

FEBRUARY 2013: BETHELLS BEACH SLSC



NATIONAL WINNER



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

Date/time: 24 February 2013 at 5pm
Location: Bethells Beach
Lifeguards involved: Kylan Dray, Rosie Disberry, Donal Dray-Hogg, Luke Good, Joel Scheepens, Sota Kamiya, Damian Reddington, Nikita Maddaford, Theo Carrad, Dean Maddaford, Nelson Baker, James Kendrick, Matt Walker, Lauren Gibbs & Teneale Hatton

In it for life

Surf Lifeguards had just closed the flagged area at 5pm on February 24 and were packing up when a member of the public alerted them to a swimmer in trouble.

The swimmer was rapidly drifting north of Bethells Beach in a hole running parallel to shore and was making no effort to swim.

Lifeguard Donal Dray-Hogg was in the rhino vehicle watching over the crossed flagged area. He radioed the tower for assistance and upon transmission, fellow lifeguards Kylan Dray, Lauren Gibbs and Luke Good jumped off the tower and progressed towards the patient to assist.

Donal had secured the patient and soon after Lauren and Luke were with Donal to transport the patient out of the water whilst Kylan launched the IRB.

As Lauren and Luke were assisting Donal, the patient fell unconscious. Lauren and Luke, assisted by two members of the public, carried the patient to safety while Lauren also signalled for help. When the patient was safely on the beach, Kylan brought over the first aid response bag and stimulated response of the patient who managed to briefly open her eyes.

Meanwhile Donal had made radio contact with Surfcom and Rosie Disberry had arrived on scene from the tower and administered oxygen while Lauren continued to talk to the patient in a bid to get information of any family or friends she was

with. Joel Scheepens and a member of the public placed towels and insulation blankets over the patient for warmth while Rosie and Lauren treated the patient for shock. Kylan, Joel and Sota Kamiya proceeded to remove other swimmers from the water.

The patient was conscious with a weak, rapid pulse. She told lifeguards that she was with her partner while drifting in and out of consciousness.

Lifeguard Teneale Hatton had arrived on scene and took vital signs of the patient and Lauren instructed Donal to request an ambulance. This progressed to a request for the rescue helicopter as the patient had deteriorated and was vomiting.

The patient was put onto a spinal board and was transported to the helicopter landing zone in the Bethells reserve. Dean Maddaford had a defibrillator on standby.

The patient then had a fit for around 30 seconds. Damian Reddington was elevating her legs while Lauren and Teneale maintained ABCs. When Westpac arrived, Lauren began handover of the semi-conscious patient who was then transported to Auckland Hospital.

A quick response with correct equipment and application were key factors to the result in this incident. The outcome could have been very different if lifeguards weren't present.



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