

# RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

SURF LIFE SAVING  
NEW SOUTH WALES



## DECEMBER 2024

**Club/Service:** Tea Gardens Hawks Nest SLSC

**Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved:** Phillip Daniel, Luke Rochester, Max Fortunaso, Jack Alterator, Anna Fortunaso, Gingerlily Shelton, Emily Klocker

At around 10.30am on Saturday 21 December, a flash rip at the northern end of the patrolled area of Bennetts Beach in Hawks Nest saw 12 members of the public sucked out to sea, some 75 metres from the shore.

Members of the Tea Gardens Hawks Nest SLSC patrol team at the time jumped into action, with Max Fortunaso and Jack Alterator immediately entering the water with rescue boards and paddling out to a group of 10 swimmers where they reassured them and told them to hold onto the boards.

Phillip Daniel and Luke Rochester launched the Inflatable Rescue Boat to assist with the mass rescue, and over the course of three trips safely delivered each swimmer back to the beach.

Meanwhile, SRC members, Anna Fortunaso and Gingerlily Shelton took rescue tubes out to another two members of the public who were struggling to swim back towards the flags. With assistance from fellow patrol member and Gold Medallion holder, Emily Klocker, they safely returned the two swimmers to shore.

Together, the entire patrolling team provided shore-based triage, first aid, and liaison with family members of the swimmers.



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**Joel Wiseman**  
Director of Lifesaving  
Surf Life Saving NSW

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink.

**Peter Agnew**  
President  
Surf Life Saving NSW