



COASTGUARD

THE CHARITY SAVING LIVES AT SEA

Coastguard Supporter Newsletter | Winter 2021



Trained Coastguard Nelson volunteers including Peter Herrick (second from right) - ready to jump into action 365 days a year!

Right place, right time, thanks to you!

Two sailors capsize... with no other boats nearby, mobile phones lost overboard, and no way to reach the VHF radio... but your donations saved their lives.

It was very much a case of 'right place, right time' for the Coastguard Nelson crew in May. **And they were only there thanks to your brilliant support.** Four trainee volunteers and an experienced Coastguard crew were all on board Coastguard Nelson's rescue vessel Hohapata Sealord Rescue.

Practically alone in Tasman Bay, the four trainees took it in turns to practice emergency fire drills.

The experienced crew members suddenly noticed something unusual. Crewman Wayne Ballantyne recalled that "a couple of us turned and looked at each other and said: **that looks like**

a boat upside down," and sure enough it was.

Skipper Peter Herrick, pictured above, takes over the story: "As we approached, we saw two people clinging to the side of the overturned hull. **They were half in the water and unable to pull themselves back on."**

"We acted quickly to pull them both on board. The cold May water had slowed down their movement and **they were shivering badly,"** Peter recalled. They had only been in the 14-degree water for ten minutes. The Coastguard volunteers gave them warm dry clothing and a medical check.

It would have been another two and a half hours before they were reported overdue. It showed just how long help would have taken to arrive if the Coastguard volunteers hadn't already been there.

What happened in Nelson shows the instant impact your donations can have.

When lives are at stake at sea, our volunteers need all their training and experience to bring people home. Thank you so much for supporting their training with your donations. You're saving lives at sea!

What do the 'Swift Water Rescue' team do?
Find out more about this special volunteer crew!

**SEE
INSIDE...**



Meet some of the amazing volunteers you support!



Ranui Bull, a truck driver, pilot and Fire Brigade volunteer.

Coastguard Riverton volunteer - 22 years.

Where it began for Ranui... After two of his close friends tragically drowned and his brother-in-law went missing at sea in Foveaux Strait, Ranui wanted to stop this kind of tragedy happening to others so he joined Coastguard.

Described by another Coastguard volunteer: "He's the 'Batman of Riverton', whenever the siren goes Ranui will be there. He's a really nice guy who will be there to help anyone in need."

Matt Harvey, a builder from Hawke's Bay.

Coastguard Hawke's Bay volunteer - 11 years.

Memorable moment for Matt... A 14-year-old boy and three of his mates got caught in a rolling swell off Marine Parade in Napier. They were trapped in the surf and being thrown around like they were in a washing machine, so Matt and three crew raced out in the rescue vessel to save them.

Outside of Coastguard Matt is... A builder by trade, often having to down tools to assist someone in need on the water.



Kato Dentith, a waka ama paddler.

Coastguard Taranaki volunteer - 4 years.

Where it began for Kato... After spending most of her young adult life on the water as a waka ama paddler, Kato developed a passion for boating safety. She wanted to do her part to help improve the safety culture at her waka ama club.

Memorable moment for Kato... A waka ama flipped and broke into pieces on a reef off the coast. The whole crew were in the water. Luckily Coastguard Taranaki were out training and rescued the paddlers straight away.

Outside of Coastguard Kato is... a Liaison Arborist, currently studying a Diploma in Health and Safety and a keen waka ama paddler.



Lisa Laufale, a champion fundraiser.

Coastguard Papakura volunteer - 11 years

Memorable moment for Lisa... An eight-year-old girl and her father failed to return home after fishing on the Manukau Harbour. After a three-hour search Coastguard Papakura pulled the young girl to safety but sadly her father wasn't found. The search was on water, in the air and on land, a rescue Lisa will never forget.

Outside of Coastguard Lisa... works in Admin and Support in the IT industry and enjoys pottering in the garden.



You have given these remarkable people the skills, training and experience to save lives at sea.

Battling the elements - Swift Water Rescue team called out during Canterbury floods.

Coastguard's Swift Water Rescue team were there for Cantabrians thanks to you.



Swift Water Rescue volunteers keeping us safe, all because of you!

As the heavens opened and flooding ravaged the South Island, Cantabrians fled but our specialised Coastguard volunteers headed straight for it.

Because of you, Coastguard has the only fully-trained, specialist Swift Water Rescue crew in Aotearoa.

They are a unique team of volunteers trained for rescues involving swiftly moving rivers, white water or flooding.

These extraordinary volunteers often go out in the worst conditions, fighting mother nature head on to bring people home safely. They use special search lights, helmets for protection in rapids, specialist throw-bags and ropes to reach across rivers, and wet weather gear that allows them to move in volatile currents.

North Canterbury's incredible Swift Water Rescue crew put in a huge amount of mahi (*work*) on Sunday 30 May to save people in danger from rising flood waters.

During the day the crew received four urgent calls from Police - the last one coming in at 8.30pm to rescue a man stuck up a tree by a raging torrent in Darfield.

The Swift Water Rescue crew left their own families, homes and properties that were also being battered by the storm to help.

“
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On scene, the flood waters were raging and the current was strong. They got to work straight away setting up equipment and lighting while safety watchers positioned themselves downstream with radios and throw bags.

Equipped with a swift water sled and ropes, the team devised a plan to enter the water but the current was too strong to reach the man. After a few failed helicopter attempts, he suddenly jumped out of the tree into the freezing flood water.

Dragged into the surge downstream, the safety team tossed throw bags and sent out a tethered swimmer, but with the horrendous conditions were unable to reach him.

Thankfully, the man was spotted by the helicopter 500 metres away clinging to a tree but severely hypothermic. Coastguard volunteers used their sled as a makeshift stretcher and carried him back to a waiting ambulance for further treatment and transportation to hospital.

You are the reason Coastguard volunteers are emergency first responders. Your donations provide volunteers with the specialised Swift Water training and equipment to help communities in crisis.

Your support gives our volunteer crews the gear and training they need to save lives at sea - thank you!

Meet Ethan Hickey

..... Coastguard Dunedin volunteer

Your donations give Ethan the practical lifesaving training he needs to save lives at sea.



Thanks to you, young volunteer Ethan Hickey is doing what he loves - helping people on the water!

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I joined Coastguard Dunedin last year.

I have a love for the water and a passion for helping others.

I recently completed the Operational Crew Training course.

I really enjoyed meeting other volunteers from around the country and coming up with techniques to help save lives at sea. The best part is going out on the rescue boats and putting what we've learnt into action!

A massive thank you for supporting courses like these.

Without you, we wouldn't be able to share our knowledge and brainstorm new ways to help save lives all year round. You've given me the skills and confidence to fulfil my passion of helping others when they need it most.

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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
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