

APRIL 2015: ST KILDA SLSC



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

SOUTHERN WINNER

In it for life

Date/time: April 3, 2015

Location: St Kilda

Lifeguards involved: Duncan New, Bryn Schievink

It was the first day of the Easter weekend, the sun was out and the waves were rolling in. Two local St Kilda lifeguards, Duncan New (15) and Bryn Schievink (16), were off duty and cleaning the Surf Club.

At around 11am, they were about to go out for a board paddle but as they strolled down towards the beach, they heard multiple calls for help. They immediately saw two youths in trouble; both were stuck in a rip to the north of the club with one male almost 100m off shore.

They quickly paddled out with Bryn securing the closest patient and taking him back to shore before going back to help Duncan who was heading out to the furthest patient.

Just as Duncan was nearing the patient, he saw him going under with only his hand reaching out above the water to indicate his position. Duncan reached the patient just in time and pulled the boy on to his board. He was conscious and able to talk but was in a state of shock and clearly struggling for breath.

Both Bryn and Duncan reassured and calmed the patient and explained what they had to do to take him safely back through the surf to reach the safety of the beach.

Once the patient felt able, he was taken back to the beach on Duncan's board. Bryn paddled beside them to help reassure the patient. Back at the beach, the patient was able to walk to the club's first aid room where he underwent further monitoring. The first patient was in a good condition and was able to reassure his friend.

Duncan and Bryn called a senior lifeguard for assistance and then continued to monitor the patients. The mother of the more distressed patient was contacted and she travelled to the club to meet the boys.

This was a major rescue, well executed by two young lifeguards using the skills they had been taught in the previous six months since achieving their Surf Lifeguard Awards. Their teamwork skills were evident with their calm communication to get the boys safely back to shore.

Later that afternoon, Duncan and Bryn were still at the Surf Club when another youth was sucked out in a rip. Once again, they paddled out on their boards and returned the distressed swimmer to shore.

It is more than likely that multiple fatalities were prevented across the two rescues that day.