



Photo credit: Sunday Mail Adelaide
In photo from left to right: Jack Mather, 9, Daniel Hogan, 10, Rebecca Woods, 16, Lachlan Frances, 10, and Jake Butterfield, 10



Heroes come in all sizes.

Nippers save struggling swimmer.

Four Nippers – all nine and ten year old boys – saved a woman’s life at Henley Beach in South Australia last November.

The young friends were paddling their Nipper boards when they spotted a woman far off in the surf. It looked like she was struggling; then she disappeared.

Jack Mather, Daniel Hogan, Lachlan Frances and Jake Butterfield knew exactly what to do. One boy rushed back to shore to alert patrol; the other three made their way out to the swimmer. The woman was gasping for breath so the boys held her between their boards to keep her from slipping under water.

Moments later, Surf Lifesavers reached the scene where the boys and the woman were situated. Rebecca Woods, 16 years

old, pulled the woman into the inflatable rescue boat and gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. As the boat sped to shore, the woman began to breathe.

Club captain Tony Tammita witnessed the entire drama. “I’ve seen more rescues than I can remember but this is by far the most spectacular,” he said. “The performance by Rebecca and those four young boys – well, we’re just immensely proud of them. They were calm, collected and just so cool about it. I’ve never seen anything like it. We’re just that proud.”

Jack, the youngest Nipper, recalled, “I grabbed my board and paddled out to help. I’m really happy that we didn’t let her die and that we tried our best”.

Jamie Butterfield, whose son Jake helped with the rescue

Article continues over the page

