
St Clair Surf Lifesaving Club

Annual Report

2021/2022 Season



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Office Bearers 2021/2022

Patron	David Gerrard
President	Kris Williams
Vice President	Richard Murray
Chairperson	Cameron Burrow
Senior Representative	Isaac Davies
Secretary	Bridget Stedman
Skills Development	Brent Wolf
Property	Thomas Garforth
IRB	Matthew Bradley
Lifeguarding	Chris Haig
Junior Surf	Hamish McCaul and Kris Williams
Woman's Representative	Andrea Christophers
Junior Representative	Emma Christophers
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 Fairburn, G Swanson
Life Members	P Haslemore, S McLauchlan, G Newton, M Wilson, B Smail, B Andrews, R Murray, A Mason, C Johns

Chairman's Report

When the 110th Annual Meeting presides, we will be reminded of the issues we continue to face when it comes to coastal erosion and access to St Clair beach. Recent storms have resulted in thousands of cubic meters of sand being stripped from the dunes and around the sand sausages leaving the beach in a state of ruin. Previously the club has tried to be apolitical when it comes to the Council decisions about the coastline, however the continued lack of action may mean the club needs to rethink this stance.

The 2021/22 season was again affected by the COVID pandemic with Oceans and Sand Nationals being cancelled and tensions rising between the volunteers and Surf New Zealand paid staff. Luckily IRB Nationals were able to take place, however unfortunately we lost key team members the week of competition due to COVID.

Despite the disruption the club continued to show resilience fronting for patrols and providing a safe beach for our community. Our Junior Surf program found some new energy with strong numbers attending weekly sessions and holistically we are seeing Surf lifesaving in Otago to continue to improve. Again, this is down to the countless and thankless hours our volunteers put in and on behalf of the club, I would like to thank you for the Mahi you continue to do.

Whilst our members don't often do things for the recognition it's been great to recognise a number of our members over the past few seasons with Service awards and it was amazing to see Steph and Carla inducted into the SLSNZ sports hall of fame in 2022

Cam Burrow - Chairman

Skills and Lifeguarding Report

This season, the weather had its ups and downs and it was not until late in the season that the temperatures started to pick up. The loss of sand from the beach was again very noticeable but access to the beach was adequate with the ramp down at the eastern end of the Esplanade able to be used over most of the season. On most patrols the patrol flags had to be placed on the east side of the poles as there was not enough beach to place them on the west side. Although, occasionally the patrol area was able to be put up right in front of the club-rooms.

Statistics were up from last year with 1599 preventative actions involving 1905 people. The number of beach users varied a lot determined by the weather and occurrence of the high tide. Many thanks to all the lifeguards who volunteered their time during the season. We had good numbers with eight patrol teams made up of 95 lifeguards covering 20 weekends of volunteer patrols. The volunteer patrols ran from 30th Oct until 6th March. The patrols operated from 12pm until 5pm with many days finishing at 4pm because of bad weather and no one on the beach. And because of the way the calendar was, volunteers patrolled Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and the day after New Year's Day.

The club opted-in to perform the theory part of the lifeguard refresher online. Part of the IRB drivers' refresher was also done online. We had 76 lifeguards complete their lifeguard refresher and 24 complete their IRB drivers' refresher.

The volunteer lifeguards completed a total of 1868 volunteer hours which is up from last year. This was very good and shows that the lifeguards were still turning up on bad weather days. Well done to the Patrol Captains in getting their patrols engaged and active, especially on the slow days. We had an additional six 'roving' Patrol Captains this season who rotated around patrols. We had 16 new lifeguards complete their Surf Lifeguard Award this season and our existing lifeguards continued to upskill themselves in these courses:

VHF Marine Radio - 2

Patrol Captains course - 3

Surf First Aid (or refresher) - 32

Advanced First Aid (or refresher) - 6

Rock Training and Rescue - 15

IRB Crewpersons - 1

IRB Drivers - 4

IRB Instructors - 1

Looking forward to seeing you all again down at the beach next season.

Chris Haig

Lifeguard Coordinator



Senior Sport

Senior sand season 2021-2022

Unfortunately, once again the senior sand nationals were cancelled due to the impact of

Covid. This was probably always on the cards,

particularly after ERC's were also

cancelled. The number of St Clair athletes competing at the local competitions was down on numbers compared

to previous years, but there were still some standout performances. In the men's

competition, Isaac Robertson, Aiden Blair, Jackson Wallace, Javara Clark and Harrison

Stout led the charge for the club. While on the women's side Charlotte Underwood-Nicol,



Mereana Martin and Emma Christophers were

consistent performers. More latterly they were

bolstered by the return of Carla Murray and Lara

Tyndall.

