



March 2024

OCEAN'S 2024

Report by Edan Wilson

That was the most fun, crazy, hectic and rewarding 4 days on the beach! Our little Kaiaponi Waikanae team absolutely outdid themselves and smashed their goals. Everyone improved so much from last year, kids who made quarter finals last year made semis and finals this year, Clancy Ryan, Jade Hopper and Bradley Douglas all made top ten in multiple races. Max Latu battled hard showing great promise when he moves up to seniors next season. The U13 kids, Tessa Webb, Lucas Thompson, Aengus Bettridge and Pippa Holden, raced their socks off to make semis and finals and the youngsters Josie Keast, Annabelle Douglas, Aurelia Ryan, Emma Webb and Blake Thompson absolutely nailed their races as mostly first time competitors. Their performance in really challenging surf made us all very proud.

At this age level, continued improvement, enjoyment and confidence are just as important as medals and we're all so proud of how the kids handled the surf and the competition and we're already looking forward to next year! I really want to thank all the parents whose support has been incredible all season. At the end of the nippers season we held two Ocean's taster sessions and it was great to see so many new faces interested in joining us next season! I'm really looking forward to watching this group grow in numbers and strength!

10+ year olds . . . look out for Pool Champs info coming soon!

Senior Nationals 2024

What an incredible nationals for the Gisborne clubs!! It was fantastic to see the strength and skill on display and to see all three clubs coming home with national titles! We are very proud of the performances put in by our Kaiaponi Waikanae team. Emily Gillies and Adam Tate got the event started in style with an armful of 4th placings for Emily in the masters races and a gold medal for Adam in the masters ski race.

Kendra Tate and Sam Ferkins were unlucky with gear malfunctions in the double ski and coach Max Neustroski and Max Phillips raced really well and had so much fun in the Open men's board rescue. In the beach events, Oska Smith was outstanding, bringing home three national titles in the u19 sprints, u19 flags and Open sprints. He works very hard at his craft under coach Arna Majstrovic and just keeps getting faster! Two national titles for Briana Irving in the Open women's flags and sprints, in a very fast field, shows this young lady's ongoing dominance on the sand. Seven Mapu was so speedy in the sprints, coming 4th by the tiniest of margins.

On the water, Christy Tate paddled incredibly well to bring home the Open women's ski national title. Christy battled it out till the very end to take the win on the line in a very fast, very tight race against a world class paddler!

Max Phillips had a great Super Sunday finals day, pulling out two excellent races to take 7th in the U17 surf race and 10th in the U17 board race. He's pretty tough on himself but he should be really proud of his results, his was the biggest age group and the standard was super high! His dedication and consistency will yield some great results in the future.

As ever, thank you to our wonderful coaches, Max Neustroski and Arna Majstrovic and to the Waikanae families for their continued support. The seniors now enjoy a well earned rest before the winter grind begins with some winter ski and pool champs training.

Nippers 2023/24 Season Wrap

On the 17th March we enjoyed our very last nippers session for the 23/24 season with lots of games, team fun and the absolute favourite...the IRB rides!!

It's been a wonderful summer of Sunday fun and surf goodness with you all and the coaches are so proud of how much you've all improved in skills and confidence.

Thank you to coaches Eric, Rodney, Webby, Calum, Freya, Emily, Lydia, Bella, Sierra, Felix, Ashar and Scott for your hours of dedication and commitment to our nippers kids.

Thank you to all you parents who donned your wetsuits every week to help out, we appreciate you so much!!

Thank you to Barton and the team at Kaiaponi Fruit Farms for the ongoing support of the club, you guys rock!

Thank you to the Ocean's fam for cooking up the sausies each week, to Walter Findlay's for sponsoring the bread for the season and to The Village Butchery for sponsoring the sausages for the season!! Please support these local businesses whenever you can!

Thank you nippers kids for always bringing the smiles and enthusiasm, you're the future of the club and the future looks bright with you little legends around!

As always, keep an eye on our social pages for news, updates, winter opportunities, social events etc. Kids aged at least 10 years by the 30th Sept 2024, look out for some exciting winter plans coming to you soon!

