



Jim breathes life into girl from lake

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 & LEAH FINERAN**

IT was predicted to be a blockbuster beach weekend for lifesavers but the only serious rescue was by an unlikely hero at a quiet lake.

Mermaid Beach father-of-two Jim Meyer denied he was a hero but the Thao family has no doubts he was their guardian angel.

Mr Meyer was enjoying his 42nd birthday at Evandale lake yesterday when he noticed the lifeless body of three-year-old Felicity Thao floating in the water.

Without thinking twice he helped retrieve the little girl and conducted CPR while organising his young son to call an ambulance.

Moments later he had brought Felicity back to life and handed her over to paramedics, before returning to his humble barbecue to continue his celebrations.

"I was just kicking the ball with my boy here and I saw a fellow run in there and pick up a girl out of the water," he said.

"She wasn't breathing at that time, so I thought I'll just do a bit of CPR on her.

"She started coming back to life. She had a pulse and began breathing."

Mr Meyer, who learned CPR during his eight years as a member of North Burleigh Surf Life

Saving Club and as a staff member at Wet 'n' Wild, was a modest hero.

"Not really. It is just one of those things you do," he said.

"It was all happening so fast but mum came over and her dad was sitting in front of me.

"They were in a bit of shock, I suppose."

Felicity's father Moua Thao said he was enjoying a barbecue with his family when his daughter and her five-year-old cousin wandered off.

"She was with her cousin and all of a sudden I was told she had drowned in the lake and someone had brought her out of the water," a shocked Mr Thao said.

"I turned my back, they ran off and I just didn't realise."

Mr Thao, who is originally from Laos but has lived in Brisbane for 20 years, thanked Mr Meyer for his efforts.

"Without the rescue, my child wouldn't be here today and I would be shattered," he said while referring to Mr Meyer as a hero.

Felicity was taken to Gold Coast Hospital in a critical condition.



Jim Meyer shakes hands with Moua Thao after helping revive his three-year-old daughter Felicity when she was pulled from Evandale Lake with no pulse. Photo: BRENDAN RADKE