



ST CLAIR SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Annual report – 2024/25



JULY 20, 2025

ST CLAIR SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB
1 The Esplanade, St Clair, Dunedin

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Office Bearers 2024/2025

Patron	Stuart McLauchlan
President	Antony Mason
Vice President	Brent Wolf
Chairperson	Matt Bradley
Secretary	Andrea Christophers
Lifeguard Co-Ordinator	Mereana Martin
Skills and Development	Antony Mason
Property Convenor	Thomas Garforth
Powercraft Officer	Niam Chronican
Junior Surf Co-Ordinator	Jon Richardson
Club Captain Female	Charlotte Underwood-Nicol
Club Captain Male	Mark Christmas-Oliver
Junior Women's Representative	Dianne Robertson
Junior Men's Representative	Aidan Blair
Treasurer	Jeff Foster
Honorary Solicitor	Alastair Moore
Honorary Medical Advisors	Dr Dave Gerrard, Dr Sue Creighton, Dr Brendon O'Neil
Honorary Accountant	Stuart McLauchlan
Honorary Vice Presidents	S McKinlay, F Smail, M Ferris, Kel Williams, I Jackson, P Laing, J Leckie, Kris Williams, J Bryant, P Johns, P Fairbairn, G Swanson, I Stuart, D Gerrard, R Murray
Life Members	P Haslemore, S McLauchlan, G Newton, M Wilson, B Smail, B Andrews, C Johns, R Murray, A Mason

Chairperson's Report

It is with great pride and appreciation that I present this year's Chairperson's Report for St Clair Surf Life Saving Club. As we reflect on the past twelve months, it is evident that the dedication, resilience, and spirit of our members continue to uphold the legacy and values of our club. This report is not only a reflection of our achievements but also a tribute to the tireless efforts of our volunteers, staff, supporters, and community.

Our core mission - protecting lives on our beach - remains as vital as ever. I'm proud to report another safe and successful patrol season, thanks to the dedication of our volunteer lifesavers. From November through to mid-March, our members contributed over 2,000 hours on patrol, helping to create a safe and welcoming environment for all beachgoers. It's important to note that these hours represent only a portion of the effort invested by our members. They don't include the countless additional hours spent on training, event guarding, officiating, team managing, administration, and the many behind-the-scenes roles essential to our operations.



Throughout the season, our patrols performed five rescues, assisted one person in distress, attended to seven first aid cases, and carried out more than 300 preventative actions, collectively impacting close to 3,000 beach users. These figures highlight not only the professionalism of our members but also the effectiveness of our proactive approach to beach safety.

Our Nippers program continues to go from strength to strength, providing our youngest members with not only essential surf skills but also a strong sense of community, teamwork, and confidence. Weekly Saturday afternoon sessions were consistently well attended, with a slight increase in participation compared to last year. This is a direct result of the dedication shown by our junior committee, water safety personnel, and

the many parent volunteers who work tirelessly to deliver a fun, safe, and engaging experience for all involved.

This season also marked a proud milestone for several of our older Nippers who took the next step in their surf life saving journey by completing the "Become a Lifeguard" program. It's incredibly rewarding to see young members progressing through the ranks and staying involved beyond Nippers - especially at an age where retention can be a challenge. Thanks to the support and encouragement of our junior committee and lifeguard coordinators, we are breaking down those barriers and creating a clear, supported pathway into active lifesaving. These emerging leaders are a testament to the strength of our development programs and the future of our club.

On the competition front, our club members represented us with distinction across local, regional, and national carnivals. From beach sprints and flags to board, ski, surf events, IRBs, canoes, our athletes demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship, dedication, and club pride.

We celebrate not only the podium finishes but also the determination and spirit shown by all competitors. Special thanks to our coaches, team managers, and supporters who contribute behind the scenes to ensure the success of our athletes.

This season, we completed much-needed remedial work on our honours board, bringing it up to date and properly recognising those individuals, and teams, who have achieved national titles in surf sports. It's a small but meaningful way to recognise and celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our members and helps to preserve the legacy of excellence that inspires future generations.



Following discussions last season, it was acknowledged that there were some gaps in our prizegiving, particularly across certain age groups and disciplines. In response, conversations were held with several families who have made significant contributions to the club over the years, exploring the possibility of donating trophies to help address these gaps.

