

FEBRUARY 2016: WHANGAMATA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW ZEALAND



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

EASTERN WINNER

In it for life

Date: 8 February 2016

Location: Whangamata Main Beach

**Lifeguards involved: Max Jones, Nic Hamlin, Connor Gibson,
Braytten Adams and Mackenzie Adams**

At 4.30pm on February 8, off-duty lifeguards were alerted by a member of the public to a group of swimmers in trouble. The family of four were struggling in a rip, directly in front of the surf club.

Lifeguards Max Jones, Nic Hamlin and Connor Gibson responded on rescue board and within five minutes had reached the patients.

The most exhausted patient, a 15 year-old male, had taken on water and was being assisted by his cousin. He was very close to losing consciousness due to energy expenditure, and taking on water.

Max pulled him onto his rescue board and awaited assistance from his fellow lifeguards while also keeping the other three patients afloat.

Once all of the patients had been secured on rescue boards, they were returned to shore.

The first patient was dragged up the beach by Max and placed in the recovery position while Connor responded with a resuscitation kit and defibrillator.

Braytten Adams called for an ambulance and the lifeguards continued to monitor the patient and administer oxygen through a mask. They constantly reassured the patient and listened for any abnormal lung sounds.

Lifeguards transported the patient on a stretcher to the surf club where they met the ambulance. At 5pm the patient was handed over to ambulance staff that assessed and monitored the patient on scene for half an hour. He was found to be stable, was given medical advice and handed over to his caregivers.

A fatal drowning of the teenage boy and his family was prevented that day due to the lifeguards' quick actions.