



**COASTGUARD**

THE CHARITY SAVING LIVES AT SEA

**Coastguard Supporter Newsletter | Autumn 2022**

# You've saved so many lives this summer - thank you!

Thank you for helping Coastguard volunteers search for survivors over summer.



## Wayne, from Raglan, was somebody who was rescued over summer because of you.

He and two mates capsized on a Tuesday morning, and almost lost their lives. "It was tough and go for a while," he said. "I didn't think I was going to make it, to be honest."

**The Raglan sand bar has claimed lives before, and can be dangerous to cross.**

Wayne, his mate, and their boat's skipper, Robert "Brownie" Brown, called Coastguard before they set out so our volunteers could keep watch on them. But during their trip, the very worst happened. "We came down off a high wave and then no power - nothing. The motor stalled," Brownie recalled. And in a matter of ten seconds they were fighting for their lives.

"The second wave got us and it was over - we were in the drink," Brownie said. "It flipped us over."

The three were underwater and alone with their thoughts, fearing death. They had to fight the unforgiving conditions and the outgoing tide to survive. But as they were overdue, Coastguard Raglan had already launched their rescue vessel.

*Continues inside...*

## This summer has been a shocking season for drownings...

In the 16 days over Christmas and the New Year, 22 people lost their lives to the water. Whilst not all were related to boating or water-craft incidents, any life lost on waterways in Aotearoa can take a toll on our own rescue crews and other emergency services. But thanks to your support, over an exhausting summer, our volunteers have saved many, many more lives.

Most Kiwis have again spent summer at home - and Coastguard volunteers have been there for the thousands who needed rescuing. There have been far more calls for help than a 'normal', pre-COVID summer. But thanks to you, our volunteers have been able to grab their survival gear and launch rescue missions.



**You've saved so many lives this summer - thank you!** (Continued)

In a short space of time - and with assistance from a passing jetskier - the three survivors were pulled from the water.

Wayne and his mates were taken safely back to shore and treated for dehydration. They were shocked and shaken but lived to tell the tale. Hours later our volunteers went out again, to tow their boat back to safety too.

**Your donations give us the means to be ready and respond when needed. You saved three men from becoming another tragic summer statistic. Thank you so much for your lifesaving donations.**

“ The survivors did everything they should have done. There were ticks in the boxes all along. ”

**Coastguard  
Raglan volunteer  
Wally Hawken**



Your donations provide lifejackets and protective gear for our volunteers - thank you.



## How does Coastguard's bar crossing service save lives?

**Your donations help fund this vital safety service.**

Around the country, volunteer units located near dangerous sand bars are on high alert for boats flipping and capsizing. Often, if a boat flips on a bar, there'll be no way of calling for help, and those on board could be critically injured.

So boaties about to cross a bar are encouraged to keep in radio contact. They'll 'open' a bar crossing report, and call back to 'close' it after they're safely across.

If a report isn't closed within a set period of time, a search and rescue crew are automatically sent out. Our volunteers also give up their time to train boaties on how to safely cross their local bar. You help us run these services - and you're helping Kiwis get home safely to their loved ones.



## Make your wonderful donations to Coastguard go even further, at no cost to you!

**Did you know you can do even more to save lives at sea by simply gifting us your donation tax credits?**

It's the easiest gift you'll ever give us, it only takes a minute to opt in and then the friendly team at TaxGift will make it all happen! Best of all, your gift keeps on giving through the years, without you having to do anything further. For example, with TaxGift, every \$100 that you donate can grow to \$148!



You can claim donation tax credits for the last four years, so if you haven't claimed them before you can TaxGift them to us too! Simply tick the 'historic donations' box on the TaxGift form.

**If you have questions about how it works visit [www.taxgift.co.nz/donors](http://www.taxgift.co.nz/donors)**



**Sign up today by scanning the QR code and watch your gift grow!**



# Team work makes the dream work!

**Thank you for being part of our team saving lives at sea.**

You're part of a team of extraordinary people! Coastguard volunteers give their time for free, risk their own lives in treacherous conditions and do whatever it takes to save lives. And your donations matter more than ever because you make this happen. What a powerful team we make!

It could have been a tragic Christmas for a kayaker's family when they capsized in wild seas. But thanks to the support of brilliant people like you, Coastguard Wanganui used their training to battle the elements to save them.

## A desperate plea for help...

**Five fishermen found themselves fighting for their lives when their six metre boat capsized off Kawau Island.**

Desperate to get help, the skipper swam underneath the boat to locate his SOS communications device and raised the alarm.

Coastguard Kawau found the overturned boat and its skipper sitting on the boat's hull. Within minutes the crew spotted another man on the rocks and plucked the other three fishermen from the freezing water.

Suffering from suspected hypothermia, the crew rushed the fisherman to shore to an awaiting ambulance. Three of the five men were transported to hospital, but all made a full recovery.

Your donations save lives. And five fishermen lived to tell the tale thanks to you.

## Saving a community

**Firefighting in Emerald Bay.**

The Wanaka community needed help and Coastguard volunteers were there to lend a hand. A scrub fire broke out in Emerald Bay near Wanaka, and it took four days to get it under control. Coastguard Wanaka Lakes volunteers were asked to patrol the lake and keep the community safe while helicopters were dipping their monsoon buckets to fight the fire.

Coastguard volunteers help in all types of emergencies. Thank you for helping make this happen!





# Meet Jeff Royle

## Coastguardian

**Jeff's grandad taught him to sail in the North Sea, United Kingdom. He knows what it means to brave rough weather to help others - he's been a Coastguard volunteer for ten years and decided to leave a gift to Coastguard in his Will.**

## "I want Coastguard to be there for my grandchildren"

When Coastguard volunteers around the country were recently asked what Coastguard meant to them in three words, many said 'commitment, team work and family.' And Jeff agrees - saying Coastguard is a 'close-knit' family where volunteers help anyone who is in trouble at sea.

**"Helping someone is amazing. When you get home after a rescue, cold, wet and exhausted, it helps to think: someone survived today because of me."**

Jeff has two young grandchildren and wants to be sure that Coastguard is there for them when they grow up. That's why he decided to become a 'Coastguardian' - a member of a special group who have chosen to leave a gift to Coastguard in their Will.

"People think that Coastguard is centrally funded. They don't realise that Coastguard is a charity and that the volunteers do not get paid. We are a volunteer service.

The training, maintenance, fuel and vessel replacement costs are very high."

**"I want my legacy to go towards maintaining and improving the already amazing service that the public get."**



## You don't have to be wealthy to leave something special after you've gone!

If leaving a gift to Coastguard in your Will is something you might consider or you just want to find out more, please contact Sue Morse for a chat:

Phone: (09) 303 4303 (option 4) or 021 746 257 or email: [sue.morse@coastguard.nz](mailto:sue.morse@coastguard.nz)



**Callum Gillespie**  
Chief Executive  
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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**Ngā mihi nui to these valued partners** - we could not do this mahi without you.