As a result of their generosity, four new trophies were introduced this season. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Falcous, Davies, Wolf, and Doyle whānau for their support. Their contributions provide meaningful recognition for our younger members and give them new goals to aspire to.

The marina continues to be an asset to our club. It's been wonderful to see it actively used by so many of our members, and it has also helped strengthen connections and create cross-training opportunities with the other clubs operating out of our facility.

Negotiations are ongoing regarding financial contributions from these clubs to help offset the costs associated with maintaining the marina. We are hopeful this will be resolved sooner rather than later. In the meantime, Brent has done an outstanding job managing the facility and ensuring it remains in excellent condition.

Our fundraising efforts, grant applications and sponsorship partnerships remain essential to our sustainability alongside continued government funding. I extend heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, donors, and grant providers for their generous support. Your contributions help ensure our club can continue to deliver its lifesaving services and community programs.

Special thanks to our executive team/office bearers, and subcommittees for their leadership and stewardship. Your hard work and dedication are deeply appreciated.



As we look toward the future, we remain committed to continuous improvement. Priorities for the coming year include strengthening youth engagement, lifeguard development, investigation into facility upgrades, final touches on marina negotiations and deepening our community outreach.

The success of our club is built on the passion and contribution of every member - from our youngest Nipper to our most seasoned lifesaver. Together, we are more than a surf life saving club - we are a community, a family, and a force for good on our beach.

In closing, I would like to thank every member, volunteer, partner, and supporter for your ongoing commitment and contribution. Let us celebrate the successes of the past season while embracing the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Matt Bradley
Chairperson



Lifeguarding

Firstly thank you to the Lifeguards who volunteered their time this season. In the 2024–2025 season, St Clair Surf Life Saving Club had solid patrol coverage and great involvement from members. A total of 75 members got out on patrol, putting in a combined 1,338 hours. On average, each patroller clocked 18 hours, which shows a pretty consistent and committed team effort, always keen to get hours up as high as possible though.

The club had 90 members counted as “active” this season - meaning they either patrolled or held a current Surf Lifeguard Award (SLA) or Patrol Support Award (PS). Of those, 66 members both refreshed their qualifications and did patrols, while five patrolled without refreshing, which we’ll need to follow up on.



This season, we tried a slightly more flexible and social patrol roster, and overall it worked well. People were mostly put into patrols with their friends or people they knew, which helped with attendance and was meant to make patrols more enjoyable too. The idea was that if lifeguards felt more comfortable with who they were patrolling with, they’d be more likely to show up and stick with it – and that seems to have helped, going by the solid average hours per member.

We also gave people the option to add themselves to patrols if they wanted more control over when they patrolled. But that part didn’t get much response. It gave some flexibility, but not many people used it. Going forward, it might still be useful to keep that option, but we’ll need to find better ways to encourage people to use it.



That said, there were still a few patrols where numbers were really low – one even had just one lifeguard turn up. A big issue was people not letting their patrol captain know if they couldn’t make it, and just not turning up at all. That makes things harder for everyone. We’re always open to feedback and new ideas from members, so if anyone has thoughts on how to improve things next season, we’d love to hear them.

The *Become a Lifeguard* programme went well also this season, bringing in 14 new lifeguards overall. We had 11 people pass the first exam and another 2 pass the second exam. We were able to gain our instructors award through leading this season’s group through their lifeguarding awards and are looking forward to our next group. Information will be posted shortly for those looking to get involved on St Clair’s info pages.

Looking ahead, 16 Surf First Aid Awards and Advanced awards are set to expire in the next six months, and 14 of which are set to be refreshed before the upcoming season. Right now, 85 members hold a current SLA or PS Award. We've also got solid numbers in other useful areas, like 44 people with the Radio Comms Module, 35 with Rock Training & Rescue, and 24 with the Patrol Captain Award. For IRB operations, we've got 60 crew, 26 drivers, and three RWC operators. But there are quite a few expired qualifications that need sorting. That includes 14 expired IRB Driver Awards and 15 expired Surf First Aid Awards. There are also five expired Advanced First Aid Awards and some Instructor and Examiner Awards that are out of date too.

To keep things running smoothly, it would be a good idea to organise multiple refresher sessions before the beginning of the season, especially for IRB and First Aid. We would also benefit from encouraging some of our younger or newer members to work towards leadership awards like Patrol Captain, Instructor, or Examiners.

