

MARCH 2014: TITAHI BAY BEACH



NATIONAL WINNER

In it for Life



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

Date/time: 9th March 2014, 4.30pm
Location: Titahi Bay
Lifeguards involved: J'Adoube Elkington, Nick Mulcahy, Callum Watts-Pointer and Stephanie Watts-Pointer, Sam Findlater, Andre van der Walt and Troi Alosio.

While on patrol, at around 4.30pm on Sunday March 9, Titahi Bay Surf Life Saving Club Patrol Captain J'Adoube Elkington noticed a kayak heading north and out of site around the point at Titahi Bay. The winds were blowing from the southwest and had picked up substantially during the afternoon.

J'Adoube communicated via the radio with lifeguards Nick Mulcahy and Callum Watts-Pointer who, at the time, were launching the Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) to engage in a training exercise.

Nick and Callum took the IRB out and around the point and subsequently found the kayakers, two teenage girls, getting pushed into rocks around the northern point.

With a rescue tube and fins, Callum dived out of the boat and swam towards the girls while Nick manoeuvred the IRB into a safe position.

Callum then pulled the kayak back towards the IRB where Nick helped the kayakers climb into the boat. Once the girls were safely in the IRB, Callum climbed in and Nick secured the kayak so they could tow it back to shore.

Nick drove the IRB back to the beach and all were brought safely up on to shore. The girls did not require first aid or further assistance.

Nick spoke with the girls and their father who was on the beach, about the importance of being aware of hazards, particularly in adverse weather conditions, and to know your limits when undertaking any water-based activity.

Titahi Bay surf lifeguards train specifically for this and other rescue scenarios and, as a result, this rescue went very smoothly. Earlier in the day, the lifeguards had warned a number of other kayakers about the additional hazards introduced by strong winds.

The lifeguards commended the kayakers for wearing personal flotation devices, for staying calm and remaining in the kayak.

Stephanie Watts-Pointer recorded their details and they then left the beach unharmed and with greater knowledge of surf safety.

Surf lifeguards Sam Findlater, Andre van der Walt and Troi Alosio maintained supervision of the patrolled area while the rescue was underway and were ready to provide further assistance had it been required.

The rescue demonstrated well-developed lifesaving techniques, which ensured the safety of the lifeguards while providing the most efficient assistance to the two kayakers.

Had the surf lifeguards not been patrolling at Titahi Bay, the situation may have deteriorated. Although the kayakers were wearing flotation devices, they had no form of communications or signalling device, and their father was unaware they were in difficulty.

