

Meet our lifesaving volunteers!

More than 2,000 volunteers across the country keep Kiwis safe at sea. Amy Rogan, who volunteers as a search and rescue crew member for Coastguard Wellington, is just one of the many volunteers you support with your generous donations. Here's her story:

How long have you volunteered for Coastguard?

I joined Coastguard Wellington in January 2018.

Why did you join Coastguard?

My Dad was in the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) in Mumbles, Wales. As a child I was always gripped by his stories and found them really inspiring.

We moved from the coastal Welsh village of Mumbles to a landlocked part of England when I was 10 years old, so when I moved to New Zealand in 2016, I have taken every opportunity to be involved with coastal life again.

What has been your most rewarding experience at Coastguard?

I'm still very junior within the Coastguard team, so I'm loving getting through my training assessments at the moment. Being on the water, building skills and knowledge.

What do you do when you are not at Coastguard?

When I'm not 'Coastguarding', I'm doing whatever the Wellington weather allows. Last winter, I was lucky enough to squeeze 16 amazing snowboarding days in. I love mountain biking at Makara Peak, and I desperately try to surf (although I spend most of my time paddling around rather than catching waves, not so skilled). Day to day, I'm a nurse at Wellington Hospital and self-confessed coffee addict.



Amy Rogan is just one of the many Coastguard volunteers keeping Kiwis safe on the water.
Photo by Alice Rogan.



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

Coastguard New Zealand
PO Box 33559, Takapuna, Auckland 0740, New Zealand
T: (09) 489 1510
F: (09) 337 0765
E: info@coastguard.nz
W: www.coastguard.nz



Coastguard Supporter Newsletter | Autumn 2019

You rescued a sailor from a four-hour nightmare at sea.

Hanging to the side of his yacht, with huge waves towering above him, a Christchurch sailor is lucky to be alive after a harrowing four-hour ordeal at sea.

Jason was making his way from Lyttelton to Bluff on his trimaran yacht, and was just off the coast of Banks Peninsula when a powerful storm hit. He was completely caught off guard. With the wind now howling and the sea churning, Jason knew he was in trouble.

He first called his family in the late evening, who informed the Police of his predicament. Police communications contacted the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) at 10.39pm.

"RCC then called Jason. He didn't know where he was, so we asked him to put on his beacon" says Grace Loftus, spokeswoman for the RCC.

"He said he was going to wait until the morning, as it wasn't too bad and he felt OK."

But Jason's yacht was being constantly battered by the horrendous weather. Water was pouring in. Jason tried to patch up a section of his damaged boat, but it was no use. It continued to fill with water and was starting to sink.

"At 12.40am he said he wanted help," says Grace.

Three minutes later the centre put out a distress call and at 12.52am the rescue crew from Coastguard Sumner Lifeboat was called.

» Would help arrive in time? See inside...



Coastguard volunteers head out to the rescue in rough seas.



SEE INSIDE...

... how Coastguard volunteers saved a couple - and their dog - from a disaster at sea.

You rescued a sailor from a four-hour nightmare at sea. *(Continued)*

Leaping out of bed, Coastguard volunteers from Sumner Lifeboat headed out into the dark night to search for Jason in the stormy sea. They had to navigate their way through 6km of high swells and strong winds, with adrenaline pumping in their veins and a determination to save Jason's life keeping them going.

Coxswain Blair Quane was one of the rescue crew on board. He described how difficult it was searching for the sailor in the middle of a treacherous storm.

"It was really rough and we had three metre swells around there, so that's quite a sizeable surf to navigate your way through in the middle of the night because you can't see anything," Quane said.

But not all hope was lost. While Jason had no clue where he was, he had his locator beacon with him which could give the rescue crew his whereabouts.

"With his GPS he could give us his location and once we got to the area we could locate Jason reasonably easily without doing a prolonged search for him," says Quane.

After nearly four painstaking hours, the Sumner Lifeboat crew finally reached Jason and found him hanging off the side of his yacht, which was already half filled with water. His life raft was ready beside him.

The crew carefully pulled him out of the water and into the safety of their lifeboat. Jason was frozen and shaken, but otherwise incredibly relieved that he was rescued and safe. They then began the arduous four-hour journey back to shore so Jason could be cared for.

