

## Funding their rescue services through the summer

Each summer, Coastguard volunteers perform a very different service in their communities - selling Coastguard Summer Lottery tickets. Each ticket funds their search and rescue operations, covering some of the running costs for each local Coastguard operation.

The Coastguard Summer Lottery has been running for over 16 years and is a big event in many coastal areas of New Zealand. The volunteers are instantly recognisable in their Coastguard uniforms and often flanked by flags, banners and, when it is not needed for an emergency, their Coastguard rescue vessel.

It can be challenging for each Coastguard crew to find enough volunteers to sell tickets so be sure to buy one if you see them! You will walk away knowing that you've helped your local Coastguard crew and also have the chance to win a fantastic prize, such as a new car, boat, holiday, or a Mitre 10 kitchen makeover.



Selling lottery tickets is one of the many things our volunteers do to save lives at sea



## Vodafone landline customers can help Coastguard!

**"When I heard Vodafone would give some money to Coastguard without it costing me a cent, I signed up like a shot!"**

If you have a Vodafone fixed home landline (excludes Vodafone wireless home phones) then you can sign up to support Coastguard. Simply register as a 'Vodafone Friend of Coastguard' at [www.coastguard.nz/vodafone](http://www.coastguard.nz/vodafone), and every month they'll donate 3% of your monthly landline bill to Coastguard.

If just ten people like Jeremy (right) signed up, Coastguard would receive an extra \$250 a year to save lives at sea. He told us, "every little bit helps, and it was so simple to sign up. I reckon every Vodafone landline customer should get on board!"

Visit [coastguard.nz/vodafone](http://coastguard.nz/vodafone) and sign up today!



## Thank you for your fantastic support

Coastguard volunteers come from all walks of life, and in all shapes and sizes, but they all share a common purpose. Without exception, they will turn out day or night, in any weather, on any day of the year, to assist boaties in trouble on our rivers, lakes and sea.

Your support is vital in providing them with critical rescue gear like medical supplies, stretchers and rescue blankets. On average, we supply over \$400 worth of lifesaving equipment for our volunteer crews each and every day.

Without you we couldn't save lives at sea.



Your donations provide vital first aid gear like rescue blankets.

## Your donations helped Coastguard Nelson rescue a missing paddler

**Clinging to debris and fighting for his life, a missing paddler was rescued due to Coastguard Nelson's incredibly fast response. Thanks to your support, our crews had the skills and training they needed to bring him home to safety.**

When a group of people were walking along beautiful Tahunanui Beach in Nelson, they found an abandoned waka ama eerily bobbing about in the shallows. After they phoned the police it was confirmed a local man was missing.

Coastguard Nelson's emergency pagers sounded just before 3pm. The crew leapt into action and within 10 minutes they were on their rescue vessel rushing to the scene.

Conditions at sea were rough with waves towering above them and debris from a recent storm blocking their path. But the skilled crew knew what they were doing, and worked their way towards the most likely area the paddler would have been swept to.

They searched the churning ocean while a police observer joined the search from a nearby hill. It was when the observer spotted a yellow object in the water that Coastguard found the paddler swamped by the large swell and clinging desperately to debris.

The exhausted man had been swept a staggering three kilometres off shore,

and had been pushed under the water several times. He'd been fighting for his life for 90 minutes; he was out of breath and struggling to stay afloat. The crew carefully manoeuvred the rescue boat beside him and hauled him on board to safety.

Coastguard's swift and efficient response meant the entire operation was completed in 36 minutes. The crew were recognised for their fantastic efforts and awarded the Mitre 10 Rescue of the Year at Coastguard's national awards.

There is little doubt the outcome could have been much worse if the crew didn't have the skills and experience to act so quickly. **Thanks to your support in providing training and gear for our volunteers, the paddler was rescued and lived to see another day.**



Thanks to your incredible support, our crews are always rescue-ready.



Patrick Holmes  
Chief Executive Officer  
Coastguard New Zealand

## Thank you so much for helping our heroes save lives at sea!

Royal New Zealand Coastguard Inc is the charity saving lives at sea  
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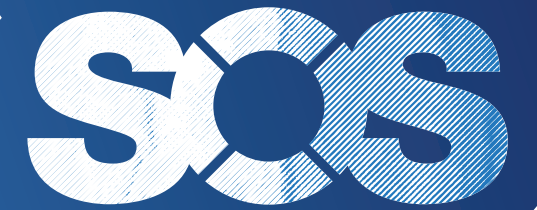
W: [www.coastguard.nz](http://www.coastguard.nz)



New Zealand  
Permit No. 236651



Merry Christmas and thank you for supporting Coastguard



Coastguard Supporter Newsletter | Summer 2016

## The best Christmas present in the world

**Craig Houkamau is a builder by trade, and also a skipper at Coastguard Howick. He'll be one of the many Coastguard volunteers on call this Christmas - ready to go at a moment's notice when someone needs his help.**

For the Howick crew, the months leading up to Christmas mean a big push in volunteer recruitment and training to be ready for the busy summer boating season.

