



# Lyllall Bay Surf Life Saving Club

## WCC Annual Plan Funding Submission

### Summary

Following the WCC Strategy & Policy committee decision on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009, the Lyllall Bay Surf Life Saving Club (Lyllall Bay SLSC) is requesting funding from the Wellington City Council of \$350,000 towards the cost of building a **new surf life saving facility hub** on Lyllall Bay beach.

Lyllall Bay SLSC was formed in 1910 by members of the Wellington Swimming Club who were regular swimmers at the beach and, having performed many rescues there, saw the need for an organised lifeguard service based on the Australian surf life saving model.

The Lyllall Bay SLSC is **first and foremost a rescue service** which has contributed to keeping the public safe at Wellington beaches for the past 100 years.

Our mission is:

**To prevent drowning and injury at Lyllall Bay while providing opportunities for members to develop and participate in a range of Surf Life Saving activities**

### Lyllall Bay Surf Life Saving Hub

Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) has clearly identified that Lyllall Bay has the highest need for a surf life saving service in Wellington. SLSNZ have indicated that a new facility on Lyllall Bay would provide a central 'hub' to base a range of surf life saving services for Wellington.

The present surf life saving facility is now totally inadequate to provide for modern lifeguarding needs. It has suffered greatly from the harsh south coast environmental factors; is in a poor condition and cannot be repaired. Further, the facility does not have sufficient storage space for modern rescue equipment, and does not have adequate lifeguard facilities. The club's activities are also currently spread between two buildings. This central surf lifesaving hub would enable the surf life saving services across the wider Wellington regions to be enhanced.

WCC and Lyllall Bay SLSC are proposing a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to document the respective inputs and outcomes of both parties. The SLA would facilitate the construction of the Surf Life Saving Hub and be for **an initial period of ten years**, with a further right of renewal of ten years (10 + 10). Funding for the SLA would be provided up-front.

The SLA would deliver the following outcomes:

### 1. 24 x 7 x 365 First Response Squad

The Coastal Public Safety Report recommended the development of a first response service for the Wellington region. Progress on this recommendation has been difficult to achieve, as the team created has no base to operate from. With many incidents happening 'after hours', a new facility would provide a base for a search and rescue service **Wellington wide**. This base would house any rescue equipment (IRBs, jet skis, advanced medical equipment) and provide immediate access and an operational and training base for the squad. The First Response Squad would consist of members of all clubs in the wider region.

This proposed surf life saving hub would provide a permanent base and training facility for the First Response Squad. Emergency callouts in the past have included wind/kite surfers rescued late at night, people missing at sea and sinking boats. The squad is made up of guards that:

- Are "elite" advanced and senior lifeguards;
- Hold Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) drivers qualifications
- Have training in first aid, CPR, oxygen, defibrillation, up to and including Pre Hospital Emergency Care (PHEC) standard.
- Trained in helicopter rescue;
- Trained in rock rescues (especially applicable to the south coast)
- Able to co-ordinate cross sector emergency responses (Coastguard, Police, Westpac Rescue)

### 2. Emergency Warning and Public Address Systems

At present there is no emergency warning or public address system at Lyall Bay. The recent tsunami alert saw life guards constantly advising swimmers to exit the water despite the no swimming flag flying. Without a public address system, and electronic signage of the dangers, the public remain at risk.

This new surf lifesaving hub will provide both a public address system and support electronic signage to advise the public of dangers both inside and outside of patrol hours.

### 3. Community Education Programmes

The Beach Education programme for primary schools is a practical and theoretical based approach to teaching children how to enjoy the beach environment safely and how to recognise dangers at the beach (rips, currents, holes). It is run throughout New Zealand at surf life saving clubs using qualified lifeguard instructors. Lyall Bay SLSC is used as the training base in Wellington City with over 1200 children enrolled in the programme in the 2009/2010 summer. However existing space and facilities limit the number of children that can be involved in this programme.