What was really pleasing to see was the great turn out for Otago Champs at Kaka Point,

with a very big team of athletes. If I started to name people, I am sure I would miss

someone, so I am just going to give a big thank you to everyone who turned up and

competed. Moreover, it was pleasing to see the great team spirit and cheering on of all

performers. Once again St Clair won the overall title.

Perhaps the highlight of the season was the trip up to

Whangamata at the end of January. A small group of

athletes and parents flew up to Auckland and then drove to Whangamata for a week of



training, sightseeing and what was supposed to culminate in competing at ERC's.

Although this was ultimately cancelled, it was a truly great adventure. In this regard, I

would like to thank Isaac Davies for towing the trailer and organising great training

sessions along with Hannah Williams. It was really great to work with you both. I know I

learnt heaps. What was also special was to get to know lots of other clubbies from around

the Bay region and to be so welcomed into their club rooms and hear their experiences. I

would also, on behalf of all of the team like to thank Andrea Christophers for being camp

mum. Nothing was a bother to you. (Although I suspect my snoring forced you to go for

the cabins rather than the rain).



The Southern regions competition did go ahead, so a big thank you to the staff from Surf Life Saving NZ Southern region, for making this happen. Although it was a split competition with the men at South Brighton and the women at New Brighton beaches there were some very good performances. In the under 19 women's, Charlotte Underwood-Nicol came 2nd overall, while in the under 17 men, Isaac Robertson also picked up 2nd place.

In closing I would like to thank, all of the athletes and the parents for their support for the season. I enjoyed the season (though not always the weather). I would also like to personally acknowledge the hours of work that Isaac and Hannah have put into coaching this season. The willingness and passion that you both contribute and the passing on of your experience to the next generation is humbling. Also, I would like to acknowledge the support of the club and the committee in particular, in helping make this another great season.

Results

Otago Champs

Overall placings:

Open Men 2nd Sam Todd

Open Women 1st Carla Murray, 2nd Hannah Matehaere

Under 19 Women 1st Charlotte Underwood-Nicol, 2nd Mereana Martin

Under 17 Men 1st Isaac Robertson, 2nd Sam Stedman, 3rd Jackson Wallace

Under 17 Women 1st Emma Christophers, 2nd Lara Tyndall

Under 15 Men 1st = Harrison Stout, 3rd Javara Clark

Southern Regions

Under 19 Women: Charlotte Underwood-Nicol 2nd

Under 17 Men: Isaac Robertson 2nd .

Brent Wolf



Junior Surf Report

Tēnā koutou katoa,

With another season gone in a flash we'd like to reflect on the great efforts put in by all club members and supporters. As with all Sport clubs and societies navigating a Covid-19 world was in doubt a challenge. If there is one thing that we can be grateful for is how important our connection with our fellow clubbies and they community we serve is. A memorable moment of this were those calm, clear water club days with both seniors and juniors all out in the water. We hope we have been able to provide as best we can a safe and encouraging environment for the kids to connect with the ocean and people, and will continue this for the 2022/23 season.

Positives

Membership growth

Growth in Junior numbers has been really positive and the general consensus from new parents is most elements of the system are working well. The moving of the club day to Sunday mornings has been great the benefit



of the earlier morning weather has paid dividends. IRB support and fun activities and sessions have been a real highlight for the kids and parents alike.

Senior input

Early season input from Isaac and Cam was well received, the kids and parents really appreciated the attendance of the head coach and president to their junior sessions. Kids obviously get on well with Isaacs approachable and supportive coaching nature and Cams jovial attitude towards the surf sport is always a winner. It would be great to get a few

more of the senior competitors along in the same vein to do a one-off morning with the kids. Doesn't need to be weekly event just the odd occasion along with some of the nipper kids whom will be moving into Junior's. Noted a few of those young life guards already doing the lions share of the work guarding and assisting at carnival weekends. We'd also like to call out Simon Heponstall's first aid sessions, which the kids all loved.

Session plans

These worked well for the new Blue top parents. Was good for the newbies to have something to work to and taking the guess work out of it. Also, as a group it worked well and gave the kids some structure. Thanks to Isaac for his significant input with this.



