



## RESCUE OF THE MONTH



December 2008

## Bethells Beach Surf Life Saving Patrol Inc.

**Lifeguards involved:** *Dave Comp, James Lea, Mason Dray-Hogg, Lauren Gibbs, Paul Francois, David Butt (Support 3)*

**Having just arrived at the tower to set up for patrol James Lea (who was not on patrol) ran up to advise of an incident involving fishermen off the cable who had been swept off the rocks.**

Dave and James immediately launched an IRB and asked Paul to coordinate with Surfcom advising them of the situation which was two fishermen in the water, one unconscious, one missing and requesting emergency services.

Dave and James arrived at the scene to see a group of fishermen on the rocks by their unconscious friend. James dived in and swam to the rocks knowing that he would be administering CPR immediately. We radioed to Paul to contact Surfcom to arrange Westpac, Dave then soloed the IRB back to get additional help.

For his own safety and the patients James had to move the 130kg+ fisherman to higher ground.

Mason had come down to the beach and jumped into the IRB. Fighting through the surf Dave and Mason made their way to the scene. On arrival Mason then swam to the rocks to assist James.

Dave then made his way back to shore & collected Lauren to assist with the search for the missing fisherman.

Westpac had also arrived and with amazing skill the pilot managed to lower a paramedic to the scene (rotor blades were at least one metre away from the

rock face) and although the helicopter was in close to the cliff face James still had to grab the paramedics' legs to pull him closer to the rocks while Mason had taken over administering CPR.

Dave & Lauren were monitoring the scene from the IRB while also searching the caves for the missing fisherman.

At this point the IRB from Muriwai had also arrived so between us a further search of the beach was completed. No body was sighted.

By this stage the fisherman on the rocks had been pronounced deceased by the paramedic and David Butt then jumped from Westpac and had also swum to the rocks assisting James and Mason as it was now required to swim the deceased fisherman to an IRB to return him to shore.

A call was also made to the Bethells Base to evacuate the Rookie Lifeguards and send them off to the Lake well away for when the body would be coming back to the club.

James, Mason and David then lowered the body into the still huge seas and tubed him to the awaiting IRB. Being the size he was made this a difficult task however the team was up to it even when the rope from the tube became tangled in the prop.

Once in the IRB the body was taken back to the club for the Ambulance / Police teams to assess.