



Papamoa

SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

PSLSC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

16th March 2023

STRONG CURRENTS AND RIPS

It's great to see people flocking to the beach after school and work to enjoy the late arrival of summer. But we'd like to remind our members that the coastline continues to be a dangerous playground and we need to take extra care of ourselves and our families.

The coastline from Mount Maunganui all the way down to Pāpāmoa East, is littered with large holes and troughs which feed into very strong rip currents. Even though the surf is only 0.5m – 1m, these currents are extremely strong!

Currently there are no lifeguards on patrol during the weekdays. Our volunteer lifeguards are on patrol on weekends between 11am-4pm so we strongly advise people to use that time to head to the beach and **SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS**.

Here is a reminder of some of the key safety messages from SLSNZ:



3RS RIP SURVIVAL PLAN

Rips are a major hazard on New Zealand beaches and can be deadly. Learn the 3Rs Rip Survival Plan – it could save your life!

✓ Always keep a very close eye on young children in or near the water. Keep children within arm's reach at all times



H  ME SAFE



CLOSE ENOUGH TO CUDDLE

Keep your kids within arm's reach at all times in or near the water. Rogue or large waves move really quickly and unexpectedly and can sweep kids away or knock them off their feet.

✓ Don't overestimate your ability in the water or your children's ability to cope in the conditions



H  ME SAFE



KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Too many people get into trouble in the water because they simply overestimate their abilities and under-estimate the conditions.

✓ Get a friend to swim with you - never swim or surf alone



H  ME SAFE



ALWAYS BETTER TOGETHER

There is safety in numbers. If you get in trouble in the water and you have your friends or family with you, you have instant back-up. They can help you out or get help if needed.

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Junior Surf Prize Giving – Sunday 26th March at 2pm

Club Awards Evening – Saturday 6th May at 6pm



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Pāpāmoa lifeguard, National Champion and all-round Masters legend Sandy Boubée made Pāpāmoa proud once again with two Gold Medals at last month's Queensland State Masters Championship. Her commitment to surf sports saw her rewarded with Gold in the Surf Ski Race as well as the prestigious Ironperson event.



Sandy says competing in Queensland gave her an opportunity to race against some of the best in her age group.

"There were 18 on the line for each craft event and 38 for the Ocean Swim which made starts an essential skill to get right," she says.

The Ocean Swim event was against some strong athletes and Sandy placed 8/38. As many athletes know, sometimes the 'luck of the draw' can impact a race and Sandy was unlucky not to have placed in her Board Race.

"I was 2nd on the line in front of the full-size waves. I popped the first wave then got smashed on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th wave," she says. "During this time athletes on the right-hand side got through the smaller breaks and were off. A strong paddle and race length not quite long enough for a jag, meant I finished 5/18."



Reflecting on her performances Sandy says she is stoked with her results considering how unwell she was seven months ago.

"My decisions moving forward are always made with the thought - train to put myself in the best possible position, take every opportunity, train with like-minded people, have fun and, if you miss a wave or a training session, there's always one that follows."

You will often see Sandy training on the waves of Pāpāmoa, Omanu, Pilot Bay or Mount Main Beach.

"I'll train anywhere I can convince like-minded Masters to meet."

A huge congratulations to Sandy for all her achievements so far this year.

SPONSOR DRIVEN TO SUPPORT AT HIGHEST LEVEL

Owners of our Platinum Sponsor [GJ Gardner Tauranga](#), Shane and Kirsty McConnell, don't have a background in surf lifesaving but are hoping to become part of the Junior Surf family in the future.

"Being born and raised inland in Hamilton, we often wish we could have raised our children by the beach and given them the opportunity to be in the Surf Club," says Kirsty. "We will have to wait for the grandies now for that!"



Back in 2019 Kirsty and Shane teamed up with Terrace Views to build a stunning house in Pāpāmoa East. All the proceeds were donated to the Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club and put towards the build of our new clubhouse. Kirsty says they wanted to give back to the community that's been so supportive of them.

"We bought the local GJ Gardner Home franchise in December 2007, so 2023 marks our 16th year in business here in the Bay," she says. "You've probably seen our GJ utes out on the roads and our project managers out on many building sites - we're very busy building homes in Pāpāmoa. We love the people, the busy seaside town with the relaxed vibe. We've got lots of friends who live in Pāpāmoa, and we have made many new friends through building homes in various subdivisions. Mostly Terrace Views, Golden Sands and Palm Springs. We count ourselves very lucky to be a part of this community."