IRB National Champs 2024

Report by Travis Mitchell

2024 IRB Nationals Wrap

What an incredible weekend with a lot of incredible results down in the south. Traveling over 1000km from home with the 10th biggest team at the comp, and finishing THIRD overall as a club, fair to say the team punched well above their weight and everyone is fizzing, every team contributed to this result and it's incredible what a small team from gizzy can do!

RESULTS

GOLD - Open Male Assembly Rescue - Connor, Oli, Matti

GOLD - U23 Male Single Rescue - Harry, Travis, Michaela

SILVER - Open Male Single Rescue - Connor, Oli, Matti

SILVER - Open Mass Rescue - Connor, Oli, Matti, Harry

SILVER - U23 Mass Rescue - Harry, Travis, Michaela, Hamish

SILVER - U19 Male Tube Rescue - Hamish, Taran, Matti

SILVER - U19 Male Single Rescue - Hamish, Taran, Matti

BRONZE - Open Male Tube Rescue - Connor, Oli, Matti

BRONZE - Open Teams Rescue - Connor, Oli, Harry, Travis, Michaela

A massive shoutout and thanks goes to coach Connor Mitchell, assistant coach Ana Naden, all the parents, supporters, chefs, helpers and everyone who has got us to this point, we seriously couldn't have done any of this without you, you guys are what keep us going during the day and keep us fed at night. Another shoutout to our patients for being thrown in and out of the freezing water all day and not complaining, it's a massive task and we are very grateful for Michaela Clearwater and Matti Richards. A special thank you to Brent and Hayden for handling all weekend and the biggest shoutout to Rodney and Eric for driving our gear down and back, you two are legends!!!!

Can't wait to do it all again next season, bring on 2025!

The 2023/24 Lifeguarding Season

The 17th March also saw the final patrol of the season take place. It's been quite a tough season with reduced numbers due to more kids working, uni students not coming home and others moving out of the area and there are some definite areas to work on over the winter in preparation for next season.

A big thank you to our Patrol Captains - Ana Naden, Matt Proffit, Rodney Richards, Ella vanKregten, Kristina Williams, Eric Clearwater, Nigel Hope, Calum Wilson and their vice captains. You guys put in so much extra time with comms and organisation...not to mention baking!

I'd also like to give special thanks to the small group of guards who ALWAYS stepped up to cover patrols when needed, your extra time and willingness to help is really appreciated.

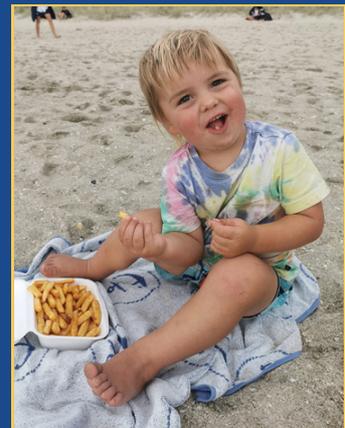
Thank you to Nigel Hope for all your mahi on the rosters and pre-season preparation.

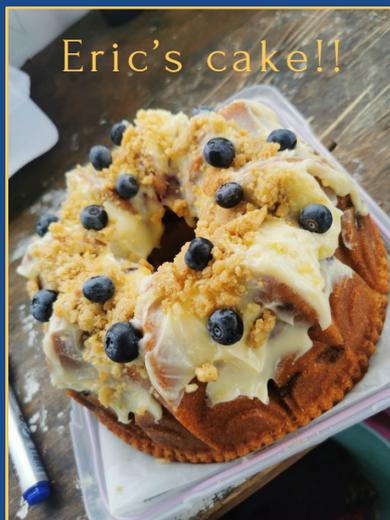
There will be courses coming up over winter for new lifeguards, first aid courses and other upskilling opportunities. Please look out for these and jump on where you can as these courses are so valuable to keep us skilled and current as a lifesaving club!

Parents, we LOVE it when you jump in to do your bronze awards (surf lifeguard award) with your kids! There are non-swimming options too, the 'Patrol Support' is a cool award that provides a valuable role on the beach.

Look out for further information or contact me directly if you'd like more information or you're interested in joining one of the courses.

2023/24





Open and u19 Men's Sprints Nz 🇳🇿





See you soon
2024/25
Season!!