



Sweetheart badges were tiny tokens of love, often given by sailors to their families before heading to sea.

Worn on clothes, they showed pride, hope, and sometimes sadness. Made from brass, silver, plastic—whatever a sailor could find and repurpose—these badges helped people remember someone special sailing far away — or someone who didn't return. This one was made using a Merchant Navy medal that a sailor received and refashioned for Kathleen, his sweetheart.

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Medal Makers

Weekdays 30 June-11 July 2025
10am-2:30pm | \$5 per child
Bookings recommended

What does bravery look like?
Who inspires you? And what are you proud of?

Join us these school holidays for a creative programme where tamariki explore stories of courage, innovation and pride from New Zealand's rich maritime history then design a special medal to celebrate what makes them heroic.

July
School
Holidays



THE mini māui CLUB

June 2025

#19: Medal Makers

What makes someone brave? Find out in Medal Makers, our exciting school holiday programme!



Orpheus Beaumont: Life Saver

From the start, Orpheus Beaumont was marked by the ocean. She was born in 1863 to a fishing family in Jersey, not long after her brother was thought to have drowned in a terrible shipwreck aboard *HMS Orpheus* — a warship that sank off New Zealand. Her brother survived, but the sea had already left its shadow.



Orpheus Beaumont

Orpheus believed that shadow followed her. She was haunted by dreams of drowning and claimed the sea wanted to take her. But she refused to let it win.

After the *Titanic* sank in 1912, with over 1,500 lives lost, Orpheus had an idea. The cork life jackets used then were

clumsy and dangerous. She designed something better: the *Salvus* — Latin for "safe." Made from canvas and stuffed with kapok (a soft, water-repelling tree fibre), her life jacket was easy to put on, even upside down, and could safely hold a baby.

The British Navy approved it. Factories in London and Liverpool made thousands. The *Salvus* became standard in the British fleet and saved every passenger aboard the sinking *RMS Tahiti* in 1930.

Yet, newspapers gave credit to her husband. Even his obituary called him the inventor. But Orpheus knew — and so did her descendants.

She used to say the ocean spoke to her with the voices of people who had drowned, said her great-granddaughter Caroline. Inventing the life jacket was her way of keeping people safe from the sea.



Salvus lifejacket designed by Orpheus Beaumont

L1994-351-278_001

Lifesaver legends

Lifesavers are everyday heroes because they help keep people (and pets!) safe in the water — now it's your turn to become a hero by finding all the hidden words!

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1 Rescue | 8 Tower |
| 2 Whistle | 9 Surf |
| 3 Patrol | 10 Safety |
| 4 Swim | 11 Watch |
| 5 Float | 12 Red |
| 6 CPR | 13 Flag |
| 7 Lifebuoy | 14 First Aid |



Z O X G W R B Q K D W A T C H
J Q F D T N E U E J T O W E R
F M Z L J J I S D B I X U K Q
H P N F A K W I C R E P D I Y
Z Q E E Q G A Y Z U M I U T X
I E P L H V F B G B E R E D T
C P R P T R W R A A I F Y X S
T A X S U U Z H G Y A F L N L
D A R S N J S U I S W I K O A
N I S P Y U W E X S U A R D T
F K U S R C I X G E T T T A H
C N G Q Q G M H V J A L O C X
L I F E B U O Y X P I L E N H
E Q P C M O H F Y B F K F M M
U B Q C K I Z Y Y V L U R C L

Strong women. Strong swimsuit style. Meet the Milford Girls' Surf Life Saving team!

Photo by James Robert Snowden
(b.1904, d.1982)
1993.159.17



How do divers communicate?

They use speech bubbles!

What's a jellyfish's favourite sweet?

Jellybeans!

Spot the difference



Differences: 1. Puffer fish deflated 2. Flounder fish changed to yellow fish 3. Jellyfish tentacles 4. Jellyfish tentacles 5. Coral flower 6. Puffer fish changed to yellow fish 7. Jellyfish tentacles 8. Jellyfish tentacles 9. Jellyfish tentacles 10. Jellyfish tentacles

Safe at Sea Competition

Win a copy of *Ocean Scene* – Discover amazing underwater animals, explore fascinating facts, and build your own fantastic 3D ocean scene.

Design something that keeps you and your pet safe at sea. How would it protect you both during a big wave or storm — maybe it floats, flies, or even glows in the dark?

Enter

by emailing us at info@maritimemuseum.co.nz

or tag us on Insta or Facebook:

@nzmaritimemuseum

Explorers' Shield entries

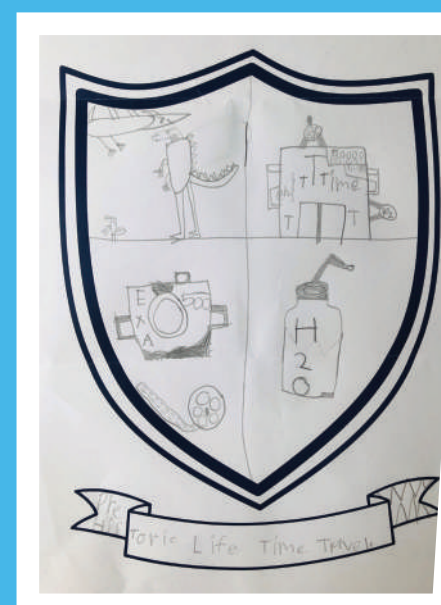
We had so many fantastic entries in the April Explorers' Shield competition — you are all incredibly imaginative!

Shout-outs to:

Luka Vuletich, age 7
Eleanor Chan, age 3
Hana Lingard, age 8

And our winner is... **Annabella**, age 5!
Her mum told us she spent ages working on her shield — and it shows.
Well done, Annabella!

Winner



Luka Vuletich



Eleanor Chan



Hana Lingard