

PUKEHINA SURF RESCUE LIFEGUARD SERVICE Inc.



28th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 13th September 2025
at 4.00pm at 723 Pukehina Parade



Chairs Report 24/ 25

Mission: **We exist to Prevent Drowning and Injury at Pukehina Beach.**

Thank you for taking time to read this report.

This year has been another very busy one for Pukehina Surf Rescue, its Committees and our club members. We developed the Club Pillars project and embarked on high level Constitutional changes and a journey to restructure our Governance methodology. All the while continuing to finish our wonderful new building. The building project has progressed well with the construction phase almost completed. Delivered by Cassidy Construction and our volunteers under budget and to the very high standard, this is a building our club is very proud of!

Lifeguarding.

This year our group of both young and not so young lifeguards have provided fantastic services patrolling the beaches and protecting swimmers at Pukehina. Working from the newly “nearly” completed clubrooms for the first time was an absolute privilege and the building withstood its early test showing high quality design and functionality. Our season was filled with fantastic weather and between the flags the swimmer numbers up on previous years.

Working in three patrol teams the lifeguards performed admirably, continuing to strive for excellence and maintaining a 100% record for the SLSNZ Auditors.

Our club drive in the coming season must be the recruitment of lifeguards and the development of our current staff to cater for the growing needs of Pukehina.

Junior Surf.

In the Junior Surf scene, the statement around excellence can also be said.

Over thirteen weeks the Coaches and Crew worked hard to provide an interesting and exciting program. This coupled with extra swim sessions at the Pongakawa School Pool insured our little ones were fit and prepared to develop their water skills in the ocean and estuary.

Sport.

This season Pukehina Surf Rescue has enjoyed a great period of sports and sporting achievements. From the return of The Harris Cup, to athletes heading to SLSNZ Oceans and our IRB crews competing in The Eastern Region Long Haul, Pukehina has punched above its weight.

Coaches, parents and athletes have had a very engaging and enjoyable season.

Community.

As per previous years, Pukehina Surf Rescue has been active within our community, regularly seen roaming up and down the beach patrolling. Walking the parade on our traditional New Years fundraiser, talking to the holiday makers and informing them of the club’s progress, to hosting the Polar Plunge event, another busy year with Surfing for Farmers and assisting with the Autorama. We have maintained our presence on and around the beach.

As Chair for both the club and the building project I would like to acknowledge the many volunteers, committee members, funders and sponsors for their very generous support.

It is also worth noting that it’s easy to build a building but much harder to fill, I have the upmost confidence we are on the right path as we have a fantastic base of helpers and immense community support.

Thanks again for your time.

Andrew McDowell

Vision: **Pukehina Surf Rescue- the future for our community.**

2025 Zespri BOP Awards of Excellence BOP nominees (Finalists).**

Patrol Captain of the year – Duncan Bentley**
U19 Emerging Lifeguard of the year – Jayden Harris
Lifeguard of the year – Mark O’Leary**
Volunteer of the year – Mel Dwane**
Junior Surf Contribution of the year – Kim O’Leary**
Volunteer Coach of the year – Chrissie Nairn**
Emerging Coach of the year – Zane Jensen**

BOP Service to Surf Lifesaving awards to Jason Rive, Joshua Russell, Andrew Callaway for outstanding service to the Club and Region.

Club Captain Report 24/25

Pukehina Surf Rescue (PSR) has had an incredible year of operation across all fields, and over the off-season, the Committee has been bold by proactively realising that it is time for structured change within our club in terms of how we manage ourselves.

Under the direction and relentless efforts of Andy, we have all worked tirelessly to chip away at completing our stunning new building and are continuing to refine how to best use our multi-purpose new space going forward.

What follows is a brief synopsis of club-wide activities throughout the year and an appreciation of our members and all that they do for each other, as well as our community.

July 2024

- PSR Lifeguard Awards held in the (new!) club
- Coromandel/Bay of Plenty Awards of Excellence
- Earthworks, boulders and hard landscaping of grounds
- Pukehina Polar Plunge

August 2024

- Ongoing building works
- Two competitors attend the World Lifesaving Championships, Gold Coast, Australia

September 2024

- Ongoing building works
- SAR squad training continues

October 2024

- Lifeguard training begins
- Sports training begins
- Lifeguard refreshers

November 2024

- Junior Surf muster and info session
- Ongoing training for members around Friendly Manager
- Junior Surf season begins
- Surfing for Farmers begins
- Peer support sessions continue
- Pool training begins
- Tinman Triathlon Event Guarding, Pilot Bay

December 2024

- Volunteer Lifeguard patrols begin
- Tauranga City Council Manu Competition Event Guarding, The Strand, Tauranga
- Junior Surf Club Champs and Christmas session

