

FEBRUARY 2014: SUMNER SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB



SURF LIFE SAVING  
NEW ZEALAND

SOUTHERN WINNER



# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

## RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

**Date/time:** Saturday 22 February 2014 at 3.00pm  
**Location:** Sumner Beach  
**Lifeguards involved:** Nick Keats, Andrea McKendry, Sandi Malcolm, Brendan Robertson, Andrew Scholes, Wayne Simmons and Megan Keats

*In it for life*

The conditions were ideal for getting into trouble at Sumner Beach on February 22 with a nor'westerly wind and an outgoing tide.

The channel from the estuary runs across the front of the beach and, in the past, it has been possible to wade across the channel at low tide onto the Sumner bar. This is where the surf breaks which often attracts beach goers.

However, on this occasion, the channel was too deep for people to wade across and so they started to swim across to the bar to play in the surf.

As one person swam across, gradually, more and more people then attempted to cross the channel.

The lifeguards on duty were observing this, knowing it had the potential for danger. In anticipation, the IRB was launched and a number of the lifeguards entered the water on rescue boards.

This was just in time as more and more people started to get caught in the current as they tried to cross the channel.

They were being carried along the beach behind Cave Rock, towards Scarborough.

This resulted in the IRB having to pick up swimmers, some of whom had drifted more than 100 metres and were unable to get back to shore.

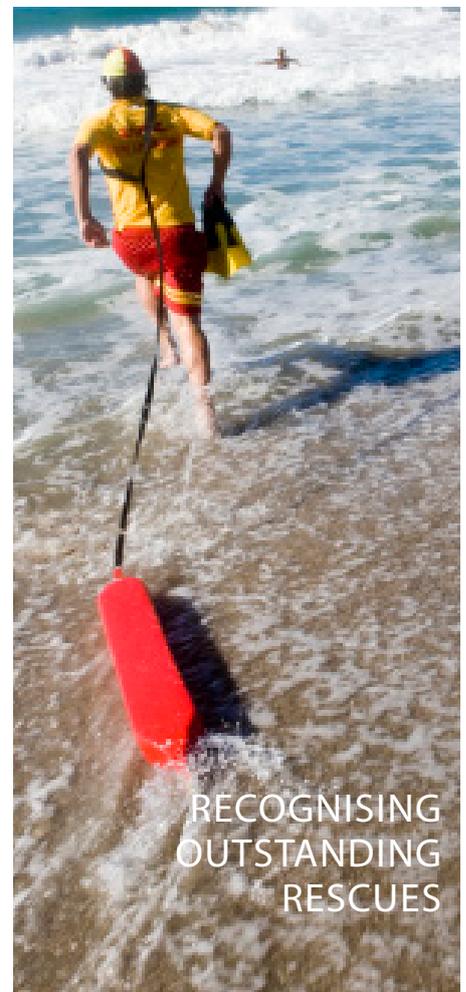
In addition, the board paddlers picked up other people in difficulty and either supported them until they could be picked up by the IRB, or assisted them back to the beach. Other swimmers were assisted by lifeguards using rescue tubes.

All of this activity was co-ordinated by Patrol Captain Megan Keats who was observing the action from the beach and co-ordinating activities with the IRB and lifeguards via radio and signals.

As things settled down, the IRB collected the remaining swimmers who had made it to the bar and returned them safely to the beach.

In all, about 30 beach goers were assisted by lifeguards that afternoon. The anticipation of danger by the lifeguards was outstanding. They

utilised multiple methods of assistance to manage what was a very serious situation. If they hadn't been there that day, the situation could have been far more serious and potentially fatal.



RECOGNISING  
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