

MARCH 2013: ST CLAIR, ST KILDA & SUNSET BEACH



SURF LIFE SAVING  
NEW ZEALAND

NATIONAL WINNER



# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

## RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

*In it for life*

**Date/time:** Friday 1 March 2013  
**Location:** Purakaunui Area  
**Lifeguards involved:** Cameron Third (St Kilda), Max Corboy (St Kilda), Arthur Ibbotson (St Clair), Samuel Dwen (Sunset)

While setting up for the Southern IRB Championships at Warrington one Friday afternoon, lifeguards were alerted to a 13 year-old who was close to drowning around the Purakaunui area.

A Dunedin surfer had rushed to her aid when she and around 80 other Year Nine students from Columba College, got caught in a rip.

Fortunately the crews were working nearby and were able to send out a boat quickly to assist. Max Corboy and Cameron Third, along with other club members who were at Warrington, helped to get an IRB ready and launched. A second IRB was set up and launched by Arthur Ibbotson and Sam Dwen.

Max and Cameron arrived into the surf and took the distressed girl who was being supported by the surfer from out the back of the break. On their way back to shore they found around 10-15 girls clinging to a tyre tube and onto one another. They were all in distress and couldn't touch the bottom. The rescue helicopter had just landed as the lifeguards arrived. Paul Sharp, Cameron and Max swam out to the group and assisted them into the shore by coaching them along and dragging the floatation device.

Once on shore, Cameron did an

initial triage by splitting the group into two sections; the students who were uninjured and the ones who needed treatment. Cameron and Max then started to treat the patients while Paul continued to assess patients in the triage area.

When the second IRB arrived, they kept the uninjured group organised and reassured. When fire, police and ambulance crews arrived, Cameron gave them a handover briefing and they then took over the scene control and treatment.

Cameron and Max assisted with treatment using their medical knowledge and training as St John volunteers and they further assisted with patient loading into the helicopter and ambulances.

Four of the students were taken in the helicopter and six were transported by ambulance to the hospital. One student remained in hospital overnight.

The lifeguards demonstrated great skill driving the IRBs through two metre swells and then a five to 10 minute drive along to Purakaunui. They also showed leadership by splitting the group into areas until the police arrived on scene. Had the lifeguards not been in the area with their IRBs setting up for the champs that weekend, it could have been a very different story.



RECOGNISING  
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