

# Celeste a mentor in the making

*Celeste Moffatt is an enabler. She likes to make things happen - sometimes, she says, to her detriment when her plate is already well loaded.*

As the only fulltime paid employee of the 800-member Papamoa Surf Lifesaving Club, she mainly works in isolation, something that suits her independent spirit, but makes it hard when she needs a sounding board to share her ideas and acknowledge her direction.

“I don’t have a problem working independently, but it is good to collaborate with someone and get input for good decision making,” she says.

So, when Tauranga Chamber of Commerce Business Mentor Manager Gayle Hardie approached her to be a business mentor after hearing her speak at a networking meeting, Celeste’s interest was piqued.

Mentors share their knowledge and experience with small and medium-sized business owners throughout New Zealand to help them grow their businesses. There is also a community mentor programme available for not-for profit organisations.

And while Celeste says she will happily share information if it can help someone else, she felt she needed to experience mentoring from the “other side” first.

“I wanted to know what other pathways we could go down,” she says.

After doing some homework to see what she could gain and then give back, Celeste says she liked what she saw and put herself forward for some “professional development”.

As Administration and Funding Manager of the club, one of the biggest challenges Celeste faces is typical of not-for-profit organisations – lack of funding. So, she was grateful to be the recipient of a NZ Lotteries grant, initiated by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and BMNZ, which enabled her to be linked with BMNZ mentor Wayne Shadbolt.

The pair clicked straight away and last December, after their first five months working together, they saw the fruition of their teamwork and fundraising skills with the arrival of the club’s first new beach response vehicle - just in time for the peak summer season.

“Between us it all came together quite quickly,” Wayne says.

Celeste wears many hats in her role for the club, which was named 2017-18 Zespri BOP Club of the year and was also a regional winner at the 2018 Trustpower Community Awards. She appreciates the value of good time management, but even she can get overwhelmed by the multitude of tasks on hand. One minute she can be ordering uniforms and organising building WOFs and the next she’ll be on a fundraising campaign and/or out meeting people in the community sharing her passion for the lifesaving cause.



“I need to be a good time manager as well as being flexible as things can change as the day unfolds,” she says.

In order for Celeste to be able to manage the amount and variety of work on hand, Wayne guided her to prioritise jobs, ascertaining what needed to be done straight away and what could wait – so she was not trying to think of everything at once.

“It’s basic business planning – but will allow her to get through what she needs to do,” he says.

Celeste appreciates Wayne’s strategic and “holistic” advice and being able to bounce her ideas off him without fear of judgement.

“I’m a creative thinker and like to engage in conversations and am not afraid to listen to an opinion,” she says. “So, it is good to collaborate with someone who has all the skills and knowledge, and who has also been on the same pathway.”

Celeste is passionate about her job and the club she and her husband have been coming to since her children were small.

“Because we lived here, it was non-negotiable that our children were going to learn about the surf,” she says.

And even though she doesn’t mind working alone, she is eager to get out into the community to spread the word. She is also happy to pass on any information, advice and whatever other skills she has that could make someone else’s job easier.

“I happily share systems I’ve put in place if it helps other people,” she says. “If you have a spreadsheet that works, then why wouldn’t you?”

Celeste Moffatt sounds like a mentor in the making.