

# Donation will boost lifeguard education

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SAFER beaches look assured for summer.

Surf Life Saving Taranaki has been given \$10,000 by Shell Todd Oil Services (STOS) which will see about 20 of the region's junior lifeguards receive vital education.

It is hoped the training will work towards bridging a critical gap in Surf Lifesaving Taranaki's training programme and put more experienced lifeguards on local beaches.

The lifeguards will spend six weeks from October 3 completing the local intermediate training programme and then the national advanced course with other central region lifeguards in November.

The advanced course has been running for three to four years but only two lifeguards from Taranaki have gone through it in that time.

From there it is hoped the guards will start running patrols and be seen in local schools taking beach education classes.

District manager for Surf Life-

saving Taranaki Sue McMaster said the courses would improve beach safety and then prepare the young guards for leadership roles in the future.

She said the region did have senior guards but this needed to be sustained with younger lifeguards receiving training.

STOS had said the \$10,000 was the start of what it hoped would be a long partnership with Surf Lifesaving Taranaki.

General manager Rob Jager said as "an operator of coastal assets we have a strong connection with Surf Lifesaving

Taranaki's goal to make Taranaki beaches safer.

"With summer just around the corner we are thrilled to be supporting this much-needed programme," he said.

Surf Lifesaving Taranaki is now on the hunt for 20 eager lifeguards to complete the courses. Anyone keen should contact the organisation.

Training will include classroom work and then a range of rescue scenarios including first aid in and out of the water, developing IRB skills, and carrying out duties in diverse conditions.