

Coastguard New Zealand | Tautiaki Moana Aotearoa

# Gratitude

## Report 2023



THE CHARITY SAVING LIVES AT SEA



# With your support

Last year you enabled our  
volunteer whānau to...

Bring **17** people home to their  
whānau and friends each day.

Answer **199,724** radio calls.

Give **273,269** total hours to their  
volunteer mahi.

Help **67,000** children become  
safer on the water through our  
Safe Boating courses.



# Turning fear into passion

**A fun day out on the water, which turned into a near-tragedy in 1998, is still a vivid memory for the Rigby whānau.**

The screams of his sons Ethan and Liam still haunt Grant Rigby to this day, and daughter Jade, witnessing the event unfold from the shoreline, dealt with her fair share of post-traumatic stress after the incident. Despite putting their fears of that eventful day aside, Grant, Ethan, and Jade turned their experience into a positive one by becoming volunteers at Coastguard Manawatū.

Having had a successful day at sea, Grant,

his sons, and the skipper returned to shore. Unfortunately, during their return, the unexpected occurred. The skipper had lost his glasses and couldn't see properly, so Grant took the helm to navigate the Foxton Beach Bar. That's when things changed in the blink of an eye. They hit the bar, and the boat flipped. Grant and his sons were trapped underneath the boat.

The waves pounded the boat quickly, filling the air pockets with water.

“

Words can't explain what I felt.

I thought I had lost my son forever.

A feeling that I still have to this day.

”

Jade, Grant and Ethan Rigby bring their all to saving lives at sea.



Putting his sons' lives before his own, Grant grabbed Ethan's arm and dove under the side of the boat. He lost his grip on Ethan and submerged without him. The boys were still trapped, both were screaming.

Eight-year-old Liam managed to make his own way out, but Ethan was still trapped. Grant banged on the hull to reassure him that help was coming, then he fell silent.

No parent can imagine what Grant went through that day. "Words can't explain what I felt. I thought I had lost my son forever. A feeling that I still have to this day."

As fate happens, Coastguard Manawātū was on a training exercise and other nearby boats came to assist the rescue. They managed to flip the boat and found Ethan unconscious.

Coastguard skipper Mike Hayes grabbed

Ethan's lifeless body and gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. It was this emergency training that saved his life.

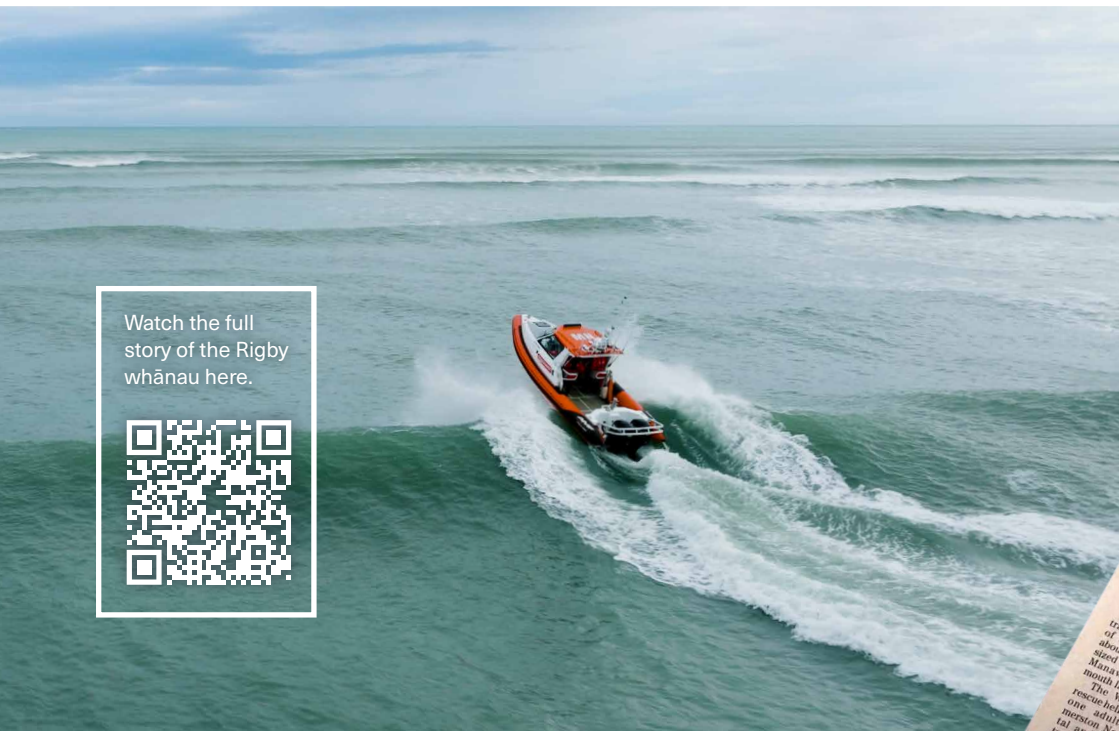
Through Coastguard and other vessels' actions that day, the Rigby whānau are here to tell their story.

