



NEW SOUTH  
WALES

# RESCUE OF THE MONTH

— JANUARY 2019 —

**Club:** Bronte SLSC

**Lifesavers involved:** Kel Noble, James McLennan, Anthony Carrol, Julia King

It was dusk at Bronte Beach when 10 swimmers walked to the southern end of the beach and jumped in the water for a quick swim. Almost immediately they found themselves in a life or death situation. Members of Bronte SLSC and off-duty Waverley Council Lifeguards worked together to quickly coordinate a seamless mass rescue that could easily have ended in tragedy.

At 8pm on Tuesday 29 January 2019, the group of visitors to the area entered the water at the popular Sydney beach for an evening swim. Just a couple of metres from shore they lost their footing and were swept out in the rip current beyond the break.

The swimmers were unaware of the permanent rip current that runs alongside the rocks and headland. Lifeguards had finished patrol for the day.

The group were pulled further from shore very quickly and panic was setting in. Most had poor swimming skills and were now visibly struggling to keep their heads above water.

Bronte SLSC Club Captain James McLennan, patrolling member and Waverley Council Lifeguard Anthony Carroll and fellow lifeguard Julianna King were in the surf club attending a Pilate's class when the incident unfolded. The three raced to the water with rescue

boards while other members of the club made their way down to the shoreline and waited to assist with patients.

Kel Noble had recently completed his Bronze Medallion and was in the water catching waves when he noticed the group in distress. He quickly paddled over and identified the most critical patient who was almost completely exhausted, his head barely above water. Kel supported four patients with his board until help arrived.

When James, Anthony and Julianna reached the group, they coordinated the mass rescue and the return to shore with all 10 people. They completed a head count before moving each swimmer back to shore on their craft as safely and efficiently as they could.

Once back on the beach, each swimmer received a full assessment of their condition. While the group was thankful to their rescuers, it is unlikely they had any idea they had been lucky enough to be saved by such an experienced team of professionals and volunteers.

The rapid response and technical abilities of the four rescuers ensured there were no fatalities at Bronte Beach that evening.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Director of Lifesaving  
Stuart Harvey

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

President of Surf Life Saving NSW  
David Murray