Their Coastguard unit maintains the ability to respond 24/7, with at least one crew on standby on Christmas Day.

**"Everyone recognises that we have functions on Christmas Day. We just make sure we have at least one skipper who doesn't indulge quite so much!"** Craig says.

Coastguard volunteers are often called away in the midst of celebrations with family and friends, dropping everything to launch their boats to help someone in trouble.

"One Christmas Day, a guy got into trouble off Waiheke Island and we had to go out and help him. It's been at least twice in my time with Coastguard that we've been called out on Christmas Day."

Despite the intensity of the season, Craig says it's worth it when folk drop by to say thanks.

"The fact we have to take time away from our families, they're very grateful to us for coming out and helping them."



Craig Houkamau is one of the many dedicated volunteers on call this Christmas.

**"Later on, they might bring us a bottle or some delicious home baking,"** Craig says. **"We're often at the Coastguard boat shed and people drop by to say hello. We're always happy to have a yarn."**

"It gives me a real sense of satisfaction giving back to my community."

For many families this Christmas, the safe return of loved ones thanks to dedicated Coastguard volunteers will be the best Christmas present in the world.

Thank you for donating to our volunteer lifesavers and being there for us when it matters.

Your donations provide lifesaving first aid gear - thank you See inside...





# A shout out to “Yoda”!

**Robb Henry from Coastguard Waiheke Island is just one of the thousands of dedicated Coastguard volunteers you support who keep Kiwis safe on the water. He’s been volunteering for the past 24 years, and has become the lifeblood of his tight-knit unit.**

Like all Coastguard volunteers, Robb leads a very busy life committing to the high demands of Coastguard work. No matter how dire the situation, he will drop everything at a moment's notice when a call for help comes in.

Robb joined Coastguard Waiheke Island in 1992 and has been involved at almost every volunteer level of Coastguard since. Known affectionately by his crew as ‘Yoda’ for his wisdom and experience, Robb is a Senior Master on his rescue vessel and is heavily involved in the training and development of fellow volunteers.

Robb ensures his training exercises prepare search and rescue volunteers for real life scenarios. He scatters flotsam such as chilly bins, old dinghies and life jackets in the water to present real-life challenges volunteers will face. Robb's ingenuity and ability to think outside the square make him a valuable tutor to his students.

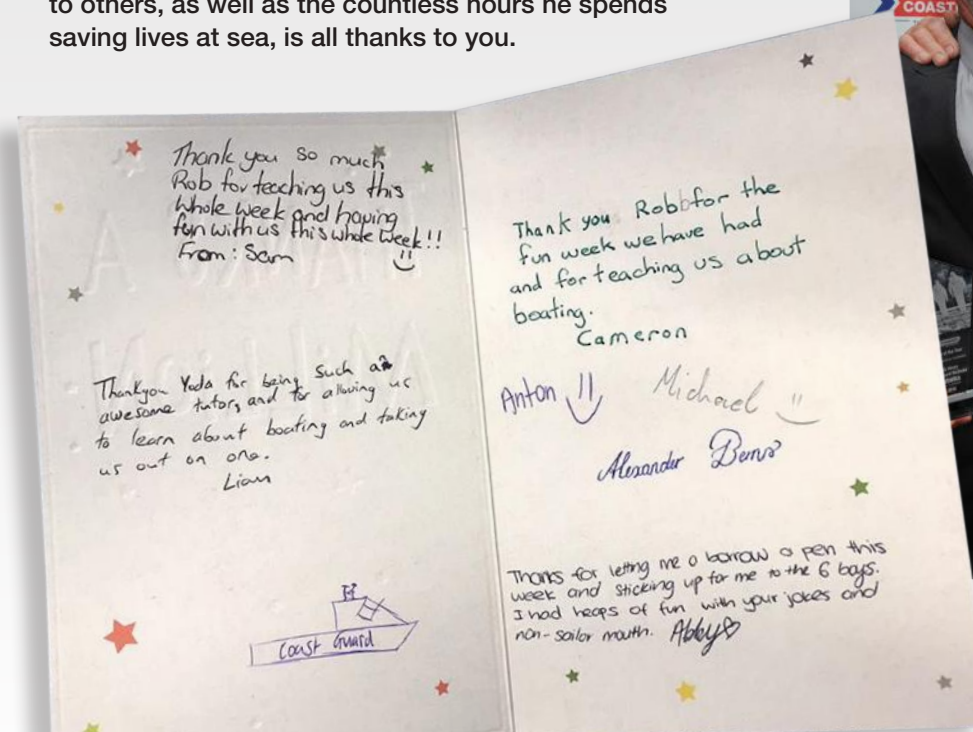
Robb also trains and prepares his volunteer crew for mass rescues, where he tasks them with the difficult job of locating and rescuing multiple people from a simulated boat collision. There have been a number of unfortunate incidents recently involving passenger ferries, so mass rescues are a big focus for Coastguard. Robb's vital training exercises will help save many lives at sea.

