



Royal Life Saving Society

New Zealand

102nd ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015

THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY, NEW ZEALAND

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the season 2014-2015.

To be presented at the 102nd Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Branch of the Society to be held at Wellington Airport, on Sunday 18 October 2015.

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Our vision is to educate every New Zealander to be safe in, on and around water and to be able to render assistance to others who may be in difficulty in an aquatic environment thus preventing drownings in our community.

Everyone can be a lifesaver.



RLSS, COMMONWEALTH VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2014 saw the launch of the first World Health Organisation (WHO) "Global Report on Drowning: preventing a leading killer" which revealed that drowning claims the lives of 372,000 people each year and is among the ten leading causes of death for children and young people in every region. The Royal Life Saving Society welcomed this report and supports its recommendations for improved data, national water safety strategies, tailored programmes and global partnerships.

The data contained in the WHO report is the best available but, with drowning deaths going unreported in many countries the picture is incomplete, and the actual number of deaths is likely to be much higher. To understand the true scale of the issue, more information is needed and better recording of data is vital.

The tragedy of the situation is that drowning is largely preventable and, what's more, the solutions are relatively simple and inexpensive. We believe that, as a minimum standard, every nation should have a national drowning prevention strategy, underpinned by a range of practical, effective programmes and interventions.

The work that Royal Life Saving Society NZ and its volunteers carry out is invaluable and plays a vital role in reducing the drowning toll in New Zealand.

Thanks to the generosity of Andrew Fleming, Emma Harrison, our Operations Manager was able to attend the Royal Life Saving Society New Zealand Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting in October 2014 and meet with members of your Society to mark the occasion of your 100th Anniversary. This visit not only provided us with the opportunity to make a presentation on the wider Society and the links we have with the Commonwealth but also to hear about the work being undertaken in New Zealand and make presentations of Society Honours including the Society's highest honour, Commonwealth Vice President to Marie Baker.

We understand that 2015 is an important year for the Branch with a review of the structure and business plan taking place. I would like to wish all Branch members further success during the coming year and look forward to working with RLSS New Zealand to help achieve the aims set out for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Holland', written in a cursive style.

Clive Holland
Deputy Commonwealth President

COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL HONOURS

New Zealand Holders - from Service Cross

Commonwealth Vice Presidents

B Archer, QSM
A S Fleming
Dame J Mayhew, DBE
J A Jessop
D J Taylor
M Baker

Commonwealth Honorary Life Member

V H Allan
N A Morris, QSM

Bar to Service Cross

F Amon
A E Ellison, MBE
V G Walsh
J A Gempton
V Lassen

Service Cross

M Baker	J Barker
P Bird	J Broad
D Collins	J Constable
E Cooper	G Elmsley
K Fletcher	A Geddes
D Hitchcock	R Hitchcock
J Honor	C Jones
I Kinraid	N Lanyon
V Lassen	J Maguire
J Munro	P Murphy, QSM
R McIntosh	P Ratcliff
C Redwood	G Scalan
S Storey	V Turnball
S Wright	

PRESIDENT'S REVIEW

OUR MISSION:

'TO PREVENT DROWNINGS IN OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION'

OUR VISION:

'TO EDUCATE EVERY NEW ZEALANDER TO BE SAFE IN, ON AND AROUND WATER'

We have been building up earlier contacts with other National and International bodies developing projects. We have developed a Business Plan to ensure we are moving forward steadily. We have now identified further areas to develop and improve upon.

It was such a great pleasure to have Emma Harrison, Commonwealth Lifesaving Operations Manager, attend and participate at our 2014 Conference and Annual General Meeting. It was her first visit to New Zealand. She presented RLSS,NZ with a commemorative trophy from the Commonwealth acknowledging our 100th Anniversary 2013. Emma spoke on the historical aspects of the Royal Life Saving Society throughout the Commonwealth, and of New Zealand's involvement and input. She also outlined new initiatives that are happening, and went away with copies of our resources and programme information, some of which has not been seen outside of New Zealand. It was such a valuable opportunity to swap information and firm up our bonds with the Commonwealth. After all, the Commonwealth is celebrating 125 years in 2016 and you would have to agree 125 years of Commonwealth Drowning Prevention is still so important.



