



Pāpāmoa

SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

PSLSC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

14th March 2025

BEACH SAFETY REMINDER

As we head into the end of the season, it's more important than ever to stay safe at the beach. There are no regional guards on duty now at Pāpāmoa Beach during the week. Our volunteer lifeguards continue to patrol on Saturdays and Sundays between 11am – 4pm until the end of March. Make sure to check Safeswim for the latest updates on beach conditions and lifeguard patrol times wherever you are in New Zealand www.safeswim.org.nz



Surf Life Saving New Zealand is also urging beachgoers to take extra care. These messages are still important for club members as SLSNZ National Coastal Safety Manager, Tom Kearny says the vast majority of people who get into trouble in the water underestimate the conditions and over-estimate their abilities. *“If you have any doubt at all about the sea conditions and your ability to get back to the shore safely, please stay on the beach.”*

Tom says getting caught in a rip current is the main hazard on our beaches accounting for most rescues and 17 percent of drownings at surf beaches in the last decade. *“Even wading in the shallows of a rip current can cause people to lose their footing and quickly be pulled into deeper water.”*

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on beach safety.

PLEASE NOTE the date change of the Volunteer Celebration...



FRIDAY 11 APRIL 2025
5PM START

LIFEGUARDING

Join The Adventure

Registrations are **NOW OPEN** for the Eastern Region Junior Guard School, taking place at the Mount Surf Club from 4th – 6th July 2025.



Now in its fifth year, this is an exciting development opportunity for lifeguards aged 14-16.

The fun and dynamic camp is all about:

- 👉 Meeting lifeguards from other clubs & building new friendships
- 👉 Exploring pathways within SLSNZ
- 👉 Taking on new training challenges (like rock work)
- 👉 Staying fit and ready for the season ahead

Previous Pāpāmoa lifeguards who have been to the school say it's an unforgettable experience so don't miss out! **[CLICK HERE](#)** for more information and to register.

Exciting Training & Development Opportunities Ahead!

There are some fantastic opportunities coming up at the club for lifeguard development and training. Modules will be available in board rescue, IRB crewperson, and IRB drivers, offering valuable experience for those looking to advance their lifeguarding skills.



With so many young lifeguards coming through the ranks, the future looks bright, and we expect high demand for these sessions. To stay updated and secure your spot, be sure to keep a close eye on the **[Lifeguarding Facebook page](#)** for announcements and registration details. Don't miss out on these great opportunities to grow and develop your expertise!

ROOKIES

This Sunday March 16th, we're heading to Pukehina for the Eastern Region Rookies Challenge. With two full teams (Team Narwhal & Team Whale Shark) plus a few Rookies in a composite team, it's going to be an epic day! We can't wait to see them put their skills into action.



We're excited to see so many young people in Pāpāmoa eager to join our team of volunteer lifeguards and make a real difference in our community. These are our lifeguards of the future, and we couldn't be prouder!

A huge thank you to all our Pāpāmoa Examiners and Officials for helping make this event run smoothly. A massive shoutout to [EVES Real Estate Bay of Plenty](#) for their ongoing support of our Rookie Programme!

Go Team Narwhal & Team Whale Shark!

JUNIOR SURF SPORT

U14s Begin Their Surf Ski Journey

Our Under 14 athletes kicked off their first surf ski session this week at Pilot Bay, with an impressive 22 sign-ups filling the trailer! While the conditions were choppy, the juniors embraced the challenge with great enthusiasm.



As these Under 14 athletes transition to Seniors next season, surf ski becomes a major part of the programme. To prepare, the club provides a Beginner Ski Programme specifically tailored to help new Seniors master the correct technique and skills required for the sport. The programme starts off in the calmer waters of Pilot Bay before progressing to the more challenging ocean side.

Reflecting on Junior Surf Sports: Will Magill's Journey

As Will Magill prepares to transition into Senior Surf Sports next season, he reflects on his time in the Junior Surf Sport Programme and the valuable lessons he's learned.

