

JANUARY 2014: RIVERSDALE SLSC



# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

## RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

CENTRAL WINNER

*In it for life*

**Date/time:** Sunday 5 January 2014 at 3.20pm  
**Location:** Riversdale Beach  
**Lifeguards involved:** Caitlyn Duffy, Mackenzie Hepburn and Guy Ritani

A jet skier, who had ventured out into the surf in extreme winds, was lucky that lifeguards were on hand to assist him on January 5 when he fell off and became separated from his jet ski.

Riversdale lifeguards had warned the man and a friend that they shouldn't go too far out because of the bad weather.

Lifeguard Guy Ritani approached the pair, warning them that they would be putting the lifeguards in danger if they had to go out and rescue them, as the wind could tip the IRB.

He watched the pair closely, who were taking turns riding the jet ski, and he soon saw the jet ski sitting alone in the water. It was around 600 metres off shore and even through the binoculars, the rider was nowhere to be seen.

Guy was frustrated, knowing he had advised the man that this would likely happen.

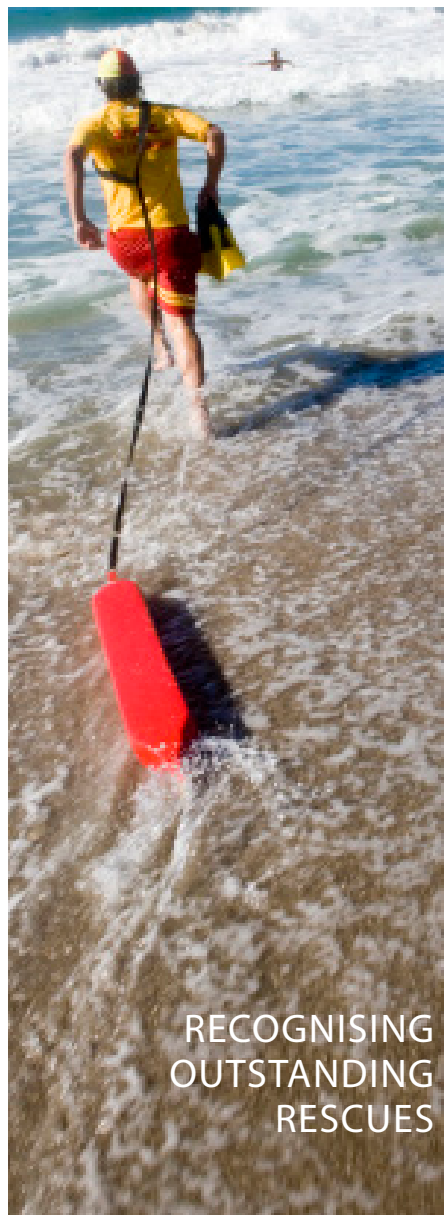
He radioed for help and Regional Lifeguards Caitlyn Duffy and Mackenzie Hepburn responded in the IRB.

They began a search and found the man 150 metres away from his jet ski. Fortunately, he was wearing a lifejacket and was waving frantically but he was still hard to spot in the choppy seas.

He had been trying to swim to the jet ski but it continued to be blown further away from him. Caitlyn and Mackenzie did a patient pickup and returned the exhausted man back to shore.

The skills demonstrated by the lifeguards on duty were outstanding from initially recognising the potential for danger and then attempting to prevent an incident from occurring. They also demonstrated great skill by launching and using an IRB in extreme winds.

With the off shore winds making it near impossible for the patient to get back by himself, the outcome could have been very severe for the jet skier had the lifeguards not been there.



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