I offer thanks to Andrew Fleming for instigating Emma's visit and for providing a beautiful Centenary Cake for the celebration. Thanks are extended to Andrew for the support, in all aspects of RLSS,NZ, he has given for so many years. It is most appreciated.

Schools continue with our education programmes and awards, recognising the value of the skills involved, information available and the qualifications gained. The demand is rising for our awards such as Bronze Medallion and the Adult Award as a qualification when seeking employment offshore, at summer camps, or in Early Childhood Education Centres. It is vital when supervising any aquatic activity, to have developed an acceptable standard of knowledge, skill and physical ability.

Although the Society is small in numbers it is important to continue to gain strength by nurturing young blood to step forward, and to work with other organisation in the quest of drowning prevention as portrayed in both our Mission and Vision.

Marie Baker
RLSS,NZ
President

Officers of The Royal Life Saving Society, New Zealand

(Incorporated by Royal Charter)

Patron

Her Majesty the Queen

Commonwealth President

HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO

Deputy Commonwealth President

Clive Holland



Commonwealth Operations Manager

Emma Harrison

Chairman

Marie Baker

Executive Board

Andrew Fleming

Judi Jessop

Graeme Baker

Joanne Beckett (part year)

Valda Walsh

Deidre Hitchcock

Fiona Barber

Delegate to Water Safety New Zealand

Marie Baker

Vice Patron NZ

Andrew S Fleming

Award Secretary

Deidre Hitchcock

Honorary Officers

Solicitor

G B Saunders, LLB

Trustees

Frances Amon, Ray Brown, Valda Walsh

AWARDS

Resuscitation	463
Senior Resuscitation	31
AquaSafe	1088
Bronze Star	302
Bronze Medallion	265
Bar to Bronze Medallion	1
Bronze Cross	58
Award of Merit	83
Distinction	33
Instructors	61
Examiners	10
Adult Award	50
Swimming Pool Staff Award	22
TOTAL	2066

As with many activities an element of competition serves to add spice to everyday activities. The Society is fortunate to have a number of shields and trophies to award nationally to schools, our Branches or groups/clubs. It is with pleasure we announce the winners of 2014-2015.

BAMFORD TROPHY

The Bamford Trophy is awarded annually to the school with the highest number of awards (participants) excluding Resuscitation and AquaSafe.

- 1st Napier Girls High School, Hawkes Bay
- 2nd Rangi Ruru Girls School, Canterbury
- 3rd Christchurch Girls High School, Canterbury

ALLAN GARDNER TROPHY

The Allan Gardner Trophy goes to the school issuing the highest number of resuscitation awards, including basic and senior resuscitation.

- 1st Hasting Girls High, Hawkes Bay
- 2nd Woodford House, Hawkes Bay
- 3rd Nga Tawa, Wanganui

WIGRAM SHIELD

The Wigram Shield is competed for by RLSS,NZ Branches. Placings are calculated on points gained during the current year, relative to the average of the totals for the previous two years. Consistency of activity and increase in activity therefore play a big part in a Branch's ability to win and retain this shield.

- 1st Auckland
- 2nd Wanganui

JUBILEE CUP

The Jubilee Cup is awarded to a club or group gaining the most points for RLSS,NZ awards accumulated over the current and previous year.

- 1st RNZAF Woodbourne
- 2nd Lattitude Global Volunteering
- 3rd GirlGuiding New Zealand

CENTENARY TROPHY

The Centenary Trophy was presented for the first time in the Society's Centenary year by the RLSS,Commonwealth and is to be awarded to the Primary School with the greatest AquaSafe candidates in the year.

- 1st Bledisloe Primary, Hawkes Bay
- 2nd Napier Central, Hawkes Bay
- 3rd Haumoana, Hawkes Bay



BRANCH REPORTS

RLSS,AUCKLAND

It is hard to remain positive in regard to the interest shown by Auckland Schools and groups in RLSS,NZ programmes. Both Diocesan and Epsom Girls maintain their commitment but, because of time restraints and the pressure on pool space, seem unable to lift the award numbers.