All in all, the club's in a good spot. Patrols were mostly well covered, and plenty of people are well-qualified. If we stay on top of training and keep refreshing key awards, we'll be in great shape for another safe and successful season next year.

A huge thank you to all the patrollers, committee, instructors, and supporters for another successful season. Your time and dedication makes a real difference and doesn't go unnoticed.

Mereana & Charlotte



Junior Surf Report

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Another great season of Junior Surf has come to an end, and we're excited to share the successes, learnings, and moments that shaped it. From medals at national events and promising new members, to a large number of juniors transitioning into Lifeguarding, a stronger support network, and some epic weather—it's been a season to remember.

Conditions

We were lucky to enjoy a relatively settled season, with only one day where we couldn't get in the water. February and March brought stunning conditions, allowing club days to be held right out in front of the club, which really added to the atmosphere.

While the sandbar posed some challenges for newer board paddlers, our juniors showed great adaptability—developing the skills to handle a wide range of surf conditions. Seals made their usual appearances, but we were able to manage their presence with minimal disruption to our sessions.

Club Day

Junior Club Day numbers remained consistent, with a slight increase from last year. We saw fewer fluctuations due to weather. The vibe has been fantastic, with families connecting, forming new friendships, and using the club more regularly outside of official sessions which is a great indication that they are loving Surf.

We're proud to now have regular coaches across all age groups and a broader group of whānau helping with club organisation. A special thanks to Sophie Moors and Lara Tyndall for their fantastic coaching and for being positive role models for our juniors.

This season, we were fortunate to partner with **Habit Health**, who generously sponsored the "Surf Nipper of the Day" spot prizes. These awards recognise Tamariki who consistently bring their best selves to club day. Initiatives like this build a strong sense of belonging and pride in our club.

Our sincere thanks to the team at Southern Electrical Limited who have continued to sponsor the sausages for our club day Barbecue.

The Saturday mid-afternoon timeslot continues to work well for most families. With patrols running concurrently, it creates stronger connections across the club and makes safety management easier. Moving to a morning slot would conflict with other sports and could reduce participation.

Wednesday Pool Nights



Our Wednesday evening pool sessions continued throughout the school terms. Attendance remains small but steady, consistent with previous years. We're also encouraging members to engage with swim clubs to further develop their skills—especially those competing in surf sports.

We also saw 21 200m badges awarded, which is great to see club members working towards and succeeding in their goals.

Rookies & Juniors Progressing into Lifeguarding

It's been fantastic to see a strong group of wāhine juniors and rookies transition into the lifeguarding space. Some even brought along their swim squad friends to sit their Lifeguard Award and patrol with them, boosting both our patrol numbers and capabilities.

Special thanks to Charlotte and Mereana for fostering such a positive and supportive environment. There was only one rookie this year, but they are tracking well to complete their Lifeguard Award next season.

Junior Surf Sports

This year's junior surf sports season was small in size but high in quality. While the results below are the icing on the cake what we can be most proud of is the team culture, great spirit, and mindset. We can also be super proud that everyone is contributing to the organisation of these events so that juniors can have a fun day.

Otago Junior Championships – Warrington

Overall: 4th club, 23 competitors

Individual Overalls:

- 1st – U8 & U9 Female
- 2nd – U8, U10, U12, U13 Male
- 3rd – U9 & U11 Female
- 10 top six finishes earning points

Team events: 2 x 1st, 2 x 3rd, and 5 top six finishes

Notable: U14 Female also won the U15 Senior Trophy in the senior competition, and under 10 received the Richard Murray Award.

Southern Junior Championships – Warrington

Club placed 6th out of 12

Results:

- 3 x 1st places
- 10 x 2nd places
- 4 x 3rd places
- 18 additional top six finishes earning points for the club



Oceans 2025 Festival of Surf – Mt Maunganui

- Team of 2 athletes
- U14 Female – Silver medal in Diamond Race, reached all water finals
- U12 Male – Board final and semi-finals in all water events
- Outstanding achievements, especially with such a small team
- Sincere thanks to Southern Electrical (BBQ fundraiser support) and Caversham Physiotherapy (financial support to attend)



Regional Junior Surf Training

St Clair has led the way in hosting and supporting the regional Junior Surf Training programme. These sessions—held Tuesdays and Thursdays—offer opportunities for juniors to train together across clubs.

