



Pāpāmoa

SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

PSLSC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

23rd January 2025

WELCOME TO 2025!

We're well into our summer season, and what an incredible season it's been so far! From newly qualified lifeguards joining the ranks to existing lifeguards upskilling as IRB crew, drivers and instructors, it's been a season of growth and achievements. On the surf sports side of things, we've already seen many of our athletes achieving fantastic results, including personal bests and podium finishes - an exciting testament to their hard work and dedication.



The school holidays mark the busiest time of the year for our club. Every corner is buzzing with activity - our surf sports teams are training hard and gearing up for competitions with their dedicated coaches, while our lifeguards are keeping the beaches safe during the peak season for beachgoers, holidaymakers, and tourists. With many visitors unfamiliar with ocean swimming, our lifeguards' expertise is more vital than ever.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our incredible volunteers who keep everything running smoothly. From lifeguards and patrol support to officials, Junior Surf parents and grandparents, team managers, set-up and pack-down crews, and those preparing and serving food at events and club nights - you are the backbone of our club and your dedication makes it all possible.

Here's to the rest of an amazing summer season in 2025!

THANK YOU TEAM PĀPĀMOA



A massive thank you to the over 50 Pāpāmoa lifeguards, patrol support, parents, and supporters who helped make the 2025 Bay of Plenty Championships a resounding success earlier this month.

We hosted 10 clubs from across the region, with hundreds of competitors taking part. We couldn't have done it without our incredible volunteers who stepped up in every area - from water safety and first aid to set up and pack down crews. We also provided more than half the officials for the event, and even supplied our own barista, bar staff, photographers, and commentary team!

Special thanks to those who patrolled with Delta and Echo, allowing others to compete or help out, as well as those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly.

What an amazing group of people we have, and what an incredible club we're part of. On behalf of the Surf Sports Committee, and all the junior, senior, and masters athletes, we truly appreciate everything our club members do to help make events like this possible. Your time, effort, and dedication don't go unnoticed! Thank you again for your amazing support.



Photo Credit: Clare Peppers

LIFEGUARDING

Raising the Bar: Celebrating Our IRB Achievements

After a long wait, we were finally blessed with the perfect conditions to hold some IRB exams this week, and what a day it was! Our IRB drivers have worked tirelessly throughout winter, spring, and into summer, honing their skills and building teamwork during driver training. Their hard work, dedication, and support for each other were evident as they tackled the tough conditions with confidence and expertise. As a club, we are incredibly fortunate to have lifeguards of this calibre continually upskilling.



Photo: Front from left: Jamie Mardon, Naomi Davoren, Janine Bollee, Vitali Percival and Zac Cairns; back from left: Shaun Smith and Ryan Hohneck

A huge congratulations to the following members who have successfully gained their IRB Drivers Award: **Vitali Percival, Janine Bollee, Tony Jackson, Naomi Davoren, Zac Cairns and Malcolm Emeny.**

But the achievements don't stop there! We're thrilled to announce two new IRB Instructors: **Jamie Mardon and Mason Bollee.** Thank you both for your dedication and commitment to instructing and guiding others in their training journeys.

And as if that wasn't enough, we're proud to announce a new IRB Examiner at the club: **Ryan Hohneck.**

We must give the biggest **CONGRATULATIONS** to Ryan for his years of commitment to our IRB awards. His passion and dedication exemplify a true "In it for life" attitude. Ryan's work has been instrumental in transforming our IRB programme, making it stronger than ever. His persistence, despite challenges, has paid off and placed us in the enviable position we are in today.

This achievement also reflects the incredible teamwork and leadership of both Ryan and Shaun Smith, who have invested countless hours ensuring crew, drivers, and instructors are trained to the highest standard. Their dedication has built a foundation of excellence, and we are deeply grateful.

A massive thank you also goes to Harry Beattie, Marama Mateparae, and Jamie Cabusao for their invaluable contributions to instruction and training.

ROOKIES

Rookie Junior Lifeguard Programme in Action

Earlier this month, our Rookies demonstrated exactly why this programme is so important. While surfing near the club, Rookies Will Magill and Mason Jackson noticed a young boy about 9 years old on a surfboard being dragged out to sea. Will and Mason recount:

"We were just surfing in front of the club, looking out for waves, when we saw the kid about 300 meters offshore. It was clear he was drifting out and struggling. Onshore, we noticed a distressed mum running to the lifeguards and pointing at the boy. As the lifeguards prepared the IRB and radios, we realized the situation was serious. We decided to paddle out to him on our surfboards to help."

Will and Mason reached the boy, reassured him, and attached their leashes to his surfboard, towing him back to shore. They confidently used lifeguarding signals on the way back in to communicate to the regional guards. The boy was safely reunited with his grateful mother and older brother, who later explained they were tourists using rented surfboards.



