to put his training into action.

He and the crew made their way across the harbour, the water pummeling the side of their vessel as they hastened to find the two kayakers. After receiving a message from the Communications team of where to go, the crew made their way over and spotted two pinpricks in the distance. Rushing over they found the two men all alone and struggling to keep their heads above water.

Laurent recalls seeing how cold and exhausted the two men were. The smaller of the two was in a terrible state – his skin chalk white and his eyes wide with fear.

“He was frozen,” says Laurent. “He definitely looked like he was on his way out.”

Laurent leaned over the side of the vessel and grabbed hold of the man, hauling him out of the freezing sea.

“I pulled the guy out the water and he looked me in the eyes. It was almost as if I was his angel.”



The Coastguard Maraetai volunteer crew: Trent Dixon, Andy Winborn, Robert Sims, Laurent Pioch, Michael Sommerville, and Brett Stark (right).



“I guess he knew I was saving his life, and he kind of relaxed. They were both cold and tired, but as soon as they saw the boat they knew they were saved.”

The volunteers worked quickly to wrap the two men in blankets and give them first aid. Their cold and tired bodies started to warm up, and the crew headed back to shore to an awaiting ambulance.

**Without your support for our volunteer crews, the two men might have suffered a much worse outcome. Your generous donations helped end a nightmarish experience for the young kayakers and bring them home to shore.**



**Patrick Holmes**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Coastguard New Zealand

## Thank you so much for helping our heroes save lives at sea!

**Royal New Zealand Coastguard Inc is the charity saving lives at sea**  
Charity Registration No CC 36138

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