



# Coastguard rescue praised

**A** BOATING accident made Ilse Hull thank her lucky stars she didn't cancel her family's Coastguard membership.

Mrs Hull was enjoying a family trip on their boat last month when she slipped and fell into the cabin.

She gashed her eye and her other injuries included dislocating her shoulder.

After a day of fishing and a picnic on Waiheke Island, the family was returning home when the wind came up.

Mrs Hull clung to a pole for safety, but she was sent flying into the cabin when a freak wave hit the boat.

Her husband Chris was under pressure keeping the craft on course and their two daughters became upset, so when the Coastguard arrived within 15 minutes the family was grateful.

Mrs Hull does not remember much, except that one of the rescuers Alan Martin held her head and ensured she didn't fall asleep.

"I repeated to him 'let me sleep'," she says. "Alan said no, and really talked me through everything."

The Coastguard volunteers, including Jenny Rowsell, Justin Jury and Ian Gibson, made sure the girls were safe, sailing them next to the Hulls' boat so they could keep their mother in sight. Mrs Hull was taken to hospital.

"What was so nice was that the next day Alan called to see how I was and what was wrong," says Mrs Hull, who teaches special-needs children.

A week-and-a-half later, Mr Martin popped in for a visit to check up on her.

He says Mrs Hull is "very lucky" and he personally wanted to make

sure she was okay.

"When I got to her, she was really badly injured," he says.

Mr Martin, of Howick, has been a Coastguard volunteer for more than five years and is involved with the service because he wants to put something back into the community.

With both arms in slings, Mrs Hull says the incident has really opened her eyes.

"You never think it will happen to you, but accidents happen to anyone," she says.

The Bucklands Beach resident is glad the family has maintained its Coastguard membership.

"I used to get angry with my husband for donating and paying for the membership," she says.

"Now I think every cent that goes to them is worth it."



**RESCUE REUNION:**  
 Ilse Hull, centre, with Howick Coastguard volunteers, from left, Jenny Rowsell, Alan Martin, Justin Jury and Ian Gibson.  
Times photo: Leigh Stockton

## INFORMATION ABOUT ORGANISATION

■ Howick Coastguard attended 60 incidents last year. It attended 40 last December and 36 this January.

■ The organisation welcomes donations. To become a member, email [sec@howickcoastguard.org](mailto:sec@howickcoastguard.org)

■ For the whole northern region, from July until December 2009, there were 949 incidents.

■ Sixty per cent of those rescued are not members, so they will have to pay the high costs that incur.

■ Auckland Coastguard, which has seven vessels, attended 80 incidents in December and 129 in January.

■ There are 38 volunteer Howick Volunteer Coastguard members who live within a 10-minute drive of the beach.