



## Coastguard Supporter Newsletter | Winter 2022

# "YOU'RE SAFE NOW."

Words that rang true - thanks to you!



The Coastguard Tairua-Pauanui crew saving lives at sea thanks to you!

**"A donation, no matter how small or large, will help to keep Coastguard on the water in the future. Who knows, you might need them one day" – a message from Debbie, whose husband Robin was rescued by Coastguard.**

Debbie is one of our amazing Team Rescue supporters and gives a monthly donation to Coastguard. Her husband Robin has a real passion for boats, and living in Bucklands Beach, they've watched many boats being rescued by Coastguard.

Little did they know that one day in March it would be Robin that needed urgent help. Lying flat on his back, vomiting from the pain, he was praying help wouldn't be far away.

Robin and his mate Anton had headed off to Tairua to try their luck catching some fish. They'd checked the weather forecast and logged a trip report with Coastguard.

The Tairua - Pauanui bar has claimed lives before and can be unpredictable but Robin and Anton were experienced and well-prepared. At 7.45am they decided it was time to cross. Taking the waves head on, their boat rocked and leaned as the sea got more and more choppy. The final wave tossed their boat a terrifying two metres into the air.

Robin, a Quantity Surveyor, could see they were in real danger. He shouted to his mate: "Don't turn around or stop!" They had to get through the churning waves.

Suddenly the boat rocked violently again – Robin lost his grip and was thrown out of his seat. The boat landed hard with Robin taking the full impact on his back as he fell onto the boat floor.

*Continues inside...*

### **A day in the life of a volunteer!**

*Hear from one of our heroes saving lives at sea.*



## **SEE INSIDE...**



**"You're safe now."**

(Continued)



Your donations save lives. Debbie and her husband Robin can't thank you and Coastguard volunteers enough for saving him.

"I took a survey of the boat to make sure we were still floating and we weren't taking on any water," recalled Robin. Badly injured and in excruciating pain, Robin lay on the floor of the boat telling Anton to head to the nearest island, and calmer waters.

Once anchored, there was nothing they could do but call

Coastguard for help. Robin knew he was in bad shape and in desperate need of medical attention. Later in hospital he'd find out that he'd have a long road to recovery with a fractured back. They were both in sheer shock of what had just happened. But they managed to stay calm knowing help was on its way.

"The words I remember hearing was *'Hi guys, you are safe now!'* I felt the helplessness lift off my shoulders," recalled Robin, remembering the Coastguard boat pulling up beside them. "They were so calm, and knew exactly what to do. We both felt safe and relieved."

Because of you and your donations Robin and his mate Anton were rescued. You made sure Coastguard volunteers could save them. Thank you.

Still recovering from his injuries, Robin took Debbie to a Coastguard seminar on Bar Crossings. These events are provided for free to help boaties cross bars safely, and are made possible by your amazing support.

Robin and his wife Debbie are so grateful to the Coastguard Tairua-Pauanui crew for all they did that day and have a personal message to share:

To the Skipper Mike and his crew, Fred, Ken, Andrew, Rob and Dale from Coastguard Tairua-Pauanui and Sam from St John's Ambulance...

Words are not enough to say thank you for rescuing my husband Robin and Anton that awful day. It is wonderful people like you who give up their time selflessly to help others. There is definitely not enough credit given to these heroes.

Debbie Garrett

## Like Debbie, you can make a difference every single month.

Debbie pictured above is one of our Team Rescue supporters. "It got me thinking about the cost involved in running these rescue boats. Coastguard is such a good cause, so I decided I wanted to do more and became a **Team Rescue** supporter," says Debbie.

If you're not yet part of the team we would love you to be! Your regular donation will help save lives every single month.

Sign up today! Visit [www.coastguard.nz/teamrescue](http://www.coastguard.nz/teamrescue) or call 09 303 4303.

**TEAM RESCUE**

Crossing the Tairua-Pauanui bar can be unpredictable and dangerous but your donations help fund a bar crossing service and seminars to save lives.



