



SumnerLifeboat
Institution Incorporated Est.1904
Voluntary Maritime Search and Rescue

rescue

SUMNER LIFEBOAT AND ITS COMMUNITY



FREE - Please take one

ISSN 1176 - 0680

No. 80 October 2017

Composition of the Institution 2017

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DNZM, QSM

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Contents

A word from our patron



Sumner Lifeboat is a long-standing part of the Sumner community with a tireless commitment to operating a marine rescue service for the benefit of all in the Canterbury area.

The volunteers and rescue vessels are ready to go for the busy summer months. As a supporter of Sumner Lifeboat, you can make a difference and help us to save lives at sea.

Membership subscriptions, donations or volunteer support are most welcome. Please get in behind our wonderful team.

I am honoured to be involved with the Sumner Lifeboat team.

Warm wishes, Dame Adrienne Stewart
Patron – Sumner Lifeboat Institution

SUMNER LIFEBOAT MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve life at sea.

To operate a marine rescue service for the benefit of all in the inshore and offshore waters of Canterbury.

To offer in a co-operative manner a volunteer marine rescue service to the appropriate authorities and other rescue organisations.

To promote and help advance public awareness in all aspects of safety at sea.

Composition of the Institution 2017	1
A word from our patron	2
Editor's introduction	3
President's report	4
Coxswain's report	5-6
Management Plan to 2027	7
The new recruits on board	8
What we do	9-10
New initiatives	11-13
Helicopter-boat winching exercise	14
Fundraising update	15
Join the Sumner Lifeboat team	16
Sumner Lifeboat awards	16
Team activities	17
Appeal for funding	19

Cover photo: Westpac Rescue Helicopter training with *Blue Arrow Rescue*. Photo credit: John Kirk-Anderson and Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust.

The official journal of the Sumner Lifeboat Institution Inc.

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Graphic design and layout **Ideation Agency**

Printed by **Phoenix Print**



Contributions of a nature relevant to the maritime rescue service are welcomed. Letters to the Editor should be signed and carry the writer's full name and address. Articles and information printed in RESCUE magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions or formal position of Sumner Lifeboat Inc or the publishers unless otherwise indicated. All material published in RESCUE is done with all due care as regards to accuracy and factual content. The publishers and editorial staff however cannot accept responsibility for any inadvertent errors or omissions which may occur.

Editor's introduction



Hamilton Jet Rescue with crew members. (L-R) Bjöm Stankowitz, Mike Barber and John Thompson.

The Sumner Lifeboat Rescue Magazine is produced to inform and inspire the next generation of Lifeboat members.

Welcome to the October 2017 edition of the Rescue Magazine.

What a year it has been! Annually, the Sumner Lifeboat team sets itself a programme of targets and goals to improve the standards of service we can offer the Christchurch community in our bid to carry out our core activity of saving lives at sea. It is always a great feeling when we complete the year with another set of achievements under our belts.

Since we appointed Blair Quane as our coxswain two years ago, the Sumner Lifeboat operation has continued to lift its standard of professionalism. The position is critical to the success of our organisation and its management operations, and we are very grateful to have Blair driving the ship on a day-to-day basis.

I would also like to say a very big thank you to Heather McDonald of the management committee, in particular for her efforts in bringing together the contents of this much-anticipated Sumner Lifeboat Magazine.

One of the key roles of the Magazine is to bring you up to date with the actions of the past 12 months and this issue includes stories about our new purpose-built trailer for our generator; the rescue improvements which have been carried out on our largest vessel, *Blue Arrow Rescue*; the improvements to the breakwater and the introduction of a smart new crew kit.

The Magazine also brings a message of encouragement from our patron, Dame Adrienne Stewart.

Another aim of this Magazine is to encourage more people to become involved as volunteers. We are always looking for new recruits and we are constantly updating our learning programmes so that our volunteers are as well qualified as they can possibly be for the important role they play.

We are very grateful to all our sponsors and partners who support Sumner Lifeboat and its Rescue Magazine. Without your ongoing support, we simply could not continue to provide the greater Christchurch community with what we know is an important and valued service.

We wish you an enjoyable and safe summer on and in the water.

