



Pāpāmoa

SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

PSLSC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

3rd August 2025

COUNTDOWN TO SUMMER IS ON!

You might have thought it was quieter over the winter — think again! It's been an action-packed season at Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club, and now, as we gear up for summer and the 2025-26 patrol season, we're ramping things up even more. Make sure you keep an eye on this newsletter, our website and social media pages to stay up to date with all the latest news, upcoming events, and key dates for the season.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER – AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Our members brought home honours across lifesaving, surf sport, and service at the Eastern Region Awards of Excellence, celebrating the outstanding efforts of volunteers, athletes, coaches, and officials. It was an incredible night showcasing just how much our community achieves.

Ryan Hohneck was awarded Bay of Plenty DHL Surf Lifeguard of the Year, in recognition of his leadership, calm presence, and unwavering commitment to surf safety. Our club also won Bay of Plenty Patrol Club of the Year under the guidance of Lifeguard Committee Chair Marama Mateparae.

Marama said:

"It really is down to our people. Points are awarded to clubs based on criteria including membership growth, numbers of refreshed lifeguards and IRB drivers, accumulated patrol hours, and achieving two patrol audits with 100% compliance. It truly reflects the hard mahi of our members."



This award season reflects our **F-R-E-E-C** values of Fun, Respect, Encouragement, Excellence and Commitment in action through:

- Pre-season refresher days to reconnect and sharpen patrol skills.
- Expanded instructor team to embed training across patrols.
- A strong IRB programme led by Ryan Hohneck and Shaun Smith.
- A thriving Rookies programme tapping into our junior surf base.
- Parent engagement in Junior Surf - many stepping up to join patrols too.

Beyond lifesaving, our members were recognised for excellence in surf sport with athletes, coaches, officials, and event safety performers winning awards. Our regional service volunteers Radleigh Cairns, Poppy Crouch, Robynne Cabusao also received awards for their behind-the-scenes leadership.

As Marama put it:

"He Tangata, He Tangata, He Tangata — it's the people who are the strength of our club. We are a family club, and it's our people - from training in winter, fixing engines, turning up for patrol and keeping fit, to making coffees - who make Pāpāmoa what it is."

Looking ahead: Marama's simple ambition for next season is:

"More of the same, please!" Building on prevention, training, and a welcoming environment where everyone belongs.

To read more about the awards and see the full list of Pāpāmoa winners [CLICK HERE](#).

A huge congratulations to everyone who contributed this season.

SUPPORT LOCAL, SUPPORT BODY IN MOTION HEALTH PĀPĀMOA

DID YOU KNOW Body in Motion Health Pāpāmoa has been a committed silver sponsor of the Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club since 2019, supporting our mission to keep beachgoers safe while nurturing young athletes.

DID YOU KNOW their sponsorship is focused on our Junior Surf and Ocean Athlete Programmes, ensuring our nippers have access to essential training gear and coaching resources to learn surf skills and beach safety.



DID YOU KNOW Body in Motion delivers a full range of evidence-based physiotherapy and rehabilitation services, including sports physio, paediatric injury prevention, running analysis, and breathing optimisation.

DID YOU KNOW they offer tailored treatment options, whether you're recovering from injury, managing a condition, or wanting to optimise performance - plus holistic services like pelvic floor, occupational therapy, and pilates.

DID YOU KNOW by choosing Body in Motion Health Pāpāmoa, you're supporting a sponsor that gives back to our local beach community, investing directly in youth development at Pāpāmoa Surf Club.

Connect with Body in Motion Health Pāpāmoa:

📍 Unit 5, 7 Gravatt Road, Papamoa Beach, Tauranga

☎ 07 927 3330

🌐 www.bodyinmotion.co.nz/papamoa

A huge thanks to the team at Body in Motion Health Pāpāmoa for helping our nippers and Ocean Athletes reach their full potential. We're proud to count you as part of the Pāpāmoa Surf Club whānau.

LIFEGUARDING

IRB DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND

Last weekend, the Eastern Region hosted a fantastic IRB Development Weekend at Mount Maunganui, and Pāpāmoa was proud to be there.

