



ST CLAIR SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

Annual Report 2022/2023 Season



JULY 23, 2023

ST CLAIR SURF LIFESAVING CLUB
1 The Esplanade, St Clair, Dunedin

Table of Contents

Office Bearers

Reports:

Co-Chairpersons

Lifeguarding

Skills Development

Junior Surf

Powercraft

Otago/Southland Awards

Club Awards

National Event Results

Financial Statement – Separate File

Office Bearers 2022/2023

Patron	Dr Dave Gerrard
President	Richard Murray
Vice President	Antony Mason
Co-chairperson	Joel Tyndall, Cam Burrow (Till October 2022), Matt Bradley (From October 2022)
Secretary	Andrea Christophers
Skills Development	Isaac Davies
Property	Tom Garforth
Powercraft	Matt Bradley
Lifeguarding	Niam Chronican
Junior Surf	Hamish McCaul and Jon Richardson
Women's Representative	Dianne Robertson
Senior Male's Representative	Mark Christmas-Oliver
Junior Women's Representative	Emma Christophers
Junior Male's Representative	N/A
Treasurer	Jeff Foster
Honorary Solicitor	Alastair Moore
Honorary Medical Advisors	Dr Dave Gerrard, Dr Sue Creighton and 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, K Williams, J Bryant, P Johns, P Fairbairn, G Swanson, I Stuart
Life Members	P Haslemore, S McLauchlan, G Newton, M Wilson, B Smaill, B Andrews, C Johns, R Murray, A Mason

Co-Chairperson

The St Clair Surf Lifesaving club continued to keep the community safe this summer completing over 2,100 volunteer patrol hours, completing 14 rescues, 9 first aids and over 170 preventative actions. Our lifeguarding numbers remain stable, but we continue to observe a change in people's volunteering habits, and we will continue to need to ensure the way we patrol works for our members.

This season the club has refreshed the showers in the female changing room and with the support of council replaced the windows in the patrol room and lounge. A group of life members, led by Graeme Newton and Murray Wilson, also installed a new display cabinet for the original Duke Canoe which is proudly on display outside of the club. For the 2023/2024 season we are going to look to get the ball rolling on the marina refresh, a new first aid room door and better IRB storage. This season has seen almost a full calendar of sporting events returning after the COVID pandemic.

All local and regional events along with South Islands were held successfully leading to Oceans23, TSB Nationals in Christchurch and the bp Surf Rescue Championships. Unfortunately, the IRB national competition was truncated due to less-than-ideal conditions.



St Clair was well represented at all these events with St Clair athletes continuing to show we can be competitive with athletes across the country. A special thanks to all our coaches, managers and parents for their support and enabling our athletes to get a foot on the line.

Beach access has been an ongoing issue with weather giving and taking sand away along with damage to the access ramp as well as loss of sand at the other end of the sand sausages. We continue to work with council around long-term solutions and have submitted to the annual plan to ensure the St Clair voice continues to be heard in this space.

Our junior programme continues to grow and has moved to weekly Saturday afternoon sessions with some good representation at the local and regional carnivals with several athletes attending Oceans.

We'd like to thank all our volunteers for the countless hours they offer to help the club continue in its endeavours whether that be patrolling, coaching, competing, helping with events or fund raising.

Cam Burrow, Joel Tyndall, and Matt Bradley



Lifeguarding

This season we sure got the pick of the weather around the country which, along with warmer ocean temperatures made for many busy days on the beach, thank you to all our lifeguards that volunteered their time to keep the beach safe this summer. Beach access is still a challenge at St Clair, but our lifeguards have been able to adapt well with most of our flagged areas set up well north of the sea wall.

The implementation of the Patrol App this season meant reporting lines were very much in a learning phase, so the statistics do not necessarily show true figures, but it gives us a lot to learn from for next season. That being said, there were 14 rescues completed and 178 preventative actions involving 2103 people. A big congratulations and well done to the guards that completed these rescues, especially the people doing so for the first time.



2112.25 hours of lifeguarding were carried out at St Clair by 88 refreshed guards including 13 new lifeguards having completed their testing either before patrols started or throughout the season. A big thank you to the instructors and examiners for helping with this.

It was great to see our lifeguards continuing to upskill themselves during the season, completing many different courses including higher levels of first aid

and a lot of newly qualified patrol captains. A few numbers around courses completed are:

- 9 crewpersons module
- 4 new IRB drivers
- 2 Rock Training and Rescue modules
- 5 VHF operators
- 3 RWC operators

Next season will hopefully see some more great weather and familiar faces down on patrol, we hope to welcome several of our junior members into the Become a Lifeguard course and get them up to speed before patrols begin. Have a great, refreshing winter everyone and I look forward to the next season down at the beach with you.

