

FEBRUARY 2014: TITAHIBAY SLSC



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

CENTRAL WINNER

In it for life

Date/time:	Saturday 22 February 2014 at 6.00pm
Location:	Titahi Bay
Lifeguards involved:	Wil McDowell, Nick Boyd, Jono Boyd, Dean Ellis, Jordan Te Paa, Danny McDowell, Peter Gubb, Angus Hermansson, Ken MacIver, Nick Mulcahy

Just before 6pm on February 22, the Titahi Bay Open Men's Boat Crew was in the early stages of a training session when an unfortunate incident occurred.

Crewmen Nick Boyd, Jono Boyd, Jordan Te Paa, Dean Ellis and sweep Wil McDowell were situated around halfway between Titahi Bay SLSC and the southern end of the beach when they were part-way into their set and heading straight out to sea.

At the same time, a kite surfer was surfing 50 metres off shore from north to south, parallel to the beach. He initially appeared to attempt to cut in front of the surf boat as it was heading out to sea. However, when he was in front of the boat, around 20 metres away, it appeared he wasn't going to make it and he appeared to try and turn back towards the north.

At the same time, Wil called for his crew to stop rowing in an effort to enable the kite surfer to pass in front of their boat. However, when the kite surfer attempted to turn, he lost control and fell off his board.

He was subsequently blown towards the surf boat by strong winds and made contact with the right hand side and front of the boat. This was witnessed by bystander and club member Angus Hermansson from his house directly across from the incident location. He headed

straight down to the beach to assist. It was established that he was a local

Upon impact, the kite surfer went resident. Angus called the kite surfer's partner and a member of the public, he said his legs were broken. Wil and Willy McMahon, went to the kite Jordan immediately dived into the surfer's residence to bring her to the water and carried him back to shore. scene where she was comforted by

Nick and Dean took the surf boat lifeguards and members of the public, safely to land and retrieved the kite. Everyone involved in the incident surfer's gear that had been unclipped, continued to reassure the kite surfer to remove any potential hazard from while they waited for the ambulance the water. At the same time, Danny which arrived around 20 minutes McDowell who was walking along the later. Danny met the ambulance beach, retrieved the First Response bag from Titahi Bay SLSC to assist. and directed it towards the scene.

Nick used Angus' cell phone to call the emergency services and Ken MacIver, a trained paramedic who was surfing nearby at the time, arrived at the scene and took control of incident management. He used scissors from the First Response bag to cut the wetsuit off the man's legs, which revealed serious leg injuries. Ambulance staff took over incident management and administered pain relief to the patient. Lifeguards assisted with the movement of the kite surfer as he was transferred into the ambulance and taken off to hospital, with his partner.

Patrol Captain Nick Mulcahy held a debriefing with all those involved

Oxygen was set up, but not used, as the patient was conscious, breathing freely and helping to provide further information on his injuries as well as contact details for his partner.

Peter Gubb, who had been out in very difficult circumstances. The surfing, retrieved a pillow and additional blankets. The kite surfer was immobilised and towels and blankets were used to stabilise his legs in a comfortable position. The incident was an unfortunate accident but the surf boat crew responded efficiently and effectively, showing a high level of professionalism and damages and risk of further complications were minimised by the efficient response.

Upon talking with the kite surfer, it