Kirsty says they love how the Surf Club provides so many important services and sporting pursuits for the community to enjoy and partake in.



"It plays such a key role in Pāpāmoa, and a key role in safety for all of us who enjoy time on the beach and in the water," she says. "We just felt moved to support the Club to the highest level we could. There are so many volunteers and families linked to it, we wanted to get behind not only the building of the new Rescue Centre and Club, but to help keep the volunteer work going, by being regular monetary supporters each month. One of life's greatest privileges is to give back to the community you find yourself in. So many volunteers are already doing that through their time, skills and experience. We wanted to give back too, with what we could."

G.J. Gardner.
HOMES

Thank you to Kirsty and Shane for their ongoing support and friendship. We look forward to seeing them on the beach and enjoying the club with their family.

GJ's opened its doors in the Bay 27 years ago. For many years it was quite a small business but in the past 10 years it's really grown with the boom in the area. With significant recent growth, GJs are now building around 150 homes a year in the Bay.

LIFEGUARDING

18 March 2023	Saturday	Alpha
19 March 2023	Sunday	Bravo
25 March 2023	Saturday	Charlie
26 March 2023	Sunday	Delta
Easter Weekend - setup observational rescue ready patrols - setup		
1 April 2023	Saturday	Echo
2 April 2023	Sunday	Alpha
7 April 2023	Friday	Bravo
8 April 2023	Saturday	Charlie
9 April 2023	Sunday	Delta
10 April 2023	Monday	Echo

Just a reminder to all our lifeguards that our weekend patrols continue through to Easter.

We have added the weekend of 1st and 2nd April to our patrols due to the summer arriving late this year.

ROOKIES



Good luck to all our Rookies taking part in the 2022/2023 Eastern Region Rookie Championships on Sunday at the Mount.

Teams of 5 take on challenges to demonstrate both the practical physical skills associated with surf rescue patrol and theoretical knowledge around racing, rescues and/or first aid situations.

Trophies will be awarded to the Top Rookie Team and Top Individual Rookies who finish first, second and third.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

SURF SPORTS



A big **THANK YOU** to [Grass Roots Trust](#) whose support has allowed more of our athletes to compete in events this season than ever before. Entry fees to some of the bigger regional and national events can be unreachable for some families, so their grant fund has made a big difference to our members – thank you.



SENIOR SURF SPORTS



The first nationals in three years did not disappoint with stellar weather and big surf challenging first timers and old heads alike.

Pāpāmoa's team had a fantastic time showcasing their surf skills over the four day event. Our Masters paved the way on day one with Naomi Davoren and Sandy Boubée bagging a swag of medals in the water and on

the beach, before our Black Fin Natalie Peat grabbed podium places in both the Surf Race and Run Swim Run on day two.

Our U17 and U15s did us proud and competed strongly across all events making multiple finals. Amelie Pearson achieved bronze medals in the U15 Female Surf Race and Diamond before our teams rounded off day 4 with more medals in Surf Teams and Board Relay.

The team would like to thank all those who helped make the trip such a memorable one, including our officials on the beach, team managers, parents and sponsors. **Bring on the Mount in 2024!**

CONGRATULATIONS to all our medalists:



NAOMI DAVOREN

GOLD

50-54 Masters Female - Surf Race
50-54 Masters Female - Board Race
50-54 Masters Female - Ski Race
50-54 Masters Female - Run Swim Run

SILVER

50-54 Masters Female – Iron

SANDY BOUBEE



GOLD

50-54 Masters Female - Beach Flags

SILVER

50-54 Masters Female – Board Race

BRONZE

50-54 Masters Female - Surf Race
50-54 Masters Female - Run Swim Run



NATALIE PEAT

SILVER

Open Female - Surf Race

BRONZE

Open Female - Run Swim Run



TRELISE CHOTE
ISOBELLA DAVOREN
AMELIE PEARSON
JESSICA PILBROW

SILVER
 U17 Female - Surf Teams Race



AMELIE PEARSON

BRONZE
 U15 Female - Surf Race
 U15 Female - Diamond



AMELIE PEARSON
GEORGIA DAVOREN
TRELISE CHOTE

BRONZE
 U17 Female - Board Relay



ZACHARY CAIRNS
RYAN BEVIN
OLIVER PEPERS
LUKE GILLBANKS

BRONZE
 U17 Male - Surf Teams Race

JUNIOR SURF SPORTS

Beginner Surf Ski Training Underway



With Oceans done and dusted for the season, it's wonderful to see our older Ocean Athletes jumping into learning a new skill.

