

WINTER 2015: CAPITAL COAST CALLOUT SQUAD



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW ZEALAND



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

CENTRAL WINNER

In it for life

Date: 20 October 2015

Location: Island Bay, Wellington

Lifeguards involved: Arie Moore, Charles Swat, Lee Campbell, Rackley Nolan, Sam Richardson, Ben Flynn and Brent Harvey

Two males in their early twenties got themselves into trouble when they decided to stay the night on Taputarenga Island after paddling across in a cheap inflatable rubber boat.

Their friends watched them leave the shoreline after sunset but they were unsure whether they had made it and were concerned for their safety. They rang 111 and the Maritime Police were activated. Requiring water assistance, they contacted lifeguards Ben Flynn and Brent Harvey who activated the Capital Coast callout squad at 9.30pm.

Lifeguards Arie Moore, Charles Swat, Rackley Nolan and Sam Richardson met at Lyall Bay Surf Life Saving Club and departed with an IRB by 10pm.

The IRB was launched from Island Bay with Arie, Rackley and a police officer while Sam and Charles went to gather more information from the friends.

Upon reaching the island, Sam and the police officer began a traverse around the island's shoreline looking for the two men, including checking the small rocky hill on the island.

Meanwhile, Arie and Rackley circumnavigated the island in the IRB, searching the outer rocks in darkness with a gusty northerly and 1.5m breaking waves. They feared the two men may have been blown away from the island and out to sea.

Back on shore, Charles and Lee shone the high beams from their vehicles over the island to help illuminate the search as well as gathering more information from the men's friends and reassuring them.

Struggling to find the men in the darkness, the police requested assistance from the rescue helicopter which arrived around 30 minutes later and quickly located the pair using their spotlight.

The rescue party recovered and returned the patients to their worried friends at the boat ramp.

The incident was a great example of collaboration between SLSNZ, Police and the rescue helicopter.