

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

JUNE 2020

Club: Support Operations Illawarra

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: Anthony Turner, Lachlan Pritchard, Darren Weidner, Jamie Caldwell, Peter Evert, Markus Meier-Lindner, Keith Caldwell, and Bulli SLSC club members

At approximately 6.15pm on Saturday 6 June 2020, Surf Life Saving Illawarra (SLSI) responded to a report of people in the water calling for help north of the rock pool, near Bulli SLSC. SLSI Duty Officer, Anthony Turner along with Bulli SLSC Emergency Call Out Team were immediately mobilised to the location to provide both on-water and ground support to other agencies. Officers from Wollongong Police District, various emergency agencies, and Bulli SLSC members commenced a major search and rescue.

Multiple assets commenced a land and sea search and TOLL Rescue Helicopter RES206 confirmed that 4 persons of interest were in the water with an overturned boat. The TOLL rescue helicopter crew winched two persons to safety, both in a stable condition, conscience and breathing.

The TOLL NSW Rescue Helicopter was unable to continue searching, so after a dynamic risk assessment was conducted, an IRB was deployed. During this time, the capsized boat was located by the Marine Area command. A dye pack was released by SLSI crew to establish the current water movements so they were in a position to determine search/drift patterns and search for the remaining missing persons. The search was suspended at approximately 11:20pm due to weather conditions and a briefing was conducted with all key services to plan for the morning resumption of the search.

The search resumed at 5:30am Sunday morning with members from SLSI Support Operations Team, SLSI Duty Officers, emergency call out team members from Bulli, Coledale, Coalcliff, Austinmer, Thirroul, Sandon Point, Woonona, Bellambi, Helensburgh Stanwell Park, Windang SLSC's, WCC Lifeguards, together with emergency service personnel from NSW Police and NSW Ambulance. The SLSNSW State Operations team (SurfCom) remained in close contact with all parties throughout the tasking, along with SLSI UAVs actively assisting the search efforts. Lifesaver 21 Rescue Helicopter was tasked to conduct multiple sweeps of the area and Marine Rescue, Water Police and NSW maritime continued their search for a missing 28 year old man.

At approximately 1.10pm a Marine Recue Vessel identified the last missing person in the water near Corrimal. All assets were stood down at approximately 2pm and a debrief for all agencies (approximately 40 in attendance) involved was conducted at Bulli Surf Life Saving Club at 3pm.

This incident was the largest co-ordinated and resourced search and rescue event in the history of Surf Life Saving Illawarra. A combined effort from the majority of the clubs within the Illawarra branch with over 75 Surf Life Saving personnel showcasing their combined team efforts, teamwork and rescue skills on the water.

SLSI Support Operations have been commended by their community for their outstanding combined efforts, teamwork, and skills on the water.

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



Joel Wiseman

Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW

George Shales

President
Surf Life Saving NSW