

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



NOVEMBER 2020

Club: The Lakes SLSC

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: John Walker, David Solman, Ben McCulkin, Brayden Hawkins, Cooper Sweeney, Daniel Lahey

On 28th November approx 6:30pm, a group of young swimmers at Soldiers Beach became caught in a rip and had been pulled into deep water. The group of children began to struggle and started shouting for help. The rip was pulling the group closer to the sharp rocks along the northern headland at Soldiers Beach.

Ben McCulkin saw the commotion from the top car park and ran down to render assistance. Ben had no flotation device but managed to retrieve 3 swimmers and returned them to safety before making his way back out to the group where he retrieved another 4.

Brayden Hawkins, and Johnny Walker also identified the incident quickly made their way to where 7 members of the group had been washed onto the rocks. Here they rendered assistance and returned the children to the safety of the beach.

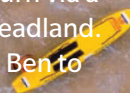
Dave Solman and some members of the public used a race board and immediately paddled out to 4 swimmers still in distress. Daniel Lahey and Cooper Sweeney assisted with guiding the children to the shore. Daniel & Cooper are both currently completing

their Bronze Medallion and this was their first rescue.

Dave & Ben returned to the water to retrieve the remaining 2 swimmers that had now been pulled 150 meters from the beach. Dave and Ben quickly realised that they would not be able to safely return the pair to the shore, so they made the decision to return via a safe, flat area of the rocks at the front of the headland. Brayden was on the rocks and guided Dave & Ben to safety using signals.

Once all the 18 swimmers had been safely returned to shore the team then assessed themselves and the swimmers, and rendered basic first aid for the many cuts, bruises and abrasions from the sharp, slippery rocks.

If the team from The Lakes had not acted so swiftly and professionally this mass rescue would have ended in tragedy. It is great to see so many young members spring to action and use the skills and training provided, to help save many lives.



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Joel Wiseman
Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW

A handwritten signature in white ink.

George Shales
President
Surf Life Saving NSW