Gone are the days when Branch Examiners visited a School and completed all tests in one visit. Diocesan called us out on four different days to examine sixty water awards and Epsom on three different days – all very time consuming and uneconomic. However both Epsom and Diocesan are now into their 2015/16 season and numbers are already encouraging.

FRANCES J AMON

RLSS,HAWKE'S BAY

Although our President Cynthia Redwood has been unwell for most of the year and unable to attend meetings, the small committee of five has continued to meet the requests for Life Saving programmes in five high schools and eight primary schools. We were especially pleased to have Napier Intermediate request our services for the AquaSafe programme this year. The school has removed their pool from the school grounds but travelled to the local indoor pool to take part in the AquaSafe programme.

Hawke's Bay is slowly losing the school swimming pools as they are either closed or taken out of the school grounds completely. This is a serious loss of a good lifesaving opportunity to learn the skills to survive in water and prevent drowning.

The Napier Aquatic Centre ran the RLSS,NZ programme with Arthur Miller School this year which helped with time commitments for our Education Officer. 'Swim Heretaunga' in Hastings ran their own programme which is based on the RLSS,NZ programme.

Shona Brown, our CPR tutor for high schools, and Tracey Underwood who runs the swim and survive programme in primary schools as well as tutoring any Girl Guides requesting our programme are thanked for their work during the year.

After 40 years of service to RLSS,Hawke's Bay, Cynthia Redwood is standing down at our AGM. She will be, however, available in a consultancy role. Cynthia was presented with the RLSS,NZ Life Membership in October 2014 – a well deserved award.

BOB HITCHCOCK

WANGANUI

This past year has seen a continuation of results achieved with awards being well up from previous years. Both Branch members and Schools have been consistently involved, but an increase in both would be great.

The AquaSafe programmes have continued in some schools, thanks to Tracy. It is imperative that children are taught the basic personal survival and swimming skills when in and around water.

Thanks must go to Michelle Green at Nga Tawa with a good number of awards, Craig Ritani at Collegiate with Bronze medallion as NCEA for students doing PE, Glenys Gilberd at Girls College with a continuation of awards and Caroline Mackay who has now taken up the challenge at High School. The Hawera Aquatic Centre and the Splash Centre have been very proactive in promoting all RLSS,NZ awards, especially the Survivor strand and Adult Award.

I was honoured to be presented with the Commonwealth Honorary Vice President Award by Emma Harrison, the Operations Manager for the Commonwealth, who made her first visit to New Zealand, in October at the Society's Annual General Meeting.

Again our annual Interschool's Life Saving competitions were successful with schools entered for the first time. Competition was really fierce and results close. The standards and skill of the teams participating were excellent.

MARIE BAKER

RLSS,NELSON/MARLBOROUGH

The RNZAF Joint Services PE & PT School, which has been prominent for a number of years now, continues to prepare candidates for both Bronze Star and Bronze Medallion examinations from among their intakes. The panel of qualified personnel however is always changing which gives the Nelson/Marlborough Branch a steady challenge in addressing their needs.

The lack of lifesaving activity in the Nelson area continues to be of concern, as requests from GAP and Girl Guides NZ sources are received. It is surprising how a little flexibility on both parts can reap results however. Meanwhile responsibility for the Branch administration continues to be maintained from Christchurch.

JUDI JESSOP

RLSS,CANTERBURY

The 2014/2015 year saw an increase in the number of awards done in Canterbury. Pool space continues to be extremely challenging, making obtaining pool space to carry out lifesaving work difficult. Until Christchurch has another couple of public pools reinstated, retuning lifesaving back to pre-earthquake numbers, especially in the junior awards scheme, will not be possible.

It was pleasing to see a small group of St Andrews College students back sitting the Bronze Medallion Award after the loss of their school pool in the earthquakes. Rangi Ruru Girls' School and St Margaret's were both back in their swimming pools this year and this is reflected in the number of awards they were able to put through. The new St Margaret's swimming pool is a fantastic resource for the school and we look forward to continuing to grow lifesaving at the school.

Lifesaving in Canterbury would not be possible without the ongoing support of a small group of dedicated volunteers and teachers. Special thanks must go to Vicki Brinkman, Monica Bennett and Greg Crawford for examining large numbers of candidates in sometimes very cold Canterbury weather. Also to Lesley Joyce, Tina Cartwright and Michelle Pinkney whose dedication to their students ensures a high quality of candidate.

