



## RESCUE OF THE MONTH NOMINATION

CLUB/SERVICE	Sydney Branch RWC, Support Ski 3		
DATE OF INCIDENT	05/04/2020	TIME OF INCIDENT	12.30pm
NAMES OF LIFESAVER(S)/LIFEGUARD(S)	Peter Harvie		
LOCATION OF INCIDENT	Gordons Bay, Clovelly NSW		
SURFGUARD INCIDENT NUMBER (IRD)	63847		

Overview of the incident (limit 1 page)

### Incident

Peter Harvie the Rescue Water Craft (RWC) operator on Support Ski 3 was patrolling the Eastern Beaches of Sydney Branch on Sunday the 5th April, 2020. Wind was moderate from the north north west. Choppy sea conditions with a wave height of 0.5 to 1.5 meters and low tide at 12.17pm of 0.33 meter.

Peter was patrolling south from Bondi on his way back to South Maroubra for a RWC operator shift change. As he passed Clovelly beach, he continued south towards Gordans Bay. Entering Gordans Bay for a patrol of the rocks and cliff faces, on exiting Gordans Bay and approaching the bombie at the southern point Peter observed a man swimming behind a kayak with a young boy sitting in the kayak. They were out to sea.

As Peter approached the kayak, he could see that the young boy was fully clothed and was not wearing a life jacket. The male in the water was swimming one handed and trying to control the kayak with his other hand. He too, was not wearing a life jacket. At the time the low tide and sea swell was taking both males perilously close to the rocks of the bombie which were clearly exposed.

The male that was in the water saw the RWC, he waved his hand for assistance. Peter continued towards the two males and the kayak. The male in the water indicated it was his son in the kayak and that the kayak was taking in water. Further that his son was exhausted and panicking. Peter secured his son on the sled of the RWC and quickly transported the young boy to the beach in Gordons Bay.

Peter quickly returned to the adult male who was still with the kayak. Whilst transporting the young boy, the adult male and the kayak had drifted closer to the rocks of the bombie. Peter positioned himself and the RWC between the rocks and the patient and slowly remove him from the danger of the rocks. Peter then safely returned the male to the beach in Gordons Bay where he was reunited with his son. The kayak was also safely recovered.

Both the father and son who were not wearing life jackets were lucky for the roving RWC patrol. This scenario could have ended with a far less favorable outcome except for the observations of Peter and the intervention of the RWC

Peter then resumed his patrol south to South Maroubra for the RWC shift change.



**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS IN BRIEF BULLET POINT FORMAT**

SKILL AND RESOURCES APPLICATION  40%	<i>Were the skills used correctly and appropriately as per SOP's? Did the rescue / incident require advanced technical skills? Was the equipment chosen best for the conditions and skill level of the personnel? Was there optimal use of skills within the available personnel?</i>
Peter utilised his skill and the maneuverability and speed of the RWC's to rescue the young male and then return for the adult male keeping them both off the rocks and safely transporting them to the shore.	
PROCEDURES FOLLOWED  30%	<i>Were standard operating procedures followed? Was the safety of the rescuers involved appropriately assessed? Was there appropriate leadership, chain of command, good scene management, paperwork completed, follow-ups etc.? Was the equipment utilised appropriately?</i>
Yes. The RWC followed all SOPs during the rescue. Peter's actions were continually updated to surf comm via radio. The RWC were essential in the negotiating the swell and rocks as well as their ability to cover a large area quickly.	
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS  15%	<i>Was the incident around rocks, cliffs, or other precarious situations? What was the size of the surf, temperature, time, visibility, weather, and other environmental conditions at land or sea?</i>
The bommie at Gordons Bay is a treacherous rock outcrop which has resulted in many vessels, surf craft and swimmers coming to grief here due to a lack of planning and knowledge with regard to swells and currents. Although the day was warm and sunny the predicament of the father and son had not been noticed by the other members of the public on the land or water.	
POTENTIAL OUTCOME  10%	<i>Would the outcome have been the same if the rescuers hadn't intervened?</i>
Neither patient was wearing a life jacket. The vessel was taking on water which the father had exited to try and to keep it afloat longer with his son on board. The outcome of this rescue could have had dire consequences without the intervention of Peter and the RWC.	
MEDIA CAPTURE/ COMMUNICATION  5%	<i>Were opportunities maximised in terms of media exposure? If yes, please attach article or give a brief overview of media exposure.</i>
Picture attached taken by Peter of the father and son back safely on the beach in Gordons Bay.	