# "JUST GETTING OUT THERE AND HELPING GIVES A SENSE OF PURPOSE. EVERY JOB IS SPECIAL."

Rod Frost, Coastguard Volunteer

**Your donations help save lives in many ways. Whether it's giving advice at the boat ramp or encouraging people to call for help, it's all in a day's mahi for Coastguard volunteer Rod Frost. In his own words, read about Rod's experiences as a Coastguard volunteer.**

"Let me tell you about the different people we help...

"Close to home around Papakura (Bottle Top Bay) area we help people in small boats, kayaks, and land-based fishing for food. For these people, no fish means no meat to go with their meals. For them the cost of a lifejacket is a big deal, their boats are old and often not in good repair. So, we work hard to help educate and encourage them to do the right thing.

"We encourage them to call for help when something starts to go wrong, don't wait til it gets worse or dark.

"Then for our general Manukau Harbour users the challenge comes when stories of big and abundant fish cause them to start looking to the West Coast. We are often asked at the boat ramps about the West Coast and



Coastguard volunteers like Rod are amazing selfless people. They have the training and equipment to save lives at sea thanks to you.

crossing. We try to share some facts about crossing the bar - respect the bar, go with someone else for a time or two and make sure to do trip reports.

"Just recently we assisted a family's boat that had got into trouble on the bar. It was full of water and everything was wet. We were able to get the two kids onto our vessel, into some dry jackets and take them out of that frightening experience. They were quiet at first but soon relaxed and started to tell us about their ordeal. They had woken up in the middle of the night to see water all around them and the kitchen table floating. We escorted them home. The pager had gone off about 3am and it was now about 10:30am on a workday.

"Over the years we have had a number of high-profile rescues and some very lucky people have lived against the odds. But for me, I think every job is special. Just getting out there and helping someone whose plans have not gone to plan and getting them back to land or even just a jump start, gives a sense of purpose. No one goes out to get into trouble. You can't just get out and walk home."

## MAKE YOUR WONDERFUL DONATIONS TO COASTGUARD GO EVEN FURTHER, AT NO COST TO YOU!

You probably know that donations of \$5 or more let you claim a tax credit. But did you know there's a brilliantly simple way to donate these tax credits to Coastguard?



Doing this increases the amount we receive from your donation and the only thing you need to do is sign up with TaxGift and they'll take care of the rest.

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

If you'd like to be sent a form that you can fill in please call us on (09) 303 4303 (option 4).



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

## WE NEED 240 NEW COASTGUARD VOLUNTEERS.

**If you can hear the call of the sea, answer the call of your community and become a Coastguard volunteer.**

You'll get an amazing sense of reward and camaraderie, mental and physical challenges, and the priceless opportunity to save lives on the water.

Find out where we're in need of new volunteers at [volunteers.coastguard.nz](http://volunteers.coastguard.nz)

**"Knowing I can help our volunteers save lives well into the future is so rewarding."**

Callum Gillespie



# CALLUM'S LIFESAVING LEGACY

**Callum Gillespie, Coastguard's Chief Executive, considers himself lucky to helm an organisation making such a lifesaving difference in communities across the country. It's made possible by you. He's the "Captain" of Coastguard, a job he loves. So much so that it inspired him and his wife Wiki to leave a gift to Coastguard in their Will.**

**"Getting to know the amazing human beings, our selfless volunteers, who save lives on our waters, made the decision for my wife Wiki and I to leave a gift in our Wills an easy one."**

Originally from the West Coast of Scotland, Callum has always had a love for the water. Callum lived and breathed the sea life in his 13 years in the Royal Navy's submarine service.

"New Zealanders are mad keen boaties, like few other countries. You can see why with the natural beauty of coastline, rivers and lakes."

Callum and Wiki decided to plant roots in New Zealand where Wiki works as a GP. A dad of two and a real family man,

Callum jokes about 'being a sponsor' to his teenagers. They've recently welcomed a new puppy, Awahi, into their whānau.

"She's a terror and taken a real liking to destroying my running shoes, but we love her, it's great fun."

Callum knows first-hand how important charitable support for Coastguard is, and the critical role that individual contributions play in reducing New Zealand's preventable drowning toll.

"We need funding to succeed, especially when we need to raise over half of it from individuals like me," says Callum.

**Have you thought about leaving a gift in your Will?**



**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)

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

