

MARCH 2016: BETHELLS BEACH SLSC



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW ZEALAND

NORTHERN WINNER



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

In it for life

Date: 26 March 2016

Location: O'Neill Bay

Lifeguards involved: Dylan Thorpe, Georgia Grant – Mackie, Lyn Maxlow, Alex Kwak, James Kendrick (Patrol Captain), Chris Carew, Zane Rademaker (Support 1), Monica Nevill-Jackson, Jaelyn Fielding (Rookie Lifeguard), Toto Laurenson (Surfcom)

On a busy Easter Saturday, Dylan Thorpe (15) and Rookie Lifeguard Jaelyn Fielding were tasked to O'Neills Bay for a roaming patrol when a worried member of the public raced up to Dylan. A swimmer was in distress in the permanent rip at the southern end of the bay near the rocks, where many fatalities have occurred over the years.

With poor radio reception, Dylan asked Jaelyn to run up the hill between Bethells and O'Neills to request help while he sprinted down the beach with his rescue tube and fins.

Patrol Captain James Kendrick heard the call from Jaelyn and he called SurfCom to activate Support 1 (Jetski) while also tasking an IRB and two more lifeguards to bring resuscitation equipment, just in case.

Lyn Maxlow and Georgia Grant-Mackie, who were already on the water training in the IRB, responded immediately while Alex Kwak and Chris Carew brought the resuscitation equipment via an ATV.

While this was happening, Dylan was swimming out to the patient who was holding on to a boogie board. He managed to calm the patient and clip him into the rescue tube. Despite being twice Dylan's size, he managed to tow the patient back to shore.

As Zane Rademaker and Monica Nevill-Jackson arrived on the Jetski, Dylan managed to surf a large wave into shore with the patient allowing them to both touch the ground. Dylan then further assisted the patient out of the water where he was assessed by Alex and Chris. Although the patient was quite shaken from the experience, he didn't require any further medical assistance.

Jaelyn then notified James that the swimmer was out of danger and support one and the IRB were stood down.

All of the lifeguards were calm under pressure, acting with urgency and skill to overcome barriers and achieve a great result.

This is a great example of lifeguards' quick response and good communication. Without the great initial response of these lifeguards, it is likely that the southern rip of O'Neill's Bay would have claimed another life.