

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



MARCH 2024

Club: Lower North Coast Duty Officers & Cape Hawke Call Out Team

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: Nathan de Rooy, Reece Dodds, Gary Curtis

At around 7.15pm on Wednesday 13 March, the Surf Life Saving NSW State Operations Centre activated assets on the Lower North Coast after reports of a teenage boy stranded on a sand bank at Burgess Beach, Forster.

After initial beach surveillance revealed nothing, it was determined the incident was unfolding further north, nearer to the One Mile Beach southern headland.

LNC Duty Officer, Nathan De Rooy and Cape Hawke SLSC member, Reece Dodds attended the scene, launching an Inflatable Rescue Boat and, in short time, came across the stranded male.

Dodds swam from the IRB to the patient with a rescue tube, however the boy had been in the water for approximately 1.5 hours prior to the lifesavers' arrival and did not have the energy to swim back out to the IRB. With darkness approaching, Nathan was forced to return the IRB to the beach, leaving Reece and the teen in the water.

Lifesavers including now Cape Hawke SLSC President, Garry Curtis, De Rooy and police tried to get to the pair via the rocks but the swell was building and the Ambulance Helicopter was called to winch them from the water.

Dodds, an experienced aquatic rescue instructor, kept the patient calm and they managed to clamber up onto a small rock bombie after being talked through the move from the shore by lifesavers and police, to wait for the helicopter to arrive.

They were winched to safety shortly before 9pm and were assessed at a nearby oval by Paramedics.

A stylized signature of Joel Wiseman in white ink.

Joel Wiseman
Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW

A stylized signature of Peter Agnew in white ink.

Peter Agnew
President
Surf Life Saving NSW