



Andrew proudly wears his Sea Cadet uniform in 1964.

From Rescued to Rescuer.

For 25 years, Andrew Blockley has been saving lives at sea with Coastguard Wellington. It was his own harrowing experience of being rescued that spurred him on to become a Coastguard volunteer.

Andrew's story begins 55 years ago in the UK, when at just 11 years old he and his mother were rescued by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) after their rowboat was quickly pulled into an outgoing tide and swept 200 metres out to sea.

With no experience of rowing and no rudder to help them steer, Andrew and his mother started to panic. Andrew took off his red sweater and waved it around, hoping to attract someone on the shore. But every minute that trickled on pulled them further out to sea.

After an agonising hour, Andrew finally saw in the distance a cutter being launched by 14 men from the local life boat station. Beaming with relief, he and his mother were taken aboard the vessel and returned safely to shore.

Andrew's experience stirred something in him. He decided to follow his heroes at sea and join the Sea Cadet Corp, before joining Coastguard when he moved to New Zealand.

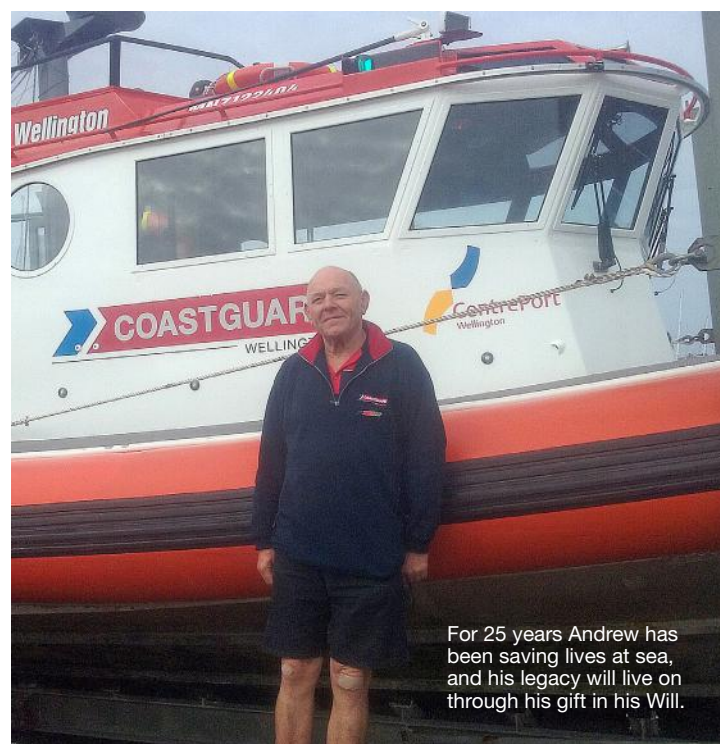
"It was always at the back of my mind," says Andrew. "Once I got involved with Sea Cadets I appreciated the involvement of dealing with problems on the sea, and that's how it all came about."

Andrew's loyalty has extended much further than volunteering, as he's decided to leave a gift to Coastguard in his Will - becoming a proud Coastguardian and having his legacy live on to help save many more lives at sea.

"I decided to leave something for Coastguard to say thank

you for what the lifeboat crews did for me back then and to thank the people who have supported me while I've been here with Wellington Coastguard."

It takes considerable funds to train and equip our volunteer crews. A growing number of people are choosing to remember Coastguard in their Will, so lives can be saved in their name. If this is something that might be for you, why not request more information using the form on the previous page.



For 25 years Andrew has been saving lives at sea, and his legacy will live on through his gift in his Will.

Your donations save lives in places where normal ambulances can't reach.

In one of the most remote parts of New Zealand, in the worst weather imaginable, Sheena Leggs and her husband Graeme were in desperate trouble.

The two were staying at a lodge in the Queen Charlotte Sounds in Marlborough when Graeme suddenly went into anaphylactic shock and passed out.

"It was a bit horrific," says Sheena. "We gave him some antihistamines and he started to come right, but we just didn't know - being so far from any sort of help - whether to carry on or to call emergency services.

"My daughter and son-in-law managed to get in touch with someone at 111, and they said they would get someone from Coastguard out to help us."

Volunteers from Coastguard Marlborough leapt onto *Bluebridge Rescue*, their state-of-the-art rescue vessel with a fully equipped ambulance bay.

"It was a really rough, awful weekend, so the poor Coastguard volunteers had to deal with horrible conditions to get out here. They were really good and we really appreciate all the help they gave us."

Without a medical team that were able to reach them by boat, it would've taken many hours to get help to Graeme.



Sheena and her husband Graeme were hiking through the Queen Charlotte Sounds when they were faced with a medical emergency.

Since *Bluebridge Rescue* was launched last year, more than 100 people have been brought to safety by Coastguard Marlborough.

Sheena says the vessel is an invaluable asset to the Marlborough Sounds because so many people are wholly reliant on its services in an emergency.

"It was great having the service there, and it's very much needed in the Sounds with trampers and hunters and all that sort of thing. It's definitely worthwhile."

