



in the news

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Drowning toddler reunited with his heroes

Three year old Jaidyn Snowball was reunited with the paramedics that saved his life after being plucked from his family pool in Narwee just before Christmas unresponsive and with no signs of life.

His mother found him submerged in the pool and quickly performed CPR along with Jaidyn's grandmother while waiting desperately for ambulance to attend.

They called Triple Zero and the call was received by call taker Lisa Cobbin, an experienced and respected call taker who talked the family members through what to do while waiting for paramedics.

Luckily, not far from the family house was Rapid Responder Paramedic Geoff Coleman who got the call to respond to the home emergency.

On arrival at the home, he was met by Jaidyn's father who directed him to the pool where effective CPR was being performed.

Geoff was joined by Hurstville and Rockdale Paramedics Phil Gellin, Libby Hanrahan and Stuart Clark and took over the resuscitation of the young boy. He was then rushed to St George Hospital in a critical condition.

Jaidyn has since made a full recovery and is now back at home with his family. Geoff, Phil, Stuart and Lisa went to the family home and met Jaidyn and his family for the second time with everyone much calmer this time around.



Above (left to right): Paramedic Stuart Clark, Paramedic Geoff Coleman, Jaidyn and Jaidyn's mum.

Jaidyn was overwhelmed by the attention but enjoyed showing everyone that he isn't scared to get back into the pool.

Jaidyn's mum Alice put pen to paper soon after Jaidyn returned home from the hospital commending the paramedics for their work. She wanted to express her thanks for providing her with the "best Christmas present anyone could give."

The reunion was witnessed by all the major television networks and great stories appeared on the news that night.

With the large number of serious water incidents that ambulance has attended, this story was a great reminder of how important it is to learn CPR and the great work that paramedics and call-takers do.

Story and picture: St George and Sutherland Shire Leader. Photograph: Jane Dyson