



Coastguard Supporter Newsletter | Winter 2019

Everyday heroes: Thank you for supporting Adrian and his volunteer rescue crew.

A Scottish couple had local Coastguard volunteers to thank for responding to their urgent distress call at sea.

The couple had left Tauranga in their beloved boat, *Mazurka*, when they hit heavy seas. So they decided to seek shelter at Whangara Beach, near Gisborne.

But their hopes were soon dashed when big swells tore apart their anchor line. They headed back out to sea, only for their engine to break down. The howling winds and churning seas started to push *Mazurka* towards a dangerous reef. They were in big trouble; they set off several distress flares and made an urgent Mayday call.

Coastguard Gisborne volunteers and the local surf lifesavers rushed out to help them. First to reach the stricken couple were the surf lifesavers, who ploughed through huge swells on their small rescue boats to reach them.

The woman was poorly, so the surf lifesavers helped her off *Mazurka* and got her to shore. They then returned to the vessel to support the man, who was dehydrated and in shock, and held on for Coastguard volunteers to arrive.

Meanwhile, Coastguard Gisborne skipper Adrian Brown and his volunteer rescue crew were powering out to the scene.

"It was really hard work driving the boat up the coast to Whangara because of the big seas that were head-on to us," said Adrian.

Adrian and his crew arrived and carefully pulled up alongside the vessel. Volunteers Tokanui Ihaka and Tony Watson leapt aboard while the sick skipper headed to shore with the surf lifesavers. The mission now for Adrian and his crew was to tow the *Mazurka* back to Gisborne. *Continued inside.*



Volunteer heroes: The Coastguard Gisborne crew Louise Ellery, Tony Watson, Graeme Hyde and Adrian Brown. Absent: Tokanui Ihaka. Photo credit: Liam Clayton / The Gisborne Herald.

SEE INSIDE...

Who was crowned Coastguard Supporter Young Volunteer of the Year? Find out inside!



Everyday heroes: Thank you for supporting Adrian and his volunteer rescue crew. *(Continued)*

But the heavy seas, strong winds and low cloud made navigating and towing the boat very difficult.

“It was like going up stairs and then shooting down the other side like on an escalator. Many times we had massive waves break over the boat.”

Zero visibility and low cloud meant Adrian and the crew had to rely on the radar to find their way back to Gisborne. It was a slow, treacherous journey but the volunteers finally made it back to port around 11.30pm. Despite their ordeal, the Scottish couple got the all-clear by ambulance staff.

“ Many times we had massive waves break over the boat. ”

The volunteers involved in this rescue were hailed heroes by their peers.

The treacherous conditions meant lives could have been lost if it hadn't been for the skill and bravery of the rescuers. Coastguard volunteers are everyday heroes. They're normal people willing to drop everything at a moment's notice and help others.

As a charity, our volunteers depend on your support to save lives at sea. It's thanks to you that thousands of people like the couple on board the *Mazurka* are rescued. Thank you!



The crew aboard Lion Foundation Rescue battled big seas to rescue a Scottish couple and their beloved boat, *Mazurka*.



The vessel *Mazurka*, was towed safely back to port through rough seas by brave volunteers. Photo credit: Liam Clayton / The Gisborne Herald.

Coastguard Kapiti Coast welcomes a new rescue vessel, thanks to supporters like you!

After three years of fundraising, and support from generous donors, Freemasons Rescue was officially launched in June.

Like all of our rescue boats, Freemasons Rescue is built for local sea conditions, and replaces the volunteers' previous rescue boat, which served for 27 years.

This means Coastguard Kapiti Coast volunteers can help local people in danger at sea for years to come.

Your support will help Coastguard Kapiti Coast volunteers save lives at sea in their brand new rescue boat.

Photo credit: Karl Webber.



No matter what time of the year it is, people always need our help.

That's why your year-round support is so vital! Here's a snapshot of some of the lives you've saved this year.

Location: Orewa

Date: 16 February 2019

Incident: Rough seas turned a fishing trip into a life-threatening ordeal for three mates. They were fishing off Stanmore Bay and just managed to put out a Mayday call before a large wave capsized their boat. Coastguard Auckland Air Patrol scrambled to help and spotted them in the water; Coastguard Kawau raced to pull the three cold, exhausted men onto the rescue vessel and to an awaiting ambulance.



Location: Hobbs Bay

Date: 11 April 2019

Incident: Volunteers from Coastguard North Shore rescued a missing boatie who capsized in Auckland's



Hauraki Gulf. Thanks to the combined efforts of Coastguard, volunteers and two rescue helicopters, the man was spotted clinging to his overturned boat. Coastguard volunteers rescued him and brought him to shore for medical treatment.

Location: Rakaia River

Date: 12 May 2019

Incident: A group of friends were stranded for almost five hours after their 4-wheel drive got stuck in the middle of Rakaia River. It was extremely difficult for the group to drive or swim across. They fled the vehicle and made it to a nearby bank until volunteers from Coastguard North Canterbury arrived, in the dead of night. Our volunteers rescued all five friends from their terrifying ordeal.



Photo credit: Coastguard North Canterbury Facebook Page.

Location: Nelson

Date: 6 February 2019

Incident: A three hour rescue operation could have ended in tragedy for Nelson man Sam Heaphy after his boat sank between Nelson and French Pass. A full search and rescue mission began after he called his dad to tell him that his boat was sinking – fast.