From that day on, Grant decided to volunteer with Coastguard. He wanted to learn as much as he could about water safety to help others in need.

Following in their dad's footsteps, both Ethan and Jade joined the Manawātū Unit and now feel part of the true community spirit of Foxton.

Not only are volunteers like the Rigby's the bloodline of our organisation, but also the generous donations you kindly gift help train and provide the equipment needed to help save lives at sea.

Because of people like you supporting Coastguard, the Rigby whānau are here to tell their story.



Watch the full story of the Rigby whānau here.



The Manawatu Volunteer Coastguard rescue craft brings in the boat that capsized on the Manawatu bar at low tide.

### Coastguard avert tragedy at rivermouth

Two children were trapped under the hull of a boat which capsized on the bar in the Manawatu River last Saturday.

The Westpac rescue helicopter took one adult, to Talameston North and a child was transported to hospital by ambulance.

We could have been retrieved from the water. Despite the fact that we could have been rescued, we were not.

Five people were rescued from a fishing boat which capsized on the bar in the Manawatu River last Saturday.

The Coastguard rescue craft was sent out for further assistance to help retrieve the boat.

Despite the fact that we could have been rescued, we were not.



Manawatu Volunteer Coastguard skipper Mike Hayes and crewperson Merle Hudson with the Caltex Rescue of the Year Award.

Four representatives from Manawatu Coastguard attended the Royal NZ Coastguard Federation's annual conference in Christchurch where they were presented with an award for their part in the rescue of five people from an upturned boat off Foxton last March. They saved the lives of two children trapped under the hull, and one adult found unconscious in the water.

The coastguard were kept busy last weekend. On Saturday the rescue craft crew on routine patrol encountered a boat at sea with engine trouble near the mouth of the Manawatu River. They assisted by towing the disabled vessel away from the surf until the motor was restarted and running satisfactorily.

On Sunday the rescue craft cleared a large number of logs jammed under the Whirokino Bridge.

