

FEBRUARY 2017: KAKA POINT SLSC



SURF LIFE SAVING  
NEW ZEALAND



# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

## RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

NATIONAL WINNER

*In it for life*

Date: February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Location: Nugget Point

Lifeguards involved: Andrew Budge and Paul Richardson

Shortly after midday on Thursday January 16, Police notified the Kaka Point Callout Squad of two kayakers in difficulty off Nugget Point.

One of the kayakers had capsized and a second had tried several times, unsuccessfully, to get the kayaker back into her kayak before both of them were washed onto the rocks at the base of a cliff near the Nugget Point lighthouse. A third member of the party had paddled 2.5km to raise the alarm.

An IRB was deployed from Kaka Point Surf Life Saving Club and an Otago regional rescue helicopter was sent from Dunedin. A member of the public also assisted with a jet ski.

At this point, the exact location of the kayakers was unknown and as the IRB reached the "Nuggets", the two stranded kayakers waved out.

The surf conditions were a 1.5m swell and clear skies.

Lifeguard Andrew Budge swam ashore from the IRB, driven by Paul Richardson, and located the patients. He treated one of the kayakers for a laceration to her leg.

The kayakers were unfamiliar with the area and could not see their way out via land and were not capable of kayaking out.

Andrew advised that they could either climb to the track above their location or swim out to the IRB.

The helicopter then arrived and it was decided to winch them out, so Andrew prepared the kayakers and secured their gear.

They were transferred to Clutha Health First in Balclutha and treated for minor injuries and mild hypothermia.

The kayaks and gear were towed back to land by the IRB and jet ski and handed over to the Police who later returned them to the kayakers.

Andrew and Paul demonstrated great skill throughout the incident to deal with the surf conditions and proximity to the rocks.