



From the Chairman

Hi Everyone, I thought it was a great opportunity to update you on the start to this season and some of the events and happening over the next few months.

Firstly I trust you have all had an enjoyable festive season with family and friends and all the best for 2011. This is a huge season for Surf Lifesaving in New Zealand, as this summer we celebrate 100 years of the Lifeguard patrolling our beaches. Here at OBK we have already been part of these celebrations. More on this throughout the newsletter.

It's also really important to acknowledge and thank all those members involved in patrolling Ocean Beach this summer. To all our members, both existing and new members to the club, and to the newly qualified lifeguards, your voluntary service to the community is hugely appreciated. At the time of this newsletter, the peak summer holidays have already seen a number of days where the public numbers have seen in excess of 1500 beach goers visit Ocean Beach, and our services and skills have been required and put to good use. Ocean Beach, given it's great setting, unique beauty, and proximity to the 2 main Hawkes Bay cities continues to see a significant increase in visitor numbers.

This has already been a really busy season at the club with a fantastic turnout to the Opening Day and Official opening of the Ivan Wilson Room early in November. We have successfully competed in the 1st and 2nd Rounds of the HB Champs early December and January, and Battle of the Bays at Waipatiki prior to Christmas. Over the last couple of years our Sport membership has grown significantly which is critical in a modern volunteer organization such as ours. We are really fortunate to have members such as Jess Berridge and Adam Dunnett giving their time to train and develop a growing base of younger members. If you have seen the progress of a number of these kids over the last 12 months it's a huge tribute to Adam and Jess for the work they have carried out.

Over the last week almost 40 of our younger members attended a training camp at the beach for 3 days. Jess, Adam and Greg ran this with the assistance of a number of parent helpers. Thanks to all those that assisted with this event, it was a fantastic time had by all. This lead into the 2 further rounds of the HB Champs, Northern Regional Champs at Mt Maunganui at the end of January and the NZ National Champs in Christchurch early March. The size of our team at 40 plus now means the organization and logistics is significant for these events.

Our junior programme continues to go from strength to strength with over 70 kids involved and some great feedback from both kids and parents. We have a fantastic team of parents organizing Sunday morning sessions. This is the first time we have had a sustainable nippers programme to feed through to senior patrolling and sport ranks.

Also, just a reminder that the Club facilities are available for all members to use and enjoy. If you're at the beach for the day or want to stay over night please make the most of our unique environment and club house facilities. All we ask is to leave the facilities clean and tidy.

Finally with the growth of the Club over the last few years our financial and running costs continue to increase and challenge us. We have great support from a number of Trusts and Sponsors but we are always looking to bring on new sponsors and supporters. Surf Lifesaving is a great brand and movement to be associated with and our Club is in great shape. We would love to talk with anyone that may be interested in supporting OBK.

All the best for the remainder of the 2011 season and we look forward to catching you on the beach in the near future.

Richard Wilson