

- **Taylors Mistake Surf Life Saving Club prepares to build a new home**

- JAMIE SMALL

- Last updated 17:58, March 12 2017



GEORGE HEARD/FAIRFAX NZ

Taylors Mistake Surf Lifesaving Club president Ken Jones says the club's new building will be "humble" but more visually appealing than what's there now.

A century-old surf life saving club in Christchurch is preparing for its next stage of life after spending its first season without its clubhouse.

Taylors Mistake Surf Life Saving Club had its building red stickered at the end of last summer, after the 2016 Valentines Day earthquake rendered its previous stop-gap repairs unsafe.

The club had just celebrated its 100th anniversary, president Ken Jones said.



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Taylors Mistake Surf Lifesaving Club operated out of portacom over the last summer.

"When I first took over as president I said my aim was to deliver a new clubhouse by our centenary. Of course, I didn't take into consideration the earthquake process."

The building was damaged in the September 2010 and February 2011 quakes, but it was the one on June 13, 2011 – centred just 10 kilometres east of Taylors Mistake – that pushed it over the line.



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Ken Jones says it is uneconomic to repair the damaged clubhouse.

"We felt unsafe in having our members in the building," Jones said.

Club volunteers pitched in to help strengthen the clubhouse and make it safe to occupy, but this summer, the club had to operate out of three portacom buildings.

The temporary facility, which cost the club about \$95,000, included a first aid room, a patrol and administration room, and a smoko room.

"We had to do something urgently . . . basically all this enables us to do is provide our voluntary lifeguard service."

The beach itself was becoming more popular, and the club put in about 1500 voluntary patrolling hours every summer.

The club took on more new lifeguards this summer than any other since the earthquakes, thanks in part to community funding, which Jones said he was thankful for.

"We've become a strong club with really not a great facility."

The club faces two-time constraints in settling its insurance claim and starting to build a new clubhouse.

Firstly, there is a six-year statute of limitations on insurance claims for the earthquakes, and that time is up.

The club is also sitting on a \$300,000 Canterbury Earthquake Appeal Trust Grant for its new building.

"The deal with that is that we have to start work by the 18th of March. We've really got a bit tight on that one."

The club was trying to negotiate an extension, he said.

It was uneconomic to repair the old building, mainly because coastal hazards meant a significant part of the floor would have to be raised by over a metre.

The rebuild was expected to cost about \$3 million, plus another \$400,000 for engineers, architects, and other contributors.

"We're insured for one-and-a-half million and we may possibly get a multi-event claim which might lift that," Jones said.

"It's going to be a humble facility. It's not extravagant. [But] it's going to be more visually appealing than what we have at the moment."

The club had started approached the community for donations, and would soon start applying for grants.

"There are a lot of people in the community that are interested in what's going on

"It's really funny, you save someone at the beach one day, and they come back and want to give you money."

By the time the club worked through official processes, it could be three to five years before construction began, Jones said.

- Stuff