On Thursdays, advanced juniors trained alongside the senior group, helping to build relationships and smooth their transition to senior ranks. This programme encourages cross-club friendships, shared learning, and wider exposure for both athletes and coaches.

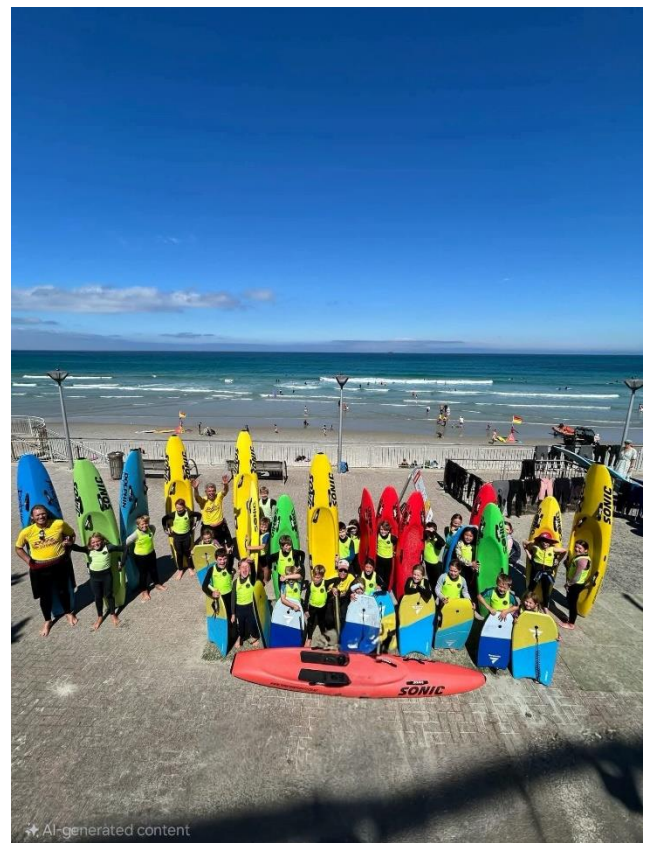
People

Junior Surf at St Clair wouldn't be possible without our incredible team of volunteers, coaches, and supporters. You are the lifeblood of the programme and play a crucial role in developing our future lifeguards.

A heartfelt thank you to all the amazing humans who made this season such a success. We are incredibly grateful for your time, energy, and passion.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jon Richardson– Junior Co-ordinator



Skills Report 2024/25 season

The 2024/25 season was once again a busy one. St Clair continues to lead the way in Otago in surf sport. Our athletes took the opportunity's provided to them, to further themselves locally and nationally. While we lack for consistent athlete participation in the open divisions our age group athletes and master's fronted consistently throughout the season.

During the off season our harbour base was well utilised. The Owheo paddle centre is a huge asset for the club and draws in many surf athletes from around the country who not only train with St Clair athletes but provide additional training and support. Thanks to Brent Wolf for his role in organising and guiding ski training for our members.

Pool training sessions on Wednesday evenings were also well supported and allow our younger athletes the opportunity to get together as a group and develop in a fun environment. Thanks to Jon Richardson and his team for their time and efforts.



Isaac Roberston delivered conditioning training on Friday evening for all club members. While this wasn't hugely supported those that attended appreciated the value of these sessions. It is hoped these sessions can continue. Thanks to Isaac for running this training.

Club surf training during the season was provided by Joel Davies. These sessions were the primary coaching sessions for the club and all athletes benefited from Joel's knowledge and experience. Surf athletes from other clubs were also welcome to attend, this added immense value for our members. Thanks again to Joel for making himself available and investing so much time.

As a club we can't take for granted that we will always have a coach, like Joel, available to deliver these regular sessions. If we are going to continue to develop and attract the best surf athletes, we must look at ways to support our club coach beyond what we provide now.

There were many highlights from the season, some of which included...

Otago Champs

This event was well attended and continues to be a great event for all club members to partake in. St Clair has won top club for 39 consecutive years and continues to dominate most of the divisions. Something we should all be proud of.

Southern Region Champs

The team collected several medals and placings in age group divisions. While our numbers in both Open and master's divisions were light those athletes were competitive. The team finished third behind South Brighton and Taylors Mistake.