Bluebridge Rescue's highly trained crew couldn't be there for the people of Marlborough and its many visitors without you. Thanks to your support, Coastguard Marlborough have the skills to provide lifesaving care, bringing 100 people home safely to their families since 2016.



Your support for our crews has brought many people home safely.



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New Zealand
Permit No. 236651



Find out how your donations help!

SOS

Coastguard Supporter Newsletter | Winter 2017

Leading the way with a love for the sea.

Nicola Hockley has been making waves in Coastguard since she joined in 2009, and thanks to your support she's able to share her knowledge and skills with other Coastguard volunteers to help keep Kiwis safe on the water.

Like all Coastguard volunteers, every aspect of Nicola's involvement in the organisation is unpaid. When not saving lives or helping to build and run a great team, Nicola works at Goodman Fielder as a Quality Manager - a highly demanding job in itself.

But when she's needed, Nicola takes charge and leads her crew to help people in trouble.

"I've volunteered for various charities since I was a child," says Nicola. "I love the sea, helping people and being out on boats, and people on boats having good experiences."

Not only is Nicola one of Coastguard's most highly trained volunteers, she is also one of the most dedicated. Every spare moment Nicola has is committed towards Coastguard work, as she spends her weekends skippering Coastguard Canterbury's rescue vessel to ensure every boatie is safe.

"That's the search and rescue sector in New Zealand. The frontline are mostly volunteers going out and doing these types of activities," she says.



Nicola's incredible contribution to Coastguard and the people of Canterbury would not be possible without your support.

Nicola is a born leader and plays a big part in training her crew to be ready to save lives at sea. Many of Coastguard Canterbury's crew look up to Nicola for guidance, a role she expertly carries out.

Recently, Nicola's dedication was recognised on a national scale when she was awarded a Certificate of Achievement at the New Zealand Search and Rescue Awards held at Parliament in May.

Without your incredible support and generosity, Nicola's accomplishments would not be possible. You enable Nicola to carry out the selfless work she does and train generations of Coastguard volunteers. Thanks to you, Nicola is leading the way in saving lives at sea.

Three lives saved thanks to your support.



Your support means volunteers like Murray can save lives at sea. Thank you.

For sixteen long hours, three men were trapped on a sea-swept rock in Rangaunu Bay, Northland.

Their small fishing boat had capsized in rough seas, ditching their phones, radio and safety gear into the water. They'd managed to swim to a rocky outcrop but had no way of calling for help.

No-one had seen them get into trouble, so Coastguard volunteers had no real clues as to where they were. But experience and good planning meant they came back home safely to their families. Murray Miskelly, volunteer air

patrol pilot, flew his search plane out to the far reaches of the bay, where few would have thought to look. It was his decisive action that saved three lives.

Your donations help Coastguard raise the \$5,000 we need each week to train our 2,200 volunteers - ordinary New Zealanders who give their own time to save others. Thank you!



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
Charity Registration No CC 36138

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Meet our volunteers.



Win a toasty Coastguard beanie!

See inside...

Ordinary New Zealanders doing extraordinary things.

Elton Ngawhika, Ian Coard and Pete Woodward recently received awards from the New Zealand Search & Rescue (NZSAR) Council, recognising their dedication to saving lives at sea.



Your support for our volunteers means people like Elton can dedicate their time to something they believe in.

Elton Ngawhika: Coastguard Rotorua Lakes

"In Rotorua we're 100% volunteers. We're not there to make a living, but because we believe in the cause."

Elton is the Training Officer at Coastguard Rotorua Lakes, and in the past 12 months alone he has given the equivalent of 150 working days to volunteering, while also holding down a full-time job.

"It's not something you turn up to and then turn off when you walk away," says Elton. "But as much as I put in,

I get tenfold back in return."

Elton started volunteering 12 years ago, after working as a diver for search and rescue.

"I ended up falling in love with it, and now it's a big part of my life. You learn a lot of skills, but you also learn a lot about yourself."

He says the best part of his job is seeing the people he has saved.

"You know that if you hadn't been there then they may not have survived, and that's why we all keep coming back."



Ian is just one of the many volunteers you support who goes above and beyond to save lives at sea.

Ian Coard: Coastguard Riverton

Ian first got involved with Coastguard 29 years ago when he moved to Riverton. "It's just what you did back then, you'd either join the Coastguard or the Fire Department."

"I'd been a diver before then, so I had a bit of an affinity with the sea."

Ian has been involved in every recent major search and rescue operation in the treacherous Foveaux Strait, including the 1998 Cessna aircraft tragedy, the 2010

helicopter crash (where a Coastguard volunteer was killed) and the 2012 Easy Rider tragedy.

Ian was awarded the highest honour for support activity at the NZSAR awards, but he's quick to brush off any praise.

"I'm only one person in the whole organisation," he says. "I couldn't have got there without the support of my family and the Riverton Coastguard."

Thank you for supporting Ian and Coastguard volunteers from Cape Reinga to Bluff.



Thanks to you, Pete is always there on the other side of the radio to help those in trouble.