# The Lifesaving Leap

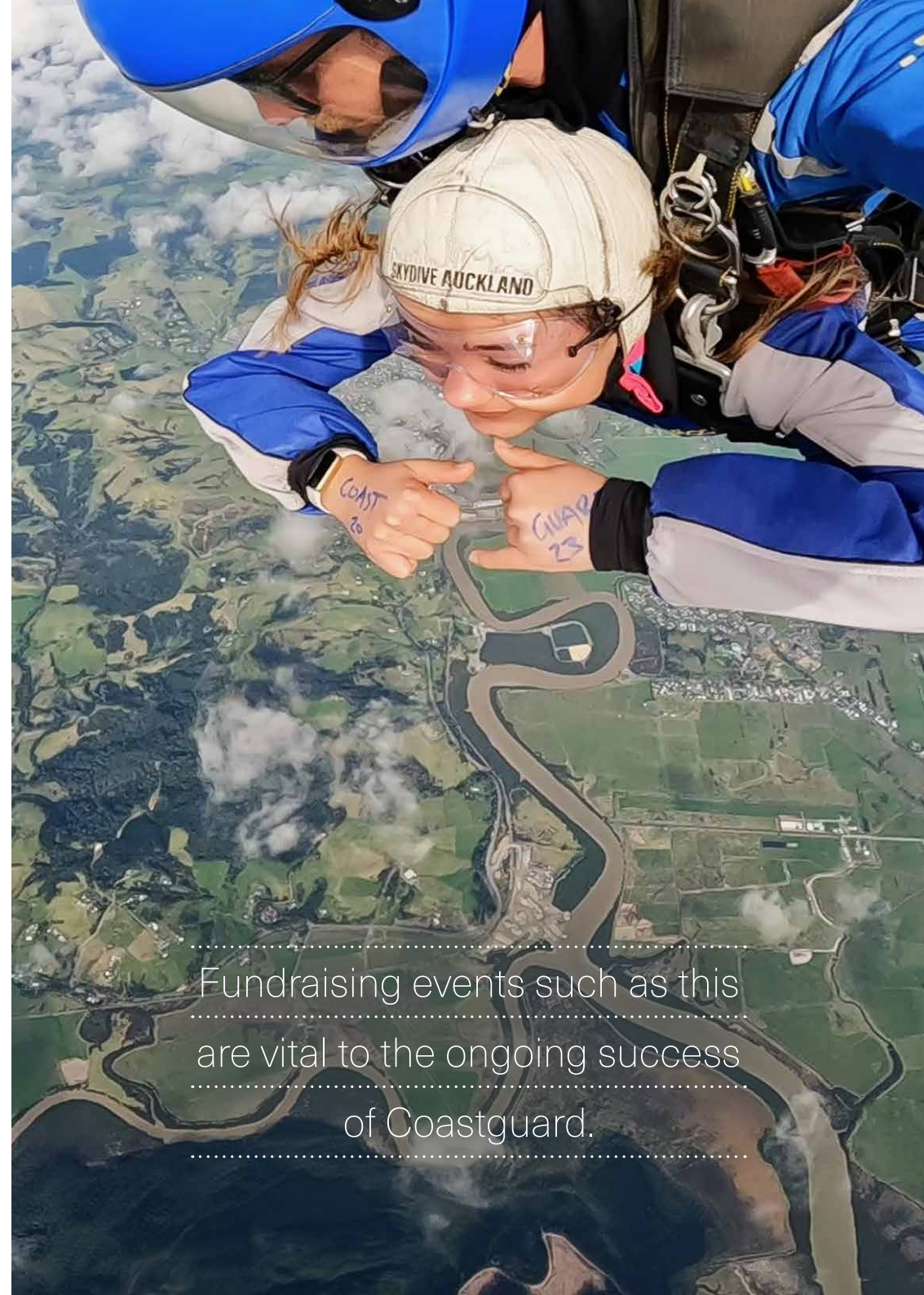
On a still, autumnal day in May, 34 keen adventurers of Coastguard staff, volunteers, and friends took to the skies across the Bay of Islands, Auckland, Tauranga, Taupō, and Queenstown.

Those taking part in The Lifesaving Leap, a 12,000ft tandem skydive, raised nearly \$45k for Coastguard. With their feet firmly back on the ground, their smiling faces said it all - relief, excitement, and a sense of achievement.

Fundraising events such as this are vital to the ongoing

success of Coastguard. It's also an opportunity for supporters and local communities to get involved off the water.