January 2025

- Junior Surf carnivals
- Stainless steel in kitchen

February 2025

- Huka River Swim and Kinloch Triathlon Event Guarding, Taupō
- Harris Cup (PSR victorious!)
- Pizza party for young guards
- Junior Surf Club Champs
- Oceans competition
- Andy on National TV
- Pukehina Autorama
- Volunteer Lifeguard patrols end

March 2025

- First large event (wedding) held in new club
- Tauranga City Council Childrens Day Event guarding, The Strand, Tauranga
- NZ Secondary Schools Kayak Champs Event Guarding, Lake Tikitapu
- The Motu (tiny home) sells

April 2025

- Movie night fundraiser
- Xterra Offroad Triathlon Event Guarding, Lake Tikitapu
- Canoe NZ National Champs Event Guarding, Lake Karapiro

May 2025

- Committee undertakes Constitutional review and Incorporated Societies Act changes
- Long haul IRB race from Ōhope Beach to Mount Maunganui
- BP Leaders for Life
- Carpeting and flooring in club

June 2025

- Constitution and Board Structure strategy sessions
- First Aid courses
- PSR Lifeguard Awards

July 2025

- Eastern Region Junior Guard School
- Pukehina Polar Plunge
- Planting estuary side of club
- Coromandel/Bay of Plenty Awards of Excellence

August 2025

- Building gets CCC!
- IRB workshops

September 2025

- AGM and vote to adopt new Board structure

It has been a pleasure to have been the Club Captain for some years now and I feel privileged to be part of a motivating and diverse group of people doing incredible things in a myriad of ways within Pukehina Surf Rescue. Here's to growth, challenge and change, and to a fantabulous upcoming season.

Chrissie Nairn



School Picnic day with Otamarakau School



Event Lifeguarding at Lake Tikitapu supporting the community



Eastern Region Champs - Junior Surf



Pool session @ Pongakawa

Lifesaving Report – 24-25 season

The 2024/2025 season was a landmark year for Pukehina Surf Lifesaving Club as we operated for the first time from our new facilities. Although the building is not yet fully complete, the new tower and gear shed represented a significant improvement over the temporary porta-com used last season and the previous clubrooms before that. These upgrades enhanced patrol efficiency, improved visibility, and created a safer and more enjoyable environment for both our members and the public.

Member Development and Qualifications

Training and upskilling were a major focus this season, resulting in strong qualification outcomes across multiple areas:

Lifeguard Certifications:

- 10 new lifeguards
- 26 refreshed lifeguards
- 1 patrol support refresher
- 1 new lifeguard examiner
- 8 new Radio Communication modules

IRB Certifications:

- 7 IRB driver refreshers
- 7 new IRB crewmen

First Aid Certifications:

- 12 new Surf First Aid
- 8 refreshed Surf First Aid
- 6 new Advanced Surf First Aid
- 3 refreshed Advanced Surf First Aid
- 10 new Pain Management
- 1 Pain Management Refresher

**Patrolling**

Each of our three volunteer patrol teams embraced the season with enthusiasm, making the most of opportunities to develop their skills. IRB training sessions were a highlight, with crews gaining confidence in the surf conditions. The camaraderie and teamwork on patrol were evident, and it was great to see members having fun while staying focused on safety.

Voluntary Patrols Stats

Patrol Hours: 1,162.5 Rescues: 0 People Assisted to Safety: 11
First Aid Responses: 1 minor, 1 major
Preventative Actions: 148 (involving 1,741 members of the public)

Community Event Guarding Stats:

Patrol Hours: 1,597 Rescues: 0 People Assisted to Safety: 10
First Aid Responses: 14 minor, 0 major
Preventative Actions: 155 (involving 1,565 members of the public)

The absence of rescues this past season is a testament to the vigilance and proactive efforts of our lifeguards, who consistently performed preventative actions to ensure safety and avoid the need for rescues.

Sadly, last season was not without tragedy. After completing patrol duties, members of the Sand in Your Accessories patrol were called to assist at a rescue at Newdicks Beach. Despite their rapid response, the patient could not be revived and passed away before lifeguards arrived.

This incident was deeply impactful for those involved. We are grateful for the immediate and ongoing support provided by Surf Life Saving and Eastern Region, who ensured that the lifeguards received the necessary care and assistance post the incident.

Conclusion

The 2024/2025 season was a year of progress and resilience for Pukehina Surf Lifesaving Club. Operating from our new facilities has significantly improved our ability to serve the community, and the commitment of our members to training and development has strengthened our capability.

