

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



November 2019

Club: Redhead SLSC

Lifesavers involved: Nicholas White, Lily Kennedy-Myers, Jet Hoffman.

At 5:30 pm on Thursday 28 November 2019, four 16-year-old boys were observed from the top of Redhead Bluff swimming in the surf at Little Beach, Redhead.

Due to the steep sandbanks and the resulting strong currents, the boys were swept into a strong rip running north along the beach and then turning east at the Bluff and heading out to sea.

One of the boys was swept into the rip and attempted to swim against it. He quickly became exhausted and started calling and signalling for help. One of the other boys swam to assist him but also got into trouble while trying to tow the boy back to the beach. A third boy tried to help and also got into trouble in the strong rip.

Fortunately, a group of young Redhead surf lifesavers were doing board training in the vicinity. They quickly became aware of the escalating incident.

Nicholas White paddled over to assist the two boys, getting them both to hang on to his board.

Lily Kennedy-Myers also responded quickly and assisted another boy onto her board.

Nicholas and Lily paddled two of the boys back to shore while Jet Hoffman paddled his nipper board over to assist the third boy, who was treading water until Ray Terrell, the young lifesavers' coach, arrived to assist him back to the beach.

Once the three boys were safely back on the beach, they thanked the rescuers and left the beach.

Ray conducted a debrief with the three young rescuers and congratulated them on how well they applied their training and skills.

A member of the public, who observed the incident from the Bluff, commented that there would have been at least one drowning if the board paddlers had not responded as quickly and effectively as they did.

Conditions at the time of the rescue were rough with a strong, 20 knot north-east breeze.



A handwritten signature in white ink, reading 'Joel Wiseman'.

Joel Wiseman
Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading 'George Shales'.

George Shales
President
Surf Life Saving NSW