

# 2024 New Zealand Lifeguard Exchange



**SURF LIFE SAVING®**  
NORTHERN REGION

Vianne Kelly- Los Angeles City Lifeguards  
Jackson Lawrence- Seal Beach Marine Safety

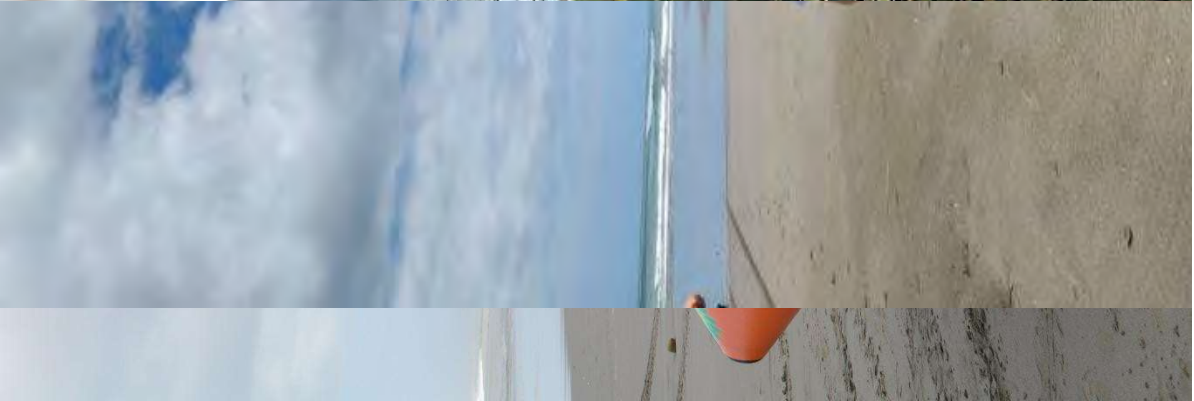
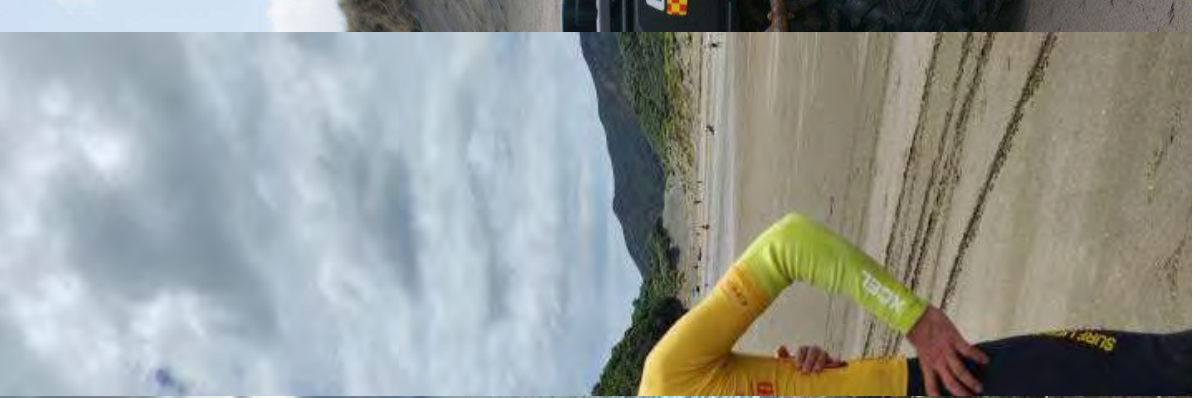