Niam Chronican

Skills Development

This season was a transitional period for the club in surf sport and a steppingstone towards fresh blood and growth. To the keepings of St Clair's traditions, we had athletes representing us at Oceans, TSB Nationals, and IRB nations.

The old dogs stepped it up this season leading the charge into nationals and having a great showing in epic southern conditions. Congratulations to all the masters medal places in their respective age groups and let's take the momentum to Mt Maunganui next season.

The senior squad showed their strengths in solid conditions in both the men's and women's. By all accounts our St Clair team should be proud of the way they handled themselves and excelled in large conditions.

We have had the luxury as a club to have Joel Davies (seniors), Jon Richardson (juniors), Brent Wolf (ski, seniors), Rosie Falcous (Sand) lead the charge in the coaching realms within the club. Brent has still been heavily involved and been an asset to the clubs sports coaching, organisation and equipment upgrades/fixing. His time and efforts have been much appreciated, cheers Brent.

Joel has been an asset to have back in the fold this season. Setting some structure and guidance to the senior space. It has been awesome to see a strong contingent in the U15. It is clear to see these athletes benefiting from the knowledge and learnings from this session. Cheers Joel good Mahi!

The growth St Clair has seen on the sand side of things has been impressive to see this season. The strong influence Rosie has had on her pairs and the junior membership is commendable. This can be seen in results; team culture and positive attitudes all being demonstrated by our St Clair athletes. Incredible work Rosie, we really appreciate it. Also thank you to Emma Christopher's, Charlotte Underwood, Mereana Martin, Mick Hastie for your amazing coaching. As well as to all our other coaching support throughout the season.



Also, a big thanks to all our members that event guarded and officiated our competitions locally, regionally, and nationally. These events would not happen without your support and commitment. Thank you! We are looking forward as a coaching team to next season and excited to see where we can develop as a club!

Thanks

Isaac Davies

Junior Surf

Tena koutou katoa,

Another great season of Junior surf has gone by. We are pleased to report on lots of success and learnings along the way. From medals at National events, a new group of rookie guards, promising U10 juniors, 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. Plenty of holes and the general drift along the beach presented different safety plans however this has not prevented us from some serious fun at the beach. Smaller safe zones have meant we haven't been able to get the younger paddlers on foamies as much but there has been more body surfing. Seals haven't been as intrusive to junior events compared to last season.

Club day

Consistent numbers of around 30-40 nippers. The program started off on Sunday mornings, with no club day when junior and senior carnivals were on. Learnings from this meant there was inconsistency for those who did not want to participate at carnivals. Feedback from families was they much preferred Saturday afternoons. With Patrols on at the same time this creates opportunity for connection with rest of club and safety management becomes a lot easier.

Numbers are about what we can sustain relative to coach/guard- child ratios. There is opportunity to advertise to schools and the community to grow numbers. However, it's important to deliver a quality experience to Junior members with a good support ratio. So this needs to be managed carefully.

A new event early season "Regional club day" was a great success. 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. This was a first for the country and was watched with interest outside of our region.

Thanks also to all involved in supplying the new Boogie boards. These are regularly used at our club day sessions.



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. With plenty of coaching staff on hand this is also significantly more sustainable when coaches need time away.

Mini paddlers

The end of this season sees a good group of under 8's both Male and Female moving into u9/10 next year. We see this as an area of focus for the upcoming season. Some of these members have parents who have become new guards and we are hoping they might join in the fun and learn some skills extending their coaching skills.

Rookies

With a good group of rookies this year means we have 5 sitting Lifeguard awards next season. They were invited to attend a regional rookie guard camp at Brighton SLSC based on lifeguard skills, teamwork and leadership. This sounded like a heap of fun and the intent is that it will be run again next year.

Big thanks to Isaac Davies for making the trip on his weekends off to support St Clair's rookie program. We intend to put a some more support around this next season.

Junior Surf Sport

This can be summed up as a small quantity but high-quality athletes punching well above their weight both regionally and nationally.

Southerns - Fantastic show of quality performances. St Clair had a smaller team this year but placed 4th overall improving 5 places in the previous season. This year the event is in Christchurch so it will be good to see support and encouragement to attend this event to maintain our overall placing.