NZ Pool Championships

St Clair has a proud history in pool events, but unfortunately it has dropped away in recent years. This has always been a great way to attract swimmers to the club. The difficulty now is that Nationals are in Auckland every year and the costs can prove to be prohibitive. Again, I'd encourage the club committee to explore avenues that would allow our members to attend this event regularly.



Vicki Aburn had a good 2024 NZ Pool Championships taking Bronze in both the 50M Finns and the Manikin carry.

2025 NZ Championships

While the weather and surf conditions didn't really live up to expectations St Clair athletes had some outstanding results. Our masters were in the medals with Joel, Brent and Danny Blair to the fore.

Our younger athletes showed their consistent training, and hard work was worth it. While the handful of medals, predominately in swimming events, was a highlight it was also rewarding to see several excellent finals results in craft events like board and ski.

Gold U15 Diamond Toby Hill

Gold U17 Rescue Tube Rescue

Victoria Aburn, Charlotte Aburn, Isabella Miller, Margo Trump

Silver U17 Surf Race Charlotte Aburn

Bronze U17 Run Swim Run
Charlotte Aburn

Bronze U19 Surf Race Aidan Blair

Overall Result 21st Club out of 40.



Congratulations to Charlotte Aburn who will represent NZ at the Queensland Pool Champs later this month and for NZ in the Battle of the Tasman in August. This is a great opportunity for our club's top surf athlete.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has assisted the club in all areas of surf sport over the past year, Managers, coaches, fundraisers etc. I'd also like to make special mention of Rolly Hill who put hours of work in behind the scenes dealing with all the logistics.

Finally, a personal observation. Our club is at it's best lifeguarding wise when we have a strong and successful sports culture across the club, from Junior Surf to Surf Sports (beach and pool) to IRB. To be a well-functioning Lifeguard service to our community we must continue to be a sports club at the forefront of what we do and support it as such.

Antony Mason – Skills and Development Officer



IRB Probationary Examiner

Isaac Davies

IRB Drivers Award

Will Laws

IRB Crewperson Module

Belinda McLellan, Cindy Van Sleeuwen, Josephine Charpentier, Milly Hoeta, Peta Richardson, Sophie Moors, Victoria Aburn, Margo Trump, Toby Hill

Rescue Water Craft Operators Award

Niam Chronican

Lifeguard Award

Harper Bannister, Peta Richardson, Ally Ryan, Belinda McLellan, Cindy Van Sleeuwen, Evelyn Ratigan, Gerardo Luna, Ian Ratigan, Josephine Charpentier, Melissa Laucht, Milly Hoeta, Robert Lloyd, Sophie Moors, Victoria Aburn, Xanthe Dillon

Surf First Aid

Cindy Van Sleeuwen, Phoebe Aburn, Victoria Aburn, Will Laws, Danny Blair, Jamie Blair, Robin Hulsbosch

Comprehensive First Aid

Josephine Charpentier, Luca Miroso, Milly Hoeta, Miranda Miroso, Sophie Moors, Xanthe Dillon, Alex Martin, Cameron Burrow, Matt Bradley, Leyton Aluesi

National Lifeguard School – Advance Guard

Charlotte Underwood-Nicol

Rock Training & Rescue Instructors Course

Brent Matehaere

Area Chief Examiners

Chris Haig – Lifeguarding

Matt Bradley – IRB

Otago/Southland Local Operations Committee (LOC)

