

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



NOVEMBER 2023

Club: Kiama SLSC

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: Harrison Smee, Zach Marsden, Max Laird, Alex Norris, Braith Davidson, George Griffin

At around 4.20pm on Saturday 18 November, six members of the public became caught in a flash rip which had formed in the middle of Surf Beach in Kiama.

Patrol had not long finished at Kiama Surf Life Saving Club and much of the gear had been packed down.

By the nature of Surf Beach, where permanent rips exist at either end, a flash rip forming in the middle can often feed into either of the permanent rips and cause significant danger to the public.

Fortunately, a group of the club's Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) holders and a Nipper – Harrison Smee, Zach Marsden, Max Laird, Alex Norris, Braith Davidson, and George Griffin – were boogie boarding nearby at the time and quickly jumped into action.

The group assessed the situation and, considering the seriousness of the situation, decided the boards they had were sufficient.

In a coordinated effort, they planned amongst themselves who would go where and in navigating their way in and out of the rip, demonstrated advanced technical and water rescue skills.

The rip current was so strong it took nearly 15 minutes for the six boys to bring those struggling – a mother, her three children and two other teenagers – back to shore. They were triaged on the scene before being allowed to go home.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads 'Joel Wiseman'.

Joel Wiseman
Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads 'Peter Agnew'.

Peter Agnew
President
Surf Life Saving NSW