Nick Carter

Editor, Chair of Publicity

Crew on aft deck of Blue Arrow Rescue connect the next patient to the helicopter's winch wire.



President's report

Paul Lawson



Jet ski Southern Trust Rescue and inshore jet boat Hamilton Jet Rescue training off Sumner bar.

In what has been a very trying few years, the operational crew of Sumner Lifeboat and the Institution's Management team have shown a commitment and dedication that has helped us carry out our core activity of saving lives at sea.

I would like to thank them for their valuable service to Sumner Lifeboat and the wider community.

The last year has been a busy time for Sumner Lifeboat and I would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort that the crews have displayed in carrying out the tasks assigned to them in all weather and sea conditions.

The families of the crew also play their part in the operations that Sumner Lifeboat crews carry out, day and night, at short notice. Without their support, we would not be able to offer the service to the public who need the assistance of the lifeboats. I would like to record our appreciation to them all on behalf of the management committee.

The Institution's Management Committee has managed the assets of the Institution in a robust manner and the financials are in a strong position that will allow the crews to meet the coming year with confidence. A big thanks for the time they have given to Sumner Lifeboat.

I would like to thank the administration staff of Sumner Lifeboat for their efforts on our behalf:


Gareth for his work as the Institution's secretary. His duties are many, and include preparing notices and minutes of meetings, record keeping, and funding applications, to name just a few.

Marnie for her work as the unit's health and safety officer. Since Marnie joined us she has done an amazing job of modernising the unit's compliance with the new Health and Safety at Work Act. She has also taken on the crew administration role and revamped many of the unit's operational procedures.

Last, but not least, the management and I would like to acknowledge all the supporters of Sumner Lifeboat that we have been able to call on over many years.

Paul Lawson
President Sumner Lifeboat

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Coxswain's report Blair Quane



2016/17 was another very busy year for Sumner Lifeboat operationally as we strive to stay current with our fleet, equipment, facilities and procedures. This year has seen the organisation working from a set Management Plan with emphasis kept on using this as a live document and 'agenda' for how the year will be planned and implemented.

Jetski Southern Trust Rescue at the Sumner Lifeboat Station.

This has been a very successful process and 90% of the planned items have been achieved which is a great result for progressing the organisation. We have, with the help of our patron Dame Adrienne Stewart, had a fundraising strategy developed which will be the foundation towards financial stability for Sumner Lifeboat in the future.

One of the key projects completed this year was the clearance of rubble from the slipway area to ensure we can offer *Blue Arrow Rescue* as a 24/7 rescue vessel.

We also completed the sale of *Lady Frances II*, the relocation of our emergency generator back onto station on a purpose-built trailer, a full service of *Blue Arrow Rescue* as well as other general maintenance items.

We had particular focus this year on health and safety for our crew and facilities. An independent review was done and areas of concern addressed and rectified within the year to bring our compliance in line with legal requirements. One part of this was the fitting out of all crew with personalised helmets for use on our vessels.

Our current crew base is strong, with new trainees working their way to operational status. We have had three operational crew gain their skipper's tickets which helps our ability to operate our vessels at all times.

The current asset base means that Sumner Lifeboat can address any sort of incident, large or small, and in any location within the central South Island. The current waterborne assets are as follows:

- *Blue Arrow Rescue*: twin jet, offshore operations, large geographical range
- *Hamilton Jet Rescue*: single jet, inshore operations, medium geographical range
- *Southern Trust Rescue*: single jet, inshore operations, small geographical range

As coxswain, I am enjoying seeing the progression of this organisation and am encouraged by the future plans we are implementing and the personnel involved.

I would like to thank the crew for their tireless work with Sumner Lifeboat in training and responding to call-outs.

Special thanks must go to Marnie Kent who is responsible for our part-time admin role and health and safety role. Marnie's work for us has been a core reason for the speed and effectiveness of our development in the last year.

The Sumner Lifeboat Management Committee has again worked well to furthering the organisation and I would like to thank Paul Lawson, Heather McDonald, Jono Welsh, Gareth Murfitt, Nick Carter, and Matt Hannah for their valuable time commitment to making this thing tick.

