



Award 'icing on the cake' for lifeguard

Winner saved 5 from Fitzroy rip

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Taranaki lifeguards were officially recognised at the weekend for their hard work and dedication to saving lives at the region's beaches.

The 2013 Origin Energy Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence were held at the Fitzroy Club on Saturday night.

Adam Fraser, of the Fitzroy Surf Life Saving Club, received the night's top award – the Shell Todd Oil Services Lifeguard of the Year.

During the season Mr Fraser logged 65 hours on patrol, co-ordinated a five-person rescue as well as a rescue in large surf and many after-hours rescues.

Mr Fraser, 32, the club's vice-captain, said he was pleased to receive the award.

"I was pretty stoked. When you are saving lives you get a lot of satisfaction but getting this award is like the icing on the cake."

In January Mr Fraser pulled five people from a rip at Fitzroy after hours.

"It was just that low-tide rip that was running. I just happened to be standing there and shot down and got them out."

A lifeguard from the age of 14, Mr Fraser has helped 50 new local lifeguards gain their surf lifeguard

qualification, 30 from Fitzroy. As chief IRB examiner he has also qualified eight new IRB drivers and 35 crewmen.

Surf Life Saving regional manager Tim Marsden said it took commitment to be a lifeguard and

Mr Fraser had been a great role model for the young lifeguards of Fitzroy and Taranaki.

"Adam has given up countless hours to reach this level of nomination for Lifeguard of the Year and he truly deserves this recognition," Mr Marsden said.

The Origin Energy Volunteer of the Year award went to Michael DeBique of Opunake Surf Life Saving Club, and the Origin Energy Rescue of the Year prize went to Fitzroy Surf Life Saving Club for saving a group of six teenage boys who drifted outside of the flagged area and into a notorious rip on January 13.

Mr Marsden said the actions of all of the winners expressed the organisation's values.

"It's the best of those values we celebrate with our awards."

THE WINNERS:

- Shell Todd Oil Services Lifeguard of the Year - Adam Fraser, Fitzroy.
- Origin Energy Volunteer of the Year - Michael DeBique, Opunake.
- Origin Energy Rescue of the Year - Fitzroy.
- Shell Todd Oil Services Instructor of the Year - Fiona Climo, East End.
- Surf Official of the Year - Warren Clow, Fitzroy.
- Coach of the Year - Ron Cole, Fitzroy.
- Sportsperson of the Year - Olivia Eaton, New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Life Saving Club.
- Stirling Sports Team of the Year - East End Black; Andrew Cronin, James Morwood, Rebecca Busing.
- Origin Energy Innovation of the Year - New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Life Saving Club.
- Stirling Sports Club of the Year - Fitzroy.
- Patrol Club of the Year - East End.



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Heros honoured: Adam Fraser, of the Fitzroy Surf Life Saving Club, receives the Shell Todd Oil Services Lifeguard of the Year award from Joanna Breare.