



1968 Mountbatten Medal – Barry McNeil

On August 15, 1968 and 11.00pm Barry McNeil, aged 16, heard cries coming from the sea at Northcote, Auckland. The night was very dark and visibility less than 10 feet at water level. He went down to the beach and with his surf board paddled in the direction of the cries, which finally stopped. When about 100 yards out, he saw a ripple and a hand showing above the water

He pulled the man (Mr. Raymond Given) half out of the water across his board and applied mouth to mouth resuscitation. Barry McNeil was assisted by Mr. James Pollard who went down to the beach with McNeil and when the latter could not pull Mr. Given fully on to the surf board, swam out and helped until the police launch arrived. Mr Given was taken to hospital in Auckland where he recovered. He had fallen off his launch and was a very poor swimmer

The rescue took place in two fathoms and the water was very cold and turbulent: there was an offshore wind

But for Barry McNeil's prompt and efficient action Mr. Given would have lost his life.