In July 2017, we have reviewed and revised the Management Plan (see page 7) to reset the objectives for the next financial year, next five years and next 10 years. This will continue to be a live document which the organisation is managed from and ensures that we keep moving forward and stay one of the strongest Coastguard units within New Zealand.

Sumner Lifeboat is a long-standing part of the Sumner community and we would like to thank all the locals who have assisted us with our operations.

Blair Quane
Coxswain



Coxswain Blair Quane and crew member Björn Stankowitz on Hamilton Jet Rescue



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Management Plan to 2027

SHORT TERM (one year)

The goals the Management Committee wish to achieve by the end of the Financial Year 2018

Asset Maintenance and upgrades

- Painting and maintenance of the building exteriors once lease is resolved with CCC
- Webcam upgrade
- BAR lighting, electronics upgrade including Tracplus replacement
- HJR Tracplus replacement
- Generator storage container including electrical
- STR replacement including sled
- 4WD motorbike replacement
- Men's changing room shower upgrade
- HJR shed floor resurfacing

Operational

- No serious injuries to crew through well implemented Health & Safety
- 1 crew to move from Operational to Skipper qualified
- 3 skippers qualified in 2017 to be endorsed on BAR
- 1 new Shore Based Operational crew to assist in the communications operations
- 3 Trainee crew to move to Operational crew
- Appoint Station Caretaker

Management/Administrative

- Appoint 1 new person onto the Management Committee with skills/experience different to the current members (fill vacant roles of Senior Vice President and Chair of Fundraising)
- Contract fund raising person and obtain funding via the streams identified in the funding strategy.
- Set objectives for the 2019 financial year (proposed by fundraising person)

Publicity & Marketing

- Yearly public opening day
- Full website review and proposals for upgrade (including webcam) – better utilise for sponsors and marketing
- Rescue magazine – publish in August

MEDIUM TERM (five years)

Management Committee to instigate objectives to realise implementation/progress of the following developments by end of financial year 2022.

- Acquire and maintain a sustainable fund to ensure yearly operational costs and larger one-off upgrade/project costs are achieved without additional fundraising – achieve 20% of total targeted amount each year to reach the 100% target within 5 years.
- Bolster the strength of shore-based personnel
- Implement training to ensure Coastguard minimum levels are met
- IT review and upgrade 2019 financial year
- HJR trailer replacement 2019 financial year

LONG TERM (ten years)

End of the financial year 2027.

- Have sustainable funding in place without the need for fundraising for normal operations
- Strong and diverse management team
- Evaluate tractor upgrade/replacement
- Evaluate HJR for replacement by 2027
- Evaluate BAR for engines upgrade by 2027
- Evaluate extension of HJR's shed to incorporate generator and other storage



New recruits on board

When a new recruit joins the Lifeboat, we give them the training they need in order to attend to call-outs at sea. A new volunteer may have no maritime or boating experience and we will teach them all they need to know to crew/skipper a rescue vessel in often very difficult and challenging situations.

The Lifeboat also has a shore-based crew who are instrumental in assisting with the co-ordination of search and rescue operations. This year we are proud to have four new crew.

*Patrick Fitzgerald
A passion for sailing*



Patrick moved from Manchester to Christchurch with his family two years ago and has been volunteering with Sumner Lifeboat for almost a year.

Patrick grew up with a fascination for boats and spent time in his early 20s sailing around the Suffolk Coast and across the North Sea to Belgium, Holland and Germany.

From his time spent sailing, Patrick has learnt a lot about the power of the sea and tides. He approached Sumner Lifeboat and offered to volunteer after noticing the *Blue Arrow Rescue* boat.

*Andy Spencer
Avid sailor keen to play his part*



Andy is a carpenter and is originally from Ireland. He is enjoying making a home for his wife and three children in Christchurch.

Andy has been involved with sailing and racing yachts since he was a teenager. He is still an avid yachtsman and is a member of the Naval Point Club Lyttelton.

With sailing playing such a large part in his life, Andy has felt it's his duty to support the local lifeboat association wherever he's lived, so joining the Sumner Lifeboat team was a no-brainer.

*Vickie Hudson
Mum-to-be enjoys helping the community*



Vickie is originally from Gloucestershire, England but she has been living in New Zealand for nearly two years.