# Program Overview

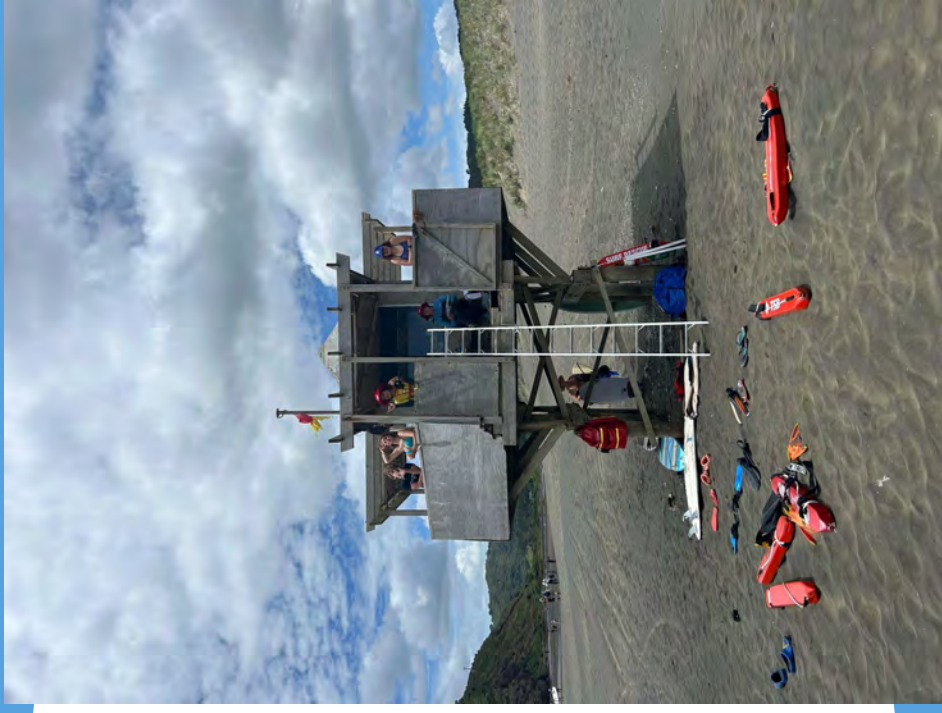
# Program Overview

- **Dates:** December 26th - February 6th (6 Weeks)
- Visited 10 different beaches, stayed at surf clubs and explored the local area with the local guards
- **Unique Experience:**
  - Qualified as official New Zealand Lifeguards
    - Allowed us to actively partake in lifeguarding/patrols, IRB crew training and training scenarios
  - Still recovering from the 2023 Auckland Flash Floods and Cyclone Gabrielle
    - Karekare (Road Blocked Off)
    - Bethells (Building Washed Away)
    - Mangawhai Heads (Landslide)





# The Differences and Similarities



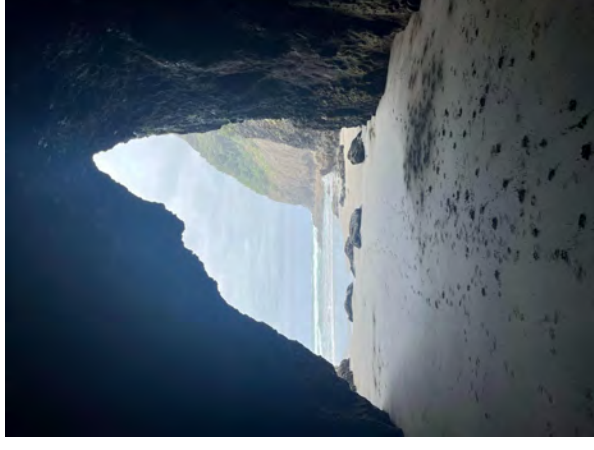
## Differences

- **Volunteer and Paid Lifeguard System**
- Surf Clubs (vs Departments in California)
  - One country one universal qualifying test
- **Flag System**
- **Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRBs)**
- Age Requirements to be a Qualified Lifeguard
- Break Length/Hours Worked
  - Guaranteed 40 hours every week

## Similarities

- Medical Equipment (Mostly)
- Rescue Techniques
- Beach Operations and Command Structure
- Training
- Surf Sports
- The lifeguards love what they do
- Community Support for Surf Clubs/Departments

# Volunteer System



# Volunteer lifeguarding on weekends only

- Every surf club has volunteer lifeguards
- You can be as young as 14 years old to volunteer lifeguard, and you must still qualify but not to the same caliber as paid lifeguards
- Most veteran lifeguards who have full time jobs and families opt to be volunteer lifeguards
- Paid lifeguards need about 20 hours of volunteer lifeguard service at their home surf club to participate in surf competition events





# Inflatable Rescue Boats (and Racing Them)



# IRBS

- Highly versatile inflatable boat w/ outboard motor
- Driver and Crew required to operate
  - Driver- Drives the boat, responsible for those in the boat, in-command
  - Crew- Assisting with maneuverability, punching through waves, pulling people out of water
- Driver Age Requirement: *16 Years Old*
- Staged next to the flags every patrol
- Preferred response for water rescues
- **New Era:** Rescue Water Skis (RWCs) are slowly becoming the preferred method to rescue people
- Racing (very popular):
  - Variety of different races
  - Dangerous
  - Very small techniques that make a big difference







**Thank you  
for your  
support!**

