



NEW SOUTH
WALES

RESCUE OF THE MONTH

— APRIL 2019 —

Club: Australian Lifeguard Service – Byron Shire

Lifesavers involved: Sam Mandall, Jess Harkness, Lachlan Field, Harrison Murphy, Brent Lethbridge

On Friday 5 April 2019, lifeguards from the Australian Lifeguard Service (ALS) were alerted that a woman had been pulled from the water unconscious and not breathing at Clarkes Beach, Byron Bay.

Lachlan Field, Sam Mandall and Harrison Murphy were patrolling Main Beach just 800 metres away at the time. They raced down to Clarkes where an off-duty nurse and kayak instructor had begun administering CPR on the patient.

The lifeguards were able to leave the patrolled area of the beach under the supervision of the UAV pilots who are also ALS lifeguards.

The team continued CPR for 20 minutes before a weak pulse was detected; however, the woman remained in an unconscious state.

A short time later the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter arrived at the scene. A paramedic and doctor were winched down to administer further treatment and prepared the patient for transportation to hospital.

Three days later, on Monday 8 April, a second critical incident unfolded at the same Clarkes Beach location.

At 9am a man was found floating in the water. He was pulled from the water by an off-duty doctor and anaesthetist.

In the same way as the previous incident, members of the public alerted Main Beach lifeguards Sam Mandall and Jess Harkness that a man had been pulled from the water unconscious and not breathing.

The lifeguards again quickly made their way down the beach to provide CPR and administer treatment using a defibrillator and oxygen.

The man's pulse was detected shortly before paramedics arrived, along with the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter to transport him to hospital.

Australian Lifeguard Service Manager Brent Manieri commented on how proud the organisation was of the efforts of the ALS lifeguards that week. "The team involved in these critical incidents responded rapidly and with great expertise and professionalism under pressure."

Director of Lifesaving
Joel Coleman

President of Surf Life Saving NSW
George Shales

