

# RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

SURF LIFE SAVING  
NEW SOUTH WALES



## NOVEMBER 2022

**Club: Avoca Beach SLSC**

**Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved:** Nick Welch, Kai Hodson, Kai Mitchell, Stuart Harvey, George Ruzek, Jason Barnes, Mitchell Renouf, Gordon Jones, Jeff Barnes, Matt Mitchell, Trent McRae, John Mitchell, Garry Clarke, Millie Parker, Finn Mitchell, Brad Mitchell, Floyd Mitchell, Zack Visconti, Brooklyn Mitchell, Harry Armstrong

Just after 6.00PM on Saturday 12 November the Surf Life Saving NSW State Operations Centre (SOC) was advised of an incident unfolding at Avoca Beach where an informant had identified three 12-year-old boys caught in a rip approximately 200m from the Shark Tower.

The Avoca Beach SLSC Call Out Team was tasked and was on scene within three minutes of the initial response from the SOC.

In all, a team of 20 lifesavers took part in the rescue – Nick Welch, Kai Hodson, Kai Mitchell, Stuart Harvey, George Ruzek, Jason Barnes, Mitchell Renouf, Gordon Jones, Jeff Barnes, Matt Mitchell, Trent McRae, John Mitchell, Garry Clarke, Millie Parker, Finn Mitchell, Brad Mitchell, Floyd Mitchell, Zack Visconti, Brooklyn Mitchell, and Harry Armstrong.

The two Kai's – Hodson and Mitchell – were first on scene, paddling to the incident area on Rescue Boards and stabilising the situation. George Ruzek and Jason Barnes also paddled to the scene.

While others on the beach coordinated the response, first aid solutions and medical support, Jeff Barnes and Gordon Jones arrived via IRB and brought the boys back to shore.

Each of the boys presented safe and well on the beach however after initial consultation with his mother, one boy was advised to go to hospital having indicated he had ingested a large amount of water.

Within the hour, all assets had been secured and responding members had returned home after a very successful and collaborative after hours rescue.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Joel Wiseman'.

**Joel Wiseman**  
Director of Lifesaving  
Surf Life Saving NSW

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'George Shales'.

**George Shales OAM**  
President  
Surf Life Saving NSW