

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

DECEMBER 2022

Club: Wamberal SLSC

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: Michael McPherson, Lee Szlachetka, Andrew Oakley, Jane Brennan, Craig Adams, Ramzy Fawzy

At approximately 8.30PM on Wednesday 14 December a mass rescue was performed just north of Wamberal SLSC, when a group of around 20 children and adults found themselves caught in a strong rip and unable to make it back to shore.

The group had been part of a Year 6 Formal taking place at the club and had jumped into the water fully clothed – something which had severely impeded their ability to swim.

In a fortunate turn of events, a Bronze Medallion class was also being held at the surf club and members including Michael McPherson, Lee Szlachetka, Andrew Oakley, Jane Brennan, Craig Adams, and Ramzy Fawzy leapt to action and paddled out towards the group.

The initial plan to ferry people back in groups of two was quickly thrown aside when six and seven children at a time would clammer onto a Rescue Board out of panic.

Some of the children were exhibiting signs of significant fatigue and varying levels of distress, so priorities were set and eventually all people in the water were returned to shore safe and well.

In all, 17 children and three adults were rescued.

A number of those rescued were showing signs of shock and all were transported to the surf club for hot showers and blankets. One person was placed on oxygen and later taken to hospital; however, they were discharged the following morning.



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NEW SOUTH WALES



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