

Bones broken in teen tussle

Stocky intruder escapes Takapuna apartment block as manager tumbles down staircase

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Picture (main) / Nick Reed

Brent Mathieson clung to the back of an intruder's shirt as he tried to stop the stocky teenager from escaping the Auckland apartment complex he has run for 17 years.

But as the shirt ripped, and the 59-year-old building manager was sent tumbling 2m down a staircase, the young man — with a T-shirt covering his face — fled the Mon Desir Apartments in Takapuna.

Mr Mathieson was yesterday morning entering the apartment's pool area when he was confronted by the intruder. Police flooded the area on Hurstmere Rd soon after the incident, which happened at 9.20am, but as of last night the teenager was still on the run.

Mr Mathieson's wife Lou, still shaken, spoke to the Herald last night from North Shore Hospital, where her husband was being treated for a number of serious injuries.

He had suffered a broken shoulder blade, three broken ribs, fractured vertebrae and a broken hip joint. He was in "awful lots of pain," she said.

"He's got some serious drugs going on, he actually can't move. I don't know what's going to happen when he has to."

Mrs Mathieson was in the couple's on-site apartment when police called her about 10am.

She said her husband had managed to reach his phone and call police himself.

"I went to where he was, down the bottom of the stairs. He couldn't move. We had to wait for an ambulance from there.

"He couldn't talk very well, but I was trying to find out what had happened and so he was telling me . . . and asking me where the ambulance was because he couldn't stand up; it was really painful for him.

"He's manager of the complex and this guy was inside . . . and there's 138 apartments so I imagine he was thinking he was protecting everybody in there. He didn't want this guy running loose."

Mrs Mathieson said doctors expected her husband to be in hospital for at least three to four days.

The offender has been described as a Maori in his late teens, of stocky build and wearing a black singlet, black jeans and with a white and blue T-shirt around his face.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Sergeant Todd Bartlett on (09) 477 5261.