

FEBRUARY 2013: OMANU BEACH SLSC



EASTERN WINNER



# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

## RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

**Date/time:** 12 February 2013  
**Location:** Omanu Beach  
**Lifeguards involved:** Josh Jarvis, Fletcher Swan and Omanu nipper Jayden Rutten

*In it for life*

Despite not being old enough to sit his Lifeguard Award, 11 year-old nipper Jayden Rutten didn't hesitate to help a man in distress who had been taken out to sea in a rip.

The Omanu Surf Life Saving Club member was training on the afternoon of February 12 when he was alerted to a male in his mid-thirties, struggling to stay afloat with his small boogie board. The man had no fins and was wearing three-quarter pants.

Jayden exchanged his G-Board for the man's boogie board so that he was better kept afloat.

Meanwhile, two young lifeguards, Josh Jarvis and Fletcher Swan, were arriving for their evening training when they were directed to assist Jayden with the rescue. They went out on kneeboards to help bring in the patient.

Once out on the water, despite the tricky conditions and the obvious distress and fatigue on the patient, they finally managed to transfer him to one of the glass boards and together they got him back to shore.

The patient was feeling dizzy, was clearly distressed and it was suspected that he had inhaled salt water. Given these indicators, the patient was administered oxygen by a senior lifeguard and an ambulance was also called.

It is highly likely that, had the three boys not assisted, a drowning was a very probably outcome. The man was significantly bigger than any of the three boys and he was rapidly tiring and heavy, which also presented additional difficulties.

Despite not having any formal lifeguard training, Jayden showed a maturity beyond his years and Josh and Fletcher were involved in their first rescue since qualifying as lifeguards last year.



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