

DECEMBER 2014: KARIAOTAHU SLSC



NORTHERN WINNER



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

In it for life

Date: December 26, 2014

Location: 1km North of Club House

Lifeguards involved: Tara Coe, Jim Coe, Bradley Walters, Guy Hornblow, James Burton, Julie Burton, Nick Hornblow, Shannon Benterman, Justin Hurst, Chris Parker, Mike Lawrence, Natasha Lawrence, Dawn Newson-Adams (Patrol Support)

It was just before 1pm when members of the public alerted the lifeguards on flag duty to a man in distress, around 1km north of the clubhouse. Patrol Captain Tara Coe immediately took command and sent senior lifeguards Jim Coe and Bradley Walters to launch an IRB while Guy Hornblow and James Burton responded to the scene via rescue vehicle.

Tara contacted SurfCom to alert them to the Status 1 (critical) patient. CPR had been initiated by a member of the public and was taken over by Guy and Jim while James secured the patient's airway and set up the oxygen. Tara requested the rescue helicopter, ambulance and Police.

Nick Hornblow and Shannon Benterman arrived in the second rescue vehicle and Nick assisted in setting up the defibrillator while Shannon assisted with the patient's breathing.

By now, the lifeguards had been on scene for five minutes and CPR was well underway. Bradley coordinated the lifeguard's response and took control of coordinating the scene. Paramedics and ambulance staff arrived at the club house five minutes later and were instructed by Tara that the patient was breathing again and was being placed in the recovery position. Julie Burton then transported the paramedics to the scene. Meanwhile the situation of the patient worsened and he slipped back to Status 1. The paramedics were advised of this and CPR was reinstated. Guy and Shannon took turns to deliver compressions while Jim continued breathing via bag valve mask.

Tara was then advised that the rescue helicopter was 12 minutes away and Justin Hurst got the helicopter landing kit ready and took it to the scene. Justin then assisted with compressions while Nick secured the landing zone. Head of Lifesaving Mike Lawrence arrived on scene just before 1.30pm. The helicopter landed five minutes later and the doctor on board took over control of the scene while lifeguards continued CPR. The patient's family arrived and were looked after by James.

Lifeguards continued to keep watch on over 700 people on the beach and in the water and the flags were controlled by Chris Parker and multiple junior lifeguards, some of whom only qualified two weeks prior. Now 40 minutes had passed and more oxygen was requested on site. The patient was still undergoing CPR and Tara informed SurfCom of the patient's unchanged status.

At 1345 hours, 50 minutes after the first notification of the patient, CPR was stopped and the patient was sadly pronounced dead by the rescue helicopter doctor. The boat trailer was requested and Jim, Guy and James transported the body to the surf club. Family members were returned to the surf club and supported by Dawn Newson-Adams and Natasha Lawrence. Shannon and Nick assisted paramedics with packing up the scene and then transported them back to the club house.

Throughout the entire period of the incident, a busy flagged area was maintained and a full debrief with the whole patrol was undertaken at the end of the day. Although the result was not what lifeguards hoped for, the very best efforts were given to the victim by the lifeguards and external agencies.