Duncan Bentley



We train em anywhere

Thanks Jiddles group for the donation

Junior Surf Report 24-25 season

We were privileged to begin the season in our amazing new clubhouse and this really set the season up for success. After taking on board feedback from last season, we held an information morning and muster where families could come along and talk to one of the crew, get information on the season, register and also purchase uniform and club merchandise. The blue and green caps had two sessions of pre-season training before the official start of the season with all age groups. The full season got underway 24th November and ran through until 2nd March.

This season saw 137 nippers join up for Junior Surf, 69 of whom were new for this season. 72% of our new members are in the red and yellow (under 9 and below age groups). This is great

to see. Another real positive was seeing real growth in the blue cap group making up 26% of the membership this year. This bodes well for the coming years and new lifeguard numbers! Four of our green caps and one junior surf parent received their Surf Lifeguard Award this season, and officially became lifeguards on our beach. A real achievement that can be taken with you for life.

Pool swimming was once again a huge success. These sessions that were held Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturdays at the local Pongakawa School Pool were instrumental in helping some of our nippers achieve their 200m for the first time.

Harris Cup 2025 was an absolute highlight. This event has really gained momentum and is popular amongst the clubs who are invited. 259 competitors from Opotiki, Whakatane, Pukehina, Maketu and Waihi gathered to compete for the Harris Cup trophy. This carnival is very unique including competitors from under 6 years age group and up. There are fun events, and team events, along with competitive events, and ribbons awarded for individual event placings as well as our Tumeke award for great sportsmanship, and for achieving something great for yourself. Finally Pukehina have taken the cup back from Whakatane after a hard fought battle and a close 39 point margin.

2025 saw our biggest group compete at Oceans in recent years, with 11 athletes entered. These kids put their heart and soul into training and left nothing out there after 4 days competing at Nationals. Numerous quarter and semi finals were made along with a few finals. There were many personal bests and firsts achieved which is great for personal development. This really helped to put Pukehina on the map.

I would like to acknowledge our major sponsor Roundwood NZ and thank you for your continued support of the programme. This allows us to purchase new equipment, funds our fun events such as the Xmas party and Prizegiving and supplies coach and crew with shirts and rash tops. The hi vis uniform for Junior Surf is also subsidised by Roundwood NZ

There are a number of people instrumental in making this all work. To the Junior Surf Committee, Coach and Crew, Swim Coaches, BBQ legends, Uniform and Communications, a heartfelt thank you. To run a successful programme certainly takes a community, and none of our volunteers go unnoticed.

There are exciting changes ahead for Pukehina with the new Club Constitution and Board structure. It will be business as usual down the beach come Junior Surf season, and we can't wait to see you all there again soon.

Kim O'Leary, Katie Abraham and Natalie Hardwick

Pukehina Surf Rescue Junior Surf Committee



HARRIS CUP Back home after a big effort by the whole club.



The OCEANS 2025 Crew

Sport @ Pukehina Surf Rescue 24/25

The sporting season kicked off with two competitors attending the World Lifesaving Championships in Gold Coast, Australia and a first for PSR athletes. Held over 17 days this event was a fantastic opportunity to be immersed in all things sporting as part of our organisation. Pool, IRB, Boat, Beach & Ocean events, SERC and even the March Past were all contested by Open/ Youth club and National teams

Zoe Rive did fantastically well at the 2 km Beach Run placing 6th in the world in Open Women (& first non Australian competitor home), which was a good return for all her dedication to training, and launched off a successful year with medals at both Eastern Regions & NZ 2km

Boyd Harris in the 55 – 59 Masters placed 41st in Surf race final, 18th Beach Flags and in his favourite event - the Beach Sprint, he had all three World medallists in his heat so did not progress. The comradery was evident across all the events as was the support from other NZ athletes. Some excellent connections were made.

Back home training started in earnest in October with Ocean, Beach, and Pool opportunities offered by the clubs volunteer coaching pool. We had current NZ Surf Team member Rosie Falcous come and run a beach events session, and shining example of her appreciation of PSR in allowing her to compete at the Harris Cup many years prior. Our sprinters had another session with now SLSNZ Beach Event resource coach Trent Olliver at the Eastern Regional champs, and we had Seamus Collins run a few sessions for our more advanced athletes in the ocean craft events.

Carnivals were well attended by the Junior surf fraternity at Papamoa, Easterns and Oceans with some excellent results. 11 athletes went to Oceans and had a ball with a great crew of supporters over the four days all kitted out in Stoney Creek tops that received many comments. Ruby O'Leary & Brodie Ripo went oh so close to winning medals placing 4th in their beach sprint events and many other finalists right across the whole team and events. Keep training team and one of those medals could be yours.

Would like to thank all the volunteer coaches who helped out with running sessions, supporting athletes and their skill development, along with those who packed, towed and fixed the gear, supported the troops.