She joined Sumner Lifeboat at the end of 2016 and has really enjoyed the training so far. She has always been interested in lifeboat work and is happy to be able to contribute to her community now she lives near the sea. She has seen how reliant the emergency services in the bay area are on volunteers, so she wanted to support this vital service.

Vickie's other hobbies include rowing, watersports, skiing, cooking, being at the beach and travelling around New Zealand with her partner. At the time of writing, Vickie is seven months pregnant so her life is about to become very busy!

*Mark Gowans
Enjoying summer all year round*



Mark grew up east of the Ferrymead bridge and played hockey for Redcliffs and went on to represent New Zealand.

After a stint as a professional firefighter, Mark drove tour buses around Europe for Contiki. He now drives buses for touring entertainers during the northern hemisphere summer season, allowing him to come back and enjoy the Kiwi summer.

For the summer down under, Mark throws himself into Coastguard modules with a view to achieving operational crew status. Mark has approached both theory and practical training at Sumner Lifeboat with aptitude and enthusiasm. He also nurtures native bush on his Sumner property and has plans to advance his glass-blowing hobby, working from a local studio.

What we do



Crew on training exercise recover flotsam from the sea.
(L-R) Björn Stankowitz, John Thompson, Blair Quane.

All year round, 24/7 the Sumner Lifeboat crew are on stand-by to assist those who might find themselves in trouble in the sea around Christchurch. We receive calls from the public, the police, other Coastguard units and rescue services to attend to those in need.

When we receive a call, our trained volunteers get into gear and head out on the water. Occasionally we receive calls where someone may have seen someone (or something) in the water that doesn't look right. Sometimes these calls are false alarms, or the problem resolves itself. However, we would much rather be aware of a potential incident and have our crew on stand-by, than to not act if someone is in trouble. We'd like to thank the community for keeping us informed about potentially dangerous situations.

If you need to contact us in an emergency please dial 111.

From the New Zealand Police: *"The sea conditions around Canterbury are so variable and boaties can find themselves in some desperate situations. When they call us, we know that we can rely on Sumner Lifeboat for a fast, professional response."*

Swift reactions when the siren goes

Sumner Lifeboat gets many callouts during the year, and these range from lengthy events taking a number of hours to resolve, to others which are stood down quite quickly. Some of the more notable rescues from the last 12 months are described below. Other events of a more sensitive nature are not included, in respect for the victims involved.

20th February 2017

01:25 A person reported a medical event to 111 on a remote bay with no road access. Ambulance came to Sumner Lifeboat station and a medic boarded *Blue Arrow Rescue*.

Blue Arrow Rescue and *Southern Trust Rescue* jet ski went to the bay.

The patient was picked up from the beach using *Southern Trust Rescue* and transferred to *Blue Arrow Rescue*. They were then treated onboard by a medic and transported to Lyttelton Harbour to a waiting ambulance. The patient made a full recovery.

Launching
Hamilton Jet Rescue
with the Kubota tractor.





John Thompson assisting a patient aboard Hamilton Jet Rescue at training.

23rd March 2017

17:50 A car went off the road at Shag Rock corner and landed in the river mouth with a full tide flowing out. There was a driver and one passenger in the vehicle. The car sank and drifted approximately 50 metres in about 4.5 metres of water. One occupant was recovered by a passer-by, the other occupant was presumed still to be in the vehicle. *Hamilton Jet Rescue* was launched to try to locate the vehicle. *Blue Arrow Rescue* was also launched to use its depth sounder to locate the vehicle. *Southern Trust Rescue* launched to search the Sumner bar area. A helicopter and diver failed to locate the car in murky, deep and fast flowing water. *Blue Arrow Rescue* located the car around 20:15. The car was recovered the next day with one fatality.

1st April 2017

09:58 A member of the public saw an object in the water near the Sumner bar, which they thought may be a body and reported it to the police. *Hamilton Jet Rescue* was launched to discover it was a dumped Christmas tree; tree recovered. The date was noted!

17th June 2017

15:00 A boat broke down off Raupo Bay, a second boat went out to rescue the first boat but did not have enough fuel to tow the first boat home. *Blue Arrow Rescue* launched and refuelled the second boat. Towing recommenced and the boat was recovered safely to Lyttelton Harbour.