**Robb's accomplishments simply wouldn't be possible without your kind support and generosity. Your donations give Robb and his crew the funding to turn their positive attitude into real-life rescue heroics. The training he's had and passed on to others, as well as the countless hours he spends saving lives at sea, is all thanks to you.**



Robb was honoured to meet Sir Graham Henry at Coastguard's Awards of Excellence.

Robb is a volunteer and teaches our young people to stay safe at sea.



# Your donations provide lifesaving first aid gear - thank you

**In September we launched our ‘rescue ready’ appeal, which raised funds for essential first aid gear for our crews. It told the story of Barry Grouby and the rescue crew at Coastguard Rotorua Lakes.**

Three kayakers were in peril on Lake Rotorua. A member of the public saw them in trouble, kayaked over and tried to help. But he got into big strife too. That's when our volunteers stepped up and rescued all four of them.

Barry had just sat down for his Saturday breakfast and was looking out onto a cold, windy morning when his pager went off. He dropped everything and rushed to help.

**“It was bloody cold, and there was a fair good chop on the lake,” he told us.**

As they paddled from Ngongotaha towards Mokoia Island, an icy gale hit the kayakers. The wind whipped the lake into large white-topped waves. It was far too choppy for the kayakers, and one of them suddenly capsized and fell into the freezing water. The shock of the cold water took his breath away and numbed his fingers; his body was so cold. A man on shore saw what had happened and called Coastguard.

Our volunteers put on their rescue gear and launched their rescue vessel into the grey lake.

On board, the crew battled the gruelling conditions. Two-metre swells battered their boat. They had to slow right down; tall waves threatened to capsize them too. The lake was heaving around them, and the wind howled in from the side. When they reached him, Barry recalled, “the kayaker in the water was not in a good way.”

With some difficulty, Barry and the crew lifted him horizontally out of the water and into the rescue vessel.

Barry and the crew rescued a group of kayakers, thanks to you.

They laid him on the deck, wrapped him in woollen blankets to slowly restore warmth to his frozen body.

When all the kayakers were safely on board, the rescue boat made its way as quickly as possible to shore. An ambulance was waiting, and Coastguard volunteers stretchered the survivors to safety. It had been a cold and frightening ordeal - but they'd made it.

**“It easily could have been a different outcome. We could have been retrieving a body, for sure. One of the guys collapsed as he walked up the boat ramp, he was that cold,” said Barry.**

As a volunteer organisation, we rely on people like you for financial support. We turn your generosity into lifesaving gear that our volunteers use every day - medical equipment, stretchers and rescue blankets.

**If you are able to send a donation today it would be greatly appreciated, and contribute gear and training to Barry and the many volunteers like him, standing by for emergencies. Thank you.**



Brian has been a loyal advocate for Coastguard for many years and has always found ways to show his support.

**“It was my privilege to meet Brian recently. He is one of our new Coastguardians as he has decided to leave a bequest to Coastguard in his Will. His generous gesture is very much appreciated by us and will help support our volunteers in saving lives at sea.”**

Henry van Tuel - President, Coastguard New Zealand

# It's always great to thank our supporters in person!

Brian started volunteering for Auckland Coastguard Radio Operations in the 1980s. A move away from Auckland meant he could no longer volunteer as he lived too far from the nearest crew; since then he has found other ways to continue supporting Coastguard's work.

Brian is hoping to one day win one of our amazing lottery prizes, he is a member of Team Rescue, Coastguard's monthly giving programme, and he recently told of his decision to leave a gift in his Will to Coastguard.

Henry van Tuel, Coastguard New Zealand's newly elected President presented the very special *Coastguardian* pin to Brian at a recent Coastguard get-together. Brian enjoyed being back amongst the hubbub of Coastguard life and meeting some of the new generation of volunteer Radio Operators.

A big thank you to Brian.

## Could you send our volunteers some Christmas cheer?

**Send your message to Coastguard volunteers - return in the envelope enclosed and we'll display your message on a special Coastguard Christmas tree!**

Your Christmas message:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name (optional):

\_\_\_\_\_

Tear along dotted line and detach

**Yes, I would like to donate to Coastguard heroes today!**

Please send me information about leaving a gift in my Will to Coastguard.

**Please accept my gift of:**

- \$20  \$50  \$100
- \$20 each month (Credit card only)

**Please charge my:**

- Visa  Mastercard
- AMEX  Diners

Card number

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque, made payable to Coastguard New Zealand

I have donated online at [www.coastguard.nz](http://www.coastguard.nz)

Donations \$5 and over are tax deductible

I have made a donation using online banking:  
**Royal New Zealand Coastguard Inc**  
ACC. No: 12-3209-0434030-01  
Particulars: **Surname**  
Reference: SummerSOS  
Code: **ContactID**

**Please return this form to:**  
COASTGUARD NEW ZEALAND  
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Auckland 0740, New Zealand  
T: (09) 489 1510  
F: (09) 337 0765

Please write or update your name and address

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