

MARCH 2013: MT MAUNGANUI LGS



EASTERN WINNER



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

Date/time: Sunday 9 March 2013 at 8pm
Location: Mount Maunganui Main Beach - Leisure Island
Lifeguards involved: Kent Jarman, Julien Lalanne.
Support team: Shelley Kerr, Adrien Lambolez, Mickael Lambolez, and Marie-Helen Paquette

In it for life

During a busy Saturday at Mount Maunganui as the State New Zealand Surf Life Saving Championships were taking place, a surfer had got himself into trouble in a rip that had been keeping lifeguards extremely busy all day.

Lifeguards were alerted shortly before 8pm when Shelley Kerr received a call from Northcoms about the male surfer who was being swept out past Leisure (Moturiki) Island. He was signalling to people on the island that he needed help.

Big surf had resulted in numerous rescues throughout the day's patrol. Patrol captain Kent Jarman had been catching up with friends on the surf club deck and along with Shelley, they were just getting ready to go home. Julien Lalanne, who had been competing all day, was also relaxing after dinner.

Dusk was falling fast as Kent and Julien reacted quickly and launched the IRB from the island end of the main beach. They had been searching for about 10 minutes with the help of people on the island, pointing out the surfer's location.

The surfer was spotted 300 metres off

the end of the island. He was picked up and returned to the beach near the surf club. By this stage, it was pitch black.

The surfer was very cold as he had been surfing only in board shorts. He was put under a warm shower and then taken to the first aid room where he was wrapped in blankets. He recovered quickly once he had warmed up and just before 9pm, once the police had checked on him and taken his details, he was allowed to go home.

Kent and Julien's advanced IRB and search skills were crucial to the quick resolution of this rescue. The response time was around four minutes from receiving the call to the IRB being launched.

The rescue required an exceptionally strong team as the exact location of the patient was not immediately known. Kent's experience and local knowledge of rip currents were vital in narrowing down the search zone. There's a strong chance a fatality would have occurred had the response and rescue operation taken any longer.



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