



ST CLAIR SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

Annual report – 2023/24

July 21, 2024

St Clair Surf Life Saving Club
1 The Esplanade, St Clair, Dunedin

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Office Bearers 2023/2024

Patron	Stuart McLauchlan
President	Richard Murray
Vice President	Antony Mason
Co-Chairperson/s	Joel Tyndall, Matt Bradley
Secretary	Andrea Christophers
Lifeguard Co-Ordinator	Isaac Davies
Skills and Development	Jon Richardson
Property Convenor	Thomas Garforth
Powercraft Officer	Niam Chronican
Junior Surf Co-Ordinator	Hamish McCaul and Jon Richardson
Women's Representative	Dianne Robertson
Club Captain	Mark Christmas-Oliver
Junior Women's Representative	Emma Christophers
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
Life Members	P Haslemore, S McLauchlan, G Newton, M Wilson, B Smail, B Andrews, C Johns, R Murray, A Masom

Co-Chairpersons Report

The St Clair Surf Life Saving Club continued to keep our community safe this summer, completing over 2,000 patrol hours, 4 rescues, assisted 1 person to safety, 1 major first aid and 7 minor first aids. We also completed 255 preventative actions that involved an estimate of 970 people.

This season, the refurbishment of the marina facility was completed and opened for use. A huge thank you goes out to Toni Iaseto for being the project manager and ensuring that the project ran to schedule, and under budget. This wouldn't have been possible without the team of volunteers that Toni was able to call on. The upgrade has provided a fit for purpose base down at the marina for training all year round and allows us to collaborate with different sporting clubs as well.



Most local events were able to be run providing the ideal lead up to our regional and national events. This season, St Clair was well represented on the national stage and had members attend Oceans24, TSB Surf Lifesaving National Masters, TSB Surf Lifesaving Nationals, and BP Surf Rescue New Zealand IRB Champs. St Clair continued to improve and attained medals at these national events.

At Sand Nationals, the highlights include Charlotte Aburn winning Gold in Run Swim Run, Gold in Board Race, and Silver in the Surf Race in the U17 Women's Category. These results meant Charlotte was tied for the U17 Women's overall title. Awesome work Charlotte.

At IRB Nationals, the highlights were Charlotte Underwood-Nicol and Mereana Martin taking out the U23 Women's Tube Rescue event and Emma Christophers and Mia Stout winning U19 Tube Rescue and securing the Top U19 Women's Crew at Nationals.

Some outstanding results all round and awesome to see some strong Wāhine get their names on the honours board.

Beach access continues to be an ever-changing beast thanks to the environment that we work in. The council is constantly working to ensure our access remains viable, but the ocean is relentless in its movements. We continue to submit on our club's behalf and advocate for long term solutions which will be kept updated when more information comes to light

Storage is currently a “nice to have” issue that is currently being worked on. The completion of the marina has meant we now have all our storage back up and running which solves a few issues, but there are still more being worked through. The car park storage shed racks are to be modified to house our three double hull canoes whilst also providing some space for skis in between and a “mezzanine” type storage. A few other options regarding organising some racking in the “downstairs storage” are being worked through also. Some older gear was moved on which helped but as we have been fortunate to get new gear, storage remains an issue to work through.



Our junior programme continues to provide a pathway for younger members to enjoy and learn about water safety and have a safe environment to enjoy the surf. Club days were on Saturday afternoon this season and were run by our junior coaches and helpers. This season we claimed the Otago Junior Championship which is an awesome achievement.

Congratulations to those that gained recognition at the Otago/Southland Awards of Excellence. Some outstanding individuals were recognised across both sport and lifeguarding. Special mention to Richard Murray who received his Otago/Southland Life Membership acknowledging his service to the Otago/Southland region. Well done Richard! See the end of the report for a full list of award winners.

We would like to give a thank you to all our volunteers, and their families, for the hours they put in at the club to ensure it runs as smoothly as possible. Without you, we wouldn't be able to provide for our community and we appreciate the time and dedication that goes into patrolling, coaching, competing, officiating, club days, ensuring people are in the right place at the right time and fundraising. See you all next season!



Lifeguarding

Another season in the books and it's time we reflect and acknowledge the amazing work that goes into keeping our community and beach users safe.

We started the season with a refresher weekend to try and refresh most of our membership, this was a prerequisite for entering the annual White Island race which worked well in capturing 80 plus guards.

