



10 minutes from death.

A father and daughter are alive and well thanks to you.

Coastguard volunteers who crew our rescue vessels, take to the skies in our search aircraft and man our radio channels are here for Kiwi's 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - all thanks to you.



Whether it's on a lake or in the open ocean you make sure volunteers like Jonathan, are trained for any emergency.

Boxing Day 2020 was a day our volunteers will remember for years to come. After two long hours clinging to each other in the choppy waters of Lake Rotorua, a seriously injured father and daughter were sure they would become another statistic. **But you made sure this didn't happen. Coastguard Rotorua Lakes were there to save them and that's all because of you.**

Wanting to make the most out of a long summer evening, the father and daughter set off on their jet ski in calm conditions.

As soon as they were 300 metres offshore, the wind came up suddenly and conditions on the lake changed dramatically.

Noticing the change in weather, they decided to head back into shore when suddenly they were hit side on by a wave and thrown from their jet ski. The pair hit the choppy water hard, knocking the air out of their lungs and disorientating them. They both sustained chest injuries from the blow and the father was severely winded, but luckily their lifejackets ensured they stayed afloat above water.

To make matters worse, the strong wind had blown their jet ski well out of reach.

After swimming a short distance to try and catch the jet ski, the father, a medical doctor, was experiencing worsening chest pains by the minute. He knew for sure he had broken his ribs.

In fear of drifting apart from each other, the pair decided to tie their lifejackets together just in case one of them lost consciousness.



They spent the next two hours floating helplessly in the lake, with waves crashing over their heads, doing everything they could to stay alive.

"My Dad and I were hypothermic, both of us had chest injuries, and were struggling to survive. My dad was getting quieter and blue as he inhaled water he couldn't cough up," said the daughter.

Continued overleaf.

10 minutes from death. A father and daughter are alive and well thanks to you. (Continued)

Out of desperation, they tried to swim to shore but struggling with hypothermia, chest pains, the father's broken ribs and a partially collapsed lung against them, they could barely keep their heads above water.

"We were preparing for the end and saying our goodbyes," the daughter said.

Meanwhile on shore a search and rescue operation was gearing up. Within 15 minutes, Coastguard Rotorua Lakes crew members had met at the shed, launched the rescue vessel and were out on the lake fighting large waves and rough conditions.

It didn't take Coastguard volunteers long to spot the pair floating in the water around 2km off Hamurana Bay. By that time the jet ski had drifted almost 4km away in the distance.

When Coastguard volunteers got them on board the Rescue Vessel, the father and daughter were in bad shape. Neither could stand, they could barely talk and the father's condition was deteriorating quickly.

The Coastguard crew immediately called the St John Ambulance to meet them back on shore and got to work warming them up and checking them for injury and harm. Thanks to their care and professionalism, they arrived safely back to the lakeside, where they were taken to hospital to continue their recovery.

Coastguard Rotorua Lakes volunteer Jonathan Findon was one of the Coastguard crew on scene that day. **"There's a lot of things that came together to keep them alive, especially getting spotted so quickly and us getting on the water as fast as we did. Being in water for any length of time is really hard on the body,"** said Jonathan.

Coastguard volunteers know all too well how quickly a life can be lost at sea. Life is precious, but having your support is the reason our volunteers can be there to save lives at sea. You made sure this family wasn't devastated by loss and that they have another Christmas to look forward to. Coastguard volunteers are trained and have lifesaving equipment to save lives at sea all because of you. Thank you!



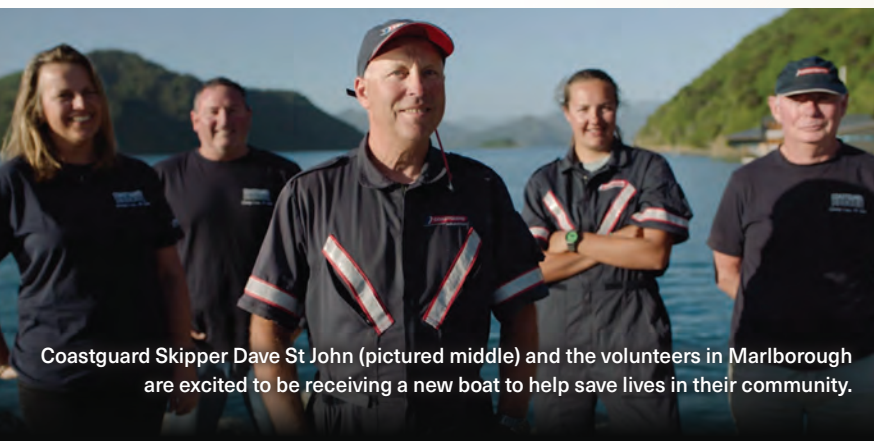
Coastguard Rotorua Lakes volunteers keeping their community safe.

"You are the reason my sisters still have a father, my husband still has a wife, and my mother still has her daughter. You saved our lives, and for that I'm eternally grateful. You are truly heroes."

Thank you message to the crew from rescued daughter.