Coastguard Nelson, the Harbourmaster, the Nelson Marlborough Rescue helicopter and concerned locals all came to his aid. Sam grabbed flares off his boat before it went under, flares that saved his life. Thanks to the sharp eyes of locals, he was spotted and within minutes he was plucked from the sea to safety.



Photo credit: Martin De Ruyter / Stuff.

Meet Bradley McKenzie: Young Volunteer of the Year!

Coastguard supporters from Cape Reinga to Bluff cast their votes in our Coastguard Supporter Young Volunteer of the Year Award. We're pleased to announce **22-year-old Bradley McKenzie from Coastguard Howick** as the winner!

Bradley started volunteering for Coastguard when he was just 18. Four years later, he's a senior crew member, the Unit Training Officer and also Crew Chief. He's also a qualified marine outboard engineer. Thanks to you, he'll save lives at sea long into the future.

We'd also like to recognise and thank our runners up, Jessica Cameron, Kirsty Thompson and Dean McLaughlin – all fantastic people who will save lives at sea long into the future!

Our brave young volunteers are truly dedicated to saving lives at sea. Your support trains and equips them so they are ready for anything. Young or old, our volunteers can't save lives at sea without you. Thank you for being a Coastguard supporter!

Bradley McKenzie (front), Kirsty Thompson (left), Dean McLaughlin (centre right) and Jessica Cameron (far right).



Want to know more about volunteering?

Visit www.coastguard.nz

Meet our lifesaving volunteers!

Volunteers at Coastguard Riverton are on call 24/7 to rescue people in the challenging Foveaux Strait. Ian Coard is one of the amazing crew there. While he doesn't think he should be singled out, he was recently made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his involvement in major rescues and dedication to Coastguard. Your donations support volunteers like Ian.

How long have you volunteered for Coastguard?

A very long time, 31 years!

What do you do when you are not at Coastguard?

My day job is Deputy Harbour Master and I work at trying to keep people safe on the water. What spare time I get is spent working around our new house, trying to get things finished.

Why did you join Coastguard?

When my wife and I moved to Riverton from Invercargill, you either join the fire brigade or Coastguard. But my love of the water swayed to Coastguard and I haven't looked back.

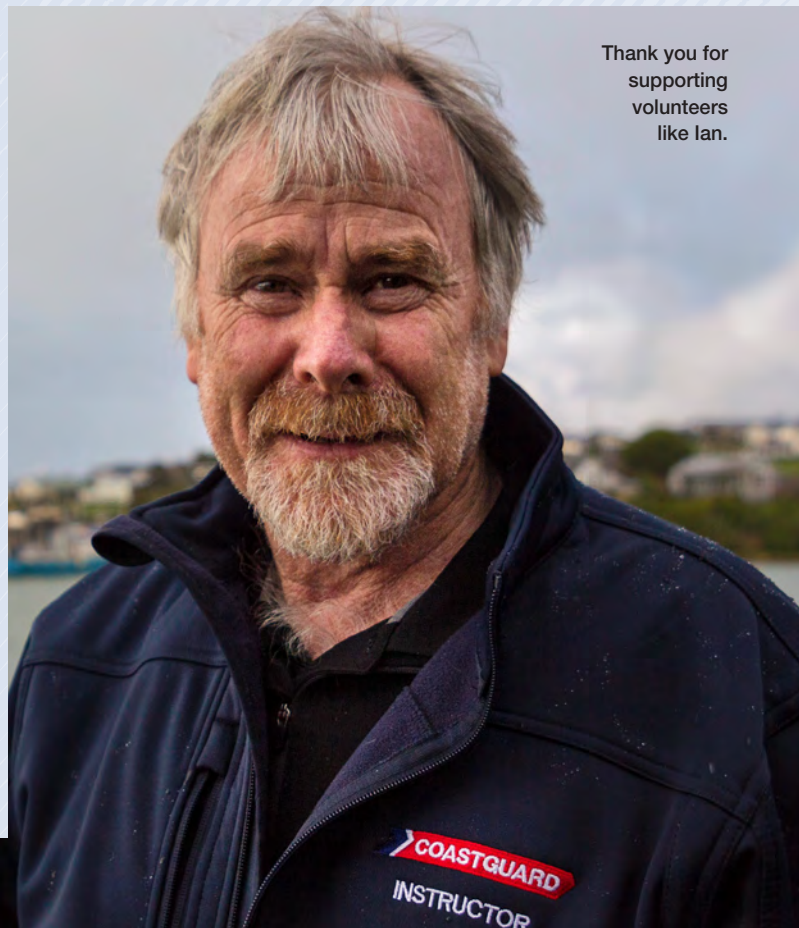
Over the years I have had many roles in the unit, including search and rescue coordinator, safety officer and president. It's been quite a journey; my involvement in two major sea tragedies, involving loss of life, are experiences that will stay with me forever.

Getting the MNZM was humbling, but I am just one spoke in a rusty old wheel. It takes the rest of the crew to make it go around.

What has been your most rewarding experience at Coastguard?

Volunteering has many rewards, especially returning children to their parents when they have been blown off shore. But perhaps the most rewarding experience for me is mentoring crew who are shy and lack confidence. Getting them from trainee to a skipper - that is pretty rewarding for me.

Community support is also amazing. During a call out it is not long before someone arrives down at the Coastguard shed with freshly made scones, jam and cream. Everybody just wants to help in some way.



Thank you for supporting volunteers like Ian.



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
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