Blue Shirts

The newby parents did a fantastic job adapting to their roles. The buy in from those parents/caregivers/family/siblings that fronted up and were ready to assist was immense.

Without these people the days would have not

functioned due to the kids and parents whom were involved in the carnivals. Many of these parents have indicated that they would go for their life guard award.



As a club this needs some significant support thrown in as this can help with resourcing issues. We have some parents already training in the pool on a Wednesday night, and are actively looking for swim coaches so we can help them across the line.



Challenges

Resourcing

At times we have had to cancel some club days due to a lack of resourcing. This has been due to several factors, Covid, conflicts in events, senior and junior training and lifeguard support. We acknowledge that the surf season is intense and across the senior and junior club there are a lot of good people doing the Lion's share of work. We are constantly looking at ways we can be more effective and smarter with our resource, whether growing this through getting more parents as guards, to sharing resources with the senior club.

Club day Timing

While the upside to moving the Club Day to a morning session to take advantage of calmer conditions worked, this has caused a clash when it comes to carnivals. There was a concept floated of running the Junior Club Day sessions alongside the junior carnival

events; and whilst in theory this would work, logistics and large numbers would make it difficult.

Environmental

We cannot ignore the St Clair beach environment and the fact we are fighting for kid's time with other weekend sports. St Clair's surf is often large and uninviting, and a large majority of kids lack the ocean swimming skill set to get out amongst it. Moreover, at times access to the beach is non-existent. Another item of note is the recent arrival of numerous sea creatures, which certainly puts kids in two minds. Not much can be done about this and the more kids experience nature the better served they'll be.

Club Community

As a junior club group, we feel a need for social gatherings to help create a club feel, identity and community. While Covid regulations has had a major effect we are still struggling to get parents to attend the few afternoons we have had. Whether there would be more attendance if we moved the club days back to Saturday is a possibility, giving adults another day to sort their week.

'Drop and go' parents

There is still the odd drop off parent, which is not ideal and needs to be addressed outright. Surf sports are not a space that you can do this. We will be looking at ways to communicate this more effectively.

Wednesday pool night

Wednesday pool nights numbers have dropped off significantly. Not as bad as other clubs as they have no one turning up. Jon, Hamish and Wayne are putting time back into this to try and get numbers back up. While we are making the sessions fun and surf specific for

the kid's we are desperate for one or two dedicated swim coaches who can help with technique training.

Possible changes

While we are still looking at changes and opportunities for the 2022/23 season below are some of the ideas we are looking at. We welcome input around these.

Junior club Structure

Establishing wider roles to share workload across the club. There may be other roles that could be established.

Club day Timing-

Do we consider going back to Saturday afternoons to tie in with patrol?

Sporting results.

On the whole the kids whom have competed have had excellent results and for the numbers we have, they've certainly punched above their weight. The kids who travelled and were in the Oceans training squads under Isaac's tutelage have progressed and excelled amongst their peers. The teams that attended both Otago and South Island champs performed well and carried the St Clair name in good stead. The SI team performed exceedingly well on the whole with a team of just 4 children, to achieve 8th place overall was a highlight. The small contingent at pool champs also performed well, placing in most events. This is an area of note for the coming season, to increase the off-season training and swimmer numbers.

Hamish McCaul and Jon Richardson

St Clair IRB Report

This season we were lucky to receive some funding from the Government to put towards purchasing a new IRB hull and motor for patrolling purposes. This allows us to keep our patrol gear rotating and ensure it is up there with the best in the country.



Throughout the season we have had a steady group of members go through IRB driver training. The instructors, led by Isaac, are ensuring that the candidates that go through the training get that wee bit extra guidance so are good to go from day one. Isaac has been assisted by Hannah, Mikayla, Jackson, and Niam. Hannah recently met the requirements and gained her IRB instructors award. There is also a group of drivers who are almost ready and therefore an exam will be run before next season to get them qualified.

From a racing perspective, there were a couple of new crews showing some exciting potential and a couple of experienced crews leading by example and showing them how it's done. It's been great having the new crews coming through and bringing the



enthusiasm. This was evident when both new U19 Women's crews made finals, with each receiving a bronze medal at Nationals after some great results at local and regional competitions. Special mention to Cristy and Isaac for looking after the Nationals crews whilst they were away and the team behind them that helped make this Nationals trip a possibility after COVID threatened to derail it. Also, to the club supporters, helpers and members who help keep this team running behind the scenes; your support is greatly appreciated.