Thanks for giving our crews training for their new rescue vessels!

Thanks to funding generated by Lotto NZ, Coastguard volunteer units nationwide will receive brand new rescue vessels this year.



Coastguard Skipper Dave St John (pictured middle) and the volunteers in Marlborough are excited to be receiving a new boat to help save lives in their community.

Working in partnership with Emirates Team New Zealand, the funded vessels have served as chase boats for the America's Cup. Following the event, the boats will be refitted and allocated to Coastguard units around the country.

Coastguard Marlborough is one of the units receiving a new vessel. "Sometimes we need to be in two places at once, and with our unit having the only marine ambulance in the country this vessel can get tied up. This new boat will mean we can be in two places at once" says Skipper, Dave St John.

Our volunteer crews will need to put in extra volunteer hours, training hard to helm, operate and maintain their new vessels. It's your donations that give them the training and skills needed to operate these fantastic modern rescue vessels. **Thanks to your support our crews will operate these boats safeguarding communities across the country for years to come. Thank you!**

Carrying on Mum and Dad's traditions...

Meet Coastguardian, Malcolm Thomas.

Family values, model boats and getting out on the water are Malcolm's passion. For 15 years he has bought tickets in Coastguard's lottery and recently decided to leave a gift to Coastguard in his Will.

56 year old Aucklander Malcolm loves model boats. From kitsets, he's built a full fleet of 22 marine models including speed boats, yachts and tugs. He's a member of the Scale Marine Modellers club and for the last 30 years, he's raced his models every Sunday.

His love for boats continues out into his backyard where he proudly stores a full-sized speed boat, sail boat and two dinghies.

Malcolm's dad was an avid Coastguard lottery supporter right from the beginning. When his dad passed away in 2006, Malcolm wanted to carry on his dad's legacy. His dad was in the Navy in World War 2, was a boating enthusiast, and even built small dinghies from scratch.

His mum and dad were both generous people and the family's tradition of supporting charities is a key reason why Malcolm has named Coastguard in his Will.

Thank you Malcolm for being a stand-out bloke and such a loyal Coastguard supporter!

Coastguardian Malcolm Thomas, holding one of his fantastic model boats, has left a gift for our volunteers in his Will.

“ I like the idea of my support continuing on after I kick the bucket. It's also my mum and dad's legacy that is being kept alive. ”



You don't have to be a millionaire to leave something special after you've gone!

If this is something you might consider or you just want to find out more, please contact Carole French for a chat.

Phone: 021 892 219, or email: carole.french@coastguard.nz



Did you know... Cheques are being phased out?

Over the course of this year, many banks around New Zealand will be going cheque-free, which means you won't be able to send a cheque to save lives at sea.

Most banks will no longer be accepting cheques by June 2021. You can still use a cheque until your bank phases them out, but afterwards you will have to use a different way.

Here are a number of easy, quick and secure ways you can still make your donation:



Credit or Debit card

You can post back your donation form with your card number filled in, call us on **09 303 4303**, or donate on our secure website: www.coastguard.nz/donate



Internet banking

Use our bank account **Royal New Zealand Coastguard Inc 12-3209-0434030-01** and enter in your last name and supporter number. See your donation form with all this information printed on it.



Through your bank

Phone your bank and ask them to make the donation for you. Again, please ask them to use the information printed on your donation form, so we know it's come from you and we can send you a receipt.



Visit your bank branch to make your donation for you over the counter.

Please make the switch!

We can't save lives at sea without you and your amazing support.

Need Help? If we can help in any way we're only a phone call away: Call **09 303 4303** and press 4.

Meet Phil Wiel

Coastguard Queenstown

**You make sure
extraordinary volunteers
like Phil are trained
and have the lifesaving
equipment to save lives
in their community.**



A little bit about me...

“ I'm President of the Queenstown RSA, a motorcyclist and a sailor. I was an Army Territorial Volunteer for 20 years and when I moved to Queenstown I wanted to continue serving the community. I've been a boatie since I was 13 - so figured it had to be Coastguard! ”

Being a volunteer...

“ Being a volunteer is very rewarding but like everything the more you put in, the more you'll get out of it. It's also great for personal development. Our unit deals with a lot of search and recovery (rather than search and rescue) which has given me a greater respect for life, and the water. ”

Some exciting news to share

“ We opened our new HQ in February 2021 which has been needed for at least eight years. Prior to this we worked out of a 3 x 6 metre room in the Scout den!

It has been hugely satisfying leading the build team on the construction project, through to completion. We'll be able to develop better crew training and offer marine training to the community too.

We were so grateful for all the local support of the new building. As well as donations from lots of local folks, I would like to thank Community Trust of Southland, the Peter Wilding Trust and Coastguard Trust. The Queenstown Airport Corporation also provides operational funding, and have done for years. Everyone was invited along to the opening to thank them. ”

“ When I moved to Queenstown I thought I needed to **continue serving the community**. Coastguard has given me a **greater respect** for life and the water ”



Callum Gillespie
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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