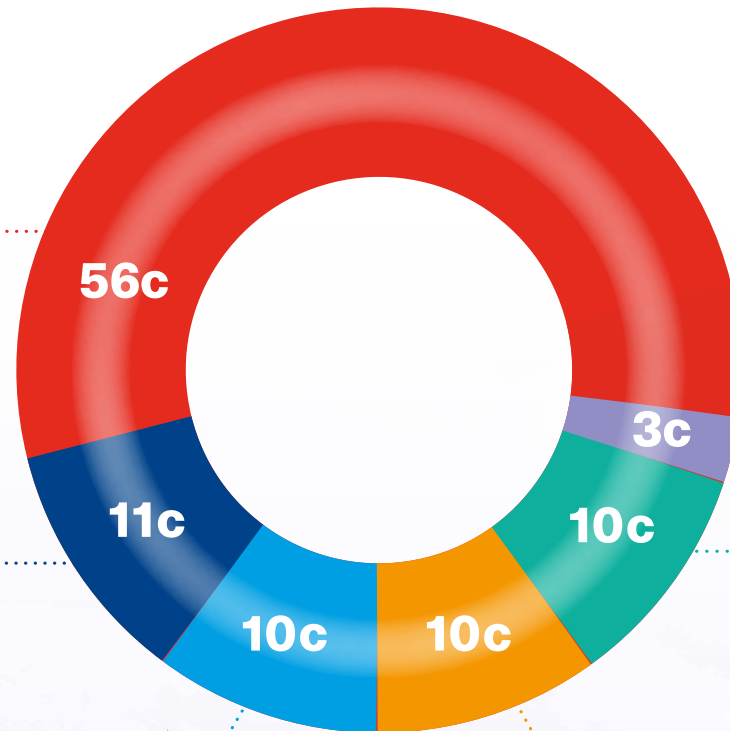
We are forever grateful for the volunteers who put their own lives at risk to save others and for you, our supporters, who help make this happen.



Fundraising events such as this are vital to the ongoing success of Coastguard.

# For every \$1 donated Coastguard spends

- **56 cents** goes towards supporting our frontline volunteers and enabling them to carry out their lifesaving mahi.
- **11 cents** goes towards generating income to educate the public about who we are and what we do.
- **10 cents** goes towards delivering our Education and Community Engagement Initiatives.



- **3 cents** goes towards our governance and administrative costs.
- **10 cents** goes towards delivery of our Lottery Programme (including prizes).
- **10 cents** goes towards equipping our people with tools, training and resources.



# From the Chief Executive

**Tēnā koutou kātoa,**

**As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with immense gratitude and a deep sense of pride.**

It's with great pleasure that we extend our heartfelt thanks to you, the incredible supporters of Coastguard New Zealand. Your unwavering dedication and generosity play a pivotal role in our mission of saving lives at sea.

Over the last 12 months, our Coastguard whānau has achieved remarkable feats. Thanks to your support, we safely brought 6,300 Kiwis back to their loved ones, responding to 2,596 incidents with the utmost professionalism and care. Among these, 398 were life-threatening emergencies, where our brave teams rescued 142 individuals and saved six precious lives. These numbers serve as a poignant reminder of the critical nature of our work and the rapid changes that can occur out on the water.

Despite our summer not being the best for getting out on the water, there were still 94 drowning fatalities in 2022, the highest in a decade, with 31% involving recreational watercraft. This underscores the ongoing need for our work in Search & Rescue, Education, Communication, and Advocacy, with a particularly strong focus on advocating for mandatory lifejackets on vessels under six meters.

We are seeing a growing trend of more powered and non-powered 'craft' users enjoying Aotearoa New Zealand's watery playground. This is why we need the right people in the right place and to ensure our dedicated volunteers and Units across the motu have the tools they need to excel. As a charity so reliant on volunteers we are always in need of new people to help join

our cause. This year, you may have seen our first large-scale nationwide Volunteer Recruitment Campaign, "It takes a crew to save a life," which led to an astounding number of applications, three times more than the previous year, in fact. While our volunteers are everyday people, like you and me, they are immensely proud of the mahi they put in to be highly trained and skilled to do what they do. 74,989 hours were invested in volunteer training last year, alone. We also need to ensure our people have the right tools and equipment. Thanks to Lotto New Zealand and the Lottery Grants Board, we transformed 22 vessels once used by Emirates Team New Zealand, into life-saving assets, now distributed to communities across the country.

