

SLSNSW Rescue of the Month

December 2009

Ocean Beach SLSC

Lifesavers Involved: Graham Tangye

On the 27th December 2009, Graham Tangye was returning home to his unit at Ettalong at approximately 1130 hours. Within half an hour of arriving home a neighbour called at Graham's door seeking assistance.

In a nearby unit an elderly woman had collapsed. There were six people in attendance but no one present was skilled in CPR. One neighbour knew of Graham's involvement in Surf Life Saving so dashed for assistance in the hope he was home. When Graham arrived on scene he assessed the situation and found the woman was unconscious and not breathing. After confirming an ambulance was en route, he immediately commenced CPR.

The ambulance arrived 15 minutes later and the officers commenced external cardiac defibrillation on the patient. The officers established a weak but acceptable pulse, and though the woman's condition was critical, they decided to transfer the patient to Gosford Hospital. She was later transferred to Royal North Shore Hospital.

The club was informed that the patient had suffered a severe cardiac arrest and after stabilisation in hospital she required the insertion of a pace maker.

It was fortunate for the woman involved in the post-Christmas celebrations that a Lifesaver was on hand nearby and was able to apply CPR immediately. The ambulance officers said that the efforts taken in those first 10 minutes improved the patient's chances significantly.

Graham's efforts on this day saved a life.