17th July 2017

17:50 A 10-metre sailing boat had broken down 10 nautical miles south of Motunau Island. *Blue Arrow Rescue* was launched and towed the vessel safely to Lyttelton Harbour.

22 July 2017

Civil Defence requested assistance with reaching people affected by flooding of the Heathcote River. Jet ski *Southern Trust Rescue* was taken to the scene by road and used to ferry emergency workers, and to check on local residents and their properties.

General

Sumner Lifeboat was also involved in rescuing eight surfers over a six-month period. Six of these were in a seven-hour period on 22nd January 2017. The victims had been caught by the rip tide in Sumner bay and taken out to sea.



Jet ski, *Southern Trust Rescue*, helps during the Heathcote River flooding.

Sumner Lifeboat Crew Stats August 2016 – August 2017

	2016						2017					
	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun
YTD Hours: 6373.25	200	638	661	523.5	629	553	516.5	551.25	639	575	522	365
Last Year: 5578.75	337	474	408.5	563	472.75	375	333	489	558	513.5	552	503
SAR Operations YTD: 17	0	0	2	2	1	0	4	1	4	2	0	1
Coastguard Operations YTD: 6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1
	Radio Watch		Training		Maintenance		Public Ed.		Fundraising		Admin	
YTD Activity: 6169 hours	286		3003		220		55		205		2400	
L/Y Activity: 5394 hours	217		2237		240		60		240		2400	

New initiatives



New trailer for lifeboat generator

Being able to generate our own electricity in crises is an important fundamental of Sumner Lifeboat activities.

We need to be able to operate regardless of whether the power supply is adversely impacted.

Since we invested in a very welcome new generator two and a half years ago, we solved one problem but unfortunately have had no means of moving it to where it might be most needed.

Over the past 12 months however, Sumner Lifeboat has invested in a compact purpose-built trailer so we can now move our generator easily and quickly to wherever it might be required, and most importantly be sure that we can continue to operate all our boats by using the electronic winch to manoeuvre them down the ramp.

We also need to be able to operate our radio without disruption because Coastguard Southern Region's South Island network runs from our building.

Local company Watercraft Trailers custom-built the trailer, which is now stored in our building, with the generator on board. For the previous two years, the generator was maintained and stored at the Sumner Fire Brigade building, free of charge, and we are very grateful for their generosity.

Sumner Lifeboat's intention is that the generator be used for community purposes, as well as for our own specific ones. In a way, it's like the fire engine at the airport – not used often, but very important to be fully operational when it is.

Health and safety – we're setting the benchmark



SL crew in orange helmets L-R: Jono Welsh, Björn Stankowitz, Baptiste Marconnet.

This year has seen a lot of time, effort and expense spent on bringing the whole Sumner Lifeboat operation up to current Health and Safety at Work Act requirements.

Like any organisation, we are obligated to comply with health and safety regulations and we have concentrated a lot of effort on ensuring that we not only meet, but exceed, the necessary requirements.

We are now fully compliant with the Act's requirements – from best practices and standards, to roles and responsibilities, to a Worksafe guide.

We feel very pleased that our self-generated template, by which we measured our progress and considered the contents we needed to include in order to meet all requirements, has since been adopted as a blueprint by other Coastguard units in Canterbury.

New crew kit for lifeboat volunteers

Sumner Lifeboat volunteers have a smart new look, thanks to the purchase of new crew kit.



In an overdue update, the majority of the crew's formal and informal clothing has been replaced by rebranded and revamped outfits.

The changes are partly a catch-up move, but they were also necessary to meet Health and Safety requirements.

The new gear includes dedicated crew helmets, new wet suits, and a shared pool of offshore kit of jackets and pants – most of which will be used

by volunteer crew on *Blue Arrow Rescue*, Sumner Lifeboat's largest vessel, which can be offshore for long periods.

As well as this specialist gear, most of the crew's formal and informal clothing, including t-shirts and formal shirts, have also been replaced, with each volunteer receiving individually tailored tops in a white and blue fine-striped fabric.

Rescue improvements for Blue Arrow Rescue

Our 12.5m twin-jet offshore lifeboat, Blue Arrow Rescue, is about to undergo a refit of its equipment.



