

Your support helped Coastguard Kaikoura after the 7.8 magnitude earthquake

Your donations train our volunteers to respond calmly to emergencies.

When disaster strikes, it takes a special kind of person to lead them through adverse times. Neroli Gold from Coastguard Kaikoura is one of those people. She recently won the 2018 Hutchwilco Volunteer of the Year Award, and is one of the many volunteers you support with your donations.

Neroli stepped up to the mark in the face of a massive crisis, helping with the aftermath of the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that devastated Kaikoura. She rallied her volunteers and together they helped evacuate over 70 terrified people stranded by the earthquake – escorting them on their rescue vessel to the HMNZS Canterbury, who transported them safely to Lyttelton.

Not only that, Neroli also volunteered to run the information centre for Civil Defence, helping over 300 tourists trapped in Kaikoura. She worked all hours to support her community despite her own life being disrupted by the earthquake.

The toll it took on the Coastguard crew was enormous. The seabed by their base was raised by about a metre – leaving them high and dry. Launching their rescue vessel was now only possible at high



Thank you for supporting volunteers like Neroli.

tide. What used to be a 10-minute response time turned into a logistical nightmare, and the rescue crew were at a loss.

But this didn't deter Neroli, who negotiated with government agencies to ensure the boat ramp would be repaired, even raising \$5,000 towards the cost herself. It was thanks to her hard work and perseverance that eight months later the ramp was repaired and Coastguard Kaikoura could return to their lifesaving work.

While Kaikoura is a small community, there's no shortage of good people willing to pitch in and join the team saving lives. This is largely thanks to Neroli actively encouraging people to volunteer, mentoring them so they are fulfilled in their roles.

Without your incredible support and generosity, Neroli's accomplishments would not be possible. Your support keeps our volunteers trained and ready to respond to anything, and no rescue or problem is too daunting to undertake. Thanks to you, Neroli was a beacon of hope during tough times.



Coastguard Supporter Newsletter | Christmas 2018

"If it wasn't for the Coastguard volunteers I wouldn't be here today."

Huddled under a duvet in the shower of his yacht, hypothermic and badly burnt, Peter Wills feared death and hoped that medical attention and rescue was on its way.

It was meant to be a weekend of rest and relaxation for Peter, enjoying time on his yacht off the coast of Waiheke.

With friends coming on board the next day and some good fishing to be had, Peter decided to check below deck before bed.

But whilst cleaning up, Peter accidentally connected two exposed wires.

A spark jumped from the connected wires and landed in the engine bay, engulfing the area, and Peter, in flames.

"What have I done?" thought Peter as fire raged above and below the engine. "I just sat there in dumb amazement."

Peter didn't think he was going to be able to survive the flames.

"I thought of my kids, my girlfriend and the poor fellow who built the boat."

Peter struggled out of the engine room and grabbed the fire extinguisher on board, before returning to fight the blaze.

"I crawled into the shower, turned it on and started peeling the skin off me before the shock hit."

Meanwhile, at the Coastguard Operations Centre, the radio operators received a distress call: someone was in trouble on a boat near Huhuri Bay, Waiheke Island.

Realising the urgency and seriousness of the situation, the volunteers sent two of Coastguard Auckland's rescue vessels to the scene. *Continued inside.*



Grateful for life. Coastguard volunteers like Chris are able to save Kiwis like Peter, thanks to your support.

My fire, my life
As I'm sitting in my engine room with...
I thought, well, that doesn't hurt at all...
As the skin rolled down of my body, and...
do?
... here and burn? Well there...

READ PETER'S POEM INSIDE.



Patrick Holmes
Chief Executive Officer
Coastguard New Zealand

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

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“If it wasn’t for the Coastguard volunteers I wouldn’t be here today.” (Continued)

It was a dark night and the sea conditions were particularly choppy but the Coastguard volunteers used their many hours of training to safely reach Peter’s badly damaged yacht within twenty minutes.

Coastguard volunteer Chris Griggs boarded the yacht to find Peter in severe pain and suffering from hypothermia.

“The fire had caused significant burns to his lower body, he had done the right thing by sitting

under the cold water but in doing so had started to go hypothermic and was in immense pain.”

“He was squatting down, a ball of pain effectively. It was a very disturbing sight.”

“What have I done?” thought Peter as fire raged above and below the engine. “I just sat there in dumb amazement.”

