



Don Whiterod – New Zealand Service award

Otaki Surf Lifesaving Club member Donald Whiterod was recently awarded a New Zealand Service award for his services to lifesaving.

Don originally joined the Otaki Surf Lifesaving club to support his children's activities but became a qualified lifeguard in 1985 and undertook patrol duties for 17 years and competed for the club for 11 years.

He was involved in re-building the Otaki clubrooms in 1987/88 after they were destroyed by fire and since then has maintained the buildings and taken a key role on the committee as building steward. In 2008 Don played a major role in the building extension programme costing \$185,000, adding gear storage sheds and a committee room to the ground floor, with a large balcony on top. He has also been a member of work parties to assist run six major District and Regional competitions at Otaki over the past ten years.

Don was awarded Life Membership of the club in 2008, and holds a Western District Service award and Distinguished Service award for his contribution to surf lifesaving.

Club President, Neale Ames, said "Don really deserves this award. He is very involved in all aspects of the club and has worked very hard looking after our major asset over a long period of time. He upholds the surf lifesaving motto 'In it for Life' and we look forward to having his expertise on tap far in to the future".

Neale Ames
President
Otaki Surf Lifesaving Club
06 3648203
027 262 4095