



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

Date/time: Sunday 16 February 2014
Location: Whiritoa Beach
Lifeguards involved: Taylor Moore, Sean Stapleton,
Murray McEwan, Tara George,
Riley Ball and Holly Feary

In it for life

The surf was between 1 to 1.5 metres at Whiritoa on February 16 and the tide was low, causing dumping waves.

Flashrips were passing along the beach regularly and several boogie boarders were constantly getting more confident, but still staying between the flags.

A woman, aged between 50-60 years-old and a young girl, aged between 9-11 years-old, caught the tail of an outward flowing flash rip and began fighting against it.

Vice Patrol Captain Murray McEwan was on flag duty and noticed they were struggling about 60 metres out from the water's edge. He notified Patrol Captain Tara George in the tower to check on them as well.

Then, simultaneously, the two patients raised their hands for help.

The tower dispatched the IRB with Taylor Moore as driver and Sean Stapleton as crewman. Murray also swam to the patients, keeping them together, stable and reassured until the IRB picked them up.

Within a very short time, the IRB was on scene and both patients were collected and returned to shore.

Lifeguard Riley Ball then transported the patients by RTV to the club's first aid room where they were assessed by Tara. Once she was happy that they were in a stable condition, they were allowed to leave.

Lifeguards then moved the flags over 50 metres to an area free from rips and undertows.

All of the lifeguards demonstrated great team work throughout the rescue with Tara also multitasking to help out with the rescue, while organising the IRB crew and organising for Holly Feary to act as a replacement lifeguard for the flagged area.

Had there been no lifeguards on duty that day, the outcome could have likely been the drowning of both patients as they were both out of their depth when they became caught in the rip within the break zone.



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