



SURF LIFE SAVING®
NEW ZEALAND



BOARD NOMINATIONS: PROFILES

Chair: Kim O'Leary

I have been involved with the PSR Committee for a number of years now, primarily involved in Junior Surf. PSR has become a real family affair for me, with both daughters coming through Junior Surf, and my eldest daughter and husband both currently lifeguards. My husband Mark and I own a business, Roundwood NZ, based in Tokoroa and we enjoy spending most weekends and as much time as we can in Pukehina. Outside PSR I was involved in a Gymnastics Club Committee for several years, where I learnt valuable skills in governance, and financial management. I have a degree in Forestry Science and I work for a Forest Management company.



Through this I have had some exposure to writing reports for a corporate Board, and occasionally attending meetings. I was happy to take on the role for PSR in developing the new Club Constitution, and this has made me realise how much I enjoy governance. I recently attended my first Institute of Directors training and intend to continue this journey and join the Institute.

PSR is in an exciting phase, we have a beautiful new Club and I want to be part of the new Board structure to ensure this Club is sustainable and around for generations to come. With sound oversight and strategic direction, the opportunities for PSR are endless. My involvement with the Club to date, understanding of operations and dedication to make this a success are the reasons why I believe I would make a great Chair.

I am excited to work with the new structure, and see where this can take PSR.

Lifesaving Officer: Mark O'Leary

I first became involved with PSR when we joined as a family in 2013 for the junior surf program. My personal involvement with the club increased over time and I became a lifeguard in 2020.

I enjoy being part of the PSR family and love what SLSNZ can offer an individual in terms of personal development. I am a Lifeguard, Patrol Captain, Instructor, Examiner and Junior Surf Coach.

Through my business and personal life, I believe I have gained the skills to be a good leader, mentor and be part of a well-run Lifeguarding team.





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Junior Surf Officer: Alicia White

Kia ora,

As a mum of two ocean enthusiasts, wife to a local dairy farmer, and a dedicated health care professional, I'm deeply rooted in the values of whānau, community, and hauora. I'm passionate about creating opportunities for our tamariki to be brave, gain skills, and grow into confident young people ready to face the world.

With experience serving on the Board of Trustees for our local kura, organising community events, and contributing to Māori Trusts, I value collaboration and kaupapa that make a real difference.

Giving back to the Surf Lifesaving holds a special place in my heart — it gave me so much in my own youth, and I'm excited to be part of the Pukehina whakapapa.

I look forward to working alongside like-minded people in governance, supporting the future of our rangatahi and the strength of our coastal community.



Club Captain: Mel Dwane

I have been involved with Pukehina Surf Rescue for many years, initially through my children's participation and, over time, across a broad range of volunteer activities.

I am a qualified Lifeguard and currently chair the Events Committee, coordinating activities that strengthen both member engagement and community connection.

To further develop my governance capability, I have undertaken formal training at my own cost to ensure I have a strong understanding of board responsibilities and effective leadership.

I am deeply committed to the long-term success of the Club and believe I can contribute positively in the role of Club Captain, supporting both our members and the future growth of Pukehina Surf Rescue.





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Club Captain: Boyd Harris

With over 40 yrs experience across all sectors of the organisation I am a proud life member of PSR & have been engaged and enthused with the whole process of change to future proof the club with sound strategic, collaborative vision & planning.

Around the Board table I have been on the TPHS BOT as Deputy Chair, been part of the group that sought better pool facilities for the rohe culminating in \$750k of improvements & \$10m in the LTP for a new Aquatic Centre, held every single role on the Club committees across four lifesaving clubs (Maketu, Opunake, Fitzroy & Pukehina) which included the Club Captain role at all clubs.



Working alongside others we set the direction for the club and set about achieving sustained successes across whole club operations. Working collaboratively with the membership, clubs, community and mentoring others as we went along to create succession for the future.