### RESCUE OF THE MONTH NOMINATION SCHEDULE

PERIOD	NOMINATION PERIOD ENDS	BRANCH ROTM	STATE/TERRITORY ROTM	NATIONAL ROTM	
		Nominations Close (To Branch or ALS Manager)	Nominations Close (To State)	State Winner Announced	Nominations Close (To SLSA)
2018	December	31-Dec	7-Jan	11-Jan	18-Jan
2019	January	31-Jan	8-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb
	February	28-Feb	8-Mar	15-Mar	22-Mar
	March	31-Mar	5-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr
	April	30-Apr	6-May	10-May	17-May
	May/June	30-Jun	8-Jul	12-Jul	19-Jul
	July/Aug	31-Aug	9-Sep	13-Sep	20-Sep
	September	30-Sep	7-Oct	11-Oct	18-Oct
	October	31-Oct	4-Nov	8-Nov	15-Nov
	November	30-Nov	2-Dec	6-Dec	13-Dec
					25-Jan
					28-Feb
					29-Mar
					26-Apr
					24-May
					26-Jul
					27-Sep
					25-Oct
					22-Nov
					20-Dec

### ELIGIBILITY

- Rescues, first aids (or other lifesaving actions) conducted during or outside of patrol hours, year round, on or off the beach.
- All nominees are to be current members of SLSA, employees of Australian Lifeguard Service or a support operation service.
- All club nominations are to be received by the Branch/State or Territory on or before the applicable closing date.
- No late correspondence will be entered into. Late nominations will not be eligible for the State/Territory/National Rescue of the Month, but can be recognised by the Branch or State/Territory independently or nominated to the SLSA Meritorious Awards program if appropriate.
- Branches may make only one (1) nomination to State centre per period, as per schedule.
- States/Territory may make only one (1) nomination to SLSA per period, as per schedule
- All nominations are to be received on the official 'SLSA Rescue of the Month Nomination Form'. This can be downloaded from the member portal or obtained by contacting the SLSA or your State/Territory Office
- States/Territory reserves the right to nominate any outstanding rescue/incident in addition to any Branch nomination, inside the designated time period.
- SLSA and the States/Territory reserve the right to promote details of rescues and the nominated rescuer(s) internally and externally in promotion of SLS services/clubs/members and the Rescue of the Month program.
- Nomination for the 'award' serves as agreement to the conditions as stated above.



**CLUB SERVICE CHECKLIST – HAVE YOU:**

Completed the nomination form correctly?	✓
Checked that all nominees are proficient and members on SurfGuard?	✓
Attached Incident Log or reference incident number from SurfGuard?	✓
Attached any/all related media clippings?	✓
Forwarded to your Branch/State by the due date?	✓

**CLUB ENDORSEMENT**

Name of club: Sydney Branch

Name of club representative:  
Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other

**Andrew McKellar**

Club rep. position title: RWC Coordinator

Club rep. contact phone no: 0433 353958

Club rep. contact email: [rwc@surflifesavingsydney.com.au](mailto:rwc@surflifesavingsydney.com.au)

Club rep. signature:

Date:

**7 April 2020**

**BRANCH (NSW AND QLD)**

Name of branch: Sydney Branch

**Sydney Branch**

Name of branch Rep.:

**Simon Torsellini**

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other

Branch rep. position title:

**Director of Lifesaving and Education**

Branch rep. contact phone no:

Branch rep. contact email: [dol@surflifesavingsydney.com.au](mailto:dol@surflifesavingsydney.com.au)

Branch rep. signature:

Date:

**13 May 2020**

**STATE / TERRITORY**

State / Territory:

Name of state rep.:

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other

State rep. contact phone no:

State rep. contact email:

State rep. signature:

Date:

Once endorsed by State, please send all nomination forms to:

Keiran Stone - [kstone@slsa.asn.au](mailto:kstone@slsa.asn.au)