

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



JUNE 2023

Club/Service: Lower North Coast RWC, Forster IRB and LNC DO II

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: Nathan de Rooy, Bruce Higgs, Joe Williams, Beth Lee, John Quinn, Greg Randall

At approximately 2.15PM on 18 June 2023, a concern for welfare tasking at Bennetts Head, Foster called for assistance in securing a man who was threatening self-harm on an exposed cliff face.

The man was known to local police and had a history of violence and struggles with mental health.

Members of the Foster SLSC Call Out Team and Lower North Coast Support Operations, Nathan de Rooy, Bruce Higgs, Joe Williams, Beth Lee, John Quinn, and Greg Randall, arrived on scene as the man began to scale down the cliff using a path carved through the landscape.

Initially he positioned himself on a rocky platform, before jumping into the water and swimming into a nearby cave.

A plan was devised to safely extricate the man from the cave utilising Surf Life Saving assets as the Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) was best positioned to enter the narrow cave. NSW Police and surf lifesavers entered the cave in the IRB, with a second IRB stationed outside as backup, and successfully rescued the man from his precarious position.

On returning to base, the IRBs also collected police officers from the rock platform as rising tides had made it difficult to return to the top of the cliff via the pathway the man had used to get down.

The positive collaboration of emergency service agencies allowed for a seamless rescue.

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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