

WINTER 2015: PIHA, RED BEACH & NR BEACH ED



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW ZEALAND



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

NORTHERN WINNER

In it for life

Date: 24 November 2015

Location: North Piha

Lifeguards involved: Nick Tomkins, Simone Hollier, Leilani Fuemana, Duncan Clarke, Jackson Smith

On Tuesday November 24, off duty Red Beach lifeguard Jackson Smith was hanging out with some friends at Piha when he was alerted to an incident. A 19 year-old woman was missing in rough conditions, just North of Lion Rock.

Without a second thought, Jackson raced to the water where he came across the victim's friend. She indicated that her friend was in the water and likely dead.

Jackson proceeded out around 50m before finding the patient face down and unconscious in the water. With the help of some bystanders, he managed to retrieve the patient and immediately commenced CPR.

Meanwhile, the Beach Education team had finished working for the day when they were alerted to the local first response team's sirens. Piha lifeguard Duncan Clarke arrived and, with lifeguards Simone and Leilani, proceeded to North Piha with an IRB.

On arrival, the lifeguards found a patient undergoing CPR. Simone and Leilani immediately helped with the police helicopter crew who had taken over CPR. Duncan was also liaising with the rescue helicopter that landed and took control of the scene. The patient was unresponsive but breathing. From there, lifeguards assisted with loading the patient into the helicopter as well as providing scene control.

The patient was flown to Auckland hospital alive, but in a serious condition. There is no doubt this patient would not have survived had Jackson and the other lifeguards not been around the Piha area at the time of the incident.

The skills demonstrated by all lifeguards involved was credit to their training. They were commended by the helicopter crew and Police at the conclusion of the incident.