For Will, some of his most memorable experiences have been at the Oceans carnivals and Oceans camp. *"Definitely competing at Oceans and attending Oceans camp,"* he says. *"The best part was getting to hang out with everyone – it was lots of fun."*



Throughout his time in Juniors, Will feels being part of a team has shaped him not only as an athlete but as a person. *“Being part of the team has pushed me to be my best, both as an athlete and personally. Competing in surf lifesaving has taught me resilience, and having such a supportive and encouraging team around me has made those lessons a little easier. Being part of a team gives me a sense of belonging and purpose. We combine our individual skills to achieve a greater goal, support each other, and build lifelong friendships.”*



A defining moment for Will was when the team placed first overall as a club. *“I’m always proud to wear my Pāpāmoa beanie. One of the proudest moments was when we placed first at Oceans and knowing that I played a part in helping us get there.”*

Reflecting on the camaraderie, he highlights how vital it is to support each other, regardless of individual outcomes. *“Sometimes we have a bad race or things don’t go our way and it is nice to have teammates there who understand how that feels and are supportive and also encouraging. It’s such a great feeling to have my teammates there on the finish line to celebrate and cheer me on when I achieve what I have set out to do, even if that goal was to just finish the race. My teammates understand.”*



Will’s journey in junior surf has been one of perseverance. *“When I first started at 10 years old, I wasn’t as skilled or fit, and I didn’t make finals. But I kept training, and in my last season, all that hard work paid off. I made finals and placed in several races. I know I can bring that same dedication and mindset to the Senior team.”*

As he looks ahead to Seniors, Will is eager to build on the skills he’s learnt in Juniors. *“I’m excited to take my skills to the next level. I can’t wait to be part of the Senior team and get to know the older members of the club better.”*

However, he knows the next step comes with challenges. *“Mastering the majestic ski will be a big challenge! Senior Surf Sports will definitely be a step up in both training and competition, but I’m ready for it. My Junior experience has given me the mindset to push through and keep going, even when things get tough.”*

If Will could sum up his Junior Surf Sport experience in three words, they would be: *“Friendships, fun, and growth.”*

SENIOR & MASTER SURF SPORTS

Nationals 2025 – A Championship to Remember!

What an epic four days in Gisborne for our Seniors and Masters! Nationals 2025 threw everything at us - challenging weather, tough surf, and a packed schedule - but thanks to the incredible efforts of officials and event management, the full programme was completed.

Our team faced some of the worst conditions on Thursday, with a reduced programme and challenging surf testing everyone's resilience. Despite that, Pāpāmoa still delivered strong results across all age groups. As the weather improved on Friday and Saturday, the action ramped up, with our athletes showing grit, determination, and endurance through long days of racing. Sunday wrapped up the competition with the U17s completing their rescue events, and our Pāpāmoa Seniors finished 10th overall - a fantastic achievement!



Reflecting on the event, Pāpāmoa official Bridget Chugg shared:

"It was quite a challenging event for our clubbies, with tough surf conditions and ever-changing weather. We had to adapt quickly, even moving between different beaches to ensure safety and fairness. Despite the

obstacles, the athletes showed incredible resilience. It was both rewarding and inspiring to navigate these challenges alongside officials from across the country - it truly reflects the spirit of the National Championships, where adaptability and teamwork make all the difference."

Podium Results – Pāpāmoa's Champions!

Seniors

GOLD

- [Oliver Pepers](#) – U17 M Run Swim Run
- [Sophia Maltai-Spence](#) – U15 F Board Race & U15 F 2km Beach Run

SILVER

- [Trelise Chote](#) – U19 F Board Race
- [Lockie Cairns](#) – U17 M 2km Beach Run
- [Amelie Pearson](#) – U17 F Run Swim Run

BRONZE

- [Evie Metcalfe](#) – U15 F Beach Flags
- [Amelie Pearson](#) – U17 F Surf Race

Senior Teams

SILVER

- [Georgia & Isobella Davoren](#) – U17 F Board Rescue

BRONZE

- [Sean Leach, Triton Dickens, Luke Gillbanks & Lockie Cairns](#) – U17 M Surf Teams

Masters

GOLD

- [Naomi Davoren](#) – Masters F Surf Race & Board Race
- [Owen Miller](#) – Masters M Surf Race & Board Race
- [Richard Williams](#) – Masters M Surf Race

SILVER

- [Richard Williams](#) – Masters M Beach Sprint

BRONZE

- [Jenna Waite-Leonard](#) – Masters F Beach Flags
- [Richard Williams](#) – Masters M Beach Flags
- [Naomi Davoren](#) – Masters F Beach Flags
- [Owen Miller](#) – Masters M Beach Sprints

Masters Teams

GOLD

- [Rob Pepers, Owen Miller & Richard Williams](#) – Masters M Surf Teams

A Huge Thank You!

