

FEBRUARY 2014: KARIAOTAHU SLSC



NATIONAL WINNER



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

In it for life

Date/time: Thursday 6 February 2014 at 3.00pm
Location: 500 metres north of the club house
Lifeguards involved: Shannon Benterman (Patrol Captain),
Guy Hornblow, Jessica Jackson,
Rebecca Jackson and Caitlin Browne

Lifeguards had been kept busy with preventive actions on February 6 due to a late afternoon low tide and large numbers of beach goers for Waitangi Day.

All lifeguards were on their toes with their eyes fixed on the water when suddenly Guy Hornblow noticed a hand up just north of the flagged area, approximately 500 metres from the club house.

He alerted Patrol Captain Shannon Benterman who dispatched Rebecca Jackson and Caitlin Browne from the flagged area with rescue tubes while Guy and Jessica Jackson launched an IRB.

Lifeguards were sent from the club to cover the flagged area and to have first aid equipment and resuscitation equipment readily available.

Rebecca and Caitlin were making good progress towards the body boarder in distress when two members of the public decided that they would also jump into the rip to try and assist the lifeguards.

Guy and Jessica saw them enter the water and made the decision to detour and tell them to return to shore before they got into trouble themselves.

The two members of the public listened to the lifeguards and started to make their way back to shore.

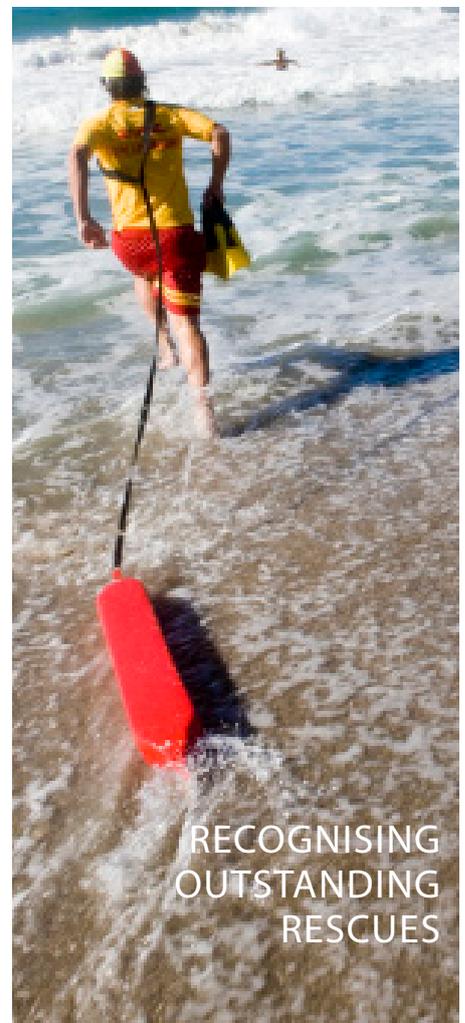
The IRB collected the body boarder and returned him to shore safely before turning the IRB around and heading back out to check on the two lifeguards who were still in the water along with the members of the public who attempted to assist.

They had lost their footing and were now in trouble themselves. Rebecca and Caitlin had seen this unfolding and they managed to clip the patients into tubes. Guy now had the challenging job of positioning the IRB on the front bar that was dumping heavily, while Jessica pulled in the patient who was in the most distress. To make the situation more complicated, the patient was nearly three times her size and weight.

Once he was in the boat, Guy and Jessica came back around with the IRB and picked up the second adult who was being propped up with a tube. With the IRB maxed out with weight and the surf set period too small to turn the boat around, Guy had to proceed through the bar and wait for a lull in the surf before he could turn the boat around and make his run back to the beach.

Back on shore, all three patients were assessed and it was confirmed that there

were no further swimmers in the rip. Lifeguards returned to their usual patrol operations and the rest of the day passed, incident free.



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