

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

MARCH 2023

Club: Ocean Beach SLSC

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: Liam Drake

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



At around 3.45PM on Sunday 26 March, off-duty volunteer lifesaver, Liam Drake of Ocean Beach SLSC, pulled up to Frazer Beach on the state's Central Coast – an unpatrolled location in the Munmorah State Recreation Area.

The location is notorious among local beachgoers and had been the site of several drownings during the 2022-23 season to date.

On arrival, where the expanse of the beach is visible from the carpark, Liam identified 2–3-foot surf, an ENE wind, and a large rip where three children were being swept out to sea.

Removing a rescue tube from the back of his vehicle, he ran down to the beach, entered the water and proceeded to conduct successive rescues of the three persons – a 12-year-old male, a 16-year-old female and a second female in her early 20s. On his way, he alerted a member of the public to call for help.

All the patients had ingested large amounts of water and were experiencing breathing difficulties, while the 16-year-old female was semi-conscious but always breathing. She was later transported to John Hunter Hospital by NSW Ambulance.

Without his Surf Life Saving training – which helped him to conduct a dynamic risk assessment, secure a flotation device, send for help, triage patients to conduct the rescue in order for the best outcome, and thoroughly report back to police – were vital to saving lives on the day.



A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink.

Joel Wiseman
Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink.

George Shales OAM
President
Surf Life Saving NSW