Saturday: Sharing Knowledge, Building Consistency

Representing Pāpāmoa, Ryan Hohneck joined forces with Jamie Mardon, Mason Bollee and Nikita Bublitz, along with instructors and examiners from across the region. They exchanged ideas on training techniques, lesson planning, and ways to improve delivery.

Ryan: *"It was a highlight to be invited to share our own lesson planning framework and training programme developed right here at Pāpāmoa. Great to see our methods resonate across the region and contribute to a more consistent approach."*

Sunday: Hands-On Training with Trainee Drivers

Ryan: *"We returned to the Mount with our seven new trainee IRB drivers. Under the guidance of instructors and examiners - including our own Malcolm Emeny - they took part in on-beach driver training. The session put Saturday's planning into action with real-world driver drills and coaching."*



A massive thank you to everyone who took part, from our guest instructors and examiners to our dedicated trainees. This weekend demonstrated the impact of collaboration and the value of learning from each other. Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club is committed to raising standards across our region - and having a great time doing it.

BAYWAVE POOL PARTY



On Friday 25th July, Baywave transformed into a vibrant, blue-themed community hub to mark World Drowning Prevention Day - part of a global campaign led by the World Health Organization to reduce the more than 84,000 drowning deaths across the Western Pacific region.

Inviting everyone to “come dressed in blue”, the family-friendly event ran from 4pm to 8pm and featured discounted pool access, wave pool fun, inflatables, giveaways, and the first 100 kids receiving a free slushy.

Local organisations including our very own Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club lifeguards ran safety demos in the pool and poolside, speaking with hundreds of whānau about float-first survival skills, vigilant supervision, lifejacket use, and safety messages.



Our lifeguards brought expertise, enthusiasm, and vital education to the day. Sue Matthews (superb as always!), Radleigh Cairns, Lockie Cairns, Sean Leach, Karyn Leach, Triton Dickens, Poppy Crouch and Nicol Carbone Brown were highlighting water-safe tips, assisting in aquatic skill challenges, and answering families' questions about safe swimming, rip currents, and supporting with float-first practice sessions.

Our heartfelt thanks go to every lifeguard who turned up in uniform and volunteered their evening. By speaking face-to-face with over 500 people, demonstrating rescue-ready professionalism, and championing prevention, you helped turn this World Drowning Prevention Day into a beacon for water-wise action in our community.

POOL RESCUE TEAM SHINES AT BOP DEVELOPMENT MEET



Our talented Pool Rescue team made a splash at the Bay of Plenty Pool Rescue Development Meet, held at Baywave last month. With the largest team on deck, we proudly showed up, gave it our all, and brought energy, learning, and camaraderie to the lanes. This event wasn't just about racing - it was about growth. Our athletes showed great strides in confidence, technique, and race-day focus. The smiles and team spirit on poolside told the real story: a team enjoying the challenge and thriving in the water.

Of course, this success wouldn't have been possible without the incredible dedication of our age-group managers, officials, water crew, and our passionate supporters. From the logistics to the cheers from the stands, every person played a vital part in creating a well-run, supportive environment for our athletes to perform at their best.



We caught up with Jarad Davies, who competes on our masters team and works with our club sponsor **Aquaholics**, to hear about his experience:

"I decided to join the masters pool rescue team to spend more quality time with my kids and to challenge myself in a new way. The season's going great so far! It's definitely not a walk in the park, and I'm often outside my comfort zone, but I'm really enjoying the events and the challenge."

He was also full of praise for Aquaholics' role in supporting the club:

"Aquaholics is thrilled to be able to support the Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club. The work done by the club is truly outstanding, and for us, it's a fantastic way to give back to the community through such an awesome club and to the Pāpāmoa area."

With the BOP meet behind us, we're now gearing up for the next big one: the **Eastern Region Pool Rescue Championships in Gisborne** taking place at the end of the month. The countdown is on - and judging by our team's form and spirit, it's going to be an exciting weekend of racing. Good luck to everyone heading to the Eastern Region Champs.

SURF SPORT

During the winter months, our athletes have been training hard in the ocean and pool, mastering surf ski and kneeboard skills, and our coaches are busy planning for another action-packed summer season ahead. Read on for the latest updates...