PENNY RATCLIFF

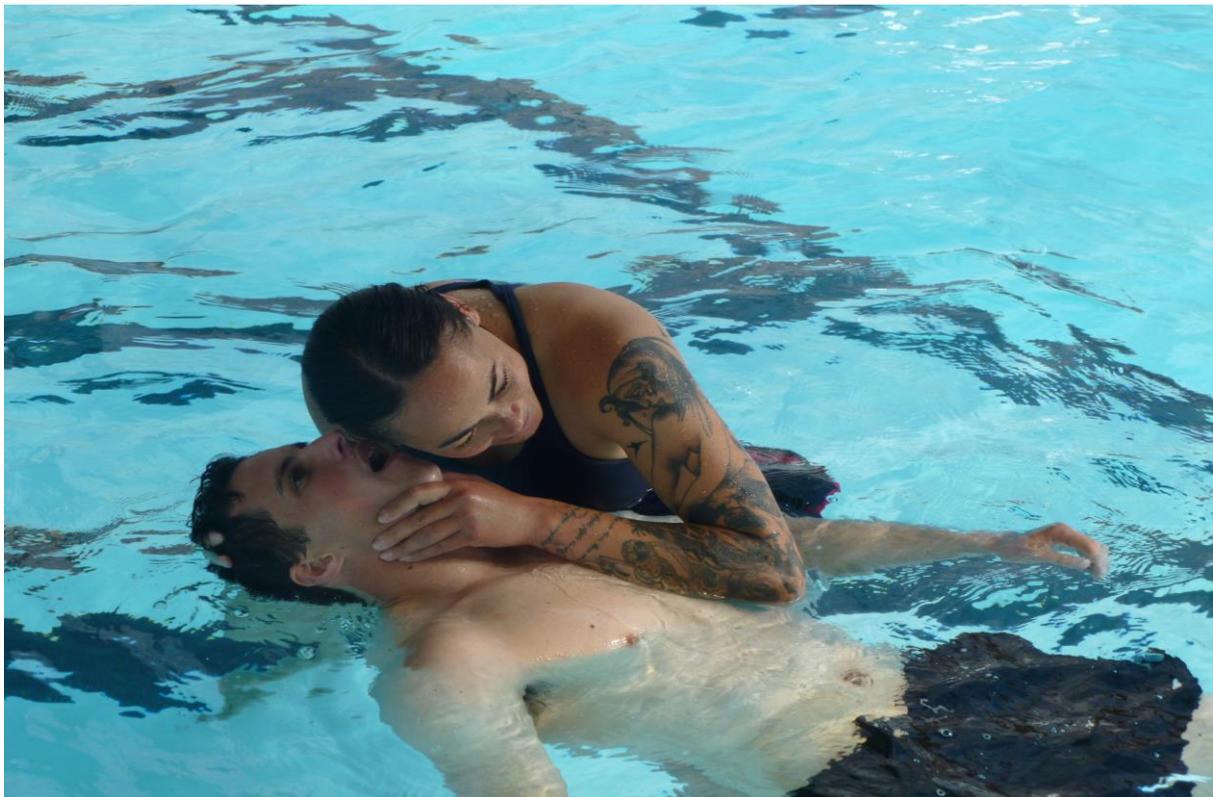
RLSS,OTAGO

This last year we have continued to function as an operating Branch, despite having only a few members. Most credit must go to John Constable and our Central Otago team of Elaine Wells, and Dunstan High Teachers Eric Schusser and Keri Barnett as they continue putting though awards and maintaining RLSS interest in Otago. Forty seven awards this year have been completed including 18 Swimming Pool Staff awards at the Physio Pool in Dunedin. We await, with concern, an outcome that may see this pool closed due to financial problems which will directly impact on our Branch.

Requalification of leaders from the Girl Guides, for Bronze Medallions, has been undertaken as required and enquiries from interested people through the RLSS,NZ website, have been dealt with wherever possible.

Our boats at Moana Pool still prove popular and are regularly used, and we feel pleased that our Branch continues to plod along.

JUDY MAGUIRE



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