All things considered, there was plenty to celebrate with the IRB team this season. Going forward, with an improved attendance to all development opportunities, we can expect to see participants reach their full potential and exceed their own expectations next season. This will happen over the off-season and into next, so please let us know if you are interested and get involved.

Matt Bradley



Otago/Southland Awards

Regional Service Awards

Sam Todd

Ossian Woods

Mikayla Garforth

Niam Chronican

Dylan Crawford

Distinguished Service Awards

Matthew Bradley

Highlights from the evening

Top U12 Male: Toby Hill

Richard Murray Award: Heath Fa'asega

Most Promising Junior Lifeguard: George Fa'asega

Top U15 Male: Harrison Stout

Top U17 Male: Isaac Robertson

Top U17 Female: Emma Christophers

Top U19 Female: Charlotte Underwood-Nicol

Top Open Woman: Carla Murry

Top U19 IRB Female Team: Emma Christophers and Mia Stout



Nominated for major awards

Official of the year: Andrea Christophers

Event Guard of the year: Lara Tyndall

Coach of the year: Rosie Falcous

Team of the year: Mikayla Garforth and Carla Murray

Service to Junior Coaching: Miranda Miroso

Sports Person of the year: Carla Murray

Rookie Lifeguard of the year: George Fa'asega - **Winner**

Regional Lifeguard of the year: Emma Christophers - **Winner**

Beach ed person of the year: Carina Donegan - **Winner**

Instructor of the year: Hannah Williams - **Winner**

Lifeguard of the year: Rosie Falcous

Volunteer of the year: Samantha McLellan

Surf Life Saving New Zealand National Awards

Service Awards

Matthew Bradley

Isaac Davies

Michael Crombie

Thomas Garforth

Gavin Mason

Brent Wolf

Club Trophy List 2021/2022

<i>Cameron Cup</i>	Best All round Surfer	Carla Loughton
<i>Owen Dolan Cup</i>	Best Patroller	Rosie Falcous
<i>Jubilee Cup</i>	Most Industrious	Sam Mclellan
<i>Opie Mason Cup</i>	Outstanding Young Leader	Emma Christophers
<i>Centenary Cup</i>	Outstanding Achievement	Hannah Williams
<i>Lion Trophy</i>	Open Overall Men	Sam Todd
<i>Lion Trophy</i>	U19 Overall Men	Isaac Robertson
<i>Presidents Cup</i>	Open Women Overall	Carla Murray
<i>St Clair Cup</i>	Under 16 Men Overall	Harrison Stout
<i>St Clair Cup</i>	Under 19 Women Overall	Charlotte Underwood Nicol
<i>St Clair Cup</i>	Under 16 Women Overall	Emma Christophers
<i>Moffat Memorial</i>	Most Promising U19	Maia Stout
<i>Darryl Fairbairn Cup</i>	Top Overall Power craft Crew	Emma Christophers and Mia Stout
<i>Carla & Stephanie Loughton Cup</i>	Top Female IRB Crew	Emma Christophers and Mia Stout
<i>Anthony Mason Cup</i>	Top Male IRB Crew	Sam and Isaac
<i>Adams Cup</i>	Open Board Race	Isaac Davies
<i>U19 Board Cup</i>	Under 19 Board Race	Sam Stedman
<i>Bart Smaill Cup</i>	Under 16 Board Race	Harrison Stout
<i>Peter Laing Cup</i>	Open Men's Surf Race	Sam Todd
<i>Totem Trophy</i>	Under 19 Men's Surf Race	
<i>Women's Surf Race Cup</i>	Open Women's Surf Race	Mereana Martin
<i>McAlpine Cup</i>	Under 19 Women's Surf Race	Mereana Martin
<i>Stuart McLauchlan Cup</i>	Under 16 Surf Race	Emma Christophers
<i>St Clair Cup</i>	Open Ski Race	Cam Burrow
<i>U19 Ski Cup</i>	Under 19 Ski Race	Charlotte Underwood Nicol
<i>Graeme Newton Cup</i>	Under 16 Ski Race	Emma Christophers

National Events

Ocean Athletes – Event Cancelled

Senior Nationals – Event Cancelled

IRB Nationals

Bronze Medal: Emma Christophers and Mia Stout

Bronze Medal: Lara Tyndall and Samantha McLellan

Team Manager: Cristy Watkins

Coach: Isaac Davies