None of the existing surf lifesaving facilities in the Wellington area are capable of holding sufficient numbers of attendees. This limits the potential for those attending to identify potential hazards such as rips, bars and holes. Surf education at the beach is vastly more beneficial to offsite courses. A surf life saving hub would provide adequate resources to hold education programmes at the beach.

In addition to the facilities, Lyall Bay SLSC has organised programmes directly with local secondary schools that have trained pupils in lifeguard qualifications, taught surf safety and provided outdoor recreation. As well other groups regularly invite the Lyall Bay SLSC to send lifeguards for surf awareness and resuscitation demonstrations. Lifeguards have recently been involved with:

- Island Bay Festival
- Rongotai College
- Houghton Valley Playcentre

- Barnardos Early Childhood Education, and
- Indian Sunday School

#### 4. Junior Surf Skills Training

The Lyall Bay SLSC runs a junior surf section for children aged 5 – 13 years which teaches surf safety awareness, confidence in surf and equipment use to increase children's skills and ability in the surf. The sessions are run by our volunteer senior lifeguards. Junior surf life saving has become a very popular recreation and Lyall Bay has 130 members enrolled in this section. Currently Lyall Bay SLSC is limited in taking in more enrolments, due to the size of our facilities.

The results of this training have become evident with a number of major rescues carried out by our 12 and 13 year old members before they have become qualified lifeguards. Cameron Turchie (13 years old) was featured in the Dominion Post last year for his dramatic rescue of a child while at Mount Maunganui, while Haley Cox (13 years old) rescued a stranded adult off the rock in Lyall Bay in early January 2010.

Junior surf training complements the pool based Learn to Swim programmes. The continuation of this Junior Surf training is a vital part of ensuring the next generation of Wellingtonians can be safe in the water. The new surf lifesaving hub facility will secure this programme for the next ten years.

#### 5. Continued Lifeguard Coverage Across The Wider Wellington Region

During the last 100 years, Lyall Bay SLSC has saved a countless numbers of lives. Over 200 lives have been saved in the last 15 years since accurate records were kept. Each summer, on average, the club's lifeguards:

- Save 14 lives
- Provide 1500 hours of voluntary patrols
- Perform 3000 preventative actions and first aids.

This highlights the significant service that Lyall Bay SLSC is providing for the water safety and recreational needs of Wellingtonians and contributes to the following WCC Community Outcomes:

- Wellingtonians will enjoy recreation and be among the most active in New Zealand, and
- Opportunities for active and passive recreation in Wellington will be diverse, **safe**, affordable, accessible and attractive.

The Lyall Bay area has had considerable public and private investment in recent years in retail shopping, cafes, sand dune restoration and proposals to build a marine centre nearby. As the only surf beach in the city, and being easily accessible, this has contributed to a large increase in popularity with over 1000 people on the beach on a fine day.

Lyllall Bay SLSC has over 300 members (junior and seniors) including over 70 active lifeguards. This makes us the strongest club in Wellington with the greatest capacity to deliver services. It is an unfortunate reality however, that a significant number of our members **would not** join another surf club if Lyall Bay SLSC ceased to exist. Club culture is difficult to replicate, and members are more likely to shift to an alternative water based discipline, than change surf club loyalties. Lyall Bay invests in and works hard to maintain a culture to retain our members and lifeguards.

It is in Wellingtonians best interests to have strong surf lifesaving clubs. Recently, one Wellington surf life saving club has closed due to lack of members.

***Lyllall Bay SLSC is committed to water safety across the Wellington region and the south coast***

The provision of a surf lifesaving hub will not only support strong surf life saving clubs, but also secure the availability of volunteer surf lifeguards for the region and south coast both now, and for the future.

## **6. Lifeguard Training Facilities**

Annually over 30 new members earn their surf lifeguard award, meaning they are proficient in surf rescues, resuscitation (CPR) techniques and first aid. A number of our members have been involved in providing CPR or first aid at accidents away from the beach, including one who assisted when a 100 year old drove the wrong way up Ngauranga Gorge.