Empowering water users to enjoy their time on the water safely and confidently remains a priority. We had 8,548 learners taking part in 21 programmes, with a diverse representation of Māori, Pasifika, and Chinese alongside a substantial online and distance learning community of 5,138 individuals. We are committed to offering flexible and accessible educational options through online learning.

Te Anga Whakamua o Tautiaki Moana Aotearoa, our Māori and Pasifika Strategy, is making considerable progress, fostering relationships, and providing training. Our Units have also achieved remarkable milestones, such as Bay of Islands' move to Opuā and the establishment of a Northland rescue centre.

Amidst challenges like Cyclone Gabrielle, our volunteers stood strong, saving lives,

and supporting communities in need. Their resilience in the face of adversity is a testament to the spirit of Coastguard.

While the delivery of our life-saving services comes at a significant cost, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 have presented fundraising challenges. We remain determined to secure essential funding and establish sustainable income sources, thanks to increased fundraising capacity. 30% of our funding comes from the Government to help respond to significant marine search and rescue incidents. The balance, we rely on the generosity of others, and so to you, we extend our deepest gratitude. None of this would be

possible without your unwavering support. There is still much to do, but with your continual support, we have confidence.

Together, we will continue to strive to reduce preventable drownings and empower Kiwis to enjoy our waters safely and with confidence.

Ngā mihi nui,



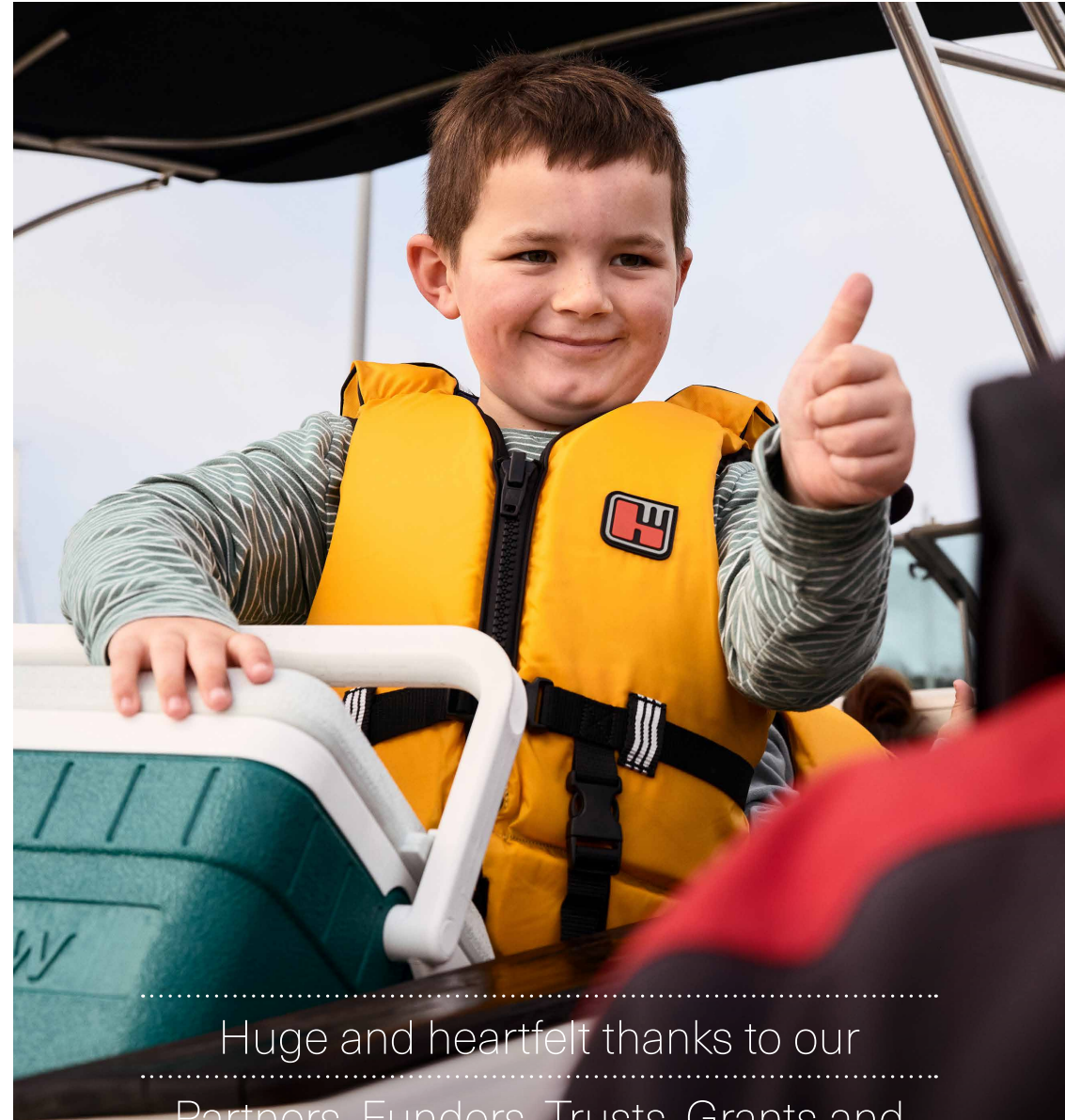
**Callum Gillespie**  
Chief Executive  
Coastguard New Zealand



