

# FSC LIFESAVING

## MONTHLY UPDATE - JANUARY 2019



### SEARCH AT EDEN

Call out team members from Pambula, Tathra and Bermagui SLSCs joined NSW Police and the SES for a search in Eden on 12th January. The search was centred on Lookout Point at Eden between Snug Cove and the south end of Aslings Beach. A man went missing in the area in December and the police wanted a thorough search of the cliff areas and waterline.

Kiaran Harris, Andrew Love, Peter Bootes, Matt Harvey, Emma Prowse, Liam O'Neill, Tony Rettke and Cheryl McCarthy took to the water with 2 IRBs and 2 RWCs. UAV Pilots were Greg Leayr and Paul Boillat and Bruce McAslan was Duty Officer. Our job was made easier by the near perfect search conditions.



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This was the first search where the UAV was incorporated and it was a great success. It allowed the water teams to identify anomalies that were investigated by the UAV. Where the aerial vision couldn't exclude the object the SES set up lines to abseil down the cliffs to take a closer look. At the end of the day we were also able to give NSW Police a complete copy of the footage plus a detailed map of the search area. Both SES and NSW Police thought the new capability was excellent and it was also a great way for our on-water teams to gain more search experience.

## PROFILE OF THE MONTH

### Combined Response at Bermagui

Four adventuring young visitors to Bermagui got more attention than they planned for on 15th January when a trek exploring around the Blue Pool found them beaten by the tide with no way to return.

Caught on rocks at the bottom of the cliff face, Andrew Curven and Vikki Marshall tried to reach the kids in the IRB but were turned back by unsafe conditions close to the rocks. The Lifesaver23 Rescue Helicopter was quickly on the scene and Bermi call out team member Euan McKenzie scrambled down the cliff to the kids to make sure they stayed safe while a plan was made to winch them out. The wind and position of the sun made for tricky winch conditions but the Lifesaver23 team handled it smoothly and all four kids were winched within an hour of the call out.

Several other call out team members were involved including Steve O'Sullivan, Ian Bailey and Robert Johnson.

Off duty patrollers Graham Day and Eric Hills also jumped in to lend a hand and Ben Bate from Narooma took the lead as Duty Officer. ALS Lifeguards, Will Vaughan-Smith and Liam Russell, were quick to close Horseshoe Bay and go to assist and their help was much appreciated with initial assessment of the scene and helping police with the helicopter landing zone on the headland.

The Bermagui call out team, Duty Officer, ALS, Lifesaver23 and NSW Police all worked together professionally and smoothly to ensure a great outcome. Well done everyone.



## CALL OUTS FOR JANUARY

### Another busy month for our teams

Six out of seven clubs had call outs in January with Batemans Bay, Broulee, Narooma, Bermagui, Tathra and Pambula SLSC's all called up. Bermi's call out is profiled above and others were:

#### **Aslings Beach: 6th January**

A boat washed onto rocks at the northern end of Aslings Beach. It was during patrol hours and the backup Pambula IRB was sent down to Aslings by road. One person on board was rescued by ALS Lifeguards and Pambula was stood down.

#### **Tuross: 12th January**

Support Ops have stationed an RWC at Tuross for the summer and it was called into action on the 12th for an overturned boat at the Tuross bar. 3 people were in the water and Andrew Mizzi responded to help the Lifeguards get people out of the water, cleanup the area and assist with the tow.

#### **Guerilla Bay: 15th January**

Andrew Mizzi was tasked as Duty Officer for a missing diver at Guerilla Bay. He was found and treated by ambulance crews just as the Batemans Bay call out team was being paged.

#### **Tathra: 21st January**

The Tathra call out team was called on to assist Marine Rescue Merimbula who had an overturned boat under tow in Tathra Bay. Their tow line broke and our team was called in to help get the boat to shore. ALS Lifeguards led by Tony McCabe worked with Andy Johnson to find a solution but it ended up being too big to tow and spent some time on the rocks at the south end of the beach before being salvaged.

## JANUARY CALL OUTS continued ...

### Maloneys Beach: 22nd January

Batemans Bay call out team was tasked to reports of an unresponsive person in the water near rocks at Maloneys Beach. The Branch IRB stationed at Long Beach was brought in and reached the person quickly. CPR was provided in the IRB on the way to waiting ambulance crews but unfortunately the person was declared deceased. The response was fast and professionally handled by Duty Officers Anthony and Ken Bellette.

### Broulee Island: 25th January

Reports of two paddleboarders in distress near Broulee Island saw the Broulee call out team tasked. Their quick response (hitting the water in less than 10 minutes from the initial call) was largely due to Kirsty and Hannah Campbell who were working in the South Brou Cafe. They immediately shut the cafe and asked customers to wait as people were in trouble. By the time the RWC operator arrived everything was ready to hit the water. Turned out the paddleboarders were doing OK and they made their own way back to shore after the RWC checked in with them so the IRB, which was also ready to go, didn't need to launch.

### Shark Bay: 27th January

Shortly after patrol finished reports came in of a possible drowning at Shark Bay. Al Veness, Andrew Edmunds, Scott Kemmis and the Patrol 1 team responded in the ATV to a semi-conscious patient on the beach. Bystanders had pulled her out of the water and the Broulee team provided oxygen and first aid care until the ambulance arrived. The woman was conscious and breathing (and taking the odd selfie believe it or not!) when loaded into the ambulance. Nice work team.

### Corrigans Beach: 29th January

Batemans Bay call out team were tasked to reports of a paddleboarder in distress off Corrigans Beach. The Long Beach IRB was hitting the water as the team was stood down. Turns out the paddleboarder was actually a spear fisherman dragging a cage behind them.

### Forsters Bay, Wagonga Inlet: 31st January

Narooma call out team responded to 2 people in distress in the water at Forsters Bay. They managed to make their way to shore before the team hit the water. Good response time by 3 members and thanks to Duty Officer, Ben Bate.

## NEWS FROM AROUND FSC

### Rescue of the Month Deadlines

The deadlines for nominations for Rescue of the Month have been announced for the next 12 months. Rescues, first aids (or other lifesaving actions) conducted during or outside of patrol hours, year round, on or off the beach are eligible.

Clubs need to submit their nominations to the FSC Director of Lifesaving via email at [surflifesavingfarsouthcoast@gmail.com](mailto:surflifesavingfarsouthcoast@gmail.com) by the following dates:

8 February - 8 March - 5 April - 6 May - 8 July - 9 September - 7 October - 4 November - 2 December

More details and nomination forms are available at: <https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/resources/rescue-month>

### Junior Lifesavers of the Year

This year's FSC Branch Junior Lifesavers of the Year have been announced. Clubs were invited to nominate one male and one female U14 member. The two chosen following interviews are:

- Tasman McKenzie from Bermagui
- Oliver Meaker from Tathra

Hannah Campbell from Broulee and Ruby Coppin from Moruya were highly commended and the judging panel were highly impressed with the quality of all of the candidates.

Tasman and Oliver are now off to a development camp in Sydney in April with JLOTY winners from all 11 Branches. The focus of this leadership camp is a combination of learning through experience and fun.