

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



SEPTEMBER 2021

Club: Avoca Beach SLSC

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: Matilda Harvey, Matilda Coleman, Violette Wolters, Rocky Wolters, Stuart Harvey

The quick thinking and bravery of three young Avoca Beach Nippers was behind a rescue effort on the Central Coast in September 2021 – a rescue which has been recognised by Surf Life Saving NSW as the Rescue of the Month.

Matilda Coleman, Violet Wolters and Matilda Harvey, all nine years old, were out getting exercise on the Nipper boards on the morning of Wednesday, 22 September when they heard a man calling out to them from deeper water.

The girls swam out to him to see if he was okay, and he asked if they could stay with him. He was calm, which helped the girls to stay alert and focussed.

Utilising a knowledge base built over years as Nippers, the girls read the direction of the rip, watched for waves that could take them back in, and the two Matilda's caught one in to get more help while Violet stayed out the back to assist the man in trouble.

Matilda's father, Stuart was swimming with them at the time, and he made his way out towards the girls. From there, with his and the girls' help, the man escaped the incident without any issues.

In fact, the speed with which the rescue was made allowed for a second man, also struggling in the rip, to be assisted back into shore.

Without the courage and excellent decision-making under pressure shown by the three girls, this may not have been the case.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Joel Wiseman'.

Joel Wiseman
Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'George Shales'.

George Shales OAM
President
Surf Life Saving NSW