

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

JANUARY 2020

Club: Tweed Heads Coolangatta SLSC

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: Clayton Schilg

On 9 January 2020 at 2pm, a group of holidaymakers from Victoria decided to go for a swim on unpatrolled Wooyung Beach. They got caught in a rip and were swept out to sea.

Fourteen-year-old Clayton Schilg heard them shouting for help and without hesitation, Clayton grabbed a nearby surfboard and headed into the Surf to provide assistance. One of the swimmers was struggling to stay above the water, he panicked and grabbed Clayton and dragged him under, Clayton's Surf lifesaving training and skills had prepared him for this and he quickly freed himself.

Clayton manoeuvred the man onto the board and instructed two more of the swimmers to hold onto the sides of the board. The fourth swimmer held Clayton's waist. Clayton proceeded to the shore, pulling the board with the four men.

Clayton spent five minutes negotiating the break and the rip before returning to shore.

One of the swimmers had ingested a lot of water and was in a bad way. Clayton, with the aid of an off-duty nurse, placed the man into the recovery position to keep him conscious and breathing. The man was transported to Tweed Heads District Hospital for observation.

SLNSW Far North Coast Duty Officer, Jimmy Keough, said that Clayton's response was outstanding for a Junior Surf Lifesaver and that to have the initiative to respond to a large group of people in distress in that way was remarkable.

For Clayton to voluntarily put himself in that situation, but also have the skills and ability to manage it so competently, is remarkable and testament to the training and skills Surf Life Saving gives junior lifesavers.

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Joel Wiseman'.

Joel Wiseman
Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'George Shales'.

George Shales
President
Surf Life Saving NSW