As a trained medic, Chris was able to administer pain relief, enabling the Coastguard volunteers to move Peter onto the Coastguard rescue vessel and transfer him to a rescue helicopter.

After taking Peter to the helicopter, the Coastguard rescue vessel returned to Peter’s yacht with firefighters on board

to ensure any hot spots were dampened down. One of the Coastguard vessels then stayed nearby overnight, so that the crew could keep a watch on the unaccompanied yacht, until friends of Peter’s came to take over.

Despite the severity of his burns, Peter realised that the outcome could have been a great deal worse.

“If it wasn’t for the Coastguard volunteers I wouldn’t be here today. When I was in the shower taking my last breaths, I was waiting for Coastguard to arrive, I can’t thank you all enough.”

Your generous support ensured Peter had a second chance.



Peter survived his ordeal thanks to you.

My fire, my life

As I’m sitting in my engine room with fire all around, I thought, well, that doesn’t hurt at all. As the skin rolled down of my body, and onto my feet then onto the floor, what to do? Do I sit here and burn? Well there was no pain. Or should I try to win one more time again? I thought of my Robin not too far away, and my girls in Auz and their lose today, Then the people who built the boat, all those hours to see her float. So as a tradey, I did what a tradey would do - get off my ass and see it through. So as I left that room of fire only to return as a fire fighter from years past. I hit it low then hit it high, till no more ran from that red can of mine. It was out.

So next to get some help. I climbed through the gas and smoke, out the hatch and yelled help. “Simon, help!” He yelled back, “Pete, I’m on my way!” Then I turned to Robin and did the same. Then to the world and THEY CAME.

As I sat on the shower floor with the water running down, I heard the voice from above, “Where are you? We are here, pal.” My friends to stop the pain, so I may live again.

My thanks to all that helped.

Peter Wills, aged 58
My fire

A poem Peter wrote after his ordeal to thank everyone who helped save his life.

Meet the young volunteers saving lives from the sky

Thanks to your support for our crews, Auckland Air Patrol is part of the team helping to save lives.

Of that team are young volunteers Josh Haslemore and Banu Pashutanizadeh. At 26 and 27 years old, Josh and Banu know how important it is giving back to their community.



have assisted in many rescues – including searching for and locating a missing 8-year-old girl who spent four terrifying hours on the Manukau Harbour.

“We have the advantage of having quite an extensive vantage point from the air and being able to travel at a much greater speed,” says

“I thought the cause behind Coastguard was pretty meaningful,” says Josh. **“My grandad used to be in Coastguard back in his youth, and I thought the voluntary work would be quite cool – to get to meet some new people and get involved in something a bit different than what I’m used to.”**

Fellow volunteer Banu agrees, and says the thrill of flying is only matched by the satisfaction of helping someone in trouble.

“I love flying – I’m a pilot myself so the more I can be in the air the better,” says Banu. **“When I hear about the Coastguard vessels picking up and rescuing people who we’ve found from the air, it’s a really good feeling. It’s really satisfying knowing the people we’ve found have been saved.”**

As In-Flight Coordinators, Josh and Banu are responsible for mission planning and managing communications between the aircraft, rescue vessels and the Coastguard Operations Centre. Their work is crucial to saving lives, and their team

Josh. **“We can search a much larger area compared to the boats and in a lot less time, so if we were to go out searching we could find someone a lot quicker than a vessel can. I think that’s quite crucial, especially when time is of the essence.”**

While Josh and Banu dedicate their lives to search and rescue and saving lives on the water, they couldn’t do it without your support. Your donations provide the training, equipment and support they need to be a valuable part of the search and rescue crew.

“We’d just like to provide our sincerest regards and thank you all very much for your input and commitment to what we do and bringing attention to our cause,” says Josh.

Thank you for supporting our rescue crews – both at sea and in the air – to save lives at sea.

Things happen suddenly at sea

Often our volunteers are just peeling off their drenched rescue gear and getting warm again when the next call for help comes in. They bring their own grit and determination to launch their boats to rescue people in need, but without you they’d be all at sea, without boats, rescue gear or training. Thank you for being such a critical part of our mission.

Pictured: Coastguard volunteers battle the elements to save people in danger.



Just some of the Auckland Air Patrol volunteer crew: Banu Pashutanizadeh, Josh Haslemore, Blake Ritchie, Jack Out, and Mike Penny.