# Search and Rescue Partners



# Funders, Trusts, Grants and Foundations



Huge and heartfelt thanks to our Partners, Funders, Trusts, Grants and Foundations. Without your support, we simply could not complete our lifesaving mahi across Aotearoa New Zealand.



# Who we are

Our mission is saving lives at sea

Our vision is that with our support everyone can enjoy Aotearoa New Zealand's waters safely and with confidence

Coastguard Tautiaki Moana is the charity saving lives at sea.

We're on a mission to help Kiwis get the best out of their time on the water, safely and with confidence.

This year our 2,001-strong volunteer whānau gave their time to help bring nearly 6,300 boaties back home safely - from Cape Rēinga to Bluff and across the coastlines, major lakes and rivers of Aotearoa.

We save lives by teaching boaties to make the most of our waters through our education programmes and community initiatives, by providing critical marine communications infrastructure and safety information services.

None of this would be possible without the financial support we receive from our funders, donors, members and partners who generously give to Coastguard, so that our volunteers can continue to be there when boaties on the water need them most.



Meet Banu Pashutanizadeh from Auckland Coastguard Air Patrol - our eyes in the sky.

Scan here to learn how vital the Air Patrol team was when searching for an adult and two children who capsized off a kayak.



# Supporting Kiwis across the motu

Five fishos were thrown into the water when their vessel capsized near Kawau Island.

Lifejackets ensured all five men stayed afloat until help arrived. Your support ensured Coastguard Kawau were quick

on the scene with the right training and equipment to bring the men home to safety.



Watch the full rescue story here.



# Ways to get involved



Make a **donation**



Join **Team Rescue** and donate monthly



Leave Coastguard a lifeline with a gift in your **Will**



Throw yourself out of a **plane** or run a **marathon**



Come on board with our **corporate giving programme**



**Buy a Lottery ticket** to win some incredible prizes like cars, holidays, boats, cruises, gadgets and much more!



Have fun and give back all at the same time by attending a **Coastguard Fundraising event**



## Coastguard New Zealand

Tautiaki Moana Aotearoa

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