With the usual challenges of access and wildlife and new ones like the adoption of surf coms. It was great to see members adapt and step up to these challenges, one of which was becoming the kaitiakitanga for Faith and the other young sea lions that choose our beach as their home this summer.

This season we also tried another style of patrol roster, having the option to choose your own dates, this had its ups and downs. It did highlight the weekends we struggle to fulfil patrols which often clash with sports or courses, so thank you to the membership that did patrol during those times as it is our core service!

Thank you to all the lifeguards that volunteered their precious time to the club and community! Also, a big thanks to Chris Haig for instructing and qualifying our new wave of lifeguards this season!

Once again thanks for all the hard work.

Isaac Davies



Junior Surf

Tena Koutou Katoa,

Another great season of Junior surf has gone by. We are pleased to share on lots of success and learnings along the way. From medals at National events, promising new members, building on our support network and some epic weather.

Conditions

This season has been pretty settled with not that many days of managing cold kids. The general drift along the beach presented different safety plans however this has not prevented us from some serious fun at the beach. We were able to enjoy more craft sessions and get the younger paddlers on foamies. Seals made their presence known on the beach, but we were able to minimise the impact to both them and sessions.

Club day!

Consistent numbers of around 40 nippers. December, we peaked at about 70-80 on a couple of "Dunners Stunner" Days. We certainly had to increase the sausage order. With Patrols on at the same time this creates opportunity for connection with rest of club and safety management becomes a lot easier.

This year it was super helpful to have Joel Tyndall come along and help as contact for information on the day about the club. This took a lot of pressure off the coaches taking the session. He was able to talk to parents and get to know them, answer questions.

It was awesome to have Michelle Liddy and Michelle Chapman join into the fray as coaches and refresh their Lifeguard Awards as parents. Both are super experienced and its fantastic having them taking an active part in keeping days like these running.



"Regional club day" was a great success again this year. This new format is based around an all-clubs fun day with activities and novelty events. Numbers were significantly higher than Otago Junior surf champs.

Wednesday pool nights

We have led a move towards combining with other clubs and has been successful. Juniors are grouped relative to their ability and sessions are specific to surf and fun activities using pool equipment. Feedback from parents have been positive with one commenting that they struggle to get the kids to swimming lessons, but pool sessions are a lot more enjoyable and there is more opportunity to provide a type of service different to club swimming or swimming lessons. With plenty of coaching staff on hand this is also significantly more sustainable when coaches need time away.

Rookies

The rookie program was unfortunately a bridge too far to run in terms of time and resources. Technically no one missed out on the water skills as on club days most of the rookies were there to hone their surf skills and immerse themselves in role modelling with the younger nippers. We have no doubt that they have the skillsets to pass their lifeguard awards for the coming season.

Junior Surf Sport

Probably a highlight for the season for the club was the performance of the club at all events. Culminating in the juniors picking up the top club at the Otago Southland awards for this year after a several year hiatuses.

Southerns- This year the event was in Christchurch; 5th club overall for one of the smallest teams of 10 athletes. Several picking up top overall.

Oceans 24 festival of surf- Saw a larger contingent of 5 athletes travelling north with an amazing step up in results and in PB's. Three medalled and if they didn't medal, they were in all the individual water event finals. The other two made semifinals and finals in only their first year at the competition. A big thanks to Southern Electrical and Leckies Meats who donated food for BBQ fundraising and Caversham Physiotherapy who donated cash to getting the equipment to the mount. Isaac who donated his time to driving everything up and the club for covering each junior's entry fees.

Key drivers to these improved performances have been the opportunities for these athletes in form of the Regional Surf Sport Training programme. This year we offered a weekday morning surf session at St Clair for three weeks of the January school holiday period. Issac Davies and I would run these and for us it was a highlight of the season. Giving the juniors an extra boost of time in the water to develop their skills whilst parents were able to sit on the sand sausages with a fresh coffee. This also allowed the older ones to do their pool training in the afternoons.

Regional Junior Surf training

St Clair has been at the forefront of this programme, and we can be proud of the service that this offers to the wider Otago region.

This has been at St Clair, Tuesday and Thursday, Saturdays at other Clubs, plus Rosie Falcous has been delivering specific "Beechie" sessions. Thursday has been opportunity for some of the more capable Juniors to train with Joel Davies senior group. This is great for establishing relationships when these juniors will transition into the senior ranks.

The benefit of this regional programme is that it exposes future lifeguards to different conditions, create friendships outside of their club and allows coaches and athletes to share and learn different perspectives together.

