

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

NOVEMBER 2021

Club: Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore SLSC

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: Darcy Morrow, Zac Swan

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



Two Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Life Saving Club members proved the importance of surf safety education, acting swiftly to pull a man in distress from the ocean at the northern end of Lighthouse Beach.

Just after five o'clock on November 17 2021, Darcy Morrow was at the lookout above Ballina Head when he spotted an overturned boat caught in a rip and four people in need of assistance clambering onto the vessel.

Calling on his clubmate Zac Swan from the clubhouse, the pair took two rescue boards and made a dash to the water's edge. In the time since Darcy left the lookout, however, one of the stranded people – a man – had attempted to swim into shore, against the current, and was now in significant distress.

Zac grabbed his board and paddled furiously out to him, noticing that he was beginning to lose stamina and by the time he reached him, the man had begun to drop under water.

Retrieving him and placing him on his board, Zac paddled back into shore as Darcy assessed the conditions for the pair to go back out to assist the remaining three stranded people.

By this time, the current had carried them around the headland in amongst the rocks and, eventually, with Darcy and Zac keeping them in eyesight as they traversed the landscape, the current brought them back to shore.

Based on reports and the assessment of the man when he was brought into shore, if the pair had not acted when they did there could have been a far more serious ending to the story.



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Joel Wiseman
Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW

A handwritten signature in white ink.

George Shales OAM
President
Surf Life Saving NSW