

NOVEMBER 2012: ST CLAIR SLSC



NATIONAL WINNER



# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

## RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

**Date/time:** 1800, Wednesday 14 November 2012

**Location:** St Clair Beach

**Lifeguards involved:** James Coombes, Joel Davies, Carina Doyle, Adam Harvey, Arthur Ibbotson, Angus Mackenzie, Georgia Manera, James Rolfe, Jessie Schneiders, Heather Thompson & Ossian Woods

*In it for life*

Despite an unfortunate outcome, Surf Lifeguards at St Clair Beach gave a patient a fighting chance when they responded within a minute of the patient collapsing on the water's edge.

The senior St Clair squad was out on the water training on the evening of November 14 when members of the squad noticed two people assisting another person on the water's edge.

Joel Davies, who was the closest member of the squad to shore, approached the scene to determine what was going on.

Upon initial assessment of a critical incident by Joel and senior Lifeguard James Coombes, several other members of the squad were sent up to the club house to contact emergency services and retrieve all available first aid equipment, including a defibrillator and oxygen.

Adam Harvey, who was present at the club alongside James Rolfe, responded to the request for assistance and called for an ambulance while Georgia Manera and Ossian Woods retrieved the first aid equipment and delivered this to Joel who assumed the primary role in assisting the patient.

At this time, it was assumed by both Joel and James that this patient required immediate assistance through

the use of oxygen, which was set up by Arthur Ibbotson and Angus Mackenzie. Joel began CPR immediately while the boys were setting up the oxygen and it was then subsequently administered to the patient. Once the defibrillator arrived, a shock was given as emergency services arrived on the scene.

Two ambulance crews were greeted and assisted to the scene by Carina Doyle, Heather Thompson and Jessie Schneiders. Gradually, the paramedics took over the treatment of the patient with assistance from the Lifeguards. The Lifeguards then assisted with moving the patient from the beach and into the ambulance, which was waiting at the surf club, and the patient was taken to hospital.

The patient was then placed on life support in hospital but eventually passed away on Sunday 18 November.

All Lifeguards involved demonstrated a high skill level - from the initial assessment of the incident and determining immediately the severity of the situation to the administration of the oxygen and defibrillator. The skills involved in the application of the first aid was matched by the management and organisational skills passed on by the senior Lifeguards involved.



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