A new facility would include purpose built training rooms and resources to enable Lyll Bay SLSC and SLSNZ to provide coordinated and centralised lifeguard training for all clubs; increase the Beach Education programme, and provide more community education for surf safety and surf aid.

## **7. Regional Lifeguard Service**

The Coastal Public Safety Report recommends that, in addition to weekend voluntary patrols, the 3 main beaches in Wellington are patrolled by paid lifeguards (Regional Lifeguards) on weekdays during January. A majority of the guards employed in Wellington have been trained by the Lyll Bay SLSC initially as volunteer Lifeguards.

Lyll Bay is a popular beach during the school holidays and the Lyll Bay SLSC building and equipment is used as a base for the Regional Guard programme. As with voluntary patrols the current facilities are not adequate for Regional Guard patrolling needs.

## **8. Event Safety**

Lyll Bay SLSC qualified lifeguards are involved in providing lifesaving services at many other events around Wellington. The club is involved in coordinating the provision of lifeguards and provide the rescue gear they use.

Event Safety teams are used weekly around the city during summer at places such as Scorching Bay, Oriental Bay, Island Bay and the harbour and waterfront, Events include:

- Island Bay Festival
- Triathlons
- Ocean swims e.g. Sovereign Ocean Series
- School outdoor education days
- Festivals & concerts around the waterfront such as Homegrown, Guy Forks night and X-Games)
- Crazyman

The development of a new surf life saving hub will provide a coordination point for training guards, event planning and equipment storage for these events.

## **9. Ongoing Sustainability**

Any new development needs to ensure its ongoing viability. This proposal has been designed to mitigate known factors such as

- Sea level rise
- Environmental damage (wind, water, salt, sand)
- Visual impact, and

- Traffic impact.

The development of the proposed surf life saving hub facility will see the removal of two old 1950's buildings from Lyall Bay beach. The existing Lyall Bay SLSC club house and the next building west, commonly referred to as 'No. 2'. This building houses the current changing rooms and public toilets.

The opening of the Maranui café has been a successful economic development for Lyall Bay. Economic growth has been further assisted by the opening of the Lyall Bay Retail Park. Several commercial operators have expressed an interest to Lyall Bay SLSC for similar developments in the new building, should the surf lifesaving hub proceed.

Engaging with a commercial enterprise would provide a degree of ongoing sustainability for the club, as well as continue to boost the economic development of the Lyall Bay area. Obviously resource consents and ground rents would need to be reconsidered should commercial enterprises operate from the hub facility, but the potential for viable commercial partnership to provide ongoing financial support to the club is appealing.

## Fundraising

The building cost has been calculated by a quantity surveyor as \$1.8m. This excludes the cost of adding public toilets to the design. Lyall Bay SLSC is applying for an additional grant of \$350,000 from the WCC Annual Plan 2010/2011 towards the \$1.8m cost of the building.

The balance of the funds required is expected to come from the following sources and the club is currently working on the fundraising strategy to raise these funds:

Source	\$ expected	Time frame	Comments
Club Funds: Total	110,000	Available now	
WCC Annual Plan	350,000	July 2010	Decision June 2010
Lotteries Board Grant (Community Facilities Fund)	350,000	Decision June 2010 or November 2010	Applications require 33% funding and consents obtained. Would take into consideration any grants approved by WCC and value of sponsorship. Next application closes August 2010
Trusts	500,000	April 2010	Presentation for funding to be made to a consortium of trusts
Corporates 1. Donated services 2. Donations	70,000	Available	Value of architectural services to date
Member donations	250,000	Commence appeal April 2010	Fundraising appeal to members, ex-members based on selling 'bricks' at various levels of donations Centenary celebrations in October 2010 main focus
Voluntary Labour	50,000		Voluntary labour/services offered to date : electrical and hot water fixtures
Public 1. Donations 2. Fundraising	120,000	Launch on approval consents/grants June 2010	Balance required from public fundraising initiatives
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,800,000</b>		

The Annual Plan Grant would provide confidence to the other funding sources that the project is likely to achieve its fundraising targets and progress.