Assistant Coach Opportunity

With our squads growing rapidly under the guidance of Jack Bullock (Juniors Coach) and Jake Cowdrey (Seniors Coach), we're now recruiting an Assistant Coach to help support them. This role is a great way to get involved in developing our talented athletes and sustaining high-quality coaching. Interested? [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more or apply.



Mount Monster - 29 November

A seniors' favourite - The Mount Monster makes its return this summer as part of the International Surf Rescue Challenge. Competitors will tackle a 10 km surf ski, 5 km run, 1.5 km swim (with the iconic blowhole jump) and a 6 km board race. Athletes can compete individually or in teams of 2-4. Registrations are open now, and anyone interested should speak with Jake before signing up. Whether you're competing or cheering from the beach, the Mount Monster is a must-see event.



Oceans Camp 7 - 9 November

For our Juniors, the date is set for our awesome Oceans Camp which launches the season. It's a full action-packed weekend of swimming, boarding, building water confidence and essential surf skills, team-building activities, making new friends, and of course camp pool fun and wharf jumping. The camp is led by Jack, Jake, senior coaches, and parent lifeguards to ensure safe ratios. Thanks to a grant from [One Foundation Ltd](#), accommodation and coaching costs are partly covered, making the experience more accessible for families.

Make sure you RSVP to the invitation and contact Nikki in the office if you've not received it: info@papamoolifeguards.co.nz



Quiz Night Fundraiser – Tickets Selling Fast!

Tickets are selling fast for our annual Quiz Night, one of the highlights of the year - expect a fun evening of trivia, awesome prizes, and live and silent auctions. We're excited to highlight our popular annual supporter, **Te Puke Golf Club**, who have donated a round of golf for four people with two carts, valued at up to \$440. Grab your tickets while you still can:

QUIZ NIGHT TICKETS



IRB Racing is Back!

If you're thinking about joining the IRB racing team this season, come along to an informal BBQ Meet & Greet following driver training on **Sunday 10 August:**

- Meet the team and get a feel for what IRB racing is all about

- Learn about pre-season training, season calendar, competition structure, and what's required in terms of fitness and qualifications
- Chat with Nick Coulter about getting involved or your next steps
- The pre-season programme kicks off on Monday 18 August

If you have any questions or want to know more before the meet and greet, please contact Nick directly on 027 351 2110 - he's happy to talk IRBs anytime.



JUNIOR SURF

Our Junior Surf programme runs from November to March, so while our members have been enjoying a well-earned winter break, the committee hasn't been resting! Behind the scenes, we've already started preparing for next season. As we gear up for the 2025–26 season, we're saying a huge thank you to Danielle Petricevich, who is stepping down as Committee Chair after years of dedicated service. We couldn't be more grateful for her leadership and everything she's done to grow the programme.

Today, we're proud to introduce your new Junior Surf Committee Chairperson — Jenna Waite-Leonard. We spoke to Jenna about her journey so far, priorities, and vision for the season ahead.

Jenna's Key Priorities & Vision for Junior Surf

- **Empowerment at the core** – Ensuring every tamariki feels calm, confident, and capable on the beach and in the ocean.
- **Strengthen parent involvement** – Recruiting and nurturing more parents as coaches and helpers, building a sustainable volunteer base.
- **Regional collaboration** – Fostering stronger ties with other clubs across the Bay to deliver a consistent, inclusive, and friendly Junior Surf experience.
- **Celebrate effort, not just results** – Shifting focus toward recognising participation, perseverance, and progress on event days.
- **Introduce new formats for fun and flexibility** – Planning twilight surf sessions and casual club nights to boost engagement, enjoyment, and community connections.
- **Support volunteer development** – Pairing experienced coaches with newer volunteers for mentorship and practical learning. Enhancing social connections among volunteers to make the experience supportive and enjoyable.
- **Open invitation to families** – Emphasising the importance of volunteer involvement across all roles—coaching, assisting, sausage sizzles, or simply being present to support the environment kids thrive in.