We must thank Rosie, Isaac and Javara for travelling to Oceans with the wider squad to offer their expertise and coaching experience. This was a key factor in the improved performances

of these athletes and widely supported from all the parents attending. We hope to put plans in place for this to continue in the future and that this can provide opportunities for other St Clair coaches to improve their own coaching skills as well as the Juniors performances.

People

Without a team of people Junior surf at St Clair would not be possible and our source of future lifeguards would be significantly at risk. We would like to extend a huge thanks to these amazing humans for all their help over season.

Wayne Fa'asega has been amazing with events and entering people.

Marama, Steph, Sara, Rolly and Rebecca for the tireless fundraising to get the kids up to Oceans.

Emma, Mereana, Charlotte, Aidan, Sam, Jess, Lara, Rosie...Amazing up and coming coaches
Dan, Michelle, Michelle and Jen- Club Day coaches

The Wang family for organizing the food for every club day,
Isaac Davies, Joel Davies, and Brent Wolf... Head coaches and Mentors
Leckies Meats, Southern Electrical for sponsoring the BBQ at Club Day.

I'd also like to say a massive thanks and best wishes to Isaac Davies who is moving away this year. He leaves a immense gap and was a privileged to learn from arguably one of the best junior coaches in the country. His mana combined with his coaching abilities and technical knowledge is something that cannot be learned.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support as we begin planning for 2024/25 summer.

Nga Mihi,

Jon Richardson,
St Clair Junior Surf Co-ordinator.

The junior committee would like to acknowledge the time that Jon puts in to ensure that our junior programme continues to make progress. They would also like to acknowledge Sara and the kids for kindly donating their dad to the Surf Life Saving movement



Powercraft

This year saw 8 new drivers and 3 crew gain new qualifications, with a bunch keener to work on these awards in the coming season. Congratulations to everyone that has upskilled this year and remember to keep up the training to stay current.

We have seen a couple of changes in the IRB storage area this year with a new rack system for the boats and new road trailer, both great assets to the club and really help keep the IRB's user friendly for everyone.

The IRB race team saw some amazing results this year, a strong St Clair contingent raced at the National event at Waikouaiti. The addition of a "Masters" division meant some members made long awaited comebacks. It was epic to see a couple of familiar faces come back to the team after a few years off with Tim Hunt even making the trip over from Australia to race again with Pete Ryan. Carla Murray also decided to try her hand at driving and teamed up with Zoe Moffat to give Kilda some competition in the Masters Women's division.



Two new national titles for the St Clair team this year with Charlotte Underwood-Nicol, Mereana Martin and Charlotte Aburn taking out the U23 IRB Tube Rescue. Emma Christophers, Mia Stout and Kyla Ashton won the U19 IRB Tube Rescue as well as claiming the bronze medal in Assembly Rescue. Not only did they pick up two medals, but they took out the top National U19 Women's IRB team, as well as 'A Foot on the Line's' People's Choice Award for U19 Female IRB. Congratulations to all involved in IRB Nationals, it was great to feel the positive energy on the beach all season. Another big congratulations to all that won awards at the end of season prizegiving, a top effort!

Anyone interesting in gaining new qualifications in the IRB space or racing, please reach out to me to see what all the fun is about! A big thank you to everyone that has helped out with trainings, event guarding, maintenance and lifeguarding this year, it is great to see the IRB space gaining momentum and we are always looking for more teams to race so get involved!



Club Distinguished Service Awards

Brent Wolf, Gavin Mason, Isaac Davies, Jeffery Foster, Joel Davies, Michael Crombie, Niam Chronican, Thomas Garforth

Club Service Award

Joel Tyndall

IRB Examiner

Carla Murray

Probationary Lifeguard Examiner

Isaac Davies

IRB Drivers Award

Kyla Ashton, Daniel Daulton, Hamish McCaul, Erin Cade, Mia Stout, Samantha McLellan, Aidan Blair, Jessica McLellan

IRB Crewperson Module

Daniel Daulton, Jon Richardson, Lewis Forrester

Rescue Water Craft Operators Award

Brent Matehaere

Lifeguard Award

Henry Hodgson, Lochie Ing-aram, Toby Hill, Ioan Fuller, Isabella Miller, Lachlan Russell, Margo Trump