The main change will be the addition of large LED lights to the exterior of the vessel, allowing us to have better close-up lighting, as well as better navigational possibilities.

It will mean we can make our way more confidently through the surf at night, as well as enhancing our search capabilities.

Blue Arrow Rescue has three different tiers of lights. One tier sits on top of the cabin over the hull; another throws light for a radius of about 50m around the boat; and a third tier comprises dedicated search spotlights.

Before this we have had to operate with hand held spotlights, so the coming improvements represent a real advance and will allow the vessel to be lit up like a Christmas tree.

Other improvements include a replacement of the GPS hardware on the boat, an expensive exercise but a very important component of how Sumner Lifeboat searches and locates.

Our current locator equipment is outdated and not as highly specified as we require. We will be taking a close look at the pilot boat in Lyttelton, which operates a similar GPS system, to see how this system works and how it can best be refined for our purposes.

Additionally, our TracPlus tracking system will be upgraded. TracPlus allows on-shore computers to keep track of our lifeboats, and be of assistance if we lose communications.

Funding is being sought for these improvements, and we have applications lodged with a number of local charities.



Rebuilt breakwater aids lifeboat activities

The Christchurch City Council has this year not only rebuilt the longstanding and earthquake-damaged breakwater parallel to the Sumner Lifeboat slipway but has also incorporated features to enhance our lifeboat operation.

The 30m breakwater is public property sitting on council land, and its reinforcement and repairs mean it is now being enjoyed a lot more by locals – fishing, walking and enjoying general recreational usage.

Now much tidier and more attractive than before, it finishes with a wide circular area designed for multi-purpose use, including as a helicopter landing pad. This is potentially a bonus for us should airlifts from sea need to occur.

There is also a dedicated access track beside the slip which allows Sumner Lifeboat to move machinery down to the water level to dredge and clear the end of the slipway. Following the earthquakes, we were unable to move our boats for a long time because of the build-up of earthquake rubble and we were grateful that the Christchurch City Council paid for a contractor to dig out further material from the end of the slip way and free up operations for us.



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Helicopter Boat Winching Exercise

Heather McDonald



Photo credit: John Kirk-Anderson /
Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust.

The pilots and crew of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter need to do an annual boat winching exercise to keep their skills current.

Sumner Lifeboat has been privileged to provide a vessel for these exercises on several occasions over the years. My first memory of this was as radio operator on board the Rother-class lifeboat *Joseph Day* in the early 1990's.

In later years, the Thames-class *LPC Rescue* was a solid stable platform for these exercises. It was relatively easy to maintain a straight course at low speed despite the wind put up by the helicopter, largely due to the weight of the boat.

When designing the current off-shore twin-jet lifeboat *Blue Arrow Rescue*, we included a platform at the stern free of railings to allow for transfers such as stretchers from other vessels, and persons being winched by a helicopter.

With her planing hull and aluminium construction, holding *Blue Arrow Rescue* on a straight course while the winch proceeds is quite a challenge, but it is great to have the opportunity to practice this skill.

This year Sumner Lifeboat was again asked to help with the winching exercise, and we invited our neighbours, Coastguard Waimakariri-Ashley based in Kaiapoi, and Coastguard Canterbury based in Lyttelton. On Sunday 18 June 2017, we met up off Godley Head and on arrival of the helicopter, *Blue Arrow Rescue* headed offshore for the first of four runs – one for each of the pilots.

With each run involving about four winches, a number of the Coastguard crew members got the opportunity to be the patient for the paramedics to winch tandem-style in the harness known as the "nappy".

Before the paramedic descends from the helicopter, a "highline" is deployed. It is attached to the hook with a weak link and is used to control the winch wire and to stop the human cargo from spinning on the line. Taking up the slack in the highline without holding it too tight is a full-time role for one person on deck at all times when it is deployed.

When the helicopter went off to land for refuelling and personnel changes, the rescue boats returned to the start point off Godley Head and swapped crews too.

There was no shortage of volunteers, and several of them had cameras mounted on themselves for bird's-eye footage. It was difficult to get good pictures with the salt-water laden wind quickly frosting up the keenest photographer's lenses.