Regionally – on the Taranaki Board of Directors, Director of Junior Surf, 20 yrs as club representative on regional committees (Chairs, Sport, Lifeguards, Junior Surf, Sport), Chief LG & IRB Examiner and held some National positions which informed a process of step changes in the SLSNZ operated their core business,

Along with significant involvement in other sporting and community good organisations I believe I have good amounts of lived and trained experiences to be of benefit to assist in bedding in the new club structure, new role holders as they get their “feet under the desk” and support the community members who have volunteered for the Board & new to the Club and Organisation

Treasurer: Barabara Reid

I currently serve on the Board of Trustees at Fairhaven Primary and as Treasurer for the Fairhaven Fundraising Association, where I manage finances and help deliver events such as the Annual Fireworks Gala. These roles have given me a strong governance experience and practical financial oversight in a community setting.

Alongside this, my professional background is in accounts, payroll and systems administration, with more recent focus on strategic budget planning and project leadership. I am also completing an MBA, which is strengthening my governance, financial and leadership capabilities.



I am passionate about community service and see Pukehina Surf Rescue as an essential organisation supporting safety and wellbeing. I believe my governance experience, financial literacy, and commitment to transparent leadership make me well suited to contribute to the Board.



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Independent Board Member: Carina Hall

I am a proud local with strong family ties to Surf Lifesaving — my eldest son holds his Surf Lifeguard Award and my younger children are actively involved in Junior Surf at Pukehina Surf Rescue. Being part of the club through them has deepened my appreciation for the important role it plays in our community and inspired me to contribute more directly.

In my professional life, I work as a full-time Board Secretary across a group of entities and committees, and I am a current member of the Institute of Directors. Through this experience, I have built strong expertise in governance, compliance, and supporting effective board processes.



I am seeking election as an Independent Board Member to combine my governance skills with my passion for community, helping to ensure the continued growth and sustainability of Pukehina Surf Rescue.

Independent Board Member: Natalie Rutland

We fell in love with Pukehina Surf Rescue club in 2016. Shifting out to the beach at the time, the kids were keen nippers, and we've stayed involved ever since. Our youngest Ash is in his final junior surf year this season and can already see a pathway beyond junior surf which we're keen to support.

My day job is strategic planning, so I have over 20 years experience in planning for the future, engaging with a range of people to develop great community outcomes, policy development and funding processes. Working for WBOPDC, I have a really good appreciation of what it takes for groups and organisations to do the most for their members and operate with transparency and accountability.



As a person, I think I'd bring an open mind, and critical thinking to this role. I enjoy working as a team, I have a calm approach to things and would love to help Pukehina Surf Rescue go from strength to strength. Pukehina Surf Rescue has been such a big part of our families life and is so important to so many. I believe I can have a positive impact on the future and would love the chance to give back in this position.



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Independent Board Member: Andrew McDowell

Hello Pukehina Surf Club family and friends.

My name is Andrew McDowell,

As you will know I am the Incumbent Chair Person for our great club. I would like to apply for a position as an independent board member, and below I have given a brief description of myself and reasoning.

Passionate about governance.

During my time here at Pukehina Surf Rescue Lifeguard Service Inc (some 14 years). I have held many positions on the committee, and in most years, two positions. During this time I have grown my knowledge in both the operational and non operational side of running a surf club.

Since 2014 I have spare-headed the club reconstruction team, creating key stakeholder relationships with Councils, mayors and their deputies, funders, sponsors and construction professionals ect.

Community Service.

Originally joining PSR as a trainee lifeguard I quickly became imbedded into this community I call home. Spending my days patrolling and nights getting around the sporting clubs and organisations promoting our club and our purpose.

“We exist to prevent drowning and injury on Pukehina Beach”

My services have not only been recognized by SLSNZ but other organisations including TECT (Volunteer of the year finalist) and gaining my New Zealand Grants board Volunteer of Year award in 2025 and Gaining a National Service Medal to services to surf lifesaving.

Making A Difference For Our Club.

My biggest contribution I have made to this club, is not the 10 awards I have earned, but my contribution to the construction of this amazing club-house I have been instrumental in creating.

This building is not just about bricks and mortar but an eleven-year life-style of which I am very proud.

This year I took on the construction of a standalone studio flat (Motu project) in order to gain the funds required to push the building to a point where we could receive or Compliance Certification.

As part of this push a was the quest of both TV1s news channels and The Breakfast Show highlighting firstly the club and then the region.

I am very confident I have the drive a spirt to help drive this club into the next phase of its existence.

Thanks for walking beside me.

Ngā mihi,

Andrew McDowell.