Surf skis are kayak-like craft that are longer and thinner than a normal kayak and made specifically for the ocean. Just like surf boats and canoes, surf skis were used in the past by lifeguards to perform rescues; however, it became clear there were better methods. These days surf skis are still used by lifeguards but only in the sports space.

Knowing how to paddle a ski will open up training and racing opportunities as the athletes reach the U15 age group and beyond. Paddling a surf ski can also be an enjoyable leisure activity.

The six week programme has kicked off in Pilot Bay to give the kids an opportunity to learn the balance and technique required. We will move into the ocean around Shark Alley as the kid's skills improve or if the conditions mean the ocean is a better place for our training.

JUNIOR SURF

Our Junior Surf Twilight Session last Friday was a big hit. With 160 kids and their families on the beach, the rain cleared for long enough for us to enjoy some fun games and races. The coaches relay was a big highlight and was won by our very own Junior Surf Coordinator Matt Strange! The 80 pizzas were gobbled up in a flash and the parents all enjoyed being able to relax and chat with other families at the end. The smiles and laughter from kids, parents and coaches was just what we all needed to finish off this challenging season. We are already planning to include more sessions like this next season.



Photo Courtesy of Matt Strange



Photo courtesy of Matt Strange



Photo courtesy of Erin Burningham



Junior Surf Prizegiving

Sunday 26th March at 2pm

The club bar will be open so come and celebrate the season with us and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with your kids and surf club friends.



Just Keep Swimming

We'd like to encourage all our Junior Surf kids to keep up with their swimming if they can through the winter months. Especially for those who want to move into Surf Sports or take part in Pool Rescue (more details below), squad swimming is a vital part of their weekly training.



Pool Rescue

As the ocean cools down we jump in the pool! Our Pool Rescue Programme is for under 10 and above kids who want to continue being part of surf lifesaving during the winter months. It runs from June – October so is a while away yet, but if you think your child might be interested, [CLICK HERE](#) to visit our website for more information.

Junior Surf Club Champs



We finally had some settled weather for this year's Club Champs and it was wonderful to see all our nippers giving it their all and racing hard.

For the first time we were able to present every child who completed the run-swim-run or run-wade-run with a participation medal. It was great to see lots of happy kids who may not ordinarily receive a medal at these events. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to all our volunteer helpers. Here are some highlights from the day...

Photo credit: Clare Pepers





CONGRATULATIONS to all our Junior Surf Club Championship Overall Age Group Winners:

Age Group	Placing	Boys	Placing	Girls
U6	1	Harry Wright	1	Mika Hughes
	2	Ethan Fitzpatrick	2	Daisy Murphy
	3	Cathal Simpson	3	Morgan Harvie
U7	1	Max McNaughton	1	Yasmine Wilburn
	2	Nate Lourie	2	Meisha Whittaker
	3	Van Pepper	3	Macey Billett
U8	1	Jacob Redgate	1	Uru Ngawati Taua
	2	Nate Peppers	2	Georgette Murphy
	3	Callum Harvie	3	Kora Hughes
U9	1	Clay Heatley	1	Leah Botha
	2	Elliott McFadden	2	Alyssa Wilson
	3	Louie Park	3	Harper Petricevich
U10	1	Sam Wing	1	Miela Murphy
	2	Cooper Taylor- Jonsson	2	Willow Ropati
	3	Flynn Palmer	3	Summer Jackson
U11	1	Kobe Kelly	1	Mila Pokaia
	2	Jimmy Cloke	2	Clara Jackson
	3	Luka Exler/Barnaby Groom	3	Caitlyn Strange
U12	1	Mason Jackson	1	Mia Paige Fitzgerald
	2	Brayden Lim Yock	2	Lucy Mckay
	3	Toby Bowling	3	Willow Pokaia
U13	1	William Chugg	1	Sophia Maltai-Spence
	2	Zac Abbott	2	Sienna Ropati
	3	George Blanchard	3	Summer Steed-Thorton
U14	1	Luke Gillbanks	1	Sophie Bowling
	2	Oliver Pepers	2	
	3	James Whittaker	3	

THANK YOU to our wonderful Junior Surf sponsors who make it all possible - we really appreciate all your support....



MITRE 10

PAPAMOA

PAKŃSAVE

PAPAMOA

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

G.J. Gardner.

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