

MARCH 2016: PAUANUI SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW ZEALAND



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

NATIONAL WINNER

In it for life

Date: 28 March 2016

Location: Tairua/Pauanui Bar

Lifeguards involved: Martine Smith, Jake Smith, Spencer Raymond, Allenie Smith, Jamie McDell, Mark Gordon and Ryan Winckel

At 7.30am on Monday March 28, senior lifeguard Martine Smith received a call from local police, requesting assistance with an overturned vessel on the bar. Three patients were involved and none of them were wearing lifejackets.

Martine called her sister Allenie Smith and headed to the surf club, attempting to rally a team on the way. Upon arrival, one of her fellow lifeguards, Mark Gordon, was already there. He was checking out the surf on the bar when he saw the boat overturn.

Jake Smith and Jamie McDell had received a text from the local Coastguard and they went straight to the club.

Ryan Winckel and Spencer Raymond also met at the club and prepared two boats which were launched within minutes.

When the lifeguards arrived at the scene, they found two of the three patients had already been rescued by Coastguard, but one was stranded on rocks.

The lifeguards adopted a CIMS structure, waiting to be tasked by Police. The rescue helicopter arrived on scene to assess the situation while Police assessed a way out by land.

In this time, Mark jumped in the water to assess the rock entries and exits available, should the patient need rescuing. He met the patient and gave him his lifejacket.

It was determined that the only way off the rocks was via IRB and the Police tasked the lifeguards to assist.

Mark and Ryan escorted the man off the rocks safely to an awaiting IRB. The patient was taken to a safe point where all patients were accounted for and were assessed by ambulance staff.

Lifeguards are trained to work closely around rocks in challenging conditions and this was a clear demonstration of those abilities. A thorough assessment showed there was no other way of getting the patients off the rocks and without the IRB being able to manoeuvre close to the rocks, the patient was at risk of being swept off.