Oceans- Saw two athletes travelling north with one medalling and both making semis and finals across most events.

Key drivers to these improved performances have been the opportunities for these athletes in form of the Regional Surf Sport Training programme. In addition, the squad-based swimming programmes, Dunedin Swim and the swim clubs has been recognised by the athletes themselves as key to their performance.



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 "Beachie" 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 and Isaac 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 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.

Hamish, Rolly, Wayne, Jon on the Junior committee
Emma, Mereana, Charlotte, Aidan, Sam, Jess, Lara, Rosie...Amazing up and coming coaches
G, Dan, Graeme, Jen, Jon and Hamish...New Parent Lifeguards
Isaac and Joel Davies and Brent Wolf...
Head coaches and Mentors
Aaron at Harbour fish, Leckie's Meats and Southern Electrical (Mike and Di Robertson) for organising, supplying, and taking care of the BBQ at Club Day.



Another highlight must be having 6 parents gain their lifeguard award.

Parents of Juniors bring a fantastic benefit to our club. Having pathways to encourage parents gain their Lifeguard awards is something that is worthy of attention, and we will be actively looking for another intake.

An update in the coaching framework is currently being developed, due to be released for the 23/24 season. Once released we will be looking to see how this might apply to parents, new lifeguards and the wider club.

The Junior programme would benefit having someone to manage our communications both virtually and face to face. This would involve engaging with parents and whanau while coaches are in the water and help with regular emails and social media posts to

communicate what's going on around the club. With a lot of media attention around water fatalities families are starting to approach us as they are not "water" people, but they are making a conscious decision to seek help, so their Tamariki be safe around water. Having someone actively having these conversations with potential new members will be a big help.

Creating connection

There will be a lot to look forward to in the coming season. Identifying simple measures that we can do to create better connection and experiences with our junior members, their whanau, the club and the wider community will ensure the health of the club. For example, high quality coaches with small groups of juniors. Positive and engaging experiences for parents and their wider families so they feel like they are included and learning as well.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support as we begin planning for 2023/24 summer.

Nga mihi,

Jon Richardson and Hamish McCaul



Powercraft

And just like that, another season has been and gone. A big shout out to all the guards that turned up week in, week out, and kept the flags flying during these still trying times. Also, for putting ourselves forward for training so that we can continue to get more qualified and hopefully better equipped to be great surf lifeguards.

This season, nine IRB crew people, four IRB drivers and three RWC drivers gained their awards. A massive congratulations to those involved. The key now is to continue getting out in the boats and developing your skills under the right tutelage, to help you continue your journey. We also have a solid group that are going through the final stages of their training in preparation for an IRB driver's exam, and a couple of keen people that will form the first group pre-season to get their IRB crewperson completed.

We were able to purchase a new hull, motor and Can AM side-by-side, which has ensured that we continue to have top of the line gear for life saving purposes. This also meant we were able to replace older gear, ensuring that our equipment stays fit for purpose.

From a race perspective, our team expanded on last season, which enabled us to send four teams to Nationals. All teams performed exceptionally, ensuring that the boat stayed upright and managed to complete the races that they were a part of. Unfortunately, the weather and surf conditions did not play ball and only one full event (Mass Rescue) was run as well as some of the Single's heats before racing was called off and the event cancelled. Looking forward; the potential that our crews possess is exciting - it will be good to see them racing all events on local beaches next year, with both South Islands and Nationals to be held in, or around, Dunedin. Unlocking this will be a team effort and crews need to ensure they are doing the training if they want the results.



The trophies were hotly contested this year across the three main events (Otago's, South Islands and Nationals) with only 1 point separating the top two women's crews. Congratulations to the following who were awarded the trophies:

- Niam and Mark who were awarded the Antony Mason Cup for top Male IRB Crew
- Emma and Mia - Carla and Stephanie Laughton Cup for Top Women's Crew and the Daryll Fairbairn Cup for Overall Top Powercraft Crew.
- Mereana and Charlotte were awarded the Centenary Cup for Outstanding efforts at Nationals, considering they only gained their drivers award 2 months prior and began race training soon after, which in the conditions given on the day shows how far they have come in such a short time.

