

JANUARY 2015: BRIGHTON SLSC



# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

SOUTHERN WINNER

*In it for life*

**Date: January 25, 2015**

**Location: Brighton Beach**

**Lifeguards involved: Liam Trotter, Natasha Whyte, James Walters, Dan McKay**

At around 12.45pm on January 25, a 14 year-old female was swimming between the flags when she became caught in a rip between Lions Rock and Big Rock.

The beach was more packed than usual due to around 12,000 people who were in town for the Brighton Gala Day, as well as the junior surf carnival bringing in even more beach-goers.

Three IRBs were operating on the beach for the carnival and patrol captain Dan McKay made the first rescue call to event guard James Walters, advising him of the girl in trouble.

James redirected an IRB from the carnival to perform the rescue. Driver Liam Trotter (17) and crewperson Natasha Whyte (16) made their way out to the patient who had entered a state of panic and was screaming for help. By the time the IRB reached her, she was unconscious and under the water.

Putting their skills into action, Liam and Natasha quickly rescued the girl and headed back to shore. They advised Dan and James that they would require assistance once they were back on the beach. James radioed through to Sam Clutterbuck to bring the quad bike down to retrieve the patient who was drifting in and out of consciousness.

Once she was placed on the quad, she was taken up to the club's first aid room where she was treated and monitored until an ambulance arrived.

St John Ambulance Officer and Territory Manager Doug Third, who happened to be at the local gala day, received the call first and came to the immediate assistance of the lifeguards.

Due to the lifeguards' training, skill and professionalism, they were able to execute a smooth rescue and subsequently save her life. Had the lifeguards not been able to reach the patient so quickly, there would have most likely been a fatality that day.

It wasn't the only rescue performed that day. Someone suffered a cardiac arrest at the Brighton Gala Day and local club members were able to perform a successful resuscitation, further demonstrating their high caliber of training.