For the first time this year, we got a different viewpoint of the exercise, with the Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust (the fundraising body for the rescue helicopters) hiring a Robinson 22 helicopter with Press photographer John Kirk-Anderson aboard. Thanks to CWARD and John Kirk-Anderson for allowing us to print some of his pictures in this issue of *Rescue*.

L-R: Waimak-Ashley's Sam James manages the highline, while Sumner crew member Jono Welsh catches St John paramedic Kath Copland with patient Sumner's Björn Stankowitz wearing the "nappy" harness. St John paramedic Shane Lynch helps out on the aft deck with colleague Brent Williams looking on.



Fundraising Our Lifeblood



Funds and resources are vital to the ongoing operation of Sumner Lifeboat and every year we budget stringently to ensure we can deliver what we promise.

Like many charitable and not-for-profit organisations, Sumner Lifeboat has aspired for some time to have sustainable funding in place to secure our future. For us, that means funding from a variety of sources.

This year the prospect advanced a step closer when we engaged Sarah Barrer of Barrer & Co to prepare a fundraising strategy for us. Our Patron, Dame Adrienne Stewart, generously made a donation to cover the cost.

The Management Committee were aware that the strategy was just the first step in a process, and we are thrilled to update our supporters and friends that we are now looking for a part-time person to implement this strategy and further develop relationships within our community.

One of the most important parts of the new role will be to keep our partners informed about what we are doing, what projects we need to fund in the near future, how they can help, and so on.

As skipper of a rescue boat, naturally it gives me a kick to help someone in peril at sea. But I'm also thrilled when we can get media coverage for our sponsors. A recent example of this was the assistance given by our crews with the jet ski *Southern Trust Rescue* to victims of flooding of the Heathcote River.

As well as the direct costs of operating our lifeboats, we seek to provide our crews with the best equipment we can afford for their safety. All of this requires funding and we welcome your input. If you wish to make a donation or discuss how you can help to support Sumner Lifeboat, please do get in touch –

fundraising@sumnerlifeboat.org.nz.

Heather McDonald
Chair of Fundraising

New Position

*Fundraising and
Marketing Coordinator.*

Newly created role with potential for flexible hours with a leading community organisation

The Role

Reporting to the President, the Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator will lead Sumner Lifeboat's fundraising, marketing, communication and events coordination. You will identify and secure new sponsors, whilst leveraging existing fundraising relationships through strong account management. You will also take responsibility for all internal and external marketing and communications, and liaise with community stakeholders to coordinate and administer events that build awareness of Sumner Lifeboat's brand.

Your Skills and Experience

To be successful in this role, you will have:

- Superb organisational and time management skills
- Experience in a similar or related role and a proven ability to develop and sustain strong relationships
- Commercial awareness and established networks
- The ability to balance strategic and operational requirements
- Excellent communication skills combined with an engaging personality
- Strong customer service skills
- A high level of enthusiasm, energy and a passion to achieve great outcomes for the Sumner Lifeboat community
- Strong commercial initiative and the ability to bring innovative ideas to the table

To Apply

If you feel you have what it takes to be part of this innovative community organisation, initial confidential enquiries are welcome by calling Emma Clarke on 03 345 8754 or Nick Carter on 03 345 8764

Opening Day Success



Photo credit: Tony Brunt.

On Sunday 10 September Sumner Lifeboat held its first annual Opening Day. This was promoted in the Bay Harbour News and on Facebook, and targeted potential new crew.

The turnout was excellent, and the skills that people had to offer was commendable.

In the past we have welcomed trainees in ones and twos, which made it hard for us to deliver training at various different levels.

It will be much more efficient for us to manage a group of people starting at the same time and progressing through the theory and practical programme together.

If you would like to check out next year's intake, keep your eye on the Bay Harbour News next August, and like Sumner Lifeboat on Facebook.

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Sumner Lifeboat Awards

Sumner Lifeboat awards recognise active crew for their dedication and long service to the community. Continuing this tradition, we are proud to present the following Service Awards this year:

2017 Award Winners

Gold Bar (40 Years):
Peter McDonald

Silver Bar (20 Years):
John Barton

Silver Bar (15 Years):
Blair Quane

Service Medal (5 Years):
Ashley Rule
Chloe Harris

Certificate of Service (3 Years):
Matthew Hannah



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Team Activities



Photo credit: Land SAR New Zealand.

