



NEW SOUTH  
WALES

# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

— APRIL 2018 —

**Club:** Bondi Surf Bathing Life Saving Club

**Lifesavers involved:** Belinda Hartmann (Patrol Captain), Phil Schacht (Vice Captain), Neil Collins, Kim Dekker, Katherine Scevity, Rozanne Green, Jane Gilbert, and Joanne Robinson

On Saturday 7 April 2018, the team from Bondi Surf Bathing Life Saving Club were midway through their morning patrol when they were called on to go to the aid of an elderly man who had collapsed, face down, on the sand.

It was shortly before 11:30am when the patrol team were alerted by members of the public that a 70-year-old man appeared to be in some distress.

Fortunately, the incident occurred just 50 metres south of the main patrol tent, and within moments the lifesavers were on scene where a member of the public was attempting to roll the stricken man over.

The team of lifesavers immediately went to work. While Neil Collins commenced radio communications with the State Operations Centre, Belinda Hartmann and Kim Dekker placed the man in the recovery position to check for responsiveness and signs of breathing.

A fourth member of the team, Kat Scevity, was next to arrive with oxygen, at which point Neil relinquished control of the radios to Phil Schacht, who called for the defibrillator. Neil swiftly prepared the bag-valve-mask for oxygen administration, with the help of Rozanne Green, and Kim took over compressions from the member of the public.

An ambulance was requested and young SRC member Alicia Vaughn was dispatched to go and await its arrival.

After only a few rounds of compressions, Belinda applied the defibrillator pads, a shock was advised and administered. Kat stepped in to perform compressions to relieve Kim. A doctor who happened to be passing by also came to the aid of the man, and took over compressions as the defibrillator performed a second analysis.

A shockable rhythm could not be detected this time, so the team continued to perform compressions, whilst checking for breathing. After a very tense minute, the gentleman showed faint signs of breathing, and this was confirmed by both the doctor and Neil.

The patient's vital signs and responsiveness were continually monitored and by the time the paramedics arrived he had recovered enough to be breathing unassisted.

After being stabilised by the attending paramedics, the patient was transported to hospital for further treatment.

All of the lifesavers involved showed great professionalism and calmness under pressure in their response to this situation.

Their efforts reflect the importance of training and knowledge to treat sudden cardiac episodes.

Without their timely intervention the outcome for the patient could have been very different.

Director of Lifesaving  
Stuart Harvey

President of Surf Life Saving NSW  
David Murray

