



2002 RUSSELL MEDAL

MICHAEL COLLINS and TRACEY METEKINGI - NEW ZEALAND

At 1.15 pm on 25th January 2002, Michael Collins aged 18 years and Tracey Metekingi aged 15 years, were on lifeguard duty at Castlecliff Beach, Wanganui when they were alerted by a man on a quad motorcycle who was looking concerned and was pointing North along the Beach. The two lifeguards quickly launched the Inflatable Rubber Boat and went to investigate. Two other lifeguards, Phil Gilmore and Riki Mitchell followed in the Club's patrol vehicle. Someway along the Beach, Michael and Tracey came upon Bruce Raupita, aged 43 years, who had fallen from a surf ski whilst fishing and was unconscious. The two lifeguards immediately commenced CPR. The two lifeguards in the patrol vehicle arrived and summoned an ambulance. Michael then left the scene and returned to the patrol tower to retrieve the oxygen pack whilst Tracey continued to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to the patient assisted by Riki.

On Michael's return he and Phil assembled the oxygen equipment. He then recommenced cardiac compressions whilst Tracey used the bag mask on the patient until the ambulance arrived at 1.35 pm.

On arrival the Paramedics instructed Michael and Tracey to continue CPR and the administering of oxygen until the patient was finally loaded in the ambulance at 1.50 pm.

When Bruce was loaded into the ambulance his heart was beating and oxygen was still being administered.

Bruce survived for two days in Wanganui Base Hospital and then his family allowed doctors to remove him from a life support machine. Despite all the efforts of Michael and Tracey, Bruce sadly died.

Robert Ferguson, the Lifeguard Manager at Wanganui has said of the incident,

"Through all of this we at the Lifeguard Service at Wanganui are immensely proud of the guards on the beach that day and in particular Michael and Tracey who performed skills that would have been second to none, they are truly a credit to our organisation".

For their meritorious actions on 25th January 2002 Michael Collins and Tracey Metekingi are awarded the 2002 Russell Medal.