

# RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

SURF LIFE SAVING  
NEW SOUTH WALES



## SEPTEMBER 2019

**Club:** Sydney Branch Support Operations

**Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved:** Jackson Towns, James Caterson, Matt Spooner, Brett Richardson, Carl Van Zino, Jake McDonald, Coco McCarthy, Michael Bonnici, Andi Illidge, Marcus Karozis and Max Moon.

At 11.20am on Saturday 21 September, an inexperienced kitesurfer was reported missing at Silver Beach, Kurnell. The man had last been seen heading out into Botany Bay at 7.30am but hours later had not returned.

When the man didn't report for work at 11am and his car was found in the beach carpark, the alarm was raised by a concerned friend and Police were notified.

The Surf Life Saving NSW State Operations Centre began coordinating a search and rescue operation with the Sydney Branch Rescue Coordinator, Matt Spooner.

Several assets, including Duty Officers Jackson Towns and James Caterson, Surf Rescue 30 Offshore Rescue Boat (under the command of Jake McDonald) Sutherland Shire Council Lifeguard Rescue Watercraft (Brett Richardson and Carl Van Zino) and the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter were tasked to search for the missing man.

After an extensive search of Botany Bay, the man was located by the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter, floating in the water and clinging to his kite board for buoyancy. He was approximately two kilometres from Silver Beach, where he had first entered the water.

While the helicopter remained overhead, the man was rescued by jetski and returned to Silver Beach where he received first aid treatment by Duty Officers Jackson Towns and James Caterson. He was also treated for mild hypothermia.

It was a significant collaborative rescue operation. Thanks to the coordinated response of Surf Life Saving NSW and the Sutherland Shire Lifeguards, there was a good outcome. Without assistance, the man's injuries would have been more severe and may have resulted in a worse outcome.

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