



FEBRUARY 2015: WHANGAREI HEADS SLSP



# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

NATIONAL WINNER

*In it for life*

**Date: February 14, 2015**

**Location: Ocean Beach**

**Lifeguards involved: John-Michael Hicks, Jessica Robinson, John Pritchard, Kelena Roughan and Meg Robinson**

Deputy Patrol Captain John-Michael Hicks was on flag duty with newly qualified guards Breeanna Martinac, Meg Robinson and Kelena Roughan on February 14 when they were approached by some children who had found a surfboard washed in through the northern gut.

Due to the large swell, the patient was hard to spot and he was making no headway against the strong current. John-Michael ordered an Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) driver and crewman and then he entered the water with a rescue tube.

Fellow lifeguard Jess Robinson was already on her way down to the beach for a swim and, together with American exchange lifeguard John Pritchard, they assisted with the search while Meg and Kelena kept an eye on the flagged area back on the beach.

John-Michael swam out to the patient, picked him up and swam the patient further out beyond the breakers to wait for Jess and John in the IRB. The patient rested on the tube until the IRB collected him and returned him to the shore in a stable, but tired, condition.

The new and experienced lifeguards worked well together to undertake the rescue in a dangerous environment. The outcome could have been potentially tragic if lifeguards hadn't been present that day.