The absolute highlight of the season would be the winning of the Harris Cup!! After a decade or so of it being down the road the entire club put on a master class (both on the water and behind the scenes) and we managed to get the W. Awesome mahi team and it was really neat to see the troops on the top step of the podium. The challenge now is to RETAIN the Harris Cup . . .and get better at chariot races, aye parents 😊

Once AIMS is done and Winter Torney we will be kicking it all off again!!

Boyd Harris

Building report

This time last year the Cassidy Construction team had decanted and left.

The building was, although in a state of incompleteness, had progressed a little further on than we had expected. The building was largely unlined, unplumbed, no air-conditioning, with no lift and the electrical fit off had not been undertaken.

This situation was not due to poor management but timing and circumstance. The previous twelve months due to expiring funding contracts, we were forced to play our hand early and start the build. Roll on to today and all of the above items have been ticked off the list and the building is awaiting its Code of Compliance Certificate.

This position we find ourselves in is largely due to a small but very passionate building sub-committee, the club committee, and club members & local tradies who have worked together to build this magnificent building.

During the year, Kiwi Country Construction and I undertook the construction of the Motu single bedroom cabin ready for sale. This project was intended to decrease the size of the short fall in funds that we needed to get floor coverings down and help with the final fit off of many of the finer details. This home was sold locally and to a Surf Club Family, which was an absolute thrill.

In the coming months the Code of Compliance Certificate will be signed off, which will put the club into the next stage of the building's life and that is to fill it!

It must be said during the past months we have given that a **Red-hot Go**, not only hosting a wedding, a movie night for clubbies and awards nights for the junior surf kids and senior lifeguards.

While sitting in the club often at night or early morning I have to pinch myself. I have experienced something that started from a lofty dream started by the small PSR committee many years previously.

I can only say, "**We Knocked the Bastard Off**" (reference Sir Edmond Hillary 1953).

My thanks and gratitude must go out to Boyd for taking on the job of chasing the funding side of this project, and to all of the many helpers who supported and encouraged myself and my small team to get this job done!

Ngā mihi,
Andrew McDowell,
Building Chair PSR



The MOTU and the fantastic sponsors who came together to donate this whare to help with the fundraising efforts

Events Committee Report

This past year has been a little quieter on the events calendar, but we were proud to deliver our signature Polar Plunge which was once again a huge success and a real highlight for our community.

Polar Plunge 2025

We had 78 brave souls take to the water for this year's Polar Plunge — and they did so in true Pukehina style. Costumes ranged from jellyfish to minions, donuts to dinosaurs, and even our local fire brigade repping PERT (Pukehina Emergency Response Team) on their backs. The energy and creativity on display made for a spectacular day.

Our lifeguards kept it classic in their red and yellow uniforms (with a healthy dose of dry humour), reminding us that safety never goes out of style.

We extend our thanks to Laycon Civil for sponsoring the Best Dressed Team prize, which went to the fabulous Team Jellyfish — back-to-back champions!

One of our event photos, captured by Andrew Lockett, even made it onto the evening news — a proud moment for our small but vibrant community.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part, whether by plunging, dressing up, cheering from the sidelines, baking, cooking, volunteering, or helping with the organisation. The event truly showcased the strength and spirit of our community.

Groms Surfing Group

Another highlight of the year has been the success of our Groms Surfing Group. Each week, a keen group of local kids gathered to hone their surfing skills in a supportive and fun environment. Sessions were followed by a BBQ, which gave families the chance to connect and created a fantastic social atmosphere on the beach. It has been wonderful to see the confidence and abilities of our young surfers grow, and we look forward to continuing this initiative as a way of encouraging the next generation of water lovers in Pukehina.

Looking Ahead

On 1 November 2025, we are excited to host the inaugural Pukehina Surf Rescue Fun Run. This will be a family-friendly event held along the beach, with options for different fitness levels and a special kids' dash to ensure there's something for everyone. It promises to be a fun, healthy way to bring the community together, and we encourage everyone to save the date. More details will be shared in the coming months.

We are also in the early stages of planning the return of the much-loved Street Party in 2026, after a couple of years' hiatus. This event has always been a highlight on the community calendar, and we're excited to bring it back bigger and better. More details will be coming soon.

The Events Committee is always on the lookout for more volunteers to help make these events possible, as well as fresh ideas to keep them fun, exciting, and relevant for our community. If you'd like to lend a hand, or if you have a new idea to contribute, please get in touch with Mel Dwane. Together, we can continue to build on the success of our events and keep the Pukehina spirit alive.

Acknowledgements

A huge thank you to our volunteers, sponsors, and the wider community who make these events possible. Without your enthusiasm and support, we simply couldn't deliver these occasions that bring us together and celebrate the unique spirit of Pukehina.

Ngā mihi, Mel, Toni, Kylee and Pip





Junior Surf

Prizegiving in our new where

Lifeguards

