



DECEMBER 2014: CHRISTCHURCH REGIONAL GUARDS



SURF LIFE SAVING  
NEW ZEALAND



# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

SOUTHERN WINNER

*In it for life*

**Date: December 30, 2014**

**Location: Spencer Park SLSC**

**Lifeguards involved: Fraser Smith, Bridget Hart, Mere Hancock**

While out for a surf between the flags in dumpy conditions on New Year's Eve, a man face planted while catching a wave, causing his body to come over the top of his head.

He felt a crunch and went straight up to lifeguard Fraser Smith who was on flag duty saying he was experiencing a tingly, 'pins and needles' feeling down his arms, along with immense pain in his neck.

Fraser immediately radioed fellow lifeguard Bridget Hart who was at the club, asking her to call for an ambulance and organise a neck collar and spinal board.

Fellow lifeguard Mere Hancock delivered the spinal gear to the beach and once she and Fraser had stabilised the patient, Fraser remained on the beach to observe and reassure him while Mere made her way to the carpark to wait for the ambulance. Bridget remained in the club house as the communication link between emergency services and the other lifeguards.

After a short time the rescue helicopter, rather than an ambulance, arrived. Fraser briefed the crew and handed over the patient in a stable condition and he was taken to Christchurch hospital for further assessment and treatment.

The patient could have potentially suffered serious or permanent spinal damage if he wasn't immobilised correctly by lifeguards and transported to hospital.