Pete Woodward: Coastguard Kapiti Coast

"There's a huge sense of camaraderie at Coastguard. I've learned a lot of things and I love being part of a bloody good Kapiti team."

Pete is the volunteer Radio Operator and Fundraising Officer at Coastguard Kapiti Coast. He dedicates a massive amount of time fundraising for his unit - thanks to him the Coastguard Kapiti Coast Gala Ball has become a highlight of the social calendar and last year raised an impressive \$30,000.

Pete is a highly trained and experienced

Radio Operator and often runs the communications for incidents and training nights. He also acts as the main point of contact on the shore during search and rescue incidents, and is always there for training and callouts - no matter the time or day.

"I've always loved the sea, and I really wanted to do something to help the community," says Pete.

Like all Coastguard volunteers, Pete is incredibly humble about his amazing contribution.

"I'm just one of many. I don't do it to be recognised."

These extraordinary feats would not be possible without your support. Your donations give our volunteers training, equipment and rescue gear to be the best they can be.

Out of tragedy springs hope.



Colin McCormick tragically drowned in Lake Rotoiti earlier this year. His family were reunited with Coastguard Rotorua Lakes after volunteers worked tirelessly to find him. (Photo courtesy of Rotorua Daily Post).

In an intimate gathering on the shores of Lake Rotorua, a grieving family stands with Coastguard volunteers.

They have come with a donation to thank the rescue crew for working tirelessly to recover the body of Colin McCormick, who tragically drowned in Lake Rotoiti earlier this year.

The Coastguard Rotorua Lakes volunteers spent days searching for Colin, who went missing after he jumped off his boat to retrieve his hat that had blown away. As he jumped into the water his lifejacket came off and drifted out of his reach, leaving him to try desperately to keep afloat.

On the boat, his partner and 9-year-old son tried to help him by throwing a rope out to sea, but high winds pushed the boat further away and Colin was unable to reach it. They watched in agony as Colin drifted further away as he struggled in the water.

Coastguard volunteers painstakingly combed the lake to find him, going out first thing in the morning and only coming back late at night - cold, exhausted, and sometimes losing hope, only to repeat it the very next day.

Colin was found a week later. His family are now going through the difficult time of processing what happened.

"Colin's always top of mind for us, there's no doubt about that," says Colin's brother Gavin. "It happened and we're all moving forward. But the fact that we can contribute to Coastguard and help them in some small way is nice for us."

Despite the tragic circumstances, Gavin says there was nothing but laughter and positive messages when they were reunited with the rescue volunteers.

"It was nice because we were catching up with people we've developed a bond with," says Gavin.

"We owe them a lot in regards to the efforts they put in and continue to put in for other families, and for us it's a small but nice way of showing our appreciation as a family.

"We're a bit of a funny family - we were laughing and cracking up - which is good. That's the sort of relationship we have with these guys."

Gavin says one of the biggest reasons for making a donation was to recognise the commitment of the volunteers.

"It's something you probably take for granted and think they're always there on the other end of the phone," says Gavin.

"But they've got busy lives, and when they get those phone calls they have to stop what they're doing and respond.

"One of the Coastguard guy's wife was due to have a baby while he was out searching for Colin, and another one missed his 27th wedding anniversary.

"These people are amazing. They give their time to go and do the searches at a cost of something else in their lives."

Coastguard crews were able to be there for Gavin and his family thanks to you. Your generosity means Coastguard volunteers have the courage and determination to respond to tragedies and to do their part for families and loved ones. Thank you so much for being there for our volunteers when they need you the most.



Coastguard volunteers will drop everything to respond to an incident, but they couldn't do this without you.

You don't need to get out on a rescue boat to save lives at sea!

Generous and dedicated Kiwis like you went the extra mile for our recent Mayday Rescue Appeal.

You may have seen our volunteers collecting money during May; we were hugely grateful for all the fundraising efforts across the country, including some very impressive bake sales!

We always welcome fundraising drives organised by our supporters, anytime, anywhere. If cakes aren't your thing, how about selling tickets to a fish supper or nautical quiz night? There are also lots of sporting challenges taking place around the country so whether you run, swim, row or bike, choose to raise funds for Coastguard to save lives at sea!



The sweet taste of fundraising success.

All donations to Coastguard make a very real difference. You might be providing first aid gear or helping us train a new volunteer. Find out how to fundraise for us by visiting www.coastguard.nz/fundraise.

Thank you for helping us save lives at sea.

Have your say! Please answer four short questions about this newsletter, and return this form in the enclosed envelope.



All respondents will go into a draw to win a toasty Coastguard winter beanie!

<p>1. When I read 'SOS' newsletter I understand how my donations help save lives at sea.</p> <p>Strongly disagree Strongly agree</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>3. Do you prefer to read about rescue incidents, individual volunteers, or a mix?</p> <p>Rescues Mix Volunteers</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>
<p>2. When I read 'SOS' it makes me feel Coastguard values my support.</p> <p>Strongly disagree Strongly agree</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>4. Do you have any other comments?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; width: 100%;"></div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">ContactID</p>

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
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