

WINTER 2014: LEVIN-WAITARERE SLSC



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

CENTRAL WINNER

In it for life

Date/time: Sunday 9 November 2015

Location: Waitarere Beach

Lifeguards involved: Victoria McTavish, Andrew Watson

Off duty lifeguard Victoria McTavish was on shore with her sister and lifeguard-in-training Emily on November 9 when they heard a commotion.

A person was standing in thigh deep water with a child in their hands when they suffered an epileptic fit.

Victoria entered the water to assist. The child had been picked up by a member of public and others were attempting to help the patient.

Realising that the public was in a state of confusion and panic, Victoria took control of the scene and with the help of the public, she removed the patient and child from the water. She directed Emily to find a phone and contact emergency services.

Lifeguard Andrew Watson was in the middle of ski training and came to assist in the rescue.

Had members not responded immediately, the situation could have developed into a serious incident where not only the patient and her child, but the responding public, may have been harmed.

Victoria demonstrated exemplary initiative and leadership for a 15 year-old: not only managing to control a distressed group of people but using them to help conduct a successful rescue.

Similarly, Emily was assigned to 'get help' recognising that Emily's limited training meant she was better suited to a communication role as opposed to a responder role.

With everyone out of the water, patient care was provided while emergency services were en route. When they arrived around 10-15 minutes later, they assessed the patient and released her back on the beach within an hour.