[Read the full interview with Jenna Waite-Leonard...](#)



Q. How long have you been involved in Junior Surf at the club?

"I joined the club and started coaching in 2023 when my oldest daughter turned five. I grew up at the Mount as a nipper, so it felt like a full-circle moment to get involved again—this time as a parent. I completed my Surf Lifeguard Award in December 2023 and since then, I've become a certified IRB crew member, gained advanced first aid, joined the Masters crew (both beach and pool), and hopped on the Junior Surf committee. Pāpāmoa has such a passionate and welcoming club environment, offering countless opportunities to get involved and learn new skills. To me, there's no better way to spend a summer than on the beach, surrounded by great people, good energy, and strong community spirit."

Q. How does it feel to take on this new leadership role as Committee Chairperson?

"It's a real privilege to step into this role. Junior Surf at Pāpāmoa is strong today thanks to years of work by an incredible group of volunteers. I feel both responsibility and excitement to keep building on that legacy and move things forward in a positive direction for our club and community."

Q. What are some of your key priorities or goals for the Junior Surf programme moving into the 2025–26 season?

"My top priority is ensuring our tamariki feel calm, confident, and capable on the beach and in the ocean—that's at the heart of everything we do. I'm also focusing on bringing more parents in as coaches and helpers—not just for this season, but to build long-term support. Strengthening connections with other clubs in the region is another passion of mine—the more we can collaborate, the more consistent, friendly, and fun we can make the Junior Surf experience across the Bay."



Q. From your experience as a coach and committee member, what do you see as the strengths of our Junior Surf programme?

"We're incredibly lucky to have senior athletes who act as role models for younger kids—their presence and energy make a real difference. Our older age groups are led by experienced coaches, and that knowledge builds season to season. There's also a deep well of experience in our club, with many who have run or supported Junior Surf before, so wisdom is always on hand. Most importantly, we have space for every kind of kid—whether competitive or just building confidence. Add our amazing beach, beautiful clubrooms, and great equipment, and you've got something pretty special."

Q. How do you plan to support and develop the team of volunteer coaches and parent helpers in your new role?

"I'm keen to foster knowledge-sharing—pairing experienced coaches with new volunteers to pass on tips, build confidence, and raise our overall support. I also want volunteering to be fun and social, so we're planning more opportunities for parent coaches and helpers to connect outside the usual setup."

Q. Are there any changes or new ideas you're hoping to introduce this season?

"Definitely! We've been reviewing feedback from last season and are planning some new initiatives. One big idea: recognising and celebrating effort on the day—not just results—because that builds confidence and encourages participation. We're also exploring twilight sessions and casual club nights to add flexibility, fun, and greater community connection to our programme."

Q. What message would you like to share with parents and families heading into the new season?

"Please get involved—we truly can't do it without you. With over 400 kids expected on the beach this summer, it's going to take a team effort to make everything happen. No experience needed—just a willingness to jump in. Whether helping in the water, coaching, serving sausages, or simply being a supportive presence, every bit counts. Volunteering is incredibly rewarding, a great way to meet awesome people, have a few laughs, and be part of a positive community vibe. Most importantly, it sets a powerful example for our kids—showing them what being active, confident, and connected on the beach looks like—and that's something they'll carry with them for life. If you're thinking about getting involved—or just wondering where to start—feel free to reach out. I'm always happy to chat."

Inspired to join our Junior Surf Committee?



We're looking for enthusiastic whānau and parent volunteers to help make next season a spectacular success! Whether you're already involved in Junior Surf, or brand new, we'd love to hear from you.

A strong Junior Surf Committee helps:

- design the season structure (weekly sessions, fun events, carnivals)
- coordinate rostering, equipment, and fundraising
- organise the end-of-season celebrations
- share the workload

No prior experience is necessary and full support is provided. Perfect if you want to help shape an awesome experience for our kids and community.

If that sounds like you, or even if you're just curious and want to know more, contact Jenna at juniorsurf@papamoalifeguards.co.nz



What's Next?

Keep an eye on our newsletter and communications over the next month—we'll be sharing key season dates and opening registration for the 2025–26 Junior Surf season soon!

We look forward to another fantastic summer on the beach with all of you.

Thank you to our sponsors below who make all our programmes possible.





www.papamoarotaryclub.co.nz



www.sonicsurfcraft.co.nz



www.raceone.com.au