

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

MAY 2021

Club: Cooks Hill SLSC

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: Mia Campbell

It was Wednesday afternoon, 19 May, approximately 4pm, Ben Campbell, a senior patrolling member of Cooks Hill SLSC, Club Coach and newly elected Director of Surf Sports, was at Bar Beach for some after-school board training with his daughter Mia.

There was a good sized surf and Ben was paddling out to sea, attempting to go over a wave on his board, when a dolphin exited the water and struck the board first, then drove its snout into Ben's upper body. Ben suffered significant soft tissue injury to left shoulder and chest area rendering him incapacitated in the water and struggling to stay afloat.

Mia Campbell, Cooks Hill U13 junior member, and Surf Teams silver medalist. Mia, who was at the waters edge with her board when she was alerted to the incident by members of the public who witnessed it, entered the water with the board, paddling out, to rescue her dad.

Mia negotiated the waves and managed to perform a board rescue roll to lift her father onto the board and paddle him back shore using her surf knowledge and skill to paddle to shore between the waves so as to avoid a wipe-out and put her patient at risk. Ben was in a lot of pain but was able to stand and slowly exit the water on foot to the waiting paramedics.

Members of the public had already called for an ambulance and Ben was then taken to John Hunter Hospital Emergency Department by ambulance.

Mia demonstrated maturity well beyond her years to perform a skillful and successful rescue on her dad.



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



Joel Wiseman
Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW

George Shales OAM
President
Surf Life Saving NSW