



NEW SOUTH
WALES

RESCUE OF THE MONTH

MARCH 2018

Club: Broulee Surfers SLSC, Moruya SLSC, & Batemans Bay SLSC

Lifesavers involved: Michael Weyman, Shaun Pike, Andrew Edmunds, Anthony Bellette, Ken Bellette, Mick Bellette, & Ben Ralston.

On Saturday 24 March surf lifesavers from across the Far South Coast were called to respond to a major incident after reports of a vessel capsized while trying to negotiate the notorious bar at Moruya Headland.

The incident happened shortly before 7am and occurred during a strong outgoing tide and with a swell of between 2 – 2.5 metres.

The Far South Coast Support Operations team and Moruya SLSC were the closest surf lifesaving assets to the incident and unsure of what they would face, they raced to the scene after hearing radio traffic suggesting that there were multiple people in the water.

Commercial fishing boats in the area had witnessed the incident and had already pulled two children from the water by the time the lifesavers arrived.

A third person was later assisted onto the fishing boat while the IRB rescued two additional survivors.

One of those rescued identified himself to the lifesavers as the father of another teenager who was missing.

There were immediate concerns for her welfare as it was thought she could have been trapped under the hull.

The lifesavers made an attempt to right the vessel but were unable to do so.

Focus then switched to triaging the injured patients with priority given to a 13-year-old girl who had suffered leg injuries.

She was transported to shore by jet ski manned by Andrew Edmunds, while Shaun Pike and Michael Weyman waited with the overturned boat and continued to search for the missing girl.

A further three people were conveyed to shore where they were treated for suspected hypothermia.

The Moruya based IRB brought a fourth person to the safety of the beach before heading back out with lifesavers Ken and Mick Bellette, and Ben Ralston.

A short time later the missing girl was located by the lifesavers and pulled from the water. CPR treatment was administered while the IRB raced to shore where paramedics were waiting.

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of everyone involved in the rescue, the young girl was unable to be revived.

The lifesavers involved showed great strength and courage in the face of this very sad incident, displaying an admirable sense of duty and compassion. If not for the brave actions of the team, the result may have been an even greater tragedy.

Director of Lifesaving
Stuart Harvey

President of Surf Life Saving NSW
David Murray