To be out all night in horrible conditions is challenging. In the dark and stormy ocean, with poor visibility, lives can easily be lost. But our volunteers are ready to respond to boaties in distress, thanks to you.

Your donations provide night training for our volunteers, so they can save Kiwis like Jason. Thank you so much for your lifesaving and inspirational support.

"The crew finally reached Jason and found him hanging off the side of his yacht"



Jason's trimaran was filling up with water fast when the volunteer crew rescued him.



Your gifts train our expert volunteers so they can save lives at sea.

More defibrillators saving lives, thanks to you.

When a medical emergency happens at sea, our volunteers are trained and ready to respond.

Heart attacks can happen any time at sea and defibrillators - portable lifesaving devices - can save a victim's life if treated promptly. Medical gear and rescue stretchers are carried on Coastguard rescue boats, but until recently not every Coastguard unit was equipped with a defibrillator.

Our volunteers will do everything they can to save lives, and today thanks to community support every Coastguard volunteer unit from Houhora to Bluff owns a defibrillator. Armed with this essential life-saving equipment, our volunteer rescue crews will be able to help heart attack victims out at sea, as they can be on scene with the right equipment in a matter of minutes.

Coastguard volunteers have the right medical equipment to save lives thanks to you.

Boatie's best mate saves man's best friend.

How Coastguard Hokianga prevented a fishing trip from going to the dogs.

An early morning fishing trip could have easily turned nasty for the man, woman and their canine companion who anchored their small boat near the notorious Hokianga Harbour bar. When the sea got rough, they decided to head back but found themselves stranded when the boat's engine failed. When Coastguard Hokianga headed out to rescue the group the swell was two metres and breaking three metres over the bar. It took three attempts to get a line to their stricken boat before volunteer Jeff Cramp and his crew slowly towed them home. Thankfully, they were all wearing lifejackets - including the salty dog!

Many Coastguard callouts are for mechanical issues and our volunteers are highly skilled in handling these types of situations. Your generosity means Coastguard is able to attend these callouts and get people home safely before their situation becomes serious and life-threatening.

Jeff Cramp (third from right) with the Coastguard Hokianga crew.



Lifesaving legacy

Leaving a gift to Coastguard in your Will can have a huge impact. Just ask Coastguard Waiheke Island.

Coastguard Waiheke Island recently had its mooring disrupted by an upgrade to the Matiatia Wharf. But thanks to a friend and neighbour, who left them a gift in their Will, they are looking to work with Auckland Transport to design and put in place a permanent mooring that will see Coastguard Waiheke Rescue remain at Matiatia. It will also provide them with a safe berth pontoon with electricity and a water supply. The Coastguard volunteers are counting their blessings as the donation gives volunteers like Robb Henry, the peace of mind their lifesaving work won't be compromised.

As you can see, leaving a gift, or bequest, to Coastguard in your Will makes a practical difference to our brave volunteers who are committed to saving lives at sea. No matter what the amount is, a bequest truly is a life-saving gift.

To find out more about leaving a bequest, please contact joannek@coastguard.nz

A Waiheke resident's gift means Robb Henry and the crew at Coastguard Waiheke Island can continue their life-saving work.



Old4New saving more lives this summer.

The Old4New lifejacket campaign means 3,462 new lifejackets are now in use around New Zealand. It's your contribution that helps fund vital drowning prevention campaigns like this.

Sue Tucker and the Old4New van stopped at 61 locations around the country, and visited new regions including Taranaki and the West Coast. The oldest lifejacket handed in this year was more than 70 years old and was surrendered in Greymouth. Made out of oilskin, it was thought to be similar to the type used by the air force and it may have been used during World War Two.

As well as selling lifejackets, the Old4New team distributed additional safety items, like crotch straps, and advised people on safe boating practices. This life-saving campaign was made possible thanks to the support of Maritime New Zealand, Hutchwilco, The Giltrap Group, Boating & Outdoors, The Southern Trust and The Four Winds Foundation.

Coastguard ambassador Sue Tucker holding a WW2 era lifejacket, with Coastguard West Coast president Steve Hutt (left) and volunteer Neil Woodgate.

