

NOVEMBER 2012: PIHA SLSC



NORTHERN WINNER



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

In it for life

Date/time: Monday 22 October 2012

Location: Piha

Lifeguards involved: Paul Picot, Alice Sagar, Paul Downey, Jason Anderson, Tony Featherstone, Tony Adams, Olivia Adams, Christian Robertson, Vonda Karolczak, Mikaela Ryan, Anna Karolczak Young, Roger Wallis, Jordan Pope, Eric Morigan and Ukiah Brown

From the deck of the Piha Surf Life Saving Club, Lifeguards could see two male fisherman in a spot that would soon be battered by large surf and would eventually be underwater, as it wasn't far off high tide.

At midday Paul Picot and Christian Robertson dispatched an IRB to go and warn the two fishermen. Upon arrival, only one of the gentlemen could speak very broken English but Paul and Christian warned them as best they could what was about to happen to their fishing spot.

The fisherman declined any assistance saying they would wait six hours until the tide was low enough to walk from their fishing spot. Paul radioed his findings back to the patrol deck and the IRB returned to shore.

Lifeguards kept watch on them for the rest of the patrol. With two hours until high tide, the swell was building as the tide was coming in and the Lifeguards didn't want to leave the two fisherman on the rocks as they could foresee them getting trapped. Visibility was fading fast and they didn't have any torches or warm clothing with them - it was a recipe for disaster.

At 3pm Paul and Roger Wallis dispatched yet another IRB to go and try to talk to them again but it was difficult to communicate the danger they were in. The surf was battering both the IRB and the fisherman but they still didn't understand the danger.

Paul and Roger returned back to shore. Tony Featherstone informed Surf Com of the situation and at 3.30pm they decided that they needed to get a Lifeguard onto the rocks to talk to them face-to-face about the growing danger they were in. They dispatched two IRBs, one with Paul and Alice Sagar and the other with Roger, Jason Anderson and Eric Morigan. They took two extra lifejackets for the fishermen.

Roger entered the water with a rescue tube and fins and did a rock landing in challenging conditions to get to the fishermen. After some discussion, they realised the fishermen realized the danger they were in. Roger then got both of them into life jackets to prepare them for the extraction from the rocks. He then coached both fishermen around the rocks until he found a safe place to get an IRB in for collection. Every step of the way they radioed through to the patrol deck to inform them what was going on.

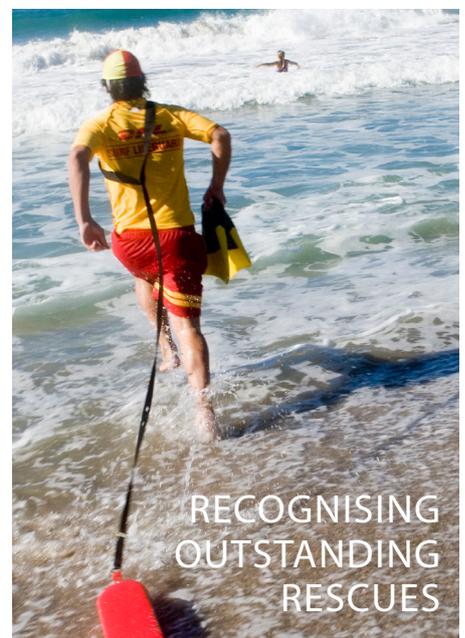
Jason and Eric did the first extraction off the rocks while Paul and Alice did the second extraction. Both fishermen were wet and cold at this stage and Paul radioed the patrol deck to send a quad with blankets to meet both IRBs and patients on the beach.

Upon arrival Christian Robertson, Jordan Pope and Tony Adams were there with warm blankets to wrap around and comfort both fishermen who were

cold and rather shaken after the whole experience. Tony and Jordan took both fishermen up to the first aid room where Vonda Karolczak, Mikaela Ryan, Anna Karolczak and Olivia Adams warned them up while watching for signs of shock and hypothermia. Vonda was also recording details for the incident report form.

When both fishermen had warmed up and were in good spirits and the Lifeguards were happy they were ok, the fisherman left.

Due to the quick response, good knowledge of the beach and water conditions and good medical training, the Lifeguards managed to avoid a night search and rescue of the two fishermen.



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