Photo: Rookie Lifeguards Will Magill (left) and Mason Jackson put their training into practice, rescuing a young surfer struggling in the waves.

Head Regional Lifeguard Mitch Cowdrey praised the boys for their quick thinking and effective action. Rookie coaches Jamie Mardon and Ryan Hohneck were thrilled to see the Rookies applying their training in a real-life scenario, emphasizing how the programme fosters vital skills and confidence.

Mason summed it up perfectly: *"We just did what we were trained to do, and it felt good to help."*

This story highlights the value of the Rookie Junior Lifeguard Programme in preparing young members to step up when it matters most. It's these moments that ensure our community's safety and build the next generation of dedicated lifeguards.

Thank you to our ongoing Rookie programme sponsor [**EVES Real Estate Bay of Plenty**](#).

SURF SPORTS

MASTERS

A massive congratulations to our small but mighty team of Masters who competed at the Bay of Plenty Championships earlier this month. What a fantastic way to kick off 2025 - with some cracking results. The team put in an incredible effort, finishing a close second to Omanu. It was also fantastic to see some new faces enjoying the racing and taking on the conditions with enthusiasm.

Highlights from the weekend:

- Our 6-person Taplin team smashed the full-distance course, showcasing teamwork and determination.
- Richard Williams spiced up the male surf race by taking everyone on a scenic detour to the wrong buoy!
- Jenna Waite-Leonard dominated in the flags, leaving no room for hesitation and taking no prisoners.

A huge well done to everyone who competed. Your efforts, energy, and camaraderie have set the tone for a fantastic year ahead. The team now turn their focus to the Eastern Region Championships (ERCs) this weekend. We have a small team taking on the beach and ocean events tomorrow (Friday) plus one canoe crew and a number of members apart of a composite surf boat crew. The canoe and surfboat racing will take place at Pāpāmoa so if you're staying local for the anniversary weekend be sure to come down and watch.



Photo credit: Clare Pepers



SENIORS

It's been a busy and exciting start to the year for our Senior squad, with training in full swing and weekends packed with carnivals. The team started the year strong, claiming third place on home turf at the BOP Champs, finishing behind Mount Maunganui and winners Omanu. From there, they travelled to Red Beach for the 69th Owen Chapman Carnival. Despite challenging conditions, our small but determined team improved on last year's results, securing third overall behind Omanu and the home team of Red Beach.

Highlights from Red Beach:

- Our U15s gained invaluable experience competing in a tough and highly skilled field.
- The U17s and U19s shone, earning multiple podium finishes in both team and individual events.
- The standout moment was watching some of our clubbies take on the Eliminator race - an open event that tests endurance, skill, and determination as competitors are gradually eliminated through mini races. This grueling event includes all disciplines, from swimming and craft racing to flags and a run/wade/run.

Looking ahead, the team is gearing up for one of the season's biggest events this weekend: the ERCs at Mount Maunganui, which attracts top teams from across the country. Racing kicks off Friday with the 2km run and beach sprints, followed by water events over Saturday and Sunday. If you're in the Mount this weekend, be sure to head down to cheer on our incredible athletes as they compete in this highly anticipated carnival.

JUNIORS

Our Oceans group has also started 2025 with great energy and momentum. The team successfully defended their title in a close fought battle with Omanu at the Bay of Plenty Championships. Our group of 50 competitors gained some valuable racing experience throughout the event with standout performances in all age groups.

The teams next event is the Junior ERC's at the beginning of February in Ohope. The club is taking a large team and we wish them well on their endeavours to retain the Eastern title they won last year in Whangamata.

JUNIOR SURF

REMINDER - NO JUNIOR SURF THIS WEEKEND



Junior Surf on Sunday 26th January has been cancelled. This decision was made due to Eastern Region hosting their Boats and Canoes Championships at Pāpāmoa, which will occupy much of the beach and require many of our key club members to assist with the event. Additionally, with it being Anniversary weekend, many of our key Junior Surf volunteer organisers are unavailable, leaving us short on the number of people needed to safely run the session.

Thank you for your understanding and we will see you at the next Junior Surf session on Sunday 2nd February.

Pāpāmoa Carnival Fun

We hope everyone who attended our Pāpāmoa Carnival had a fantastic time! This event is one of the most popular of the season, offering kids in the under 8 and above age groups a relaxed introduction to carnival

racing in a team-based format. It's a great opportunity for them to get a taste of what's to come while competing alongside their friends.

This year, we were thrilled to welcome seven clubs with 350 kids from across the region. While the challenging conditions unfortunately prevented us from finishing the water races, our beachies truly shone! They excelled in the team flags and beach relays, winning multiple medals and showcasing their skills and determination.

It's always a highlight to see such a great turnout, and we're already looking forward to next year's carnival!



Photo credit: Emma Kemp



Photo credit: Rowena Lennan



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