

# 2003 California/New Zealand Lifeguard Exchange

by Eric Sandy, Del Mar

"Great people, great activities, and great training. I couldn't have asked for anything better!"

Of the 16 beaches patrolled by the Northern Region of New Zealand, we visited 8 on the exchange. All were vastly different in regards to their layouts and hazards, but all were the same in relation to lifeguarding. Whangarei Heads was the most northern beach, and where we received our lifeguard award certification, and Raglan was the southern-most beach. Rather than lifeguard headquarters, each beach has a surf club, equipped with bunkrooms, kitchens, first aid room, apparatus room, lifeguard tower, and lounge areas. Most of the guards sleep at the surf clubs where they are patrolling. This creates a great camaraderie between workmates and is evident in their strong friendships. Spending the majority of our time staying at the surf clubs was an experience on their own.

Our daily activities included lifeguard patrolling and IRB training, I got heaps of training on the IRB and that was what I was looking forward to most. They are getting their PWCs here soon, so hopefully I can also sit in on that training.

We also visited Waitangi and learned about the history of the land and the native people and went to other tourist attractions. We took hikes and tours to the America's Cup Yachts, we attended social functions such as "jug nights" and we went to surf camps.

This exchange was more than I expected it to be and was truly an unforgettable experience. I encourage all California lifeguards to apply for this program and make it a goal of theirs in lifesaving.

I'd like to thank Rob Howes, as well as SLSNR and all our hosts for a job well done. Additionally, I would like to thank the CSLSA and the board of directors for all their help and support, the HBSLSA, Seal Beach Lifeguards and the A.J. Summers Memorial Scholarship Foundation, as well as our other sponsors: TYR, truWest, Victory Wetsuits, DSO Eyewear, HSS, Viper Swim Fins, Kinkos, Digital Hammer and Team Color Screenprinting, and Nick Ortega and Tony Guzman for their cash donation.

All in all this has been wonderful.....I didn't want to leave! However, I am looking forward to sharing my experience with everyone when I return, and excited to help out with sponsorship stuff for the delegates next year.

**(Application follows)**



*CALIFORNIA / NEW ZEALAND  
2003 - 2004 LIFEGUARD EXCHANGE*

**TO:** *All current members of the California Surf Life Saving Association (CSLSA).*

**WHAT:** *The California SLSA has again been invited by the Auckland, New Zealand SLSA representatives to participate in a lifeguard exchange program. This is the thirty-first year this exchange has taken place between Auckland and California.*

**WHEN:** *Approximately December 26, 2003 through February 13, 2004 (exact dates TBA)*

**RESPONSIBILITY:** *The two California SLSA members will be responsible for their own food and transportation costs to and from Auckland. Auckland SLSA will provide accommodations throughout the exchange. The CSLSA will sponsor a portion of the airfare to New Zealand (upon satisfactorily completing the tour).*

**HOW TO APPLY:**

1. *Must have a minimum of three summers of open water lifeguard experience and three years membership in the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA);*
2. *Must presently be a member of the California SLSA (CSLSA) in good standing;*
3. *Must provide resume and cover page including name, agency and phone number.*
4. *Must have two (2) letters of recommendation. One from each of the following:*
  - a. *Your Chief Lifeguard, Captain, or Lieutenant*
  - b. *Your SLSA chapter President*
5. *Must complete an oral interview with final approval given by the CSLSA Executive Board.*
6. *Applicants from USLA certified agencies are highly desirable.*

**MAIL TO:** *CALIFORNIA / NEW ZEALAND LIFEGUARD EXCHANGE  
California Surf Life Saving Association  
P. O. Box 366, Huntington Beach, CA 92648*

**DEADLINE:** *All materials must be received (or post marked) by Wednesday, August 27, 2003.*

**INTERVIEW:** *Date, location and time of interview TBA  
Interview Results And Selections To Be Announced  
By September 15<sup>th</sup>*

**INFORMATION:** *Contact Chris Graham at the above address, by phone @ (949) 770-1313 x 203, (cslsa.org)*