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CALIFORNIA SURF LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION 2008-2009 California/Auckland Exchange

Board of Director's Fall Meeting
La Jolla, CA
October 16th & 17th, 2008

Exchange Committee Report

Prepared by Jon Mitchell
Exchange Chair

Good Morning CSLSA Members and welcome to the Fall BOD Meeting!

I want to start my report today with an e-mail I received from one of this year's delegates from New Zealand who spent the summer visiting our CSLSA Chapters.

Hi Jon,

Now that I'm well settled back into the real world in NZ, it's about time I fired you off a thank you for the brilliant time Mare and I had on the exchange this year.

The reports we'd received prior to leaving NZ were hard to credit, but the entire exchange lived up to all expectations, so it now ranks up there as one of those "once in a lifetime" experiences. The guards at each of the agencies we visited were extremely welcoming, and went out of their way to make sure we had as good a time as possible, both on and off the beach.

To name a few of those who were the most awesome:- Alex Scurr @ Newport, Jesse Heydorff @ State, Doug Leach @ Huntington, Joel Larimer, Julianne Charland & Rich Hidalgo @ Imperial, Cat Bell & Monica Johnson @ Seal, and all the crew at Laguna. There was plenty more than that of course, but those names are the ones that stick out as having gone that extra mile.

Your efforts at keeping the trip as organized as possible were very much appreciated, as we could appreciate how difficult it must have been to juggle the exchange on top of your regular work commitments. I'm sure Mare would join me in rating the trip 10/10, and that goes down to the great job you did in getting it sorted for us.

So, thanks again, and if either of us can ever return the favor to yourself, or any guards that you know, then don't hesitate to give them our details so they can look us up when/if they come to NZ.

I can only say thanks once again to all that assisted on the exchange this summer. It is a year round endeavor and only past Exchange Chairs know the work that it entails. Maintaining your normal duties of providing public safety for our beach visitors and providing the exchange guards with a unique experience is very tough for everyone involved. Those of you that hosted the guards this summer, I appreciate all your efforts. Special thanks to those not previously mentioned are John Pilgrim (IB), Mark Rathsam (Del Mar), Nick Giugni (San Clemente), Scott Diederich (Laguna Beach), Mike Westmoreland (Seal Beach), Charlotte Graham (LACOLA) and everyone else who makes the exchange work.

Who will be representing the CSLSA for 08/09 in Auckland? We will find out momentarily. The application process closed on August 29th and we accepted six applicants into this year's interview process. Peggy Beebe (NB), Kristin Buhagiar (Laguna), Ian Christensen (LACOLA), Will Didingler (LACOLA), Michael Diller (Seal) and Monica Johnson (Seal) all interviewed on Tuesday, September 30th and the interview panel said it was very close and all candidates presented themselves very professionally.



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Panel members Richardson, Allison and Graham made the final decision and all candidates were notified of the results.

I would formally like to announce the two lifeguards who have been chosen to represent the CSLSA in New Zealand for the 2008/2009 Lifeguard Exchange. The Delegates are Kristin Buhagiar from Laguna Beach and Ian Christensen from LA County. Both Delegates have plenty of experience, excellent recommendations and most importantly, they each have their lives in order to travel abroad.

Kristin and Ian come on up. (Ian may be in a boating class in LA)

The Seal Beach Lifeguard Association is here to present both Exchange Lifeguards with a \$250.00 check from the A.J. Summers Memorial Exchange Scholarship (Joe Bailey) and the CSLSA will present each guard a check for \$500.00. With airfares currently running around \$2150.00 for roundtrip service, I know each guard will really appreciate all the help. Hopefully, your Chapters will assist you on your journey as well.

This Lifeguard Exchange is not only about camaraderie, but more about professionalism and raising the standards of Lifesaving around the world. Our two Delegates will be in New Zealand for two months visiting Surf Lifesaving Clubs in the Northern region. They will share techniques and methodologies on drowning prevention and train in some of the roughest conditions in the world. This journey will change the direction of your life as it has for all past recipients.

As the CSLSA Committee Chair for the Exchange, I highly recommend Kristin Buhagiar and Ian Christensen to represent the California Surf Lifesaving Association on the California / New Zealand Lifeguard Exchange for the 2008/2009 endless summer. Good Luck and Safe Traveling! All members will be looking forward to your presentation at the 2009 Spring Meeting.

Lastly, in committee I will be discussing the trip with the Delegates and what their responsibilities are to this board. I am currently under budget at this time, but I do have several receipts that have yet to be paid.

Thanks for you time and support,

Jon Mitchell
CSLSA Exchange Chair