SAR leadership course, Hanmer Springs, April 2017

By Mike Barber

Three Sumner members, **Björn Stankowitz**, **Baptiste Marconnet** and **Mike Barber**, attended this three-day course run by Tai Poutini Polytechnic at the Hanmer Forestry Camp.

Attendees were from LandSAR and Coastguard units throughout NZ. We came away from this weekend having learned much about different leadership styles (from laissez-faire to mini Hitler), a lot about our own leadership skills and how to hone them, the importance of developing teams and the practical use of acronyms such as SAP, GSMEACR, IMSAFE and others.

During, and at the end of the course, we were assessed by other participants as well as the instructors. Some of us probably learned things we didn't want to hear, but it was great feedback and it highlighted the importance of the brief/debrief process.

Participating in and leading various group tasks gave us valuable takeaways that can be applied, not only in the Coastguard world, but also in everyday life.

The weekend was a fantastic opportunity to meet other like-minded people in an enjoyable environment.



One year and it's gone so fast.

By Baptiste Marconnet

I joined Sumner Lifeboat in March 2016 following an introduction from Sean, a friend of mine who had been volunteering there and had left NZ to go back to the UK.

What an exciting year for me, I have learned so much, and there are still so many skills to gain.

My biggest highlight up to now is becoming Operational Crew at the same time as my best friend Björn.

It felt like a real reward once we passed the assessment. Such an honour to join the team after a lot of training, hours of gaining practical and theoretical knowledge.

Since I've been part of the crew there have been a couple of call outs that I have participated in. There have been nights out, challenging times of training and also great moments of complicity and fellowship within our group.

I remember one Monday morning when the pager rang at 1am... the way I woke up suddenly with the pager ringing in the middle of my sleep.

We were tasked to go to a bay to undertake a medical evacuation. We took offshore lifeboat *Blue Arrow Rescue* and jet ski *Southern Trust Rescue* in order to approach the bay more easily.

An ambulance member from St John was there with us to give the patient medical attention once collected from the remote bach. The night was very dark, with no moon to light our way. Access

to the bay was quite challenging for the crew on board *Southern Trust Rescue* and also from *Blue Arrow Rescue* as we were guiding them with the spot lights. We managed to approach the bay and put the patient first on the jetski and then we transferred them to the offshore lifeboat. We headed to Lyttelton in order to be able to get the patient to the ambulance. The tide was too low to come back to Sumner. We arrived in the inner harbour of Lyttelton at 4am. By the time we shut off the boat, came back to the station in Sumner, changed and arrived back home, it was 5am.

I put my head on the pillow and my alarm rang to wake me up for work.

Waking up after an hour's sleep and going to work was challenging! But knowing that we had brought someone safe to the hospital enabled me to wake up, grab a coffee at Joe's Garage and smile. It is a powerful feeling to be able to volunteer surrounded by great, kind and motivated crew members of Sumner Lifeboat and to help others.

That's why we train hard: to be ready for any scenario and be operational and reliable even in the middle of the night.



APPEAL FOR FUNDING

We rely on the generosity of the local community to help maintain maritime safety in the Sumner Bay and wider Canterbury coastal waters.

How can you help?

- **Become part of the crew**
Receive excellent training and gain new friends, all while supporting your community.
- **Donate product or services-in-kind**
To keep Sumner Lifeboat on the water requires a long list of products and services, and any that are donated allow funds to be redirected to other areas.
- **Business sponsorship**
Align your organisation to the oldest organised volunteer maritime search and rescue service in New Zealand.

Becoming a member

An individual annual subscription of \$20.00 (or more) contributes towards the costs associated with training crew and funding lifeboat operations.

An individual may become a **Life Member** by way of a one-time payment of \$500.00 (or more) and a business or company may become a **Corporate Life Member** by way of a one-time payment of \$1000.00 (or more) that is invested in trust.

The investment returns contribute towards the costs associated with training crew and funding lifeboat operations.

Contact: secretary@sumnerlifeboat.org.nz

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