A massive thank you to our officials, water crew, and first aid volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the competition ran smoothly. We couldn't do it without you. And finally, a huge shoutout to our sponsors for their ongoing support:

 [Mitre 10 Pāpāmoa](#)

 [PaknSave Pāpāmoa](#)

 [CMT Excavations Ltd](#)

 [EVES Realty Bay of Plenty](#)

 [Body In Motion Health](#)

What an incredible Nationals - we can't wait to build on this success next season!

Rescued on the Road!



We can't thank our wonderful sponsor, **CMT Excavations**, enough for coming to our rescue. While on the road to Nationals in Gisborne, our ski trailer flipped due to high winds, thankfully no one was hurt. Matt from CMT Excavations arrived with his big truck and safely transported the trailer and skis back to the club.

We feel incredibly lucky to have such amazing local sponsors who step up in times of need. Your support means the world to us - **thank you CMT Excavations!**

Battling the Elements: Owen Miller Reflects on Nationals 2025

This year's Senior and Master Nationals 2025 proved to be an unforgettable experience for all involved. Despite the tough environment, Pāpāmoa's Masters team rose to the challenge, demonstrating both determination and camaraderie.



For Pāpāmoa Masters athlete For Owen Miller, the event was about more than just racing - it was about the collective effort to push through. *"Nationals was a great experience! The conditions were tough, but everyone was in it together. The athletes, officials, and water safety teams all came together to support one another and get us into the water whenever possible."*

With unpredictable surf and event cancellations, staying motivated wasn't always easy, but Owen was determined to compete. *"I was always going to give it a go if the races were going ahead. I really enjoy the aspect of competing as an individual while also earning points for your club in the overall competition."*

One of the toughest moments of the weekend came in the board race, where competitors had to battle relentless waves. *"With the cans set in the break zone, it was a battle to round all three cans while being knocked back by the surf."* But through sheer grit and perseverance, Owen and his teammates kept pushing forward.

Throughout the weekend, the Pāpāmoa Masters team provided an incredible support system, helping each other stay positive. *"They are a great bunch of people - a perfect mix of encouraging you to do your best"*

while also taking care of each other. As a Master at the younger end, it's awesome to see parents and kids competing at the same event. They're all great role models, and I'm excited for my own kids to come up through the club," said Owen.



Looking back on Nationals 2025, Owen's standout moment was winning the Surf Teams race alongside Richard Williams and Rob Pepers. *"That was definitely my highlight, closely followed by just missing out on a podium with our beach relay team."*

A massive congratulations to our Masters team, who braved atrocious conditions and still brought home multiple podium finishes! They made the most of their events, claiming gold in the Surf Race, Surf Teams, and Board Race. When they took to the sand, the Masters added Silver and Bronze in Beach Sprints and Flags. Special mention to Naomi Davoren, who, after supporting the Seniors, snuck away on Friday to claim Gold in the Board Race!

With Nationals behind them, the Pāpāmoa Masters can take pride in their incredible performances and the bonds they strengthened over the course of the event. Their resilience in the face of adversity is a testament to the spirit of surf lifesaving - pushing boundaries, supporting teammates, and giving it everything, no matter the conditions.

Countdown to Aussies



The countdown to **Aussies '25** is on! In the aftermath of Cyclone Alfred our small Senior team heading to the Gold Coast packed up their container this week without knowing whether the event might still go ahead. But with good news from the event organisers, it seems everything is still on track.

Our team of Trelise Chote, Amelie Pearson, Georgia and Bella Davoren, Ellie Davis, Sean Leach, Lockie Cairns and Naomi Davoren head to North Kirra at the end of March to test themselves against Australia's best.

The team have spent the last 10 months fundraising and are now on the final countdown to racing. A big thank you to **Scales Logistics** for their help and support in transporting the container to Australia and back.

JUNIOR SURF

We can't wait to celebrate with all our Junior Surf families at our end-of-season event tonight from 5pm at the club! Our amazing Junior Surf volunteers have planned a fun-filled afternoon, kicking off with games on the beach before we wrap up the season with a special prize giving. The club bar will be open, so bring your family and friends along to cheer on our young lifeguards and celebrate an incredible season together.

See you there!



5PM - BEACH & WATER GAMES

6PM - PRIZE GIVING

**FRIDAY 14TH MARCH
2025**

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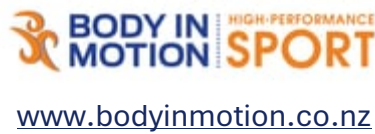
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