

JANUARY 2013: WHAKATANE SLSC



EASTERN WINNER



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

Date/time: Sunday 6 January 2013
Location: Whakatane Heads
Lifeguards involved: Barry Cutfield and Chantal Lillas

In it for life

Patrol was in full swing, with the tail end of a cyclone producing high seas, when Lifeguards received word that two people were stranded on the rocks at Whakatane Heads.

Barry Cutfield and Chantal Lillas headed out around the heads in the IRB to see what could be done. In the meantime, a second IRB was being prepared.

Barry stood off the rocks watching the surf and waves, not knowing the condition of the two people. The pair noticed a pattern in the waves where the sets weren't as large and between them, they were confident that Barry could get Chantal on the rocks to assess the people.

They managed that successfully and Chantal then had to run over 30 meters of slippery and jagged rocks on bare feet to get away from the next surge of waves.

As she checked out the patients she contacted Coastguard and the police. Meanwhile, Barry waited for the second IRB to arrive so he could have another crew to help with the rescue off the rocks.

During this time, the surf size had increased, adding extra risk. Chantal, along with the Coastguard and police, made the call to get in a helicopter to winch them off the rocks. In the meantime Chantal kept the stranded patients warm and comfortable with the resources she had available to her.



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