



RESCUE OF THE MONTH



Club: Pauanui & Tairua Surf Lifeguards

Surf Lifeguards: Pauanui SLSC Patrol - Stella Reid, Sam Cox, Mathieu Reid, Ryan Lock & George Reid

Tairua SLSC Patrol - Terri Warner, Tom Simpson & Jae Broomfield

Pauanui/Tairua Emergency Call Out Squad: Pauanui - Jock Rosie, Kelly Pinner, Stuart Upjohn & Jamie Lock. Tairua - Sean Riddler & Laura Beanland-Stephens

Pauanui Volunteer Lifeguards: Martine Smith, Alennie Smith, Rohan Thompson, Chester Rosie, Emily Carter, Maya Cosford, Rebecca Brown, Jack Mcanulty, Oliver Avis, Alicia Upjohn, Vance Bell, Grace Walters, Georgina Dodd

ER Staff: Nick Wagstaff

On the 5th of January 2022, a call was made to the Pauanui SLSC Tower regarding a boat that had overturned on the Tairua Bar.

Stella, the Pauanui Patrol Captain, immediately dispatched Sam and Mathieu to launch an IRB. Stella then had Ryan drop the flags and advised the members of the public to exit the water. Ryan and George responded with an extra defibrillator. Volunteer guards stayed on flags and also began setting up a second IRB after Calling 111, Stella contacted the Pauanui/Tairua Search & Rescue Squad Coordinator Jock who then activated the SAR Squad.

Sam and Mathieu approached the overturned vessel and Mathieu (the Crewman) jumped out and attempted to reach under the vessel to recover one of the victims which was unsuccessful, after a minute of attempts to gain access, a larger wave washed out a child who was immediately taken to shore, where CPR was started.

Sam and Ryan then returned to the upturned vessel where a second child had been pulled from the vessel by the father. The IRB returned to shore before passing the child on to a First Responders Team who had arrived at the beach.

Members of the Pauanui SAR Squad, Kelly, Stuart and Jamie, arrived and took the second IRB down to the scene with Pauanui's second ATV whilst Jock (SAR Coordinator) remained and assisted Stella in the rescue co-ordination in the Tower. Kelly drove the IRB and dropped Jamie and Stuart off at the overturned vessel and a brief was made by Mathieu about the state of the vessel and a third family member who was still trapped.

Stuart, Jamie, members of the public and Jet skiers assisted in moving the vessel parallel to the surf to flush and rock the boat to gain access. However, the vessel had washed onto the sandbar with only 5cm between the sand and the vessel. The call was then made to push the vessel into the inshore lagoon to flip it.

Pauanui Rescue from the Tairua/Pauanui Coastguard Unit arrived on the scene. Stuart waded out and Informed Pauanui Rescue of the trapped patient and devised a plan to right the vessel to gain access to the patient trapped beneath. Lifeguards assisted three Coastguard members to attach lines to the vessel which was then righted, immediately ejecting the patient who had now been trapped for 34 minutes.

The patient was carried from the boat by a combined team of Tairua and Pauanui Lifeguards up onto the beach where they were met by a St John Emergency Medical Technician and a Lifeguard with an extra resuscitation pack and Defibrillator. This meant that at this stage of the rescue, three simultaneous CPRs were being undertaken on the beach and oxygen was starting to run out. Two minutes later, almost simultaneously the two children started breathing unassisted.

Assistance was provided by the Fire Service, Police and First Response Unit to clear an area large enough for three helicopters to land. Over two hundred people had to be cleared from the area, as well as crowd control of the other 500 bystanders on the dunes.

Jamie and Ryan stayed in an IRB to assist Coastguard with collecting debris from the tow, and the subsequent righting and floating of the stricken vessel. Stuart and Nick assisted with the transport of the final patient to the Helicopter. On arrival at the Helicopter, Stuart and Nick assisted with the loading of the patient to the Helicopter, where St John staff and Air Crew continued with the life support.

This rescue has been recognised for Rescue of the Month due to the quick and professional response from all emergency services, the cohesion between both Tairua and Pauanui (Paid & Volunteer Surf Lifeguards and Search & Rescue Squad members), the medical aid provided by the guards on the water and beach that gave the patients the best chance of survival.