

DECEMBER 2016: RIVERSDALE SLSC



NATIONAL WINNER



# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

## RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

*In it for life*

Date: December 28, 2016

Location: Northern end of Riversdale Beach

Lifeguards involved: Peter Taylor, Matt Sisson, George Sims, Guy Ritani, Ben Taylor, Harry Ritchie, Harry McKay, Liam Taylor, Angus Hermansson, Sam Taylor, Kent Newman, Jack Frizzel

On the afternoon of December 28, Patrol Captain Peter Taylor received a call from Wellington Police advising that there was an incident at a popular diving spot at the northern end of Riversdale Beach, approximately 1km from the patrol area.

Peter radioed the patrol team to investigate and the 2pm regular mobile patrol was already underway. At this point, Regional Lifeguard Matt Sisson was responding to the scene after witnessing a patient had been dragged out of the water by a diver.

Matt assessed the situation and immediately moved the patient further up the beach, as the tide was turning, and commenced CPR.

Peter called 111 and was advised that an ambulance and rescue helicopter were responding to the scene and he then radioed the patrol to send an IRB and first responder's kit to the scene. Regional Lifeguard George Sims and volunteer lifeguard Harry McKay navigated their way through the rocks at the northern end of the beach to land the IRB and assist at the scene.

On arrival, George set up the Oxygen and assisted with CPR while Harry made radio contact with base and continued to communicate the patient's status. Peter also called for support from South patrol. Regional Lifeguard Ben Taylor responded and delivered the second first responder's kit to the scene after borrowing a vehicle. Off duty lifeguards had also responded, reporting to the club after hearing the emergency siren.

Peter co-ordinated their support by sending volunteer lifeguards Guy Ritani, Angus Hermanson and Harry Ritchie to the local camp to retrieve a second defibrillator unit and then report to the scene to set up a landing site for the helicopter. Guy assisted with CPR while Harry and Angus set up crowd control.

Peter then placed junior volunteer lifeguards onto the road corners to direct the ambulance on its arrival and senior lifeguards Kent Newman and Sam Taylor were sent to maintain north patrol.

Regional Lifeguard Liam Taylor then took a defibrillator to the scene and assisted with crowd control. Two off duty paramedics and a doctor reported to the club so Peter sent them to the scene with Liam and Jack Frizzel. On arrival, the paramedics assisted with CPR and the defibrillator advised no shock required. The doctor reassessed and the patient was pronounced dead. Ben returned to the club to transport the patient's family to the scene and the lifeguards and paramedics stepped back to allow the family time to grieve.

The ambulance arrived and Peter advised the paramedics of the situation and remained at the surf club to make contact with the rescue helicopter which was going to land nearby and transport the body.

Committee members were in action on the road outside of the club to stop vehicle access onto the beach. Once the body had been transported from the scene, the lifeguards packed up the site and returned to base for a debrief.

While it was not a positive outcome, lifeguards gave the patient the best possible chance of survival with early CPR and defibrillation.