Comprehensive First Aid

Erin Cade

Pain Management Module

Brent Matehaere, Charlotte Underwood-Nicol

Surf First Aid

Hamish McCaul, Matthew Hanna, Samuel Mann

Patrol Support

Anna Cross

Patrol Captain Award

Erin Cade

Otago/Southland Awards of Excellence

Regional Life Membership

Richard Murray

Regional Distinguished Service Awards

Isaac Davies

Regional Service Awards

Danny Blair

Highlights from the evening

Otago Junior Championship - Top Overall Club

Otago Sand Championship – Top Overall Club

Top U15 Female – Isabella Miller

Top U17 Male – William Laws

Top U17 Female – Charlotte Aburn

Top U19 Male – George Fa’asega

Top Open Female – Charlotte Underwood-Nicol

Top U19 Female IRB Crew – Emma Christophers and Mia Stout

Junior Surf Coach of the Year – Isaac Davies

Junior Surf Contribution of the Year – Jon Richardson

Surf Sportsperson of the Year – Charlotte Aburn

Beach Education Instructor of the Year – Charlotte Underwood-Nicol

Examiner of the Year – Carla Murray

DHL U19 Lifeguard of the Year – Sam McLellan

Club Trophy List

Cameron Cup	Best All-round Surfer	Charlotte Aburn
Owen Dolan Cup	Best Patroller	Sam Mclellan
Jubilee Cup	Most Industrious	Isaac Davies
Opie Mason Cup	Outstanding Young Leader	Aidan Blair
Centenary Cup	Outstanding Achievement	Charlotte Aburn
Presidents Cup	Open Women Overall	Charlotte Underwood Nicol
Lion Trophy	Open Men Overall	Ioan Fuller
St Clair Cup	U19 Women Overall	Samantha Mclellan
Lion Trophy	U19 Men Overall	Aidan Blair
St Clair Cup	U17 Men Overall	Will Laws
St Clair Cup	U17 Women Overall	Charlotte Aburn
Moffat Memorial	Most Promising U19	Charlotte Aburn
St Clair Cup	Instructor/Examiner OTY	Carla Murray
Darryl Fairbairn Cup	Top Overall Powercraft Crew	Emma Christophers Mia Stout
Carla & Stephanie Laughton Cup	Top Female IRB Crew	Emma Christophers Mia Stout
Antony Mason Cup	Top Male IRB Crew	Niam Chronican Mark Christmas Oliver
Adams Cup	Open Board Race	Charlotte Underwood Nicol Isaac Robertson
U19 Board Cup	U19 Board Race	Aidan Blair
Bart Smail Cup	U15 Board Race	Charlotte Aburn Will Laws
Peter Laing Cup	Open Men Surf Race	Ioan Fuller
Women Surf Race Cup	Open Women Surf Race	Charlotte Aburn
Totem Trophy	U19 Men Surf Race	Aidan Blair
McAlpine Cup	U19 Women Surf Race	Uncontested
St Clair Sup	Open Ski Race	Charlotte Underwood-Nicol Antony Mason
19 Ski Cup	U19 Ski Race	Aidan Blair
Graeme Newton Cup	U15 Ski Race	Charlotte Aburn

National Events

Oceans '24 – Mount Maunganui

Team – Peta Richardson, Toby Hill, Heath Fa'asega, Robert Lloyd, Harper Bannister, Victoria Aburn

Highlights – 4 x Bronze Medals, 10 x 10 finishes and made multiple finals

Surf Lifesaving New Zealand Championships (Masters) – Mount Maunganui

1st - 90 – 119 Masters Male Surf Teams Race

Isaac Davies, Richard Murray, Danny Blair

1st – 90-119 Masters Male Taplin Relay

Isaac Davies, Richard Murray, Danny Blair

1st – 240+ Masters Male Surf Canoe Short Course

Lachie Cameron, Graeme Newton, Murray Haig, Brent Matehaere

Isaac Davies – 30-34 Male

Graeme Newton – 70-74 Male

2nd – Board Race

1st – Ski Race

2nd – Iron

3rd – Beach Sprints

Surf Lifesaving New Zealand Championships – Mount Maunganui

Charlotte Aburn – U17 Women – Joint Winner U17 Womens Overall Title

1st – Run Swim Run

1st – Board Race

2nd – Surf Race

BP Surf Rescue New Zealand IRB Championships – Waikouaiti

*Emma Christophers and Mia Stout
Patient Kyla Ashton
U19 Women*

*Charlotte Underwood-Nicol and Mereana Martin
Patient Charlotte Aburn
U23 Women*

1st - U19 Women's Overall Title

1st – Tube Rescue

1st – Tube Rescue

3rd – Mass Rescue

3rd – Assembly Race