The team would like to thank the following people:

- Isaac Davies - Coach, Mechanic, Consultant, specialist tube patient
- Niam Chronican - Coach, Motor Maintenance, part-time racer
- Cristy Watkins - Team Manager, patient minder and general team lead
- Massimo, George, Lucas, Matt, and Max for being patients
- Connor for assisting with, and examining candidates
- Pierre and the team at Dunedin Marine
- Gaming trusts and other sponsors/supporters
- All officials, event guards, volunteers, and members of SLSNZ
- Milton STIHL shop

All those listed, and many more that I would have forgotten to list, allow us to do what we do and help provide gear, training, and make our nationals trip more affordable and accessible and keep our team running. Thank you for allowing us to become fitter, faster, better lifeguards.

Matt Bradley (Scoob)



Otago/Southland Awards

SLSNZ 50 Year Badge

Peter Haslemore

Peter Laing

Regional Service Awards

Cristy Watkins

Regional Distinguished Service Awards

Brent Matehaere

Chris Haig

Highlights from the awards evening

Top U8 Female – Genevieve Hodgson and Scarlett Keogh

Top U10 Male – Koa Phillips

Top U12 Female – Peta Richardson

Most Promising Junior Lifeguard – Toby Hill

Event Lifeguard of the Year – Lara Tyndall

Coach of the Year – Rosie Falcous

Instructor of the Year – Carla Murray

Rescue of the Year – 4th Feb 2023 joint effort with St Kilda

Top U15 Male Competitor – William Laws

Top U19 Competitors – Mereana Martin and Isaac Robertson

Top U19 Female IRB Crew Otago Champs – Lara Tyndall and Sam McLellan

Open Iron Champions – Isaac Robertson and Charlotte Underwood Nicol

Open Taplin Champions – St Clair Women & St Clair Men

Otago Championship - Top Overall Club – St Clair

Club Trophy List

Cameron Cup	Best All-round Surfer	George Fa'asega
Owen Dolan Cup	Best Patroller	Lara Tyndall
Jubilee Cup	Most Industrious	Jon Richardson
Opie Mason Cup	Outstanding Young Leader	Rosie Falcous
Centenary Cup	Outstanding Achievement	Charlotte Underwood Nicol Mereana Martin
Presidents Cup	Open Women Overall	Charlotte Underwood Nicol
Lion Trophy	Open Men Overall	Isaac Robertson
St Clair Cup	U19 Women Overall	Mereana Martin
Lion Trophy	U19 Men Overall	Aidan Blair
St Clair Cup	U15 Men Overall	George Fa'asega
St Clair Cup	U15 Women Overall	Uncontested
Moffat Memorial	Most Promising U19	Aidan Blair
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	Aidan Blair
U19 Board Cup	U19 Board Race	Emma Christophers Isaac Robertson
Bart Smail Cup	U15 Board Race	George Fa'asega
Peter Laing Cup	Open Men Surf Race	Kale Twist
Women Surf Race Cup	Open Women Surf Race	Mereana Martin
Totem Trophy	U19 Men Surf Race	Kale Twist
McAlpine Cup	U19 Women Surf Race	Mereana Martin
St Clair Sup	Open Ski Race	Antony Mason
U19 Ski Cup	U19 Ski Race	Isaac Robertson Emma Christophers
Graeme Newton Cup	U15 Ski Race	George Fa'asega

National Events

Ocean '23 – Mount Maunganui

Toby Hill – U13 Male

- 7th Surf Race
- 5th Run Swim Run
- 8th Board Race
- 5th Diamond

Peta Richardson

- Semi Finalist Surf Race
- Semi Finalist Run Swim Run
- 10th Board Race
- 5th Diamond

TSB Surf Lifesaving New Zealand Championships (Masters) – New Brighton

1st – 240+ Surf Canoe Short Course Male

Brent Wolf, Graeme Newton, Murry Haig, Lachie Cameron (Reserve: Pete Haslemore)

3rd – 200 – 239 Beach Relay Sprints

Toni Iaseto, Peter Christophers, Jamie Moran, Mark Falcous

Mark Christmas-Oliver – 35-39 Male

- 1st Board Race
- 3rd Beach Flags
- 2nd Beach Sprints

Mark Falcous – 45-49 Male

- 2nd Beach Flags
- 1st Beach Sprints

Pete Christophers – 50-54 Male

- 3rd Beach Flags
- 3rd Beach Sprints

Brent Wolf – 60-64 Male

- 2nd Ski Race

Peter Haslemore – 65 - 69 Male

- 1st Board Race
- 1st Beach Sprints
- 3rd Ski Race

Graeme Newton – 70-74 Male

- 1st Ski Race

TSB Surf Lifesaving New Zealand Championships (Nationals) – New Brighton

William Laws – U15 Male

- 2nd Beach Sprints
- 2nd Beach Flags