Matt Bradley

Mereana Martin

Joel Davies

SLSNZ Board

Cameron Burrow

Otago/Southland Awards of Excellence

Regional Distinguished Service Award

Joel Davies

Regional Service Award

Gavin Mason

Top Overall Club at Competition - Otago/Southland Championships

Top U8 Female – Olive Chapman

Top U9 Female – Chloe Wood

Top U15 Female – Peta Richardson

Top U 15 Male – Toby Hill

Top U17 Female – Charlotte Aburn

Top U17 Male – Max McCaul

Top U19 Male – Aidan Blair

Top Open Female – Charlotte Underwood-Nicol

Top Open Male – Alex Margerison

Top Masters Male – Danny Blair

Top IRB Open Female Crew – Phoebe Aburn, Carla Murray, Victoria Aburn

TFS Surf Sports Person of the Year – Charlotte Aburn

bp Powercraft Contribution of the Year – Matt Bradley

bp Search and Rescue Contribution of the Year – Niam Chronican

Top Rookie Lifeguards – Menzie Saker

Presidents Trophy for Outstanding Contributions – Joel Davies

Club of the Year – St Clair



Club Trophy List

Cameron Cup	Best All-round Surfer	Charlotte Aburn
Owen Dolan Cup	Best Patroller	Joel Davies
Jubilee Cup	Most Industrious	Rolly Hill
Opie Mason Cup	Outstanding Young Leader	Mereana Martin
Centenary Cup	Outstanding Achievement	Charlotte Underwood-Nicol and Mereana Martin
Presidents Cup	Open Women Overall	Charlotte Underwood-Nicol
Lion Trophy	Open Men Overall	Alex Margerison
St Clair Cup	U19 Women Overall	Uncontested
Lion Trophy	U19 Men Overall	Aidan Blair
St Clair Cup	U17 Men Overall	Max McCaul
St Clair Cup	U17 Women Overall	Charlotte Aburn
Moffat Memorial	Most Promising U19	Charlotte Aburn
St Clair Cup	Instructor/Examiner OTY	Charlotte Underwood-Nicol and Mereana Martin
Darryl Fairbairn Cup	Top Overall Powercraft Crew	Charlotte Underwood-Nicol and Mereana Martin
Carla & Stephanie Laughton Cup	Top Female IRB Crew	Charlotte Underwood-Nicol and Mereana Martin
Antony Mason Cup	Top Male IRB Crew	Niam Chronican, Cameron Burrow
Adams Cup	Open Board Race	Phoebe Aburn, Alex Margerison
U19 Board Cup	U19 Board Race	Aidan Blair
Bart Smail Cup	U17 Board Race	Charlotte Aburn George Fa'asega
Peter Laing Cup	Open Men Surf Race	Alex Margerison
Women Surf Race Cup	Open Women Surf Race	Phoebe Aburn
Totem Trophy	U19 Men Surf Race	Aidan Blair
McAlpine Cup	U19 Women Surf Race	Charlotte Aburn
St Clair Sup	Open Ski Race	Charlotte Underwood-Nicol Joel Davies
19 Ski Cup	U19 Ski Race	Aidan Blair
Graeme Newton Cup	U17 Ski Race	Charlotte Aburn, Max McCaul
Cup donated by Falcous Family	Top Sand Performer	Isabella Miller, Max McCaul
Trophy donated by Davies Whanau	U15 Board	Peta Richardson, Toby Hill
Cup donated by Wolf Family	U15 Ski Race	Peta Richardson, Toby Hill
Cup donated by Doyle Family	U15 Surf Race	Victoria Aburn, Toby Hill

National Events

Oceans '25 – Mount Maunganui

Team – Peta Richardson, Heath Fa'asega

- U14 Female – Silver medal in Diamond Race, reached all water finals
- U12 Male – Board final and semi-finals in all water events

Surf Lifesaving New Zealand Championships (Masters) – Gisborne

3rd – 240+ Masters Male Surf Canoe Short Course

Lachie Cameron, Graeme Newton, Murray Haig, Brent Wolf

Joel Davies – 30-39 Male

1st – Ski Race

3rd – Board Race

Danny Blair – 50-54 Male

1st – Surf Race

3rd Beach Sprints

Brent Wolf – 60-64 Male

1st – Beach Flags

Surf Lifesaving New Zealand Championships – Gisborne

1st – U17 Female Rescue Tube Rescue

Charlotte Aburn, Victoria Aburn, Margo Trump, Isabella Miller

Toby Hill – U15 Male

1st - Diamond

Aidan Blair – U19 Male

3rd – Surf Race

Charlotte Aburn – U17 Female

2nd - Surf Race

3rd – Run Swim Run

bp Surf Rescue New Zealand IRB Championships – Waipu Cove

2nd - Open Female Teams Rescue Race

Charlotte Underwood-Nicol, Mereana Martin, Emma Christophers, Mia Stout, Victoria Aburn

Charlotte Underwood-Nicol and

Mereana Martin

Patience Victoria Aburn

U23 Female

Phoebe Aburn and Carla Murray

Patience Victoria Aburn

Open Female

Top U23 Female Crew Nationals

1st – Assembly Rescue

1st – Tube Rescue

3rd – Single Rescue

2nd – Assembly Race

2nd – Single Rescue